

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY
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Banks told to speed up IBC resolutions

Taking strong exception to slow action under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), govt has started monitoring the top 20 cases, while also asking bank chiefs to closely follow the top 20 cases with their banks. This has led to movement in Jai-prakash Associates and Amtek Auto. "Banks have been citing delays in the tribunal, but we discovered that they were themselves to blame," a top official said. **P17**

RSS, BJP veterans appointed governors

Several BJP and RSS veterans have been made governors. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, a former BJP MLA from UP, has been made governor of Assam with additional charge of Manipur, as was reported by TOI on Sunday. Former Maharashtra speaker H K Bagde, an RSS veteran, has been appointed Rajasthan governor. The President appointed former RS MP P.M. Mathur, who has played roles in various states in the party organisation, as governor of Sikkim. **P14**

Heatwave: Kashmir classes suspended

Amid a persistent heatwave, the divisional administration of Kashmir on Sunday ordered the suspension of classes for students up to primary level in both govt and private schools on July 29 and 30. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 36.2°C on Sunday, which was 6.3°C above normal. **P13**

Rainwater fills mine pit, official drowns

A 41-year-old SECL official drowned after being swept into a sump by strong rainwater currents following three hours of downpour at Kusmunda open-cast coal mines in Chhattisgarh's Korba district on Saturday evening. Four other trapped officials managed to escape safely. **P10**

IN THE COURTS

SC asks Haryana govt to furnish details of all affordable housing projects for which it issued licences in the past 10 years. It was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by buyers who have invested ₹160cr in Mahira Homes in Sec 103 - a project that has been stalled for over 2 yrs | **P 8**

> A Delhi court, while granting bail to a man accused of rape, observes that men have equal rights & protection under the law | **P 6**

Lineman charred to death in Gr Noida

A lineman fixing a fault atop a pole in Greater Noida's Dankaur was charred to death after power was switched on without warning Saturday. The power department suspended a sub-station officer for alleged negligence. The directorate of electrical safety will carry out an internal probe. **P 6**

Outage: Fortune 500 cos lose \$5.4bn

Fortune 500 companies witnessed a \$5.4 billion loss due to the CrowdStrike outage, showed a report from cloud outage risk partner Parametrix. The most impacted industries were airlines, healthcare and banking. The insured losses are expected to fall between \$0.5 billion and \$1 billion. **P17**

Do not miss Education Times, a 6-page pullout with today's issue

Hot Shot Manu Shows Calibre, Blazes Into Olympic History

First Indian Woman To Win Shooting Medal

Alok.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Chateauroux: Three years ago at Tokyo Olympics, Manu Bhaker, then 19, had tears in her eyes. Burdened with great expectations, she failed to make the finals. She was bogged down by the hype of being the prodigy who would rule the world of shooting. Defeat left her broken. But she healed fast and has returned to show why she will be on top for a while.

EDIT PAGE: India's Fashion Week In Paris

On Sunday, Manu, now 22, shot like a pro, like she has been for months now. No nerves, no excuses, no meltdown. She was in the zone, making history by becoming the first Indian woman shooter to win an Olympic medal—a bronze in 10m air pistol. The gold and silver went to South Korea.



DESH KA NAAM DUNIYA PE LEHRA DIYA!




"It was very intense. The pressure was immense, but Manu was very brave. Really proud of her," her personal coach Jaspal Rana said.

It wasn't the smoothest ride for Manu leading up to Paris: she had not won an Olympic quota in this discipline. However, she performed brilliantly in the trials and was picked for 10m air pistol, apart from the 25m air pistol event.

MANUMENTAL FEAT

> Jhajar girl Manu Bhaker is the 5th Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal after Rajyavardhan Rathore (silver in 2004), Abhinav Bindra (gold in '08), Vijay Kumar (silver in '12) & Gagan Narang (bronze in '12)

> Manu won gold in 25m pistol team at 2022 Asian Games & World Championship in 2023

“I wasn't tense. I read Bhagwat Gita a lot. I kept in mind Krishna's advice to Arjun: 'Apna karm karo, phal ki chinta mat karo (Do your work, don't think of result)' —MANU BHAKER

I am very happy. Though you missed silver by 0.1 point, you made the country proud —**PM MODI**

Manu is competing in 2 more events: Mixed 10m air pistol & women's 25m pistol. Arjun Babuta & Ramita Jindal will aim for medals in 10m air rifle today

Missed by a whisker, P 19

22,920 candidates score full marks across 45 subjects in CUET-UG

Manash.Gohain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Registering a marginal increase in top scorers, 22,920 candidates scored full marks across 45 subjects in the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG 2024), the gateway to undergraduate courses across 283 universities in India.

However, this year, as earlier announced by National Testing Agency, these top scorers scored perfect 200, while in 2022 and 2023 the agency accorded percentile scores as the papers were conducted in multiple sessions and normalisation method was employed. Bringing relief to lakhs of aspirants, NTA announced the results on Sunday evening. Of the 63 subjects, 200 is the maximum marks for 62 and the General Test paper is of 250 marks.

2,520 STUDENTS SCORE FULL MARKS IN HISTORY

HIGHLIGHTS	2024	2023	2022
No. of candidates registered	53,95,062	28,00,000*	14,90,294
No. of Unique Candidates Registered*	13,47,820	14,99,790	9,90,469
No. of Unique Candidates Appeared*	11,13,610	11,16,011	6,26,490

* NOTE: Each unique candidate is eligible to appear in up to 6 subjects

Subject Name	Total Appeared	200/200
Business Studies	1,66,022	8,024
Political Science	1,38,566	5,141
History	1,17,807	2,520

Full marks in Pol Sc, P 15

Local support fuelling spurt in J&K terrorism

Police have been arresting suspected "overground workers" in remote villages of Jammu division following the recent escalation of terrorist violence in the region. These arrests underscored suspicions of support for Pakistani terrorists, who rely on local knowledge and resources to launch precision attacks. Recent fatal ambushes highlighted the terrorists' capabilities.

Despite extensive security efforts, the resurgence of terror raises concerns about the role of locals, who often face coercion and financial incentives to assist Pak intruders. Socio-political underpinnings and upcoming J&K assembly polls complicate the situation, reports Sanjay Khajuria. **P11**

Coaching centre CEO, aide held day after student deaths

Approval Taken For Basement Storage But Library Set Up

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Sunday arrested Abhishek Gupta, CEO of Rau's IAS Study Circle in central Delhi's Rajender Nagar, and the centre's coordinator, Deshpal Singh, a day after three students drowned in the institute's flooded basement. The

FULL COVERAGE: P 2, 5, 6
Intense but hyper-local rain wreaked havoc, P 5

police have invoked charges of culpable homicide besides causing death due to negligence against the accused. The FIR says there was no drainage system in the basement. Documents reveal that the management had sought NOCs from fire and civic agencies for a storage facility in basement and didn't take clearance for a library. Police will now record the statements of 15 students who were rescued from the base-

DREAMS TRAGICALLY CUT SHORT

Shreya Yadav, 25 | Daughter of a farmer from UP's Ambedkar Nagar, Shreya had joined the coaching centre after completing her BSc in agriculture. Friends described her as a 'beacon of hope' for her family

Tanya Soni, 21 | Celebrated her birthday barely 10 days ago and had just graduated from DU. Originally from Bihar, the family had moved to Telangana and then to Delhi for her higher education

Nevin Dalwin, 28 | Had relocated to Delhi from Ernakulam, Kerala, 8 years ago. Was pursuing a doctorate in visual studies from JNU and had previously completed MPH in the same discipline from the univ

'Lost my daughter to their negligence'
Their world having suddenly come shattering down, the families of the three victims were numb with grief. "He was extremely studious. That's what I can attest to," said Dalwin's father Biju. Tanya Soni's dad was distraught. "We lost our daughter to the coaching centre's negligence," he said. **P5**

ment to establish the sequence of events. Prima facie, the initial assessment that the basement was flooded as the main gate collapsed appears true, cops said. A wave of water entered the building as an SUV sped through the flooded road. A video corroborates this. Meanwhile, MCD sealed 13 coaching centres with illegally-run basements.

Debasement, P 2

Trial judges play safe by not granting bail, says CJI

Bengaluru: CJI DY Chandrachud addressed Sunday concerns about trial court judges' reluctance to grant bail and a tendency to "play it safe", stressing the need for a "sense of robust common sense" to critically assess each case's specifics and avoid simply labelling crimes as serious. He highlighted the importance of trust in the judicial process and criticised the overload of bail pleas reaching SC, which should be handled at lower levels. **TNN**

'Common sense', P 13

'Constitutional values being chipped away'

CJI DY Chandrachud on Sunday expressed concern over the gradual erosion of fundamental freedoms

Case pendency in SC up 35% in 5 years, P 10

and constitutional values such as equality, which he noted are being undermined not dramatically, but by minute and continuous measures. "They are being chipped away, not brick by brick, but by infinitely small proportions every time you face injustice," he said. **P11**

UltraTech to buy Srinivasan stake in India Cements

Billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla has struck a deal with N Srinivasan and his family to acquire their cement business for Rs 3,954 crore. UltraTech Cement, a part of the \$65-bn Aditya Birla conglomerate, will acquire

CSK to remain in fold of Srinivasan family, P 17

33% stake in India Cements, valuing the Chennai-based company at Rs 390 a share. This adds to 23% stake Ultra-Tech bought in June. Ultra-Tech will make an open offer to India Cements' shareholders to acquire an extra 26% stake at the same price in line with takeover norms. **P17**

Ensure saturation coverage of welfare schemes, says PM

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New Delhi: On a day PM Modi exhorted states to be partners in India's journey towards being a developed country by 2047, home minister Amit Shah cautioned CMs of BJP-governed states that there was a strong possibility of the "ecosystem which has been active against BJP" trying to create unrest and communal violence, besides inciting farmers in states governed by the party. He said state govts should be vigilant about such elements. The statement assumes significance in view of the anti-CAA and farmers' protests in the past.

Addressing the conclave of CMs & dy CMs of BJP-led states, Modi said a renewed focus on people's welfare by the Centre and states would ensure the goal of "Viksit Bharat" is achieved. In his interaction with BJP netas, Modi has emphasised the need to ensure saturation coverage of welfare schemes.

'Building legacy...', P 12

20 from Red belt beat floods for police job test

An SOS reached the police AHQ in Gadchiroli Saturday from 20 candidates, including women, who were left stranded by flooded rivers in Bhamragarh taluka near the Maoist stronghold of Abujmarh along the Chhattisgarh border, reports Soumitra Bose. They were 150km from Gadchiroli town, where they were to appear for a police recruitment exam Sunday. Recognising the risk youths had taken to appear for the exam despite Maoist threats and floods, senior police officers dispatched boats to ferry the candidates to Etapalli. **P10**

MKB: PM FOCUSES ON DRUG WOES, WILDLIFE

> Drug menace: PM Modi, in Mann Ki Baat address, urges people, families & institutions engaged in making India 'drugs free' to make full use of 'Manas' narcotics helpline | **P 12**

> Wildlife: PM pitches for people's participation in protecting forests & wildlife, & shares a few efforts, including 'Kulhadi Band Panchayat' drive in Ranthambore, to save forests and tigers | **P 12**

'Tiger's future hinges on us. It's a collective responsibility'

By Sachin Tendulkar

In Tadoba, I had the opportunity to see three generations of tigers: Junabai, her cub Veera, and Veera's cubs. It is a wonderful feeling of pride and joy to see these majestic creatures thriving in the wild. This quiet yet powerful

INT'L TIGER DAY

ful resurgence is a testament to India's years-old, science-based Project Tiger, which has borne remarkable results. It is a beautiful example of what the resilience of nature, powered by human intent, can achieve. India has seen around a 24% increase in its tiger population from 2018 to 2022 and is now home to 3,682 tigers. With



Sachin at Tadoba Tiger Reserve

this, India now hosts 75% of the world's tiger population. These numbers are impressive, and we owe this success to several prudent measures, including improved wildlife management, healthier prey bases, and more effective anti-poaching measures.

'Poaching a threat', P 12

Losing shine? India sitting on a huge diamond stock

Hemali Chhappia & Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

From the highs of \$300 a carat in July 2022 to the lows of \$78/carats this month, the lab-grown diamond market has seen a massive crash, raising questions over whether the sheen has worn off the sparkler. Natural diamonds too have seen a 25-30% correction in prices.

Diamantaires say the past two years have been tough with constant drop in prices and the stock losing value with each passing day. What didn't help was the rise in gold prices, the slump in US economy and other western nations, and a sudden change in Chinese buying pattern.

CHINA DEMAND FALLS

> Lab-grown, natural diamonds both see a fall in rates in India

> Rising gold prices, US economy slump & drop in Chinese demand among reasons for the crash

> Experts say India sitting on a huge stock of diamonds now

> Gross gems & jewellery exports for April-May dip 6% to ₹39,123cr from last year

"From 38,000 workers employed in Surat to small/medium businesses and large enterprises, everyone has been hit," said Ashok Gajera, CMD, Laxmi Diamonds.

'Orders at loss', P 13



Growing organisations in any field must constantly evolve, accept or even seek new ideas, new visions, and new enthusiasms.

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RWA flags failure of authorities to act against illegal car wash unit | 8

CUET results out, university admissions to begin soon | 9



HOW DEBASEMENT OF SYSTEM KILLS

There Was No Drainage Facility In Basement, Says FIR; Electricity Cut Off As Water Gushed In, Causing Biometrics To Cease Functioning

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: Abhishek Gupta, owner/CEO of Rau's IAS Study Circle, was present at the building where three students drowned in the flooded basement on Saturday and he failed to provide clearance documents for the library, which was being illegally run from there, says the FIR filed by police.

During questioning, Gupta also admitted that there was no water drainage system in the basement, the FIR discloses.

Resultantly, the police have also booked Gupta under section 290 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with negligent conduct with respect to constructing buildings. Gupta and Singh have been sent to judicial custody for two weeks after being produced in court.

The three students — Shreya Yadav (25), Tanya Soni (21), Nevin Dalvin (28) — who died in the mishap were identified in the early hours of Sunday through their documents.

Cop said, as water entered the building, the authorities to shut off electricity to prevent electrocution, and it also led to the biometrics switching off. In less than five minutes, there was around 5-7 feet of water in the basement.

According to the FIR, police received a call as early as 6.30-7pm from students seeking help. The caller reported, "The basement is inundated, children are trapped, urgent assistance required."

Upon receiving the call, ASI Birender, accompanied by head constable Sunil, reached the location. The cops found substantial waterlogging in front of the institute's building and notified the police station about the gravity of the

IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Location
Rau IAS Study Circle, Old Rajender Nagar

Time
PCR call at 7pm, Saturday

VICTIMS
Shreya Yadav (25) | Tanya Soni (21) | Nevin Dalvin (28)

ARRESTED
CEO and owner Abhishek Gupta | Centre coordinator Deshpal Singh

WHAT HAPPENED

- Rainwater accumulated on the road gushed inside the underground library at the coaching institute
- This happened after a speedy SUV passed by. A video shows the gate being briefly opened around the same time reportedly for a person to exit
- Within 5 minutes, the level of water touched 10-12 feet, claimed students
- The gate meant to stop the water collapsed
- Electricity was cut off to curb the risk of electrocution. This apparently disabled the biometric-enabled entry-exit system too
- There were 30 students present in the library, 27 were able to save themselves
- Three students went missing, later found drowned
- By 10.30pm, NDRF divers managed to extract the body of a girl. The second body, also of a girl, was taken out around 11.15pm. The third body was found around 1.15am on Sunday



situation. "We informed the SHO and proceeded to the location. Upon arrival, I observed that approximately three feet of water had accumulated on the road and in the parking area of Rau's IAS Study Centre and several students were trapped in the basement library," the FIR reads.

The SHO informed the control room about the calamity and requested assistance from the fire department, NDRF and ambulances.

"Delhi fire services and NDRF teams arrived on the scene and started pumping out the water with the aid of Delhi Fire Services. Meanwhile, NDRF divers started a search and rescue operation in the basement. The divers recovered three lifeless bodies from the basement."

They were immediately sent for medical examination to RML Hospital.

"When the NDRF and Delhi Fire Services teams confirmed no additional casualties after thoroughly inspecting the basement and the scene, I preserved the scene and assigned HC Sunil to secure the location for further inspection by the crime team and FSL team. The families of the deceased were informed," SI Awadhesh Narayan said.

Delhi Police have sought a report from the fire department and MCD regarding the clearances obtained by the coaching management.

Delhi Fire Service director Atul Garg said the owner had procured the NOC for storage purposes in the basement, not for operating a library. As per the NOC, the structure was ground plus three floors with a basement and stilt parking. They had executed the inspection on July 1, and the team of fire officials had ascertained that the building was suitable



MUCKY TRUTH

Plea in HC for swift action by civic body

A petition has been moved in Delhi High Court following the incident that claimed the lives of three UPSC hopefuls at a coaching centre in Old Rajender Nagar. The petitioner requested the court to instruct Municipal Corporation of Delhi to take swift action to avert such tragedies from occurring again. TNN

for NOC, effective from July 9, for a duration of three years.

"When the fire team visited the spot, they found book bundles and chairs arranged to look like a storage area. The coaching management had planned the space to appear as a storage area," the fire official said.

Another official said the basement was never intended for a library or classrooms. "Last year's fire incident in Mukherjee Nagar revealed that coaching centres were operating in basements, and when the fire started, children were trapped," the official said.

How many scrambled to safety as water streamed in with huge force... ..With floating furniture & bookshelves, rescue efforts were fraught with danger

Devanshi Mehta & Akshat Rajan | TNN

New Delhi: For dozens of students of Rau's IAS Study Circle, it just took a few moments to turn friendly chatter and discussion over tea and snacks into shock and awe. And, even hours after the horror that unfolded in the institute's basement, the survivors had yet to come to terms with the tragedy.

Many students narrated chilling stories of survival. "It was terrifying... I was just sitting, and someone barged in shouting, 'paani aa raha hai, jaldi baahar niklo.' As we hastily tried to retrieve our laptops, books and other belongings, water surged

in with huge force within minutes," said Hridesh Chauhan, a student. Chauhan added that the library got filled with rainwater every year, but because the gate broke this time, the basement was flooded.

Aishwarya Rai (30), a UPSC aspirant belonging to Kanpur, said: "Around 35 of us were studying in the library when, all of a sudden, rainwater started flowing in. This created panic as it's one thing to wade through waterlogged streets and quite another to have a situation similar to a dam burst where you have no means to escape."

She added: "Around 7pm, the staff

asked us to vacate the library. The supervisor asked us to hold hands and form a human chain. But there was chaos. Everyone panicked and tried to run here and there. I saw one student fall from the stairs as the water gushed in."

Chauhan recalled how a glass door was smashed by water right in front of his eyes. "While trying to exit the library through the stairs, I also fell. Somehow, I managed to come out of the library. Close to 10 people were still stuck inside," he said. Still deeply traumatised, Chauhan wondered how he would be able to go ahead with the mains exams in Sept.

Nakul Tiwari (21), one of the survivors, was in the library along with Tanya, Shreya and other students. Originally from Punjab, he had come to Delhi to prepare for UPSC examinations. His friend Divyam (20) told TOI, "Both Shreya and Tanya were holding onto Nakul as the water overflowed. Unfortunately, at some point, he passed out. All he remembers now is being out by NDRF team."

Saumitra Tiwari, a friend of another survivor, alleged: "Help came extremely late. The incident happened at 7-7.15 pm and rescue divers came in only around 9.15 pm. The rescue operation could have been faster. Because of the delay in the arrival of water suction pumps, the situation worsened."

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It was a race against time for around 100 rescuers comprising the fire brigade, NDRF and police on Saturday evening. As the basement filled within 5-10 minutes, it posed an immediate drowning risk.

While several lives were saved using ropes and other materials, the search for the three missing students became a challenge in such a cramped space. NDRF officials said the water was more than 12 feet high, necessitating the use of four divers for the search.

The main issue they faced was floating furniture and heavy bookshelves that had fallen into the water, hindering the rescue operation. Firefighters claimed the basement was divided into cabins, leading them to believe the girls were trapped in a maze-like situation and unable to find an escape route.

Speaking to TOI, a fire official said this was the first time they had encountered such a predicament, necessitating the formation of multiple teams on site.

"There were numerous messages circulating about the number of people trapped. Our paramount priority was to remove the water to facilitate a rescue operation. We

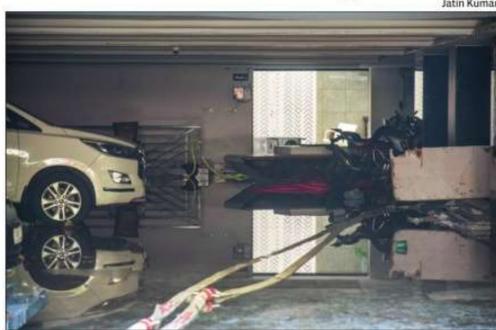
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THE AFTERMATH: Workers pump out water from the flooded basement

deployed five pumps, but the topography of the area caused the pumped-out water to seep back," he said, adding that the pumping out of water took more time.

The second major issue was that the water was muddy, making the place slippery. The library area was filled with large racks submerged in the water. An NDRF official said that they deployed four divers, and in the first attempt, they retrieved one body. After some time, a second body was fished out.

"The search operation was

fraught with danger as furniture was floating, hindering a smooth operation. Additionally, we faced another issue; the divers risked getting stuck in the racks lying beneath the water," the official said. Also, there was poor lighting, which made the rescue more difficult. The NDRF team also had to break glass-like shelves to conduct the rescue operation.

A fire department spokesperson said the basement consisted of numerous compartments, leading them to believe that the two individuals were ensnared in a predicament wherein escaping one area resulted in entrapment within another cabin-like enclosure.

Another official said the rainwater was turbid, and there existed a possibility that the victims might have lost their footing while attempting to flee the perilous situation.

"The egress passageway, which served as the primary evacuation path for the other children, was also the principal conduit through which water forcefully surged into the basement. This inundation, propelled by the sheer force of the water, may have significantly contributed to the entrapment of the victims," the fire official said.

The third body was extricated around 1.15 pm, but the rescue operation went on till 3am on Sunday. Atul Garg, director of Delhi Fire Services, stated that most of the coaching centres in the vicinity had installed gates to prevent water from infiltrating their premises. However, at the time of the incident, the gate of the affected coaching centre had been broken, allowing the accumulated water from the street to seep into the establishment. "We inspected other centres in the area as well, but they did not suffer significant consequences due to waterlogging," he added.

Not-so-hidden perils: Rampant illegal use of basements across Delhi

Siddhanta Mishra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The avoidable tragedy at Old Rajender Nagar has once again brought to attention the issue of widespread misuse of basement spaces throughout Delhi.

According to the norms laid out in Master Plan of Delhi 2021, basement usage has been defined for three different categories of areas. In the case of Rau's IAS Study Circle, the basement was only allowed for use as storage, parking and utility area for the entire building, as per the completion certificate issued by MCD—and not as a library.

This, of course, is not an isolated violation. Many buildings in the city have gyms, restaurants, offices, coaching centres and libraries operating in basements across various markets and mixed land-use roads, potentially leading to disastrous consequences.

There is a category of professionals, such as lawyers and doctors, who are allowed

to carry out activity in the basement in accordance with Unified Building By-laws (UBBL) 2016 of MCD. Besides this, 'educational buildings', which include schools, colleges and coaching centres, can have study areas in the basement. However, the owner of such a building must follow additional stringent laws specified by the local bodies before the start of occupancy. UBBL is a combination of building by-laws, which determine all construction laws in Delhi. All building permits are passed as per these rules.

In the case of Rau's IAS Study Circle, the certificate—which didn't allow use of the basement as a library—was issued by the erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation in 2021. The building has four floors, one basement, terrace and stilt.

Interestingly, on June 26, a Delhi resident had lodged a complaint on a gov-run public grievance portal about the centre running a classroom illegally in the base-

ment. The complaint was reportedly forwarded to Delhi govt and MCD. MCD officials did not confirm whether they had received any such complaint or reminders, as claimed by the resident. A govt official, however, said: "The officer in charge of MCD zone was suspended last month as there was already another complaint pending against him, and is currently under suspension."

An MCD official said: "Old Rajender Nagar is a commercial area and the owners did not have permission to carry out such activities in the basement. MPD 2021 rules are followed while framing the building by-laws. However, whether the building is a professional space or a coaching centre is a grey area, which is often taken advantage of."

In a statement, MCD said: "The property (Rau's IAS Study Circle) has all necessary documents. However, the property owner is found to be in violation of building by-laws in as much as the use of

UNCHECKED AND DANGEROUS

Types of areas in Delhi

- Residential
- Mixed land use
- Commercial

Activities permitted in basements

- Parking
- Strong room
- Bank cellar
- Stack room
- Airconditioning equipment
- Other services and utilities

If it is an educational building, study rooms are allowed. Educational buildings are schools, colleges and coaching centres



Professional activities allowed in basements after paying conversion charges

- Professionals identified as per MPD 2021
- Doctor, lawyer, architect, chartered accountant, company secretary, cost and works accountant, engineer, town planner, media professionals and documentary filmmaker

Basement construction rules

- Every basement must be, in every part, at least 2.4m in height from the floor
- Must have arrangement to ensure surface drainage does not enter basement
- Walls and floors of basement must be watertight; basements shall be ventilated
- Access to basement should be either from main or alternative staircase

About Old Rajender Nagar building

- Completed in 2021
- Fire NOC given
- Activities legally allowed in the basement | Parking and storage only

the basement is concerned. The basement was allowed for parking and storage. Thus, using the basement as a library and reading hall was not allowed, though stacking/stocking of books could be done. "The use of the property in accordance with building by-laws and fire NOC was the responsibility of property owners, it added.

Sanjay Gupta, general secretary of Model Town Residents Society and an expert in building laws, warned: "Across Delhi, there is a rampant problem of coaching centres being run illegally and other non-permitted activities being carried out in basements. Such activities take place in Model Town too. We do not want a similar kind of incident to happen here. While MPD 2021 and UBBL 2016 have specified rules regarding the usage of basements in residential, mixed land use and commercial areas, there are loopholes that are exploited. Also, there is a lack of proper implementation of rules."

By Sunday evening, MCD

had sealed several such basements in Old Rajender Nagar. It also sealed 13 coaching institutes in Old Rajender Nagar and Karol Bagh for violations. Mayor Shelly Oberoi said she had directed the MCD commissioner to take strict action against such coaching centres in Delhi. Reacting to reports that the incident took place after a drain burst, officials said the matter was under investigation.

Oberoi said strict action would also be taken against any MCD official found guilty of dereliction of duty.

Under Kohli of Nehru Place market association said basements in Delhi were a disaster waiting to happen. "In Nehru Place, the drainage system is bad and, after every spell of rain, water enters our basement where we may have utilities, storage and other such things that can lead to electrocution and other damage to buildings and people. There are people who are running activities that are not allowed in basements," said Kohli.



Govt. of Haryana



Mhara Haryana

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THEY ALL HAD A COMMON AMBITION. NOW, THEIR FAMILIES COPE WITH AN UNIMAGINABLE – AND UNACCEPTABLE – TRAGEDY

10 days after her 21st birthday, ...End to a career dream that ... For 'brilliant' Kerala friends find a lifeless Tanya... rode on family savings, loan... youth, an abrupt stop

Devanshi.Mehta@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Ten days ago, Tanya Soni had joyously celebrated her 21st birthday with loved ones.

On Saturday, she drowned as rainwater flooded the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajender Nagar. The basement of the coaching centre was a library where she had been studying.

On Saturday evening, Tanya's friends got a distress call from her mother, who was in Nagpur: "Please check on Tanya; she hasn't answered her phone in hours," her mother told them.

Moments later, the friends learned that the library where Tanya used to study was inundated. They panicked and rushed to the spot.

The grim possibility that Tanya may have died had become the reality by then.

No coaching centre staff was present to identify the victims. Tanya's friends then did the unbearable task. They identified their friend's lifeless body. "As soon as we heard that rescue operations were under way, we rushed to the scene. We had to identify our friend's lifeless body amid the chaos," one of them said.

Tanya's parents were in Nagpur for her younger sister's admission when they got the news of their elder child's death from her friends.



Tanya's friends identified her body

ends. No one from the coaching centre called to inform them.

Her father, Vijay, told TOI: "They knew how severe the waterlogging was, yet they didn't halt classes. Even with the entire area flooded, they allowed students to remain in the basement. How could they, in good conscience, let anyone continue studying under such dangerous conditions?"

Rishi, her 20-year-old classmate, said: "She had such grand ambitions. Just in June, she had received her final semester marks and was excited to start a new phase of her life. We spent hours talking about her plans, not knowing that our last conversation would be our final goodbye."

Divyanshu Mahajan, another close friend, told TOI: "Tanya loved writing poetry and regularly published her own work. Despite her rigorous UPSC preparations, she always found time for her passion. Her dedication was inspiring."

Tanya, originally from Bihar, had moved to Telangana with her family and then to Delhi for higher education.

She had just graduated from Maharaja Agrasen College under Delhi University, where she had studied BA in political science and English. She had ambitious dreams of becoming a civil servant and was eagerly awaiting the next chapter of her life.

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Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Shreya Yadav had arrived in Delhi with an aspiration of cracking competitive exams and lifting her family out of adversity. In Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, where her father is a farmer, the 25-year-old was a beacon of hope for them.

A graduate in agriculture, Shreya had enrolled with au's IAS Study Circle in May. She had completed her 12th with 85%.

Her elder brother, Abhishek, was pursuing an MA in mass communications. Younger brother, Mintu, is in class 8.

Shreya's uncle Dharmender Yadav was at the mortuary on Sunday. He said he stumbled upon the news of the inundation at the coaching centre at midnight and immediately tried to contact Shreya. His calls went unanswered.

From Ghaziabad, he went to her paying guest accommodation near Shadipur. It was shut. He then proceeded to Old Rajender Nagar, where the coaching centre is. The police directed him to the RML mortuary.

Yadav, an engineering college professor, said Shreya's father had painstakingly gathered the necessary money, even by taking a loan, to enable the daughter to pursue her dream. "The last time I spoke to her, it was about

the payment of fees," he said. Relatives said she used to attend classes in the morning and go to the library for studies.

Prem Patel, Shreya's acquaintance, mentioned that Tanya — another deceased student — and Shreya often studied in the library.

"According to information that we have gathered, four to five vehicles drove down the road, and a window screen installed to prevent water from seeping into the basement, got shattered. Within 5-10 minutes, the water had inundated the place," he said. There was one escape route, but the water pressure seemed to have made an escape impossible. "I also heard reports suggesting that there were issues with the biometric system. Either it malfunctioned or got jammed."

Yadav said that he had heard that last week, the library was closed because of waterlogging on the premises.

One of Shreya's relatives at the mortuary said her parents sent her to a big city with the fervent hope that she would be able to further her academic pursuits. Due to an alarming lack of vigilance, they lost their child. One of Shreya's cousins said that she invariably assisted him in his studies. "During our last conversation on July 21, we discussed academics. She was incredibly humble and altruistic," he said.



Shreya Yadav was a beacon of hope for her father, a farmer in UP

Hyper-Local Rain Wreaked Havoc

Old Rajender Nagar Flooded On Saturday, While Other Areas Remained Largely Dry

Kushagra.Dixit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The city saw high-intensity rain over a hyper-local area on Saturday, possibly leading to flooding in central Delhi's Old Rajender Nagar.

According to data from India Meteorological Department, Pusa — the nearest weather station to Old Rajender Nagar, where flooding or waterlogging filled up a basement killing three IAS aspirants — recorded 58mm of rainfall in just six hours, from 2.30pm to 8.30pm on Saturday.

Of the 58mm of rainfall — considered moderate as per IMD's standards — 26.5mm occurred between 2.30pm and 5.30pm, and 31.5mm between 5.30pm and 8.30pm, making it a high-intensity rainfall in a short duration.

Meanwhile, during the same period, while Old Rajender Nagar was inundated, none of the other areas of the city, including the base station Safdarjung, recorded any rain, barring Delhi University, which logged 12mm — light rainfall — between 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Thus, making rain at Old Rajender Nagar hyper-local, which remained unpredicted by IMD.

"There could be some reasons that the rain activity could be hyper-local, which could include the formation of convective clouds due to some heating and the monsoon trough further feeding moisture to that particular area. The IMD, however, issues a three-hour warning," said an IMD official requesting anonymity.



Students protest for justice — and better infrastructure

Devanshi Mehta & Akshat Rajan | TNN

New Delhi: Karol Bagh and Old Rajender Nagar witnessed massive protests on Sunday, with students holding placards and raising slogans demanding justice and accountability from authorities. There were heated exchanges between police and protesters on several occasions. Rapid Action Force was deployed on the spot in riot gear during the day.

What began as a sit-in demonstration turned into a full-fledged protest by Sunday noon, and the crowd, estimated to be over 400, spilled over to the streets. Students blocked the main road at the metro station, prompting police to use mild force to remove them. Several students were taken away in buses and released later.

The protesters included those who were preparing for UPSC examination, alumni of Rau's IAS Study Circle, and others who were facing several problems while living in the locality. Their demands included desilting and cleaning sewage lines.

They raised slogans of "we want justice" and flashed placards that said "we want investigation", "ensure safety", and "long live students' unity". They did not allow Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal or Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav to be a part of their protest to "not let this be politicised".

Prabhakar Kumar (20), a student of Vision IAS coaching institute, said, "Institutes are making more and more libraries in basements despite Rajender Nagar being a flood-prone area. Basements should only be used for vehicle parking."

Guru Muhilan (25), a student of IAS Study Circle, said that at any time around 20 students were usually present in the institute's basement where the library was built. It is also used as a centre for students appearing for mock tests. "It is very traumatising for us to see this happening in the institute we go to every day," he added.

