



# Rain forecasts still a challenge in tropical climates: Experts

Vaishnavi Chandrashekar

Mumbai: On the morning of Sunday July 7, the Met department issued a yellow alert for the next 24 hours, predicting heavy rain in a few places. By Monday morning, though, a staggering 268mm of rain had swamped the suburbs, more than half of that falling in just three hours overnight—a red alert scenario. The department then issued another yellow alert for Tuesday July 9, prompting school closures. But the next day, there was almost no rain.

Residents vented on social media. “Why always a false prediction?” asked one on X. After two more off-target alerts, civic officials met with weather officials in late July, a BMC official says, to convey the need for more precise forecasts “to ensure the civic body can respond appropriately”.

Although the ability of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has grown in recent decades, demand for better forecasting is also rising. “Forecasts are getting better so we expect more,” says Raghu Murtugudde, a climate scientist and visiting professor at IIT Bombay. He adds, “The real question is: What are the limits of predictability?”

India has expanded its we-

## TIMES Special

ather infrastructure over the past two decades, adding radars, ocean buoys, automated weather stations, supercomputers and, most recently, another weather satellite, to its arsenal of instruments. The IMD has also moved to a dynamic simulation-based model. These changes have helped the department issue forecasts more frequently, from once a day to four times a day in cities like Mumbai, and more in advance, from 48-hour forecasts to five- and seven-day ones, says K S Hosalkar, head of climate research and services at IMD's regional office in Pune.

In Mumbai, apart from the two historical observatories at Colaba and Santacruz, there are now a 100 automated weather stations across the metropolitan region, including Thane and Navi Mumbai, as well as two Doppler radars. With four more radars planned, the city's observation system “is probably one of the best in the country,” says Hosalkar.

With all this upgrading, why do forecasts still miss the mark?

Experts point to a range of reasons. For one, tropical climates are more variable than temperate climates such as in the US or Europe. Big storms in those countries tend to be “frontal” systems that move in a disciplined way and are easier to see coming. “They're like trains,” says Hosali-

## 'NEW RADARS, AI TO REFINE PREDICTIONS'



Waterlogging caused by heavy downpour on Saturday at Mafco Road in Turbhe, Navi Mumbai

**INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) GETS DATA FROM:**

**2** long-running observatories in Colaba and Santacruz

**100** automatic weather stations run by Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, among others

**2 radars in Colaba and Andheri (Veravalli)**

**COLABA RADAR** | An S-band one with a range of 500km, mainly used for cyclone forecast

**ANDHERI RADAR** | It has a range of 400km



> Balloons sent up from Santacruz observatory take air measurements

> Measurements of sea surface temperature and other conditions from ocean buoys, moors and ships in Indian Ocean

> Measurements from aircraft

> Satellite data, including from recently launched INSAT-3DS, which captures more location-specific weather patterns

### ANALYSIS

> Dept uses computer simulation models to come up with analyses

> IMD officials across country meet virtually to discuss every morning

**FORECAST:** Data goes to forecasts for public, aviation, agriculture, fisheries; IMD works with tech insts and BMC on flood warning systems

### MORE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PIPELINE

**4** more Doppler radars from IITM Pune in progress near airport and in Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli and Vasai-Virar

> High resolution models for hyperlocal results in progress

> Monitoring of ONGC rigs for real-time weather data from Arabian Sea

> Collaborations with finance institutions like RBI

> More urban rainfall gauges

kar: “When the train is at Thane, you generally know when it will arrive in Dadar.”

By contrast, the tropical monsoon system is more chaotic. Murtugudde compares the monsoon to a popcorn kettle: The entire kettle heats up to roughly the same temperature, yet corn kernels pop randomly. Similarly, the monsoon might cover the whole of India, but rain suddenly convects here and there, he says. A similar process happens on a local scale, which is why there can be rain in Powai but hardly any in Vikhroli.

Weather models must account for longer-term global processes, such as El Nino, as well as regional processes. Local atmospheric conditions also play a role, especially for short thunderstorms. “Within just a few hours, cloud development can take place,” says S G Kamble, head of IMD Mumbai. He claims the department's five-day forecasts have an accuracy of about 70%. “Forecasts are probabilistic,” he emphasises.

Mumbai's rain is also shaped by sea winds and the Western Ghats, even its built form. “Predicting precipitation is difficult, and in an urban coastal region, it's even more difficult,” says Subimal Ghosh, a professor at IIT Bombay. Ghosh has been trying out a global forecast model ‘downscaled’ to the regional level this season. The results have been promising, he says, though the model also failed to predict the July 8 deluge. That rain was caused by an offshore trough suddenly moving towards the city.

Global warming is adding to the complexity. Recent studies by Murtugudde and others suggest that warming temperatures in the Middle East is increasing rainfall in Pakistan and northwest India, including the northern Ghats. This was the second-wettest July recorded in Mumbai.

With all these factors at play, “the models can't catch everything”, says Hosalkar. But he hopes the addition of

new radars, the introduction of a high-resolution model, as well as increased use of artificial intelligence and machine learning will help refine forecasts further: “Science has limits,” he says. “But science can also improve.”

In the absence of certainty, communication is critical, say Mumbaiers like Urvi Shah. Her young son's Santacruz school was cancelled several times in July. Sometimes the school was able to declare a ‘virtual class day’ in advance. Other times, kids had reached the premises by the time the decision was made. Still, Shah doesn't blame the school or the Met. “Technology is improving, we get notifications all the time, not like when I was a child,” she says.

Bridging the gap between science and society is key, says Hosalkar. Recent years have seen the IMD launch apps, expand its website, and begin posting on social media. Still, he says, “we can do more.” (With inputs by Richa Pinto)

# 36 yrs after land acquired, HC asks Mhada to pay owner ₹25L

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Mumbai: Over 36 years after private land was acquired by Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (Mhada) in Dharavi, Bombay high court has directed it to pay an interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh within 15 days to its owner towards the acquisition of his property.

“(T)his is a case of gross, inordinate and unexplained delay by the statutory authorities in paying compensation to the petitioner for acquiring his property,” said Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata in the August 1 verdict. They also directed Mhada to pay Rs 5 lakh compensation to Yusuf Kantharia (the owner) “for violating his constitutional and human rights” and Rs 1 lakh costs within 15 days. The final compensation, with interest, must be paid “within a year from today.”

Kantharia owned 979sq m of land with a chawl. On July 14, 1988, Mhada acquired it. On August 2, 2003, HC was told by its special land acquisition officer (SLAO) that the original records of acquisition had to be traced. A fortnight later, HC admitted the petition for final hearing, which was taken up recently.

The judges noted that to date, neither the records were traced nor compensation determined. They said neither in the affidavit nor in oral submissions, “a shred of justification is offered” for this “inordinate and insensitive delay in taking away a citizen's property and not paying him any compensation for almost 36 years.” “Such conduct on the respondent's part amounts to virtual expropriation of a citizen's property without the authority of law and without paying any compensation,” the judges said, adding that it violates rights to equality, life and property.

Though there was “callosity on the part of the state govt and Mhada”, the judges were disinclined to interfere with the acquisition “because the land must have been utilised for the purpose for which it was acquired.” “...this is a fit case to direct the respondents to determine the compensation expeditiously and, in the interim, pay some compensation to the petitioner immediately,” they added.

Kantharia's advocate Rahul Pandey said the chawl was let out to several persons and in 1988-89, Kantharia earned Rs 10,000/- monthly rent. The judges calculated Rs 6 lakh compensation payable in 1988-89 with 9% interest, adding: as of today it is Rs 25 lakh. Pandey said compensation determined must consider inflation and the purchasing power of money.

The judges said their “determination of Rs 25 lakh is essentially ad hoc.” Ultimately, the SLAO will determine the compensation. They directed the SLAO to complete the exercise of determining compensation within 6 months. If Kantharia disagrees with the compensation amount, he may appeal against it.

Mhada, which acquired the private land in 1988, has also been directed to pay owner Yusuf Kantharia Rs 5 lakh ‘for violating his constitutional and human rights’ and Rs 1 lakh costs in 15 days

# CM directs authorities to plan adequate hsg for police in MMR

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Mumbai: CM Eknath Shinde on Saturday directed Mhada, Cidco, MMRDA, and the Urban Development department to prepare proposals for adequate housing for police in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). CM Shinde said these agencies should jointly decide how they can provide service quarters for the police in Mumbai and the surrounding areas in a priority and time-bound manner.

CM Shinde also said that action should be taken within eight days to immediately resolve the problem of police colony in Worli. He issued the directives after meeting Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray at Varsha. Residents of the police colony were also present on the occasion.

“At present, 18,000 quarters are available in Mumbai, and the total number of police officers and employees is 52,000. Only 25% of the policemen and women have quarters to live. Compared to the number of policemen, this is very inadequate and it should be seen how the flats can be given to the police personnel elsewhere in Mumbai, like the way in BDD Chawl in Worli, policemen are given quarters by ownership,” said an official.

## Shinde-Sr Pawar hold talks on Maratha quota

CM Eknath Shinde on Saturday met NCP (SP) supreme Sharad Pawar. This was the CM's second meeting with Pawar in recent days. Party functionaries said the two had a discussion on Maratha and OBC reservation and increase in milk price, among other issues.

NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) minister Chhagan Bhujbal had requested Sharad Pawar to mediate in the Maratha-OBC reservation dispute. Bhujbal had said there has been a rift between the two communities and Sharad Pawar should appeal for peace. Sharad Pawar had later announced that he will meet CM Shinde and discuss the possible solution. TNN

“All relevant departments should take immediate action to see if some quarters can be reserved for the police in the housing schemes that are currently underway, whether incentive FSI can be given in redeveloped projects, and whether flats can be reserved in the projects of private developers,” said CM Shinde.

Retired employees of Worli Police Colony also raised complaints about the penalti-

## 'Change rules to get justice for BAMS students'

Mumbai: CM Eknath Shinde said students who are residents of Maharashtra but have done Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine (BAMS) from other states were not getting admission through the state quota for postgraduate Ayurvedic education. CM Shinde directed medical education principal secretary Dinesh Waghmare to make necessary changes in postgraduate admission rules and submit them for approval to remove this injustice.

“Students will now get a big relief as they will get an opportunity to get admission through the 85% quota (govt and private aided) and 70% quota (private unaided) of the state,” CM Shinde said. TNN

es being levied on them. “Rs 150 per square foot is charged which is exorbitant. It is not possible for employees to pay this huge amount after retirement. Also, complaints were made that many compassionate police personnel were asked to vacate the flats. On this, the CM directed that the proposal regarding reducing the penalty should be sent to the govt within eight days,” said an official.

# Court rejects plea to probe 'death due to harassment'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A magistrate's court on Saturday rejected a complaint filed by Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust (LKMMT) seeking a probe against eleven persons, including former and current trustees and bank officials, into the death of 85-year-old founder and permanent trustee Kishor Mehta in May this year.

The complaint had sought the magistrate to order an investigation for offences related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder and criminal conspiracy.

The complaint mentioned that they had conspired to mentally harass Kishor Mehta. It has been alleged that the bank officials initiated recovery proceedings against him and that despite repayment of loans, they continued to institute proceedings before various authorities, which caused grave mental harassment to him.

However, Satish Maneshinde, lawyer for one of those who has been named in the complaint, submitted that Kishor Mehta suffered from multiple ailments, and that he had undergone a triple bypass surgery, spine surgeries, and had been confined to a wheelchair.

“It is also mentioned (in the complaint) that on April 17... the deceased had undergone an amputation of his right foot due to the spread of gangrene and was in and out of intensive care unit for the past many months,” lawyer Maneshinde said.

The lawyer further said: “Thus, the complaint itself makes it abundantly clear that the death of the deceased cannot be attributed to any purported actions of the accused.”

## Home buyer files cheating complaint against three

Mumbai: A businessman has registered a police complaint against three directors of a construction group for cheating him of Rs 68.1 lakh. The construction group's office is based in Kandivli.

The complainant said that he was promised a flat since 2012 and, while he paid the full amount, no flat registration was done in his name. Kandivli Police have registered a case of cheating.

Police sources said one of the directors in this construction group has underworld links. TNN

# Dengue cases in Jan-July double of 7 mths of '23

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Cases of mosquito-borne dengue fever peak around Oct every year, but public health officials are already worried about it because of the sudden surge in July. Consider Maharashtra, where cases almost doubled (83%) from 3,164 cases between Jan and July 2023 to 5,776 in the first seven months this year.

At a virtual meeting called by central health officials on Friday, union health secretary Apurva Chandra said although dengue cases generally peak in Oct, this year's trend shows as of July 31, the number of cases is already almost 50% higher than at the same time last year. There is fear that cases would be significantly higher during the Oct peak, stressing the health system in terms of hospital beds and platelets needed for transfusion.

Representatives from the nine worst-hit states, including Maharashtra, were present at the inter-ministerial meeting to review the dengue situation and preparedness. Officials from various municipal corporations, including Mumbai and Pune, were present too.

State health officials, though, said the higher numbers in July are not a cause for concern. “There are two reasons for the surge in dengue numbers. Firstly, we are doing do-

uble the number of tests this year as compared to previous years,” said one official. There is a 25% increase in the number of surveillance centres in Maharashtra, he added. Across the country, the number of sentinel surveillance hospitals has increased from 110 in 2007 to 848 in 2024.

Secondly, monsoons arrived early and it has been raining in phases. “Such rain patterns produce an environment conducive for mosquitoes to breed,” said the official. At Friday's meeting, the union health ministry urged the nine states to prepare for the upcoming peak. While the number of cases has been rising over the past four years, the dengue case fatality rate has decreased from 3.3% in 1996 to 0.17% in 2023 due to focused, timely and collaborative efforts, they said.

In 2022, India reported 2.3 lakh dengue cases and 303 deaths, and the number rose to 2.9 lakh cases and 485 deaths in 2023. Urban areas contribute close to 60% of the total cases.

Over the years, dengue has largely transitioned as an epidemic in urban centres due to relatively higher temperatures (urban heat islands), higher concentration of population, rapid construction, inadequate solid waste management and improper water storage practices that help Aedes mosquitoes breed.

# IMD upgraded yellow alert to orange on wet Saturday

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Mumbai: It was a rainy Saturday for Mumbai as the city and its adjoining areas such as Thane and Navi Mumbai recorded significant monsoon activity throughout the day. In the nine hours ended at 5:30pm on Saturday, India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Colaba and Santacruz observatories recorded 43.2mm and 65mm rainfall, respectively.

IMD upgraded its forecast for the weekend from the earlier yellow alert issued on Friday for Aug 3-4 to orange for both days following the downpour the city began to receive from Saturday morning. An orange alert indicates heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. Meanwhile, for Palghar, a red alert has been issued for Sunday. A red alert indicates heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places with very likely extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places.

The heavy rain activity all over the region, said IMD, was due to a deep depression over southwest Bihar and the adjoining northwest Jharkhand and a low-pressure area over southwest Rajasthan and its neighbourhood, and strong westerly winds currently prevailing over the western coast. “So heavy rainfall activity is expected over parts of Maharashtra during the next two to three days. Widespread rainfall activity with heavy (64.5-115.5mm) to very heavy (115.6-204.4mm) rainfall and

## RED ALERT FOR PALGHAR TODAY



Debris on Central Railway tracks after a landslide, which hit services

Rainfall recorded in the nine hours ended at 5:30 pm on Saturday (in mm)	
Santacruz	65
Colaba	43.2
Dahisar	38.5
Ram Mandir	65
Vikhroli	65
Matunga	58.5
Sion	80.5
Panvel	46
Rabale	53.6
Mira Road	33.5
Thane	79

As westerly winds converged, heavy rain lashed MMR. We saw the season's first strong land-based system. Usually it intensifies over the sea. But in this case it was over land

Abhijit Modak | INDEPENDENT METEOROLOGIST

isolated extremely heavy rainfall (204.5mm) is expected over Konkan and adjoining Ghatareas of Madhya Maharashtra during the above period,” said the weather bureau.

A fisherman warning has also been issued for the next five days. “Squally weather with wind speed reaching 45kmph to 55kmph gusting to 65kmph is likely to prevail along and off North Maharashtra coast on Aug 4-5. Fishermen

are advised not to venture along and off North Maharashtra coast during the above-mentioned period,” said IMD.

After July ended with the second highest rainfall for the month ever, the city saw comparatively less rain activity.

Water stocks in the seven lakes supplying to Mumbai touched 11.9 million litre or 82% of the required quantum. Last year on the same date water stocks were at 78%.

## BMC backing one firm in desalination tender: Cong

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Mumbai: Congress's Sachin Sawant has alleged cartelisation in the tendering process for an around Rs 3,600 crore 200 MLD desalination plant at Manori and BMC had received only two bids. He alleged the tender conditions have been set to favour one company, IDE. Meanwhile, BMC is not going ahead with the bids as the consultant found defects in both.

Sawant alleged of the two bids that BMC has received, one is from Gawar Constructions and it was meant only to provide a supporting bid to IDE, which is in a joint venture with GVPR. While Gawar Construction claimed to be in a joint venture with Veolia as its technology partner, no such JV agreement was submitted, he said.

Sawant alleged the consultant is being pressured to qualify both the bids. He said global firms such as SWCC, Global Omnium, SUEZ, ABENGOA and WABAG are equally qualified or larger.

A BMC official said, “BMC has the option of forfeiting the large earnest money deposit. Nobody would take a chance of making a false claim about a JV. Some of the firms mentioned are already working with BMC on other projects. The tender process has been delayed participation due to variables.”

# 'Bank liable for complacency on part of officers'

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Mumbai: Adjudicating an APMC complaint against Dena Bank, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission said it has consistently been held that even if there is any negligence or complacency on the part of bank officers and due care and caution are not exercised by the supervisory officers in preventing the fraud, the bank will be liable for such negligence.

Not taking proper care of funds deposited by the customer resulted in embezzlement and consequent loss to the complainant.

“The bank is vicariously liable for the act of its employees and is liable to refund the entire money to the complainant,” it said.

APMC had moved the commission in 2015 seeking the return of the amount with interest.

It said the committee was established under Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act and plays an important role in developing and co-ordinating the agricultural marketing system in the city. It said for this purpose, it needs to expand its funds by investing unutilised funds in fixed deposits in various banks.

In 2014, the committee called for quotations from various banks for providing the best interest rates against fixed deposits.

The bank's Malabar Hill branch offered a higher interest rate per annum. The committee said since it is a nationalised bank, looking at the financial security, it was decided to invest Rs 65 crore from time to time. Twelve deposits ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 70 lakh were made between Jan 29, 2014, and May 3, 2014. The maturity dates of the fixed deposits were between Jan and May 2015.

The committee submitted that in July 2014, it was left shocked after the Economic Offence Wing, Mumbai, informed it about the fraud in the overdraft accounts against the fixed deposits.

