



PM Modi (69%) has again emerged as the most popular politician across the world, surpassing US Prez Joe Biden (39%) & new UK PM Keir Starmer (45%), according to latest rankings by Morning Consult, P 14

New protests erupt in Bangladesh, leaving at least 2 dead and over 100 injured, the latest in a wave of unrest that killed 200 last month over job quota system reforms, P 17

Kamala Harris is interviewing potential running mates with the needle of probability ticking towards Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro, P 17

Republican presidential nominee Trump proposes to debate Democratic rival Kamala Harris on Fox News on Sept 4. Harris campaign responds that Trump is trying to back out of a debate that was set to run on ABC, P 17

J&K admn sacks 5 cops, teacher for terror links

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has dismissed five police personnel and a teacher after they were found to be involved in funding terror. All six were found to be part of a narco-terror network originating across the border. The sacked cops helped smuggle drugs from the border, transport and sell them as well. The teacher was found to be a key handler of the network. P 11

Terrorists kill 37 at Somalia beach hotel

Thirty-seven people were killed and 212 wounded in an attack on a beach hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu late Friday evening. Al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab, said its fighters carried out the attack. Witnesses reported an explosion followed by gunfire. P 17

SSB DG gets addl charge of BSF

SSB DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary will hold additional charge of BSF following the premature repatriation of incumbent Nitin Agrawal, a govt order said Saturday. Agrawal, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, was removed as BSF DG on Friday. TNN

PM: India offers food security solutions

PM Narendra Modi said there was a time when India's food security was a global concern whereas today, the country is providing solutions for global food and nutrition security. P 14

Govt set to bring bill to curb waqf board powers on assets

Bill To Amend Act Likely To Be Brought Next Wk

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New Delhi: In a major step, govt wants to curb the "unfettered" powers of waqf boards to declare any property a 'waqf asset' and take control of it. Sources said the Cabinet on Friday evening discussed 40-odd amendments in the Wakf Act (known as Waqf Act before 2013), including ones to check the jurisdiction, considered arbitrary in many quarters, of waqf boards which now control assets running into lakhs of crores of rupees across the country.

BILL SEEKS TO VERIFY PROPERTY CLAIMS

- > The Wakf Act, passed in 1954 and replaced with a new version in 1995, is meant to regulate 'auqaf' (assets donated and notified as waqf) by a wakif, the person who dedicates a property for any purpose recognised by Muslim law as religious or charitable
> Govt proposes to amend Act, make verification mandatory for claims on properties by waqf boards
> This will also apply to properties on which claims and counter-claims have been made by waqf boards and individual owners
> Currently, waqf boards enjoy powers to tag any property as waqf asset. Around 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres are under jurisdiction of waqf boards in the country
> Bill also proposes changes in composition of waqf boards, it is learnt

A similar mechanism of mandatory verification has been proposed also for properties for which claims and counter-claims have been made by waqf boards and individual owners.

PSI's death in K'buragi: Cong MLA, son named in cash-for-transfer case

Mouneshwar Sonnad | TNN

Kalaburagi: The suspicious death of Parashurama, 35, a Dalit sub-inspector, at his residence on Friday night has triggered a controversy with his family alleging cash-for-transfer demands and mental harassment by Congress MLA Channareddy Patil Tunnur and his son Pampanagouda (Sunny). The Yadgir MLA and his son were on Saturday booked on charges of intentional insult with an intent to provoke breach of peace, abetment of suicide and joint criminal liability on a complaint by the SI's wife, Shwetha. The family claimed that Parashurama paid Rs 30 lakh for a posting at Yadgir town police station to the MLA, but was transferred

₹30L FOR POSTING

- > SI Parashurama paid ₹30L to MLA Channareddy Patil for a posting at Yadgir city police station
> Yadgir MLA demanded additional ₹30L to continue service at same station after completing a year
> Parashurama was found dead at his home in K'buragi before completing a year. In her FIR, Shwetha has alleged that the MLA and his son demanded an additional Rs 30 lakh if her husband wanted to continue his service at Yadgir station. When Parashurama failed to meet their demand, he was transferred to the cyber-crime station on July 30.
> 'Gave no posting', P 7

Govt data: 10% of organ transplant recipients in India are foreigners

New Delhi: Foreigners account for nearly one in every 10 persons undergoing organ transplant in India, govt data shows. In 2023, data shared by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation reveals, India recorded 18,378 organ transplants with 42 recipients getting more than one organ. So, there were a total of 18,336 organ recipients in the country, of which, 1,851 (10%) were foreign nationals. Transplants involving foreign nationals were carried out in Delhi (1,445), Rajasthan (116), West Bengal (88), UP (76), Telangana (61), Maharashtra (35), Karnataka (15), Gujarat (11), TN (3) and Manipur (1). TNN

Ayodhya rape accused's bakery razed

Authorities riding bulldozers in UP's Faizabad district demolished Saturday a bakery owned by Samajwadi Party functionary and rape-accused Moeed Khan in Bhadarsa town, about 21km southwest of Ayodhya. District authorities said it had been built illegally by encroaching on a public pond. They said a multi-storey building owned by Khan is also set to be razed. Khan and one of his employees are accused of repeatedly raping a minor since mid-May. Khan had allegedly made a video of the act the first time and used it to blackmail the girl. P 9

Centre signals relief for Infy in ₹32k cr GST case

Bengaluru: The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) initiated the first move to blow the peace pipe by closing the pre-show cause notice for the 2017-2018 financial year. This sets the stage for putting a lid on the Rs 32,000 crore tax controversy, which caused an uproar due to the erroneous understanding by the GST authorities. The move follows the intervention of finance ministry to quell the outrage among businesses without denting business sentiment, as India Inc rallied behind Infosys as a show of strength for the wrongful interpretation of the law. "The company has now received a communication from DGGI closing the pre-show cause notice for Infosys for financial year 2017-2018. The GST amount in notice for 2017-2018 was ₹3,898 crore, not ₹32,000 crore. Tax officers & consultants view DGGI's actions as 'over-interpretation' of the law. DGGI closing the pre-show cause notice proceedings for the financial year 2017-2018. The GST amount as per the pre-show cause notice for this period was Rs 3,898 crore," the company said in a stock exchange filing Saturday. TNN

Litigants settle as they get fed up: CJ

Accepting the problem faced by litigants and their frustration due to protracted hearing and delay in justice delivery, CJI DY Chandrachud Saturday said the process itself sometimes becomes a punishment, which is a matter of grave concern. At the end of the weeklong special lok adalat, he said it brought to light many cases where litigants were ready to settle the dispute despite not being given appropriate compensation because they were fed up of the proceedings. P 9

BJP, JD(S) launch 'Mysuru Chalo' to press for Siddaramaiah's resignation

Bengaluru: Opposition BJP and its ally JD(S) in Karnataka commenced their eight-day 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra on Saturday, demanding the resignation of CM Siddaramaiah over allegations of his involvement in illegal site allotment by Mysore Urban Development Authority, reports Anil Gejji. Union minister HD Kumaraswamy and former CM BS Yediyurappa inaugurated the padayatra at a programme held in Kengeri, on the outskirts of Bengaluru. BJP state president BY Vijayendra and JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaras-



BJP functionaries BY Vijayendra, Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, BS Yediyurappa, Pralhad Joshi and JD(S) president HD Kumaraswamy (2R) flag off the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra in Bengaluru on Saturday. The march is set to culminate in a mega public meeting in Mysuru on Aug 10. P 7

Advertisement for Abharan Jewellers. Features the brand name 'Abharan' in English and Kannada, 'Jewellers Since 1935', and 'The true ORIGINAL shines forever!'. Includes a 'Certified Original' stamp, a 'Legacy Brand since 1935' seal, and '80,000+ sqft Retail & Manufacturing Space'. Mentions '+1,800 Skilled Professionals' and 'Trusted Dealership'.

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Man dies after jumping in front of Metro train, services hit for 3 hrs

Train Had To Be Moved To Retrieve Body

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Namma Metro services (Green Line) on the Kanakapura Road route were disrupted after a 57-year-old passenger killed himself by jumping in front of an approaching train at Doddakallasandra station on Saturday. The incident, which occurred around 5.45pm, forced officials to suspend services from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute for nearly three hours, while Metro services on other lines remained normal.

A BMRCL official said: "The man jumped in front of a train that was fast approaching the platform from Vajrahalli side and came under its wheels. The train was later moved backwards to retrieve the body. After getting clearance from police, train services were restored on the entire Green Line subsequently."

Lokesh Jagalasar, DCP (south), said the deceased has been identified as Naveen Kumar Arora, 57, a resident of Kumaraswamy Lay-



TO SAFETY: After the incident, the train was stopped and passengers, evacuated from the coaches, were moved to Doddakallasandra station using the Metro walkway

out. "We're yet to gather more details of the victim. However, he came to the Metro station alone, according to preliminary findings. We're searching for any death notes from his possessions or phone messages," he said.

The incident affected hundreds of passengers, with trains heading towards Doddakallasandra station being stopped on either side and passengers being evacuated. One of the evacuated passengers recounted, "The

train I was travelling in from Konankunte Cross to Doddakallasandra was stopped midway on the track at around 5.50pm. I was travelling in the first coach reserved for women passengers and all were clueless about why the train was stopped on the tracks. At around 6.15pm, an announcement was made asking passengers to move towards the cabin of the loco pilot. Meanwhile, we saw a few Metro staff approaching the train using the walkway

along the track. They told the passengers that a person had jumped on the track and the train had been stopped to evacuate the passengers. Guided by the staffers, all passengers reached Doddakallasandra station with the help of Metro staff."

Prisha, a college student returning home, shared her experience. "After the train was stopped midway, Metro staff instructed us to use the walkway to reach the station. It was very scary and I

MULTIPLE INCIDENTS WORRY BMRCL

Multiple cases of passengers jumping on to Metro tracks to kill themselves have become a major concern for BMRCL, as these incidents result in major disruptions to services, causing inconvenience to commuters. Saturday's incident was the fourth this year.

In March, a law student killed himself by jumping in front of a moving train at Attiguppe station. In Jan, a person from Kerala jumped in front of a moving train at Jalahalli but survived even after sustaining multiple injuries. In June, a man tried to kill himself at Hosahalli station but survived after sustaining head injuries.

A senior BMRCL official expressed hope that such incidents would not happen in the future. "We hope such incidents don't occur in future. One

should realise that life is precious and should not take extreme steps. Whenever these kinds of incidents happen, we face a lot of issues. Restoration of services takes longer hours as we have to get many legal formalities done," the official said. In addition to suicide attempts, there have been incidents of passengers jumping on to track to retrieve fallen mobile phones or other objects. On Thursday, a four-year-old accidentally fell on to the track while playing with his sibling at Byappanahalli Metro station. Regarding demands for platform screen doors (PSDs) to prevent such incidents, BMRCL has maintained that it will install them on upcoming lines. For operational lines, the feasibility of installing PSDs at major stations with high footfall is being assessed.

felt it would be dangerous to walk next to the track. Passengers, including kids, were clueless on what was happening around."

The disruption of services during peak hours caused inconvenience to passengers travelling towards Majestic and other destinations.

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide-prevention helplines — Arogya Vani: 104, Sahay Helpline: 080-25497777

Machete-wielding man attacks constable with pepper spray, arrested

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Bengaluru: A 25-year-old man, who was swinging a machete and threatening passers-by at Satellite bus stand on Mysuru Road, attacked a cop with pepper spray recently. Police swung into action and arrested the miscreant, Girish S, a resident of MCTC quarters on Mysuru Road.

According to a complaint filed by head constable Manjanayaka MD, 40, attached to Byatarayanapura police station, he was on night patrol from 8.30pm on July 28 and was deployed near the bus stand on Mysuru Road. Around 1.15am on July 29, a person informed him a man was swinging a machete and threatening people near the entry gate of the bus stand.

Manjanayaka rushed to the spot around 1.25am and found the miscreant threatening a few autorickshaw drivers and other commuters. The miscreant tried to escape from the spot upon seeing Manjanayaka, who was in khaki. Manjanayaka managed to catch him after chasing him for a few metres.

The miscreant identified himself as Girish and said he resided at the MCTC quarters. When Manjanayaka asked him why he was out at that hour and threatening people, Girish again tried to escape by pushing him. But Manjanayaka didn't let go

A senior cop said Girish is a driver involved in anti-social activities. He threatened people with the weapon at the bus stand to extort valuables



and found the machete in his shirt. When asked why he was carrying the weapon, Girish took out a pepper spray from his pocket and unleashed it on Manjanayaka. He left behind the bottle and fled.

Auto drivers and others at the spot helped Manjanayaka wash his face. They also alerted the constable's colleagues, who rushed to the spot and took him to a nearby hospital.

Later, police began a hunt for Girish, contacting his family members and searching for him at his house. He was spotted in Byatarayanapura the same evening and arrested; the machete was also seized.

A senior cop said Girish is a driver involved in anti-social activities. There are cases registered against him in the past. He said he was threatening people to extort valuables from them. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

CITY'S WOMEN RING IN SHRAVANA MONTH

Chethan Shivakumar



TOUCH OF TRADITION: Ahead of the auspicious festive month of Shravana, a number of women from North Karnataka districts who live in Bengaluru got together Saturday at Palace Grounds to celebrate 'Nagara Panchami' festival. The women, draped in traditional Ikkal saris, offered prayers, performed traditional dances, rendered folk songs, played traditional sports, and relished North Karnataka cuisine

Edu dept asks schools to have 1 library period per week

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Bengaluru: To inculcate reading habit in children, the department of school education and literacy has asked all schools to introduce a library period every week.

In a circular dated July 26, the department has asked the schools to develop a library and an exclusive reading space for students. Schools can use the library grants provided to all schools annually and the room fund grants. The libraries should provide a wide range of books from various genres, including fiction, folklore, po-

etry, drama and comics. There should also be books on various career options for students after SSLC.

The books have to be brought from the department of school education, research and training. "Reading textbooks alone restricts the teacher's focus and children's knowledge to scoring marks in classroom. Reading all kinds of literature is crucial for active, critical development," the circular stated.

As a part of the Oduva Havaya Jnanada Vikasa (habit of reading widens horizons of knowledge) programme, schools have to spare one period a week for library. The



guidelines for schools suggests the periods that can be replaced for each class by the

"The circular is a welcome move. To align it with the schedule and make it part of the foundational literacy programme is the need of the hour. The best part is that the department is acknowledging how we need to improve libraries, and issuing a comprehensive list of books and the activities that teachers need to use to get children to read

Aparupa Negi | STATE LEAD, ROOM TO READ INDIA

library period. For instance, the radio class in classes 1-3 can be replaced with library

te the exam. The results were announced Saturday. The three different exams were a means for students to improve their scores. Of the 1,03,965 who appeared for improvement, 45,523 had positive change. The largest number of candidates was for physics (25,996), followed by chemistry (22,420) and biology (9,932). Physics saw 14,882 positive changes, chemistry 7,700, and biology 2,159.

However, experts said the library period needs planning and activities to get children to read. Kavita Gupta Sabharwal, who runs the Neev Literature Festival for children, said: "The reading level among a large number of our children is low. When children aren't able to read at their level, it is unlikely they

read for pleasure. So, it is important we develop their reading abilities. The libraries must not just offer books that make reading accessible, like graphic novels and hi-lo books, but also become places for conversations on books, assessing and building reading ability.

"While most of our schools have libraries, they are not child-friendly, especially for grades 1-5. There are no picture books. Most books are old, and children would have no motivation to read them. That is the missing part," shared Aparupa Negi, state lead of Room To Read India.

Padayatra, tree-fall, HGV ban throw city traffic out of gear

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Political rallies, uprooting of trees, breakdown of buses and trucks, and city police's decision to stop the entry of heavy vehicles threw traffic out of gear on Saturday for several hours. From central business district areas to parts of west, east and north Bengaluru, there was bumper-to-bumper traffic for many hours.

The BJP-JD(S) padayatra from Bengaluru to Mysuru, which began from Nice Road junction near Kengeri, disrupted traffic on Mysuru Road as early as 9am. Thousands of party workers descended on the road, parking their cars and minibuses haphazardly all along it. As the hours passed by, the traffic problem had a cascading effect, with other adjoining areas also witnessing slow-moving traffic. After the padayatra's inauguration, all the vehicles suddenly entered service roads, choking the arterial roads.

An employee of a factory in Peenya, who was supposed to deliver machine parts to Bidadi industrial area through an online delivery app, said: "The actual distance between Peenya and Bidadi is 30-35km, it would have normally been covered in less than an hour and cost Rs 1,359. But on Saturday, the journey not only took close to five hours but also the online platform charged Rs 2,600 for delivery because of the prolonged jams and slow-moving traffic. The consignment shipped at 1pm was finally delivered at 5.30pm."

Similarly, the uprooting of a huge tree and damage to the compound wall of Raj Bhavan on Raj Bhavan Road brought traffic in CBD areas to a screeching halt. Even though



PAINFUL CRAWL: The BJP-JD(S) padayatra to Mysuru, that began from Nice Road junction, disrupted traffic on Mysuru Road as early as 9am

traffic police were quick to divert the CBD traffic to ease congestion, things moving at a snail's pace tested the patience of Bengalureans. Shubhaji Sarkar, a resident of HSR Layout who had plans to visit Vasantha Nagar to attend a private function, took almost 2.5 hours to reach the venue.

Heavy vehicles choke airport, ORR areas

As if the problems inside city limits weren't enough, the sudden stopping of heavy vehicles all along the Outer Ring Road and Airport Road following a ban imposed by Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) triggered traffic jams. The breakdown of a truck and bus near Marathahalli also affected vehicular movement on ORR for a few hours.

BTP had announced the ban on entry of heavy vehicles into the city during peak hours including weekends (7.30am to 11am and 4.30pm to 8.30pm). The experiment led to confusion among heavy vehicle operators, and many had to park all along the ORR and Airport Road after being denied entry. Even though police defended the decision, pointing at better results in easing traffic congestion compared to previous weekends, the initial confusion among truckers

BANDH BY STAFF

Bengaluru: Deprived of govt schemes like Jyothi Sanjeevani (cashless medical treatment) and group insurance and aggrieved by unchanged cadre and recruitment rules, employees of 10 city corporations in the state, including BBMP, are planning to stage a bandh. They'll meet on Tuesday to chalk out their plans.

After several appeals to the urban development minister failed to elicit any response, the Karnataka State Municipal Corporation Employees Union has called for the emergency meeting.

triggered traffic snarls.

Joint commissioner of police (traffic) MN Anucheth said there was a decrease in traffic congestion alerts across the city thanks to the new restrictions. "We have to analyse the data further to understand how much it was reduced," he added, while acknowledging that drivers of heavy vehicles from other states weren't aware of the new rule. "It will take a few weeks for them to understand the rules," he added.

84.8 pass % in state after 3 rounds of II PU exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The three exams held for II PU students yielded the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board a pass percentage of 84.8 for the academic year 2023-24. A total of 7,04,920 students wro-

te the exam. The results were announced Saturday.

The three different exams were a means for students to improve their scores. Of the 1,03,965 who appeared for improvement, 45,523 had positive change. The largest number of candidates was for physics (25,996), followed by chemistry (22,420) and biology (9,932). Physics saw 14,882 positive changes, chemistry 7,700, and biology 2,159.

The highest pass percentage (92) was seen among unaided PUCs. The lowest (72.2) was seen among BBMP PUCs.

Variation spotted in leopard's iris colour

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a first-ever documentation of the variation in the colouration of the iris of leopards, Dhruv Patil, a member of Karnataka State Board for Wildlife, has captured a rare genetic mutation in the big cat at Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The condition, often known as heterochromia iridium, a common phenomenon among domestic cats and dogs, causes eyes to have different colours.

Dhruv, son of state industries minister MB Patil, during his regular visit to the tiger reserve recently, spotted a leopard perching on a tree. On photographing the leopard, Dhruv noticed that the big cat had one bluish-green iris while the other was brown. Experts have attributed this to a rare genetic mutation. Several experts also acknowledged this genetic



THE EYES HAVE IT

mutation and hailed the documentation by Dhruv. Sanjay Gubbi, who has been researching leopards across Karnataka, said, "It is common that the same cat species (tiger or leopards) have two to three eye colour variations, but two different colours in a single individual is rare among the wild cats. A previous such condition was reported from a leopard in Kruger National Park in South Africa. Heterochromia iridium has also been reported in leopards in Sunderbans."

Protest against work-hr proposal

Bengaluru: Working professionals from the IT and ITES industry came together Saturday to protest against the state govt's move to increase working hours in the sector. United

under the banner of the Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union, the employees staged a protest at Freedom Park and demanded the govt drop its amendment decision. **TNN**

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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CHANGE Begins Here

3 engg students die as Audi car rams tree

Was Trying To Overtake A Truck

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Three engineering students were killed on the spot, and another escaped with minor injuries, when their Audi car rams a roadside tree on Kolar-Bangarpet Road near Kolar.

The accident took place around 2.30am on Saturday. The deceased are Harshvardhan from Hassan, Basavana Gowda from Ballari, and Prajwal from Bangarpet. Another student, Sai Gagan, escaped with minor injuries. All were students of Reva University in Bengaluru. According to police, the accident occurred when Prajwal, who was driving the car, tried to overtake a truck and rams into a roadside tree after losing control.

The impact of the accident was such that the car was left mangled, and the bodies



FATAL CRASH: The students were heading to Kolar for a wedding

of the deceased were thrown out for 10 to 15 feet.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the students were heading to Kolar for the wedding preparations of Sai Gagan's sister, which was scheduled for August 11. "Basavana Gowda had come to Bangarpet to assist with it and Harshvardhan joined them a few days ago. On Friday, as they wanted to distribute wedding invi-

tations in Bengaluru, their friend Prajwal had borrowed an Audi car from his friend. Accordingly, the students left Bangarpet at 2am. As they were approaching Kolar, Prajwal tried to overtake a truck, lost control of the car, and ended up crashing into a tree," said a police official.

The bodies of the deceased were later shifted to the mortuary of RL Jalappa hospital.

Upset over mom's death, siblings jump before train

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Depressed over their mother's death, a 26-year-old woman and her 22-year-old brother died by suicide by jumping before a running train in Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur district, early Friday morning.

N Navya and her brother N Prabhu, 22, jumped before a speeding passenger train around 6.30am and died instantly, railway police said. Navya worked with a private firm, while Prabhu was a daily-wage labourer.

According to their father Nataraj, Navya and Prabhu were depressed since the death of their mother Lalitamma four months ago.

"The two were very attached to their mother," Nataraj said.

If you are having suicidal thoughts or in need of emotional support, call suicide-prevention Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI helpline: 080-25497777.

Legal action will continue if CM doesn't answer gov's notice: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: BJP on Saturday said legal action against chief minister Siddaramaiah will proceed if he does not respond to governor Thawar Chand Gehlot's show cause notice.

"These fools don't know that if you (Siddaramaiah) don't answer, the legal action won't stop against you. Whether it is Siddaramaiah or Shivakumar or any person, legal action will be carried out. Every paisa that has been looted from the people will be taken back. Your (Siddaramaiah's) seat will also be vacated," said Karnataka BJP in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal.

He commended the governor for issuing the notice to Siddaramaiah who "looks disturbed already," Agarwal said during the inaugural ceremo-

ny of the Mysuru Chalopadaya in Bengaluru.

On July 15, a petition was filed before the Supreme Court seeking to stall the probe against Siddaramaiah. "You have looted money Rs 11 crore cash was seized from your close associate by agencies. They approached the court to prevent an investigation by the CBI," Agarwal claimed, without naming individuals.

Agarwal stated that BJP organised the padayatra to reform Karnataka and restore the rights of its people. "You (party workers) will fight against the corruption of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. I will be in New Delhi, where senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also present. Money from Karnataka is being looted, and Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are handing over the loo-

"This is a final opportunity for Siddaramaiah. If he takes moral responsibility and resigns, he will preserve his respect and the party's honour. If not, the governor will have to initiate action against him"

BS YEDIYURAPPA
Former chief minister

ted funds to Rahul Gandhi," he alleged.

Addressing the gathering, Agarwal referenced a diary seized by the IT department seven years ago, which purportedly mentioned a Rs 3 crore payment to Congress. He also accused the Karnataka govt of spending Rs 187 crore meant

for Dalits on the Andhra Pradesh election and committing a Rs 4,000 crore scam involving Dalit community land under Siddaramaiah's leadership.

Former CM BS Yediyurappa said if Siddaramaiah refuses to step down, Gehlot would be compelled to initiate action against him.

"This is a final opportunity for Siddaramaiah. If he takes moral responsibility and resigns, he will preserve his respect and the party's honour. If not, governor Thawar Chand Gehlot will have to initiate action against him," he added.

Yediyurappa emphasized that it would be better for Siddaramaiah to voluntarily resign to avoid forced action. "He should not let this happen. It will be good if he voluntarily submits his resignation," he said.

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CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha (Drama) ★★★

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Shantanu Maheshwari, Saiee Manjrekar, Jimmy Shergill, Sayajirao Shinde
Direction: Neeraj Pandey
Duration: 2 hours 25 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ A mature love story of a double murder convict released from prison after more than two decades. The truth behind his crime is revealed as he reunites with his lost love.

Neeraj Pandey's *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* is a departure from the typical romantic fare and a slow-burn exploration of love, loss, and longing. The narrative unfolds in a prison, introducing us to a formidable Krishna (Ajay Devgn) before it shifts gears to unveil a tender love story. The flashback takes us to a younger Krishna's (Shantanu Maheshwari) romance with Vasudha (Saiee Manjrekar) and how an incident sends him to prison for 25 years. Upon an earlier release owing to good behaviour, Krishna reunites with a now-married Vasudha (Tabu). The ensuing story between the past and present is the film's core.



Pandey's script is a lesson in subtlety, allowing the characters and their emotions to take centre stage. The narrative is anchored by Ajay Devgn's nuanced portrayal of Krishna and his transformation from a formidable convict to a vulnerable lover. Interestingly, Shantanu Maheshwari has a completely contrasting character arc (from a simple and noble guy to a savvy prison survivor) but is as effortless as his senior co-star. Tabu delivers a performance of quiet intensity, capturing the complexities of a woman haunted by the past and coming to terms with her present. The duo's chemistry is palpable, adding depth to the film's emotional core. While Saiee Manjrekar delivers an equally good performance, Jimmy Shergill has a short

but impactful role as Vasudha's husband, Abhijeet.

In addition to the powerful performances, MM Kreem's evocative background score is a standout element, contributing significantly to the film's poignant vein.

On the flip side, the movie is inconsistent in its tonality, with elements reminding you of 90s Bollywood fares, complete with festival songs, an athletic Krishna taking on beefy goons, action sequences in the rain, and so on. Kathikuloth Praveen's editing is jerky at various places in the first half. The major twist and the crime's revelation are predictable and have nothing new to offer. Although deliberately languid, the plot feels stagnant by the interval, picking up pace in the second half. Post-interval, the movie also elicits a few chuckles thanks to Krishna's best friend, Jignesh (Jay Upadhyay).

Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha is an attempt at a mature love story that falters in execution, with its slow pace and predictable plot hindering its impact. Watch this one if you appreciate deliberate pacing and emotionally charged narratives.

— Dhaval Roy

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](https://www.etimes.in)

Ulajh (Thriller) ★★★

Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Roshan Mathew, Gulshan Devaiah, Rajesh Tailang, Adil Hussain, Meiyang Chang
Direction: Sudhanshu Saria
Duration: 2 hours 12 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ When an IFS officer lands a plum posting as the youngest Deputy High Commissioner of India in the UK, it raises a few eyebrows but she is determined to prove that she's the best choice for the job. However, she soon gets entangled in a web of conspiracies and realises she is just a pawn in a much larger game.

Suhana (Janhvi Kapoor) is thrilled when she's offered her new office because she believes this will finally impress her father, Vanraj Bhatia, (Adil Hussain). While he has his reservations on why she's the chosen one, Suhana's convinced it's owing to her professional prowess and not just because she comes from an illustrious family of high-ranking diplomats. As his daughter takes off to assume her new role, Vanraj is also designated a foremost diplomatic position.

In her London office, Suhana is greeted by her team. Jacob Tamang (Meiyang Chang) and Sebin Kutty (Roshan Mathew) who view her as a



'nepotism' appointment. On the other hand, her driver, Salim (Rajesh Tailang), seems firmly on her side, offering advice and help whenever required. At an embassy party, Suhana bumps into Nakul (Gulshan Devaiah) who switches between languages and accents with as much ease as he sweeps her off her feet. And a whirlwind romance ensues. But soon Suhana's dream life begins to crumble like a house of cards as Nakul resorts to blackmailing her with a surreptitiously recorded video in exchange of Indian intelligence and trade secrets. And while Suhana is forced to give in, wanting to save face and not disrupt her father's new posting, she finds herself sinking deeper and deeper into a mess she can't seem to wriggle out of. As the storyline juggles between London, India and Pakistan, another facet of the conspiracy is brewing elsewhere.

Though most *Ulajh* rests on Suhana's shoulders, the film is sprinkled with a multitude of characters, who zip in and out as the story traverses through its many twists, betrayals and unlikely friendships. The screenplay (Parveez Shaikh, Sudhanshu Saria) engages enough to keep one invested till the end with some legit shocks and thrills. However, the weakest link in the story is Suhana's lack of judgement and discretion when it comes to falling for Nakul and dealing with the situation before it gets too murky. The pace slackens at times and there are a few loose ends. As a spy-thriller *Ulajh* is gripping in parts and a tad flat in others.

That said, Janhvi Kapoor pulls off a convincing performance as she blends in seamlessly with the many shades to her character. Arguably, among her best work so far, Gulshan Devaiah as the main antagonist channels an impressive evil avatar. Roshan Mathew's character progression is deftly handled and the actor pulls it off with charm. Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang and Adil Hussain lend support with their assured performances. The cinematography (Shreya Dube) and soundtrack (Shashwat Sachdev) add to the mood of the film.

Despite some flaws, *Ulajh* makes for an engaging watch and the film leaves scope for a sequel and a cute new pairing.

— Sreeparna Sengupta

Trap (Mystery, Thriller) ★★★

Cast: Josh Hartnett, Ariel Donoghue, Saleka Shyamalan
Direction: M. Night Shyamalan
Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
Language: English (UA)

■ During what seems to be an ordinary evening at a concert, a man and his teenage daughter find themselves entangled in a dark and sinister event.

Trap proves to be a winning excursion for certain viewers who enjoy a blend of cat-and-mouse chases and a psychological thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat.

However, the drama fails to fully utilise the potential of its fascinating premise. Josh Hartnett's standout performance and some plot twists keep you hooked throughout its 105-minute runtime.

The story follows serial killer Cooper (Josh Hartnett), who the media have tagged "The Butcher." He soon realises that the pop concert he is attending with his fan-girl daughter Riley (Ariel Donoghue) is a trap to catch him, following a tip-off about his attendance.

M Night Shyamalan's direction shines through in *Trap*, as he skillfully creates an atmosphere of palpable tension and unease. Just how the feds near Cooper would be there is one of the little reveals Shyamalan's script delights in. We slowly see Cooper come undone as he realises the extent of the police presence



in the stadium. Shyamalan's own daughter, Saleka Shyamalan, contributes over a dozen songs to the soundtrack as the in-film pop star, Lady Raven. Watching Hartnett switch between a goofy, embarrassing father figure and a concerned serial killer is a real treat. He does

his best to evade the authorities by leaning into his caring dad's routine. However, the film ultimately becomes repetitive as we follow Cooper throughout the stadium, with his daughter's concern increasing.

The film's best part is Hartnett's performance, but unfortunately, we never get enough of him and his menace. Instead, the film includes too much concert footage, especially in the first half. When the narrative moves away from the stadium, the promise of Cooper's true identity being uncovered by the unlikely person fails to earn a satisfactory execution. *Trap* hits the note of being an Alfred Hitchcock-like thriller, but ultimately, it's one setup that doesn't quite snare the intended interest.

— Archika Khurana

Project Silence

(Action, Horror, Sci-Fi, Thriller) ★★★

Cast: Lee Sun-kyun, Kim Su-an, Ju Ji-hoon, Kim Hee-won
Direction: Tae-gon Kim
Duration: 1 hour 36 minutes
Language: Korean with English subtitles (UA)

■ Severe weather has drastically reduced visibility on the airport bridge to Seoul, causing multiple vehicle collisions. The situation worsens when aggressive military experiment dogs escape from their van.

The subject matter of *Project Silence* is absurd and silly, but if you set aside logic and plot concerns, the film is entertaining with its fast pace and stunning special effects. It combines several genres and tells its story efficiently in under 100 minutes. Best enjoyed on the big screen, the film's disaster-horror elements feature killer dogs from a military experiment and a dense, foggy environment. Once the main characters are introduced, the film relentlessly drives forward without any pauses, culminating in a tepid climax.



The plot centers on Jungwon Cha (Lee Sun-kyun), a widower and homeland security employee. His daughter is about to leave for Australia to study music. On his way to the airport, Cha's day goes awry: He gets into an argument with a petrol station attendant, and heavy fog disrupts traffic, causing chaos on the airport bridge

to Seoul. The bridge becomes the site of multiple accidents due to low visibility. The situation worsens when several military experiment dogs escape from a truck.

While the proceedings are engaging, the plot leaves several questions unanswered, particularly regarding the backstory of the dogs and their motivation for attacking. References to Cha's wife appear throughout the film, but more information about her would have been appreciated. The CGI is top-notch, enhancing the experience with breath-taking visuals of the collapsing bridge, ferocious dogs, and vehicles crashing in the fog. This film prioritizes visuals over plot, with the foggy atmosphere and eerie silence on the bridge, amplifying the horror elements.

The film features several characters in the same situation, but none have distinct personalities that add depth to the plot. After setting up an intriguing scenario, the story loses momentum, and the grand climax becomes predictable. Lee Sun-kyun excels as a government officer and saviour, delivering a convincing performance in his final role before his death, portraying a man who does the unthinkable in a dire situation. However, it's Ju Ji-hoon who steals the limelight as Jobak, the petrol station attendant. His goofy role brings the film's comic element to life. *Project Silence* is an enjoyable experience, but it quickly fades from memory once you leave the cinema hall.

