SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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HAPPY FRIENDSHIP DAY

AUGUST 4, 2024 | PAGES 34 | INCLUDING CALCUTTA TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



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 9

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 19

Kamala Harris is interviewing potential running mates with the needle of probability ticking towards **Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro**, P 19

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 19



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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 the 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 7

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Litigants settle as they get fed up, says CJI

Accepting the problem faced by litigants and their frustration due to protracted hearing and delay in justice delivery, CJI D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said the process itself sometimes becomes a punishment, which is a matter of grave concern. Fed up with court proceedings, litigants in many cases are ready to settle, he said. P 7

Terrorists kill 37 at Somalia hotel

Thirty-seven people were killed and 212 wounded in an attack on a beach hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu late Friday. Al Qaida's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab, said its fighters carried out the attack. Witnesses reported an explosion followed by gunfire. P 19

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. AGENCIES

Teen beats auto driver to death

A 32-year-old physically challenged autorickshaw driver was beaten to death after his three-wheeler grazed an SUV and left a deep scratch on it in Faridabad's Nangla Chowk Thursday midnight. The 19-year-old SUV driver was arrested on Saturday. P 15

WEATHER

Max 29.2°C(-3.3) Min 25.8°C(-0.8). **Sunrise:** Fri 5.10am. **Sunset:** Sun 6.16pm. Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain/thundershower very likely to occur. Max & min temp may be around 31°C & 26°C. Max humidity 97% min 93% Rain: 25.3mm

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 to 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.

Under the proposed amendments, Waqf Boards' claims, which were previously unrestricted, will be subject to mandatory verification. 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.

Though an official briefing on Friday evening on Cabinet decisions did not mention this move, sources indicated that a bill to amend the Wakf Act is likely to be introduced in Parliament next week.

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**

Sources also said the two provisions of mandatory verification of properties, which would check arbitrary powers of Waqf Boards, are the major amendments proposed to the Act. At present, these entities have powers to tag any property as waqf asset. More than 8.7 lakh properties across the country, totalling around 9.4 lakh acres, are under the jurisdiction of Waqf Boards.

The need for such legislation arose as there were several representations from Muslim intellectuals, women and different sects such as Shia and Bohras, among others, seeking changes in the existing law, sources said, underlining that the preparation to bring amendments had started much before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. They also added that preliminary perusal of the laws across Islamic nations such as Oman, Saudi Arabia and others show that none of these countries have given such sweeping powers to one entity.

More sweeping powers were conferred on Waqf Boards by bringing amendments to the original Act during the UPA govt in 2013, which have been a major bone of contention among waqf authorities, individual property owners, and several state entities, including the Archaeological Survey of India.

▶Board composition, P 11

In Mundakkai, 16 of family swept away in landslide

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Meppadi (Wayanad): Fate can't be much crueller than this. Eleven family members of Kalathingal 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.

▶Bengal govt offers to bring back labourers, P 11

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" 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.

▶'A mammoth rock...', P 11



Eleven of the 16 members of Nousheeba's family who have gone missing in the landslide are seen in this photograph

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. P 11

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. P 11

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 TV

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 20-21

Ayodhya rape accused's bakery razed

Authorities riding bulldozers in UP's Faizabad district demolished on Saturday a bakery owned by Samajwadi Party functionary and rape accused Moeed Khan in Bhadarsa town, about 21km southwest of Ayodhya, **report Pathikrit Chakraborty & Arshad Afzaal Khan.**

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. The crime was discovered as the girl became pregnant. Samajwadi Party has demanded a DNA test to nail the culprit. P 5

DVC RELEASES 90K CUSECS OF WATER, FLOOD THREAT LOOMS OVER BENGAL

SOUTH BENGAL

- DVC releases 90,000 cusecs of water on Saturday, **raising fears of widespread floods in south Bengal dists,** which have been receiving heavy rainfall for the past few days



- **Bengal govt says no prior information given. Asks DVC to stagger release of water**
- Flood threat looms over Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, East & West Burdwan, Howrah and Hooghly
- **3 persons die** after being swept away by the strong currents of **Garui river in Burdwan**
- Water recedes from **Andal airport** near Durgapur but flight services yet to resume as clean-up operation is still in progress



Raja Bhakat

The swollen Kopai river floods villages in Birbhum's Goalpara

NORTH BENGAL

- IMD issues **5-day orange alert for north Bengal** districts
- Torrential rain since Thursday has **paralyzed life in Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong**
- Landslides along NH 10 has **cut off links to Gangtok and Kalimpong** from Siliguri
- Water levels on the rise in **Cooch Behar and Alipurduar.** Flash floods not ruled out

KOLKATA

- Overnight showers leave many stretches waterlogged
- Airport approach road and a couple of bays in operational area waterlogged but flight ops not affected



P 2

UP villagers torch man's house over interfaith love

Bareilly: A mob took matters into its hands at a village in UP, vandalising the house of a 21-year-old man and setting it on fire for allegedly eloping with a woman, 20, of another community from the same neighbourhood, **report Kanwardeep Singh & Asif Ansari.**

When police arrived at the scene in Chandupura Shivnagar village in Sirauli, Bareilly, on Friday night, the mob vandalised their vehicle too. The cops escaped and informed their superiors, who sent additional forces to bring the situation under control.

"The Hindu woman and Mohd Saddam are school dropouts and fell in love over two years ago," said an officer familiar with the case. They eloped on July 29 and were traced on Thursday.

▶'Dad didn't want...', P 9

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 driven by a 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 in the 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 boy has been booked under new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, endangering the lives of others by reckless driving and causing harm to property. The Ciaz, registered in his sister's name, has been impounded. P 5

Iran, Israel on brink of war, US boosts military presence 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 defense-capable cruisers and destroyers to the US European and Central Command regions, Sabrina Singh, a Pentagon spokesperson, said Friday. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also ordered steps including moving an additional squadron of fighter jets to the region and dispatching the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to replace USS Theodore Roosevelt.

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. P 19



File photo

US is dispatching USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to replace USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is now in the Gulf of Oman

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) on Saturday initiated the first move to resolve the Rs 32,000 crore tax controversy by closing the pre-show cause notice for financial year 2017-2018 against Infosys.

The move follows the swift intervention of the finance ministry. "The company has now received a communication from DGGI closing pre-show cause notice proceedings for FY 2017-2018. The GST amount as per pre-show cause notice for this period was Rs 3,898 crore," the company said in a stock exchange filing on Saturday. Infosys also said it had received and responded to a pre-show cause notice issued by DGGI for July 2017 to March 2022. P 15

Retd Punjab assistant IG shoots dead son-in-law, an ICAS officer, in court

Chandigarh: A retired assistant inspector general of Punjab Police shot dead his estranged son-in-law and Indian Civil Accounts Service officer in Chandigarh district court on Saturday afternoon.

According to police, Malwinder Singh Sidhu fired at Harpreet Singh (37), who was posted as the controller of accounts in Union ministry of agriculture and farmers' welfare in Delhi, around 2pm, when both of them had come for a hearing in a matrimonial dispute between Harpreet and his wife, Dr Amitoj Kaur.

ASI Anita and a court employee quickly caught Sidhu and detained him in a room until cops arrived. Harpreet was rushed to PGI in a private car, but doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Senior officers, including Chandigarh SSP Kanwardeep Kaur, along with a forensic team, arrived at the scene. An FIR was filed against Sidhu for murder and under Sections 25, 27, 54, and 59 of the Arms Act. Police seized a pistol (point 32 bore), four fired bullets, and three unused bullets from the scene. TNN

▶Booked for blackmail, P 15



Balish Ahuja

Police and forensic experts inspect the area of crime at the Chandigarh district court

Bharatanatyam & Kuchipudi icon dies at 84



Yamini Krishnamurti, a doyenne of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi who straddled the worlds of classical dance and music with equal ease, passed away on Saturday while undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital in New Delhi. She was 84, and had been ailing for some time with age-related health issues.

Born in 1940 at Madanapalle in Andhra's Annamayya's district to Sanskrit scholar M Krishnamurti, Yamini was not just a leading light of Bharatanatyam, but was also a master of Odissi, popularised Kuchipudi, and was a proficient Carnatic musician. She was honoured with Padma Shri in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. P 11

Microplastic in Digha, Puri seawater at alarming levels

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Kolkata: The single-use plastic bag that you left on the Digha beach last summer might still be there but in a very different — and much more harmful — form.

A recent study — funded by the Centre's Science & Engineering Research Board — has found alarming levels of microplastics in the coastal waters and sediments of Digha and Puri, two of eastern India's most popular beach destinations. It highlights serious concerns about the impact of microplastics on marine life and the health of millions of visitors.

Researchers found an average of 5.3 microplastic items per litre of water on the Digha beach and 6.4 microplastic items per litre on the Puri beach. The sediments revealed even more troubling data, with Digha recording 173.4 items per kg and Puri reaching 190.4 items per kg. These numbers suggest that plastic pollution is a growing crisis in these coastal regions, potentially affecting the future of these tourist spots.

"The discovery of such alarmingly high microplastic levels in the waters and sediments of Digha and Puri is a wake-up call," writer Amitav Ghosh, a prominent voice in the discourse on ecology and climate change, said. "This poses a grave threat to the delicate marine ecosystem, with potential consequences for the countless creatures that call these waters home. It also compromises tourists' safety and health as microplastics can enter the food chain. We need urgent action," he added.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5mm in size, originating from stuff like polythene bags, bottles, microbeads in personal care products, cigarette filter tips, synthetic fabrics, vehicle tyres, industrial waste, fishing gear and paints. The study identified polyethylene, a common plastic used in bags and packaging, as the most prevalent type of microplastic. It poses significant risk to marine life because of its abundance and persistence in the environment, say scientists involved with the study.

▶'Threat to fish, turtles', P 4

TINY TOXINS POSE GRAVE RISK TO MARINE LIFE, HUMANS



Researchers have found an average of 5.3 microplastic items per litre of water on Digha beach (pic) and 6.4 per litre on Puri beach

What Are microplastics?

- Tiny plastic particles, less than 5mm

Impact on Digha & Puri

- **Sources:** Tourism, fishing and waste management issues
- **Effect:** Contaminates marine life and potentially human health

Why It Matters

- Marine species ingest microplastics, risking health and disrupting ecosystems
- Contaminated fish could pose risks to humans

What Can You Do?

- **Reduce Plastic Use:** Opt for reusables
- **Join Clean-Ups:** Help clean local beaches
- **Support Better Practices:** Advocate for improved waste management

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

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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 18,336 organ recipients in the country of which 1,851 (10%) were foreign nationals.

▶Kanwariya who died in car-hit gives life to 5, P 9

Transplants involving foreign nationals were carried out in Delhi (1,445), Rajasthan (116), Bengal (88), Uttar Pradesh (76), Telangana (61), Maharashtra (35), Karnataka (15), Gujarat (11), Tamil Nadu (3) and Manipur (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.

▶'Living donor...', P 11

Aircraft carrying organs can seek priority takeoff & landing from ATC: New SOPs

Airlines carrying human cadaveric organs can request the ATC for priority take-off and landing for the aircraft, according to the first set of standard operating procedures released by health ministry. An in-flight announcement can be made about the carriage of a human organ onboard, the SOPs say. They call for airport and airline staff to arrange a trolley for carrying the organ box to ambulance on arrival. "In case the ambulance is allowed until the runway, airline crew to guide and assist the accompanying medical personnel carrying the organ box to disembark from the staircase onto the runway directly and into the waiting ambulance," the SOPs add. TNN

Raining problems for flyers outside and inside city airport

Inundated Roads, DigiYatra Glitch Delay Entry Into Terminal

Tamaghna Banerjee, Suman Chakraborti & Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Flyers were hit by a double whammy on Saturday, first because of waterlogging on VIP Road and Jessore Road and then by sporadic snags in the DigiYatra check-in system that delayed passenger entry into the terminal.

Waist-deep water in places along a 1 sq-km stretch of Haldiram's on VIP Road and Chinar Park on the New Town's main arterial road brought traffic movement to a crawl on Saturday. Similar was the situation along a 4-km stretch of Jessore Road.

Waterlogging, coupled with poor conditions of VIP Road, led to long snarls in the city-bound as well as airport-bound flanks. Airport officials said while many passengers reported closer to the final boarding call, there were no major no-shows or disruption of flight movement.

Passengers complained it took them anything between 30 minutes and 45 minutes to cross a 4-km stretch between Chinar Park and airport as vehicles crawled along the inundated VIP Road. Several vehicles broke down while wading through water.

"Massive waterlogging near the airport led to complete chaos. The roads are in a disastrous state. I was stuck in the traffic for such a long time that I feared I would miss the flight," said Sneha Dutta, who took a flight to Mumbai.

The trouble at the airport continued with passengers complaining about DigiYatra gates, especially 1A/1B, not functioning on Saturday morning, forcing passengers to queue up for manual entry. Airport officials, however, said it was a temporary glitch that had occurred because of excessive rain and was sorted out in quick time.

Waterlogging in Chinar Park and on the service road stretch at Haldiram More has been a long-standing problem. Although the authorities had managed to keep waterlogging in check here last year, the stretch is getting inundated once again this year. At 1.50pm, the traffic snarl tail on the airport-bound flank of VIP Road reached Dum Dum Park, 6 kms from the airport. The chaos on VIP Road even slowed down traffic movement at Ultadanga and Kankurgachhi.

"There was knee- to waist-deep water at Haldirams crossing and near Chinar Park. We have managed to somehow keep the traffic moving but we admit that the movement had been extremely slow," said a senior officer of Bidhannagar traffic police.

PWD officials said they were operating pumps at several points to flush out water as much as possible. "The Bagjola canal was overflowing as it was failing to drain out the water even with the help of the drainage pumping station opposite City Centre II mall," said an official.

Along the other access road to the airport through Dum Dum, traffic movement had been severely affected on a 4-km airport-bound stretch from Airport gate 1 to Dum Dum Cantonment metro station. Locals alleged that choked sewers, saturated outlets and poor pumping arrangements have combined to turn the area, comprising wards 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the Dum Dum Municipality, into a basin. Harinder Singh, the chairman of Dum Dum Municipality, admitted to the waterlogging problem and blamed the poor condition of the road maintained by PWD for people's woes.

(With inputs from Mayukh Sengupta & Dwaipayan Ghosh)

Mayukh Sengupta



Cars wade through a waterlogged VIP Road

OUTSIDE AIRPORT
- Waist-deep water along a 1 sq-km stretch of Haldiram's on VIP Road and Chinar Park
- Poor conditions of VIP Rd
- Traffic snarls owing to inundation fo 4-km stretch of Jessore Road between Dum Dum and airport gate 1

INSIDE AIRPORT
- Malfunctioning of DigiYatra gates forced passengers to queue up for manual entry
- Approach road to the terminal as well as a couple of bays in the operational area got flooded but operations were not disrupted

Sewer project for Kestopur, Kaikhali

Saikat Ray & Suman Chakraborti | TNN

Kolkata: Mayor and urban development minister Firhad Hakim on Saturday said a sewer project will be undertaken to resolve the long-standing waterlogging problem between Kestopur and Kaikhali.

"There is a dearth of a proper drainage system. We have taken up a drainage upgrade project that aims at mitigating the waterlogging woes. It will get started from the next winter session," Hakim said. KMC was also engaged in developing the sewerage network of areas that are located off EM Bypass, the minister added.

Though a drainage pumping station was set up near City Centre 2 in New Town to provide relief from severe waterlogging at Chinar Park and on the service road near Haldiram More, the place was inundated once again on Saturday following heavy rain.

PWD officials said they now planned to set up more drainage pumping stations at Teghoria, Joramandir, Baguiati and Kestopur.

Parts of airport waterlogged but flights stick to schedule



Screenshot of a video of a waterlogged airport that went viral

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Kolkata: Overnight showers led to waterlogging in both the approach road to the Kolkata airport terminal as well as a couple of bays in the operational area as attempts to pump water into the canal outside drew a blank as water flowed back into the airport compound. However, it did not hamper operations as the runway as well as taxiways and 70 parking bays were free of water.

"The airport experienced some waterlogging due to the heavy rainfall. But flight operations were unaffected. We have not had any flight cancellation or significant delays owing to the waterlogging," Kolkata airport diretor Pravat Ranjan Beuria told **TOI**.

Videos of inundated sections of the airport's operational area had earlier gone viral and led to fears among flyers that multiple flights could be affected. In the video, a parked Air India aircraft was seen with its wheels submerged in water as were a couple of IndiGo ATRs. A passenger coach near one of the aircraft suggested that the aircraft had either landed or was set to depart.

2 BAYS FLOODED

The airport director said drainage canals to flush out water from the airport grounds had filled up due to the prolonged showers. "We have deployed additional heavy duty pumps. Of the 72 parking bays, 70 are clear. Only two are inundated. We expect to clear them as well once water level in the localities adjoining the airport recedes," said Beuria.

There were also issues on the city side with metro work leading to blockage in the drainage lines near the flyover that led to inundation in the approach road to the terminal. Again, pumps were deployed to clear the water so that cars could ply. "We have asked metro to ensure that passenger access to the airport is not hindered," the airport director said.

The meteorological office at the airport in Dum Dum recorded 100 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am on Friday and 8.30 am on Saturday.

Water recedes but ops yet to start at Andal

Subhro.Niyogi @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Water receded from the Kazi Nazrul Island Airport at Andal near Durgapur on Saturday morning but services could not be resumed as the terminal building needed to be cleaned and flight navigation as well as airline services equipment had to be readied for operation.

"We have overcome the major hurdle of waterlogging. The runway, taxiway, parking bays and the apron area have been cleared. We are now making the equipment operation-worthy before the notice to airmen (NOTAM) is issued declaring the airport open," airport director Kailash Mandal told **TOI**. Mandal said he was hopeful that services would return to normal by Sunday.

All five flights scheduled on Saturday to Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru were cancelled. Though the airport had announced the cancellation of the Chennai flight on Friday itself, the others were cancelled on Saturday. All three flights scheduled on Friday had also been cancelled.

While the Met office has forecast a decrease in rainfall from Saturday, there is risk of flooding due to water being released from the Durgapur Barrage.

Waterlogging, bad roads make traffic crawl

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Saikat Ray | TNN

Kolkata: Traffic remained slow across Kolkata on Saturday but the worst affected area remained Mominpore where cops had to request RVNL to carry out work on the road on a SOS basis for temporary relief.

Among the spots to be affected due to bad condition of roads also include spots around VIP Bazar on EM Bypass, the entire stretch between Chiria More and Tala Bridge, the stretch between Kidderpore and Ekbalpore and again in Behala Market on DH Road, Burdwan Road and a portion of Strand Road.

Among areas where traffic slowed down due to waterlogging in the morning were Patipukur underpass, Dum Dum underpass, Ekbalpore, MG Road and a portion of CR Avenue.

However, for the entire day, the focus remained on the Mominpore stretch where cops had to introduce fouling – both from Majerhat on one side and Mayurbhanj on the other – through most of the day. Fouling is allowing vehicles from the opposite flank to use one flank.

The decision, claimed Lalbazar, was taken to ensure that the huge flow of traffic from Behala towards central Kolkata was not hindered due to the metro construction on DH Road between Mominpore and Mayurbhanj. The area was witnessing traffic jams, especially in the evenings, before both police and RVNL took corrective measures.

"The flank from Mominpore to Kidderpore is in a very bad shape. We are worried about accidents. We have had joint inspections with KMC and RVNL. But nothing moved. Hence, we were forced to act and ask RVNL to pitch in on Saturday. Repair work was also started. Now we have received calls from KMC saying they want to put fresh pitch on the road. The normal 10 minute commute from Majerhat to Mayurbhanj is taking close to 25 minutes now in peak hours," claimed an officer.

Elsewhere in the city, several stretches of the city's major roads have developed potholes after spells of continuous rain, conceded a KMC roads department official.

Sukhomoy Sen



Potholes on the road between Mominpore and Ekbalpore

Relief unlikely this yr for problem zones

The KMC drainage department officials are not sure about the fate of residents in added areas, particularly in parts of Behala andoff EM By pass, this monsoon. "The drainage upgrade project under KEIIP is dragging too much and there is no hope that we can give the residents relief this monsoon," said a KMC official. TNN

WHEN ROAD TURNS CANAL

Biplab Bhattacharjee



A biker crosses the waterlogged Patipukur underpass on Saturday morning

'Raise electrical joint boxes to stop electrocution death'

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Kolkata: Taking a lesson from the electrocution death of a young girl at Malipachghara in Howrah due to waterlogging, state urban development minister Firhad Hakim on Saturday said efforts were being taken to raise the electrical joint boxes that are used for illuminating the streetlights to avoid such tragic incident in future. "I have asked the Howrah Municipal Corporation to raise the electrical joint boxes so that they are not submerged after a downpour and subsequent waterlogging of the streets. The same rules apply for the Kolkata streets," said Hakim.

A 22-year-old computer training centre teacher died of electrocution in front of her father at Badaghat crossing under Malipanchghara PS in Howrah on Thursday evening.

Hakim said the KMC had taken a lesson from several electrocution deaths in the city in the past few years. "We don't want a recurrence of these unfortunate deaths. Hence, I have asked the KMC electrical department to ensure that adequate arrangements are taken to ensure safety of the pedestrians in the event of severe waterlogging in the city's low-lying areas," said the mayor.

A KMC electrical department official said an eye was being kept on areas that are vulnerable.


Woman dies of electrocution on waterlogged Hwh street

TOI | AUG 3, 2024

Hard to shift unsafe bldgs' tenants: Mayor

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Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation buildings department will need to focus on the city's dilapidated buildings in the wake of spells of rain. However, the KMC buildings department officials find it difficult to convince tenants of the vulnerable buildings to shift to a safer place to save their lives, said mayor Firhad Hakim on Saturday.

Hakim on Saturday received a call from the owner of a

MONSOON ALERT

Burrabazar residenceexpressing concern over the fate of tenants of his building that is listed as an insecure building. According to the caller, he was interested in the redevelopment of the building, but the tenants were not ready to shift.

Hakim said, KMC had made it a rule to offer the tenants of the rickety buildings a possession certificate if they are willing to shift to facilitate reconstruction of the building. "We are ready to protect the interests of the tenants, but they have to respond. Otherwise, their life will be at stake," he added.

Stagger release, state requests after DVC discharges 1.4L cusec water

Mohammed Asif & Debashis Konar | TNN

Kolkata/Burdwan: Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) on Saturday released around 1,38,000 cusec of water from Maithon and Panchet dams, raising fears of widespread flood across south Bengal, which has been receiving steady rainfall this week. The move prompted the state govt to ask DVC to stagger the release and announce a series of measures to deal with a possible flood situation.

According to DVC executive director Anjani Dubey, 12,000 cusec was released from Maithon and 36,000 cusec from Panchet dams at 9.30am on Sunday. Another 90,000 cusec was released from both these dams at 7pm. He added that the water level was 477 ft at Maithon and 414.5 ft at Panchet at 9.30am on Saturday. The Durgapur barrage has released 65,000 cusecs since Friday, according to executive engineer Sanjoy Majumdar.

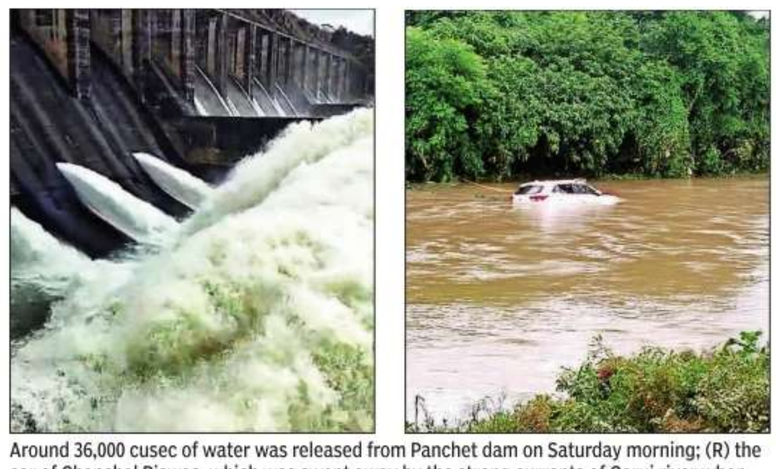
Addressing a press meet on Saturday, Alapan Bandopadhyay, chief advisor to CM Mamata Banerjee, said that DVC was releasing water without properly informing the state govt, which has turned south Bengal district vulnerable to floods. The CM is peeved by DVC's move, he added.

The situation is not good in North Bengal, too, due to heavy rainfall there. Alipurduar has been placed on high alert. "Water level is on the rise in both Cooch Behar and Alipurduar, and a chance of flash flood is not ruled out," Bandypadhyay said.

The CM is monitoring the situation and is regularly interacting with the DMs, SPs, departmental secretaries and chief secretary BP Gopalika. He added that the member secretary of Damodar Valley River Regulatory Committee had informed that soon there would be an additional release of 1 lakh cusec from DVC, which is creating panic among the people. Gopalika has held meetings with the DMs to check on the districts' preparedness.

Bandyopadhyay said there had been no discussion with the state on the release of water, which was done unilaterally by DVC. "Attempts are being made on how the release of water can be staggered. We are asking people not to panic but to stay alert. If needed, the administration will shift people from low-lying areas and from the embankments. The CM will issue directives after reviewing the situation," the chief advisor said.

Three persons have drowned in Burdwan's Garui river. Their bodies were recovered on Saturday morning. The deceased have been identified as Chanchal Biswas (59), Rohit Roy (30) and Gouranga Roy (39).



Around 36,000 cusec of water was released from Panchet dam on Saturday morning; (R) the car of Chanchal Biswas, which was swept away by the strong currents of Garui river when he tried to cross the Kalyanpur Housing Bridge. Biswas's body was retrieved on Saturday

Rain to continue in Kol at least for 5 more days: Met

Prithvijit Mitra & Roshan Gupta | TNN

Kolkata/Siliguri: The city and most parts of south Bengal received widespread rain on Saturday even as a threat of flood, triggered by a release of water from DVC and Panchet dams, loomed large.

A depression that has now moved over north Jharkhand and its adjoining areas has been leading to showers across Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of south Bengal adjoining Jharkhand. An upper air east-west trough has taken shape from the centre of the depression to south Assam, triggering further rain across south and north Bengal, said the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Alipore.

Kolkata received intermittent drizzles on Saturday that added up to 26.5 mm between Friday and Saturday evening. The northern fringes of the city, however, received heavy showers. While Dum Dum recorded 100 mm, Salt Lake and Diamond Harbour received 80 mm each. Kolkata is likely to get rain for at least 4-5 days, the Met office said.