"Students could have been re-



Photos: Jatin Kumar & Devanshi Mehta



The protesters included UPSC aspirants and residents facing many problems

sented earlier: Water getting inside Rau's library was a usual thing. Both the staff and students treated it like a normal rainy day and were ignorant," said Samritra Tiwari, a civil services aspirant and a resident of Rajender Nagar.

Protesting students told TOI that the incident did not happen just due to a natural calamity but was a consequence of the systemic infrastructure failures that plague the area.

Swatantra, another UPSC aspirant, said, "They thought the gates and some plastic sheets would be enough to keep the water from coming inside. But risking students' lives based on such makeshift do solutions is very problematic. Authorities must

launch an investigation into this." M Harshvardhan, DCP (central), said, "On Sunday, around 2.30 pm, some students blocked both carriageways of Pusa Road near Karol Bagh metro station, which is an arterial road with many hospitals in the vicinity. They were repeatedly requested not to block the main road by police as well as the district magistrate (central). Since they refused to clear the main road even after an hour, they were removed from there, considering the massive public inconvenience and the presence of hospitals nearby."

There was another protest outside mayor Shelly Oberoi's house where police were seen getting into a scuffle with protesters who were from ABVP.

RTI, complaints on safety issues were ignored

Akshat Rajan | TNN

New Delhi: A tragedy at the Old Rajender Nagar IAS coaching centre was almost waiting to happen as queries on infrastructure and safety of such places was met with silence.

Kishore Kushwaha, an activist, had filed a complaint on the public grievance monitoring system portal of DelhiGovt in June, mentioning the problem of libraries in basements and asked for action against MCD officials.

Kushwaha had complained about a coaching institute running a classroom without an NOC in the basement. In his complaint he had alerted about the dangerous practice.

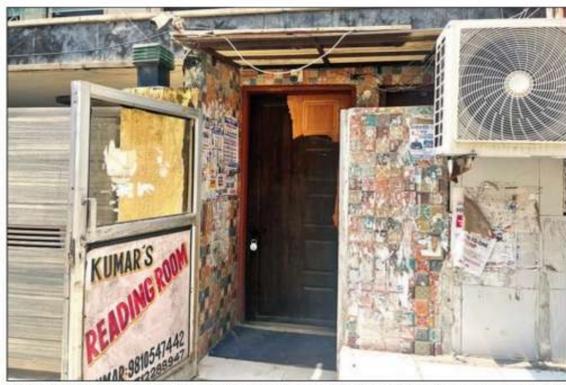
"There is a danger and possibility of a major accident, so I had informed the concerned organisation in this regard about the corruption in the MCD," he said in his complaint. Kushwaha had sent two reminders on July 15 and 22.

An RTI query was filed by Ankit Singh Chauhan, a UPSC aspirant seeking information regarding SOPs for having libraries in the basement.

Chauhan sent the query after the Mukherjee Nagar fire on March 8. The replies said: "No information is available."

A govt official said: "The officer in charge of the MCD zone was suspended last month as there was already another complaint pending against him."

A treasure trove of knowledge, why these libraries are also death traps



Most of the libraries located in the basements of residential buildings have removed the hoardings; open wires on the streets another danger in sight

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New Delhi: Bada Bazaar Road in central Delhi's Old Rajender Nagar is a hub for UPSC exam preparation coaching centres. However, the lives of thousands of UPSC aspirants residing in the area are at risk every day due to various infrastructural deficiencies.

Numerous libraries, including Bureaucrats Library, Usha Library, Vajiram Library, Durga Library, Sriram Library and Page 1 Library, are located in the basements of residential buildings in the locality.

As Drishti, a UPSC aspirant, told TOI, "The issue is that there are not one or two, but over 150 libraries in these areas and all of them are located in basements of residential buildings. Students who are paying fees to access these libraries know that they are actually paying money to endanger their own lives."

She highlighted the malfunctioning biometric systems in larger coaching centres like Rau's, which often lead to students being trapped inside their classes during power cuts. The lack of sufficient entry and exit points in overcrow-

ded classrooms, with batch sizes exceeding 100 students, poses a significant safety risk in case of fire emergencies.

The recent fire incident in a coaching centre at Mukherjee Nagar and the subsequent inquiries have exposed these infrastructural lapses. Kabir, an aspirant living in Old Rajender Nagar for the past five years, spoke to TOI about the authorities' awareness of the situation. He said that sparking and fires in electrical poles during monsoons due to clustered wires, which posed a severe threat to the residents. "Open wires on the streets here, with cons-

tant waterlogging, exacerbate the issues in a way it's humanly impossible to ignore, yet we are invisible to the civic bodies, and the loss of life is meaningless to them," he added.

TOI discovered that nearly all the libraries in basements removed their hoardings on Sunday following the unfortunate incident. Rau's IAS Study Circle initially claimed that the flooded basement only had storage space. However, further investigation and the recovery of bodies revealed that the basement was used as a library and had a room for faculty members.

Lineman charred while fixing fault in Gr Noida, sub-station officer suspended

Meenakshi.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Noida: A lineman fixing a fault atop a pole in Dankaur's Sakarpur village was charred to death after the power was switched on without any warning on Saturday.

The power department has suspended a substation officer for alleged negligence. The directorate of electrical safety will carry out an internal probe and will submit a report in 48 hours.

An FIR was yet to be registered on Sunday evening as none from the lineman's family lodged any complaint.

Sakawat Khan (41) — a contractual worker with the power department — was assigned the task of repairing the fault around 2pm on Saturday after the Mandi Shyam Nagar substation received a complaint of outage from villagers. Khan had climbed up the pole to repair the fault after a shutdown was undertaken by the substation. All of a sudden, the power line was switched on, causing 11,000 Volts to flow down Khan's body. He was charred in seconds.

Police brought down the body, but faced protests by villagers against the power department's negligence. They were eventually allowed to take the body for an autopsy after officials announced a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for Khan's family.

The superintendent engineer of circle 2, Ram Naresh Saroj, said an internal probe will find out how the power was switched on when the repair work wasn't over: "We have suspended the substation officer because he was responsible for the supply of power. A two-member team of officials from the directorate of electrical safety will complete an investigation in 48 hours," he added.

"I have spoken to the director of finance over the compensation amount. The family will get Rs 7.5 lakh on Monday. Since it was a Sunday today, the money could not be disbursed. It will be transferred to the family on Monday in all probability," he added.

OFFICIAL SAYS

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Probe finds faulty wiring led to UPSC aspirant's electrocution

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A magisterial inquiry into the death of a civil services aspirant in South Patel Nagar last week has revealed that a damaged red wire of a submersible pump installed in a neighboring house came in contact with an iron gate, which the victim touched accidentally, leading to his electrocution. Nileshe Rai (26) was returning to his paying guest accommodation after a study session at a library when he held onto the iron gate on the waterlogged street and was electrocuted. He was taken to RML Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Delhi power minister Atishi had asked the chief secretary to launch a probe into the incident, and a magisterial inquiry was announced. The inquiry was conducted by SDM (Patel Nagar) and included the findings of a preliminary investigation done by a team of two police officers, a zonal manager of power distribution company Tata Power-DDL, and the area electrical overseer. According to the report, the

SDM REPORT SAYS

Building owners must obtain an electrical audit report from a certified auditor, which should detail the safety of all electrical installations

wire with damaged insulation was found touching the iron gate at several points. This wire supplied electricity to a water pump motor in house number 8/23 of South Patel Nagar.

"Heavy rainfall on the day of the incident likely exacerbated the situation, resulting in the death of Nileshe Rai," the report stated. As per the magisterial report, block 8 of Patel Nagar is a densely populated residential area and a hub for UPSC coaching centres, along with nearby localities such as Old Rajender Nagar and Karol Bagh. The report said that many residential buildings in the area have been converted into paying guest accommodations and

building owners have installed extensive wiring networks for air conditioning, internet services, and other amenities.

The report also mentioned that several residential buildings had converted stilt and ground floors into commercial units such as libraries and gyms, which had only one entry and exit point and did not have the necessary permissions from the MCD and the fire department, posing a severe fire hazard. The SDM in his report stated that investigation was required to assess the electrical load of buildings and ensure that proper insulated wiring was being used.

"... in my opinion, this may be the leading cause that was overlooked by the investigation team in the preliminary inquiry report," the SDM said in his report. To prevent a repeat of the incident, the SDM in his report recommended that building owners must obtain an electrical audit report from an independent and certified auditor, which should detail the safety of all electrical installations, such as submersible pumps and air conditioners.

Wave Of Accusations Over Tragedy

Drainage In Delhi Has Collapsed In 10 Yrs: LG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Expressing anguish over the deaths of three civil services aspirants due to flooding in the basement of a coaching centre in the capital's Old Rajender Nagar, LG VK Saxena on Sunday asked the divisional commissioner to submit a report by Tuesday, covering all aspects of the incident. In a veiled attack on AAP govt, Saxena alleged that drainage and related infrastructure in the capital had collapsed and Delhi faced a "larger malaise of misgovernance" in the last decade or so.

In a series of posts on X, Saxena referred to the three deaths due to the flooding of the basement and the death of a civil service aspirant in Patel Nagar last week, along with seven others due to electrocution in the last few days. He said it was "unfortunate and unacceptable" that these incidents took place in the national capital. "These incidents clearly point towards criminal neglect and failure of basic maintenance and administration by concerned agencies and departments. Drainage in the city and related infrastructure, as also required efforts and endeavours to address these, have apparently collapsed. It is indicative of the larger malaise of misgovernance that Delhi has been subjected to during the last decade or so," Saxena said in his posts.

"What has been happening is unpardonable, and such issues can no more be glossed over. I have asked the divisional commissioner to submit a report, covering every aspect of the tragic incident by Tuesday," he added. According to officials, the coaching centre where Saturday's incident took place was being "illegally" run from the basement of a residential building. Saxena blamed "administrative apathy" and "criminal misconduct" of those running the coaching centres for the loss of lives. "I have been keeping a close watch over the situation and followed the rescue operations by Delhi Police and Delhi Fire personnel, etc. The role of coaching institutions and landlords in not ensuring the basic safety of students, who pay hefty fees and rents, away from their homes needs to be looked into," he said.

Bharadwaj: Only LG can act against errant officials

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi urban development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday shared a video of a meeting held in June to review Delhi's preparedness for monsoon and claimed that a large number of the city's drains had not been cleaned.

The meeting was held on June 28 and was attended by Bharadwaj,

Jatin Kumar



GUARD UP AFTER INNOCENT LIVES LOST

PWD minister Atishi, and top city bureaucrats, including chief secretary Naresh Kumar, additional chief secretary (UD) Manish Gupta, PWD principal secretary A Anbarasu, irrigation and flood control principal secretary Navin Chaudhary, and municipal commissioner Ashwani Kumar.

The video showed Bharadwaj telling bureaucrats he had got a list of PWD drains from the department which, as per officials, had been desilted and got a few of them verified in his own constituency. "The drain along the Ravidas Marg has not been cleaned, which led to waterlogging in the Kalkaji flats area. The drain near Don Bosco School was also desilted after this video was made," Bharadwaj was seen telling officials.

The minister also said in the meeting that he had made the video of a dirty drain last year and had even

shared it with the PWD secretary, but no action had been taken. Sharing the video on X, Bharadwaj said even the officials accepted in the meeting that the work to remove the silt was not done properly. "Due to the waterlogging, people died after getting electrocuted. While there is negligence on the part of the coaching institute (in Saturday's incident), a major conspiracy has been carried out against the people of Delhi," Bharadwaj said.

"The elected govt cannot transfer these officials or take action against them. Only the LG can take action," he added.

A Delhi govt official, however, said that instead of answering on the work of the urban development department under which MCD, drainage, removal of filth and garbage, and authorised construction falls, in the context of Saturday's incident, the minister was trying to deflect the matter to PWD. "The minister concerned is responsible for disposal of business pertaining to his department. People expect the urban development and municipal administration minister to outline the priorities of his department for a better future. It is unfortunate and regrettable that he is deflecting the issues, which were there before him," the official said.

Rajender Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak slammed BJP for neglecting the city's drainage system for 15 years. Pathak claimed the drain from where the water entered the basement of the coaching institute had been desilted. He said he had met DJB CEO and MCD officials 20 days ago, discussed desilting and asked for 10 machines for cleaning, but only two were provided. "The matter should still be investigated with transparency," he said.

Revenue minister Atishi said she has asked the chief secretary to conduct a magisterial inquiry. She also directed all officials to visit the site and take necessary measures.

Congress slams Delhi govt, calls it a 'collective failure of system'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Dubbing the death of students due to waterlogging as "collective failure of the system", Congress said its govt in Delhi had turned the capital into an international city while the residents are now paying with their lives for "criminal negligence" of the administration.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi reminded that besides the three deaths, a student had recently died from electric shock following rains and waterlogging.

Rahul said, "This collapse of infrastructure is a collective failure of the system. The common citizen is paying with his life the price of unsafe construction, poor town planning and lack of accountability at every level. Safe and comfortable life is the right of every citizen and the responsibility of govt."

Kharge said, "It is very sad that three young people lost their lives due to waterlogging in the basement of an IAS coaching centre in Delhi due to criminal negligence of govt and administration. According to reports, eight people have died due to electric shock in the last few days. Congress had turned Delhi into an international city. Today, the capital of India is bearing the brunt of indifference. Accidents are happening every day. It is a matter of grave concern for all of us."

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav accused AAP govt of negligence for such incidents and demanded action against officials responsible for it. Yadav claimed Delhi govt had announced that it would form a policy to control coaching centres in the city, but no step had been taken. "For 2-3 days after any incident, big announcements are made by govt and political blame game happens. But soon, it is back to square one," Yadav said.

He also said the incident had proved that govt's claims of desilting all drains ahead of the monsoon were false. Yadav said several incidents of electrocution were reported in the last few days, but govt was yet to take any action against the power distribution companies. "Does Delhi govt have no control over the discoms, or is it involved in corruption with them?" Yadav questioned.

While AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt said all reports of desilting submitted to govt or courts be checked to see if there was any corruption, former Congress Working Committee member Manish Chattrath demanded a judicial probe into the incident.

File cases against Delhi govt, MCD, demands BJP; says Atishi must go

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Sunday said cases should be registered against Delhi govt, MCD, and other agencies for the death of three students after the library running in the basement of a building was flooded, and demanded the resignation of revenue minister Atishi for an impartial investigation.

Addressing a joint press conference, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj demanded that the families of the three students who died on Saturday and another who got electrocuted last Monday be given a compen-

Sachdeva also accused Delhi Jal Board of not cleaning sewer lines in Old Rajender Nagar and other parts of Delhi

sation of Rs 1 crore each.

Sachdeva alleged that the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) did not learn any lessons from the fire incident at a coaching institute in Mukherjee Nagar last year. He said coaching institutes should have been allowed only in buildings that had at least two exits and a five-foot-wide alley.

"Clearly, no survey was conducted. No action was taken against coaching centres

violating these provisions in Karol Bagh, Rajender Nagar, and Patel Nagar areas. Had DFS and MCD enforced the guidelines issued after the Mukherjee Nagar incident, this library would have been closed," Sachdeva said.

Sachdeva also accused Delhi Jal Board (DJB) of not cleaning sewer lines in Old Rajender Nagar and other parts of Delhi and alleged that connected drains were also not desilted. He added that ministers who were boasting of cleaning drains and sewers until Saturday morning were blaming officials for the lack of cleanliness. Swaraj said she and local functionaries had raised the

issue of clogged drains but the area MLA had not paid any attention.

"Until 2015, Rajender Nagar was considered a model assembly constituency with good roads, greenery, fine drainage, and a safe environment. But in 10 years, it has turned into a modern-day slum suffering from drinking water shortages in summers and waterlogging during monsoons," Swaraj alleged.

"Whatever excuses Delhi govt may give now, it is certain that this mishap is the result of the criminal negligence of the local MLA who never bothered to visit the area to understand the grievances of people," she added.

He also said the incident had proved that govt's claims of desilting all drains ahead of the monsoon were false. Yadav said several incidents of electrocution were reported in the last few days, but govt was yet to take any action against the power distribution companies. "Does Delhi govt have no control over the discoms, or is it involved in corruption with them?" Yadav questioned.

While AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt said all reports of desilting submitted to govt or courts be checked to see if there was any corruption, former Congress Working Committee member Manish Chattrath demanded a judicial probe into the incident.

Bobby Sista

March 26, 1931 – July 27, 2024



Mr Shambhu V. Sista, (Bobby Sista) loving husband, father and grandfather, and founder and chairman of Sista's Private Limited, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2024, at the age of 93. In keeping with his wishes, there was no funeral. He touched the lives of many and will be remembered as he was - kind, gentle yet outgoing.

He is survived by his children, Subhadra and Apu, his son-in-law George, and his grandchildren, Sonia, Zaki and Sheehan.

We miss you Nanna. We miss you Thatha.

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

5th Death Anniversary
C. K. SIKRI
25.07.1941 to 29.07.2019

Time passes and memories remain of your gentle smile and quiet ways.

Saroj, Neetika, Irendra, Ruchika, Sanjeev, Monika, Sooraj and all grandchildren.

Happy Birthday
MANOREET S. SARANG
29.07.1971 - 13.03.2015

The sunshine of our family, a divine soul with a benevolent heart. As you rest in eternal peace you are missed & remembered each day. K.S.S. Sarang, Gunwant, Gary, Ganemat, Jugaad & Sifat

In Loving Memory of
SMT RAJ MALHOTRA
16.07.1936 - 29.07.2023

The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the love and memory of you, shall never pass away. Fondly remembered by: Sanjay & Ritu Malhotra, Raghav & Ishita Malhotra, Meenakshi & Lalit Ahuja, Nisha & Vijay Juneja, Sapna & Sanjeev Kumar

"HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY. you taught us. Three words that help us cope with your loss."

The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful. Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

Publications	Total	SPACE FOR PHOTO
The Times of India Delhi/NCR	5,600	100x100mm (Portrait)
TOI+NBT (Delhi/NCR)	8,800	100x100mm (Portrait)
TOI+ET (Delhi/NCR)	6,600	100x100mm (Portrait)

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

For any information call
Vinod : 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727



IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER

MINU SUNDARAM
My beloved mother, Mrs Minu Sundaram, w/o Brig. V.M. Sundaram, passed away peacefully at her home this morning

Om Sairam

Cremation will be held at Green Park Crematorium, Green Park Extension, New Delhi on 29th July 2024 (Monday) at 11:30 am

In grief
Chitra and all Family & Friends
Mobile: 9004317393

TIMES TRIBUTES RATE CARD

Publications	Rates per sq. cms
TOID Capital + NBT (Delhi+NCR)	1295
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THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi) Full Run##	900
NAVBHARAT TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	595
THE ECONOMIC TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	715
SANDHYA TIMES (Delhi)	100

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To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance message please call
Vinod: 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727

DMRC places metro signage at 41 railway stns

Priyangi Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has recently installed bi-directional signage at 41 railway stations in and around Delhi to inform users about the nearest metro station.

Officials said that a metro station is located within a radius of less than 2km from each of these railway stations. This initiative follows DMRC's collaboration with IRCTC, which now allows passengers to purchase metro tickets through its website.

A DMRC official said the bi-directional signage will inform Indian Railways users about the closest metro station. "This can be helpful," the official added.

For instance, at Tilak Bridge railway station, signage has been put up pointing towards ITO metro station. Similarly, at Patel Nagar railway station, the DMRC signage points towards Satguru Ram Singh Marg metro station. "The metro stations are within a 2-km radius of these 41 railway stations. The signage has been installed as many passengers from Delhi and outside the city may not be aware that there is a station nearby," an official said.

DMRC announced earlier this month that metro's QR code-based tickets can now be booked on the IRCTC website and mobile app. The metro tickets, which previously had a validity of a day, can now be booked 120 days ahead and will be valid for four days, easing travel planning.

The validity of the ticket will start from the day before the journey date. "This initiative will enhance the travel experience of railway passengers by allowing them to book Delhi Metro tickets at the rail ticket confirmation page, clubbing it either with the source or destination station falling in Delhi-NCR. Passengers can also book Delhi Metro tickets at a later stage via the booking history page," a DMRC official said.

Apart from railway stations, 71 bi-directional signage has been installed at schools, colleges and corporate offices.

False rape case: Cops told to act against woman

Vineet Upadhyay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court, granting bail to a man accused of rape by a woman, has observed that men have equal rights and protection under the law as enshrined in the Constitution of India. However, special privilege is given to women.

Additional sessions judge Shefali Barnala Tandon, in an order dated July 25, directed Delhi Police to take legal action against the complainant for registering a false rape case, saying that the special privileges given to women should not be used to settle personal scores.

The court, directing that a copy of the order be sent to the DCP concerned, said that a compliance report be filed within 10 days. It granted bail on furnishing a bail bond and surety bond of Rs 20,000 each. Additional public prosecutor Ankit Agarwal appeared for the state.

The court's observation came after finding that the relationship of the woman with the accused was consensual, and she made the police complaint "in a fit of rage" after a fight with the man.

"Allegations of rape are made at the drop of a hat nowadays for many other reasons, as observed by the courts, day in and day out. This is one such case in hand. False rape allegations not only destroy the life of the man named but also the reputation and social standing of his family members at large," said the court.

The case was registered on July 14, following which the man was arrested. However, the next day, the complainant gave a statement before the magistrate stating she voluntarily went with the accused to a hotel, where they had consensual sexual relations. The court noted that the complainant stated the same facts before it.

"Rape is the most heinous and painful offence because it destroys the very soul of the victim as well as her body, but the law against rape is being misused in some cases," it said, adding, "The law has given the remedy of lodging a criminal complaint if a crime is committed against them (women), but such a remedy should not be used as a tool to gratify the complainant's ulterior motive or to teach a lesson to the accused."



**Water Resources Department
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited**

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Krishna Raja Sagara and Kabini Reservoirs

are brimming with water heralding prosperous times.
On this auspicious occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri Siddaramaiah and
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Sri D. K. Shivakumar**
will offer

Pooja and the traditional Bagina to Goddess Kaveri

Details of water to be released to Tamil Nadu as per Cauvery Water Tribunal and actual water released at Biligundlu

Last 6 years

Rain year	Water to be released as per Cauvery Water Tribunal	Actual release of water at Biligundlu as per Cauvery Water Tribunal (in TMC)
2018-19	177.250 TMC as per the Supreme Court order dated 16.02.2018	404.444
2019-20		275.40
2020-21		211.316
2021-22		281.084
2022-23		667.533
2023-24		81.417

Current Rain Year (2024-25)

Month	Water to be released as per Cauvery Water Tribunal (in TMC)	Actual release of water at Biligundlu as per Cauvery Water Tribunal (in TMC)
June 2024	9.19	2.252
July 2024	28.21 (28.07.2024)	67.748
Cumulative till July 28, 2024	37.40	70.00

Bagina offering programme at Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir

Date: 29.07.2024 | Monday | Time: 11 am
Place: Goddess Kaveri Statue, KRS

August Presence

Sri H. D. Kumaraswamy

Hon'ble Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, Government of India

Sri N. Chaluvarya Swamy

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Dist. In-charge Minister for Mandya

Sri N. S. Boseraju

Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology, Dist. In-charge Minister for Kodagu

Sri K. Venkatesh

Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, Dist. In-charge Minister for Chamarajanagar

Presided by

Sri Ramesh Babu Bandiside Gowda

Hon'ble MLA, Srirangapatna Assembly Constituency



Hon'ble Deputy CM & Minister for Irrigation **Sri D. K. Shivakumar** and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture **Sri N. Chaluvarya Swamy** at KRS reservoir

Bagina offering programme at Kabini reservoir

Date: 29.07.2024 | Monday | Time: 3 pm
Place: Kabini Reservoir, Beechanahalli, H.D. Kote Taluk, Mysuru District

August Presence

Sri H. D. Kumaraswamy

Hon'ble Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, Government of India

Sri H. C. Mahadevappa

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Dist. In-charge Minister for Mysore

Sri N. S. Boseraju

Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology, Dist. In-charge Minister for Kodagu

Sri K. Venkatesh

Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, Dist. In-charge Minister for Chamarajanagar

Presided by

Sri C. Anil Kumar

Hon'ble MLA, H. D. Kote Assembly Constituency



Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare **Sri H. C. Mahadevappa** and Hon'ble Deputy CM & Minister for Irrigation **Sri D. K. Shivakumar** at an event.

Chief Guests

Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, Gram Panchayat Presidents, Vice Presidents and Members, Chairmen of Boards and Corporations and all elected representatives

DELIVERED AS PROMISED...



All are Welcome

Sri Gourav Gupta, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
Water Resources Department

Sri Krishnamurthy B. Kulakarni, KES
Secretary,
Water Resources Department

Sri Mahesha, KES
Managing Director
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited

As is enshrined in our Constitution to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
ESI HOSPITAL GOURHATI
P.O. ANGUS, HOOGHY-712221
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender is invited for the selection of agencies for "Pest Control Service" at ESI Hospital Gourhati, P.O. Angus, Hooghly-712221. Wide Tender Ref. No. ES/IG/PC/NIT-02/2024-25/1337 dated 18.08.2024. Detail information of the tender and terms & conditions will be available from 30.07.2024 in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and submission of the e-tender will be through the same website. Last date of bid submission is on 16.08.2024. Any corrigendum notice in this regard will be published in the website of ESI(MB) Scheme, W.B. Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT, ESI HOSPITAL GOURHATI. ICA-T12651(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice
General Manager, District Industries Centre, Howrah under the Department of MSME & Textiles, Govt. of West Bengal invites e-tender for Supply of Machinery (with accessories and consumable) to the Jagatballypur Block Limitation Jewellery R.E.H. Industrial Co-Operative Society Ltd., Vill & P.O. Pantihal, P.S.-Jagatballypur, Dist.-Howrah, PIN-711410 wide Tender No. 273/DIC/HOW/REH/2024-25, Dt: 22.07.2024 for which Bid Submission End Date: 20.08.2024 upto 03.00 P.M. intending bidders are requested to visit the Website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- General Manager, District Industries Centre, Howrah. ICA-T12651(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Buxa Tiger Reserve West
Allpurduar Court, PIN-736122
e-Tender Notices
No. 03/BTRW/SP/2024-25,
04/BTRW/SP/2024-25,
Bonafide contractors eligible for participating are requested to visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in from 29.07.2024 regarding e-Tender Notices No. 03/BTRW/SP/2024-25, 04/BTRW/SP/2024-25. For solar power fencing of fodder plantation under ERVK & NMT Range, BTRW/Div. Last Date: 05.08.2024. Sd/- Deputy Field Director, Buxa Tiger Reserve (West). ICA-T12652(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NO. WB/VE/EE/MD/1/NIT-02/2024-25 (SI. No. 1 to 3)
The Executive Engineer, Mahananda Embankment Division, Green Park, Malda, I&W Dte. on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal invites online tender from eligible & resourceful Contractors having requisite similar nature credential for 3 (Three) nos. works for each aforesaid e-NIT. Last date and time of submission of Technical & Financial bid (online)- 12.08.2024 upto 15.30 Hrs. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.wbld.gov.in & URL <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahananda Embankment Division, Green Park, Malda. ICA-T12655(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-05 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Raw Water Pumping Station for 9 MLD capacity WTP under Pujali Municipality for 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Rs.64,25,626/-, Rs.1,28,513/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-313) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12646(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 30/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2024_WBTDCL_720561-1
WBTDCL invites the following e-Tender from the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies having requisite credentials. "Illumination of Front of Bhawan Building, Rose Garden, Children Park at the secondary entry and exit gate at Motijheel Tourism Property, in the dist. of Murshidabad during the year 2024-25. (Rs. 48,49,154/-). Start date & time of documents download: 29.07.2024, 11:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 12.08.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. ICA-T12633(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
RE-E-Tender Notice Reference No. (STM)/DT/O1/RE-E-TENDER-6.0/043/2024 & Tender ID : 2024-WBTDCL-720561-1 dated 24.07.2024 is invited by the Director, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C R Avenue, Kolkata - 700073 from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online Tender submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-307) www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T12640(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (E & S), CMS
ESI (MB) SCHEME, W.B.
ESIC BLOCK, WINGS-B, (6TH FLOOR), GB-BLOCK, SECTOR-III, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA-700097
e-TENDER NOTICE
Sd/- Director (E&S) invites e-tender for "Supply of Orthopaedic Equipment for Diagnostics of Orthopaedic Patients, Implants & Prostheses" to different ESI Hospitals under ESI (MB) Scheme, W.B. Tender Ref. No: DES/CS/2667 dt: 15.07.2024. Visit Website for details: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (E&S), CMS, ESI (MB) SCHEME, W.B. ICA-T12652(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-03 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Round the clock operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Clear Water Pumping Station for 36(Thirty Six) Months. Rs.63,33,402/-, Rs.1,26,668/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-311) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12644(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 26/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2024_WBTDCL_719188-1
WBTDCL invites the following e-Tender from the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies having requisite credentials. "Supply of 43 inch and 55 inch LED color Television including necessary arrangement at Kurseong Tourism Property in the dist. of Darjeeling (Rs. 14,29,509/-)". Start date & time of documents download: 29.07.2024, 11:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 12.08.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. ICA-T12627(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the CMOH, Dakshin Dinajpur for following e-Tender: 1. E-Tender No. DHFWS/NPHCE/2104, dated 23.07.2024 for supply of items/equipments for NPHCE programme. 2. E-Tender No. DHFWS/NTEP/2106, dated 23.07.2024 for printing under NTEP programme. Resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Bid Submission Closing Date: 12.08.2024, 03.00 A.M. For Detail (e-tender), Please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbhealth.gov.in Office of the undersigned. Sd/- CMOH, D/Dinajpur. ICA-T12630(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE
NIT 100 Elec. of 2024-25 SI. 1 & 2 for SITC of Fire Pump at Kasba I.P. (Phas-II) and E.I. work at Singur I.P. has been invited. For details, log on to www.wbtdcl.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in and see in our office notice board within 12.08.2024 upto 2.00 p.m. Sd/- Executive Engineer, The WBSDCL Ltd. ICA-T12668(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-02 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Clear Water Pumping Station for 4.5 MGD capacity WTP under Howrah Water Works at Srirampur for 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Rs.62,24,732/-, Rs. 1,24,495/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-310) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12643(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-06 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Raw Water Pumping Station for 4.5 MGD capacity WTP under Howrah Water Works at Srirampur for 36(Thirty Six) Months. Rs.63,11,304/-, Rs.1,26,226/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-314) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12647(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 32/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2024_WBTDCL_720793-1
WBTDCL invites the following e-Tender from the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies having requisite credentials. Construction of DG Engine shade-1 (5.65m by 5.35m) and construction of DG shade-2 (5m by 2.6m) at Sagarika Tourism Property, Diamond Harbour, Dist. South 24Pgs. (Rs. 2,22,135,000/-). Start date & time of documents download: 31.07.2024 11:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 09.08.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. ICA-T12637(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-07 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Clear Water Pumping Station for 4.5 MGD capacity WTP under Howrah Water Works at Srirampur for 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Rs.63,33,402/-, Rs.1,26,668/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-309) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12642(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-01 of 2024-25 (2nd Call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Round the clock operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Booster Pumping Station under Panitahi Municipality for 36(Thirty Six) Months. Rs.65,39,382/-, Rs.1,30,788/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-309) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12642(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-04 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-I, E-M Sector, KMDA, 59, Nazrul Park, Ashiwni Nagar, Kolkata-700159, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation and maintenance of Electro-mechanical equipment of Raw Water Pumping Station for 59 MLD capacity WTP, Panitahi, at ward no. 3, Gouranga Ghat Road, under Panitahi Municipality for 36(Thirty Six) Months. Rs.63,69,732/-, Rs.1,27,395/-, 36 months from Commencement date of the work, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-312) www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA-T12645(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 31/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2024_WBTDCL_720763-1
WBTDCL invites the following e-Tender from the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies having requisite credentials. "SITC of 1 no 125 VAC DG set including all works and rectification of internal wiring at rooms at MCL Gurma Tourism Property under WBTDCL in the district of Purulia during the year 2024-25 (Rs. 20,36,91/-). Start date & time of documents download: 30.07.2024, 11:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 16.08.2024, 17:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. ICA-T12636(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: KMDA/EM/EE/MD-1/NIT-05 of 2024-25 (2nd call)
Online Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle-I, EM Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 2nd floor, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Operation, Guarding, Cleaning including Daily/Periodic Maintenance etc. of the Clear water Pumping Equipment and articles etc. along with the Sub-station at Halisrahar clear water Booster Pumping station under Gaiyeshpur Municipality for a period of 03 (Three) Years. Rs.75,30,173/-, Rs.1,50,603/- (Initial), 03 Years from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online Tender submission: 14.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-308) www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T12641(3)/2024

DMRC gets award for green steps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: DMRC has been recognised with the Global Water Tech Award, 2024 in the "organisation category" for its outstanding environmental initiatives, DMRC said on Sunday. "This award was presented by the Global Energy & Environment Foundation (GEEF) to DMRC for its relentless efforts in water conservation and efficient utilisation of water resources in the city of Delhi," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC. "Additionally, DMRC has implemented water-efficient fixtures, Beton Wash facilities at construction sites, and dual plumbing systems," Dayal further added.