— Abhishek Srivastava

CM blames unscientific roadwork for landslide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chief minister Siddaramaiah expressed his displeasure on Saturday over the "unscientific" road construction by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) that led to a landslide on the Shiradi Ghat stretch. Accompanied by chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh, he visited Shiradi Ghat to assess the damage.

The CM criticised the vertical cutting of hills at a 90-degree angle, advocating for a 45-degree slant to minimise destruction. He also reprimanded NHAI officials for such unsafe construction

SHIRADI GHAT

practices. Rajneesh briefed him on the progress, noting that while 35km of the 45km highway project has been completed, no safety measures based on soil quality tests were implemented.

He held discussions with the State Disaster Response Force team engaged in mud clearance operation. He directed Shalini Rajneesh to write to Union minister Nitin Gadkari regarding the situation.

Appeal for relief package

Energy minister KJ George has formally requested Siddaramaiah to provide a special relief package for Chikkamagaluru district, in addition to the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) grant, to address extensive damage caused by heavy rain and strong winds. During a meeting with the CM and revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda, George, who is also in charge for Chikkamagaluru district, emphasized the severe



TAKING STOCK: CM Siddaramaiah visits the landslide site on NH-75 in Sakleshpur, Hassan

re impact of recent weather events. "During my recent visit to rain-affected areas in Chikkamagaluru, it was evident many houses have collapsed, roads have been significantly damaged, and road connectivity has been disrupted. There have been landslides in many areas, with potential for more. Fallen trees, damaged power poles, wires, and transformers are widespread. The CM understands the gravity of the situation and recognises the need for additional funding," the minister said.

"A temporary compensation of Rs 1.2 lakh has been provided to those whose houses were destroyed. Additionally, authorities have been instructed to build new homes under Rajiv Gandhi housing scheme at a cost of Rs 3.8 lakh. Damaged roads should be temporarily repaired to restore vehicular traffic. Officials have been directed to prepare and submit an action plan for a comprehensive solution," he said. "We also need a permanent solution for the landslide issue. These major projects can't be undertaken solely with NDRF grant."

State to build 100 homes for Wayanad victims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka will construct 100 houses for the victims of the recent landslide in Wayanad, Kerala.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah shared on social media platform 'X': "I have assured CM Shri @pinarayivijayan of our support and announced that Karnataka will construct 100 houses for the victims. Together, we will rebuild and restore hope."

Former Wayanad MP and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi noted that the commitment to building 100 houses is a significant step towards rehabilitation efforts. "The compassion and solidarity of Indians are the strengths that Wayanad needs right now," he shared on 'X'. Various industrialists

and private firms from the state have extended their support in multiple ways. The Mysuru district administration, along with a team of doctors, has provided essential relief materials, including freezer boxes, compressors, jackhammers, body bags, emergency light systems, stretchers, and medicines. Kempegowda International Airport Limited contributed water bottles, raincoats, sanitizers, tents, PPE kits, gloves, and masks.

Member organisations of the Electronics City Industrial Association, Pranav Foundation, Biocon and Narayana Health have also donated essentials. Ashaya Trust and Utishta Swayam Seva Organization provided blankets, tarpaulins, ambulances, and financial assistance of Rs 25 lakh.

BJP is grandfather of corruption: CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Hours after the opposition BJP and its ally JD (S) launched an eight-day padayatra from Bengaluru to Mysuru demanding his resignation, CM Siddaramaiah labelled the saffron party as the "grandfather of corruption" and accused it of indulging in corrupt practices when it was in power. "If there is any grandfather of corruption, it's BJP. Whom did we call '40 percent govt'? It's BJP," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Hassan, referring to allegations by Karnataka Contractors' Association president D Kempanna that the previous BJP govt was collecting a 40% commission.

Reacting to JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy's prediction that the Congress govt would fall within the next 10 months, Siddaramaiah countered, "We have to see how many days HD Kumaraswamy remains a union minister. People have blessed us and elected 136 MLAs. They were 37 in the 2019

assembly election. They have come down to 19." He also dismissed charges related to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) allegedly forming an illegal layout on land owned by his wife. BJP leaders have vehemently criticized Siddaramaiah's govt, accusing it of widespread corruption. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai said, "Siddaramaiah's govt has been neck-deep in corruption since day one. There is corruption in all departments. They are putting Karnataka up for sale. People are against this govt, and we are representing the people."

Another former CM, Sadananda Gowda, emphasized BJP's commitment to protesting against the Congress' corrupt practices, vowing to pressure Siddaramaiah into resigning. Union minister Shobha Karandlaje claimed that funds from the Muda and Valmiki Corporation scams were diverted to Telangana for election under the direction of the Congress high command.

Hangal rape case: 10 get bail

After seven-and-a-half months in custody, 10 of the accused in the Hangal gang rape case have been granted bail. Hangal police had arrested 19 people, including seven prime suspects. Following the high court's decision on July 31, the accused were released from Haveri sub-jail.

The accused who were granted bail were not directly involved in the rape but were charged with assaulting the victims and abetting the crime. However, accused Abdulka-

dar Hanchinamani was denied bail as he faces charges under IPC Section 120B for criminal conspiracy for an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for a term of two years or more.

The case initially surfaced as a moral policing incident involving an interfaith couple assaulted in a private lodge in January. The survivor later in her statement to the judicial magistrate said she had been gang-raped by seven men, including a car driver. TNN

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Obituary

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN LOVING MEMORY

Haridas Menon

Haridas Menon, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully in his home on July 31, 2024, at the age of 91. Beloved for his cheerful spirit and generous heart, he will be dearly missed by his wife, his four children and their families, and his numerous friends.

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And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose. Romans: 8:28

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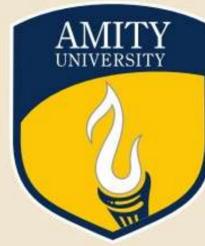
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SRI JAYARAM. B. C

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SUNNI Muslim Doctor boy 28 Years From Bangalore working in Reputed hospital looking for a suitable match (080-69076069)

Looking for BRIDE

51-year-old US based Muslim professional male from an affluent Business family in Mumbai, 5'7", slim. Divorced with no children. Seeking a compassionate, intelligent, and affectionate partner up to 45 yrs.

WhatsApp only +919820013985

SIKH

TALL, handsome, c/n shvn 36, 6'4", nvr mrd, MBA (ISB) 62 LPA salary. Upper middle-class family in BLR. Seek Sikh girl, nvr mrd. WhatsApp# 9035408600

SUITABLE match for Sikh boy, 5'8", 1992 born, pilot in Indigo. Army family based in Chandigarh. Whatsapp - 8828066720

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

AGARWAL, B.E. (BIT Mesra), MS in CS from the USA, 31/6' boy working at Seattle, USA, seeks qualified girl # skagarwal17999@gmail.com, 9831363679

CA handsome tall working boy 95/5'9", 40/50 lkh per annum in Mumbai looking for Hindu beautiful prof wkg girl from good family values caste no bar Contact : 9896529296

PQM4 BS Computer Science, Agarwal Boy Aug 91/5'11 in US Citizen. Entrepreneur. Flexible to settle in India. M: 9915853394 rajeevg@gmail.com

SM4 Gujarati Handsome Mumbai Based Boy 33/5'6" Own Business, Caste/Language No Bar seeks Hindu Veg Girl. What's app- 8779655794

B.TECH MBA Yadav boy, DOB:1987/5'11" Canada-Work Permit 30LPA (Warehouse Supervisor). WhatsApp: 9711388808/9425390907

SECOND MARRIAGE

GROOM, 45, Widower with 1 son, very handsome, athletic Doctor in USA, looking for bride who is widow lady with child, or issueless divorcee. Must be young, very beautiful, slim and into fitness, good-natured, soft-spoken, and family-oriented. Email: abc045@yahoo.com

60-YEAR- male, twice divorced, looking for a kind-hearted, loving bride without kids to share life's journey. If you are ready for a new beginning and a lasting relationship, please reach out to 88387 44120.

BELLOW 45age Qual. F'less match for Marathi Veg. Sept'74, 5'6", 63kgs. B. Tech., MNC-Mumbai. Cont : matchmunc@yahoo.com / 9321807892

GREEN Card Holder Doctor Girl very fair b'tul 48/5'3" working in New York, Issueless divorcee. Caste no Bar, US Boy pref. # 7091920691

PQM for BRAHMIN 86 Born 5'8" Smart girl MBA SR. MANG 23 LPA Ansk Mang Status family Upper caste no bar 9893443143

SM4 Narmadiya Br girl May 95, MBA (IIM) B Tech, Wkg MNC Mumbai 50 LPA, from reputed well settled family # 9893041488 Whatsapp BHP

REQ. PQM 4 v'fair, b'tul Bengali Brahmin Girl 1994, 5'5" B.Tech, MBA (IIM), wkg in leading MNC in Kol. Email: nabantia1962@gmail.com

SMART Fair, Good Looking PQ, Dec-94/5'5", Working, Punjabi / Sikh Girl, Seeks Well Settled SM, WhatsApp Bio-data & Photos, Ph: 9849640921

B'FUL fair BBA girl, Aug2000/5'4, Working Noida. Seeks well settled, qualified Swrnrk boy whatsapp 9810641865

VAISH

SUITABLE match for beautiful, mature, spiritual Kश्यap Agrawal girl May 1990, 5'3", 55kg, PhD Env.Sci, Asstt Prof., gupta.vinaig@gmail.com; 9471191009

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

SEEKING Edu. professional for our daughter 29, RCL, LLM, working in BLR. email: preebha94@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN Parents invite educated well-settled boys for their daughter MBA 37, 5'2" working Mumbai. 9977282926

HINDU

NAIR Parents seeks alliance for their daughter, 26 yrs 153cm, B.Tech, PGDM-C (MICA Abad) Asst Brand Mgr at Bangalore from Graduate boys of IIT/NIT/IIM with equal/higher edu/work status and of reputed family. Cont: 9106766526

RELIGION NO BAR

PUNJABI unmarried boy 39, 5'9" B.Tech-MBA IIM Wkn MNC 80 lakh Pkg, no dowry afultn f'mly accept div & wido CNB # 9406468858, 7987144206

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

ONLY Namasudra Bride Wanted Tall, Fair, V. B'ful, Highly Qualified in STEM for Veg, HT, IIM, US Bank groom (31). soumatsou@gmail.com

PUNJABI

PUNJABI unmarried boy 32, 5'10" B.Tech-NIT -MBA IIM Working mnc 70 lac cast no bar No dowry affluent f'mly # 9407787050, 9406468858

SEEKING alliance for Punjabi Boy, Chennai, 32 years working as HR in UAE. Please Call : 98404 25490

USA bsdMBA/dr/gr/gri/gupta boy/16VicePresident,JP Morgan Bank NewYork/2cr.MBADuk eComput Eng.Toronto,DonSch 'ing.fathIAS.delnrcr.9971790446

GERMANY- PR-Boy S.T. Mngt - IT - F A N G, 42Yrs, 5'3", Sal 135K Eur, M:-919931997159,Email: sinhapati18@gmail.com

USA bsdMBA/dr/gr/gri/gupta boy/16VicePresident,JP Morgan Bank NewYork/2cr.MBADuk eComput Eng.Toronto,DonSch 'ing.fathIAS.delnrcr.9971790446

SM for Delhi bsd Gaur Brahmin boy 28/5'9" MS (CS) from USA Wkg as Software Engr. in USA on H1B visa seeks Studying Wrgk girl in USA. Call/W app: 9810200443

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BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

WANTED bride for 45 years divorce SC hindi middle class man with 17 years old daughter only, working in Liverpool England, caste religion, language no bar. 9300628693

KAYASTH, 1993/5'11", BE, MS, CA Manager in Big4, Sydney, seeks girl wkg in Australia or willing to relocate. Bhopal bsd f'mly. Father Rtd Govt Officer. M 9423258372

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BJP seniors skip padayatra amid reports of internal rift

Yatnal And Jarkiholi Defy Party Diktat

Anil.Gejji@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Several senior BJP functionaries, including Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Ramesh Jarkiholi, B Srimamulu, and ST Somashankar, were notably absent from a rally to mark the launch of a padayatra from Bengaluru to Mysuru on Saturday. The march saw both state BJP president Vijayendra and state JD(S) youth wing chief Nikhil Kumaraswamy in the spotlight.

Yatnal and Jarkiholi, who have opposed Vijayendra's leadership since he assumed control of the state BJP unit, defied an instruction from the party high command by not attending the padayatra. Yatnal criticised former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his son Vijayendra for leading the march, citing corruption charges against Yediyurappa.

"Yediyurappa himself is facing charges of corruption and many cases. It is strange that he is leading a padayatra against Siddaramaiah's corruption. The party high com-

Young leaders hog limelight

Vijayendra and Nikhil garnered significant attention on the first day of the rally, with many attendees, particularly young people, taking selfies with them and cheering them. Political analysts suggest that the padayatra could serve as a crucial platform for both leaders. A senior BJP MLA noted, "Vijayendra, despite winning the assembly election and becoming the state BJP chief, has not yet been accepted by the party workers and a section of senior functionaries. The yatra could change that a bit if not fully."

JD(S) state president HD Kumaraswamy is working to boost his son Nikhil's public acceptance, especially among Vokkaligas, by presenting him as the future face of the party following himself and former PM HD Deve Gowda.

mand must keep Yediyurappa away from the party's public programmes to avoid embarrassment," Yatnal said, much to the embarrassment of the saffron party.

Following Vijayendra's announcement of the padayatra from Bengaluru to Mysuru, Yatnal and Jarkiholi had proposed a parallel march from Kudalasangama to Ballari, which the party high command did not approve. They are now planning a rally of the anti-Vijayendra faction within BJP next month.



MYSURU CHALO: BS Yediyurappa and other senior functionaries of state BJP along with Union minister HD Kumaraswamy launch the opposition's padayatra in Bengaluru on Saturday



Pritham Gowda finally joins march

Former Hassan MLA Pritham Gowda, joined the padayatra later, attracting onlookers' attention. His participation was in question after Kumaraswamy objected to his presence at a joint meeting of both parties to discuss yatra preparations. The Kumaraswamy family has had a political feud with

Pritham, since he won the Hassan assembly seat in 2018. Kumaraswamy had accused Pritham of involvement in the circulation of sex pen drives allegedly involving his nephew Prajwal. Upon Pritham joining Vijayendra mid-way, Nikhil maintained a noticeable distance from Vijayendra.

Additionally, BJP MLAs ST Somashankar and Shivaram Hebbar, who have distanced themselves from party activities for the past year, were also absent.

BJP national president or Amit Shah may join big rally on last day

Continued from page 1

The eight-day padayatra will pass through Bidadi, Magadi, Ramanagara, Channarayana, Maddur, Mandya, and Srirangapatna, before ending in Mysuru. BJP plans a large rally on the concluding day, expected to be attended by Union home minister Amit Shah or BJP national president JP Nadda.

BJP claims the scam involves between Rs 3,000 and Rs 4,000 crore. The party has accused Siddaramaiah's wife of illegally obtaining 14 sites from MUDA in exchange for 3.16 acres of land that she allegedly did not own, leveraging Siddaramaiah's influence. The issue was escalated to the Raj Bhavan, after advocate and anti-graft activist TJ Abraham filed a petition, seeking governor Tharwar Chand Gehlot's nod to prosecute Siddaramaiah in the graft case. Gehlot is expected to decide on the petition shortly.

At the padayatra's inauguration, BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa accused Siddaramaiah of corruption, urging him to resign. Yediyurappa added: "If not, people of the state will not excuse him."

Kumaraswamy criticised Congress for allegedly revealing its 'anti-Dalit' face through the MUDA and Valmiki Corporation scams, predicting the govt's fall within months. "Not 10 years, we will see whether you remain in power for the next 10 months," he commented, referring to Congress leader and deputy CM DK Shivakumar's statement about the party having a long stint in power.

"There might be confusion between us [BJP-JD(S)], but this alliance will remain intact until the Congress govt is uprooted from the state," Kumaraswamy said.

Justifying the padayatra, leader of the opposition, R Ashoka, claimed the state govt had blocked assembly debates on the issue. "It is not only about 14 sites allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife. His followers have usurped around 300 sites. This is a big scam and we will take it to a logical end," he said.

Disclose your family assets, DKS tells HDK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Even after being imprisoned in Tihar jail, I managed to win 136 MLA seats for Congress, while he could only get 19 seats



DK SHIVAKUMAR Deputy chief minister

Bengaluru: Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar demanded Union minister HD Kumaraswamy disclose his family's assets and the sources of his wealth, during a public rally in Ramanagara on Saturday. The rally was organised in response to the BJP-JD(S) foot march.

"Start with your brother Balakrishna Gowda's assets and explain everything. How much wealth he had initially, how much it is now, and how much it has increased," Shivakumar stated. He urged Kumaraswamy to provide the details about his family assets in Bengaluru, including properties on Kanakapura Road, in Kumbalagodu, Doddagubbi, Chikkagubbi, Nela-mangala, and Yelahanka.

Janandolana rally to counter BJP's padayatra to Mysuru

The rally, termed 'Janandolana', was a direct response to BJP's Padayatra to Mysuru, which commenced on the same day. The opposition parties organised the march to protest against the MUDA alternative site scam, alleging that CM Siddaramaiah's wife benefited from the scheme, which the CM denied.

Shivakumar also addressed Kumaraswamy's remarks about Tihar jail, where the latter suggested that the military would arrest Shivakumar and send him there. "Even after being imprisoned in Tihar jail, I managed to win 136 MLA seats, while he could only win 19 seats. I have seen Tihar jail and managed to overcome the cases he and his family filed against me," he remarked.

The deputy CM accused Kumaraswamy of falsely alleging him of being involved in the release of a pen drive related to the sex video scandal, involving Prajwal Revanna, emphasizing his commitment to principled politics.

Shivakumar also criticised BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra, who labelled him as the "father of corruption." He questioned the circumstances surrounding former CM Yediyurappa's resignation, stating, "What wrong did former chief minister Yediyurappa commit? Why did he resign? You need to answer this." He claimed BJP intends to undermine Karnataka govt by Nov or Dec, but expressed confidence in the govt's stability, stating, "You cannot displace a single MLA from us. Your attempts to bring down Siddaramaiah's govt led by DK Shivakumar will be futile." Shivakumar asserted that regardless of BJP's actions against Congress leaders, the party's strength is crucial for the nation. "The strength of Congress will rise again in this country," he declared, highlighting the party's historical contributions to India.

Women top list of registered donors in state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka is one of the few states that have taken lead in organ donation over the past years. Even though the gap between the donors and recipients has been wide-

ORGAN DONATION DAY

ning every year, a whopping 63,000 people have voluntarily registered to donate their organs, according to the health and family welfare minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

"Among the registered donors,

women form the highest numbers," Rao said, during Indian Organ Donation Day celebrations in Belagavi. As per the data, a total of 8,500 patients are awaiting organs.

Demand for kidneys

"Kidneys have the highest demand. If one person donates organs, we can save the lives of as many as eight patients. More people must come forward to pledge their organs," Rao said. He also said that all organ donors will be honoured across Karnataka during Independence Day celebrations every year.

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040-23633263

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.
Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Letter No: 279/PPP/12/2022/19883 Dated: 02.08.2024

Government of Uttarakhand Short Re E-tender Notice

- Name of Work- Operationalise Mobile Tuberculosis testing Van in Uttarakhand in the Five Districts Dehradun, U.S. Nagar, Haridwar and Plain regions Nainital and Pauri.
- Date and time of e-publishing of Tender - 06.08.2024 at 14:00 PM.
- Closing date of online submission of Tender - 21.08.2024, till 14:00 PM.
- Opening date of technical bid Tender - 21.08.2024, at 15:00 PM.
- 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.

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, Sahastradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Additional Director (PPP)

MADHYA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
5th Floor, "Metro Plaza", E-5, Arera Colony, Bittan Market Bhopal-462016, Phone No. : 0755-2463585, 2430154
Fax No. : 4004137, E-mail : secretary@mperc.nic.in
Website : www.mperc.in

No. : MPERC/Secy/1867 Bhopal, Dated : 02.08.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM TO TIME EXTENSION

The Commission has issued a RFP (Request for proposal) on 15th July 2024 for seeking consultancy support from competent/eligible Consultants for monitoring and evaluation of quarterly report on subsidy demand raised by Distribution Licensees of State.

The due date for receiving bid proposal is extended as under :-
1) Receipt of Bid Proposals - 1500 Hours of 16th August 2024
2) Opening of Technical Portion of Bids - 1600 Hours of 20th August 2024

The interested parties may submit their proposals strictly in accordance with the procedure laid down in the RFP/Bid document, so as to reach to the Commission's office as per the time schedule indicated herein.

(UMAKANTA PANDA)
M.P. Madhyam/115726/2024
SECRETARY

MLA gave no posting as we are Dalits, says PSI's wife

Continued from page 1

Parashurama returned home Friday afternoon after a farewell from his old police station. It is suspected he had a cardiac arrest in the night. He was found bleeding from his nose and mouth and was declared dead at a private hospital. Shwetha, who is pregnant, was in Raichur at her parents' house. She alleged that her husband died due to mental harassment and depression, caused by the demands for money. She said that he had served only seven months at Yadgir town police station before being transferred. "The MLA did not give the posting as we are Dalits and we were not able to give him a bribe for the posting," Shwetha alleged.

Meanwhile, Dalit organisations and Parashurama's family protested on NH 50, demanding arrest of Patil. They accused the police of siding with the MLA and claimed that Parashurama faced repeated mental torture for money.

Parashurama was reportedly in debt and had spoken to RDPR, IT, and BT minister Priyank Kharge over the phone about it. JD(S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur stated that he had complained about the transfer three days before his death.

The incident took a political turn with opposition BJP and JD(S) slamming the govt for pushing sincere officers towards suicide.

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy questioned home minister G Parameshwara and CM Siddaramaiah's claims of championing the cause of Dalits.

In May, Karnataka Maharsi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation accounts superintendent, Chandrasekharan P, died by suicide. In his suicide note, he accused senior officers of pressuring him to open a parallel bank account and divert unaccounted money into that. The scam led to resignation and arrest of scheduled tribes welfare minister B Nagendra.

Protests in Yadagiri town led to a blockade on the Yadagiri-Kalaburagi road, causing a kilometre-long vehicle blockage. Agitators called off their protest after SP G Sangeetha assured them that the accused would be arrested within 24 hours.

Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy
(An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India)
12 K.M. Stone, Jalandhar-Kapurthala Road, Wadala Kalan, Kapurthala (Punjab) 144603
Phone: 01822-507406, email: sss.nibe@nibe.res.in, Website: <https://nibe.res.in>

Dated: 24-07-2024

Advertisement No: 348-21/6/2019-ADMIN (July 2024)

Applications are invited for filling up of three (3) posts of Scientist-F from the eligible candidates, in Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio Energy (SSS-NIBE), Kapurthala on Direct Recruitment / Deputation Basis. Particulars of academic qualifications, Experience and other requirement of the post are given on the website of <http://nibe.res.in> and <http://mnre.gov.in>

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of post	Pay Scale	Category
1	Scientist-F	3	Level 13(A) 7 th CPC	(General) Unreserved.

Interested candidates fulfilling the required qualifications and experience may send their applications in prescribed Proforma available on Institute website, in the name of Director General, Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio Energy (SSS-NIBE), Jalandhar-Kapurthala road, Wadala Kalan, Kapurthala (Punjab) 144603 so as to reach within 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment news.

For deputation, the applicant should apply through proper channel.

The Application as well as the envelope to distinctly mark "Post applied for Scientist-F" and whether applying for "Direct Recruitment" or "Deputation Basis". Incomplete application will be rejected and No communication will be entertained.

The candidates, who had applied earlier, against advertisement No. 348-21/6/2019-Admin (July 2022) published in Employment News issue (6-12) August, 2022 need to apply again for consideration of their candidature.

Director General

eco crystal
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Ministry of Culture Government of India

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

Adv. No. : CCRT/11011/02/2024/03

Recruitment of Group-'A' posts in CCRT

Applications are invited for the following posts on Deputation basis in CCRT. The vacancy details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Pay Level	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Director	01	Pay Level-12 (Rs.78,800-2,09,200) as per 7 th CPC	On Deputation Basis
2.	Dy. Director (Finance)	01	Pay Level-11 (Rs.67,700-2,08,700) as per 7 th CPC	

The detailed advertisement, prescribed Application Format and General instructions are available in the CCRT website <https://crtindia.gov.in/>. The last date for receipt of the application is 28/08/2024 through proper channel.

Dy. Director (Administration)
CCRT, New Delhi

CBC 09127/12/0005/2425

प्रायोगिक सूक्ष्मतरंग इलेक्ट्रॉनिक अभियांत्रिकी तथा अनुसंधान संस्था (समीर)
SOCIETY FOR APPLIED MICROWAVE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (SAMEER)
Centre for Millimeter Wave Research
(R & D Laboratory of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India)
Plot - L2, Block - GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata - 700091
Ph: 033 2357 4875/2357 4894

Adv. No.: SMR(K)/Rect-02/2024

Last Date of Application: 25.08.2024

SAMEER-Kolkata, in collaboration with top Indian Institute of Technologies, including IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, and IIT Patna is building the first indigenous 60 Test bed of the country in Terahertz (THz) Frequency range, with the support of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt. of India and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India. The 60 THz Test bed project with high national visibility and funded by DoT has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

SAMEER is looking for motivated Engineers & Researchers who are interested to be a part of India's top 50 development team. As a part of this team, you will be contributing for the development of RF hardware (Tx-Rx systems in THz) and antenna systems based on state-of-the-art technologies such as Intelligent Reflecting Surface (IRS) and Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM), to build the country's first 60 Test bed. You will be working at SAMEER-Kolkata and will have the golden opportunity to work with IIT Professors and Project Leaders which will enable you to build a carrier in latest Wireless Technologies.

Vacancy details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
A	Research Scientist	21
B	Project Assistant	11
C	Project Technician	08
D	Project Management Assistant	03

Details of online application, qualification, and eligibility criterion along with selection process are available on website <https://recruit.sameer.gov.in/>
CBC 06163/12/0001/2425

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No.1371/2022)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Present Sy.No.8, (old Sy.No. 09 and 8/1) PID No. 91-61-08, Good Will Residence, Cokborn Road, Bengaluru BBMP ward No. 91, measuring 766 sq.ft. Title: Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority	47,30,000/-	4,73,000/-	48,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
26th August 2024, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	27th August 2024, 11 am to 5 pm	29th August 2024, until 5pm	30th August 2024, 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Sd/-
Date: 31-07-2024
Place: Bengaluru

The Special Officer & Competent Authority
DIPR/CP/1269/Zen/2024-25 (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka

TIMES interact

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LAND FOR SALE

AGRICULTURE LAND FOR SALE 5 ACRES HIGH WAY Attached. Nagamangala to KR Pet Rd. 120 Km from Bangalore. Call: 9448473338 / 9890072843

SALE OF LANDS @ NANDI HILLS AREA

Land parcels ranging from 5 to 40 acres with Clear Titles, peaceful possession, and good access are available for sale or Joint development around Nandi Hills. Interested please Contact: 99000 02779

PLOTS FOR SALE

1570SFT & 1591sft of 2 Resi. Plots for sale near bhogannawar temple. 120sft Resi plot for sale in MCECHS layout brokers excuse 9396661931

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

ANJANAPURA

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th Stage Anjanapura JP Nagar, Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

BANASHANKARI

BDA Sites Wanted
Arkavathy, Anjanapura, Banashankari 6th Stage
Vishweshwariah
Kempowada Any BDA
Layout. Ct: 9845062822 / 8660751654

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2380 Sft To 3000 Sft
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NEW TOWER Features 3 & 4BHK Vastu Flats Ranging from 2380sft to 3000Sft. To Book & Know more. Call 9136536999

BDA SITE FOR SALE

PRIME LOCATION 30x40, 40x80, 30x45 at very attractive price Call: 6366864478 / 9880178659

COOKE TOWN

COOKE Town flat for sale in 2nd floor East facing 3 BHK 1740sqft with carparking. Also 1 BHK in 2nd floor 600 sqft. Call 98450 53346

CV RAMAN NAGAR

N/E Corner Property, conveyer water & borewell A katha 1 flat could be for ownstay other units for good income. 3.25Cr appreciating, brk exc. 974025509

DEVANAHALLI

QUARTER Acres Farm Land for Sale near Devanahalli @ Jangamakote Cross- Hosakote Road with Best Amenities @ Rs. 271/- Sqt Call: 9916906881

FOUR Plots Available for Sale Area: Facing 2397(N), 3136 (E), 2417 (N) and 1778 (N) Sq.ft at Brigade Orchards, Devanahalli Interested Contact: 9890440526

DODDABALLAPUR ROAD

DODDABALLAPURA Industrial Area Near Highway 3Acres Industrial Conversion Land Sale & INTL Airport near 55,000 sft Land Sale 98456 23970

PRESTIGE Oasis Villas for Sale A Type Corner site, excellent view & condition 10Cr, E Type Corner 5.50Cr F Type 4.10 Cr Settler: 9880225333 / 9845033333

DOLLARS COLONY

LUXURIOUS & Spacious flat Dollars colony behind Sterling Apts. RMV 2nd stage. flat 2BHK @65Lac & 3BHK @75 Lac limited offer Ct: 9638188399

ELECTRONIC CITY

SURYANAGAR PHASE -I, EAST FACED, 40x60 Hba site for Sale. KIB ALLOTMENT SITE. Contact: 9678829026

HEBBAL

PURVANKARA Sparkling Springs & Purva Symphony Phase 2 & 3 type A, B, C & D Villa's for sale, also Phase 1 ready to occupy, all land owner share. Contact: 99007 77099.

ARKERE village Begur hobli Bangalore south taluk (near south city) Bannerghatta road 50x88-3400Sft site #11 for sale Survey #1076. Call: 9845097455

BASAVANAGUDI

3BHK LUXURY FLATS N/R Colony 148 Cr. Near South Kitchen

FLATS FOR SALE

N/R Colony only Approved Floors, BKM A Katha, Price Starts From 1.48 Cr. 9886961444 / 9620232978

BASAVESHWARA NAGAR

SALE: GROUND & FIRST FLOOR BUILT UP 2500 SQFT WITH SITE AREA 1600 SQUARE FEET A KHATHA RS 1 CRORE 90 LAKHS 9833883017

BIDADI

KIADBI open land of Area 21800 sqft (0.5 acres) at Bidadi Indl Area. Phase II, available for rent/Lease. can be utilised as stockyard. Contact: 9843394677

HENNUR

ELEGANT Aster East Facing 3 BHK Duplex flat with private terrace, Car park, S/Pool, play area Clear title Rs 90 Lakhs Nego Call Vijay: 98443 37944

HOSUR ROAD

FOR sale 55x50 - 2750 sqft site between Singasandra Bus stop & Hosur rd metro station, suitable for PG building, Rs 7900/- per sqft. Contact: 6360169288

ARKAVATHY LAYOUT

BDA SITES 2ND BLOCK 30X40 1200 SQFT E/F and W/F. Call: 9986259595 / 9886415554. Mail: rrsrp@yaho.co.in

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

INTERNATIONAL Airport Near By Chagankalvi Main Road Near Adarsh Savana Faram Land 1.5 Acre Sale Broker's Excuse Call 9845623970

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commercially converted 14000 sqft facing land on airport road also 13700 sqft PRESTIGE GREEN FIELD Contact : Midford-9342580659

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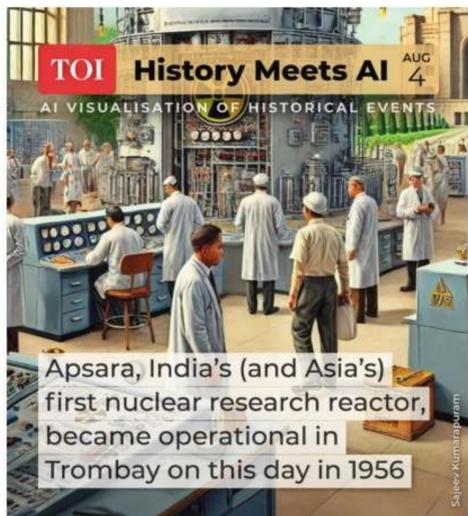
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BASAVESHWARA NAGAR



TOI History Meets AI AUG 4
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Apsara, India's (and Asia's) first nuclear research reactor, became operational in Trombay on this day in 1956

85 plots land official in vigilance net

Odisha vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested a chief engineer at the irrigation department in Keonjhar district in a disproportionate assets case for allegedly possessing 85 land plots, reports **Riyann Ramanath**. He was remanded to judicial custody after his bail plea got rejected. Besides the 85 plots, officials found in his possession a five-storey building, a market complex, 335gms of gold ornaments, Rs 78 lakh bank deposit and Rs 11.7 lakh cash. Of the 85 plots, 80 are in Jaleswar (Balasore district), four in Puri district and one in West Bengal. This is the third arrest of a top govt officer in disproportionate assets case in Odisha in less than two weeks. Pradhan, from Balasore, joined as an engineer in 1994. He was promoted to the post of chief engineer in July. In a recent property disclosure statement, he had mentioned possessing only a few plots. Sources said a team of 20 vigilance officials raided Pradhan's parental home at Balasore. Multiple teams are also raiding houses of Pradhan's relatives and close associates across several locations.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers Richa Gandhi

DOES DEVELOPMENT DRIVE OLYMPICS TALLY

The Human Development Index (HDI) measures the quality of life in a country. A comparison of HDI rankings and medals tally at the Tokyo Olympics shows that all countries at the top of the HDI table managed to win an Olympic medal, barring tiny Iceland. For those at the bottom, the medals tally was zero

HDI Rank	Country	HDI	Total	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Switzerland	0.967	13	3	4	6
2	Norway	0.966	8	4	2	2
3	Iceland	0.959	0	0	0	0
4	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.956	6	1	2	3
5	Denmark	0.952	11	3	4	4
189	Chad	0.394	0	0	0	0
189	Niger	0.394	0	0	0	0
191	Central African Republic	0.387	0	0	0	0
192	South Sudan	0.381	0	0	0	0
193	Somalia	0.38	0	0	0	0

Source: UN, IOC

7-year-old dead, dad hurt after drunk student rams car into bike

Hyderabad: A seven-year-old boy died after the bike he was riding pillion on was hit by a car driven by an inebriated 21-year-old student in Hyderabad's Ibrahimbagh on Saturday morning. The child's father was injured in the accident.

