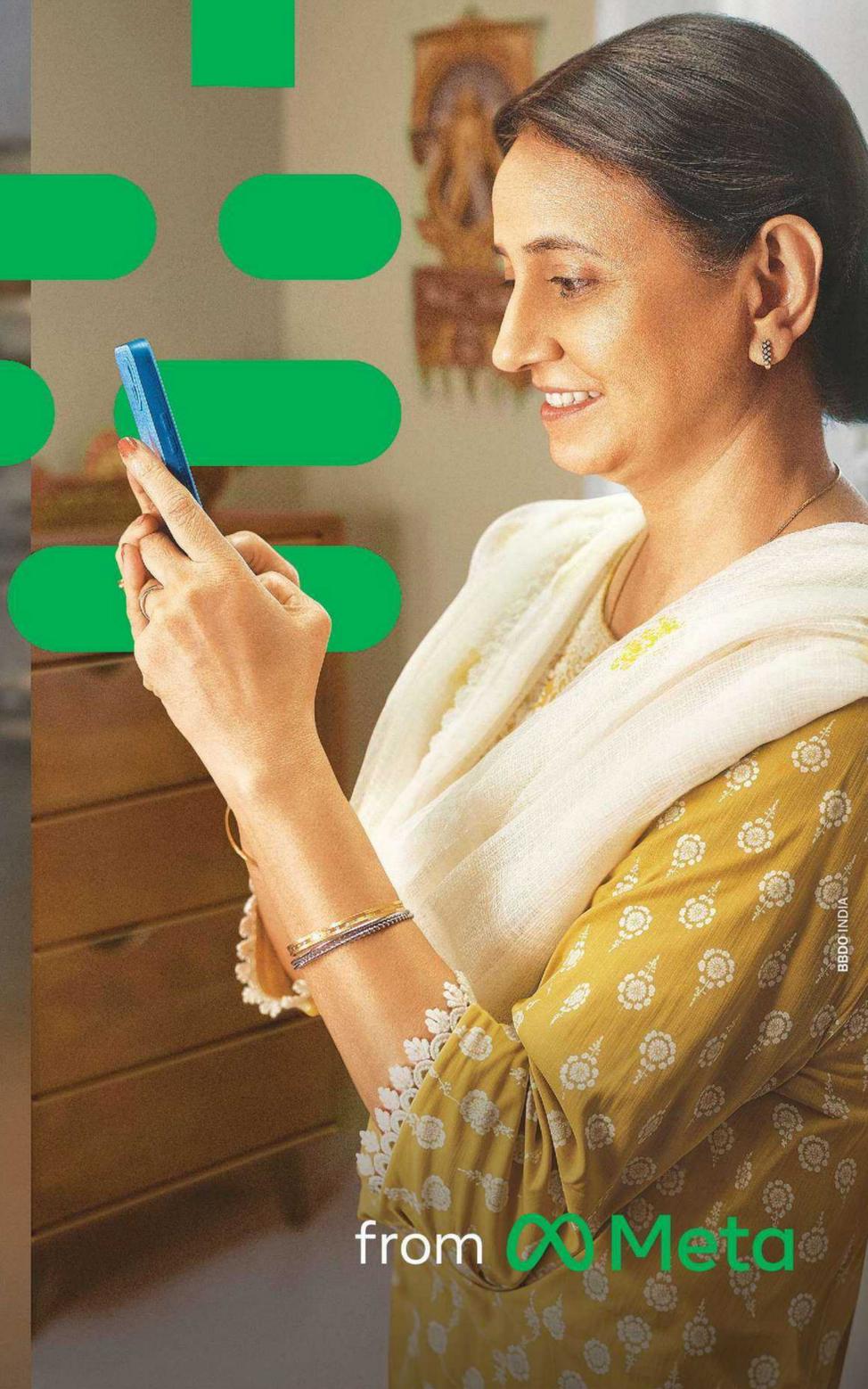
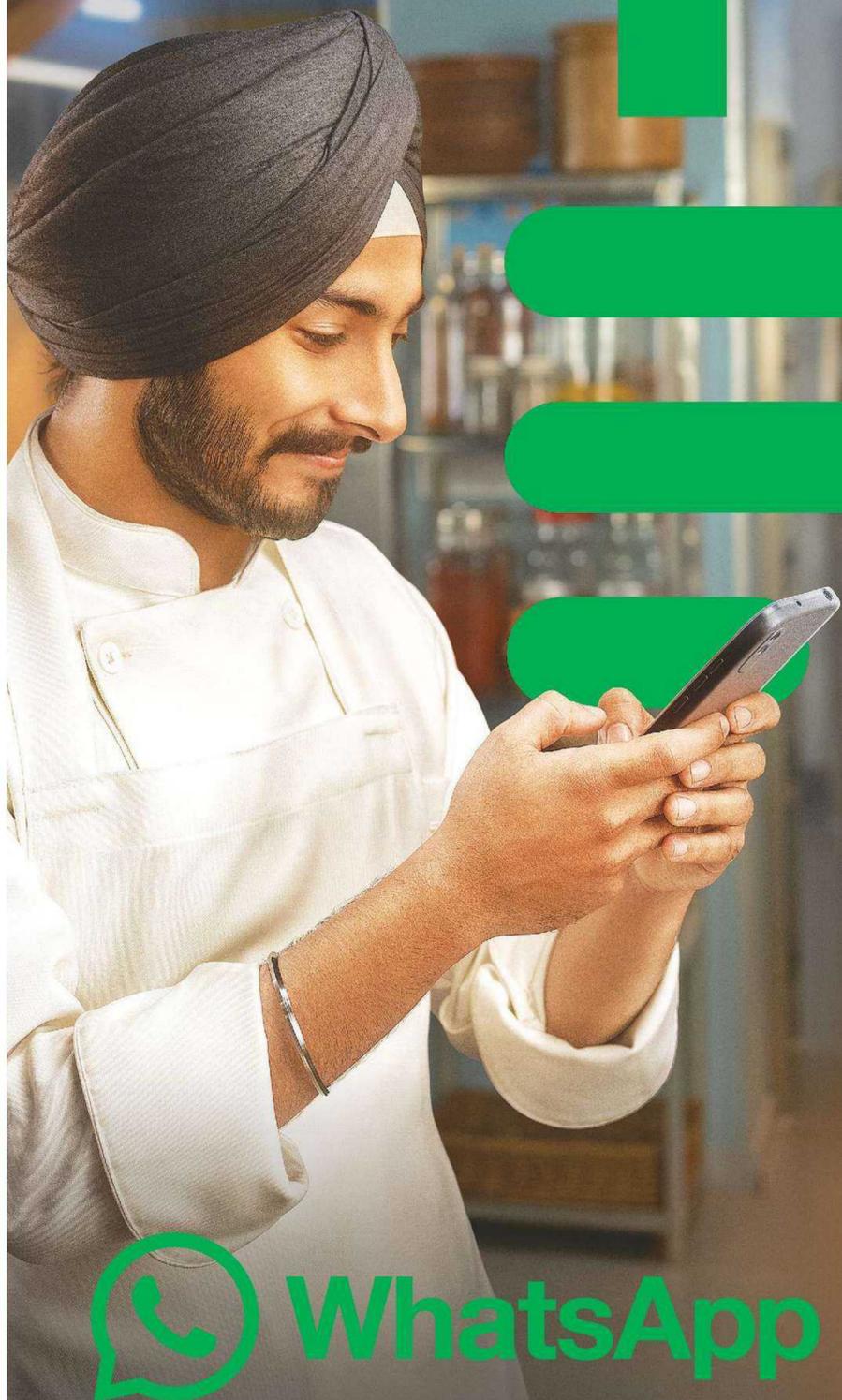




Hindustan Times

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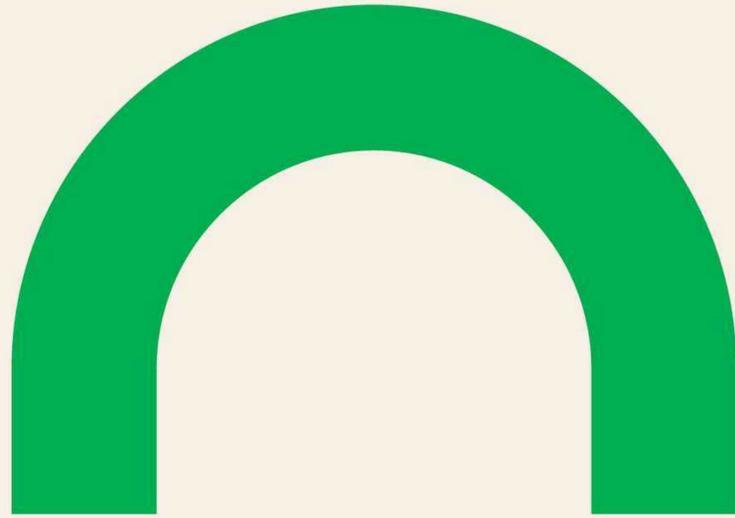


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OUR LIMITS**
FOR PARIS 2024

India, Ab Hadh Kar De.



HARMANPREET SINGH
-HOCKEY-

MANIKA BATRA
-TABLE TENNIS-

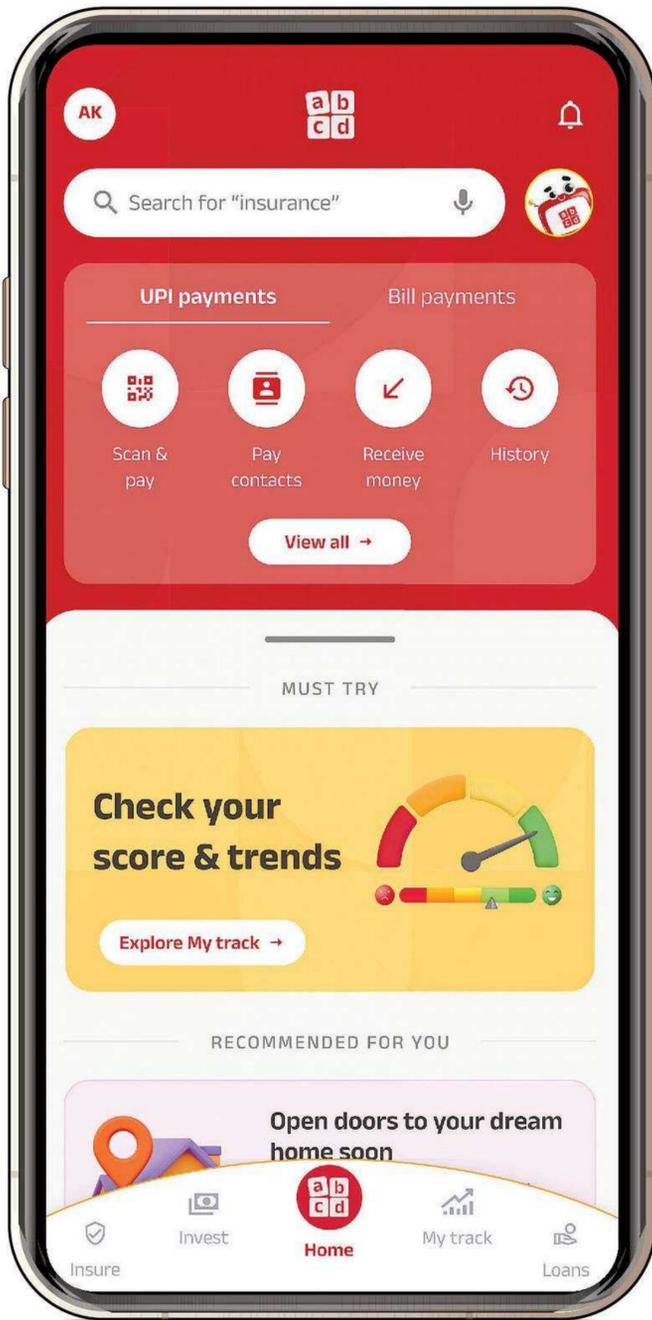
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-BOXING-

MANU BHAKER
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Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Manu Bhaker wins historic medal, opens India's account

CHATEAUXROUX: Unknowingly, Manu Bhaker became the face of Indian shooting's Tokyo Olympics debacle. That picture of her tearing up, the left palm behind her neck and frustration visible underneath the mask, after failing to qualify for the 10m air pistol final of the pandemic Games remained long-lasting. Picture imperfect.

But three years on at the Paris Olympics, there's another defining image of Manu, which wipes away the memories of 2021.

Her eyes moist with joy, a grin from cheek-to-cheek and a glitzy medal wrapped around her neck as she stood on the podium after the 10m air pistol final on Sunday. Manu walked up to take the Tricolour from a group of fans in the stands, unfurled it next to a couple of Koreans, took a bite of the medal and clicked a selfie with the winners.

Now, it's picture perfect. Of the bronze medalist in the women's 10m air pistol event of this Olympics. Of the first Indian medal winner at these Games on the second day of competitions. Of the first ever woman shooter from the country to medal at sport's most prestigious stage.

continued on →15



Manu Bhaker with her Olympic bronze during the medal ceremony for the women's 10m air pistol event in Chateauxroux, France. PTI

'Will try for more', says champion as family, village, nation celebrate

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHATEAUXROUX/JHAJJAR: Manu Bhaker has many more matches to shoot before she sleeps.

Photographs of the jubilant 22-year-old, beaming as she wore the Olympics bronze around her neck, were plastered across social media throughout Sunday, when she scaled a stunning peak in her still short

career. But, as soon as she stepped off the podium, her thoughts were on her next shot. "Tomorrow, I have another and the day after then again," she said.

Several thousand kilometres away, in Jhajjar, Haryana, her ecstatic parents crisscrossed their small village, Gorla, handing out sweets. After all, their daughter was now an Olympic

medalist. "Manu used to come home only to sleep," said Manu's mother Sumedha Bhaker. "She used to train for 12 to 16 hours," she said, recalling a sacrifice that bore fruit. But it wasn't always sacrifice that seemed worth it. Her father Ram Kishan Bhaker said Manu was distraught after the disaster in the

continued on →15

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	G S B
1. AUS	4	2	0	6
2. KOR	3	2	1	6
3. CHN	3	1	1	5
3. JPN	3	1	1	5
5. FRA	2	2	2	6
6. USA	1	3	2	6
7. KZK	1	0	2	3
8. BEL	1	0	1	2
9. GER	1	0	0	1
9. HK	1	0	0	1
9. UZB	1	0	0	1
22. IND	0	0	1	1

Coaching centre owner arrested after 3 deaths

Hemani Bhandari and Paras Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Sunday arrested two people on charges of culpable homicide over the deaths of three young civil services job aspirants, who drowned in a flooded basement of a building on Saturday evening — an incident that spotlights yet again the dire state of civic infrastructure that buckles under bad weather and raises questions about how building safety regulations are enforced.

Tanya Soni, 21, Shreya Yadav, 25, and Nevin Delvin, 29, drowned when the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching centre flooded following heavy localised rainfall.

The Delhi Police have arrested two individuals in connection with the incident. Abhishek Gupta, 41, the CEO and owner of the institute, and DP Singh, 60, coordinator, have been booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including culpable homicide not amounting to murder and causing death by negligence.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Harsha Vardhan said a case has been registered under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 106 (l) (causing death

continued on →9



An ambulance inside Rau's IAS Study Circle; (L-R) Shreya Yadav, Nevin Delvin and Tanya Soni died in the deluge. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

UNLIKELY SERIES OF EVENTS COALESCED TO FLOOD BUILDING

NEW DELHI: A localised downpour floods a road in waist-deep water, where a passing SUV creates a wake so strong that the waves knock over the gates of a building, unleashing a deluge into the structure's basement. These set of events combined to flood the underground library of Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching centre. →P6

MEANT AS PARKING, BASEMENT USED AS LIBRARY ILLEGALLY

NEW DELHI: The basement at Rau's IAS Study Circle was being illegally used for commercial activity, senior civic functionaries said, citing a completion and occupancy certificate issued by MCD on August 9, 2021, which said that the basement could only be used for parking or household storage. →P5

Jaishankar, Blinken discuss ties ahead of Quad meeting

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met US secretary of state Antony Blinken in Tokyo and discussed bilateral relations ahead of a Quad foreign ministers' meeting. "Our bilateral agenda progresses steadily. Also had a wide ranging discussion on regional and global issues," Jaishankar said on X after the meeting.

"Look forward to attending the Quad FMM tomorrow," he

continued on →15



Jaishankar with Blinken in Edogawa, Tokyo. PTI

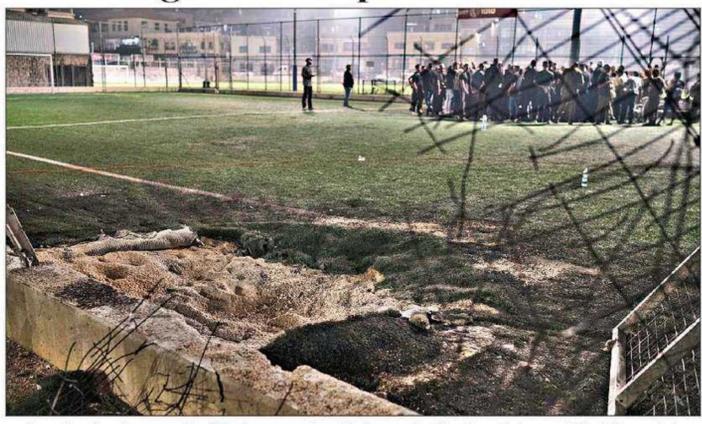
SRINAGAR LOGS ITS HIGHEST MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IN 25 YEARS AT 36.2°C

Ashiq Hussain
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SRINAGAR: Srinagar on Sunday recorded its highest temperature in 25 years at 36.2°C, according to India Meteorological Department data. Sunday's temperature was the city's highest July temperature since 1999, said Mukhtar Ahmad, director of the weather office in.

The all-time highest maximum temperature in July is 38.3°C recorded on July 10, 1946. The valley has been witnessing unusual, drought-like conditions this month. →P13

Golan Heights attack sparks escalation fears



Israel on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard" after rocket fire from Lebanon killed 12 people in the Israel-annexed Golan Heights and raised fears that the war in Gaza will spread. Israel blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah for the attack, but the group said it had "no connection" to the incident. →P16 AP

BJP CMs APPRISE PM OF SCHEMES IN THEIR STATES

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for coordinated and concerted efforts by governments at the Centre and in states for the accomplishment of the "Viksit Bharat" agenda by 2024. Addressing a meeting of chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of BJP-ruled states on the second day of the CMs' conclave, the PM is learnt to have spoken about the agenda of making India a US\$5 trillion economy and stressed on the importance of welfare schemes. →P11

HARRIS CAMPAIGN RAISES \$200MN AS FUNDING POURS IN

WASHINGTON: United States Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign has raised \$200 million since she emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee last week, an eye-popping haul in her race against the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump.

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. →P16

WOMAN TRIES TO SAVE MOTHER, GETS STABBED BY FATHER

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A man stabbed his 35-year-old wife with a kitchen knife following an argument over money, and then stabbed his 22-year-old daughter to death when she tried to intervene in the scuffle to protect her mother, police said on Sunday.

Officers identified the deceased as Rashima Khatoon and her mother as Sufia. The suspect, Abbas Ali, is currently at large, they said. Police said the incident came to light after a neighbour informed the police control room. →P8

BJP SLAMS STATE GOVT AS WORKER HACKED TO DEATH IN TAMIL NADU

CHENNAI: Opposition leaders came down heavily on the DMK government over the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu after two political functionaries — one from the BJP and another from the AIADMK — were murdered in last 24 hours.

Selvakumar, a district secretary of the BJP's Sivaganga unit, was attacked when he was on his way home in M Vilankulam on his motorcycle.

Meanwhile, Padmanabhan, an AIADMK worker was killed in Cuddalore, said police. →P10

CUET undergraduate results declared after several delays

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) released the results of the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate admissions (CUET-UG) on Sunday, paving the way to start the admission process for undergraduate courses, although with weeks' delay than when the results were originally expected.

The delayed results, stemming from a broader controversy that mired the agency, are expected to push back university admissions across India, and the agency also withheld details it previously shared.

The NTA revealed that 1,113,610 unique candidates sat for the exam between May 15-29, but did not disclose the number of students achieving hundredth percentile scores in various sub-

jects. Last year, 22,836 such scores were recorded, up from 21,159 in 2022.

This year, the testing agency released details about subject-wise top scorers. The highest number of full marks scorers in the CUET-UG this year were in the business studies subject (8,024), followed by political science (5,141), history (2,520), English (1,683) and psychology (1,602). →P10

{ SPECIAL TASK FORCE SET UP }

INS Brahmaputra fire leads to wider safety review



INS Brahmaputra tipped over at the Naval Dockyard. ANI

Shishir Gupta
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the fire accident on board the INS Brahmaputra on July 21, navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi has set up a special task force (STF) under Naval Headquarters to review the safety, security and standard operating procedures of the Indian Navy, according to people aware of the matter. Headed by a Rear

Admiral, the STF is expected to submit its report in the next 60 days.

While the navy remains tight-lipped about the incident, Admiral Tripathi has given his preliminary assessment about the fire incident to defence minister Rajnath Singh during his visit to the site on July 23, the people cited above said. The Prime Minister's Office and the Chief of Defence Staff have also been briefed about the fire. →P12

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Badminton
Time: 12PM onwardsMen's doubles Group C
SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY/CHIRAG SHETTY VS MARK LAMSFUSS/MARVIN SEIDEL (GER)Women's doubles Group C
TANISHA CRASTO/ASHWINI PONNAPPA VS NAMI MATSUYAMA/CHIHARU SHIDA (JPN)Men's singles Group L
LAKSHYA SEN VS JULIEN CARRAGGI (BEL)

All timings in IST

Shooting

Time: 12:45PM

10m air pistol mixed team qualification
MANU BHAKER/SARABJOT SINGH RHYTHM SANGWAN/ARJUN SINGH CHEEMA

Time: 1PM

10m air rifle women's final
RAMITAMen's trap qualification
PRITHVIRAJ TONDAIMAN

Time: 3:30PM

10m air rifle men's final
ARJUN BABUTA

All eyes will be on Manu Bhaker, who earned India their first medal in Paris on Saturday. Today she will team up with Sarabjot Singh in the 10m air pistol mixed team qualification. Ramita (women) and Arjuna Babuta (men) will be seen in the finals of 10m air rifle finals.

Hockey

Time: 4:15PM

Men's Pool B
INDIA VS ARGENTINA

After overcoming New Zealand 3-2 in their opener, the Indian men's hockey team will need to up their game against Argentina. The Rio 2016 champions gave a top team like Australia a run for their money despite a 0-1 loss. Another win will take India closer to the quarter-finals.

Archery

Time: 6:31PM

Men's team quarter-final
INDIA VS TURKEY/COLOMBIA

Hopes will be high from the Indian men's team comprising Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Jadhav and Tarundeep Rai to bring home the country's first medal from archery. Seeded third, India will take on the winner the pre-quarter-final between sixth seeds Turkey and 11th seeds Colombia. The winner will likely face second seeds and hosts France in semis.

Table tennis

Time: 11:30PM

Women's singles Round of 32
SREEJA AKULA VS ZENG JIAN (SGP)

MANIKA BATRA VS PRITHIKA PAVADE (FRA)



medalstally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1 Australia	4	2	0	6
2 Korea	3	2	1	6
3 China	3	1	1	5
3 Japan	3	1	1	5
5 France	2	2	2	6
6 USA	1	3	2	6
7 Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
8 Belgium	1	0	1	2
9 Germany	1	0	0	1
9 Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
9 Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1
12 Italy	0	2	3	5
13 Brazil	0	1	2	3
13 Britain	0	1	2	3
22 INDIA	0	0	1	1

settingthepace



PV Sindhu beat Maldives shuttler Fathimath Abdul Razaq on Sunday.

PTI

Sindhu and the art of owning the Olympic stage

Ashish Magotra

ashish.magotra@hindustantimes.com

Usually, PV Sindhu gives little away in an interview. She'll smile, she'll laugh but she'll say nothing out of the ordinary, no 'quotable' quotes so to say. One might argue that she doesn't need to because over the course of a long and storied career, she has done all her talking on the court.

Her trophy cabinet houses medals from the Olympics (a silver and a bronze), the World Championships (a gold, two silver, two bronze), Uber Cup (two bronze), the Commonwealth Games (two gold, two silver and a bronze), Asian Games (silver and bronze). It is enough to make her sporting royalty. Not just in India but anywhere around the world as well.

Her success has also made her very rich. She made it into the list of 2023's highest paid women athletes by Forbes where she finished at the 16th spot alongside gymnast Simone Biles with her \$7.1 million earnings. Suffice to say that she has done it all and won it all.

She could put her feet up and rest easy if she wanted to and no one would say anything. But the top athletes, very often, have a competitive itch they need to scratch. Something that pushes them to get back on the court; something that makes them want to defy the odds; something that makes them want to show that they have still got it.

The internal dialogue might seem stupefying to some but it is usually a critical component of their success. You don't just turn up and play. Rather, you question your every move and the answers that emerge play a big role in helping you move forward. The belief and attitudes play a big role in their performances over the years and it is never easy to just discard all of that and move on. But the most important component of this conversation is always honesty. After all, you can fool the world but can you fool yourself?

And perhaps only that will explain the grind that the Indian superstar, who is now world No.13, has been putting herself through over the last year or so. Break it down, so that you can build it up again. Only, it isn't an exact science. Will it ever come together in quite the same way or will the cracks remain?

The younger stars on the circuit have started dominating the 29-year-old, who took her first steps on the senior circuit when she competed in the Syed Modi memorial in 2009. But it always felt like there was a nudge or two holding Sindhu back. In those niggles rested hope too. If she was fit, would she beat them? If she finds her rhythm, could she rise to the top again?

All great athletes, especially those who have been around for as long as Sindhu, know that genetics may determine the starting line but it is hard work that determines the finish line. So she—great and mighty—went back to the basics. Amidst all the talk of the arrogance of champions, this was a humbling acknowledgement of the need to set things right.

She has changed coaching teams, jumped to a different city to train, roped in Prakash Padukone (who according to Sindhu has a knack for teaching or pushing a player) and taken tentative steps back on the circuit hoping to find the spark that once made her a feared opponent in big tournaments.

It has been slow going though. The results haven't been what she wanted but she seems to be on the right track. The training sessions have been good but as coach Vimal Kumar, head coach of the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, told HT in June, "From what I've been seeing of her, she's putting in a lot of hard work. But it will matter little unless she applies herself on court."

One would imagine the application part could come easier to her. She has been around for so many years and over time, the athlete gains an understanding of what it takes. But it never really does. She herself confesses the game itself has changed. "I feel like (I'm) getting there. (I am) not overconfident, but definitely wiser and smarter and hoping to win another medal." Sindhu had said during a recent media interaction. "The game has changed a lot now. (There are) more rallies now with emphasis on strong defence. Every player is very strong, mentally and physically prepared for those long matches."

But the court is a neutral space where the mind empties itself out and concentrates on just the moment. You don't have the chance to think about glory or what it has taken to get there. Sometimes, you don't even hear the crowd. All that matters is the shuttle, the racket and the opponent. A bubble inside which you are freed of expectations and prejudice. She'll plan for her opponents after the group stage—she might run into He Bingjiao, Chen Yu Fei and Carolina Marin on her way to the final—but most of all she'll hope that all the hard work amounts to something.

If it does, and to be fair, that is a big if to most on the outside, it'll only be because she is PV Sindhu, a player who has learned to own the big stage. Maybe she makes the stage or perhaps the stage makes her.

{ BREAKING BARRIERS } COMPETING WITH THE ABLE BODIED

Pushing impossible out of the game

Bruna Alexandre, a three-time Paralympic medallist, is set for a rare feat after being selected to represent Brazil as a member of their able-bodied women's team. Here's a look at athletes who have competed in both the Olympics and Paralympics in the same edition.