The bank, however, blamed the committee for the negligence. It said that the committee was a victim of a fraud committed by those persons whom they themselves had authorised and empowered for dealing with the bank. The bank further said those persons had dealt with it in the matter of advancing loans and overdraft facilities against the fixed deposit receipts.

The bank said it had no reason to doubt their honesty and integrity.

# Court sets aside order against 2 bankers in cops assault case

'No Evidence Of Breach Of Peace, Video Produced By Both Not Considered'

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Mumbai: Observing that there is no tangible evidence to show a reasonable apprehension of breach of peace on their part, a sessions court has set aside chapter proceedings issued against two bank managers who were booked in a case of assaulting cops after a drunken fight with an autorickshaw driver in Goregaon last year.

The judge said a video clip produced by both was not considered by the Special Executive Magistrate.

In two separate orders, the additional sessions judge said, "Due to lack of adherence to procedural requirements or insufficient grounds to establish a reasonable apprehension of a breach of peace, the order is not legal and proper." The judge fur-

ther said the duo has no criminal antecedents and hold reputable posts.

"Section 107 of CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code) is indeed preventive and not punitive, and there must be a reasonable likelihood of a breach of peace, supported by concrete evidence and proper procedural adherence. No evidence is adduced by state nor inquiry... commenced," the judge said.

The judge further said that the magistrate's order lacks reasoning and procedural adherence.

Last year, the magistrate directed the duo to furnish a bond of good behaviour of Rs 25,000 each for the period of one year with one surety.

Setting aside the order, the judge said, "The proceedings... cannot be justified unless there is a clear and danger of a breach of peace.

The Executive Magistrate's order does not seem to provide adequate reasons for satisfaction as required," the judge said.

The judge further said that the two were not given a fair opportunity to present their defence.

"The principles of natural justice were violated, as the appellant was not allowed to cross-examine witnesses or present his own evidence effectively," the judge said in two separate orders.

It was the prosecution's case that on Jan 22, 2023, around 3.30pm, below Magathane bridge in Borivali (East), under the influence of liquor, the duo fought with cops due to an argument with a rickshaw driver. It was alleged that they assaulted the public servants while being taken to the medical facility.

An FIR was lodged ag-

inst them at Kasturba Marg police station. The police subsequently sent a proposal to the Special Executive Magistrate to initiate the chapter proceedings. The magistrate then issued a showcause notice to the duo. They filed their replies along with the video clips. The magistrate then passed the orders on Sept 15, 2023. Aggrieved, the duo moved the sessions court on Dec 4, 2023, against the order.

They said a video clip supporting their claims that the police assaulted them was not considered by the magistrate. The prosecution opposed their plea and said that the order was based on credible information from reliable sources indicating a potential breach of peace. The preventive measure was necessary to maintain public order, the prosecution submitted.

## Bail in fraud case for owner of Kamala Mill Compound

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Mumbai: A sessions court on Saturday granted bail to Kamala Mills compound owner, Ramesh Gowani, arrested last month by Economic Offences Wing (EOW) for allegedly defrauding a businessman of Rs 67.5 crore. Gowani moved the sessions court on July 21 after a magistrate's court had rejected his plea on July 16.

Granting him bail, the sessions court imposed several conditions. "The applicant (Gowani) shall not cause any hindrance to investigating machinery in collection of evidence including in electronic form... shall surrender his passport before the investigating officer within a period of one week of his release... shall not leave India without prior permission of this court," the judge said.

The judge also directed him not to alienate any movable and immovable property in his name or those of his wife or children, without its permission. "The applicant shall not tamper with prosecution evidence or pressurise the prosecution witnesses in any manner..." the judge said.

The prosecution contended that Gowani, who owns a real estate company, Amikrupa Land Developers, had purchased a 2,204-sqm plot in Santacruz (west) from the complainant and promised to provide Rs 20 crore, 10 flats and a shop in exchange. According to the allotment letter given to the complainant, seven flats were sold to third parties, and two flats were mortgaged to a finance company.

The police registered an FIR against Gowani and his wife, Nidharshana, for cheating and misappropriation of funds.

# Waze names Jayant Patil in orchestra bar extortion case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

Waze said that in a letter addressed to BJP leader 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. 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.

## LETTER STIRS UP HORNET'S NEST

<p>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 — <b>Devendra Fadnavis</b>   DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER</p> 	<p>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 — <b>Jayant Patil</b>   NCP (SP) LEADER</p> 
<p>Which Jayant Patil he is talking about we don't know... dirty politics being played out in Maharashtra. See the timing of the letter... they (the ruling party) are afraid of our senior leader, so they are now behind them — <b>Supriya Sule</b>   NCP (SP) MP</p> 	<p>The Bombay high court observed that Waze, involved in murder, is of a criminal disposition and his statements cannot be relied upon — <b>Anil Deshmukh</b>   EX-STATE HOME MINISTER</p> 

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 expose.

In Nashik, BJP leader Girish Mahajan asked Deshmukh to reveal what evidence he had in a pen drive (Desh-

mukh 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.

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

# Pilgrims from Mahad stranded in Kedarnath urge state to airlift them

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: Around 120 pilgrims from across Maharashtra, including a 10-member group from Mahad, have been stranded on the trek route to Kedarnath. The Mahad group members, who are stuck there since Thursday owing to flash floods, include industrialist Gopal More. They have demanded state govt's help to airlift them.

Portions of the 16km trek route between Gaurikund and Sonprayag on the way to Kedarnath have been washed away by flash floods



Trek route that was washed away

caused by the Mandakini river. The cloudburst caused a landslide damaging the trek

path, covered a shop under debris, washed away a go-down and two bridges at Hairamwad among others.

The pilgrims are facing food and other issues, including no mobile network to contact their families and relatives. A few of the Mahad pilgrims had a darshan. The pilgrim organizer, Meher Yogendra Rawat, is allegedly not helping the Mahad pilgrims. More had sought the help of Mahad MLA Bharat Gogawale, who failed to get proper response from the Uttarakhnad administration. This has increased the tension of the state pilgrims.

More while speaking to a local journalist said that the pilgrims are ready to pay towards their airlifting expenses through private helicopters. He alleged that the pilgrims have not been getting food and other required amenities. The pilgrims are even asked to walk on the trek path without any safety arrangement like rope. The Raigad district administration in response revealed that the Mahad group is around the helipad near the Kedarnath temple. The pilgrims are evacuated in a phased manner due to inclement weather.

## Vishalgad violence: Panel seeks state's report

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Mumbai: The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) sought a detailed report from state chief secretary Sujata Saunik over the Vishalgad violence. The report expected by Aug 13 will be placed before NCM chairperson Iqbal Singh Lalpura.

The NCM notice comes on the complaint filed by the Samajwadi Party MLA, Rais Shaikh. He welcomed the NCM notice to the state govt. "I am happy to see that the NCM has taken cognisance of my complaint on the atrocities and grievous injuries meted out to the Muslim community by the extreme right-wing organisations under the garb of demolition," said Shaikh.

Shaikh said that the community has lost confidence in the Maharashtra police as they were a mute spectator when the atrocities were carried out by the extreme right-wing organisations at Vishalgad in Kolhapur.

# Misplaced CD a reason for acquittal in terror mail case

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Mumbai: A misplaced CD that remained untraceable until the end, a test identification that lasted only a minute, the improbability of two shop owners recognising the accused as a customer for and a half years later, and the home ministry's invalid sanction for invoking UAPA, led the sessions court to conclude that there was no evidence proving that 36-year-old Ajaz Saeed Shaikh, a former IT professional from Pune, was a member of the banned organisation Indian Mujahideen.

On Friday, a sessions court acquitted Shaikh, who had been accused of sending a terror email after the September 2010 firing and blast outside Jama Masjid, Delhi, that left two foreigners injured. The detailed 40-page judgment was made available on Saturday.

"There is no iota of evidence showing that this accused along with wanted accused hatched conspiracy and in pursuance... did unlawful activity for and on behalf of banned organisation Indian Mujahideen and sent the email... the prosecution has failed to establish the alleged acts of accused and wanted accused which constitutes offences registered..." the judge said.

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

As per prosecution's case, there was CCTV camera of Shaikh's entry into a shop in Manish Market where he allegedly bought the phone used in the crime. The judge said the "most striking" fact in this case is that the alleged CD in which data of CCTV camera was copied has not been produced on record till conclusion of trial... under the guise that it has been misplaced.

The shopkeeper who allegedly sold the phone to Shaikh in 2010 testified that the test identification parade in 2015 in jail was done within one minute. Finding this doubtful, the judge said, "In normal course, it is highly impossible that procedure of test identification parade would be completed within one minute."

The judge further said it is highly impossible that in 2015, following Shaikh's arrest in the case, the two shopkeepers, both common people, would remember that a particular customer came to their shop in 2010 to buy a SIM card and phone.

"Not a single document or extract collected from both these witnesses in respect of purchasing and selling SIM card and mobile phone handset. Thus, the evidence... also not believable, trustworthy and reliable one," the judge said.

Referring to the sanction, the judge said deposition of investigating officer shows chargesheet was filed before receiving sanction order. It was also observed, "Every sanction must be preceded by reviewing of entire material by an independent authority. The authority issuing the recommendation shall independently apply its mind to the material... these mandatory requirements have not been complied with."

# Deer drowning in river amid rain rescued after tranquilliser shot



BROUGHT OUT WITH A ROPE: The deer was spotted at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, struggling to stay afloat in water that was over 4ft deep

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Mumbai: A deer which had somehow found itself struggling to stay afloat in a river at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali, was rescued amid pouring rain a few days ago. Almost drowning and unable to extricate itself out of the whirlpool-like swirling waters, a few people spotted the deer which was crying out as if in fear on Tuesday.

A rescue team from the national park brought the deer out after tranquillising it. The deer was carried onto the bank of the river and it was la-

ter set free. The depth of the water near Shanti Van, where the deer had been spotted, had touched more than 4 feet when the rescue team reached the spot, said Dr Vinaya Jangle, veterinarian at Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The rescuers split up into two teams - while one group stood on the banks of the river, the other group waded in the waters, to get the deer out.

But human presence around it naturally unnerved the timid animal which tried to drift farther where the water level was even deeper, Dr Jangle said, adding that the



rescuers in the river then moved in the opposite direction, away from where the deer was.

By this time, the veterinarian waiting on the banks had kept a tranquillizer dart ready to knock the deer unconscious so that it could be brought out of the water, and moved to safety.

"In an ideal situation, tranquillizing an animal when it is in the water is not advisable... the animal can flip over due to the effect of the tranquillizer, and as it can cause drowning," Dr Jangle pointed out. "But in this case, we had no other option to save

the deer so we decided to go ahead with it after alerting our volunteers waiting in the water to be ready."

No sooner had the shot been administered than the rescue team lying in wait in the water hurriedly moved towards the deer just as it was passing out. A rope was lowered from those waiting on the banks and the by-now unconscious deer was brought out of the waters.

But for a few minor bruises on its body, the deer was lifted out of the river safely. Soon after it had regained consciousness, the deer was released.

## Couple death: Cops to make inquiries with their only son

Mumbai: Goregaon police will make inquiries with the son of a middle-aged couple who were found dead in their housing society on Friday to find out the motive. Kishore Pednekar, 56, jumped off Topiwala housing society to his death, said the police, adding that he had struck against tree branches. His body was found around 5.30 am by the night watchman of a bank located within the society premises. Later, his wife, Rajshree Pednekar, 54, was found strangled to death in their third-floor flat. The police are yet to register a case of murder.

Their only son, who is based out of Delhi, came down to Mumbai after being informed of the twin tragedies by the police. His statement will be recorded after he performs his parents' last rites. Police investigations show that around 4 am on Friday, Kishore sent out a text to a relative with details of bank accounts operated by the couple and their son being the nominee. A Delhi-Mumbai flight ticket had been booked for his son. TNN

## FIR against MLA for obstructing SRA's survey

Mumbai: The Kherwadi Police have filed an FIR against Congress MLA Zeshan Siddiqui and his seven to eight associates on charges of obstructing public servants from doing their duty. The case was filed on the basis of a complaint given by the nayab tehsildar, Slum Rehabilitation Authority. The FIR said that SRA officials were carrying out a survey among slum dwellers at Sant Dnyaneshwar Nagar in Bandra East when the accused gathered a crowd and obstructed them on July 30 and 31. TNN

## Stalking case against ex-neighbour

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Three cases of crimes against women were reported in the western suburbs recently.

A 24-year-old woman lodged a police complaint against a former neighbour for stalking. The woman told the police that when she went to her former house, she would find the accused staring at

her and following her to the bus stop, though she had rejected his advances. He also posted a comment on her dance video on social media, asking for her contact details. A case has been registered at Powai police station.

In two incidents, in Kandivali and Malwani, two women have pressed charges against their former boyfriends for having 'sexual intercourse by

deceitful means'. The women have accused the men of getting them pregnant and forcing them to consume pills and have an abortion.

In both cases, the men had promised to marry them but backtracked and avoided them after the abortion.

The police have registered the offences under provisions of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.



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## Two arrested for attack on Awhad's car

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Dongri police have taken two individuals into custody in connection with the reported assault on NCP (Sharad Pawar) MLA Jitendra Awhad's vehicle that occurred on Thursday. The incident happened on P D'Mello Road, close to the Eastern Freeway, where approximately 5-6 individuals targeted Awhad's car in response to his comments against Sambhaji Chhatrapati, a former Rajya Sabha MP.

The two arrested suspects have been identified as Shrawan Dubey and Pradeep Phanse. According to the police, Shrawan was the driver of the vehicle in which the attackers were pursuing Awhad.

## Graft case: CBI remand for bank manager

**Mumbai:** The CBI produced the arrested Juhu Santacruz branch chief manager of Union Bank of India before a court on Saturday, and the court remanded him into two days of CBI custody. On Friday, the CBI arrested Singh after he allegedly accepted a Rs 90,000 bribe from a garment businessman to clear his loan application of Rs 25 lakh.

The CBI informed the court that they had recovered the bribe amount from Singh's possession. The CBI searched his premises and recovered documents for examination. In his statement to the CBI, Singh denied the corruption allegation. —Vijay Singh

## Auto driver killed over trivial issue

**Kalyan:** An argument between two auto rickshaw drivers led to the killing of one of them in Khambalpada area of Dombivli. The local Tilak Nagar police have arrested the rickshaw driver Sunil Rathore in the murder case. The police said the incident took place on Friday night when a dispute arose between Rathore and the deceased, Ashwin Kamble, over standing the auto rickshaw in the queue. Police said Rathore assaulted Kamble with an iron rod. Kamble later died in hospital.

## 2 more arrested in Mulund Audi hit-and-run case

**Mumbai:** The city, which is police probing the drunk driving case in which a software engineer rammed his Audi into two auto rickshaws allegedly under the influence of alcohol, arrested two of his accomplices who had fled after the accident without providing any medical help to the injured. Hiten Sarvayya, 21, and Ajit Gupta were taken into custody by the Mulund police on Friday. According to the police, they were part of a group of six friends who visited a beer bar in Thane, where they consumed liquor before returning home. —S Ahmed Ali

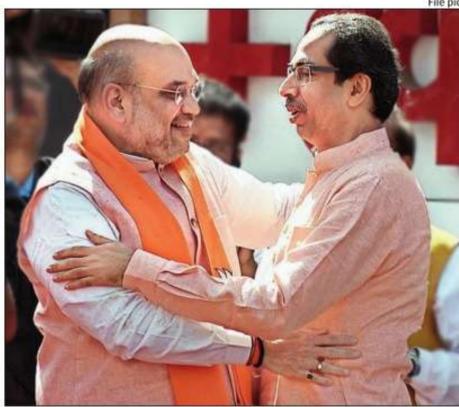
# In reply to Aurangzeb jibe, Uddhav dubs Amit Shah political descendant of Abdali

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**Pune:** Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday called Amit Shah a political descendant of Ahmad Shah Abdali, responding to the Union home minister's remark that he was the leader of the "Aurangzeb fan club", besides saying BJP was involved in "Satta Jihad" (power jihad).

"If they (BJP) can call me 'Nakli Sena' or leader of the 'Aurangzeb fan club', I will be calling Amit Shah as the political descendant of Ahmad Shah Abdali from today onwards," Uddhav said, addressing his party workers in the city during the convention of Sena (UBT).

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 called Uddhav the leader of the "Aurangzeb fan club" when he was in the city to address BJP workers a few days ago. Udd-



Sena (UBT) chief also said BJP was involved in 'Satta Jihad'

hav also came down heavily on BJP over the Hindutva issue. "The party whose leader had gone to eat the cake of Nawaz Sharif is now criticising us for leaving the path of Hindutva. Recently, Shankaracharya said betrayers cannot be Hindus. You have betrayed us, so now you should clarify if you are still Hindu or not," he said.

Referring to a recent Act passed by the Uttar Pradesh govt regarding unlawful religious conversion, Uddhav said, "They speak about 'Love Jihad' but BJP is involved in 'Satta Jihad'. They break other parties and MLAs to get power at any cost."

He said, "BJP is targeting us for going with Congress,

## It would pain Balasaheb to see son behave like this: Maha BJP prez

**Nagpur:** BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule launched a scathing attack on UBT president Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday, accusing him of adopting an "Aurangzeb-like" demeanour. He slammed Thackeray for making disparaging remarks against senior BJP leaders, including Union home minister Amit Shah. "If the late Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray were watching, he would be pained to see his son behaving like Aurangzeb. Uddhav Thackeray has adopted the ways of former Mughal emperor and now speaks his language. How can he even compare himself to Amit Shah, who, under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, has achieved significant political milestones like abrogation of Article 370?" he told the media.

The BJP chief warned that Thackeray's derogatory remarks against DCM Devendra Fadnis and Shah would not be tolerated by people of Maharashtra. "The public is aware of who truly stands for Hindu values. Those who align with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who claimed Hinduism had a violent streak, owe an explanation to the people," he said. —Vaibhav Ganjapure

while it has gone with Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar, who are not at all Hindutva followers. BJP has formed an alliance with Naidu and Nitish only to be in power."

Targeting the NDA govt over the leakage in the new Parliament building and Ram temple, Uddhav said, "The new Parliament building is ba-

rely one-year-old and it has started leaking. The newly constructed Ram temple is also leaking, but PM Modi is busy in demanding the accounts of what Congress has done in the past 70 years."

Taking a dig at the NDA govt, he said, "This govt is full of leakages. Under its regime, even the JEE papers were leaked."

# Survey, feedback to decide fate of MLAs: Mahajan

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**Nashik:** BJP cabinet minister Girish Mahajan on Saturday said sitting party MLAs would not get to contest the upcoming assembly election solely based on their past performance as candidates would depend on the internal survey of the party and feedback from the ground-level functionaries.