The accused, Srinath — an undergraduate student and a resident of Maruti Nagar in Sheikpet — was booked on the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Police conducted a breathalyzer test and Srinath tested positive, with his blood alcohol content (BAC) reading 100mg/100ml against the permissible limit of 30mg/100ml. Police also recovered a liquor bottle from his car.

Around 9am, class 1 student M Sai Surya (7) and his father Ramesh, residents of YSR Colony, were heading from Ibrahimbagh to Surya's grandmother's house in Nekkampur — where the child's mother was staying — when their two-wheeler was rear-ended by Srinath's speeding car on a by-lane, Golconda Police said. The bike and car ended up hitting a compound wall, abutting the road. Both Ramesh and his son Surya fell off the bike. Surya died on the spot while Ramesh was rushed to a hospital where he is being treated for a head injury. Following the accident, locals caught Srinath and handed him over to cops.

SBI net up 1% to ₹17,000cr

Mumbai: State Bank of India reported a 1% increase in its Q1FY25 net profit to Rs 17,035 crore from Rs 16,884 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. However, profits were almost flat due to a reduction in interest margins and a 70% jump in provisions for bad loans.

The net profit of the country's largest bank is higher than that of Reliance Industries which totalled Rs 15138 crore.

This marks the second consecutive quarter in which SBI has outperformed RIL, a company that has long held the title of the most profitable in the country. TNM

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi
Ministry of Education, Government of India, MYSURU - 570006
Email: principal@riemysore.ac.in, website: www.riemysore.ac.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
The Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru will conduct Walk-in-Interview on 12.08.2024 for the post of Junior Project Fellows (JPFs) purely on contractual basis upto 31.03.2025 or Completion of the Project whichever is earlier.

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts	Date of Interview & Time
1	Junior Project Fellows (JPFs)	04	12 th August, 2024, 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

For more details please log on to www.riemysore.ac.in Principal

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
A - 34, Sector - 62, NOIDA - 201309 (Uttar Pradesh)
website: www.nchmct.gov.in

Adv. No. NCHM-03/2024

NCHMCT invites applications for filling up the post of Accountant. Details are:

Sl. No.	Post & Pay Level	No. of Vacancy(s) & Reservation (if any)	Mode of Recruitment
1	Accountant Pay Level-7	1 (UR)	By transfer on deputation/transfer failing which by direct recruitment.

For detailed information and application form log on to www.nchmct.gov.in
Last date for receipt of application in the Council is 19th September 2024.
The competent authority reserves the right to cancel/republish the above advertisement, without assigning any reason. Director (Admn & Finance) I/c

Ex-cop's charges against MVA netas spark Maha poll slugfest

NCP-SP, BJP Spar As Waze Accuses 2 Ex-Ministers Of Extortion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/Pune/Nagpur: Election heat in Maharashtra went up a notch on Saturday with former cop Sachin Waze revealing that he had named another minister from the MVA govt — Jayant Patil — in his purported missive to deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on the orchestra bars extortion case involving former home minister Anil Deshmukh. The revelations by Waze, currently in jail in a murder case, triggered a fresh war of words between BJP & NCP (SP). Waze said that in his letter addressed to BJP's Fadnavis, he has mentioned Patil's name. Meanwhile, speaking to media in Nagpur, Fadnavis said, "I haven't read Waze's letter. I learnt about it through media reports. If Waze indeed sent such a letter, its authenticity will be verified, and an investigation will follow."

NCP-SP's Jayant Patil said, "Nowadays, a person in jail is also giving an interview. There are serious allegations against him (Waze), I don't think I need to reply to him."



Former cop Sachin Waze (C), in jail in a murder case, said he named ex-minister Jayant Patil in his letter to deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis (L) in an extortion case involving another ex-minister Anil Deshmukh (R). Both Patil and Deshmukh have denied the charges

Waze spoke to the media on Friday when a police team was escorting him from court to jail. The case recently made it back to the news after Deshmukh claimed that Fadnavis had attempted to pressure him into filing false affidavits against then CM Uddhav Thackeray, his son Aaditya, then deputy CM Ajit Pawar, and former minister Anil Parab three years ago.

In 2021, during the tenure of the MVA govt by Thackeray, the then Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh had alleged that then home minister Anil Deshmukh had asked Waze to collect Rs 100 crore from orchestra bars in Mumbai for him. Singh had made the allegation after Deshmukh shunted him from the police commissioner's post following the Antilia bomb scare and the Mansukh Hiran murder case

controversy, which led to Waze's arrest in the case by NIA.

In Nagpur, Deshmukh, after sharing the dias with Fadnavis at the inauguration of the state planning commission building on Saturday, denied these accusations, pointing out that Bombay high court had granted him bail and explicitly stated that Waze's testimony was unreliable due to his criminal background. Deshmukh also questioned Fadnavis's judgment in using Waze's claims against him. He went on to accuse Fadnavis of orchestrating the plot in retaliation to his recent expose.

NCP-SP MP Supriya Sule questioned the timing of Waze's statement, with the assembly election in the state approaching, and said, "Which Jayant Patil he is talking about we don't know... dirty politics being played out in Maharashtra. See the timing of the letter, why he is writing it now because they (the ruling party) are afraid of our senior leader, so they are now behind them."

Bunking classes, UP teen rams car into scooty, kills woman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: In a rerun of the Pune Porsche crash, a 35-year-old woman was killed and her 12-year-old daughter grievously injured after their scooty was hit by a speeding sedan being driven by 17-year-old in UP's Kanpur on Friday.

The student of Class XII has been detained and his father arrested over the crash in city's Kidwai Nagar area. "The boy did not have a driving licence and investigations suggest he was trying stunts in his car along with friends," said DCP (South) Ravindra Kumar.

The deceased woman has been identified as Bhawna Mishra and her injured daughter as Medhavi, residents of Keshavnagar area in Kanpur.

The boy has been booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, endangering lives of others by driving in a reckless manner and causing harm to property.

The Maruti Ciaz, registered in the name of the boy's 24-year-old sister, has been impounded, additional DCP Anita Sharma said, adding their

The woman's daughter, 12, was seriously injured in the crash. Probes suggest the boy was trying stunts in his car, Kanpur cops said

father was being interrogated.

ACP Amarnath Yadav quoted eyewitnesses as saying the car's speed was over 100kmph. "Besides the boy at the wheel, there were three others in the car, including two girls. They, too, suffered minor injuries". CCTV footage — which later went viral — showed the Maruti Ciaz swerving sideways, ramming the scooty coming from the opposite direction while the woman and her daughter were trying to make a right turn, the officer said.

"Initial findings suggest they (the boy and friends) were on a joyride after bunking classes," Kidwai Nagar station in-charge Bahadur Singh said.

In the Pune Porsche horror on May 19 this year, a 17-year-old had knocked down and killed two bike-borne techies after a night out at pubs.

UP bulldozes 'illegal' bakery of SP neta accused of rape

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ayodhya: Authorities riding bulldozers in UP's Faizabad demolished Saturday a bakery owned by Samajwadi Party functionary and rape accused Moeed Khan in Bhadarsa, 21km southwest of Ayodhya. According to ADM Anirudh Singh, the bakery was built illegally by encroaching upon a public pond.

Pathkrit Chakraborty & Arshad Afzaal Khan | TNM

An abortion with consent of her parents and experts. DNA from the fetus will be compared with that of the accused.

On Friday, the family met UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who promised stern action against the accused. Yogi accused SP of shielding a rape accused, citing Moeed's pictures with Faizabad's Lok Sabha MP Awadhesh Prasad.



The action followed a complaint from the family of the underage girl

The action followed a complaint from the family of an underage girl of SC Nishad community that she was repeatedly raped by Moeed and his employee Raju since mid-May, making her pregnant. Police have registered a case under the PoCSO Act and both suspects have been arrested.

Ayodhya SSP Raj Karan Nayyar said the girl's father died two years ago, leaving her mother, sisters, and herself to do menial labour to get by. According to the complaint, Raju informed her in May that Moeed wanted to see her after work. When she arrived, Moeed allegedly raped her and recorded the crime with Raju's help. "Over the next two-and-a-half months, Khan continued to assault her, using the video to threaten her. The crime was discovered when the minor became pregnant," Nayyar said.

The survivor, who is 10-week pregnant, is to undergo Prasad demanded a DNA test to nail the culprit. While SP chief Akhilesh reiterated the demand for a DNA test, BSP's Mayawati questioned the motive. According to ADM Singh, the rape suspect faces action for another land encroachment. "Our revenue department has investigated and served a notice on him regarding a multi-storey complex owned by Moeed Khan. We aren't demolishing it today (Saturday) because a govt bank operates from it. We have informed the bank manager. Demolition is imminent whether the bank moves out or not," the ADM said.

CJI: Sometimes judicial process itself becomes a punishment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Accepting the problem faced by litigants and their frustration due to protracted hearing and delay in justice delivery, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said the process itself sometimes becomes a punishment which is a matter of grave concern.

Speaking at the conclusion of a week-long special Lok Adalat drive in the apex court during which more than a thousand cases were settled, the CJI said that Lok Adalat brought to light many cases where litigants were ready to settle the dispute despite not being given appropriate compensation because they were fed up of court proceedings and wanted to get out of the system.

"The process is the punishment, and that is a cause for concern for all of us judges. So very often we say we will not allow this matter to be settled. Because the settlement reflects the pre-existing inequalities in society. So as judges we try and say that we will not settle it and we'll try and get you a better outcome", the CJI said.

India, China run risk of falling into 'middle income trap': WB

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At current trends, it will take India 75 years to reach a quarter of US per capita income while China will take over 10 years, a World Bank report has said as it cautioned countries from falling into what is known as 'middle income trap'. The alert comes amidst India setting a target of being a developed nation by 2047.

China, Vietnam and several other middle-income countries have also set plans for raising their per capita incomes to match those of developed nations. The report says, more than 100 countries — including China, India, Brazil and South Africa — face serious obstacles that could hinder their efforts to become high-income countries in the next few decades.



India will take 75 years to reach a quarter of US per capita income while China will take 10 years, a World Bank report said

The 'World Development Report 2024: The Middle-Income Trap' finds that as countries grow wealthier, they usually hit a "trap" at about 10% of annual US GDP per person — the equivalent of \$8,000 today. That's in the middle of the range of what World Bank

classified as 'middle-income' countries.

Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies managed to shift to high-income status — more than a third of them were either beneficiaries of integration into European Union or of previously undiscovered oil.

In 2007, World Bank published a report that coined the phrase 'middle-income trap'. This was during a decade of growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. "Yet it was clear that many economies — particularly in Latin America and Middle East — had

remained stuck for decades, despite their efforts to rise to high-income status," says the report.

The agency provides a growth framework for developing countries to escape 'middle-income trap'. The report proposes a '3i strategy' for countries to reach high-income status. Depending on their stage of development, countries need to adopt a sequenced and progressively sophisticated mix of policies. Low-income countries can focus on policies designed to increase investment — the 'i' phase. Once they attain lower-middle-income status, they need to shift gears and expand the policy mix to the '2i' phase — investment and infusion, which consists of adopting technologies from abroad and spreading them across the economy.

"At upper-middle-income level, countries should shift gears again to the final 3i phase: investment, infusion, and innovation. In the innovation phase, countries no longer merely borrow ideas from global frontiers, they push the frontier," according to the World Bank report.

Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation
(A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)
Notice for e-Auction
Ahmedabad-II Region

Sanand-II Industrial Estate established by GIDC. Public e-auction of commercial plots in Ahmedabad is going to be done. Interested applicants can participate by registering on website from: -05/08/2024 to 20/08/2024.

Sr. No.	Property Type	Zone	Property No.	Plot Area (Sq.mt)	Base Price	EMD 5% of base price	Location	Auction Date & Time
Sanand-II Industrial Estate								
1	Commercial	Industrial	SM-39/5(T)	20,168.54 Sq.Mt. (Tentative)	9700.00	97,81,742	23°00'21.5"N 72°14'59.6"E	27/08/2024 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Important Instruction:

- Applicant/Bidder can register through e-auction portal/ website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com>.
- Time limit for registration, payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and administrative fee and uploading of necessary documents for e-auction starts from 05/08/2024 to 20/08/2024.
- The time limit and other details regarding e-auction are available on the website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> and on the website of the Corporation www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in.
- Earnest money deposit (EMD) and administrative fee of Rs.1180/- for plot has to be paid separately. The requested documents related to e-auction should be uploaded on the e-auction portal.
- Bidders shall be eligible to bid as and when Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Administrative Fees are paid and the required documents related to the auction are uploaded on the e-auction portal. The bid process will start as per the date and time indicated against the plot.
- During this entire process of e auction, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation has right to add/delete/correction in the e-auction. Modification/correction process will be indicated on the portal <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> and on the website of GIDC www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in.
- Plot allotted through e-auction is purely on "As is where is basis". Bidder/Applicant can only apply after verifying/checking all parameters related to the plot.
- Commercial types of plots include GST amount. Applicant/Bidder has to paid separately on plot amount as per Government rules.
- Acceptance/rejection of bid can purely decide by GIDC. The decision of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation regarding acceptance or rejection of the bid will be final.
- For any further queries, bidders/Applicants may contact field office on below mentioned address.

O/o. Regional Manager, GIDC Office, Plot No.SM/39/1, Shiyavada Cross Road, Opp. Ford Motors, Sanand-II, Ahmedabad. Email : rmahd2@gidcgujarat.org

Important instructions: -
Applicant/Bidders can view the detail terms and conditions from website of GIDC www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in

**Sd/-
Regional Manager,
GIDC, Ahmedabad-II**

पर्यटन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Tourism
NCHMCT

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
A - 34, Sector - 62, NOIDA - 201309 (Uttar Pradesh)

National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida, calls for application, from the eligible candidates to get admission into 1st Year of 3-Years B.Sc. HHA (Hospitality & Hotel Administration) program with the following eligibility criteria against the residual vacancies at various IHMs affiliated to NCHMCT:

- Candidate must have passed 12th exam with minimum of 40% marks in aggregate, from a recognized Board either of any stream i.e. Science/Arts/Commerce/Vocational.
- English should be one of the compulsory subject in 12th level and have passed the subject.
- There is No Age bar.
- Reservation as per government rules.

The B.Sc. HHA program is recognized by **Jawaharlal Nehru University** to award the final degree.

Interested and eligible candidate must submit online registration form by clicking the link given in the website www.nchmct.gov.in
Last date for submitting the online registration form is **16th August 2024**.

Admission will be offered on the basis of online written test to be conducted by NCHMCT for which the date will be intimated to the applicants. Candidates may follow NCHMCT website for details of vacancy status in IHMs and about the written test schedule.

Helpline number: 18001803151 (9.00 AM to 5.30 PM).
Name of contact person - Mr Amol Kumar (Mobile 9811091139). Director (A&F) I/c



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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of my client Dr. Mathi w/o Kapil Chikodi, R/O. N-5/401, Shree Chandrika Mansion, Near Ath Rasta Square, Laxmi Nagar -440010. This is to inform that Mrs. Vimala Suresh Kumar, Co Vivek Shankar, 8th Main Road, 223/1, 16th B Cross Road, B Block Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560092, is being notified through this public notice that she is Respondent No. 2 in Divorce Petition-A H.M.P No. 1010/2019 filed and pending before Hon'ble Family Court, Nagpur, and needs to appear and contest the matter on the next date of hearing 19/08/2024. This Public Notice is issued as per order dated 11/07/2024, passed by Family Court, Nagpur (Court No. 3).

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Unfiled SC/ST posts suggest 'dominant' not depriving rest

Data Shows Uptick In Unfiled Posts As Seniority Increases

Rema.Nagarajan
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While it is true that some sub-castes within scheduled castes and some tribes within scheduled tribes miss out on the benefits of reservation, a significant part of SC/ST quotas in govt jobs goes unfiled every year, raising the question of whether the 'dominant' sub-castes and tribes are really keeping the more deprived ones out. Data also shows that the proportion of unfiled posts increases as we move up the chain towards more senior posts.

According to a 2023 report of the parliamentary committee on welfare of scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs), the only category of jobs in ministries and departments of the central govt where SCs and STs have a share larger than their quota of 15% and 7.5% respectively are the Group C jobs excluding safai karamcharis and an even larger share among safai karamcharis or sanitation workers.

More than one third (37%) of the safai karamcharis employed in central govt ministries are from scheduled castes and 7.4% are tribals. In comparison, in Group A jobs just 13% are SCs and 5.5% are STs. Due to the high representation of SCs and STs in lower categories of jobs, it looks like they more than fill their quota overall — 18.4% SCs and 7.4% STs in posts

QUOTA QUOTIENT

SHARE OF SC/ST IN CENTRAL GOVT JOBS		
Category	SC	ST
Group A	13.2	5.5
Group B	17.0	6.9
Group C*	18.6	7.7
Group C**	36.9	6.9
Total	18.4	7.4

Source: Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee, 2023. Data from 44 ministries/departments

SHARE OF SC/ST IN CENTRAL UNIVERSITY JOBS		
Category	SC	ST
Teaching staff	10.9	4.9
Professor	7.4	1.8
Associate professor	8.0	2.6
Asst professor	12.1	5.9
Non-teaching staff	9.5	5.4
Group A	5.8	4.1
Group B	10.3	5.1
Group C	9.5	5.6

Source: UGC annual report, 2023. Data from 45 Central universities
*Excluding safai karamchari | **Safai karamchari

and services under the central govt.

According to the Parliamentary report, in spite of special drives, relaxation in qualifying criteria and pre-promotional training, ministries or departments were unable to fill the thousands of backlog reserved vacancies. Thus, even with some 'dominant' scheduled castes or tribes taking advantage of the quotas, they remain unfiled year after year.

Data available on 45 central universities also shows a similar pattern. SCs constituted

under 11% of teaching posts and STs less than 5%. In non-teaching posts, SCs had a share of under 10% and STs just a bit over 5%. Once again, the shares are lowest in the senior most positions.

"This fact is obscured by only talking of the overall representation of Dalits and tribals in govt jobs. There are thousands of unfiled posts in govt because the quotas are not being filled. Clearly, despite having a small section of relatively better off SCs, the govt is unable to fill the quota. It is estimated that barely 1.9% of SCs

earn above Rs 50,000. Most of these would be in govt service as historically SCs have no assets, neither land nor businesses," pointed out M S Nethrapal, an Indian Revenue Service officer who researches issues of Bahujan representation in jobs and education. He added that there was not enough data on the various sub-categories within SC, as data is only collected at a broad level for all SCs as a single category.

The lack of sub-classification leading to the more deprived among SCs or STs missing out would hold true only if the quota was being filled. If the quota was not being filled, then nobody could be said to be missing out because someone else was getting through the quota. However, unlike in jobs/posts, the quotas usually get filled when it comes to seats in educational institutions run by govt, like medical colleges, engineering colleges and universities.

Where quotas are being filled, many Dalit activists support sub-categorisation so that castes within the SC category that face greater marginalisation could take advantage of the quota and find representation.

"Such sub-categorisation, however, has to be based on the extent of discrimination or marginalisation faced by a caste within the SC category. It cannot be based on an economic criteria as in the case of OBCs," said Nethrapal.

Deadly bijlee: Why lightning is becoming a big killer in India

Hotter summers combined with heavy rain lead to rise in strikes while lack of awareness makes the poor more vulnerable

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In June last year, as strong winds started blowing in Jamtoli village, which is in Gumla district about three hours from Ranchi, 10-year-old Deepak Sahu's eyes lit up. "Mangoes!" he thought, as he clambered on his bicycle. He was joined by an equally enthusiastic 14-year-old Savita and some other friends in anticipation of a feast.

But as the group pedalled down the dirt track towards the mango orchards, not only did the rain become heavier but a storm accompanied with lightning began. "Deepak and Savita were scared and took shelter under a tree while the rest ran back to the village for safety," Rajesh Sahu, Deepak's uncle recalls. The decision proved to be catastrophic.

Some districts have installed low-cost lightning conductors made with second-hand bicycle wheel rims, bamboo and metallic wires on top of buildings. States like Odisha, UP and WB have also announced plans to plant palm trees that act as a barrier to lightning

When the storm ended, villagers set out in search. Deepak and Savita, who had been struck by lightning, were rushed to the nearby hospital, but it was too late. Even a year later, Jamtoli continues to reel under the loss. Even worse, residents continue to be unaware that taking shelter under trees during lightning can be fatal.

Officials say that Gumla district alone recorded 30 deaths by lightning in 2023. This is not an isolated example of one district in Jharkhand. Thousands of people, especially in central and east India, die in lightning strikes every year. According to NCRB data, out of 8,060 accidental deaths in India attributable to forces of nature like flood, earthquake, tsunami, about 36% or 2,896 deaths were due to lightning in 2022, up from 1,165 deaths in 1967.

In novels and Hindi movies, lightning or 'bijlee' is romanticised and used to describe love at first sight. But in real life, strikes are becoming deadlier. Col Sanjay Srivastava (retd), principal scientist-cum-convener of the Lightning Resilient India Campaign, says climate change is behind the rise in lightning strikes as heat and moisture are two basic ingredients for thunderstorms. "This is aggravated by deforestation, depletion in water bodies, urbanisation, rise in aerosol levels due to pollution, rampant mining, industrialisation, among other factors," he adds.

Incidentally, analysis of lightning deaths over two decades shows that



Top 5 States With Most Deaths By Lightning

MP	496
Bihar	329
Odisha	316
UP	301
Jharkhand	267

Total lightning deaths in 2022: 2,886
Source: NCRB

they are more likely to occur in the afternoon. Almost 88% of fatalities are reported from seven states including MP, UP, Bihar and Odisha. The reason is frequency of strikes and density of population. Also, lightning victims belong to the rural population (96%), mostly farmers, cattle grazers, and jungle hunters.

Like Arti and her 15-year-old daughter Ananya from UP's Bharatpur village, who were preparing the land for sowing in July amid the busy paddy season when it started raining heavily, Arti's husband Mahendra Mishra, who was working on another field, rushed home and waited for them. "When they did not return for some time, my nephew and I went out to search. We found their bodies near the field. They had been struck by lightning," he says in tears. Besides population density, research by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology suggests that topography makes certain areas more vulnerable to lightning strikes. Jharkhand, for instance, is close to Bay of Bengal and located in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau with an undulating landscape and tropical forests, while in Odisha open casting mining and industrialisation could impact the increase in strikes. This plays a vital role in creating weather variability. Srivastava, who is also chairman of the Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPC) says.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

In MP, where at least 80 people have been killed by lightning in July this year, it is a combination of an extremely hot summer followed by a heavy monsoon that often leads to a surge in lightning strikes. "If land gets hotter due to an excessively hot summer, and monsoon rain comes in contact with the baking earth, heat is transferred and lightning strikes begin within half an hour to three hours," says a weather expert. The maximum deaths, 35, occurred in Jabalpur division, which has been tagged a 'severe lightning vulnerable zone', followed by Shahdol and Sagar divisions. Senior Met scientist (Bhopal circle) Ved Prakash Singh says that when south-easterly winds hit the Satpura Range, strong clouds develop due to local orographic (hill, mountain) factors, triggering a blaze of lightning strikes. Former IMD director general K J Ramesh says global warming has an indirect bearing on lightning strikes

as it impacts rain-bearing systems. "There is more lightning in August and September as these are months of heavy rain," he explains.

APPS AND JUGAAD

However, deaths are completely preventable with awareness and lightning protection measures, say experts. The govt had launched a mobile application called Damini in 2020 developed by IITM-Pune. The app monitors lightning activity and sends out GPS alerts in a 40 km radius. Precautions are also listed in the app.

Some districts have installed low-cost conductors made with second-hand bicycle wheel rims, bamboo and metallic wires. The rim is fixed on the top of a bamboo pole atop buildings acting as the lightning rod.

States like Odisha, UP and West Bengal have also announced plans to plant palm trees that act as a barrier to lightning. Satyabrata Sahu, Odisha's additional chief secretary of the revenue and disaster management department, described palm trees as natural lightning arresters. "That's why we have put restrictions on felling these trees. The govt will spend around Rs 20 crore for the plantation of 19 lakh palm trees this year. We are also discussing with IIT to develop an early warning system," he added.

Awareness campaigns in local languages and community meetings are held periodically to inform people about safe practices like using a 'pucca' building as a shelter rather than a tree or staying out in the open.

But there is a long road to travel before deaths can be stopped completely. For one, the govt is yet to declare it a natural disaster and focus manpower and resources in awareness generation. The other is a largely unlettered rural population with little or no access to smartphones, let alone apps and other information services.

"Most people tend to panic and forget the advice we give them," says Daya Shankar Mishra, from Jharkhand's Jamshepur who works with the Lightning Resilient India Campaign.

Reporting by Himanshi Dhawan in Delhi, Ankur Sirothia in Bhopal, Hemanta Pradhan in Bhubaneswar, Rajiv Mani in Prayagraj, BK Mishra, CS Jha Azad & Alok Chamarla in Bihar, KA Gupta & ASRP Mukesh in Jharkhand

Avg lightning bolt contains 5 billion joules of energy, enough to power a 100-watt light bulb for 18 months or a household for a month

Most transplants involving foreigners are living donor transplants, says NGO

Continued from page 1

Doctors say a majority of such patients come from neighbouring nations where transplant facilities are not available or still in nascent stages, including Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.

While the majority of foreigners receiving organ transplants in India come from neighbouring nations, some also come from developed nations

like the US and UK for living donor transplants because the cost of the procedure is barely a tenth here compared with medical costs in their countries, Dr Subhash Gupta, liver transplant surgeon and chairman of Max Centre for Liver and Biliary Sciences, said. "Nearly 30% of patients undergoing liver transplant at our centre are foreigners," he added.

An organ transplant involves removing an organ

from a donor — living or deceased — and transplanting it into a needy patient.

Pallavi Kumar of Mohan Foundation, an NGO working in the field of organ donation, said deceased donations are rare in India and preference is given to Indians for receiving organs retrieved from such donors. "Most transplants involving the foreigners are living donor transplants," she said.

The NOTTO data also re-

flects this trend. It shows that of the 1,851 foreigner transplants that took place in India in 2023, only nine involved organ donation from a deceased donor. "For living donor organ transplants involving foreigners, there are strict protocols and vetting is done at multiple levels to ascertain that the donor is a blood relative of the patient before allowing transplant," Dr A S Soin, liver transplant surgeon.

'Abusers break you emotionally to stop you from fighting back'

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI has launched Talk it Out, a series in which expert counsellors answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from psychotherapist Rohini Rajeev

I am a 51-year-old woman. I have two sons. The elder one is from my first marriage and the younger one is from my second marriage. My current husband and I used to work in the same office. He was my boss and got involved in my personal life to the extent that he even guided me in my divorce proceedings and also about the custody of my elder son. He used to behave very nicely. After convincing me to get married, he also convinced me to leave my job. After marriage, however, his behaviour towards us changed completely. He started abusing and harassing and also started beating me. He changed my phone number and ensured I could not communicate with others. He made me do all the household work and kept no maid until I became pregnant. To outsiders, he posed as a very nice and caring husband. After years of putting up with the harassment, I asked him for a separation as the children have grown up. However, he threatened to kill me or spoil my elder son's life, as separation would tarnish his image. He is neither letting me and my children live peacefully nor letting us go. Please help.



CYCLE OF FEAR: The film 'Darlings' depicts the story of a domestic abuse survivor

you get to seek help and get yourself and your children to safety. It is in the nature of an abuser to first break you emotionally so that you won't feel brave enough to fight back. By writing to us you have shown incredible courage and by handling years of ill treatment and yet taking care of your children. Stay strong, and reach the police as soon as possible.

I cannot imagine how this must feel like and I deeply admire your bravery to share your pain at last and reach out. Firstly, could your children, when they step out for their respective studies or work, take your petition with details of abuse and what you have shared here with me to the nearby police station and seek their involvement? It is imperative that your safety is not compromised and I see that happening already. Threats and restrictions are not okay. Secondly, you may go through the National Commission for Women website and use any opportunity

I am a 32-year-old man. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for the past seven years, marking the 18th anniversary of our relationship. We were blessed with a girl one year ago. A few arguments have always been part of our lives, and they used to be resolved in a few days. But for the past few months, in all the arguments, she has emphasised that she will divorce me sooner or later. This really tears me apart, and even suicidal thoughts start coming to my mind. The arguments mostly happen if I ask her to behave properly with my family and elders, who come once or twice a year. A mention of anything that doesn't suit her way spoils her mood, and she starts behaving differently with everyone. I really wish she mended her ways, but she is clear that she won't change and I can't imagine a life without her and my daughter. Please help.

As you manage the emotions of a young mother, identifying triggers are important. Do family members comment about how she takes care of the little one or her abilities in general postpartum? Is she possibly feeling inadequate and overwhelmed? Maybe she assumes that you are not on her side, feels alone and hence her own helplessness is leading her to lash out? Threatening divorce and refusing to change her ways could be her inability to communicate deeper reasons for her frustrations. Please don't ask her "to behave" especially when in the middle

of a stressful situation. Stay calm and later, when alone and more relaxed, address your concern. Be careful not to accuse. Go from a place of understanding and kindness. Tell her how you want to support her and need her help to know how to. Don't assume what she wants, ask and be prepared to hear the answers. You can seek help from a therapist.

I am a 67-year-old self-sufficient man. My married son has been living abroad with his family for the last 10 years. After marriage, his attitude changed entirely towards us. He and his wife have not been on speaking terms with us for the last three years. He is very money-minded too. Even when I was admitted to the ICU and his mother was hospitalised, he didn't bother about our well-being. We tried to persuade him to speak out but in vain. We just want him to remain connected with family and nothing else. Please help.

It is a painful realisation when our children grow apart, often for no fault of ours. Is there anyone else in the family who could gently nudge him, share your pain without blame and convey that you are simply looking to stay in touch? Have you tried reaching out to your daughter-in-law? Or perhaps her family? Maybe, not being available when you and his mother were unwell has made him awkward and he assumes that he can't reach out on his own now? Or he is holding on to past resentment? If he thinks you will ask him about the reasons for this behaviour each time you talk, he may avoid communication altogether. Consistent communication that is non-emotional and merely a well-being check may be a starter.

If you need counselling, please contact the following helplines
 > Aasra +91-9820466726 (24x7)
 > Cooj +91 9822562522 (Mon-Fri, 1-7pm)
 > iCall +91 9152987821 (Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm)
 > Fortis +91 8376804102 (24x7)
 > Kiran 1800-599-0019 (24x7)
 > Sumaitri +91 9315767849 (2-6.30pm)
 > Saath +91 7926305544 (1-7pm)
 > Sneha +91 44 24640050 (10am-7pm)
 > Vandrevala Foundation 18602662345, +91 7304599836 (24x7)
 > Sanjivni Society 01140769002, 01141092787 (Mon-Fri, 10-5.30pm)

5 cops among 6 J&K employees dismissed over narco-terror ties

New Delhi: Taking forward its drive to dismantle the terror ecosystem, J&K administration has terminated six more employees, including five J&K police personnel found to be involved in funding terror with sale proceeds of narcotics trade originating across the border, reports Bharti Jain.

As per sources in the UT govt, J&K LG Manoj Sinha invoked 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to sack the six staffers after probe clearly established that they were part of the narco-terror network run by Pakistan ISI and terror outfits operating from its soil.

Sources said inquiry by J&K CID revealed that the dismissed police constables Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Khalid Hussain Shah, Rahmat Shah, Irshad Ahmad Chalkoo and Saif Din, instead of helping the force fight narco-terror sponsored by Pakistan ISI and terror outfits, chose to be collaborators and moles. Constables Farooq, Khalid and Rahmat, all from Kupwara, were part of an infamous trio that carefully created a drug syndicate in collaboration with narcotics traders based in Pakistan. Dismissed teacher Nazam Din from Poonch and his associate Qamar Din, an OGW for Hizbul Mujahideen, used to meet frequently and during one such meeting, Nazam received Rs 10 lakh, derived from illegal proceeds of narco-terror. These proceeds were ingeniously funneled and invested via one Rizwan Sheikh in spice business with the ultimate aim of making the terrorist-secessionist ecosystem a self-financing and self-sustaining campaign," sources told TOI.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 # 49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001
 Ph : 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
 Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No: KSPCB/WMC-1/1121/Plastic(2016)/2024-25/1917 Date: 02/08/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of Karnataka vide Notification No: FEE 17 EPC 2012, Bangalore, dated: 11.03.2016, has banned manufacture, supply, sale and use of certain plastic items including plastic flags and buntings across the state.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India has issued Notification No. G.S.R.No. 571 (E) on 12.08.2021 banning manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale and use of certain single use plastic (SUP) items including plastic flags with effect from July 1, 2022. Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (Public Division) dated: 05.08.2021 directed all the State Governments to respect the Honor of the Nation Act, 1971 and the Flag Code of India, 2002 by all Government bodies, private organizations and the public on the occasion of major national, cultural and sporting events. National flags made of plastic have been advised not to be used. Instead of using plastic flags, it has been informed to give wide publicity about using flags made of paper and fabrics and to dispose of the used flags after such programs in accordance with the dignity of the flag. Hence, it is directed to follow the said rule strictly.

As per Government of Karnataka Notification No: FEE 17 EPC 2012, Bangalore, Dated: 11.03.2016 actions will be initiated against violators of this directive as per the powers conferred under Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in a court of competent jurisdiction as per the nature of the offence.

All the authorities empowered under the above notification of the State Government are also hereby informed to take action against the violation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and its amendment.