Zahra Nemati (Iran)2016 Rio Games, Archery
Paralympic gold: 3

The international archer and disability activist from Iran is a three-time Paralympic champion. She became the first Iranian woman to win a gold at either the Olympics or Paralympics, in London 2012. In 2016, Zahra competed at the Olympics and Paralympics, carrying Iran's flag at the opening ceremony. Nemati was a taekwondo black belt before a car accident in 2003 left her with spinal injuries and paralysis of both legs.

Natalie du Toit (South Africa)2008 Beijing Games, Swimming
Paralympic gold: 13

A 13-time Paralympic champion, Natalie is also part of the Olympic Games history. The South African became the first Para swimmer to compete in the Olympics at 2008 Beijing. She is also the first athlete to carry a flag in the Opening Ceremony of both the Olympics and Paralympics in a single year. The South African competed in the inaugural Olympic open water 10km race, finishing in the 16th place. Weeks later, she picked five gold medals and one silver in Para swimming in Beijing.

Incredible switch

Hungary's Karoly Takacs secretly taught himself to shoot with his left hand after losing the right in a grenade blast. In the 1948 London Games, he won the rapid-fire pistol gold and defended it in the 1952 Helsinki Games.

Melissa Tapper (Australia)2016 Rio Games, Table Tennis
Paralympic silver: 1

Melissa Tapper is a Melbourne based female table tennis champion and motivational speaker. On March 25, 2016 Melissa qualified and secured her ticket to the 2016 Rio Olympics, making Australian history by becoming the first athlete to participate in both the Olympics and Paralympics in the same year. In 2019, she was named the Victorian Female Athlete of the Year alongside the likes of Cathy Freeman, Kim Brennan and Kirstie Marshall.

Natalia Partyka (Poland)2008 Beijing Games, Table Tennis
Paralympic gold: 3

For almost two decades, Natalia Partyka has been the woman to beat in her class, and the Polish star has continued to challenge herself on both the Para and able-bodied circuits. At 2004 Athens, she became the youngest Paralympic table tennis champion, and she was the first table tennis athlete to compete in both the Olympics and Paralympics when she qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She was born without the right hand and forearm.

Paola Fantato (Italy)1996 Atlanta Games, (Archery)
Paralympic gold: 5

Polio-stricken at 8, she took up archery in her 20s, winning a Paralympic bronze in 1988 and gold in 1992. At 1996 Atlanta, she became the first athlete to compete in the Olympics and Paralympics the same year.

{ WINNING STREAKS } LEGENDS AT WORK

From Karelin to Phelps, they're in an Olympic class of their own

N Ananthanarayanan

anantha.narayanan@htlve.com

NEW DELHI: Thousands descend on the Olympics every four years chasing their sporting life's dream, but only a small minority head back home, emotions ranging from thrilled, happy to satisfied reflected on the colour of the medal. For the others, it can be an adventure or heartbreak in keeping with their goal and expectations. Towering above this sizeable group are those rare champions who have been serial Olympic champions—Michael Phelps has won an Olympic record haul of 23 gold across four Olympics from 2004 to 2016 to be crowned the greatest Olympic athlete—returning to the world's biggest sporting extravaganza again and again to stand on the top podium. These biggest icons of modern Olympics are the gold standard to even remember every Games by, even their eventual fall or farewell moments in its history.

Hungarian sabre fencer Aron Szilagyi is the latest great Olympian whose ceaseless winning run came to a halt at the Paris Games. His gold medals at 2012 London, 2016 Rio and 2021 Tokyo had made him the only male fencer to become a three-time champion. His ambition to become the only fencer to win a fourth gold ended in the first round at the hands of unfancied Canadian Fares Arfa.

"I'm in a bit of shock right now, so I'm no even disappointed or angry at myself yet," Szilagyi said



Hungarian sabre fencer Aron Szilagyi's (L) gold-winning streak at the Olympics has come to a halt after a shock loss to Canada's Fares Arfa in the first round.

soon after the loss. "It happened so fast, and I've never thought that my individual competition here in Paris would be so short."

This screeching halt to a run of 15 wins in an esoteric sport may not grab headlines, but the aftershocks of some other end-of-reign losses in the Olympics did, although more to cherish the awe-inspiring careers.

Some 'Bear' run
Aleksandr Karelin, considered the greatest Greco-Roman wrestler who represented Soviet Union and Russia, is among the biggest names. The man dubbed the 'Russian Bear' and 'Russian King Kong' won gold in the top weight division of 130kg at the 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta Games.

Reigning in one of the most demanding athletics pursuits from 1986 to 2000, Karelin accumulated a mind-boggling 887 wins, and only two defeats, and the first at international level is among the most spoken of Olympic moments.

The man who never lost a world championships bout had gone unbeaten for 13 years, and six years without as much as conceding a point to his opponent,

faced off against American Rulon Gardner in the gold medal match at the 2000 Sydney Games.

Gardner's 1-0 upset of the 'Bear' is regarded as one of the great upsets in sports history with the point awarded to the US wrestler also debated. It also sent Karelin into retirement and politics.

The ring master
Cuban heavyweight boxer Teofilo Stevenson was seen as an embodiment of the amateur spirit that Olympics upheld till the last two decades of the previous century as well as a shining example of the Fidel Castro era.

Stevenson won heavyweight gold at 1972 Munich, 1976 Montreal and 1980 Moscow, becoming the first to win three titles in one weight division. The flag-bearer of the golden age of Cuban amateur boxing is only one of three boxers to achieve the triple success—Hungary's Laszlo Papp and fellow Cuban Felix Savon are the others.

The golden rower

Briton Steve Redgrave is the most successful male rower in Olympic history. He won five consecutive gold medals, at 1984 Los Angeles, 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona, 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney. Two of the victories were in the coxless fours event and the other three in coxless pairs.

Athletics has produced a huge share of serial champions. Al Oerter, the American discus throw legend, won gold at four Olympics—1956 Melbourne, 1960 Rome, 1964 Tokyo and 1968 Mexico. Heading into the Tokyo Games, Oerter, grappling with a neck problem, tore cartilage in the ribcage too. No problem—he won with an Olympic record and then said: "These are the Olympics. You die for them."

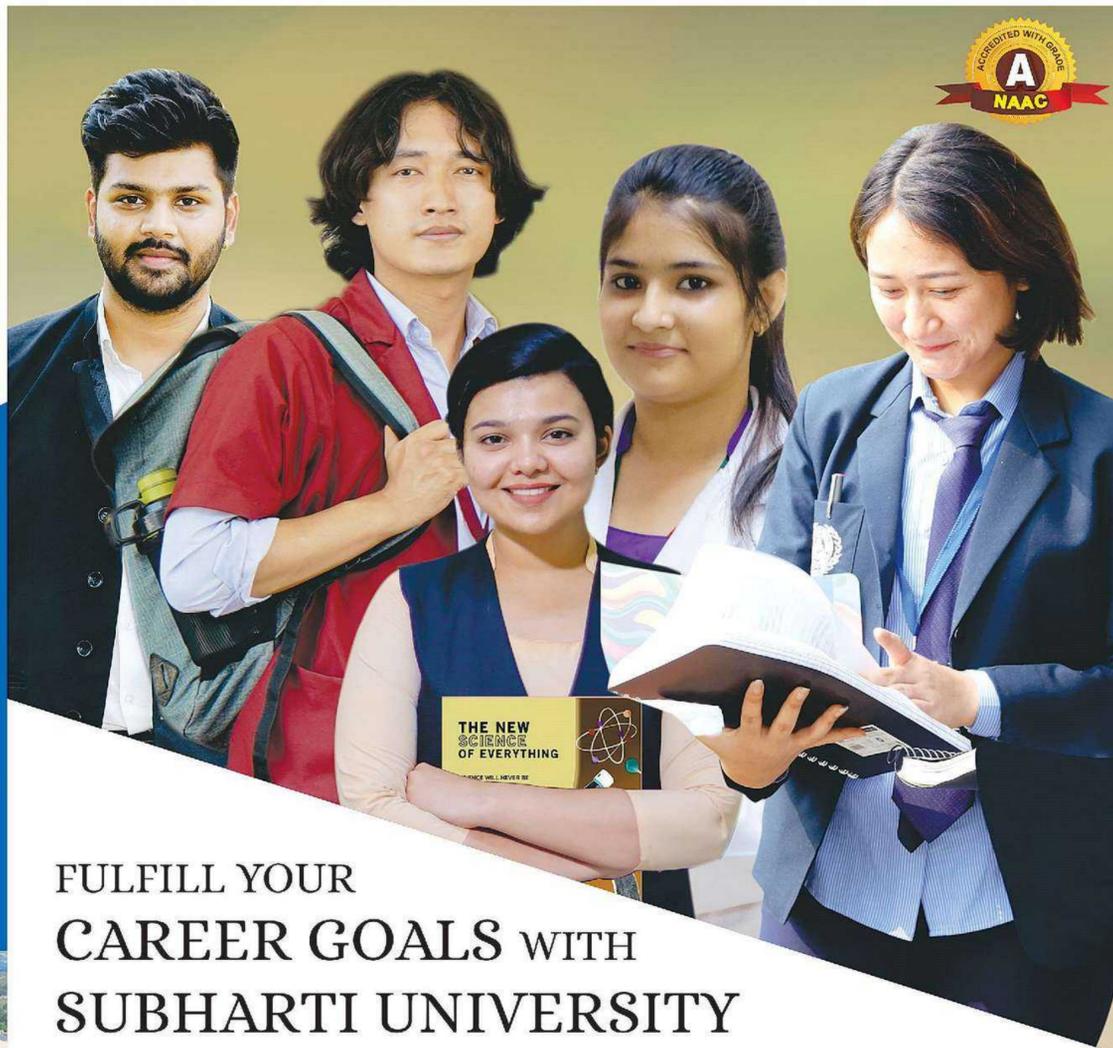
Carl Lewis went unbeaten in an Olympic long jump competition, winning four successive titles from 1984 to 1996.

In team competitions, India's six consecutive hockey gold—from 1928 to 1956—stand out. The South Korean women's archery team though are on a level of their own—they clinched a 10th gold medal in a row on Sunday.



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'Basement given nod for parking, used as library'

Paras Singh and Hemani Bhandari

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The basement at the Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajendra Nagar, where three UPSC aspirants were trapped and drowned to death, was being illegally used for commercial activity, senior civic functionaries said, citing a completion and occupancy certificate issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on August 9, 2021, which said that the basement could only be used for parking or household storage.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi said that the coaching centre was "running a library in the basement illegally" even as "library or other commercial activity was not allowed in its basement."

The mayor ordered MCD commissioner Ashwani Kumar to crack down on the "coaching centre or other commercial activities running in the basement" and to "take strict action against the officers responsible for it."

However, the problem of illegal use of basements as libraries and other commercial activities is rampant across Karol Bagh-Old Rajendra Nagar, locals and students said on Sunday.

Students of other coaching centres, which were also using basements as study halls and libraries, said their classes were cancelled due to the incident.

In an order on Sunday, Oberoi said: "It is MCD's responsibility to ensure that such incident does not recur in any part of Delhi. All such coaching centres across Delhi which are under the jurisdiction of MCD and running commercial activities in basements which are in violation of building bye-laws strict action should be taken against them immediately."

The Old Rajendra Nagar stretch where the institute is situated is replete with similar multi-storey coaching centres, many of which run libraries from the basement, students said.

While some libraries, protesting students said, were open to only students of their institute, some gave memberships on a monthly or yearly basis.

Mohak Gupta, 26, of Maharashtra, who has been studying here since 2022, said: "All the coaching centres around here offer library services and most of them are in the basement violating the building bylaws that they cannot do commercial activity in the basement."

Another student Deepa Kumari, 25, of Odisha, said that



Rules governing use of basements in Delhi

- Basements can be used for parking, household storage and services
- Cannot be used for public gathering activities like libraries, reading rooms, etc
- Basements with an area more than 200sqm need fire NOCs as per National Building Code
- Adequate ventilation must be provided
- Can be used for certain professional activities with proper NOC
- Arrangements should be made so that surface drainage does not enter basement

Violation at coaching centre basement

Basement was approved only for parking use/household storage but was instead operating a library

institutes also run classes in the basement. "Mock tests and even classes are taken. The institute I go to takes classes in the basement with hundreds of students in one class," she said.

An MCD official, on condition of anonymity, said that the illegal use of the basement for commercial activities is rampant across the city. "In any condition, activity involving public gathering cannot be allowed in basement due to potential risk but rampant violations can be seen across the city," the official said.

The unified building bylaws, regarding basement use, says "adequate arrangements should be made so that surface drainage does not enter basement".

MCD, in a statement, said: "Institute used storage as the place for coaching/library. Had it followed the norms of approval, the tragedy would have been averted... MCD will remove illegal encroachments on the storm water drain in question and other drains to address drainage. We will take strict action against basements in coaching centres running in violations and compromising safety and security of students."

Mohak Gupta, 26, of Maharashtra, who has been studying here since 2022, said: "All the coaching centres around here offer library services and most of them are in the basement violating the building bylaws that they cannot do commercial activity in the basement."

Another student Deepa Kumari, 25, of Odisha, said that

No action taken on complaints: Residents

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A day after three students at Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajendra Nagar drowned in the basement of the institute, local residents on Sunday said that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) failed to act against the illegal use of basements in Old Rajendra Nagar, and the tragedy could have been averted.

Karol Bagh resident Kishor Singh Kushwaha said on June 26, he filed a complaint against "classes being carried out illegally in the basement" of Rau's IAS Study Circle at Delhi's Public Grievance Monitoring System (PGMS).

A copy of the complaint, seen by HT, shows that two reminders were sent on July 15 and July 22, asking for urgent action as the matter pertains to student security.

"If the administration had

acted on time, this tragedy could have been averted... Many such libraries are being run from basements illegally without NOCs or safety norms. It is a case of negligence by the administration," Kushwaha said.

Another local resident, Ashok Sharma, said the area faces frequent waterlogging, and a solution has not been found.

"MCD knows that this area is flooded with water, but no one is willing to do their work.... Working out of basements is not allowed. A library is not allowed in the basement. But MCD allowed it run," he added. HT reached out to MCD, but officials did not respond to queries about the complaint, or on why no action was taken.

Meanwhile, Rau's IAS Study Circle in a statement said they are "fully committed to supporting the ongoing investigation into this tragic incident".

Delhi govt, MCD and LG initiate inquiries

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Three simultaneous probes, by lieutenant governor VK Saxena, water minister Atishi and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), were ordered into the deaths of UPSC aspirants at Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching centre in Rajendra Nagar on Saturday night.

LG Saxena issued orders for a probe by the divisional commissioner to check failures by civic agencies, as well as the role of the coaching institute.

"While nothing can bring back the precious young lives lost due to apathy of the administration and criminal misconduct of those running coaching institutions, responsibility of those who caused the loss of lives, will be fixed and guilty will be brought to book," Saxena said.

The probe is expected to be completed by Tuesday.

"I am deeply anguished by the death of three civil services aspirants due to waterlogging in the basement of a coaching centre and that of another student due to waterlogging-related electrocution. That this should happen in the Capital of India is most unfortunate and unacceptable. Reportedly, seven other citizens have died due to electrocution in the past few days... These incidents clearly point towards criminal neglect and failure of basic maintenance and administration by agencies and departments concerned," Saxena said.

He said that the roles of coaching institutes and landlords in not ensuring basic safety of students, who pay hefty fees



Rescue teams pump out water from the centre. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

and rents, away from their homes need to be looked into. "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," he said.

Delhi revenue minister Atishi directed all officers concerned to visit the site immediately and take necessary measures. She mandated a magisterial inquiry into the incident, seeking a report within 24 hours. Emphasising the urgency of the situation, she said that "those responsible for the negligence leading to this tragedy" will face the strongest possible consequences.

Immediately after the incident, she directed chief secretary Naresh Kumar to take all necessary measures. "I have just received the very shocking news that some students have been trapped in the basement of a

coaching institute in Rajender Nagar due to heavy rains and water flooding the basement. It is on the news that a few students have lost their lives in this incident. This is a very unfortunate incident and needs to be investigated on an urgent basis," she wrote.

In an order, she said: "Strongest possible action needs to be taken against those whose negligence caused this incident. Whoever is found guilty should not be spared and action needs to be taken against them on priority."

Delhi mayor Shelly Oberoi ordered action against all coaching centres in the city that are operating from the basement of buildings. Oberoi, in an order on Sunday, said: "This is a very shocking incident and needs thorough investigation and strongest possible action. It is also our responsibility to ensure that such incident does not recur in any part of Delhi."



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EXTRACT OF THE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024	30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
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.

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SPOTLIGHT | COACHING CENTRE DEATHS

Rain, a series of oversights, and students in a basement

Hemani Bhandari

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A localised down-pour floods a road in waist-deep water, where a passing SUV creates a wake so strong that the waves knock over the main gates of a building, unleashing a deluge into the four-storey structure's basement — roughly around 6.40pm, these unlikely set of events combined to flood the underground library of Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching centre in Old Rajendra Nagar.

The flooding claimed the lives of 21-year-old Tanya Soni, 25-year-old Shreya Yadav, and 29-year-old Nevin Delvin. Their bodies were recovered after disaster response teams and firefighters pumped out water from the basement, but not after hours of waiting for the water-logging outside to recede.

The factors that led to their death spotlights yet again the dismaying state of the country's national capital, where at least 18 people have now died this monsoon — including a cab driver when canopy over the airport's foyer collapsed, a student who was electrocuted while trying to cross a waterlogged street, and a commuter caught in a flooded underpass.

According to eyewitnesses HT spoke to and mobile phone videos shot by onlookers, there was little the three victims of Saturday evening's flooding could do once the gates fell.

The blue-grey metal structure acted as a dam to stop the water pooled on the road outside after a spell of unusual, localised rain. "Waterlogging is a common occurrence here. But once that barrier was gone, water gushed in quickly," said one of the security guards employed at the centre, asking not to be named.

What brought down the gate was a powerful wave of water created by a black 4x4 passing through the road, videos shot by onlookers from a building on the other side showed.

"Within two minutes, the entire basement was flooded. Around 25 students who were downstairs managed to climb up, but seven or eight of them got trapped," said the staffer.

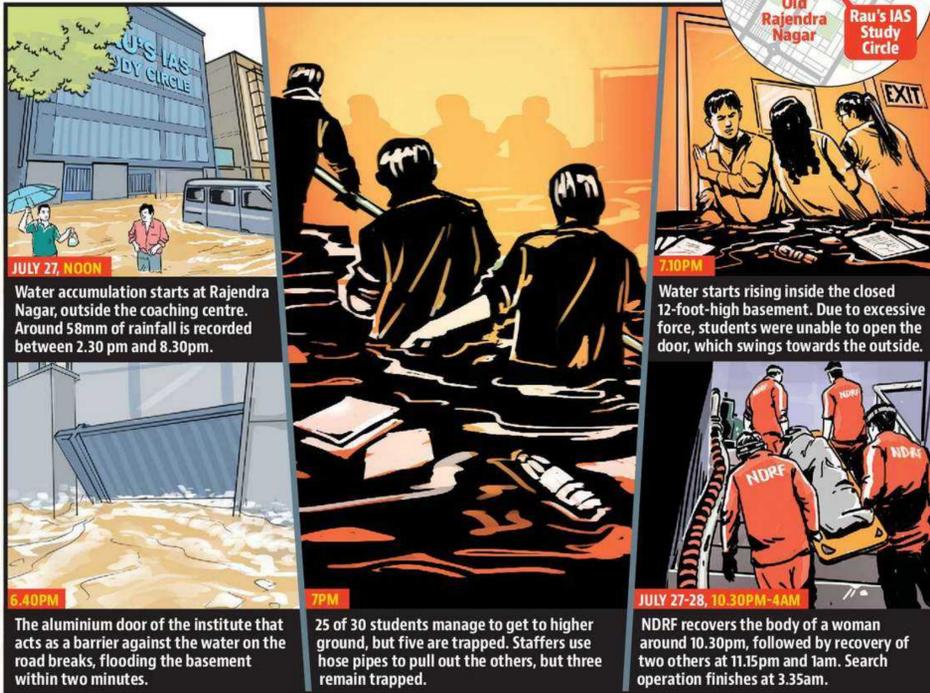
In all, 30-35 students were believed to have been in the basement of the building in Old Rajendra Nagar, a hub of institutions that coach students on cracking India's Administrative Services recruitment process.

Another coaching centre

Killer flood claims three lives

Three UPSC aspirants, Tanya Soni, 21, from Bihar, Nevin Delvin, 29, from Kerala, and Shreya Yadav, 25, from Uttar Pradesh, died after being trapped inside a water-filled basement of their coaching centre, according to their classmates.

ILLUSTRATION: ASHISH DASS



Water accumulation starts at Rajendra Nagar, outside the coaching centre. Around 58mm of rainfall is recorded between 2.30 pm and 8.30pm.

The aluminium door of the institute that acts as a barrier against the water on the road breaks, flooding the basement within two minutes.

25 of 30 students manage to get to higher ground, but five are trapped. Staffers use hose pipes to pull out the others, but three remain trapped.

NDRF recovers the body of a woman around 10.30pm, followed by recovery of two others at 11.15pm and 1am. Search operation finishes at 3.35am.

staffer, who taught students, described the immediate aftermath of the gate collapse and the flooding, which suggested many had a close escape.

"By the time fire officials came, we had rescued five-six of the students. We used a hose pipe installed in our building, tied it around ourselves, threw it at the students in the basement, and then pulled them up," he said, asking not to be named.

This person said he made an emergency call to the fire department at 7.06pm, but two officials came after at least half an hour — without any equipment.

Delhi Fire Services (DFS) director Atul Garg said when fire officials arrived, all students who could be rescued were already outside — those still in the basement had already died. "The road was waterlogged. So we had to wait till water receded before we could pump out water from the basement," he said.

'Rescue ops complicated by 12-foot-high, muddy water'

Pravesh Lama

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NEW DELHI: National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel who were part of the search and rescue operations at Rau's IAS Study Circle said that dirty, murky water that reached a height of 12 feet complicated their already difficult task.

The personnel said they swam through the muddy water, lifting heavy almirahs and navigating around chairs and benches while hoping against hope that they found someone who had survived.

"At around 8.25pm, we were alerted about the flooding in the basement... Our team reached the

spot by 9.05pm and saw that the basement was flooded. The students were trapped," said Praveen Dahiya, the second-in-command of the NDRF 16 battalion. The only door that was an exit from the flooded basement was locked, but the NDRF personnel managed to enter the basement by breaking open a glass enclosure near the staircase.

At first, the officials said, one NDRF diver strapped with breathing apparatus was sent in to ascertain the scale of the flooding. He returned and shared details of the challenges. The basement was long, officials said, estimating the area to be around 100 feet long and 50 feet wide. Three more divers entered

the basement, while four others were kept on standby.

"Searching for the students was difficult because one, the water was dirty and had debris, secondly, the almirahs inside the room had fallen, and the furniture was floating. Our senior officials from the headquarters, some of whom had come to the spot, were supervising the operation," said deputy commandant Deepak Jaiswal, who was leading the 32-member team.

At around 10.35pm, the NDRF had pulled out the first body from the basement, and by 1am, the third body was found. The personnel kept up the search till 3.35am, but finally called off the operation.

Civic apathy leads to 3 talented lives cut short

{ SHREYA YADAV } 25, UTTAR PRADESH

'Didi promised to visit home for Rakshabandhan'

Yadav, from Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, came to Delhi this April and enrolled at the coaching centre in May, her uncle Dharmendra Yadav, 43, said. She completed her bachelor's in science degree from a university in Uttar Pradesh and decided to study for civil services.

"She was a bright student. There was no pressure from us but we were hopeful that she'll be able to crack it," he said.

Yadav said he was watching the news around midnight when he got to know about the

incident. He left home and reached Rajendra Nagar to ascertain her safety, but got no news. He went to her paying guest accommodation but couldn't find her there either.

"I came back here they told me to check at the mortuary. I came here and found her name among the three dead," Yadav said, at the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital.

Yadav said his brother Rajendra Yadav is a farmer and sister-in-law Shanti is a homemaker. "They are not able to come to terms with what happened," he said.

Shreya's brother Abhishek Yadav, at Ambedkar Nagar, said she was also pursuing post-graduation in mass communication from a university in Har- yana.

"We last spoke to didi (Shreya) over the phone on the night of July 26 and she promised to visit on Rakshabandhan," he said.

"This is a clear case of negligence. What measures did they take if flooding was so common around here?" he said.

"My father always encouraged didi to study following which he sent her to prepare for the UPSC exam," Abhishek said, demanding strictest possible action against those responsible.

{ NEVIN DELVIN } 29, KERALA

'We had no idea he was preparing for civil services'

Delvin was a native of Ennakulum in Kerala and came to Delhi around eight years ago for higher studies.

A PhD scholar from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delvin had also completed his MPhil from the same varsity.

Delvin's friend, Vijith (who goes by a single name), said the deceased was a student of arts and aesthetics, and was pursuing his PhD in visual arts. "He was a very promising academic but we had no idea he was preparing for

civil services," he said.

According to Toni, a member of the Delhi Malayali Association, who was at the mortuary, Delvin's mother Lancelote is a retired professor from a university in Kerala and his father Delvin Suresh retired from the Kerala Police as a deputy superintendent. "We have spoken to his parents. They are in utter shock. They will come to Delhi

on Sunday night," he said.

A teacher at the coaching institute said Delvin used to visit the centre only for study material. Biju T, superintendent of a private college in Noida, said Delvin did his master's from the college and was a bright student. "He pursued masters in art history before going to JNU. He was a very good student. It's a big loss," he said.

{ TANYA SONI } 21, BIHAR

'She was good at studies and inspired her siblings'

The family of 21-year-old Tanya Soni are shattered by the news of the death of the UPSC aspirant.

While Soni is originally from Masjid Gali in Nabina- gar town, Aurangabad, Bihar, her family recently moved to Secunderabad, Tel- angana after her father, Vijay Soni was posted there.

Soni's father, who is an engineer, stays with his wife and two other children — Palak and Aditya.

Tanya was the eldest child, family members said.

Nicknamed "Tannu" by her family, she did her BSc from a college in Hyderabad and moved to Delhi one-and-a-half years ago for UPSC coaching.

"Tanya was always good at studies and her siblings Palak and Aditya used to be inspired from their eldest sister," Ajay Soni, her uncle said.

"I am shell shocked by the news of

Tanya's death. I still cannot believe it. She was a meritorious student who had dreams of becoming an IAS or IPS officer. We all had high hopes for her and were confident she would crack the UPSC examination. It's a big loss for our family," he said.

Soni said that those responsible for the flooding and running the coaching centre should be punished.

"We had hoped that Tanya would change the fortune of our family and become a civil servant. Now, it's all over," another family member, requesting not to be named, said.

WHAT THEY SAID

This collapse of infrastructure is a combined system failure. The common citizen is paying the price...

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress

This incident was avoidable... Govt negligence led to the deaths....

BANSURI SWARAJ, BJP

They (AAP) wanted to make Delhi a city of lakes, but 3 students died drowning in a basement

ANURAG THAKUR, BJP

It is extremely sad that three students died due to flooding at a training centre...

PINARAYI VIJAYAN, Kerala CM

AAP, BJP spar over deaths, LG slams 'criminal neglect'

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The death of the three students due to sudden flooding in the basement of a coaching institute in Old Rajendra Nagar led to a blame game among political parties. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Delhi unit blamed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government and municipality for "criminal negligence" and "lack of desilting" leading to the deaths, while Delhi urban development minister Saurabh Bhadraj laid the blame on lack of any action taken by the lieutenant governor (LG) against officials who have not undertaken the desilting work properly.

LG VK Saxena, while ordering a probe by the divisional commissioner in the case, said Delhi was misgoverned in the past ten years. Meanwhile, the Congress said it had made Delhi an "international city" during its administration but now the city was suffering from the "brunt of indifference".