"This time, in addition to the internal survey, the party will also speak to the ground-level functionaries and take their opinion about the party and the candidates. Based on the collective information and elective merit, the party will decide on the candidates for the assembly election," Mahajan, a close aide of Dy CM Devendra Fadnis, said while speaking to reporters.

Elaborating on the candidature process, the cabinet minister said: "Since the functionaries have worked hard for the party, they feel they should be allowed to con-

## '2% vote increase means 200 seats'

**Nagpur:** In his address at the BJP executive meeting, Dy CM Devendra Fadnis told party workers that a mere 2% increase in votes could translate into a staggering 200 seats for Mahayuti alliance, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP. On the Lok Sabha election, he said: "We created 'Super Warriors', but 80% of them didn't reach the electorate." —Vaibhav Ganjapure

test the assembly election and be elected as MLAs. After the party carefully decides on the candidature, we are bound to see some of our members crossing over to the opposition parties or even rebel against the party decision."

Mahajan, responding to a question on the likely nominees, said there was a large number of workers wanting to contest. "This is true for all Mahayuti constituents."

# AI plans to shut its sports managing body, offers VRS

'It's Only For Those Not Willing To Engage In Full-Time Roles'

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**Mumbai:** Tata-owned Air India (AI) has decided to shut operations of its sports managing body — Air India Sports Promotion Board — and has offered voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) to employees hired through its sports quota.

The move has not gone down well with a section of AI's sportsperson employees who feel that the VRS sum is paltry given that they still have many years of service left. AI spokesperson, however, stated that the group continues to support sportspersons actively involved in different sports. "All former sportspersons who are no longer actively participating in any sport have been assigned full-time roles in the organisation. But those for-

mer sportspersons who do not want to be engaged in full-time roles and for whom a role could not be immediately identified, have been given the opportunity to opt for VRS, like other employees."

Air India (AI) has around 80 former national and international players from various sporting disciplines who were employed through sports quota.

"They have told us to accept VRS which offers very little amount to players opting for it," said one player on condition of anonymity. "The management is considering just 35 days of basic pay per year, and for the remaining years of service left, they are offering just 25 days per year. This means the VRS amount will be just around 60 days per year of our entire

employment duration," added the employee.

The offer, made about two months ago, also said those who take VRS before July 31, will get additional Rs 1 lakh as bonus. Last day of opting for VRS is August 15.

Another player, however, said that for the last two years, they were told that the sports board would come out with a new policy, but that never happened.

"We were also told that some of us might be absorbed through new roles (assignments), but nothing came our way and now we have no option but to accept VRS," he said. "Till last year, some teams were allowed to play in 'Tata inter-office tournaments, but this year, we were told we cannot participate in those either," said another player.

# Bhiwandi warehouses one reason for Nashik h'way potholes: Survey

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**Thane:** The presence of warehouses in Bhiwandi and "uncontrolled" heavy vehicle traffic using the stretch within Thane limits are primarily accountable for potholes and colossal traffic congestion on the route reveals a survey of Mumbai-Nashik highway, officials said.

The findings were derived after an inspection of the Thane and Vadape stretch until late Friday — a day after deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar issued directives to ease the commuting experience for those using the highway. A team of high-ranking officials from state road development body, MSRDC, Thane traffic department, and a few elected representatives conducted an on-site assessment of the stretch on Friday and devised a resolu-



'Uncontrolled' heavy vehicle traffic in Thane is also cited as a cause

tion to be executed in the forthcoming days.

"One paramount factor contributing to congestion on the highway is existence of numerous warehouses in the interior regions frequently accessed by heavy vehicles that often traverse at a sluggish pace and in an unre-

gulated fashion over inter-nal roads that are in a dilapidated state. This often leads to heavy truck traffic overflowing onto the Nashik highway, impacting other traffic and interfering with out-bound traffic at Rajnoli and Mankoli junctions, leading to bottlenecks," said an offi-

cial who was present during the survey. The 23km Thane-Wadape segment of the highway that links Mumbai, Gujarat, Navi Mumbai and Nashik, north Maharashtra, sees at least around 1.5 lakh vehicles daily, including freight, private, and public transport buses.

"We are deploying more traffic wardens at Rajnoli and Mankoli junctions to regulate traffic to and from the warehouses... Also, Bhiwandi Nizampur civic body will be requested to improve road conditions connecting these godowns with highways... Also, we are setting up a control room to manage traffic," said Anil Gaikwad, vice-chairman and managing director, MSRDC.

MLA Rais Shaikh from Bhiwandi East, insisted the government implement the toll waiver as proposed by Pawar at the earliest.

# Just 7km from Airoli to Kalyan: Work on direct road set to begin

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**Mumbai:** Work on the last phase of Airoli-Katai Naka project is expected to begin soon as Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is expected to appoint the contractor for the 6.72km elevated corridor between Shiv and Katai this month.

This infrastructure project will create a direct route between Navi Mumbai and Kalyan-Dombivli region, reducing the distance between them to 7 km and streamlining travel. Currently, travellers face detours through Mahape or Thane. The project is aimed at improving regional connectivity and alleviating traffic congestion in

## ELEVATED CORRIDOR: SHIL TO KATAI

Phase	Length	Start	End
First Phase	5.2 km	Thane-Belapur Road and NH-48 near Mumbra bypass, including a 1.7 km tunnel through Parsik Hill.	Dec 2024
Second Phase	2.2 km	Elevated road towards Airoli Bridge's east end	2024
Third Phase	6.71 km	Between NH-48 (old NH-4) and Katai Naka, parallel to Diva-Panvel rail line	2027

the MMR region.

Sources said that Afcons Infrastructure has emerged as the lowest bidder for construction of this segment, with a bid of approximately Rs 2,018 crore, compared to MMRDA's estimated cost of Rs 1,887 crore. Other bidders include Ashoka Bu-

ildcon, Navayuga Engineering Company, and APCO Infretech.

A senior official from MMRDA said, "We will review the bids and may engage in price negotiation. The final proposal will be presented to MMRDA's executive committee before issuing the

work order to the successful bidder."

Once completed, the Airoli-Katai Naka project is expected to cut travel time by up to 30 minutes. The project will feature two tunnels and an elevated road. The Thane-Belapur Road to National Highway 4 section will span 3.43 km, while Airoli Bridge to Thane-Belapur Road segment will cover 2.57 km. Each twin tunnel will be 1.69km long, with three lanes and an additional emergency lane.

Designed to cater to the growing population in and around Kalyan — including Dombivli, Vithalwadi, Ulhasnagar, Ambernath, and Badlapur — the Airoli-Katai Naka project aims to enhance overall connectivity.

## BAPPA BOUND FOR FOREIGN SHORES



An idol of Lord Ganesha being shipped to Thailand is wrapped in a plastic sheet at the idol-making workshop of Santosh Kambl in Chinchpokli on Saturday. Also, other idols are slated to be sent to Kolhapur

# How Mumbai's only blown glass art studio breaks the mould

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Garam karo. Phoonk maro. Thandi. Hawa. Theek hai. Acha." Clearly, Matthew Piepenbrok doesn't need the white board meant for artists in residency anymore. The American — who is sipping water from a coloured glass with an uneven rim — has spent most of the last three years inside this first-floor former cloth mill in Govandi bonding with Ajay Kumar, a cheerful veteran glassblower from Agra's Firozabad and Rohan Gangurde, a distressed-jeans-sporting 25-year-old from Chembur's Siddharth Nagar. Heating, reheating, melting, cooling, casting, cutting and tweezing hot glass into art with them means the whiteboard bearing Hindi translations for words like 'open' and 'close' is redundant for the American who knows what 'jugaad'

means. This afternoon, as Ajay hands him an apple, the seasoned American glass artist watches Rohan stick a long thin metal pipe into a glass-melting furnace with the casual swagger of a woodfired pizza baker. "He could soon become one of Maharashtra's first glassblowers," says Piepenbrok about the former office boy who used to clean jugs and glasses till he started making them for a living.

Moulding a new generation of Indian blown glass artists is among the crystal-clear goals of Rural Modern Glass Studio, Mumbai's and likely India's only blown glass studio that — like its counterparts in America — keeps its door open. "There is severe gate-keeping in the rest of India," says Piepenbrok, a product of the American Studio Glass Movement that transformed glass from a mass production tool into a medium of fine art in the 1960s. The wave of artists that emerged after one Harvey Littleton created



American artist Grant Garmez sculpted glass into animal figures at the studio in Govandi in March this year

a small-scale furnace that gave artists the ability to work hot glass individually in their setups, later shared their knowledge globally. "There are no secrets in glass in America," says Piepenbrok, who finds the nascent glass art industry in India, a mosaic of fragmented art stud-

dios in various cities, closed off. "They fear that their ideas will be stolen," says Piepenbrok who finds a similar strain of opacity in Firozabad — India's industrial glass-making hub — as in Murano, Italy's 500-year-old blown glass art epicentre, which "locks its secrets in vaults".

"I always wanted to make glass art publicly accessible," says Rural Modern's co-founder Arjun Rathi, an architect who morphed into a lighting designer in 2012 after fashioning a car headlight into a lampshade for a friend. To fulfil the orders that followed, he would import material from Europe and China as the palette of shapes, colours and patterns available in Firozabad was small. "Glass used in mass production is very different from glass used in art, which tends to be much softer," says Rathi.

When Covid put paid to importing, Rathi had a wall near the narrow doorway of a defunct cloth mill broken to make way for a glass-melting furnace, an annealer machine and a "Glory Hole", as the reheating furnace is called. "I decided to open a glass art studio as I wanted to invite international artists to upskill our guys and produce glass art inspired by rural India," says Rathi.

As various artists in residency — from California's Brent Sheehan to Chicago-based Anjali Singh — glazed their creations, they left in their wake a flood of fragilities including paperweights, flowers, birds, vases, ashtrays, lion heads, elephant trunks studded with glass flowers and other artworks that would later render recent recruit Rukhsar a nervous housekeeper.

The first two years of the studio's making were full of sounds of things breaking. "There were many learnings," says Rathi, who — along with the first American guest Jeremiah Jacobs — realized, for instance, that if coloured glass and the clear glass were not compatible with each other, it shatters. "Glass art is one of the hardest to master," says Rathi recalling a popular industry refrain: "For the first three years, only your mother will like what you make."

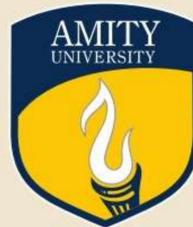
As much chemistry as it is

alchemy, the technique is said to date back to 1st century BC Syria when craftsmen produced vessels shaped as shells, grapes, and human heads by melting glass, gathering this fiery molasses-like mass on the end of a hollow pipe, blowing into it and rolling it on a smooth surface to create a shape. "If the end of the pipe isn't hot, molten glass won't stick to it," says Rohan, who calls the thin metal pipe he is rolling in the furnace a 'fanti'. While still soft, the glass can be manipulated by hand tools or cut with shears. Piepenbrok favours a pair of Japanese tweezers to shape his creations which include one stuffed with paan wrappers, cigarette butts and other ingredients of "Mumbai trash".

No glass from the studio floor becomes part of Mumbai trash, though. "All waste glass goes to recycling factories," says Piepenbrok, who has answered eager questions such as "How is glass

made?" (quick answer: from sand), and "Do you get burnt?" from kids and adults alike at the workshops hosted by the studio. "Most visitors have never seen the process of glass blowing. It's hypnotic to watch," says Rathi, whose studio most recently demonstrated the art to enthusiasts at a session organised by Indian National Trust For Art And Cultural Heritage.

While gloves and goggles help newcomers overcome their nervousness, Piepenbrok says he can gauge future glassblowers. "They tend to be people who turn to the fire rather than run away from it," he says, looking at Rohan who does not find the fanti hot to the touch anymore. What burns him is the thickness of the glass he made recently. "I need to learn to make a finer cut," says Rohan. Then he shouts "Where's the heart?" searching the room for the breakable object he created with another breakable object.



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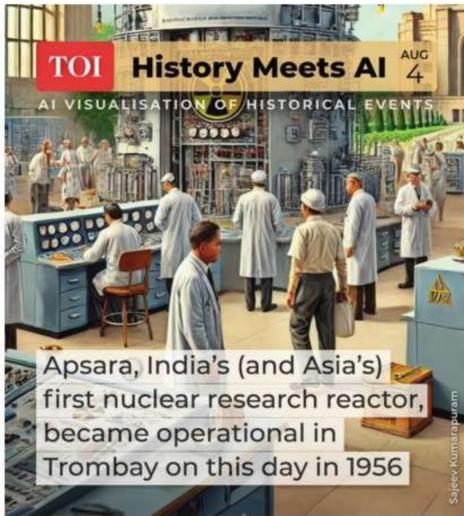
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**TOI History Meets AI** AUG 4  
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS  
Apsara, India's (and Asia's) first nuclear research reactor, became operational in Trombay on this day in 1956

## Odisha engineer, with 85 plots, held

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. He was remanded in judicial custody after his bail plea got rejected, reports **Riyan Ramanath**. Besides the 85 plots, vigilance officials found in his possession a five-storey building, a market complex, 335gms of gold ornaments, Rs 78 lakh bank deposit and Rs 11.7 lakh cash. Of the 85 plots, 80 are in Jaleswar (Balasore district), four are in Puri district and one is located in West Bengal.

## Tiger mosquito stalks Kol again

A mosquito species that caused dengue surges in Kolkata in the 1950s and 1960s is back. Larvae of *Aedes albopictus*, a vector that carries the dengue virus, is being found in increasing numbers in the city and is responsible for many of the cases. *Aedes albopictus* is commonly known as tiger mosquito or forest mosquito. The dominant dengue mosquito in Kolkata for several years has been the *Aedes aegypti*. The return of *Aedes albopictus*, therefore, has set off alarm bells among doctors in the city, who now expect a surge in cases from the twin threats. **TNN**

## STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

### DOES DEVELOPMENT DRIVE OLYMPICS TALLY

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

2020-Tokyo Olympic Medals						
HDI Rank	Country	HDI	Total	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Switzerland	0.967	13	3	4	6
2	Norway	0.966	8	4	2	2
3	Iceland	0.959	0	0	0	0
4	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.956	6	1	2	3
5	Denmark	0.952	11	3	4	4
189	Chad	0.394	0	0	0	0
189	Niger	0.394	0	0	0	0
191	Central African Republic	0.387	0	0	0	0
192	South Sudan	0.381	0	0	0	0
193	Somalia	0.38	0	0	0	0

Source: UN, IOC

# India's per capita income may hit 1/4th of US's in 75 yrs: WB

## 'Risks Falling Into Middle Income Trap'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At current trends, it will take India 75 years to reach one quarter of US per capita income while China will take more than 10 years and Indonesia 70 years, a World Bank report has said as it cautioned nations from falling into what is known as 'middle income trap'. The alert comes amid India's target of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

China, Vietnam and several other middle-income countries have also set plans for raising their per capita income to match those of developed nations. The report says, over 100 nations—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.

Drawing on lessons learnt in the past 50 years, the 'World Development Report 2024: The Middle-Income Trap' finds that as countries grow wealthier, they usually hit a "trap"



AMID INDIA'S 2047 TARGET

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 the World Bank classifies as 'middle-income' countries. Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies have managed to shift to high-income status—and more than a third of them were either beneficiaries of integration into the 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 booming growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. "Yet it was clear by then that many economies—particularly in Latin America and the Middle East—had remained stuck for decades, despite their efforts to rise to high-

come status," says the report. The multi-lateral agency provides a growth framework for developing countries to avoid or escape the 'middle-income trap'. It says that at the end of 2023, 108 countries were classified as middle-income, each with annual GDP per capita in the range of \$1,136 to \$13,845. These countries are home to six billion people—75% of global population—and two out of every three people living in extreme poverty. They generate more than 40% of global GDP and more than 60% of carbon emissions.

They also face far bigger challenges than their predecessors—rapidly aging populations, rising protectionism in advanced economies, and the need to speed up the energy transition—in escaping middle-income trap, says the report.

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 driving in a reckless manner and causing harm to property. The four-wheeler, registered in the name of the boy's 24-year-old sister, has been impounded, additional DCP Ankita Sharma said,

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

Faiz Siddiqui  
@timesofindia.com

Kanpur: A woman was killed while her daughter was left seriously injured after a 17-year-old boy hit their scooty with his sedan in Kanpur on Friday.

The accused, a Class 12 student, has been arrested, and his father arrested over the crash in 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** (35) and her injured daughter as Medhavi (12), both residents of Keshavnagar area in Kanpur.

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 driving in a reckless manner and causing harm to property.

The four-wheeler, registered in the name of the boy's 24-year-old sister, has been impounded, additional DCP Ankita Sharma said,

## Teen beats auto driver to death

A physically challenged auto-rickshaw driver was beaten to death after his three-wheeler grazed an SUV and left a deep scratch on it in Nangla Chowk of Faridabad Thursday midnight. Rohit (19) who rained punches and kicks on Bunty (32), was arrested on Saturday.

"Accused kept kicking and punching auto driver until he lost consciousness," a police officer said. Before fleeing in his car, Rohit paid Rs 500 to a local to drive the auto to his house. —Bagish Jha

adding that their father is being interrogated. ACP Babupurwa Amarnath Yadav said, "The accused driver was accompanied by another boy and two girls, who suffered minor injuries."

CCTV camera footage, which later went viral on social media, showed the car swerving sideways, ramming the scooty coming from the opposite direction while the woman and her daughter were trying to make a right turn. "Initial findings suggest the boy and his friends were on a joyride after bunking classes," a police officer said.

## No HC relief for teacher accused of abetting death of Class 6 student

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 has said, dismissing a teacher's plea to quash a chargesheet against her after a Class 6 girl died by suicide, reports **Partha Behera**.

"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," Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal said.

This observation came during the hearing of a petition filed by sister Mercy alias Elizabeth Joseph, a regular teacher of a prominent school to quash the chargesheet against her. The note said that sister Elizabeth had taken away the ID cards of the victim and her classmates. The child wrote in her final letter that her friends said this was "dangerous", and this led to the suicide.

## Bakery of SP worker accused of rape razed

Pathikrit Chakraborty & Arshad Afzal Khan | TNN

Lucknow/Ayodhya: Authorities riding bulldozers in UP's Faizabad district on Saturday demolished a bakery owned by Samajwadi Party (SP) functionary and rape accused Moeed Khan in Bhadarsa town, about 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 a minor belonging to Nishad community that she was repeatedly raped by Moeed and his employee Raju since May, making her pregnant. Police have filed a case under PoCSO Act and both suspects were arrested.

Ayodhya SSP Raj Karan Nayyar said the girl's father died two years ago, leaving the family to do menial labour. As per the complaint, Ra-

ju informed her in May that Moeed wanted to see her. When she arrived, Moeed allegedly raped her and recorded it with Raju's help. "Over the next two-and-a-half months, Khan continued to assault her, using the video to threaten her. Khan committed the crime with the assistance of Raju, his employee. The crime was discovered when the minor became pregnant," SSP Nayyar said, quoting the complaint.