**Sd/-
Member Secretary**

DIPR/Spectrum/1258/2024-25

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O-166
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE - SUNDARGARH
 AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-77020, E-mail address-sundargarh@yahoo.com
 No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG-07 of 2024-25, Letter No 1793/Dtd. 03/08/2024
e-Procurement NOTICE

- Type of the Work : Buildings (DMF)
- Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached.
- Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Sealing Tender	Date & Time of opening of tender	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
		From	To				
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-07 of 2024-25	12.08.2024 11:00 AM	31.08.2024 5:00 PM	30.08.2024 5:00 PM	02.09.2024 11:00 AM		Will be intimated separately

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

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
 (Design & Quality Control)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C)
 Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
 OPR-25131/1001224-25

CAD-
ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Under the Department of Energy
 Government of Odisha
 (ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004)
 S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 BHUBANESWAR-751010, ODISHA
 Website : www.oredaodisha.com, E-mail : ceoreda@oredaorissa.com
Corrigendum

Notice No: 3119 /PD-102/2024 Date: 30/07/2024
 PD-102/2024

Corrigendum/addendum is issued with necessary amendments and change in schedule of events for the e-tender notice no - 2514, dated 19.06.2024, for Repair & Revival of defunct Solar Home Lighting System installed under DDUJY program in Odisha along with Comprehensive Maintenance for Five Years.
 The revised Schedule of events is as mentioned below.

Sl No	Name of the Event	Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
1	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREDA website	20.06.2024	20.06.2024
2	Due date of pre bid query submission	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
3	Date and time of pre-bid meeting through virtual mode https://meet.google.com/jia-axdf-pgi	01.07.2024, Time: 12.30 AM	01.07.2024, Time: 12.30 AM
4	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid.	18.07.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	12.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
5	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for select Bid Forms only	22.07.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	13.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
6	Tentative date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	23.07.2024, Time: 3:30 PM	14.08.2024, Time: 3:30 PM
7	Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable only for the bidders whose Technical bids shall be responsive.	To be intimate later	To be intimate later

Details can be seen from the website www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA or www.oredaorissa.com. Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/- Chief Executive
 OPR-0406511/1001824-25

CAD-
ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Under the Department of Energy
 Government of Odisha
 (ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004) S/59,
 MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BHUBANESWAR-751010, ODISHA
 Website : www.oredaodisha.com E-mail: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com
Corrigendum

Notice No: 3106/PD-101/2024 Date: 30.07.2024
 PD-101/2024

Corrigendum is issued with necessary amendments and change in schedule of events for the e-tender notice no - 2622, dated 19.06.2024, for Repair & Revival of defunct Solar PV Mini-Grids installed under DDUJY program in Odisha along with Comprehensive Maintenance for Five Years.
 The revised Schedule of events is as mentioned below.

Sl No	Name of the Event	Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
1	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREDA website	20.06.2024	20.06.2024
2	Due date of pre bid query submission	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
3	Date and time of pre-bid meeting through virtual mode https://meet.google.com/gga-cdm-rgo	29.06.2024, Time: 3:30 PM	29.06.2024, Time: 12:30 AM
4	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid.	15.07.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	28.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
5	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for select Bid Forms only	19.07.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	29.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
6	Tentative date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	20.07.2024, Time: 3:30 PM	30.08.2024, Time: 3:30 PM
7	Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable only for the bidders whose Technical bids shall be responsive.	To be intimate later	To be intimate later

Details can be seen from the website www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA or www.oredaorissa.com. Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/-
 Chief Executive
 OIPR-0406511/10016/24-25

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WANTED Receptionist & Delivery Boys for Medical Surgical company. Around Kammanahalli Area. Contact : 9849064542 / 9890564542

WANTED pharma sales manager. 2-6 year experience in Bangalore. Apply with CV to menonmr@protonmail.com .

I Preetam David S/O Rex David, R/O #57, Hosalli Village, Aboorkatte Post, Somwarpet Taluk, Kodagu District- 571236, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name to Preetam David. Vide Affidavit Certificate No.: IN-KA77392268027200W Dated 02-Aug-2024. Notary: Mohammed Hussain.K. Reg. No. 20459. Govt of India.

I RAJESH GOPAL THANTRY have changed my son's name from AADVIK THANTRY to AADVIK RAJESH THANTRY for all future purposes as per affidavit KA7768403085447W

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No. : KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/Medical Equipment/414/2024-25 Date:03.08.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

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

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items
01	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/Medical Equipments/414/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	Supply of Cryostat, 5 Part Hematology Analyzer, Autostainer with Cover Slip, Semi Automated Rotary Microtome & Tissue Embedding Work Station to KMIO
02	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/Medical Equipments/415/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	Procurement of 800MA Fluoroscopy Machine & Computer Radiography (CR) with Cassette for Portable X-ray Machine.
03	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/AC/420/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	Providing & CMC Services for Split Air Conditioners & AMC services for Diesel Generators Sets Installed at KMIO and VTSM PCC Kalburgi.
04	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/ Decommissioning/ 423/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	e-Auction for Decommissioning of Un-used X-Ray Machines at KMIO
05	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/ Carton Box/ 425/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	e-Auction for Lifting of Carton Box at KMIO through e-Portal Government of Karnataka.

The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement Department may participate through e-tendering system.
 Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 06/08/2024. For Sl. No. 1 through 3, the deadline is September 5, 2024; for Sl. No. 4 and 5, the short term tender deadline is August 14, 2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders in e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office during working hours.

Sd/- ADMINISTRATOR
 Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.
 DIPR/CP/1270/2024-25

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
 (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201.
 Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
 No: KBJNL/DDA/Quotation/2024-25/1458 Dated: 03.08.2024

ENQUIRY OF RATES

Almatti Dam is major multi-purpose Reservoir project of national importance. The Dam is provided with 26 No's of spillway radial crest gates. It is requested to submit the quotation rates for the following item of works pertaining to hydro mechanical components to spillway radial crest gates of Almatti Dam for the purpose of preparation of estimate. The details of item of works are as follows.

Sl.No	Name of Work	Unit	Total Quantity	Rate per unit Quantity in Rs. (Excluding GST)
1	Detailed site investigation, Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Hydraulic Hoisting Cylinders two numbers, each of 115 Ton hoisting capacity(total 230 Ton) along with stainless steel piston rod for each spillway radial crest gate of Almatti Dam including dismantling existing hoisting system (and buyback), with all necessary accessories, etc including cost of all materials, machinery, labour transportation complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge. The Technical specifications of the Hoisting system are as under: 1.Hoisting Capacity : 230 T consisting of two cylinders of 115 Ton capacity each 2) Stroke Length : 9.60 M 3) Length of Cylinder : 11.00 M 4) Design pressure : 220 Kg/cm ²	Each	26	
2	Survey, Investigation, Design, fabrication as per approved design of trunnion assembly to each spillway radial crest gate of Almatti Dam to achieve intended opening of gates including cost of obtaining expert opinion, reporting, approval to the design, rectification of obstruction, providing additional strengthening if required, commissioning of spillway radial crest gate to full height (up to FRL 524.256 M), etc., including cost of all materials, machinery, fabrication, labor, transportation complete with all leads and lifts as directed by the Engineer in charge.	Each	26	
3	Survey, investigation, measurements, design, rectification of stoplog groove using dummy frame resembling the existing stoplog unit to remove the interference of the guide track and other embedded elements, chipping/trimming of stoplog vents if required, for proper lowering of stop log units in the stop log groove, exercising stoplog elements into vent, re-commissioning of stoplog elements and overhauling, servicing, design verification and rectification of lifting beam for self-engagement and disengagement including cost obtaining experts opinion, reporting, obtaining approval from department, etc., including cost of all materials, machinery, labor, transportation complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge.	Each	26	
4	Overhauling, servicing and upgradation of Power pack including external cleaning of complete system, replacement of existing distribution pipes with stainless steel distribution system, design of suitable oil distribution network as per applicable standards, topping up of ISO VG 68/66 hydraulic oil, Removal of each valve/ components mounted on PU, visual inspection of Manifold block inside cavities, Replacement of all parts such as valves, gauges, Digital Volt meter & Ammeter, Tank inspection /Painting with zink rich primer, replacement of all seals/ 'O' rings, Painting of PU, Commissioning of PU etc including cost of all materials, machinery, labour transportation complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge.	Each	26	

For further details it is requested to visit the undersigned office personally and get the details of work. It is suggested to visit the site before submitting quotations. The quotations should be submitted in sealed cover or by mail. The last date submission of quotation is on: 05.09.2024.
 Contact e-mail Address: dam_division@rediffmail.com
 Contact Mobil No: Sri Tarasing Dodamani, EE, Mob No: 94484 05892
 Sri Vithal Jadhav, A.E. Mob No: 89713 61932

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
 KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ಪಾಸಪಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/156/ಕೆಎನ್ಎಂ/2024-25

MBBS question paper leak in Puducherry, univ postpones exams

Bosco.Dominique@timesofindia.com

Puducherry: The first-year MBBS examination question paper was leaked and Pondicherry University postponed examinations scheduled to commence from Friday without announcing a revised schedule. More than a dozen govt and private medical colleges in Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are affiliated to Pondicherry University. Students arrived at the examination halls at their respective institutions on Friday morning when the university made an announcement postponing the examination. A section of faculty members at a private medical college alerted Pondicherry University authorities that question papers for the first-year MBBS examination had been leaked. The university's assistant registrar (medical) sent a circular to the deans/directors of colleges affiliated to it postponing the examination. He did not, however, mention any specific reasons for the postponement. "...I am directed to inform that the examinations scheduled for I MBBS course for Aug 2024 session... are postponed due to administrative exigencies. The revised schedule will be intimated shortly. This may be brought to the notice of the students concerned," the assistant registrar said in the circular. A university official said on condition of anonymity that the examination wing was always in the news for the wrong reasons. "The examination wing has a lackadaisical approach to scheduling, conducting the examination and declaring results on time. On a couple of occasions the wing did not declare results of undergraduate courses even after the last date for admissions to postgraduate courses," he claimed. In 2008, a 31-year-old data entry operator in Examination Wing V, Jayaraman, who stumbled upon a major forged marksheet scam, was murdered by a group of unidentified people.

CAD-
ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Under the Department of Energy
 Government of Odisha
 (ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004)
 S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 BHUBANESWAR-751010, ODISHA
 Website : www.oredaodisha.com, E-mail : ceoreda@oredaorissa.com
Corrigendum

Notice No : 3112 /PD-05/2022 Date: 30/07/2024

Corrigendum is issued with revised schedule of events for the e-tender notice no-2607, dated 19.06.2024; for Design, Engineering, retrofitting and deployment of existing diesel/petrol-powered boats to solar/electric (Zero Emission) boats including Comprehensive Maintenance for Two (02) years at various places of the Chilika Lake, Odisha.
 The revised Schedule of events are mentioned below:

Sl No	Name of the Event	Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
1	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREDA website	20.06.2024	20.06.2024
2	Due date of pre bid query submission	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
3	Date and time of pre-bid meeting through virtual mode https://meet.google.com/fof-yjey-hga	29.06.2024, Time: 12:30 AM	29.06.2024, Time: 12:30 AM
4	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid.	30.07.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	06.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
5	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for select Bid Forms only	03.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	12.08.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
6	Tentative date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	05.08.2024, Time: 3:30 PM	14.08.2024, Time: 3:30 PM
7	Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable only for the bidders whose Technical bids shall be responsive.	To be intimate later	To be intimate later

Details can be seen from the website www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA or www.oredaorissa.com. Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/- Chief Executive
 OIPR-0406511/1001724-25

समग्र शिक्षा Samagra Shiksha

ODISHA SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMME AUTHORITY
"SHIKSHA SOUDHA",
UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001
 RFP No: 7226/RE&A/2024 Dated : 03/08/2024

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Selection of agency for implementation of Science & Math Club activities under the Rashtriya Aviskar Abhiyan (RAA) of Samagra Shiksha.

Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), under administrative control of School & Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders for Implementation of Science & Math Club activities under the Rashtriya Aviskar Abhiyan (RAA) of Samagra Shiksha in Financial Year 2024-25. The RFP document will be available in the OSEPA website osepa.odisha.gov.in. The bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from the above website & apply accordingly. The major events under the bid process are :

Sl. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of availability of RFP document in OSEPA website	By 04/08/2024
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	By 27/08/2024 5.00 PM
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid On	28/08/2024 11.00 AM
4	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated later

The proposal complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by **Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier** only latest by **27/08/2024 before 5.00 PM** in a sealed envelope super scribed as "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENCE & MATH CLUB ACTIVITIES UNDER THE RASHTRIYA AVISKAR ABHIYAN (RAA) OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHA" The proposals received beyond the last date and time will be rejected. The Tender Inviting Authority i.e OSEPA reserves the right to accept / reject any/all BIDS / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Address for Submission of Proposal :
State Project Director,
Odisha School Education
Programme Authority (OSEPA)
"Shiksha Soudha", Unit-V,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001

Sd/-
State Project Director
 OIPR-27068/11/0003/24-25

2% of population, 30% of medals: Why Haryana is India's Olympic nursery

In the state that is home to Manu Bhaker, Neeraj Chopra and many other decorated athletes, sporting temper and ability have seen a happy convergence with govt policy to give financial security to talented sportspersons

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

It's 5.30am and runners outnumber cars on the highway that connects Rohtak and Bhiwani. They are completing a cross-country run across fields and through woods. Not all of them are track and field athletes. The group has boxers, wrestlers and shooters. It's a Saturday ritual for them. Get up at 3.30. Begin the cross-country by 4, complete it by 7, and head for the academy. Running, lifting, flexing — across districts and academies, this is how mornings begin in village after village in Haryana, the engine room of India's sporting successes beyond cricket.

Blessed with a sporting temper and an athletic predisposition, which also fuels its other passion — the armed forces — the state with 2% of India's population accounts for 30% of all Olympic medals the country has won and 21% of India's Paris Olympics contingent.

"It's the sports culture in Haryana that is producing so many Olympians. There is something special about the soil here," Neeraj Chopra, gold medalist at Tokyo Olympics, had earlier told this reporter. Chopra is from Haryana. As is the poster girl of India's Paris Games success, Manu Bhaker.

There are, says wrestling coach Ashok Dhaka, also strong dietary and cultural reasons for Haryana being a sporting powerhouse. "Doodh dahi ka khana, sabse aagey Haryana. Our diet is rich in milk, ghee, curd, butter and paneer, which supports physical development required for hard physical activity, whether getting into sports or joining the forces or working in farms," he says.

"Emphasis on good nutrition, regular exercise at school grounds or village akhadas, and participation in competitive sports has been part of Haryana's culture," Dhaka, who runs the famed Bhagat Singh Akhada in Rohtak, adds.

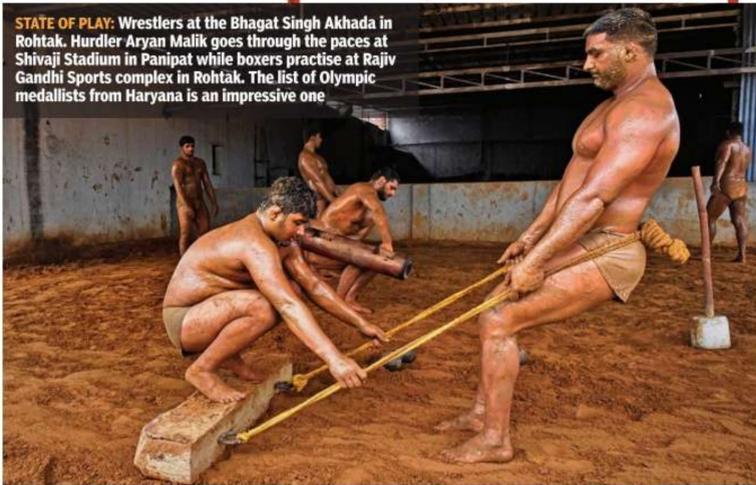
Just Naturally Tough

Of India's 117-member Paris contingent, 24 are from Haryana and 19 from Punjab. In the 2020 Tokyo Games, Haryana had 31 athletes and Punjab 19 in the 119-member contingent.

This time, Haryana athletes are participating in eight disciplines — archery, athletics, boxing, golf, hockey, rowing, shooting and wrestling. Punjab



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



STATE OF PLAY: Wrestlers at the Bhagat Singh Akhada in Rohtak. Hurdler Aryan Malik goes through the paces at Shivaji Stadium in Panipat while boxers practise at Rajiv Gandhi Sports complex in Rohtak. The list of Olympic medallists from Haryana is an impressive one

2016 RIO		2020 TOKYO	
Bronze Wrestling	Gold Javelin	Silver Wrestling	Bronze Wrestling
2024 PARIS			
2 Bronze Shooting	Bronze Shooting		

jab athletes are contesting in four disciplines — athletics, golf, hockey and shooting. Tamil Nadu is third in terms of representation with 12 athletes.

"The Green Revolution in the 1970s made Punjab and Haryana the top crop producers in the country. People must perform extreme physical labour to grow crops. Hence, they are generally stronger and fitter," says Jagdish Singh, coach and founder of the famed Bhiwani Boxing Club (BBC), which has churned out celebrated Olympians like Vijender Singh, Akhil Kumar, Vikas Krishan and Dinesh Kumar.

In Haryana, most households own small landholdings, but families cannot afford to hire labour. So, family members — male or female — undertake agricultural work themselves. "We are rough and tough. We fought battles against Mughals and the British. That mental as well as physical toughness has been passed down generations. It's in our genes," says Ranbir Dhaka, coach at the Guru Mehar Singh Akhada in Rohtak.

Haryana, and Punjab have always been major contributors to the Army. Sports is second nature. And the two often converge. Legendary athletes like Milkha Singh and Balbir Singh Sr and heavyweight boxer Capt Hawa Singh served in the armed forces. Neeraj is a JCO in the Army.

"I want to join the Army," says Aryan Malik, a 110m hurdler who trains at Shivaji Stadium in Panipat, the place where Neeraj Chopra learned to throw a javelin. "Army has the kind of setup that is needed to train world-class athletes. I don't have to worry about my diet. I can just focus on developing my skills," says the 18-year-old. "There will be incentives and benefits. It will be a secure job with regular promotions. Everything will be taken care of," says fellow athlete Naveen.

Dhoni Doesn't Mean Cricket

In most of India, a boy named after MS Dhoni is likely to play only one game. But tanned and breathless from his cross-country run, 12-year-old Dhoni is headed for 'kushti' lessons at Bhagat Singh Akhada near the Indian Institute of Man-

agement campus in Rohtak.

Like many young wrestlers, Dhoni landed up at the 'akhada' because it would take care of both his education and vocation. The residential academy — with 80 young wrestlers, several of them medal-winners at international championships — is now his home. "One of my students defeated Bajrang Punia at the trials recently," says Ashok Dhaka, who runs the akhada. Punia, a decorated wrestler, won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

"They're hungry for recognition," Ashok Dhaka sums up the motivating factor that makes these youngsters stick to a sport that doesn't have the glamour or money of cricket. "The recognition one gets after winning an Olympic medal or a Commonwealth or Asiad medal is unparalleled. They have seen wrestlers from Haryana become international stars. They have that burning desire to do the same," adds Dhaka, who is the nephew of Dronacharya award-winning wrestling coach Capt. Chand Roop. The Chandroop Akhada in Delhi is in his name and is run by the family.

Akhadas aren't just about learning the intricate

HARYANA'S OLYMPIC MEDALS

2008 BEIJING		2008, 2012	
Bronze Boxing	Bronze, Silver Wrestling		
2012 LONDON			
Bronze Badminton	Bronze Wrestling		



and you will see hundreds of kids practising shot put, discus throw, javelin, sprint and distance running. "Our intake for track and field events has increased dramatically. I can safely say, by the thousands. See what one medal can do," says coach Mahipal Gaur, who trained at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala. He presides over the sessions at the Panipat stadium. Another sport that has seen a more recent surge in interest is shooting, traditionally a Punjab stronghold, which got a major fillip after Abhinav Bindra's gold at the 2008 Beijing Games. Manu's twin bronze medals will likely do the same for the sport in Haryana.

"The number of shooting ranges has gone up across the state, but especially in Faridabad. There are dozens of shooting ranges in the city and 25-30 players competing at the national level from each range. It just shows what is possible if infrastructure is there," says shooting coach Rakesh Thakur.

Assured Job, Big Cash

Owned and managed by Haryana govt, Shivaji Stadium is among several top-notch academies and training facilities that Haryana govt has developed. The state has backed that up with financial incentives, jobs in the public sector for athletes and funding for training facilities.

In 2000, when Om Parkash Chautala was CM, the state announced for the first time that it would give cash rewards of Rs 1 crore to each Olympic medalist. The announcement created a buzz. The Bhopinder Singh Hooda govt took this a step further with Haryana Sports Policy, 2006, making support to sports and sportspersons structural and systemic. It linked sporting achievements not just to cash incentives but also employment in the form of high-level govt jobs. The slogan was 'padak lao, pad pao (bring a medal, get a job)'. Added focus was put on building modern training centres and wrestling and boxing academies. The assurance of financial and job security made a big difference.

"Cash incentives and job security are a major reason behind Haryana's success at the international level. In rural areas, a sportsperson commands huge respect and that motivates others to join sports," says Bhim Chopra, Neeraj's uncle.

The current govt has continued with the policy and, in fact, enhanced the cash reward — Rs 6 crore for an Olympic gold medalist, Rs 4 crore for a silver medalist and Rs 2.5 crore for a bronze medalist is the highest in the country. The Centre gives Rs 75 lakh to an Olympic gold winner, Rs 50 lakh for silver and Rs 30 lakh for bronze.

The Haryana 2016-17 sports policy emphasises the 'rights to fitness and right to play' for everyone and lists ambitious plans like building a mini stadium in each gram panchayat. Players are given job offer letters along with an offer to receive an HSPV (Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran) plot at a concessional rate. Even a fourth-place finish at the Olympics gets an athlete Rs 50 lakh from the state govt. Qualification is also acknowledged, with a Rs 15 lakh cash reward and job offer letters.

"Many of the athletes come from poor backgrounds. They go through a lot of struggle to get medals. Cash rewards and govt jobs act as an assurance. They can fully concentrate on training without worrying about providing for their families. Sports works as a vehicle to a better life, a gateway to a govt job and secure future," says Jasveer Ahlawat, a former international boxer and currently a coach at Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex in Rohtak.

Winning Gender Battle Too

"Mhaari chhoriyaan chhoron se kam hai ke (Are my daughters less capable than the boys?)" That's Mahavir Phogat, played by Aamir Khan in the Bollywood movie 'Dangal', talking about his daughters Geeta and Babita.

Haryana, infamous for female infanticide, still has a skewed sex ratio, but what has been consistently changing after Geeta and Babita Phogat's gold medals at the Commonwealth Games (2010 and 2014) is parents' attitude towards their daughters taking up sports. The big moment came in 2016 when Sakshi Malik won bronze at the Rio Olympics, the first Indian woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal. "Families have become more supportive," says middleweight boxer Pooja Rani, an Asian Games bronze medalist. "Also, women have more autonomy now (to decide what they want to do)," she adds.

At Paris Olympics, of the 24 athletes from Haryana, 14 are women. All six members of the Indian wrestling team are from Haryana. Five of them women. "Women have broken barriers and won laurels for India. Sports has become a medium for us to show what we are capable of," Pooja says.

INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

- 1 With a population of a little over 9.2 million, which is the most populous city in North America?
- 2 In Mahabharata, whose tail did Bhim, the strongest of the Pandava brothers, fail to move during an encounter in a forest?
- 3 Which party — founded in 1982 and sweeping polls in its state in 1983 — was the first to use a 'rath' for campaigning, with its leader using his 'Chaitanya Ratham'?
- 4 Found in South America and the Caribbean Island of Trinidad, which huge reptile is the heaviest snake in the world, weighing up to 220 kg?
- 5 Which form of headgear gets its name from the Indian method of tie-dyeing fabric?
- 6 Which Olympic sport was originally known as 'Poona' as it was popular among the military in British India before getting its current name?
- 7 In 1978, Apple Computers made an out-of-court settlement with Apple Corps, a music and celebrity management company, about using their trademark. Which iconic group originally set up Apple Corps?
- 8 The term 'Grand Slam,' mostly used in tennis and golf for winning all four major titles, originates from which sport?
- 9 What form of haircut was named after the athletes of the rowing teams of Harvard, Yale and other Ivy League institutions as they would cut their hair very short so it wouldn't blow back on their faces during a race?
- 10 If Rashtrapati Bhavan is in Delhi, where in India would you come across Rashtrapati Niwas, previously known as the Retreat Building, where the President traditionally stays for at least two weeks during summer and conducts official business?

ANSWERS

- 1 Mexico City, NY and LA are the next two
- 2 Hanuman, who was dispensed as a old monkey
- 3 Tainung Desam Party, led by NT Rama Rao
- 4 The Giant Anaconda, also the second longest snake in the world after the Reticulated Python
- 5 Bandana, from Bandhnu
- 6 | Badminton
- 7 | The Beatles | Contract Bridge | Crew cut, from the boats crew | Shimla, Chhatarbra
- 8 | Tennis
- 9 | Crew cut, from the boats crew | Shimla, Chhatarbra
- 10 | Mexico City, NY and LA are the next two

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Moving around a flooded city need not be a pain necessarily. Some may discover new avenues to travel and areas to explore. Like crocodiles in Vadodara.

Come monsoon, and people in most cities fret and fume about waterlogged roads and potholes. But for residents of this city in Gujarat, it is the fear of a near-inevitable encounter with a crocodile that has them break out in a cold sweat. About 300 crocodiles inhabit the 22km urban stretch of Vishwamitri river that bisects Vadodara. Helping them step outside their riverine abode and move around the city is a 410-km network of stormwater drains.

As the city deals with the monsoonal deluge, crocodiles swarm the streets, relax under bridges and even park themselves under cars. When the low-lying areas get inundated, boats are pressed into service to rescue citizens from crocodiles. The predatory reptiles in turn have to be rescued and relocated by crocodile wranglers who take care not to harm them. But the crocodiles still find their way back into the city.

"Till a few years ago, crocodiles were spotted in the residential colonies along the river. But these reptiles have now discovered the stormwater drain and use it to move around safely. They have spread out across almost every area of the city via these drains," says Neha Patel, an animal activist.

Dedicated Pathways

Vadodara municipal corporation officials said the drainage network covers every area of the city that is spread over an area of 223.33 sq.km. These drains, which are linked to the Vishwamitri, are 3ft wide and 4ft high on average. They do the job of carrying rainwater to the rivers outside the city, including the Jambuva, a tributary of the Vishwamitri.

When it rains, the Vishwamitri swells, forcing these reptiles out. Some of them enter the stormwater drains and swim around, scouting for another water body. Last year, a crocodile popped out of a stormwater drain when the residents of a colony on Waghodia Road removed a manhole cover. Crocodile rescuers had to be

In Vadodara, crocs prefer subway during rains

The Gujarat city is overrun by the reptiles during monsoon with stormwater drains providing an easy commute



SEASONAL TRAVELLERS: There are close to 300 crocodiles in the Vishwamitri river that flows by the city. During monsoons, as the river overflows, the crocodiles make for localities and residences that stand by its side and foray even further afield

urgently summoned to deal with the unwelcome intruder.

"Every monsoon, we get at least 25 to 30 calls about crocodiles emerging from stormwater drains. We rescue only those that pose a danger to people.

It's difficult to keep a tab on crocodiles' movements as they keep travelling around," said Hemant Vadhvana, a Vadodara-based wildlife activist.

"The population of crocodiles in Vishwamitri river is going up and these

reptiles are fiercely territorial, so many younger crocodiles venture out of the river in search of a new abode. They use the drainage lines as a passage to other water bodies. I get over a dozen rescue calls for crocodiles that infest the drains during monsoon," adds Arvind Pawar of Wildlife Rescue Trust.

Comfort Zones

Most crocodile rescue calls come from the Danteshwar area of the city. Many of these reptiles swim inside the drainage network and surface in the residential areas of Tarsali and Danteshwar. They have also been spotted in drains near Manjalpur and Lalbaug areas. "Some of them spend weeks in these drains as there is plenty of water all around," added Vadhvana.

The situation is a bit more uncomfortable for those staying along the banks of Vishwamitri river and Vadodara's Lalbaug lake. When the river overflows, crocodiles are found swimming in the floodwaters, right outside homes. In 2019, when Vadodara got flooded, firemen had to rescue residents of a complex on Sama Road in a boat as the reptiles had come up to their bungalows.

The residents of a society on Rajmahal road and another in Sayajigunj also live on the edge in monsoon. "When the river swells by 18ft, we get nervous as the roads outside our colony get flooded. It becomes difficult to venture out as crocodiles are lurking all around our area," said Alka Karandikar, a Sayajigunj local.

Experts said that even after monsoon, some crocodiles prefer to stay in the underground drains if they find enough food. "Moving from one spot to the other is a bit risky for crocodiles. So, they prefer to surface at night. But now these reptiles have learned that stormwater drains allow smooth migration to different water bodies without being disturbed by humans. They travel several kilometres along these underground drains," Vadhvana said.

"Crocodiles can feed on fish and non-vegetarian waste that ends up in the drains. Which is why some stay put in them for a couple of months even after the monsoon. During summer as well, crocodiles enter the drains as the water level in the Vishwamitri goes down," Vadhvana added.

They Don't Mind Jail Visits

Vadodara Central Jail is one of the oldest and most heavily guarded jails in Gujarat. The cops posted here are not only vigilant against prison breaks, they are also tasked with preventing break-ins by crocodiles. The high-security jail is located near Vishwamitri river and crocodiles often try to enter through a drain. Some young crocodiles have even managed to sneak in through the main gate.

Meet The Mugger

The species of crocodile seen in Vadodara and common to the subcontinent is commonly known as the mugger, or marsh crocodile (scientific name: *Crocodylus palustris*). According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the mugger is present in 15 Indian states with Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, MP and Gujarat hosting big populations. The mugger is a medium-to-large crocodilian species with adult males known to grow up to 4.5 metres (18ft) in length and weigh 450kg. "While juveniles generally have a light tan colouring with some black cross-banding... adult specimens are generally grey to brown," says WII. The mugger has been designated as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Habitat destruction due to agriculture, industry and fishing operations are major threats to their survival along with poaching for skin and meat and the use of body parts in medicine.

Potatoes and pills: Feeding the body when feeling frail

I met my grandfather when I was 4 and he was 64. I remember thinking he was the oldest person I had ever met. I am now almost the same age as he was then. My grandfather was bipolar; he would be joyful and energetic and then his mood would turn. When I first met him, he was on the downswing, his shoulders slumped, his smile dropping off before it reached his eyes.

Now that my parents are gone, I probably won't find out what caused it. Was it some unforgiving brain chemistry, or something that happened in his life? His career as headmaster of one of Kolkata's most prestigious schools — a government school as it happened — was over when I met him. Was it that? It scares me, now that a lot of my contemporaries are retiring (happily it seems).

frightening exactly for that reason. His wife and family kept trying to cut him off, but for that evening it was not working. Only the khejurer gurer payesh (rice kheer with date sugar), which he relished, offered some relief.

Cheyenne, who conceived of this column with me and illustrates it, just lost her father. He was young, much too young to die. A truck driver, proud of his strength and manual skills, he reacted to his encroaching sickness with a combination of nonchalance, confusion and horror. Towards the end, his mouth was constantly dry — a side-effect of the medication — and he wanted liquids, preferring the wonderful Spanish soup gazpacho to heavier dishes. There would be tense conversations every few meals, with Cheyenne arguing that while gazpacho is lovely, it is light on calories and null on proteins. He was losing weight and needed to eat more nutritious foods. Eventually, they landed on boiled potatoes with lots of butter — Bernard grew up in Belgium, the home of the original 'French' fries and many other potato dishes.

The gradual loss of control over our bodies is, of course, as old as humanity itself (though it used to happen at a much earlier age). Perhaps as a recompense, most societies accorded a special place of influence for 'elders'. They were the wise, the respected, the powerful. Increased influence within the family (and sometimes within the entire community) seemingly in compensation for their private frailty. The biggest beneficiaries were, unsurprisingly, older men of wealth or high social status. But in a lot of the households that I grew up with, the mother-in-law also wielded enormous power; at least as long as her husband was alive. I recall one particular lady who was a diabetic — her legs were affected so she could hardly get up — but from her position in bed she would order her daily menu of snacks and sweets. One day it would be papri chat followed by kanchagolla; the next it could be puchhka, Kolkata's famously hot and tart answer to panipuri, served in her bedroom by a street vendor who came all the way up, followed by a densely sweet kesari chumchum. The whole family knew and

Illustration by Cheyenne Olivier



worried about it, but nobody dared to really challenge her. The inevitable happened soon enough, unfortunately.

In the 1960s and '70s, which is when my memories of mother-in-law power date from, most people I knew, mostly Bengali and middle-class, lived in joint families. Housing was scarce, decent jobs were few and far between, so it made sense for all the brothers and unmarried/widowed sisters to crowd into the old family house with their wives and children, sharing whatever little income there was. But living together meant conflicts and choices. Someone had to make decisions — this was often the source of power for the more senior members.

Towards the end of the '70s, the joint family started to splinter. More and more flats got built, making it easier for the better off to move out of the family residence. This was helped by an improving job situation, at least for the well-educated. Sometimes the parents moved with one child and the family house was sold, sometimes they remained with the rump family. Either way, their role in managing the many fissionary forces was diminished, and often even the house they stayed in was no longer theirs. The senior couple was losing its central role in the family.

This was accentuated by demographic change. Families were having fewer and fewer children. That meant that joint families were less joint, especially since it also became more common for middle-class children to move for employment. An increasing fraction of families had one or more children working in Bangalore, Bahrain, or Boston. Many parents suddenly found themselves living mostly alone, as my mother did for so many years.

The same transition was also happening among less well-off families, if at a somewhat slower pace. The number of children was dropping everywhere — the average fertility rate dropped from above 4 in the 1970s to about 2 in recent years nationwide. Rural-urban migration, though still low in comparison to other developing countries, was speeding up. As a result, the all-India proportion of elderly not living with children doubled between 2000 and 2010 and has surely gone up a lot since.