The rains have intensified due to the presence of the monsoon trough that now passes through Murshidabad. "It now rests across the northern limit of south Bengal. Due to the combined effect of the monsoon trough and the east-west trough, most parts of Bengal will receive consistent rain over the next four-five days. While the rain is likely to be light to moderate in most areas, some parts of south Bengal may be lashed by thunderstorms," said RMC weather scientist HR Biswas.

The cloud cover and rain pulled the mercury down to 29.2°C on Saturday. The minimum was just four degrees below the maximum at 25.8°C.

In north Bengal, torrential rains since Thursday have paralyzed life and worsened the situation in Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong. The rains triggered major landslides along NH-10, cutting off the major links to Gangtok and Kalimpong from Siliguri. The weathermen have issued an orange warning for the districts of north Bengal for the next five days.

Sukhomoy Sen

ORANGE ALERT FOR N BENGAL

- **Depression** over **north Jharkhand** moved **west-northwestwards** and intensified into a **deep depression**
- It is likely to continue to move **west-northwestwards** across **northwest Jharkhand** during **next 48 hours**
- The **monsoon** trough at mean **sea level** now passes **through the centre of the deep depression over southwest Bihar & adjoining northwest Jharkhand,**



The city got 26.5mm rain in last 24 hours

Bankura, Canning and **southeastwards to northeast Bay of Bengal**

Kumartuli artisans scurry for plastic cover

Zeeshan.Jawed @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The rain over the past few days has forced potters in Kumartuli to take refuge under plastic sheets to complete the idols before the onset of the festive season.

Many idol makers are also using pedestal fans, blowtorches and charcoal ovens to dry the deities in the absence of proper sunlight during the past few days.

"Work on Ganesh idols is going on in full swing as the festival is in the first week of Sept. Even Durga idols are being made in large numbers and proper sunlight is a necessity at this stage. If the mud figurines do not dry up properly we cannot proceed to the next stage. But it has been overcast and raining for the past one week forcing us to take other measures to complete the work on time," said Kartik Pal, secretary of the Kumartuli Mritshilpi Sanskritik Samity.

Many idol makers have completed the work of curating the Ganesh idols and are half way through moulding the Durga idols.

"We are now waiting for the idols to dry up so that the work of painting and decorating the idols can be started," said Mala Pal, another idol maker in Kumartuli.

She has put up a big plastic sheet and is working on the idols outside her workshop. "Ganesh idols are big and it is difficult to complete so many indoors," said Pal.

Many organisers take the delivery of idols much before Durga Puja as the pandals are thrown open to the public early nowadays. "Sometimes we have to hire more labourers to meet the deadline. Arrangements to safeguard from rain and complete the idols on time are adding to the cost," said Sujoy Pal, who has accepted orders for both Ganesh and Durga idols.

Sukhomoy Sen



Fans and small wood fires are being used to dry the clay idols

> Arrangements to take guard from rain and complete the idols on time are adding to the cost
>
> **Sujoy Pal** | ARTISAN

Youth poses as delivery boy, attacks woman, snatches chain

Cops Scan CCTV Footage Of Baranagar Bldg

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN



Victim Pulu Goswami; (R) CCTV footage shows the youth fleeing the spot

Kolkata: A youth, posing as a delivery boy, attacked a 62-year-old resident of Baranagar Gopalal Thakur Road, Behalapara, and snatched her gold chain before fleeing the spot on Saturday afternoon.

The victim, Pulu Goswami, was out shopping and while she was returning, she was followed by the youth till her apartment. When she started climbing the stairs, she was hit with a brick from behind. Locals took Goswami to Baranagar State General Hospital, where she received four stitches on her head.

Cops said that in the available CCTV footage, a youth wearing a 'delivery boy' uniform and holding a bag in his right hand, was seen entering the apartment around 1.30 pm.

"Holding a bag, the youth approached the woman and attacked her with a brick which was hidden inside his bag. The man hit Goswami at least thrice on her head, inflicting serious injuries. He then snatched the gold chain from her neck and fled the spot immediately," said an investigating officer.

A senior police officer of the Barrackpore commissionerate said, "CCTV footage is being checked and we are trying to find out the identity of the accused. We have promptly registered a case after receiving the complaint." A probe is on to nab the accused.

"We are now scared to allow delivery boys enter our apartment premises," said Sharmistha Mukherjee, a resident of the apartment.

Rape cuffs on Haridevpur priest

Kolkata: A priest, Surajkumar Pandey, was arrested by Haridevpur police on Thursday night from the Brace bridge area in Taratala for allegedly raping a woman on the pretext of marriage. Cops slapped him with charges of rape, fraud, and other offenses.

Police said the accused met the survivor at a temple, and gradually developed a relationship with her. After visiting the woman's house, the accused promised to marry her and allegedly raped her multiple times.

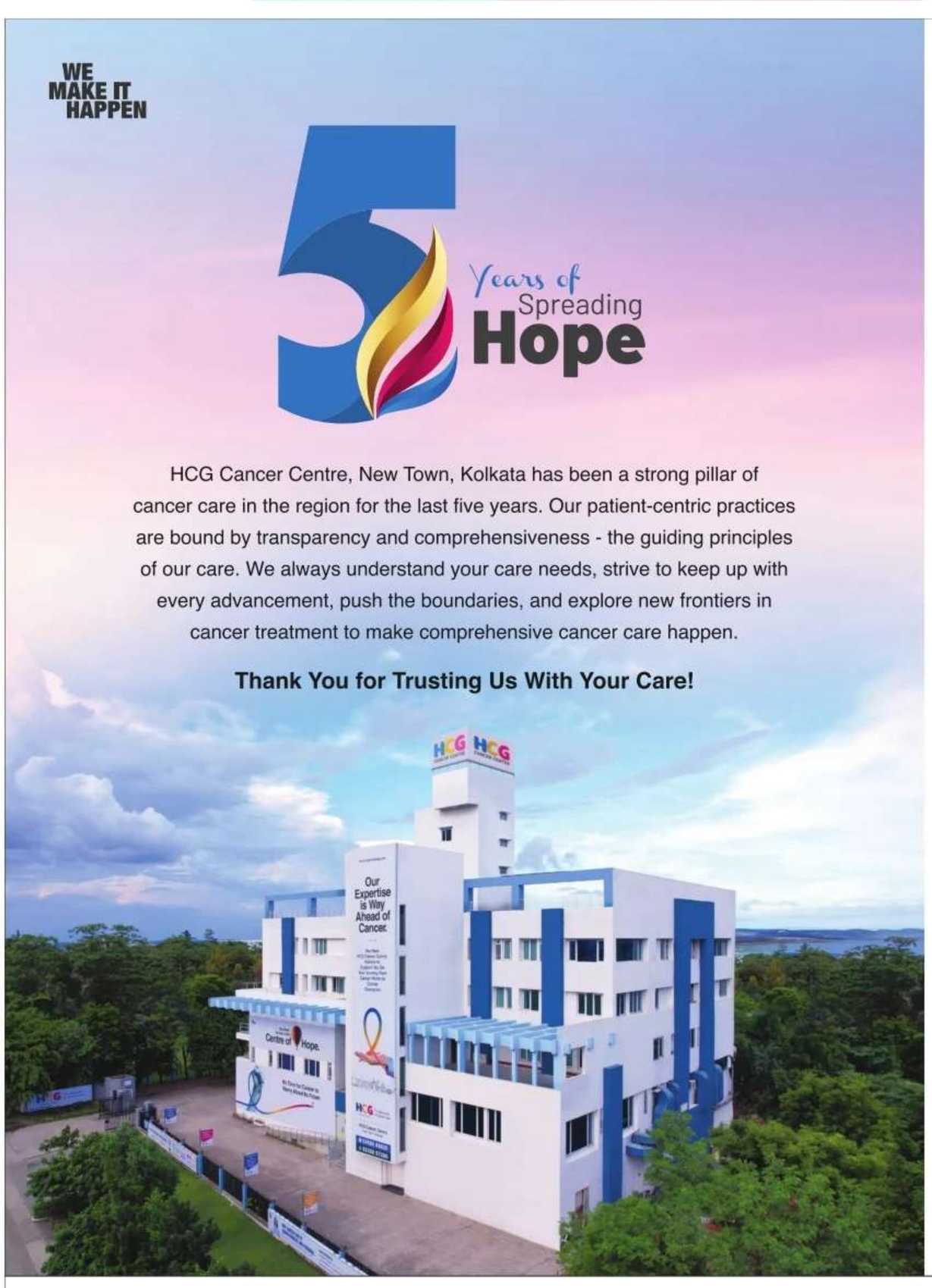
Since April, he stopped taking the woman's phone-calls. Realizing she had been deceived, the survivor filed a written complaint at Haridevpur police station. TNN

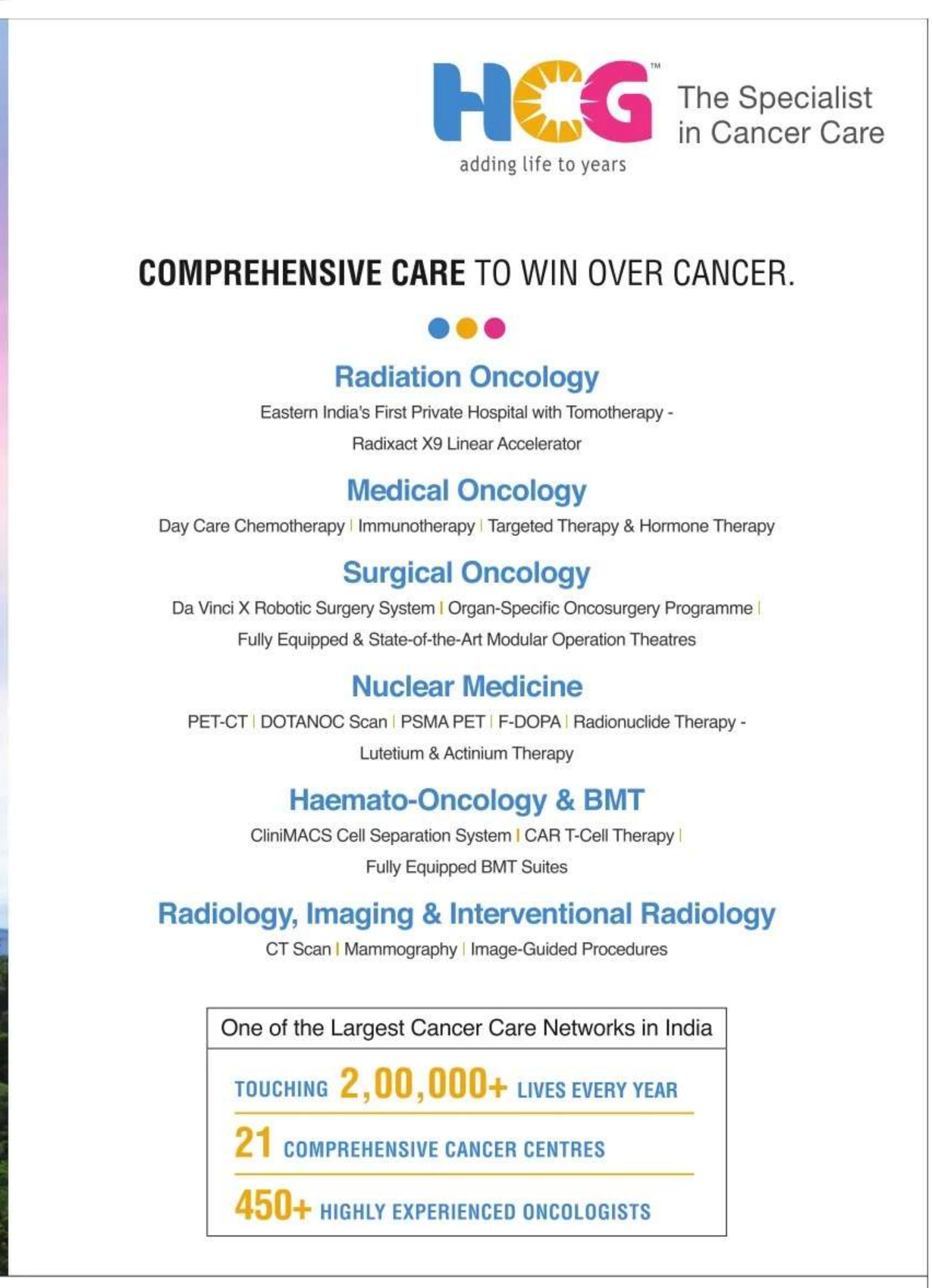












Acropolis reopens 49 days after fire, over 15k visit mall on day 1

Restos On 4th Floor To Resume Ops Later

Sritama China & Tania Bhattacharjee | TNN

Kolkata: The Acropolis mall reopened its doors to the public on Saturday after a 49-day hiatus following a fire at a bookstore near the food court. As the first set of customers walked in, there was relief among retailers who have suffered huge losses due to the closure as have businesses in the neighbourhood that also saw sales plummet due to decline in customer footfall owing to the mall's closure.

The atmosphere of the opening day was festive, with live music, special promotions and surprises for children, creating a vibrant and welcoming environment.

Till 8 pm, the turnout was 15,000 — as much as it was on a weekend day before the fire.

When the mall opened its doors at 10.30 am, there was hardly any evidence of the fire or the scarring that had happened, both due to the thick soot from the smoke and the water sprayed to fight the fire. Only the scaffolding on the third floor to enable workers repair the atrium's high ceiling and the cordoned off section of the mezzanine level between the third and fourth floors where the fire had occurred provided any inkling of the fire that had gutted the bookstore on June 17.

In the past 49 days, the mall authorities have not only managed to repair the damages and apply a fresh coat of paint, the prolonged closure also gave the management an opportunity to scrub, clean, polish to add a sparkle to the interior. All retail outlets, the food court and the cineplex resumed operations on Saturday. Only restaurants on the fourth floor — Hoppipola, Chili's — and the children's play area Time Zone are currently shut and will resume operations later.

"We are very thrilled to welcome our customers back to the mall. The fire accident was really unfortunate. We have made a recovery and are now prepared to look forward and put it behind us while continuing to be prepared for all emergencies. Since most of the stores have multiple outlets nationwide, they have transferred their staff to other outlets. With the mall now functional, the staff are back. We expect customers to also return in large numbers as we prepare for the Independence Day sale and pre-puja shopping spree," said Acropolis mall general manager Subhadip Basu.

Retailers at the mall had incurred significant sales loss as the fire and the subsequent closure had happened when they were about to launch the End of Season Sale. Now, it plans to cash in on the Aug 15 sale and is charting out attractive offers and discounts to pull the crowd.

"Though the mall has opened after a prolonged closure, we are thrilled by the footfall. It seems as though the mall was never shut and it is a regular business day," said Roshan Prasad, store manager of Little Shop.

In a confidence-building measure on the eve of the opening, the mall management and store managers jointly checked the electrical systems to ensure that everything was in order. The fire at the bookstore is suspected to have started from a computer terminal in the shop.

Basabdatta Sarkar

'THRILLED TO BE BACK'





By Saturday evening, the turnout was more than what it was on a weekend day before the fire

- **Mall opened** at **10.30 am** and **retail outlets** stayed **open till 9.30 pm**
- **Food court** that opened at **10.30 am** was **open tilll 10.30 pm**
- **Restaurants operated** from **11 am to 11.45 pm**
- **Cinepolis** operated from **8 am to 1.40 am (Sunday)**
- **All outlets** except Hoppipola, Chili's, Time Zone, Crossword , Wow Momo and Wow Chicken **opened on Saturday**



"I did know the mall was open. I stay in Sarobar and was passing by when I saw the mall open and ventured in

Silica | A RESIDENT OF RABINDRA SAROBAR



"We used to come here very often. This past month-and-a-half, it was sad to see the mall shut when we passed by

Trina Dey and Trisha Dey | RESIDENTS OF GARIA

Desperate cops' new Maa measure: ₹5k fine

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Kolkata: Kolkata Police has decided to levy a penalty of Rs 5,000 and above under section 190(1) of Motor Vehicles Act on motorists driving unfit vehicles on Maa and AJC Bose Road flyovers in case of breakdowns caused due to non-maintenance of the vehicles or fuel getting exhausted. This is in addition to the charges for towing away the vehicles. Cops said the decision was taken at a high-level meeting.

Breakdowns anywhere else in the city will not attract such penal action. "Frequent breakdowns of poorly maintained vehicles and arguments over minor collisions are leading to severe congestion on AJC Bose Road & Maa flyovers. This will be viewed as causing obstruction to smooth flow of traffic and will be prosecuted U/s 190 (1) M V Act, inviting severe penalty amounting to Rs 5,000 and above," said DC (traffic), Shrikant Jagannathrao Yeliwad.

The decision has left motorists puzzled as they wonder how cops can determine the maintenance of a vehicle.

It is the state transport authority or public vehicles department in Kolkata that issues certificate of fitness to vehicles. They also wondered how police could discriminate between cars that took a flyover and those that didn't.

The development comes a day after Yeliwad announced that a policy was now in place to "take legal action against anyone holding up traffic on the flyover or creating any obstruction to traffic movement except in cases of genuine breakdowns."

"Every day, at least two to three vehicles break down on the Maa Flyover. The process of removing the broken down vehicles with a tow truck and restoring traffic flow often leads to congestion," claimed a senior official. However, cops have stated that not all breakdowns will see their owners are fined. "Only those vehicles that are not fit for road use, or run out of fuel will see their owners being penalized," said an officer from the east guard. Besides breakdowns, incidents of vehicles running out of fuel on flyovers are also common.

PENALTY ALSO ON AJC BOSE FLYOVER

FOR BREAKDOWN OF UNFIT VEHICLES



Cops said no penalty will be levied in case of breakdowns due to genuine reasons

KNOW THE RULE

- **MV ACT, Section 190(1):** Pertains to punishment for offences relating to construction and maintenance of vehicles. Fines range between ₹1,000 and ₹5,000

Only those vehicles that are not fit for road use or run out of fuel will see their owners being penalized

AN OFFICER OF EAST TRAFFIC GUARD

Cops reach out to city schools to prevent underage biking

The Kolkata Traffic Police is reaching out to schools to seek information about underage bike riders. Action will be now taken at the school itself against the owners or parents of minors found riding motorcycles. "We are not merely looking atlegal action. We are more concerned about counselling and helping minors understand why riding at this age is not allowed. It is with this motto that we will be visiting schools," a senior officer said. On Friday, officers from Garia Traffic Guard organized an awareness camp at a school as one of its class XI student lost his life after crashing his bike into a divider on Mukundpur Bypass. TNN

Going by SC order, interim VC should not enter CU: Min

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Kolkata: State education minister Bratya Basu on Saturday said if the Supreme Court's order is followed, the interim vice chancellor of Calcutta University should not enter the university. This comes a day after TMCP members kept CU officials, including interim VC Santa Dutta and registrar Debashish Das, gheraoed till late at night, protesting against the "syndicate meeting being held without the higher education department's nod".

Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event at Scottish Church College, Basu said that he was not aware of what the students have done. But he said whatever they were saying in the media was correct.

"If the Supreme Court's order is followed, she should not enter the university. She is still using a government blue light car… Some illegal infiltrators are entering the university under the guise of the vice-chancellor. Immediate action should be taken against them. I hope that the honourable Supreme Court will take action against those who are taking all the govt benefits while disregarding the court's orders," Basu said.

Dutta said, "My actions are as per law and are in accordance with high court's and the Supreme Court's order."

Ahead of the beginning of the first-year undergraduate classes across the state, the minister said that ragging is a menace and the authority should take strict action to curb this.

"The current interim VC of Jadavpur University has taken various measures to curb ragging on the campus. He is in regular contact with me and has been informing me about the steps that are being taken from time to time." He advised senior students to love juniors and also told juniors to respect and love their seniors.

Biplab Bhattacharjee



Minister Bratya Basu was speaking at an event at Scottish Church College on Saturday

'STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CURB RAGGING'

'Microplastic threat to fish, seabirds, turtles'

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Kolkata: Marine creatures often mistake microplastics for food, which can cause physical harm, blockages and exposure to toxic chemicals; fish, sea turtles and seabirds are particularly vulnerable. Microplastics can also carry harmful chemicals absorbed from surrounding water. Tourists and locals in Digha and Puri may also ingest microplastics while having their favourite seafood dish, leading to potential health issues.

"Fisherfolk often catch more plastic than fish in their nets and find plastic inside the fish or dead fish trapped in polythene packets. Microplastics affect fish reproduction, reducing fish populations and impacting consumers and fishermen. Additionally, uncontrolled tourism development from Haldia to Puri and direct release of industrial effluents into rivers contribute to this problem," Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum president Debashis Shyamal said.

"The staggering levels of microplastic pollution in coastal waters and sediments of Digha and Puri are stark reminders of the urgency to reduce our plastic usage," Balram Ambade of NIT Jamshedpur, co-author of the paper, said.

NEWS DIGEST

Dialysis unit for poor women in south Kol

A new state-of-the-art dialysis unit was inaugurated at Matri Bhavan in Tollygunge on Saturday by Pravrajika Premaprana, the newly elected 6th president of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission. The facility will cater to lower socio-economic group women at a highly subsidized rate. It will get completely operational in a month.

14-yr-old's body found in Hwh
The body of 14-year-old, Sheikh Imtiaz Ali, a class VIII student, was found on banks of the Hooghly on Saturday in Howrah's Sarenga. The body had scratch marks. His family has alleged foul play.

Man hurt while getting off bus
A 53-year-old man, Shankha Suvra Chakraborty of Bansdroni, was injured while alighting from a private bus near Tollygunge tram depot. The driver of the bus has been arrested.

Illegal bldgs: KMC to seek legal help

Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) will seek legal assistance against a section of promoters who first flout building rules and then move court against the civic body's demolition drive, mayor Firhad Hakim said on Saturday.

He said this after receiving a call from a Chakgaria resident (located off Bypass) during the Talk to Mayor session. The caller complained of inaction by the civic team in demolishing an unauthorized building that has come up adjacent to her house. "The KMC is taking time to raze the building because of a stay order. Now we also need to change our strategy and appeal to the court against such a stay order," said Hakim. TNN

US AIR FORCE BAND IN CITY

Basabdatta Sarkar



The United States Air Force Band of the Pacific's brass quintet mesmerised audiences at two public concerts held in the city, one at the Calcutta School of Music and another at the Indian Museum. They also visited Modern High School International to interact with the students. The band will travel to Guwahati and Shillong next week and interact with students, musicians and general audiences at various institutions. Known for their motto, "Partnerships through Music", the band has five professional brass players who represent the unique tradition of military music. "Music transcends boundaries and brings people together," said Elizabeth Lee, director of the American Center Kolkata, emphasizing the importance of cultural exchange

Frisky At Sixty?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



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

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

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

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

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

In an earlier time, retirement was an anxiety-inducing event. For those in service who derived so much of their sense of self from their designation, retiring was like a steep fall into ordinariness. For those in business, handing over the baton to the next generation created feelings of insecurity and irrelevance. One's youth and middle age are noisy times, full of the cacophony of work and family responsibilities. Even holidays that are taken are desperate attempts to escape into a short-lived sanctuary, and even these were often tainted by the sound of the mobile phone ringing at inopportune times. Financially too, there was a dread of being dependent on one's children, and the prospect of facing neglect at the hands of the next generation was all too real.

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

And while these concerns continue for a large part of India, there is a section that has managed to free itself from the onerous responsibility towards others and is able to focus on themselves. There is a strong recognition that after 60, the overhang of mortality feels more palpable, and while medical science has prolonged lifespans, it offers no certainties about who wins the longevity lottery. In any case, the real need that is felt is not necessarily longevity, but rather a kind of agelessness. So, for many people, their 60s and 70s turn out to be the best periods of their lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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A year after 8-yr-old's death, Behala to get model crossing

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Kolkata: It has been exactly a year since eight-year-old Swarnanil Sarkar — a student of class II of Barisha High School at Behala Chowrasta — was mowed down by a truck while he was on his way to appear for an English test. His death had triggered a mob rampage, leading to several vehicles getting damaged and the Diamond Harbour Road Traffic Guard being partially burnt.

Now, the Lalbazar and PWD have plans to develop Behala Chowrasta as a model crossing from this year at a cost of Rs 3 crore. It will have dedicated pedestrian channels, smaller refuge bays and AI-driven traffic signalling. It will ease much of the load on the already-overburdened crossing with at least 40,000 vehicles using both lanes. "We plan a smaller refuge island. We will have dedicated channels for pedestrians on all corners of the crossing (now, it's only towards Barisha School side). PWD also wants proper laning and routes marked in specific colours for merging traffic. The PWD wants to replicate a model it found useful in Maharashtra," said a source.

Ever since that accident, though, Behala Chowrasta has changed forever — the pavements have been cleared of all squatters and shops. Two drop gates were also set up — one in front of Sarkar's school, the other opposite Biren Roy Road West for pedestrians.

Cops are always present at this key crossing. All across the crossing, pedestrian barriers have been put up by PWD making it impossible for jaywalking and Metro has further illuminated the area. Two additional signals have come up on the Taratala-bound flank and autos from Biren Roy Road West have to take two U-turns, from near Vivekananda College for Women and again from DH Road guard before it can get on to the Biren Roy Road West again.

Chowrasta has emerged as one of the success stories for Kolkata Traffic Police like Chingrighata. The boy's mother, Dipika Sarkar, has since taken up a job in New Town. His father, Saroj Sarkar, who ran a grocery store then, now runs an eatery. "I rarely take that road as memories haunt. I just wish that the arrangements that I see now were also in place on that fateful day," she told **TOI.**

However, daily commuters point to several issues that still remain. "The autos have been provided spots for parking. But these are still parked haphazardly. The buses don't follow lanes and autos and slower-moving vehicles obstruct passengers from boarding the buses. The right turn towards Biren Roy Road West and the left turn to Rammohan Roy Road is messy and traffic gets caught up, allowing pedestrians to walk on the road despite all provisions for footpath and pedestrian channels," said Dipankar Sinha, a local resident.