The survivor, who is 10-week pregnant, is set to undergo an abortion with the consent of her parents and medical experts. DNA from the foetus will be compared with that of the accused.

On Friday, the family met CM Yogi Adityanath, who promised stern action against the accused. Yogi accused SP of shielding a rape accused, citing Moeed's pictures with Faizabad's SP MP Awadhesh Prasad. Prasad faced tough questions outside Parliament on Saturday for his alleged association with Moeed.

## MLA at centre of cash-for-transfer controversy after death of Dalit cop

Kalaburagi: A Dalit sub-inspector's death under mysterious circumstances at home in Karnataka's Kalaburagi late Friday has triggered controversy, with his family alleging cash-for-transfer demands and mental harassment by governing Congress MLA Channareddy Patil Tannur and son Pampanagouda (Sunny), reports **Mouneshwar Sannad**.

The MLA and his son were booked on Saturday 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 claimed that Parashurama paid Rs 30 lakh for a posting at Yadgir city police station to the MLA but was transferred before completing a year.

Dalit organisations and Parashurama's relatives protested on Friday demanding Patil's arrest. Opposition BJP and JD(S) slammed govt for pushing officers towards suicide.

## 'Cruelty if divorce not granted to couple who split within 25 days'

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court (HC), while setting aside a judgment by the family court of Haridwar, granted divorce to a couple who separated within 25 days of marriage five years ago, reports **Pankul Sharma**.

HC observed that "this marriage is nothing more than a lifeless union, and if both the parties are not granted divorce, it will amount to cruelty to both the parties."

The HC added that, "This marriage is nothing more than a dead marriage as there is no emotional bond between the couple."

The Haridwar-based man and the woman from Kanpur, both in their 20s, tied the knot on May 2, 2019, but separated in less than a month on May 27.

After attempts to resolve the issue through mediation failed, the woman lodged an FIR under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

In 2021, the Haridwar family court directed the husband to pay a monthly maintenance of Rs 20,000 to his wife but did not grant the divorce decree. Dissatisfied with the ruling, the husband challenged the family court's order in the high court.

# TIMES PARENTING

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



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



Meet the moms who are rocking Paris Olympics



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## Flights on time, but parts of Kolkata airport flooded

Showers led to waterlogging in the approach road to Kolkata airport as well as a couple of bays in the operational area, as attempts to pump out water into the canal outside drew a blank as the water flowed back into the airport compound. This, however, didn't hamper operations as the runway, taxiways and 70 parking bays were free of water. **TNN**

## Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation



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## 2 days after inking peace pact with Meiteis, Hmar body dubs it 'null & void'

Prabin.Kalita  
@timesofindia.com

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

Jiribam has a multi-ethnic demography and was untouched by the sectarian strife in Manipur that erupted in May last year. However, Jiribam was engulfed by conflict 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 neighbouring Assam because of the flare-up.

Tensions reignited in Jiribam district on Saturday

as miscreants set a house on fire and engaged in gunfire and mortar bombing the previous night in Mongbung Seijang village. A mortar shell landed on a house but did not detonate.

On Aug 1, a reconciliation meeting moderated by district authorities and held at the CRPF group centre near Silchar in southern Assam was organised to foster cooperation between the Meiteis and Hmars of Jiribam. The meeting led to an agreement to prevent arson and firing, and to facilitate controlled and coordinated movement in the district, with plans for a follow-up meeting after Aug 15.

Manipur govt had described the agreement as a significant step toward peace in the state. "Hmar Inpu stands resolute against the divisive communal game of Mr Biren Singh-led govt... our people have been suffering decades of majoritarian communal politics in Manipur," the association said in a statement.

## HC: Maintenance is woman's right, bald excuses unacceptable

**Ahmedabad:** In a significant order on a married woman's right to maintenance, Gujarat high court (HC) has ruled that if the husband is healthy and able-bodied, bald excuses—such as his responsibility of maintaining other family members or footing medical bills—are unacceptable in law, as under Section 125 of the CrPC, a wife's right to maintenance is absolute unless disqualified.

Justice D A Joshi dismissed a petition by a man challenging a Bhavnagar family court's order directing him to pay Rs 10,000 monthly maintenance to his wife, who has lived separately since 2009. The husband claimed his wife's desertion disqualified her from maintenance under CrPC. He also cited his low income to argue that the maintenance amount was too high.

Justice Joshi observed: "Many husbands argue they lack means to pay due to unemployment or poor business. They may claim to have other family responsibilities or bear medical expenses, as pointed out by the applicant in the present case. However, these are only bald excuses, and, in fact, they have no acceptability in law." **TNN**

## Court acquits 6 held in 2020 Delhi riots case

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court recently acquitted six people accused of committing rioting, arson and theft during 2020 Delhi riots. They included Hashim Ali, Abu Bakar, Mohammad Ajeer, Rashid Ali, Nazmuddin and Mohammad Danish.

The court was hearing a case against the six men who were accused of looting, vandalising and torching a house. Later, a complaint regarding setting ablaze a clinic was also clubbed with the case. The court noted that the prosecution had submitted digital video recorder as evidence against the accused, and the investigating officer did not take any steps to confirm the appearance of any accused in the video clips. **TNN**

# SBI net up 1% to ₹17k cr, higher than RIL's for 2nd quarter in row

## But Lender Sees 70% Jump In Bad Loans Provisions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**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 Ltd that totalled Rs 15,138 crore. This marks the second consecutive quarter in which SBI has outperformed RIL, a company that has long held the title of the most profitable in the country.

"In the past four years, SBI has generated a total net profit of over Rs 1.6 lakh crore which is more than the net

## Bank of India net profit rises 10% to ₹1,703cr

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% increase 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. "We have covered the Rs 15,000-crore gap between advances and deposit growth by raising funds from commercial deposits and borrowings against our surplus government securities. We have also raised funds through infrastructure bonds and SIDBI and Nabard," said Rajneesh Karnataka, MD & CEO, Bank of India. **TNN**

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—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 Khara.

The chairman said 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 channelling source. We had a similar situation in 2007 when loans outpaced deposits, but it was a temporary phenomenon which we should be able to navigate with our investment book," Khara said.

He added that the bank was able to raise funds from infrastructure bonds and certificate of deposits and would not raise deposits at any cost. "Our liquidity position is comfortable with a liquidity coverage ratio at 129%. Our credit to deposit ratio of 69% gives us headroom for credit growth," said Khara. He added that the bank could add Rs 7 lakh crore to its balance sheet without raising additional capital.

## 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, Jammu and Kashmir 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 administration, J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha invoked Article 311(2)(c) of the Consti-

## LINKS TO PAK ISI

tution to sack the six staffers after investigation 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 criminal investigation department revealed that dismissed police constables—Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Khalid Hussain Shah, Rahmat Shah, Irshad Ahmad Chalkoo and Saif Din—instead of helping the force to fight narco-terror sponsored by Pakistan ISI and terror outfits, chose to be collaborators and moles.

Constables Farooq, Khalid and Rehmat created a drug syndicate in collaboration with Pakistan-based narcotics traders. Dismissed teacher Nazam Din, despite being a govt employee, joined and promoted organisations and crypto-currency applications. He became key handler of narco-terror network.

## Bharatanatyam legend Krishnamurti passes away at 84 in Delhi

**Visakhapatnam:** Yamini Krishnamurti, a doyenne of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi who straddled 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 with age-related health issues.

Born in 1940 at Madanapalle in Annamalai 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 Devasathanams. For her contribution to the enrichment of Bharatanatyam, she received Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1977.

Yamini began her dance journey at five, when she embarked on Bharatanatyam training at Kalakshetra in Chennai (then Madras) under legendary Rukmini Devi Arundale. She also trained under late Vidwan Ellappa Pillai of Kancheepuram. She later expanded her repertoire to include Kuchipudi and Odissi. **TNN** (With inputs from PTI)

## Justice delivery delay akin to punishment: CJI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Accepting that problem faced by litigants and their frustration due to protracted hearing and delay in justice delivery, Chief Justice of India D Y

Chandrachud on Saturday said the process itself sometimes becomes a punishment which is a matter of grave concern.

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

"The process is the punishment, and that is a cause for concern for all of us judges. So very often we say we will not allow this matter to be settled. Because settlement reflects pre-existing inequalities in society. So as judges we

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 a one-off initiative, which is forgotten for future. We must ensure it becomes part of our processes," he said.

He said Lok Adalat brings justice to the doorsteps of litigants and the system should be institutionalised. "I hope we will now 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 a one-off initiative, which is forgotten for future. We must ensure it becomes part of our processes," he said.

**National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises**  
An Organisation of Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India  
and ISO 9001:2015 Certified  
Yousufguda - 500 045, Hyderabad, Telangana. www.nimsme.org  
Online Training and Government of India Certificate on  
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Duration: 1 Month, Fee: Rs. 11,800/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
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Duration: 1 Month, Fee: Rs. 11,800/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
**Prompt Engineering Chat GPT**  
Duration: 3 Days, Fee: Rs. 9,900/-, Timings: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
All payments are to be made only to the institute 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](mailto: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](http://upsdma.up.nic.in).  
Additional Chief Executive Officer,  
UP State Disaster Management Authority,  
Lucknow.

**GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC, PUNE.**  
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Maharashtra)  
**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (2024-2025)**  
Applications are invited for admission to "Advanced Diploma In Automotive Mechatronics", a skill-based and job oriented course in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz (I) Pvt. Ltd.  
Duration: 1 Year fulltime from the commencement of the course.  
Eligibility: Diploma/ Degree in Engineering, (Mechanical/ Automobile/ Electrical/ E & TC/ Mechatronics and Equivalent Branch) OR B. Voc. in Automobile, Industrial Automation & equivalent branch.  
Date of Entrance Exam: Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.  
For Application Form and Brochure visit website: [www.gppune.ac.in](http://www.gppune.ac.in)  
Contact: Mr. R. R. Godbole (9822244204), Mr. M. S. Pol (8380077236).  
Passed out students are employed in Mercedes Benz, Audi, Volkswagen, Jaguar, Mahindra, Bosch, TATA, Suzuki, John Deere etc.  
Link for Application Form : <https://forms.gle/C4wBuAXmqKuRLlMf5>  
Dr. Rajendra K. Patil  
Principal, Government Polytechnic, Pune.

**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](http://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](http://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

**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 Jawaharal 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](http://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

**प्रायोगिक सूक्ष्मतरंग इलेक्ट्रॉनिक अभियांत्रिकी तथा अनुसंधान संस्था (समीर)**  
**SOCIETY FOR APPLIED MICROWAVE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (SAMEER)**  
Centre for Millimeter Wave Research  
(R & D Laboratory of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India)  
Plot - L2, Block - GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata - 700091  
Ph: 033 2357 4875/2357 4894  
-----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 Terabits (THz) Frequency range, with the support of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt. of India and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India. The 6G 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 career 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

**NAVIGATE NEW HORIZONS SET SAIL WITH THE INDIAN NAVY**  
Applications are invited from unmarried men & women candidates (fulfilling the conditions of nationality as laid down by the Govt. of India) for grant of Short Service Commission (SSC) in Information Technology (Executive Branch) of Indian Navy under Special Naval Orientation Course commencing Jan 2025 at Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala.  
**Age & Qualification** - The age eligibility & qualification criteria for the course are as under:-  

Branch	Vacancy	Qualification	Gender	Age
SSC Executive (Information Technology)	18	A candidate must have minimum 60% marks in English in class X or XII and one of the undermentioned education qualification with minimum 60% overall qualifying marks, in either or a combination of the following:- (a) MSc/ BE/B Tech/ M Tech (Computer Science/ Computer Science & Engineering/ Computer Engineering/ Information Technology/ Software System/ Cyber Security/ System Administration & Networking/ Computer Systems & Networking/Data Analytics/ Artificial Intelligence), OR (b) MCA with BCA/BSc (Computer Science/Information Technology)	Men and Women	Born Between 02 Jan 2000 to 01 Jul 2005 (both dates inclusive)

  
Date of Opening: 02 Aug 2024  
Last date for receipt of online application: 16 Aug 2024  
For more details visit - [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in) and Employment News dated 03 Aug 24

## TIMES TRIBUTE

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To book your ad Logon to: [ads.timesgroup.com](https://ads.timesgroup.com)  
or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

+  
**Gone, but never forgotten!**  
In Loving Memory Of



**NOBEL VAZ**  
February 10, 1947- August 02, 2024  
Passed away peacefully at home.

Ex-GM, Aitalia,  
Indian Sub-Continent

Son of Late Clement & Late Maria Vaz.  
Loving Brother / Brother-in-Law of  
Newman & Sandra, Freddie & Rima,  
Bernadette & Christopher, Savio & Fatima,  
Uncle to Ryan & Serena, Andrea & Denver,  
Priya & Savio, Anand & Anna, David, Sarah and Daniel,  
Grand-Uncle of Maya, Aiden, Nathan, Amelia, Ayesha & Julian.

Viewing at 3.30pm followed by  
Mass at 4pm on Monday, August 5th, 2024,  
at Sacred Heart Church,  
Santa Cruz West, S.V. Road, Mumbai,  
followed by burial at Juhu Road Cemetery.  
**May his Soul rest in peace!**

With great sadness, we inform the demise of



**Dr. AJAY HORA**

He was a legend among doctors, known in Santacruz as  
"Gareebo ka doctor".  
He has touched and enriched the lives of countless and  
will be missed by all.

ANTIM YATRA  
Funeral procession from his residence at Theosophical  
Society Juhu to Santacruz (W) crematorium on  
Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 9am.

PRAYER MEETING  
Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 5pm to 7pm  
Hiravati Hall, Tagore Road, Santacruz (W), Mumbai 54.

Lovingly remembered by,  
URVI AJAY HORA  
SHAUNAK-SMURTI SHAIVAL-REENA  
MITEE, KUSHANT, SHASHWAT,  
REESHA, RONIL  
HORA FAMILY & CHATURVEDI FAMILY

**TO BOOK AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT IN  
THIS SECTION CALL:  
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<https://ads.timesgroup.com>**

### PRAYER MEETING

**Om Shanti**



In Loving Memory of  
**Lakhmi Sharoff**  
23.03.1931 - 01.08.2024  
**Rasam Pagdi  
(Prayer Meeting)**  
on Sunday  
4th August '24  
at Khatwari Darbar,  
Linking Road, Khar (W)  
5.30 pm to 6.00 pm  
Fondly remembered by:  
Sharoff, Dabrai,  
Parwani, Bajaj,  
Dingrani & Rawlani  
Families

### DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Remembering with love



**JOAN SHENOY**  
Dec 1960 - Aug 2019

Those we love  
don't go away,  
they walk beside  
us every day.  
Unseen, unheard  
but always near,  
still loved, still  
missed, and held  
so dear.

All our love,  
Keith, Sneha, Viren  
& Tarun

### MARKA

MARKA CEREMONY OF



**Shri. Ghanshyam K. Khabrani**  
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT

He lived a life of  
celebration, leaving us  
enriched with his  
wisdom and kindness.  
His teachings and  
values will continue to  
inspire us forever.

DATE: 4TH AUGUST,  
2024  
TIME: 5:00PM -  
5:30PM  
VENUE: SUKKAR  
PANCHAYAT, 18/1, RAFI  
AHMED KIDWAI RD,  
WADALA (W), MUMBAI,  
MAHARASHTRA 400031

DEEPLY MOURNED BY  
Khabrani &  
PARIANI FAMILY.  
VALET PARKING  
AVAILABLE

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# Kanwariya dies in car-hit, saves 5

Shivani.Azad@timesofindia.com

**Dehradun:** A Kanwariya who died after being hit by a car near Rorkee while on his way to Haridwar has saved and transformed five lives through organ donation. Sachin Khandelwal (25), from Haridwar, 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.

Sachin's family, after being approached by AIIMS doctors, agreed to donate his organs. On Thursday, Dehradun police facilitated a green corridor from AIIMS Rishikesh to airport to expedite transportation of organs. His kidneys, pancreas and liver were sent to Chandigarh and Delhi. Two patients in Uttarakhand regained their sight on Saturday, thanks to his corneas.

Talking to TOI, his younger

brother Pankaj Khandelwal urged other families to donate organs of their departed kin. He said, "This was the only way Sachin could've lived on in this world. I believe those who can, should donate organs if they want their loved ones to continue living even after death."

### GIVES LIFE THROUGH ORGAN DONATION

This was the first-ever cadaveric organ donation procedure at AIIMS Rishikesh. Professor Dr Meenu Singh, executive director of AIIMS Rishikesh, said, "We not only achieved a milestone in advanced medical technology but also demonstrated remarkable capability in saving lives with administrative support. This is the first cadaveric organ donation case at AIIMS Rishikesh. Sachin has gifted life to many."

## Foreigners mostly go for living donor transplants: NGO

► 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.

Pallavi Kumar of Mohan Foundation, an NGO working in the field of organ donation, said deceased donations are rare in India and preference is given to Indians for receiving organs retrieved from such donors. "Most transplants involving the foreigners are living donor transplants," she said. The NOTTO data shows that of the 1,851 foreigner transplants that took place in India in 2023, only nine involved organ donation from a deceased donor.

## Couple was locked in bitter divorce battle

► From P 1

SP Kaur said: "Since there were no CCTV cameras 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. Last Nov, he was booked on charges of blackmailing and extortion from govt employees. In Oct 2023, he was arrested for assaulting vigilance DSP Barinder Singh Gill in his office. He was facing an inquiry over charges of criminal misconduct and disproportionate assets.

## Bill eyes changes in compositions of waqf boards

► From P 1

The Bill also proposes changes in the composition of Waqf Boards and seeks to repeal some provisions of the current law, TOI has learnt.

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.

### WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK

**Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) II, Western Railway, Indore invites e-tender No. DYCE/C/II/IND/PMS/2024/02. Name of work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for EPC Contract of Upgradation of Indore Railway Station and construction of associated structures on Engineering Procurement & Construction. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 8,86,98,522.00/- Bid Security: ₹ 5,93,500.00/- Date & Time of submission: till 03.09.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 03.09.2024 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 0412**  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)

### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR SIGNALLING WORK

**Tender No.: 732-GB-Conference/01, Date: 29.07.2024.**  
**Work:** Supply and execution of Audio and Video solution (Video conferencing equipment) for Green Building and provision of Network & Telephone at Bilaspur LHB Rack Examination & Maintenance building of Bilaspur division of South East Central Railway. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,03,78,370.03. (₹ Four Crore Three Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy and Three Paise Only). **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 3,51,900/- (₹ Three Lakh Fifty One Thousand Nine Hundred Only).  
**Closing of Tender: Up to 11.00 hours on 19.08.2024.**

For further details/eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above works, please contact office of the CST/E(Con), South East Central Railway, Bilaspur (C.G.) or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

**Dy. Chief Signal & Tele. Engg./I**  
CPRI/10/174 (Con)/III/Bilaspur.  
f South East Central Railway @seccr

### CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

**E-Tender Notice**  
**Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/47 Dated: 30/07/2024, PCMM/CLW/HWH** on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender's is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted.  
**Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follow: [254]: 23235049D; Cordless stripping tool Kit, Stripping capacity up to 4 inches in dia, quick release bushings allows to quickly change bushings for each cable size, variable speed trigger with reverse for speed control, adjustable on board LED helps to provide illumination in dark or low light situations, HSN CODE: 82032000, Preferred Make/Brand: Dewalt Model no. DCE151TD1 or Equivalent. DETAILS SPECIFICATION:- (i) Stripping of Copper Cable up to 4 inches. (ii) Quick release Bushing (iii) Variable Speed trigger with reverse for Speed control (iv) Adjustable on Board LED. (v) Stripping capacity # 6-750 MCM copper cable (in sq. mm 13 to 400); **As Per Tender/Document; 20/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [255]; 29242519; Sanding Disk 6 inch., grade-80, premium aluminium oxide . Mineral, open coated for anti loading & dust free sterrite impregnated paper backed volertype. HSN Code: 6805. (Shelf Life 12 Months); **As Per Tender/Document; 20/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [256]; 31242504B; Set of Harnessed Cable For WAG-9HC LOCOMOTIVES as per specification No. CLW/ES/03/0646/D; **As Per Tender/Document; 28/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [257]; 30243017; Pre - Printed continuously stationary plain white paper. 60 GSM %B1 2.5% paper computer with inter leaves carbon in between sheets as per IS: 12766/1997. size: 38.1 cms. X 30.50 cms X 2 Part, (15 inch X 12 inch X 2Pl). HSN Code: 4802; **As Per Tender/Document; 22/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. [258]; 29235052A; 09 (Nine) items of Ungalvanised Steel Wire Rope Sling with both end Eye Ferruled as per IS: 2762, Fiber Core, Tensile Strength : 1770 N/mm2, 6 x 36 Construction of different Size: i) Dia 12mm x 3' Long, Eye Dia 6", ii) Dia 12mm x 5' Long, Eye Dia 6", iii) Dia 14mm x 8' Long, Eye Dia 6", iv) Dia 14mm x 12' Long, Eye Dia 6", v) Dia 16mm x 10' Long, Eye Dia 8", vi) Dia 16mm x 12' Long, Eye Dia 8", vii) Dia 20mm x 18' Long, Eye Dia 10", viii) Dia 24mm x 30' Long, Eye Dia 12" & ix) Dia 24mm x 40' Long, Eye Dia 12". Make/Brand : Usha Martin/Orion/Smity, HSN Code : 7312; **As Per Tender/Document; 23/08/2024; ₹ 0.00.**  
**PR6/558 PCMM/CLW/Howrah**  
Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways)********

**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](http://www.oredaodisha.com) E-mail : [ceoreda@oredaorissa.com](mailto:ceoreda@oredaorissa.com)

**Corrigendum**

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

Corrigendum is issued with necessary amendments and change in schedule of events for the e-tender notice no - 2622, dated 19.06.2024, for Repair & Revival of defunct Solar PV Mini-Grids installed under 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 <a href="https://meet.google.com/gga-cdrn-rge">https://meet.google.com/gga-cdrn-rge</a>	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](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA) or [www.oredaorissa.com](http://www.oredaorissa.com). Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/-  
Chief Executive  
OIPR-04065/11/0016/24-25

**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](http://www.oredaodisha.com), E-mail : [ceoreda@oredaorissa.com](mailto:ceoreda@oredaorissa.com)

**Corrigendum**

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

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 <a href="https://meet.google.com/jia-axdf-pgi">https://meet.google.com/jia-axdf-pgi</a>	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](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA) or [www.oredaorissa.com](http://www.oredaorissa.com). Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/-  
Chief Executive  
OIPR-04065/11/0016/24-25

n-64

**समग्र शिक्षा  
Samagra Shiksha**

**ODISHA SCHOOL EDUCATION  
PROGRAMME AUTHORITY  
"SHIKSHA SOUDHA",  
UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001**

RFP No: 7226/RE&A/2024 Dated : 03/08/2024

**NOTICE INVITING REQUEST  
FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

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

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

The major events under the bid process are :

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

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

Address for Submission of Proposal :

**State Project Director,  
Odisha School Education  
Programme Authority (OSEPA)  
"Shiksha Soudha", Unit-V,  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001**

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

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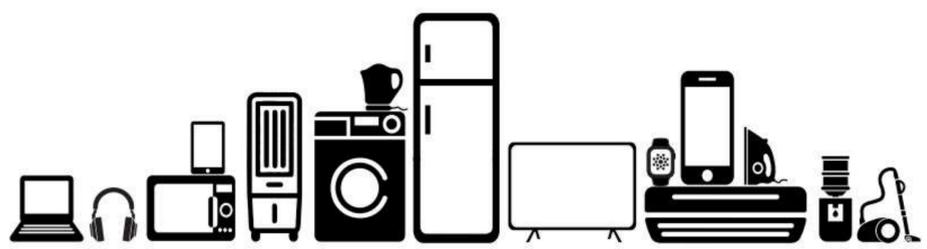
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**PQM4** 28/168CM, BEAUTIFUL  
GIRL, MDS/ORTHODONTIST,  
FATHER DIRECTOR  
GEN. GOVT. OF IND, MOB  
9445798012

**SMART** Fair, Good Looking  
PQ, Dec-94/ 5'5", Working, Pu-  
njab/ Sikh Girl, Seeks Well  
Settled SM. Whatsapp Bio-  
data & Photos, Ph: 9849640921

**SM4** for Two b'ful Sisters both  
Corporate Lawyers (I) 16/12/91  
2am, 5'5", 35 LPA (II) 08/02/97  
8pm, 5'6" 30 LPA. Excellent  
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Punjab Khatri family, Father  
CA, Mother IT Professional At  
Leadership Position. Whatsapp  
9250008191

**SM** for slim, beautiful, intro-  
vert, sensitive, MBBS girl, 5'5",  
22'born, well off family,  
father hayhai Kshatriya, ret'd  
Dir. GOI, mother Brahmia  
Engr +NGO. Want well  
settled, tall, medico/ profes-  
sional/businessman, good  
family background, boy from  
MP prefer, caste no bar, mo  
8982000555, 9732534391

**32** years old a Beautiful  
Practising Dentist Girl from a  
Reputed Vaishnav Gujarathi  
Family. Ovarian cancer  
survived 7 years ago. No any  
smallest symptoms now  
Looking for Suitable Match  
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**MBA/ B.Tech B'ful fair**  
smart (div-iless) girl sept 88  
5'4" wkg in MNC Mumbai  
(50LPA) affluent Doctors  
family seeks well stl IIT  
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**44** age, 5'4", b'ful, Sr. Manager,  
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buddhist cast, wanted  
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handsome, salary, caste no  
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**SEEKING** a qualified, well  
cultured groom for our  
daughter. April 94/ 5'1",  
Punjabi Arora B.Tech(CS)  
MNT Jaipur. Well settled  
working in IT, Gurugram.  
Contact 9171813701

**SM4** Slim, Fair, B'ful, never  
married, Punjabi girl, 36, 5'3  
wkg in MNC in Mumbai @ 40  
Lacs PA. Seeks smart, well-  
settled boy. Cont. 7888526312

**SM** for Jan'1990/5'3" Agra  
Fair, Smart, B'ful, Arora Girl  
Qual. Post Grad. in corporate  
Law Wkg in a Corporate Co  
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**BRAHMIN** 25/5.4 B'ful fair  
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Industrialist only Child caste  
no bar. 8286934966, 7898910538

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at Bangalore from Graduate  
boys of IIT/NIT/IIM with  
equal/higher edu/work status  
and of reputed family. Cont:  
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**MATCH** for Malayalee  
Menon girl 29/5'2" Mds  
Orthodontist, running  
dental clinic, seeks  
professionally well  
qualified groom. Pl. contact  
9566074556.

**ORTHODONTIST** good  
looking 5'5"/95 Hindu  
brah. seeks prof. well  
qual. Delhi-NCR based Hindu  
boy. Cont. 9811284500,  
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**MBBS** Bhopal based, pretty  
hindu girl, Preparing for  
UPSC, 5'4" / Nov. 98 / seeks civil  
services / 7996949472

**WELL-SETTLED** Educated  
Boy from High Status. Open  
Minded Sunni Muslim for  
Smart & Beautiful Girl 30/ 5.4,  
BSC in Hospitality and MBA,  
High-Status Sunni Muslim  
Family. Mumbai-based  
preferred. Contact: Col. Khan  
Phone 9820055638, Email:  
colonelkhan@gmail.com

**SUNNI** Sheikh very well-off  
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Patna based, 5'1" well settled Wkg  
Girl, Sub caste no bar. # 8709-  
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**SUITABLE MATCH FOR**  
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MCA W PROFNSL. SEEKS  
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**SUITABLE** match for  
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**SUNNI** Ansari Kanpur girl  
32/5'5" fair M.F.Tech textile  
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seeks well settled match. Div  
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**SM** for Sunni Syed Muslim  
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NIET wkg for reptd brand.  
Well-Ed, sunni family Wapp  
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**SEEKING** match for  
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Citizen 5'4"/22. Preference to  
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Contact: drs176@gmail.com

**ALLIANCE** FOR SIKH GIRL  
52"/ 29yrs, BE wkg in reputed  
IT Firm, from well settled family.  
Msg only on whatsapp  
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**SM4** M.D (Pharmacology)  
Ravidasia, Punjabi Girl,  
July 1989/ 5'3", Complex  
girl. Presently working  
Regional medical advisor in  
pharmaceutical MNC  
from India. Educated  
family. Brother Engineer in  
Melbourne. NRI's welcome.  
CNB. 96467-32001, 96467-32002

**BRAHMIN** Family, never  
married, Age 43 /ht 5'5" very  
fair, beautiful, B.com. Looking  
for educated boy from well  
settled family. 9823387760

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LSR)**, B.ful girl, 5'7"/87born,  
Working in US bad MNC as  
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**SM4** for Two b'ful Sisters both  
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8pm, 5'6" 30 LPA. Excellent  
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**32** years old a Beautiful  
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Family. Ovarian cancer  
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**MBA/ B.Tech B'ful fair**  
smart (div-iless) girl sept 88  
5'4" wkg in MNC Mumbai  
(50LPA) affluent Doctors  
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**KORI** Fair B'ful 25 5'2"  
M.Tech IIT K'Pur girl wkg  
MNC B'lore seek a H'some  
gldf wkg SM, no dowry  
non alcoholic, 9425059444

**1991/ 5'4"** /Bcom/Fashion  
Designing/having own  
Business seeks well settled boy  
Whatsapp biodata @  
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**MS(HR/TESS) & Eco.(Hons./  
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Nationalised bank, Divercee,  
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educated, earning,  
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bar. Contact - 8275698709,  
8669977990 (what's up)

**SEEKING** a qualified, well  
cultured groom for our  
daughter. April 94/ 5'1",  
Punjabi Arora B.Tech(CS)  
MNT Jaipur. Well settled  
working in IT, Gurugram.  
Contact 9171813701

**SM4** Slim, Fair, B'ful, never  
married, Punjabi girl, 36, 5'3  
wkg in MNC in Mumbai @ 40  
Lacs PA. Seeks smart, well-  
settled boy. Cont. 7888526312

**SM** for Jan'1990/5'3" Agra  
Fair, Smart, B'ful, Arora Girl  
Qual. Post Grad. in corporate  
Law Wkg in a Corporate Co  
at Mumbai. w/app/call 9897524289

**BRAHMIN** 25/5.4 B'ful fair  
slim girl B.Tech IIT MBA  
working in MNC 20Lpa. Father  
Industrialist only Child caste  
no bar. 8286934966, 7898910538

**BRAHMIN** 25/5.4 B'ful fair  
slim girl B.Tech IIT MBA  
working in MNC 20Lpa. Father  
Industrialist only Child caste  
no bar. 8286934966, 7898910538

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

**MATCH** for Malayalee  
Menon girl 29/5'2" Mds  
Orthodontist, running  
dental clinic, seeks  
professionally well  
qualified groom. Pl. contact  
9566074556.

**ORTHODONTIST** good  
looking 5'5"/95 Hindu  
brah. seeks prof. well  
qual. Delhi-NCR based Hindu  
boy. Cont. 9811284500,  
ramanir@hotmail.com

**MBBS** Bhopal based, pretty  
hindu girl, Preparing for  
UPSC, 5'4" / Nov. 98 / seeks civil  
services / 7996949472

**WELL-SETTLED** Educated  
Boy from High Status. Open  
Minded Sunni Muslim for  
Smart & Beautiful Girl 30/ 5.4,  
BSC in Hospitality and MBA,  
High-Status Sunni Muslim  
Family. Mumbai-based  
preferred. Contact: Col. Khan  
Phone 9820055638, Email:  
colonelkhan@gmail.com

**SUNNI** Sheikh very well-off  
family Looking 4 Prof. stld boy 40  
-45yrs for 38yrs Mba unmarried  
Patna based, 5'1" well settled Wkg  
Girl, Sub caste no bar. # 8709-  
78668. E. toidell2024@gmail.com

**PROP** invtd from SM boys for  
90/5'1" B.Sc B.Ed & 99/5'8" MD  
Paed; 2000 5'6" BUMS; 98 5'7"  
MD Oncol. US. Many such opt.  
Indn/ abroad. Div. too. Mrs  
Khan 9820253313.

**SUITABLE MATCH FOR**  
SUNNI SHEIKH GIRL 40/5'3  
MCA W PROFNSL. SEEKS  
WELL SETTLED EDUCATED  
NORTH IND CALL# 8233889116

**SUITABLE** match for  
Fair/Beautiful/Doctor girl  
(MDS) 89/5'3" working in  
Hospital + 917458943557,  
+919151271312

**SUNNI** Ansari Kanpur girl  
32/5'5" fair M.F.Tech textile  
engineer wrk MNC Mumbai  
seeks well settled match. Div  
no bar. M: 8564939685

**SM** for Sunni Syed Muslim  
25/5'5" b'ful fair girl B.Des. fm  
NIET wkg for reptd brand.  
Well-Ed, sunni family Wapp  
bio-data 8840152081.

**SEEKING** match for  
beautiful Muslim girl, US  
Citizen 5'4"/22. Preference to  
Doctors & Engineers.  
Contact: drs176@gmail.com

**ALLIANCE** FOR SIKH GIRL  
52"/ 29yrs, BE wkg in reputed  
IT Firm, from well settled family.  
Msg only on whatsapp  
8097275044

**SM4** M.D (Pharmacology)  
Ravidasia, Punjabi Girl,  
July 1989/ 5'3", Complex  
girl. Presently working  
Regional medical advisor in  
pharmaceutical MNC  
from India. Educated  
family. Brother Engineer in  
Melbourne. NRI's welcome.  
CNB. 96467-32001, 96467-32002

**BRAHMIN** Family, never  
married, Age 43 /ht 5'5" very  
fair, beautiful, B.com. Looking  
for educated boy from well  
settled family. 9823387760

**SM4** M.D (Pharmacology)  
Ravidasia, Punjabi Girl,  
July 1989/ 5'3", Complex  
girl. Presently working  
Regional medical advisor in  
pharmaceutical MNC  
from India. Educated  
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Melbourne. NRI's welcome.  
CNB. 96467-32001, 96467-32002

**BRAHMIN** Family, never  
married, Age 43 /ht 5'5" very  
fair, beautiful, B.com. Looking  
for educated boy from well  
settled family. 9823387760

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**Mothermonials**  
Describing the daughters of India without beauty biases.

Seeking a life partner for Aradhya Mishra - a playful and humble soul who adores gaming, dancing, and cycling. An honest and ambitious individual, she is a golden hour lover and perfectionist. Aradhya is a good listener, creative, and excels in public speaking. Are you the perfect match for her? Reach out to: [smitamishra@gmail.com](mailto:smitamishra@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Arti Sharma - an honest, intelligent, and humble individual with a playful spirit. She enjoys reading, dancing, and singing, always capturing the golden hour. Arti is a warm hug expert, creative soul, and master organizer. Ready for a fulfilling journey together? Reach out to: [artivats24@gmail.com](mailto:artivats24@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Mamta Thakur, a free-spirited and self-aware individual with a love for animals. She enjoys golden hour photography, yoga, and reading. Mamta is independent, playful, and a skilled reel maker. Get in touch if you appreciate a good listener and a talented selfie taker. Reach out to: [thakurmamta720@gmail.com](mailto:thakurmamta720@gmail.com)

Seeking a match for Sneha Rastogi, a self-aware, honest, and humble individual with a talent for candid posing and daydreaming. Her hobbies include photography, dancing, and singing, while her skills range from selfie-taking to creativity. If you're a good listener and organizer, reach out to this creative soul. Reach out to: [snehasankalp16@gmail.com](mailto:snehasankalp16@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Meenakshi Singh! A self-aware, animal-loving woman excelling at Excel. This compassionate silver lining seeker enjoys reel sharing, gardening, and pottery. She is a playful organizer with a knack for spotting red flags. Are you ready to be captivated by this good listener? Inquire now! Reach out to: [meenabiotech1989@gmail.com](mailto:meenabiotech1989@gmail.com)

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

Seeking a life partner for Sudarshana, Kolkata, Mother of Shreeja

CLASSIFIEDS  
"They told me if the wife is short, the grand children will also be short and round."

My daughter won't go through this. #TheBeautyTestStopsWithMe.

Seeking a life partner for Komal Jangir - a respectful, kindhearted and independent individual with a free-spirited nature. Komal enjoys yoga, painting, and dancing, and is a creative storyteller. Her strong communication, management skills make her a perfect match for someone looking for a playful and loving partner. Reach out to: [komaljangir90@gmail.com](mailto:komaljangir90@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Arpita Maheta, a self-aware and honest trendsetter with skills in reel making and communication. She is a respectful and free-spirited individual known for her hobby in photography, yoga, and gardening. Arpita is a human calculator, a good listener, and ready to build a meaningful connection. Reach out to: [doshi.avn1985@gmail.com](mailto:doshi.avn1985@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Geetanjali Bagga - an honest and humble soul with a knack for candid poses and daydreaming. A good listener and creative spirit, she enjoys reading, baking, and cherishing the little moments in life. Are you ready to embark on a journey with this charming individual? Reach out to: [mallikasingh1503@gmail.com](mailto:mallikasingh1503@gmail.com)

Seeking a life partner for Sapna Jain - a respectful and creative soul with a kind heart and humble nature. An avid painter, gamer, and baker, she is a skilled storyteller and expert in power naps. With a knack for organization, investing, and management, Sapna is ready to embark on this journey of love and companionship. Reach out to: [mannjain20@gmail.com](mailto:mannjain20@gmail.com)

Seeking a match for Garima Nigam, a strong-willed and kindhearted individual. She is intelligent and a skilled storyteller, playful organizer, and proficient in photography, singing, and baking. With skills in selfie-taking, creativity, and communication, she is ready to embark on a new journey with a like-minded partner. Reach out to: [garima.nigam1811@gmail.com](mailto:garima.nigam1811@gmail.com)

# Once a global concern, India now offers food security solutions: PM

## 'Our Economic Policy Hinges On Farming'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister 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 India's economic policy and small farmers are the biggest strength of nation's food security.