The world was also changing. The communication revolution and, in particular, the spread of cellphones changed attitudes and access to information. As kids we relied heavily on my grandfather to tell us stories and, in the process,

learnt a lot about his life and opinions. The Abhijit of today has access to audio-books for stories; he is probably a little impatient with his grandparents' technological backwardness ("dadu, you really know nothing...").

All of that means that today's elderly, who endured the heavy hand of their parents and big brothers when they were young, are now less important in the lives of their children and grandchildren. Despite our narrative about family-oriented India being entirely unlike the individualistic United States, the fraction of elderly who, in surveys, say that they are lonely is similar in both countries, about 15%. And in Tamil Nadu, which had an earlier and sharper fertility decline rate than North India, and is more urbanised, loneliness is much higher, closer to 30%.

Those who say they are lonely are much more likely to be clinically depressed based on their responses to the standard set of diagnostic questions — depression rates among the elderly go from less than 20% among those who say they are not lonely to more than 80% among those who say that they are. Cause and effect are less clear — loneliness, especially if you were brought to expect a full family life in your old age, surely depresses people. But depressed people are also difficult to care for, especially if their health is also failing, and even their nearest and dearest may find it difficult to spend time with them. Even Cheyenne, who devoted the last two years to taking care of her father, says that one of the hardest problems was that, half the time, he didn't know what he wanted. She would prepare something after a lengthy discussion with him, but when she served it, he didn't want it anymore.

As the rest of India undergoes the same social transformation as Tamil Nadu, we will need policies to address the fast-rising tide of depression. While richer people are less depressed in general, a cash transfer to the elderly poor in Tamil Nadu had no durable effect on depression levels based on our randomised controlled trial, though maybe the amount of cash was too small. Nor were there any detectable benefits from therapy. Perhaps they need more ongoing engagements with people like them. It may be worth experimenting with regular events when they have tea with other lonely people of similar age. Maybe even a pot-luck meal, where they each contribute something? And while men may not know how to cook: anyone can learn, as I have written elsewhere. Why not simple potato dishes (see recipes) for a start?

This is part of a monthly column by Nobel-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee illustrated by Cheyenne Olivier

RECIPES

My daughter Mimi is a fan of both potatoes and strongly flavoured food. These are two of her favourites and in a pinch, she can make them on her own, as long as I supply her with the boiled potatoes. Cheyenne often made mashed potatoes for her dad in the last year or so.

MIMI'S POTATOES WITH (LOTS OF) BLACK PEPPER

Take 500 gm of boiled and peeled new potatoes (avoid late-season potatoes that are distinctly sweetish). Smallish potatoes work best, until they become so small that peeling takes forever. Heat 6 tablespoons of salted butter in a frypan large enough to hold all the potatoes at medium-high, and when the butter melts, add two tablespoons of kali mirch crushed (but not powdered black pepper) in a mortar. After 40 seconds, add the potatoes, 1 tsp salt and reduce heat to medium. Fry till the potatoes are nicely coated with the pepper and start to turn brown (5-6 minutes). Remove from heat, garnish with ½ cup chopped dhania leaves.



LEEK-INFUSED MASHED POTATOES

Mash 500 gm boiled and peeled potatoes (avoid those sweetish potatoes) with a potato masher or the back of a spoon while hot, with 3 tbsp salted butter, ½ cup sour cream, several pinches of black pepper, and 1 tsp salt. Take two leeks and cut the white and light green parts lengthwise into thin strips, about 1" long. Heat 2 tbsp ghee and fry the leek strips until they turn brown at the edges. Pour the chunk over the mashed potatoes and mix in the flavoured ghee.



I remember dinner with a once-famous raconteur, then in the cruel clutches of Alzheimer's, who kept repeating the same story every five minutes, still perfectly narrated with all its dramatic pauses, but frightening exactly for that reason

I have a full plan to resist retirement, but in the long run, it is not just the will to keep going. Our bodies take decisions for us. I can still vividly see the day when my father could no longer manage the (complicated) manoeuvre of getting the machh-bhat from the thali in his mouth that we do unthinkingly every day. My mother had to take over feeding him, he, who so loved being in control. Or that day when I had dinner with the once-famous raconteur, then in the cruel clutches of Alzheimer's, who kept repeating the same story every five minutes, still perfectly narrated with all its dramatic pauses, but

Abhijit Banerjee
TASTING ECONOMICS

Thousands of Indians are powering global scam hubs. It's not out of choice

Tales of young people trafficked and forced to work in scam farms across Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar are surfacing daily. From recruitment to rescue, Sunday Times tracks the scandemic

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With a flank of computers, it looked like a multinational call centre where trained-in-Dubai freshers would get in touch with clients, collect information on them and pass them on to customer service agents who would then take the business to the next stage. "In my office, the team leaders included 'Thor', 'Loki' and 'Robin' from Kerala, 'David' from Bangladesh, and 'Roxel' from Tamil Nadu," says Rajiv (name changed) from Telangana's Jagtial district, who worked in one such office in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. If it wasn't for the guards toting machine guns and tasers, you'd probably mistake it for an ordinary, and even attractive, foreign job. But the reality, as thousands of

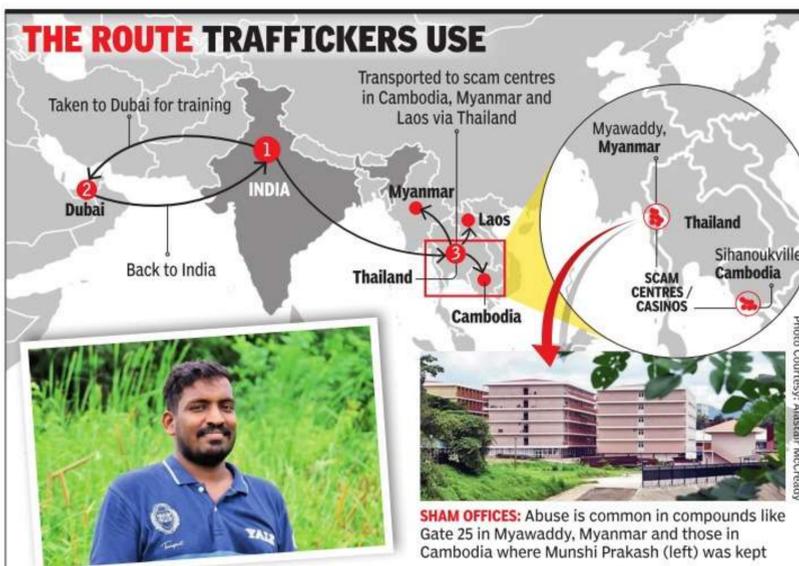
chiefs' answered them so as not to arouse suspicion. "The company gave good returns in the beginning when customers invested small amounts like \$100 or \$200. But when the customers invest huge sums of money like above \$10,000, the company would block them," says Stephen, who quit his graphic design job in Bengaluru to move to Coimbatore in the pandemic as a consultant. Every employee was given a target — they had to initiate contact with at least 50 people a day. And punished if they didn't meet the target. "The security staff had small electric shock batons and employees who refused to work or meet the targets were punished," he says.

The exact number of trafficking victims is unknown but a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report puts it at hundreds of thousands. Five hundred Indians have reportedly been rescued thus far but that's just the tip of the iceberg. An Indian victim told TOI he saw about 3,000 Indians at just the compound he was at in Cambodia.

The issue has begun to get attention in India, with external affairs minister S Jaishankar taking cognisance. At the ASEAN meeting in Laos, he spoke with the Prime Minister of Laos and the foreign ministers of Cambodia and Thailand, the latter often being a stop-over on their way to scam compounds. The CBI has filed a FIR which refers to Indians being forced into cybercrimes by "Chinese control scam centres".

In Andhra Pradesh, police say they have rescued 30 people stuck in Cambodia so far and another 150-odd are yet to be brought back. Sources at the office of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) say close to 1,000 Tamil Nadu residents have been rescued from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. PoE is now discouraging Indians from taking any kind of jobs in the region. Among those rescued from scam compounds in Myanmar are 29 people from Uttarakhand, including nine women who were stripped and beaten. Of them, two men have been freed though they have not yet returned home.

Recruited turn honeytrappers
The trafficking victim is scouted on social media platforms and made to undergo a series of interviews and provided with official-looking paperwork. Telangana resident Munshi Prakash had been working as an IT professional in Hyderabad,



while keeping his eyes open for international opportunities. "One day, I received a call from an agent, Vijay, in Cambodia who offered me a job in Australia. He said I needed to build a travel history before landing in Australia and gave me tickets to Malaysia. I left for Malaysia on March 12, and from Kuala Lumpur, I was flown to Phnom Penh in Cambodia. A local man took US dollars worth Rs 85,000 from me. Then, Chinese nationals confiscated my passport and took me to a large compound in Krong Bavet. There, I was held captive and forced to work in cyber scamming." Taken to a compound with multiple towers, he saw around 3,000 Indians, mainly

from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka, with a few from Mumbai and Delhi. "The Chinese nationals running the operation trained us for ten days. They made us create fake Facebook profiles of girls in Telugu and other languages to lure men." A family member of one of the Uttarakhand men described the abuse. "They were kept in a big hall with no windows. The armed abductors would beat them brutally with rods and canes. They were also electrocuted by piercing their skin and then putting the live wires inside. Our son had marks of beatings and electrocution all over his body."

Fees to breathe

One of the main forms of control is debt, says Mina Liang, founder and director of consultancy firm Humanity Research Consultancy (HRC), which works on human trafficking. "You might be told, we smuggled you all the way here, so now the smuggling fee is the debt you owe us. They can create debt based on the food and accommodation they offer," she says. "At some of the more notorious and violent compounds, they may never intend to pay you anyway, and they create debt through 'keyboard fees' and 'air breathing fees'."

While some are incentivised with money to dupe those they

know, others are told they will be set free in exchange for recruiting new trafficking victims, experts say. Others, like the Uttarakhand man, have to pay a ransom for their release — his family paid Rs 3.7 lakh. His family member says, "The abductors demanded a ransom of \$4,000 in exchange for his release. They would make video calls and beat him up badly. We couldn't sleep due to the screams of our son in the calls."

Michael Brosowski, founder of Blue Dragon, a Vietnam-based organisation that has rescued 276 Vietnamese nationals, says some of these scam compounds have brothels attached for gangsters to use. "One of the punishments for trafficked women is threatening them with being sold to a brothel."

Pig butchering scam

The scams are called pig butchering because they entail the 'fattening up' of a victim. In an HRC briefing, a trafficking victim described his job: "My company/enabler specialised in scamming the North American market, and that's why they particularly want workers/slaves who understand English... We send messages like 'hey are you going to the weekend party?' and once they reply, 'you sent it to the wrong person', we will reply really politely, and start making them fall in love with our characters. Some victims sold two houses and lost millions."

The 'character' is tailored to the person they're trying to scam, says Liang. "If you're trying to scam a widow in her 50s, you may pretend to be a handsome, loving guy who also has a heartbreaking life story. If it's a man, you might be an attractive, smart young lady," she says. Rajiv from Telangana says though the Cambodian complex was labelled as a casino, it was actually a hub for cybercrimes. "It was heavily guarded by Cambodian security personnel but the Chinese syndicate ran the call centres. They targeted Indians, Europeans and Turkish nationals through social media ads."

Myanmar chaos fuels crime

The flood of desperate job seekers post-pandemic, the rise of crypto-

currency which allows gangs to route funds without being traced and political turmoil are important factors in the rise of cyber-slavery. Journalist Alastair McCready, who has reported extensively on the phenomenon, breaks it down. "The lawlessness in eastern Myanmar means these Chinese-run groups have the freedom to thrive with the assistance of local armed militias. Cambodian gov't turns a blind eye to these scam groups because they earn a lot of money for the economy, and many of the elites have a stake in them too," he says. "Laos is slightly different in that a parcel of land was sold to Chinese criminal Zhao Wei about 20 years ago and he has transformed the area into a crime hub."

Liang compares these crime syndicates to drug cartels in Latin America, pointing out similarities in scale and political connections. "Some criminals are extremely powerful. Local law enforcement would not touch them."

Punishing the victims

Even if victims do get rescued, they can be subject to penalties for the crimes they were forcibly made to commit. The UNODC report quotes a govt official as saying: "What if you just claim you were made to do some other criminal acts. Are we going to let that person off the hook so easily?" Wesley, for instance, was rescued in an operation by the Myanmar army but ended up at a detention centre in Bangkok where "we were treated like criminals". It was only with the intervention of the Indian embassy that Wesley and the 15 others reached India.

Experts emphasise the importance of the Indian govt ramping up rescues and awareness drives. At the moment, Liang argues, the criminals are only afraid of the Chinese govt. "Compounds are telling employees not to traffic or even scam people from China. Indian govt needs to leverage its role as a regional power to put pressure on Asian countries that have these scam operations or are sheltering criminals."

With additional reporting by Disney Tom, Kalyan Das, Bosco Dominique & U Sudhakar Reddy

Electric shocks, beatings: Rescued man talks of Myanmar horrors

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It was an acquaintance who offered Vaishakhan Raveendran a job as a 'data entry operator' in Thailand for a price of Rs 30,000. The journey from Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram to what he thought was a dream foreign job began. Two people came to pick him up about an hour after he landed at Bangkok airport on August 3, 2022. There were two others with him. "We were taken to Mae Sot, a city on Thailand's border with Myanmar. It was about a six-hour journey. When we reached the banks of a river, they made us get on a small boat. Once we crossed, then the journey was through corn and sugarcane fields," says the 33-year-old. Only when they saw boards welcoming them to Myanmar, they realised they

were across the border. They stopped at a compound in KK Park, which is now well-known as a fraud factory. The sprawl was at least four acres with about 15 buildings. They had their own security force with black uniforms and machine guns. "We were taken to a room with bunk beds and 10 of us were staying in that room. All were Keralites."

The 'job' started next morning. "The computers had Facebook accounts in the name of women and we were supposed to post job offers about vacancies in New Zealand or Australia. Once someone expressed interest, we had to collect details like name, location, number etc, screenshot them and save them." That file was sent to other companies in KK Park which would then execute the next phase — duping the victims. Vaishakhan says the compound had at least 900 persons

from various countries, while those who ran the place were from China, Malaysia etc. "As soon as we found out what the job was, we asked them to send us home. They demanded up to \$50,000 for letting us go. They threatened us, saying that they could easily shoot us and dump the bodies by the border and no one would bat an eyelid since we were illegal entrants to Myanmar."

Working hours were from 5am to 7pm but if the target of getting information on 15 persons was not met, one could not leave. He says one TN resisted by staying in the room. "They gave him electric shocks and hit him with a machine and a portion of his ear got cut off. He then came to the office bleeding and started to work."

Desperate, they decided to contact the embassy and media on the sly. "After a month

and a half, due to pressure from the embassy, they let us go. They had checked our luggage and formatted our phones. But we managed to write embassy contacts on paper and kept it hidden along with a few sims. They dropped us at the Thailand border and we contacted the embassy."

He was left with nine Tamilians and with the help of the embassy, Norika roots (the Kerala govt agency dealing with the affairs of Kerala's expats), and Tamil organisations, they managed to get plane tickets to Bangkok but the ordeal wasn't over. "At the airport, Thai police arrested us, saying that we overstayed our visa. We spent three weeks in as many different jails in Mae Sot and Bangkok before our eventual release," he says. The group finally reached Chennai in the first week of November in 2022.



Mini masterchefs: Meet the kiddos who have a taste for the kitchen

Not only is it a good life skill to have, it also promotes healthy eating habits, say parents

Neha Bhayana

In April '22, Rahela Tayebbi's younger son Zain, then three years old, ran into the kitchen and declared that he would make bhindi sabzi for dinner. Rahela was amused but not surprised as Zain had been assisting her in the kitchen since he was a year old. He ran to the refrigerator and pulled out a packet with bhindi. He climbed onto a stool, and went on to cook a mean bhindi (with some spice advice from mom) which the family quite enjoyed.

Rahela shared a reel of the cooking process and received over 1,500 likes from fellow moms who applauded her for setting "boy mom goals". The homemaker says her boys had initially entered the kitchen only because they wanted to be with their mommy like most tots. "Instead of shooting them away, I used to involve them in washing vegetables or separating cabbage leaves. We progressed to cutting and cooking as their interest grew," she says.

Zain and his eight-year-old brother Taha are not the only kids cooking up a li'l storm. The growing awareness about the importance of eating clean has prompted a small but growing number of parents to involve their kids in cooking so they can grow up to be proficient in the kitchen and don't have to depend on cooks or restaurant meals. "Cooking is an important life skill just like reading, writing and calculating. We must teach our kids to work in the kitchen too," says Mumbai



COOKING UP A LI'L STORM: Abir, Myra, Evita (left to right) as well as brothers Zain and Taha (bottom left) have been involved in the kitchen from the time they were tots. They know how to make salads, sandwiches and sabzis. They often make themselves snacks when hungry, without bothering their parents

mom and sustainability advocate Sonika Bhasin. Her son Abir, 5, has been participating in all household tasks, including cooking, from the time he learnt to walk. "He used to sit on the floor and shell peas and clean coriander with his nanny. When he showed interest to do more, we got a steady stool so he could use the cooktop," says Bhasin. Abir has made fried rice, pulao and various sabzis (with assistance) and knows how to chop fruits and vegetables with care.

Cooking is cool again

Some millennial moms feel the need to expose their kids to cooking because they themselves learnt too late. "Cooking, and making reels about it, may be trending now but it was considered quite uncool when we were growing. All we could boast of was making instant noodles or omelettes. But we want our kids to know how to cook themselves a decent meal," says Ahmedabad mom Nishita Mehta whose daughters (6 and 11) chop all the veggies for their Sunday pav bhaji lunch.

Rahela agrees. "My mom had never involved me in the kitchen when I was a child. She used to say 'tum bas padho' (you just study). When I moved to another city for my higher studies, I found it very daunting to cook for myself. I don't think my sons will face this problem because cooking comes naturally to them," she says. The homemaker also feels it is time boys learnt how to cook. "The men in my family do help out with chores, but we don't usually see them in the kitchen. I am glad my boys have changed the trend," she says.

Raising healthy eaters

Studies have found that kids who cook have a more positive approach to food and are more adventurous, less picky eaters. Moreover, they tend to eat better than kids who have to be coaxed to eat "two more bites, please" or fed by distraction. The Goa-based Antaos first got their daughter Evita, 7, into the kitchen when she was a six-month-old because she was displaying no interest in eating. "For the first two weeks after introducing solids, I felt I was forcing food into her mouth. I didn't like doing that, so I just gave the reins in her hand. I wanted her to be in control of her own food and her own tummy," says mommy Neefa.

To start with, Neefa handed Evita child-safe cutlery and allowed her to peel and chop soft foods like bananas for herself while she sat in her high chair. At 18 months, Evita would toddle to the kitchen and help herself to a snack when she felt hungry — Neefa and her husband Charles had cleared out the lowest shelf of the refrigerator as well as a low drawer in the kitchen for dry fruits, biscuits and other tidbits for munching. Evita, who was enrolled in a Montessori school (they stress on building real-life skills) had learnt to use a Y-peeler and grater in class so Neefa bought the same tools for their house. By the age of three, Evita could prepare her own carrot salad and scramble an egg too. She is seven now and fixes her own breakfast on weekends — butter toast with a bowl of milk and muesli. "I taught her how to gauge whether

the pan is hot and how to handle it. We have an induction stove so there is no stress about flames," says Neefa, adding that Evita loves to bake, grind ingredients for gravies and chop bhindi — she keeps the top portions and stamp-prints to create beautiful art work. "We are a help-less household, so we wanted Evita to know how to feed herself if we were busy," she adds.

Taha and Zain too walk into the kitchen and help themselves to fruits, peel a carrot or make a sandwich when they are hungry. "They don't rely on packets for snacks. I don't even stock chips and biscuits at home," says Rahela. She reveals that she used to feed Taha by using force or distraction, but when he started getting into the kitchen with her during the lockdown, she saw his relationship with food improve — he used to get excited and polish off the omelette if he had cracked the eggs on his own.

Teaching them to stay safe

The fear of getting cut or burnt is the top reason why most parents hesitate to allow kids into the kitchen. But those who do include their kids in cooking say that children can be taught about the dangers of 'too hot' and 'too sharp' easily. "We should not underestimate our kids. They can be super cautious when required," says Mumbai-based event curator Michelle Noronha whose daughter Myra has been active in the kitchen since she was a year and a half. Noronha had shared a video, showing Myra chopping mushrooms with a butter knife when she was 22 months old, on

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a Facebook parent group drawing both praise and criticism — some dubbed her a "careless parent" and begged her to stop the "dangerous activity" while others said it is "good to start training girls early". But Michelle paid no heed and continued to let Myra chop under her watchful eyes. Michelle recently posted another reel showing Myra, now 6, dicing carrots into perfect cubes. That the little girl is super focused and cautious while chopping is evident as she does not lift her head even when her mom asks her what she is making. Michelle's followers — she is a mom-fluencer and parent coach — noticed this detail and heaped praise on the little chef.

Montessori-recommended crinkle cutters and kid-friendly knives with non-slip grips or ergonomic handles have hit the market, but parents say there is no need for special tools if the child is chopping under adult supervision. They also suggest giving kids hard ingredients like potato or carrot for chopping as softer ones like tomatoes slip from their grip easily. One needs to be mentally prepared for minor cuts and scrapes too. "Myra suffered a minor cut on one finger while chopping once. But, who hasn't? It is part of the learning process and made her more careful," says Michelle.

Stove over screens

Parents point out that cooking is also a great way to keep kids off devices. Children who know the satisfaction of seeing bread rise in the oven or the joy of kneading a firm dough may choose to get into the kitchen to unwind at the end of a stressful day at school instead of playing Minecraft or scrolling reels.

Kitchen work is not limited to cooking. Evita and Myra also wipe the counter and wash the dishes — when they are in the mood or when requested — whereas Abir runs to the compost bin in the balcony to throw the peels in.

Some moms reveal that elders taunt them saying they are using their children as kitchen assistants because they are too lazy to cook by themselves, but they don't care. "I tell them to come and see how much fun my kids are having. Cooking is a fabulous sensory activity. Besides, I am training them for the future," says Mehta.

Meet the moms who are rocking Paris Olympics

Elite athletes face many difficulties in returning to sport after pregnancy. But these women show that they can balance parenthood and podiums



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

When the 37-year-old Jamaican track and field sprinter found out she was pregnant, she "sat on the bed and cried", thinking she would never be able to go back on track. It was a difficult pregnancy, and her son Zion was born a day after the women's 100m final at the 2017 World Championships. Two years on, at 32, she became the first athlete mother and the oldest woman to win the 100m sprint at the 2019 World Championships, calling it "a victory for motherhood." With eight Olympic medals, she plans to retire after the Paris games to spend time with her son

Bianca Williams | This is the first Olympics for the 30-year-old British sprinter who is a European and Commonwealth gold medalist. Williams returned to training six weeks after giving birth to her son, Zuri. She used to be one of Britain's fastest girls but felt her body change after childbirth, slowing her down. She has bounced back remarkably and hopes to have a smooth Olympic run.

Clarisse Bogdanna Agbegnenou | The 31-year-old French judoka held aloft two medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics — a bronze for the under-63kg category, and her daughter Athena. In January, she had told French President Emmanuel Macron, "I would like to have my daughter with me in the Olympic Village to...be fully committed in my final stretch..." She often takes her baby to training sessions to feed her.

Deepika Kumari



The ace archer from India had planned her daughter Vedika's delivery keeping the Paris Olympics in mind, getting back to training when the child was just a week old. It's been tough juggling motherhood and archery, says the 30-year-old. Kumari had to stay away from Vedika for two months, and met her 19-month-old briefly before flying off to Paris for her fourth Olympics.

Nada Hafez

This 26-year-old fencer from Egypt carried "a little Olympian" in her belly and a sabre in hand to compete at the Paris Olympics. She later took to Instagram, saying "This specific Olympics was different. Three times Olympian, but this time carrying a little Olympian one!"

FIRST OLYMPIC NURSERY

Allyson Felix, American track and field athlete and mother of two who has won 11 Olympic medals, spearheaded the initiative to launch a nursery at the village. "I think it really tells women that you can choose motherhood and also be at the top of your game and not have to miss a beat," she told Washington Post.

Sources: Nottingham Trent University, Olympic.com

HOW TO RAISE A KITCHEN PRO

Under two years

Let your baby observe you while sitting in the baby carrier or the high chair. Hand a boiled broccoli or cauliflower floret to your six-month-old and allow them to squish it with their pudgy fingers. This helps build fine-motor skills and exposes them to different foods

Two to five-year-olds

Let toddlers wash vegetables, shell peas, stir batters and use safe scissors to chop herbs or butter knives to cut bananas, avocado or cucumbers (pre-cut the cucumbers into halves lengthwise to make it easier to cut). Let them spread their own cream cheese or jam and make a sandwich and see them polish it off with delight. A stable stool or learning tower will help them use the counter-top with ease

Six to twelve-year-olds

Primary school-goers can easily use peelers, graters and regular knives (not extra sharp ones) under adult supervision. With your assistance, the child can also make pancakes, omelettes, cheelas and pizza. You can also teach them to use a mixer to make smoothies and milkshakes. Cleaning up the kitchen and washing utensils is also an integral part of the process, so don't forget to teach them that

Thirteen onwards

Encourage your teen to cook one meal a week. By this age, kids are sensible enough to use the gas stove and are also pros at using the internet so let them look up recipes and surprise you with a scrumptious dinner. You should also share grandma's recipes with them so they can continue the family culinary legacy

Adoption by choice rare but mom said, 'Let's get the babies home'

Shital Shah is among the filmmakers who have revived the Gujarati film industry. The 39-year-old, who has acted in over 20 Hindi TV shows, runs a production house, film school and a CBSE school in Ahmedabad along with her mom and sister. But her favourite job is being a mommy. Shah, who is single, adopted Serena in 2018 and Sara in 2023. She spoke to Neha Bhayana about why preaching does not work and her secret for a good work-life balance

Making a film versus raising a child — which is tougher?

Making a film is way tougher. Raising a child is pure pleasure. I don't think we really need to teach our children much. They learn just by observing us. There are some challenges like sometimes, my little one won't allow me to sleep all night and I still have to get to a morning meet-

ing. But that's easy to handle provided you take care of your fitness and mental well-being. When you are making a film, you are dealing with 250 children raised by other parents. It is not easy to align the entire team with your vision.

Parenting is pure pleasure. Making a film is way tougher. When you are making a film, you are dealing with 250 children raised by other parents

How do you juggle your profession, your passions (classical dance and painting) and parenthood?
Women have a knack for multi-tasking and time management. I am able to pursue my profession and my hobbies because I involve my girls too. I have made a little corner in my office for them, so I can take them to work if required. There is a painting studio at home, and we spend our weekends playing with colours on canvas. If I'm dancing, then they dance along with me. If I'm shooting, they accompany me to the sets. Serena

Did you always want to adopt? Did your family support your decision?
Adoption was always on my mind. I had seen my friend Sandip Soparkar adopt his boys and I felt it was such a beautiful way to build a family. My mother has lived life on her own terms too. When I told her I wanted to adopt, she said: "Let's go and get the babies home." When I told my grandfather — he was 96 then — he took a sip of his favourite scotch and said that my decision was bold and brave and that he would accompany me to get the baby home.

Over the past decade, several single celebrities have had children via adoption or surrogacy. Has single parenthood gained wider acceptance?
Yes, there is more acceptance and awareness about single parenting and adoption compared to earlier. But single persons still constitute a very small percentage of those who apply for adoption. Moreover, most people adopt because they have not succeeded in having a baby the natural way or via IVF. It is very rare to come across cases where a fertile parent adopts by choice.

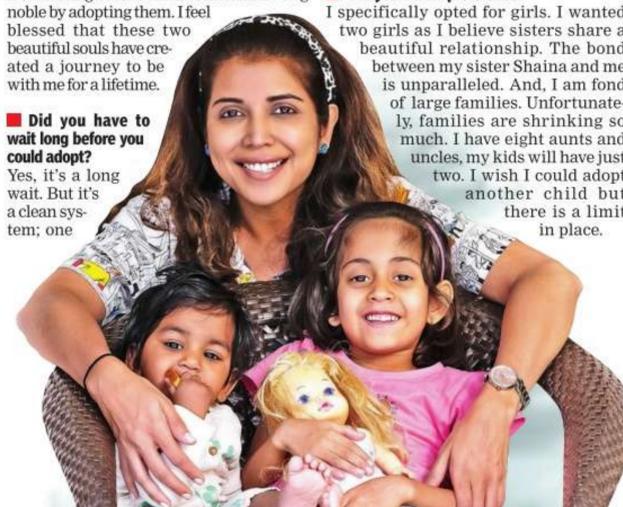
Our society is not always kind to single parents. People can be inquisitive and insensitive. Have you faced any issues?
I have never faced any problem, but people can get inquisitive and judgemental. You should know how to draw boundaries. Not many people can ask me questions, because I'm not liable to give them any answers. My children may face some questions when they grow up. My job as a parent is to make them very proud of their journey. I will tell them how our soul connection is stronger than any other connection. I think both my daughters are brave.

There is a popular notion that adoption is something noble. But I have done nothing noble by adopting them. I feel blessed that these two beautiful souls have created a journey to be with me for a lifetime.

Did you have to wait long before you could adopt?
Yes, it's a long wait. But it's a clean system; one

can't mess around with it. The waiting time is long because there are not enough children who are available for adoption. The number of children who are family-less is far larger. But there is a long process to register children for adoption so it takes time. Besides, many couples still want a male child so the waiting period for boys is even longer.

Did you have a preference?
I specifically opted for girls. I wanted two girls as I believe sisters share a beautiful relationship. The bond between my sister Shaina and me is unparalleled. And, I am fond of large families. Unfortunately, families are shrinking so much. I have eight aunts and uncles, my kids will have just two. I wish I could adopt another child but there is a limit in place.



Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the responsibility of raising two kids alone and wished for a partner who could share the duties?
Parenting is overwhelming sometimes, but I have never wished for someone to share the burden with. I love every bit of it, including the tantrums, the sick days and sleepless nights. I have my mother, my sister and house help for support. I'm not actively seeking a partner. I don't feel the need for marriage anymore, especially with the children in my life. It's so fulfilling. I am enjoying the independence of raising them by myself. It is clash-free.

How do you deal with tantrums?
I've realised a tantrum originates from a place of feeling out of control. A child will scream and not hear you out when they feel they can't control a situation. It's important for me to remain very calm. The child takes over that energy and automatically calms down. When the child is throwing a tantrum, I don't start saying: "No, you don't need to do it. Why are you doing it? Keep quiet, keep your volume down." This does not work. All the child needs at that time is a warm hug and they regulate themselves after that. It does take a lot of patience. We have to train ourselves to deal with it. Tantrums are actually very healthy because that's how kids learn to process their emotions and settle down despite discomfort.

What is your parenting mantra?
Each day is a new day and a new surprise. No mantra works. It is often so unpredictable that you deal with it as it happens. I believe that preaching doesn't work, practicing does. So, saying that "don't use the screen, don't watch more than half an hour of television" does not work. I don't keep a phone or computer at home. I read and paint, so my kids read and paint. That's one simple formula I keep in mind.

How do you manage to stay completely off the phone at home?
I keep my phone in a cabinet and go to check it periodically. I don't carry it around or use

social media when I am home. Besides, I make it clear to people I work with — I have a large team of 80-plus — that I am not available 24/7 because there is a certain time that I dedicate to my family. I only work during office hours and in those eight hours, I try to work a 16-hour shift so no work remains pending. I don't want to work

I make it clear to people I work with that I am not available 24/7 because there is a certain time that I dedicate to myself and my family

long hours and burn out. I want to enjoy life till I am 90. I don't entertain calls after 6pm unless there is an emergency.

Who has inspired or influenced your choices as a parent?

My mother. Sometimes, I wonder how she did it. She had me and my sister and at the same time she floated an institution (International Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Development) which was working in 55 countries within seven years. My mother travelled to all these countries to support women entrepreneurs. Yet, she was always there for us. I don't remember her asking us if we have eaten our food or slept properly. She knew that's something we would do. But whenever we had a crisis in terms of friendships, relationships, morality, ability, she was always there to support. Life gives you all kinds of experiences where you go through downs, even as a child. Say a teacher has not dealt with you properly and it has affected your self-respect and you don't know which way to go. These are the times when mom was always strong for us to make sure that we become stronger. We are able to express ourselves to the fullest, which is my mom's biggest and most beautiful contribution in my life. She also encouraged my interest for arts which I did not have naturally.

Short-range projectile killed Hamas chief Haniyeh: Iran

'Israel Was Supported By US In Attack'

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Saturday that Israel killed Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh using a "short-range projectile" launched from outside of his accommodation in Tehran. "This terrorist operation was carried out by firing a short-range projectile with a warhead of about 7 kilograms — causing a strong explosion — from outside the accommodation area," the Guards said. It added that Israel was "supported by the United States" in the attack. Haniyeh was killed early Wednesday in the Iranian capital where he was attending the swearing-in of the new president, Masoud Pezeshkian. Iran and Hamas have vowed to retaliate. The Guards repeated their insistence that Haniyeh would be avenged and that Israel would receive "a severe punishment at the appropriate time, place and manner".