Saxena said, "Drainage and related infrastructure, as also required efforts and endeavours to address these have collapsed and it is indicative of the larger malaise of misgovernance that Delhi has been subjected to during the last decade or so."

He added: "I am deeply anguished by the death of three civil services aspirants... These incidents point towards criminal neglect and failure of basic maintenance and administration by concerned agencies and departments."

Responding to the statement, urban development minister

WHILE THE AAP ACCUSED THE LG OF NOT LETTING IT GOVERN, THE BJP AND CONGRESS BLAMED THE POOR INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CAPITAL

Bharadwaj posted a June 28 video of a pre-monsoon internal meeting of the Delhi government where he is seen talking about the lack of desilting of drains.

"Everyone is saying that the work of removing silt from drains and sewers in Delhi was not done properly... The government can neither transfer these officers nor take any action against them. Only LG can take action," he said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said: "The ministers who were boasting about cleaning drains and sewers until Saturday morning are now blaming officials for the lack of cleanliness... the purpose of the meeting was not to ensure the cleaning of drains and sewers but to create videos to mislead the public into thinking that they wanted the work done but the officials did not cooperate."

Meanwhile, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said: "The Congress had made Delhi an international city. Today the capital of India is suffering the brunt of indifference. It is a matter of great concern for all of us that such an incident took place in the country's capital. We have to improve our capital so that our citizens remain safe..."

Massive protest at Old Rajendra Nagar



Students held a protest outside Rau's IAS Study Circle on Sunday, demanding justice for the three people who died the previous day. They also blocked the road near the Karol Bagh Metro station, before they were asked to disperse by police. VINI KUMAR/HT PHOTO

Rain turns fatal due to ageing drains, lax planning

Jasjeev Gandhiok and Paras Singh

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The drowning of three UPSC aspirants at their coaching centre's basement in Old Rajendra Nagar on Saturday is the latest in a series of rain-related deaths clocked by the Capital this monsoon. There have been 18 rain-related deaths this monsoon, of which seven pertain to electrocution.

Waterlogged roads have led to a spate of electrocutions due to loose wires, with the Capital's agencies and departments unprepared and found wanting in terms of response.

The situation is exacerbated as the city continues to depend on a 48-year-old drainage plan.

Experts say that instead of taking a piecemeal approach, Delhi needs drastic changes to its monsoon preparedness.

The situation was compounded this year since the arrival of monsoon on June 28 in a record-breaking rainfall of over 220mm in a single day in Delhi, causing a collapse at the IGI Airport Terminal 1, killing a cab driver, and electrocuting a 39-year-old man in Rohini.

IMD classifies rainfall as "heavy" when over 64.4mm is recorded in 24 hours. Delhi saw heavy rainfall on July 24 and 26, and an almost heavy rainfall on Saturday.

The deaths

On June 29, two boys drowned near the flooded Siraspur under-

pass, a day after a 60-year-old drowned in the waterlogged Okhla underpass. On the same day, two boys aged eight and 10 years drowned in a rainwater-filled ditch in New Usmanpur.

On June 29, the bodies of three labourers were pulled from the debris of a wall that collapsed at a basement construction site in Vasant Vihar. On July 24, a 45-year-old man was electrocuted in Sadar Bazar, two days after a UPSC aspirant, 26-year-old Nilesh Rai, was electrocuted after slipping on a road.

On July 20, a 30-year-old worker died at a Karawal Nagar construction site, and on July 13 a police head constable was electrocuted while investigating a case in Najafgarh. Other deaths include that of a BSES employee

who was fixing an electricity pole in Dwarka and a 34-year-old woman in Bhajanpura.

Old drainage system Delhi's existing drainage plan is 48 years old, having been devised in 1976, and it can handle around 50mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period.

A government official said that when the drainage master plan was prepared, it was done with the existing population of Delhi in mind, which was only 6 million. Presently, Delhi's population is 25 million.

Meenakshi Dhote, professor of environmental planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, said waterlogging occurs every monsoon, primarily due to Delhi ignoring its natural slopes.

Dhote recommends not only studying the slopes of the area where construction is taking place, but also understanding the slope of the sub-basin to ascertain where the site lies. "Drainage from any area to surroundings and whether the surrounding drain has the capacity to take the added run-off should also be understood," she said.

Diwan Singh, an activist who has worked on reviving water bodies across the city, said: "We also have a design flaw that all drains are supposed to empty into the Yamuna. However, by the time these drains carry this water to the river, they start to overflow and flood local areas. Instead, we need to use storm-water wherever possible, diverting it to water bodies," he said.

MCD SEALS UNITS OPERATING FROM BASEMENTS

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has initiated a drive against coaching centres operating from basements in the Karol Bagh zone, with 13 coaching centres sealed on Sunday, officials aware of the development said.

The action comes in wake of the death of three UPSC aspirants due to the flooding of a basement at an Old Rajendra Nagar coaching centre.

MCD in an official statement said: "MCD will take strict action against basements in coaching centres running in violation and compromising safety and security of students. It has started sealing such basements immediately in the Old Rajendra Nagar area."

Meanwhile, mayor Shelly Oberoi said the sealing drive will be extended to the rest of the city soon.

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Water supply shortage enters 5th day as river stays polluted

Paras Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi continued to face a water shortage for the fifth consecutive day on Sunday because levels of ammonia and pollutants remain high in the Yamuna, affecting water production at three of the Delhi Jal Board's (DJB) water treatment plants, officials aware of the matter said.

The city faces a shortfall of 40-50 MGD (million gallons per day) of potable water — on Sunday, DJB, according to its water supply report, supplied 959 MGD water to the city against the daily normal supply of 1,000 MGD. North and west Delhi areas are primarily affected by the shortage.

"Less production at Wazirabad, Haiderpur and Bawana water treatment plants due to high ammonia in river and shortage of raw water," the DJB report said. A water supply bulletin covers the 24-hour preceding period.

Water supply began getting



The Yamuna covered in discharge of untreated industrial effluent and domestic waste at Kalindi Kunj on Friday. SUNILGHOSH/HT

affected on July 24 when the daily supply dropped to 971 MGD. On July 25 it dropped to 930 MGD and further to 904 MGD on July 26.

A DJB official said that there has been a notable spike in industrial pollutants and ammonia levels, which, coupled with less water in the CLC canal, has

led to shortfalls.

The Wazirabad Barrage in north Delhi is the primary holding area from where raw water from the Yamuna is lifted to the Wazirabad treatment plants. DJB can treat up to 0.9 ppm of ammonia level in raw water, but beyond such a high level, neutralisation of ammonia with

chlorine gas regularly leads to toxic chloramine compounds.

The DJB report said that the Wazirabad plant supplied 124 MGD against the capacity of 134 MGD. The facility has catchment area of central, North and parts of New Delhi. Similarly, the Haiderpur plant, the largest facility of DJB, was operating at 213 MGD against the capacity of 241 MGD. Haiderpur plant sources water from CLC/Munak canal and it supplies water to North West and West Delhi. Bawana has a shortfall of one MGD water. DJB estimates that shortfall of one MGD water impacts the supply to 21,500 people.

DJB received 1,748 complaints in the last 24 hours, according to the bulletin issued on Sunday, of which 706 pertain to water supply, 145 are related to tankers and 897 were related to sewage. "Of the 706 water supply related complaints, 348 were related to zero water supply and 311 pertain to water contamination or dirty water," an official said. Charanjit Singh, a resident

of Parmanand colony, said: "The support at DJB helpline is not working. We have been getting contaminated water supply but no action is being taken."

Delhi has seen multiple supply disruption issues over the last two months due to issues ranging from low availability of raw water in the river, a section of Munak canal getting breached near Bawana, high turbidity and ammonia levels among the top issues.

Periodic spikes in ammonia levels have been a long-standing point of dispute between Delhi and Haryana. DJB argues that the pollutants, such as dyes, chlorides and ammonia-based chemicals, flow from the Panipat industrial dye drain.

Besides Panipat, DJB also regularly cites the intermixing of industrial waste in Sonapat, where two canals carrying fresh water and industrial water run parallel to each other, separated by a sand wall of a few inches.

Haryana has maintained that there are no leaking pollution sources in its industrial areas.



The Yamuna filled with water hyacinth at Kalindi Kunj, as seen on July 18. SUNILGHOSH/HT PHOTO

Choked Yamuna fuels vector disease worries

Paras Singh
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NEW DELHI: The 2-3km stretch of the Yamuna along the Okhla barrage in southeast Delhi is currently covered with a thick layer of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). This water weed is not only deteriorating the already sub-standard water quality of the river, but also acts as a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes, which may lead to a rise in vector-borne diseases, senior Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials said.

A senior official with MCD's public health department said that the enclosed cup-like space at the centre of the water hyacinth leaves collects rainwater.

"This water serves as ideal breeding ground for the Aedes aegypti, which breeds only in fresh water. Insecticide sprayed from our pumps cannot cover the areas inside the river channel, and the only solution is to weed out the water hyacinth," the official said, requesting anonymity.

According to the official, the Okhla barrage is under the jur-

isdiction of the Uttar Pradesh government, and MCD has sent letters to the neighbouring state to remove the weed from the river.

"We have asked the UP irrigation department to expedite the clean-up. The dense bed also prevents the insecticides to reach the water surface," the official said.

The UP irrigation department did not respond to queries for comment on MCD's communications.

A second MCD official said thick beds of water hyacinth are known to reduce the velocity of water bodies, thereby serving as suitable breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

"So far, there has not been much rain in this part of Delhi, so the mosquito breeding levels have remained low. However, the water hyacinth needs to be cleared, otherwise it may spell trouble for nearby southeast Delhi areas," the second official said, adding that the areas which may be impacted include Okhla, Kalindi Kunj, Sarita Vihar, Jasola Vihar, Madanpur Khadar, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Abul Fazal Enclave.

Aedes aegypti can spread dengue fever, chikungunya and yellow fever. It lays eggs in clean water and has adapted to breed among human dwellings.

An analysis of MCD data on mosquito breeding sites from 2022 reveals that around 58.5% of Aedes aegypti larvae were found in water storage units such as drums, buckets, and jerrycans; 30.2% in peri-domestic units such as money plant vases, flower pots and bird pots; while overhead tanks accounted for 5.4%, sumps for 2.1%, and desert coolers for 3.8% of all breeding sites.

In 2023, Delhi recorded 9,266 dengue cases and 19 deaths — the third-worst outbreak of the viral infection in the city, according to MCD's annual data.

This year, Delhi has reported 246 dengue cases in the first six months — double the number of cases reported in the corresponding period in 2023, and the highest in at least last decade. The city had reported 122 dengue cases between January 1 and July 1 in 2023, 143 cases in same period in 2022, 36 cases in 2021, and 20 cases in 2020.

GZB: RUCKUS AFTER CAR HITS KANWARS, MORE TRAFFIC CURBS IN PLACE

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

GHAZIABAD: Police have intensified security in some areas of Ghaziabad district and imposed more traffic curbs after a car allegedly hit some Kanwaris in Muradnagar on Saturday, who then thrashed the driver and vandalised the vehicle, an official said on Sunday.

The Kanwaris later blocked a stretch of the Delhi-Meerut expressway here, on which the incident took place, resulting in a traffic jam, the official said.

Two companies of Provincial armed constabulary (PAC) have been deployed at Ganga canal bridge of Muradnagar town, adjacent to Rawali road, and security has been beefed up in other areas, said commissioner of police (Ghaziabad) Ajay Kumar Mishra.

"Arrangements have been made to prevent entry of vehicle on the road from Kadrabad village of Modinagar to every entry point of Ghaziabad district to Meerut road trisection, Mohan nagar, Loni road, Link road, UP-Delhi border up to Dilshad garden," the CP said.

Woman steps in parents' fight, stabbed to death

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A man stabbed his 35-year-old wife with a kitchen knife following an argument over money, and then stabbed his 22-year-old daughter to death when she tried to intervene in the scuffle to protect her mother, police said on Sunday.

Officers identified the deceased as Rashima Khatoon and her mother as Sufia. The accused, identified as Abbas Ali, is currently absconding, they said.

Police said the incident took place at around lam on Saturday at the Ali home in Najafgarh. They said the incident came to light after a neighbour informed the police control room.

Deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said, "The neighbour made the PCR call after hearing the suspect's daughter calling for help."

Police rushed to the spot and found the 22-year-old woman and her mother lying in a pool

of blood, and the couple's other children — both are minors — crying for help.

Police rushed the two injured women to Rao Tula Ram Memorial Hospital, where Khatoon was declared brought dead. Her mother Sufia was referred to DDU Hospital where she is undergoing treatment, police said.

The couple's younger daughter narrated the ordeal to police, officers said. In her statement to the police, the minor said that an argument broke out between Ali and Sufia around midnight over money, police said.

"The argument escalated to a physical fight. The couple's

three children were in the house at the time. Ali picked up a knife and stabbed Sufia in the head. Seeing this, their eldest daughter, Rashima, intervened to protect her mother. Ali stabbed Rashima in the head, neck and chest, after which she collapsed on the floor," said DCP Singh.

All fled the scene after locking the house door from the outside, and the couple's younger daughter raised the alarm and alerted their neighbour, police said.

"We think he has fled Delhi. We are checking CCTVs and multiple teams have been deployed around Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi to look for him," said a police officer, on condition of anonymity.

The family is from Guwahati, Assam, and came to Delhi four-five years ago. Police said Ali was unemployed and would often fight with his wife over money. Ali has been booked under sections of murder and attempted murder under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

GB NAGAR SHIFTS SAWAN SHIVRATRI HOLIDAY TO AUG 2

NOIDA: The Gautam Budh Nagar administration has announced that a local holiday will now be observed on August 2, Friday, instead of the previously scheduled August 3, for the occasion of Sawan Shivratra. This change was detailed in an official statement issued on Saturday.

E Delhi project still incomplete, but Centre to look at 14 more

Soumya Chatterjee
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her budget speech last week, announced that the Centre will formulate transit-oriented development (TOD) plans for 14 of India's largest cities. However, one such project which is being piloted by central agencies, is yet to be completed even after a decade.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), keeping in mind the twin problems of traffic congestion and vehicular pollution in the Capital, is working on the Karkardooma TOD project — an urban planning concept in which mass transit nodes like Metro stations and bus terminuses act as a centre around which offices, residences, and public spaces are built.

The proportion of residential, commercial, and civic facilities would be approximately 70%, 10% and 20%, respectively. Over and above, 15% additional area will be developed for economically weaker sections (EWS), a DDA spokesperson said.

The authority first floated the idea of a greenfield TOD project at Karkardooma in its master plan 2021, which was released in 2007. The construction work for the project was set to start by 2016 after then lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung approved the TOD policy in February 2015.

At that time, the project was to comprise 4,800 houses and 80,000 sq m of retail space, with the tallest building being 100 storeys high.

However, the scope of the project has since been curtailed, and construction on the project, which began in December 2019, is now limited to 2,000 houses.

However, given the project's slow implementation and the absence of a commercial development component in the current phase, experts are wary of the missed opportunity to realise the maximum benefits of such a greenfield development, even as Delhi's traffic worsens.

Fulfilling criteria
NBCC, a public sector undertaking under the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA), which is executing the first phase of the project, said that a building block of 22 floors housing 498 flats built for the economically weaker section along with three civic buildings at the TOD site is ready. Further, the construction of two residential buildings will be ready by March 2025, said DDA.

"Once ready, this will be the first project in India to be developed based on TOD norms, with



Commercial buildings under construction near the Karkardooma Metro station. SANJEEV VERMA/HT

two Metro stations located within the site and the Anand Vihar ISBT and railway station in close vicinity," a senior NBCC official said, adding the entire site won't have any compound walls and can be accessed by foot from all possible sides.

Another 1,026 flats (luxury and semi-luxury 2BHKs) spread across ten towers are expected to be ready by March 2025. Of these ten towers, one will be 45 floors — slated to be the tallest building in the Capital — three will be of 33 floors, and six of the remaining towers will be 10 floors each. Along with these residential towers, NBCC is also building three civic facilities housing schools, community halls, and libraries for DDA.

Officials working at the site said the entire phase 1 of the project, including roads and utility connections to these buildings, is only expected to be ready by September 2026.

Despite the first phase having no commercial development, the DDA maintained that the launch of Phase-1 will fulfil the TOD criteria, help bring people and jobs closer to mass transit, and lead to much-needed integration of land use and transport in the city. And that it will result in compact, walkable, mixed-use developments within the influence zones of transit stations.

"This is a critical paradigm shift that can potentially improve public transit ridership, reduce vehicular congestion, and reduce greenhouse emissions and pollution in the long term. TOD is also an important strategy for unlocking the latent economic potential and land value in the city," the DDA spokesperson added without stating when the next phases of construction including the commercial development will begin.

Missed opportunity and lessons to learn

While appreciating TOD as a concept, experts question the execution of the Karkardooma project.

Rutul Joshi, senior associate professor of urban planning at CEPT University, said that ideally, TOD projects should not be undertaken by the government itself, but rather, the government should create an enabling environment by relaxing FAR norms, flexible land use rights and creating walkable areas around transit nodes.

"Ideally, transit-oriented development should be a city-wide phenomenon and not spot projects like Karkardooma. At most, the government can ensure that a certain portion of the land is reserved for greenery and open spaces. The rest of the project should be free from any bindings to the developer," he said.

Moreover, at Karkardooma, the scope of the project was chosen to be too large.

Instead, he said, a TOD should focus on plotted development where developers of all sizes are involved in an area.

Jagan Shah, CEO of The Infravision Foundation and former director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs — an autonomous MoHUA body — said that the development follows neither the ministry's advisory on transit-oriented development issued in September 2023, nor complies with its tenets such as mixed land use and compact high-density development that relies on non-motorised transport networks rather than cars.

"This is like putting the cart before the horse," he said. "Without a coherent plan, such development projects will perpetuate the arbitrariness that has characterised the development of the national capital for decades."

Other experts too have pointed out the necessity of master planning for transit-oriented development schemes to be successful. In their paper titled "Transit Oriented Development — The Idea and Its Beginnings in India" published in the India Infrastructure Report 2023, PRK Murthy and SC Deshpande, former officers at the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, said that greenfield TOD plan for Navi Mumbai along the Mankhurd-Belapur-Panvel suburban rail line in the 1970s has been a success while the plan to densify the area around the Metro Line 1 (Versova-Ghatkopar) in the same city without a proper TOD policy as part of the master plan failed.

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Install STP: DPCC to Northern Railways

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has directed Northern Railways to install a sewage treatment plant (STP) at the Tughlakabad diesel locomotive shed to prevent the flow of sewage directly into the Tughlakabad drain.

The directions have been issued as part of a report the committee submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), where DPCC said it tested water samples both at the shed and of Tughlakabad drain, finding that no diesel or other oils were being emptied into the drain directly.

The DPCC inspections were based on a plea filed by Delhi resident Gaurav Bansal last April, alleging that Tughlakabad shed pumped out "untreated engine oil" directly into drain, which is polluting the Yamuna.

DPCC, in its report dated July 19, said samples were collected both upstream and downstream of Tughlakabad drain, as well as at outlet point of effluent treatment plant at diesel shed.

"Samples were tested at the DPCC laboratory and it was observed that except Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), all other parameters were within the prescribed standards. Prime facie, the possible reason for BOD exceeding the prescribed limit is mixing of sewage with the drain water, without any treatment," said the report, adding that there is no proper sewage system in the area and the entire domestic waste being generated there is being emptied into the drain.

When contacted, Northern Railways said the process to install a new STP in the area had already begun, with a tender for installation opening in the second week of July.

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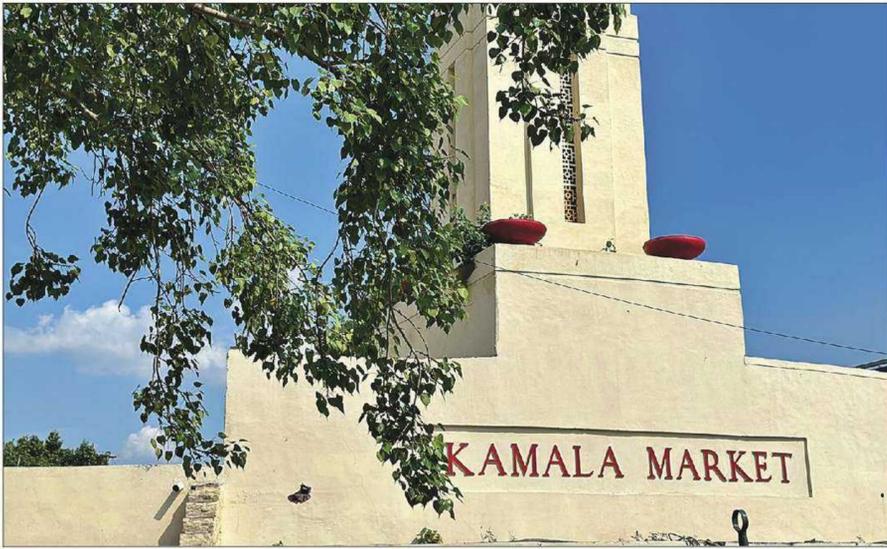
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Delhiwale

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Mayank Austen Soofi



Kamala and Kamala and Kamala

On the connection between Delhi place names and US politics

{ PUBLIC INTEREST } "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?"

Somebody famous famously asked this sometime last year. She immediately went on to answer the question herself—"You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you."

This is particularly true in the case of Delhi's place names. The names of Delhi localities didn't just drop from the sky: each of them has a backstory. Accidentally, quite a few places in our city bear the first name of the woman quoted above. Another hint: she might become the first person of Indian origin to take oath as the president of the United States of America.

Readers in Kamla Nagar will get this instantly. Irrespective of who wins the US elections later this year, Kamala Harris has already secured the support of a majority of her party's delegates.

Meanwhile the aforementioned coconut tree question of hers has spawned a million memes. Kamala Harris was actually quoting her mother, the late Chennai-born Shyamala Gopalan who, before migrating to America (and marrying a Jamaican immigrant), was a graduate student at Delhi University's Lady Irwin College.

But the many Kamalas of Delhi come from

another Kamala. And both names come from kamal, the flower.

Further digging into the Delhi-specific onomatology of "Kamala" takes you to the revelation that the Capital has over 60 institutions, landmarks and places named after the Nehru-Gandhi family that gave India three prime ministers. 17 of these are named after Jawahar Lal Nehru, 3 after his father Motilal, 13 after his daughter Indira Gandhi, 15 after his grandson Rajiv Gandhi, and 7 places are named after his wife named... you guess!

They are—Kamala Nehru College on August Kranti Marg, Kamala Nehru Ridge near Delhi University's North Campus, Kamala Nehru Park near Old Subzi Mandi, Kamla Nagar in north Delhi, Kamala Nehru Marg in Kamla Nagar, Kamala Nehru Maternity Home in Sarai Rohilla, and Kamala Market at Ajmeri Gate.

The last has a clock tower, whose long-defunct clock got repaired just a month ago. Indeed, if Kamala Harris becomes America's next president and makes a state visit to India, she ought to sight-see this market—not only because it shares her name, but because it is also truly presidential. Kamala Market was inaugurated by India's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad.

That said, the market doesn't have any coconut tree, but is ringed by very many luscious peepals, and one grand peepal has its leaves almost touching the clock tower. See photo.



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Children's theme park for Chirag Delhi

Paras Singh
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NEW DELHI: Eleven-year-old Riyalsi and three-year-old Laddu on Thursday were vying for the only functional swing in the children's section of the Millennium Park in Chirag Delhi, each taking turns to use it. But soon, thousands of children in the congested locality may get access to a dedicated children's theme park here, in place of the damaged swings and slides.

The horticulture department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has invited bids for the development of a "children's theme park" at this site, under the ambit of the rural areas development fund. The project is likely to cost ₹1.95 crore and it will be funded using funds sanctioned by the Delhi Village Development Board (DVDB). "The tendering process is



Millennium Park has barebones infrastructure at present. HT

likely to be wrapped up by July end and the park may be ready by November," a civic official said requesting anonymity.

The 'Bal Udyan' section of the park was inaugurated in April 1998 to mark the 40th anniversary of the civic body, but the play section lies in a very poor state.

Shailesh Yadav, a local guardian, highlighted the need for a better play area due to the heavy congestion and lack of dedicated spaces for children in Chirag Dilli village. "Millennium Park is the best maintained green space for the village. It has a fitness trail and open gym equipment, but the play area was meant for

kids in not up to the mark," he added.

The MCD project report states that the project involves landscaping of the areas and installation of a new series of children's play equipment like wall-holla, multi-purpose play stations and a separate section on cartoon and anime characters. "The children's theme park will host 15 sets of installations including life-sized sculptures and scenes featuring Iron Man, the Shrek film series, characters from Winnie-the-Pooh, aliens and monsters. Another section will have arch swings, wall-hollas, see-saw and multipurpose stations. A third section will feature open-air musical equipment installations like label drum, Congas, Candeza and free chimes," the official quoted above said. The project also involves the development of an office and public toilet complex.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

COACHING CENTRE

by negligence), 115 (2) (causing hurt), 290 (negligent conduct with respect to building) and 3(5) (common intention) of the BNS.

This tragedy marks the latest in a series of monsoon-related deaths in the capital, bringing the total to at least 18 this season. Other incidents include electrocutions and flooding-related fatalities, underscoring the city's struggle with inadequate drainage and infrastructure.

Hundreds of civil services aspirants who live in various PG accommodations in the area protested outside the building on Sunday, prompting the police to seal off the spot declaring it "crime scene". The protesters were demanding government officials meet them and blocked the arterial road leading to Karol Bagh metro station.

Harsha Vardhan said when senior police officers failed to convince the protesters to leave the area, they were removed from the spot.

Shreya Yadav's uncle, Dharmandra Yadav, 43, a resident of Ghaziabad, said, "She had completed her bachelor's in science from UP. She wanted to prepare for civil services and make us proud. Her father is a farmer. Her parents are in shock."

Nevin Delvin was a PhD scholar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he had completed his MPhil.

Soni's parents and friends had also gathered at the mortuary but refused to speak to the media.

The shocking incident, meanwhile, sparked a political blame game between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, which is also in power in the municipal corporation, and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with authorities ordering multiple probes into the incident.

Urban development minister Saurabh Bhardwaj accused the Lieutenant Governor of inaction against officials who failed to clean drains ahead of the monsoon, stating, "Truth of Delhi - Everyone is saying that the work of removing silt from drains and sewers in Delhi was not done properly. Due to this, there was waterlogging in entire Delhi.....a big conspiracy has been hatched against the people of Delhi."

Delhi BJP chief Virender Sachdeva demanded the resignation of the ministers concerned, saying, "Same ministers who were boasting about cleaning drains and sewers until Saturday morning are now, on Sunday, blaming officials for the lack of cleanliness."

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena ordered a probe by the Divisional Commissioner, stating the incident was "indicative of the larger malaise of misgovernance that Delhi has been subjected to". He added, "The role of coaching institutions and landlords in not ensuring basic safety of students, who pay hefty fees and rents, away from their homes needs to be looked into."

On Sunday, officials shared new details of what the victims and the survivors of the tragedy were up against. Delhi Fire Service (DFS) director Atul Garg reported that rescue efforts were hampered by waterlogging on the road outside the building. "There was no way we could pump the water out. Therefore, we had to wait till the water from the road seceded on its own before we could pump out water from the basement," Garg said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was called in at 8:25 p.m. An NDRF official described the challenging rescue operation: "The basement was approximately 12 feet deep with an estimated area of approximately 100 feet X 50 feet. It took the divers three hours to fish out the bodies of the three victims as the rescue personnel worked through

muddy water and furniture items such as almirahs, chairs and benches."

Deepak Jaiswal, deputy commandant leading the 32-member NDRF team, added, "The stairs leading down to the basement were also flooded. Our team broke open a glass enclosure, which was next to the stairs that was flooded. That was the only way to enter the flooded basement."