PM Modi with agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Modi said India, being a food surplus country today, is committed to global welfare

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

This year's theme for ICAE is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems", with aim to promote sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges like climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs and conflicts. The six-day conference, attended by 1,000 delegates from 75 countries, is being held in India after 65 years.

Modi said India's experience

is valuable for discussions on food system transformation and is sure to benefit the global south (developing countries).

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. He also noted the priority given to science and logic in Indian agriculture tradition.

Modi also highlighted govt's emphasis on research and development related to climate-resilient crops, saying nearly 1,900 new such varieties have been handed to the farmers in the past 10 years. He gave examples of rice varieties in India that require 25% less water than traditional varieties and the emergence of black rice as a superfood.

"Black rice from Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya is the preferred choice due to its medicinal value", he said, adding that India is equally eager to share its related experiences with the world community.

## With 69% approval, Modi most popular world leader again

**New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi has once again emerged as the most popular global leader, surpassing US President Joe Biden and newly appointed UK PM Keir Starmer, showed rankings released by Morning Consult, a decision intelligence firm that tracks major decisions of global leaders.

The survey analysed data from July 8-14. Modi ranked No. 1 with an approval rating of 69%, while Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was second with rating of 63%, it shows. The last on the list of 25 leaders is Japan's PM Fumio Kishida, with an approval rating of 16%.

"The ratings reflect a seven-day moving average of views among adults in each country surveyed," Morning Consult said on its site. Modi had secured top spot even this Feb with 78% rating. TNN

## Pondicherry univ defers exam post MBBS paper leak

**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, reports **Bosco Dominique**. More than a dozen govt and private medical colleges in Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are affiliated to the varsity.

Students came to the examination halls on Friday morning when the university made the announcement. "The exam wing has a lackadaisical approach to scheduling," a varsity official said on condition of anonymity.

## MP foresters want to 'seize' train that killed 3 tiger cubs

**Bhopal:** The Madhya Pradesh forest department is considering 'seizing' the train that was responsible for the death of three tiger cubs on the Midhat-Budhni railway tracks that cut through Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The cubs were hit by a train on the night of July 14. While one was killed outright, its two siblings suffered for a fortnight before dying. TNN

# ₹32k-cr Infosys tax row to end as GST notice 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 notice for the 2017-2018 financial year. This sets the stage for putting a lid on the Rs 32,000 crore tax controversy, which caused an uproar due to the erroneous understanding by the GST authorities. The move follows the swift intervention of finance ministry to quell the outrage among businesses without denting business sentiment, as India Inc rallied behind Infosys as a show of strength for the wrongful interpretation of the law.

"The company has now received a communication from DGGI closing the pre-show cause notice 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.

The actions taken by DGGI are considered to be an "over-interpretation" of the law, according to tax officers and consultants who believe that the regulations clearly outline the proper handling of transactions bet-



**DAMAGE CONTROL:** The move follows swift intervention by the finance ministry to quell the outrage among businesses without denting business sentiment, as India Inc rallied behind Infosys for the wrongful interpretation of the law

ween branches and headquarters. They also highlighted that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs had issued a circular on June 26 to clarify any ambiguities.

Nasscom, an industry lobby group, referred this circular on Thursday when defending Infosys.

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

# 1,835 people rescued from Kedarnath, 1k still stranded

Kautilya.Singh@timesofindia.com

**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.

Uttarakhand CM 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, DDFR and PRD personnel. "Around 150 labourers, employed by the PWD, are diligently working to repair and reopen all the

## Himachal flash floods toll rises to 9, search on for 45

**W**ith recovery of a body from Rajban village in Himachal's Mandi, death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts has increased to nine. Rescuers continue to search for around 45 missing people. The body of 11-year-old Anamika was found under a boulder, which was blasted, officials said. "The possibility of rescuing people alive is diminishing with each passing hour. But we hope that bodies are recovered soon, as delay would cause decay, which would make identification difficult," Sarpara village head Mohan Lal Kaptiya said.

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 Rudrapur.

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

# 'Over 100 cops deployed to maintain law & order'

► From P 1

**T**he woman's father filed a missing complaint when they fled on July 29. He 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 night and the woman was sent with her father on Friday. Saddam was detained for questioning. Later at night, a few anti-social elements vandalised some items at Saddam's house and set a charpoy on fire."

An FIR was registered against the perpetrators — 21 identified and 30 unknown — under the BNS section of rioting, and another FIR was registered against Saddam for abduction on the complaint of the woman's father," Arya added. "SHO of Sirauli, Luv Sirohi, sub-

inspector Satveer Singh and a constable were suspended for negligence. Over 100 police personnel are now deployed to maintain law and order. Further investigations are on."

Village head, Praveesh Kumar, told TOI: "There was never any communal tension here and we always lived in peace. The situation turned ugly after the Muslim man eloped with the daughter of a farmer. Since people from the woman's community are more in number; they targeted Saddam's house. Fortunately, there was no one inside. Villagers here are now worried. We don't want any communal flare-up."

The woman's mother said, "Saddam and his aides often used to threaten my daughter and he has taken her away forcibly. Due to their activities, the villagers became angry and attacked their house. We just want them to stay away from our daughters."

# 'A mammoth rock sits where our house stood'

► From P 1

**W**hen 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 ankle 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, mother, and her two nieces have been found, but all the others, including her brother, his wife and their two children, and her sister-in-law and her two children, are missing.

## Govt will build township for victims, says Pinarayi

**K**erala CM Pinarayi Vijayan announced on Saturday that state govt will build a township in a safer zone to rehabilitate those who lost their homes and land in the Wayanad landslides. According to govt, 366 people died in the disaster and 206 were missing until Saturday. Officials said 219 bodies and 147 partial remains were accounted for so far. There could be many still buried under wrecked houses and mounds of mud and boulders. Meanwhile, Karnataka will construct 100 houses for the victims, CM Siddaramaiah said.

"I was staying in my house, which is close by. Otherwise I, too, would have been swept away with all the others. 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. Nousheeba lost her mother-in-law too.

**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

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

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

The revised Schedule of events are mentioned below:

Sl No	Name of the Event	Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
1	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREDA website	20.06.2024	20.06.2024
2	Due date of pre bid query submission	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM	27.06.2024, Time: 5:00 PM
3	Date and time of pre-bid meeting through virtual mode <a href="https://meet.google.com/foy-yjey-hga">https://meet.google.com/foy-yjey-hga</a>	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](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA) or [www.oredaorissa.com](http://www.oredaorissa.com). Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/- Chief Executive  
OPR-04685/11/07/24-25

**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): 3,12,00,000/- 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). Address and Address at which proposal in response to TENDER DOCUMENT notice is to be submitted: Online ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://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. Bidders 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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**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**REPAIRS WORK**

Chief Workshop Manager EMU Workshop, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400013 invites E-Tender Notice No.: EL90/MX/2024-25/ O1RT dt: 29.07.2024. Name of Work: Work of Heavy repair of Roof (Pantograph area), Flooring & Underframe in Siemens EMU Rakes as per scope of work in EMU Workshop, Mahalaxmi. (Qty-13 Rakes). Approx. cost of Work: ₹ 10,26,38,506.34/- Earnest Money to be Deposited: ₹ 6,63,200/- Date and Time of Submission & Opening of tender: till 20.08.2024, 12:00 hrs. (Electronically). Website particulars: Tender particulars can be viewed and offers can be submitted on website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> 0408

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**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF OHE BONDS**

Name of Work: Supply and erection of OHE bonds in connection with various TTR, TSR, TRR & TBR works in Kalyan & Lonavala Districts of Mumbai division. Approx. Value: ₹ 847,50,95.38 EMD: ₹ 1,69,50,00.00 Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0.00 Completion period: 12 months. The time and date for submission of tender will be up to 11:00 Hrs on 21.08.2024. Complete details of E-tender are available at official Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> in the complete documents can be downloaded from the website. The details of tender is available in the "Notice Board" of the Sr.DEE(TD)KYN's office, Kalyan. Open E-tender Notice No. - KYN-LD-585-W-741-Cont Dt. 30.07.2024

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**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Rolling Stock), Electric Loco Shed, Kalyan: 421 301 for and on behalf of President of India invites single E-tender through website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for following works/services from reputed contractors. Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Medha make Static Inverter (SIV) for a period of two years at Electric loco shed, Kalyan & Bhusaawal. Tender No. ELSKYNWKS-24-06-Medha-SIV Approximate Cost of Work: Rs. 1,74,14,520.52 (All inclusive) EMD / Bid Security: Rs. 2,37,100/- Cost of Tender Form: Nil Completion / Period: 24 Months Instruction: 1. Tender closing date & time of aforesaid tenders: Up to 11.00 hours of 24.08.2024 & will be opened same day after 11.00 hrs and validity of offer is 60 days. 2. Complete details of tenders are available at the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and also available in the office of the Sr. DEE (TRS) Office, Kalyan

Download UTS App for Tickets 806

**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](mailto:kidwai@nic.in) | [director@kidwai01@gmail.com](mailto:director@kidwai01@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 Fluoroscopy Machine & Computer Radiography (CR) with Cassette for Portable X-ray Machine.
03	No. KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/AC/420/2024-25. Dt: 03.08.2024	Providing & CMC Services for Split Air Conditioners & AMC services for Diesel Generators Sets Installed at KMIO and VISM 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

**भारीपानी संयंत्र, मणुगुरु Heavy Water Plant, Manuguru ई-निविदा सूचना आमंत्रण Notice Inviting e-Tender**

महाप्रबंधक, भारी पानी संयंत्र, मणुगुरु भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए आनलाइन मद दर बोलियों दो बोली प्रणाली पर आमंत्रित करते हैं। The General Manager, Heavy Water Plant, Manuguru invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids on two bid system for following work. निविदास Tender No - HWPM/TS / NDT/MTA-2024/01/NIT. कार्य का नाम : एचडब्ल्यूपी (मणुगुरु) में एमटीए-2024 के दौरान इन सर्विस निरीक्षण कार्य। Name of work: In-Service Inspection works during-MTA-2024 at HWP (Manuguru). अनुमानित दर Estimated cost : ₹. Rs 69,75,000/- including GST; बयानराशि Earnest Money: ₹. Rs. 1,39,500/- पूर्ण करने की अवधि Completion Period: कार्यदेश जारी होने की तिथि से 55 दिन के भीतर काम पूरा करना होगा। Work shall be completed within 55 days from the date of issue of work order. निविदा कागजात की उपलब्धता की तारीख दिनांक 05/08/2024 के 10:00 Hrs से 19/08/2024 के 16:00 Hrs बजे तक Dates of availability of tender documents from 05/08/2024 10:00 hrs to 19/08/2024 16:00 hrs. प्रस्तुतकरण : निविदाओं के ऑनलाइन जमा करने की समाप्ति की अंतिम तिथि और समय : दिनांक 19/08/2024 के 16:00 बजे तक. Submission: Last date and time of closing of online submission of Tenders: On or before 19/08/2024 up to 16:00 Hrs. बोली प्रपत्र और अन्य विवरण वेबसाइट से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. eNIT is also available on website [www.hwb.gov.in](http://www.hwb.gov.in).

महाप्रबंधक General Manager

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER INDORE ZONE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, INDORE**  
Opp. Gayatri Mandir, Old Palasia, Indore- 452001  
Email ID:- [cepwdwest@mp.nic.in](mailto:cepwdwest@mp.nic.in) Phone no. 0731-2491825

NIT No. 02/Gen/40/2024-25 Indore, Dated 01/08/2024

**"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"**

Online tender in three envelope system are hereby invited for the following work. Details of works can be seen on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in>

No.	Portal no.	District	Name of work	Probable amount of contract. (In Lacs)	Amount of EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion
1.	2024 PWD RB-361178_1	ALIRAJPUR	CONSTRUCTION WORK OF SORWA PRATAP FALIYA TO DARWADIYA FALIYA, SURVI FALIYA TO GWARDGADA FALIYA ROAD LENGTH 9.20 KM. (SECOND CALLED)	1369.35	1000000/-	30000/-	14 months I/C Rainy Season
2.	2024 PWD RB-361179_1	KHANDWA	CONSTRUCTION WORK OF DUGGAON RAJPUR KALYAKHEDI ROAD LENGTH 5.50 KM. MORDHAD VILLAGE NARMADA RESTORANT SHRI SHRI OMKAR SHWAR AASHIRAM (ART OF LIVING) ROAD LENGTH 1.30 KM. I/C SHIFTING OF HT/L LINES POLE & TRANSPORTER (SECOND CALLED)	688.34	688340/-	20000/-	12 months I/C Rainy Season
3.	2024 PWD RB-361180_1	BURHAPUR	BALANCE WORK OF MANDWA SAGHPATA ROAD LENGTH 10.00 KM.,	999.93	999930/-	20000/-	12 months I/C Rainy Season
Total				3057.62 LAC			

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document and Bid Submission online is Dated 16/08/2024 up to 17:30 PM. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal.

Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper. Submit all the mandatory documents online on above mentioned website. Do not submit any physical document in the office.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
P.W.D. Indore Zone, Indore

G-14416/24



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SCAN TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

**AGRAWAL**  
**WANTED** Beautiful Bride from a Status Family for 78 Born, 6 ft. Marwari/Vaish Business Boy from Delhi. N.K. Shastris - 9824307095, 9084730713

**KERALITE**  
**MUMBAI** Born, Boy, R Catholic, 31/5/87, Fair, MBA in B Analytics And MBA in I.S. Australia. Employed in Australia, seek alliance from Fair, God Fearing Girl, Preferably Eng. Call 9819155151

**NORTH INDIAN**  
**B.TECH MBA boy 29/12/8**  
Delhi based: Wkg in MNC: Highly educated Gupta family: invites alliance for a beautiful, slim, MBA or CA working girl! M-9871201862

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

**WANTED** Bfud Educated girl for a H'some punar gursikh 26/5107 running industries based in posh locality of delhi w/ 78883-87034, gursikhboy@gmail.com

**SUITABLE** match for Sikh boy, 5'-8", 1992 born, pilot in Indigo, Army family based in Chandigarh. WhatsApp - 8829066720

**B.ARCH**, PGDCM, Boy Feb 94/5'11" Working in London, Ontario, Canada. PR. Seeks Prof. Qual girl. #9671193403

**GROUP**, 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: abo045@yahoo.com

**MATCH** for I.I.T. I.I.M. MS Columbia University (U.S.) Educated, handsome Hindu Aged boy, 45 yrs, 5'11", issueless. Working in Bombay in Leading Investment Company. Simple marriage. 93846-12472, 94171-37858

**BELLOV** 45age Quik f'less match for Marathi Veg. Sep74 5'6", 63kgs. B. Tech., MNC-Mumbai. Cont: matchmum@yahoo.com / 9321807892

**SM4** smart 40+Delhi boy, own house, issueless divorcee. consulting business # 997106136, vrinmathur@gmail.com

**real estate**

**MUMBAI PROPERTIES**

**BEYOND THANE**  
**DISTRESS** Sale Gala at Bhandari Mahavir Complex Manoli Naka Grnd Flr 6026 sq ft + Loft RCC & Open to sky @1700 Owner 8291918584

**DADAR**  
**SHIVAJI PARK 2BHK** 667 Cpt @ 2.90Cr. Vacant Pos. & 811 Crpt 2.5BHK @ 4Cr. Both w/d Lift No Parkin. Buy/Sell/ Rent DK Realty call Rohit 9820048175

**PANSI** colony / good location Spacious 2 bhk & jodi of 2 bhk Higher floors with open views Per floor 2 apartments of 2 bed Paresh- 8097838330 / 8779694199

**JUHU**  
Juhu Scheme, Sale only & No Lease/VPD, 7th road, Grand 4 BHK, 2550 Carpet, spacious living & dining with huge size bath rooms, lowest monthly maintenance, AAA Crystal Clear title, 4 car Parks, Vastu perfect. Owner 9322312946

**GARDEN** Home@Juhu Beach High Ceilings/ Hill Station Felt High Ceilings/ Birds/ Butterflies 7000 Usable Carpet / 29 Cr +/- SIPPY HOUSING 737731203

**JUHU-JVLR**, 4 BHK, FOR SALE DUPLEX 2000 sq.ft. + Pvt Terrace, 3 Parking, 8.90 Crs, Call: "Premier Estates" 771008968

**ANDHERI EAST**  
**SPACIOUS 2/2.5** bhk & 3 bhk Jb nagar near Jain derasar Big complex with amenities Walkers-8097838330/8779694199

**ANDHERI WEST**  
**VERSOVA**, ROW HOUSE For Sale - 1500 sq.ft. + Garden + Pvt Terrace 7.50 Crs, Covered Parking Call: "Premier Estates" 771008968

**POWAI**  
POWAI O'ship 5BHK Duplex (hall double ht, 200 sq ft, Serv. room + toilet, over looking lake 3 parkings, Good Price Owner 9819944191/ 40027000/ 40028000

**SOUTH MUMBAI**  
Flat for Rent: Lalbagh "MAGNUM TOWERS" Area 1600' - 3 BHK + Store Room - Furnished - Open View - All Amenities - 2 Car Park. Only for Veg. **Shravan Shetty (Ag) 8369246319**

**BARGAIN DEAL**  
**DOSTI FLAMINGOS 2BHK RS. 2.75 CR** 3BHK RS. 3.00 CR 2+3 BHK RS. 6.50 CR ONWARDS 9820028883/ 9987730000

**"COLABA"** Cuffe Parade to Worli LIC- RRB- SBI- Reliance-Tata-MNC Local Businessman Wants Flats on Ownership/ Lease, 1 BHK 6000/- to 8000/-, Ownership- Buy- Sell- Rent- Commercial 2 to 15 cr. Any Deal: "Prakash" 9820025025

**"COLABA"** N Regal Cinema Old World Charm: Area 5000' 1st Floor- Showroom, Road Facing, 50' Frontage, 7th Floor Res/Office 5000' Sea/Taj Views, Co. Takeover/Tenancy Transfer 12.50 Cr. Anydeal "Prakash" 9820025025

**PIRAMAL** Aranya, Byculla Special Campaign: Lift/mt Rani bag 3 bhk, 1100 carpet, Fully Furnished homes, 5.5 cr + taxes. Poss in 6 months P5190018039 Visit Now Actual flat -91 84509 97242

**RUSTOMJEE-CROWN** Palatial Living sea link views 7 star amenities New inventory, investors stock 3.4 bhk 9.25 cr 14.5 cr Rera - P5190005268 By appointment only - 8655641885

**RUSTOMJEE-CROWN**, Prabhadevi Xtra ordinary large 4 bhk or ready, sky Mansions, 55 Ft - 2100 - cpt, 17.5 cr + taxes, +91 86556 41885. Limited units.