CHOWRASTA

Debobrata Shome

REFUGE BAYS, AI SIGNALS ON CARDS



The class II student was run over by a truck in Behala Chowrasta

What's done?	Model crossing plan
➤ Pedestrian footpaths cleared of all squatters and shops	➤ Lalbazar and PWD plan to develop Behala Chowrasta as a model crossing this year at ₹3 crore
➤ Two special drop gates and pedestrian barriers set up	➤ **Facilities:** Dedicated pedestrian channels, smaller refuge bays and AI-driven traffic signalling
What's not done?	
➤ Haphazard parking of autos	➤ PWD also wants proper laning and routes marked in specific colours for merging traffic
➤ Buses don't follow lanes, other vehicles obstruct boarding buses	

My Times, My Voice: Like this article? SMS MTMVSAN <space> Yes or No to 58888

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MBBS paper leak defers tests in Pondy

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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.

No irregularity in Garbeta plot transfer: State

Kolkata: Bengal govt on Saturday said that there was no irregularity in the transfer of a plot for promoting industry in West Midnapore's Garbeta.

Alapan Bandyopadhyay, chief adviser to CM Mamata Banerjee, said at a press meet in Nabanna that proper norms had been followed in transferring the plot. He said Captain Industries India Pvt Ltd had received 242.4 acres and had paid Rs 30.4 crore for it while Berry Alloys Ltd had paid Rs 12.1 crore for 75.6 acres. TNN

'Creamy layer' not snatching pie, signals unfilled SC/ST posts data

Proportion Of Unfilled Posts Increases With Seniority Level

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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

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



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 unfilled 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 unfilled 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 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 unfilled 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 obfuscated by only talking of the overall representation of Dalits and tribals in govt jobs. There are thousands of unfilled 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.

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

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesofindia.com

Kanpur: 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.

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 the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, endangering the 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 Ankita Sharma said, adding their father was being interrogated.

The student of Class XII has been detained and his father arrested over the crash in Kanpur's Kidwai Nagar area

ACP Babupurwa Amarnath Yadav quoted eyewitnesses as saying the car's speed was around 100kmph.

"Besides the boy at the wheel, there were three other minors in the car, including a boy and two girls. They suffered minor injuries," Yadav said.

CCTV footage — which later went viral — showed the 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 police station incharge Bahadur Singh said.

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

Hmar body calls peace pact with Meiteis 'null and void'

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Guwahati: Hmar Inpui, the top association representing Hmar tribe of Kuki-Chin-Zo ethnic group, declared on Saturday a peace agreement brokered two day ago between Meiteis and tribal group in Manipur's Jiribam as "null and void", saying it was signed "without our prior, informed consent".

Jiribam has a multi-ethnic demography and remained untouched until this summer by the sectarian strife in Manipur that erupted in May 2023. However, conflict engulfed the district bordering Assam following the alleged killing of a 59-year-old man by unidentified people, which led to retaliatory burning of houses belonging to both Meitei and Kuki communities on June 6 this year. Many residents fled and took refuge in Assam because of the flare-up. Tensions reignited in Jiribam on Saturday as miscreants set a house on fire and engaged in gunfire and mortar bombing in Mongbung Seijang village. Manipur govt had described the agreement as a significant step toward peace in the state. However, Hmar Inpui rejected the agreement.

Giri abuses forest ranger over Tajpur anti-encroachment drive

Suman Mandal | TNN

Contai (East Midnapore): Bengal minister of state for correctional homes Akhil Giri landed in a fresh controversy on Saturday after he launched a volley of verbal abuses on a state forest ranger, calling her "beyadob" (discourteous) and a "janowar" (beast). Giri also told the officer how to behave. "A state employee should talk with his/her heads bowed down," he screamed.

Manisha Shaw, the 36-year-old officer, earned the minister's wrath for refuting local allegations of highhandedness after an anti-encroachment drive on forest land on the Tajpur coastline.

Trinamool ticked off Giri for his "condemnable and undesirable" comments against a lady officer, stressing he should "immediately apologise to the officer in person". Giri blamed the media for "making a mountain out of a molehill".

State forest minister Birbaha Hansda was "extremely upset" at the incident and said she would report it to CM Mamata Banerjee. "Nobody can speak to an on-duty officer in that manner. If he had anything to say he could have called me," she said.


Minister Akhil Giri gestures during his verbal spat with the forest ranger on Saturday

The opposition, particularly BJP, mounted a stinging attack on Giri.

In a 2-minute-16-second video, Giri, who had gone to meet the illegal encroachers whose constructions were demolished, was seen accosting Shaw. Giri was heard saying in the video: "She (the officer) believes she has too much power. We have taken 25 feet here. If you enter this (place), you can never return. You are a govt employee and always speak with your heads bowed down. *Erokom beyadob, janowar ranger asheni* (never has such a discourteous and a beast of a ranger come here). You will understand only when hit by a stick."

Giri added: "You cannot remain for long... you just have seven, eight, 10 days... I know what corruption goes on in the forest department. I will blurt everything out in the state assembly..."

Shaw replied: "Sir, I have nothing personal against either you or them, I am just carrying out my duty."

TMC's former Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh said: "The minister should immediately apologise to the lady officer. This behaviour, the physical demeanour, the words being uttered, choice of language... This is objectionable, condemnable and unacceptable."

Giri only said: "Yes, I had a little heated exchange with the forest officer. Due to the drive, 25-odd people lost their livelihood and shelters."

BJP launched a scathing attack on Giri. Party MLAs Agnimitra Paul and Shankar Ghosh alleged that the incident only proved Giri's misogynist streak. Paul said Giri had even disrespected President Droupadi Murmu.

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Dismissed police inspector Sachin Waze, currently in jail in a murder case, has taken the name of NCP (SP) functionary Jayant Patil in the case of former state home minister Anil Deshmukh using Waze to extort money from orchestra bars.

Waze said that in a letter addressed to BJP neta and state home minister Devendra Fadnavis, he has mentioned Patil's name. Speaking to the media in Nagpur, Fadnavis said, "I have not read Waze's letter. I learned about it through media reports. If Waze indeed sent such a letter, its authenticity will be verified, and an investigation will follow." 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."

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




FRESH TROUBLE: (Clockwise from Left) Sachin Waze, Devendra Fadnavis and Anil Deshmukh

In 2021, during the tenure of the MVA govt led by Uddhav Thackeray, the then Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh alleged that then home minister Anil Deshmukh had asked Waze to collect Rs 100 crore from orchestra bars in Mumbai for him. Singh made the allegation after Deshmukh shunted him from the police commissioner's post following the Antilia bomb scare and 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. "The high court observed that Waze, involved in murder, is of a criminal disposition and his statements cannot be relied upon," Deshmukh asserted, questioning Fadnavis's judgment in using Waze's claims against him. The former home minister went on to accuse Fadnavis of orchestrating the plot in retaliation for his recent exposé.

In Nashik, BJP leader Girish Mahajan asked Deshmukh to reveal what evidence he had in a pen drive (Deshmukh had claimed he had proof of what Fadnavis was up to). "We had a pen drive that we exhibited in the state assembly. Now if you (Deshmukh) have anything, then reveal it," Mahajan challenged. Mahajan further claimed that Deshmukh had tried to frame him in a case by exerting pressure on the then SP of Jalgaon. "I met Deshmukh to ascertain the reasons but to no avail," said Mahajan.

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

Pathikrit Chakraborty & Arshad Afzaal Khan | TNN

Lucknow/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.



The action followed a complaint from the family of an underage girl of the SC Nishad community that she was being repeatedly raped by Moeed and his employee Raju since mid-May, making her pregnant. Cops have filed a case under 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," SSP Nayyar said.

The survivor, who is 10-week pregnant, is set to undergo an abortion with the consent of her parents and medical experts. The 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.

Prasad demanded a DNA test to nail the culprit and requested not to politicise the crime. While SP chief Akhilesh reiterated the demand for a DNA test, BSP supremo Mayawati questioned the motive. "How many DNA tests were done in such cases when SP was in office?" she asked.

HC raps teacher for corporal punishment as kid ends life

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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 petition 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, as she taught only Class IV students.

India to equal US per capita income in 75 yrs: WB study

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.

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 classifies 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 avoid or 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 more sophisticated mix of policies. Low-income countries can focus solely on policies designed to increase investment — the '1i' 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.

Dalit cop's death puts K'taka MLA at centre of row

Mouneshwar Sonnad | TNN

Kalaburagi: A Dalit SI's death under mysterious circumstances in Karnataka's Kalaburagi late Friday has triggered controversy, with his family alleging cash-for-transfer demands and mental harassment by Congress MLA Channareddy Patil Tunnur and son Pampanagouda (Sunny).

An FIR was registered against the MLA and his son on charges of intentional insult with an intent to provoke breach of peace, abetment of suicide and joint criminal liability in connection with the death of Parashurama (35). This followed a complaint by Parashurama's wife Shwetha. The family said Parashurama paid Rs 30 lakh for posting at Yadgir city PS to the MLA but was transferred before completing a year.

The death took a political turn BJP and JDS slamming the Siddaramaiah-led Congress govt for pushing officers towards suicide.

In her FIR, Shwetha alleged the MLA and his son demanded an additional Rs 30 lakh to allow her husband to continue at Yadgir. When Parashurama failed to meet their demand, he was transferred on July 30.

Maintenance is woman's absolute right: HC

Ahmedabad: In a significant order on a married woman's right to maintenance, Gujarat HC has ruled that if the husband is healthy and able-bodied, bald excuses — such as his responsibility of maintaining other family members — are unacceptable in law as a wife's right to maintenance is absolute unless disqualified. Justice DA Joshi dismissed a petition by a man, directing him to pay Rs 10,000 monthly maintenance to his wife, who has lived separately since 2009. HC said once she leaves her matrimonial home, the only relief law can provide is to give monetary comfort. TNN



BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - White Topping Division, Room No. 106, 1st Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI/WT/TEND/01/2024-25 **Date: 01-08-2024**

CORRIGENDUM-2 (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Ref. No: EE/RI/WT/TEND/01/2024-25 Dated: 22-07-2024 has been notified in leading papers on 23-07-2024 and for the said above tender notification **Corrigendum-1 Dated: 26-07-2024 is published on 27-07-2024.**

Due to technical reasons, downloading of tender documents and Last Date for Bid Submission the following correction may be incorporated.

As notified in Corrigendum-1	To be Read as
Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK KPP Portal from 01-08-2024, 17.30 onwards	Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK KPP Portal **from 07-08-2024, 17.30 onwards**
Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 07-08-2024, 16.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure)	Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **14-08-2024, 16.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure)**
Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on 13-08-2024 upto 16.00 Hours.	Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **20-08-2024 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer - White Topping Division on 14-08-2024 at 16.30 Hours.	Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer - White Topping Division on 21-08-2024 at 16.30 Hours.**

Note: All other terms and conditions mentioned in earlier notification remains unaltered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure - White Topping Division, BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD-West Zone
BBMP, 9th Floor, 4th Block,
Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 011.

No: EE/SWD/WZ/TEND/03/2023-24 **Date: 02.08.2024**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, SWD-West Zone, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.(Standard Tender Document-KW4)

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Reconstrution of Delapidated RCC Bridge and Road across V-100 Connecting Vijayanagar Pipe Line Road to Mysore Road in Padharayanapura & RCC Box Culvert of Various Vent Sizes Wherever damaged in Chamarajpete Consitituency in West Zone. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 959.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹.14.50 Lakhs**
2.	Reconstrution of RCC Box Drain, U Shape Drain and Construction of Impounding Reservoir in Police Quarters of Chamarjpete Consitituency in West Zone. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 878.66 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹.13.20 Lakhs**
3.	Remodelling of SSM Drain to RCC Box Drain and Construction of Culverts to Azad Nagar Cottonpete Ramachandre Agrahara & Surrounding cross Roads from 1st Main to 5th Main Chamarjpete Consitituency in West Zone. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 976.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹.14.65 Lakhs**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting is on **09.08.2024** at **4:30** pm.in the Office of the Chief Engineer, SWD, BBMP, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex , Jayanagara 4th Block, Bangalore-560011 (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is on **17.08.2024** upto **5:30 pm.** (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **19.08.2024** at**10:30** am (4) Opening of the Financial bid: will be intimated to the bidders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
SWD West Zone

North Eastern Railway

Tender Notice No. 10 Date 02.08.2024

Website : www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in E-mail : cos@ner.railnet.gov.in

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012 and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Item No.	Tender Number	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from
1.	22231190A	02.09.24	Rubber Pad for Primary Suspension for etc.	MCF, ICF, RCF
2.	26230517	02.09.24	Decorative Thermosetting Synthetic Resi etc.	ICF
3.	26245039	02.09.24	Manufacture and Supply of Metal Liner 60 etc.	--
4.	26245034	02.09.24	Manufacture and Supply of 6.2 mm thick C. etc.	RDSO
5.	22241338	29.08.24	Longitudinal Beam for under frame to ICF etc.	--
6.	24240982	30.08.24	MEMU Item - Metallised Carbon Strips etc.	--
7.	30231217	28.08.24	Portable emergency lighting equipment etc.	--
8.	22231106B	26.08.24	Yaw Damper for FIAT type bogies to RDSO etc.	RDSO
9.	29225007D	26.08.24	Semi Assembled EPM-143 mm etc.	RDSO
10.	22231448A	26.08.24	Side panel sheet for corrasion repair IC etc.	--
11.	22241073	26.08.24	Set of UIC Type Rubber Vestibule Compone etc.	MCF, RCF, ICF
12.	22241921	26.08.24	Non Asbestos Based K Type High Friction etc.	ICF
13.	30231221B	26.08.24	Sealed maintenance free valve regulated etc.	--
14.	22242227	26.08.24	Must Change Item For Brake Caliper etc.	--
15.	30241143	26.08.24	"4.5 KW, 110 Volt Brushless Alterator etc.	--
16.	22231362	26.08.24	Sealed Window Glass Unit (for wider wind etc.	--
17.	22230797	26.08.24	Injection Moulded High Performance Polym etc.	ICF
18.	22241097A	21.08.24	Non Asbestos based organic Brake Pad 400 etc.	RDSO
19.	24240338B	19.08.24	Set of Axle box complete without Roller etc.	CLW
20.	22241160	19.08.24	Axle box Pivot bush for FIAT bogies to A etc.	MCF, ICF, RCF
21.	26245064	26.08.24	Manufacture and Supply of CMS Xing 52 Kg. etc.	RDSO
22.	26245010A	26.08.24	Manufacture and supply of New PSC wider etc.	RDSO
23.	26241161	26.08.24	Door Chainless cotter short to IRS etc.	--
24.	22230372	28.08.24	Step Sheet (ICF) to N. E. Rly./ GKPS etc.	--
25.	22241511	28.08.24	Dustbin assembly (Complete) to ICF etc.	--
26.	26245062	26.08.24	Manufacture and supply of Pre-stressed etc.	RDSO
27.	26245063	26.08.24	Manufacture and supply of PSC sleeper etc.	RDSO

CPRO/S-47 **Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur**

Never travel on roof and foot boards

CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS & BANDHAN EXPRESS

As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, **13107 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express** (JCO 04.08.2024) & **13108 Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express** (JCO 05.08.2024) and **13129 Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express** (JCO 04.08.2024) & **13130 Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express** (JCO 04.08.2024) will remain **cancelled**. Inconvenience to be caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES

DATE : 04.08.2024

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Through e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana only)

Directorate of Industries (DoI) invites RFP through e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana from reputed consultancy organizations for setting up of State Programme Implementation Unit (SPIU) under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) of Government of India.

1. A) Cost of RFP Document: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) only through DD in favor of Director of Industries payable at Hyderabad.
   B) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.15.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Only) The amount may be paid through DD/ BG respectively in favor of Director of Industries payable at Hyderabad.
2. RFP can be viewed and downloaded from Website: **https://tender.telangana.gov.in,** Tender ID: 533094 on 04.08.2024 from 11:00 A.M onwards.
3. Last Date & Time for submission of proposals online: 20.08.2024 By 5:00 PM.
4. DoI reserves the right to cancel this notification without assigning any reason whatsoever.
5. For Further information contact Joint Director at **9652332103.**

DIPR RO No : 299-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 **Sd/- Director of Industries.**

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/66/08/24-25 Dated: 02-08-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Tender No. KT245315

Closing/Opening date: 02-09-2024

Brief Description: Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 132kV/27kV, 21.6/30.24 MVA, ONAN/ONAF single phase traction power transformer along with all accessories required for its commissioning as per packing list and as per RDSO's Specification No. TI/SPC/PSI/TRNPWR/3201 effective from 01-07-2021 Make: ABB, EMCO, Aditya & CG or similar (Warranty Period: Upto 30 months from the date of supply or 24 months from the date of commissioning whichever shall be sooner). **Consignee:-** DEE/TRD/Katihar, NFR. **Qty:** 01 Set.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website **(www.ireps.gov.in).** Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In Case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. CMM/New Jalpaiguri

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. EPC-PSI-2x25kV-SR-02

For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Electrical Engineer, Projects, Southern Railway, Chennai -03, invites e-tenders for the following EPC works. The tenders shall be submitted online up to **15.00 hrs on 16.09.2024** through website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected. Bidders are requested to go through the details such as pre-bid conference, submission of original documents, Bid security etc in the attached RFP document. EMD and Tender forms cost (TFC) are to be paid on line through IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) and no manual payments will be accepted for these tenders.

Tender No.	**EPC-PSI-2x25kV-SR-02**
Name of work	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Traction Sub Stations (Scott-Connected) inclusive of Power Quality Compensating Equipment with associated Switching Posts (SP/SSP) for 2x25 kV AT feeding system and SCADA in Arakkonam Jn - Jolarpettai Jn(AJJ-JTJ) Section of Chennai Division of Southern Railway in connection with Mission 3000MT Loading Target.

Appx. Cash value (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Period of Completion in Months
144,81,31,043/-	73,90,700/-	540 Days

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website www.ireps.gov.in and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

Chief Electrical Engineer/Projects/Chennai – 600 003

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No : JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-I/2024-25/D-50 Dated : 02.08.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-I/09/2024-25

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works :-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	JDA2425WSOB00200	235.00	O & M STP	26.08.2024
2.	JDA2425WLOB00215	666.00	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed project report (DPR) for "Engineering and Architectural Consultancy for designing of Elevated Road & Underpass	24.08.2024

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

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-I

Raj.Samwad/C/24/3287

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:

1. 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.
2. English should be one of the compulsory subject in 12th level and have passed the subject.
3. There is No Age bar.
4. 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.nchm.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

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.

Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujrada, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Letter No: 27P/PPP/12/2022/19883 Dated: 02.08.2024

Government of Uttarakhand Short Re E-tender Notice

1. 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.
2. Date and time of e-publishing of Tender - **06.08.2024 at 14:00 PM.**
3. Closing date of online submission of Tender - **21.08.2024, till 14:00 PM.**
4. Opening date of technical bid Tender - **21.08.2024, at 15:00 PM.**
5. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in.**
6. **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. Gujrara, Sahastradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Additional Director (PPP)

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora

Near Vikas Bhawan, Pandeykhola, Almora, Distt-Almora, (Uttarakhand-263601)

e-mail-principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com,
Website http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org & Mob.No. +91 9456305966

Letter No.:- 86/G.M.C.A./G-1/Advertisement Dated:- 03 August, 2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

सोबन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा से सम्बद्ध गो0 ति0रा0 बेस चिकित्सालय, अल्मोड़ा हेतु 02 बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित उपकरण की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा की सूचना बिड डॉक्यूमेंट एवं विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट uktenders.gov.in पर निम्नानुसार उपलब्ध है:-

क्र. सं.	वस्तु सामग्री का नाम	बिड डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	बिड ऑनलाइन खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
1	Fully Automated Immunohistochemistry Instrument	03.08.2024 at 05.00 PM (IST)	19.08.2024 at 04.00 PM (IST)

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य संशोधन/कॉरिजेन्डम एवं निरस्तीकरण सूचना वेबसाइट uktenders.gov.in पर ही उपलब्ध होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिये कृपया http://uktender.gov.in पर लॉग इन करें।

Principal
SSJGIMSR, Almora

KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY

Cancer Research & Training Centre
Govt. of Karnataka Autonomous Institution
(Regional Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment
Member of International Union Against Cancer)
Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560 029. Phone: 91-80-26560722 / 26560723 / 66697999 e-mail: kidwai@nic.in | directorkidwai01@gmail.com

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 KTPP 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 Fluroscopy Machine & Computer Radiography (CR) with Cassettee 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

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1

The pre-bid clarifications of the E-Tender for "Supply, Erection and Testing & commissioning of 40 MVA 132/33 KV Transformers with NIFPES system and dismantling work at 132 KV Substation Simli (Karanprayag)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/ C&P-II/SS-04/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website and the last date of submission of the e-tender is extended upto **16.08.2024 15:30** Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU4_72754_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)

RO No. 1400/HOPU/PTCUL Dated 03.08.2024

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice Date:02.08.2024

Sr. DEN/CO/WCR, Bhopal acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 15.30 hours on the dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and details information regarding tender, is available on the website http://www.ireps.gov.in. NIT can also be seen on the notice board of DRM (W)/WCR/Bhopal office. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction, in these tenders, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date and copy of corrigendum will be placed on Notice Board of this office, which may be seen upto the date of tender opening. Tenderers are requested to offer their rates and submit tenders according to the provisions of GST ACT 2017. **NIT No.:** 24-25-S-13-48, **Date:** 29.07.2024, **Name of work including Location:** A) Provision of 4 units RB-IV and 2 units RB-II quarters on replacement account at Itarsi passenger yeard including Electrical work. B) DEN/South/Bhopal section - Improvement to Road surface and gate lodges and rehabilitation of mechanical boom barriers at LC No. 195, 196, 197, 198, 202, 204, 208, 213, 216, 218, 223 in Khandwa-Itarsi section, LC No. 225 in Itarsi-Nagpur section and LC No. 226, 228, 230 in Itarsi-Bhopal section., **Published cost of tender Rs.:** 23495336, **Earnest Money:** 267500, **Completion period:** 18 months., **Last date for submitting tender:** 20.08.2024, **NIT No.:** 24-25-S-14-49, **Date:** 30.07.2024, **Name of work including Location:** Provision of Precast Boundary Wall under ADEN/M/Itarsi and ADEN/M/Harda in Itarsi-Khandwa section, **Published cost of tender Rs.:** 249540342, **Earnest Money:** 1397700, **Completion period:** 24 months., **Last date for submitting tender:** 21.08.2024, **NIT No.:** 24-25-HQ-10, **Date:** 02.08.2024, **Name of work including Location:** Maintenance of Lawn/Children Park/Lawn of Habibganj Residential colony/Type V colony/DRM office/ORH etc. for 2 years in ADEN(Works) Bhopal, **Published cost of tender Rs.:** 4998643, **Earnest Money:** 100000, **Completion period:** 24 months., **Last date for submitting tender:** 23.08.2024.

DRM (W), WCR, Bhopal

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/SMD/NIeT-13 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024_PHED_724960_1-20 for O&M of P/M at different PH of different PWSS of Different Blocks in S 24 Pgs district under SMD, PHE Dte. Detail will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 26.08.2024 upto 14.00 Hrs. Sd/- Exe. Engineer, SMD, PHE Dte.

ICA-T13257(3)/2024

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, East Central Railway, Gomoh on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" E-tender from the eligible and experienced agencies or contractors for E-Tender No. **GEM/2024/B/5206812.** Particulars are as under:

1. Name of the work with its location : Hiring of transportation activity for transportation of Railway material/equipment to & from ELS/GMO by suitable truck for two year. Location: Electric Loco Shed, Gomoh. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹1,35,45,086.00 (Rupees One Crore thirty five lakh forty five thousand eighty six only). 3. Earnest Money : ₹2,17,730.00 (Rupees two lakh seventeen thousand seven hundred thirty only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender & closing of bid : From 01.08.2024 up to closing of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 23.08.2024. 5. Website particulars where Tender document is available : GeM website www.gem.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids online through this website only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen : Notice board of Electric Loco Shed, Gomoh.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engg./TRS/ ECR/Gomoh

PR/00822/DHN/ETRS/T/24-25/40

Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation

(A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)

Notice for e-Auction

Ahmedabad-II Region

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

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

People get fed up with long court proceedings: CJI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: Accepting the problem faced by litigants and their frustration due to protracted hearing and delay in justice delivery, CJI **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 Lok Adalat brought to light 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 settlement reflects pre-existing inequalities in society. So as judges we try and say we will not settle it and we'll try and get you a better outcome," the CJI said.

He said Lok Adalat brings justice to the doorsteps of litigants and the system should be institutionalised. "I hope we will institutionalise this process of dispensing justice through Lok Adalat because it's been one of my initiatives that whatever we do as a court must be institutionalised. It shouldn't be that it is just a one-off initiative, which is then forgotten for the future. We must ensure that it becomes part of our processes and systems," he said.

As the Bar also shares the bench with judges in settling the dispute during the Lok Adalat, the CJI said that it was because the lawyers and judges were truly engaged in one endeavour.

He highlighted the importance of involving the Bar in these initiatives to reinforce the message that the legal profession is dedicated to more than just earning a livelihood, but to the broader cause of delivering justice.

Court acquits six in Del riots case

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently acquitted six people, who were accused of the 2020 Delhi riots. They included Hashim Ali, Abu Bakar, Mohammad Ajeej, Rashid Ali, Nazmuddin and Mohammad Danish. The court of additional sessions judge Pulastya Pramachala was hearing a case against the six men who were accused of looting and torching a house in Shiv Vihar in Feb 2020. A complaint regarding setting ablaze a clinic was also clubbed with the case.

The court, in an order dated Aug 2, noted that the investigating officer did not confirm the appearance of any accused in the evidence (video clips). "No witness is there to identify the accused in the videos... cannot establish that accused persons are appearing in videos," the court said. TNN

ADVERTORIAL

DEAR WEEKLY LOTTERY

₹1 CRORE WON BY NADIA RESIDENT



Smt. SOUMI SEN from NADIA, WEST BENGAL has won Rs. 1 Crore as first prize in Dear Weekly Lottery in the draw held on **05.06.2024.** Her winning ticket number is **81D 21015.** She has submitted her prize-winning ticket along with the prize claim form to the Nodal Officer, Nagaland State Lotteries located at Kolkata. "It was a delightful moment for me and to my family members when we hear the good news of winning One Crore rupees of prize money from Dear Lottery. One Crore rupees means so many things for people like me as we have not even think of this much of huge sum in our life," said the winner.

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

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

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.

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

Sources said the 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 to fight the narco-terror sponsored by Pakistan ISI, chose to be collaborators and moles.