Indonesian protesters hold portraits of the late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh reading 'Congratulations on your Martyrdom' during a demonstration in front of the US embassy in Jakarta, Saturday

Israel, which has declined to comment on Haniyeh's killing, had earlier struck a Hezbollah stronghold in south Beirut. That strike killed a senior commander of the Lebanese militant group it blamed for a deadly weekend rocket strike on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. The killings are the latest of several major incidents that have inflamed regional tensions during the Gaza war, which has drawn in Iran-backed militant groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. In

Iran, the voices clamouring for revenge have intensified since Haniyeh's killing. On Saturday, the ultraconservative Kayhan daily said retaliatory operations were expected to be "more diverse, more dispersed and impossible to intercept." "This time, areas such as Tel Aviv and Haifa and the strategic centres and especially residences of some officials involved in the recent crimes are among the targets," the newspaper said in an opinion piece. AFP

Iran arrests dozens in search for suspects

Iran has arrested more than two dozen people, including senior intelligence officers, military officials and staff workers at a military-run guesthouse in Tehran, in response to a huge and humiliating security breach that enabled the assassination of a top leader of Hamas, according to two Iranian officials familiar with the investigation. The high-level arrests came after the killing early Wednesday of Ismail Haniyeh, who had led Hamas' political office in Qatar and was visiting Tehran for the inauguration of Iran's new president and staying in northern Tehran, Iran's capital. The fervour of the response to the killing of Haniyeh underscores what a devastating security failure this was for Iran's leadership, with the assassination occurring at a heavily guarded compound in the country's capital within hours of the swearing-in ceremony of the country's new president. NPT

Ukraine: Sank Russian sub, hit airfield & oil depots

Kyiv: Ukraine's military said on Saturday it had sunk a submarine in Russian-controlled Sevastopol, attacked a southern Russian airfield and hit oil depots and fuel and lubricant storage facilities in Belgorod, Kursk and Rostov regions. "A Russian submarine went to the bottom of the Black Sea," the defence ministry said in a post on X, naming the vessel as the B-237 Rostov-on-Don attack submarine.

The military's general staff said the attack on Sevastopol port also significantly damaged four launchers of the S-400 anti-aircraft "Triumf" defence system. There was no immediate comment by Russia on the Sevastopol attack. In other, overnight attacks, the military said it hit an ammunition depot at Morozovsk airfield where Russian forces stored guided aerial bombs among other equipment and a number of oil depots and fuel storage facilities. "Russian combat aviation must be destroyed wherever it is, by all effective means. It is also quite fair to strike at Russian airfields. And we need this joint solution with our partners — a security solution," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on the Telegram messaging app. He has repeatedly called on his Western allies for permission to use their weapons for long-range attacks on Russia, in addition to striking military targets close to the border. He said Russian forces had used over 600 guided aerial bombs to attack Ukraine in the past week. In Russia, local officials reported that tanks at a fuel-storage depot in the Kamensky district of Rostov region caught fire as a result of a drone attack. REUTERS

'Disorder' as UK anti-racism, far-right groups hit streets

London: A number of British police officers were injured Saturday as far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters, following a stabbing rampage at a dance class earlier this week that left three girls dead and several wounded.

With dozens of similar gatherings scheduled to take place around the country this weekend, police have mounted a significant security operation, deploying thousands more officers onto the streets, many in riot gear. Police have also made more prison cells available and are using surveillance and facial recognition technology.

On Saturday, Merseyside Police said a number of officers were injured in "serious disorder" in the centre of Liverpool, about 20 miles away from the scene of the stabbing attack in the seaside town of Southport in the northwest of England.

In a series of posts on the social media platform X, the police force that covers Liverpool and Southport said there is "no place for this despicable behaviour which disrupts the lives of members of the public who live in the city, or are



Police officers face protesters outside the Liver Building, Liverpool, on Saturday during the 'Enough is Enough' demonstration held in reaction to the fatal stabbings in Southport on July 29

visiting to enjoy the amenities the city has to offer." And Humber Police in a statement said three police officers have been injured and four people arrested following disorder in Hull, a city in the northeast of England. Earlier, windows of a hotel in Hull that is used to house migrants were smashed. Elsewhere, bricks were thrown at police officers in Stoke-on-Trent in central England while scuffles have also been reported in Belfast, Manchester and Nottingham.

There were no reports of far-right marches in London. Separately, thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched peacefully through the city to protest Israel's military operation in Gaza. Britain's new Labour PM Keir Starmer held a crisis meeting with ministers on Saturday, in which he said police have the government's "full support" to take action against "extremists" attacking officers and attempting to "sow hate," according to his office in No. 10 Downing Street. AP

Israeli strikes kill 15 in school shelter

9 Militants Die In West Bank

Cairo/Ramallah: An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced persons in Gaza City killed at least 15 Palestinians on Saturday, hours after two strikes in the occupied West Bank killed nine militants including a local Hamas commander, Hamas said. The Israeli military said the first of two West Bank

airstrikes hit a vehicle in a town near the city of Tulkarm, targeting a militant cell it said was on its way to carry out an attack. The school sheltering displaced persons was in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, the Hamas-run government media office said. The Israeli military said the school was being used as a command centre for Hamas, to hide militants and manufacture weapons. Hamas has denied Israeli accusations.

At least 39,550 Palestinians have been killed so far in the Israeli military campaign in Gaza, say health officials

Earlier on Saturday, Israeli strikes in the enclave killed six in a house in the southern area of Rafah and two others in Gaza City, Gaza health officials said. The Israeli military

said its forces had struck militants and destroyed Hamas infrastructure in Rafah and elsewhere in the enclave. At least 39,550 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli military campaign in Gaza, said Gaza health officials. A high-level Israeli delegation made a brief visit to Cairo on Saturday in an attempt to resume Gaza ceasefire negotiations, Egyptian airport authority sources said. It returned to Israel hours later, Israeli media said. REUTERS

UK court overrules judgment on mental capacity that denied PIO teen her right to seek life-saving treatment

Naomi Canton

London: In a landmark ruling the UK's court of appeal has overturned the decision of a lower court which declared Indian-origin teenager Sudiksha Thirumalesh lacked mental capacity to make decisions about her medical treatment. This led to her life-saving treatment being withdrawn. Thirumalesh died aged 19 on Sept 12, 2023 after her wishes to seek experimental life-saving treatment overseas were denied by doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham following a court of



RIGHT TO DISAGREE WITH DOCS

protection judgment which claimed she lacked mental capacity. This week, in a judgment at the court of appeal pronounced well after her death, Lord Justice Singh, Lady Justice King and Lord Justice Baker ruled Thirumalesh had the capacity to give or withhold her agreement to medical treat-

ment, including palliative treatment, overruling the court of protection. Her Christian parents Thirumalesh Chellamal Hemachandran and Revathi Thirumalesh, who migrated to the UK from Chennai in 2000, said: "From the moment the court of protection judgment was made, it gave the clinicians the power to do whatever they liked, with no respect for Sudiksha's wishes and treating her family with contempt. No effort was made to secure a clinical trial of nucleoside therapy, which might yet have saved Sudiksha's life. A patient's right

to disagree with her doctors, not to relinquish hope, and still to have her decisions respected, will now be part of Sudiksha's legacy." On July 20, 2023 the hospital trust made an emergency application to approve a palliative care plan and for her life-sustaining treatment to be removed. Thirumalesh was insistent that she wished to have the opportunity to be considered for experimental nucleoside treatment in America or Canada. Dr Dhruba Bagchi, a psychiatrist at the trust, found she had full mental capacity,

as did a second psychiatrist. He told the court: "Sudiksha had a strong view that she would come through one day. That view was informed by her religious faith and the love and support of her family. She was clear she did not want palliative care." "I want to die trying to live. We have to try everything," she told him. But the position of the trust was that she was delusional. On Aug 7, 2023 the court of protection made a declaration that Thirumalesh lacked capacity "to give or withhold her agreement to medical treatment". She died 35 days later.

Official rushing to start seabed mining removed

The international agency charged with regulating seabed mining worldwide voted Friday to replace its top executive, after accusations that the British lawyer running the agency was too closely aligned with the mining industry. Leticia Carvalho, an oceanographer from Brazil and a United Nations environmental regulator, was elected by a 79-34 vote by the nations that run the International Seabed Authority to replace Michael Lodge, a lawyer who has overseen the agency for nearly eight years. Lodge has been a polarizing figure at the seabed authority, which has jurisdiction over any future mining in international waters. Environmentalists have argued that he worked behind the scenes with

private contractors to try to accelerate the start of mining. Lodge has rejected those claims, arguing that he has tried to lead the agency impartially as it works toward opening up small pieces of the ocean floor to mining. Over 30 countries have called for a delay or moratorium on seabed mining. The seabed authority, a once-obscure agency overseen by 168 member nations, has become an international focus of attention as the push to phase out gasoline-powered cars has generated a sharp increase in demand for metals such as cobalt and nickel, used in electric vehicle batteries. Both are found in high concentrations in certain rocks sitting at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, more than 2.5 miles down, among other locations. NPT

French director to face trial for abusing minor actor

A French magistrate has ordered film director Christophe Ruggia to stand trial on charges of sexually assaulting an actor when she was a minor, sources close to the case said on Saturday. The trial at the Paris criminal court, set for Dec 9 and 10, follows allegations that Ruggia sexually assaulted actor Adele Haenel in the early 2000s when he was in his mid to late 30s and she was under 15. In a court document, the investigating magistrate said Haenel's accusations were "precise and consistent" and that she had suffered psychological consequences from the alleged assaults. Ruggia has denied the charges, although the director admitted to committing "errors". His lawyers declined to comment on Saturday. AFP

Somalia beach attack kills 37 civilians, says minister

Mogadishu: At least 37 civilians were killed and 212 were injured in an explosion at a popular beach restaurant in the Somali capital late on Friday, the health minister said, an attack the government blamed on militant Islamist group al-Shabaab. Ali Haji told a press conference that 11 of those injured in the attack in Mogadishu were in a critical condition. It was the deadliest attack in the Horn of Africa country since twin car bombs detonated near a busy market intersection in Oct 2022, killing at least 100 people. In addition to the civilians killed at the beach restaurant, police spokesperson Abdifatah Aden said one soldier was killed during the assault. Hassan Farah, a survivor,



An ambulance arrives to remove bodies from Lido beach after the attack on Saturday

described the shock as the explosion shattered a peaceful evening. "I was in the restaurant sipping coffee and having a good chat with friends when I saw a big man running, in a second there was something like lightning and a huge blast," he said. "We were covered with smoke. Inside and outside the restaurant many people were lying on the floor while others were bleeding and crying." On Saturday morning, the beach was strewn with sandals and shoes. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre met with security agencies after the attack and drew up plans to strengthen the city's security. REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE: Kyrgyz hunters compete during the Traditional Eagle Hunting Festival 'Salbuurun' near the Issyk-Kul lake, southeast of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Saturday

Hawaii announces \$4 bn settlement in wildfire lawsuits

A \$4 billion settlement has been reached to end thousands of lawsuits filed in the wake of devastating wildfires on Maui nearly one year ago, the governor of Hawaii announced Friday. Defendants including the state of Hawaii, Maui County, and Hawaiian Electric utility will pay the money to compensate victims — including about 2,200 who filed lawsuits — for losses from deadly wildfires on the island of Maui. "This Global Settlement of over \$4 billion will help our people heal," Hawaii governor Josh Green said in a release.

Google and Microsoft. Nvidia this week informed Microsoft about a delay affecting the most advanced AI chip models in the Blackwell series, according to an unidentified Microsoft employee and another person. The delays mean big shipments aren't expected until the first quarter of 2025.

Design flaws delay Nvidia's new AI chip

Nvidia's upcoming artificial intelligence chips will be delayed due to design flaws. The information reports, citing two unidentified people who help produce the chip and its server hardware. The chips may be delayed by three months or more, which could affect Nvidia's customers including Meta Platforms,

Jordan's royal court announces princess' birth

Princess Rajwa, wife of crown prince Hussein of Jordan, gave birth to a baby girl Saturday, the couple's first-born and first grandchild of King Abdullah II, the country's royal court said. In a brief statement, the Royal Hashemite Court said the baby was named Iman. In a video posted on Rajwa's official Instagram page on Saturday, Hussein was seen cradling his newborn daughter to the soundtrack of the famous American ballad, "You Are My Sunshine." The birth of Princess Iman came about a year after Hussein and Rajwa's extravagant wedding that drew a star-studded guest list including Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate, as well as US first lady Jill Biden.

AI lawsuits create new music copyright puzzle for US courts

Country musician Tift Merritt's most popular song on Spotify, "Traveling Alone," is a ballad with lyrics evoking solitude and the open road. When prompted to make "an American song in the style of Tift Merritt," the artificial intelligence (AI) music website Udio instantly generated "Holy Grounds," a ballad with lyrics about "driving old back roads" while "watching the fields and skies shift and sway." Merritt, a Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter, says the "imitation" Udio created "doesn't make the cut for any album of mine." "This is a great demonstration of the extent to which this technology is not transformative at all," Merritt said. "It's stealing."

Meta in talks to use voices of celebrities like Judi Dench in digital assistant product

Meta is in discussions with Awkwafina, Judi Dench and other actors and influencers for the right to incorporate their voices into a digital assistant product called MetaAI, according to three people with knowledge of the talks, as the company pushes to build more products that feature artificial intelligence. Apart from Dench and Awkwafina, Meta is in talks with comedian Keegan-Michael Key and other celebrities, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the discussions are private. They added that all of Hollywood's top talent agencies were involved in negotiations with the tech giant. The talks remain fluid, and it is unclear which actors and influencers, if any, may sign on to the project. NPT

ner Music sued Udio and another music AI company called Suno in June, marking the music industry's entrance into high-stakes copyright battles over AI-generated content that are just starting to make their way through the courts. Suno and Udio filed their initial responses on Thursday, denying copyright violations. The labels' claims echo allegations by novelists, news outlets, music publishers and others in high-profile copyright lawsuits over chatbots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Anthropic's Claude that use generative AI to create text. Those lawsuits are in their early stages. Both sets of cases pose novel questions for the courts, including whether the law should make exceptions

for AI's use of copyrighted material to create something new. The record labels' cases, which could take years to play out, also raise questions unique to their subject matter — music. The interplay of melody, harmony, rhythm and other elements can make it harder to determine when parts of a copyrighted song have been infringed compared to works like written text, said Brian McBrearty, a musicologist who specializes in copyright analysis. "Music has more factors than just the stream of words," McBrearty said. "It has pitch, and it has rhythm, and it has harmonic context. It's a richer mix of different elements that make it a little bit less straightforward." Some claims in the AI copy-

right cases could hinge on comparisons between an AI system's output and the material allegedly misused to train it, requiring the kind of analysis that has challenged courts in cases about music. In a 2018 decision that a dissenting judge called "a dangerous precedent," Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams lost a case brought by Marvin Gaye's estate over the semblance of their hit "Blurred Lines" to Gaye's "Got to Give It Up." Artists like Katy Perry and Ed Sheeran have since fended off similar complaints over their own songs. Julie Albert, an intellectual property partner at law firm Baker Botts in New York, says fast-evolving AI tech is creating new uncertainty at every level of copyright law. REUTERS



I actually think I'm probably like one of the most famous Olympic champions. I feel like Simone Biles. They wait outside my building when I come out for breakfast for photos. It's cool."

DANIEL WIFFEN
IRISH SWIMMER AFTER WINNING 800M FREE GOLD

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2 Biles is the second woman to win vault twice, joining Vera Caslavskva of Czechoslovakia as a two-time gold medalist on the vault

10 BILES NOW HAS 10 OLYMPIC MEDALS IN HER CAREER, TIED FOR THE THIRD MOST BY A FEMALE GYMNAST. SHE ALSO BOOSTED HER MEDAL COUNT AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS TO 40, THE MOST BY ANY GYMNAST

BILES' NEW HIGH

Third gold medal of Paris Olympics for American icon with vault triumph

Paris: Simone Biles won the vault final on Saturday to clinch her third gold medal at the Paris Olympics, dominating the competition with her signature Biles II vault to beat Brazilian silver medalist Rebeca Andrade with American Jade Carey taking bronze.

Biles soared high into the air as she performed her explosive Yurchenko double pike for a massive score of 15.700 for her opening vault.

Her coach Laurent Landi was seen leaping up and punching the air in delight as soon as he saw that Biles had completed

Once the result confirmed that she had topped the eight-woman final, a jubilant Biles flashed a huge smile before sharing a hug with Carey.

"I am super excited, I landed my vaults really well, successfully, so I couldn't be more proud of myself for the work I have put in to get to this point," Biles told Eurosport.

Andrade once again had to make do with coming second best to Biles as she also finished second in the all-around final.

"I love that the athletes push me to be my best. We're all out there competing to the best of our ability so it definitely gives me a run for my money," added the champion who now owns an eye-popping 40 Olympic and world medals.

Biles arrived in Paris as the world's most decorated gymnast and she has reached new heights by claiming gold medals in all three women's events contested so far in Paris. She now has 10 Olympic medals overall, with seven of them being gold. She led the U.S. team to the top of the podium in the team final before claiming a second all-around Olympic title two days ago.

Biles' impact is not only confined to gymnastics as she also sparked a conversation about mental health after pulling out of the Tokyo Games in the middle of the team final three years ago.

Suffering from the "twisties" - a type of mental block where gymnasts get disoriented during their gravity-defying sequences - Biles took

a two-year break from the sport.

Now that she is back, she is once again the dominant force in gymnastics.

"I put in therapy every week and that helps me manage it. I'm going to continue as soon as I go home because it's an important part of my daily routine," she said.

Biles also praised Carey, who made amends for her last-place finish in the Tokyo vault final by winning bronze on Saturday. "Great day for me and Jade. We're excited about it so I'm sure we'll get some good food to celebrate," Biles said.

Biles can add to her medal tally when she competes in the balance beam and women's floor finals on Monday.

Yulo strikes floor exercise gold for Philippines

Carlos Yulo won Olympic gold on Saturday in Paris in the men's floor exercise of the gymnastics for only the second gold in the history of the Philippines. The 24-year-old broke down in tears after matching the achievement of weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, who won gold at the Covid-delayed 2020 Tokyo Games.

Ireland's McClenaghan winsommel horse gold

Rhys McClenaghan earned Ireland their first ever Olympic medal in gymnastics when he struck gold on theommel horse. Nari-man Kurbanov of Kazakhstan took silver, while Stephen Nedorocik of the US captured bronze. AGENCIES



INVINCIBLE LEON

MARCHAND MEDALS

Gold	200m Individual medley, 400m Individual medley, 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke
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4 Marchand became the fourth swimmer in Oly history to win four individual golds at a single games.

The others? Michael Phelps, who did it in both 2004 and 2008; Mark Spitz in 1972; and East German Kristin Otto in 1988.

Nanterre: The party for Léon Marchand spread beyond the pool, quickly sweeping all across Paris.

At Stade de France, hosting the first night of track and field, an enormous ovation broke out when Marchand won his fourth gold medal of the Olympics. The roar was so loud that the first heat of the 400-meter run in the decathlon was delayed.

At the French Olympic house, nearly 20,000 gathered outside to watch Marchand cap his dominating run at the pool. With French President Emmanuel Macron among the more than 15,000 fans cheering him on in a rugby stadium-turned-natatorium, Marchand soared to another runaway victory in the 200-meter individual medley Friday night.

"I don't think anything went wrong this week," Marchand said. "It was just perfect."

The 22-year-old French phenomenon left no doubt he'll be remembered as one of the biggest stars of the Summer Games in his home country. He finished in an Olympic record of 1 minute, 54.06 seconds, just missing Ryan Lochte's 13-year-old world mark. That was about the only thing he didn't accomplish in six magical days at La Defense Arena, previously winning the 400 IM, 200 butterfly and 200 backstroke — the latter two about two hours apart in the same session.

The silver went to Britain's Duncan Scott, a body length behind at 1:55.31.

Marchand certainly enjoyed his moment, which his American coach Bob Bowman — Phelps' coach, in an appropriate touch — had encouraged him to do.

Before Marchand's triumph, Cameron McEvoy and Kaylee McKeown won more gold for Australia. McEvoy touched first in the 50 freestyle, denying Caeleb Dressel a repeat. Dressel, who won five



1 Cameron McEvoy became the first Australian man to win gold at these games (50m freestyle)

gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics, finished sixth in 21.61. Dressel said the Games have been "a little heartbreaking for sure." After leaving the pool deck, he broke down in tears.

McKeown followed with a victory in the 200 backstroke to become the first female swimmer to sweep the back at two straight Summer Games.

McKeown quickly boosted her country's total to an Olympics-leading seven golds overall — three more than both the U.S. and Marchand, who is essentially a country unto himself. AP

Gold or silver? Djoko, Alcaraz meet for a different prize

Paris: Novak Djokovic insists Carlos Alcaraz will be the "favourite" for Olympic gold on Sunday in the latest instalment of tennis's generational power grab.

At 37, Djokovic would be the oldest Olympic tennis singles champion since the sport returned to the Games at Seoul in 1988. At 21, Alcaraz would be the youngest of all time. A win for the Serb would be his first gold medal at the fifth attempt and represent a significant upgrade on the bronze he won at Beijing in 2008. Victory would also allow Djokovic to become only the fifth player to complete the Golden Slam of all four majors plus an Olympic title.

However, Djokovic goes into Sunday's high-profile clash still bruised by being swept off court by Alcaraz in a one-sided Wimbledon final just three weeks ago. "I don't consider myself a favourite because Alcaraz has proven he's the best in the world," said Djokovic pointing to the Spaniard's rare achievement of winning the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back. "He won Roland Garros, he won Wimbledon and beat me in the final quite comfortably."

China's Zheng beats Vekic to win historic gold

Zheng Qinwen became the first Chinese player to win an Olympic tennis singles gold medal when she beat Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-2 6-3 in a tense final at Roland Garros on Saturday. Serving for the match at 5-3, Zheng reached match points as Vekic drove a backhand wide and finished it off with a well-placed forehand winner before falling to her back with joy.



VS
DJOKOVIC

ALCARAZ

HEAD TO HEAD
3 3



USA turn on the heat with WR; Cheptegei 10,000m champ

EARLY TO RISE: Kaylyn Brown of Team USA finishes things off during the 4x400m relay mixed heats with the world record time of 3:07.41s

Paris: Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei won the 10,000 metres, the first track title of the Paris Olympics, on Friday whilst the United States smashed the 4x400m mixed relay world record in a sparkling opening to the athletics.

Cheptegei produced a record-breaking performance of his own, timing 26 minutes 43.14 seconds to break Kenenisa Bekele's 16-year-old Olympic record, and make up for his disappointment in finishing runner-up in Tokyo three years ago.

Cheptegei, 27, said his mind had been set on Olympic glory when he watched Bekele win the title in Beijing in 2008. "It's the dream of young people to achieve what they want to achieve in life," said Cheptegei. "Barely 16 years ago when I was watching the great Kenenisa Bekele win in Beijing, it was something that grew in my heart."

"I said, one day, one time, I want to be Olympic champion."



Cheptegei added: "I've wanted this for a long time. When I took silver in Tokyo, I was disappointed. I wanted just to win the 10,000m."

"It took a lot of courage. It's really amazing, this one was still missing. Three times world champion, now I can add the Olympic title to this."

The United States set their

world record in the heats of the relay. The quartet timed 3min 07.41sec, eclipsing the previous best of 3:08.80, set when the US won world gold in Budapest last year. Lead-off runner Vernon Norwood said it was the ideal curtain-raiser for the mighty United States track and field team. "We set the tone for the rest of the United States with that world record," said Norwood.

Germany's Leo Neugebauer appeared to have a clear path to the Olympic decathlon gold medal after Canadian Damian Warner's title defence came to a crashing halt in the pole vault on Saturday and fellow contender Sander Skotheim suffered the same fate. The 34-year-old Warner was second behind Neugebauer heading into the pole vault, the eighth of the decathlon's 10 events, but fouled on all three attempts. AGENCIES

HINCHLIFFE DAMPENS THE LYLES SHOW IN 100M HEATS

Paris: Britain's surprise package Louie Hinchliffe claimed a qualifying edge on 100 metres favourite Noah Lyles as he led home the world champion in 9.98 seconds in Saturday's first-round heats.

Coached by Carl Lewis and the first European to win the NCAA title in the United States, Hinchliffe finished strongly and Lyles, not exactly easing up, took second in 10.04 to also go through safely.

Lyles is targeting a possible four golds in Paris, in the 100m, his favourite 200m, the 4x100m relay and, possibly, the 4x400m relay.

That would emulate illustrious compatriots Jesse Owens and Lewis, who achieved that feat at a single Games but with long jump instead of the longer relay. "It was a beautiful reaction and great to see it all coming together," Lyles said after getting a huge welcome from another sold-out Stade de France crowd.

Kishane Thompson is the world leader with the 9.77 he ran to win the Jamaican trials in June. The 23-year-old is eased down early to clock 10.00. Italy's Marcell Jacobs, who has had a wretched time with injury since his shock Tokyo success, looked a little sluggish in finishing second in 10.05 behind Nigerian heat winner Kayinsola Ajayi (10.02). Fellow American Fred Kerley, the 2022 world champion, finished things off with 9.97. REUTERS



RISE AGAINST HATE

The Olympics has seen some controversy or the other being stirred up—from questioning the theme of the opening ceremony to the gender of boxers—but some of the most influential people have shot down the notion which takes the focus away from the Games...

BACH LENDS SUPPORT; IBA TO REWARD ITALIAN

IOC president Thomas Bach jumped to the defence of boxers Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-Ting calling the "hate speech" directed at them as "totally unacceptable".

Meanwhile, banned International Boxing Association (IBA) has decided to add fuel to the fire by awarding \$50,000 prize money to the Italian boxer Angela Carini, who pulled out after 46 seconds against Khelif. Besides that, her federation and the coach will get \$25,000 respectively.

The IBA was controlled by their Russia president Umar Kremlev and they have been accused of stirring the controversy against both the boxers.

“We will not take part in a politically motivated...cultural war. What is going on in the social media with all this hate speech, with this aggression and fueled by this agenda, is totally unacceptable.”

—THOMAS BACH, IOC PRESIDENT



Algeria's Imane Khelif assured herself of at least a bronze medal when she beat Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary in the quarterfinals.

LIN YU-TING

ALGERIA, TAIWAN STAND WITH THEIR BOXERS

The Algerian Olympic and Sports Committee filed an official complaint with the IOC to protest the online harassment of Khelif that amounts to "a serious violation of sports ethics and the Olympic Charter by one of the participants in the boxing tournament", according to a statement that was posted on the committee's Facebook page.

The statement did not name the boxer who has allegedly posted disparaging comments of the Algerian, but warned that the IOC "has issued a final warning to delete every post that concerns our heroine Iman Khelif."

Meanwhile, Taiwan's presidential office expressed support for Lin. Pan Men-an, secretary-general for Taiwan's presidential office, said on Facebook it was wrong for Lin to be "subjected to humiliation, insults and verbal bullying just because of your appearance and a controversial verdict in the past".

MACRON PRAISES THE OPENING CEREMONY THEME

French president Emmanuel Macron on Friday offered his support to the artists behind the Olympic opening ceremony who had received death threats and praised their "audacity", adding that the show had made France proud.

French authorities have opened an investigation into death threats targeting the artistic director of the ceremony Thomas Jolly, after he was harassed online over a tableau that appeared to parody Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece "The Last Supper". Macron said people were allowed to criticise and have an opinion but that death threats had no place in a democracy.



“I am scandalised and sad about what he's (Thomas Jolly) been through. The French and the whole world were very proud of this opening ceremony. His audacity did a lot of good to a lot of people.”

—EMMANUEL MACRON, FRANCE PRESIDENT

NO ROOM FOR POLITICAL GESTURES

Taiwan's ministry of foreign Affairs has condemned the removal of a spectator from the badminton venue for holding up a green banner reading "Taiwan go for it" on Friday. Green, the colour of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, is used by people who support Taiwan's separate identity from China and, often, Taiwan independence. Taiwan competes at the Olympics as Chinese Taipei to avoid objections from China, which claims the democratically governed island as its own territory.



"It's no coincidence that I'm a favourite. It's the best feeling when you're trying to do something new and you need to do better than you've ever done before."

ARMAND DUPLANTIS
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NO THIRD PARTY

Two Below-Par Rounds Cost Double Olympic Medallist Manu Bhaker Historic Treble



TOUGH LUCK: Manu Bhaker during the 25m pistol women's final event in Chateauroux

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA
@timesofindia.com

Chateauroux: A rollercoaster. That's how Manu Bhaker described it later here on Saturday morning. Her bid for a historic third medal had ended in an agonizing finish. It must have left her feeling empty inside, but she did not show it. She has learnt not to show it. She was there, up there. And then she was not. A couple of poor shots, a couple of poor series – at the beginning and the end – and that was it. That's sport for you.

When it all started, Manu looked confident when she walked up to station G inside the 25m pistol women's final hall. The routine was the same, the rigour same. She set up her station, did some shadow shooting and was ready. Both hands in pocket, she waited.

The first series was a disaster. She was surely feeling the pressure.

She shot 2/5 and found herself in the sixth position in the eight-woman field. A shrug of the shoulders, a fleeting look at her coach Jaspal Rana – sitting in the same seat in the stands when Manu won her first bronze – and she was back to the task. She was not giving up.

The second series brought her back. She was alive. 4/5 was just what she needed. She had jumped up to the fourth position. She shot another 4/5 in the third series and moved up to the second position. It was all falling into place.

The fourth series was an average 3/5 and Manu slid to the sixth place, just a shot below three above her. But she was very near elimination. Another poor round and it would be all over. But no, that was not the script. She shot a perfect 5/5 to move towards safety and a possible medal. She was now third on 18 points, a point behind Hungary's Veronica Major and two behind South Korea's Yang Jin who went on to win the gold medal.

The elimination had started, and Manu was way clear. In the

sixth series, she got a 4/5, missing her last shot. But she was back to second, trailing the Korean by two points. The Indians in the stands had started celebrating.

The seventh series was again a brilliant 4/5. She stayed in the second spot, now just a point separating her from Jin. The roar in the right corner of the stands was deafening. The India corner.

This is where the course changed. A 3/5 could have kept Manu in the hunt for a silver medal, maybe even a gold. With the last four standing, she failed to hold her nerve. 2/5 and Manu found herself in a shoot-off with Major, both now on 28 points.

One poor series and it had come to that. Fingers crossed.

In the shoot-off, Manu got the first two targets, missed the third and fourth and hit the last one. The Hungarian got four shots to win 4/3. Manu was out. She looked disappointed as she walked back to her corner and sat quietly, probably trying to figure out what went wrong.

But the Indian fans were still celebrating, chanting her name,

clapping. They had travelled a long distance just to see her shoot, to back her, to show her love. The medal went missing in that single shot, but she was still a champion. A star was born at the shooting ranges here last Sunday. She shone bright the whole week.

Manu is just 22. Her journey from Tokyo 2021 to here has been a difficult one, full of sacrifices. She followed a rigid regimen, a strict diet, worked out hard in the gym and trained for hours and hours at the range. Pushed by her coach, she steered herself to come out of a dark place and discover a new Manu.

Manu 2.0 has been a revelation. Very few who saw her crash badly in Tokyo were willing to back her. There were stories of indiscipline, all kinds of rumours. And to think she was just 19 then, mentally fragile, helpless. Alone. She went back to Rana and that changed her life. He held her hand, helped her heal and slowly moulded her into a tough cookie. She would crumble no more.

Manu Bhaker has come a long way, but her journey is incomplete. She wants more. India wants more.

“HER PERFORMANCE WAS EXTRAORDINARY. I AM PROUD OF HER. SHE HAS DONE A GREAT JOB. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE! SHE WON THE TWO BRONZE MEDALS BY A MARGIN OF POINTS. SO, I AM HAPPY FOR THOSE TWO. THIS WAS NOT EASY AND GETTING TO THAT FOURTH POSITION WAS NOT THAT EASY. I AM HAPPY.”
—Jaspal Rana | MANU'S COACH

'No regrets, this is better than not making finals'

Alok.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Chateauroux: “Hi!” Manu Bhaker greeted us as she walked into the mixed zone wearing a pretty smile. She had just come out of the shooting range, having missed another medal that would have added to her growing stature. She wore the disappointment of it all lightly on her shoulders.

“Yes, fourth position, but I am not complaining. There is always a next time. The two medals I have won for India have given me a lot of motivation. I will keep trying my best to do better in the future,” said Manu, looking composed.

Manu, was the start poor? “Yes. It was a rollercoaster. But I recovered and caught up with the field. I kept telling myself, ‘keep trying, give your best on every shot’. I kept trying but nerves got the better of me. I was trying but things were not going my way,” she said.

“It was a fourth-place finish, but I feel this is better than not making the final. I have no regrets. There are certain elements I have to work on. I will start preparing for the next cycle,” she added.

On her routine here at the Olympics, she said: “I have a very rigid routine. I don't know about others. But I like to work out in the gym every day, every time before matches, after the matches. I am a regular at the gym. I eat on time, meditate and sleep on time. It is a very rigid routine.”

Was she disappointed with the fourth finish? “I tried my best. Grateful that I won two medals for India. I am still learning what to say. Whatever I say, I say it from my heart. I will keep working hard for as many years as possible, as many Olympics as possible. I would want all those who have backed me to keep supporting me, keep cheering for India.”

On the momentum that she rode here, Manu said: “My coach Jaspal Rana had prepared me for this. In the camp, during normal training, he got me ready for a long haul... he told me you will have so many days of competition. So showed me how to stick to my routine, kept myself physically and mentally fit. I was well prepared, which is why my performance was great.”

Do you need to work harder in the 25m pistol discipline? “I got my Olympic quota place in 25m, which is why I am here. So, I am grateful to the event. End of the day, I put in equal effort in 10m and 25m. I have been consistent in both events. It was only a matter of fine margins here.”

Was she under pressure to win the third medal? “No. My coach said history is history. Now live in the present. You can sit back later to reflect on how everything went. My coach does a great job in keeping me in the present. So, there was no pressure to win the third medal, but I definitely wanted to go out and give my best.”

What do you want to do now in the coming days? “I don't know. My mind is completely blank now. I don't know what India has to show to me once I get back. I don't really have a list, that I want to do this, do that.”

What was the major difference between Tokyo and Paris in terms of her mental state? “One major difference here was confidence. In Tokyo, I was not confident at all and I was scared about everything. This time around I feel much more confident and mature with my experience too.”

“A major part of the credit should go to my coach. Because of him I feel so confident. If you try to grasp the best out of the experiences, it can teach you a lot.”

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.