The tragedy brought attention the rampant violation of building bylaws in the area. Officials have stated that the library in the basement was operating in violation of rules mandating the space be used only for parking and storage purposes.

According to local residents, Rajendra Nagar and Karol Bagh areas are hubs for coaching centres where thousands of students live in paying guest accommodations, and several buildings run so-called "study rooms" in their basements.

MCD mayor Shelly Oberoi issued an order on Sunday, stating, "All such coaching centres across Delhi which are under the jurisdiction of MCD and running commercial activities in basements which are in violation of building bye-laws strict action should be taken against them immediately."

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Behran Kumar, S/o Shri Radha Krishan, R/o RZ-207, Gali No. 6, Durga Park, Sagarpur, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 407/2019, U/s 12/9/55 Delhi Gambling Act, P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Behran Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Behran Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Behran Kumar accused of FIR No. 407/2019, U/s 12/9/55 Delhi Gambling Act, P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.08.2024.

By Order
Ms. Isha Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Room No. 18, Main Building
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Hindustan Times

RED LIPSTICK GIVES ME CONFIDENCE: TANYA MANIKTALA ON LIPSTICK DAY

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Advt. No: Adm-2(4)/Rec/Cont. AIIMS-BPL/2024/6160 Date: 27/07/2024

NOTICE FOR CHANGE OF DATE OF WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF MEDICAL PHYSICISTS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS AT AIIMS BHOPAL

In continuation to the advt. No: Adm-2(4)/Rec./Cont./AIIMS-BPL/2024/6030 dated 22/07/2024 issued for engagement of Medical Physicist in the dept. of Nuclear Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal purely on Contract basis, it is hereby notified that due to administrative exigencies the Walk-In Interview shall now be conducted on 10/08/2024 (Saturday) in place of 30/07/2024. The candidates are advised to visit AIIMS Bhopal website www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in regularly for update(s).

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR
(CENTRAL TENDER CELL)
E-Procurement Tender Notice

Main Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

Tenders are invited for the Following works :-

S. No.	System Tender No./ Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	156189 First Call 16.07.2024	Construction of Govt. College Building i/c Water supply, Sanitary Fittings, Rain water Harvesting, Land Scapping work, Septic Tank & Electrification works at Thekkadhi Distt.-Rajnandgaon (C.G.) (Deposit Work).	460.25
2	156250 First Call 18.07.2024	Construction of Govt. College Building i/c Water supply, Sanitary Fittings, Rain water Harvesting, Land Scapping work, Septic Tank, Approach Road & Electrification works at Nandghat Block- Nawagarh Distt.- Betmetara (C.G.) (Deposit Work).	454.97
3	156384 First Call 18.07.2024	Construction of Family Court Building i/c Water Supply, Sanitary Fittings, Rain Water Harvesting, Landscaping & Electrification Works At Distt. - Betmetara (C.G.).	269.22
4	156350 First Call 18.07.2024	BITUMINOUS WORK ON ROADS WITHIN THE AREA OF SARONA, LENGTH 7.15 KM., DISTT. RAIPUR (DN, NO.1, RAIPUR).	269.41
5	156488 First Call 22.07.2024	Construction Of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Rahangi Nala on Rahangi-Bandhi Road.	178.88

Last Date of Tender Downloading S.No. 01 date 06.08.2024. Other Tenders Date are Schedule as date 12.08.2024. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer
(Central Tender Cell)
Office Of Engineer In Chief
P.W.D., Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar

G-242501379/6

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.
Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Letter No: 27/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 15:00 PM on 09.08.2024
- Pre Bid Meeting - 30.07.2024 till 14:00 PM
- 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, Sahasradhara 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, Sahasradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Additional Director (PPP)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Hemant, S/o Vijay Kumar R/o Jhuggi A-147, Kalyanvas Indira Camp, Near Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Kalyanpuri, East Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.00543/20 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. Madhu Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Hemant cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Hemant has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Hemant of FIR No.00543/20 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. Madhu Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.11.2024.

By Order,
Sh. Udhav Kumar Jain,
Metropolitan Magistrate-04, Room No.13,
Shahdara, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/9850/ED/2024

Tally Celebrates the Resilience and Impact of MSMEs at the 4th Edition of 'MSME Honours'

On the occasion of International MSME Day, Tally Solutions, a leading technology company innovating solutions for small and medium enterprises globally, announced the winners of the fourth edition of MSME Honours across India. It is an annual initiative to recognize businesses and entrepreneurs for their contribution to the nation's economic advancement. Supported by renowned brands like DBS Bank and myBiz by MakeMyTrip, the fourth edition of MSME Honours reached the length & breadth of the country to recognize businesses from remote and smaller regions like Unnao, Agartala, Vapi, Asansol, and Karur amongst others. This is a true testament to MSME Honours being an inclusive recognition platform and ensuring that the real impact makers across the tiers of cities, segments, and the unsung heroes driving the economy are celebrated.

In its 4th edition, MSME Honours received an overwhelming response with over 19,000 nominations globally across five different categories.

Wonder Woman: Recognizing women who have overcome challenges to establish thriving businesses, inspiring others in the process.

Business Maestro: Celebrating seasoned professionals whose expertise and resilience serve as guiding beacons for aspiring entrepreneurs, laying the groundwork for enduring success.

NewGen Icon: Highlighting startups as dynamic leaders in the business landscape, pioneering fresh solutions to age-old challenges and carving out new paths for growth.

Tech Transformer: Honoring businesses at the forefront of technological advancement, leveraging digital tools to drive efficiency and effectiveness in their operations.

Champion of Cause: Recognising businesses that have contributed towards a better purpose for global wellbeing.

The recipients from Delhi include:

- Champion of Cause:** Narendra Gupta, Styricchem Pvt Limited
- Tech Transformer:** Mahendra Kumar Nigam Janvad Times
- Business Maestro:** Sudhir Kumar, Jenome Technologies
- NewGen Icon:** Jayant Surana and Vishal Lunia, Playall Sports
- Wonder Woman:** Surabhi Dewra, CareerGuide.Com

Styricchem Pvt. Ltd., led by Narenda Gupta, stands out for its eco-friendly initiatives and energy-conserving manufacturing processes. By focusing on thermal insulation solutions, they have not only advanced industrial standards but also made significant contributions to environmental sustainability.

Janvad Times is an online platform that offers multi-category news, focusing on Uttar Pradesh. They use technology to automate the content creation process and source news articles from the web, transforming them into engaging content for users. They aim to provide comprehensive and up-to-date news coverage, catering to the needs of their audience in Uttar Pradesh.

Jenome Technologies, based in New Delhi, specializes in bioinformatics, focusing on discovery, development, and innovation. They use cloud storage for seamless information access and high-speed internet for quick data retrieval and communication, enhancing productivity. Jenome Technologies aims to unravel the mysteries of biology and drive research-based products and services.

Surabhi Dewra, a leading Indian entrepreneur and BITS Pilani alumna, transitioned from the semiconductor industry to establish CareerGuide.com, now a premier name in Indian career guidance. Recognized among India's top 25 powerful women and recipient of the '50 Fabulous Global Edutech Leader' award, actively contributed to policy frameworks and the visionary leadership has significantly shaped CareerGuide.com's success by the founder.

Playall Sports revolutionizes sports management with analytics-driven software and mobile apps, enhancing sports experiences through technology. Offering consultancy, complex management, and event organization, they bridge the gap in sports participation with accessible facilities. With ambitions to expand from 18 to 100 sports complexes and grow revenue from ₹7 crore to ₹70 crore, Playall Sports is set to transform India's sports infrastructure and accessibility.

Scan to meet all the winners.

SCAN ME

CUET results out, process for admissions likely soon

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) released the results of the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate admissions (CUET-UG) on Sunday, paving the way to start the admission process for undergraduate courses, although with weeks' delay than when the results were originally expected.

The delayed results, stemming from a broader controversy that mired the agency, are expected to push back university admissions across India, and the agency also withheld details it previously shared.

The NTA revealed that 1.13.610 unique candidates sat for the exam between May 15-29, but did not disclose the number of students achieving hundredth percentile scores in various subjects. Last year, 22,836 such scores were recorded, up from 21,159 in 2022.

This year, the agency released details about subject-wise top scorers. The highest number of full marks scorers in the CUET-UG this year were in the business studies subject (8,024), followed by political science (5,141), history (2,520), English (1,683) and psychology (1,602).

The maximum number of students appeared for the General Test (700,000) and only one candidate got full marks. Every subject has at least one full marks scorer.

"The result of candidates is in the process of being shared with the universities," the NTA said in a statement. "Candidates are advised to be in touch with the respective universities and institutions for further details."

Results after weeks-long delay

Highest scorers in BST: Over 8,200 students scored the perfect score in business studies, making it the subject with the highest scorers, followed by 5,141 perfect scorers in political science, 2,520 in history, 1,683 in English, and 1,602 in psychology

Conducted in hybrid mode: For the first time ever, CUET was conducted in hybrid mode — pen-paper and computer-based test

Postponed at Delhi centres: NTA postponed CUET-UG, scheduled for May 15, at Delhi centres to May 29, citing "logistical issues"

Retest for 1,000+ candidates: Over 1,000 students appeared for a retest on July 19 after grievances were raised over delay in distribution of question papers, amid others. Now, a merit list will be prepared by the 283 universities that participated in the exam

Merit lists will be prepared by the 283 universities that participated in the CUET-UG 2024 based on the scorecard provided by the agency and they will hold their admission counselling sessions based on this.

The NTA had on July 7 released the provisional answer keys of the CUET-UG 2024. On July 19, a retest for more than 1,000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted.

"In this duration, about 9,512 answer key challenges were received out of which 1782 were unique challenges. Candidates were also given representation through e-mails and letters. Those were also shown to the subject experts concerned. Based on their feedback and after incor-

porating the changes, the final answer keys were prepared which were used in preparing the results of the CUET (UG)-2024," a senior NTA official said, according to news agency PTL.

Candidates were given an opportunity to challenge the provisional answer key between July 7 and July 9.

The CUET-UG serves as the primary admission test for undergraduate programmes at 250 universities, including 46 central institutions such as Delhi University (DU).

Yogesh Singh, vice-chancellor of DU, announced on July 13 that the start of the first semester for undergraduate courses would be postponed. "The academic session for the first semester for the courses where admission is

through CUET-UG will likely get pushed to 16 August," Singh said. He added that other semesters would commence on August 1 as planned.

The exam was conducted in a hybrid mode for the first time this year, marking a departure from previous all-online formats.

For 15 subjects, the tests were in handwritten mode and for the other 48 subjects, the exam was held digitally.

"Akhilesh Yadav appointed Mata Prasad Pandey as leader of opposition in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Indrajit Saroj as deputy leader," PTA's chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said in a statement.

On Pandey's elevation, Chaudhary added: "He is part of PDA. The A in PDA also stands for agdey (forward castes)."

7-TIME SP MLA MATA PRASAD PANDEY IS LOP IN U.P. ASSEMBLY

HT Correspondent

letters@htlive.com

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday named Mata Prasad Pandey as his replacement to the post of the leader of opposition in the Uttar Pradesh assembly and appointed Kamal Akhtar as the party's chief whip in the House ahead of the monsoon session beginning on Monday.

The LoP post has been vacant since Yadav resigned his Karhal assembly membership after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Kannauj in the recent polls.

An MLA from Itwa in Sidharth Nagar district, Mata Prasad Pandey (81), a Brahmin, is a two-term former assembly speaker. By naming Kanth MLA Akhtar, a Muslim, as the chief whip, the SP seems to have continued with its PDA formula, which stands for *picchda* (backward), Dalits and *alpsankhyuk* (minorities).

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(With inputs from PTT)



Mata Prasad Pandey

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President appoints six new guvs, reshuffles 3

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In major gubernatorial appointments and reshuffles, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed former Union minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar as the new governor of Jharkhand succeeding CP Radhakrishnan, who will be the new governor of Maharashtra, according to a communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Both Jharkhand and Maharashtra, along with Haryana, are scheduled to go for assembly elections later this year.

The president has also appointed Gulab Chand Kataria as the governor of Punjab, replacing Banwarilal Purohit who had resigned earlier this year citing personal reasons, and announced Lakshman Prasad Acharya as the governor of Assam with the additional charge of Manipur, the communique issued late on Saturday night said. "These appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices," it added.

Acharya has replaced Kataria, who has also been appointed the administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, as the governor of Assam. "Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Sikkim, appointed as Governor of Assam and has also been given additional charge of the Governor of Manipur," the statement added.

In Manipur, Anusuya Uikye has been serving as the governor since February last year. "...Acharya Ji has devoted his life empowering the poor. He has a rich organisational & legislative experience with an excellent tenure as the Governor of Sikkim," Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on X. "I am confident he will be an outstanding Govern-

Gubernatorial reshuffle



Santosh Kumar Gangwar, a former union minister, will replace CP Radhakrishnan as Jharkhand Governor...

...and Radhakrishnan to be new Maharashtra governor

Gulab Chand Kataria appointed governor of Punjab, replacing Banwarilal Purohit

Lakshman Prasad Acharya

Appointed governor of Assam, with the additional charge of Manipur. Acharya has replaced Kataria, who has also been appointed the administrator of UT of Chandigarh

Om Prakash Mathur, a veteran BJP leader, will replace Acharya as the governor of Sikkim

nor for our state."

In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party-led state government and the Raj Bhavan under Purohit have been at loggerheads over various issues, including the appointments of vice-chancellors of state-run universities.

On Sunday, chief minister Bhagwant Mann said he will work in coordination with Kataria.

"The president has appointed the new governor. We will welcome the new governor. We will work together," Mann told reporters. The AAP leader said he respected Purohit but the latter tried to create an "atmosphere of conflict" in the state.

Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader Om Prakash Mathur will replace Acharya as the governor of Sikkim while Radhakrishnan, who was also holding additional charge of Telangana, will succeed Ramesh Bais as Maharashtra governor.

Former Union labour and employment minister Santosh Gangwar expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being appointed as the new governor of Jharkhand.

"The party has always given

me everything without asking for it. Now they have expressed their trust in me by making me the Governor. I am also grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this," Gangwar, the eight-time Lok Sabha MP from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, said.

According to the Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, former Tripura deputy CM Jishnu Dev Varma will be the new Telangana governor while former IAS officer K Kailashnathan has been appointed as Lt Governor of the UT of Puducherry.

Senior BJP leader from Maharashtra Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde has been appointed the governor of Rajasthan, succeeding Kalraj Mishra. Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma congratulated Bagde and said on X: "...Under your patronage and guidance, Rajasthan state will rapidly progress towards becoming a developed Rajasthan."

Former Assam lawmaker Ramen Deka and former Lok Sabha MP from Mysore in Karnataka CH Vijayashankar will be new governors of Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya, respectively, the communique said.

{ IN ROHTAK }

Delhi CM arrested in fake case, alleges wife

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

ROHTAK: Launching a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over her husband's arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi liquor policy, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal on Sunday said the PM sent her husband behind bars in a "fake case" and urged the people of Haryana to avenge the "insult".

Addressing Aam Aadmi Party workers in Rohtak, Sunita said Kejriwal is an honest politician but PM Modi, who she claimed was "jealous" of her husband, sent him to jail in a "fake" case. "He achieved such things

which the other parties and big leaders could never do. Kejriwal did a lot of work for the welfare of people. He (Modi) can neither improve schools nor hospitals. Kejriwal was jailed in a fake case to stop his work," she said.

In an emotional appeal to the Haryana voters, Sunita said, "I urge you to support Arvind Kejriwal in the upcoming assembly polls by ensuring victory of AAP candidates and defeating BJP nominees."

She reiterated Kejriwal's five guarantees, including free electricity for domestic units, free education and medical treatment, employment for every youth and ₹1,000 per month to every woman, if the party is voted to power in Haryana.

Jaishankar unveils Gandhi's bust in Tokyo



External affairs minister S Jaishankar pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi after unveiling his bust at Edogawa in Tokyo on Sunday.

Rahul, Kharge to meet Bengal Cong leaders to pick state chief

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge will meet a number of functionaries from West Bengal in Delhi on Monday to select the next state president since Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's tenure has ended, state leaders said.

Those summoned to Delhi include Chowdhury, former state presidents Pradip Bhattacharya and Abdul Mannan, senior leaders Deepa Dasmuni, Amitabha Chakraborty, Nepal Mahato, Manoj Chakraborty and Isha Khan Choudhury, the

party's sole Lok Sabha member from West Bengal who won the Malda South seat in the recently concluded general elections.

Mannan has informed the party that he will not be able to attend Monday's meeting because of illness.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who won Murshidabad district's Berhampore Lok Sabha seat five times since 1999, was defeated by former Indian cricketer Yusuf Pathan fielded by Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee.

All India Congress committee general secretary KC Venugopal had earlier asked state leaders to convey their opinions on the

leadership issue through e-mail or text messages. "We had all expressed our opinions. I don't know whether the top leaders want to meet us individually or collectively," Pradip Bhattacharya said.

Gandhi and Kharge have called the meeting at a time when the West Bengal Congress unit is going through its worst phase since Independence. The party has no member in the legislative assembly and its organisational strength in the districts and Kolkata have reduced alarmingly.

"Reviving the party in Bengal is a herculean task right now," Bhattacharya said.

{ DY CHANDRACHUD } CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

We have to encourage trial courts to be more receptive to the need for accommodating concerns of people who are seeking liberty

Wangchuk to resume stir if Centre fails to initiate talks

NEW DELHI: Climate activist Soman Wangchuk said on Sunday that he will launch a fast on Independence Day if the government does not invite Ladakh authorities for talks on demands for statehood and constitutional protection for the union territory. "We did not want to push the government during the elections. We wanted to give them some breathing space. We were hopeful that the government would take some steps," he said.

Doctor pursuing post graduation dies by suicide in Gaya

GAYA: A doctor, pursuing post graduation died by suicide in her hostel room in the premises of Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital (ANMMCH) in Gaya on Sunday, police said. A handwritten note and a helmet from the hostel room was recovered, probationary DySP and Magadh Medical police station house officer Anil Kumar said, adding the autopsy report will confirm if she died by suicide.

Row over students' demand for namaz in church-run college

KOCHI: A row erupted in Kerala over a section of students protesting the denial of permission to offer namaz inside the premises of a church-run college in Muvattupuzha near Kochi. The BJP and Catholic church members opposed the students protesting against the refusal of nod to hold prayers. "The students are trying to threaten the principal of the college. Extremists are behind such moves," BJP state chief K Surendran said.

{ IN RAE BARELI } BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

12 UP villages under lens for fake certificates racket

Rohit Kumar Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

RAE BARELI/LUCKNOW: Twelve villages of Salon block in Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareli district are on the radar of security agencies after anti-terror officials said they suspected a major scam related to the issue of alleged fake birth and death certificates to people across different states over the past two years.

Many of these allegedly fake documents were issued using the government's Civil Registration System (CRS) portal without filling the proper address and other details of beneficiaries, said Salon commanding officer (CO) Vandana Singh as mentioned in the complaint given by village development officer, Vijay Singh Yadav.

The matter surfaced when the National Investigation Agency (NIA) red flagged certain certi-

icates made on the addresses in some of these 12 villages after recovering certificates from some people earlier this year, said senior UP police officer, requesting anonymity, on Thursday.

The UP Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) is investigating the scam after tip-offs regarding the involvement of terror agencies.

On July 15, the Rae Bareli police registered a first information report under sections 318 (4) for cheating, 319 (2) for cheating by impersonation, 336 (3) for forging electronic record, 337 for forging a document, 338 for forgery of valuable security and 340 (2) for using forged document or electronic record as genuine, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and arrested four people, including Salon village development officer Vijay Singh Yadav, whose login ID and password were allegedly used to cre-

THE MATTER SURFACED WHEN NIA FLAGGED CERTIFICATES MADE ON THE ADDRESSES IN SOME OF THESE 12 VILLAGES

ate fake certificates.

On July 15, Yadav, approached the local police, seeking an FIR against a 24-year-old man named Mohammed Zeeshan Khan, and his father Rizwan Khan, 50, for allegedly misusing Yadav's ID and password of the online birth registration portal, said Vandana Singh, commanding officer, Salon.

"In the complaint, Yadav mentioned that Zeeshan, his father and his aide issued 25,000 to 30,000 fake online birth and

death certificates of unidentified people, who are not residents of these villages under his jurisdiction. Yadav mentioned that the beneficiaries of these fake certificates are from different states," said another police official, requesting anonymity.

The CO said Yadav was allegedly pressurising cops to register the FIR so that he could become the complainant in the scam after getting summons from the NIA for issuance of fake certificates to suspicious people from his ID and password. The cops, instead of registering the FIR, informed district authorities as it was the matter of anomalies in government procedure, he added. Subsequently, the authorities ordered probe into the anomalies by Jitendra Singh, assistant development officer (panchayat), Salon.

"As per the 39-page report of initial inquiry conducted by the

ADO, an FIR was lodged against Yadav, Zeeshan and his father Rizwan and one minor boy for issuance of 19,184 fake birth certificates on the addresses of four villages," the CO said.

"All three adults, including Yadav, Zeeshan and his father Rizwan, were arrested on July 19 and sent to judicial custody while the minor was sent to a juvenile home."

"Our team had visited Salon block and probed into the matter. We have asked district authorities to first check manually from all 12 villages how many fake birth and death certificates were issued since June 2022," said an ATS official.

Chhote Lal, son and representative of Gadi Islampur village head, Kripala Devi, said, "Gadi Islampur has a population of 3,200 and the manual verification confirmed that over 2,000 fake certificates were issued."

PM meets Manipur CM in first meeting since '23

Prawesh Lama and Smriti Kak Ramchandran
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh on Sunday, marking their first one-on-one encounter in the 14 months since the ethnic tensions in the northeastern state erupted, people aware of the matter said on Sunday.

The meeting was on the sidelines of Modi's second day of meetings with chief ministers from the party. The meeting took place at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters in central Delhi.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Singh met privately with Modi for 15-20 minutes. Union home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh were also present.

"The current situation in Manipur was discussed," the official said. "Details of the meeting may be shared in the coming days."

While neither the BJP nor the Manipur government provided official comment, the meeting's significance is underscored by the ongoing ethnic clashes that have roiled Manipur since May 2023.



PM Narendra Modi with Union home minister Amit Shah and others during a meeting with CMs and deputy CMs of BJP-ruled states at party headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday. HT PHOTO

At least 225 people have died and nearly 50,000 have been displaced in the violence between Kuki and Meitei communities. Although the intensity of clashes has diminished, tensions persist, with the two groups largely segregated in different districts, separated by security forces.

Biren Singh's visit to Delhi included meetings with other senior BJP leaders, including party president JP Nadda and several Union ministers. However, he did not share photos or details of his encounter with Modi.

A broader agenda was discussed during the two-day chief ministers' conclave. Modi used

the gathering to emphasise the government's "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) agenda, calling for coordinated efforts between central and state governments to achieve development goals by 2047.

"The Prime Minister has instructed the chief ministers to ensure the saturation of central schemes, but without changing the basic design," a second official familiar with the proceedings said. "States have been asked to utilise funds allocated to them for central schemes for 100% implementation but without enhancing or diluting the scheme."

Modi stressed the importance

of public participation in welfare measures and highlighted the government's aim to make India a \$5 trillion economy. The conclave also focused on effectively communicating development projects to the public.

"There was a discussion on the need to ensure that the political messaging about development projects is conveyed to the people, not just through the media, but social media as well," the official added.

Chief ministers Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat and Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh, along with the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, addressed strategies to achieve the economic target. Discussions included promoting tourism and employment opportunities through initiatives such as home-stays.

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, a special invitee to the meeting, outlined the role states will play in implementing the New Education Policy. However, the official noted there was no discussion of the recent controversy surrounding examination irregularities.

The conclave, attended by BJP president JP Nadda and senior cabinet members, is expected to be followed by further interactions between state and central leadership.

MODI PRAISES MATH OLYMPIAD MEDALLISTS IN MANN KI BAAT

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Indian maths team that won several medals in the International Mathematical Olympiad, held at the UK's Bath University earlier this month earned kudos from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who spoke with the six students in the 112th edition of his monthly Mann ki Baat radio broadcast.

"You have raised the glory and name of the country," he told them. The team, comprising Aditya Venkat Ganesh (Pune), Siddharth Chopra (Pune), Arjun Gupta (Delhi), Kanav Talwar (Greater Noida), Rushil Mathur (Mumbai) and Anando Bhaduri (Guwahati), won four gold medals, one silver medal and one honourable mention in results declared on July 21, securing fourth position overall.

The PM asked them how students can shed their fear of mathematics, something he said he heard often. "I believe that maths is actually an art of thinking and problem solving. And that is why I feel that if we all add a new question to mathematics... then I think it can raise people's interest," Mathur said. "Because when we are unable to understand something, we start fearing it." Both Mathur and Bhaduri stressed on the need to understand the logic behind mathematical formulae rather than memorising them by rote.

State to chart course for Viksit C'garh: CM

Smriti Kak Ramchandran
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Chhattisgarh government is crafting a new vision document to chart the course for a "Viksit" (developed) Chhattisgarh by 2047, chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Sunday, elaborating on a plan that takes cues from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) agenda.

The document, Sai said, will encompass sectors including infrastructure development, employment generation and industrial policy.

"We have begun meetings with stakeholders, we are talking to the youth, women, farmers, traders' bodies, etc, to get their feedback," Sai told HT.

The vision document, slated for unveiling on November 1—the state's formation day—will address agricultural advancement, including efficient land use, intercropping potential, increasing farmers' income, improving credit facilities and implementing precision farming techniques.

Sai said the state is drafting a new industrial policy and



Vishnu Deo Sai

reviewing investment pledges made during the previous Congress government's tenure. The BJP returned to power in Chhattisgarh in 2023.

"There were many MoUs signed during that (Congress) time, but a lot of projects did not take off because there was not enough support on the ground," Sai said. "We will set up a single window system and have a new industrial policy in place."

The state aims to scale up food processing and add value to forest produce, benefiting Scheduled Tribe communities dependent on forests for their livelihood. Sai highlighted increased remuneration for Tendu leaf collectors and diversification of Mahua use.

"Earlier Mahua was only sold,

now it is being used for making food items such as sweetmeats and pickles and during the pandemic we even used it to make sanitisers," he said.

The vision document will set short, medium and long-term goals to position Chhattisgarh as a leader in sustainability and regenerative development. Sai announced plans to double the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) from its current ₹5.05 lakh crore to ₹10 lakh crore within five years.

To boost employment, the state will review recruitment across sectors. Sai cited mismanagement in education during the Congress administration, resulting in teacher shortages in many schools. "In the education department we are planning to hire more teachers, although the student teacher ratio in the state is 21:1 which is better than the national average of 26:1," he said.

The state is also intensifying efforts to counter insurgency through initiatives like the "Niyad Nella Nar" (Your Good Village) scheme. The programme links Maoist-affected villages to welfare schemes and provides infrastructure development.

{ **DRONE MANUFACTURING** } HIKE OF 37.5%

Centre increases incentives to boost production

Neha LM Tripathi
neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The central government has increased the amount of business incentives to boost drone manufacturing in the country by as much as 37.5% to ₹165 crore to be spent over three years, two officials said.

"The government is focused on making India a drone hub by 2030. It is working hard towards the goal and has till date established 109 training organisations, issued 10,603 remote pilot certificates, 22,943 unique iden-

tification numbers for registered drones and 67 DGCA-approved type certificate for drone models," one of the officials said.

The production-linked incentive scheme for drones and drone components was notified on September 30, 2021, to promote local industry, reduce import dependency and generate employment. It had an initial outlay of ₹120 crore for three years, which has now been increased significantly.

The federal budget presented on Tuesday showed the incentive scheme will receive a higher

THE CENTRE PLANS TO MAKE INDIA A HUB FOR DRONE MANUFACTURE BY 2030 THROUGH RELAXED RULES AND INCENTIVES

allocation of ₹57 crore in the current financial year compared to ₹33 crore in 2023-24. The higher allocation is in sync with government's plan to make India a hub for drone manufacture by 2030.