**SPACIOUS 3 BHK** @ 5.90 Cr Pocket Terrace / 2 Car Parks Gated Building with Amenities Pool, Gym, Kids, Play, Clubhouse Highrise Estates 99 200 11 888

**RASHMI** Bldg, Carmichael Rd, 2.5 BHK, 2659 crpt, 2 Garage Pkge - BKP - 9820030362/ 9821018184/ 9323393691

**VASAI**  
**SPRING FIELD**  
KAMAN, NAIKON  
2 BHK DUPLEX VILLA  
READY TO MOVE  
₹65 LACS ONWARDS\*  
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**WADALA**  
LODHA Dioro Wadala NCP 23rd floor 2BHK, carpet 935. Reasonable price. Imm. poss. "A" class Amenities Contact Manvi Kadam 9820117548 Raj Daryanani 9820066025

**WORLI**  
AHUJA TOWERS, 4200 crpt. 4 Car Parks, Fully Frnsd, 1 Star Interiors, Rent / Sale, high flr/14' high ceiling, Full Sea View, BKP - 9320030362/ 9821018184/ 9323393691

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**SBI BANK 2700 SQ.FT.** **HDFC BANK 3000 SQ.FT.** **HSBC BANK 3000 SQ.FT.**

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**TOTAL 3 DUPLEX 5600 sqft Carpet Each**

Ample Car Parking / OC Received  
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**WELL** Planned 4BHK 6.60Cr Opp Palladium, Boutique Bldg Posh Brand New / Done Up Apt Pool, Gym, Indoor Games Highrise Estates 99 200 11888

**SEA-FACING** Duplex Apartment for Sale - 6th and 7th Floor - Location at Malad - Aksha Village. Fully furnished apartment ready over 4126.54 Sq Ft. Sturdy to move in and well-ventilated. Seller looking for a quick deal. Please call on mobile number: 98336 20121 / 9867858132.

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**3BHK 1064sq CA. FF**  
branded interiors bright airy, Sunder Nagar. 2Y rented w 1Y lockin 4%pa return. 4.25C budget. call 8591592638

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**4BHK-1700-CPT-OC** Bandra W sale new bldg 4 side open ser room lo super gentry bldg 3 car park lifts vastu green local call - 9819973092 / 9821120922

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DISCOVER your dream home at LBS Road. Introducing 2 & 3BHK apartments by the most trusted brand in real estate. For more details, Cont : 8104136835 / 7045435933

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**EXCL-BKC SCLR / Main Rd.** 3 Acres + 560sqmt. Outright freehold, Opp. G. Hyatt BKC for Multiplicity / Res. D&G Tech / Corp. Office / Logistic Data Centre Etc. MNC 10KCR. Nego. Owner: Sunil Rodrigues 9870995388 / 9870706887

**BORIVALI WEST**  
**BORIVALI-KANDIVALI** Requires Special, Luxurious 3/4/5 Bed and Bungalows for Purchase, Saraswati Estate- 7977266472 / 9126055494

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**2 BHK Rs. 1.74 cr**  
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9324154194  
SITE ADDRESS: BLDG. NO. 10, OPP. VES COLLEGE, SIDDHARTH NAGAR, GOREGAON WEST, MUMBAI 400032

**MALAD WEST**  
**1 BHK** 304 Carpet Ramchandra Lane Malad West Semi Furnished Apt for Sale. 82 Lakhs Negotiable Contact: 7021360614

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE**

"We are selling the entire first floor, measuring 5424.41 square feet (carpet area), and the second floor, measuring 5424.41 square feet (carpet area), in a building with a separate entrance. The property is located on Plot 15, Off. CEAT Tyre Factory Road, Nahur West, Mumbai - 400 078. Which is well connected by Nahur Railway Station (~250m) on the Central Line. The property is in close proximity to the Mulund - Airoli link road, which connects to the prime IT/ITes, office areas of Airoli.

The sale includes 12 car parking spaces and a 2/3rd undivided share in the piece of land, which measures 2099.68 square yards equivalent to 1747.20 square meters.

**INTERESTED PARTIES SHARE YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) WITH naurh.offices@gmail.com (7021944993) by 10/08/2024.**

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**500 To 5000 Sq.meters INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE**

Suitable All Kind Of Industries Layout "MIDC LAND" 6 Km From Ambernath Station

Call 022 - 67122518 022 - 67122525 9699990933

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**10N-RENT**, One Lakh sq.ft. Highway face N.A. plot built to suit for large Godown/ Pharma Cos/ Car Centre, Nr. Fountain Hotel 3 km from Kashimira, 2) ON Rent 6000 sq.ft. (1st-3000' & 2nd-3000') fully furnished at Marol Maroshi, 3 km from Airport, Nr Seven Hills Hospital. 3) Very Prime Plot Next to Fun Republic 25000 sq.ft. for Car Centre/ Showroom / Godown 4) ON Rent Gr. Floor, besides Lodha Aqua, Mira Road, Super Market 1650' Carpet with A/C & with Racks. 5) On Rent, Gala 4000 sq.ft. at kaman Bhandiwardi road facing, Near Bahajnal Dairy. Ph: 9802262654 / 9870643011. Email- gkp.ftitech@gmail.com

**business**

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Area 775 sq.ft + Washroom, 1st Floor- Unfurnished

**Immediate Possession**

Most Suitable For: Dentist/ Fine Jewellery / Dietician/ Pet Spa/Architect/Boutique.

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**TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884**

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**BY CASTE**

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**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 CP. Email: aksharvinayak@gmail.com

**EXCEPTIONALLY** Beautiful, Homly, Below 27 Years Girl For Bisa Agrawal Engineer From Affluent Family, 65 Lpa, Whatsapp: 9868889328.

**DELHI** bsd h'some, Magik Sep'98/6Pt commercial Pilot /33LPA, Garg Gotra, currently posted in Blore. Seeks Bfud. Edu girl. Call: 9212065430

**29/5'10 B.Tech-IIT MS** Wrkn with google 1 Cr + well est. h'some f'mly Caste No Bar, no dowry rich f'mly. 9825968503, Em: bdmaj@gmail.com

**PQM** for Saxena 93/5'11" BE, SS/W Eng, 25-LPA, W/kg in MNC Bangalore from Lucknow family. M-8765829088. E-mail: jitkumsaxena@gmail.com

**MATHUR** 37/5'7", B.Tech. Manager in a PSU-FLCTC 25 lacs p.a. Recently divorced, Issueless well placed family seeks suitable Mathur Kayastha match. Mb- 9918400981.

**BTECH** MA SAKENA Boy Sep 92/5'9 36LPA/3 Kgs AGCI PRUDENTIAL as Channel Head of Del-NCR. Seeks Prof. Qual girl 9860440109/8588841079

**MUMBAI** based B.Tech, 31 yrs/5'11 Software Engr. wkg MNC 21 LPA. Seeks B.Tech or Qid. Girl. Contact: 9930803650 /7900145261

**COMPATIBLE** Alliance invited for 94/5'11" very handsome and well established independent Brahmin lawyer having offices in Jabalpur/Indore and south Delhi from very respectable family background, caste flexi(bly). Only msg pls 9621647604

**AGARWAL, B.E. (BIT Mesra)**, MS in CS from the USA, 31/6' boy working at Seattle, USA, seeks qualified girl # skagars917999@gmail.com - 9631363679

**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 : 9395252936

**HANDSOME**, fair looking 6 feet, Sharma boy of 30s old working in public sector as Engineer(mba), Caste no Bar, looking for suitable bride. Call at 9660003148

**KAY'SHOME** 37/5'8" Magik WSTDh Tech Tress Divo 35L US MNC Banglr/Del seeks wkg/Prof. WA 9810594982 arsp106@gmail.com

**PQM** BS Computer Science. Agarwal Boy Aug 91/5'11 in US Citizen. Entrepreneur Flexible to settle in India. M 991555394 rajveegp@gmail.com

**REQUIRED** handsome, slim well qualified high status 1985 to 2000 born from high status family Divorced/Manglik also required. Archana- 9888457003

**SM4** Punjabi Brahmin UM boy Dec 83/5'8" settled in Mumbai Musician, caste no bar/ simple early marriage. Send profile- Wapp/ Mob 9811882892

**B.TECH** MBA Yadav boy. DOB:1987/5'11" Canada-Work Permit 30LPA (Warehouse Supervisor), WhatsApp: 971138808/9425300067

**PB** Arora 1985 born Bachelor boy CA MBA Running Own company high income looking Good Life Partner caste no bar 9818227342

**SRIVASHNA**, h'some 5'8" highly edu & placed in USA, 50s solicited fiancee from pious f'mly seeks well edu girl E: vijayvenkat84@yahoo.com

**PQM** 4 B.Tech IIM Punjabi, only son, 8.3.93/6', Product Mgr ICICI Mumbai 24 LPA, Father Doctor. Reputed Family. Contact: 9828153465

**BRAHMIN** 33/5'10 B.Tech IIT MBA ISB working in MNC 75 LPA + Father Industrialist Caste No Bar 9893202325, 8889365092

**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**

**41/5'10** Agarwal unmarried boy B.Tech-IIT, MBA-IM SR Manager MNC 80 Lpa accept div & widow. Caste No Bar, no dowry, 9877939929, 9179132579

**PUNJABI** unmarried boy 39, 5'9", B.Tech-MBA IIM Wkn MNC 80 lakh PK, no dowry adult f'mly 4cr bhd & wido CNB # 9406486558, 7067142066

**BY LANGUAGE**

**BENGALI**  
**BENGALI** Brahmin boy HT/5'9"/35yrs. Only child. PG Architect from SPA. Res Mumbai. Wkn in MNC seeks alliance with Mumbai/Delhi based educated girl. WhatsApp 9920888907

**WE** are Seeking a Suitable Bride for our Son, born Nov. 93 MBA. Looking for a Caring Family-oriented Partner with Good Education in Mumbai or etc. Contact - 9920517404.

**WANTED** working Bengali girl for small 30'30" MBA, Boy working in US based MNC, Mumbai. email: happenjoy2528@gmail.com, # 9432146017, 9177065972

**ONLY** Namasudra Bride wanted Tall, Fair, V. Bfud, Highly Qualified in STEM for Veg, IIM IIM, US Bank groom (31), soumatoms@gmail.com

**ANDHERI EAST**

**ANDHERI WEST**

**SANTACRUZ EAST**

**CAP SPAN INVESTOR!**  
**3BHK 1064sq CA. FF**  
branded interiors bright airy, Sunder Nagar. 2Y rented w 1Y lockin 4%pa return. 4.25C budget. call 8591592638

**EXCLUSIVE 3 & 4 BHK** flats available for lease & outright in Bandra, Khar & Santacruz Redevelopment & outright plots also available Contact Dilip Rai The Property Store 98993 10999 / 91260 02255

**4BHK-1700-CPT-OC** Bandra W sale new bldg 4 side open ser room lo super gentry bldg 3 car park lifts vastu green local call - 9819973092 / 9821120922

**BHANDU WEST**  
DISCOVER your dream home at LBS Road. Introducing 2 & 3BHK apartments by the most trusted brand in real estate. For more details, Cont : 8104136835 / 7045435933

**BKC**  
**EXCL-BKC SCLR / Main Rd.** 3 Acres + 560sqmt. Outright freehold, Opp. G. Hyatt BKC for Multiplicity / Res. D&G Tech / Corp. Office / Logistic Data Centre Etc. MNC 10KCR. Nego. Owner: Sunil Rodrigues 9870995388 / 9870706887

**BORIVALI WEST**  
**BORIVALI-KANDIVALI** Requires Special, Luxurious 3/4/5 Bed and Bungalows for Purchase, Saraswati Estate- 7977266472 / 9126055494

**GOREGAON WEST**  
**2 BHK Rs. 1.74 cr**  
**2.5 BHK Rs. 2.11 cr**  
**3 BHK Rs. 2.45 cr**  
9324154194  
SITE ADDRESS: BLDG. NO. 10, OPP. VES COLLEGE, SIDDHARTH NAGAR, GOREGAON WEST, MUMBAI 400032

**MALAD WEST**  
**1 BHK** 304 Carpet Ramchandra Lane Malad West Semi Furnished Apt for Sale. 82 Lakhs Negotiable Contact: 7021360614

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE**

"We are selling the entire first floor, measuring 5424.41 square feet (carpet area), and the second floor, measuring 5424.41 square feet (carpet area), in a building with a separate entrance. The property is located on Plot 15, Off. CEAT Tyre Factory Road, Nahur West, Mumbai - 400 078. Which is well connected by Nahur Railway Station (~250m) on the Central Line. The property is in close proximity to the Mulund - Airoli link road, which connects to the prime IT/ITes, office areas of Airoli.

The sale includes 12 car parking spaces and a 2/3rd undivided share in the piece of land, which measures 2099.68 square yards equivalent to 1747.20 square meters.

**INTERESTED PARTIES SHARE YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) WITH naurh.offices@gmail.com (7021944993) by 10/08/2024.**

**PROPERTY ANCILLARIES**

**COMMERCIAL PREMISES**

**INDUSTRIAL PREMISES**

**500 To 5000 Sq.meters INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE**

Suitable All Kind Of Industries Layout "MIDC LAND" 6 Km From Ambernath Station

Call 022 - 67122518 022 - 67122525 9699990933

**LEASE & RENT**

**10N-RENT**, One Lakh sq.ft. Highway face N.A. plot built to suit for large Godown/ Pharma Cos/ Car Centre, Nr. Fountain Hotel 3 km from Kashimira, 2) ON Rent 6000 sq.ft. (1st-3000' & 2nd-3000') fully furnished at Marol Maroshi, 3 km from Airport, Nr Seven Hills Hospital. 3) Very Prime Plot Next to Fun Republic 25000 sq.ft. for Car Centre/ Showroom / Godown 4) ON Rent Gr. Floor, besides Lodha Aqua, Mira Road, Super Market 1650' Carpet with A/C & with Racks. 5) On Rent, Gala 4000 sq.ft. at kaman Bhandiwardi road facing, Near Bahajnal Dairy. Ph: 9802262654 / 9870643011. Email- gkp.ftitech@gmail.com

**business**

**BUSINESS PROPOSALS**

**Showroom/Office on Rent at MALABAR HILL**

Area 775 sq.ft + Washroom, 1st Floor- Unfurnished

**Immediate Possession**

Most Suitable For: Dentist/ Fine Jewellery / Dietician/ Pet Spa/Architect/Boutique.

**Shravan (Ag) 8369246319**  
**Arjun (Ag) 8189609176**

**FINANCE**

**FINANCE-ARRANGED** for Machinery without collateral for START UP (New Business. Contact: No. 8591026370 WhatsApp No - 8369983200

**BUSINESS** Loans Unsecured for New Projects, NPA, Business Expansion, 1 Crore & Above. Contact 7618736928 / 8317222269.

**LOANS**

**LOAN** upto 800 Cr for Business/Project/NPA/EC B ROI 6-11% in 15days. Call 9429692130 or visit www.countrysideinvestmentspartners.com

**MACHINERY & TOOLS**

**WE** are manufacturers of Pharma Machines, Liko Tablet machine, PUNCHES and dies, etc If Require, Pls. Call Suni - 922339060 / 922339070 Website : www.jaguarqmc.com

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**VERY** Huge Rare Collection Of Stamp/Coins Of More Than 140 Countries For Sale Genuine Buyers Call 923488397 Sebastian

**TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884**

**EXCEPTIONALLY** Beautiful, Homly, Below 27 Years Girl For Bisa Agrawal Engineer From Affluent Family, 65 Lpa, Whatsapp: 9868889328.

**DELHI** bsd h'some, Magik Sep'98/6Pt commercial Pilot /33LPA, Garg Gotra, currently posted in Blore. Seeks Bfud. Edu girl. Call: 9212065430

**29/5'10 B.Tech-IIT MS** Wrkn with google 1 Cr + well est. h'some f'mly Caste No Bar, no dowry rich f'mly. 9825968503, Em: bdmaj@gmail.com

**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.prabhakar7@gmail.com

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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.

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

## Proportion of Unfiled Posts Increases With Seniority Level

Rema.Nagarajan  
@timesofindia.com

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

According to a 2023 report of the parliamentary committee on the 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 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 low-level 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 unfiled year after year.

Data available on 45 central universities also shows a similar pattern. SCs constituted under 11% of teaching posts and STs less than 5%. In non-teaching posts, SCs had a share of under 10% and STs just a bit over 5%. Once again, the shares are lowest in the senior most positions.

"This fact is obscured by only talking of the overall representation of Dalits and tribals in govt jobs. There are thousands of unfiled posts in govt because the quotas are not being filled. Clearly, despite having a small section of relatively better off SCs, the govt is unable to fill the quota. It is estimated that barely 1.98% of SCs earn above Rs 50,000. Most of these

### 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	SC	ST
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

would be in govt service as historically SCs have no assets, neither land nor businesses," pointed out M S Nethrapal, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) 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 the 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.