RWA flags failure of authorities to act against illegal car wash unit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: A resident welfare association in northwest Delhi had apprised National Green Tribunal about the shortcomings of DPCC and other agencies, including MCD, which, despite the tribunal's order, have failed to take action against an illegal car washing unit operating in a residential area. The RWA in Mangolpuri has said that a car washing unit operating in a non-conforming area is not just causing pollution but also extracting water using borewells. It pointed out that despite the NGT's Nov 2023 order to take appropriate action, nothing has been done so far. In an affidavit submitted to NGT, the RWA named Chetna Residents Welfare Association Mangol Puri, stated that earlier this year in June, the civic body had issued a show cause notice, but the operator of the illegal washing unit, who has several criminal cases against him, misbehaved with MCD officials. "Matter was discussed in detail and it was informed by the MCD official that MCD has already issued a show cause notice to the unit on June 11 as well as inspected the unit. During inspection, the unit obstructed the MCD official to discharge their official duties and misbehaved with them. Sh. Jagat Pal (tehsildar, Rohini), on behalf of DM (North West), suggested that a joint inspection may be conducted as the previous tehsildar was manhandled by the owner of the unit," stated a reply by the RWA which filed the petition in NGT in 2023. It further pointed out that a joint inspection was carried out, on the direction of the tribunal on July 22, by MCD, DPCC, and revenue department where they found the illegal unit locked. The petitioner thus pointed out that while the said unit had been operational till a day earlier, it was found locked on the day of inspection. "Which also suggests that prior intimation of joint inspection was already available to the persons running the unit," stated the RWA, adding that the "official bikes of Delhi Police (one of the respondents in the case) were washed on July 18 and July 20". The RWA prayed that "upon finding premises locked, no notice has been affixed upon premises or served to the owner of the unit either by the DPCC or any other agency to open the unit for conducting further inspection". "It is pertinent to mention here that the washing centre has been in operation since Nov 2020 and if any polluter locks its premises just to avoid inspection and legal action, govt respondents cannot sit quiet otherwise it will set a precedent and a wrong message to the society," added the RWA, asking the tribunal to act against the illegal unit.



WASTAGE DOESN'T WASH WITH RESIDENTS

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Department of Youth Services & Sports
Standard Building (1st floor), 32/1, B.O.D Bag (South), Kolkata-700001
Email-yds@youthservices.kolkata@gmail.com
e-TENDER NOTICE
No. 730/DYS/TS/P/1E-01/2024, Kolkata, Dated 29th July, 2024
E-Tender invited for undertaking the jobs of (a) Erection of Dais, Pandal & Allied Works, (b) Supplying Food Beverage like Laddu, Tea, Biscuits, Drinking Water, VIP Food Packets etc. in connection with holding of the State Level Programme of Rakhibandha Utsab, 2024 as a part of "SANSKRITI DIBAS" to be organized by the Youth Services & Sports Department, Government of West Bengal on 19.08.2024 at 10 AM at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata. Details are available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Late date of submission of bid is 06.08.2024. Sd/- Secretary, Department of Youth Services & Sports. ICA-T12664(3)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-4, Bidhanagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC13373. www.wbseidcl.in
Extension of Time
Ref. Original NIT No: P-13/2024-25/PC-1 of the Chief Engineer (P&C), Procurement & Contracts Department, WBSEIDCL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 05.08.2024 (14.00 hrs.). For details, visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & www.wbseidcl.in ICA-T12662(1)/2024

THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
Administrative Building, Dr. B.C. Roy Avenue Durgapur-713201, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman
CIN No. U40102WB19961SGC025250
Recruitment Notice No. :DPL/Recruitment/ 2024/08
The Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL), invites applications from Indian Nationals to fill up the Position of **Welfare Officer(Contractual), VT Manager (Contractual) & Assistant Mine Manager (Contractual)** for its Mines Cell. For details relating to eligibility criteria etc. the candidates are requested to visit our website www.dpl.net.in ICA-N357(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Biswa Bangla Marketing Corporation Limited
Karigari Bhawan, Ground Floor, Room No 009, Action Area II, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700160
CIN - U52100WB20145GC204751
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are hereby invited by Managing Director, Biswa Bangla Marketing Corporation Ltd.(BMC) from Government of West Bengal registered Rakhi manufacturing Self Help Group (SHG)/Clusters / Co-operative Societies and artisans for supply of about 6,60,000 units of Rakhi. Technical & Financial bids are to be submitted Online only at www.wbtenders.gov.in For details, please visit www.biswabangla.in

NIT No.	Item and Quantity to be supplied	Start Date & Time for submitting e-Tenders	Date & Time for Online Pre-bid Meeting	Last date for submission of e-tenders
BBMC/RAKHI/2024-25/NIT0201	6,60,000units of Rakhi	29.07.2024 12PM	30.07.2024 3 PM	05.08.2024 11AM
2024_BBMC_710982_1				

ICA-T12666(3)/2024

Affordable housing: SC seeks info from Hrygovt

RaoJaswantSingh@timesofindia.com
Gurgaon: Supreme Court has asked Haryana govt to furnish details of all affordable housing projects for which it issued licences in the past 10 years. The court was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by buyers who have invested around Rs 160 crore in Mahira Homes in Sector 103—a project that has been stalled for almost two years and a half. In the order dated July 22, the apex court not only asked the town and country planning department (DTCP) about licences issued for affordable housing in the past decade, but also sought information on the estimated cost of flats at the time they were launched and the tripartite agreement between builders, homebuyers and banks. It also asked the department for details of project layouts that were approved by it and the number of times building plans were tweaked. The court asked about the number of projects that were ready and the homebuyers who had been handed flats. The state govt will also have to inform SC about the mechanism adopted by it to monitor the progress of these housing projects. Govt must tell the court about action taken by it if any builder was found to have violated the norms. The principal secretary of the department will have to submit all these details within four weeks. The next hearing is slated for Sept 27. On March 4 this year, 96 homebuyers had approached SC allegedly after not getting any satisfactory response regarding the delay in their flats from DTCP and Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (H-Rera). Launched in 2019, Mahira Homes has around 800 flats in it. Despite paying up Rs 160 crore, buyers said only 15% of the project was completed. H-Rera chairperson Arun Kumar denied the allegation that buyers' complaints were ignored. Calls and messages to senior DTCP officials went unanswered on Sunday evening.

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tender & notices
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Tender Documents can be obtained by post or in person on payment of Rs.1000/- by Cash from at GPR Logistics.
OR Surveyors at: Third Eye Insurance Surveyors 104, Runwal Comm. Centre, Govandi Stn Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088. Tel.No: 7977501028 / 9821026517
Inspection at Site between 11 AM & 3 PM by prior appointment between 29th July 2024 and 4th Aug 2024
Tenders to be submitted before 2.30 PM on 6th Aug 2024 at warehouse of GPR Logistics.
Tenders will be opened at 3.00 PM on 6th Aug 2024 at warehouse of GPR Logistics, at the address given above.

Public Notice
To be known to all that Rakesh Kaur who Late S. Sarabjeet Singh R/o D-15/1st Floor floor, Fateh Nagar, New Delhi-18, allottee of Flat no. 47B in Block JC, Ground Floor, Rajpur Garden, DDA Flats, Delhi-22. That original documents, i.e. Allotment Letter & Possession Letter bearing file no F70/79A/83/SHMIJ/NP of the above said property have been lost/misplaced. An FIR of 17.07.24 bearing LR no. 194521/2024 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with name and phone son at above add: Ph.9136172909 within 15days from date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest or objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director (Housing) Jr Director (Janta) Housing, D Block DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, N. Delhi-23

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I Sandhya Singh D/o Rampratap Rajdeo Singh, R/o H-401, Exotica Fresco, Sec 137, Noida-201304 have changed my name from Sandhya Rampratap Singh to Sandhya Singh for all future purposes.

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CUET Results Finally Out, Admissions To Begin Soon

Across 68 DU Colleges, 72,000 Seats Available In 78 Undergraduate Programmes And 198 BA Programme Combinations

Ridhima Gupta
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced the results of the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET UG) for this year.

City universities, such as Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Ambedkar University, are likely to start admissions soon.

Candidates who appeared for the CUET UG examination between May 15 and 29 and on July 19 will be able to check and download the CUET UG results now. It is available on nta.ac.in and exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-UG.

Speaking to TOI, Haneeet Gandhi, dean of admissions at Delhi University, said:

"Once we get the results from NTA, we will integrate the results on our portal and then we will open the second phase of the admission process for common seat allocation, wherein the candidates will come to know their best four combinations and what they are eligible for, and then we open it for them to fill their preferences, following which we start with our allocation round."

The official said that unlike earlier years, this year, the university will reduce the duration for the students to fill their preferences. "Due to the delay in the results, we may not be able to give 15 days to fill their preferences. Hence, the second phase of the admission will get a little shorter, and this ti-

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ▶ Candidates have to log in to their CSAS dashboard and fill preferences
 - ▶ Will also have to do subject-mapping
 - ▶ They will then be able to see their cumulative marks for every programme for which they are eligible
 - ▶ The university will consider normalised scores provided by NTA to calculate merit scores
 - ▶ Aspirants should select maximum combinations of programme and college to increase their chances
 - ▶ Sequencing of the combinations should be done carefully
 - ▶ Expect a simulated rank list after the preference-filling phase
- ▶ At this stage, aspirants may be allowed to change their preferences
- ▶ After this, various rounds of seat allocation will begin
- ▶ Class XII marks will only be considered if a tie-breaker is needed



Photo for representation

me they will get about 7-10 days... We will likely release the DU admission schedule in the coming days."

The official added that it was likely that by the end of Aug, classes will start in DU.

There are nearly 72,000 seats available for admission to 78 undergraduate programmes and 198 BA programme combinations in 68 colleges in Delhi University. Students have to register in the CSAS portal through the official website — admissions.uod.ac.in.

In the second phase, students will have to indicate their programme-college preferences and also map out the subjects. The official said: "Once the university starts the CSAS form, the candidates should fill their

preferences carefully, as the entire admission now depends on the ranking of their admissions."

Anu Singh, the VC of Ambedkar University, said: "The delay in CUET might not affect us a lot. We are going to put the first merit list and give students a week to report and pay the fee, and then the second merit list will be out. We are now going to start our admission process, and it is likely that the academic session will start at the university by Aug 15-20."

At the university, the CU-



stressed. I had to give up on my admissions for IP university as I was waiting for CUET to be out to be able to apply for DU. Now, finally, I will be able to do that." Abhinay wants to pursue BA (Honours) from Motilal Nehru College, in DU.

Another student, Sarthak Gupta, said: "I was sitting at home for the last two and a half months in the hope of my results and could not think about anything else. Now, with the results out, I know what to do and where I can apply. My first preference is History (Honours) from Aryabhata College or Motilal Nehru College in DU."

ET-UG admissions take place for 23 courses.

Abhinay Tiwari, a CUET candidate, said: "Due to the delay in the result, I was very

Frisky At Sixty?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



It is probably not widespread enough to be called a trend, but one has noticed, in one's immediate circle, the rising tendency of 60+ women to refer to themselves as 'girls'. Along with this, there is a rise in all-women groups who travel together, go out for boisterous evenings, hold kitty parties with loud enthusiasm, and generally behave in a way unimaginable for an earlier generation.

Historically, in India, girls became women far too quickly (while men stayed boys all their lives) and, therefore, the reclaiming of this label at an age where one probably has grandchildren who are girls is interesting. In earlier times too, all-women gatherings were not uncommon, with "ladies clubs" (populated by many Mrs. So-and-Sos) being the staple form in which these took place. But there was an air of studied propriety about these, a determined effort to play the role of responsible, mature women. The kitty party signalled the loosening of this restraint, but it is only recently that even these have become more relaxed, with the odd group deciding that alcohol is a necessary ingredient for such get-togethers.

Of course, this shift is not limited to women alone. It is no secret that the senior citizen today does not take their seniority too seriously. There is a stubborn refusal to fade gracefully away into the background and an airy dismissal of the idea that they take to pursuits suitable to their age (religion, tending to grandkids, joining laughter clubs, providing guidance on rituals).

It is true that men have always had the cultural license to be boys and have always managed to find some outlets for this part of themselves. Whether it was making their workplace a boy's club, where they could shed their donned personae, or in the nudge-nudge-wink-wink trip to Bangkok under the pretence of an offsite, they could, in addition to fulfilling their responsibilities as householders, express their more uninhibited sides. But once they retired, even they were expected to turn appropriately geriatric.

The reasons for the changes we are seeing are many. This is the first generation that has a reasonable number of retirees with an economic surplus, and it shows in the way they imagine and live their lives. For many, their children are settled and self-sufficient, which means that financially, their responsibilities have been reduced.

In an earlier time, retirement was an anxiety-inducing event. For those in service who derived so much of their sense of self from their designation, retiring was like a steep fall into ordinariness. For those in business, handing over the baton to the next generation created feelings of insecurity and irrelevance. One's youth and middle age are noisy times, full of the cacophony of work and family responsibilities. Even holi-

It is no secret that the senior citizen today does not take their seniority too seriously. There is a stubborn refusal to fade gracefully away into the background and an airy dismissal of the idea that they take to pursuits suitable to their age (religion, tending to grandkids, joining laughter clubs, providing guidance on rituals)

days that are taken are desperate attempts to escape into a short-lived sanctuary, and even these were often tainted by the sound of the mobile phone ringing at inopportune times. Financially too, there was a dread of being dependent on one's children, and the prospect of facing neglect at the hands of the next generation was all too real.

And while these concerns continue for a large part of India, there is a section that has managed to free itself from the onerous responsibility towards others and is able to focus on themselves. There is a strong recognition that after 60, the overhang of mortality feels more palpable, and while medical science has prolonged lifespans, it offers no certainties about who wins the longevity lottery. In any case, the real need that is felt is not necessarily lon-

gevity, but rather a kind of agelessness. So, for many people, their 60s and 70s turn out to be the best periods of their lives.

An enabling factor is the better levels of fitness that we see in the older generation today. There is much greater consciousness about health, exercise, and diet that allows older people to remain active until a much later age. It is not uncommon to see retirees take to physical activities with enthusiasm. There are friends who have started running marathons and going on treks after crossing 50.

Which is why travel is the biggest pursuit of this cohort. The effort here is not just to visit distant places but to put distance between their previous lives and their new ones, to explore not just new lands but new sides of themselves. Bucket lists are made and ticked off, and depending on one's pocket trips, both domestic and international are eagerly availed of.

The biggest difference, however, comes from the mindset. Earlier, notions of age-appropriate behaviour were consonant with the inevitable decline of one's physical and mental faculties with time. A lifespan was seen to have a rhythm, a rise and fall that was embraced rather than denied. As one aged, one's looks became less important, and one's concerns turned inward, first towards the family and then towards more spiritual activities. Ageing was a process by which we gradually extracted ourselves from our lives, fading into the collective label of the elderly, until we were ready to go.

One could argue that there was wisdom in this and that it represented a more mature outlook towards death. The current obsession with longevity often succeeds in prolonging death rather than life, as we use medical science to keep ourselves alive without really having a life to live.

The change that has happened is unlikely to be rolled back because almost all the reasons why we embraced the older mental model of ageing are being dismantled. Several youth-extending technologies have come to the aid of this group, Viagra not being the least of them. With the world revolving around the individual, it has become increasingly legitimate to focus on extracting every bit of pleasure and meaning from one's life. Mortality, of course, lies waiting. But the sixty-somethings of today are not just alive; they are kicking.

santosh365@gmail.com

Man kills daughter, injures wife during tiff over money

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 22-year-old girl was allegedly murdered by her father while trying to protect her mother from him in South West Delhi's Najafgarh on Sunday.

Cops were informed about the incident through a PCR call, and a police team was sent to the spot. Upon arrival, police found the caller, a 23-year-old resident of Gopal Nagar, Najafgarh, along with the deceased girl's 13-year-old sister.

"The minor reported that during the midnight hours of July 27-28, an argument over money broke out between her mother and her father. As the situation escalated, her father reportedly stabbed her mother in the head with a knife. When her elder sister attempted to intervene, the accused stabbed her also, causing her to lose consciousness," a senior police officer said.

The 22-year-old was taken to RTRM Hospital, Jaffarpur, where she was pronounced dead on arrival, and the mother was admitted for treatment. Police have launched a manhunt for the accused.

Labourer (20) dies of electric shock in Fbd

Gurgaon: A 20-year-old labourer was electrocuted when he came into contact with an overhead electric wire in Tigaon on Sunday morning. He was among a group of kanwariyas from Nawada and Tigaon villages in Faridabad preparing for the Kanwar yatra to Haridwar.

According to police, around 25 kanwariyas had hired a DCM van for the yatra. On Sunday morning, nine members of the group went to Ballabgarh to decorate the vehicle and set up a DJ sound system. The incident occurred when the group was at Nawada after getting the van decorated. TNN

Woman among 4 more held in parcel fraud

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While investigating a case in which an MNC executive was duped of Rs 44 lakh in Mumbai by scammers posing as police officers, Delhi Police has discovered their links to Dubai and arrested four more people, including a woman from Rajasthan. The total number of arrests in the case has now reached eight. The arrested accused have been identified as Ashok, Manoj Dhaka, Raj Kumar and Kiran Lohar.

Source said that the suspects were involved in transferring the funds in the form of cryptocurrency to their accomplices in Dubai. "During interrogation, the cops found

that the Dubai-based scammers were cheating people by posing as cops and issuing threats," a police source said.

The matter came to light after the MNC executive, Sharad, filed a complaint in Dec last year at the cyber police station (south-west). He told the cops that he received a phone call wherein the caller, posing as a courier company representative, claimed to have intercepted a package containing illegal documents, credit cards, clothes and drugs. The contents of the parcel, the caller said, were linked to his Aadhaar Card and phone number.

Sharad was then transferred to a video call in which peo-

ple posing as Crime Branch officers threatened legal action. The scammers demanded a "hefty security deposit"—nearly 89% of his savings—and promised a quick refund once the "investigation" was over. They managed to persuade the executive to transfer Rs 44 lakh to their account.

Source revealed that the earlier arrests were made in West Bengal. Rakesh Kumar Shaw, Rashid Khan, Raj Kumar Das and Niva Singh, residents of West Bengal, were arrested then. Das was identified as the primary contact with the Dubai-based scammers.

The gang has allegedly defrauded over 100 people of at least Rs 5 crore.

Hoax bomb threat in bus

New Delhi:

A hoax bomb threat was reported on a cluster bus in West Delhi's Ranhola, causing a stir among passengers and authorities. Cops received a call at 9.53pm on Saturday from the bus conductor, who claimed that someone had placed a bomb in the vehicle.

A PCR van was dispatched promptly along with a bomb diffuser team. Upon checking, the suspected devices were found to be circuit boards wrapped in black paper, with no traces of explosives. Cops said it was an apparent case of mistaken identity. TNN

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S. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
		Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Year ended		
		30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)		
1	Total Income from Continuing Operations	10,850.37	10,888.23	45,815.37	11,279.59	11,257.60	46,913.12
2	Net Profit before Tax from Continuing Operations (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	4,231.93	4,041.54	18,009.46	4,603.22	4,218.30	18,513.95
3	Net Profit after Tax from Continuing Operations	3,412.15	3,484.58	15,377.48	3,723.92	3,597.16	15,573.16
4	Net Profit after Tax from Discontinued Operations	-	58.07	97.13	-	-	-
5	Net Profit after Tax for the period	3,412.15	3,542.65	15,474.61	3,723.92	3,597.16	15,573.16
6	Total Comprehensive Income comprising Net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	3,457.06	3,475.31	15,241.72	3,768.40	3,529.50	15,338.55
7	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share: ₹10/- each)	9,300.60	6,975.45	9,300.60	9,300.60	6,975.45	9,300.60
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance sheet	81,023.51	79,344.04	77,566.45	81,612.77	79,581.07	77,844.51
9	Securities Premium Account	5,509.28	7,834.43	5,509.28	5,509.28	7,834.43	5,509.28
10	Net worth	90,324.11	86,319.49	86,867.05	90,913.37	86,556.52	87,145.11
11	Total Borrowings	1,23,465.20	1,23,717.15	1,23,448.62	1,23,465.20	1,23,717.15	1,23,448.62
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.37	1.43	1.42	1.36	1.43	1.42
13	Earnings per equity share from continuing and discontinued operations including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	3.67	3.81	16.64	4.00	3.87	16.74
14	Earnings per equity share from continuing and discontinued operations excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	3.73	4.18	17.25	4.07	4.24	17.36
15	Bonds Redemption Reserve	2,589.49	3,834.73	2,921.02	2,589.49	3,834.73	2,921.02
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.57	1.73	1.65	1.67	1.77	1.69
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	4.00	4.15	4.10	4.39	4.33	4.27

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Investors section of our website <https://www.powergrid.in> and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> and <https://www.nseindia.com> respectively.
- Previous periods figures have been rearranged/reclassified wherever considered necessary.

Place : Gurugram
Date : 26 July 2024

For and on behalf of POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Sd/-
G Ravisankar, Director (Finance)
DIN: 08816101



POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
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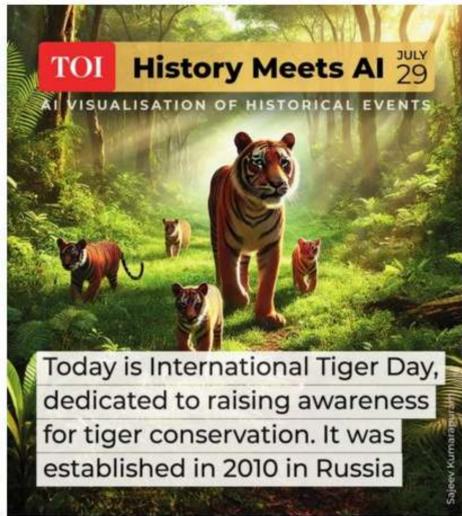
A MAHARATNA PSU



I'M NOT IN RACE, MOST CAPABLE FACE OF BIHAR WILL LEAD MY PARTY, SAYS PRASHANT KISHOR



ANDHRA GOVT DROPS EX-CM JAGAN REDDY'S NAME FROM 6 STUDENT WELFARE SCHEMES



TOI History Meets AI JULY 29
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Today is International Tiger Day, dedicated to raising awareness for tiger conservation. It was established in 2010 in Russia

Creek named after slain guard

West Bengal forest department has decided to name a creek in Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) after forest guard Amalendu Halder who was killed by Bangladeshi pirates on May 18, reports **Krishendu Mukherjee**. Rajendra Jakkhar, STR field director, said this is their effort to remember him on International Tiger Day. Locally known as Morabani-I, the creek will be renamed 'Amalendu Khal'. "We will declare it on Monday, Global Tiger Day," said deputy field director Justine Jones. Halder, 59, was hacked to death by 8 to 10 pirates. Three other forest workers who were with Halder jumped into the river and escaped the attack.

Hippo attack kills zookeeper

Days after he was critically injured in an attack by a hippopotamus, Santosh Kumar Mahto, the zookeeper at Birs Biological Park at Ormanjhi in Jharkhand's Ranchi district, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital Sunday morning. On July 25, Mahto, 54, sustained multiple injuries after his limbs were crushed by a female hippo while he was trying to remove her newborn calf from her cage and feed it. "Mahto had undergone surgery on July 26 and was initially out of danger. However, he succumbed this morning," zoo director Jabbar Singh told **TOI**. Authorities provided his family with compensation of Rs 5 lakh. **TNN**

From 60k to 80k in '23, pending cases in SC up 35% in 5 years

62L HC Cases, Up From 46.8L In 2019: Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases also leads to delay, govt told Parliament

New Delhi: Pendency of cases in SC has increased 35% in the past five years, from 59,859 in 2019 to 80,765 till the end of 2023, law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed Parliament on Thursday. In absolute terms, the pending cases have increased by over 20,900 in the past five years, increasing pressure on the country's top court despite the fact that it has been functioning at full strength.

In the 23 high courts across the country, case pendency increased from 46.8 lakh in 2019 to over 62 lakh in 2023, marking a rise of more than 15 lakh cases and a 33% increase.

The largest pendency, however, is in subordinate courts at 4.4 crore cases till the end of 2023. Compared with 2019, when the lower judiciary had 3.2 crore cases pending, the rise in pendency is by more than 1.2 crore cases, an increase of 38%, according to the information shared by govt.

"There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases in courts, which include availability of physical infrastructure and support-

ing court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures," the law minister said.

The other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, Meghwal added.

The minister admitted that lack of coordination between agencies involved in the criminal justice system often leads to pendency. Though the criminal justice system functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, prosecution, forensic labs and medico-legal experts, the minister said the resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary.

HC collegiums yet to name picks for 39% of vacancies, says govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For nearly 39% of the existing vacancies in various high courts across the country, HC collegiums have not sent any recommendation yet to govt, law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal told Parliament on Thursday in response to a question whether the Centre was doing anything on the huge vacancies in the constitutional courts.

Against 357 judges post vacant in 23 high courts as on July 19, Meghwal said, only 219 recommendations have been received from various HC collegiums for appointments. For at least 138 remaining vacant positions, no recommendations have yet been made by the collegiums concerned, the minister said.

As per the memorandum of understanding guiding the appointment of judges to HCs, recommendations for elevation of eligible advocates are first made by HC collegium concerned to govt. After vetting by the Intelligence Bureau, these recommenda-

tions are then sent by govt to SC collegium for its approval. Once SC collegium recommends a name, it becomes mandatory for govt to appoint them as judges.

"Out of these 219 proposals, 90 were sent to the Supreme Court collegium (SCC) for seeking advice against which the SCC has provided advice on 82 proposals which are at various stages of processing," the law minister said in response to a question in RS on Thursday.

On the remaining 129 proposals received from HC collegiums, the govt is currently engaged in vetting and processing them for the advice of SCC. The minister said, besides these pending recommendations, five proposals for transfer of judges are under consideration of govt.

"Chief Justice of a HC is required to initiate the proposal to fill up the vacancy of a HC Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the high courts," the minister said.

Eye on China, EAM & Blinken hold talks before Quad meet

Sachin Parashar @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid tensions in ties over India's relationship with Russia, foreign minister S Jaishankar and his US counterpart Antony Blinken met Sunday with the former saying that the India-US bilateral agenda is progressing steadily and that they also had discussions on regional and global issues.

In the meeting, according to a US readout, Blinken underscored the importance of realising a "just and enduring" peace for Ukraine, consistent with the UN Charter. The meeting took place in the middle of strife in relations over PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to Russia and India's continued diplomatic tightrope walk on the war in Ukraine that may see him visiting Ukraine next month.

Blinken on X said they met to deepen collaboration and affirm the shared commitment to regional peace, security and prosperity. There was no official readout of the meeting by either side till late in the evening.



Jaishankar pays tribute to the Mahatma after unveiling his bust in Tokyo on Sunday

The leaders met in Tokyo ahead of the Quad foreign ministers' meeting on Monday where India, US, Australia and Japan will reaffirm commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific in the face of increasing Chinese assertiveness in South China Sea. While the Quad summit which India was hoping to host in Jan has been inordinately delayed, the ministers are expected to explore the possibility of having the same on the margins of the UNGA in Sept.

According to govt sources, PM Narendra Modi won't mind having the summit in New York. While US and Australia are also keen,

there's still doubt about whether Japanese PM Fumio Kishida will be able to make it as the UNGA 2024 clashes with the presidential election for Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The election as of now is expected to take place either on Sept 20 or 27.

Amid renewed China-Philippines tensions, the Quad meeting on Monday will likely see a reiteration of the four democracies' joint vision of keeping the Indo-Pacific stable and secure, free from intimidation and coercion, and where sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. The Russia-Ukraine war is also expected to figure in the meeting with the ministers likely to focus on its humanitarian consequences.

Despite India's initial reluctance to include the war in Quad's agenda, concerns over the global food security situation have seen the grouping focus on the implications of Russia's actions in Ukraine in a big way. Apart from the US, Japan and Australia are also likely to appreciate Modi's decision to visit Ukraine next month.

Maldives prez thanks India, China for help to boost economy

Beijing/Male: President Mohamed Muizzu has thanked India and China for helping strengthen the Maldives' fragile economy, highlighting the importance of the two countries in addressing the island nation's looming debt crisis and its future development.

China and India provide the most assistance in repaying the country's debt, Muizzu said Friday at a function held to mark the 50th anniversary of the country's independence. "I thank the Chinese govt and the Indian govt on behalf of the Maldivian people for their cooperation with this effort to strengthen the economy to assure our economic sovereignty, for the sake of the Maldivian people," Muizzu was quoted as saying by news portal adhadhu.com.

Muizzu was elected last year on an anti-India campaign plank seeking the removal of around 80 Indian military personnel operating helicopters and Dornier aircraft donated by India. China for its part scaled up ties with Maldives since Muizzu, regarded as a pro-Beijing politician, took over. **PTI**

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

By Atul Thakur

Vaulting to Glory

Few men dominated pole vault for many years. The present record holder Armand Duplantis (6.24 meters) has broken his own record 8 times. The sport was once dominated by Soviet/Ukrainian athlete **Sergey Bubka** who was the first to clear the 6-meter barrier and broke the world record 35 times



Mine flooded, official drowns

Raipur: A 41-year-old official from Southeastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) drowned after being swept into a sump by strong rainwater currents following three hours of downpour at Kusmunda opencast coal mines in Chhattisgarh's Korba district Saturday evening. Five officials, including mining assistant manager Jitendra Vinayak Nagarkar, were trapped in the rainwater around 4.30pm. Nagarkar

slipped and was swept away, while the others managed to escape, an SECL source said.

"Heavy rainfall in the mine area caused debris to accumulate in Hume pipes designed for water drainage, leading to an overflow that triggered the incident. NDRF and SDRF teams recovered his body around 9am Sunday after 16 hours of effort," said SECL PRO Sanish Chandra.

Nagarkar was from Maharashtra's Chandrapur. **TNN**

20 aspiring cops defy flood to reach exam centre in Gadchiroli



Recognising the risk the youths had taken despite Maoist death threats, Gadchiroli cops arranged boats for them

Soumitra Bose @timesofindia.com

Nagpur: An SOS message reached the police headquarters in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli Saturday from 20 candidates, including women, who were left stranded by flooded rivers in Bhamragarh taluka near the Maoist stronghold of Abujmarh along the Chhattisgarh border. They were 150km from Gadchiroli town, where they were to appear for a police recruitment written exam Sunday.

Recognising the risk the youths had taken to appear for the exam despite Maoist death threats and floods, senior police officers took action to ensure their safe arrival. Boats were dispatched to ferry the candidates to Etapalli, where they were provided food and lodging for the night. The following morning, they were transported to Gadchiroli in time for their exam.

Their journey was particularly challenging as around 40 key roads in Gadchiroli were closed due to submerged bridges caused by overflowing rivers and nullahs. Parlakota river had isolated Bhamragarh from the rest of the district,

compounded by incessant rain. In Maoist-affected Gadchiroli, especially in areas near Abujmarh, aspiring to join the police force can be life-threatening.

Police made extraordinary efforts to assist the candidates who had already passed the physical test. They had travelled from remote villages—earlier known as Maoist strongholds such as Kukametta, Hinbhathi, Zareguda Laheri, and Pengunda. They crossed flooded rivers and forded streams.

Gadchiroli SP Neelotpal intervened personally, mobilising district administration and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) resources for the rescue. "We activated Bhamragarh police units in addition to the district administration's disaster management teams and SDRF Rescue boats, equipped with life jackets, were arranged to help the candidates cross the flooded rivers," he said.

The SP also ensured that three candidates from Kumbhi village also reached the exam centre after receiving assistance to cross the flooded Kumbhi nullah. The efforts resulted in a 99% attendance for the recruitment drive.

Bihari influx altering J'khand demography: Cong MLA

Dhritiman Ray @timesofindia.com

Ranchi: Amid BJP and JMM-led INDIA bloc's fight over demographic changes in tribal-dominated Santhal Pargana division allegedly due to Bangladeshi immigrants' infiltration, a Congress MLA sparked controversy by accusing Biharis of illegally settling in Jharkhand.

"Adivasis and Moolvasis of Ranchi have been pushed to slums. In Ramgarh, Biharis are becoming mukhiyas. Demographics have changed across Jharkhand and they have made outsiders residents by bringing the residents' policy which has 1985 as the cut-off year," Congress' Mandar MLA Shilpi Neha Tirkey said in the assembly.

Bandhu Tirkey, Neha's father, and working president of Jharkhand Congress, had on Saturday said, "Dubey (BJP's Godda MP Nishikant Dubey) said in Parliament that the population of tribal people in Santhal Pargana had shrunk by 10%, but BJP is silent on demographic changes in Chotanagpur division."

Dubey had raised concerns in the Lok Sabha regarding demographic shifts in the tribal lands and demanded a separate Union Territory comprising Santhal Pargana, parts of Bihar, and West Bengal to safeguard tribal identity.

Retorting to Congress' charges, BJP said settlers in Santhal Pargana had illegally sneaked in from a foreign country while Biharis living in Ranchi were well within the law to do so. "Congress engages in minority appeasement politics," BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said.

Vulgar messages on vehicles? Kol cops to act against owners



The decision comes after Kolkata Police on Sunday found two trucks with derogatory remarks against women

Dwaipayan Ghosh @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Kolkata Police has decided to slap defamation cases against bus and truck owners if found displaying on their vehicles obscene or derogatory posters, messages or photographs that can hurt the sentiment of any sex, caste or creed. People have been asked to send photos of such derogatory messages to police for quick action.

After cops found two trucks with derogatory remarks against women on Sunday, which said "snakes can be believed but not women", they asked its

drivers to cover them up. "We might begin with motorists, but the law is applicable to all," said an additional CP. Open display of provocative statement could count as defamation in the eyes of the law and draw penalty, said a police official at Lalbazar.

A post by Kolkata Police on its Facebook page on its decision opened up a healthy debate. While some hailed police action, others questioned if something "offensive" written on a T-shirt would legally qualify as defamatory. Police officials reacted by stating they will soon create more awareness on the issue.

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CJI: Equality, fundamental freedoms being chipped away

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: CJI D Y Chandrachud expressed Sunday concern over gradual erosion of fundamental freedoms and constitutional values such as equality, which he noted are being undermined not dramatically, but by minute and continuous measures. "Over the past 24 years, I've been seeing every day a constant battle over how fundamental freedoms and constitutional values such as equality are being chipped away, not brick by brick, but by infinitely small proportions every time you face injustice," he said.