Constables Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Khalid Hussain Shah and Rehmat Shah were part of an infamous trio that carefully created a drug syndicate in collaboration with narcotics traders based in Pakistan. Farooq used his cover as a police personnel to act as a conduit for supplying smuggled narcotics from across the border to Srinagar, Budgam and its peripheral satellite areas. He was exposed when Rahmat Shah was arrested with around 806 grams of brown sugar on the way to Kupwara from Karnah. On investigation, Rahmat spilled the beans on associates Farooq and Khalid.

Hyd blasts death row convict acquitted in '10 Delhi terror case

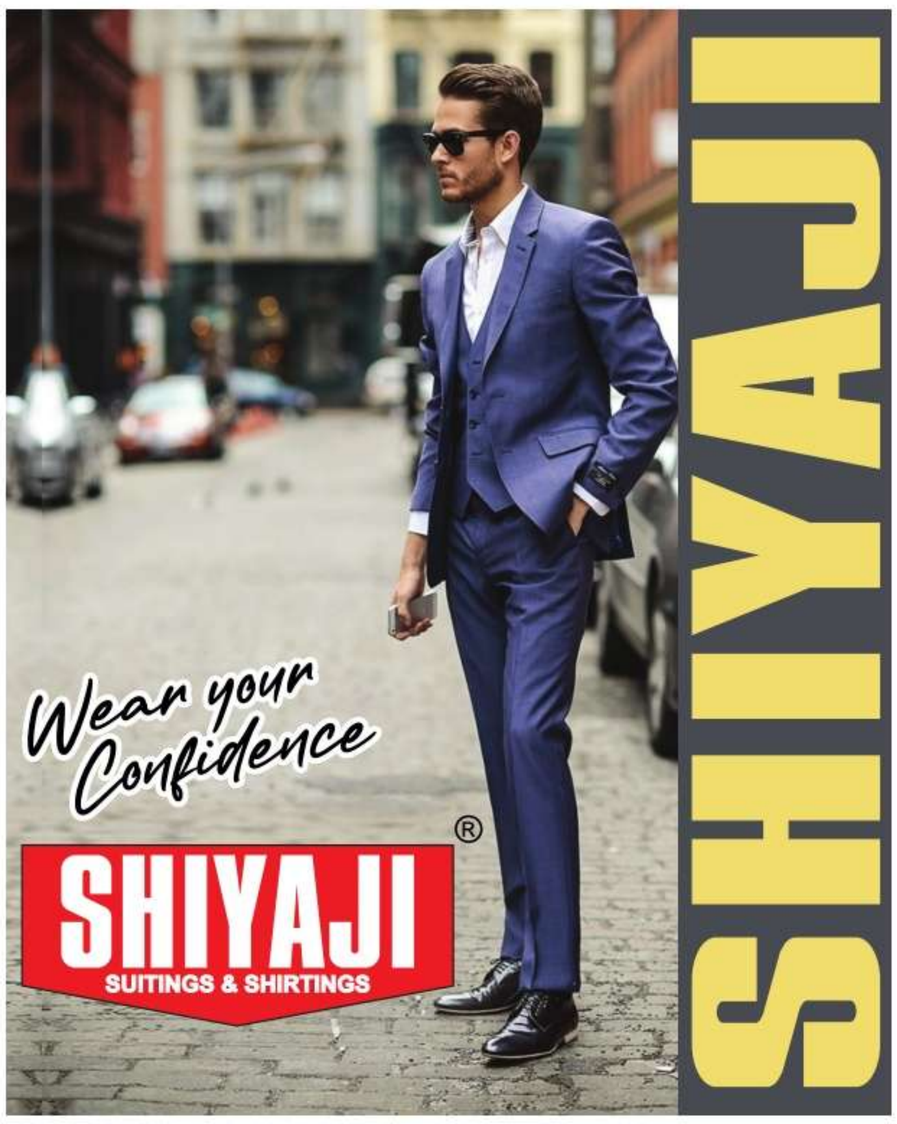
Rebecca.Samervel
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A sessions court on Friday acquitted a 36-year-old suspected Indian Mujahideen operative from Pune who was accused of sending a terror email after the Sept 2010 firing and blast outside Jama Masjid in Delhi, which left two foreign nationals injured.

But, Ajaz Saeed Shaikh, who has been in jail since 2015, will not be released as he was sentenced to death on multiple counts in 2016 for the Hyderabad twin blasts of 2013 that claimed 18 lives. He will continue to face trial in the Mumbai 2011 triple blasts case.

In the terror email case, Shaikh was charged under the stringent UAPA and offences under IT Act and IPC.

A terror email was allegedly sent by Indian Mujahideen, claiming responsibility for the attack outside Jama Masjid on Sept 19, 2010. It was alleged that Shaikh and Mohsin Chaudhari, had sent the email that day from a cellphone . The prosecution said Shaikh and other accused were part of a gang that conspired to strike terror among people with an intention to threaten India's unity, integrity, security and sovereignty by sending emails to media houses claiming responsibility for the attack.



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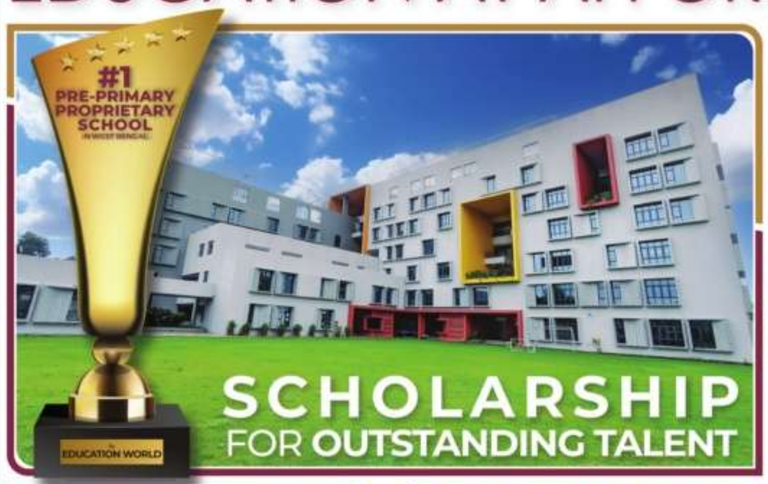
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Sub: Premises No. 1/3, Mahendra Roy Lane, Kolkata – 700046
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THIS IS FOR INFORMATION TO ALL THAT in a proceeding before the Learned Thika Controller under the provisions of West Bengal Thika Tenancy (Acquisition & Regulation) Act, 2001 being Misc. Case No. 38 of 2024 regarding Premises No. 1/3, Mahendra Roy Lane, Kolkata – 700046 the matter was heard at length on 01.08.2024 and the Learned Thika Controller, by an order dated 01.08.2024, has directed Mr. Uttam Kumar Das not to induct any third party in the subject premises and also, not to allow any further construction in the subject premises. The Officer-in-charge, Tangra Thika Controller Office, has been directed to see that the order of the Learned Thika Controller is complied with.

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Small farmers biggest pillar of food security: PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: PM **Narendra Modi** on Saturday 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. He said agriculture is the core of the country's economic policy and small farmers are the biggest strength of India's food security.

Addressing the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), Modi said India, being a food surplus country today, is committed to global welfare as a 'Vishwa Bandhu', noting that the country's vision for global welfare was put forward on various fora including 'One Earth, One Family and One Future' (at G20), 'Mission LiFE', and 'One Earth, One Health'.

The theme for this year's ICAE is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems" to promote sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges such as climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs and conflicts.

The six-day conference is being held in India after 65 years. Over 1,000 delegates from 75 nations are taking part in the conference.

Referring to 'Krishi Parashar', an almost 2,000-year-old treatise on agriculture based on India's rich heritage, Modi emphasised the longevity of ancient local beliefs and experiences about agriculture and food.

Modi most popular among world netas

PM Narendra Modi has once again emerged as the most popular leader across the world, surpassing US President Joe Biden and UK PM Keir Starmer, according to rankings released by Morning Consult, a global decision intelligence firm that tracks decisions of global leaders. The survey is based on data collected from July 8-14. According to it, Modi ranked number one with an approval rating of 69%, while Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador grabbed the second spot with an approval rating of 63%. Last on the list of 25 leaders is Japan's PM Fumio Kishida, who has an approval rating of 16%. Biden has a 39% approval rating, Starmer 45%, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau 29%, and France President Emmanuel Macron just 20%. TNN

Woman's dad didn't want any action: Cops

▶Continued from P 1

On Friday night, the situation turned violent. The mob broke the house door, vandalised items inside and set it on fire," said an officer. "The woman's father filed a missing complaint when they fled on July 29. He, however, gave in writing that he didn't want any action against Saddam," the officer said.

SSP (Bareilly), Anurag Arya, said: "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 and the woman was sent with her father on Friday. Saddam was detained for questioning. Later, a few anti-social elements vandalised some items at Saddam's house and set a charpoy on fire."

Kanwariya who died in crash 'gives life' to 5

Dehradun: A kanwariya who died after being hit by a car near Roorkee while heading towards Haridwar to fetch Ganga water has saved and transformed five lives through organ donation.

Sachin Khandelwal, 25, from Mahendragarh in Haryana, met with an accident on July 22 and was admitted to AIIMS Rishikesh, where doctors said he had slipped into a coma. He died soon after, reports **Shivani Azad**.

Sachin's family decided to donate his organs. His kidneys, pancreas, and liver were transported to the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, and the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Delhi for transplantation. Additionally, two patients in Uttarakhand regained their sight on Saturday thanks to Sachin's corneas.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts for AYUSH Public Health Programmes. For detail, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
CMOH & Member Secretary
DH&FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N374(2)/2024

SNR GROUP
INDIA'S RENOWNED EDUCATION GROUP
SCHOOL BUILDINGS REQUIRED
SNR GROUP, India's Renowned Educational Group, is looking for suitable premises in HOWRAH, HOOGHLY & NORTH 24 PARGANAS for establishing schools. We are interested in existing CBSE/ICSE BOARD SCHOOLS (30,000-50,000 sq. ft) or those capable of constructing as per norms. Closed Polytechnic and B.ED Colleges are also considered. Share the details & pictures with us.
Contact us : 8336990004
E-mail : trustsnrmemorial@gmail.com | Call : 8336990004



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)
SECRETARY
M.P. Madhyam/115726/2024

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL BENGDUBI
VACANCY FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW (LSB-IV)

S.No.	Post	Subject	Nature of Appointment
(A) TEACHING STAFF			
(i)	PGT	FINE ARTS/ PAINTING	Adhoc basis
(ii)	TGT	PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MATHS, ENGLISH, HINDI, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS, ECONOMICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE	
(iii)	PRT	ART & CRAFT.	
(B) TEACHING/ NON TEACHING ACADEMIC STAFF			
(i)		COUNSELLOR, ACADEMIC COUNSELLOR,	Contractual/ Adhoc basis
(ii)		SPECIAL EDUCATOR.	
(iii)		LAB ATTENDANT (PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY & BIOLOGY)	
(C) NON TEACHING ADM STAFF			
(i) (ii)		LDC, RECEPTIONIST (ONLY FEMALE CANDIDATES)	Contractual/ Adhoc basis
(D) COACHES			
(i)		SWIMMING COACH	Adhoc basis.

1.Details of vacancies, eligibility criteria and format of application are available on school website"www.apsbengdubi.org'. Interested candidates can download the application form from school website and bring the same duly filled in all respects on the date of interview alongwith two copies of passport size photograph, attested copies of qualification, experience certificate & Demand Draft of Rs. 250/- (in favour of Army Public School Bengdubi) payable at Bengdubi.
2. Interview for the above vacancies will be held on 10 AUG 2024 at APS Bengdubi. No candidates will be entertained after 0900hrs on the date of interview.
3. Age limit not exceed 40yrs in respect of candidates who do not have any teaching/work experience. Candidates between 40 to 57 years should have minimum teaching/work experience of 05 years in appropriate category
4 A written test for language teachers (English & Hindi), non-teaching adm staff and computer literacy test for all candidates will be held at APS Bengdubi on the date of interview.
5. Salary shall be as per School norms.
6. School management (SAMC) has the right to cancel any post/all the posts without assigning any reason.
7. For further details please see our website www.apsbengdubi.org & contact School Office 0353- 2480238 & 2480547 (Army No through Military Exchange Extn 6375).

प्रायोगिक सूक्ष्मतरंग इलेक्ट्रॉनिकअभियांत्रिकी 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
Advt. 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 6G 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 & InformationTechnology (MeitY), Govt. of India. The 6G: 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 6G 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 6G 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

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Himalayan Tranquility (5N/6D) Every Saturday Rs. 25,450 onwards per person*
Puri Jagannath Dham Yatra (3N/4D) Every Saturday Rs. 19,690 onwards per person*
Lord Balaji Darshan (3N/4D) Every Thursday Rs. 18,450 onwards per person*
Exotic Sikkim (5N/6D) Every Saturday Rs. 33,250 onwards per person*
Ever Green Himachal (7N/8D) Every Tuesday Rs. 23,750 onwards per person*
Wild Dooars with Kalimpong (5N/6D) Every Saturday Rs. 28,250 onwards per person*
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Change of Name

I, Mahadeb Mayra, father of Gopal Mayra (No- 14438124H Rank HAV (OPR) unit 620 Sata Bty C/o - 99 APO) have changed my DOB from 01-07-1953 to 07-10-1955 vide an Affidavit before the Notary Public at Baruipur, Kolkata-144 as the DOB was wrongly printed in my Son's Service Documents. Henceforth the original DOB will be granted as 07-10-1955.

Change of Name

I, Mangala Moyra Mother of Gopal Mayra (No- 14438124H Rank HAV (OPR) unit 620 Sata Bty C/o - 99 APO) have changed my DOB from 01-07-1965 to 04-05-1964 and name MONGOLA MAYRA to MANGALA MOYRA vide an Affidavit before the Notary Public at Baruipur, Kolkata-144 as the DOB and my name was wrongly printed in my Son's Service Documents. Henceforth the original DOB will be granted as 04-05-1964 and name will be MANGALA MOYRA.

IA GA No. 1 of 2023
PLA No. 320 of 2022
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction
In the Goods of: Biswanath Sarkar, son of Late Prasaddas Sarkar, ordinarily resided at 26B, Shyamananda Road, Police Station Bhowanipore, South 24 Parganas, -Kolkata 700025, West Bengal, a Hindu inhabitant deceased.
To,
Mithu Saha W/o. Dilip Kumar Saha 26, Bikramgarh Kolkata 700025
Madam,
If you, as mentioned above, are claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased abovenamed are hereby cited to come within 6 (Six) weeks from the date of publication and to show cause as to why Probate of the last Will and Testament dated 13th day of December, 1999 of the deceased abovenamed should not be granted by this Court unto Sukalyan Sarkar, son of late Biswanath Sarkar, residing at 26B, Shyamananda Road, Police Station - Bhowanipore, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata -700025, West Bengal being one of the executor under the last Will and Testament of the deceased under pain and contempt of the Law and further to do and receive as to Law and Justice shall appertain and what you shall do herein you shall duly certify with these presents to our said Justices. You are hereby informed that free legal services from the High Court Legal Services Committee, as per eligibility criteria, is available to you, and in case. you are eligible and desire to avail of the free legal services, you may contact the above Legal Services Committee.
Witness: Mr. T.S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice at Calcutta aforesaid, the 26th day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty three.
A.Chowdhury
Registrar, 18/10/2023.
Anirban Pramanick, Advocate
10, Old Post Office Street,
Room No. 110, Kolkata-700001

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Durgapur Municipal Corporation
City Centre, Durgapur - 713216, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

1) Name of the Work: Installation of 2 No. Mark II Tubewell by Rig Boring System at DVC More Najurul Pally Bastee within Ward No.- 20, under DMC.
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/WS/COMM/NIT-85/24-25
Tender ID : 2024_MAD_727927_1 • Estimated Amount : 5,97,426/-
Last Date : 12th August 2024, up to 5:00 pm
For details : **wbtenders.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Durgapur Municipal Corporation

O-166

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online – RWCCESNG-07 of 2024-25, Letter No 1793 /Dtd. 03/08/2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

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

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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
OIPR-25133/11/0012/24-25

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-1012024

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 DDUGJY program in Odisha along with Comprehensive Maintenance for Five Years.

The revised Schedule of events is as mentioned bellow;

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-cdrn-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-04065/11/0016/24-25

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 – 2614, dated 19.06.2024; for Repair & Revival of defunct Solar Home Lighting System installed under DDUGJY 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**
OIPR-04065/11/0018/24-25

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 : 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 bellow;

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/foy-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-04065/11/0017/24-25

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, P.W.D, North 24 Prgs Electrical Division invite online e-Tender for the work of :- "Upkeepment of Electrical and allied installation with provision of materials and manpower at Dhrubashram,Aridaha with allied area for the year 2024-2025 - AMC of E.I. work for the period of One year." NIT No: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIQ-150/24-25 Tender id: 2024_WBPWD_727013_1 Pre Bid Meeting Date: 07/08/2024 Bid Submission start date (Online): 08/08/2024 Bid Submission End date (Online): 23/08/2024 Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION. ICA-T13250(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

NIQ Reference No: WBPW(R)D/ EE/ SMD/NIQ-02/2024-25 Date:- 02.08.2024 e-Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_726939_1 Supply of Sukhani for operation of mechanically propelled vessel in inland waterways in West Bengal for transhipment of goods carrying trucks and other vehicles across inland waterways. Bid submission start date (online) 07.08.2024 from 10.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 21.08.2024 upto 11.50 A.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in e-tender portal only. Details of N.I.Q. and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Southern Mechanical Division, P.W. (Roads) Directorate. ICA-T13240(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD 1ST CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
TIME EXTENSION

Tenders from bonafide bidders as per GO are invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, Berhampore Division No.II e-NIT No. 04 of 2024-25 Tender for the Work :- Sinking 2 nos. tube well (200 mm X 150 mm) dia. and supply & installation of 7.5 HP submersible pump motor set with pump room in different location at the compound of Berhampore Mental Hospital during the year 2024-2025. Estimated Amount put to Tender :- Rs. 21,24,773.00 Tender ID : 2024_PWD_712150_1

Description	Please Read	Instead of	Tender ID
Bid proposal Submission end date (On line)	10.08.2024 (Up to 2.00 P.M)	31.07.2024 (Up to 2.00 P.M)	2024_PWD_712150_1
Bid opening date for Technical bid (Online)	12.08.2024 (At 2.30 P.M)	02.08.2024 (At 2.30 P.M)	

Details may be obtained from office during working hours and also from http://www.wbpwd.gov.in & http://wbtenders.gov.in Extended bid submission end date : 10.08.2024 upto 2.00 PM (IST). N.B.-Any corrigendum/ and addendum, if issued for this eNIT will be published in Online mode only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Berhampore Division No.II ICA- T13229(3)/2024

WESTERN RAILWAY
ENGAGING EXAM CONDUCTING AGENCY TO CONDUCT COMPUTER BASED TESTS

Chairman (RRC), Railway Recruitment Cell, Western Railway, invites E-tender for Engaging Exam Conducting Agency to conduct Computer Based Tests and all other related services like preparation of question papers, processing of Results and Panel etc for Railway Recruitment Cell, Western Railway in connection with recruitment for various posts notified in GDCE Notifications 2021&2023 and future GDCE for the period of 36 months i.e. from 2024 to 2027. **1). Name of Work:** Engaging Exam Conducting Agency to conduct Computer Based Tests and all other related services like preparation of question papers, processing of Results and Panel etc for Railway Recruitment Cell Western Railway in connection with recruitment for various posts notified in GDCE Notifications of 2021&2023 and future GDCE for the period of 36 months i.e. from 2024 to 2027. **2). Approx. cost of Work:** ₹ 3,24,00,000/- (Inclusive of GST). **3). Address of the office publishing E-tender:** Railway Recruitment Cell, Western Railway Parcel Depot, Alibhai Premji Marg,Grant Road(E), Mumbai - 400 007. **4). Cost of Tender Form:** 10,000/- **5). Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** 3,12,000/- **6). Last date for submission of written queries for clarifications:** 09.08.2024 **7). Date & Time of Pre-bid conference:** 15.00 hrs on 14.08.2024 **8). Release of responses and clarifications on pre-bid queries:** 29.08.2024 **9). Last date and time for receipt of proposals in response to TENDER DOCUMENT notice:** 14.00 hrs on 13.09.2024 **10). Time and Date of opening of Technical bids received in response to the TENDER DOCUMENT:** 15.00 hrs on 13.09.2024 **11). Time and Date of opening of Financial proposals received in response to the TENDER DOCUMENT notice:** Will be informed to bidders who secure technical score of 70% and above. **12).** Addressee and Address at which proposal in response to TENDER DOCUMENT notice is to be submitted: **Online (www.ireps.gov.in). Note: - 1.** Tender received after the due date and the specified time (including the extended period, if any) for any reason whatsoever, shall not be entertained. **2.** Tenders by Individuals/Partnership firms/Societies/JV/Consortiums are NOT acceptable against this Tender. **3.** The companies/agencies who have worked as Application Management Agency (AMA) for GDCE Notifications issued in the year 2019-20, 2021-22 & 2023-24 are not eligible to participate in this tender. 0417

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REPAIR OF GRID CONNECTED SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: TSK/Elect/160, Dated: 01-08-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.:** LV-T-14-TSK-876; **Brief Description of Item :** Repair of Grid connected solar Power plants (10Kwp 3 Nos) at New Tinsukia Railway Station and DRM office compound; conversion of existing 10Kw rooftop off-grid solar power system to on-grid solar power system at Furkating station, Tinsukia Station, Ledo Station & Dibrugarh Station GRP Thana. **Tender Value:** ₹17,45,394.64/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹34,900/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **13:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:00** hrs. on **23-08-2024**. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **13:00** hrs. on **22-08-2024** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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PROVISION OF 2 NOS RUB AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. TSK/ Engg/42 of 2024 Dated: 01-08-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 2 Nos RUB at L-Xing No. ST/117 at Km. 430/5-6 and ST/118 at KM 434/3-4 in Simaluguri Jn.-Lakwa section. **Tender Value:** ₹8,46,64,853/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹5,73,300/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00** hrs.of **23-08-2024** & opening at **16.00** hrs. of **23-08-2024**. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto **15.00** hrs. of **23-08-2024** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN This is to notify that the Deed No. 2978 dated 16th August, 1996 registered with the office of the A.D.S.R. Howrah and recorded in book No. I, Volume No. 3705, Being No. 2978 for the year 1996 has been misplaced from the custody of the registered owner. A missing diary being GDE No. 1535 dated 21/06/24 has been already lodged before the Shibpur Police Station in this regard. Anyone if found the said Deed No. 2978 dated 16/08/1996 do hereby requested to return the same to the under signed within 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice, failing which the said Deed No. 2978 dated 16/08/1996 will be considered destroyed and the certified copy of the same will be considered as original.
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1,835 rescued from Kedarnath, 1,000 wait for evacuation

Kautilya.Singh
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PTI



Officials during a rescue operation in Rudraprayag

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 figure includes those rescued via trekking routes or airlifted from various places.

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 transport 75 pilgrims from Cheerbasa near Gaurikund. A total of 1,162 pilgrims reached Sonprayag from Gaurikund through the trekking route. Dhami said, "Despite the formidable challenges, our endeavours to secure the remaining 1,000 individuals are persistently ongoing."

Disaster management department secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said 882 police personnel and workers were actively engaged in the effort. This includes 83 NDRF personnel, 168 SDRF, DDRF and PRD personnel. "Around 150 labourers, employed by the PWD, are diligently working to repair and reopen all the damaged roads," he added.

As per the state govt data, so far 17 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents since May 31, with three fatalities in Tehri, four in Haridwar, six in Dehradun, one in Chamoli and three in Rudraprayag. Rudraprayag DM, Saurabh Gaharwar, told **TOI**: "Cheerbasa helipad is now fully operational, and by afternoon, 75 pilgrims were successfully airlifted."

Meanwhile, an SDRF team was dispatched to a location near the Triyuginarayan temple where around 10 pilgrims are currently stranded, an official said.

'A mammoth rock now sits where our house stood'

Survivor Recalls Horror After Landslide

▶Continued from P 1

PTI



DEVASTATION GROUND ZERO: A search and rescue operation at a landslide-hit area in Wayanad district on Saturday

When Nousheeba walked up to the body along with her daughters Nahla and Thafseena, the volunteer showed them the leg of the body, saying the face cannot be shown as it is badly disfigured. 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 Nousheeba.

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 Mehrin, are missing.

"I was staying in my house, which is close by, as my husband had come on leave a month ago. 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 Nousheeba. "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.

TMC team visits Wayanad; Bengal govt offers to bring stranded labourers home

Times News Network



TMC delegates Saket Gokhale and Sushmita Dev meet the injured at a Wayanad hospital

Kolkata: Bengal govt would bring home 242 migrant labourers from the state who are stuck in Wayanad, if they wished to return.

On Saturday, a Trinamool delegation of Rajya Sabha MPs Saket Gokhale and Sushmita Dev visited the affected in Wayanad's Meppadi and spoke to the inured in the hospital.

Gokhale posted on X: "Firefighting this colossal catastrophe in Wayanad needs huge strength. We met the district collector for a briefing. We assured them of the support of our leader CM Mamata Banerjee."

A distraught Dev later said, "Total devastation... homes, schools, shops have been washed away. Families have been separated, bodies missing. So many were injured. (It is) heartbreaking."

Trinamool, meanwhile, wrote on X: "The Bengal government is ensuring that migrant workers stranded in landslide-hit Wayanad, Kerala receive all the support they need. CM Mamata Banerjee is leading efforts to bring them safely back to Bengal. In their hour of need, we stand united and strong!" The party also said that the delegation of MPs was in Wayanad "to meet the affected families and let them know that we and Bengal are with them."

On Friday, state labour minister Moloy Ghatak said in assembly that all migrant labourers from the state were safe. "We have established contact with 200, and are trying to speak to the rest," he said. If the labourers wished to return, the state would arrange for transportation and look after their well-being, Ghatak added.

The labourers are from Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Darjeeling, West Midnapore, Birbhum and Murshidabad. Over 3 lakh labourers from Bengal work in Kerala.

Odisha chief engr arrested in DA case

Bhubaneswar: Odisha vigilance sleuths on Saturday arrested a chief engineer at the irrigation department in Keonjhar district in a disproportionate assets case for allegedly possessing 85 land plots, reports **Riyan Ramanath**. Pradhan was remanded in judicial custody after his bail plea got rejected.

Besides the 85 plots, vigilance officials found in his possession a five-storeyed building, a market complex, 335gms of gold ornaments, Rs 78 lakh bank deposit and Rs 11.7 lakh cash.