India plans to become a leading global drone centre by 2030 with relaxed rules and incentives to support this goal, the Economic Survey 2023-24 said. Recent updates include more training centres, remote pilot licenses, registered drones and approved drone models by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the sector regulator.

"While the impact of drones in civil space is immense, its use in the defence space is critical, as India works to keep its borders safe," a second official said. Both officials declined being named.

There are over 400 startups in the field, they said. Extending the scheme will allow more companies to join in and benefit. This scheme will boost local production, the officials said.

"A lot more needs to be done to expand usage of drones and an increase in allocation is in the right direction. The government needs to ensure that a substantial portion of it is aligned to local manufacturing, encouraging operations or training facilities," said Mark Martin, CEO and founder of Martin Consulting, an aviation advisory firm.

Faisal Malik
faisal.malik@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Chetan Tupe on Sunday shared the stage at an event in Pune with NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar and several other Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders, setting off speculations about his possible switch to the senior Pawar-led rival faction ahead of the crucial assembly polls in Maharashtra.

Tupe, the Hadapsar MLA, however, clarified he was invited to the event, which was "non-political" in nature. "The programme was organised by the Satara Zilla Mitra Mandal. They invited me to attend the event," Tupe told reporters.

Maharashtra will go to assem-



Chetan Tupe

bly elections later this year.

The contrasting fortunes of the parties led by Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls—the former won eight of the 10 seats it contested as part of the MVA while the NCP lost all but one of the four seats it contested in the ruling Mahayuti

alliance—have fuelled speculations of NCP leaders switching over to the rival faction.

Former NCP MLC Babajani Durrani on Saturday announced he was returning to the NCP(SP), claiming Ajit Pawar's party did not fit "ideologically" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Last week, NCP legislator Narhari Zirwal's son Gokul attended the NCP(SP)'s convention in Nashik. On Sunday, Zirwal skipped the party meeting convened by NCP state chief Sunil Tatkar in Nashik. Tatkar, however, said: "Zirwal was not expected to attend the meeting as he is holding a meeting in his constituency." He stressed all NCP MLAs were with the party.

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HT's report on the day the Bhabha-Nagpal deal heralded a new irrigation era for India

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA, MAHARASHTRA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, Kolhapur

PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 13/2024/25

Under "Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Part-II, in Kolhapur District Talukas- Ajara, Chandgad, Radhanagri, Bhudargad, Kagal, Gadhinglaj, Shahuwadi, Panhala and Hatkanangale Estimated cost of Rs. 22496.32 Lakhs for Total 5 Packages, 39 Works Tenders Published on the website <https://mahatendres.gov.in> dated 29/07/2024 from 11.00 am.

Sd/- (Sanjay B. Katkar) Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Kolhapur
Sd/- (Maithili Zanjurne) Superintending Engineer PMGSY, Pune Region Pune
DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 1266

MAHARASHTRA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA, Solapur

PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 16/2024/25

Under "Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Part-2, in Solapur District Talukas- Akkalkot, Barshi, Mangalwedha, Malshiras, Mohol, North Solapur, Sangola, and South Solapur Estimated cost of Rs. 51358.15 Lakhs for Total 9 Packages, 73 Works E-Tender Notice No. 16 /2024-25 is Published on the website <https://mahatendres.gov.in> dated 29/07/2024 from 11.00 am.

Sd/- (D. D. Pardeshi) Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Solapur
Sd/- (M. A. Zanjurne) Superintending Engineer Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pune Region, Pune
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Letter No:649 e-Tender Notice Date: 27/07/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

e-Tender No. & Name of work: 07/2024-25/EE(C-M)/Vyasi Project, "Balance Slope Protection Work near Potheadyard and Balance Shotcreting work in Backslope at Hathiyari Power House, Vyasi HEP (120MW), Dehradun".

Estimated cost: Rs. 11837572.30 (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 29-07-2024 From 17:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of bids on website: 20-08-2024 Upto 17:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)
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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF EXCISE AND TAXATION

TAXATION PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- Applications are invited for the above post from the interested candidates.
- 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".
- 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.
- No person shall be appointed or continue as Chairman of the Tribunal, if he has attained the age of sixty seven years.
- 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

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORK

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Works), Mumbai Division, Western Railway Mumbai-400008 invites Tender No: EPC_MMCT_Snt_04_R Dated 25.07.2024 Work and location: Provision of Automatic Block Signalling based on EI and MSDAC in Udhna- Jalgaon (306 route km, 37 stations, 36 Block Sections) section of Mumbai Division of Western Railway. Approx. cost of work: ₹331,00,16,953/- EMD: ₹16550100/- Tender Closing Date Time: on 03.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. The tender can be viewed at website www.irfeps.gov.in 0393

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown found unconscious on 19.06.2024 at 09:40 PM Gate No. 2, Safdarjung Hospital, Out Side Delhi. He was admitted hospital to MLC No. 758760/24 during treatment dead. In this regard DD No. 87 A, dated 19.06.2024 has been lodged at Police Station Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. Identification of unidentified male is as under:**

Name: Unknown, Age: 50 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Unknown.

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

SHO
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
DP/9913/SW/2024 Ph.: 011-24106347, 7065036232

Navy chief sets up task force to review SOPs after warship fire

Shishir Gupta
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the fire accident on board the INS Brahmaputra on July 21, navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi has set up a special task force (STF) under Naval Headquarters to review the safety, security and standard operating procedures of the Indian Navy, according to people aware of the matter. Headed by a Rear Admiral, the STF is expected to submit its report in the next 60 days.

While the navy remains tight-lipped about the incident, Admiral Tripathi has given his preliminary assessment about the INS Brahmaputra fire incident to defence minister Rajnath Singh after his visit to the accident site on July 23, the people cited above said. The Prime Minister's Office and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) have also been briefed about the fire on the warship at Mumbai Naval Dockyards.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a high-level meeting with the armed forces on January 13, had made it clear that he wanted accountability for all accidents and laid stress on the maintenance of expensive naval platforms, the people said. He had conveyed to CDS General Anil Chauhan and then navy chief Admiral K Hari Kumar that before the Indian Navy acquires new platforms, it should ensure that all the present platforms are kept fighting fit. Modi had also expressed concern over wasteful expenditure due to laxity in some instances. Taking the PM's instructions in mind, Admiral Tripathi had sent a three-page confidential message to the entire navy on June 4 highlighting the need for safety on ships.

INS Brahmaputra, a 3,850-tonne guided missile frigate built at the cost of ₹450 crore, was undergoing a major refit at the Naval Dockyards (since February 2024) when a section of vessel caught fire. While a Board of Inquiry has been



INS Brahmaputra at the Mumbai naval dockyard. ANI

set up to examine the accident and fix accountability, people aware of the matter indicated that the fire happened while welding was going on in one of the sections below the deck. One sailor lost his life and two others were injured in the fire, which started on the evening of July 21 and was extinguished on July 22, by when the vessel had listed at a 45 degree angle on the port (left) side. At the time of the incident, the vessel was in the harbour and under the Western

Naval Command, and the firefighting operations were coordinated by the same command. Navy chief Tripathi rushed to Mumbai as soon as the fire on the ill-fated frigate was doused and was at the accident site for inspection. While the Naval Headquarters and the defence minister have got a prima facie assessment of the accident, the STF will examine the existing procedures to prevent fire, flooding and grounding of naval platforms, and suggest innova-

tions to plug existing gaps.

The STF will also review the safety, security and organisation across the navy and make recommendations to the Naval Headquarters. This will include auditing equipment, personnel, training and standard operating procedures on the safety front, and examining naval bases on the security front.

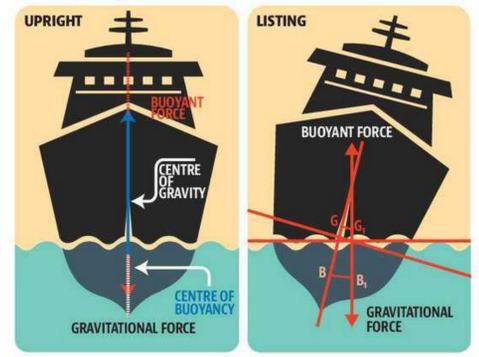
People aware of the matter said that the STF has also been given the mandate to examine and recommend guidelines to tackle sabotage, and existing and emerging threats.

While it is likely to take at least two months to get the frigate to dry dock from the current position, the defence minister and the navy chief are concerned about accidents at Mumbai Naval Dockyards in the past decade, the people said. In December 2016, INS Betwa, a Brahmaputra-class frigate, slipped on the dock blocks in a freak accident while undergoing repairs in the Mumbai dockyard.

{ INS BRAHMAPUTRA }

What caused the warship to tilt at naval dockyard?

The physics of flotation



NEW DELHI: The warship INS Brahmaputra, which caught fire last week and where a sailor has died, is now resting on its side at the Mumbai naval dockyard after having listed towards port, or the left side as viewed by someone facing the front of the ship. Listing refers to a ship tilting under the influence of internal forces, as opposed to heeling in which external forces such as winds cause this.

So, what causes a ship to list? The intuitive answer is that a ship tilts (whether listing or heeling) when something has disrupted the factors that were keeping it upright. Those factors lie in the domain of classical physics at a very fundamental level, taking us back to Archimedes and Newton.

When an object is submerged in a liquid, it is subjected to two forces. One is a gravitational force, acting downwards and equal to the object's weight; the other is a buoyant force, acting upwards and equal to the weight of the water displaced by the object. The two forces are equal and opposite. This is the Archimedes principle explained with Newtonian concepts.

The dynamics of floating — and tilting — involve several variables in addition to these two forces, and a complete graphical representation would require several points of varying significance. The mechanics can, however, be kept simple by looking at just the two equal and opposite forces and two points: the ship's centre of gravity (a point at which we imagine the ship's weight to be concentrated) and the centre of buoyancy (the centre of the volume of water displaced by the ship). In an upright ship (see illustration), these two points lie on the same vertical line — and it is along this imaginary line that the gravitational force acts downwards passing through the centre of gravity, and the buoyant force acts upwards passing through the centre of buoyancy.

A ship tilts when either or both of these two points are displaced. If it is a case of listing, it begins when there is a change in

the distribution of weight across the ship, which shifts the centre of gravity towards the weightier side. This sets off a chain of dynamics that shifts the centre of buoyancy, seeking to realign it vertically below the centre of gravity's new position (see illustration).

It should be mentioned that a ship can stay afloat even after listing, remaining in equilibrium in its new position if uncomfortably so. Trouble could begin, however, if the wind or waves shift the centre of buoyancy even further, because now the forces of gravity and buoyancy would together tend to rotate the ship.

The general question to ask, therefore, is: will the rotation of the centre of gravity and the centre of buoyancy bring the ship back to the upright position, will it tilt the ship more and more towards the horizontal, or will the list be so high that the ship will eventually keel over?

"If the rotational motion brings the ship back to the vertical position, the ship will become stable. If it makes it more and more inclined, it becomes unstable and may go down," said Professor Amol Dighe, a physicist at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

The situation could get complicated even further if the ship is partly filled with water. If the listing is caused merely by the shifting of cargo from one part to another, the ship can be brought

back upright by redistributing the weight and restoring the centre of gravity to its original position. Water, on the other hand, has been known to contribute to extreme listing.

As reported by HT earlier, the Navy has suggested that water used to douse the fire on the INS Brahmaputra may have caused the warship to list. And over a century ago, it was seawater that caused the Titanic to list one way and then another before sinking.

After the hull of the Titanic struck an iceberg in 1912, seawater entered and flooded six compartments that lay under the surface on the starboard side (the right side when you are facing the front). This caused the ship to list on that side. Once these compartments at the front were flooded, the water rose to decks above and sought routes to flow through. The starboard passage, however, was partially blocked, so, much of the water rushed through the port side. The ship then listed towards port before ultimately sinking.

If the listing of the INS Brahmaputra was indeed caused by water, it could explain why setting it upright has been difficult. "If some solid metal had been placed on the starboard or right side, you could just take it and move it to the left side, and the centre of gravity would shift. But water, being a liquid, would be much more difficult to move, I think," Dighe said.

{ GREENPIECE }

Preparedness is key to curb urban flood losses

Bharati Chaturvedi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: This is the season for new kinds of floods — Urban floods, in cities as diverse as Delhi and Indore, Mussoorie and Agartala. We know the most likely reasons: poor planning, trying to overrule natural systems such as lakes, smaller rivers and water slopes and ridiculous levels of private micro-infrastructure, such as private driveways that finish off the road drainage system. And all of this is exacerbated by extreme weather events, including intense rain, thanks to climate change.

What astounds me is that no city seems prepared for any part of this, despite the last few years. Simple steps that are almost commonsense seem to be missing. Cleaning drains in April, widening drains, ensuring drains along roads exist, are clean. Perhaps putting a mesh to prevent

large pieces of plastic choking the drain. And then, ensuring simple water percolation from every home into the ground. Ensuring parks can become water sinks, and of course, reviving water bodies. Perhaps harder is the idea of stopping construction that fractures the flow of water, and asking for a retro-plan, incentivizing this with a tax rebate. We haven't seen any of this at any significant scale. What we do have is a list of vulnerable points in some cities. How does that help?

Lack of preparation is costing innocent lives. Come September and every city flooded in the last 4 years should get to work on preventing floods in 2025 with publicly announced milestones and budgets. Indians cannot live with Business as Usual.

(The writer is the founder and director of Chintan International Research and Action Groups)

Khap leaders demand ban on live-in, same-sex relationships

Sunil Rahar
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ROHTAK: Representatives of nearly 300 khaps from northern states on Sunday passed resolutions seeking bans on live-in relationships, same-sex relationships and same-sex marriages, apart from demanding explicit parental consent for love marriages.

The khaps across northern India will "launch an agitation" if their demands are not met, they said.

The resolutions were passed during the Sarv Jatiye Sarv Khap Sammelan (all-caste clan meet) at Danoda village of Jind district in Haryana, where the khap heads formed a 51-member-committee, led by Binain Khap chief Raghubir Nain, to hold dialogue with the Union government.

"We have seen many married

We have seen many married women and men staying in live-in relationships with other men or women and this is a dangerous trend.

RAGHUBIR NAIN,
Binain Khap chief

women and men staying in live-in relationships with other men or women and this is a dangerous trend. Their children suffer the most because of their parents' acts. We urge the government to ban live-in relationships, marriages in the same village, with neighbouring villages and within a gotra

(sub-clan). We have also sought that parental consent be made mandatory in love marriages. If the government fails to accept our demands, the khaps of northern states will launch an agitation," he told the media, adding that they are "not against love marriages."

"But such marriages should be solemnised with the consent of the parents," Nain added. Chahal Khap president Balbir Singh added that the khaps have also demanded action against parents who solemnise child marriages.

He also said that the khaps have urged for the government's recourse on rising cases of drug abuse, environmental issues and severe action towards demanding of dowry in marriages.

The khap leaders also condemned incidents of "honour killings".

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MOHAN dass Bhojwani S/O Dault Ram R/O C-66 3rd Floor Shakti Nagar extension Ashok Vihar Ph-3 Delhi 110052. Have changed my name from Mohan Das to Mohan Dass Bhojwani for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. VIMLA W/o Shri Babu Lal R/o House No.7, Block-A, V.P. Singh Camp Railway Colony, Tughlakabad, South Delhi-110044, have wrongly written my name as Bimla Devi and Bimla in the records of LIC Policy Nos. 126281866 and 123720883. My correct name is Vimla as in my all documents. Bimla Devi, Bimla and Vimla is the same person.

KAUSHIK Gautam Dutt S/o Sh. Chandra Dutt Kaushik R/o D-001, Pioneer Araya, Sector 62, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001 have changed my name to Gautam Kaushik for all purposes vide an affidavit No. GOA20178989 sworn before notary Gajraj Khatana dated 02 Feb 2017. Gautam Kaushik and Kaushik Gautam Dutt is same and one identical person.

DHEERAJ Kumar S/o Ramjeet Sharma R/o 5381, Plot No-15, Gali-11, Saraswati Colony, Setapur, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, have changed my name from Dheeraj Kumar to Dhireaj Sharma for all future purposes.

IDINESH Singh Sahrawat H/o Ritu Chaudhary, R/o B-87/L, New Colony Palwal, hereby declare that our Daughter's Name is Akshita Sahrawat and the same to be used for future.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. ABHIJEET Kumar Mukherjee S/o Sh. Prashant Kumar Mukherjee R/o Royal Nest N2-802, Tech Zone-4, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201308 have changed my name to Abhijeet Mukherjee for all future purposes.

I. RAVAN Narula S/o Sh. Prashant Narula R/o F-3, Pajam Dabri Road, Shivvini M S S School, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 declare that Ravan and Ravan Narula are the one and the same person.

LOST & FOUND

I. DEVENDRA Kumar Gupta S/o Sheela Prasad Gupta R/o B-303, 3rd Floor, Kesariwani Cooperative Group Housing Society, Plot No. 4, Dwarka, Sector-5, New Delhi-110075 Have Lost Original Property Document Share Certificate No. 2106 / Book No. D / Dated 2.07.1998 in the Name of Devendra Kumar Gupta Register Member No. 128. Finder Please Contact at Above Address or Mob. No. 9873240365

I. ABHIJEET Kumar Mukherjee S/o Sh. Prashant Kumar Mukherjee R/o Royal Nest N2-802, Tech Zone-4, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201308 have changed my name to Abhijeet Mukherjee for all future purposes.

I. RAVAN Narula S/o Sh. Prashant Narula R/o F-3, Pajam Dabri Road, Shivvini M S S School, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 declare that Ravan and Ravan Narula are the one and the same person.

DHEERAJ Kumar S/o Ramjeet Sharma R/o 5381, Plot No-15, Gali-11, Saraswati Colony, Setapur, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, have changed my name from Dheeraj Kumar to Dhireaj Sharma for all future purposes.

IDINESH Singh Sahrawat H/o Ritu Chaudhary, R/o B-87/L, New Colony Palwal, hereby declare that our Daughter's Name is Akshita Sahrawat and the same to be used for future.

IDINESH Singh Sahrawat H/o Ritu Chaudhary, R/o B-87/L, New Colony Palwal, hereby declare that our Daughter's Name is Akshita Sahrawat and the same to be used for future.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE FOR INTENDED MARRIAGE
We, **ABHAY SHARMA** S/o Anil Sharma R/O BB, Flat No. 102, Ground Floor Vishwakarma Colony, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044 and **KEISHAM SANDHYA DEVI** D/o Keisham Birbal, Singh R/O M.G. Avenue, Thangal Bazar, P.O. Imphal, P.S. City, Imphal, West Manipur-795001, hereby inform that a marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, is intended to be solemnized between us after one calendar month from the date hereof in the Office of the Marriage Officer, Imphal, Manipur.
Dated: 25.07.2024

ABHAY SHARMA S/o Anil Sharma R/O BB, Flat No. 102, Ground Floor Vishwakarma Colony, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044 and **KEISHAM SANDHYA DEVI** D/o Keisham Birbal, Singh R/O M.G. Avenue, Thangal Bazar, P.O. Imphal, P.S. City, Imphal, West Manipur-795001, hereby inform that a marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, is intended to be solemnized between us after one calendar month from the date hereof in the Office of the Marriage Officer, Imphal, Manipur.
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दिल्ली सरकार

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Repair work is to be done by the Public Works Department on Sarita Vihar Flyover

Ashram to Badarpur (Half Carriageway) will be closed for repair work from 29.07.2024 to 12.08.2024

Route Diversion Plan (Phase-1)

PHASE-1 (TRAFFIC WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORK)

ROAD CLOSED FOR TRAFFIC

PHASE-1

LEFT LOOP-1

RIGHT LOOP

UNDER PASS

OKHLA EAST STATE MARG.

{ RAMESHWARAM CAFE CASE }

NIA charge sheet to name five accused arrested in blast case

Neeraj Chauhan

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will soon file a charge sheet in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, naming five arrested accused—including key planner Abdul Matheen Taha and bomber Mussavir Hussain Shazib—and detailing the conspiracy, people familiar with the development said.

The federal agency is also likely to send a letter rogatory (judicial request) to the UAE to get more information about the main handler of the March 1 blast in Bengaluru, who is known by his codename "Colonel" and is said to be operating from Abu Dhabi, the people said.

"A comprehensive charge sheet against the suspects will be filed very soon detailing the entire conspiracy, motive and role of each individual in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast," a senior officer said, without giving an exact date.

So far, five people — Taha (main planner), Shazib (bomber), Muzammil Shareef (conspirator who provided logistics such as SIM and cellphones), Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Shoaib Ahmed Mirza — have been arrested in the case. They are said to be associated with the Islamic State (IS) "Thirithahalli module", named after the town in Shivamogga district from



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at the Rameshwaram Cafe ahead of its reopening after the blast, in March.

where they operated. On March 1, a bomb went off at the busy Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru prompting a multi-agency probe. A preliminary probe zeroed in on a man who left an unidentified bag near the cash counter. The CCTV footage showed the suspect, now identified as Shazib, carrying a backpack, wearing a full-sleeved shirt, cap, facemask, and spectacles, travelling in a bus in Tumakuru on the day of blast.

Police recovered a battery and a timer from the blast site, indicating the explosion was premeditated. Taha and Shazib were arrested from a lodge near Kolkata in West Bengal on April 12 after a 42-day nationwide hunt by multiple agencies.

Further probe revealed that Taha was in touch with an

online handler codenamed "Colonel" and it was Shoaib Ahmed Mirza, arrested in May, who had introduced them. According to NIA, Mirza was convicted in a 2012 Lashkar-e-Taiba case and after being released from jail in 2018, he came in contact with Taha.

"In 2018, he had befriended and introduced Taha to an online handler suspected to be abroad. Mirza had further provided an e-mail ID for encrypted communication between the handler and Taha," an NIA spokesperson said in May.

Taha and Shazib were previously part of a 20-member Al-Hind module, according to NIA. The module, led by Bengaluru-based Mehboob Pasha and Khaja Moideen from Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu, which

operated from Pasha's Al-Hind Trust office at Guruppanpalya in Bengaluru, had planned to establish an IS province inside the jungles of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In order to understand how to survive deep inside forests, they even bought books on notorious sandalwood smuggler Veerappan.

Their plan was to target/murder Hindu religious and political leaders, police officers, government officials and some high-profile individuals all over India and then retreat to the forest without getting noticed, NIA said in its charge sheet in the Al-Hind module case in July 2020.

NIA's probe in the Al-Hind module case revealed that its members even participated in protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in different cities.

Pasha, according to NIA charge sheet, was receiving instructions from an online handler called "Bhai" (brother). It is suspected that "Bhai" and "Colonel" are the same person.



READ: Cafe blast: Accused on state police radar since 2020

SRINAGAR RECORDS HIGHEST DAY TEMP IN 25 YRS AS REGION SIZZLES UNDER HEAT

Ashiq Hussain

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: Srinagar on Sunday recorded the highest temperature in 25 years at 36.2°C, according to India Meteorological Department data, continuing the heat spell that has seen the typically temperate and pleasant climate in Kashmir taking a beating this summer that has smashed heat records elsewhere in India as well.

The meteorological observatory in Srinagar logged a maximum temperature of 36.2°C, while the Qazigund and Kukernag weather stations saw highest ever day temperatures of 35.6 and 34.1 degrees, respectively. The temperatures were above normal by 6.3, 7.7 and 8.7 degrees, respectively, at the three stations, indicating a severe heatwave.

Sunday's temperature in Srinagar was the highest July temperature since 1999, said Mukhtar Ahmad, director of the weather office in the capital city. The all time highest maximum temperature in July is 38.3°C on July 10, 1946, second highest of 37°C on July 9, 1999, third highest of 36.6°C in 1997 and the fourth highest of 36.2°C on Sunday, Ahmad said.

The valley has been witnessing drought-like conditions this month with the dried riverbed of Jhelum becoming prominent at many places. Hundreds of men and women in central Kashmir's Budgam gathered to march, some of them barefoot, towards the shrine of a Sufi saint praying for rain.

At India House, Nita Ambani bats for India to host Olympics

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani, and Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated the India House at the Paris Olympics on Saturday. The event was attended by Ambassador of India to France Jawed Ashraf, BCCI secretary Jay Shah, and 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medalist Abhinav Bindra.

"At India House, we welcome the world to experience the beauty, diversity and rich heritage of India in the heart of Paris. We will also showcase our art and culture, song and dance, technology and tradition and Indian food and



Nita Ambani

Bollywood music," Ambani said.

"Today we gather here at the Paris Olympic to open the doors to a dream, a dream that belongs to 1.4 billion Indians. A dream to bring India to the Olympics and our shared dream to bring the Olympics to India."

She added that the day is not far when India will host the Olympic

Games. At the IOC session in Mumbai last year, India had expressed their desire to host the Games in 2036.

"It is time that the flame, which was first lit in Athens, lights up in our ancient land, India. The day is not far when India will host the Olympic Games. May this be our collective resolve at the opening of the India House," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashraf, said, "We are witnessing the opening of a spectacular India House, the first ever in the history of Olympics. Congratulations and a big thank you to Mrs Ambani and Reliance Foundation."

India House, conceptualised by Reliance Foundation as part of its partnership with IOA, offers an immersive experience in Indian culture, arts, sports and gastronomy.

Shivakumar defends K'taka decision to rename Ramanagara

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar has defended the state government's decision to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South, arguing that the state capital's name is a brand that "should be capitalised on" to fuel growth, even as opposition parties accused the Congress of trying to undermine the region's religious heritage.

"HD Deve Gowda and HD Kumaraswamy came here from Hassan, divided it from Bengaluru, and gave it a different name," Shivakumar said on Saturday in Bengaluru, referring to the history of the district's original formation.

The district was carved out of Bangalore Rural district in 2007, when the state was governed by the Janata Dal (Secular), or JD(S), with HD Kumaraswamy as chief minister.

Kumaraswamy has led the opposition against renaming the district and said he will go on a "fast unto death" if the move is not rolled back.

"Shivakumar, aspiring to be



DK Shivakumar

CM, wants to be remembered as the one who changed Ramanagara's name and endear himself to Vokkaligas," Kumaraswamy said on Sunday.

The Karnataka cabinet on Friday gave its approval to rename Ramanagara district. However, senior ministers said the district's existing talukas—Ramanagara, Magadi, Kanakapura, Channarayana, and Harohalli—will remain unchanged.

Shivakumar also clarified that Ramanagara City will continue as the district headquarters.

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) MP Pralhad Joshi said that the Congress party opposes "Ram," which is why they have renamed Ramanagara district.

ROW OVER 'DOG MEAT': OFFICIAL SAYS MEAT FROM 'SPECIAL GOAT USED'

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: After allegations of suspicious meat transport to Bengaluru by right-wing vigilantes, food safety commissioner K Srinivas clarified on Sunday that it was from a special breed of goat found in Rajasthan and Gujarat, even as his department ordered an inquiry into the matter.

The Food Safety and Standards Department said the meat samples collected on Friday night, after chaos erupted at KSR railway station when Hindutva activists alleged that a vendor was supplying dog meat, were sent to a lab for testing.

"The meat, at the outset, was not of a dog but is of a special breed of goat, Sirohi, which is largely found in Rajasthan and Kutch-Bhuj areas of Gujarat," K Srinivas, the commissioner of food safety, said on Sunday. "There were no signs of dog meat in the samples," he added.

Food safety officials have, however, collected meat samples for testing. The commissioner said strict legal action will be taken if any instances of mixing other meat were found.

{ HEALTH MIN INITIATIVE FOR STREET FOOD VENDORS }

'Vendors to be brought on delivery platforms soon'

Rhythmia Kaul

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union health and family welfare ministry is working to help bring street food vendors on food delivery platforms, people familiar with the matter said, adding that the move is aimed at helping vendors expand their customer base as well as keeping track of quality.