Delivering the keynote address at "Is There Hope For Equality Law?" event, organised by National Law School of India University at Bangalore International Centre, the CJI reflected on men manually cleaning drains in Delhi.

The CJI questioned the true freedom of these people. "Freedom from having to manually clean waste has a deep and historical context rooted in caste in our society. In this case, freedom is inextricably rooted in the concept of equality. An unequal society implies an unfree society because the lower unequals are always unfree from the higher unequals," he said.

Despite the widespread support for equality and anti-discrimination laws, he questioned why prejudice and discrimination still persist. Citing Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's work on intersecting identities, the CJI underscored the importance of recognising multiple social categories such as class, caste, gender, ability, sexuality and religion, which intersect to produce unique experiences of discrimination and marginalisation.

"By considering inequality through a single-axis lens, we risk overlooking the complex experiences of individuals with multiple marginalised identities and inadvertently prioritise the voices of the more privileged within marginalised groups," Justice Chandrachud said. The CJI concluded by advocating for contextual "comparativism" and rich dialogues between legal systems to strengthen the pursuit of equality.

Spike in Jammu attacks brings under lens local support for Pak terrorists

The situation raises critical questions. Do the foreign terrorists have a local support system in place, or are they using coercion and financial incentives to gain support of poor villagers?

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: They were awakened by knocks at their doors. Policemen armed with automatic rifles surrounded their homes, bundled them into vehicles, and sped away through the forest tracks in their villages, which are about 25km apart and 10km southeast of Jammu city. These two arrests added weight to suspicions of local support in the resurgence of terrorist activities in the Jammu zone of J&K, raising questions about the region's security dynamics and the broader socio-political underpinnings. Police released a stripped-down statement. "Through meticulous investigation, two over ground workers (OGWs) have been identified and arrested for supporting terrorism-related activities. They are Layaqat Ali, alias Pawu, son of Gami, from Ward No. 07, Kalna Dhamu Parole, Billawar, Kathua, and Mool Raj, alias Jenju, son of Uttam Chand, from Bowli Mohalla, Malhar, also in Kathua district."

Security sources say over 60 foreign terrorists, trained in jungle warfare, are active within the Jammu region. They are equipped with advanced technology

Authorities have long claimed that local support is crucial for these Pakistani terrorists, who lack familiarity with the lay of the land. "Foreign terrorists, unfamiliar with the topography and security layout, cannot operate effectively without local guidance," said a retired Army officer. "They can't move a step outside of their hideout. But they struck at specific places of their choice (in recent attacks), which is not possible without local support and guidance."

According to security sources, more than 60 foreign terrorists, trained in jungle warfare, are active in small groups within the Jammu region. These groups of terrorists are equipped with advanced technology, including iridium satellite phones and thermal imagery, and use high-end weapons like the American M4 carbine.

Their capacity to coordinate attacks poses a significant challenge for security forces, evidenced by the successful ambushes and subsequent escapes, using dense foliage and darkness to their advantage. Recent attacks, such as the July 8 ambush on a military patrol, demonstrate the terrorists' ability to strike specific targets with precision, indicating strong local knowledge.

CRACKDOWN ON OGWS IN JAMMU ZONE

July 17, 2024 | Suspected over ground workers (OGWs) Mubashir Hussain, Safder Ali, Sajad Ahmed and Showket Ali picked up after Doda attack

Apr 22, 2024 | Qamaruddin, a teacher in Poonch district, arrested with a pistol and two hand grenades

Dec 6, 2023 | Suspected OGWS M Farooq and M Nazir arrested in Rajouri district; a pistol, two magazines, 30 bullets, two hand grenades and a wire cutter seized

Apr 29, 2023 | Six arrested for allegedly providing weapons, ammunition, explosives, shelter and guidance to terrorists involved in Poonch attack of April 20

Dec 25, 2022 | Suspected OGW Tayab Khan arrested in Poonch district with a pistol and ammunition



An Army vehicle damaged during the ambush in Kathua district in which five Army jawans were killed on July 8

Oct 20, 2022 | Following a grenade attack in Ramban district, 5 suspected OGWS arrested; charged under Public Safety Act

July 19, 2022 | Police dismantled 3 terror modules; arrested 6 LeT men; seized arms & explosives

Feb 25, 2022 | 4 suspected Hizbul Mujahideen OGWS arrested with 2 grenades, 120 AK-47 bullets, Hizbul posters

ing in the deaths of nine people. Din allegedly received Rs 6,000 for his assistance, which police claimed to have found in his possession. The timing of the attacks, often occurring in isolated areas and at night, further suggested a dependence on local support. "Without using GPS or other navigation aids to avoid detection, these terrorists need locals to guide them," a security source said. Recent terrorist strikes, including the Bhangri shoot-out and the Chatergalla mountain pass attack, highlighted the dependency of terrorists on local operatives.

In 2023, security agencies arrested 291 people associated with terrorist groups, emphasising the widespread threat of local support. J&K DGP R Swain reported the dismantling of 89 terrorist modules, with 78 in Kashmir and 11 in Jammu. Despite these efforts, the surge in attacks this summer has raised concerns about the effectiveness of current security measures.

Authorities have warned people against aiding terrorists, while also urging locals to report any "suspicious movement" in their area. Locals denied any involvement with terrorists. One villager, who preferred to remain anonymous, offered a perspective on their predicament soon after the Reasi pilgrim bus attack: "What do you do when a jihadi points an AK-47 at your head and demands food? Yield or fight back? Inform police and risk retaliation?"

The escalation in terrorism-related violence has concerned locals in upper reaches, who demanded the strengthening of village defence groups (VDGs) to tackle threats. In places like Kraalaan village of Doda, VDGs are assisting security forces in the counteroffensive. The key to intelligence gathering is surveillance, stakeouts, and stealth — essential for telling the bad guys from the good. However, the recent string of attacks and fatalities have raised concerns about intelligence failures.

Historically, the nomadic Gujjar-Bakerwal community has been a vital intelligence source for security agencies. However, recent events have strained this relationship. The granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the Paharis and the deaths of three community members in Army custody last winter have caused a sense of betrayal among some Bakerwal members. Nevertheless, community members reaffirm their patriotism. "Our community has always supported the Army," said Adil Khan, a Bakerwal. "We reciprocate the Army's assistance with our cooperation." Advocate Anwer Choudhary echoed this sentiment, stressing that the community remains focused on their safety and well-being rather than reservation issues.

The attacks are particularly concerning, with Supreme Court setting a deadline of Sept 30 for the upcoming assembly elections in J&K. Is the surge in terrorist activities a deliberate attempt to derail the democratic process? Official sources said the attacks are designed to project a sense of dominance by the terrorists despite the enhanced security grid in the region.

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Tender no. IWA/PTN/17(109)/
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Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) Gajpath, Guzaribagh invites online bids/Tenders from reputed and experience contractors for work of providing temporary arrangements for Hydrogen Filling station of MMT Varanasi.

1. Date of start downloading of the tender documents	29.07.2024 at 10.00 Hrs.
2. Date for submission of the tender documents	29.07.2024 at 10.30 Hrs.
3. Last Date & Time for submission of online Bids/Tender	05.08.2024 at 15.00 Hrs.
4. Date & Time for online opening of Tender	06.08.2024 at 15.30 Hrs.

The tender document can be downloaded at: <https://iwai.nic.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> but online Submission will be through <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, under the instructions of our client, we are investigating the ownership, title, rights and interest including but not limited to any development rights, collaboration rights, tenancy rights, joint development rights, FAR, FSI, entitlements, etc. of (i) Adson Software Private Limited; (ii) Base Exports Private Limited; (iii) BTVS Buildwell Private Limited; (iv) Bulls Realtors Private Limited; (v) Commander Realtors Private Limited; (vi) Golden View Builders Private Limited; (vii) Hi Energy Realtors Private Limited; (viii) Ornamental Realtors Private Limited; (ix) Aspirant Builders Private Limited; (x) Fiverivers Township Private Limited; (xi) Fiverivers Developers Private Limited; (xii) Ireso Private Limited; and (xiii) Base Buildwell Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Companies"), over the land parcel measuring 65 Kanal 11 Marla (i.e., 8.19375 Acres), situated at Village Behrampur, District Gurugram, Haryana, as more particularly described in the land schedule hereto (hereinafter referred to as "Land").

Any person(s) or entity(s) including but not limited to any bank or financial institution having or claiming or asserting to have any right, title, interest, demand, estate in respect of the Land or to any part thereof including but not limited to any development rights, collaboration rights, tenancy rights, joint development rights, FAR, FSI, entitlements, etc., of any nature whatsoever and, or, any claim, by way of, under or in the nature of any sale, exchange, assignment, charge, gift, license, lease, tenancy, inheritance, lien, mortgage, hypothecation, encumbrance, pending litigation, possession, contract agreement, development rights, partnership, family arrangement, settlement, partition, decree or order of any court of law, acquisition by government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment with respect to the Land, or any part thereof and/or, having any objection(s) of any manner whatsoever, are hereby required to give notice in writing to the undersigned of any such claim accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents and other proofs within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no one has any rights, title, interest, claim, share, demand in the Land of any nature whatsoever, and the Companies are vested with absolute, clear and marketable title and interest over the Land, and the claim or objection, if any, has been knowingly waived and thereafter no claims or objections of any sort from any person/entity will be entertained and taken into consideration, and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE OF LAND REFERRED HEREIN ABOVE

All that piece and parcel of land measuring 65 Kanal 11 Marla (i.e., 8.193 Acres), situated at Village Behrampur, District Gurugram, Haryana, as detailed in the table below:

Owner	Khevat	Rectangle No.	Killa No.	Area Kanal Marla
BTVS Buildwell Private Limited	186	19	9/2/2 min North East	03 02
			10/2	02 04
			Kitta - 02 05 06	
Fiverivers Developers Private Limited	214	19	12/1	05 08
			19/1/1	00 16
Kitta - 02				06 04
Fiverivers Township Private Limited	197	19	18/2	03 19
Kitta - 01				03 19
Base Exports Private Limited	164	19	9/1/2 min South West	00 01
			12/2 min West	00 13
			20	07 04
Kitta - 03				07 18
BTVS Buildwell Private Limited (1/6 share); Golden View Builders Private Limited (373/384 share); Hi Energy Realtors Private Limited (1/4 share); Base Exports Private Ltd (249/1280 share); Adson Software Private Limited (109/1280 share); and Bulls Realtors Private Limited (793/384 share).	364	18	25min East	02 08
			19	21 08 00
			31	01 08 00
			10min North	01 17
Kitta - 06	101	18	5 min East	02 08
			6 min North East	00 11
Commander Realtors Private Limited	101	18	15/2 min East	00 17
			16/1 min East	02 08
Kitta - 02				03 05
Fiverivers Developers Private Limited	214	19	11	07 00
Kitta - 01				07 00
Ornamental Realtors Private Limited (521/748 share) and Base Exports Private Limited (227/748 share).	100	18	6/2 min East	01 06
			Kitta - 01 01 06	
Hi Energy Realtors Private Limited	210	19	19/3/2	00 19
Kitta - 02				02 04
Base Exports Private Ltd (1/2share); and Aspirant Builders Private Ltd (1/2share)	209	19	19/2	00 19
			22/2	03 07
Kitta - 02				04 06
Total				65 11
				8.19375 Acres

Claims and objections may be sent to:
Mr. Niraj Kumar, Partner
DSK Legal, Advocates and Solicitors, DSK Legal Max House, Level 5, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III, New Delhi-110020
Email ID: niraj.kumar@dsklegal.com
Telephone: 011-46616666

Sd/-
Niraj Kumar, Partner
Advocates and Solicitors
Date: 29.07.2024

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-276380, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 651 Tender Notice Date: 27/07/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. 02/EE(CM)/DDN/2024-25.

Name of work: - Comprehensive annual maintenance of Fire fighting, Fire alarm detection, public address system and related electrical works at the New corporate office building Ujwal Maharani Bagh G.M.S. Road Dehradun.

Estimated cost: - Rs. 17.74 Lakhs (GST Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: From 14:00 hrs of 29.07.2024

Last date for submission of tender: Up to 14:00 hrs of 20.08.2024

For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No.: CEN-2024-25-06 Dated: 26.07.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const./North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works upto 15:00 hrs. on 20.08.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Name of work: 1. Construction of Retaining wall, Toe walls, side drains, and catch water drains, yards drains from Khairat to Manikpur in connection with KID-MKP doubling project. 2. Construction of cover shed from self supported roofing system at Bharatkoop Goods Shed. 3. Construction of cover shed from self supported roofing system, merchant room and other facilities at Dingwahi, in connection with shifting of Goods shed from Banda to Dingwahi

Approx. cost of work (in Crore)Rs.: 72.05 Cr. | **Bid Security (Rs.):** 37,52,600/-

Completion Period: 12 Months, **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 20.08.2024, 15:00 hrs., **Date of Opening of tender:** 20.08.2024, 15:30 hrs., **Type of tendering:** Open Tender (Two Packet System & e-RA).

Note: - 1. The Complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 20.08.2024. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. The Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per format in favour of FA & CAO/CNCR/PRYJ as given in Tender Document and shall be valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period. 4. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 5. Joint Venture (JV) /Consortiums/MOUs shall be considered for the tender having cost more than 10 Cr. 6. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format for all items without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 8. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). Only those documents which are declared explicitly by the tenderer as "documents supporting the claim qualifying the laid down eligibility criteria" will be considered for evaluation his/their tender. In case of any wrong information submitted by the tenderer, the contract will be terminated, Bid Security (BS), Performance Guarantee (PG) and Security Deposit (SD) of contract will be forfeited and agency will be banned for doing business on entire Indian Railway for Five (5) years. 9. GST Act & rules issued from time to time by the Government authorities shall be applicable. 10. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11. Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 20.08.2024 and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. on same day. 1330/24 (A)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @ CPRONCR

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'While tiger poaching has declined, it remains a threat'

► Continued from P 1

Also, the immense contribution of the foot soldiers of the forest department who work so selflessly and devotedly under the most perilous and arduous conditions, away from family and social life, cannot be overlooked. States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra have led the way, with significant increases in their tiger populations.

What has always been imperative in tiger conservation is reducing human-wildlife conflicts. Over the past few years, measures such as the incentivised relocation of villagers from core areas have greatly reduced these conflicts. While these numbers are encouraging, we cannot let our guard down just yet.

The Central Indian landscape, a crucial tiger habitat, faces numerous ecological and social challenges. This region spans across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. Forests here not only support wildlife and indigenous populations but also hold valuable coal and mineral deposits. Development projects, including mining, road and railway construction, and reservoir building threaten the already fragmented landscape. If these development projects continue without appropriate measures, the central Indian landscape could experience a significant decline in genetic diversity, estimated to be as high as 50%.



Effective tiger conservation cannot occur without the support of local communities, says Tendulkar

The Central India Tiger Corridor Project has shown some encouraging results. This critical corridor covers around 152,000 square km across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh, and supports about 37% of India's tiger population. The region includes 14 protected areas. Expanding these corridors and addressing bottlenecks through ground-truthing surveys and management plans can help preserve genetic diversity and promote healthy tiger populations.

Effective tiger conservation cannot occur without the support of local communities. We should continue our pursuit to empower communities to manage conflicts and participate in conservation efforts. This will be key to achieving sustainable coexistence between humans and tigers.

While poaching has de-

clined, it remains a threat. The forest departments need to continue building their technical capacity. Sustained work towards deploying modern surveillance technologies and enforcing stricter laws against wildlife crimes might help keep poachers at bay.

Strong, science-based policies and effective governance are central to successful conservation, but we must continue to build on them. The tiger population depends on continued support from govt bodies, clear policy frameworks, and collaborative efforts between national and international conservation organisations.

Tigers have long been revered in Indian culture. A pastoralist tribe in Maharashtra, known as the Dhangar, venerates tigers as "Waghdev" or "Waghjai", believing they protect their sheep. Waghoba, a primeval tiger, is considered the protector of the forest and has been worshipped by several tribal communities across India for ages. It is time we learn from these tribes and respect and protect these fierce creatures as our own family.

The future of India's tigers hinges on our ability to maintain and enhance habitat connectivity, promote sustainable development, and encourage a harmonious coexistence between wildlife and human communities. This is a collective responsibility. Tigers are our pride. Let their glory never fade!

(The writer is a former Indian cricket captain)

Community-led efforts key to tiger conservation: PM

'Campaigns Saving Green Cover, Aiding Eco-Tourism'

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on World Nature Conservation Day on Sunday pitched for people's participation in protecting forests and wildlife and shared a few unique efforts of different states, including the 'Kulhadi Band Panchayat' campaign in Ranthambore in Rajasthan, to save green cover and tigers. India has 70% of the world's tiger population.

As the world will celebrate International Tiger Day on Monday, Modi also shared a few examples of community-led efforts that are not only protecting big cats but also promoting eco-tourism.

Referring to the 'Kulhadi Band Panchayat' campaign in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi said, "Local communities themselves have taken an oath that they will not go to the forest with axes and will not cut trees. Due to this one decision, the forests there are becoming green once again, and a better environment is being created for tigers."

The PM also gave examples of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra where local communities, especially Gond and Mana tribes, have reduced their dependence on the forest.

Similarly, he talked

BIG BOOST FOR BIG CATS

LANDMARK YEARS

- 1969 | Ban on the export of all wild cat skins
- 1972 | Wildlife Protection Act enacted
- 1973 | Project Tiger launched
- 2006 | Amendment in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, resulting in establishment of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
- 2010 | Global Tiger Reserve Day celebrated to bolster international efforts for tiger conservation
- 2023 | International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) launched



Modi highlighted the 'Baagh Mitra Karyakram' of Pilibhit in UP. 'Under this, local people are trained to work as 'tiger friends' to ensure no conflict between tigers and humans,' he said

about efforts of the 'Chenchu' tribe living on the Nallamala hills in Andhra Pradesh where they as 'tiger trackers' are not only gathering every bit of information on the movement of wild animals in the forest but also keeping a close watch on illegal activities in the area.

The 'Baagh Mitra Karyakram' (tiger friends programme) of Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh also caught Modi's attention. "Under this, local people are trained to work as 'tiger friends'. These 'tiger friends' strictly ensure that there is no conflict between tigers and humans," he said, underlining

that community-driven efforts have been very useful in tiger conservation and led to an increase in the big cat population.

India has 54 tiger reserves, covering over 78,000 sq km which accounts for over 2.3% of the country's geographical area.

On the occasion of 50 years of Project Tiger in April last year, Modi had launched a multi-agency coalition, International Big Cat Alliance, of 96 range countries for conservation of seven big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah. Except puma and jaguar, the other five are found in India.

'Make full use of govt helpline to make India drugs-free'

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Drawing attention to the challenge of drugs, PM Modi on Sunday urged people, families and institutions engaged in making India "drugs free" to make full use of Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra (Manas) national narcotics helpline and said all information shared with the helpline was kept confidential.

In his monthly radio address, Modi said he has often discussed the drug problem in 'Mann Ki Baat'. "Every family is worried that their child might get caught in the grip of drugs. Now, to help such people, the govt has opened a special centre named 'Manas'. This is a very big step in the fight against drug abuse. A few days ago, the helpline and portal of 'Manas' was launched. The govt has issued a toll-free number 1933," Modi said. "Anyone can call on this number to get necessary advice related to rehabilitation. If anyone has any other information related to drugs, they can share it with the Narcotics Control Bureau by calling on this number. All information shared with 'Manas' is kept confidential," he added.

The PM also hailed the inclusion of Assam's Charaideo Maidams in the Unesco world heritage list.

Building legacy of development vital for 'Viksit Bharat', says PM

► Continued from P 1

PM Modi said developing heritage and building a legacy of development has special importance in the concept of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Mentioning the govt's resolve to make India a \$5 trillion economy, Modi spoke about the importance of public participation in welfare measures. He also urged using social media to ensure maximum reach of govt schemes targeting different groups.

In the meeting with CMs and dy CMs of BJP-governed states, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma made a presentation on recruitments and said his state had given over a lakh govt jobs in the recent past without any irregularity like bribery or paper leaks. The party also made a presentation on what can be achieved by the convergence of welfare and development initiatives of the Centre and states.

In other presentations, Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnis talked about making the state a developed one and Bihar deputy CM Vijay Sinha explaining the measures taken against illegal mining in the state.

All 13 CMs and all 15 deputy CMs of BJP participated in the 'Chief Minister Council'. Also present were BJP president JPNadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh and Shah.

According to senior party leader Vinay Sahasrabudhe, who coordinates the party's 'good governance' exercise, the PM spoke at length about his govt's agenda of making India a developed country.

Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan spoke about the New Education Policy and the role of states in its execution. Various states made presentations on some of their signature schemes during the meeting.

In his interaction with BJP leaders, including CMs, Modi has emphasised the need to ensure saturation coverage of welfare schemes. States governed by the party should be seen as setting an example of good governance, he said. "Our party is working tirelessly to further good governance and fulfil the aspirations of people," he said on X on Saturday. The last such meeting was held in February.

Threatened frog adapts to human trash for breeding: Study

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a groundbreaking study, biologists have uncovered a remarkable and worrying shift in the breeding behaviour of the Andamanese Charles Darwin's frog (Minervarya charlesdarwini), a species endemic to the Andaman Islands.

Led by professor S D Biju of the University of Delhi and Harvard University, the research team documented a unique upside-down spawning behaviour in these frogs, alongside an alarming trend of using human trash as breeding sites. These findings, published in the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology's journal Breviora, have significant implications with regard to the conservation of this already-threatened species that is listed as 'vulnerable' in IUCN Red List.

The study involved a team of scientists from University of Delhi, Harvard University and University of Minnesota. It revealed that these frogs are increasingly using artificial objects as breeding sites, such as plastic sapling bags, and human trash comprising discarded plastic, glass, and metal containers. This shift is likely to be a response to the loss and fragmentation of forest habitats, forcing the frogs to adapt to the rapidly changing environment on these small islands.

However, breeding in these unnatural sites poses significant risks to the frogs' survival and development.

Government of Punjab
Tender Notice No. PED/2024-25/08

Online bids are invited for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid Connected Rooftop/Ground Mounted Solar Power Plants of cumulative capacity 20 MW.

Starting date of e-tender	30-07-2024
Date of pre-bid meeting	12-08-2024 at 12:30 PM
Closing Date and Time of e tender	30-08-2024 upto 05:00 PM
Date & time of opening of Bids	02-09-2024 at 4:00 PM

For detail log on to : eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any corrigendum (s) to the tender notice shall be published on website only.

Director
PEDA

MAHARASHTRA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA, SATARA
PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO.15/2024-25

Under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Part- 2, in Satara District Talukas- Phaltan, Patan, Khatav, Man, Mahabaleshwar, Wai, Khandala, Karad, Koregaon, Satara and Jaoli Estimated cost of Rs. 27840.70 Lakhs for Total 6 Packages, 66 Works E-Tender Notice No. 15/2024-25 is Published on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> dated 29/07/2024 from 11.00 am.

sd/-
(Y.A.Desai)
Executive Engineer
PMGSY, MRRDA, Satara

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)

"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR20045GG028675 Tel. No.: 0135-2642711

Invitation for Sealed and Competitive Bids From Banks for Investment of Funds upto Rs. 400 Crores.

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. (PTCUL) a Government of Uttarakhand Undertaking, invites sealed and competitive bids only from the Nationalized and Public Sector Banks for offering rates of interest for investment of funds in term deposits for amounts upto Rs. 400.00 Crores (Rs. Four Hundred Crores only) of different denominations and periods. The amount of investment of Rs. 400.00 Crores is tentative and may vary. Details about the investments in Term Deposits can be downloaded from the PTCUL's website www.ptcul.org.

The sealed bids can be submitted by the interested banks upto 1:00 pm on 20.08.2024 in the prescribed format and the same shall be opened in the office of General Manager (Finance), PTCUL, Dehradun at 1:30 pm on 20.08.2024.

The funds to be invested shall be transferred by PTCUL to the selected bank/s by the close of business hours on 23.08.2024.

RO NO 1333/HQPU/PTCUL DATED 27.07.24
General Manager (Finance)

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.
Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Letter No: 27P/PPP/06/2023/19259 Dated: 26.07.2024

Government of Uttarakhand E-tender Notice

- Name of Work- Build, Operate, Manage and Transfer Cardiac Care Unit at SDH LB Bhatt, Kashipur, U.S Nagar.
- Date and time of e-publishing of tender - 30.07.2024 till 14:00 PM
- Pre Bid Meeting - 15:00 PM on 09.08.2024
- Closing date of online submission of Tender - 28.08.2024, till 14:00 (IST)
- Opening date of technical bid Tender - 28.08.2024, till 15:00 (IST)
- Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website <https://uktenders.gov.in>.
- Portal Registration: The bidder intending to participate in the bid is Required to register in the portal using his/her active personal/official email id as his/her Login id and attach his/her valid digital signature certificate (DSC) to his/her unique login.

Pre Bid meeting shall be held in the office of Director General, Medical Health & Family welfare, Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

For further queries, the bidders may contact through email- mhvuttarakhand@yahoo.com and at Room No 52, Office of the Director General, Medical Health & Family welfare, Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Additional Director (PPP)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA)
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560 009,
No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/D/TA/542/2024-25 Dated: 26.07.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of procurement of latest model of 6000 Lts capacity SS-304 Water Tanker assembled on BS-6 Truck Chassis or the latest upgraded chassis as per norms in complete.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 4,43,50,166/- EMD: Rs. 4,44,000/-

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on 13.08.2024 before 04:00 pm. The technical bids will be opened on 13.08.2024 at 4:00 pm. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारल कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

Purvanchal Viduyt Vitaran Nigam Limited, Viduyt Nagar, P.O. DLW, Varnasi-221004
E-Tender Notice

E-Tender is invited for the following materials. Please visit www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments/modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids, will be upload on website www.etender.up.nic.in and www.puvvnl.nic.in. Sl.No., Tender No., Material, Qty., Earnest Money (Rs.), Tender Fee (Rs.), Last Date & Time for online submission of tender document, Date & time for online opening of tender Part-1. (1) EAV-15/ 2024-25, Hybrid Solar LED Street Light, 2000 Nos., 11,24,000.00, 10000.00 + GST@18%. (2) EAV-16/ 2024-25, 11 KV RMU, 15 Nos., 2,13,000.00, 5000.00 + GST@18%. (3) EAV-17/ 2024-25, Mobile Highmast Generator, 04 Nos., 38,000.00, 3000.00 + GST@18%. 22.08.2024, 23.08.2024. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (M-M-I-I) "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation" फॉक : 911/पू.वि.वि.नि.लि.(वा.)/सा.प्र.-द्वितीया/विज्ञापन दिनांक : 27/07/2024

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/Procurement/2445 Dated: 24/07/2024. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/ is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective Bids Suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl.No., Tender No., Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost as follows: [245]; 31242684E; Set of Connector For Panel For WAG-9 Loco As Per CLW Spec No: CLW/ES/3/0124/O [Scope of supply attached in doc. tab]; As Per Tender /Document; 19/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [247]; 31242682; Set Of Cable Tray With Sliding Nuts And Hardware For WAG-9 Loco As Per Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0132/P [Set Details attached in doc. tab]; As Per Tender /Document; 16/09/2024; ₹ 0.00. [248]; 23245092; 1 Supply and installation of 2.5 Sqmm 3 Core Copper Cable for installation of Pedestal fan from nearest source of supply at Column to Fan location. [Minimum 10 Mtr. (approx) for each Fan.] Make: Polycab/Finoles/Gloster or similar. 2. Supply and commissioning of 1 in 15 amp, with switch fuse indicator complete set in a PVC box to be fitted at Columns along with fixing of hardware and other accessories. Make: Schneider Electric/ Finoles/ Anchor or similar. 3. Supply and commissioning of Energy efficient Pedestal Fan 250 Watt, Rated voltage 230 Volt, 50 Hz, AC sweep 750mm, single phase, minimum speed 1400 rpm. Minimum air delivery 22000 M3/H. Current : 1.2 Amp; Noise Level 76 db or less. Make: Crompton/ Atomberg/EPC/Usba/Havells/Bajaj/Rashmi/Ecolink or similar. As Per Tender /Document; 22/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [249]; 29243580B; Rope SISAL IS: 1321 (Part-I): 2003, Hawser Laid, 03 Strands, Diameter of Rope: 24MM; As Per Tender /Document; 14/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. PRD/546 PCMM/CLW/HWH/RAH [File on: www.fecoloco.com]

THE SPEAKING TREE

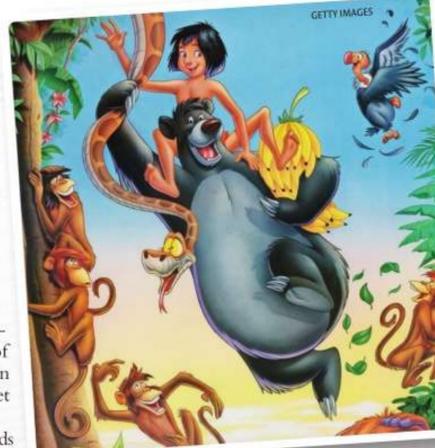
That's What Friends Are For

All friends, whichever level or equation they are at with you, are basically shock-absorbers and comforters, sparring partners and playmates, and with perhaps some exceptions, they give you unconditional love, shorn of expectations, writes NARAYANI GANESH

Walt Disney's picturisation of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* has this cute sequence of four vultures, Buzzy, Flaps, Ziggy and Dizzy, on their perches, singing about their friendship, to Mowgli, the main character: "Who's always eager to extend/A friendly claw/That's what friends are for/And when you're lost in dire need/Who's at your side at lightning speed/We're friends of every creature/Comin' down the pike/In fact we never met an animal we didn't like So you can see/We're friends in need/And friends in need/Are friends indeed/We'll keep you safe/In the jungle forevermore..."

Now, who could resist such an overture? It is said that we get to choose our friends, but not our family members. Hence, it is hardly surprising that we tend to forge closer relationships and share confidences with friends rather than with family, although there are exceptions. Some siblings, for example, are as thick as friends.

Couples who plan to stay together for life say that they are more like friends and they would like to keep their friendship alive as it evolves into deeper love and companionship. Friendship is a great foundation for any kind of lasting relationship but as in all relationships, keeping the flame alive involves a great deal of hard



work, give and take and understanding. The good things in life don't come easy.

School and college mates we engaged with almost on a daily basis during our formative years, are so special — even when you meet up after a decade or so of not being in touch, the years just melt away as you embrace and continue chatting like you never left. Which is why friendship occupies an exalted place in the realm of a variety of relationships.

Taking a leaf out of the puranas, legendary friendships are those of Krishn and Sudama, Karn and Duryodhan. Krishn takes great delight in eating the humble offering of beaten rice that Sudama brings to

him as gift, wrapped in a rag. And Karn, despite getting to know that the Pandavas are his biological siblings, chooses to stay loyal to Duryodhan, bound by his friendship.

Sages offer another perspective — if you just make friends with all your negative qualities, like anger and jealousy, you will come to have a better understanding of them. This kind of friendliness will stave off conflict and bad blood, and pave the way for mindfulness and peaceful living. For physical and mental well-being, make friends with your body and mind as well.

Satsangs are nothing but like-minded seekers coming together, caring and sharing, singing and dancing, and generally creating positive vibes that spread good feelings. A *satsangi* is also a friend, although not perhaps in the same class as a bestie. At a metaphysical level, it is health-promoting to make friends with those who aspire for similar spiritual goals.

All friends, whichever level or equation they are at with you, are basically shock-absorbers and comforters, sparring partners and playmates, and with perhaps some exceptions, they give you unconditional love, shorn of expectations. You are accepted for what you are. Friends help you navigate raging storms. They are balm to your soul when you are down and out. Hey, that's what friends are, for!

ganeshnatayani@yahoo.com
International Day of Friendship is on July 30

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2024-25 (257), दिनांक- 24/07/2024

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि 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 आश्रित निविदा के माध्यम से क्रय क्रिये जाने वाले उपकरण के तकनीकी मापदण्ड में "आश्रित संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पत्र" (Corrigendum/Adendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Sd/-
D.I.G. OF POLICE
S.B. PHQ, Bhopal

AI gets DGCA notice for roster gaffe

New Delhi: DGCA has issued a show-cause notice to Air India (AI) for a rostering error that resulted in a trainee pilot operating a Mumbai-Riyadh flight without a mandatory "training captain" supervising the flight, reports Saurabh Sinha.

AI did not comment on the notice. The trainee pilot was scheduled to fly Mumbai-Riyadh flight on July 9, under the supervision of a training captain. However, the training

captain fell ill, and rostering replaced him with a normal line (non-training) captain.

DGCA had earlier derostered the pilots pending an inquiry into whose oversight led to this mix-up. Some AI officials have been called to DGCA office to fix accountability, said a source. AI sources admit there were a series of oversights. As soon as the lapse was found, the same was voluntarily reported to DGCA, an AI source said.

Centre zeroes in on 12 spots for new industrial hubs along freight corridors

Oppn-Governed Punjab, K'taka, T'gana Part Of ₹12,000cr Plan

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Gaya, Kopardy and Orvakal may have hogged the limelight due to the focus on packages for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh in the Union budget, but others, including those in opposition-governed states, are part of the Centre's latest push to create new industrial hubs.

From Punjab and Haryana to Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana and Maharashtra, govt has identified 12 locations for new industrial cities along freight and highway corridors. **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, secretary for industrial promotion and internal trade, told TOI.

Govt has come under attack from opposition parties

for "favouring" Bihar and Andhra, with JDU and TDP as BJP's coalition partners and ignoring the interests of others — a charge that has been denied by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"We will be seeking cabinet clearance for them soon. We are looking at an investment of Rs 10,000-12,000 crore for creating trunk infrastructure and will then offer plots to companies," Singh said, adding that the model is the same as was followed in earlier cases. While Dholera (Gujarat), Vikram Udyogpuri (MP), Shendra Bidkin (Maharashtra) and Dadri had been taken up in the first phase when the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor was conceived 15 years ago, similar nodes are coming up in Krish-



Typically, these projects take 10-15 years to be fully developed, but the secretary for industrial promotion and internal trade said that in several new cases, things will move quickly

napatnam (Andhra), Tumakuru (Karnataka), Nangal Chaudhary (Haryana) and Greater Noida (UP).