Uddhav's Abdali riposte to Shah's Aurangzeb jibe

Pune: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray called Amit Shah a political descendant of Ahmad Shah Abdali, responding on Saturday to the Union home minister's remarks that the former was leader of "Aurangzeb fan club", reports **Anurag Bende**. Uddhav also alleged that BJP was involved in "Satta jihad" (power jihad).

"Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durani) had invaded India after the Mughal empire weakened following the death of sixth emperor Aurangzeb. Abdali's Afghan army had defeated Marathas in the third battle of Panipat in 1761," Shah had remarked against Uddhav during his visit to Pune.

Uddhav was addressing a party's convention in Pune. TNN

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Himachal flash floods toll rises to nine, 45 still missing

Shimla: With the recovery of a body from Rajban village in Himachal's Mandi, the death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts has increased to nine as rescuers continue to search for about 45 missing people. According to officials, 410 rescuers from teams of the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt with the help of drones. The body of Anamika, 11, was found under a big boulder, which was blasted by rescue teams, officials said. PTI

Bharatanatyam exponent Yamini Krishnamurti dies at 84

Times News Network



Visakhapatnam: Yamini Krishnamurti, a doyenne of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi who straddled the worlds of classical dance and music with equal ease, passed away on Saturday while undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital in New Delhi. She was 84, and had been ailing for some time with age-related health issues.

Born in 1940 at Madanapalle in Annamayya district in Andhra Pradesh to Sanskrit scholar M Krishnamurti, Yamini was not just a leading light of Bharatanatyam, but was also a master of Odissi, popularised Kuchipudi both nationally and internationally, and was a proficient Carnatic musician. She often combined her dance performances with singing.

Yamini was honoured with Padma Shri in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001, and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. She also served as 'Asthana Narthaki' at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. For her contribution to the enrichment of Bharatanatyam, she received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1977.

Yamini began her dance journey at the tender age of five, when she embarked on Bharatanatyam training at Kalakshetra in Chennai (then Madras) under the legendary Rukmini Devi Arundale. She also trained under the late Vidwan Ellappa Pillai of Kancheepuram.

Under the tutelage of renowned gurus, she mastered the intricacies of this dance form, later expanding her repertoire to include Kuchipudi and Odissi.

Her debut performance in 1957 marked the beginning of a stellar career characterised by innovation and artistry. She enthralled audiences worldwide with thousands of performances.

Yamini's unique approach to rhythm and her ability to infuse traditional forms with contemporary interpretations revolutionised Bharatanatyam.

(With inputs from PTI)

'Foreigners opt for living donor transplants'

▶Continued from P 1

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.

The person who gives the organ is called the donor. The person who receives the organ is called the recipient. A living donor can donate kidney (as one kidney is capable of maintaining the body functions), a portion of pancreas (as half of the pancreas is adequate for sustaining pancreatic functions) and part of the liver (as the few segments that are donated will regenerate after a period of time). On the other hand, a deceased donor or person who is declared brain dead can donate multiple organs and tissues including the heart, lungs, liver, kidney, intestines and corneas. Pallavi Kumar of Mohan Foundation, an NGO, said: "Most transplants involving the foreigners are living donor transplants."

Compositions of waqf boards may change too

▶Continued from P 1

TOI has learned that the Bill also proposes changes in the composition of waqf boards and also seeks to repeal some provisions of the current law.

The Wakf Act, 1995 was enacted to regulate 'auqaf' (assets donated and notified as waqf) by a wakif — the person who dedicates a property for any purpose recognised by the Muslim law as pious, religious or charitable.

Earlier, govt had taken note of sweeping powers of state waqf boards to stake claim on any property and also delay in conducting a survey of such property in most states. Govt had also considered the possibility of involving district magistrates in monitoring of waqf properties to prevent misuse of the assets. Sources said the flaws in the appeal process were also under scrutiny.

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TIRUPATI
e-AUCTION TENDER NOTIFICATION
e-Auction for Sale of Press Jelly, Office Sweeping, Old Records etc., 2nd call as-it-is where-it-is condition (without segregation) in TTD Press. For Tender Notice & Details, Please see the Auction ID: **24625**. Roc.No. P2/36/Press/2014. Please log on the website **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://konugolu.ap.gov.in.** For further details contact: **0877-2264292.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 102), Date: 03-08-2024 Sd/- Executive Officer

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
No.PGI-MA-2024/F-010/772 Dated: 30.07.2024
NOTICE
Applications are hereby invited from eligible candidates for appointment of (01) Chief Legal Adviser for initial period of three (03) years at PGIMER, Chandigarh.
The prescribed proforma (Application-cum-consent for Chief Legal Adviser) and detailed information regarding eligibility criteria (essential qualification required), terms and conditions for appointment of Chief Legal Adviser etc. is available on the PGIMER website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. Last date of submission of application is **2nd September, 2024.**
DIRECTOR

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
A – 34, Sector – 62, NOIDA – 201309 Tel: 0120-2590603 / 610 - 612
website: www.nchm.gov.in
Advt. 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.nchm.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

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) 7th CPC	(General) Unreserved

Interested candidates fulfilling the required qualifications and experience may send their applications in **prescribed Performa 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 envelop 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

BIDHANNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Poura Bhavan, FD-415A, Sector-III, Kolkata - 700106
Memo No. : 3607/BMC/GS/2024 Dated : 02.08.2024
Walk-in-Interview
Experienced and qualified candidates, retired from any Government / Semi Government / Govt. Undertaking / ULB or any such Government organization are invited to appear for **Walk-In-Interview** for contractual engagement for 06 months (Six months) with a monthly consolidated remuneration of **Rs.20,000/-** (Twenty Thousand) only in the post of Sanitary Inspector on **21.08.2024** at **11.00 A.M.** & onwards at **5th Floor, Conference Hall of Poura Bhawan, FD-415A, Sec-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700106** with CV and all other necessary documents and testimonials.
Upper Age Limit : 64 Years as on 31.08.2024, **Number of Vacancies :** 04 (four), **Period of Engagement :** 06 (six) months, **Consolidated Remuneration :** Rs. 20,000/- per month. Candidates must bring Pension Payment Order or any other documents related to his / her retirement from any organization as stated above. Retired person with Sanitary Inspectorship Diploma Certificate preferred along with address proof.
For details please visit : **www.bmcwbgov.in**
Sd/-
Commissioner
Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation

BIDHANNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Poura Bhavan, FD-415A, Sector-III, Kolkata - 700106
Memo No. : 3605/BMC/GS/2024 Dated : 02.08.2024
Walk-in-Interview
The office invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement of 05 nos. of Part time Medical Officers for UPHCs of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation under NUHM on contractual basis with the monthly remuneration of **Rs.24,000/-** p.m. through **Walk-in-Interview** which will be held on **21.08.2024** at **1.00 p.m.** & onwards at **5th Floor, Conference Hall of Poura Bhawan, FD-415A, Sec-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700106**. Intending candidates are requested to appear in the Walk-in-Interview along with CV and all other necessary documents and testimonials.
1) Qualification : MBBS from MCI recognized institute with one year compulsory Internship Candidate must be registered under WBMC. Weightage will be given to higher qualification, **2) Number of Vacancy :** 05 (Five), **3) Age limit :** below 67 years, as on 31.08.2024, **4) Period of Engagement :** One Year, **5) Consolidated remuneration :** Rs.24,000/- (Twenty Four Thousand) per month. For details please visit : **www.bmcwbgov.in**
Sd/-
Commissioner
Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation

ALL INDIA PENSION ADALAT - 2024
Eastern Railway Pensioners/ Family Pensioners having pension related grievances such as (1) Non-receipt of Pension/Family Pension, (2) Less payment of Pension/Family Pension, (3) Revision of Pension/Family Pension, (4) Non-receipt of Graded Relief & other Pensionary benefits and (5) Non-transfer of Pension by the Disbursing Agencies from one place to another etc., may submit their applications in the following format **on or before 11.11.2024 to respective E-mail Id or Contact No. (Whatsapp)** as mentioned against each unit for disposal of grievances in the Pension Adalats which are to be held **from 12:00 hrs. onwards on 16.12.2024 (Monday) on physical mode.**
FORMAT OF APPLICATION
(1) Name of the Applicant (Pensioner/Family Pensioner) (BLOCK LETTER):..... **(2)** Name of the Ex-Employee : ..... **(3)** Designation/Department/Station (at the time of retirement/death): ..... **(4)** P.P.O. No. (if available): ..... **(5)** Date of retirement/death : ..... **(6)** Last basic pay and scale of pay/Pay Band & GP/Level at the time of retirement/death : ..... **(7)** Full Address with Mobile No. & Telephone No./E-mail ID: ..... **(8)** Nature of Grievance (full details to be given):..... **(9)** Whether the grievance has been presented in any earlier Pension Adalat, if so, details to be furnished: .....
Signature of the Applicant

Name of Division/ Unit	To Whom application to be made with E-mail Address & Whatsapp Number	Venue
Headquarter Office	Sri Kartik Chandra Das, Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (NG), 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001 Email Id- spongerkol@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002020651	Old Conference Room, Eastern Railway Headquarter, 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata - 700 001
Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah	Divisional Personnel Officer (II), Eastern Railway, Howrah Email Id: dpo2howrah@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002022623	PBRC Hall, Divisional Railway Manager's Building, Howrah
Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah	Sri Ekalabya Chakraborty, Divisional Personnel Officer-II, Eastern Railway, Sealdah Email Id: ekalabyachakraborty@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002021195	Dr. B C Roy Auditorium, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Eastern Railway, Sealdah
Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol	Sri Swapnil Bandhopadhyay, Assistant Personnel Officer-II, Eastern Railway, Asansol Email Id: setterasn2020@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002023623	New Meeting Room, Eastern Railway, Asansol
Divisional Railway Manager, Malda Town	Sri Dalpati Tudu, Assistant Personnel Officer-III, Eastern Railway, Malda Email Id: apoiiimldt@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002024620	Railway Institute, Eastern Railway, Malda
Chief Works Manager, Liluah	Sri Purnendu Shekhar Sinha, Assistant Welfare Officer, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah Email Id: awollher@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002029602	New Meeting Room
Chief Works Manager, Kanchrapara	Sri Dinesh Chandra Tikader, Assistant Welfare Officer, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Email Id: awokpaer@gmail.com Mob No.: 9002027211	Chief Works Manager, Kanchrapara's Meeting Room
Chief Works Manager, Jamalpur	Sri Ashwini Kumar, Assistant Personnel Officer, Eastern Railway, Jamalpur Email Id: awo.erjmp@gmail.com Mob No.: 9771447630	Central Institute, Jamalpur

Issues like appointment on compassionate ground; issues related to Recovery of Penal/Damage Rent due to over retention of quarter etc.; Cases involving purely legal points e.g. Succession etc.; grievances involving policy matters; grievances in relation with sanction of secondary family pensions in favour of unmarried/divorced/widowed daughters, dependent disabled child/siblings, dependent parents etc. are not within the purview of Pension Adalats, hence shall not be entertained. Application format is also available in Personnel Department's Webpage (Homepage) under the website of Eastern Railway **(www.er.indianrailways.gov.in)**
Principal Chief Personnel Officer
EASTERN RAILWAY
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
An Organisation of Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India and ISO 9001: 2015 Certified
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Online Training and Government of India Certificate on
DIGITAL MARKETING
Duration : 1 Month, Fee: Rs.11,800/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
PYTHON Duration : 1 Month, Fee: Rs.11,800/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Prompt Engineering Duration : 3 Days, Fee: Rs.5,900/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **Chat GPT**
All payments are to be made only to the ni-msme account. All course fees are inclusive of GST.
Contact No: 9177666040, 06309121717
040-23633263

Advertisement for Appointment of Senior Consultant (Disaster Management) on contract in UP State Disaster Management Authority
Advertisement No.-03 **Date-02 August, 2024**
Applications are invited for One Post of Senior Consultant (Disaster Management) to be filled on Contract basis through interview in Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority to achieve targets of Sendai Framework Project. Interested Applicants can send their application form on the prescribed format pasting latest passport size photograph along with complete bio data/portfolio, scanned self-attested photocopies of all the certificates to UP SDMA mail ID: **hr.upsdma@gmail.com** till 26 Aug, 2024 by 06:00 pm. Applications received after the last date will not be considered. The format of the application form, educational qualification, experience, deliverables/outcomes & outline of task related to the post and other detailed conditions can be obtained from UP SDMA's website **- upsdma.up.nic.in.**
Additional Chief Executive Officer,
UP State Disaster Management Authority,
Lucknow.

Ministry of Culture Government of India
BIRLA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(A Unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
19A, Gurusaday Road, Kolkata – 700 019
Advertisement No. 02/2024
REQUIRED JUNIOR MENTORS
This Museum intends to engage 'Junior Mentors' on contract basis for one year extendable based on the performance in the following disciplines on a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 37,000/- :

LIFE SCIENCE	– 1 at BITM, Kolkata
PHYSICS / ELECTRONICS	– 1 at BITM, Kolkata
ELECTRONICS	– 1 at NBSC, Siliguri

Last date of receipt of application is **25.08.2024.** For details visit **www.bitm.gov.in.** Interim enquiries will not be entertained.

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WRI&DD. e-NIT

Executive Engineer (A-M) Midnapore (A-M) Division invites e-tender for RE-EXCAVATION LALITASOLE WDS UNDER JALATIRTHA PH-X PROGRAMME 2024-25 under Jhargram District under Midnapore (A-M) Division vide Tender reference no-WBWRDD/EE (AM)MID/ eNIT-25/24-25. Tender ID:-**2024_WRDD_727175_1. Last date of dropping: 20.08.2024 (2.00 pm)** Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http//wbtenders.gov.in for details.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-M)
Midnapore (A-M) Division,
ICA- T13188(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer-I, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PW Dte. invites eNIQ for "Annual Maintenance & Operation of Electrical Installation incl. Lift & D.G. Set in premises of Ramrikdas Haralalka Hospital, IPGME&R-SSKM Hospital, Annex-4 Kolkata for the year of 2024-25-Day to day operation of 2(two) nos. bed-cum-passenger of Lift" vide **Tender ID - 2024_WBPWD_726495_1.** Last date of submissions - 21/08/24 upto 12:00 Noon. All documents can be seen / obtained from the websites https://wbtenders.gov.in/ www.pwdwb.in and office Notice Board.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PW Dte.
ICA-T13212(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD e-TENDER NOTICE

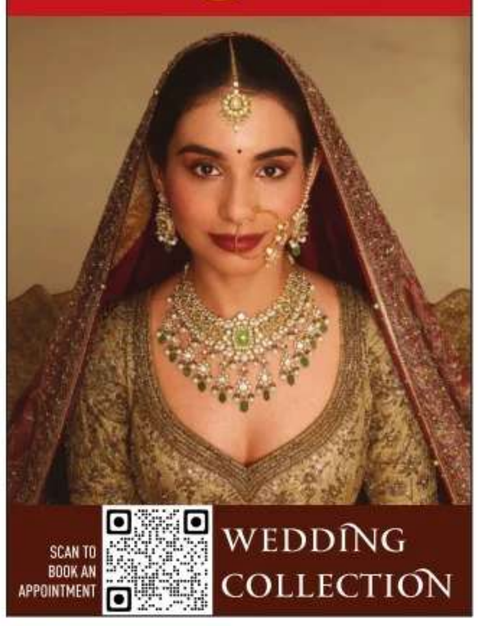
Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata South Division invites e-Quotation for the work of "Engagement of Security Personnel at Kolkata South Sub-Division PWD, Jadavpur Sub-Division PWD, Tollygunge Sub Division PWD and ROB Building, Lake Gardens under Kolkata South Division PWD" e-NIQ No: EE/KSD/PWD/e NIQ-01/2024-25 _2nd call Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_725811_1. Technical & financial bid proposal submission start date (Online) 02.08.2024 from 5.45 P.M. Technical & financial bid proposal submission end date (Online): 23.08.2024 up to 1:00 PM. Details of e-NIQ and other documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kolkata South Division.
ICA-T13196(3)/2024

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AGARWAL-BISA

DELHI bsd H'some, Mnglk Sept'98/6Ft commercial Pilot /33LPA, Garg Gotra, curently posted in B'lore. Seeks B'ful. Edu girl. Call: 9212065430

29/ 5'10 B.Tech- IIT MS Wrkn with google 1 Cr + well est. b'ness fmly Caste No Bar, no dowry rich fmly. # 9826968503, Em: bdmatj@gmail.com

LOOKING for beautiful, professionally qualified and cultured girl for handsome, 38, 5'10", B.Tech. (IIT), MS (USA) boy, living in London, never married, belonging to reputed Agrawal family of professionals from Western U.P. Email: aksharvinayak@gmail.com

BRAHMIN

TELUGU Brahmin, 43, 6'1" CA LLB handsome boy from educated, cultured and affluent family (issueless divorcee). Wkng in a Mumbai based top Private Equity Fund. Seeking an educated bride < 38 yrs from cultured Brahmin Family. WA: 7989061906

B'FUL Edu. bride from status family for Jan 97/5'9" good looking BA LLB from NLU presently wkg as Associate Advocate with a reputed Sr. Advocate Supreme court Father Rtd IAS # 9415104510

PQM for Brahmin boy 32 yrs 6 ft, phd in robotics, PG from world leading university, served as S.R.A in EU & USA university for 5 yrs. currently in India, looking suitable girl from reputed and educated family. # 9993085566

HANDSOME Businessman Boy 29/6'/ MBA(USA) Chandigarh Settled From High Status Family 9417415511,7380200029

MATCH for sept 91/ 5'10" boy Gaur Brahmin mumbai own business contact 9820101342

KAYASTHA

1984 Born,Karan,5' 9",BTech IITD,40+lpa Delhi,Veg. Share biodata -shadee.munger@gmail.com , 6201552582/9900640222

DELHI based Handsome B.Tech. MBA boy.,6'/March 90, wkg. as HR Manager in infrastructure company, Father Retd. Prof. seeks professionally educated girl. Call:7759935358 OR WA 9430402678

MUMBAI based B.Tech, 31 yrs/5'11 Software Engr. wkg MNC 31 LPA. Seeks B,ful & Qfd. Girl. Contact #9930803650 /7900145261

PQM for Saxena 93/5'11" BE. S.S/W Eng./25+L PA/. Wrkg in MNC Bangalore from Lucknow family. M-8765829088 . Ema i l :jitkumsaxena@gmail.com

KHATRI

SM for Kolkata based, Dec. '94. 5'11" Non Manglik, Punjabi Khatri Boy working in Global Hospitality Solution Company. Contact - 8240839134

VAISH

SM4 33/5'9",BE,PSU insurance Asst Mngr. 20LPA.Father Professor, Mother Principal (govt.) Issueless early mutual divorce.9425985641 9407125911

YADAV

YADAV BOY 28/6 B.Tech CS IIIT HYDERABAD SW ENGR MNC 40 LAC PA BANGLARU SEEKS SW/CA/MBA B'FUL M.B EXCUSE MO: 9336852303

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

ALLIANCE invited for handsome, fair, PQ boy of South Delhi based Agarwal financially well off family with progressive & creative outlook/ Kansal/29 Y/5'11/ 14Sep94,1.20PM, Faridabad/ Manglik/MS Chem Engg US-2018, Worked US 3 years, returned India 2021 to join family owned Professional ESG and Envt Consulting firm with worldwide reputation, Annual family income in 8 digits. Looking for PQ/well educated/ DIL/bitiya with progressive outlook & belief in family values and comfortable to be part of our small joint family. Family originally from Western UP. Request families/bitiya comfortable with above may only respond. WA 9810907940

26/5'8" Garg fair B.Tech IITK, MS UCLA, Data Scientist Micron seeks Prof. qlfd. girl parents Dr's. 9415568955 atul.garg.n@gmail.com

NORTH INDIAN

34 yrs 5'11"working in MNC fair manglik Bhatnagar MBA boy noida Mail mrraj4@gmail.com whatsapp 9997179501

BY PROFESSION

ENGINEERS

✔ **MS** from Paris B.Tech NIT 1991/5'6 French citizen, CEO of French software company. Family Patna Bihar 7482806678 linkedin :jitendra-kumar-248a2224/

BY RELIGION

HINDU

HINDU/SC/AD/1995 born/BE/UPPERCLASS Tamil Boy - AVP/MNC with14LPA from BLR seeking educated girl contact: 8892506892

KORI 30 year boy BE Civil running own Petrol Pump Prime location bhopal looking for cultured girl from reputed family 9826377405

BRIDE WANTED

For a handsome **Rajput** Boy (Born 1996), well established Business family. Convent Education, followed by a **Master's in Finance** from **Kings College, London.** Loves Sports like Cricket and Rugby. Enjoys good food & quality family time. Preference is for a professional, **Doctor / CA / Lawyer** or **Business Entrepreneur** as a Bride.

The Boy's family is based in Kolkata but their roots are from **Ballia, UP.**

Father : 9831186851
Kumar.prabhakar67@gmail.com

MUSLIM

SUNNI Syed/Sheikh M42 , Height 5-10 Settled in Delhi/NCR , family from Patna, Seeking decent and educated girl. Contact 9870487295

SUNNI syed professor in Delhi NCR university 45yrs 6 feet, girl to be tall & not more than 35yrs. contact@9999161892

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, cln 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 - 8826066720

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

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 : 9396529296

AGARWAL, B.E. (BIT Mesra), MS in CS from the USA, 31/6' boy working at Seatle, USA, seeks qualified girl # skagarwal7999@gmail.com , 9831363679

PQM4 BS Computer Science Aggarwal Boy Aug 91/5'11 in US Citizen. Entrepreneur Flexible to settle in India. M. 9915955394 rajeevg@gmail.com

B.TECH MBA Yadav boy DOB:1987/5'11" Canada-Work Permit 30LPA (Warehouse Supervisor), WhatsApp 9711369808/9425390907

SECOND MARRIAGE

SM4 for Bihar origin NCR based Kayastha divorcee 48, tall handsome B.Tech IT Proff 45L, family oriented girl, no bars #8383070653, wairaaj@gmail.com

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: abc0045@yahoo.com

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

LIFE PARTNER
for Mumbai Based
Widower Seeks Divorcee Issueless Preferable Brahmin from Good Family in Age Of 40/50 Years.
WhatsApp Only:
+91-73044 37357

RELIGION NO BAR

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

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

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

WB MAHISYA 31+ BDS MDS 5'11" Fair, Educated Family wants DOCTOR Pretty Bride .WA 9474473231.

PUNJABI

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

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

GERMANY- PR-Boy Sr.Mngr-IT-FANG 42Yrs, 5'3", Sal 135KEur, M:+919931997159,Email: sinhapat18@gmail.com

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. 9300626603

KAYASTH, 1993/5'11", BE, MS, CA Manager in Big4, Sydney, seeks girl wkg in Australia or willing to relocate. Bhopal bsd fmly, Father Retd Govt Officer. M 9425259372

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

USA bsd'MBA'dr'egr'grl4gupta boy31/6'VicePresident,JP'MorganBank'NewYork'2cr.MBA'DukeComput'Eng.Toronto,DoonSch'ling,fath'IAS,del'ncr-9971790446

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BY CASTE

AGARWAL - BISA

B.TECH/MBA Working MNC Bangalore, Jain Gotra Mittal Girl Jan 1992/5'3"/seeks professional wkg Bangalore. Parents in Lucknow -9335903550

BRAHMIN

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

GREEN Card Holder Doctor Girl very fair b'ful 48/5'6" working in New York, Issueless divorcee. Caste no Bar, US Boy prefd. # 7091920691

PQM for BRAMIN 86 Born 5'6" Smart girl MBA SR. MANG 23 LPA Ansk. Mang Status family Upper caste no bar 9893443143

BRAHMIN Girl, 1996/5'8", Company Secretary + LLB. Currently Law Research Associate in NCLT, Known Business Family from Nagpur. MH. All Brahmins Accepted. Preferred- Business/ Law/ CA/ Doctor/ Corporate Professional Contact : 9371490165.

PROF Qual CA,FRM, CFA Gaur Brahmin Girl July91/5'5" BCom St.Xavier's Kolkata, AVP MNC Pune, Jaipur based family. Seeking Prof Qual/well settled boy/family. 9351706669

REQ. PQM 4 v'fair, b'ful Bengali Brahmin Girl 1994, 5'5" B.Tech, MBA (IIM), wkg. in leading MNC in Kol. Email nabanita1962@gmail.com .

JAIN

JAIN Girl, 26/5'8", Slim, Beautiful, Fair, Veg, B.Tech-CSE(IIIT), MSc(TU9 Univ), Pursuing PhD/Job (TU9 Univ), Caste No Bar, WApp 6377483576

KAYASTHA

SAXENA, fair,Mar95/5'6" upper middle class; LL.M. girl working US MNC at Gurgaon seeks prof.qual alliance from Delhi /NCR.Cont.9870405168

BHATNAGAR April 96/ 5'3" B'ful N Manglik, N.veg Bsc Xaviers diploma Journalism Asian College of Journalism Chennai, Correspondent cafe Mutual (financial start up, working at mumbai) Father retd army officer mother doctor, seeks boy well settled IIT/IIM Pref Metro cities 9893455594

SM4 MP based Beautiful gori Khare anshik mangali Btech CS girl 95/5'3" Team Lead in MNC Mumbai #7440443333, 9425103252

KHATRI

MBA B.tech Well Edu. Sept'86 Born 5"2' Punjabi Khatri wrkg girl at MNC in Bangalore having 60LPA seeks suitable match. M/Wapp 9266242519

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

PQM4 28/168CM, BEAUTIFUL GIRL,MDS(ORTHODONTIST). FATHER,DIRECTOR GEN,GOVT,OF IND,MOB .9445798012

PQM for BTech/ Oct 93/ 5'6" SBI Scale 3 Manager. Father Retd Army Officer. Delhi NCR boy preferred. All Upper Caste. WhatsApp 9013966113.