The development is in line with Union health minister JP Nadda's recent direction to the food regula-

tor, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), to focus on empowering street food vendors by "enrolling them on food delivery platforms to increase their reach to the consumers". He also urged "these platforms to support street food vendors by providing user-friendly technology solutions without imposing a financial burden".

The proposal to bring street food vendors on food aggregator platforms has been in the works for some time, and officials con-

cerned have been looking at ways to enable the process.

On July 20, the FSSAI conducted a training and awareness programme for street food vendors in New Delhi. The regulator will provide innovative 'Street Safe' rapid testing kits to all vendors in a phased manner, especially those who attend trainings to ensure that safe food is used by the street food vendors across the country.

Highlighting the importance of street food in India, Nadda directed FSSAI to waive off the

registration fee for vendors, "to encourage vendors and promote more and more registrations."

The government's idea has been to make traditional street food safe for people to consume. As part of a larger long-term initiative, the Centre is building 100 street food streets in several districts in the country. Furthermore, in the Union Budget 2024-25, a proposal has also been made to develop 100 weekly "haats" or street food hubs in select cities. "This initiative aims to invigo-

rate local economies and enhance the street food experience, further contributing to urban development and community engagement," the health ministry said in a statement.

The government has been working on a project to offer quality street food to people which is also healthy and hygienic to eat. The aim has been to have at least one such street in every Lok Sabha constituency or maybe a district where people get to find healthy food options.

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OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Work together for governance

The Supreme Court looking into grievances against governors by Bengal and Kerala underscores a long and unseemly tussle

The Supreme Court's decisions to scrutinise the actions of the governors of Kerala and West Bengal to delay assent on Bills for several months or years has once again put the spotlight on the unseemly tussle between Raj Bhavans and elected state governments. Kerala told the Supreme Court that seven Bills were stuck with Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, with two pending for 23 months, another two for about 15 months, and three for 10 months. West Bengal said eight Bills were pending with Governor CV Anand Bose, six of them since June 2022, and the other two for the past eight months. Unfortunately, this has now become the norm in some states, particularly those ruled by the Opposition parties whose governments find themselves at loggerheads with governors picked by the Centre. Such face-offs are not unprecedented — the debate around the powers of the governors and the role of the Union government in controlling them is at least 50 years old and the earliest instance of overreach came in 1959, when the Congress-run Union government dismissed the Left administration in Kerala.

The recent intensity and frequency of animosity outlines the stress this puts on India's federal structure. The breakdown of the relationship between state governments and governors spans a string of states, ranging from Punjab and Bengal to Kerala and Tamil Nadu, whose governments are opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party. At stake is not only smooth functioning of the state but also everyday governance matters.

This is an untenable situation. The Constitution clearly defines the role of the governor, the extent of her relationship with the state government, and her discretionary powers. The governor is imagined as a guardian of the state, a moral figure of authority who will work in consonance with the elected government for better administration. Raj Bhavans need to be aware that they have to work within the bounds set by the Constitution and not as political offices. Such action lowers the authority of the position and creates avoidable complications in governance. At the same time, state governments must accord due respect to the office of the governor and not turn every disagreement into a political spectacle. Both sides need to step back from their aggressive stances. At a time when a clutch of new governors have been appointed, such efforts at improving mutual understanding will augur well for India's democracy.

The history lesson in the nod for Moidams

The inclusion of the Charaideo Moidams of Assam in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco)'s World Heritage List is a significant moment not just for Indian soft power but also the country's history. The announcement of the inscription of the 700-year-old burial mounds and shrines of the Tai Ahom dynasty that ruled large tracts of modern-day Assam from the 12th to the 19th century couldn't have come at a better time given India is hosting the ongoing session of the World Heritage Committee that decides on these inclusions. Inscriptions are not just an acknowledgment of the overwhelming value of a property to humanity but also signal member-states' collective intent to conserve it, and represent a big win for the jurisdictions housing them.

That said, the larger import of the decision is more inwardly directed. It compels a harder look at those facets of the country's history that are in need of greater acknowledgment in its historiography. The tales of the Ahoms' long reign, till recently, largely remained confined to the state. The Moidams held special importance for the Ahoms, who shifted capitals along the Brahmaputra Valley at different points of time, but came back to the necropolis to bury members of their royalty and aristocracy. The Unesco nod blends the Moidams into the broader discourse on Indian heritage and, thus, could end up stoking not just tourism interest in the site but also interest in the Ahoms and other regional histories from across the country that are waiting to be mainstreamed.

Greed isn't good for the planet's survival

India is treading a path that strikes a fine balance between economic development and climate action, in collaboration with the rest of the world

The Western model of development told us "greed is good". This thought argued greed is an important fuel to drive industries, keep the economic engines of the modern economy well-oiled, and consumer sentiment buoyant. This acceptance of greed as a necessary fulcrum of economic growth and prosperity has brought us to a point where despite understanding that the main cause of the climate crisis is overconsumption, there is a mad rush to overconsume at a time when the only way to save the planet is to find ways to reduce and reuse. The Economic Survey 2023-24 extends an imperative understanding of this key issue.

It points out that even as developed nations are gearing up to impose a carbon tax on imports coming into their countries laden with carbon, they are ramping up energy demand driven by their obsession with letting artificial intelligence (AI) take over natural intelligence. Meanwhile, we are being told

through multilateral bodies and experts that climate mitigation is the way forward. This implies avoiding and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in order to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures. This approach fails to accord the same importance to biodiversity loss and land degradation. All of these factors impact the quality of life not just for humans but also for our co-habitants on the planet.

As a climate-vulnerable country, India has a greater need for adaptive strategies in agriculture and conservation efforts to save lives and livelihoods.

India has, therefore, taken a nuanced stance that we must look at climate change through our own lens and not be dictated by those who are historically responsible for the problem and refuse to put a check on their consumption patterns. We are treading a path that strikes a fine balance between economic development and impactful climate action in collaboration with the rest of the world.

If India accepts greed as good and overconsumption as a pivot for prosperity, focusing our energy on ways to consume more, the world is doomed. The climate fight has to move beyond finding ways to limit the Earth's temperature rise to 1.5°C or 2°C and adjust the climate budget. It has to address the complex rela-

tionships between climate, human welfare, and ecological diversity.

In that regard, India has also shown the way. We have been a nation where technology and science have flourished even as nature is worshipped. Mission LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment, addresses the question of greed versus need. The concept envisioned by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is a road map to making pro-planet choices in a way that people live quality lives without hurting nature. A techno-

centric approach, which creates a value system that is centered on technology and its ability to control the environment, lacks the basic understanding that no artificial mechanism can control the natural flow of life. Efforts to address climate change must thus focus on devising ways that ensure the natural flow of life is not disrupted. For that to happen, we have to live environmentally friendly lives.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 draws our attention to data that shows how addressing consumption patterns is imperative to sustenance. One key data which has caught many by surprise says making one toilet roll uses 1.5 pounds of wood, 37 gallons of water and 1.3 kWh of power. The Global South has sustainable practices that avoid this consumption. Yet, increasingly and worryingly, we find the former making its way into our lives.



Bhupender Yadav



Despite the realisation that the main cause of the climate crisis is overconsumption, there is a mad rush to consume even more

HT PHOTO

Amid this crisis, India stands as a beacon of hope. Despite being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India's annual per capita carbon emission is only about one-third of the global average.

We have successfully reduced our emission intensity vis-à-vis our GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial NDC target for 2030, 11 years ahead of scheduled time. We also achieved the target of having 40% of electric installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources nine years ahead of the deadline (2030). Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity, of which around 80% is attributed to non-fossil fuel based. On the global stage, our contribution to climate action is consistent with the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, creation of LeadIT, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States, and Big Cat Alliance.

India believes all these efforts are cures, and while they are important to address (reflected in India's cli-

mate action measures), it is the cause that needs to be looked at closely. The cause is overconsumption without a care for consequences, believing technology will take care of the fallout. The Indian way of life is seeded with the principles of moderation. Mission LIFE is PM Modi's clarion call for the world to follow. Under this philosophy, the Modi government has initiated a noble drive — Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam — to plant a sapling in the name of our mothers. So far, 16,60,52,178 trees have been planted. The campaign has been initiated to inculcate environmental sense in people by encouraging them to plant saplings and nurture them as they grow into trees, just like a mother nurtures a child.

Only by respecting nature can we learn to live with nature and not overpower it. We cannot continue to find technologies to sustain our lifestyle. We must change our lifestyle.

Bhupender Yadav is Union minister for environment, forests, and climate change. The views expressed are personal

{ GRAND STRATEGY }

Happymon Jacob



Should states have a stake in foreign policy?

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) recently pulled up the Kerala government for appointing a secretary in charge of "external cooperation". Kerala surely has no business appointing a "foreign secretary" (as some media reports suggested), nor does it have the constitutional mandate to engage in foreign relations. But, the controversy is an opportunity to revisit the debate on the slow but growing influence of the states on India's foreign relations since the 1990s, thanks to economic liberalisation and coalition governments.

The makers of the Constitution were clear that states have no role in the realm of foreign policy, and foreign affairs, international law, foreign trade, and citizenship matters were placed on the Union list. Therefore, these are exclusively within the jurisdiction of Parliament, as per Article 246(1). Under Article 253, Parliament enjoys exclusive and complete authority to legislate on such matters. And, unlike the Canadian, Swiss, and German Constitutions, where provinces are allowed to engage in foreign affairs within certain restrictions, our Constitution does not allow such subnational engagement. As for foreign economic relations, Article 293(1) places territorial limits on the borrowing power of the states, implying their non-access to foreign loans on their own accord.

Yet, an increasing number of states have been pushing the boundaries since the 1990s. For instance, states with proactive leadership and greater industrial bases have been at the forefront of subnational, foreign-trade-related diplomacy. Narendra Modi, as Gujarat's chief minister (CM), started Vibrant Gujarat to showcase the state's economic potential. Its success inspired other states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan to undertake similar initiatives.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu has long been a key player in his state's foreign economic engagement. In April 2015, he led a high-level delegation to China on the Centre's behalf. Earlier this year, Telangana CM Revanth Reddy attended the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos and signed new investment deals of ₹40,232 crore.

States such as Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have also approached the World Bank directly for development loans. In 1997, Andhra Pradesh became the first state to receive a structural adjustment loan directly from the World Bank.

In 2017, the Centre approved guidelines to allow "financially sound" states to borrow directly from the bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) partners for vital

infrastructure projects. The same year, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority approached the Japan International Cooperation Agency for loans for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project, which it subsequently received.

Today, several Indian states have WTO cells as well as NRI cells. While Punjab has a department of NRI affairs, Kerala, since 1996, has had a department of non-resident Keralites affairs (NORKA), for grievance redressal both in India and abroad. Even though states are proactively negotiating with foreign entities, they are not allowed to establish their own offices in foreign countries or place officials in the Indian embassies abroad.

The Centre has also made attempts to consult states on foreign policy. In 2000, the then Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government established the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, which recommended "that for reducing tension or friction between States and the Union and for expeditious decision-making on important issues involving States, the desirability of prior consultation by the Union Government with the Inter-State Council (ISC) may be considered before signing any treaty vitally affecting the interests of the States regarding matters in the State List." It has not been implemented.

The arrival of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 had created hopes that the states would have a larger influence on foreign policy matters. In October 2013, Modi had said "India is not just Delhi. The foreign policy should be decided by the people and not by some politicians sitting in Delhi." In November 2015, he said, "In a break with over 65 years of tradition, we have involved states even in foreign policy. The ministry of external affairs has been asked to work with the states." He was referring to the States Division that was established within the MEA in 2014 to facilitate meetings of Indian officials with foreign delegations in India and abroad. In 2017, the then external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj tweeted, "We'll set up 'Videsh Bhavan' in all state capitals. These will be one-stop centres to provide all facilities given by various MEA departments". This proposal has not yet been implemented. The closest institutional mechanism to that is the existing MEA branch secretariats in cities like Hyderabad and Kolkata, which have limited mandate.

While, unsurprisingly, the States Division does not include state representatives, the ISC, which could have helped states air concerns, has become dysfunctional. In the post-liberalisation political and economic context outlined here, the controversy over the Kerala government appointing a secretary in charge of matters concerning external cooperation is a needless one. It should restart conversations about how to creatively involve Indian states in matters of foreign policy.

Happymon Jacob teaches India's foreign policy at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and is the founder of the Council for Strategic and Defence Research, a New Delhi-based think tank. The views expressed are personal

{ GEORGIA MELONI } PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY

We want to relaunch our bilateral co-operation (with China). We will both work to experiment with new types of collaboration, too

On her first official visit to China since dropping out of the Belt and Road Initiative



{ STRAIGHTFORWARD }

Shashi Shekhar



Globetrotter who used his capital for local good

Educationist and activist Virendra Singh, more popular as Virendra Sam or Uncle Sam, passed away last Tuesday at his daughter's house in the United States (US). His mortal remains were brought back to his village in Bulandshahr, and last rites performed there in keeping with his wishes. Sam adored his birthplace and had left everything in the US to return to his village, Bichola. His tale is interesting and inspirational. I had the pleasure of spending a delightful evening and a rejuvenating morning with him almost ten years ago.

That evening, Sam shared his love of hockey, which he had played since childhood, and which had transformed his life. His team was once playing against the Aligarh Muslim University team, when the vice-chancellor of Punjab University noticed Sam, then known by his given name Virendra Singh. The vice-chancellor told Sam he could get him an admission into the engineering college at Bhiwani if he played for Punjab University. Sam accepted the offer. He soon got an opportunity to play a hockey match in Manchester. The professional approach of the West he noticed during that match, left an indelible impression on Sam. After finishing his engineering degree, he worked for a period at DCM, after which he got admission to the University of Minnesota in the US, where he earned a master's degree in textile engineering. This set off the transformation of Virendra Singh, the rustic youth from Bulandshahr, into "Sam".

The transformational era of the 1960s needed spirited youths like Sam to take it forward. Sam eventually started working at Du Pont. Married by then, his wife and he welcomed two daughters into their lives. By this time, the family had blended in with the American society. Sam was always full of energy and vigour, instilled in him by hockey. In no time, he rose through the ranks to head operations for all of Asia and eventually to the company's chairmanship. Few Indians in the corporate sector attained such prominence in the Cold War era. It was amid such success in the US, in 2000, that Sam decided to return to his village. The decision took his family, coworkers, and even people in his village by surprise. The question all had was: Why?

Sam had succeeded in life, but a worry nagged him. Often during company board

meetings, the CEO would draw attention to tragedies in India, such as a boat capsizing somewhere or a train derailment, or a stampede, and everyone at the meetings would observe silence as a mark of respect to the victims. The frequency of such instances disturbed Sam and he increasingly yearned to see change. One day he decided, if someone had to take the initiative, it was I. Sam quit his job, moved to his village, and started the Pardada-Pardadi Educational Society.

There is an old saying, "Havan karte haath jale", which roughly translates as facing ill consequences for trying to do good. His initiative had teething troubles in getting students to his institution. A common response he got from parents when he tried to get girl children in particular to be educated was, "Babuji, I need to marry off my daughter. I will not teach her so much that she becomes a collector." But his hockey experience had taught Sam patience, which he used to great advantage. In the first year, his school got only 45 girls to enrol. Today, about 4,000 girls study there. Each girl gets free uniform, three meals a day, books and transportation. Additionally, ₹10 is transferred into their accounts every day. These girls are promised employment and get training according to their interests.

This organisation has helped thousands of girls in Anupshahr and nearby areas to become self-reliant over the past 24 years. The organisation includes more than 7,000 women who are learning how to produce incense sticks, pickles, and sanitary pads. Earnings from the sale of these products go into their accounts. That evening, Sam led us to Anupshahr, where his society runs a drinking water ATM on the banks of the Ganga. Dozens were getting water for twenty-five paise per litre. When I asked why he charged for drinking water, Sam explained, "Freebies are not respected anywhere in the world. I offer water worth ten rupees for twenty-five paise, not to make a profit, but to guarantee that people value and conserve it." This practical approach to conservation seemed novel to me. Sam may be gone, but he will be remembered by the thousands of families whose lives his efforts changed. Do people like Sam ever really die?

Shashi Shekhar is editor-in-chief, Hindustan. The views expressed are personal

{ SANJAY MALHOTRA } REVENUE SECRETARY

'Budget '24 is an exercise to simplify the tax regime'

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government is making efforts to simplify the tax regime and treat all asset classes similarly for taxation, revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra said in an interview with Hindustan Times. This principle has been applied when the budget proposed to remove indexation from the long-term capital gains in real estate, he said. Edited excerpts:



long-term capital gains regime by removing indexation. Why? Is the government trying to extract more from real estate transactions?

First of all, it is a simplification. There is one rate for all assets. I don't understand as to how the government is trying to extract more from real estate when given from securities, you know, the tax rate is the same 12.5%. It's the same across all asset classes.

The Economic Survey has expressed concerns about rising short-term investments such as futures and options in the stock market. Do you think that more tax measures are required to curb this?

F&O trading in India and the world is high. Whether it is a matter of concern from a systemic point of view, I do not think so. But certainly, like lottery or other sin goods, if some people are indulging in this excessively, then that is not good for them and for the country generally.

and tax rates have been reduced. So, all these are done keeping the interest of the middle class in mind.

The tax rate has been reduced only for the new regime. People opting for the old regime with exemptions have been given nothing.

It is the stated policy of the government to move away from exemptions and deductions. That's why whatever tax tweaks have been done, they are done only in the new tax regime.

If that is the stated policy, why not to abolish the old regime now and move to the new tax regime?

We want to encourage people to move to the new regime on their own rather than removing the old tax regime.

There is a perception that the middle class has not been given enough in the budget. Is it true?

I think there is enough in this budget for the middle class. First of all, on the expenditure side, a lot has to be done — on employment, on skill upgradation and on education. MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), which are again connected with the middle class, have a number of schemes.

By removing indexation, the factoring in of inflation is removed.

There is no factoring in of inflation in others such as in interest earnings. There is no factoring in of inflation in salary income. There is no factoring in of inflation in shares. We have removed indexation from all. And, there is the benefit for those who are investing in houses. If they invest the proceeds (only the capital gains from the sale proceeds) in another house, there is no tax. This benefit is not there in shares. Here, you sell the share to buy another share, you still pay capital gains tax.

There is a general perception that people moving to the new regime may not be compulsorily opt for savings schemes or life insurance policies.

That's why this new tax regime is there, where people can take their own investment decisions, whether they want to invest in a pension scheme, whether they want to invest in provident fund or insurance scheme or in equities.

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The budget tweaked the

Similarly, on the taxation side also there are a number of measures. Three of them are standard deductions for salaried and pensioners have been increased, deductions have been increased for family pensioners,

SCHOOL TEACHER SUSPENDED FOR SNIPPING HAIR OF 15 STUDENTS

Press Trust of India
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HYDERABAD: A government school teacher in Telangana's Khammam district was suspended after she chopped off the hair of 15 male students as she felt it was long, officials said.

The incident took place in Kalluru mandal on Saturday and the English teacher has been placed under suspension pending enquiry, education department officials said on Sunday. The teacher trimmed the hair of nearly 15 students of class 8,9 and 10 in the school premises, they said.

The students who were upset over the haircut, complained to their parents who in turn staged a protest in front of the school.

"It is not the job of teachers. If the students are irregular and if they were indisciplined, she could have informed their parents," the official said.

The teacher said she resorted to the action after repeatedly warning the students.

BJP hits out at Opposition for politics over Niti Aayog

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

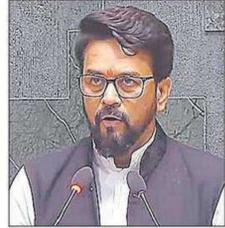
CHANDIGARH: BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Sunday hit out at the opposition party-ruled states for skipping the Niti Aayog meeting, accusing them of playing politics. He asserted that the Niti Aayog platform is for discussion, feedback and policy-making.

Several chief ministers representing the opposition INDIA bloc parties skipped the Niti Aayog meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 27.

It included chief ministers of Congress-ruled states Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Telangana. Besides, the chief ministers of Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Kerala also stayed away from the meeting.

Thakur alleged that they were trying to use the Niti Aayog platform to play politics.

"We had been in the opposition and at that time it was the Planning Commission. Our



Anurag Thakur

chief ministers used to go and put forward their issues," he said. "Do the elected representatives of the states want to keep themselves away from this system just to do politics?" asked the former Union minister.

We have seen the same in Parliament in the last few years, he said, adding that the opposition only wanted to create a ruckus.

Replying to a charge by Chief minister Bhagwant Mann that the Union Budget "ignored" Punjab, Thakur said, "It is a

Union Budget. In it, the detail according to each state is not given. "Rubbishing the charge of opposition parties, Thakur said that no discrimination took place against any state in the Budget.

On the death of three students in Delhi due to flooding in the basement of a coaching centre, Thakur slammed the AAP government in the national capital, asking if it is the Arvind Kejriwal model.

"Today what they have done to Delhi? Three youths drown in the basement in the national capital. Is it the Arvind Kejriwal model? Is it the AAP model," he asked. "Ask the families who lost their children. What they are going through," he said.

The UPSC aspirants -- two females and a male -- lost their lives as they were trapped inside the library running in the basement of the Old Rajinder Nagar-based Rai's IAS Study Circle, which was flooded due to rain in the national capital on Saturday.

WOMAN, HER NEPHEW DIE BY SUICIDE IN U.P.

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

GONDA: A woman and her nephew died by suicide by jumping in front of a moving train in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda on Sunday, apparently upset over opposition to their relationship, police said.

The woman, a widow, lived with her two children at her in-laws' house and was reportedly in a relationship with her nephew, SHO of Itiyathok police station Durgvijay Singh said, adding their families were against the relation and wanted to get him married somewhere else.

The duo, reportedly upset over the opposition to their relation, died by suicide by jumping in front of a train near Kathuwa railway crossing on Sunday, police said. The woman is survived by an eight-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter.

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MANU BHAKER

From the first shot of the final till the last on Sunday, Manu remained within the top three, signing off with the bronze and a score of 221.7. She was on the cusp of silver when Kim Yeji shot a spectacular 10.5 to jump ahead by 0.1 point and limit Manu to bronze. Koreans Yeji (241.3) and Oh Ye Jin (243.2, an Olympic record) took silver and gold respectively.

The sight of an Indian shooter on the Olympic podium is rare, the kind not seen entirely in Tokyo three years ago and at Rio in 2016. Manu's is the first Indian medal in shooting since the 2012 London Games, where Vijay Kumar (silver) and Gagan Narang (bronze) brought home a couple. The 22-year-old from Haryana is the fifth shooter from the country to medal at the Games, and the first woman.

"I'm so grateful that I could break the chain and get this medal," Manu said.

The chain was broken in more ways than one. Indian shooting had been weighed down for the two previous Olympics. Manu

herself was a shadow of herself in the immediate aftermath of Tokyo. The wonderkind with the pistol in hand had turned woeful and weary. Results stagnated; confidence crashed. The post-Tokyo backlash made her realise public memory is short, having long forgotten her teen triumphs at the 2018 Youth Olympics and 2018 Commonwealth Games.

She yearned for all of it again. The joy she found in shooting, however, wasn't much the same. Manu took a step back, paused, and hit reset. That meant going back to competing in the juniors, and reuniting with her long-time coach Jaspal Rana.

Manu approached these Games without a tunnel-visioned mind, taking online violin classes in the months leading up to it and just being herself as a person. It was a lesson learnt from Tokyo, when she went a bit too deep into her shell. That was cracked, and out came an Olympic medal.

"If I didn't have that lesson in my life, maybe I wouldn't be here today," Manu said. "So I'm glad that at such a young age, in my first Olympics experience, I learnt

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

the kind of things that people take years to learn."

In three years, Manu went from dejection to redemption. That was the hope Indian shooting carried into these Games, and Manu's medal has infused that feeling again around the contingent in Chateauroux. Rifle shooter Elavenil Valarivan, who minutes ago had narrowly missed out on qualifying for the women's 10m air rifle final and sat expressionless on her chair, couldn't stop smiling from the stands later watching Manu grinning away. Fellow shooters and officials walked around with words of optimism of this being the start.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Manu Bhaker and congratulated her on her medal win too — a gesture she greatly appreciated.

But she's not done yet.

Manu is competing in two more events here — the 10m air pistol mixed team on Monday and the individual 25m pistol. "I have many more matches to shoot," she said.

And perhaps more images to create.

JAISHANKAR, BLINKEN

added. Jaishankar started his visit to Japan by unveiling a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Edogawa ward. He arrived in Tokyo from the Laos capital of Vientiane, where he attended several Asean-related meetings.

On Monday, the Quad foreign ministers' meeting is expected to assess work being done by working groups in a wide range of areas and discuss arrangements for holding the Quad Leaders Summit, which will be hosted by India this year.

The Quad foreign ministers are expected to take forward cooperation in key areas such as infrastructure, supply chains, connectivity, research, counterterrorism, maritime security and humanitarian and disaster responses.

They are also expected to discuss cooperation with Indo-Pacific countries and institutions on a positive agenda that responds to the region's pressing challenges.

The dates for the Quad Leaders Summit are yet to be fixed, mainly because of US administration's preoccupation with the presidential election in November and

domestic political problems being faced by Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

The four members of Quad — India, Australia, Japan and the US — are reportedly exploring the possibility of holding the summit on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September. However, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is set to hold its internal presidential election in September. The people said there is also the possibility that the summit could be held after the US presidential election in November.

BHAKER, HER FAMILY

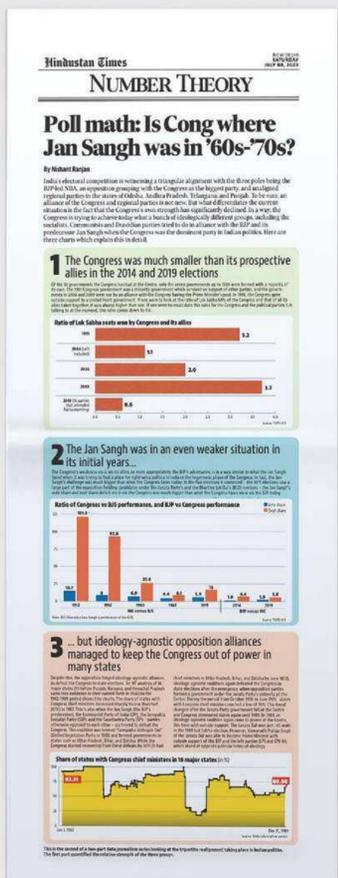
Tokyo Olympics. But Paris, he said, will inspire India's aspiring shooting stars.

"It will inspire over 20,000 shooters in India, who are training hard to win a medal for the nation in the Olympics," he said.

And just like Manu, her parents aims are already upward and, with some hope, upward.

"She has two events remaining and I hope she wins gold in both," said Ram Kishan.

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Israel vows to hit Hezbollah after rocket kills 12 in Golan

Iran warned Israel that any new military 'adventures' in Lebanon could lead to 'unforeseen consequences'

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

MAJDAL SHAMS, GOLAN HEIGHTS: Thousands of mourners attended funeral ceremonies on Sunday for the 12 children and teenagers killed by a rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights as Israel vowed swift retaliation against the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

Israel blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing a Falaq-1 Iranian rocket but the Iran-backed group — which has regularly targeted Israeli military positions — said it had "no connection" to the incident.

It said, however, that it had fired one such rocket on Saturday towards an Israeli military target in the Golan.

The rocket fire in Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze, prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return early from the United States. Upon arrival he went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, his office said.

He said "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before".

The Israeli foreign ministry said Hezbollah had "crossed all red lines".

Risk of wider conflict
Western powers, including France, Germany and Britain, condemned the attack and appealed for calm.

The European Union called for an independent probe into what happened.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was every indication that the rocket, which hit a sports field where children were playing football, had been fired by Hezbollah and said Washington stood by



Mourners from the Druze minority community surround the bodies of some of the 12 children and teens killed in a rocket strike at a football field in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, on Sunday. AP

Israel's right to defend itself.