Typically, these projects take 10-15 years to be fully developed, including allotment of land, but Singh said that in several new cases, things will move quickly as they are already around large cities.

But from the initial phase when Dholera and Shendra Bidkin were sought to be de-

veloped as completely new cities, the newer projects are seen to be on a smaller scale, focusing on creating logistics hubs or industrial clusters.

Some of the newer projects will be along the Amritsar-Kolkata industrial corridor, which is running woefully behind schedule given that land was not acquired by the West Bengal govt.

Singh also said that govt intends to correct the inverted

duty structure for sectors such as leather and textiles and his department will take up the issue with the revenue department, which handles the import duty. Inverted duty refers to the duty structure where finished products attract lower duty than inputs and raw material, creating complications for manufacturers.

In the budget, Sitharaman has made an attempt to revise some of the tariffs with inputs sought for further changes. Singh said industry consultations on the issue will be held soon.

He also said that the abolition of angel tax will boost the startup ecosystem, by helping with funding, and also support foreign direct investment flows into the country. Department for industrial promotion and internal trade is also undertaking a review of the FDI norms and procedures, and Singh said the idea is to ensure that the approvals, wherever required, come quickly.

Primary classes in Kashmir suspended due to heatwave

Srinagar: Amid a persistent heatwave, the divisional administration of Kashmir on Sunday ordered the suspension of classes for students up to primary level in both govt and private schools on July 29 and 30. In an official order issued by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, V K Bidhuri, however, said that the teaching staff in those schools shall continue to attend to their duties.

Bidhuri, in an order, said, "In view of the persistent heat wave prevailing in the valley, classwork for students up to the primary level in both govt and recognised private schools shall remain suspended on 29th and 30th July 2024."

"However, all teaching and non-teaching staff shall continue to attend to their duties as usual," read the official statement.

On the other hand, residents of the South Kashmir region of Anantnag seek relief from the intense summer heat in the refreshing waters of their local ponds and canals as the country experiences periodic heat waves. A resident of the area said because of global warming, people move to streams and ponds for relief. ANI

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Deepak**, Age: 22 Years, R/o: Village Mandhothi, Jhajjar, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 183/2020, U/S 411/25 IPC, P.S. Jaffarpur Kalan, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Deepak** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Deepak** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Deepak** accused of FIR No. 183/2020, U/S 411/25 IPC, P.S. Jaffarpur Kalan, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.08.2024.

By Order
Sh. Abhinav Ahlawat
Metropolitan Magistrate
Dwarka Courts, Delhi

DP/9908/DW/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a female namely **Unknown**, S/o: **Unknown**, R/o: **Unknown** found unconscious on 27.06.2024 at 11:40 AM H-Block, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. She was admitted hospital staff to MLC No. 753083/24 where the doctor declared him dead. In this regard DD No. 33 A, dated 27.06.2024 has been lodged at Police Station Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. Identification of unidentified female is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Unknown.

If anyone have any information or clue about this female may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106347, 7065036232

DP/9912/SW/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Ram Murti** S/o Sobaran Singh R/o Village Baheda, P.S. Bakewar, Etawah, (UP) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 155/2012 u/s 279/304A IPC at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ram Murti** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ram Murti** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ram Murti** accused of FIR No. 155/2012 u/s 279/304A IPC at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 17.09.2024.

By Order: Sh. Chatinder Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate (Central)-7,
Room No. 32, Ground Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9810/N/2024

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF EXCISE AND TAXATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation of applications for filling up the post of Chairman, VAT Tribunal, Punjab.

- 1.0 Applications are invited for the above post from the interested candidates.
- 2.0 **Qualification**
Sub-Section 4 of Punjab VAT Act 2005 which contains the qualification of this post reads as under:-

"The applicant shall either be a retired judge of the High Court or a retired or serving officer of the rank of Chief Secretary to the State Government or Secretary to Government of India".

- 3.0 The Chairman of the Tribunal shall hold office for a term of two years from the date he assumes charge of his office and he shall not be eligible for re-appointment.
- 4.0 No person shall be appointed or continue as Chairman of the Tribunal, if he has attained the age of sixty seven years.
- 5.0 The applications (5 sets) duly completed in all respects should reach in the office of Under Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Excise and Taxation, 2nd Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh on or before 19.08.2024 (Till 5.00 PM).

The terms and conditions will be applicable as per the Punjab Value Added Tax Act, 2005 and amendments if any.

Note: Those who had responded to the earlier advertisements inviting applications shall need to apply afresh.

VIKAS PRATAP,
Additional Chief Secretary-cum-
Financial Commissioner Taxation,
Department of Excise and Taxation,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

DPR PB :2040/12/5/2023/36093

HC summons Surat MP over pleas against his unopposed win

Ahmedabad: Gujarat high court has issued summons to Bharatiya Janata Party MP from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency, Mukesh Dalal, over two petitions challenging his uncontested victory.

The court of Justice JC Doshi issued summons to Dalal, directing him to respond by Aug 9, after the matter came up for hearing on July 25, the lawyer for petitioners PS Chamaneri said on Sunday.

Dalal was declared the winner on April 22, the last date for withdrawal of nomination, after Congress pick Nilesh Kumbhani's nomination was rejected and other candidates withdrew from the race.

The remaining 25 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat went to polls on May 7 in the third phase of general elections. Including Surat, BJP won 25 seats in the state, with Congress bagging one.

The petitioners have challenged the legality and validity of the decision of the Surat collector and returning officer to reject Kumbhani's nomination. The two petitions, filed by four voters from the Surat parliamentary constituency who are also Congress members, question the decision of the returning officer to reject Kumbhani's form under the provisions of Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, concerning scrutiny of the nomination forms.

The petitioners have claimed that Kumbhani's three proposers who later denied having signed his nomination papers had declared in an application before the deputy collector that they would be signing as proposers on his nomination form.

They had done so while applying for the certificate declaring them voters of the same constituency, a pre-condition for proposers.

Furthermore, the verification of signatures is not a collector's job, they contended, stressing that the Congress, being a national party, doesn't have any shortage of proposers for its candidates in a given constituency. Dalal became the first candidate in the last 12 years to win a Lok Sabha contest unopposed. PTI

We're being forced to execute orders at loss, says diamantaire

Continued from P 1

Diamond stock was seeing devaluation with every passing day, forcing enterprises to execute orders at a loss. Diamond rates have been falling for the past 22 months," said Ashok Gajera, CMD, Laxmi Diamonds.

In Feb this year, the import of rough diamonds from India shot up and the industry felt revival was in sight. However, its optimism was short-lived. Experts say that there is an oversupply of diamonds in India now.

As for the fall in the prices of natural diamonds, Gajera said smaller and cheaper

According to Indian gems and jewellery sector's performance data, the overall gross exports of gems and jewellery during April-May this year amounted to \$4,691.6 million (Rs 39,123 crore), a 5.9% decrease from the figure for the period last year

quality flawed diamonds have lost their mojo and are witnessing tough competition from flawless lab-grown stones. At the higher end, demand from the global market is slow. "China, which used to be a large buyer of flawless mined stones, is suddenly not interested and its purchasing

TIMES Special

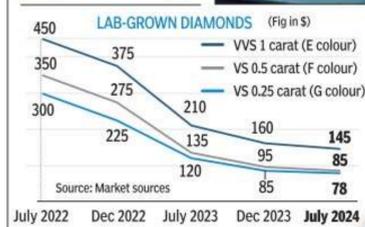
power is merely 10%-15% of what it was," he added.

According to Indian gems and jewellery sector's performance data, the overall gross exports of gems and jewellery during April-May this year amounted to \$4,691.6 million (Rs 39,123 crore), a 5.9% decrease from the figure for the period last year. Cut and polished diamonds saw a decline of 15.5% to \$2,627 million, and the provisional gross export of polished lab-

DIAMOND RATES ON THE FALL FOR 2 YEARS

Global diamond rates	
NATURAL DIAMONDS (Fig in \$)	
VVS 1 carat (E colour)	
Jul-22	6,800
Dec-22	6,500
Jul-23	6,350
Dec-23	6,200
Jul-24	6,050
VS 0.5 carat (F colour)	
	1,950
	1,850
	1,800
	1,750
	1,700
VS 0.25 carat (G colour)	
	1,230
	1,180
	1,160
	1,130
	1,050

Source: Rapaport



Import-demand mismatch

Imports rebounded swiftly to levels seen before the moratorium in early 2024. But polished exports' performance lacklustre

This indicated the country imported more rough diamonds than in demand

As per Rapaport, rough imports' volume rose 5% to touch 57.7mn carats in the first 5 months of 2023-24

In terms of value, the total saw 3% year-on-year decline, amounting to \$6.54bn

This despite a 21% year-on-year drop in polished diamond exports, totalling \$6.66bn

It was accompanied by a 15% reduction in volume, equalling 8.1mn carats

Going forward, the demand for LGDs is expected to revive in FY25 as demand for naturally mined diamonds may remain sluggish. This is attributed to its price point, environmental sustainability, and intensified competition from India against other leading LGD-producing nations — CareEdge Analytics and Advisory

Challenges faced in LGD exports

16.5% year-on-year dip in exports of lab-grown diamonds in 2023-24

Sales volume up but falling prices have hit exports

What to expect

7-9% Growth expected, reaching a value of \$1,500-1,530mn in 2024-25, says CareEdge Analytics and Advisory

CJI calls on judges to employ 'a robust common sense'

Continued from P 1

CJI DY Chandrachud called for trial judges to fulfil their duties without fear of distrust, ensuring fair and timely justice.

"People who should be getting bail in the trial courts are not getting it there, as a result of which, they have to invariably move the high courts. People who should be getting bail in the high courts will not necessarily get it, as a result of which they have to move to SC. This delay compounds the problem of those who are facing arbitrary arrests," he said.

Speaking at the 11th annual conference of Berkeley Centre for Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law, hosted by National Law School of India University (NLSIU) at Bangalore International Centre, Justice Chandrachud stressed the need for judges to

employ "a robust common sense" and urged the public to trust decision-makers.

He stressed the importance of trusting lower-level courts within the hierarchical legal system. "We have to encourage trial courts to be more receptive to the need for accommodating concerns of people who are seeking liberty," he said. "Unfortunately, the problem today is that we look at any grant of relief by trial judges with a degree of suspicion. That means the trial judges are increasingly playing it safe, not granting bail on important issues of serious crimes."

Using a narcotics case as an example, the CJI illustrated how understanding the role of the accused — whether a cleaner, driver, or owner — is crucial for fair judgment.

"When you have an accused in a narcotics case, you look at the finer points of case:

What was he doing? Was he a cleaner in the truck? Was he a driver in the truck? Was he the owner of the truck? Was he the person who was really the main person behind the trade which is taking place? Unless we, therefore, separate grain from the chaff in criminal jurisprudence, it's very unlikely that we'll have just solutions."

His comments came in response to a participant's question about living in a society where authorities act first and seek forgiveness later, often detaining activists, academics, journalists, and politicians in politically motivated actions.

The CJI clarified that trust does not preclude criticism of inaccuracies or incorrect outcomes, which can be corrected at higher levels. However, starting from a premise of distrust burdens SC with numerous minor cases that should be resolved at lower levels.

term — they had purchased at a higher rate but will now have to sell cheap.

Years of govt neglect has taken its toll on the industry. Sabyasachi Ray, executive director of GJEPC, said, "We have been told ours is a sector of rich people. But that isn't so. There is a front-end and there is a back-end. The back-end comprises millions of karigars (craftsmen) and blue-collar workers. The gems and jewellery industry employs 5 million people, many of whom hail from marginal sections. These karigars are there everywhere — Mumbai, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Gujarat. Imagine the scale of employment nationwide if 50,000 people work in Bharat Diamond Bourse in BKC and one lakh in SEEPZ. It is such a labour-intensive sector that anything the govt does will impact five million workers."

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
L.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

POST GRADUATE DENTAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGDAC)-2024
for MDS in Govt/ Private Dental colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(PGDAC)-2024/05 Dated : 28.07.2024 bceceboard.bihar.gov.in

2nd round Counselling से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

विज्ञापन संख्या- BCECEB(PGDAC)-2024/03 दिनांक 16.07.2024 एवं 2024/04 दिनांक 25.07.2024 के क्रम में PGDAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित सभी अभ्यर्थियों / संस्थानों / सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि;

1. जैसे अभ्यर्थी जो PGDAC-2024 Counselling हेतु Security Deposit को राशि जमा करते हुए पूर्ण रूप से आवेदन भर चुके हैं परन्तु किसी कारणवश Round-1 Counselling हेतु Choice filling नहीं कर पाये हैं तथा Round-2 Counselling में Participate करना चाहते हैं तो वे भी निम्नवत् कार्यक्रम अनुसार Choice filling करने हेतु पात्रता-प्राप्त हैं, जिसके लिए उन्हें निम्नवत् कार्यक्रम अनुसार Online counselling Portal के माध्यम से Online Registration-cum-Choice filling करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. विज्ञापन संख्या- BCECEB(PGDAC)-2024/04 दिनांक 25.07.2024 के आलोक में जैसे अभ्यर्थी जो Free Exit हुए हैं एवं Round-2 काउन्सिलिंग में participate करना चाहते हैं तो जैसे सभी अभ्यर्थी निम्नवत् कार्यक्रम अनुसार Round-2 Counselling हेतु अपने Online counselling Portal के Account में Login कर Fresh choice filling करना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. **Round-2 Seat Allotment / Document Verification / Admission से सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रम निम्नवत् है;**
 - i. Date of online registration-cum-choice filling for seat allotment (2nd Round) 30.07.2024
 - ii. Last date of online registration-cum-choice filling for seat allotment and locking (2nd Round) 01.08.2024
 - iii. 2nd Round provisional Seat Allotment Order publication 04.08.2024
 - iv. Downloading of allotment order (2nd round) 04.08.2024 to 06.08.2024
 - v. Document Verification/Admission (2nd round) 05.08.2024 to 06.08.2024
4. पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(PGDAC)-2024/03 दिनांक 16.07.2024 एवं 2024/04 दिनांक 25.07.2024 को अन्य शर्तों / नियम यथावत् रहेंगे।

परिष्कार विवरक

Did not hold separate talks with Speaker for seats: TMC

Mohua.Chatterjee@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) was allotted seat numbers for its 29-member contingent by Lok Sabha secretariat in a written communication on July 19, without TMC floor leaders having approached Speaker Om Birla "independently" of INDIA bloc, at any juncture, for seating arrangement in the House, party's Sudip Bandopadhyay told TOI on Sunday.

He was responding to reports that TMC had held "separate" talks with the Speaker for its share of seats.

Trashing the reports as "BJP's dirty tricks", TMC floor leaders asserted that the party is with INDIA bloc and has been with opposition coalition from first day of the 18th Lok Sabha. "Any claim about an independent line with the Speaker for seats is out of question," Bandopadhyay said.

He told TOI, "TMC did not ask for any seats. I received a letter from Lok Sabha secretariat along with the seat numbers which have been allocated for us. I discussed this with Mamata Banerjee and submitted

our list two days ago (on Friday). It is already done and there cannot be any dispute on this."

"We sent the list back, indicating our internal seating arrangement according to seniority of the members in the House and made our list, on the allotted numbers that were given to us," he added.

Reacting sharply to the reports, TMC representative in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said, "TMC condemns such dirty tricks and fake news being done by BJP and a section of the media. Our seating in Parliament is with INDIA bloc. We were provided a list of seats by the Speaker's office which is in the same area of opposition (INDIA) bloc."

Bandopadhyay will be only TMC member in the first row, on seat number 278. Second-row seat numbers 280 and 281, will be for deputy leader Kalyan Banerjee and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. Two seats (284 & 285) in third row are marked for senior MPs Saugata Roy and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar. Two seats (288 & 289) in the fourth row are marked for Mahua Moitra and Satabdi Roy.

Firms in K'taka 'scared' due to inflation, law & order woes: FM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Industries are "scared" to stay invested in Karnataka and they want to get out because of the worsening law and order situation and a worrying fiscal health of the state, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Sunday. She said Karnataka has slipped from a revenue-surplus state to a revenue-deficit one. "I don't want to name the companies going out (of Karnataka). Industries want to get out," she said, launching a multi-front attack on the Congress govt, adding that Karnataka is experiencing inflation higher than the national average.

She trashed allegations that the state had received zilch in the Union Budget. She highlighted disparity in inflation rates, saying, "Between June 2023 and 2024, inflation, on national average, stood at 5.4%, while Karnataka reported 6.1%. In contrast, within Karnataka, between June 2022 & May 2023

(when BJP was in office), the state had a lower inflation rate of 5.39%, well below the national average of 6%."

She attributed higher inflation in state to several factors. "Price of petrol was hiked by Rs 3, diesel by Rs 3.50, milk by Rs 5, and property guidance value has been hiked from 25% to 30%. Stamp duty charges are increased by 200% to 500%. Vehicle registration fee hiked by 3%. Naturally, inflation is much higher than the national average," she said.

The FM raised concerns about the state's fiscal health and capital expenditure: "Revenue deficit is very high in Karnataka. Capital expenditure is not happening and is reduced. If you don't spend money on capital expenditure, employment is not going to come." On increasing state borrowings, she said, "Open-market borrowings have increased; it's already crossed Rs 1 lakh crore. Borrowing after borrowing is done to fulfil promises," referring to poll guarantees of Congress.



RSS, BJP veterans get gubernatorial duties

Manipur Among 9 States To Get New Governors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Several BJP and RSS veterans have been given gubernatorial responsibilities as Prez Droupadi Murmu on Sunday appointed new governors to nine states including Manipur, which has been gripped by ethnic violence for over a year.

Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who was governor of Sikkim, was appointed as Assam governor. He has also been given additional charge of Manipur, replacing Anusuiya Uikey who was Manipur from Feb 2023. Former Maharashtra assembly speaker Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, an RSS veteran, was appointed governor of Rajasthan while former Tripura deputy CM Jishnu Dev Varma was made governor of Telangana. The President appointed



Mysuru MP Yaduveer KC Wadiyar felicitating newly appointed Meghalaya governor C H Vijayashankar

ex-Rajya Sabha MP Om Prakash Mathur as governor of Sikkim. Similarly, former Union minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar was appointed governor of Jharkhand while ex-Lok Sabha MP from Assam Ramen Deka was made governor of Chhattisgarh. Gangwar, a seven-time MP from Bareilly, was denied a ticket for Lok Sabha polls this year.

Former Karnataka minister C H Vijayashankar was appointed governor of Meghalaya. C P Radhakrishnan, who was governor of

Jharkhand, was made governor of Maharashtra, succeeding incumbent Ramesh Bais. Assam governor Gulab Chand Kataria was appointed governor of Punjab and administrator of the UT of Chandigarh. Former IAS officer K Kaishashan has been appointed lieutenant governor of Puducherry.

Outgoing Jharkhand governor C P Radhakrishnan thanked Prez Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi for his appointment as governor of Maharashtra.

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्य प्रदेश भोपाल

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2024-25 (254), दिनांक- 23/07/2024

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना 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 समत-साराणी में 'आंशिक संशोधन' के संबंध में 'शुद्धि पत्र' (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Sd/-
उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक,
गुस्वार्ता, म.प्र. भोपाल
दूरभाष क्र.- 0755-2443654
Email: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in

G-13986/24

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

4th Floor, Integrated Office Complex for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department, 5/1, Anna Salai, Sadapet Veterinary Polyclinic Campus, Nandanam P.O., Chennai - 35. E-mail: tnl2016@gmail.com

E-Tenders are invited from eligible tenderers online through <https://tntenders.gov.in> for the following item under 'Two part System'

e-Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment
2024/03	Frozen Semen Station Equipment- Water bath (30 litres)(6 Nos), Frozen semen straw freezer (4 Nos), Dilutor 600 series (3 Nos.), Bovine photometer (4 Nos.), Auto dispenser for dilutor (3 Nos.), Cold Handling Cabinet (2 Nos), CASA (2 Nos.), Straw filling sealing and printing machine (1 No)
2024/04	Frozen Semen Production Stations Micro scope-DIC (2 Nos), Phase contrast (4 Nos.)
2024/05	Frozen Semen Containers-47-48 Liter capacity (35 Nos), 320 litres capacity- (8 Nos)
2024/06	Ultra Water Purification System-1 No
2024/07	Automatic Electric Thawing Unit for Artificial insemination- 3818 Nos.

Pre-Bid meeting on 07.08.2024 - 12.00 Noon. Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded free of cost from <https://tntenders.gov.in> upto 21.08.2024, 10.00 am Last date for submission of tenders: 21.08.2024, 11.00 am Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website

DIPR/2643/Tender/2024 Chief Executive Officer

बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग,

19, हार्डिंग रोड, पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

PR.NO.-002204 (NINI) 2023-24

विज्ञापन सं-07/2023 से 36/2023 (व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के विभिन्न पदों)

श्रम संसाधन विभाग, बिहार पटना, अन्तर्गत निदेशालय, नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण (प्रशिक्षण पक्ष), बिहार, पटना के अधीनस्थ विभिन्न औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के रिक्त पदों पर ITI योग्यताधारी अभ्यर्थियों की नियुक्ति हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन सं-07/2023 से 36/2023 के अन्तर्गत आयोग के पत्रांक-1540, दिनांक-15.07.2024 द्वारा अयोग्य (Disqualified) अभ्यर्थियों से प्राप्त आपत्ति के निष्पादनोपरांत योग्य (Qualified) पाये गये अभ्यर्थियों में से वेसे अभ्यर्थियों, जिनका कुल प्राप्तांक आयोग के पत्रांक-1492, दिनांक-08.07.2024 एवं पत्रांक-1515, दिनांक-10.07.2024 द्वारा विज्ञापनवार प्रकाशित कट-ऑफ अंक के बराबर या उससे अधिक अंक है, वेसे अभ्यर्थियों का विज्ञापनवार दिनांक-31.07.2024 को दो पालियों (प्रथम पाली 10.00 AM-01.30 PM एवं द्वितीय पाली 02.30 PM-06.00 PM) में दस्तावेज सत्यापन का कार्य बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, 19, हार्डिंग रोड, पटना में निर्धारित है।

उक्त से संबंधित आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश/Call Letter आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत सूचना आयोग के www.btsc.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। अभ्यर्थियों को निदेश है कि आयोग के Website का सतत अनुभवण करते रहेंगे।

प्रमारी सचिव,
बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग,
पटना

PR. No. 004899 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्य प्रदेश भोपाल

No. SB/MT/PHQ-BPL/2024 (165), Bhopal, Date: 24-07-2024

"ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सूचना"

पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, मध्य प्रदेश की ओर से उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक (गुस्वार्ता), पुलिस मुख्यालय, भोपाल द्वारा वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर निम्नलिखित वाहनों के परम्पत एवं रखाव हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रण की जाती है:-

S. No.	Name of Vehicle(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Toyota Fortuner	10	1000/-	9000/-	1 st Tender
2	Toyota Innova Crysta	05	1000/-	4500/-	1 st Tender
3	Toyota Innova	05	1000/-	4500/-	1 st Tender
4	Toyota Etios	23	1000/-	13800/-	1 st Tender
5	Mahindra Bolero Neo	01	1000/-	1000/-	1 st Tender
6	Mahindra Bolero 9 Set	16	1000/-	14400/-	1 st Tender
7	Mahindra Endeavour	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
8	Mahindra Max	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
9	Mahindra Scorpio	07	1000/-	6300/-	1 st Tender
10	Mahindra Xylo	01	1000/-	1000/-	1 st Tender
11	Tata Indica	03	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
12	Tata Indigo	08	1000/-	4800/-	1 st Tender
13	Tata Safari	02	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
14	Tata Truck 407	03	1000/-	2700/-	1 st Tender
15	Tata Bus LP 416	02	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
16	Tata Truck LPT-909	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
17	Tata BDDS-LP-712	02	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
18	Tata Xenon	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
19	Maruti Omni	03	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
20	Maruti Alto	04	1000/-	2400/-	1 st Tender
21	Maruti Dzire	04	1000/-	2400/-	1 st Tender
22	Maruti SX4	01	1000/-	1000/-	1 st Tender
23	Maruti Gypsy	05	1000/-	3000/-	1 st Tender
24	Swaraj Mazda Truck T-35	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
25	Swaraj Mazda BDDS WT-48	02	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
26	Ford Ecosport	05	1000/-	3000/-	1 st Tender
27	Ford Fiesta	02	1000/-	1200/-	1 st Tender
28	Chevrolet Captiva	04	1000/-	3600/-	1 st Tender
29	Force Traveller	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender
30	Hindustan Ambassador	02	1000/-	1800/-	1 st Tender
31	Eicher Bus 32 Seater	01	1000/-	1500/-	1 st Tender

1. निविदा पत्र ऑनलाईन वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर जमा किये जाएंगे।

2. निविदा शुल्क ऑनलाईन जमा करना अनिवार्य है।

3. मध्य प्रदेश पुलिस की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in से निविदा पत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

4. Tender Schedule:

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in	29/07/2024 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	30/07/2024 at 1100 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	15/08/2024 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	22/08/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	23/08/2024 up to 1600 hrs.

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police
(Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-13979/24

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Phone: 044-28191890/28190259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-Mail: gmdr@tnmsc.tn.gov.in, mngprdrng.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai-600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of Flow Cytometry Reagents to TNMSCLtd for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for fixing rate contract for Flow Cytometry Reagents to TNMSCLtd for two years from the date of acceptance	e-014/M/P/RE-FCR/2/TNMSCLtd/2024, Dated, 29.07.2024	29.07.2024 at 4.00 PM to 12.08.2024 upto 4.00 PM	01.08.2024 at 10.00 AM to 12.08.2024 upto 4.00 PM	13.08.2024 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in for reference purpose.

DIPR/2636/TENDER/2024

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Tribal Development Department

Executive Engineer, P.W. (Tribal) Division, Nashik

Building No. A-3, Adivasi Vikas Colony, Near RTO Office, Beside Military & Police Training Centre, Peth Road, Nashik

TENDER NOTICE NO. 3 FOR YEAR 2024-2025

Online E-Tender in B-1 Form for the 10 (Ten) Works for Construction of Tribal Boys / Girls, Hostel & School Building invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.(Tribal) Division, Nashik Telephone No. (0253-2992053) from the Registered Civil Contractors (Of Eligible Class) For Work Management Cell, Tribal Development Department, and Government of Maharashtra.

This Tender Notice is available from Dt. 30/07/2024 On Website. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

No. AB/TC/ 4051 /2024

Office of the Executive Engineer

P.W. (Tribal) Division Nashik

Date:- 23/07/2024

DGIPR/2024-2025/1300

SPECIAL BRANCH

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB/Store/2024-25 (259), Bhopal, Dated: 24-07-2024

" ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S. No.	Name of Item (s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Rate Contract for Catering and Cafeteria arrangement at Integrated Command Centre	1	1,000/-	25,000/-	2 nd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Tender Schedule:

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in	30/07/2024 upto 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	31/07/2024 at 1100 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	07/08/2024 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	13/08/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	14/08/2024 up to 1600 hrs.

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police
(Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

G-13989/24

भवन निर्माण विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

संरचना प्रमण्डल संख्या-2 भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना-23

राष्ट्रीय/स्पेर्द्धा ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट WWW.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

शुद्धि पत्र -2

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-973 (अनु0) दिनांक 02.07.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या-SBD-04/2024-25 जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या-003160 (BCD) वर्ष 2024-25 जो दिनांक 04.07.2024 को दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है एवं इस कार्यालय का ज्ञापक-1063 दिनांक 13.07.2024 के द्वारा निर्गत शुद्धि पत्र संख्या-01 जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या-003970 (BCD) वर्ष 2024-25 है जो दिनांक 19.07.2024 को दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, में अपरिहार्य कारणों से संशोधन करते हुए अवधि विस्तार निम्न प्रकार किया जाता है:-

कार्य का नाम:- Redevelopment work of Bihar Niwas, New Delhi (Engineering Procurement and Construction basis).

क्र0	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	पूर्व में संशोधित तिथि एवं समय	नया संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री (डाउनलोड) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.07.2024 से दिनांक 05.08.2024 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 25.07.2024 से दिनांक 15.08.2024 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 10.08.2024 से दिनांक 01.09.2024 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 07.08.2024 को 15.00 बजे	दिनांक 16.08.2024 को 15.00 बजे	दिनांक 03.09.2024 को 15.00 बजे
3	प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं स्थल	दिनांक 22.07.2024 14.30 बजे बिहार भवन चानक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।	दिनांक 29.07.2024 12.00 बजे बिहार भवन चानक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।	दिनांक 16.08.2024 12.00 बजे बिहार भवन चानक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
4	निविदा (तकनीकी बीड) खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 08.08.2024 को 16.00 बजे	दिनांक 17.08.2024 को 16.00 बजे	दिनांक

Now boarding: Realty bonanza's direct flight to Goa's Mopa region

Luxury enclaves planned around new airport in 'Monaco of India'

Newton.Sequeira@timesgroup.com

Once celebrated as a haven of laid-back charm and bohemian spirit, the tiny state of Goa is now being heralded as 'Monaco of India' or 'Miami Sector' in glossy brochures and slick websites. Goa is drawing waves of investors and real estate developers are carving out luxury islands in the state.

As the coastal paradise assumes the avatar of a playground for the well-heeled, not only is the shade of its forests changing, but the perceptions of what it stands for are also altering.

Luxury villas and integrated townships are blossoming in what was once an obscure region. Investor interest has taken off because of the Rs 4,494.6 crore Manohar International Airport that has come up at Mopa.

Propelled by major infrastructure projects, the state's northern part emerged as a real estate hotspot a decade ago. The buyers were enticed by what they thought was coming free with their properties—a romanticised idea of the Goan way of life.

Manohar International Airport, which aims to cater to 40 million passengers per year, has given wings to those allurements.

INDIA ENTICED

According to real estate consultancy firms, major developers from across the country have begun to mark their territories in the vicinity of the airport. While some are planning upscale residential projects, others are eyeing retail and hospitality projects.

"The new airport has been a game changer, enhancing connectivity and attracting substantial interest from major real estate firms and investors," said Vikas Wadhawan, the group chief financial officer of Housing.com and PropTiger.com. Wadhawan added, "Areas such as Assagao, Anjuna, Porvorim, and Siolim are registering a heightened demand, with property prices in Assagao now on a par with those of premium localities in some big cities."

State govt handed over 2,133 acres to GMR Goa International Airport Limited for the greenfield airport. Of that land, 232 acres have been designated for land-side development which will include commercial and retail projects, convention centres, and hotels.

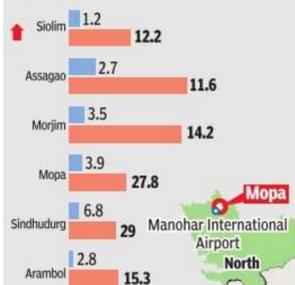
The founder and MD of the real estate advisory firm 360 Realtors, Ankit Kansal, said in a 2023 assessment study that the region around Mopa airport is becoming a destination for rental villas, second homes, and tourism.



Photo: Rajilak Naik

Comparison of price appreciation before and after Mopa airport

Compound annual growth rate: CAGR (FY 18-22)
Annual growth after Mopa (FY 23-26)



RUNWAY TO FUTURE

In tandem with the new airport, Goa govt has proposed an international cricket stadium, a film city, logistic parks, amusement parks, and casinos in and around the airport.

"People who are looking at relocation in the future or for an investment will use a property off and on for three to four months or they will look to settle down in three to four years," said Praveer Shrivastava, the senior vice-president for residential projects at Prestige Group.

Shrivastava added, "These buyers are typically from Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, and Delhi. These are not the kind of people who will put up their homes on Airbnb."

GOAN MYSTIQUE

The idea of embracing the slow pace of Goan life while keeping the option open to fly back to a metro makes for a compelling

reason to purchase a home in North Goa. Abhinandan Lodha Group recently announced three luxury villa projects at Bicholim—Lodha Goa, Gulf of Goa, and Imperial Goa—advertising the proximity to Mopa as a key factor for connectivity.

Prestige Group also plans to construct a luxury villa township at Morjim. Yugen Infra envisions an integrated township that encompasses two verdant hills.

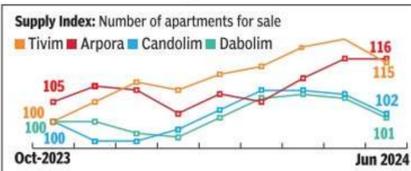
"Mopa has created more possibilities for Goa's economy, especially in real estate," said the location manager for Property Pistol, Roshan Jorge. He added, "I would say Goa could be Monaco of India."

NEIGHBOURLY GIFT

Across the border, the fortunes of Maharashtra's Sindhudurg are also changing owing to Mopa airport. Property prices have jumped by 30-40% in just 12 months. Sindhudurg is now thriving as a hospitality, serviced-living, and second-home market. By 2030, the region will channel Rs 2,700 crore investment in the hotel industry, industry research suggests.

North Goa's coastal belt garners most of the state's tourist footfall. The scenic beaches of Morjim, Arambol, and Vagator lie 25-35km from the airport. The party zones of Calangute, Baga, and Anjuna are less than an hour's drive from Mopa.

"National players have shown interest in Goa because of the strong demand. We are ourselves expanding our portfolio in the state," Shrivastava said.



Highest full-marks scorers in Business Studies, Pol Sci next

Continued from P1

The largest number of students scored full marks in Business Studies (8,024), followed by Political Science (5,141) and History (2,520).