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BY RELIGION

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HINDU

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KAYASTHA, 34, 152 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Mumbai. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from India. Contact: 6366530295

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GENERAL

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SM for slim, beautiful, introvert, sensitive, MBBS girl, 5'5", 92'born, well off family, father hayhai Kshatriya, retd Dir, GOI, mother Brahmin Engr +NGO. Want well settled, tall, medico/ professional/businessman, good family background, boy from MP prefer, caste no bar. mo no 8982000055, 9752534391

SM for a beautiful Brahmin girl, 5'3",49 kgs, 1998, education-LSR, P.G-St Stephen's Delhi and UCL london. Worked in UNICEF (16 LPA), presently preparing for CSE. Parents-civil Servants. Preference-IAS, IPS, IRS, IFS, IES CASTE NO BAR. 9319038831, 9414084088

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Cell/WA +91 80172 98374

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PQM4 Brahmn Girl, B'ful, Fair,40, 5'2", Div I'Less, PhD(IIT), Data Scientist in London uk. Pref-Veg. +919259318706

" Seattle based Working professional Divorcée Brahmin girl non mangalik Feb 1986, 5'7". US settled only. + 91-9201658488"

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

PREF. SM4, '92 Mumbai Born, 5'5", Slim, Fair Brahmin Girl. MBA, Cabin Crew in Foreign Airlines at Doha. Ready to relocate (Outside India). 9769885822

WB, Mahishya GEN convent Edu, M.SC, B.ed eng Medium school teacher, 29/5'3", Beautiful, Debari, Mangalik Bride requires. Not above 34yrs, 5'8" & Above mangalik kol resident groom.M-9804659524

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FOR bengali girl, 34 yrs, 5'4" doctor, DNB, Mahesya, Debgan, seeks Doctor/ Engineer (IIT). No Sc/ST. 8777814157

EDUCATED Bengali Kayastha Girl, 1974 born, PhD, Prof. in Eng. College, Delhi. Contact : 9435078563, 9871152420

GUJARATI

GUJ Girl, Aug 91 born 5'2" , B.E. , MNC Bang. , 21 LPA, Caste No Bar, Whatsapp 7587329582

PUNJABI

SM4, Jan 1993 / 5'2", CPA, B.Com, fair girl, working in UK in E&Y; from Affnt indian fmy, seeks PQM stld in UK or India # 9312275031

SM4 Punjabi Dr. Girl from Maharashtra. 5'4", Born in July-1982, MDS, Divorcee, Pref. Engg., C.A., Dr., Govt Officer. Contact: 9372910354.

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BY NATIONALITY

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KHATRI girl 37 yr/5'5" MBA PhD working in Boston on H1B visa seeks PQ match; parents doctors #9810520084 arvindbagga@hotmail.com

PQM4 Punjabi Khatri, NM, 38/5'7",slim,Ph.D USA Scientist GC holder Seattle based girl Pref. USA based. # 9643530963. Em: ganesha0345@gmail.com

SM4 Dec'91 Arora girl 5'5"/60 Fair MS software Eng working in top MNC seeking US based match,Father IAS(Retd),caste no bar. Cont.9425007887/ nanditakumar09@gmail.com

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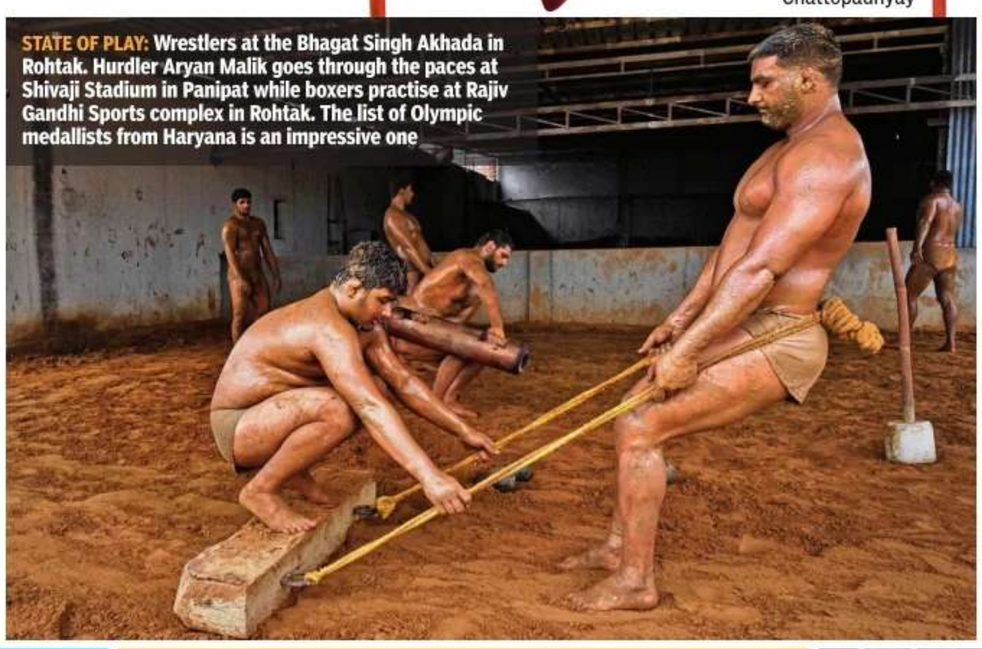
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2% of population, 30% of medals: Why Haryana is India's Olympic nursery



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

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 medallist 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 Haryanvi 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 athletes are contesting in four disciplines — athletics, golf, hockey and shooting. Tamil Nadu is third in terms of representation with12 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 Management 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 knots of 'kushti' but also life lessons like the 'guru-shishya' relationship. Before getting into the mud pit, where Indian pehalwans are groomed before they move to the mat, Dhoni must do the ceremonial knee-touching of his 'guruji', who instructs him to have munakka (black grape raisin) juice and then help others level the pit for 'kushti'.

"Respect for the guru is paramount in wrestling and it's a tradition still prevalent in our state. That's why we win so many medals at the international level," says Dhaka.

Track & Field Pull

After Neeraj's Olympic gold in Tokyo, the number of kids interested in javelin throw and other track and field events has shot up.

Cast your eye wide at Panipat's Shivaji Stadium 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 medallist. The announcement created a buzz. The Bhupinder 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 medallist, Rs 4 crore for a silver medallist and Rs 2.5 crore for a bronze medallist 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 'right 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 HSVP (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 medallist. "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.

HARYANA'S OLYMPIC MEDALS

2008 BEIJING



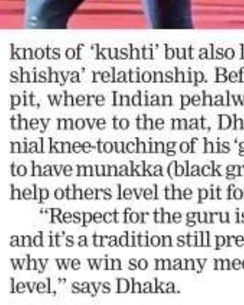
VIJENDER SINGH
Bronze | Boxing

2008, 2012

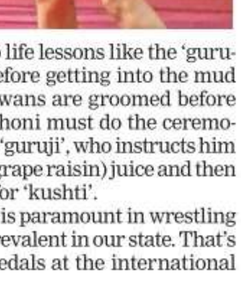


SUSHIL KUMAR
Bronze, Silver | Wrestling

2012 LONDON



SAINA NEHWAL
Bronze | Badminton



YOGESHWAR DUTT
Bronze | Wrestling

2016 RIO



SAKSHI MALIK
Bronze | Wrestling

2020 TOKYO



NEERAJ CHOPRA
Gold | Javelin



RAVI DAHIYA
Silver | Wrestling



BAJRANG PUNIA
Bronze | Wrestling

2024 PARIS



MANU BHAKER
2 Bronze | Shooting



SARABJOT SINGH
Bronze | Shooting



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 disguised as an old monkey
3 | Telugu 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 8 | Contract Bridge 9 | Crew cut, from the boats' crew 10 | Shimla, Chharabra

In Vadodara, crocs prefer subway during rains

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

Tushar.Tere@timesofindia.com

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 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 Vadhwana, 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 Vadhwana.

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.

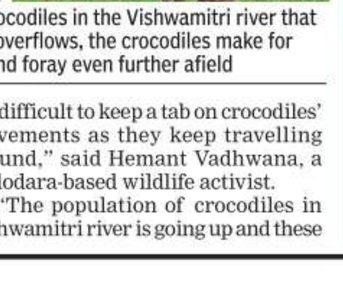
The residents of a society on Rajmahal road and another in Sayajigunj also live on the edge in monsoon. "When the river swells by 18ft, we get nervous as the roads outside our colony get flooded. It becomes difficult to venture out as crocodiles are lurking all around our area," said Alka Karandikar,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







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

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 it 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.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/SMD/NIeT- 14 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024_PHED_726693_1 to 32 for O&G of P/H and DG set at different PH/office of different blocks of S-24 Pgs District The last date for submission of tender is 26.08.2024 upto 14:00 Hrs. Sd/- Exe. Engineer, SMD, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13261(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Asansol Mechanical Divn., P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref No. WBPHED/EE/AMD/NIeT-14 of 2024-2025 and ID: 2024_PHED_727263_1 to 4 different type of works under Asansol Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. For details visit website https://wbtenders.gov.in The last date submission of tender is 16.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Asansol Mechanical Division, PHE Dte., Govt. of West Bengal.
ICA-T13287(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
eTender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, South 24- Pgs. W/S Circle, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 12/2024-2025/SE/SWC/WBPHED and ID: 2024_PHED_725192_1 to 5 for 5 Nos. work of Construction of different capacity R.C.C OHR under Namkhana & Canning-I block and laying of pipeline for Diamond Harbour-II, Canning-II and Basanti Block of South 24 Parganas Dist. under Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website http://wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 09/09/2024 upto 3.00 PM. Sd/- for Superintending Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Circle, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13277(3)/2024

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR ON TRAIN REPAIR WORK
E-Tender Notice No. 58-Mech.-On train-KRBA, Date : 29.07.2024.
Name of Work: On train repair of unloadable wagons in different sidings of Korba area i.e. Gevra, Manikpur, Old Kusmunda, New Kusmunda, KMKA SILO siding and NTPC Yard etc. with three mobile work station in Korba area for a period of four years on open tender basis.
Tender Value : ₹ 04,64,37,740/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Four Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Only) inclusive of all expenditure & GST. **EMD (In Rs.) : ₹ 03,82,200/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Two Hundred Only). **Opening of Tender : 12:00** hrs. on **21.08.2024**.
Further all details are available on Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Except E-tender no other mode of submission of tender will be accepted.
Sr. Divl. Mech. Engineer (Frt.)
CPR/10/170 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.
South East Central Railway @secrail

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Extension of Dates
1st Corrigendum Notice regarding **Extension of dates** vide eNIT No. **51 (3rd Call for Sl. No. 01) of EE/MD of 2022-2023** vide Tender ID: **2024_PHED_711117_1**. The last date for submission of tender is **09.08.2024 upto 18:00 Hours**. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13254(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/MD/NIeT-20 of 2024-2025, Vide NIeT Memo no. 3796/MD, dated-30.07.2024, Tender ID-2024_PHED_724439_10. Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 12.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for different type works at different PWSS under Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. All details available in website http://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13271(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. On behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/NIeT-29/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2024_PHED_724883_1 to 36 for the work of construction of boundary wall for different piped water supply schemes of Gosaba block, district South 24 Parganas under Canning Sub-Division of Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 29.08.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13267(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Nadia Construction Division, P.W.Dte invites online e-Tender for the works of: 1) Balance work of L-Type Pharmacy Building extension along and Pharmacy with some rest work at State Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine. Estimated Amount: Rs. 14,06,338.00 2) Repair and renovation of two storied allied store building at SPLPIM, Kalyani, Nadia. Estimated Amount: Rs. 14,62,210.00 3) Repair and renovation work of Pharmacy Building / Manufacturing unit including the Pump House, Stationary Store and Central medicine store of SPLPIM, Kalyani, Nadia. Estimated Amount: Rs. 36,28,250.00 Tender ID: 4) Construction of two nos. pipe culverts at the two entrance gates of the six unit residential quarter for the Judicial Officers of the Kalyani Court, Kalyani, Nadia. Estimated Amount: Rs. 5,41,424.00 e-N.I.T-03 of 2024-25 of EE/NCD/PWDte Tender Id : 2024_PWD_726398_1; 2024_PWD_726398_2; 2024_PWD_726398_3; 2024_PWD_726398_4. Bid submission start date (online): 08.08.2024 from 4.00 P.M. Bid submission closing (online) : 22.08.2024 upto 4.30 P.M. Corrigendum, if any, will be published in website only. Details of NI.eT and Tender Documents may be download form https://wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/-Executive Engineer, Nadia Construction Division, P.W.Dte.
ICA-T13227(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged Memo No:-3554 dated 30.07.2024 related to schemes of "E-Tender for Staff-Cars on Monthly hired basis UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, BANKURA." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 16.08.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Visit www.wbtenders.gov.in **Sd/- Secretary DH & FWS & CMOH, Bankura**
ICA- T13183(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI&DD. e-NIT
Online tender (E.N.I.T - 12 (e) SL 1 to 3 of 24-25 [ID: **2024_WRDD_726978_1 to 3**] has been invited by the Executive Engineer, Malda-II (A-M) Division at Madhabnagar, Mokdumpur, Malda-732103 from Bonafide agency for Renovation at Borkol-III, Rautgaon-II, Pathernasratpur-I by Trunkey Basis under Malda-III (A-M) Sub-Division within Malda-II (A-M) Division under Paray Samadhan (Phase-VI), Core-Sector 24-25 Programme. **Last date & time of Bid Submission is 16.08.2024 upto 12.00 Hrs**. Other details may also be seen from the office notice board/website (https://wbtenders.gov.in). Corrigendum if any will be published in website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-M) Malda-II (A-M) Division
ICA- T13187(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
SEPEC, PWD invites online e-tender for the work of "Special Electrical Installation work including SITC of AC System, Fire Detection System and Lightning Conductor in the Auditorium of Uluberia Rabindra Bhawan, Howrah - HVAC Work"
eNIIT No- WBPWD/SEPEC/NIT- 01/24-25 Tender ID: **2024_WBPWD_726395_1.** Bid Submission start date (online) 14.08.2024 from 10.00 a.m. Bid Submission Closing date (Online) 06.09.2024 upto 4.00 p.m. Corrigendum, if any, will be published in website / newspaper as per rule. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-SEPEC, PWD, GOVT OF WB
ICA- T13209(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI&DD. e-NIQ & e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-M) Howrah (A-M) Division, WRDD invited e-tender for Tender Ref No : **WBWRDD/EE(AM)/HWH/eNIQ-8/24-25 and WBWRDD/EE(AM)/HWH/eNIT-9/24-25** in vide e-NIQ No-8 & e-NIT-9 of 2024-25, Tender ID **2024_WRDD_727160_1 to 5 & 2024_WRDD_727297_1 to 5**, Estimated value Rs. 2.50, Rs 3.00, Rs 2.50, Rs 1.50 ,Rs 4.00, Rs 25.68, Rs 25.68, Rs 25.68, Rs 25.68 & Rs 25.68 Lakhs. Last **date of dropping 20.08.2024 & 02.09.2024** intending bidders are requested to visit the web site: http//wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-M)
Howrah (A-M) Division
ICA- T13190(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
North Bengal Development Department
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E.E., NBDD, invites online e-Tender **eNIT-17/2024-25.** Details seen from the Office Notice Board, NBDD, Uttarkanya, Fulbari, Jalpaiguri, Pin-734015 on any working days and in the website:- **www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in** Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department.
ICA-T13194(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED e-QUOTATION NOTICE
E-Tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipurduar Division, P.H.E. Dte. from the reputed, bonafide, financially Sound & experienced agency / firm for the work of "WORKS RELATED TO PWSS" against following NIeQ No.: 02/ALD/2024-25. Last Date of Submission for tender 20.08.2024 upto 02:00 p.m. Details may be viewed in the http://www.wbphed.gov.in website.
ICA-T13266(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER ID- 2024_PHED_725091_1 to 28 (JJM Work). Electronic Notice Inviting Quotation No. 04/WBPHED/EE/BD-I/2024-25. Last date of Documents download / sell closing date (Online) is on 27.08.2024 upto 11.30 AM. Date of opening of technical Proposals (Online) on 29.08.2024 at 11.30 AM. Further details will be available in our website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13265(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
W.B.S.F.P.&H.D.C.L.
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise under the control of the Department of FPI&H, Govt. of West Bengal)
e-TENDER NOTICE
1. 26 dt. 01.08.2024
2. 27 dt. 01.08.2024
E-Tenders are invited for supply of Plastic Mulching Sheet to the different Blocks in the Districts of West Bengal & Supply of saplings of Cymbidium Orchids bare rooted to DCOMP. The intending Tenderers are to apply through http://www.wbtenders.gov.in Details are also available in the Website: www.ipshabengal.com & www.wbfpih.wb.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBSFP&HDCL, Benfish Tower, Bidhannagar.
ICA-T13192(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
eTender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, South 24- Pgs. W/S Circle, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 13/2024-2025/SE/SWC/WBPHED and ID: 2024_PHED_725287_1 for 3 Nos. work of Construction of pipe carrying structure with laying of primary grid and Secondary grid, Road Restoration of Different pathways at ASUTI I/II & Chatta GP PWSS & Laying of HDPE pipe of 500 mm dia by HDD process for crossing Raidighi River. Details will be available in the website http://wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 09/09/2024 upto 3.00 PM. Sd/- for Superintending Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Circle, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13276(3)/2024

Elevator plunges four floors, 4 hurt: Four members of a family were injured as an elevator fell from fourth floor of an apartment in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, on Friday evening. Two of them are in critical condition. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tender Reference No. NIeT_07 of EE/RD/PHED of 2024-2025, Tender ID: 2024_PHED_724412_1 to 28. Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online):-20/08/24 upto 3:00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for Implementation & different type of works under Raiganj Division, PHE Dte. All details available in website http://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Raiganj Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13262(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice
Enit-06/2024-2025/EE/DWSD/PHE DTE. Tender Publication Date-02/08/2024 at 18.30 Hrs., Bid submission dated online on- 20/08/2024 upto 18.30 P.M. (Non-JJM works). For any kind of details are available in website:- wbtenders.gov.in and wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Durgapur W/S Division, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13283(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
The Executive Engineer, Siliguri Division, Housing Dte., Siliguri has invited open tender against e-N.I.T. No. 09 of 2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_HSD_727345 for Replacement and repairing work of roof treatment at R.H.E., Club Road, Jalpaiguri under Siliguri Division, Housing Dte. The last date of Submission of Bid (online) – 19.08.2024 up to 17:00 hrs. (IST) . Details may be had from the office Notice Board on any working day within office hour and from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in . Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Siliguri Division, Housing Dte.
ICA-T13191(4)/2024

SBI net higher than RIL's for 2nd straight quarter

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bank of India net profit marks 10% jump

Bank of India reported a net profit of Rs 1,703 crore for the quarter ended June 2024, an increase of 10% over Rs 1,551 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

The increase was due to a 15.8% rise in advances to Rs 6 lakh crore from Rs 5.2 lakh crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Growth in advances outpaced deposits at 9.7% to Rs 7.6 lakh crore, up from Rs 6.9 lakh crore in the corresponding quarter last year. With advances outpacing deposits, the net interest margin improved to 3.07% from 3.03% a year ago. TNN

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 15,138 crore. This marks the second consecutive quarter in which SBI has outperformed RIL.

"In the last four years, SBI has generated a total net profit of over Rs 1.6 lakh crore which is more than the net profit made in the previous 60 years," said Dinesh Khara, chairman, SBI. Khara, whose term ends soon, added that he hoped to see SBI generate annual profits of Rs 1 lakh crore

At the end of the first quarter, SBI's deposits increased by 8.2% year-on-year to Rs 49 lakh crore. However, this was marginally lower than the Rs 49.2 lakh crore reported at the end of March 2024. The bank's advances at the end of the quarter grew by 15.4% year-on-year to Rs 38 lakh crore, which is a 1.2% increase compared to March 2024.

"We raised deposits when other banks were not looking at deposits and we deployed the funds in investments. These investments are giving us headroom to grow our credit. On deposits, we are making an optimum choice not to raise funds at any cost and simultaneously take care of depositor interest. As a result, while our cost of deposits has gone up by 45 basis points, the impact on our NIM is much lower," said Dinesh Khara, chairman of the SBI.

Khara said that the current phase of deposits outpacing credit was temporary. "We have seen that when alternative options are available, people have gone to markets but bank deposits remain the channeling source. We had a similar situation in 2007 when loans outpaced deposits, but it was a temporary phenomenon" Khara said.

Spl branch SI shot dead in Ranchi, 14 detained

Sanjay Sahay | TNN

Ranchi: Unidentified criminals shot dead a 32-year-old special branch sub-inspector (SI) in Ranchi on Friday while he was returning home from a party. Anupam Kumar Kachhap, engaged in intelligence gathering, received four bullet wounds.

His friends took technical assistance to locate him. around 2 am and took him to RIMS hospital, where he was declared dead. Police have formed an SIT to investigate the murder. It has detained 14 people , including individuals present at the party, for questioning.