TEAM INDIA | Reliance Foundation

MEDALS TALLY

P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
1	CHN	16	11	9	36
2	FRA	12	14	15	41
3	AUS	12	7	5	24
4	USA	11	20	20	51
5	GBR	10	10	12	32
6	KOR	9	6	5	20
7	JPN	8	5	8	21
8	ITA	6	8	4	18
9	NED	5	4	4	13
10	GER	4	3	2	9
50	IND	0	0	3	3

Updated till 11 pm

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS: Women's 3000m steeplechase: Parul Chaudhary (1.35pm); **Men's long jump qualifications:** Jeswin Aldrin (2.30pm)

BADMINTON: Men's singles semis: Lakshya Sen vs Viktor Axelsen (Den) (3.30pm)

BOXING: Women's 75kg QF: Lovlina vs Li Qian (Chn) (3pm)

GOLF: Men's Rd 4: Shubhankar Sharma, Gaganjeet Bhullar (12.30pm)

HOCKEY: Men's QFs: India vs Great Britain (1.30pm)

SAILING: Men's Dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan (3.35pm); **Women's Dinghy:** Nethra Kumanan (6.05pm)

SHOOTING: Men's 25m rapid fire pistol qualification: Vijayveer Sidhu, Anish (12.30pm); **Women's skeet qualifications:** Maheshwari Chauhan, Raiza Dhillon (1pm). Final (if qualifies) (7pm)

LAKSHYA'S BIGGEST TEST IS HERE



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Paris: Will it be Super Sunday for India and Lakshya Sen? The young star, who already has a glittering collection of medals starting from the 2018 Youth Olympics, is well primed for the biggest match of his career at the La Chapelle arena here.

The 22-year-old, whose collection includes an All England silver and a bronze at Worlds, takes on second seed

HEAD TO HEAD
VIKTOR AXELSEN leads LAKSHYA SEN 7-1*

* (Sen's solitary victory came on March 12, 2022 at the German Open semifinal)

With two of his biggest influences, badminton legend Prakash Padukone and coach Vimal Kumar in the City of Light to support him, Sen has no shortage of guidance and encouragement.

“Lakshya is looking forward to playing Viktor. Against the Dane he has to raise his level. The priority will be not giving Viktor the opportunity to employ his steep smashes,” Kumar told TOI. Sen has had a great run so far. In his path were world No.3 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia and teammate HS Prannoy but he cleared the hurdles adeptly. Sen didn't drop a single game till the quarters.

Same old story for Deepika

Archer Falters At Crucial Juncture In Quarters, Loses To Korean Teen

TIMES AT THE GAMES
BIJU.BABUCYRIAC @timesofindia.com

Paris: If two bad rounds haunted Manu Bhaker in the morning in Chateauroux, it was a case of two bad shots for Deepika Kumari in archery. The 30-year-old, competing at her fourth consecutive Olympics, was looking to put all past disappointments to rest as she took on South Korea's 19-year-old Suheyon Nam in the quarterfinals of the individual recurve archery.

Deepika was close, fighting the prodigy tooth and nail, but just when it mattered, the inner circle of the board which measures 12.2 cm eluded her. She lost to the eventual silver medallist 4-6 and her

dreams of a first Olympic medal were shattered, maybe for one last time.

A 33rd place in London 2012, ninth at Rio Games, eighth in Tokyo and now another disappointment as she ended seventh. It could have easily been a top-4 finish, even a historic medal could just be in the offing, but then the pressure of the situation got the better of her. “Yes, this was my best chance so far (to win an Olympics medal). But I fired two bad shots (one 6 pointer and a 7). I felt like I gifted her the match and I don't know why I always lose at the Olympics,” she told reporters trying her best to hide the disappointment at the Invalides here. “I'll continue to work hard and I have not set any timelines.”

Against the young Korean, who was making her debut, the vastly experienced Deepika took the first set with three arrows (9, 10, 9) that hovered around the inner circle. Suheyon fired two 8s after starting with a 10 as Deepika raised the expectations of the Indian

fans. But the second set was a different story. The Korean opened with a 9 and Deepika also found a 10.

The Korean then fired a 10 and Deepika, who was racing against the clock, crashed down with a six-point shot. That was a big cushion for the Korean, who claimed the second set after taking her tally to an unbeatable 28. Deepika was back in form in the third set firing two 10s to take the lead.

The Korean finished with a tally of 28 points and the Indian found a perfect 10 to win the set 29-28 and take a 4-2 lead. From then on, Deepika found it difficult to handle pressure. She hit two 10s with her last six arrows while the Korean had four. After surrendering her advantage with another bad shot that got her just 7 points, in the fourth, Deepika couldn't hit the inner circle.

The Korean showed great composure to score 19 points with her first two shots. Deepika responded with 9s that saw her trail 18-19. Suheyon showed great composure and capped her comeback with another 10 with her last shot and began the celebrations as it took the match beyond Deepika's reach.

Kersee, 'mad scientist' who churns out gold medallists for fun

The 70-Year-Old, Who Coached The Likes Of Flo Jo & Allyson Felix, Is Now In Charge Of McLaughlin-Levrone, US' 400m Hurdles Queen

Saint-Denis: Bobby Kersee was in a taxi to the airport the night his current protégé, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, broke the world record in the 400m hurdles at the US Olympic trials.

“I haven't seen one of Sydney's world records live yet,” Kersee says. Once his athletes step on the track, Kersee considers his work done, and he quietly slips away from the stadium. All perfectly fitting for the “mad scientist” — a coach whose presence at any of the world's major track meets, including the Paris Olympics, is enormous whether he's watching the action or not.

Many of America's biggest track stars — Florence Griffith Joyner, Gail Devers, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Al Joyner, Allyson Felix and, these days, Athing Mu and McLaughlin-Levrone — have one thing in common: coached by Kersee.

“Bobby is the best ever,” said Al Joyner, who won the triple jump at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. “Because Bobby brings out the best in you. At the same time, he's not a hold-your-hand coach.”

After the Paris Games end, the 70-year-old Kersee will have coached athletes in 12 Olympics and 47 US championships. Those athletes have taken home at least one gold medal from every Olympics since the 1984 Summer Games. McLaughlin-Levrone is a favorite to keep that streak going in the 400m hurdles final on Aug. 8.

The method to Kersee's madness? He'll never give away the Xs and Os, but he, at different times, compared his job to that of a baker, a chemist, a woodworker and a psychologist. “If I can't explain to them in detail why I want it done this way, and what the end



BOBBY KERSEE

result is going to be, then you shouldn't trust in me,” Kersee said. “Because those that know the ‘why’ can beat those that know the ‘how.’”

McLaughlin-Levrone had already been to an Olympics at age 16 and had her career on a fast track. But after losing a pair of races in 2019 to Dalilah Muhammad, who broke world records both times, she became frustrated. One obvious fix was to see if Kersee would coach her.

It's a decision that changed history — both for McLaughlin-Levrone and for track. A record that stood at 52.34 seconds for nearly 16 years before Muhammad broke it now belongs to McLaughlin-Levrone at 50.65. Many

think sub-50 will come soon — maybe in this year's Olympic final. “Growing as a person and as an athlete, he challenges me and pushes me in ways I didn't think were possible,” McLaughlin-Levrone said. At the practice track he calls his “lab,” Kersee has turned McLaughlin-Levrone into arguably the most indomitable force in track.

Yet, after she had lowered the record in the 400 hurdles for the fourth time in her best event for two years. She raced in regular sprints at 200 and 400 metres and also in the short hurdles — 100m, and 60m indoors.

All of that wasn't meant to prepare McLaughlin-Levrone for another event at the Olympics. Instead, it made her even better at her best event.

“When she started running the short hurdles, everyone started freaking out,” hurdling great Edwin Moses said. “All she was doing was learning how to perfect jumping off the opposite leg. Bobby knew what he was doing.”

Taking a cue from her coach, McLaughlin said she treats every race like a heavyweight bout. She views the hurdles as Joe Frazier and herself as Muhammad Ali. It's one of the many sports metaphors Kersee embeds in his runners' minds. **AP**

No room for slip-ups against plucky GBR

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After a rather indifferent start to their Olympics campaign, the Indian hockey team has gathered momentum and confidence, especially after a 3-2 win against heavyweights Australia in their last league outing on Friday. In a repeat of the Tokyo Games quarterfinals, India will take on Great Britain in the last-8 contest on Sunday. Although India had defeated Great Britain 3-1 in Tokyo and finished with bronze, there will be no room for errors against their spunky opponents.

The 1-2 loss against defending champions Belgium earlier in the week was a wake-up call for Harmanpreet Singh and his men and

they came out with renewed purpose and determination against the Aussies.

The turnaround in India's performance has been telling. The strikers have found their feet, especially with the red-hot Abhishek and the dependable Sukhjeet Singh showcasing their skill and speed and the defence has shown marked improvement.

Much like the previous game, it will be important for Mandeep Singh to shoulder more responsibility and go into the attack in tandem with midfielder Rajkumar Pal. Also, the seasoned trio of Harmanpreet, Manpreet Singh and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will have to continue with their sub-

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INDIA VS GREAT BRITAIN
HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	23
Won by GB	13
Won by India	9
Draw	1

lime form and weigh in with experience. While India qualified as the second-placed team from Pool B, Great Britain ended third in Pool A.

Although the teams have had contrasting fortunes in their respective previous outings, Great Britain will have a slight psychological advantage.

Since the Tokyo contest, the two teams have squared off in four FIH Pro League matches, with India winning one through shootouts. In June, GB beat India 3-1 and 3-2 on their home turf.

It will be crucial for India to keep dangerous man and penalty corner expert Gareth Furlong quiet. Zach Wallace will be another player India can ill-afford to offer space inside the circle.

In the other QF matches, Pool A toppers Germany will take on Argentina, Australia face Netherlands and Belgium play Spain.

SNAP SHOTS

BUTTLER OUT OF HUNDRED

England captain Jos Buttler has been ruled out of The Hundred after sustaining a calf injury...

Roach to WI squad:

West Indies have announced their squad for the upcoming ICC World Test Championship against South Africa...

The squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (c), Joshua Da Silva (vc), Alick Athanaze, Keacy Carty, Bryan Charles, Justin Greaves, Jason Holder, Kavem Hodge, Tevin Imlach, Shamar Joseph, Mikyle Louis, Gudakesh Motie, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Jomel Warrican.

Sabalanka in semis:

Aryna Sabalenka withstood a shaky second set to defeat Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 6-4 in a Friday showdown of two-time Australian Open champions...

Shapovalov disqualified in quarterfinals:

Denis Shapovalov of Canada was knocked out of the Mubadala City DC Open on Friday after he was disqualified from his quarterfinal round match...

QIAN IN LOVLINA'S WAY

World Champion Faces Tough Task In The Quarterfinals

Arnob Seal @timesofindia.com

Lovlina Borgohain gave a dominating display in her opening bout of Paris Olympics against Norway's Sunniva Hofstad to make it to Sunday's quarterfinals in the 75kg category...

OLYMPICS

Olympics bronze medalist in 69kg category — will have to beat double Olympic medalist and No. 1 seed Li Qian of China...

The last time the two boxers faced off, it was in Grand Prix 2024 which was held in a round robin format in the Czech Republic in June. In the tournament, the Indian pugilist won one and lost one and was in line to grab the gold...

Even in the Asian Games final held in Hangzhou last year, Qian had the last laugh against Lovlina as she won 5-0.

The Indian pugilist did get the better of her in the World Championships last year. It was in the semifinals that they faced off and Lovlina grabbed a 4-1 win before winning the gold medal.

Asked what Lovlina needs to do to make it to the semis, her former coach Sandhya Gungur said, "She needs to fight to her strength and fight from a distance like she did during her opening bout."

If she gets too near her opponent, she won't allow Lovlina to play her natural game.

"Against the Norwegian, she did extremely well. It's a big stage, so it's normal to be under pressure at times. But despite that she did well to grab the win," she said.

As for Lovlina, she has vowed to give her 100% but is also feeling the pressure, said her father Tiken Borgohain.

She, however, bounced back with a gold in Asian Championships towards the end of the year and then had a quite successful 2023 where she won gold in World Championships and silver in Asian Games.

But it's an Olympic gold that she has always had her eyes on and beating Qian will definitely put her on track for that.



IN SEARCH OF GLORY: India's Lovlina Borgohain

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Stern SL spin test for India

Colombo: Measures to battle a sluggish pitch and an assortment of Sri Lankan slow bowlers will feature high on India's strategy list for the second ODI to be played here on Sunday.

Chasing a manageable 231, India were comfortably placed at 130 for three in the first ODI on Friday before losing their way against Lankan spinners, who showed enough pluck to bowl out the visitors for 230 to earn a tie.

CRICKET

The home side employed their army of tweakers against Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, the meat of Indian top and middle-order, with a telling amount of success.

Kohli was tied up by Duvindu Lallage, the left-arm spinner, and leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga as the 29 balls that the Indian batter faced out of a total of 32 were by the spinners.

Hasaranga eventually nicked him off, while seeing the comfort of Shreyas against spinners, skipper Charith Asalanka pressed pacer Asitha Fernando into service.

Fernando repaid the faith in him with the wicket of Shreyas with a peach, also the only Indian wicket to have fallen to a quick.

Rahul, an excellent player of spin, too was snaffled by Hasaranga. But stuttering in one match offers too small a footprint to go after some of the accomplished names, but the Indians will be eager to bat long and rotate strike, which is the key to nullifying spinners on such decks.

Sri Lankans Pathum Nissanka and Lallage showed that en route to their fifties



EARLY BLUES: KL Rahul was slow off the blocks in the 1st ODI

despite a flurry of wickets at the other end, while dealing with Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar effectively.

The four Indian spinners, including Shubman Gill, leaked 126 in 30 overs for four wickets, while their Lankan counterparts' figures stood at -167 in 37.5 overs for nine wickets. So, the Indians will want to minimise the damage without compromising on their run-making ways.

One option India can mull is to bring in either Rishabh Pant or Riyan Parag as both are extremely good at countering spinners and can upset their rhythm playing some of those unorthodox shots.

Live on Sony Sports Network, 2.30pm

Dharwad Zone score big win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Dharwad Zone delivered an all-round show to defeat Mangalore Zone by an innings and 141 runs in the SAS memorial U-23 cricket tournament recently.

Opting to bat, Mangalore Zone were bundled out for 240 runs after Adarsh V Hiremath (5-43) and Saurya P Samant (4-49) put on a fine performance with the ball.

Dharwad, who scored 428/9, took the first-innings lead of 188 runs with Rajendra Danganavar 100 (132b, 9 x 43 x 6) and Saurya P Samant (93) leading from the front.

The highlight of Dharwad's challenge was all-round performances. Mangalore were under the

pump early and fell like a pack of cards in the second innings. They were all out for a paltry 47 runs with nine

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(Likith Gowda 94, Karthik SU 31, Kruthik Krishna 44; Manuveer Mahajan 3-21, Mohsin Khan 4-42, Jay Desai 2-40) drew with President's XI: 373/8 in 80 overs (Anirudh Srinivas 29, Swaproop SH 58, Smaran R 179 off 141b, 17 x 430 x 6; Abhinav Jacob 3-69, Bhuvanesh Nayak 2-58).

Combined City XI: 428/6 decl. in 84 overs (Vishal Onat 77, Lochan Gowda 88, Krishn Bajaj 100 (106b, 13 x 41 x 6), Shikhar Shetty 108 n.o (128b, 8 x 44 x 6); Divin Satish 4-85) drew with Shivamogga Zone: 67 all out in 37 overs (Mohan Partha 32 n.o; Rajiv Wadhwa 6-22, Goutham Mishra 2-9) & 138/5 in 42 overs (Mohan 26, Shrivani Babu 51 n.o; Shikhar 2-13).

Rajalur Zone: 217 all out in 63.3 overs (Vijaya Raj 42, Thippa Reddy 32, Eshwar Nayak 31, Karthik Ramanna 37, Bheem Rao 35; Mankalesh RJ 2-61, Paras Gurbax Arya 3-53, Chiranth S 2-69, Aneeswar Gautam 3-12) drew with Bangalore City XI: 388/8 in 90 overs (Harshil 94, Yuvraj A 109 (147b, 17 x 4), Mankalesh RJ 76 n.o (137b, 12 x 4), Paras 35 n.o, Maribasava Gowda 3-49, Punithkumar 3-64).

Mysore Zone: 265 all out in 82.2 overs

Club: 115 all out in 34 overs (Parma Chandra 30, Hardik Raj 5-11, AT Deekshit 3-23).

Bangalore Sports Club: 304/8 in 50 overs (Yashas Vihana 44, Venkatesh Sharma 41, Ananth S 48, Vaasav Narasimhan 39, Aravind G 44 n.o; Ronak Yelwal 2-66, Siddharth A 2-42) bt Friends Union CC (I): 204 all out in 42.4 overs (Pranav Babu 27, Siddharth A 53, Pavan Sheshagiri 31, Amogh Basavaraj 2-41, Susheel Udipi 3-32).

Vijaya CC, Malur: 229/9 in 50 overs (Ahan KP 70, Rishabh Thakur 25, Vaibhav

Sharma 46; Pranith Prashanth 3-46, Monish S 2-7) bt Bharath CC: 129 all out in 36.4 overs (Shreyas Subramanya 28, Hemang Srinivasan 49; Chahal Chandra 2-18, Bhuvan Basidoni 4-40).

Century Cricketers: 231/9 in 50 overs (Pradyuman Panigrahy 35, Aadesh URS 25, Dityaan Aithal 27, Shiv Pratap 50; Vikas MN 2-34, Ayush MD 2-46) bt Hammonds CC: 214 all out in 46.3 overs (Sachith Konchady 38, Ayush MD 31, Vishwa S 32; Gaurav Shanbhag 2-39, Arjun Kumar 3-38, Dityaan Aithal 2-33).

Swastik Union CC (2): 235/7 in 50 overs (Shivam MB 35, Dheeraj Gowda 35, Shiv R 25, Prajwal Gowda 60, Krishav Somasundar 2-37, Ajith MC 2-41) bt Sir Sire Cricketers: 161 all out in 40 overs (Nihal Gowda 25, Krishav Somasundar 2-37, Ajith MC 2-41; Dheeraj 2-24, Prajwal 2-29, Shivam MB 2-19).

Vultures CC: 225/9 in 50 overs (Pragyan Hota 41, Arnav Mishra 39, Manikant Shivanand 25, Tejas Reddy 69 n.o; Ambresh K 3-40, Sujay Korwar 2-10) lost to Vijaya CC: 226/9 in 49.1 overs (Yash Jadhav 52, Ambresh K 40, Dityaan Hiremath 37 n.o; Karthikeya KP 5-40, Jayanth Gowda 2-37).

KSCA U-19

Club: 115 all out in 34 overs (Parma Chandra 30, Hardik Raj 5-11, AT Deekshit 3-23).

Bangalore Sports Club: 304/8 in 50 overs (Yashas Vihana 44, Venkatesh Sharma 41, Ananth S 48, Vaasav Narasimhan 39, Aravind G 44 n.o; Ronak Yelwal 2-66, Siddharth A 2-42) bt Friends Union CC (I): 204 all out in 42.4 overs (Pranav Babu 27, Siddharth A 53, Pavan Sheshagiri 31, Amogh Basavaraj 2-41, Susheel Udipi 3-32).

Vijaya CC, Malur: 229/9 in 50 overs (Ahan KP 70, Rishabh Thakur 25, Vaibhav

Sharma 46; Pranith Prashanth 3-46, Monish S 2-7) bt Bharath CC: 129 all out in 36.4 overs (Shreyas Subramanya 28, Hemang Srinivasan 49; Chahal Chandra 2-18, Bhuvan Basidoni 4-40).

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Century

Making a case for attracting Chinese FDI

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR



This year's Economic Survey, overseen by the chief economic advisor, has suggested a major but overdue policy change, aiming to attract foreign direct investment from China. Many economists, me included, will cheer. But the proposal has to overcome strong resistance from the security establishment. Balancing economic and security needs is always tricky.

The US is even more upset with China than India, and has stopped exports of high-tech equipment that can militarily help Beijing. But treasury secretary Janet Yellen has formulated a policy of 'high fence, small yard'. That is, the US will identify areas where connections with China will impair security, and define this narrowly rather than broadly. This will be the 'small yard'. Surrounding it will be high tariffs and outright bans, the 'high fence'. All else will be open.

Logically, India should follow a similar policy. Alas in practice, India's 'small yard' seems to mean 'every single yard'. There is no specified Lakshman Rekha. India's security establishment has long opposed Chinese FDI, saying this will send the wrong signals to China, which transgressed on Indian territory in the Galwan Valley, Ladakh, leading to a military clash causing the death of 20 Indian soldiers in 2020. After this, the security establishment said, economic ties with China could not be business as usual.

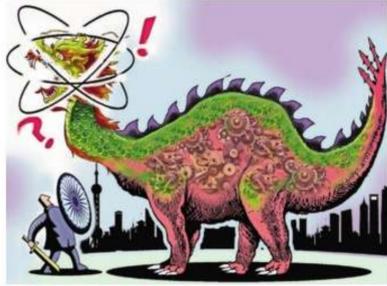
No Chinese investment is now allowed through the automatic route available to other countries, and all Chinese applications undergo a screening process with so many rejections that the message is clear — you are not welcome here. 'No business as usual' seems to have become 'no business at all'.

Some years ago, Great Wall Motor Company, a conventional auto manufacturer, proposed a billion-dollar investment in India. It did not get clearance.

More recently, BYD, the biggest electric car company in the world — its sales exceed that of Tesla — proposed another billion-dollar investment. This included a mega-battery plant with cutting-edge 'blade technology'. But this too was not cleared.

Luxshare is one of the biggest Chinese companies in the Apple value chain. It makes wearables like Apple watches and AirPods. It had proposed to invest Rs 750 crore to become a major local supplier to Apple. Despite strong support from the Tamil Nadu govt, clearance has not come.

One official told the Economic Times, "Frankly, a large part of the supply chain of Apple has China origins. So, if we keep saying no to all of them, how



DOING BUSINESS WITH THE DRAGON: America's 'high fence, small yard' approach could be a model for India

will we ever manufacture here?" After trying to enter India for years, Luxshare is reported to have shifted its investment to Vietnam.

Will this really improve India's security, or reduce clashes in Ladakh? The security establishment is either unaware or determined to ignore the fact that China is now the largest source of investible savings in the world, a role once played by the US. China also has some of the best global technology, being numero uno in e-vehicles, batteries, solar panels and windmills. All these are high-priority areas in India's bid to curb climate change. Why keep out the best companies in such vital sectors?

In autos, India allowed investors from every country to enter. All the global companies came in, interacted with our ancillary companies, raised their technical skills, started R&D centres, and ended up making India a world hub for small cars and auto ancillaries. We need a similar approach in key areas like e-vehicles and renewable energy. Get the best companies in the world to invest in India, including the Chinese ones.

The concept of 'China plus one' refers to the aim of many global investors to diversify out of China into other developing countries. That's fine, but China itself wants to diversify to other destinations.

The Economic Survey has an additional justification. "Focusing on FDI from China seems more promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past. This is because China is India's top import partner, and the trade deficit with China has been growing. As the US and Europe shift their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from China, adding minimal value, and then re-exporting them."

The Survey says India has a big trade deficit with China. One way of reversing the flow would be Chinese investment in India. The dollars flowing out will flow back. And, hopefully, earn even more dollars by investing in export-oriented areas, such as Apple's value chain.

Let the govt declare the precise limits of its security yard, and erect high fences there. Let all else be open to the world, including China. ■

'A childhood spent in the lap of Wayanad makes me feel the losses more intensely'

Malayalam novelist **Sheela Tomy** hails from the misty hills of Wayanad — which were devastated by twin landslides last week that washed away hundreds. She has seen its forests disappear over decades, and also borne witness to the plight of near and dear ones working as caregivers in the Middle East. Tomy speaks to **Shruti Sonal** about infusing her fiction with lived realities

Your hometown Wayanad features often in your writings and has been unfortunately ravaged by landslides. How have you seen the landscape change?

My first novel, 'Valli', was inspired by the changes Wayanad's natural habitat has undergone since my childhood. It's so sad to hear of innocent people losing their lives in landslides and natural disasters now. I have seen how much forest has vanished from my homeland over the last four decades. The mist has disappeared. Now, drought and heavy rainfall visit the land intermittently instead. Perhaps, it was a childhood spent in the lap of the river and forests — with the land's joys and sorrows — that makes me think about the losses so intensely now. Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau had rightly said, "If I would paint the spring, it must be in winter."

What role can fiction play in sensitising people about climate change?

I think fiction has a big role in reminding the world about the dark times, and how we are creating hell for ourselves on this very earth. People read history or scientific articles but they don't really experience it till they are on the receiving end of their thoughtless deeds. But fiction, with its emotions, can evoke more sensitivity. 'Valli', for instance, is a work of eco-fiction. Wayanad was a land rich in biodiversity. It was a land that belonged to indigenous tribes. While the aboriginal people and migrants used nature for survival, encroachments

by corporations are the real threats for the environment today. Even as I speak, I can hear the news of landslides from Western Ghats and the loss of hundreds of lives. 'Valli' ends with the 2018 Kerala floods. In the novel, we can see how human greed has transformed the land beyond recognition over the last five decades.

Your new book 'Do Not Ask the River Her Name' throws light on the plight of Malayali nurses who take up caregiving roles in the Middle East. Why did you choose to write about this?

I was a migrant in the Middle East for more than two decades. After writing my first novel, which depicted the stories of my homeland, I wished to write about the life of Malayali women. I would say "those women who carry their homes to the ends of the world". Many of my friends and relatives are working as nurses and caregivers in various parts of the world. I have heard about their struggles for a decent life, and their perseverance. Many Malayali teachers and medical workers had reached the distant shores of Singapore, America, Africa and Europe prior to the Gulf. Kerala has many families that survived because of the dedication of these women. Much has been written in Malayalam fiction about the journeys of men across the seas, but the journeys of these hardworking, selfless women are often forgotten. This thought made me write about Ruth, the Malayali nurse who went abroad and the paths she traversed while searching for a job, unveiling the untold stories of many Malayali women.

In the book, the protagonist talks about her struggle with dubious agents, miserable living conditions, racism, and a longing for home. Did you speak to people who've gone through such journeys?

Of course. Also, I have seen their struggles directly during my stay abroad. And some of them told their life stories with open minds, revealing sensitive things.

A large part of the book is set in Jerusalem, and is thick in the conflict between Palestinians under siege, Hamas fighters, Zionists, and moderate Jews. How difficult was it to untangle these fractured identities, especially at a time of heightened tensions and violence?

My Palestinian colleague told me about her childhood in refugee camps as her birth city was destroyed by missiles. On realising the sorrows of those people, the entire focus of my novel shifted to Jerusalem. It was difficult to handle the sensitive politics. Besides, there was the challenge of depicting an unknown land and its culture. I did a lot of reading and explored the media to understand the history, politics, geography, culture and traditions of Palestine and Israel. I went through the works of many writers and thinkers. I wanted to tell the world a story of love rather than a story of war. At the same time, I longed to stand with people who lost everything and are fighting for their land. I managed to tell the story through the experiences of two close friends — Sahal, a Palestinian poet, and his friend Asher, an Israeli citizen. While writing the novel in 2021, I never imagined a dark October 7 two years on, and a dreadful war that still destroys the lands. This novel ended up as a proclamation of union with all the diverse people facing genocides by authoritarian regimes across the world.

The book features poetry by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who wrote evocatively about his homeland. What were your takeaways?

The intense poetry which Palestinian poets write with their blood depict their unending struggles and pain. Many talented writers of Palestine are forced to be silent in our time and even face interrogations. War has taken the lives of a few. Sahal, the novel's poet-protagonist is a fond lover of Darwish's words. Even the book's title has been inspired by a line from Darwish's poem 'The Passport'.

FOR THE RECORD



Why SC order is set to churn Dalit politics, and parties have to pick a side

BY INVITATION

BADRINARAYAN



The Supreme Court's recent verdict on reservations permitted states to sub-categorise scheduled castes and tribes for more effective redistribution of opportunities. It instructed states to do a judicious and empirical identification of the most marginal communities in their societies, and then provision a quota within the quota for them.

This verdict could influence society and politics in two ways. First, it may diversify and redistribute the resources available for social justice. This may reshape the workings of social mobility, and of the representation and participation of marginal communities. Secondly, it may also produce new political mobilisations.

Social justice is about the fair and equal distribution of public resources and state-initiated pro-

vision of opportunity to deprived sections. However, it always produces its own politics. Democracy is not just about a moral and ethical frame, it is a matter of pragmatic electoral politics in South Asian societies, especially in India. Recently, we have seen huge political violence and upheaval in Bangladesh around the issue of reservation. And so, any kind of reservation opportunities provided by the state evoke intense debate around governance and facilitates political mobilisation.

The demand for sub-categorisation in SC reservation, and the politics around it, have been brewing in many states. Interestingly, in most cases, these are led by the second-largest Dalit communities, and a few others. They complain that their fair share in jobs and other developmental opportunities is being denied, as most are cornered by the largest and most capable SC communities. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, this movement is led by Madigas protesting the dominance of the largest Dalit caste of Chamars. In Bihar, many

smaller Dalit castes raised their voice about being denied their due, having to compete for reserved seats with competent and politically influential castes like Paswans and Chamars. These second- or third-largest SC communities, protesting comparative deprivation, have mobilised other smaller SC castes and drawn political attention towards their demands. In some cases, regional and national parties have argued for quotas within the quota for such marginal communities. So this demand has its own social and political base, which may play out in electoral politics.

In Bihar, Nitish Kumar and his JD (U) came up with a new category of Mahadalits, to assess the growing political potential of non-dominant SC castes. In Tamil Nadu, DMK worked for reservations for the Arundhatiyar community. In Andhra and Telangana, the Madiga community influenced almost all major political parties for sub-categorising SCs. During the Telangana election of 2023, PM Narendra Modi supported this claim. And recently, the Supreme Court verdict was immedi-

ately welcomed by the chief ministers of Telangana and Karnataka, Siddaramaiah and Revanth Reddy. Most parties understand the implications of the issue and have started negotiating with various communities in their own ways.

An important question emerges here: how will these parties engage with the largest and most influential SC castes, who are being targeted as the main beneficiaries of reservation so far? How will national and regional parties deal with communities like Paswans in Bihar, Jatavs and Pasis in Uttar Pradesh, Malas in Telangana, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Chamars in Punjab? While these castes have established loyalties with various political parties, this changed context may see them cohesively mobilising with their own political party such as the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in north India. They will also look towards any political parties that might criticise the sub-categorisation policy. These communities and their leaders may also cast this as an effort to fragment the unity of scheduled castes. These sections, which have

emerged as strong interest groups, do not desire any division of opportunities, and are likely to mobilise against it. BSP supremo Mayawati has already criticised this verdict, because the Jatavs form the BSP's base. The scheduled caste political sphere is likely to witness a new polarisation.

Parties such as Congress, Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal may find it difficult to take a position in the states of UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar. This is because of the huge presence of the Jatav and Chamar baradari, and the upcoming elections. BJP may support the redistribution of reservation among the most marginal and invisible scheduled castes, but there may be some gains and some losses. In the frame of political morality, all political parties — left, right, and centrist — should support the move. And yet, the pressure of their caste bases and electoral pragmatism may compel some to oppose it. Wait and watch: the picture will become clearer soon. ■

The writer is director of the GB Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

Do it 1991-style: Three reforms India needs in higher education

BY INVITATION

V RAMGOPAL RAO



Why have we landed ourselves in the current mess involving NEET, JEE, and other high-stakes exams? While India has the potential to lead the world in higher education, we are burdened by the mushrooming of coaching institutions, rampant cheating and a lack of trust in exam bodies, bureaucratisation of higher educational institutions, degradation of the university system, and, most concerning, stress and mental pressure on our youth. Over 35% of recorded suicides in India occur in the 15-24 age group. In 2022, more than 750,000 students also left India to pursue higher education abroad, a 35% increase from the previous year. Projections indicate that Indian households will spend an estimated \$70 billion on foreign education by 2025, 14 times the govt's 2023 higher education budget allocation. These students are leaving not because they cannot find a seat in our institutions but because they seek quality education.

India needs reforms for higher education akin to the sweeping economic reforms of 1991. Three primary issues must be addressed to bring accountability to our educational institutions: faculty quality, financial model and governance issues. Currently, Indian institutions fall into two categories: those that depend on govt for 90% of their sustenance and those that rely on student tuition for 90% of their survival. The over-reliance on govt funds causes major governance and scalability issues in publicly funded institutions, while depending on tuition fees brings quality and trust issues in private institutions. Both models are flawed and perilous. For example, 23 IITs admit roughly 16,000 undergraduate students, and 20 AIIMS admit about 2,000 MBBS students, highlighting the issue with scale. One single large university in the US would admit as many undergraduate students as our 23 IITs put together. Here are three essential reforms that the sector needs:

- 1. Improve quality of faculty in Tier-2 institutions and universities:** One salient feature of the US system of education is that there is not much difference between their Ivy League universities and their Tier-2 institutions when it comes to quality of instruction at the undergrad level. The same can't be said here. This often creates a stampede of sorts for admission into a handful of elite institutions in India. The creation of more IITs and AIIMS has inadvertently led to a significant decline in the quality of education in Tier-2 institutions and universities. Faculty recruitment is often mired in legal complications and litigation in govt institutions. Even approval of positions from respective govts can take years, forcing these institutions to hire contract faculty. Faculty recruitments must be based purely on merit. To address this, create a national pool of IIT/AIIMS-grade faculty and mandate these people to teach in Tier-2 colleges and universities. These faculty must be hired centrally with the active participation of IITs/AIIMS, offering IIT/AIIMS faculty pay scales, given a similar teaching load, and provided generous grants



NOT-SO-NEET AFFAIR: Higher education institutions need greater administrative and financial autonomy to thrive

to perform high-quality research. It's important that such a pool helps establish a culture of excellence wherever they work. Even their promotions must be based on standards of performance similar to these elite institutions. Over a period of time, increase this pool of faculty nationally to improve the standards of education outside our elite institutions.