In 18 of the 33 language papers offered in the exam, 1,904 scored perfect 200. Of the 8.2 lakh candidates who took the English test, 1,683 scored 200. Sanskrit and Punjabi were the other two languages where over 50 candidates had perfect scores. A total of 22,836 aspirants scored 100 percentile in 2023 and 21,159 scored 100 percentile in 2022.

Though the number of perfect scorers increased marginally from the number of 100 percentile scorers in 2023, the competition for select programmes like commerce is set to get tougher in popular universities like Delhi University (DU).

The number of aspirants scoring 100 percentile in Business Studies was 2,357 in 2023, which has increased to 8,024 this year. However, for sought after honour programmes like economics/business economics, there is likely to be a decrease in minimum eligible marks as the number of high scorers have come down by 45% from last year.

Among the 8,000-plus perfect scorers in Business Studies is Khushi Nahata from Delhi, who aspires for admission in Shri Ram College of Commerce or Lady Shri Ram College of Delhi University. A student of Modern School, Barakhamba Road, she said, "I chose to study BS with a lot of mind maps and charts. I'm aiming for SRCC or LSR. I did not take any coaching and did 8-10 hours of self-study every day."

Anjali Jyoti, a student of DAV Noida, Sector 56, scored 200/200 in three (Geography, Political Science and Psychology) of the five subjects she

THE CUET SCORECARD

Highlights	2024	2023	2022
Candidates registered	53,95,062	28,00,000 (approx)	14,90,294
Unique candidates registered *	13,47,820	14,99,790	9,90,469
Unique candidates appeared *	11,13,610	11,16,011	6,26,490
Male (unique candidates)	7,17,248	8,03,644	5,56,028
Transgender (unique candidates)	7	16	10
General (unique candidates)	5,43,996	6,78,445	4,61,246
SC (unique candidates)	1,44,851	1,50,698	1,03,540
ST (unique candidates)	88,097	1,06,287	58,875
OBC (unique candidates)	4,82,552	4,99,124	3,17,388
EWS (unique candidates)	88,324	65,206	49,420
Subject tests administered	57,71,668	64,35,144	47,12,239

* NOTE: Each unique candidate is eligible to appear in upto 6 subjects

Candidates securing full marks in top subjects

Subject	Total registered	Total appeared	Max marks obtained	Scorers of max marks	Subject-wise number of candidates who obtained full marks in 2024
Business Studies	1,93,300	1,66,022	200	8,024	45 Subjects 22,920 Number of candidates *Total subjects 63, which include 33 languages, 29 domain subjects & 1 general test
Political Science	1,61,405	1,38,566	200	5,141	
History	1,37,623	1,17,807	200	2,520	
English	10,07,645	8,22,518	200	1,683	
Psychology	31,815	20,547	200	1,602	
Accountancy/Book Keeping	1,80,864	1,56,473	200	1,135	
Biology/ Biological Studies/ Biotechnology/Biochemistry	3,91,605	3,13,683	200	835	
Economics/Business Economics	2,14,056	1,84,136	200	430	
Chemistry	7,02,050	5,61,719	200	398	
Physics	6,73,038	5,30,936	200	114	
General Test	8,34,873	7,09,066	244	1	

appeared. she said, "I want to pursue BA (Political Science H) from one of the best colleges of DU. I relied entirely on self-study as maximum syllabus was from Class 12 so there was no need for extra sources or coaching. Only the deleted portion needed to be covered separately."

On July 7, NTA had released provisional answer keys of CUET-UG 2024. A retest for over 1,000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted on July 19. The delay in CUET-UG results comes amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including in NEET-UG and UGC-NET.

petitive exams, including in NEET-UG and UGC-NET.

Originally, CUET results were scheduled to be released on June 30 but NTA delayed it, grappling with paper leak allegations involving NEET-UG, UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC-NET. CUET-UG, conducted in hybrid mode for the first time across the country, was cancelled in Delhi a night before the scheduled exam over "logistical reasons". The exam was conducted in the national capital later.

NTA had earlier announced that the third edition of CUET-UG would be completed in seven days and there

would be no normalisation of scores as all exams would be conducted in a single shift.

For 15 subjects, the tests were in pen-paper mode and for the other 48, the exam was held in CBT mode. Over 13.4 lakh candidates registered for the test for admission to undergraduate courses in 261 central, state, deemed and private universities this year.

In the first edition of the exam in 2022, the test was plagued by technical glitches. Also, as a result of tests for a subject being conducted over multiple shifts, the scores had to be normalised during announcement of results.

Liquor smuggler shot dead in Bihar, gang rivalry suspected

Patna: In a suspected case of gang rivalry, Bullet Patel, 36, a liquor smuggler, was shot dead in West Champaran district in Bihar, a dry state, re-

ports Kshitiz. Morning walkers came upon Patel's body in Bathna village on Sunday morning and notified police. Amarakesh D, SP of West

Champaran, said: "Patel was a resident of eastern Nautan locality under Bairyia police station. He was shot in the face and neck. During investigation, we

found that Patel used to smuggle liquor from UP via the Gandak river and sold it in Bettiah. The killing seems to have taken place late in the night."

Urgent Requirement of Anesthesiologist

for First Referral Units (FRUs) in Madhya Pradesh



NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER



DR. MOHAN YADAV, CHIEF MINISTER

To improve the coverage of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services, there is an urgent need for anesthetists in identified hospitals to operationalize them as First Referral Units.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have a degree/diploma in Anesthesiology (MD/DNB/DA) and be registered with MP-MCI. Doctors from other states are also allowed to apply, but they must apply for registration with MP-MCI before applying for the position.

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A thought for today

It is not money that makes you well dressed: it is understanding

CHRISTIAN DIOR

Be Federal

Niti meeting minus oppn CMs shows neither INDIA nor BJP has realised what voters told them during elections

The "absence of fiscal federalism" – not enough funds to states – and the Centre's "prejudice" against opposition-governed states were reasons 10 opposition-state CMs boycotted the Niti Aayog meeting, the first after Modi-led NDA gov't's first budget. The sole opposition CM who attended, Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, walked out alleging her mike had been switched off. The verbal fisticuff with the Centre that followed was as banal as it was unsavoury.

Politics unstuck | Opposition's boycott, in itself, was one more "event" around which INDIA allies showed they stick together, demonstrating how gluey is their alliance. This is not without its own vulnerability. The boycott also re-emphasised opposition's deep distrust in Centre-led matters. States where Congress is in office accused GOI of the budget benefitting only NDA allies TDP and JDU. On the agenda of Modi-chaired Niti Aayog meeting was drinking water, electricity, health, schooling, and, land and property issues. It's hard to see how a boycott can help any of these matters along. Such a break in Centre-state ties hits normative federalism, and is an unsustainable opposition tactic – not all states can hold out or join boycott calls. To that end, INDIA brass must know it shouldn't hang its unity on how states individually engage with the Centre – autonomy is paramount.

GOI needs bonding | It's for GOI to recognise the mandate pushed for federalism, coalition and cooperation. BJP calling opposition politicians names didn't stop voters from making INDIA a strong opposition. Despite GOI talking up official jobs data, the budget had to effectively concede there's a jobs problem, an issue that came front and centre during elections. Long-term livelihood is the core concern for India's majority. The number of people who need govt help in one form or another is not coming down. These are very visible craters on the road to being a developed nation by 2047.

Public needs governance | Instead of concrete Centre-state discussions, what one gets is talk. It's ultimately the public that suffers. The decay in governance markers, from policy to practice – farms to higher education, urbanisation to jobs, climate adaptation to water crises – is evident. Both govt and opposition need to snap out of vitriolic campaign mode. For, the mandate also showed voters lukewarm to both NDA and INDIA's ability to govern meaningfully. What the 18th Lok Sabha has demonstrated so far, with the budget followed by the boycott, is that GOI and opposition are playing Tweedledum and Tweedledee – simply twiddling.



Flying Dangerously

Message from survey on pilot fatigue. DGCA must implement its new norms, never mind airlines' objections

Results of a survey highlighting fatigue faced by pilots in India make for alarming reading. Prolonged flying duties, consecutive night shifts, rapidly changing weekly rosters, among other things, are taking a toll on those who man cockpits. To take one yardstick, as many as 70% of pilots surveyed said flight duty periods exceeding 10 hours had a profound impact on onset of fatigue. This figure is borne out by Nasa and EASA studies that recommend a maximum 10-hour duty period.

A special category | To treat airline pilots like regular professionals is downright dangerous. For, theirs is a job that often entails decision-making in double-quick time, with lives of hundreds of passengers at stake. We had an experience of this in the 2010 Mangalore air crash that cost 158 lives. The official inquiry blamed the accident on a disorientated Air India pilot

who was dozing in the cockpit prior to touchdown. In fact, a study found that 20% of commercial aviation accidents in US occurred during pilot duties lasting 10 hours or more.

Change mindset | It's not just about pilots. There needs to be a complete change in how the issue of working conditions for those who man the wheels in transport sector is approached. For instance, loco pilots entrusted with thousands of lives have to deal with long, stressful and irregular working schedules. The Railways does not even provide them a urinal in the cabin. In the road sector, there are few regulations related to working conditions of those driving commercial vehicles, though trucks, category-wise, account for the third largest number of accidents.

For airline pilots, DGCA issued new pilot duty norms earlier this year. These were put on hold following representations from airlines, which sought more time. The latest survey shows DGCA must tell airlines to get in with it.



Visa divas

How desis can get even with snooty consuls

Bikram Vohra



My friend tried hi-octane influence and has managed an interview for a western nation's visa 75 days down the road. In Oct, that is. He is all chuffed about the success of his mission and snobbishly says others must wait four months, he is one of the lucky ones though it cost a bit more. I tell him it is ridiculous that we need to plan so absurdly in advance and why would we want to go to a country that so patently is thumbing its nose at us and clearly doesn't want us. And if you fall ill on that day or have a crisis, what do you do, wait another three months.

And I am thinking what if Indians just stopped travelling. Like imagine it's faux Covid and refuse to fly to these countries. Use Zoom or Meet or the Web but do not go. In weeks, the millions of diaspora plus the millions who seek to visit foreign shores for work or fun every year would start getting even. There would be waves of panic.

Imagine all those snooty agents who look at you like you were the pits coming to work and no clients, that would be fun. And in those embassies where the suited-booted umpires of global travel interview you, imagine the visa consul parking his car and gleefully rubbing his hands in anticipation of playing god. Walks into the embassy and asks, "So how many of the great unwashed lined up?" The great interrogator checking out a 55-year-old Indian like he was a criminal, ah, the pleasures of the visa inquisition. Except now... "No one."

"Sorry. What did you say?" "There is no one, no one came, not one." "That's not possible, I was so looking forward to destroying lives, dashing hopes, making people squirm, this is unacceptable."

Then the domino principle would kick in. In days, tourism would start to droop like a wet noodle and hotels would soon be affected as tour groups stayed put. Empty rooms, no bookings to Disneyland and the Great Falls. The song's lyrics would shift swiftly from 'we don't want the Indians' to 'where are the Indians, we need them.'

And the airlines are suddenly faced with seats and no butts on them...badly need those noisy tour groups we hate so much. We will lower the price, anything you want, just travel again. In double quick time these countries would begin to review their systems and damn right, too. You see, we may not have a very strong passport, but we sure do have power in our numbers. Let's use it.

WE ARE LOSING COUNT

Too much depends on Census to put it off any longer • New towns aren't identified • Welfare scheme coverage is on estimates • Delimitation is stalled

Shankar.Raghuraman@timesofindia.com



Back when seat belts were mandatory in Delhi but not in neighbouring UP or Haryana, anyone hiring a car to go to Noida or Gurgaon would find their driver freeing himself of the safety belt the minute he crossed the border.

It never would strike drivers that seat belts aren't to be fastened merely because the law demanded it, but because it was for your own good. A similar mindset seems to have gripped some senior bureaucrats who've been quoted in reports saying the law doesn't mandate the Census be held every 10 years, that this is – or more accurately was till very recently – mere convention.

Too much delay | The unnamed "senior officials" are, of course, pedantically right. The Census Act, 1948 says GOI can notify a Census "whenever it may be necessary or desirable to do so". But is the Census scheduled for 2021 not happening because GOI has decided it is neither necessary nor desirable to do so now? GOI notified its intention of conducting the Census in March 2019, presumably having determined that it was either necessary, desirable, or both. The point about what the law says is really a red herring here.

So, why haven't we had a Census yet, more than halfway through 2024? And why does the budget for the current fiscal not provide for one, thereby signalling that it is not to happen anytime soon? Ministerial pronouncements can't be faulted for lack of consistency.

No clear reason | Junior home minister told Parliament in July 2020 that "Census-related field activities have been postponed till further orders due to Covid." In Feb this year, the same minister once again replied saying: "Due to...Covid, the Census 2021 and related field activities have been postponed."

In July 2020, it was entirely understandable that the Census was postponed given the pandemic. But in Feb 2024? UN Population Fund's Global Census Tracker shows that while national censuses were impacted by Covid worldwide, only three countries have postponed it with no fresh date assigned – the other two being Thailand and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Only data source | It can be asked, of course, what's the big deal. Does it really matter whether we count our population down to each individual? But the Census

does much more than just a headcount.

Here's what then Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner Vivek Joshi wrote in a circular issued in Feb 2020: "The Census is the only source of providing the basic benchmark data on housing condition, facilities available to the households and the state of human resources at various administrative levels up to the villages in rural areas and towns/wards in urban

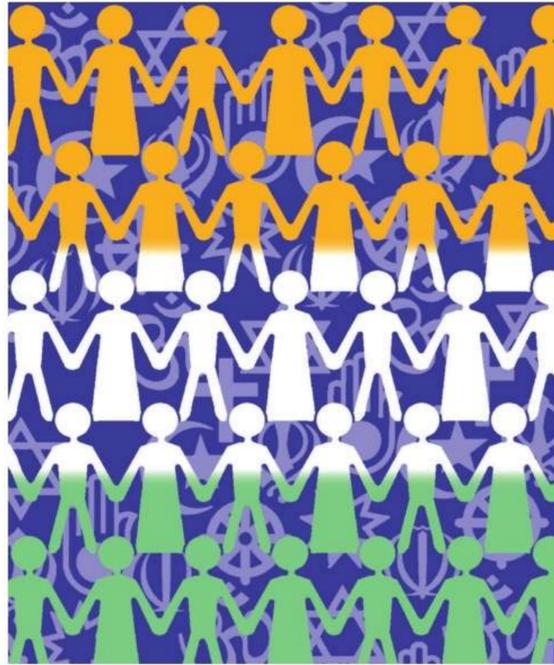
No actual numbers | That's not hyperbole. Every significant survey, like National Family Health Survey, or those conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, uses the Census as basis to structure samples. Without that basis, they wouldn't know whether their samples represent the population or not. Of course, if the samples are not representative, any conclusions drawn from them would be misleading.

Also, National Food Security Act stipulates that up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population shall be covered under the Act and that allocations "shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the Census of which the relevant figures have been published." Using the 2011 Census, this translates to about 81.5cr who could be covered under NFSA. A similar calculation based on the projected population for March 2024 would put that number at nearly 93cr, which means the delay could be denying more than 11cr Indians free or subsidised grain.

Lost in limbo | Another important consequence of not holding the Census is that areas recently urbanised may still be governed as villages. That means inadequate infra of the kind that towns need but villages don't, and absence of zoning laws. That can mean that by the time they do get officially notified as towns, unplanned expansion could have made providing requisite infra much more complicated. Every Census throws up thousands of "Census towns", areas that have populations of over 5,000, population density of 400 per sq km or more and where 75% or more of the working age male population is occupied in non-agricultural activities. Identification of these informs state govts to notify them, thereby making them statutory towns, and setting up urban local bodies before it's too late.

No delimitation | Census data underscores the delimitation exercise, which redraws boundaries of parliamentary, assembly and local body constituencies. Such periodic redrawing ensures all constituencies within a legislative body, at each level, contain roughly equal populations. Without a Census, there's no way of undertaking this exercise, one that's fundamental to the democratic principle of every person's vote carrying equal weight. Remember also that reservation of one-third of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies is contingent on delimitation being carried out.

So, yes, the Census getting inordinately delayed is a big deal for very many reasons.



areas. It is widely used for planning and formulation of policies and effective public administration by the central/state/UT govts. Apart from this, Census data is used for delimitation and reservation of Constituencies for parliamentary, assembly, panchayats and other local bodies."

Notice the circular does not say the Census is a source of benchmark data, but the **only source** of such data.

India's Fashion Weak In Paris. And Where Was The Ikat?

That our Olympians wore embarrassingly unfashionable threads in the world's couture capital speaks to a larger aesthetic malaise in public life

Charmy.Harikrishnan@timesofindia.com



Paris was blasé – it shrugged away a downpour to turn a city into a spectacle and a river into a running track where laughing athletes floated past in merry boats. The ridiculously rad opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics overturned the stiff march-past associated with sporting events and had everything from manage a trois to a headless Marie Antoinette to a missing Mona Lisa to a drag take on The Last Supper to a cauldron that took to the sky. You could love it or hate it, but you could not forget it even two days after the event. And yet in the middle of this mélange of eye-grabbers, there was something unfun and forgettable – the Indian contingent's wetter-than-wet blanket look. We managed to pull it off even in a sea of plastic raincoats.

Our finest sportspeople were clad in the most pedestrian of designs – white saris with saffron and green borders and unflattering high-neck blouses for women, and white kurtas with jackets that had saffron and green fringes, plus pockets and epaulettes as some add-ons, for men. How to quickly incorporate the national colours into clothes – add saffron and green to white outfits – is the design lesson every schoolkid and their parents showcase every year on Independence Day. Do India's top fashion designers have nothing more to offer than a school skit's Aug 15 uniform? Is this the limit of their imagination in creating an outfit that wears patriotism on its sleeve for the world's biggest sporting spectacle?

Designer Tarun Tahiliani who created the outfits said the prints were "inspired" by Ikat. There isn't a traditional textile pattern that looks more modern than Ikat – it's inspiring in itself – and yet one had to rush for a non-existent magnifying glass to spot the boldness of that pattern anywhere in that costume.

There was no sense of occasion, for sure, nor was there of vehicle or weather. The design sensibilities seemed to have sidestepped the fact that this was meant to be worn on a boat on a possibly rainy Parisian evening. The golden sneakers they wore were possibly the only redeeming element, but were thoroughly invisible on the deck of a boat.

While India managed to be unfashionable in Paris, of all places, we have been unimaginatively formal in the previous editions of the Games as well – navy blue suits for men and navy blue-and-golden saris for women at Rio 2016, followed by metallic browns in Tokyo 2020, but that was in the middle of the pandemic when the only accessory that mattered was the mask. At London 2012, though, India was striking in its choice of colour – golden-yellow – although we stuck to saris and pagris.

The failure of fashion points to two things. One, the inability to push the aesthetic envelope for national events, which by convention, is weighed down by conventionality and solemnity. It is as if a governmental nod would be easy to come by if we create a design that provokes no conversation. We allow no playfulness, no experimentation, nothing out of the ordinary. This is why some of our contemporary public art and architecture,

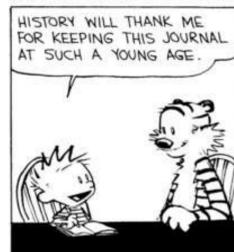
including the new Parliament building and the Pragati Maidan-turned-Bharat Mandapam, is staid.

Two, we weigh fashion in terms of how many crystals are on a lehenga, how many threads of real gold are woven into a bandhgala, how many embellishments have been stitched into a ghagra. If July ended with a sartorial disaster at the opening ceremony of the Games, it began with clothing excesses at a wedding – and the differences cannot be starker. If designers boasted of spending hundreds of hours on a wedding ensemble, they showed their inability to imagine minimalism and athleticism for our sportspeople. Indian fashion needs to rescue itself from a surfeit of embellishments and wedding aesthetics and dare to stand out in new cuts and silhouettes that capture the times.

Thankfully, it's not clothes that define sportspeople. It is what they do when they climb out of that uncoolness and step into the tracks and courts and arenas. The ancient Greeks knew clothes were an obstacle. No wonder they ran naked at the archaic Games. We may be too Victorian for that but, by Zeus, our sportspeople should have better threads to wear at Los Angeles 2028.



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WHO ELSE DO YOU EVEN KNOW?

Sacredspace

The point is that we can dissolve the sense of dualism between us and them, between this and that, between here and there, by moving toward what we find difficult and wish to push away.

Pema Chödrön

Is Jnan Marg One Of The Most Challenging Paths

Kishore Asthana

Jnan means knowledge. Jnan Yog, the path of knowledge, is one of the paths prescribed for attaining enlightenment.

Of all the paths, Jnan Yog is considered the most challenging path. However, this difficulty is not inherent in the path itself. It occurs partly because of a fundamental misunderstanding about the term's meaning. Jnan Yog is knowledge of the Self. However, most seekers misunderstand it to mean knowledge of the scriptures.

In Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, 2.4.5, Yajnavalkya explains Jnan Yog to Maitreyi. He says that no one loves anyone else or anything else for the benefit of the object of his love. He loves anyone or anything for the benefit of his own self. He even says, "It is not for the sake of the gods, my dear,

that they are loved, but for one's own sake that they are loved."

Yajnavalkya mentions this to emphasise that the Self is all that matters. Then he explains how this Self can be realised. He says, "The Self, my dear Maitreyi, should be realised – should be heard of, reflected on and meditated upon. By the realisation of the Self, my dear, through hearing, reflection and meditation, all this is known."

Hearing refers to gaining knowledge at the feet of the Guru. Reflection is thinking over what was read or heard. The final step is meditation. Reading and hearing provide the foundation. Reflection provides the solid base on which meditation, the ladder taking us higher, is positioned. It is not merely thinking about the

meaning of the words; it is about mulling over how these words apply to one's life and what they mean in practice. Meditation is how the practice is to be implemented.

These three steps describe the transition from the external to the body, the mind, and the heart. Most seekers on the Jnan Marg find it difficult to achieve their objective because they stop at Shravan, hearing, and reading and do not go to the reflection stage.

Even those who go to the reflection stage find it difficult to move on to the meditation stage. This is because when one goes to the meditation stage, one does not consciously keep thinking about scriptural knowledge. At that stage, knowledge sits passively inside oneself. It has done its work of bringing

the seeker to the ladder. If the seeker tries to keep one step on the foundation while trying to climb the ladder, he can never go higher. Yet, most seekers try to do precisely that.

Some seekers are also addicted to knowledge. They forget the Hitopadesha directive, "Vidya dadati vinayam" – knowledge brings humility. They become proud of their learning and want to flaunt it.

There's a critical difference between knowledge of adhyatma and other subjects. When we try to learn about astronomy, we do not become astronomy itself. In the case of adhyatma, the objective is to become the knowledge itself.

When this difference is not appreciated, the search becomes redundant. As the Gita points out, it is a journey from the vyakta, which is manifest, to the avyakta, which is formless.



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'India needs to take nuanced approach for FDI from China'

New Delhi: There is a need to take a nuanced approach towards FDI from China, and govt can consider FDI applications from Beijing in sectors involving high-end technologies like EVs and batteries, which are not available in other nations, an official said. China has some modern capital equipment of different types, which can be important for India. Advocating for a nuanced view on the issue, the govt official said Chinese applications can be expedited in areas where India needs to step up its manufacturing capacity. AGENCIES

crazy bosses



Investment in equity MFs up 5-fold in Q1

New Delhi: Investment in equity mutual funds surged over five-fold to Rs 94,151 crore in the June quarter against Rs 18,358 crore a year ago, driven by a strong economic environment, supportive govt fiscal policies, investors confidence and robust stock return. AGENCIES

FPIs invest ₹33,600cr in equities in July

New Delhi: FPIs injected over Rs 33,600 crore into Indian equities so far this month on the expectation of continued policy reforms, sustained growth and a better-than-expected earnings season. AGENCIES

PNB Q1 results: Net jumps 159% YoY

Punjab National Bank on Saturday reported a 159% year-on-year jump in its net profit for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, while the bank's net interest income rose to Rs 10,476 crore, up by 10% YoY. AGENCIES

figure it out

14,000cr
eggs were produced in India in 2022-23, up from 3,700 crore in 2000-01 — a nearly 4x jump



Liquidity norms: Chase begins for deposits

Mayur.Shetty @timesofindia.com
Mumbai: Private banks will need to raise more stable funds like fixed deposits that customers cannot prematurely withdraw and cut credit growth to invest more in govt securities to meet new liquidity coverage norms issued by RBI. While RBI classifies digitally operated accounts as hot money, bankers do not see any reversal of digital channels.

Birla to buy Srinivasan's stake in India Cements

UltraTech To Acquire 32.7% Promoters' Stake For ₹3,954Cr, Deal Will Mark Exit Of N Srinivisan From Cement Business

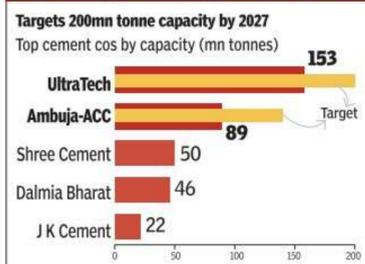
Reeba Zachariah & Yogesh Kabirdoss | TNN

Mumbai/Chennai: In a strategic move to bolster his position as India's largest building materials maker, billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla has struck a deal with N Srinivasan and his family to acquire their cement business for Rs 3,954 crore. UltraTech Cement, a part of the \$65-billion Aditya Birla conglomerate, will acquire about 33% stake in India Cements, valuing the Chennai-based company at Rs 390 a share. This adds to the 23% stake UltraTech purchased in June. Additionally, UltraTech will make an open offer to India Cements' public shareholders to acquire an extra 26% stake at the same price in line with India's takeover norms, raising the total cost for UltraTech to Rs 7,100 crore.

If approved by regulators, this deal will extend UltraTech's footprint in the highly fragmented and fast-growing southern market, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where it has had limited presence. The scarcity of limestone in Tamil Nadu has restricted UltraTech from setting up new integrated units in the state since acquiring its last unit in Aug 1998.

UltraTech will add India Cements' 14.5 million tonnes

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP CEMENTS ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION



UltraTech will buy 32.7% in India Cements from its promoters, adding to the 23% it bought in June from investor Radhakishan Damani, and increasing 14.5mn

capacity spread across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan to its existing 153 million tonnes capacity and take on the company's 1,855 employees. UltraTech's only integrated unit in Tamil Nadu has a capacity of 1.4 million tonnes, whereas India Cements has a capacity of 6 million tonnes in the state.

Conglomerate chair Kumar Mangalam Birla said the India Cements opportunity is an "exciting" one as it enables UltraTech to serve the southern market more effectively and also "accelerates our path to 200 plus million tonnes capacity". UltraTech is up against Ambuja Ce-

tonnes in capacity

Aditya Birla Group Co will pay ₹3,954 cr for the 32.7% stake, valuing it at ₹390 a share

The acquisition will trigger open offer that allows UltraTech to buy more shares of India Cements from public shareholders

After the deal's completion, India Cements will become a subsidiary of UltraTech and Srinivasan & family will step down from board

With an installed capacity of 153mn tonnes, UltraTech leads the Indian cement industry

Last month Adani Group, the second-largest cement maker, announced the purchase of Panna Cement, increasing its capacity by 14 mn tonnes

ly the vice chairman and MD, Srinivasan, 79, is facing health issues, and his wife and daughter, Rupa Gurunath, are not interested in running India Cements. The trio will step down from the board once the acquisition is complete. India Cements has faced financial issues in recent quarters, with its offices being searched by the Enforcement Directorate earlier this year in relation to certain foreign exchange transactions. The company has been restructuring its balance sheet to reduce losses, modernize its vintage plants, and meet working capital needs.

CSK to remain in fold of Srinivasan's family

Yogesh.Kabirdoss @timesofindia.com

Chennai: Cricket cemented the place for India Cements vice chairman and managing director N Srinivasan and kept him in the limelight more than the 15 MTPA capacity plants. Even as cement and cricket are both key for him, the industry veteran may well have to focus only on the sport from now on.

Srinivasan and his daughter Rupa Gurunath are the promoters of Chennai Super Kings Cricket — the company that owns cricket franchisee Chennai Super Kings. They will continue to run it as an independent organisation. The acquisition of majority stake in India Cements by UltraTech will not alter their family control over CSK. According to sources, CSKCL will continue to be under the control of Srinivasan. The family owns 28.11% stake in CSKCL.

EWS Finance & Investment owns 21.5% shares in the company, Gurunath holds 6.5% in the capacity as a trustee of financial servi-

CEMENT TO CRICKET

Origin: Entrepreneurs SNN Sankaralinga Iyer, T S Narayanaswami set up India Cements in 1946. Business relationship turned into family ties after Narayanaswami's son N Srinivasan married Iyer's granddaughter Chitra. The co was a pioneer enterprise during the pre-independence era to become a public limited co

Financials: Sells under India Cements, Sankar and Coromandel & Raasi brands. India Cements has about 14.5mn tonne capacity. It narrowed losses in Q4. The co was identifying non-core assets to meet working capital requirements. FY24 losses pegged at ₹216cr

Cricket & Business: Srinivasan turns 80 in Jan, his wife and daughter Rupa are not too keen to manage operations at India Cements. He entered the cricket arena in mid-1990s. Chennai Super Kings was launched in 2008. Srinivasan and Rupa Gurunath are CSK's promoters

ce trust and securities services trust, while Srinivasan and wife Chitra Srinivasan hold 0.14% and 0.02% shares, respectively. EWS is a related party and its directors and members Srinivasan, Chitra Srinivasan and Gurunath hold a majority of the shares in EWS. Srinivasan and Gurunath returned as promoters of CSK in FY23. Before that, as complaints of conflict of interest arose over Gurunath's role in Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA), the promoter's control in CSKCL

was transferred to the trusts. Unlike the India Cements share sale by veteran investor Radhakishan Damani to UltraTech, the shares of CSKCL were ring-fenced since the separation of CSKCL took place much before Damani started picking up India Cements' share from the open market.

CSKCL posted a 65% growth in profit after tax at Rs 52.2 crore in FY23, which was at Rs 31.5 crore in the year before. Its revenue stood at Rs 292.3 crore in FY23, a drop by 16%.

According to a study by Macquarie, many private banks will see their LCR dropping below their internal threshold of 110%. HDFC Bank is currently at 123% and will drop to 106% after the new norms, while ICICI Bank, which is at 121%, will

Fortune 500 cos lose \$5.4bn in CrowdStrike outage: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Fortune 500 companies witnessed a financial loss to the tune of \$5.4 billion due to the CrowdStrike outage, showed a report from cloud outage risk partner Parametrix.

About 25% of Fortune 500 companies experienced disruptions due to the CrowdStrike outage. The report said the most impacted industries were airlines, healthcare, and banking. The insured losses are expected to fall between \$0.5 billion and \$1 billion, which represent 10-20% of the total financial loss.

On July 19, a widespread tech outage at Microsoft led to significant global disruptions, impacting airlines, hospitals, TV stations, and financial markets. Systems experienced sudden shutdowns and unexpected reboots, causing inconveniences and potential risks to businesses. The root cause of the outage was traced back to a flawed update released for CrowdStrike's Falcon Sensor platform, which caused Windows devices to crash.

drop to 105%. Axis Bank will drop from 120% to 104% and IndusInd Bank from 118% to 102%. Among public sector lenders, SBI will drop from 131% to 111% and Bank of Baroda from 125% to 106%.

"Presently, our liquidity coverage ratio is 125% (of prescribed RBI threshold). The new norms will bring it down to 115%," said AK Goel, chairman, Punjab National Bank. He added that this would not change the bank's strategy and it would continue promoting digital bank accounts.

Banks told to speed up IBC resolutions

Govt Has Also Asked MDs To Personally Monitor Cases After Irregularities Noticed

Sidhartha & Surojit Gupta | TNN

New Delhi: Taking strong exception to slow action under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), govt has started monitoring the top 20 cases, while also asking bank chiefs to closely follow the top 20 cases with their banks. This has led to movement in Jaiprakash Associates and Amtek Auto, where lenders were seen to be dragging their feet.

"Banks have been citing delays in the tribunal, but we discovered that they were themselves to blame. They were found to be discussing loan settlements in some cases when the issue had been taken up under IBC," a top official said, suggesting a top-down approach between promoters and bankers in some cases.

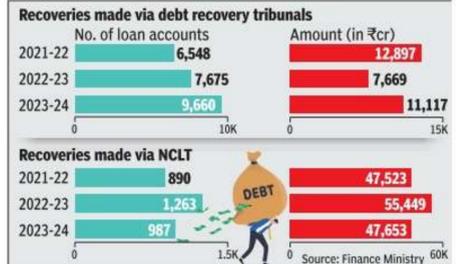
Take for instance, Jaiprakash Associates, promoted by the Gaurs. In 2017, it was in the second batch of high-profile cases identified by the finance ministry and govt that was to be taken up for insolvency resolution. While Jaypee Infra was pursued, banks led by ICICI Bank, were seen to be moving slowly in the Allahabad bench of NCLT, despite SBI filing another petition. It was only after the govt deci-

ded to step in that the bankers pursued it.

Officials said Nirmala Sitharaman is herself reviewing some of the cases. Financial services secretary Vivek Jos-

cases admitted in NCLT although the finance ministry is taking credit for several cases, where the companies decided to clear the dues the moment one of the aggrieved

MORE DRT BENCHES PLANNED



hi, IBBI chairman Ravi Mittal and corporate affairs secretary Manoj Govil have been monitoring the cases and asking banks to move swiftly as delay results in significant value erosion and lower the overall resolution and recovery.

Bankers have often blamed NCLT and legal system, along with promoters, for delays. But a case wise analysis by the officials showed that in several cases banks had sought adjournments and sought to put the blame on promoters. Final resolution has been done in 947 of the 7,567

creditors moved the tribunal (see graphic).