But he said the US did not want a further escalation of the conflict, which has seen daily exchanges of fire between the Israeli military and Hezbollah along the border.

Britain expressed concern at further escalation while Egypt said the attack could spill "into a comprehensive regional war".

Hezbollah has said its cross-border fire is an act of support for Palestinian Islamists from Hamas who have been fighting Israel's military in Gaza since October 7 when they attacked southern Israel.

That attack resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Militants also seized 251 hos-

tages, 111 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 39 the military says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 39,324 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, which does not provide details on civilian and militant deaths.

Funerals held

On the ground, families gathered for funerals in the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights, territory captured from Syria by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in a move not recognised by most countries.

Members of the Druze faith, which is related to Islam, Christianity and Judaism, make up more than half the 40,000-

strong population of the Golan Heights. Large crowds of mourners, many in traditional high white and red Druze headwear, surrounded the caskets as they were carried through the village. "A heavy tragedy, a dark day has come to Majdal Shams," said Dolan Abu Saleh, head of the Majdal Shams local council, in comments broadcast on Israeli television.

It was not immediately clear if the children and teenagers killed in the strike were Israeli citizens, but Israeli officials have vowed retaliation. In Majdal Shams, many residents have not accepted Israeli nationality since Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967.

"The rocket that murdered our boys and girls was an Iranian rocket and Hezbollah is the

only terror organization which has those in its arsenal," Israel's foreign ministry said.

Hezbollah on high alert

Two security sources told Reuters that Hezbollah was on high alert and had cleared out some key sites in both Lebanon's south and the eastern Bekaa Valley in case of an Israeli attack. Lebanon's Middle East Airlines said it was delaying the arrival of some flights from Sunday night to Monday morning, without stating why.

Lebanon has asked the US to urge restraint from Israel, Lebanon's foreign minister Abdallah Bou Habib told Reuters. Bou Habib said the US had asked Lebanon's government to pass on a message to Hezbollah to show restraint as well.

{ U.S. PRESIDENTIAL POLLS }

Trump, Harris enter final 100-day election stretch

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES: Donald Trump labelled Vice-President Kamala Harris a "crazy liberal," while she vowed to prevail over his "wild lies" as both laid out presidential campaign attack lines on Saturday with just 100 days left until election day.

After earlier addressing a bitcoin conference in Tennessee, Trump rallied supporters on Saturday evening in Minnesota, seeking to make the historically Democratic midwest state into a battleground. "This November, the American people are going to reject Kamala Harris's crazy liberal extremism in a massive landslide," the Republican told the crowd assembled in a hockey arena.

He quickly took aim at several positions Harris took during her 2020 Democratic primary campaign, some of which she has since walked back, such as a desire to ban fracking or majorly overhaul the criminal justice system.

Calling Harris a "radical left lunatic," Trump also hammered her and President Joe Biden's record on illegal immigration, inflation and crime — all of which saw significant spikes during their term but have returned to historical averages in recent months.

In his 90-minute speech, the populist billionaire also repeated pledges to "have the largest deportation effort" in US history and end taxation of tips, while repeating unfounded allegations that his 2020 election loss had been "rigged."

Meanwhile, Harris on Saturday held a fundraising event in Massachusetts with celebrity guests including singer-songwriter James Taylor and cellist Yoyo Ma. "We are the underdogs in this race, but this is a people-powered campaign," she told the crowd at the event, which her campaign said would net \$1.4 million.

"Donald Trump has been resorting to some wild lies about my record. And some of what he and his running mate are saying, well, it's just plain weird," she said.



Donald Trump and Kamala Harris AP, REUTERS

Won't have to vote after this election, Trump tells Christians

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told Christians at an event in West Palm Beach, Florida that if they vote for him this November, "in four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good, you're not gonna have to vote".

It was not clear what the former president meant by his remarks, in an election campaign where his Democratic opponents accuse him of being a threat to democracy, and after his attempt to overturn his 2020 defeat to President Joe Biden, an effort that led to the insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. REUTERS

Harris' rating rises

Kamala Harris has seen a boost in her favourability rating since Joe Biden's decision to drop his re-election campaign, an ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted on July 26-27 showed. Her rating rose to 43% from 35% a week ago, according to the survey based on a random national sample of 1,200 US adults.

HARRIS RAISES \$200MN IN FIRST WEEK TO BUILD UP WAR CHEST

WASHINGTON: Vice-President Kamala Harris raised \$200 million in the week since she entered the 2024 presidential contest, highlighting the surge of enthusiasm among Democrats for their new presumptive nominee and helping to counter a Republican blitz that saw Donald Trump pull ahead in the money race.

Harris' campaign announced the tally on Sunday, with communications director Michael Tyler characterising it as a "record-shattering haul". The campaign said 66% came from first-time donors.

The latest figures expand the \$81 million she raised in the first day after President Joe Biden's exit — an amount the campaign called the largest 24-hour fundraising of any candidate in history.

Over 170,000 volunteers have also signed up to help the Harris campaign with phone banking, canvassing and other get-out-the-vote efforts. Election Day is 100 days away.

"The momentum and energy for Vice-President Harris is real — and so are the fundamentals of this race: this election will be very close and decided by a small number of voters in just a few states," Tyler said. AGENCIES



Edna O'Brien GETTY IMAGES

{ EDNA O'BRIEN }

IRISH LITERARY GIANT, WHO WROTE 'THE COUNTRY GIRLS', DIES AT 93

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: Edna O'Brien, Ireland's literary pride and outlaw who scandalised her native land with her debut novel "The Country Girls" before gaining international acclaim as a storyteller and iconoclast that found her welcomed everywhere from Dublin to the White House, has died. She was 93.

O'Brien died on Saturday after a long illness, according to a statement by her publisher Faber and the literary agency PFD. "A defiant and courageous spirit, Edna constantly strove to break new artistic ground, to write truthfully, from a place of deep feeling," Faber said in a statement. "The vitality of her prose was a mirror of her zest for life: she was the very best company, kind, generous, mischievous, brave." She is survived by her sons, Marcus and Carlos.

O'Brien published more than 20 books, most of them novels and story collections, and would know fully what she called the "extremities of joy and sorrow, love, crossed love and unrequited love, success and failure, fame and slaughter." Few so concretely and poetically challenged Ireland's religious, sexual and gender boundaries. Few wrote so fiercely, so sensually about loneliness, rebellion, desire and persecution.

Khamenei officially endorses Pezeshkian as Iran's president

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave on Sunday his official endorsement of Masoud Pezeshkian as the Islamic republic's ninth president, following snap elections won by the reformist camp's candidate.

In a message read by the director of Khamenei's office, he said: "I endorse the vote (for) the wise, honest, popular and scholarly Mr Pezeshkian, and I am appointing him as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

The new reformist president is due to be sworn in before parliament on Tuesday.

The endorsement ceremony was held in the capital Tehran in the presence of senior Iranian officials and foreign diplomats, and broadcast on state TV.

It took place as banks and most government offices were ordered shut nationwide on Sunday to tackle an extreme heatwave.

Following the event, acting president Mohammad Mokhber handed over official responsibilities to 69-year-old Pezeshkian. Later on Sunday, Pezeshkian appointed reformist Mohammad Reza Aref, 72, as his first



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (centre) gives a Presidential decree to new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, during an endorsement ceremony in Tehran, Iran on Sunday. REUTERS

vice-president, according to an announcement carried by state TV.

Aref has represented Tehran in parliament and served as first vice-president and communications minister under Iran's last reformist president Mohammad Khatami, who held office from 1997 to 2005.

Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon and parliament member for the northwestern city of Tabriz since 2008, was Khatami's health minister.

On July 5, the reformist candidate won a run-off race against the ultraconservative

Saeed Jalili to replace president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Pezeshkian secured more than 16 million votes, or about 54% of the roughly 30 million ballots cast.

Turnout in the run-off election stood at 49.8%, up from a record low of about 40% in the first round, according to Iran's electoral authority.

Jalili attended Sunday's ceremony, as did former moderate president Hassan Rouhani who had backed Pezeshkian's presidential bid along with Iran's main reformist coalition.

Maldives President Muizzu thanks India, China for support

BEIJING/MALE: President Mohamed Muizzu has thanked India and China for helping strengthen Maldives' fragile economy, highlighting the importance of the two countries in addressing the nation's looming debt crisis and its future development. China and India provide the most assistance in repaying the country's debt. President Muizzu said on Friday at an event held to mark the 59th anniversary of the country's independence. PTI

Mobile internet connection restored in violence-hit B'desh

DHAKA: The mobile internet connection was restored in Bangladesh on Sunday, 10 days after it was shut down by the authorities to stop the spread of fake news on social media amid the unrest over reforms in the quota system in government jobs. Users of Robi, Grameenphone, Banglalink and other operators in Dhaka said they could access the internet through their phones, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. PTI

Putin warns the US of Cold War-style missile crisis

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday warned the United States that if Washington deployed long-range missiles in Germany from 2026 then Russia would station similar missiles in striking distance of the West. The US will start deploying long-range fire capabilities in Germany in an effort to demonstrate its commitment to Nato and European defence, the United States and Germany have said. REUTERS

Mudslide kills at least 15 people in China

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: Fifteen people were killed after a mudslide hit a homestay house in a tourist area in southeastern China on Sunday as heavy rains from what remained of a tropical storm drenched the region, state media said.

Elsewhere in China, a delivery person on a scooter was killed on Saturday after being hit by a falling tree in Shanghai, apparently because of storm-related winds, according to The Paper, a digital news outlet.

The deaths were the first in China that appear linked to Typhoon Gaemi, which weakened to a tropical storm after making landfall on Thursday. Before reaching China, the typhoon intensified monsoon



A mudslide destroyed a house in Yuelin village of Shouyue town of Hengyang city, central China's Hunan province on Sunday. AP

rains in the Philippines, leaving at least 34 dead, and swept across the island of Taiwan, where the death toll has risen to

10, authorities said late on Saturday. The mudslide struck the homestay house after 8am

(local time) and trapped 21 people in Yuelin, a village under the jurisdiction of Hengyang city in Hunan province, state broadcaster CCTV said in a series of online reports.

About 30 centimetres of rain was recorded in the area over a 24-hour period.

Six injured people were rescued and taken to a hospital for treatment, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The media reports didn't say whether the injuries were serious.

The one-storey house offered food and accommodation near Hengshan, a mountain in a scenic area where tourists come on weekends to escape the summer heat, a report by The Paper said. The scenic areas had been closed starting Sunday because of the rains until further notice, even before the mudslide.

35 KILLED AS PAK TRIBAL FEUD SPARKS SECTARIAN CLASHES

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: A land feud between tribes in northwestern Pakistan has spilled over into days of sectarian fighting with machine guns and mortars, killing 35 people so far, officials said on Sunday.

The Sunni Muslim Madagi and Shia Mali Khel tribes have been fighting since Wednesday, when a gunman opened fire at a council negotiating a decades-long dispute over farmland, local police official Murtaza Hussain said.

While no one was wounded in that attack, Hussain said it reignited longstanding religious tensions between the clans who live side-by-side in the district of Kurram on the border with Afghanistan. "Initially a land dispute, the issue has now escalated into sectarian violence," Hussain told AFP, confirming the conflict "claimed 35 lives" so far.

"The government and local leaders are attempting to halt the fighting through jirgas (tribal councils), but have not yet succeeded," he said.

Venezuela votes in shadow of 'bloodbath' warning from prez

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

CARACAS: Venezuelans voted on Sunday between continuity in President Nicolas Maduro or change in rival Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia amid high tension following the incumbent's threat of a "bloodbath" if he loses, which polls suggest is likely.

Polls suggest the vote poses the biggest threat yet to 25 years of "Chavismo", the populist movement founded by Maduro's predecessor and mentor, Hugo Chavez.

With several international observers blocked from entering the South American country at the last minute, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called for all parties to "respect the democratic process".

"The Venezuelan people deserve an election that genuinely reflects their will, free from any manipulation. The international community is going to be watching this very closely," Blinken told reporters in Japan.



Voters wait to cast ballots at a polling station during the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela, on Sunday. BLOOMBERG

Long queues of voters formed at several voting stations hours before polls opened at 6:00am (local time). AFP journalists observed. Polls closed at 6:00pm. "I have been here since 4:30 in the morning, and I hope it will be a successful day," lawyer Griselda Barroso, 54, told AFP in Caracas. "I hope there is democracy."

Maduro, 61, is accused of locking up critics and harassing the opposition in a climate of rising authoritarianism.

He is seeking a third six-year term at the helm of the once wealthy petro-state that saw GDP drop 80% in a decade, pushing more than seven million of its 30 million citizens to emigrate.

UltraTech's India Cem deal heats up battle with Adani

The co buys 32.72% in India Cements, plans open offer, denying target for Adani

Anirudh Laskar
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MUMBAI: Cement wars kicked into high gear on Sunday with industry leader UltraTech Cement Ltd scooping up India Cements Ltd, denying a potential target for rival Adani group which is rapidly catching up through a series of acquisitions. The deal comes just a month after UltraTech bought nearly 23% in India Cements, even as Adani has emerged as India's second-largest cement-maker in less than two years.

After a board meeting on Sunday, UltraTech said it will acquire 32.72% stake from India Cements' promoters for ₹3,954 crore, and launch an open offer for 26% more. The twin deals will cost it ₹7,096.35 crore, if the open offer is fully subscribed. On 27 June, UltraTech had purchased 22.77% in India Cements for ₹1,900 crore. With this, its total investment in India Cements will be close to 9,000 crore.

"The India Cements opportu-



Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group. MINT

nity is an exciting one as it enables UltraTech to serve the southern markets more effectively, and also accelerates our path to 200+ million tonnes per annum (mtpa) capacity", said Kumar Mangalam Birla who chairs the Aditya Birla Group, remarking on the acquisition that comes at a time of roaring infrastructure development and booming demand for construction material.

If India's competition and market regulators approve the share purchases, UltraTech's total shareholding in India Cements will touch 81.49%, valuing it at about ₹11,044 crore. Since promoters cannot hold

more than 75% in Indian listed companies, UltraTech will have to either sell some of its shares to bring its ownership below the threshold, or delist India Cements altogether.

After a board meeting on Sunday, Ultratech said the stake sale proposal came from India Cements' promoters N. Srinivasan and his family associates. Ultratech will purchase the entire 32.72% jointly owned by N Srinivasan, his family members and their associate firms as promoters in India Cements, and launch an open offer to acquire up to 26% in India Cements at ₹390 a share, 4% above India Cements' share price close on

Friday. India Cements' FY24 income of ₹5176.98 crore was lower than ₹5648.25 crore in the previous year. Due to cost overruns and higher expenses, net losses widened to ₹227.34 crore during the fiscal from a loss of ₹126.89 crore in FY23. Srinivasan, his wife Chitra Srinivasan and daughter Rupa Gurunath, along with their associate trusts and firms control India Cements. Rupa Gurunath's trustee holds 6.44% while EWS Finance & Investments Pvt. Ltd, an entity directly held by Srinivasan owns 21.56%.

The deal highlights the severe competition in India's cement sector. On 22 April, Mint reported that Gautam Adani's Ambuja Cements Ltd plans to raise the capacity of Ambuja Cements to at least 180 mtpa over next three years and make a series of acquisitions, as part of a \$9-billion quest to beat UltraTech as the country's largest cement-maker.

Two months later, on 13 June, Ambuja Cements announced the ₹10,422 crore acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement Industries Ltd, which operates 14 mtpa capacity with 4 mtpa under construction. This was Adani Group's third acquisition since it entered cement business in September 2022.

SoftBank licks its lips as 4 portfolio cos set for IPOs

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At a \$4-billion valuation, SoftBank will take home almost \$150-180 mn from the IPO. AP

MUMBAI: SoftBank Investment Advisors, the Japanese tech-focused investment firm, is looking at a significant windfall from the Indian market as at least four of its portfolio companies prepare to go public this year, two persons with knowledge of the development said.

The persons, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that Ola Electric Mobility, the Bhavish Aggarwal-founded clean mobility company, is expected to see its initial public offering (IPO) open on 2 August; and omnichannel baby products retailer Firstcry is planning to go public in mid-August.

One of the persons added that software business Unicommerce, spun out from Snapdeal, will also go public in mid-August, while food delivery company Swiggy is slated to go public around Diwali.

SoftBank did not respond to queries from Mint till press time.

The Ola Electric Mobility IPO is a combination of fresh issue of shares worth ₹5,500 crore, and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 84.9 million equity shares.

million already and currently holds around 25% stake in the company.

As per the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed with the regulator, SoftBank is likely to sell one sixth of its stake (20.32 million shares) as part of the OFS. At a \$4-billion valuation, SoftBank will take home almost \$150-180 million from the IPO alone. SoftBank came in when Firstcry was valued at \$900 million post-money, one of the people cited above said.

To be sure, at current IPO valuations, SoftBank is sitting on gains of \$1 billion (including the part exits) each on Ola Electric and Firstcry. The value will change depending on stock movement after their IPOs.

"SoftBank has been a lot more structured and disciplined in terms of exits than most other tech growth investors in India, and it's no surprise that it's reflected in their risk-adjusted returns in India," said Kashyap Chanchani, managing partner and co-founder of The Rainmaker Group, a homegrown investment bank. The fair value of SoftBank's India portfolio across its two funds has peaked to almost \$14 billion as on 31 December 2023, the company's earnings release shows.

Similarly, SoftBank had first invested \$300 million in Firstcry in 2020. Since then, the firm has sold stake worth around \$320

ASSET QUALITY WORRIES BACK TO HAUNT BANKS

Anshika Kayastha
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MUMBAI: Non-performing assets (NPAs) are making banks uneasy again in the first quarter of FY25 even as their struggle to mobilise deposits continues. This has happened on the back of a surge in delinquencies for retail, microfinance and agriculture loan portfolios due to seasonal factors, as well as election-related disruptions. Even though the sequential rise in NPAs appears marginal, it is still creating some nervousness as it has come after several quarters of steady to healthy asset quality.

Lenders such as HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Mahindra Finance and IndusInd Bank saw a sequential rise in gross non-performing assets (NPA), leading to higher provisioning requirements.

Provisions and contingencies for ICICI Bank rose 85.4% on-quarter and 3.07% on-year, whereas for Axis Bank they rose by 72.07% sequentially and 97% on-year, according to the Q1 financials reported by these companies. Then, Federal Bank's provisions were 141% higher on-quarter and 10% on-year, and IndusInd Bank's were 10% higher on-quarter and 6% on-year.

Further, a higher pace of increase in their slippages and delinquencies compared to the rise in provisions led to a fall in provision coverage ratios (PCRs) for several lenders such as ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance and Federal Bank, which otherwise saw stable asset quality ratios.

PCR across the lenders fell to 56.1-79.7% in Q1 FY25 from 57.0-80.3% in the previous quarter, and 60.4-82.4% in the year ago period, signalling that lenders have started to tap into their buffer provisions to meet higher provisioning requirements. Analysts have also started evaluating whether the deteriorating asset quality in the June quarter is a turning point. "With Axis joining Bajaj Finance in reporting higher credit costs, the key question is: have we reached the end of the benign asset quality phase?" Pranav Gundlapalle, senior research analyst at Sanford C Bernstein, said in an email to clients on 24 July.

Up to 1,000% higher taxes on real estate capital gains in some cases

With the overhaul in capital gains taxation in Budget 2024, real estate investors are in a fix. Long-term capital gains in real estate will now be taxed at 12.5% without indexation compared to 20% with indexation. Indexation allowed adjusting the buying price as per the inflation. The government says the tax liability will reduce for many in the new tax structure. However, it is possible only if returns on your property have gone above 10-11%. The RBI Housing Price Index shows no major city has recorded this jump in returns. It means the tax liability will go up for many.

Compiled by Aprajita Sharma
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12-16% real estate returns are common - Income tax department

RBI Housing Price Index shows otherwise

	10-year CAGR	13-year CAGR
Bangalore	7%	10%
Chennai	5%	9%
Delhi	4%	9%
Kolkata	7%	9%
Lucknow	7%	11%
Mumbai	5%	8%
All India	6%	9%



Capital gain/loss scenarios in Pre-Budget versus Post-Budget: Cost of acquisition 100

Holding period years	Pre-Budget			Post-Budget		
	2	10	20	2	10	20
House price increase at 5% CAGR						
Market value	110	163	265	110	163	265
LTCG	0.6	11.6	-55.9**	10	63	165
LTCG tax	0.1	2.3	NA	1.3	7.9	20.7
Post-Budget vs Pre-Budget (% change in LTCG tax)#				1000%	238%	NA
House price increase at 10% CAGR						
Market value	121	259	673	121	259	673
LTCG	11	108	352	21	159	573
LTCG tax	2.3	21.6	70.3	2.6	19.9	71.6
Post-Budget vs Pre-Budget (% change in LTCG tax)				16%	-8%	2%
House price increase at 12.5% CAGR						
Market value	127	325	1,055	127	325	1,055
LTCG	17	173	733	27	225	955
LTCG tax	3.4	34.7	146.7	3.3	28.1	119.3
Post-Budget vs Pre-Budget (% change in LTCG tax)				-2%	-19%	-19%

Takeaways:
**Pre-Budget allows capital loss and sets it off against other gains; new regime imposes tax in all scenarios
Source: CLSA; *as per Cost Inflation Index (CII) Graphic: Pranay Bhardwaj/Mint

ICICI Bank braces for LCR decline

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MUMBAI: ICICI Bank expects a compression of 10-14 percentage points in its liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent guidelines, senior officials of the private lender said in a call with analysts after the June-quarter earnings on Saturday.

Last week, the RBI came out with draft guidelines asking banks to set aside a higher stock of liquid assets to meet a contingency like a potential bank run. RBI has asked banks to account for the possibility of an outflow of retail deposits through digital means, while calculating the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR).

Currently, banks are required to maintain an LCR of 100%.

LCR refers to the proportion of highly liquid assets that lenders must hold to honour short-term obligations such as withdrawals of current account and savings account deposits. In a recent note on the RBI guidelines, IIFL Securities said that ICICI Bank could see its LCR decline to 108% from 121%, once the new LCR comes into effect from 1 April.

The country's second-largest private sector lender reported a 15% year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in deposits and a 15.9% rise in credit at the end of June quarter. While deposit growth has been in line with credit growth so far, ICICI Bank expects some

impact due to the revised LCR guidelines.

ICICI Bank reported a 14.6% year-on-year jump in net profit in the first quarter of this financial year owing to higher treasury gains and non-interest income.

The bank's net profit rose nearly 15% to ₹11,059 crore during the quarter. Non-interest income or other income jumped 23.3% to ₹6,389 crore, as the bank saw higher dividend from subsidiaries.

The bank saw a dividend income of ₹894 crore, as against ₹291 crore during the corresponding quarter a year ago. Treasury gains more than doubled to ₹613 crore in the three months through June.

PSBs MAY GET 2-YR EXTENSION TO MEET MPS NORM

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NEW DELHI: Public sector banks are expected to get another two-year extension to comply with Sebi's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms, a top government official has said.

Out of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), five are yet to comply with MPS norms and the government's holding is beyond 75%. As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25%.

However, the regulator gave special forbearance to state-owned banks till August 2024 to meet the requirement of 25% MPS.

"We have written to the Department of Economic Affairs for the extension," financial services secretary Vivek Joshi told PTI in an interview.

Generally, he said, a two-year extension is given and hopefully it should come sooner than later.

Five banks have minimum public shareholding of less than 25%.

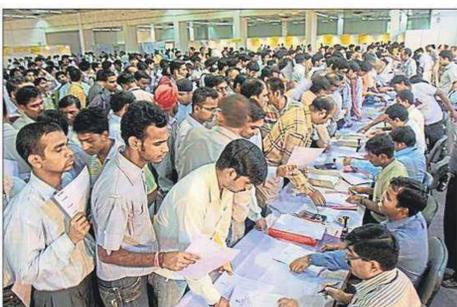
Finance Bill's sharper claws to nab tax evaders

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
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NEW DELHI: Tackling tax avoidance is at the forefront in the Centre's agenda to deepen the tax base, with the latest Finance Bill introducing over a dozen provisions to check leakages in property deals, rental incomes, partnership fees and capital gains.

Of the 13 new provisions meant to check tax avoidance, five deal with taxes deducted or collected at source (TDS or TCS), expanding the range of transactions tracked by the Income Tax department. Although TDS rate has been lowered in the case of seven transactions and omitted in the case of one, this tool will now be deployed more widely for greater oversight of transactions.

Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra told Mint in an interview that 13 specific steps aim to prevent tax avoidance and



Of the 13 new provisions meant to check tax avoidance, five deal with TDS or TCS. HT

widen the tax base. The measures seek to bring greater clarity on provisions, expand oversight of transactions and plug loopholes.

Fees paid to an Indian for professional or technical services which are covered under section 194J of the Income Tax Act, will no longer constitute

'work' which is covered under a separate section-194C. The TDS rate in the former section ranges from 2-10% under different classes of payments, while it is 1-2% in the case of the latter. The change means more types of work will come under the higher-tax category.

Again, TDS will be now levied

on interest earned above ₹10,000 on floating rate savings bonds issued by the government or any other security to be notified.

Property transactions have historically been a source of tax evasion and black money. Many property transactions attempted to stay below the TDS radar by splitting up buyers. The Finance Bill sought to check this evasion by proposing that while selling non-agricultural land valued at ₹50 lakh or more, the total amount paid by all buyers to the seller will be considered while calculating TDS liability.

The Finance Bill says income from house property can no longer be shown as business income. Also, henceforth, only individuals or Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) will get to enjoy the capital gain tax exemption on transfer of capital assets under a gift or will or an irrevocable trust. "Tax on the share buyback

amount in the hands of the shareholder as dividend will generate some revenue. Certain people were classifying rental income from residential houses as business income. That has been clarified to be income from house property, because if it is shown as business income, the net profit available for taxation gets lower," the revenue secretary explained, quoting provisions in the Bill. Payments to partners in partnership firms will also attract TDS, said Malhotra.

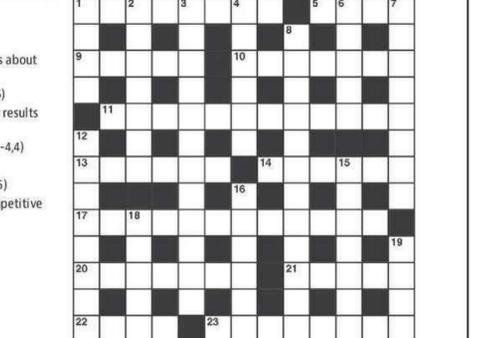
Experts said there is scope for simplification and reduction of compliance burden on TCS and TDS. "Where the same information is already available in the public domain, or with another regulatory agency then there should not be any need for deducting or collecting tax at source," said Ved Jain, tax expert and former president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (Icaai).