"We will carry out a comprehensive investigation to solve the case soon and ensure the strictest punished for the criminals who killed our younger brother," DGP Anurag Gupta told reporters after meeting Kachhap's family.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
1) Bid reference no. - **WBMSCL/NIT-436/2024, dated-31/07/2024;** West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for **"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Extension work of Medical Gas Pipeline System (MGPS) at RCU and EBUS of Chest Department in NRS MC&H of West Bengal."** Last date of submission of bid (online)-14.08.2024 up to 02:00 p.m. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 02:00 p.m. on 05.08.2024. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cme@wbmsc.gov.in 2) Bid reference no. - **WBMSCL/NIT-437/2024, dated-31/07/2024;** West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for **"Rectification and Re-installation of Medical Gas Pipeline System (MGPS) at S N Das Building in Howrah DH of West Bengal."** Last date of submission of bid (online)-14.08.2024 upto 02:00 p.m. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 02:00 p.m. on 05.08.2024. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cme@wbmsc.gov.in 3) Bid reference no.-**WBMSCL/NIT-438/2024, dated-31/07/2024;** West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for **"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Medical Gas Pipeline System (MGPS) at Hybrid CCU of Katwa SDH of West Bengal."** Last date of submission of bid (online) – 21.08.2024 up to 02:00 p.m. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 02:00 p.m. on 05.08.2024. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cme@wbmsc.gov.in 4) Bid reference no. - **WBMSCL/NIT-439/2024, dated – 31/07/2024;** West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for **"Dismantling and Re-installation work of Medical Gas Pipeline System(MGPS) at Eden OT and Labour OT, Eden Building of Kolkata MCH of West Bengal."** Last date of submission of bid (online)-14.08.2024 up to 02:00 p.m. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 02:00 p.m. on 05.08.2024. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cme@wbmsc.gov.in **Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL.**
ICA- T13184(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Murshidabad
Notice Inviting e- Tender
Tender ID-2024_HFW_725080_1, Tender Portal- **www.wbtenders.gov.in** E-Tender No-HFW-45025(99)/607/2024/7323 Dated 30.07.2024. CMOH & Member Secretary, DH& FWS, Murshidabad invites online tender for printing of different items. Last date of submission of online bid is 16.08.24 upto 5.00 P.M. For Detail, please visit the website **www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbhealth.gov.in** and **www.murshidabad.nic.in** SD/- Secretary, DH & FW Samity and CMOH, Murshidabad
ICA- T13182(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, PWDte, Bankura Electrical Division invites e-NIQ NOTICE for the work of (1) "Electrical Repairing and Renovation works at Taldangra BPHC Under Bankura Electrical Division." e-NIQ NO 108/Q of 2024-25 of EE/BED Last Date-14.08.2024 Corrigendum if any will be published in website. only Details of NIT/NIQ and Tender documents may be downloaded From http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-EE, PWD, Bankura Electrical Division GOVT OF WB.
ICA-T13231(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender of NIT No. 09 of 2024-25 by the of E.E./Diamond Harbour Highway Division. EE, Diamond Harbour Hwy Div, Dakshin Hazipur, Diamond Harbour-743331 invites on line percentage rate etender whose ID No. 2024_SH_726227_1. The details can be obtained from the website https://wbtenders.gov.in & office notice board. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only on website previously mentioned. Documents down load end date (online) & Bid submission end date (online) will be 20.08.2024 upto 14.00 Hrs. Sd/- EE, Diamond Harbour Highway Division P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Govt. of WB.
ICA-T13199(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Burdwan Divn, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. invites online e-tender **NIT. No. WBPWD/SS/EE/BDN/NIT_06/2024-2025** for the work of **1.** Day to day maintenance work for residential quarter, Group-C & Group-D quarter etc for necessary internal repairing & restoration work of the quarters under Burdwan Medical College & Hospital, Purba Bardhaman. (CIVIL WORK). Project ID:-HF242519020S000. **Rs. 5,73,354/- 2.** Construction of Ladies & Gents Toilets & Urinal Adjacent to the Conference Hall & Boundary at CCM, Barsul. **Rs. 12,29,913/- 3.** Special Repair & Renovation of the Net House at the FCRS Burdwan. Project ID: AG2425202615000. **Rs. 13,48,731/- 4.** REPAIR & RENOVATION OF A, I & J BLOCK (GR-C) STAFF QUARTERS AT BHATER HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT OF PURBA BURDWAN. **Rs. 38,33,416/-** Tender ID-**2024_WBPWD_726452_1, 2 ,3 & 4.** Bid submission Start date(Online):- **07.08.2024, 01:30 P.M.** Bid submission closing date(Online):-**21.08.2024, 03:30 P.M.** Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and tender Documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE/BDN.DIVN/SS/PWD.
ICA-T13215(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Invited by the Assistant Engineer, PWD, Barrackpore Sub- Division-I, Govt. of W.B. vide NIeT No.- WBPWD/AE/BKPSD-I/NIeT-10/ 2024-25(SL No 01)for the work of " Restoration of hard Curst related to Cutting the road section by the CESC authority for emergency repair of underground cable work near 51/1,East, Authpur, Shyamnagar along the Ghoshpara road for a length of 12.0 mtr Barrackpore, North 24-Parganas under PWD Barrackpore Division during the year 2024-25.." Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_726288_1, WBPWD/AE/BKPSD-I/NIeT-10/ 2024-25 (SL No 02) for the work of " Restoration of hard Curst related to Cutting the road section by the CESC authority for emergency repair of underground cable work near 105/1, East, Authpur, Shyamnagar along the Ghoshpara road for a length of 20.0 mtr Barrackpore, North 24-Parganas under PWD Barrackpore Division during the year 2024-25." Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_726288_2 & WBPWD/AE/BKPSD-I/NIeT-10/ 2024-25(SL No 03) for the work of " Emergent repair to both side of the newly constructed approach road including diversion at Ghoshpara road at chainage 18.20 km during the year 2024-25." Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_726288_3. WBPWD/AE/BKPSD I/NIeT-10/ 2024-25(SL No 04) for the work of " Emergent repairing to the Shyamnagar Feeder Road from 0.00 to 1.00 km (inpatches) by providing Water Bound Macadam Sub Base by consolidating Jhama metal under Barrackpore Division during the year 2024-25." Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_726288_4. Intending tenderers are requested to visit the website http://etender.wb.nic.in. Sd/-Assistant Engineer, PWD Barrackpore Sub- Division-I.
ICA-T13203(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-tender for the work **"Replacement of old heavy weight ceiling fans, defunct ceiling fans and plastic body wall bracket fans for fire safety purpose at the J.B Roy State Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital."** e-NIT No. **WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIQ-38/2024-25,** Tender Id: **2024_WBPWD_726567_1.** Bid Submission Start Date (online) :09/08/2024, 1:05 P.M. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 16/08/2024 upto 1:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be download from http://wbtenders.gov.in **Sd/- S. Chakraborty/EE/KNHED/PW Dte./Govt. of WB.**
ICA- T13219(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT NO. WBPWD/SEPC/NIeT-02/2024-25
SE, Presidency Circle, PWD invites online e-tender for the work of "Making of Office space and other and other civil works through PWD including interior, work stations, cubicles, stores, officers chambers, renovation of toilets etc at the top floor of 45, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata-700013 i.c.w. shifting of office of the dte. of State Lotteries, WB." Tender Id: 2024_PWD_726611_1. Bid Submission Start date (online) : 02.08.2024 from 2.00p.m. Bid Submission closing date (online) : 21.08.2024 upto 2.00p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle. PWD
ICA-T13224(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-tender is invited for 2 nos. of work by the Executive Engineer, North 24 Parganas Division, Social Sector, P. W. Dte for and on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal Vide N.I.T.No. WBSSPWD 05 EE /24PN/ 2024-25. 1) Construction of Entrance Gate with security room at the South - East side of the College, one ramp and renovation of two numbers of Latrine cum Bathroom one for Physically disable & Gents students and another for office staff & Girls Students within existing Toilet at P.R. Thakur Govt. College in the District of North 24 Parganas. Estamated Amount Rs. 20,67,277.00 I.D. 2024_WBPWD_726534_1 2) Repair and Renovation of damaged Tin shed and False ceiling of I.C.T. Lab, Collapsed Garden Fencing at the campus and upgradation of UPS Room of Barasat P.C.S. Govt. High School in the district of North 24-Parganas. Estamated Amount Rs. 12,73,158.00, I.D. 2024_WBPWD_726534_2 Bid submission end date and time (online) 23/08/2024 up to 13:00 Hrs.IST. All other information will be available from the office of the Executive Engineer, North 24 Parganas Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte, & e-Tender website https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer North 24 Parganas Division Social Sector, P.W.Dte.
ICA-T13234(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
NIeT No. WBPWD/EE-II/KCHD /NIeT-09/2024-2025 Name of Work ; 1) Urgent repair & renovation to the distressd concrete of Boys Hostel, D.N. De Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital at ground floor of CCL annex building with chemical treatment, including M.S. Grill work, replacement of doors, windows, painting inside and outside of ground floor with allied works within CCL compound at 2, Convent Lane, Kolkata - 700015.. 2) Providing nets at each window of wards to protect from mosquito, Anti-termite work and other allied works at Lumbini Park Mental Hospital. (New Campus). 3) Sinking Deep Tube Well of size 300 mm. X 200 mm. dia within the campus of PRATYAY (Halfway Homes) within the jurisdiction of Lumbini Park Mental Hospital. 4) Repair and Renovation of damage ceiling to avoid accident in false ceiling covered areas of Chest Building within the campus of Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata. (Civil Work) TENDER ID : 2024_WBPWD_726278_1/2/3/4 Estimated Amount: 1)42,87,805/-, 2)10,91,795/- 3)10,47,807/-, 4) 8,58,047/- Bid submission start date: 08/08/2024 at 12.00 Hrs Bid submission end date: 22/08/2024 upto 14:00 Hrs Sd/-Executive Engineer-II, PWDte Kolkata Central Health Division.
ICA- T13207(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/MD/NIeT-21 of 2024-2025, Vide NIeT Memo no. 3798/MD, dated-30.07.2024, Tender ID-2024_PHED_724441_1 to 2024_PHED_724441_15. Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 19.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for different type works at different PWSS under Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. All details available in website http://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13270(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited by the Ex-Engr Bol.MD, PHED on behalf of Governor of W.B. vide Ref. No. WBPHED/21&22/BolMD/24-25 & ID: 2024_PHED_724536_1 & 2024_PHED_724962_1 for Replacement of Centrifugal Pumping Machinery & allied works at Bhabanandapur & Karidhya PWSS of Birbhum district. Details can be obtained from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in The last date of tender submission is 22.08.24 & 23.08.24 upto 12.00 noon. Sd/- Ex-Engr Bol.MD, PHED
ICA-T13269(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
NIeT No. 12/BD of 2024-25
Vide Memo No. 2146/BD dt. 31.07.2024
Tender ref. no. 2146_BD_NIeT_12_of_2024_25
Tender ID : 2024_PHED_725601_1 to 3
Tender invited by the undersigned for - Construction of Boundary wall, Approach Road and Land development at Head Work site of Garibpur, Paschim Huda & Purana Bongaon Water Supply Scheme, Bongaon Block within the jurisdiction of Bongaon Sub-Division under Barasat Division, P.H.E. Dte. (SL. No.-1 to 3). Closing date of submission of both Technical and Financial bid (online) = 23.08.2024 at 1.00 P.M. Details of Tender document and its related corrigendum/Addendum (if any) may be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, P.H.E. Dte. On working days during office hours or in website- http://www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13282(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Hasnabad Sub-Divsion, PHE Dte. On Behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WB/PHED/AE/HSD/NIET-12/HSD OF 2023-24 and ID: 2024_PHED_725555_1, 2024_PHED_725555_2 for sinking of tube well. Details will be available in the website: wbtenders.gov.in Last date for submission of tender is 14.08.2024 upto 2.00 p.m. Hours. Sd/- The Assistant Engineer, Hasnabad Sub-Division, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13258(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
N.I.e.T. No. 07 of EE/MLMD of 2024-25, Malda Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. Tender Id: 2024_PHED_725943_1 to 2024_PHED_725943_2, Executive Engineer, MLMD invites e Tender in WBF 2911 for Different Electro- Mechanical works under MLMD, PHE Dte. Last date of Submission 28.08.2024 upto 02:30 PM. For details visit at: www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Mechanical Division, PHE Dte.
ICA-T13259(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, P.W.Dte. invites e_NIT No.- 03 of 2024-2025 on behalf of the Governor of the state of WB. Tender ID : 2024_PWD_727183_1. Name of work - Construction of Proposed 100 Bedded Critical Care Block (CCB) G+3) at Nadia District Hospital, Saktinagar Campus in the District of Nadia. Estimated amount: 23,21,25,563/- (Schedule Items) + Non Schedule Items Earnest Money: 10,00,000/- Period of completion:- 540 days. Online Bid submission:- start date & time: 12.08.2024 from 6.00 pm. closing date & time: 03.09.2024 at 3:00 pm. Corrigendum if any, except time extension will be published in website only. Details of e_N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer Central Circle , P.W.Dte.
ICA-T13253(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D, North 24 Prgs Electrical Division invite online e-Tender for the work of:- "Upkeepment of Electrical and allied installation with provision of materials and manpower at Baranagar State General Hospital with allied area, North 24 Parganas. -- AMC of E.I. work for the period of 3 years." NIT No: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIQ-149/24-25. Tender id: 2024_WBPWD_726946_1 Pre Bid Meeting Date: 07/08/2024. Bid Submission start date (Online): 08/08/2024. Bid Submission End date (Online): 23/08/2024 Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION.
ICA-T13249(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIeT is hereby invited by Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref: No. WBPHED/EE/HD/NIeT-02 OF 2024-25, Memo No- 3384/HD, Dt: 31/07/2024. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in and wbphed.gov.in Last date of application is 21/08/2024. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13273(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. On behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/NIeT-30/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2024_PHED_725408_1 to 23 for the work of construction of boundary wall for different piped water supply schemes of Canning- I & II block, district South 24 Parganas under Canning Sub-Division of Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 30.08.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13274(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Siliguri Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref. No. 11/2024-2025/SE/SWC/WBPHED and ID: 2024_PHED_724452_1 to 24 for 24 Nos. work of Construction of different capacity R.C.C OHR and interconnection of tubewell, rising main etc. at different PWSS under Canning-I, Canning-II, Gosaba & Basanti Block of South 24 Parganas Dist. under Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website http://wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 06/09/2024 upto 3.00 PM. Sd/- for Superintending Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Circle, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA-T13263(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
NIeT No. 11/BD of 2024-25
Vide Memo No. 2133/BD dt. 30.07.2024
Tender ref. no. 2133_BD_NIeT_11 of 2024_25
Tender ID : 2024_PHED_724977_1 to 4
Tender inv



TIMES BENGAL BIZ

* SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA | AUGUST 4, 2024

SHYAM METALICS POSTS PAT OF ₹276CR FOR Q1 FY'25 AGAINST ₹202CR FOR Q1 FY'24

BIRLA TYRES TO RE-ENTER MARKET WITH NEW PRODUCTS IN Q4 OF THIS FISCAL



SPEC-TACULAR GROWTH

The eyewear market in Bengal is undergoing a transformation. Retailers are not only expanding product lines but also diversifying services to include eye-testing and hearing aids. With a mix of local and international brands competing, the industry is embracing modern technology and new business models to cater to the evolving tastes of customers



Pics: Sukhomoy Sen



Sarthak.G@timesofindia.com

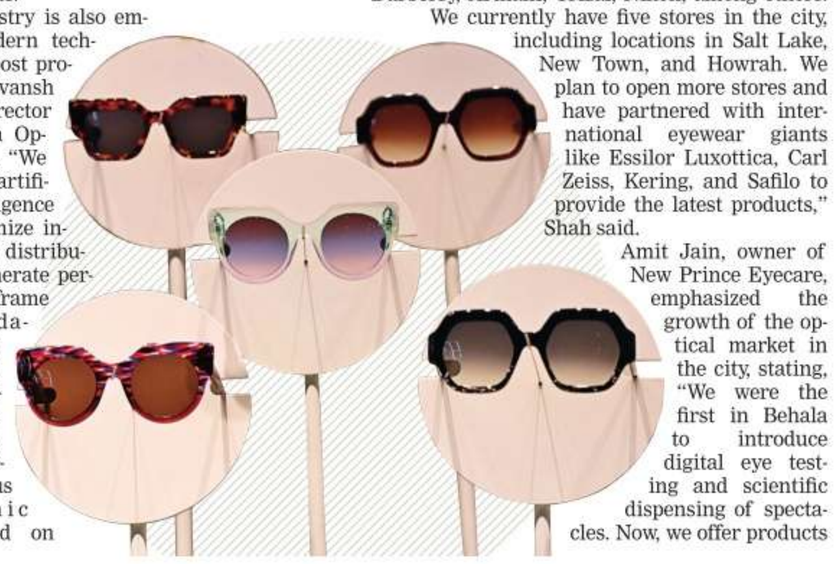
The eyewear industry in India is currently valued at approximately Rs 1,00,000 crore, with an annual growth rate of 12%-15%. Bengal's market share stands at around Rs 6,000 crore, according to leading retail chains. The sector is largely dominated by the unorganized segment, which accounts for nearly 80% of the market.

The market is segmented into spectacles and sunglasses, with spectacles comprising three-fourths of the total market. Spectacle lenses alone account for 57% of the market, while sunglasses make up about 15%, with non-polarized glasses leading the $1.1 billion sunglass market. Approximately 78% of imported eyewear accessories come from various countries, primarily China.

Retail outlets in Kolkata and its suburbs are diversifying by offering eye testing services conducted by optometrists alongside the sale of glasses and lenses. GKB Opticals, a major player in the market, plans to invest Rs 17-20 crore in refurbishing its stores across the city. According to Priyanka Gupta, director of Brands at GKB Opticals, the company holds about 30%-35% of the local market. They have also partnered with Widex, a Denmark-based hearing aid manufacturer, to provide both ophthalmic and audiology services under one roof.

"We are planning to upgrade our stores in Kolkata to sustain the competition in the market. We have introduced another brand, Eyelab, in Kolkata. While one store is already running at South City Mall, another store is coming up on BT Road," said Gupta. The company is set to invest around Rs 100 crore in expanding its business, including opening 130 new stores nationwide. Gupta added, "Optical stores abroad sell hearing aids, and we have introduced this global trend in Kolkata and other parts of the country. We also plan to grow our online presence to enhance brand awareness, as consumers often interact with brands online before visiting stores. The future will involve a more 360-degree approach, growing from all fronts."

The industry is also embracing modern technology to boost production. Devansh Binani, director of Himalaya Optical, noted, "We are using artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize inventory and distribution and generate personalized frame recommendations. With augmented reality technology, customers can now experience various ophthalmic lenses based on their prescriptions. Robotic automation in the eyeglass assembly process has increased production efficiency and reduced delivery times."



Retailers are adapting to changing consumer preferences, according to Sunil Shah, a partner at Supreme Optique. "Nowadays, customers prefer branded products. We offer spectacles, sunglasses, and lenses from major brands like Ray-Ban, Burberry, Armani, Crizal, Nikon, among others. We currently have five stores in the city, including locations in Salt Lake, New Town, and Howrah. We plan to open more stores and have partnered with international eyewear giants like Essilor Luxottica, Carl Zeiss, Kering, and Safilo to provide the latest products," Shah said.

Amit Jain, owner of New Prince Eyecare, emphasized the growth of the optical market in the city, stating, "We were the first in Behala to introduce digital eye testing and scientific dispensing of spectacles. Now, we offer products from all leading brands. Consumers in the city are more aware of optical care and regularly update their glasses after routine eye tests."

Kolkata has become a major hub for the eyewear market in Bengal, with numerous optical shops, eyewear chains, and e-commerce platforms catering to local demand.

"The eyewear market comprises various segments, including prescription eyewear, non-prescription or fashion eyewear, contact lenses, and sunglasses. Each segment contributes differently to the overall market size. The market in Bengal is substantial, driven by the state's large population and increasing urbanization," said Vishal Sayani, owner of Chasma Shoppe.

Local retailers and dealers in Bowbazar, a wholesale eyewear hub, are facing stiff competition from leading brands entering the market. Some traders are stocking new designs to keep up with changing consumer preferences, while others feel that the market for traditional eyewear is declining. Dipak Gupta, a trader at Bowbazar, remarked, "Customers are now more fascinated by sleek designs and brands, which has impacted our traditional eyewear business. We are also trying to sustain the competition with new product lines."

INDUSTRY SPEAK



Optical stores abroad sell hearing aids and we have introduced the trend in Kolkata. Also, we plan to grow even online in terms of brand awareness because nowadays consumers are interacting with brands online first and then offline

Priyanka Gupta | DIRECTOR-BRANDS, GKB OPTICALS



Retailers are adapting to changing consumer preferences. Currently, we have five stores across the city, including malls in Salt Lake, New Town and Howrah. We have partnered with international eyewear majors

Sunil Shah | PARTNER, SUPREME OPTIQUE



We were the first optical store in Behala to introduce digital eye-testing and scientific dispensing of spectacles. Consumers in Kolkata are aware of optical care needs and most of them take new glasses only after routine eye-testing

Amit Jain | OWNER, NEW PRINCE EYECARE



The eyewear market consists of various segments, including prescription eyewear, non-prescription or fashion eyewear, contact lenses, and sunglasses. Each of these segments contributes differently to the overall market size in the country

Vishal Sayani | OWNER, CHASMA SHOPPE

GLASSES HALF FULL

- The eyewear industry in India stands at around ₹1,00,000cr
- It is growing at a steady pace of 12%-15% per year
- Bengal's market share in eyewear is around ₹6,000cr
- Spectacles constitute three-fourths of the total eyewear market in India
- Spectacle lenses alone contribute 57% share of the market
- Sunglasses account for around 15% of the market
- Non-polarized glasses are dominating the $1.1 billion sunglass market



'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.

— Anonymous

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 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.



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

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.

— Anonymous

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.

— Anonymous

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.

TalkitOut

WANT SOME ADVICE?

Sharing can help your recovery so write to us at **talkitout@timesofindia.com** with your question, name and place. But if you wish to stay anonymous, do indicate that in your email.

You can also visit bit.ly/TOITalkItOut or scan this QR code to send in your concern.

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)
- Sanjivini Society 01140769002, 01141092787 (Mon-Fri, 10-5.30pm)

In Nov '23, AIG was booked for blackmail, extortion

▶Continued from P 1

SP Kaur said: "Since there were no CCTVs on the floor, we will gather all available local videos and eyewitness accounts to piece together the details. Additionally, we are investigating how he managed to bring in a pistol."

Preliminary investigation revealed Harpreet and his wife, who were married in 2020, had been involved in contentious divorce proceedings. Harpreet had alleged in his petition that Amitoj had falsely accused him of physical and mental abuse, and he was even arrested in a domestic violence case. The matter was referred to the mediation centre. The incident occurred during the fourth mediation session. Sources said Sidhu fired four shots, two of which hit Harpreet in the chest and stomach.

He was posted as AIG in the human rights cell of Punjab Police. In Nov last year, he was booked on charges of blackmailing and extortion from govt employees. In Oct 2023, he was arrested by Mohali police for assaulting vigilance DSP Barinder Singh Gill in his office. He was facing an inquiry over charges of criminal misconduct and disproportionate assets.

MP foresters want to seize train that killed tiger cubs

Bhopal: The MP forest department is considering 'seizing' the train that was responsible for the death of three tiger cubs on the Midghat-Budhni railway tracks that cut through Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, reports **P Naveen**. According to sources, forest officers in MP are pressing higher-ups for action.

The three cubs were hit by a train on July 14. While one was killed on the spot, its two siblings suffered for a fortnight before death.

Teen beats auto driver to death after he grazes SUV

Bagish.Jha@timesofindia.com

A 32-year-old physically challenged autorickshaw 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.

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.

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

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 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..

Bunty had left his Aligarh 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 Mujesar police station.

"He was the sole earning member in his family, which has his wife and three children. His wife is hard of hearing and has a speech impairment too. His sudden death has put the family in a major crisis," Bunty's sister said.

The accused was produced before a court on Saturday and remanded in police custody. "The auto that he had got a person to drive home was seized too. We are trying to find out why he took the auto away," a police spokesperson said.

₹32k cr Infosys tax row set to end as GST notice is closed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) initiated the first move to blow the peace pipe by closing the pre-show cause proceedings against Infosys for the 2017-2018 financial year. This sets the stage for putting a lid on the Rs 32,000 crore tax controversy surrounding the IT major, which caused an uproar due to the erroneous understanding displayed by GST authorities.

The move follows the swift intervention of the finance ministry to quell the outrage among businesses without denting business sentiment, as India Inc rallied behind Infosys as a show of strength against the wrongful interpretation of the law.



The move follows intervention of the finance ministry to quell the outrage among businesses

"The company has now received a communication from 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 on Saturday. Infosys also said it had received and responded to a pre-show cause notice issued by DGGI for the period July 2017 to March 2022.

DGGI's actions are an "over-interpretation" of the law, according to tax officers and consultants who believe regulations clearly outline the proper handling of transactions between branches and headquarters.

They also highlighted that Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs had issued a circular on June 26 to clarify any ambiguities. Nasscom referenced this circular on Thursday.

A tax expert, asserting that DGGI's position contradicts the law, explained that although Infosys transferred funds to its 256 branches 56 countries, these did not issue invoices requesting payment for services provided.


Suman with Yashvi

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





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

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 shooing 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 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 titbits 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-paints to create beautiful art work. "We are a helpless 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 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 momfluencer 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.

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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 squash 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

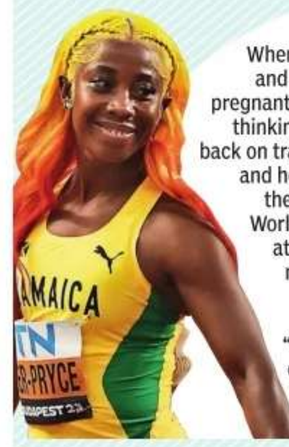
Primary school-goers can easily use peelers, graters and regular knives (not extra sharp ones) under adult supervision. With your assistance, the child can also make pancakes, omelettes, cheelas and pizza. You can also teach them to use a mixer to make smoothies and milkshakes. Cleaning up the kitchen 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

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 medallist. 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.

Helen Glover
Mother of three, 38-year-old Glover is also a champion rower in the Great Britain rowing team. She has two Olympic golds in her kitty and is eyeing a third at the Paris games. Her kids will be watching her row and she told The Guardian, "No matter how I do, in their eyes I'm just their mum, and that is quite comforting."



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

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 meeting. 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 was 18 months old when I directed my last film. I have so many photos where she is in my arms while I am directing. The kids have become an integral part of my life. I am also blessed with a lot of family support.

■ Did you always want to adopt? Did your family support your decision?
Adoption was always on my mind. I had seen my friend Sandip Soparrkar 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 grand-father — 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.

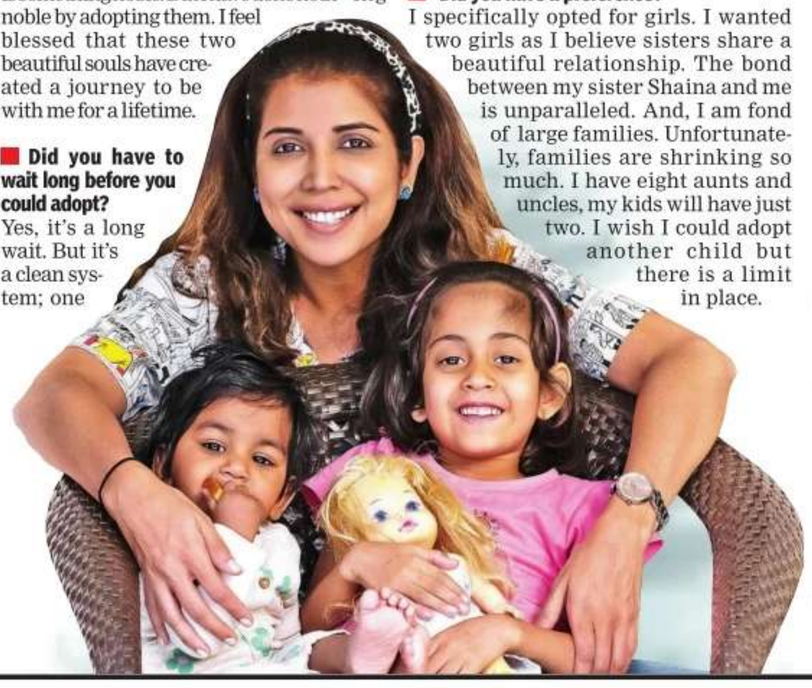
■ Over the past decade, several single celebrities have had children via adoption or surrogacy. Has single parenthood gained wider acceptance?
Yes, there is more acceptance and awareness about single parenting and adoption compared to earlier. But single persons still constitute a very small percentage 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 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.

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

■ 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.

Potatoes and pills: Feeding the body when feeling frail



Abhijit Banerjee

TASTING ECONOMICS

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 joyous 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).

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 to 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 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 fissiparous 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

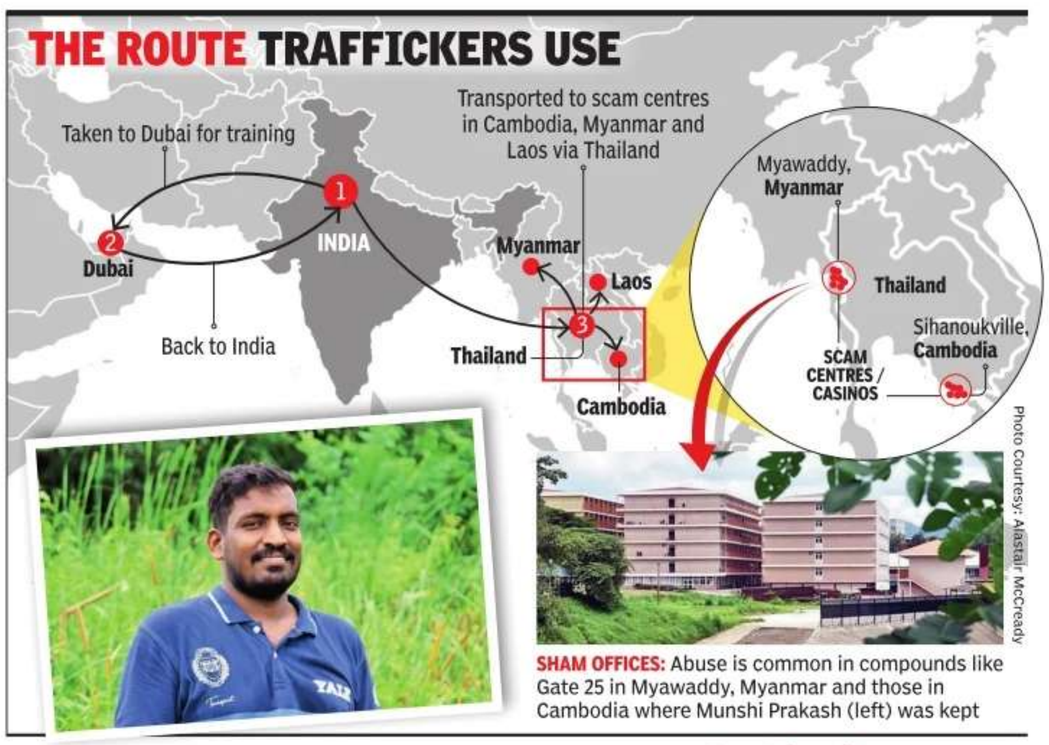


Mash 500 gm boiled and peeled potatoes (avoid those sweetish potatoes) with a potato masher or the back of a spoon while hot, with 3 tbsp salted butter, ½ cup sour cream, several pinches of black pepper, and 1 tsp salt. Take two leeks and cut the white and light green parts lengthwise into thin strips,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

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 scamdemic*

Ketaki.Desai@timesofindia.com



SHAM OFFICES: Abuse is common in compounds like Gate 25 in Myawaddy, Myanmar and those in Cambodia where Munshi Prakash (left) was kept

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 'Rolex' 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 trafficked Indians are discovering, is that it is not just that they have been conned, but that they have to con others to survive.