Recently, Amtek Auto promoter Arvind Dham was also arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a loan fraud case following a Supreme Court order.

In the budget, Sitharaman announced measures to strengthen IBC and also provide a fresh boost to debt recovery tribunals (DRTs). Officials said govt intends to add more DRTs and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals, given the large and growing number of pending cases.

Tax clearance certificate not needed for all

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The finance ministry on Sunday said proposed amendments to the Black Money Act do not require all the residents travelling overseas to obtain a

tax clearance certificate.

It is only for those, who are facing probe or have large tax arrears. Section 230 of the Income-tax Act, mandates that those persons involved in serious financial irregularities and whose presence is re-

quired for investigations, or those with tax arrears in excess of Rs 10 lakh must obtain a tax clearance certificate to travel overseas. This certificate is required to be issued by senior officials for claims and probes related to I-T.

TOI **How The Budget Impacts Taxation For Mutual Funds**

IN THE CLASSROOM

Mutual funds are becoming a popular route for retail investors to participate in capital markets with assets under management crossing ₹60 lakh crore. The latest Budget has changed capital gains taxes on financial assets...

What's The Regime For Equity Schemes?
According to income tax rules, any gain from sale of units in an equity-oriented mutual fund scheme that invests at least 65% of its corpus in domestic stocks will be taxed as short-term capital gain (STCG) if sold before a year of purchase and as long-term capital gain (LTCG) if sold beyond a year of purchase.

Invesco Mutual Fund
An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescoindiafund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at <https://scores.gov.in>

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

What Are The Changes In The Budget?
According to new proposals, equity investors shall enjoy an additional ₹25,000 as tax-free income in a financial year as LTCG up to ₹1.25 lakh will be exempt, up from ₹1 lakh. For gains above ₹1.25 lakh in a financial year from equity-oriented MFs, investors will have to pay LTCG tax at 12.5%. For sale within a year, STCG tax is at 20% as against 15% earlier...

What Equity Funds Are Covered?
Funds where equity holding is more than 65% of the total portfolio are classified as equity funds for taxation. All equity schemes, arbitrage funds, balanced funds (which typically have 65-75% equity and 25-35% debt) and equity savings funds (equity, debt & arbitrage) are classified as equity-oriented funds from a taxation perspective...

No Changes For Debt MFs...
There is no change proposed in the Budget for debt-oriented schemes. Investors will have to pay capital gains tax on these schemes in line with their income slabs irrespective of the holding period.

Is Indexation Facility Available For Any Scheme?
According to Budget proposals, no indexation facility will be available for any MF scheme. Earlier, some schemes that held 35-65% in equity, in categories like multi-asset and hybrid could get indexation benefits. Investors who hold these schemes for at least 24 months will have to pay LTCG tax at 12.5%. If they sell before 2 years they will pay STCG tax in line with their slab rate.

What About Gold Schemes, FoFs?
Fund of funds (MFs that invest in other funds), int'l funds (over 35% exposure to overseas equities) and gold/silver funds were treated as debt instruments. Now, new investments held for at least 24 months will be charged LTCG tax of 12.5%, while a holding period of less than 2 years will attract STCG tax in line with the slab rate.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



FROM 'IRON MAN' TO SUPERVILLAIN: ROBERT DOWNEY JR COMING BACK IN MCU AS 'DOCTOR DOOM' FOR UPCOMING 'AVENGERS' FILM

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE WAS 'NOT INTOXICATED' AT THE TIME OF DWI ARREST & POLICE MADE A 'MISTAKE', HIS LAWYER CLAIMS IN COURT



MAGA looks askance at Vance romance; Trump calls VP 'bum'

JD Defends Wife: 'She's Not A White Person... But I Love Usha. She's Such A Good Mom', Draws Flak From Liberals

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The story—possibly apocryphal—goes that when some Democrats in Arkansas realised that Hillary Clinton was much smarter than the man they chose as governor, someone exclaimed, "We've elected the wrong Clinton!" No such sentiment is in the offing in the current Republican ecosystem, whose leadership appears to prefer women take a backseat while all too readily denigrating them—particularly if they happen to be women of colour.

Echoes of such sexist, racist outlook surfaced again over the weekend when former prez Donald Trump called his rival Kamala Harris a "bum", often used as a slang for a vagrant. "She was a bum three weeks ago. She was a bum," he told a conservative group of his opponent who has been the US vice-prez for three and half years, and whose sudden elevation to the top of the Democratic ticket has rattled Republicans. The slur outraged Democrats who found it strange that a "twice impeached, 34X convicted felon & adjudicated rapist who bragged about sexually assaulting women, was fined a half a billion for fraud, stole hundreds of classified docs & attempted a coup—is calling Kamala Harris a bum."

The war of words is threatening to take the election campaign into the gutter. On Sunday, Republicans surfaced video of an event involving Harris in which she ostensibly used the F-word, and claimed that she was drunk during the interview. Such claims are becoming increasingly hard to verify given the AI tools now available.

Also over the weekend, Elon Musk, the boss of X, who has become an ardent Trump supporter, himself posted a deepfake video of Harris' without disclosing it was manipulated.

Meanwhile, Trump's running mate JD Vance, respon-



LOVE & POLITICS: The US media is focusing on how Usha Vance, an accomplished woman from a liberal, Democratic-leaning family, who had herself voted Democratic, signed up for her husband's conservative values

'66% of Harris' \$200m fund-haul in 1st week of campaign came from first-time donors'

US vice-prez Kamala Harris' campaign has raised \$200 million since she emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee last week, an eye-opening haul. The campaign, which announced its latest fundraising total on Sunday, said the bulk of the donations—66%—comes from first-time contributors in the 2024 election cycle and were made after Prez Biden announced his exit from the race and endorsed Harris. Over 170,000 volunteers have also signed up to help the Harris campaign. Election Day is 100 days away. Trump's campaign said in early July that it raised \$331 million in the second quarter, topping the \$264 million that Biden's campaign and its Democratic allies raised in the same period. Trump's campaign had \$284.9 million in cash on hand at the end of June while the Democratic campaign had \$240 million in cash on hand at the time. AP & REUTERS

ding to disquiet among some MAGA Republicans over his wife Usha Chilkuri's Indian origin, dropped another clanger, saying, "Obviously, she's not a white person... but I love Usha, she's such a good mom."

"Honestly this is such a weird way to respond to white supremacist attacks on your Indian-American wife. Pathetic," one commentator remarked, even as analysts on both sides of the political spectrum dissected their relationship and marriage going back to their early days in college. The scrutiny has intensified following Vance's "childless cat lady" remarks that has doubled down on and defended, even as some of his other comments talking up

families, children, and parenting—at the expense of single people—are surfacing.

In an assessment of Usha's life and career, the US media is focusing on how an accomplished woman from a liberal, Democratic-leaning family, who had herself voted Democratic, signed up for her husband's Trumpism and the conservative values it espouses. Citing unnamed friends, one report said Usha was "outraged by Trump's incitement of Capitol riots and lamented the social breakdown that fuelled his political support", while noting that she explicitly did not mention the ex-prez's name in her Republican convention speech in which she praised her husband

Poll: Favourability rating of Kamala rises to 43% from 35% a week ago

US vice-president Kamala Harris has seen a boost in her favourability rating among Americans since Joe Biden's decision to drop his reelection campaign, an ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted on July 26-27 showed. Harris' favourability rating rose to 43% from 35% a week ago, according to the survey based on a random national sample of 1,200 US adults.

Results have a margin of error of 3 percentage points, ABC News added. The survey found that 42% of respondents were unfavourable toward Harris, down from 46% previously.

Her Republican rival, Donald Trump, saw his favourability rating slide to 36%, down slightly from 40% immediately following his attempted assassination. Harris at her Saturday fundraiser said she remained the "underdog" in the race but that her campaign was picking up steam. "We are the underdogs in this race, but this is a people-powered campaign and we have momentum," she said, addressing a group of 800 fundraisers in Massachusetts. BLOOMBERG

and supported his nomination.

"Usha found the incursion on the Capitol and Trump's role in it to be deeply disturbing. She was generally appalled by Trump, from the moment of his first election. It was surreal to see her sitting next to him," Washington Post quoted the unnamed friend as saying. It noted how "an overwhelmingly white crowd on the convention floor...tittered uneasily as she joked about her husband learning to cook Indian food and gasped when she mentioned her vegetarian diet". Republican strategists though say her views of Trump have changed along with that of her husband, who was once so critical of the ex-prez that he called him "America's Hitler".

Fears of escalation after rocket from Lebanon kills 12 at Golan soccer field

Israel Blames Hezbollah, Retaliates With Strikes, Vows Harsher Response

Western diplomats were scrambling on Sunday to prevent a surge of fighting along the Israel-Lebanon border, officials said, after a rocket from Lebanon Saturday killed at least 12 people in Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, most of them children.

The rocket prompted Israel to retaliate early Sunday with strikes across Lebanon. The initial Israeli response appeared to stop short of a major escalation, but there were still fears that the fallout from the rocket launch would lead to all-out war. PM Benjamin Netanyahu, facing domestic pressure to mount a fiercer response, met with ministers and security officials on Sunday to discuss further steps, after flying back early from a trip to the US.

Israel blamed Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Lebanese group that has been attacking Israel in solidarity with Hamas, for the deadly rocket attack on Saturday on the Druse Arab town of Majdal Shams.



Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant (encircled), visiting the attack site in Tel Aviv-controlled Golan Heights, said: 'We will hit the enemy hard'

Hezbollah has denied it was responsible. US secretary of state Antony Blinken said on Sunday in Tokyo that there was "every indication" that the rocket was fired by Hezbollah.

US diplomats were working on Sunday to contain the hostilities and asked Lebanon's gov't to relay a message to Hezbollah to show restraint in the face of a further Israeli response, according to Lebanon's foreign minister, Abdallah Bou Habib. French officials also passed

messages back and forth between Israel and Hezbollah, according to a Western official. France still has some influence in Lebanon owing to its former status as a French protectorate after World War I.

The backchannel diplomacy came amid threats from both Israel and Iran. The Iranian foreign ministry warned Israel of "unforeseen consequences" of any Israeli escalation, while Israel's education minister, Yoav Kisch, called for a str-

ong response "even if it means entering into an all-out war."

The rocket strike on Saturday, which hit children at a soccer field, was the deadliest assault on Israeli-controlled territory since Israel and Hezbollah began exchanging missile and rocket fire in Oct. Some Israelis want Netanyahu to authorise a full-scale ground invasion of southern Lebanon in order to deter similar attacks. But others fear that such a move would prompt a far more devastating response from Hezbollah, whose arsenal of weapons is considered larger and most sophisticated than almost any other nonstate actor in the region. Israeli commanders are also wary of opening up a second major war while the war in Gaza is still raging.

The Golan Heights is a territory once held by Syria that was captured by Israel during the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. Israel annexed the territory in 1981, a move that was not recognised by most of the world. NYT

Musk shares deepfake Harris video, violating X rules

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, has waded into one of the thorniest issues facing US politics: deepfake videos. On Friday night, Musk, the owner of the social media platform X, reposted an edited campaign video for vice-prez Kamala Harris that appears to have been digitally manipulated to change the spot's voice-over in a deceptive manner.

The video mimics Harris' voice, but instead of using her words from the original ad, it has the vice-prez saying that Prez Joe Biden is senile, that she does not "know the first thing about running the co-



JD Vance clapped back at actress Jennifer Aniston, who mentioned his daughter while slamming him for saying 'childless cat ladies' are running the country. He said, 'Hollywood celebrities say, 'Oh, well, JD Vance, what if your daughter suffered fertility problems?... That's disgusting because my daughter is 2'

untry" and that she is the "ultimate diversity hire."

In addition, the clip was edited to remove images of ex-prez Donald Trump and his running mate, Senator JD Vance, and to add images of Biden. The original, unaltered ad, which the Harris campaign released Thursday, is titled "We Choose Freedom." The version posted on X does not contain a disclaimer, although the account that first uploaded it Friday, @MrReaganUSA, noted in its post that the video was a "parody". When Musk reposted the video 8 hours later, he made no such disclosure, stating only, "This is amazing," followed by a laughing emoji. Musk's post, which has since been viewed 98 million times, would seem to run afoul of X's policies, which prohibit sharing "synthetic, manipulated or out-of-context media that may deceive or confuse people and lead to harm." He did not reply to a request for comment.

The Harris campaign said, "The American people want the real freedom, opportunity and security Vice President Harris is offering; not the fake, manipulated lies of Elon Musk and Donald Trump." X's policy was instituted in April 2023, well after Musk took over. NYT

Venezuelans choose between another prez term for Maduro or a big change

Caracas: Venezuelans are voting Sunday in a presidential election whose outcome will either lead to a seismic shift in politics or extend by six more years the policies that caused the world's worst peacetime economic collapse. Whether it is Prez Nicolas Maduro who is chosen, or his main opponent, retired diplomat Edmundo Gonzalez, the poll will have ripple effects across the Americas.

Govt opponents and supporters alike have signalled their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have already left their homes for opportunities abroad should Maduro win another term. Polls opened at 6am across the country. The number of eli-



Voters line up outside a polling station in Caracas on Sunday

gible voters is estimated to be around 17 million. Polls close at 6pm local time (3.30am IST), but it's not clear when the first results will be released.

Authorities set Sunday's election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former Prez Hugo Chavez, the leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in

the hands of Maduro. But Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration.

Maduro is facing off against Gonzalez who is representing a coalition of opposition parties after being selected in April as a last-minute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled Supreme Tribunal of Justice from running for any office for 15 years. Sunday's ballot also features eight other candidates. AP

Doc from Pak's minority Ahmadi group shot dead

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a dentist belonging to Pakistan's persecuted minority Ahmadi community near Lahore on Saturday.

Police said the killers came on a motorcycle and escaped after killing Dr Zakaur Rehman (53) at his clinic in Lala Musa area of Punjab's Gujrat district.

"One person entered the clinic and opened fire on the doctor. He took three bullets, in his heart, stomach and arm, and died on the spot," a police report said, adding Rehman lived alone and his family was abroad.

B'desh students vow to resume protests unless leaders freed

Dhaka: A Bangladeshi student group has vowed to resume protests that sparked a nationwide unrest unless several of their leaders are released from custody on Sunday. Last week's violence killed at least 205 people according to an AFP count of police and hospital data.

Army patrols and a nationwide curfew remain in place more than a week after they were imposed. Members of Students Against Discrimination, whose campaign against job quotas precipitated the unrest, said they would end their week-long protest moratorium. AFP

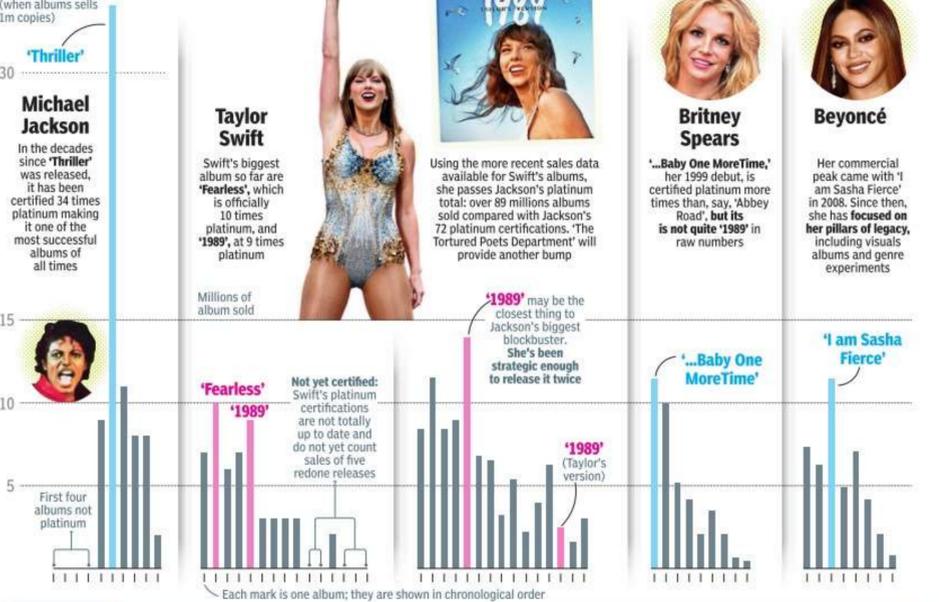
HOW BIG IS TAYLOR SWIFT?

Before Eminem's 'The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grace)' unseated 'The Tortured Poets Department' from No. 1 on Billboard 200 last week, Taylor Swift's latest album had set the record for the first woman artist's album to be on the top for 12 weeks. Taylor, as Swift is also called, broke the previous record held by Whitney Houston's 1987 album 'Whitney', which spent its first 11 weeks at No. 1. 'The Tortured Poets Department' was Swift's eighth Billboard No. 1 album since 2020. Here's how the top-grossing American singer-songwriter's 19-year career compares with other greats — from The Beatles to Drake

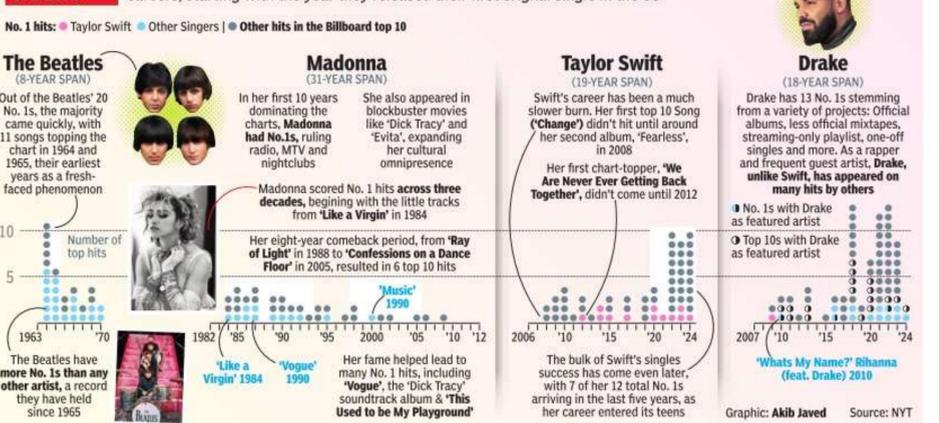
APPROXIMATE GROSS FOR TOP TOUR (IN \$MILLION)



PLATINUM CERTIFICATION



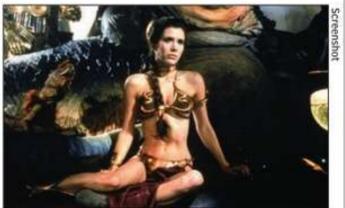
TOP OF THE CHARTS



AROUND THE WORLD

Shanghai museum opens for felines amid rising 'cat parents'

A queue of glamorous visitors stood outside Shanghai Museum, tails flicking and whiskers quivering as they waited to be let in for its inaugural ancient Egypt cat night. The number of pets in China has soared, reaching over 120 million in 2023, and cats are the most popular. Younger generations see their "furred kids" as a cheaper substitute for human children, experts say. Shanghai Museum is capitalising on that interest — Saturday's event, heralded as a first in China, is just one of 10 planned cat nights. "I cannot imagine my life without a cat," cat owner Amy told AFP. "So I understand why Egyptians valued cats." Cats were considered sacred in ancient Egypt.



'STAR WARS' BIKINI SELLS FOR \$175K: The gold bikini worn by Carrie Fisher in 'Star Wars: Return of the Jedi', has been sold at an auction for \$175,000. The costume, which includes hip rings & bracelets, was worn by her character, Princess Leia, when she was captured & chained up by Jabba the Hutt



"For me the greatest moment was when I saw a picture of Manu (Bhaker) yesterday after qualification. There was no emotion that she displayed which meant she was in business for today! Her journey has been wonderful."

ABHINAV BINDRA
GOLD MEDALLIST, BEIJING 2008

MANUSCRIPT!

TIMES AT THE GAMES

ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: "Oh my god! So many phones. I have so many options," Manu Bhaker exclaimed, happiness shining through her voice, as she looked at the tray which held at least 20 mobile phones of eager Indian journalists who had gathered in the mixed zone to speak to the shooting star here on Sunday. She laughed some more, not apprehensive anymore of what would come her way. She had the medal around her neck to give her confidence. She looked unburdened.

The questions came in a hurry. What was going through your mind last night Manu? "I was not tense. I read the Bhagavad Gita a lot. And you know those famous advice which Lord Krishna gave to Arjun: *Apna karm karo, phal ki chinta mat karo* (Just do your work, don't think of result). So, I knew I just had to give my best."

Tell us about your special bonding with your coach Jaspal Rana. "He is special. He made the training so difficult for me that shooting here was easy. We worked very hard on the technical areas. His style of coaching is so different. He would often give me very difficult targets. If I failed to achieve them, he would make me donate a certain amount of money to the needy. It would be 40 euros one day, 400 euros the other day."

On having won an Olympic medal at such a young age, and being destined for bigger things, Manu said: "It feels surreal. Have dreamt of this for years. Yes, top of the world. I did miss the silver by 0.1 point, but I have no complaints. This medal is for all of us, our country. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me on this journey - my coach, other Indian coaches, my parents, Sports Authority of India...everyone."

"But there is no time to celebrate. I have to compete in many more events. Yes, you cannot be at the top of your game all the time and I have become used to it. I will still give my best in the upcoming competitions."

Manu does not want to talk about the Tokyo heartbreak but did say that it gave her important lessons. "Whatever happened in Tokyo was probably because of my carelessness. Probably my fault. Let us leave that part behind. There were so many lessons there. If I had not learnt from them, this would not have come. Tokyo was a valuable input on the road to Paris. I told myself last night that I would give my best. Dekhi jayegi. Aage Bhagwan dekh lenge (will see how it goes. God will take care of the rest)."

You talk of God. How religious are you? "After Tokyo, I became religious. But not in a fanatic way. For me, God is some form of energy which guides us through life. It is like an aura around us. I believe in that."

From quitting sports to winning a bronze medal for India and becoming the first female shooter to win an Olympic medal - this is the incredible journey of grit and determination that sports teaches us. Congratulations @realmanbhaker!

—Rani Rampal, FORMER INDIA HOCKEY CAPTAIN

CLICK OF FAME: Manu Bhaker (R), takes a selfie with gold medalist Oh Ye-Jin, (C) and silver medalist Kim Yeji, both from South Korea



Coach Jaspal Rana Made Training So Difficult That Shooting At The Olympics Was Easy: Bhaker

Stage	50.4	100.3					Total
Stage 1 (series of 5)	50.4	100.3					
Stage 2 (series of 2)	121.2	140.8	160.9	181.2	201.3	221.7	221.7

You have made us all proud: Modi to Manu

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Manu Bhaker on Sunday and congratulated the Indian shooter for winning the bronze medal in the final of the 10m women's air pistol event at the Paris Olympics.

"Hearty congratulations to you. I am feeling very proud after hearing the news. You missed the silver medal by just 0.1 points but you have made all of us proud."

"You are the first woman to win a medal for our country. Congratulations to you," PM Modi told Bhaker during a phone call.

PM Modi added: "In the Tokyo Olympics, your rifle betrayed you but you have overcome all the shortcomings in this Olympics. I am very confident that you will do very well in

the rest of the tournament." PM Modi also asked Bhaker about the sports facilities in Paris. "How are the facilities there? We have tried our best to provide all the sports facilities to our players," PM Modi said. Bhaker responded, saying, "Yes, sir facilities are very good."

One of the reasons for Manu's success in Paris was the presence of her personal coach Jaspal Rana by her side. Several top Indian athletes taking part in the Paris Games have their personal coaches and support staff travelling with them, thanks to the govt granting them their wish.

The move is expected to help the athletes to be in the best condition as they try to bring laurels to the country on the big stage. TNN/AGENCIES

KUDOS FROM THE HEAD OF GOVT

INDIA'S five shooting medals in Olympics

1 Rajyavardhan Rathore	Men's double trap	Silver	Athens 2004
2 Abhinav Bindra	Men's 10m air rifle	Gold	Beijing 2008
3 Gagan Narang	Men's 10m air rifle	Bronze	London 2012
4 Vijay Kumar	Men's 25m rapid fire pistol	Silver	London 2012
5 Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze	Paris 2024



INDIA'S GIRL: Manu Bhaker celebrates with the national flag

Manu misses silver by a whisker

Continued from P1

As soon as the bronze was confirmed, Manu's personal coach Jaspal Rana, sitting in the press tribune, walked out satisfied, smiling. Manu said later: "This is because of the hard work we put in. This medal is a result of our blood and sweat and dedicated to my nation. I had figured out where he was sitting - inside the shooting range - and kept making eye contact with him. It gave me the courage to fight on every shot."

Jaspal, himself a former champion pistol shooter, has played a huge role in helping Manu forget her bitter past, made her mentally tougher and worked hard on her technique. All the hard work paid off.

At the medal ceremony, Manu was beaming, secure in the fact that she would not return home with a bag full of shattered dreams. Happy that all the hard work put in after the Tokyo debacle had paid off.

Manu had been in good form when she shot in the mixed event on Saturday. She was getting the 10s consistently. She started the final with a 10.6 and followed it up with a 10.2. She had made her intentions clear.

In the first series, she had two 9s - 9.5 and 9.6. Still, she was third and very much in medal hunt. After the second series, in which she had two 9.6 shots, she was still third with 100.3 points, just behind the two South Koreans who finally finished one-two. The gold went to OH Ye Jim and the silver was won by Kim Yeji. Manu had a fascinating battle with Yeji when the elimination round started. The Indian, who was in the third position, jumped to second with a 10.5 and a 10.4. The Korean

had shot 10 and 10.3. The battle for the silver medal had intensified. It was also clear by then that Manu would go on to win a medal unless she succumbed to nerves.

Manu slipped to the third position after three straight 9s - 9.8, 9.8, 9.9. But she recovered with seven straight 10-plus shots. And when the last two shots to decide the bronze medalist came, Manu had edged ahead of Yeji by 0.1 point.

But Manu shot a 10.3 while Yeji scored 10.5, going 0.1 ahead to secure the silver.

"It was so close. Yes, 0.1 point, but it happens at this level. I am happy that I could start the medal hunt for the country," she said. "It was very intense; I am happy Manu fought the way she did. The pressure was immense, but she was very brave. Really proud of her," Jaspal said.

Manu has two more competitions to go - 10m air pistol mixed event and 25m air pistol event. "I have no time to celebrate or reflect on what happened at the shooting range today. I will be back at the range tomorrow and then a few days later. I have work to do. I want more," she said. Given her form and her confidence, the country can hope for more from this gutsy shooter from Jhajjar, Haryana.

Team India, achhe se sona! Good sleep can lead to 60% better performance.



How shooter buried hatchet with coach Rana en route her comeback

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Chateauroux: Pistol shooting coach Jaspal Rana and Manu Bhaker had an infamous fallout a few months before the Tokyo Olympics. There was a lot of infighting within the shooting contingent which went to Tokyo.

After a disastrous outing by Manu and the other Indian shooters who failed to win a medal, dirty linen was washed in the public. Rana was even blamed by the national federation for creating a rift in the team. However, Manu realized that parting ways with Rana had hampered her growth and went back to his coaching stable to prepare for Paris 2024.

After Manu's medal here, Jaspal did not want to talk about controversies but did say: "Well, there were problems, small problems. They became big because of some people. But Manu and I worked hard to overcome those hurdles," he said.



MANU WITH COACH JASPAL RANA

"She has put in a lot of hard work. If someone gives me 100% in training, I will give back 200%. Otherwise, I lose interest, Manu has worked very hard and deserves whatever she is getting in return."

Taking a dig at the naysayers who were once again questioning the coach-player duo, he said: "There are a lot of gurus in our country, experts who will predict things, pull down

people, also try to take credit. Manu's medal is an answer to their negativity. It made her mentally tougher. I am proud of what she has achieved."

And what does he think of her chances in the upcoming events? "Any favourites?" "She did not win a quota in 10m air pistol but has won a medal. There are no favourites for us. Every competition is tough. No time to rest, we have work to do," he said.

Bronze feels like a gold for Bhaker's village

Hindol Basu & Sat Singh | TNN

Goriya (Jhajjar): As Manu Bhaker aimed for bronze at the Paris Olympics on Sunday, sitting at 6500 kms away - her relatives saw to it that everything stayed quiet at home, avoiding any celebration till the medal was secured.

Just before Manu's fight for a medal began, her village home wore a deserted look, her parents being in Faridabad. But as the drama unfolded, people started streaming in. When TOI visited the shooter's home, her grandmother Daya Kaur explained that the family follows a ritual of not watching her match as they believe it brings good luck for their girl. "We sat in a prayer with our eyes closed for about half an hour during the shooting event. But today since so many came home, we made an exception to switch on the TV," said the octogenarian Daya. "Manu, my granddaughter, might have missed the gold medal today, but bronze is no less. I will make up for the missing gold by garlanding her with a golden chain when she returns," she said with a smile.

As hard as Daya tried to keep the excitement of the kids under control as Manu fought tooth and nail for a medal, she struggled. "Go for gold, go for gold, go for gold... Manu," her young fans shouted. And when the medal happened, it was joy unbound. Laddoos were distributed and they broke into impromptu dance steps. "This is just a trailer.

We will give her a grand welcome when she comes back to the village," Manu's uncle, Mahendra Singh said. While Manu was shooting her way to a historic medal, her parents Ramkishan and Sumecha cheered for their daughter. Ramkishan highlighted his daughter's bend towards spirituality post the Tokyo Olympics, where her pistol malfunctioned and dented her medal chances.

"She is spiritually inclined. She saw her mother recite shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita, and she also started reading the holy text. Doing that makes her mind calm and sharpens her focus. She knows exactly what to do to achieve her target. We, as parents, back her through all ups and downs," her father said. "Her medal has also come as a major boost for the sport in the country after we couldn't win any medal in shooting at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Olympics."

"I am confident our shooting contingent in Paris will take this medal as a shot in the arm and bag more medals in the ongoing Olympics."

"Even Manu has two more events left, and we expect her to do better," he added.

Manu's mother Sumecha said she backs her daughter through thick and thin - whether she comes home from any championship with a medal or not. "I just want my daughter to be happy and feel good about herself. I also want to say that the media has always supported my daughter. Back in the days when my husband had to run from pillar



JOY UNBOUND: Manu Bhaker's relatives and fans celebrate in her native Goriya village in Jhajjar

to post to get pistol license for Manu, the media highlighted the issue and that helped our cause."

Uncle Mahender, who runs a private school in the village where Manu began her shooting career, said about 35 children practise shooting there, inspired by the numerous medals the young champion has won. "Manu is their role model, and whenever she has time, she visits the school to train them," he said. Reflecting on Manu's early shooting days, Mahender mentioned her unwavering focus. "We would make her work really hard, but she didn't mind. That extra effort must have helped her," he said.

Ramita fights to stay in medal hunt

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Chateauroux: There was a meltdown and there was a tenacious fightback. Two talented shooters, both in the scheme of things till the very end, ended up with very different emotions at the ranges here on Sunday. One was distressing to watch, the other made you smile.

It was the women's 10m air rifle qualification. Two Indians were in the fray - Elavenil Galaviran, competing in her second Olympic Games, and Ramita Jindal, a newcomer. The first one lost it in the final series and crashed out, the other recovered to live and will return on Monday to fight for a medal. Ela, as the shooting fraternity calls her, looked confident and assured as she started with a score of 105.8 in the first series. She bettered it with a 106.1 and was among the top three.

In contrast, Ramita started with a poor 104.3 but shot a fantastic second series. The 106 took her back among the top 8. Ela slipped a bit in the third series with 104.4 but recovered well with 105.3 each in the fourth and fifth series. Ramita had identical fourth and fifth series. Both were in top 8 and the Indian camp was silently celebrating.

Elavenil Fades Away After A Bright Start

The final series was dramatic as it mostly is. Ela lost it here, somewhere. With 10 minutes in hand, and qualification in hand, Ela stopped for a while, took a couple of minutes to refocus. She got back to work and shot. The penultimate one was a horror - 9.8. That did her in. 103.8 was never going to be enough.

She walked away from her station, spoke to her coach for a brief while, stared hard at the scores, then put on her shades and sat down quietly. She didn't move for a long period, just stared blankly at the targets in front of her. She looked shocked at the cruel turn of events. No one had the heart to reach out to her. She was all alone in that crowd.

Just a few stations away, there were celebrations. Ramita finished with a flourish - a 105.7, which got her the total of 631.5 and the fifth position. She came out beaming and hugged her coach Suma Shirur. Some Indians inside the arena were celebrating loudly.

Babuta qualifies for 10m air rifle final
Shooter Arjun Babuta secured a spot in the 10m air rifle final finishing seventh in the qualification round. The 25-year-old Babuta shot a series of 105.7, 104.9, 105.5, 105.4, 104.0 and 104.6 to make the cut with a score of 630.1.

MEDALS TALLY OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

TEAM	G	S	B	Total
AUS	4	2	0	6
KOR	3	2	1	6
CHN	3	1	1	5
JPN	3	1	1	5
FRA	2	2	2	6
USA	1	3	2	6
KAZ	1	0	2	3
GER	1	0	0	1
HKG	1	0	0	1
IND	0	0	1	1

Updated till 11 pm



INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY



TARUNDEEP RAI

ARCHERY: Men's team QFs -

Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav, D Bommadevara (5.45pm). Medal matches (8.18pm)

BADMINTON: Men's doubles:

Rankireddy / Shetty vs Lamsfuss / Seidel (Ger) (12 noon). Women's doubles à Crasto / Ponnappa vs Matsuyama / Shida (Jpn) (12.50 pm). Men's singles: Lakshya Sen vs Julien Carraggi (Bel) (5.30pm)

HOCKEY: Men's pool match: India vs

Argentina (4.15pm)



ARJUN BABUTA

SHOOTING: Shooting: 10M Air Pistol

mixed team qualification: Manu Bhaker/ Arjun Singh, Rhythm/ Sarabjot Singh (12.45 pm). Men's trap qualification: Prithviraj (1pm); 10M Air Rifle women's final: Ramita (1pm); 10M Air Rifle men's final: Arjun (3.30pm)

TABLE TENNIS: Women's singles Rd

32: Sreeja Akula vs Jian Zeng (Sgp) (11.30pm)

Nikhath packs a punch

Indian Wins On Games Debut;
Top Seed Wu Lies In Wait Next

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: Sometimes, a long wait can be a soul-searing rigour, and when the moment finally arrives it can be a little underwhelming, something of a fizzle up. But then maybe it is meant to be that way, that moment of disenchantment, and this is not even about those 'thrill of the chase' things, this is plain life unfolding in all its drab, prosaic inevitability. It was never meant to be all fireworks as you had always imagined it.