- 2. Provide outcome-linked grants to institutions:** Linking grants to outcomes can incentivise higher educational institutions to boost student enrolment and encourage faculty to secure competitive research grants. Funds should be linked to student enrolment numbers, research grants generated, patents filed, and IP licensed to industries. This will drive institutions to expand enrolment and increase research productivity. To support higher education sustainably, institutions must diversify their revenue streams. Policies should encourage philanthropy, industry participation, and generous overheads on research grants. Additionally, govt policies should promote the development of substantial endowment funds, similar to those in top US universities. Implementing 'study-now-pay-later' schemes, akin to Australia's HELP program, can ensure affordability and support diverse career pursuits. These schemes allow students to defer tuition payments, repaying them once their income exceeds a specified threshold. This approach balances the need for immediate educational investment with long-term financial viability, ensuring that higher education remains accessible without placing undue financial strain on students or govt.
- 3. Address governance issues:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises autonomy for educational institutions. However, excessive bureaucratic interference and controls have caused governance structures in academic institutions to hit a new low. Implementing NEP's reforms is crucial. Building a strong board and empowering it to make financial, administrative, and academic decisions is essential. With a proper financial model that promotes expansion, excellence, and equity, coupled with administrative autonomy, our higher educational institutions will thrive.

It's imperative we use the recent NEET fiasco as a wake-up call. ■

Prof Rao is vice-chancellor for BITS Pilani group of institutions and former director, IIT Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

INBOX

Rahul Gandhi's new political avatar

This refers to 'From inept pappu...' (ATM, July 28). Chetan Bhagat has rightly presumed Rahul Gandhi as a PM contender in future. Rahul has shown surprising spine and resilience not just to counter the mockery thrown at him but also to reinvent himself. As a LoP, he continues to challenge PM Modi on the floor of the House. However, he needs to acquire fresh skills to bring a bunch of ideologically disparate and ambitious allies to support his cause. Advantage of age and social acceptability can help.

— Gregory Fernandes, Mumbai

Apropos of 'From inept pappu...' (ATM, July 28), it is true that Rahul was more structured and eloquent in his first speech as LOP compared to his previous terms as MP. However, he missed an opportunity to give suggestions about how he would tackle issues such as jobs, inflation, and poverty. Instead he targeted Modi on religion and crony capitalism. He should try to elevate himself to the statesman-like qualities of his great-grandfather.

— K V Jayaram, Bengaluru

Govt jobs dilemma

With reference to 'Govt job rush...' (ATM, July 28) many youth and their parents don't know that work pressure has increased manifold in govt jobs too and they have many disadvantages like frequent transfers, political interference in postings and switch to new pension scheme.

— P D Khattar, Faridabad

Kamala's a pop 'Femininomenon' but will Gen Z fall for memes?

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

SHOBHAA DE



Meme, meme go away, come again another day, Kamala Harris wants to play. From slugfests to meme fests, the VP sure is on a roll, and the impact is showing in the polls with the de facto Democratic nominee closing the gap on Trump. Besides the fact that she is both Black and desi, Kamala's pop culture cred seems to be resonating. First, Beyoncé's 'Freedom' became the soundtrack for her campaign video. Then British singer Charli XCX tweeted "Kamala IS brat". This led to overnight online fandom for Kamala, who is being described by meme creators as "viral gold". Working with Joe Biden, on the other hand, was like "manufacturing excitement from vapour".

The latest meme released by her campaign calls for a 'Femininomenon' at the polls this November, using the hit song from Chappell Roan.

'Khive' is dominating the internet and has even moved to TikTok. But how far can memes go in building political momentum? The dictionary defines meme as a noun, an image, video, text, typically humorous in nature that is copied and spread rapidly by internet users. Some say it comes from the Greek word 'mimema' meaning 'imitated', which was introduced to us in 1972 by British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins. The term 'internet meme' was coined by Mike Godwin in 1993 who described it as a "scientific field related to how units of information evolve and replicate." In simpler lingo, memes are the internet's inside jokes, meant only for the people who share them.

The French, of course, insist it's their creation since 'meme' in French translates to 'same'. So far, no Sanskrit scholar in India has traced the meme to our ancient Indian texts, but then that claim could surface any time, complete with 'proof'.

Till then, let's focus on the cultural phenomenon that is Kamala Harris. Her poster 'Yes I Kam' has beaten Barack Obama's 'Yes, We Can', the iconic viral slogan of 2008. Once again, America is bracing itself for a rousing election 2024 via a brat summer, with memes galore featuring coconut trees swaying, and a voice say-

ing, "I can't stop winning". Why coconut trees? It is a callback to the vice-president quoting her Indian mother's habit of asking, in frustration, "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?" Trendy Kamala-inspired merch is flying off the shelves, with message tees shouting, 'Brats 4 kamala' and 'I'm so Kamala'.

Will all this hype translate into votes? Political analysts aren't sure. If anything, this level of hoopla could backfire and take away from the seriousness of the campaign. When fun and froth, irreverence and cool talk replace in-depth discussions on policy and reform, the shallow messaging damages a candidate's prospects and converts a serious political player into a joke. A lightweight.

For anyone in the public space, exaggerated internet mania is a double-edged sword. Those hooked on generating likes on social media, beware! The same fans could turn into overnight foes and destroy all the goodwill within seconds. We have seen it happen in India. Influencers can dent credibility and destroy carefully constructed social media identities before one can say 'meme'. Meme creators thrive on controversy and movie and sports stars are soft targets. Nothing and nobody is spared the brutality of a meme onslaught. Recently, pop singer Dua Lipa spoke about how humiliating and hurtful it was to be turned into a viral joke. However, most global celebrities have made their peace with meme armies, reasoning wisely that their own relevance in the highly competitive international pecking order relies heavily on their presence on social media. Savage memes that attack where it hurts the most get the maximum traction. But they also generate a huge buzz-oxygen needed by supercelebs to stay in the game.

As of now, Kamala Harris has benefited greatly from the bratification. She certainly got young America talking! Overshadowing Donald Trump who comes with his own meme juggernaut is quite a feat. Will he out-meme his biggest rival and pip her to the post? That's the biggie nobody can crack right now. Remember poor Hillary Clinton who tried to deliver a topical Pokemon joke at a campaign stop: "I don't know who created Pokemon Go, but I'm trying to figure out how we get them to have Pokemon Go...to the polls." The Trump campaign one-upped by posting a video showing a mock-Pokemon Go game called 'Crooked Hillary No'. Meme se meme milao and survive! ■



DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: Internet fandom generates a buzz but can backfire and trivialise serious discussions on policy

Email your letters to the editor at sundaytimes@timesofindia.com with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

These centres are bridging skills gap for jobs at home and abroad

On Offer: 2-Month Lessons In German And Japanese Languages To Free Courses On Beauty And Wellness

Manash Pratap Gohain
& Surojit Gupta | TNN

It's early morning and a group of women are gathered inside a classroom in Greater Noida, furiously taking down notes as their instructor explains nuances of the German language.

These women, who have trained and worked as nurses, are learning the language to get jobs in Germany, which has a shortage of caregivers and has turned to India to fill the gap.

One of those learning the right way to communicate in German is Akhila Sathesan, a 2018 nursing graduate. "I was looking for better opportunities and heard about this institute. We are now undergoing a two-month residential programme to learn the language and I'm looking forward to working in Germany," she says.

Rising Demand

The international arm of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is training young men and women for jobs available not just in Germany but countries such as Romania, Finland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, UAE and others as well. In the past year, NSDC has placed nearly 60,000 young men and women in Japan, Germany, Israel, UK, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Demand from overseas is rising rapidly. The attraction of better wages and working conditions and the promise of a new life is prompting many to opt for foreign language and skill development courses.

The centre in Greater Noida offers residential training in Japanese and German languages. While the Japanese batch has 11 boys and 8 girls, the two German batches consist of 22 and 26 girls. NSDC provides free accommodation and food. Students need to pay a fee of around Rs 75,000, but that is deducted from their pay in the second month of their job. Not just training, the institute handholds students through the



LEARN NEW SKILLS, EARN A LIVING: Trainees at National Skill Training Institute centres learn (clockwise) sewing, robotics, beauty treatment, and white goods repairs

process of landing a job and completing their visa and other paperwork.

Skills Gap

India itself faces a huge shortage of trained and skilled workers. Govt estimates show that only 2.3% of the workforce has undergone any formal training. This is way below global standards — the share stands at 68% in UK, 75% in Germany, 52% in US, 80% in Japan and 96% in South Korea.

Skilling and upskilling are key components of the strategy to tackle the huge problem of unemployment and underemployment in India. Studies have shown that a vast majority of youths joining the workforce are unemployable as they lack skills required by industry. Experts say India needs to urgently fill the skills gap to reap its demographic dividend and boost economic growth.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) says India needs to create between 143 and 324 million jobs by 2050. A small shift in jobs away from

agriculture and into either construction and services or manufacturing can boost GDP growth by 0.2-0.5 percentage points, it adds. While several public and private entities are looking to address the challenge of job creation, they remain a drop in the ocean given the enormity of the task.

"Our current focus is to reach candidates wherever they are located, instead of making them come to us. Last year, we started 10,000 skill centres in schools across the country. One reason for unemployment is that we're educated with unemployable skills," says Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and MD-CEO of NSDC International (NSDCI).

"Next, our focus will be on apprenticeship and on-the-job learning, which have yielded good outcomes with an over-70% conversion rate for us," said Tiwari.

Empowering Women

A short distance away from Greater Noida, National Skill Training



Institute (W) for women is trying to bridge the skills gap. With a yearly intake of 750 students, this institute offers free courses for jobs in apparel, beauty and wellness, electronics, construction and architecture sectors. The institute also has an AI training centre. Soon, courses will be offered on handling drones.

Students come from underprivileged backgrounds and are a mix of school dropouts and those who have completed Class XII. They are provided accommodation and food on campus.

"I want to be an ITI instructor. I have undergone training in computers, and office work," says Ranju Jaiswal, who is training as

a computer operator and processing assistant.

Apprenticeship The Answer

Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are playing their part in filling the skills gap. One such centre is the ITI at Pusa in Delhi. It has well-equipped labs with several of them set up by reputed firms in areas such as refrigeration, servicing of electrical appliances and automobiles, etc. Authorities at the institute say the demand for trained students remains robust. Most students find placement in jobs that pay about Rs 16,000-Rs 20,000 per month, they say.

"I've already got a job in the electric meter testing department of a company," says Abhishek Shukla, who wants to become an engineer and enrol in a polytechnic. His story highlights the struggle of millions of youths entering the workforce. Shukla, who speaks fluent English, lost his father in 2008 and his education was funded by the principal of the school where his mother works as office staff.

Professors and trainers at the institute said apprenticeship is the way forward to raise employability among youths enrolled at such centres. They also called for industry to play a larger role in absorbing skilled workers. Rising job prospects overseas for trained professionals is also encouraging more youths to opt for such courses.

"We need to focus on the contractual workforce, which is basically in the unorganised sector. It's a myth that big corporations will create employment. It's the MSMEs, for which we have 700-plus upskilling and reskilling courses," says NSDC's Tiwari.

"We've onboarded around 25,000 firms that are offering apprenticeships to around 1.75 lakh students from NSDC. The job conversion rate is around 70%-80%. Last year, we had 10 lakh apprenticeships with job conversion of around 8 lakh," says Tiwari.

'At the place where our house stood now sits a mammoth rock'



LANDSLIDE HORROR: Officials during a search and rescue operation at a landslide-hit area, in Wayanad district, Saturday

Continued from page 1

The mehendi on the fingers brought a flicker of recognition and Nousheeba contemplated the possibility of the body being of her niece, Shahla. But Thafseena spotted an anklet on the leg and said it wasn't her cousin as she didn't wear anklets. So the family walked back.

"I have lost all my family. I have to stand here waiting (to see) if at all they are brought in. All of them were staying in my father's house just in front of the Mundakkai mosque. My elder brother and his five-member family, who were staying in the estate quarters, had come to be with my father in view of the heavy rains. There were 11 family members in the house, and all went missing after the landslide swept away the entire house without a trace," said Nouseeha.

She said the bodies of her father Kunhammed, mother Ayisha, and her two nieces — Ayisha Amana and Nafla — have been found, but all the others, including brother

Mansoor, his wife Muhsina, their two children Shahla and Shafna, and her sister-in-law Sajna (younger brother Noufal's wife) and the couple's two children, Nihal and Isha Mehreen, are missing.

"I was staying in my house, which is close by, as my husband had come on leave a month ago. Otherwise I, too, would have been swept away with all of them. On hearing the loud thunderous sound, we ran up the woods and stayed there the entire night. It was when dawn broke that I saw that my ancestral house and all my dear ones who stayed there were gone," said Nouseeha.

"At the place where our house stood now sits a mammoth rock," she said, adding that her niece Shahla's wedding had been fixed for Sept 22. Nouseeha has also lost her mother-in-law Pathuma, sisters-in-law Sumayya and Nazeera, and Nazeera's children Munaveer and Rinsha Pathima. The bodies of Sumayya, Nazeera and Munaveer have been recovered.

46 still missing in HP; 1 more body found in Mandi village

Rohit.Mullick@timesofindia.com

Kullu: Joint teams of the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Himachal Pradesh Police continued search operations in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts on Saturday for 46 people who have gone missing due to inclement weather in the hill state. During the day, a woman's body was found in Terang village of Mandi, taking the toll in Thursday's cloudburst to seven.

Mandi deputy commissioner Apoorv Devgan said the body was yet to be identified. Since Thursday (Aug 1), search teams have found six bodies in Terang village under Padhar sub-division of Mandi district. Two children's bodies were found in Terang Friday. Devgan said four more people — including a three-month-old

infant and an 11-year-old girl — were still missing from the village. "The search operation will continue tomorrow as well. We have also distributed Rs 4 lakh relief to family members of each deceased," said Devgan.

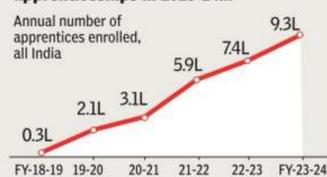
The seventh body was found in Kullu district.

With help from the Army, NDRF teams also continued searches in Samej village near Jhakri in Rampur sub-division of Shimla district where 33 people are missing. Among them are eight students of a local senior secondary school which was washed away along with a primary school and 25 houses of Samej, in a flash flood early Thursday. However, no trace of the missing persons was found. According to officials, search operations around Samej village will continue.

1 Over 1cr job-seekers trained every year...



2 ...Of which, close to 10 lakh found apprenticeships in 2023-24...



3 ...With Maha the top state...



4 ... And a small number landing jobs abroad

Country	Placements	Country	Placements
Saudi Arabia	37,124	Bahrain	935
Israel	9,926	Kuwait	399
Qatar	3,649	Germany	67
UAE	2,959	Croatia	4
Japan	1,553	Australia	2
UK	1,474	Uzbekistan	1
Oman	1,094	Total	59,187

According to the NSDC database, over 6.5 lakh jobs in different fields were available

Kedar op: 1,835 people rescued, 613 airlifted; 1k yet to be evacuated

Dehradun: Rescue efforts continued in full swing along the landslide and flash flood-hit Kedarnath route, with 1,835 people moved to safer locations on Saturday. The fig-

ure includes those rescued via trekking routes or airlifted from various places, reports Kautilya Singh.

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told TOI that 43

pilgrims were airlifted from Kedarnath, while an additional 495 were evacuated from Lincholi and Bhimbali. Simultaneously, helicopters conducted sorties to trans-

port 75 pilgrims from Cheerbasa near Gaurikund. A total of 1,162 pilgrims reached Sonprayag from Gaurikund through the trekking route. Dhami said, "Despite the for-

midable challenges, our endeavours to secure the remaining 1,000 individuals are persistently ongoing."

Disaster management department secretary Vinod Ku-

mar Suman said 882 police personnel and workers were actively engaged in the effort. This includes 83 NDRF personnel, 168 SDRF, DDRF and PRD personnel. TNN

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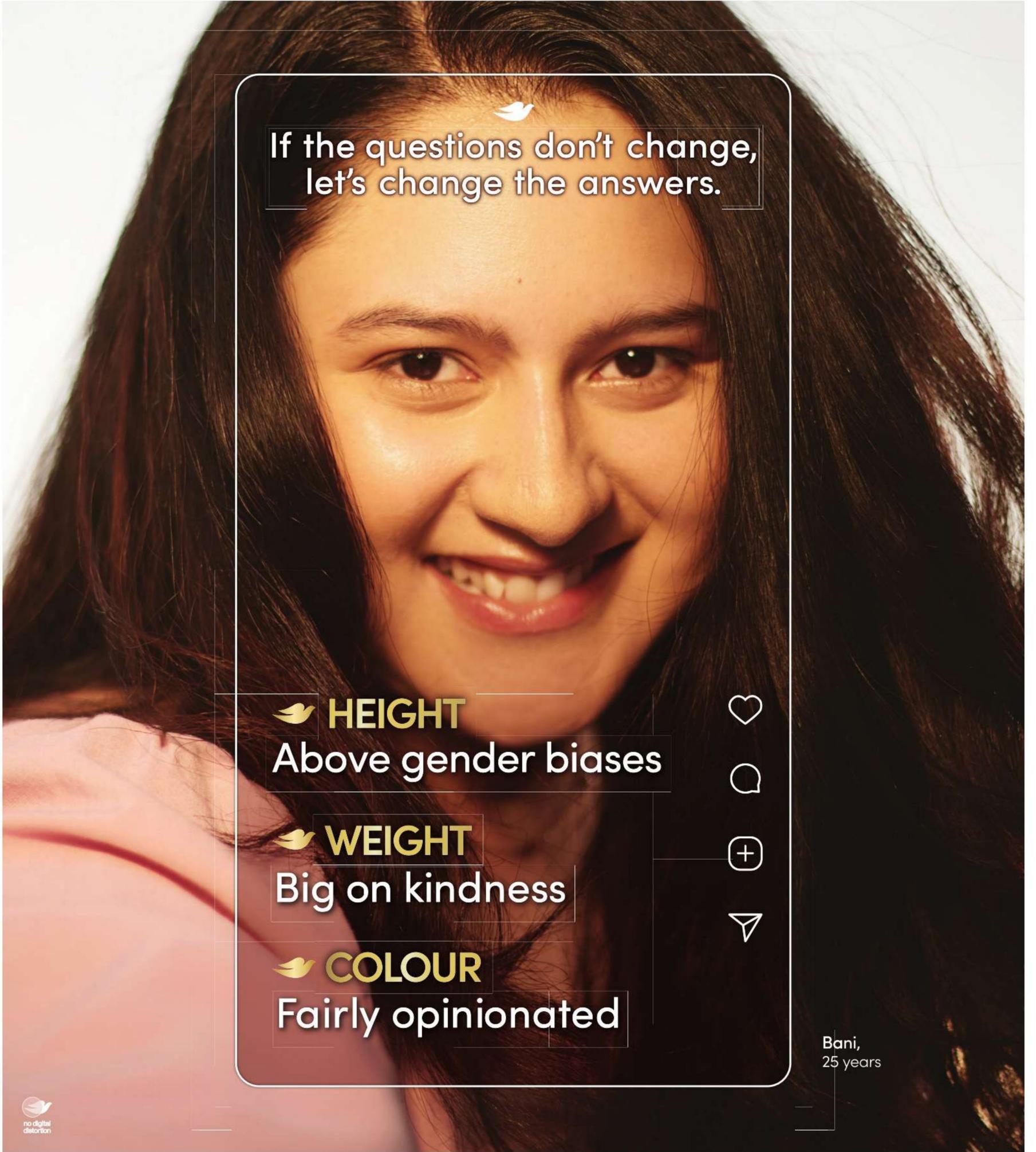
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No Clearance For Mann's Paris Visit Centre says not possible to arrange Z+ security for him on short notice

VOL. 33 NO. 31 | BENGALURU

Bharatanatyam & Kuchipudi icon dies at 84

Bharatanatyam & Kuchipudi veteran **Yamini Krishnamurti**, 84, who was suffering from age-related issues, died at Apollo hospital in Delhi on Saturday. Born on Dec 20, 1940 in Andhra's Chittoor to Sanskrit scholar M Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of Rukmini Devi Arundale. She received Padma Shri in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. **P14**



In Mundakkai, 16 of family swept away in landslide

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Meppadi (Wayanad): Fate can't be much crueller than this. Eleven members of Kallathingal Nousheeba's family have been swept away by the Mundakkai landslide — her father, mother, elder brother, two sisters-in-law and six nieces and nephews — all of whom were staying at her ancestral house at Mundakkai that fateful night. As if this immense loss was not enough, Nousheeba has also lost five members of her husband's family — her mother-in-law, two sisters-in-law, and their two children.



Eleven of the 16 members of Nousheeba's family who have gone missing in the landslide are seen in this photograph

Grief-stricken Nousheeba (40) has been standing before the Meppadi family health centre for the last three days with swollen eyes. She walks up to the makeshift pandal each time a new body dug out of the landslide ravaged villages of Chooralmala and Meppadi is brought in for identification.

On Saturday, a new body wrapped in white cloth with "Number 168-Female child"

HP: 46 missing, one body found in Mandi

Army, NDRF and police continued search ops in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts Saturday for 46 missing after Thursday's cloudbursts. A woman's body was found in a Mandi village. **P22**

1,835 rescued, 1,000 still stuck in Kedar

Rescue ops continued along the landslide and flash flood-hit Kedarnath route, with 1,835 people moved to safer locations Saturday. Efforts are on to evacuate 1,000 still stuck. **P22**

written on it in blue ink was brought. The volunteer asked out loud if there was anyone to identify the body. Nousheeba walked up to check, thinking it could be her niece, but found it wasn't her. She's been repeating this traumatic routine for the last three days.

When Nousheeba walked up to the body along with her daughters Nahla and Thafesena, the volunteer showed them the leg of the body, saying the face cannot be shown as it is badly disfigured.

► **Mammoth rock, P 22**

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Man jumps in front of moving Metro train, dies

Metro services on the Green Line were disrupted after a 35-year-old man from Kumaraswamy Layout killed himself by jumping in front of an approaching train at Doddakallasandra station Saturday. This forced a suspension of services from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute for three hours. **P2**

3 students die in Audi car crash

Three engineering students from Reva University in Bengaluru were killed on the spot, while another escaped with minor injuries, when their Audi car rammed into a tree on Kolar-Bangarpet Road Saturday. The dead have been identified as Harshavardhan, Basavana Gowda, and Prajwal. **P3**

MARCHAND MANIA SWEEPS PARIS AS FRENCH SWIMMER WINS FOUR GOLD MEDALS

Frenchman Leon Marchand is the undisputed star of the 2024 Olympics, sending home crowds into raptures and evoking comparisons with legends like Mark Spitz and Michael Phelps. Late Friday, the 22-year-old grabbed a fourth gold medal with a fourth Olympic record to boot, registering an emphatic victory in the 200m individual medley



HEARTBREAK FOR DEV
Nishant Dev went down fighting to Marco Verde of Mexico in the men's welterweight quarterfinals. In his very first Oly, Nishant lost by a split verdict, ending his hopes of becoming only the 2nd Indian man to win a boxing medal



NO HAT-TRICK FOR MANU

Manu Bhaker narrowly missed out on another bronze, finishing fourth in her pet event, the 25m pistol, where she was strongly favoured to win a medal. She had earlier won bronze medals in 10m air pistol and the 10m air pistol mixed team events. Manu later said she was "doubly motivated" to change the colour of the medals she won in Paris at the next Olympics in Los Angeles

There was further disappointment as ace archer **Deepika Kumari** lost to eventual silver medallist, South Korea's Nam Su-Hyeon in the quarterfinals. The experienced Indian was just one set away from victory, but lost the final two sets 27-29, 27-29 to crash out of contention

Matches To Watch Today

Lakshya Sen, the first Indian male shuttler to reach the last 4 in an Oly, will play reigning Oly champ **Viktor Axelsen** in the men's singles semifinals at 3.30pm IST
Lovlina Borgohain will look to repeat her Tokyo success as she takes on China's Li Qian in the women's 75kg quarters at 3pm
India's men's hockey team plays Great Britain in the quarters from 1.30pm IST

FULL COVERAGE | P 18-20

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Iran, Israel on brink of war; US military presence up in Mideast

The Pentagon is bolstering its presence in the Middle East with ships, fighter planes and ballistic missile defence vessels as Israel faces threats from Iran to avenge assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders.

The moves announced Friday by the defence department came a day after the White House said President Joe Biden promised Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu that the US would provide new "defensive US military deployments". The deployments include sending additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers and destroyers to the US European and Central Command regions, Sabrina Singh, a Pentagon spokesperson, said Friday.

Meanwhile, the US embassy in Lebanon urged its citizens Saturday to leave Lebanon on "any ticket available", amid fears of all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah and a broader regional conflict. **P17**

UP minor rams car into scooty, kills woman

In a rerun of the Pune Porsche crash, a 35-year-old woman was killed and her 12-year-old daughter seriously injured after their scooty was hit by a speeding sedan being driven by 17-year-old in Kanpur on Friday, reports Faiz Siddiqui. The student of Class 12 has been detained and his father arrested over the crash. **P9**

Why are some debating the sex of two women boxers?

Alleged To Be A 'Biological Male', Algerian Boxer Imane Khelif Has Reignited The Debate Over Sex Classification Following A Bout At The Paris Games

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Controversy over the sex of athletes is not new to competitive sports. The question of whether a male athlete has ended up competing in the female category arose again in the boxing ring at the Paris Games. So, why is Algerian boxer Imane Khelif facing allegations of being a male competing as a female?

In Physical Sports, Men Have An Advantage

It all boils down to how much testosterone one is exposed to while growing up. Experts have concluded that biological males have "higher levels of testosterone during growth, development, and throughout the athletic career". Why is testosterone important? It determines muscle size, bone growth and strength. All this means that women are "on average, unable to compete effectively against men in power-based or endurance-based sports".

Which Is Why Women Compete Separately

Experts note that while there is no difference in testosterone levels and physical performance before the onset of puberty, major changes kick in thereafter. After males enter puberty, their testosterone levels rise by up to 30 times. That means men can have "15- to 20-fold greater circulating testosterone than children or women at any age". In fact, women's categories exist in most sports in recognition of the clear advantage that going through male puberty gives an athlete.

But Distinctions Can Occur

Women can have high levels of testosterone owing to 'differences of sexual development', or DSD, which are a group of rare conditions involving genes, hormones and reproductive organs.



Imane Khelif (left) and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting both faced disqualification at the world championships last year over sex classification rules. Both are taking part in Paris

Some people with DSDs are raised as female but have XY sex chromosomes, blood testosterone levels in the male range and the ability to use testosterone circulating within their bodies. What are chromosomes? They are DNA molecules that contain genetic information of an organism. Women have two X chromosomes, while men have one X and one Y chromosome.

TOI Explains

And Raise Questions Of Unfair Advantage
Persons displaying XY DSD, that is, male hormonal characteristics, can experience higher levels of testosterone than women athletes. Carole Hooven, a former Harvard University faculty member, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that such athletes are "often described as females with 'hyperandrogenism', i.e., abnormally high levels of testosterone". She argues that they "experience physical benefits of this high testosterone during puberty, which translate into athletic advantages over females". She explains that such persons "are usually born with female-appearing genitalia, which can lead to

Especially Where Sex Testing Guidelines Are Not Clear

Asked about the Khelif episode, a spokesman for International Olympic Committee (IOC) said that it is the sports federations that are mandated to make rules regarding classification and fairness. IOC may not itself conduct sex tests, but at the Paris Games it was in charge of the boxing competition. That's because the sport's global body, International Boxing Association (IBA), was derecognised by IOC last year over governance, finance and ethical issues.

IOC defended its decision to allow Khelif to compete, with its spokesman saying, "I would just say that everyone competing in the wom-

en's category is complying with the competition eligibility rules. They are women in their passports and it is stated that is the case." Social media commentators said that Khelif's medical records are not in the public domain and, hence, it's unfair to say DSD is involved in this case. Though some have pointed to her disqualification last year at an event.

Though Khelif Has Faced Disqualification Before

At last year's world championships in New Delhi, Khelif was disqualified hours before her gold medal match for falling foul of IBA eligibility rules preventing athletes with XY chromosomes from competing in women's events. Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting — also taking part in Paris — lost her bronze medal after she too failed to meet the criteria.

And Stricter Rules Are In Place

Over the past couple of years, the governing bodies of athletics, cycling, swimming and rugby union have been tightening their regulations to exclude those with the advantage of going through male puberty.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) introduced new eligibility rules in 2019 for female or intersex athletes with XY sex chromosomes, testes instead of ovaries, a blood testosterone level "in the male range", and androgen-sensitivity. To compete in track events between 400m and one mile, such individuals should "lower their blood testosterone levels to under 5 nmol/L (nanomoles per litre) because that is the highest level that a healthy woman with ovaries would have". Athletes have to do this for at least six months to become eligible and maintain that level continuously in and out of competition to remain eligible.

OTHER ATHLETES WHO'VE FACED QUESTIONS OVER THEIR SEX

Caster Semenya

The South African runner came under scrutiny in 2009 when questions were raised about her sex. Later, it was found she has an intersex condition and natural testosterone levels in the typical male range. Semenya is barred from competing in any distance between 400m and a mile (1.6 km) since 2018 unless she maintains lower testosterone levels, which requires medication.

Santhi Soundarajan

Soundarajan won the 800m silver at the 2006 Asian Games in Qatar. Subsequently, the Indian athlete failed a gender test and was stripped of her medal after being ruled as not possessing sexual characteristics of a woman.



Dutee Chand

The 100m sprinter won the 200m bronze at the 2013 Asian Championships in Pune. But she was dropped from the Indian squad before the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014 because she failed a hormone test. She was found to have a condition called hyperandrogenism with her body producing natural levels of testosterone that are high enough to place her in the male range.

Aly Raisman

Retired American gymnast Aly Raisman has spoken about being bullied for her muscular arms. In an Instagram post in 2016, she wrote: "Shoutout to all the boys from 5th-9th grade who made fun of me for being 'too strong'... My muscular arms that were considered weird and gross when I was younger have made me one of the best gymnasts on the planet..."

HC raps teacher for corporal punishment as kid ends life

Raipur: "Being small does not make a child less of a human being than a grown-up, and corporal punishment causes incalculable harm to a child," Chhattisgarh HC said, dismissing a teacher's plea to quash a chargesheet against her after a Class VI girl died by suicide.

"It is cruel to subject a child to physical violence in school in the name of discipline or education. Child, being a precious national resource, is to be nurtured and attended to with tenderness and care and not with cruelty," the bench of justices Ramesh Sinha and Ravindra Kumar Agrawal said.

This observation came during the hearing of a plea filed by sister Mercy alias Elizabeth Joseph, a teacher of a prominent school in Ambikapur. The FIR, filed against her under IPC Sec 305, was based on the victim's suicide note, where she named the teacher. The note said that sister Elizabeth had taken away ID cards of the victim and her classmates.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the teacher had no prior interaction with the deceased. On the day of the incident, she had merely admonished the student and taken her ID card.

The counsel said that the petitioner had no intention of causing her harm and that her actions were "misinterpreted by the deceased's overactive imagination and the influence of her peers". TNN

Teen beats handicapped driver to death after auto grazes his SUV in Fbd

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A 32-year-old physically challenged auto-rickshaw driver was beaten to death after his three-wheeler grazed an SUV and left a deep scratch on it in Nangla Chowk of Faridabad around Thursday midnight.

Rohit, the 19-year-old driver of the car who rained punches and kicks on the victim, was arrested on Saturday morning. Police said Bunty had just dropped a passenger around 11.50pm on Thursday and was driving his auto back home when it brushed past Rohit's car near Nangla Chowk.

As Bunty drove ahead, Rohit accelerated his car and caught up with him after around 200 metres. He allegedly caught Bunty by the collar, pulled him out of the auto and pinned him to the ground. "The accused kept kicking and punching him until the auto driver lost consciousness. He then left the victim bleeding profusely on the road," a police officer said.

Before fleeing the spot in his car, Rohit paid Rs 500 to a local to drive the auto to his house. Passersby found Bunty dead on the road and informed the cops a couple of hours later.

Police commissioner Rakesh Kumar Arya said the case was transferred to the crime branch. Officers

FLED SCENE

- Before fleeing, SUV driver Rohit paid a local ₹500 to drive auto to his house
- Passersby found Bunty dead on the road and cops were informed 2 hrs later
- A case under Sec 103(1) (murder) of BNS was registered against Rohit, who was produced in court on Saturday and remanded in police custody

of the DLF crime branch arrested Rohit near Etmadpur bridge on Saturday. His SUV was seized, too.

Rohit, a resident of Nawada village, told police he was on his way to Sarurpur for some work when the auto driver grazed past his car and left a dent. He also admitted he had paid Rs 500 to a passerby to drive the auto to his house.

Bunty had left his Ali-garh home and come to Faridabad recently to earn a living. He had been staying with sister, Neerja Devi, in Nangla village for the past three days. A case was registered against Rohit under Section 103 (1) (murder) of the BNS following a complaint by Neerja Devi at Maje-sar police station.

"He was the sole earning member in his family which has his wife and three children. His sudden death has put the family in a major crisis," Bunty's sister said.

Mob sets man's house on fire in UP over interfaith love

Bareilly: An angry mob took matters into its own hands at a village in UP and set on fire the house of a 21-year-old man for allegedly eloping with a woman, 20, of another community from the same neighbourhood.

When police arrived at the scene on Friday night, the mob vandalised their vehicle too. The cops somehow managed to escape and informed their superiors, who sent additional forces from nearby police stations to bring the situation under control.

SSP (Bareilly), Anurag Arya, said on Saturday, "The incident took place at Chandupura Shivnagar under Sirauli limits of Bareilly district. There was a complaint that a 20-year-old woman had eloped with her neighbour Mohd Saddam on July 29. Both were traced on Thursday night and the woman was handed over to her father on Friday. Saddam was detained for questioning. Later at night, a few anti-social elements vandalised some items at Saddam's house and set a charpoy on fire. An FIR was registered against the perpetrators — 21 identified and 30 unknown — under the BNS section of rioting, and another FIR was registered against Saddam for abduction on the complaint of the woman's father."

Arya added: "SHO of Sirauli, Luv Sirohi, sub-inspector Satveer Singh and a constable were suspended for negligence. Over 100 police personnel are now deployed in the village to maintain law and order. Further investigations are on." TNN