MINA LIANG, ANTI-TRAFFICKING EXPERT
Those who run compounds create debt through 'keyboard fees' and 'air breathing fees'

Their so-called offices are actually concrete prisons situated in casinos-turned-fraud factories inside the Golden Triangle — a region where the jungle borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet — which has been notorious as the centre of drug trade. Now, besides pushing heroin and meth, it's become infamous for online scam hubs where young men pose as attractive women, engage in flirtation, and dupe victims out of as much cash as possible.

Horror stories have been pouring in from Indians lucky enough to be rescued. C Stephen Wesley, one of the 13 people from Tamil Nadu rescued from a job racket in Myanmar in 2022, says he was made to sign a one-year contract and his passport was seized. "The company was engaged in crypto-currency fraud. The modus operandi was to create fake accounts in the name of models and lure rich businessmen who have registered on dating apps. They were then convinced to invest."

When messages translated into calls from the customer, women 'techies' 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/enslaver 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 govt 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

Disney.Tom@timesofindia.com

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 let off with nine Tamilians and with the help of the embassy, Norka 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.

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 will we ever manufacture here?" After trying to enter India for years, Luxshare is reported to have shifted its investment to Vietnam.



DOING BUSINESS WITH THE DRAGON: America's 'high fence, small yard' approach could be a model for India

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*

FOR THE RECORD

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'.

Why SC order is set to churn Dalit politics, and parties have to pick a side

BY INVITATION



BADRI NARAYAN

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 provision 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 against Malas, in Punjab, it is led by Balmikis 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 immediately 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 concerningly, 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, offered 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

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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

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

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 V-P 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.



DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: Internet fandom generates a buzz but can backfire and trivialise serious discussions on policy

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 saying, "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 milaao and survive! ■

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".

AFP



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 Iranians 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. NYT

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 BlackSea," 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 ourpartners — a security solution," Ukrainian President Vlodymyr 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 caughtfire 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 visiting to enjoy the amenities the city has to offer."

And Humberside 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

AFP



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

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

Penn guv Shapiro likely running mate for Harris

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US vice-president and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris is interviewing potential running mates this weekend with the needle of probability ticking towards Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro.

In fact, there was a momentary firestorm in political circles on Friday when mayor of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania's largest city) Cherelle Parker put out a video saying, "Proud to be back with so many leaders from across our region supporting Kamala Harris for president and Josh Shapiro for VP!" Her office later clarified the mayor was just showing her support for a longtime friend who is one of the people being considered. But local media reports said the video was made for a Monday announcement but was released accidentally and prematurely.

Shapiro remains on top of the VP nominee list because as the popular governor of Pennsylvania he could swing the battleground state and its 19 electoral votes to Kamala Harris. The state has been won and lost by narrow margins — it went to Trump in 2016 by 44,000 votes and to Biden in 2020 by about 82,000 votes. The winner of the popular vote, by any margin, gets all the state's electoral votes.

Recent poll surveys show Harris trailing Trump by one or two points, within the margin of error. Shapiro won the gubernatorial race against his Republican opponent in 2022 by 15 points, attesting to his popularity.

Other indicators that Shapiro could be the one came when he cancelled several meetings over the weekend and the Kamala Harris campaign scheduled a rally in Philadelphia on Tuesday, after an announcement of a running mate by Monday.

The Democratic governors of Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, along with transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg and Arizona senator Mark Kelly, also remain in the race. But the liberal commentariat believes that if Kamala Harris wants to sustain the momentum of her campaign and give herself the best chance to win in November, Shapiro "would make for the wisest choice".

Shapiro, who is Jewish, would balance the ticket in ways beyond geography (California-Pennsylvania). He is a centrist Democrat and would offset criticism is some quarters that Kamala Harris is from the radical left and not well-inclined towards Israel at a very fraught time in the Middle East. "Independent voters overwhelmingly favour Israel over Hamas, as did 80% of Americans… " the New York Times noted in an oped.

Reuters



SHORTLISTED: Shapiro and Harris in Philadelphia in July

Trump agrees to Sept 4 Fox debate

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said late Friday that he had agreed to debate his Democratic opponent, Vice-President Kamala Harris, on Fox News on Sept 4. It was not immediately clear if Harris had agreed to the debate. The debate will be held in Pennsylvania, and moderated by Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum in front of a full audience. AFP

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 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 treatment, including palliative treatment, overruling the court of protection.

Reuters



RIGHT TO DISAGREE WITH DOCS

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 real 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. NYT

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.

Reuters



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

One of the attackers blew himself up while three others were killed by security forces. One attacker was captured alive, Aden said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility by the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab, which has claimed similar attacks in the past, including the car bomb attack in 2022.

Hassan Farah, a survivor, 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 lightening 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

AP



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.

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, 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.

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 Americana 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. NYT

Merritt, who is a long time artists' rights advocate, isn't the only musician sounding alarms. In April, she joined Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj, Stevie Wonder and dozens of other artists in an open letter warning that AI-generated music trained on their recordings could "sabotage creativity" and sideline human artists. The big record labels are worried too. Sony Music, Universal Music Group and Warner 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," Mc Brearty 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 straight forward."

Some claims in the AI copyright 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



AP



BILES' NEW HIGH

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

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

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 medallist 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 a safe landing, albeit with a small hop backwards. Wearing a radiant red leotard, the American also impressed with her second effort.

She powered down the runway and launched into the Cheng vault, which incorporates a round-off, half-on entry with a one-and-a-half twisting flip to finish. She earned 14.900.

In the end the 27-year-old claimed a comfortable victory at the Bercy Arena with an average of 15.300 points.

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 with 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 wins pommel horse gold

Rhys McClenaghan earned Ireland their first ever Olympic medal in gymnastics when he struck gold on the pommel horse. Nariman Kurbanov of Kazakhstan took silver, while Stephen Nedoroscik of the US captured bronze. AGENCIES

AFP



INVINCIBLE LEON

MARCHAND MEDALS

Gold	200m Individual medley, 400m Individual medley, 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke

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 400m 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 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. 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 gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics, finished sixth in 21.61. AP

Djoko, Alcaraz in gold-medal match

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

China's Zheng wins 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.

Ebden-Peers duo emerges champs: Australian duo Matthew Ebden and John Peers won the men's doubles gold medal as they beat American pair Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram 6-7(6-8), 7-6 (7-1), 10-8 on Saturday. AGENCIES

Henry slams players after win over Argentina ends in brawl

Bordeaux: France coach Thierry Henry called the behaviour of some of his players unacceptable after their 1-0 Olympic quarterfinal victory over Argentina in Bordeaux ended in a brawl and a red card for midfielder Enzo Millot.

France knocked out Argentina on Friday to avenge the country's defeat in the last World Cup final in a bitter rivalry recently fuelled by a video of Argentine players directing chants labelled as racist at French players. But the triumph, courtesy of a fifth-minute goal by Jean-Philippe Mateta, was tarnished moments after the final whistle when French celebrations in front of Argentine players led to a brief brawl in which Millot was shown red card.

"I do not agree with what happened at the end," Henry told Argentine broadcaster TyC Sports. "One of my players got a red card and I don't accept that, it shouldn't happen," he added. REUTERS

Getty Images



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

No room for slip-ups against plucky GBR

Manuja.Veerappa
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INDIA VS GREAT BRITAIN
HEAD TO HEAD

Matches	23
Won by GB	13
Won by India	9
Draw	1

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 any slip-up against their plucky 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 Australians.

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.

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 sublime form and weigh in with experience.

While India qualified as the second-placed team from Pool B, Great Britain ended third in Pool A.

It will be crucial for India to keep dangerman and penalty corner expert Gareth Furlong quiet. Zach Wallace, known to create opportunities, will be another player, who India can ill-afford to offer space inside the circle.

In the other quarterfinals matches, Pool A toppers Germany will take on Argentina, while Australia face Netherlands and Belgium play Spain.

RISING 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...



"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

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".

The 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.

Pics: Reuters/AP



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

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 Khalif."

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."

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Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

PTI

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
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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 steeled 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'

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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.
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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)

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PTI

LAKSHYA'S BIGGEST TEST IS HERE



HEAD TO HEAD
VIKTOR AXELSEN leads LAKSHYA SEN 7-1*
*(Sen's solitary victory came on March 12, 2022 at the German Open semifinal)

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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 sliver and a bronze at Worlds, takes on second seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, a two-time world champion. It seems all the hardwork, put in at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, is bearing fruit as Sen hits peak form at the business end of the tournament. "It feels really good as it's something I have always dreamed of. There is a lot more work to do now and the real test starts from here," Sen said after winning the quarterfinal.

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
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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 Suhyeon 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.

Formidable Qian in Lovlina's way

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Reuters

ANOTHER MEDAL MISSED: Nishant Dev (left) in action against Mexico's Marco Alvarez on Saturday. Nishant lost 1-4 in the 71kg category

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. If she wins her last-eight bout, she will confirm herself a medal and become only the fourth Indian to win two individual Olympic medals after Sushil Kumar, PV Sindhu and Manu Bhaker. However, the task at hand for the world champion is anything but easy.

To make it to the semifinals, Lovlina — the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist in 69kg category — will have to beat double Olympic medallist and No. 1 seed Li Qian of China, with whom she shares quite a rivalry.

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. However, she lost 2-3 to Qian to settle for silver. 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 in New Delhi. It was in the semifinals that they faced off and Lovlina grabbed a 4-1 win before going on to win the gold medal.

Asked what Lovlina needs to do to make it to the semis, her former coach Sandhya Gurung said, "She needs to fight to her strength and fight from a distance like she did during her opening bout."

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Swiatek, Krejcikova withdraw from Canadian Open

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek and Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova have withdrawn from next week's Canadian Open, Tennis Canada said on Friday. Meanwhile 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 to reach the Washington Open semifinals. She will meet Czech Marie Bouzkova, who beat 19-year-old American Robin Montgomery, 6-3, 6-1.

Dortmund sign Brazil defender: Borussia Dortmund on Saturday announced the arrival on loan of Brazil defender Yan Couto from Manchester City until June 30, 2025, with the potential for the deal to become permanent after that. The 22-year-old right-back arrives after two seasons on loan at La Liga side Girona.

State athletics: Bipro Sarkar of Nadia district won the boy's U-16 javelin title with a throw of 43.51m in the 72nd State Athletics meet that began in the city on Saturday. Dipti Rajbanshi's (North 24-Parganas) 9.23m throw fetched gold in the girls U-16 shot put event.

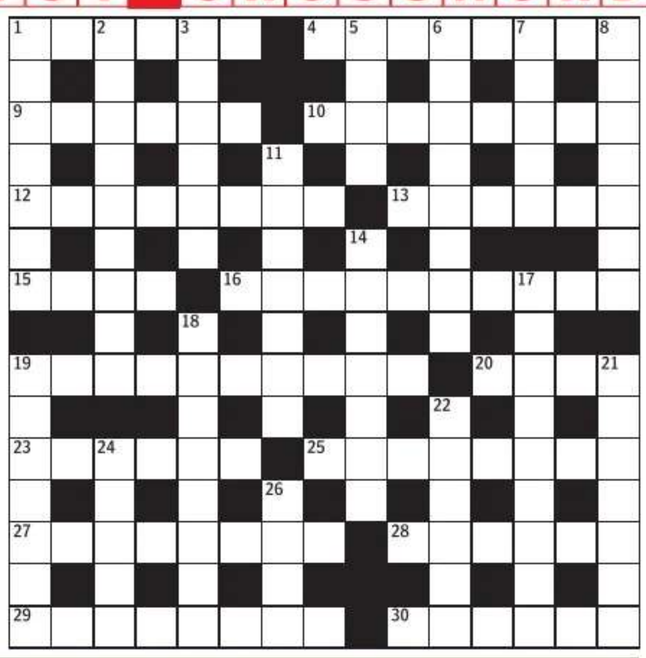
ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Durand Cup: 4 pm & 7 pm (Sony Sports)
OLYMPICS: 11am onwards (JioCinema, Sports18).

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0179

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 Temptress finally put on figure-hugging garment (6)
4 Even agitato passage may be so written (8)
9 Number of the French in uniform (6)
10 Pot or tin basin broken (8)
12 Flat delivery on an even pitch (8)
13 Keep a pupil in class (6)
15 Noticed to be seven minus five (4)
16 One seen in a hanging basket? (10)
19 Successfully concluded business in a taciturn manner (8,2)
20 Revise some taped items (4)
23 Diana's month of consternation (6)
25 Problem of pain (8)
27 It's blown up if dental treatment is required (8)
28 A new stage setting may include them (6)
29 Picture taken by a sniper perhaps (8)
30 Sadie's upset by such remarks (6)

Down
1 It keeps warm but leaves me short-changed (7)
2 Judo enthusiast about town? (5,4)
3 Not a musical score (6)
5 Ring a friend from the jewellers (4)
6 Confine Brown without leave to military HQ (8)
7 Boast about hand-made footwear (5)
8 Leave the pudding it's said (7)
11 A driven out intruder (7)
14 It turns a man blue or egg white (7)
17 Drew attention to article pocketed by accused (9)
18 Unfortunately Don's away at the moment (8)
19 They have evil ends in films (7)
21 Keyless locks (7)
22 Sayings of modern times (6)
24 A capital seat I snuggle into (5)
26 He is brave; so was she (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 Handgun (6) 4 Under pressure (8) 9 For choice (6)
10 Be compatible and friendly (3,2,3) 12 Break one's journey (4,4) 13 A tuberous flowering plant (6)
15 Weaving machine (4) 16 Obstinately impetuous (4-6) 19 Bashfully amorous glances (6,4)
20 Self-satisfied (4) 23 Norway lobsters (6) 25 Utterly perplexed (3,2,3) 27 Distinction (8) 28 Affront (6)
29 Victorian English poet (8) 30 Contemptible (6)

Down
1 Careful study (7) 2 Is an undertone (5,4) 3 King of the fairies (6) 5 Eager (4) 6 Lively (8) 7 Capital of South Korea (5) 8 To cheat (7) 11 Person fleeing from danger (7) 14 Past middle age (7) 17 A failed attempt to impress (4,5) 18 A stroke (8) 19 Doubt truth of (7)
21 Horrible (7) 22 Set in motion (6) 24 Foreign (5)
26 Resound (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

P	O	L	E	C	A	T	■	B	Y	L	I	N	E	S
E	■	I	■	A	■	H	■	O	■	I	■	E	■	L
D	E	B	A	T	E	R	■	M	I	L	I	T	I	A
D	■	E	■	A	■	O	■	B	■	A	■	B	■	C
L	Y	R	I	C	■	W	I	S	E	C	R	A	C	K
E	■	A	■	L	■	■	■	H	■	■	■	L	■	E
R	E	L	A	Y	R	A	C	E	■	M	I	L	A	N
■	■	■	■	S	■	L	■	L	■	O	■	■	■	■
S	T	E	A	M	■	T	A	L	K	R	O	U	N	D
U	■	N	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	T	■	P	■	E
S	I	G	N	A	L	M	A	N	■	A	E	S	O	P
T	■	L	■	H	■	E	■	E	■	L	■	T	■	R
A	L	I	M	E	N	T	■	P	A	S	S	A	G	E
I	■	S	■	A	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	G	■	S
N	O	H	O	P	E	R	■	L	I	N	G	E	R	S

QUICK

E	R	R	A	T	I	C	■	S	C	E	P	T	I	C
N	■	U	■	E	■	U	■	A	■	E	■	R	■	U
G	L	I	M	M	E	R	■	C	U	R	R	A	N	T
R	■	N	■	P	■	S	■	R	■	I	■	I	■	L
A	D	O	P	T	■	E	P	I	C	E	N	T	R	E
V	■	U	■	F	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	O	■	R
E	A	S	Y	A	S	P	I	E	■	H	A	R	D	Y
■	■	■	■	T	■	R	■	G	■	E	■	■	■	■
N	A	I	V	E	■	O	V	E	R	A	G	A	I	N
O	■	N	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	D	■	N	■	E
N	O	T	U	P	T	O	I	T	■	S	W	I	N	G
P	■	E	■	O	■	N	■	A	■	T	■	M	■	L
L	O	N	G	I	N	G	■	P	L	A	C	A	T	E
U	■	S	■	N	■	E	■	E	■	R	■	T	■	C
S	C	E	N	T	E	D	■	R	E	T	R	E	A	T

India look to take SL tweakers in stride

Rohit & Co. Hope To Go 1-0 Up After Dramatic Tie

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 231, India were comfortably placed at 130 for three in the first ODI on Friday before losing their way against Lankan spinners, who bowled out the visitors for 230 to earn a tie.

SECOND ODI

Once they survived the Rohit Sharma onslaught upfront, Lanka executed their plans well.

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.

The troika was not uncomfortable but was unable to break free either against some well-directed moves of the Lankans, who were precise in their calculations.

Kohli was tied up by Dunith Wellalage, 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, Lankan skipper Charith Asalanka pressed pacer Asitha Fernando into service.

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. PTI

PTI



India's head coach Gautam Gambhir (centre) with KL Rahul (right) and Virat Kohli during a practice session in Colombo





MSC snatch a point with late penalty

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Mohammedan Sporting required a stoppage-time penalty to hold Diamond Harbour FC 1-1 in their CFL Premier Division match in Naihati on Saturday and keep their title defence on track.

Jobby Justin gave Diamond Harbour the lead in the 31st minute. Just when the three-time defending champions Mohammedan Sporting looked to be headed to another defeat this term, they got a lifeline when Diamond Harbour's second-half substitute Supriya Pandit committed a needless foul on KV Salman Faris inside the box, leading to the penalty.

Bamiya Samad, who also came in the second half, made no mistake in beating the rival goalkeeper from the spot.

Despite the draw, Kibu Vicuna's DHFC stayed on top of the Group A table with 17 points from 7 matches. Mohammedan Sporting with 14 points from 8 matches are at third place, a point ahead of United SC who, however, have a game in hand.

The top three from the group will advance to the championship round.

Pradip Datta



Md Sporting's Israfil Dewan (R) and Diamond Harbour's Naresh Yendrembam vie for the ball

Pradip Datta



East Bengal FC and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) players before an exhibition match at the National Centre of Excellence ground, New Town, on Saturday. East Bengal won 1-0. On the occasion of RBI's 90th centenary, its deputy governor T. Rabi Sankar inaugurated an all-India public sector football tournament in which 11 teams are participating

Rangdajied United replace Hyderabad FC in Durand Cup

Kolkata: Meghalaya's Rangdajied United FC will replace Hyderabad FC in the ongoing Durand Cup.

Hyderabad FC — in the midst of financial troubles — failed to field a team and eventually dropped out of the tournament, forcing the organisers to find a replacement at the eleventh hour. "Hyderabad FC has dropped out of the event due to unforeseen circumstances. While many capable clubs were available to replace the team in the Group, the Government of Meghalaya suggested the inclusion of Rangdajied United FC (RUFC), which was welcomed by the Durand Cup Organising Committee," the organisers said in a statement.

Rangdajied have been clubbed in Group F with fellow Meghalaya side Lajong FC, FC Goa and Tribhuvan Army.

In Saturday's matches, Odisha FC routed BSF FT 5-0 in Group E while Bengaluru FC blanked Inter Kashi 3-0 with Sunil Chhetri scoring again. TNN

PSC asks EB & Delhi FC to reply in five days

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesofindia.com

Panaji: The AIFF's player status committee (PSC) has allowed **Anwar Ali** to sign for a club of his choice but has ruled that the unilateral termination of his existing four-year loan agreement with Mohun Bagan Super Giant is without just cause.



The ball-playing central defender joined Bagan last season on a four-year loan agreement with Delhi FC. Last month, Anwar wrote to AIFF's players' registrations department that he wanted out of the Bagan deal because it was harming his future prospects.

ANWAR TRANSFER SAGA

Anwar then unilaterally terminated his contract and returned to Delhi FC. He has told the PSC that he has signed a pre-contract with East Bengal, subject to the grant of NOC.

"Since the matter concerns the livelihood of the player and urgent relief has been requested, the committee directs the AIFF players' status department to approve any request for transfer raised by the player," the PSC said in an interim order on Tuesday, after conducting a hearing the previous day. "However, any such transfer shall be subject to the final decision of the committee in the next hearing and at the risk of all interested parties."

The committee also issued notices to Delhi FC and East Bengal, giving them five days to respond why they should not be held "jointly and severally liable with the player for any damages awarded."

'African' strikes gold

Khainin Haidermota

Kolkata: Parvati Byramji-saddled African Gold won the Colts Trials Championship Stakes on Saturday at Bengaluru. The Fillies Trial Championship Stakes was claimed by Rajesh Narredu-nursed Excellent Lass.

RACING CORNER

BENGALURU SHORT RESULTS (WITH INTER-VENUE DIVIDENDS)

1. (5-4-1) Akasi 1: Recreator 2: Phoenix Surprise 3. **2.** (6-5-4) Striking Eyes 1: Loving Pearl 2: Estefania 3. **3.** (1-13-5) Amazing Ruler 1: Mystical Air 2: Magical Bay 3. **4.** (6-8-10) Storm Shadow 1: Victor Hugo 2: Art Of Romance 3. **5.** (4-5-2) Indian Blues 1: The Perfect Choice 2: Macron 3. **6.** (3-4-6) Excellent Lass 1: Magnetic 2: Nyx 3. **7.** (2-4-6) Prana 1: Galahad 2: Vivaldo 3. **8.** (6-1-4) African Gold 1: Santissimo 2: Mandarino 3. **9.** (9-13-14) Divine Art 1: Martino 2: Mriga 3. **10.** (3-2-4) Lauterbrunnen 1: General Patton 2: Altamonte 3. **Jackpot:** Rs 1,060 (c) Rs 89. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 667. **Treble:** (I) Rs 93 (II) Rs 171.

Golden Gazelle may repeat: Srinivas Reddy-nursed Golden Gazelle may repeat in the P.G. Reddy Memorial Cup on Sunday at Malakpet. Trishul and Hurricane Bay will fight for the minor placings.

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

1.40pm: 1. Imperia 2. Master Touch 3. Crown Witness. **2.15pm:** 1. Desert Hero 2. Secret Saint 3. Gun For Gold. **2.45pm:** 1. Bold Beauty 2. Star Forever 3. Star Medal. **3.15pm:** 1. Oliver's Mount 2. Clare 3. Get Lucky. **3.45pm:** 1. Anzio 2. Last Wish 3. Enabling. **4.15pm:** 1. Golden Gazelle 2. Trishul 3. Hurricane By. **4.45pm:** 1. Calistoga 2. Cherish Lady 3. Final Judgement. **Day's Best:** Desert Hero. **Good Double:** Anzio and Golden Gazelle.

Races postponed: Pune races scheduled for Sunday, have been postponed to Tuesday.





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HAPPY FRIENDSHIP DAY

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Ex-cop Sachin Waze reveals he had named another MVA minister in his purported missive to Fadnavis in extortion case involving ex-mantri Anil Deshmukh, **P 5**

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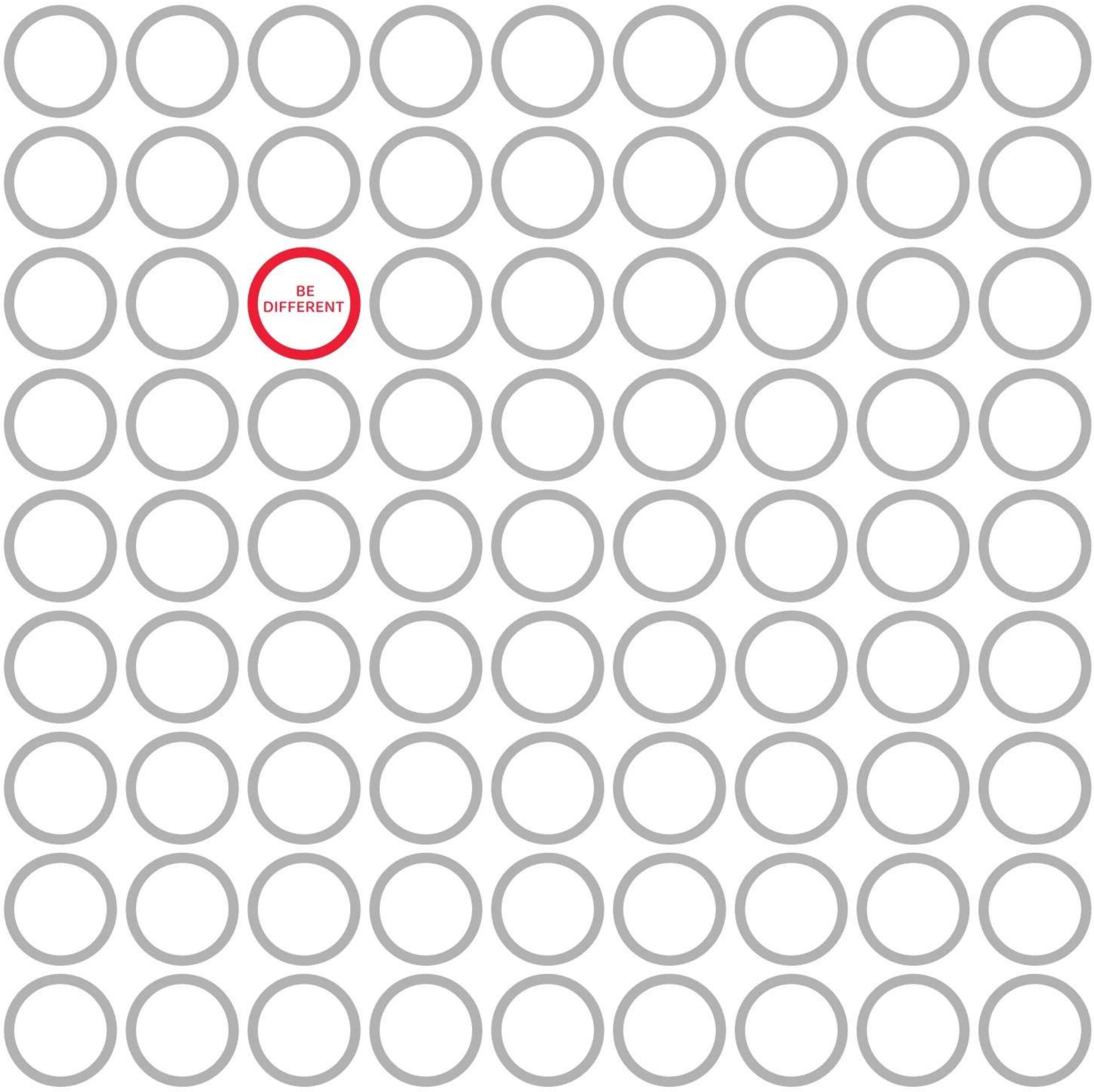
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