When Nikhat Zareen removed her blue headgear, almost relieved, and shook free her hair, spraying sweat around those gathered in her corner, it was fitting that the opening bars of reflective, quietly rousing 'Lose Yourself' began ringing around the arena. It stopped just before Eminem would start to tell you how it is to be within touching distance to that one opportunity to seize everything you ever wanted, and whether you'd grab it or just let it slip? They were playing her song — this Mile 8 introspector — and she seemed just happy to be able to get out of there.

It is a funny thing, wanting to get out of someplace, you love being in the first place. Nikhat was going through that strange transformative feeling in noisy, busy North Paris Arena. It was not pretty. The girls brawled like boys on the playfield, once even



GRAND OPENING: Nikhat Zareen (blue) fights Germany's Maxi Karina Kloetzer on Sunday

finding themselves on the floor in an inelegant manoeuvre, and Mouhsine Soulimi, the Moroccan referee like some bored substitute teacher tasked with minding errant middle-schoolers, often having to step in and pull them apart almost as if by their ears.

It wasn't even that the bout was so high stakes that all grace, technique and the essential aesthetics of the sport flew out of the window, all of it eschewed for a win, any win. It was just what it was — a scrap, hair-pulling, kicking and screaming, because that's how Maxi Karina Kloetzer, the little-known 23-year-old from Germany wanted it to go and then end it.

At one point, in all pouty petulance and shrugged shoulders, little Maxi even argued, gloved palms spread open at a Soulimi intervention. The penalty in Round Two probably swung the momentum away from her, for she was leading the scrap offering a tentative, and a clearly surprised Nikhat no room in the opening round. That little stoppage helped Nikhat — who would receive a warning herself later — as she seemed to begin relishing the scrap, choosing to wade into it because there was no way out.

She chose to step back and dare the German into advancing. Even with her reach failing her, Nikhat managed to eke out a win

and could begin to salvage the bout. Third, she was all in, no holding back and it got even less pretty, but the job had to be done.

Nikhath has been subsisting only on water for the past two days to keep her weight. "The hunger kept me up all night," she said. "Even now I am all parched and not because of the fight, I am okay with how the bout went, because I often don't start well so I counting this as that."

In a draw that is heavily loaded against her, she is up against China's Wu Yu next. "Yes, top seed," smiled Nikhat. "Look, I haven't got things easy in life. I'm counting this too as one of those. I know, I have the fight in me. Top seed? Okay, bring her on. Let's go..."

Prannoy, Sindhu breeze through

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: India's top player in men's singles, HS Prannoy did his confidence a world of good as he came through in straight games to open his Olympics campaign on a high against Germany's Fabian Roth in a Group K match.

Prannoy, who may run into his teammate Lakshya Sen in the knockout round, found his range towards the end of the first game, which saw a tight fight, and then breezed through the second to record a 21-18, 21-12 win on Court 1 at the La Chapelle Arena here.

The world No. 12, who reached the semifinals of the World Championships last year, said he was happy to switch into the tournament mode with confidence. "I'm happy that I could push through the first match and wrap it up in straight games. I saw that he (Roth) wanted to control the net. But then I opened up and it changed," Prannoy told reporters.

"Once I found the length towards the end of the first game I knew that I would find it easy in the second as the nerves were gone," added the 32-year-old Indian who got big support from the scores of Indian fans who thronged the arena which was packed to the brim.

At the toss, Prannoy chose the side from where Lakshya Sen found trouble with the wind. Both players were gauging each



PV SINDHU

other as the match was off to a slow tempo with half smashes and drops dictating the rallies. The Indian took a 2-0 lead but the German soon caught and gave a close chase as Prannoy led 11-10 at the break.

But Roth won three straight points to take the lead and put Prannoy on the backfoot. The Indian soon levelled after a brilliant rally that saw Prannoy move his rival all over the court. From 17-17, the Indian pulled away to 20-18 and soon pocketed the first game. The second game was one-sided as the Indian won 21-12.

In the morning session, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu opened her campaign with a breezy victory against Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq. The score read 21-9, 21-6 in a 29-minute opening exercise for the Indian champion. She next faces Kristin Kuuba of Estonia and looks all set to advance to the round of 16 from Group M.

ELSEWHERE AT THE GAMES

Sport Canada withholds funding for officials after football drone scandal

Sport Canada is withholding funding relating to women's football coach Bev Priestman and two other suspended team officials, calling the drone scandal that has rocked the Paris Olympic football tournament an embarrassment to all Canadians.

Canada's team were docked six points in a massive blow to their hopes of retaining their Olympic title, while Priestman and officials Joseph Lombardi and Jasmine Mander were banned from any football-related activity for one year by Fifa. "Using a drone to surveil another team during a closed practice is cheating," Canada's sport minister Carla Qualtrough said in a statement. "It is completely unfair to Canadian players and to opposing teams. It undermines the integrity of the game itself."

Canada Soccer has said it was exploring how it could appeal the six-point penalty levelled by Fifa, which left Canada on minus three points in Group A with two matches left to play. REUTERS

Organisers apologise over 'Last Supper' controversy

Paris Olympics organisers apologised on Sunday to anyone who was offended by a tableau that evoked Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" during the opening ceremony. Da Vinci's painting depicts the moment Jesus Christ declared that an apostle would betray him.

The scene during the ceremony featured DJ and producer Barbara Butch — an LGBTQ+ icon — flanked by drag artists and dancers. Religious conservatives from around the world decided the segment, with the French Catholic Church's conference of bishops deploring "scenes of derision" that they said made a mockery of Christianity — a sentiment echoed by Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova. The Anglican Communion in Egypt expressed its "deep regret" Sunday, saying the ceremony could cause the IOC to "lose its distinctive sporting identity and its humanitarian message."

"If people have taken any offense we are, of course, really, really sorry," said Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps. AP



WINNING START: South Sudan earned a 90-79 win over Puerto Rico on their Olympic debut

Anthem gaffe dismays South Sudan players

South Sudan's opening Olympic basketball match was overshadowed by an embarrassing anthem blunder by organisers on Sunday. The African nation's basketball team looked distraught after the wrong anthem was played as they lined up before their clash with Puerto Rico. South Sudan fans at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Villeneuve-d'Ascq jeered from the stands after the blunder.

The mistake was swiftly rectified and the correct anthem was played, with Puerto Rico's players and supporters applauding in unison. South Sudan is competing in the Olympic basketball event for the first time. "We present our most sincere apologies to the South Sudan team and their supporters," said organisers.

"We were able to quickly interrupt the anthem which was broadcast in error and play the correct anthem before the start of the game." AFP

Brazil sends swimmer home for leaving village

Brazilian swimmer Ana Carolina Vieira has been sent home from the Paris Olympics and her teammate Gabriel Santos was given a warning after they left the athletes' village without clearing it with the team, the Brazilian Olympic Committee said on Sunday.

The two swimmers had left the village, where most athletes for the Paris Games are staying, without their team's knowledge and their infraction was discovered following their posts on social media. The BOC said in a statement it had received a communicate on Saturday from the head of the country's swimming team informing them the swimmers had "committed acts of indiscipline".

The BOC said it had decided to punish the athletes but Vieira then also challenged the relay team formation. "The athlete Ana Carolina, in a disrespectful and aggressive manner, contested a technical decision made by the Brazilian National Swimming Team committee," it said. REUTERS

Seine pollution sees first triathlon training scrapped

The River Seine failed its first Olympic test on Saturday as a training session for triathletes was scrapped after the water failed pollution checks.

A statement from Paris 2024 organisers and World Triathlon said "a joint decision was taken to cancel the swim leg of the triathlon familiarisation" but that running and bike training sessions would "go ahead as planned."

The quality of the Seine — which is set to be used for triathlon and marathon swimming — is dependent on the amount of rain that falls in and around Paris. Heavy downpours of the sort seen on Friday during the sodden opening ceremony of the Games overwhelmed the city's sewage system, leading to discharges of untreated effluent into the waterway.

"We're not particularly worried," chief organiser Tony Estanguet told reporters during a trip to an equestrian event at the Versailles Palace on Sunday. "We're vigilant as we have been since the beginning." The triathlons are set to take place on July 30-31 and Aug 5. AFP

Nagal wastes chances in first round loss vs Moutet

Sumit Nagal squandered his chances while going down to local favourite and World No. 68 Corentin Moutet 2-6, 6-2, 5-7 in the first round of men's singles at the Paris Olympics on Sunday. Nagal nosed ahead for an early 2-0 lead in the decider but let the Frenchman back into the match by following it up with a lame serving game.

Moutet brought up the crucial break in the 11th game with a series of outrageous winners before serving out the match without much fuss. Nagal, who had beaten Moutet in their most recent meeting in Marrakech on the ATP Tour in April, stayed solid for the most part of the match but it was the latter's audacious brilliance that eventually decided the outcome.



SUMIT NAGAL

The 25-year-old had 49 unforced errors to Nagal's 36 in the 2-hour 29 minute match, but he also hit 27 winners compared to the Indian's 15. Left-handed Moutet, who had just over a month back had reached the fourth round of the French Open where he went down to World No. 1 Janik Sinner in four sets, employed his drop shots to upset Nagal's rhythm and also varied his flanks to neutralise the Indian's inside-out forehands. TNN

A 'wake-up call' for India

Fulton, Sreejesh Dwell On Positives From Unflattering Win Against The Black Sticks

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Paris: "Three points!" Craig Fulton, the Indian hockey coach summed up in two words, what he thought was the biggest takeaway for his team's 3-2 win in the tense opener against a resolute New Zealand outfit at the Yves-du Manoir stadium in Colombes, the north-west suburbs of Paris.

PR Sreejesh, who had a busy day in office, in India's first Olympic tie since the medal win at

Tokyo three years ago, saved India the blushes with a series of fine saves as New Zealand won penalty corner after penalty corner — nine in all — as the game wound down. Ahead of the Argentina meeting next Monday, he called the experience against New Zealand "a good wake-up call."

"The first match in the Olympics is never easy. New Zealand is not an easy team, they came at us very strongly, never easy to deal with. We made some mistakes, but there were a few good things as well. I'd say, it's a good wake-up call for the team," said Sreejesh.

But both the chief coach and goalkeeper were happy to come away with the points, reiterating that at this level all matches would be tough business and that despite the errors, India were lucky to emerge unscathed. "It wasn't the perfect performance, but we had a plan. We stuck to it," admitted Fulton. "They punished us, but at the end of the day, we came back and got the win," he said.

"I'd say we had a good game. And I'm glad that we got the win the way we did because we made some mistakes. (Yet) Things worked for

us in the end," he said, referring to Vivek Sagar Prasad's goal which was ruled in after TV replays to give India the lead and some breathing space.

Asked if he was satisfied with India not using the baseline or the length of the pitch in the earlier part of the game, Fulton felt that there were areas that needed to be tended to. "We'll have to get back and take a look. There are a few plans that we have. But we have different plans for different teams. The best form of defence at times is attack."

"On the ball, we weren't that good in terms of keeping possession. But New Zealand are a competitive team, so they did well. They intercepted a lot of balls. So little areas, where we need to work," he admitted.

Following his initial lapse which led New Zealand taking the lead in the eighth minute through Sam Lane, Sreejesh staved off, at the death, nerves and a sustained New Zealand assault on his goal. "The last few minutes were not easy," he admitted, continuing, "In hockey it's always like that, from the first whistle to the last there is tension."



CHARGE: France's Eva Lacheray duels with Arianna Errigo of Italy (right) in a women's fencing match



STEADY: Japan's Urara Kawaguchi in the women's mountain bike cycling event



ALL HANDS ON NECK: Action from Sweden's Group A handball clash with Germany. Sweden won 31-28



SMALL WONDER: Japan's 14-year-old Coco Yoshizawa after winning skateboarding gold

Women archers miss the mark, crash out in the quarterfinals

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Paris: Even their favourite music couldn't soothe the nerves of Indian archers as the women's team cracked under pressure when it mattered the most, floundering against Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the team event at the Esplanade des Invalides on Sunday.

The Indian team ended up with a few sixes and an unbelievable stray shot, that fetched just four points, by top archer Ankita Bhakat as they went down 0-6 (51-52, 49-54 & 48-53) at the scenic venue that faces the majestic Hotel des Invalides.

The spectators were taking comfort from the mist sprayers to beat the heat, but the weather, hovering in the mid 20s,

couldn't have been an excuse for the hardworking Indians.

"What a horrible start!" shouted a journalist from the media tribune, as Ankita opened with a seven.

Bhajan Kaur followed with an 8 before Deepika Kumari rounded up a poor start with a 7. Though the Indians came back strong in the second half of the set with scores of 9, 9 & 8, Netherlands bagged the first set and took a two-point lead edging India 52-51. The Indian trio showed signs of a fightback hitting two 10s and an 8 but Ankita spoiled the fine comeback with a poor arrow that fetched just six points. Bhajan tried to undo the damage with a 10 but Deepika, who was below-par



BELOW PAR: Ankita Bhakat could only shoot 46 points out of a maximum 60

in the ranking rounds, gifted it to Netherlands by firing another six. Netherlands easily won the set 54-49

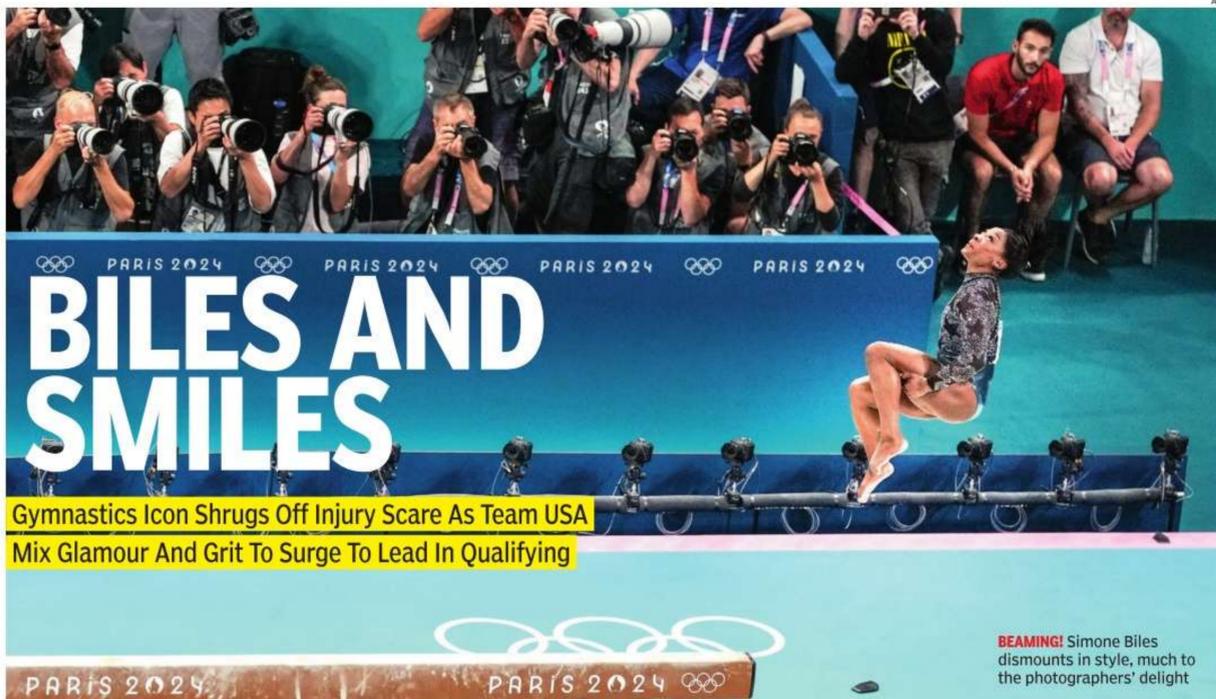
and doubled their lead to 40. It was now do-or-die for the Indians. Ankita opened with a disastrous four but Bhajan, the

only Indian to get two 10s, fired another 10 but Deepika again failed to hit the inner-ring. The writing was now on the wall as Indians ended with scores of 8, 8 & 10. Netherlands, who were never under any pressure, eased to a 58-53 win in the third set and triggered the celebrations as the Indian team looked shell shocked.

"A four-point shot is unheard of even in practice. Even she (Ankita) doesn't know how it went. I think she would have relaxed a bit and the wind would have taken it further away. I don't think it was nerves as the girls were doing very well at the training ground and it's tough to figure out what went wrong."

— Purnima Mahato | INDIA ARCHERY COACH

"I don't think it was nerves as the girls were doing very well at the training ground and it's tough to figure out what went wrong."



BILES AND SMILES

Gymnastics Icon Shrugs Off Injury Scare As Team USA Mix Glamour And Grit To Surge To Lead In Qualifying

Paris: Simone Biles and the rest of the US women's gymnastics team walked onto the floor at Bercy Arena on Sunday in leotards adorned with thousands of crystals, the kind designed to attract as much attention as possible.

Don't mistake all that glamour — both on the floor and in the stands, where Tom Cruise and Ariana Grande were among those who took in the spectacle — for a lack of grit. The oldest team the Americans have ever brought to the Games has endured plenty, from health scares to losses in their personal life. Those experiences have prepared them for whatever may come, perhaps Biles most of all. So when the most decorated gymnast of all time felt a tweak during her floor exercise

warm-up on Sunday, she didn't panic. Neither did her teammates. Biles briefly retreated to the back so coach Laurent Landi could essentially mummify the bottom of her left leg, then came back out and helped fuel a team that looks every bit as good as advertised. With Biles — achy calf and all — putting up the highest score on vault and floor exercise and reigning Olympic champion Sunisa Lee looking perhaps as good as ever on uneven bars, the US posted a total of 172.296, doing little to dampen the expectation that Tuesday night's team final will be more of a coronation for a team that has called this trip to the Games part of their "Redemption Era."

The score made it look like business

as usual. It wasn't for Biles, who Landi said tweaked a calf issue that initially cropped up a couple of weeks ago. After a few anxious moments, there Biles was,



BEAMING! Simone Biles dismounts in style, much to the photographers' delight

putting together another floor routine packed with difficulty.

It was the same on vault, where she slightly overcooked her signature Yurchenko double pike, proof the calf was good enough for her to generate the kind of speed necessary to perform perhaps the single most breathtaking skill being done in the sport. Biles felt good enough later Sunday to post a video of her lip-syncing a rap song as the US find themselves more than five points ahead of Italy and China through three of the five subdivisions. **AP**

HERE FOR SIMONE: Biles had a few high-profile fans in the stands. Actor Tom Cruise was one of them and he was happy to pose for selfies

Nadal sets up blockbuster Games duel with Djokovic

Paris: Rafael Nadal made a last-minute decision to play singles at the Paris Olympics on Sunday and won his first-round match against Marton Fucsovics 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to set up a blockbuster showdown against rival Novak Djokovic.

Nadal was greeted by a standing ovation from spectators, many of whom used cameras on their phones to capture the moment when he strode into Court Philippe Chatrier — the same stadium where he has captured his record 14 French Open titles.

There is a statue of Nadal outside the arena, and fans gathered around the steel structure Sunday morning, when it was still unclear whether he would be competing later.

Not only did the 38-year-old Spaniard play, but for stretches, particularly in the early going and in crunch time down the stretch, he played very much like a version of himself everyone is used to seeing: the sprinting, sliding, grunting star who owns 22 Grand Slam trophies in all and won Olympic gold medals for Spain in singles in 2008 and doubles in 2016.

And the crowd loved it.

regaling him with clap-accompanied chants of his nickname, "Ra-fa! Ra-fa!"

Nadal said Saturday night, after teaming with Carlos Alcaraz to win a first-round doubles match, that he wasn't sure whether he would participate in singles, too. Nadal has dealt with a series of injuries the past two seasons, including hip surgery in 2023, and his right thigh was taped Sunday. He needed a finger on his right hand treated by a trainer in the third set.

Nadal went through a morning practice session to test his fitness and made the call to play against Fucsovics, much to the delight of the spectators waving red-and-yellow Spanish flags in the stands.

Nadal and Alcaraz — Spain's old-and-new pairing of tennis superstars — won the first match they've ever played together as a doubles team on Saturday. About 18 1/2 hours later, Nadal was back on court to face Fucsovics.

Earlier, Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejickova rallied for a 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (3) victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain in an opening-round match that lasted nearly three hours. **AP**

RAFA VS NOVAK

38	Age	37
Spain	Nation	Serbia
29	Head to head	30



WE ARE LEGENDS: Rafael Nadal (L) and LeBron James



Not 'race of the century' but it's Ariarne's grand show

Paris: The women's 400 metres freestyle may not quite have lived up to the hype of "Race of the Century" but still got the action in the Paris Olympic pool off to an explosive start on Saturday as Australian Ariarne Titmus powered to gold.

With a high quality field that included the world's three fastest women over the distance, who have each at one time owned the world record, all the elements were there for an Olympic thriller for the ages.

But in the end it was the Titmus show, with the defending gold medalist and world record holder leading from start to finish, coming home nearly a second ahead of silver medalist Canadian teen sensation Summer

"I probably felt the expectation and pressure for this race more than anything in my life to be honest and I'm pretty good at handling the pressure. I definitely felt it, and the Olympics is different. It's not about how fast you go. It's about getting a hand on the wall first." — Ariarne Titmus

McIntosh and more than three seconds clear of her great rival American Katie Ledecky, who settled for bronze. There was a heavyweight title feel to the evening as an electric La Defense Arena crackled with energy.



PICTURE THIS: Ledecky (R), Titmus (C) and McIntosh

Compared to the epic men's "Race of the Century" at the 2004 Athens Olympics, where Australian Ian Thorpe took gold in the 200m free ahead of Dutchman Pieter Van Den Hoogenband and the USA's Michael Phelps, the race came with massive hype.

'Football crowd' at pool for Marchand
French hero Leon Marchand threw down the gauntlet with a storming 400m medley swim Sunday as

Mollie O'Callaghan outgunned Ariarne Titmus to top the women's 200m freestyle heats. Marchand is the hosts' big hope after last year demolishing Michael Phelps' 15-year-old world record in a phenomenal 4min 25.05sec. The 22-year-old is trained by Phelps' old coach Bob Bowman. "It was almost like a football stadium but in a pool. Everyone was chanting my name, it was crazy," said Marchand. **AGENCIES**



DANCING KINGS: The France rugby sevens squad make their moves

PARISIAN CABARET DANCERS HELP INSPIRE FRANCE TO RUGBY GLORY

Paris: France's rugby sevens side celebrated their Olympic gold in unusual style with a carefully choreographed dance routine as deft and slick as any of Antoine Dupont's match-winning tries. Dupont came off the bench to

mastermind France's 28-7 defeat of two-time champions Fiji. The win thrilled a crowd of nearly 70,000 at the Stade de France, who were then treated to an unexpected extra.

Dupont and company have been taking private lessons alongside dancers from the Moulin Rouge, one of the French capital's iconic cabarets in Pigalle. They proudly displayed their newfound moves in a dance to American actor and rapper Will Smith's "Miami". **AFP**

LEBRON, DURANT LEAD US TEAM TO 110-84 WIN OVER JOKIC'S SERBIA

Paris: LeBron James made his Olympic return after a 12-year absence. Kevin Durant played for the first time this summer.

And the two most-experienced Olympians on this US team opened the Paris Games — not to mention a bid for a fifth consecutive gold medal for the Americans — with a near-perfect show.

Durant made his first eight shots on the way to 23 points in less than 17 minutes, James added 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and the US rolled to a 110-84 win over Serbia in the Olympic opener for both teams on Saturday.

Three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic scored 20 points for Serbia, while Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 14. **AP**

GALLERY

Hamilton is Belgian GP winner after Russell gets disqualified

Spa-Francorchamps: Lewis Hamilton was promoted to first place at the Belgian Grand Prix after race officials disqualified his Mercedes teammate George Russell for driving an underweight car on Sunday.

Russell crossed the line first after making just one pit stop, finishing just ahead of Hamilton. He celebrated the win in Spa, which would have been the third of the British driver's career. But race officials found that his car weighed in below the established limits and ruled to disqualify his result. Hamilton took his record haul to 105 career victories for the former seven-time world champion. Hamilton finished ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri in third. Points leader Max Verstappen crossed fifth behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc after the three-time defending champion started from 11th following a 10-place grid penalty for using one too many engines.

USA Cricket appoints Atkieson as CEO: USA Cricket has fulfilled one of the two critical requirements to avoid being disqualified as an ICC Associate nations by appointing Jonathan Atkieson as its chief executive officer effective August 1. The USAC was "put on notice" by the ICC earlier this month for breaching two norms.

Ireland beat Zim by four wickets in one-off Test: Ireland beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in a one-off Test in Belfast on Sunday after recovering from a top-order collapse. Set just 158 to win, Ireland slumped to 33-5 at the close of third day. Lorcan Tucker (56) and Andy McBrine (55*) turned the tide with a stand of 96. **AGENCIES**

India women stunned by Chamari and Harshitha onslaught in Asia Cup final

Dambulla: Captain Chamari Athapaththu's turbo-charged fifty combined well with the steadfast half-century of Harshitha Samarawickrama as a resilient Sri Lanka carved an eight-wicket win over defending champions India to bag their maiden women's Asia Cup title here on Sunday. This is the second time in nine Asia Cup editions (WODI and WT20I) across formats that India have lost a final. The last time India lost the final was against Bangladesh in 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. Tasked with hunting down a strong target of 166, Sri Lanka served well by Athapaththu (61b, 43b, 9x4, 2x6) and Samarawickrama (69 not out, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) and finished at 167 for two in 18.4 overs.

Athapaththu and Samarawickrama added 87 runs as Lankans always stayed ahead of their opponents. The stand for the second wicket was also of contrasts as Samarawickrama was the yin to the yang of her aggressive leader.

Athapaththu fetched her fifty in 33 balls, and Samarawickrama went past her mark in 43 balls and their shot selection too was vastly differing. Athapaththu scored through almost every reachable place on the field, and her assault on left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar, who she biffed for two fours and six in her first over, was stunning. But at the other end, Samarawickrama clearly lacked the power of her senior but she offset that with clever placings, such as reverse sweeps off left-arm spinners Deepti Sharma and Radha



TOUGH LOSS: A dejected Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur walks past an elated Harshitha Samarawickrama and Kavisha Dilhari after Sri Lanka women won the Asia Cup final in Dambulla on Sunday

Yadav. But she picked up the tempo when Sri Lanka reached a rather safer zone, muscling a slog-swept six off Yadav over mid-wicket.

In between, Deepti managed to bowl Athapaththu around her legs with a fuller delivery that sparked celebrations among the Indians, who till then looked lethargic on the field.

But those merriments were premature as Samarawickrama found an able sidekick in Kavisha

Dilhari (30 not out, 16b, 1x4, 2x6) as the duo added 73 runs off just 40 balls for the unbeaten third wicket to guide their side home. But an equal share of credit should go to the Lankan bowlers as well for stifling a set of free-flowing Indian batters.

Smriti Mandhana's conditions-defying half-century (60, 47b, 10x4) had powered India to a fighting 165 for six and she received reasonable backing from Jemimah

Rodrigues (29, 16 balls, 3x4, 1x6) and Richa Ghosh (30, 14 balls, 4x4, 1x6). It was a tight contest for them against a plethora of Lankan spinners. In fact, the home side included only one pacer in their ranks — Udeshika Prabodhani and the rest were slow bowlers. **PTI**

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 167/2 in 18.4 overs (Samarawickrama 69*, Athapaththu 61, Dilhari 30*) beat India 165/6 (Mandhana 60, Ghosh 30, Dilhari 2-36) by eight wickets

Stokes, Wood blow away Windies in a jiffy

Birmingham: England captain Ben Stokes butchered the West Indies bowling attack after Mark Wood had taken five wickets to lead England to a crushing 10-wicket win before tea on the third day of the final Test at Edgbaston on Sunday. Stokes struck the fastest test half century by an English batsman and was unbeaten on 55 off 28 balls as England needed only 7.2 overs to reach their victory target

of 82. Wood claimed five wickets in four overs — three in a single over — to skittle out West Indies for 175 in their second innings. With Zak Crawley having hurt his hand, it was the perfect stage for Stokes to promote himself up the order and the skipper wasted no time in thrashing the bowling to all corners of the ground.

Ben Duckett played a supporting role, scoring 25 runs off 16

balls. England matched their own record for being the fastest team to reach 50 runs in a test, achieved in 4.2 overs, while Stokes' 50 off 24 balls bettered Ian Botham's 28-ball half-century in India in 1981.

"Pretty cool to go past Beefy (Botham) with that one. A bottle of champagne from him would be better appreciated than a well done message," said Stokes. "I don't think we must underestimate

this series. We were 50-5 at one stage but fought back to win it inside three days," he added.

Earlier, Wood produced a brilliant burst of fast bowling after lunch to run through the tourists' tail, with his five wickets costing only seven runs. **REUTERS**
Brief scores: England 376 & 87/0 (Stokes 57*, Duckett 25*) beat West Indies 282 and 175 (Louis 57, Hodge 55, Wood 5-40) by ten wickets

We will remember this day and work hard: Harman

Dambulla: A distraught India captain Harmanpreet Kaur admitted that there is room for a lot of improvement before the upcoming T20 World Cup and her team won't easily forget the eight-wicket humbling at the hands of Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final here on Sunday. India scored a decent 165 for 6 but rival skipper Chamari Athapaththu (62) and Harshitha Samarawickrama (69 not out) were severe on the visiting bowlers, finishing the match in 18.4 overs. The women's T20 World Cup will be held in Bangladesh later this October.

"We are looking to improve in some areas. We will definitely work

hard and remember this day. They have played such good cricket for so long and they played good cricket throughout this tournament," Harmanpreet said at the post-match presentation ceremony on Sunday.

She admitted that her side's bowling didn't work as per plans with hardly any breakthroughs to show for their efforts. "We played good cricket throughout the tournament and, no doubt, we made a lot of fumbles today and that cost us. It was a decent total, we were looking for breakthroughs in the powerplay but it didn't go according to plan and Sri Lanka batted really well," the India skipper added. **PTI**

India breeze past Lanka in rain-hit game to win series

Pallekele: India beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in a rain-affected second T20I of the three-match series to take an unassailable 2-0 lead here on Sunday. Chasing a revised target of 78 in eight overs, skipper Suryakumar Yadav (26, 12b, 4x4, 1x6) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (30, 15b, 3x4, 2x6) batted well as India romped home in 6.3 overs under DLS method.

Indian bowling unit repeated its happy knack of effecting a collapse at the back-end as Sri Lanka ended with a below-par 161 for 9. On Saturday, Sri Lanka lost eight wickets for 21 runs while chasing and on Sunday, the islanders lost six wickets for 31 runs in their last 30 balls.

Despite scoring 80 in the first 10 overs and in a position to accelerate, Charith Asalanka's side lost its way, managing just 81 runs in the back-10 as Hardik Pandya's (2/23 in 2 overs) change of pace and Ravi Bishnoi's (3/26 in 4 overs) fast googlies did the trick. This was after Patham Nissanka (32 off 24 balls) and veteran southpaw Kusal Perera (54 off 34 balls) had added 54 runs for the second wicket in six overs to set the platform only to find batters coming after them fitter it away.

As the Indian bowlers tightened the noose around the Lankan batters, the desperation to break the shackles saw the likes of all-rounders Dasun Shanaka (0) and Wanindu Hasaranga (0) playing indiscreet shots as frown on interim head coach Sanath Jayasuriya's face was so palpable. From 130 for 2 in 15 overs, Sri Lanka suddenly had a middle-order collapse, twice in two days where they lost four wickets in a space of 10 deliveries, which also included a run-out. Suryakumar Yadav's bowling plans aided by Gautam Gambhir's back-room brainstorming was evident as Bishnoi, who seemed to struggle against Sri Lankan top-order with more right-handers attacking his wrong 'un, was kept out of the attack. He started with the young Rryan Parag (0/30 in 4 overs), who had 10 dot balls and five boundaries but was asked to just attack the stumps with occasional turn while Axar Patel (2/30 in 4 overs) continued with his wicket-to-wicket dart-like accuracy. **PTI**
Brief scores: Sri Lanka 161/9 in 20 overs (K Perera 54, P Nissanka 32; R Bishnoi 3/26, Hardik Pandya 2/24, Arshdeep Singh 2/24) lost to India 81/3 in 6.3 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 26, Yashasvi Jaiswal 30)



Ravi Bishnoi celebrates the wicket of Wanindu Hasaranga on Sunday



Government of Assam



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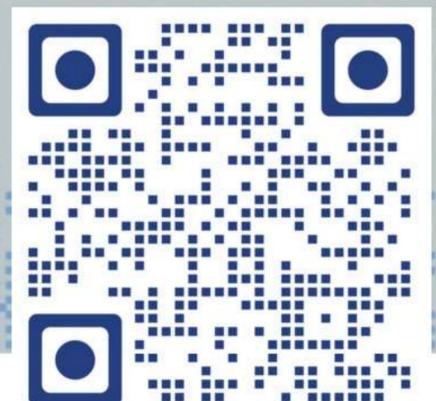
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