THE CROSSWORDS

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Go for gold in anticipation (8)
 - Work that turns up when nothing's about (4)
 - Not the inner route construction (5)
 - He works on the side to get better results (7)
 - It won't keep you fully occupied (4-4-4)
 - Fighting a lawsuit (6)
 - Look into new liquid preparation (6)
 - A religious point to pursue for competitive exercise (12)
 - Arranged, but not voluntarily (7)
 - Straight bit of river to arrive at (5)
 - Act in rotation (4)
 - The militant's first summons (8)
- DOWN**
- Support for piano (4)
 - Exile not at home with actors (7)
 - They know their actions mean the high jump (12)
 - Critic unreasonably acid (6)
 - Point out a horse (5)
 - Imposing corporal punishment (8)
 - Don't take legal action for nothing (4,2,6)
 - Narrow defile left for entering another country (8)
 - Invest in a unit of the open market (7)
 - An old record player (6)
 - Duck down (5)
 - The key to what you were once (4)

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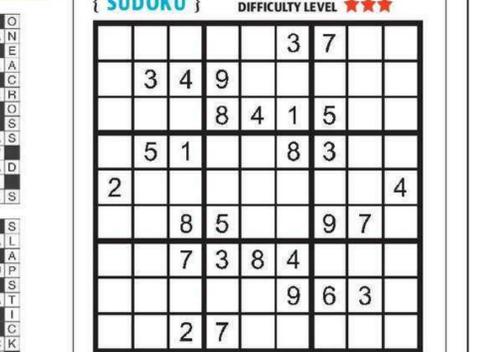
QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Wave threateningly (8)
 - Assemble in large numbers (4)
 - Subject of discussion (5)
 - Limiting clause (7)
 - Right of prior choice (5,7)
 - Busy (6)
 - Fit to be eaten (6)
 - Unsurpassed (6,2,4)
 - Open into flower (7)
 - As the total (2,3)
 - Besides (4)
 - Stubbornly determined (4-4)
- DOWN**
- Pungency (4)
 - Designate (7)
 - Firm positive judgment (12)
 - Magnificent (6)
 - Out of order (5)
 - Assume responsibility of (8)
 - Secret (12)
 - Just adequate (8)
 - Serfdom (7)
 - Thwart (6)
 - Annoyed (5)
 - Surfeit (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16923)



SUDOKU DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE HIGH • LOW

MONDAY
Generally cloudy sky with light rain or thundershowers
35°C | 29°C

TUESDAY
Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thunderstorm
34°C | 29°C

WEDNESDAY
Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thunderstorm
32°C | 27°C

ALMANAC

Today is 29th July 2024

- 21 Muharram, 1446
- 9 Shrawan, Krishna
- Paksha, 9
- Smasat 2081
- Sunset: Monday at 07:18 p.m.
- Sunrise: Tuesday at 05:41 a.m.
- Moonrise: Monday at 07:57 p.m.
- Moonset: Tuesday at 12:36 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 35°C | 29°C

Mumbai 31°C | 27°C

Kolkata 33°C | 27°C

Chennai 37°C | 26°C

Close chase to bronze

The final consists of 24 shots. The first two series comprise 5 shots each followed by 14 single shots

	Series 1	Series 2
Oh Ye Jin (Kor)	52.2	101.7
Kim Yeji (Kor)	49.7	101.5
M Bhaker (Ind)	50.4	100.3



India's Olympic shooting medals over the years

Athens 2004
Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
Men's double trap
Silver



Beijing 2008
Abhinav Bindra
Men's 10m air rifle
Gold



London 2012
Vijay Kumar
Men's 25m rapid fire pistol
Silver



London 2012
Gagan Narang
Men's 10m air rifle
Bronze



MANU CONQUERS THE MIND

The lessons from Tokyo stood her in good stead in the 10m air pistol final at Paris

Manu Bhaker sipped water from her bottle only twice during the entire course of the 10m air pistol final. First, right before she stood still to take aim at the start. Second, when she was assured of a medal.

All through in between on Sunday, Manu stood still in her body language, solid in her shooting, secure in the mind. Indian shooters wilting when the stakes rise or pressure heightens in tournaments of prestige doesn't surprise as much any longer. Manu's sustained composure in a big final proved a welcome change. The kind that opened her, and India's medal count at the 2024 Paris Olympics, with a bronze in the 10m air pistol event with a score of 221.7 in a high-quality final.

The only little window in which Manu showed a speck of emotion was when, despite her shooting 10.3 in the 22nd shot, Kim Yeji hit a 10.5 to leap over her by 0.1 and ensure the Indian was forced to sign off with a bronze. Manu smirked for a split second, and headed back to her chair with the medal secured. Koreans Oh Ye Jin (243.2) and Yeji (241.3) bagged the gold and silver, the former coming up with an Olympic record score.

Right from the start of the qualification on Saturday until that bronze-sealing moment on Sunday, Manu's composure of the mind matched her consistency of scores. Unlike some shooters who enjoyed a quiet celebration with themselves and coaches after coming through the gruelling qualification rounds, Manu was inexpressively steady. "Last night, the moment today's thoughts came into my mind, I was like, dekh jaiyega (we'll see)," Manu said. Sunday was a repeat of Saturday, in the mindset and outcome.

Often in recent times, Manu has lost her way in the gulf that exists between a solid qualification round converting into silverware in the final.

At last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, she had topped qualification with a world record qualifying score and withered away in the final. Questions about her mindset of dealing with the pressure of big finals were raised.



Manu Bhaker celebrates after winning bronze in the 10m air pistol women's final at the 2024 Olympics in Chateauroux, France on Sunday.

Manu served a fine answer at these Games. If the first shot, a 10.6, was a statement, the next 21 were of sustained solidity. Not once did Manu drop out of the top three throughout the first two five-shot series followed by elimination rounds, hitting consistent 10s accompanied by few 9s even as silver medallist Yeji littered an odd wayward 8.

Manu wouldn't be frazzled. Neither when she shot three straight 9s through the 13th to 15th shots, nor when the noise from Indians in the stands grew louder with every passing shot of hers.

The zen-like mental zone had been entered after reading the Gita

the previous night, and repeating a famous quote from it.

"Arjun, karm pe dhyan do, phal ki chinta mat karo (focus on the work, don't worry about the reward). This was running in my mind from last night. I told myself no matter what happens, I'll handle it," Manu said.

"I didn't wake up thinking whether I would win a medal or not. But I was adamant about one thing, that at no point should I think ab nahi horaha hai year (it's no longer happening now)."

The Tokyo Games failure has taught the then teen and now 22-year-old plenty. About not being too result-driven, about sticking to her personality and not changing it just to tune up to a competition. The youngster from Haryana has

also become a lot more spiritual since, she believes.

"I do believe a lot now that there is some energy which is guiding and protecting us. And there is an aura around us which feels that energy," she said.

Within the confines of the range, it is usually the sight of Jaspal Rana for her. Reunited with her personal coach, Manu says she finds courage by just looking at him. An odd glance was reserved on Sunday too. It didn't matter that Rana, seated with the spectators in the stands, could easily have been lost amid the crowd.

"I had figured out where he was sitting, and I was making sure I was only looking at him and nobody else," she said. "I definitely owe a lot to him too for making this



happen."

She owes a bit to her experience of Tokyo too, no matter how harrowing it was at that point and in the days to follow. For a youngster who's shooting career took off in the fast lane and had been predicted to soar, suffering an expected crash—as she described

it on Sunday—took Manu herself by surprise. "Kahi na kahi, meri hi laparwahi hogi," she felt.

From her first Olympics to the second, Manu worked on overcoming that through a process that involved taking a slight step back and marching forward again, with learnings from Tokyo for company all along. "I believe that if you can't win something, you should take lessons from it, which in turn improves you going forward," she said. "Now, I understand the value of this, and the kind of hard work and effort it takes to get here."

For now, that place was on the 10m air pistol podium as the bronze medal winner and India's first medallist of the 2024 Paris Games. There could be more to follow.

Reunion that led to India's first medal in Paris

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CHATEAUROUX: Manu Bhaker and Jaspal Rana follow a peculiar practice in training. For every shooting session, a particular target in terms of a score is set. If Manu doesn't achieve it, a fine equivalent to the deficit in points is fixed, in the currency of the country they're based at.

"For example," Manu says, "if the target is 582 and you score 578, it means you give 40 euros, depending on the situation. You either donate that amount or purchase things and distribute it to people. At almost every training session, this is the rule. And at times, he increases the intensity quite a lot, to like 400 euros."

Manu jokes that the maximum she has spent on this exercise is an amount (so large, assumingly) we wouldn't want to know. On a serious note, this is a glimpse into how distinct Rana's way of functioning as a coach can get.

"Usually our training together is very difficult, be it on the technical part or things like this. His working method is very different from anyone else."

One that Manu is ready to buy into. And it perhaps explains why she lost a bit of direction, and plenty of love for shooting, during the time they weren't up to such things. The two had a bitter public fallout in the lead-up to the Tokyo Games, and for a couple of years did not speak. A sign of her growing maturity—or desperation, depending on how one looks at it—was Manu calling up Rana again.

Back came this straight-speaking coach into the picture, and off went Manu towards redeeming herself. Rana and their combination. The first thing Rana did after getting back was to make her believe she was destined for bigger things, and remove the clutter from her mind. The trust took some time to rebuild, but once Rana knew "it was an honest



Manu and Jaspal Rana. TWITTER

effort from her side" to reach out, he had no reason to believe Manu wasn't ambitious in her goals either.

The training nitty-gritties also took care of itself with Rana back in the fold. The two dashed off to Europe after the camp in Bhopal in June, with Manu skipping the Munich World Cup. In Luxembourg, just before they came to Chateauroux, Rana made her train in conditions that replicated the warm temperatures inside the ranges here.

"He made training so difficult for me that when it came to performing, it wasn't very difficult for me. He played a huge role in the medal. All those years of hard work that we have put in together paid off with his, and probably even more," Manu said.

Rana, an emotional man who shed tears even when Manu secured qualification on Saturday, said his passion for the sport is matched by Manu's dedication.

"I can't even begin to explain the kind of things we've been through," Rana said. "But sometimes those setbacks help you push to greater things. She is the one person who I know can push her limits. She sometimes follows routines better than me, and I used to think I'm good at that."

"It's been a great journey, and I'm happy for her. I was very happy with this bronze, and there is more to come."

villagevoice



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (R) and Rafael Nadal during their men's doubles victory over Argentina's Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni on Saturday. In singles, Nadal set up a second-round match against Novak Djokovic after defeating Marton Fucsovics 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 on Sunday.

Barrett following in father's footsteps

RJ Barrett was still in diapers when his dad Rowan Barrett captained Canada's basketball team at the Sydney Olympics, the last time the Canadian men played on the Olympic stage. Twenty-four years later, wearing his dad's number nine, RJ poured in a team-high 23 to lead Canada to an 86-79 victory over Greece. Both Barretts scored 20-plus points in their Olympic debuts, with Rowan, now the general manager of Canada's men's programme, scoring 21 against Australia back in 2000. The younger Barrett grew up in the Canadian basketball programme. His godfather is two-time NBA MVP and Basketball Hall of Famer Steve Nash, who starred on Canada's 2000 Olympic team.



Steven van de Velde.

Player convicted of rape booted before loss

Steven van de Velde, the Dutch beach volleyball player who served time in prison for having sex with a 12-year-old girl, was booted when he was introduced before losing his match. Van de Velde did not speak to reporters after the three-set loss to Italy, a break with a longstanding IOC policy. "He's not here because he wanted to rest his mind about it and focus on the game," said team mate Matthew Immers.

Saudi hails its first female Games swimmer

Saudi dignitaries hailed the performance of Masha'al Alayed, the first female swimmer from the kingdom to compete in an Olympics. The 17-year-old is the only female swimmer in the delegation and smashed her personal best to come sixth of seven in her 200m freestyle heat. Female athletes were for many years an untapped reservoir of talent in the state, with girls banned from participating in sport at public schools until 2017. Princess Reema bint Bandar bint Sultan, an influential member of the Saudi Olympic committee and the kingdom's ambassador to Washington, who has led efforts to integrate Saudi women into sport, wrote on X "Proud to cheer on this young woman! Breaking boundaries! Masha'al Alayed."

{ GYMNASTICS } CYNOSURE OF ALL EYES

Stars galore to celebrate superstar Biles's comeback to the Olympics

Agencies

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PARIS: The Palais Omnisports was the place to be on the second day of the Paris Olympics. To watch Simone Biles, of course, and to be seen.

A star-studded crowd attended the return to the Olympics of Biles, the most decorated athlete in the history of gymnastics.

Among the high-profile fans were Hollywood star Tom Cruise and Oscar-winning actor Jessica Chastain sitting under the roof of the packed Bercy Arena on Sunday. Lady Gaga, who delivered a dazzling performance

as the first musical act during the opening ceremony earlier this week, was also in the mix. The Grammy-winning performer posted a video of Biles' routine on the beam on her Instagram account, with the caption: "She nailed it, what an honor to be so close!"

Snoop Dogg had front-row seats while Greta Gerwig, Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, John Legend and Chrissy Teigen, Nick Jonas and Anna Wintour also attended Biles' competition.

Snoop Dogg was in a party mood and

danced during the team's presentations. Cruise was mobbed by fans and agreed to selfies, shaking a few hands. Biles competed in the team's qualifying alongside U.S. teammates Jordan Chiles, Hezly Rivera, Sunisa Lee and Jade Carey. It was her first competitive appearance in Paris, where she will try to add to her already impressive tally of seven Olympic medals.

Despite discomfort in her left leg, the superstar posted an all-around total of 59.566 and the Americans scored a 172.296, well clear of the field. Also in attendance were USA snowboarder Shaun White and his girlfriend Nina Dobrev. Athletes across the Olympic spectrum have said they want to make it a point to catch the most decorated gymnast of all time in what could be the final competition of her unparalleled career.

Arjun and Ramita in 10m air rifle finals, maintain their medal hopes

Both overcome some anxious moments in qualification to seal their place among the top eight in the men's and women's events

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NEW DELHI: Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta have taken different routes to the Paris Olympics, but on Sunday both tackled the demon of pressure with exceptional poise and confidence to qualify for the men's and women's air rifle final. The nerves were in play all the way during the tense 60-shot qualification in which they were hovering in and out of the top eight who make the final, but managed to squeeze in with a late flourish. As the two fought for a final spot in the Olympics, back home Ramita's father Arvind Jindal's heartbeat had increased. Babuta's coach Deepali Deshpande too was on the edge. In the end it was a huge relief. Ramita qualified in fifth place (631.5). The 20-year-old became the second woman shooter at the Paris Games — Manu Bhaker had lifted the spirits of the Indian contingent by winning the 10m air pistol bronze — to qualify for the final.

The more seasoned Elaveni Valarivan, competing in her second Olympics, missed out on the final by a whisker, after finishing 10th. A 9.8 in the fifth series undid her hard work. While Ramita came back stronger with every series to climb her way back, the 25-year-old Babuta was in crisis towards the end after a fine start. But he pulled it all together in the last five shots. He had finished his 60 shots well in time and there was an anxious wait until he qualified in 7th place (630.1).

"It was touch and go, really," said a relieved Deshpande, former international and Babuta's coach. "He was doing fine till the fourth card — scoring nearly at an average of 105.5 but a slight dip in the fifth and he looked scattered. The first five shots of the last series also didn't go that well but the last five shots he nailed it."

"He finished early and others were going up and down, so I was feeling so nervous," she said.

Ramita, Arjun in medal hunt

Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta have advanced to the final of the women's 10m air rifle and men's 10m air rifle events respectively after finishing in the top eight in the qualification on Sunday

ARJUN BABUTA Age: 25

Scores in 10m air rifle men's qualification

Series 1	105.7
Series 2	104.9
Series 3	105.5
Series 4	105.4
Series 5	104
Series 6	104.6
Total	630.1

Achievements

- Won gold in the men's 10m air rifle team event, with Divyansh Singh Panwar and Hriday Hazarika, at the 2023 Asian Shooting Championships in Changwon.
- Silver medalist in the 10m air rifle mixed team, with Sonam Uttam Maskar, at the World Cup in Cairo in 2024.

7th Position

5th Position

RAMITA JINDAL Age: 20

Scores in 10m air rifle women's qualification

Series 1	104.3
Series 2	106
Series 3	104.9
Series 4	105.3
Series 5	105.3
Series 6	105.7
Total	631.5

Achievements

- Won two medals at Asian Games in 2023: a silver in 10m air rifle team and bronze in 10m air rifle.
- Won two gold medals at junior world championships in 2022 in 10m air rifle and air rifle team.



Ab hoga desh ka sapna poora,
Sammaan Se!



Jiyo Sammaan Se

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The anxiety was understandable. Deshpande had endured despairing moments as national coach at the Tokyo Olympics. On the first day of the competition in Paris, Sarabjot Singh (air pistol) finished 9th in qualifying and Val-

arivan (air rifle) too was unlucky on Sunday to finish at 10th place and be eliminated.

"All these things were playing in my mind. You don't want another shooter to end in 9th or 10th place. The margin is so fine,

one or two shots can cost you the final."

Knowing Babuta's ability to be precise, Deshpande was hoping he stayed in the moment. He was promising as a junior shooter but it has taken years to prove himself on the world stage. Consistent scores at World Cups in the last two years added to his confidence, helping him to emerge stronger after an injury (back) phase.

"He is a gifted shooter with an eye for precision, but he is never satisfied with his technique, etc. He has now learned to deal with situations better."

At the Asian Championships last October, Babuta was in remarkable form. He won the quota place and gave a tough fight to China's Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Sheng Lihao, who was the winner. Sheng topped the

qualification at Chateauroux on Sunday.

While Babuta has come a long way, Ramita's rise has been spectacularly fast. The youngster who started shooting in 2016 at Kurukshetra's Ladwa has been almost unstoppable. "Once she puts her mind into something, she is completely focussed, be it shooting or studies. She has scored high marks in 10th and 12th grades despite dealing with the pressure of shooting," her advocate father Arvind Jindal said.

"There was a nearby shooting range opened by coach Jagbir Singh ji. Ramita and some of her friends started going there. Gradually she fell in love with the sport and her progress was very quick. She started giving results at state level and in university-level meets. Within a year she was in the

nationals."

Soon, she broke into the India team. In 2021, she competed at the World Junior Championships in Lima, winning bronze. She won gold a year later in Cairo. Last year, she made a big mark winning two medals at the Asian Games, including an individual bronze.

At the Asian Championships, Ramita lost to Tiltotama Sen as they fought for India quota. Sen won the quota, but a determined Ramita assured that the spot would be hers with a fine show in the Olympic selection trials. "She is very committed and never worried about scores. That allows her to be very focussed and follow the process during competitions. If you see, today she was as low as 19th at the start but with every shot she emerged stronger," said coach Deepak Dubey, who was with her at the world championships.

In perfect tune, Prannoy wins on Olympic debut

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NEW DELHI: HS Prannoy is known to be a slow starter. The 32-year-old tends to take his own sweet time to get used to the court, shuttle speed and overall conditions before bringing into effect his lethal blows.

Sunday was no different for the world No.12 as German Fabian Roth matched him shot-for-shot at the start of the men's singles Group K contest, but Prannoy timely upped the ante to claim a 21-18, 21-12 win on his Olympic debut.

While the world No.82 was able to string together long rallies in his first meeting against the Indian, he lacked the experience when Prannoy countered with flat exchanges.

After keeping a steady game in slow conditions, Roth slowly started buckling under pressure, first towards the end of the opening game, and then in the second as Prannoy completed a 45-minute win at Paris' Porte de la Chapelle Arena.

Despite being behind at the start of the contest, a much leaner looking Prannoy, who recently recovered from a bout of Chikungunya, looked not anxious but resolute, thanks to years of work that has gone into training his mind. "The consistent work that has gone in for the last three-and-a-half years with the psychologists is coming good for me to kind of work for a long-term period. Without their help it would have been nearly impossible as badminton is totally a game of confidence. There are a lot of things that are mental out there," says Prannoy. "It's really important to do the homework and find that good space. In these kind of big events, there are going to be big crowds, you might be under pressure, so it is really important that



HS Prannoy. AP

you find that correct state of mind to work with discipline and that's what a psychologist gets you to do really well."

Prannoy has been working with Chennai-based sports psychologist Ateka Vanak for the last three-and-a-half years after working with Vanak's colleague and former Israeli fencer Mon Brokman. "It is a constant practice like how we do on-court and gym sessions. Constantly work on it and you keep getting better. When things are going well you feel it is much easier to play because your confidence is so high, but

if the confidence is low, it is important to work (on your mental health) and find that confidence," added Prannoy. Prannoy will next take on world No.71 Le Duc Phat of Vietnam on Wednesday. If he wins, he will qualify for the Round of 16.

Prannoy will next take on world No.71 Le Duc Phat of Vietnam on Wednesday. If he wins, he will qualify for the Round of 16.

Sindhu off the mark

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu also got off to a winning start after she beat world No.111 Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq of Maldives 21-9, 21-6 in a women's singles Group M contest.

This was the second win for the world No.13 in as many meetings. She will next take on world No.73 Kristin Kuuba of Estonia on Wednesday.

If she wins, Sindhu will qualify for the Round of 16.

SHARATH KAMAL MAKES SHOCK EXIT; MANIKA AND SREEJA IN LAST 32

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PARIS: Indian table tennis veteran Aachanta Sharath Kamal made a shock exit in the men's singles but Manika Batra started her campaign with a 4-1 thrashing of her opponent in a round of 64 on Sunday. The 42-year-old Sharath, who was making his fifth Olympics appearance, lost 2-4 (12-10 9-11 6-11 7-11 8-10-12) to Deni Kozul of Slovenia ranked 86 places below him.

The CWG champion, ranked 40th in the world, won a tight first game but lost the next three to trail 1-3. He recovered and made it 2-3 but again lost a tight fourth game to bow out.

The 29-year-old Manika, on the other hand, dominated Anna Hurshey of Great Britain in her match that lasted 41 minutes. Manika, ranked 28th, won 11-8 12-10 11-9 9-11 11-5.

India's top-ranked woman paddler Sreeja Akula entered the round of 32 with a clinical 4-0 win over Sweden's Christina Kallberg. Sreeja, who had created history by becoming the first Indian paddler to win a WTT Contender singles title, registered a 11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8 victory in 30 minutes over the Swede. The Indian had little trouble bagging the first set but was stretched in the second, and her rival continued to do that in the next two sets as well.

Titmus reigns in 'race of the century'

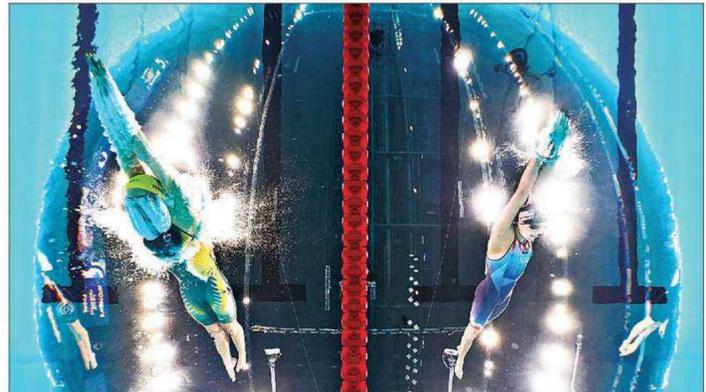
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PARIS: On the first night of swimming events at the Paris La Defense Arena, people were headed just one way from the nearby metro. The Americans made their presence felt in number and noise. A few Aussies were around too. "Are you ready for some swimming?" a volunteer by the entrance announced through a megaphone.

You bet they were. A woman in her 60s, trudging along the stands with a walking stick in tow, had flown all the way from New York. "I'm here for Ledecky," she said.

So were a fair few more. Inside the massive arena built with 600 aluminium and glass scales that was nearly packed to capacity, the announcer played to the gallery. Katie Ledecky was lined up as the last to hit the lane and even before her name was called out, the most resounding roar of the evening had surfaced in anticipation. By then the cheer for Ariarne Titmus, the penultimate finalist to head out, had begun to drown.

In the water, she'd dominate. Billed as the race of these Games, this year, decade and century even, it was the most anticipated chapter in the famed Titmus-Ledecky rivalry. The rip-roaring rise of Canadian teen Summer McIntosh scribbled another fascinating sidenote to the 400m freestyle that has seen world record times oscillate between these three women over



Australia's Ariarne Titmus (left) and Katie Ledecky of USA in action in the women's 400m freestyle final on Saturday. Titmus won the gold medal while Ledecky claimed bronze. GETTY

the last decade. What it did turn out to be, the moment Titmus touched the wall, was a confirmation of the coronation. The "same old goofy Tassie girl", as Tasmanian likes to call herself, marked another stamp of gold to her growing greatness. The towering American figure and a bona fide great was confined to bronze. Summer's spring time had arrived with a silver touch, at age 17.

Titmus defended her 400m freestyle Tokyo Olympics gold in Paris, slipping further away from Ledecky's reach. She led the race from start to finish, from first split to the last and finished at 3:57.49.

Ledecky, owner of seven Olympic and 21 World Championship gold medals until then, came third, a position the 27-year-old moved to from fourth after the 200m split. Announcing her arrival in Tokyo with a fourth-place finish at 14, McIntosh challenged Titmus here, yet second it was for the Canadian. The first, undisputed and ahead by almost a body length at the final stretch, stood Titmus.

Out she came of the water and there she waved at the crowd, the unassuming Australian turning into the darling of Paris on a buzzing Saturday night. "I can't really believe that's me, to be honest," Titmus told report-

ers in the mixed zone after defending her 400m gold. "I just look at myself and I'm so normal — I just love swimming, love getting out and representing our country and having fun."

How about this for some more fun? From the 2019 World Championships stretching to the 2021 Olympics, 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2023 Worlds leading into the Paris Games, Titmus hasn't been defeated in a 400m freestyle final.

It hasn't been all fun and swim. Last September, doctors discovered a large growth on her right ovary while she was recovering from a hip injury. At 23, as an elite

athlete and a woman who'd "give up anything in the world to be a mother", she stood at a crossroad.

The surgery though was successful, and soon and sure enough, Titmus was back in the pool. And thus returned the rivalry chatter. Ledecky, the 400m freestyle 2016 Rio Games champion who became so while breaking the world record, saw her Olympic gold and the world record snatched by the fast-rising Titmus in 2021 and 2022.

The two have been at each other in shaving off fractions of seconds to their respective timings to outdo the other since. Ledecky has asked, Titmus has answered. McIntosh joined in as the wonder teen, breaking Titmus's record in March 2023 before the Aussie stepped up to reclaim it four months later. All along, they believe they've only pushed each to unlock new doors of greatness.

"It's fun racing the best in the world. It gets the best out of me, it gets the best out of them," Titmus said. "I really hope everyone enjoyed it."

Ledecky — who won her eighth individual Olympic medal — too did. Except perhaps for the last bit when she was asked to take a selfie of the three on the podium. "I was joking with them (that) you're going to get the oldest person a phone to figure out how to open it up and click the right button? Hopefully the photo turned out."

It certainly did. So did the race.

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SHOOTING

10m air rifle women's qualification

- Ramita ended 5th, qualified for final
- Elaveni Valarivan ended 10th, missed out on final

10m air rifle men's qualification

- Arjun Babuta finished 7th, qualified for final
- Sandeep Singh ended 12th, missed out on final



10m air pistol women's final
Manu Bhaker won bronze

BADMINTON

Women's singles Group M

- PV Sindhu beat Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq (MDV) 21-9, 21-6
- Men's singles Group K
- HS Prannoy beat Fabian Roth (GER) 21-18, 21-12

TABLE TENNIS

Women's singles Round of 64

- Sreeja Akula beat Christina Kallberg (SWE) 4-0
- Manika Batra beat Anna Hurshey (GBR) 4-1
- Men's singles Round of 64
- A Sharath Kamal lost to Deni Kozul (SLO) 2-4

ARCHERY

Women's team quarter-final

- India lost to Netherlands 0-6

BOXING

Women's 50kg Round of 32

- Nikhat Zareen beat German Maxi Carina Kloetzer 5-0

ROWING

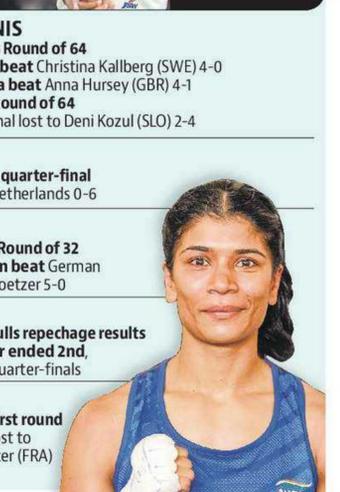
Men's single sculls repechage results

- Balraj Panwar ended 2nd, qualified for quarter-finals

TENNIS

Men's singles first round

- Sumit Nagal lost to Corentin Mouter (FRA) 2-6, 6-2, 7-5



Manu Bhaker shoots to glory with a bronze India shines at Olympics



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