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS

#### 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)/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 102), Date: 03-08-2024 Sd/- Executive Officer

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, N. Rly. C&W workshop, Jagadhri Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender for the following work:

1 Name of work	Provision of SS metal Trough below RMPU in place of FRP Trough in 50 LHB AC Coaches (PB Item No. 764/24-25) in Northern Railway Jagadhri Workshop for 1 year
2 Location	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002
3 Tender Value	Rs. 10421682.50
4 Quantity	50 LHB AC Coaches
5 Cost of Tender form	Nil
6 Earnest money amount	₹ 202100.00
7 Completion period of the work	12 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance
8 Date & Time for submission of tender form	28.08.2024 till 15:30 hrs.
9 Opening of tender	28.08.2024 till 15:35 hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenders are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.
10 Website particulars	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No: 6-S/23/Tender/2024-25 Dt. 02.08.2024 2388/2024

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### 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.ssjgimsalmora.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 गोप निरोग बेस चिकित्सालय, अल्मोड़ा हेतु 02 बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित उपकरण को आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आह्वानित की जाती है। ई-निविदा को सूचना बिड डॉक्यूमेंट एवं विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) पर निम्नासुर उपलब्ध है:-

क्र.सं.	वस्तु सामग्री का नाम	बिड झनलोड 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/कारिन्डम एवं निस्स्वीकरण सूचना वेबसाइट [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) पर ही उपलब्ध होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिये कृपया <http://uktenders.gov.in> पर लॉग इन करें।

Principal  
SSJGIMSR, Almora

### WESTERN RAILWAY

#### E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/40/2024 Date 31.07.2024

Sr. No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
533	COLLAR FOR DIRECT MOUNTED ROLLER BEARING ARRANGEMENT.	6146 Nos	28-Aug-24
534	Set of Cylindrical Roller Bearing NU2236 & NJ 320.	560 Set	30-Aug-24
535	KEY BOLT WITH NUT, SPRING WASHER	119485 Nos	30-Aug-24
536	Tapped Roller Bearing for Suspension Assy.	299 Nos	2-Sep-24
537	TOH Kit for High Reach Pantograph type LX3600, Make - FTRIPUL.	148 Set	2-Sep-24
538	SPARE PART KIT SET FOR DISTRIBUTOR VALVE.	1457 Set	9-Sep-24
539	HANGER FOR BOGIE BOLSTER SPRING SUSPENSION.	12898 Nos	16-Sep-24
540	Wheel Set Earthing Equipment	797 Set	16-Sep-24

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in)

Like us on [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) - Follow us on [X.com/WesternRly](https://www.x.com/WesternRly) 0416

### 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](mailto:secretary@mperc.nic.in)  
Website : [www.mperc.in](http://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.

M.P. Madhyam/15726/2024 (UMAKANTA PANDA) SECRETARY

### 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)

SI No.	Name of the work
1.	Reconstruction 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 Constituency in West Zone. Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 959.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹. 14.50 Lakhs
2.	Reconstruction of RCC Box Drain, U Shape Drain and Construction of Impounding Reservoir in Police Quarters of Chamarajpete Constituency 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 Ramachandrea Agrahara & Surrounding cross Roads from 1st Main to 5th Main Chamarajpete Constituency in West Zone. Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 976.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹. 14.85 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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be aware of fake schemes offered using the name of SBICAP Securities Ltd (SSL). SBICAP Securities Limited hereby would like to alert and caution the general public that some miscreants are using the name of SBICAP Securities Ltd, through various means by peaching including but not limited to fake schemes, fake business offers, fake career opportunities, false money return policies, several other type of schemes(s), etc., via advertisements / calls / letters/ fictitious messages / What's app messenger-group / email, website / or several other social media platforms etc., to portray to the public that these miscreants are in some manner associated and/or connected with SSL.

The said miscreants are attempting to defraud the public by demanding money by impersonating themselves as SSL representatives/s. Please note, all such communications are utterly false and mischievous, issued with the dishonest intention to defraud the public. These miscreants are impersonating the name of SSL and/or its management and are collecting money from the public by offering fake schemes/offers which do not exist.

SSL by this notice would like to caution and advise the public that "they shall not reply to such communications or enter any kind of correspondence with such sender(s) or enter into any kind of transaction(s) directly or indirectly" with such miscreants.

In case any such incident(s) come(s) to your knowledge or in case of any doubt, we request you to contact the nearest branch of "SSL" or please mail us on - [Compliancecorporate@sbicapsec.com](mailto:Compliancecorporate@sbicapsec.com).

Please note any act or omission to the contrary shall be at your risk and responsibility as to costs and consequences thereof.

For and on behalf of  
SBICAP Securities Limited  
12th Floor, B Wing,  
Marathon Futorex, N M Joshi Marg,  
Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013.

### E-Tender Notice

### Government of Maharashtra

### Department of Fisheries

### Tender No. Matsya/Bhu/011204/142/2024

Date: -05/08/2024

As per revised reservoir policy for inland fishing Government resolution dated 03/07/2019 for lease out reservoir above 1000 ha. "Hatnur Reservoir" in Jalgaon District is called to lease for the period of 5 years (2024-25 to 2028-29) by e-tendering process for 07 days. Tender Notice, Tender Form etc. is published on Dt. 05/08/2024 at Website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>.

1	Period for purchase, download & submission of Bid Document	Dt. 05/08/2024 To Dt. 12/08/2024
2	Last date of submission of the Tender Form	Dt. 12/08/2024 up to 04.00 PM
3	Opening Date of the Tender	Dt. 13/08/2024 at 04.00 PM (If Possible)
4	Pre-bid Meeting	Dt. 07/08/2024 at 01.00 PM

Sd/-  
(Dr. Atul Patne)  
Commissioner of Fisheries,  
Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

DGIPR/2024-2025/1575

### 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/WZ/TEND/01/2024-25 Date: 01-08-2024

#### CORRIGENDUM-2 (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Ref. No: EE/RI/WZ/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: <a href="https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in">https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in</a> 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: <a href="https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in">https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in</a> 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)

SI No.	Name of the work
1.	Reconstruction 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 Constituency in West Zone. Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 959.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹. 14.50 Lakhs
2.	Reconstruction of RCC Box Drain, U Shape Drain and Construction of Impounding Reservoir in Police Quarters of Chamarajpete Constituency 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 Ramachandrea Agrahara & Surrounding cross Roads from 1st Main to 5th Main Chamarajpete Constituency in West Zone. Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 976.00 Lakhs (Including GST) EMD: ₹. 14.85 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

### 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](http://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](http://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(AJ-JTJ) Section of Chennai Division of Southern Railway in connection with Mission 3000MT Loading Target.
Appx. Cash value (Rs.)	144,81,31,043/-
Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	73,90,700/-
Period of Completion in Months	540 Days

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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

### CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### E-PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS MATERIALS

#### TENDER NOTICE No. E-31/2024, Dt. 01-08-2024

Tender No	Item Description	Quantity	Tender opening date
27244696B	Set of step size racers for axle box	282 Set	13-08-24
27243276	Cab Activating Key Switch	102 Nos	19-08-24
75242110	M.S. Welding electrodes class-A1 (Rutile type).	176543 Metre	19-08-24
18242228A	Housing bearing complete kit	30 Set	20-08-24
71245079	Gynaecological patient examination & treatment chair for gynaecology department.	01 No	20-08-24
50243104	LED Signal Lighting Units for Subsidiary Colour Light Signals Shunt	2277 Nos	21-08-24
75242171	Endless V-Belt (Precision built belt)	3648 Set	24-08-24
10241580D	Long Life Loco Side Buffer Assembly	231 Nos	26-08-24
18242207	Repair kit for injector	65 Nos	26-08-24
38243034	Double acting hydraulic shock absorber.	1137 Nos	26-08-24
41241540	Polyimide film backed uniform mica tape	65613 Metre	26-08-24
42240020	MC coach controller	18 Nos	26-08-24
43241113	Coupling socket Assembly	289 Nos	26-08-24
43244072A	LED type emergency lighting system	1315 Set	26-08-24
71245071	Hydraulic Re-railing Equipment (HRE)	03 Set	26-08-24
75241084	Flexible Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Flooring Sheet	4238 Nos	26-08-24
75241085	Aluminium Paint Brushing, Bright Finishing	26501 Litre	26-08-24
79242336A	Pillow for Second and Third AC coaches	82385 Nos	26-08-24
90241025A	Aluminium chequered sheet, size-2770 x 813 x 2.03mm	27565 Kgs	26-08-24
41241529	Teflon ring	1029 Nos	27-08-24
75240001	Flexible Poly Vinyl Chloride Sheet	347 Nos	27-08-24
48242180	Piston	64 Nos	28-08-24
27243744	Set of Items for IR03 Pantograph	66 Set	28-08-24
71245077	High power laser therapy unit for physiotherapy department	01 No	28-08-24
38242069	Polymer buffer spring pack set (consisting of 3 items)	1429 Set	29-08-24
38241811	Non asbestos based "k" type high friction composite brake blocks	154672 Nos	02-09-24
38243561	Poly ring with flattened surfaces	19477 Nos	02-09-24
43240015	Diesel engine lead acid starter batteries of 24v, 290Ah.	71 Set	02-09-24
43241291	Crashworthy design fans guard	12612 Nos	02-09-24
75241028	Paint Enamel Synthetic Exterior finishing, Colour-Black.	133680 Metre	02-09-24
75241075	Copper Coated mild steel wire 4mm dia	48130 Kgs	02-09-24
81241030	Non-chromate boron free corrosion inhibitor.	16380 Litre	02-09-24
38243363A	Maintenance Kit- 02 for Earthing Equipments.	407 Set	03-09-24
38242236	Repair kit for brake gear bushes	4376 Set	09-09-24
38243489	Upgraded High-Capacity Draft Gear Arrangement	985 Nos	09-09-24
75241094	Flexible Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Flooring Sheet	732 Nos	09-09-24
27244635A	Microprocessor based Electronic Speed-cum-Energy Monitoring System	42 Set	16-09-24
38243327	Air Brake hose coupling for Brake pipe	7785 Nos	16-09-24
90242341	Aluminium chequered sheet	56215 Kgs	18-09-24
81241026	Thermal tickets rolls of 500 each (UTS)	305600 Nos	23-09-24
75241086	Decorative Thermosetting Synthetic Resin Bonded Laminated Sheets	19274 Nos	25-09-24
75242078	Vinyl Coated Upholstery Fabric (Leather Like)	227948 Metre	25-09-24
79242335	Pillow Cover for Third AC and Second AC coaches	762396 Nos	30-09-24
75241014	Set of PU paints for Ultrashit coaches	209 Set	21-10-24

Detail notice & Tender Conditions can be seen and downloaded from the website. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ CSMT

Download UTS App for Tickets

### 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://tenders.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.

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

### JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No : JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg./NOTICE/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.	JDA2425W/SOBO0200	235.00	O & M STP	26.08.2024
2.	JDA2425W/L/OBO0215	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](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in).

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg.-I  
Raj.Samwad/CJ/24/3287

### MAHATRANSCO E-Tender Notice

MSET

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#### LEGAL

#### ADVOCATE

**REPUTED-DEVELOPER** in Western Suburb urgently require full time Lawyer with Interior Designers with minimum 5-7 years of experience to work on Residential & Commercial projects. Site experience is required. Expertise in Autocad is essential. Contact on 68602000 or CV Email: oswin\_mascarenhas@sezai.in

#### OTHER PROFESSIONALS

#### ARCHITECTS

**ZARIR** Mullan Architect & Interior Designer requires Interior Designers with minimum 5-7 years of experience to work on Residential & Commercial projects. Site experience is required. Expertise in Autocad is essential. Contact on 68602000 or CV Email: oswin\_mascarenhas@sezai.in

#### MEDICAL

#### MEDICAL

**SVS Medical College** Hospital, Mahabubnagar, Telangana State. Required Professors, Associate Professors, Asst. Professors in the Dept of Orthopedics, OBG, General Medicine, General Surgery, ENT, Pediatrics, Forensic Medicine, SPM and Resident/Duty Medical Officers are also required. Cont:-91 9010075083, Email svsmc\_mbnr@yahoo.co.in

**SONOLOGIST** required, Sonographer/echocardiography License/Job Application Processing, Training. Non-MBBS can also apply. Call +91 93609 31155

**MULUND** Clinic slots for Pathologist, Physician Psychiatrist, ENT, Ophtho Skin/VD, Dietician, Counsellor, Homeo, Ayur etc. Ph 9821058688

**Cosmopolitan's S.C.D. BARFIVALA HIGH SCHOOL**  
(Linguistic Minority Institution)  
Applications are invited for the post of (Shikshan Sevak) in Secondary Section academic year 2024-2025

Subjects	No. of Posts
Physical Education	01
English	01

Eligible candidates may apply with Biodata/Resume containing all details about their qualification, experience and present job. Application can be given in person or emailed to cosmopolitanschool@yahoo.co.in on or before 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Qualification and pay scale are as prescribed by the Education Department of Govt. of Maharashtra

**PRINCIPAL**

**PART** Time Job in Dadar for Female BAMS or Naturopath with diploma. Send CV or Contact 9820124707 / 904540007

**WANTED** Office Peon & Cleaner making Tea, Coffee and serving food. 5/6 years Exp Salary max 10K from Andheri (E). Ct: Anil Bhalha 98200 85658

**REQUIRED** Purchase & Procurement Executives to source new suppliers for Import of Household and Home Decor products. Will have to speak/send emails to vendors, Negotiate rates and quantity. Place orders as per instructions of Director, search for suppliers/ products on internet. Should know MS office & fluent in English language. Female candidates preferred. Call: 9870434789 Email: purchase.hdecor@gmail.com

**REQUIRED** Diploma Holders in Civil/ Electrical Engineering, Near Muster Gate, Colaba. - 7039028850

**AC / Ductable / Chiller / Central Plant Technician** Required for Premier Chillers, Mira Road. Contact- 9820490406

**AC / Ductable / Chiller / Central Plant Technician** Required for Premier Chillers, Mira Road. Contact- 9820490406

**REQUIRE** Female Executive Assistant age 35-45 for MD with fluency in English, knowledge of MS Office manage apps, coordination within intern team, vendors & proficient follow-up skills. Email: kunal@hotmail.com

**REQUIRE** Female Executive Assistant age 35-45 for MD with fluency in English, knowledge of MS Office manage apps, coordination within intern team, vendors & proficient follow-up skills. Email: kunal@hotmail.com

**DY.MANAGER**, with min 5 yrs exp (BE grad), reporting to Manager for Projects and its ISO documentation, in Sector 11, CBD-Belapur. Ph: 9892161553 E: info@shankarsurveys.com

**REQUIRED** Exp Manager for Societies, conversant of by-laws, computer, fluent in English, Salary up to Rs. 45,000/-p.m. and Account Assistant salary up to Rs. 25,000/-p.m. Send Resume job@shankassociates.co.in

**OFFICE** Assistant, at Parel, Goregaon & Ghatkopar with 10 yrs Exp of Correspondence / Customer Care / Tending & Documentation / Customer Care, salary 3 to 5 Lac. Whatsapp - 9324804795

**REQ. FEMALE-OFFICE-ASST** Having Computer and Accounts Knowledge at Bandra W Sal 15000 / K. Call - 7206856620.

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Join our esteemed civil engineering and contracting company, having 10+ years of excellence in delivering over 100 high-quality buildings with proven track record of quality and safety.

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4. HR Manager - Exp.: 2-5 yrs
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7. Billing Engineer - Exp.: 3-7 yrs
8. Sr. Surveyor - Exp.: 3-5 yrs

Email your resume to: [hr@strongbuilt.co.in](mailto:hr@strongbuilt.co.in)  
For further details, contact: 9619875066

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**+91 7887733160**

**REQ** Computer Teachers for schools in Chembur, Mahim, Andheri to teach Html, basic coding. Also req Robotics teacher. Tel: 98205 20034

**VACANCY** for Secondary SS, Maths, Science, Computer Teacher. Meet with resume St Francis High School, Laxman Nagar, Kurar, Malad (East). Time: 11-4

**REQD.** Female Teacher for Science/Maths for Std. V-VIII & K.G. [Pre-Primary] also for Computer (I-X). Meet personally with CV & Photo, Principal, Queen Mary High School, Gokuldham, Malad (E), 9867511017, Time 9-2.

**REQD.** Female Teacher for primary Subject - Marathi, Hindi, English, 1, 2, 3, 5 Aug. bet 3pm to 4pm at: Grace English School, 1, Millind Nagar, Himalay School road, near Ashli metro station, Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai

**STANTHONY** Girls High School, Chembur, Mahim, Andheri, Exp. Medium/ Senior, full time. BSC, DEB/B.Ed, B.A.B.PED, B.A. D.Ed/B.Ed, H.S.C. D.E.D. submit your resume in the school office by 5/8/24.

**CANDIDATE** required for reputed institute in Thane area Post 1 M.A.B.Ed English 1 Lab Assistant B.Sc. Chemistry 1 Accountant B.Com Tally 1 M.Com (BK SP) 1 M.Sc B.Ed (Physics)

**REQD** HSC.D.Ed. (regular course, English medium only) & TET/CTE/MSCIT passed out candidates, age below 38 yrs, apply for SHIKSHAN SEVAK POST with in 7 days immediately to a FULLY AIDED SSC SCHOOL (I - IV) @ The G.M.E.Society's, PRIMA SECTION, 5C, Tilak Vidyalyaya Road, Vileparle (East), Mumbai 400057. Apply within 7days or mail the resumes to [hr@primasection@gmail.com](mailto:hr@primasection@gmail.com)

**WANTED** 1) B.A., B.PED - 1 Vacancy - secondary Section (Aided). Candidate should immediately meet the Principal, National Sarvodaya High School, Chembur Colony, Mumbai 74, on 3rd August 2024 at 11.00 a.m for interview.

**REQ** Computer teachers to teach Html/basic coding in schools at Chembur, Bcyulla, Malim, Andheri. Also Req Robotics Trs. Tel: 98205 20034

**REENA** Mehta College, 150 feet Road, Bhandayr West requires a full time faculty to teach the following subject in Hospitality Studies Subject: Food and Beverages Meet Principal with resume. Walk in interview between 9.30 am to 2 pm. Tel 28176264/ 66/68

**URGENTLY** required Accounts Officer for export oriented Co. at Mumbai, exp. 4 to 5 yrs, in Tele working mode. Knowledge of export & banking. Transport facility available from Kalyan to Mumbai. Please apply in confidence to [jitendravermalm1949@gmail.com](mailto:jitendravermalm1949@gmail.com)

**WE** are recruiting retired bank officers for conducting statutory/concurrent audit of Banks. Interested candidates can send their CV to [info@batlibiropuhit.com](mailto:info@batlibiropuhit.com) or call at 02222077941

**WANTED** Chartered Accountant having knowledge of GST/Taxes and Compliance with a statutory body. Please apply with full biodata on [admin@shahlogistics.com](mailto:admin@shahlogistics.com)

**GOREGAON-** Reputed Mfg Co Req 1)Taxation Manager (Exp 5Yrs/M/P/Handling All GST procedures, 2)Accountant (2 post) (M/F), Call-022-49452222 or mail CV +photo on [info@jalaramgroup.co.in](mailto:info@jalaramgroup.co.in)

### Land Required

Our Clients who are public charitable trust are desirous of and are looking for purchase of Plot of Land admeasuring over minimum 4500 Sq. Mtr. and above in the region between Andheri to Bandra in Western Suburban or between Sion to Vikhroli in Central Suburban in the City of Mumbai. Land affected under any reservation (N.D., Hospital, School, Collage, R, G and any other zone). Any other plot in BMC limit. Any person interested in selling land as above may send proposal along with supporting documents to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 21 days from the publication hereof.

**Date: 04/08/2024**  
**Lex Services**  
28, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New Bansilal Building, Opp. Bombay House, 11, Homi Modi Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.  
**Tel: +91 22 40034444 / 40036666.**  
**E: [lega@lexservices.in](mailto:lega@lexservices.in), Web: [www.lexservices.in](http://www.lexservices.in)**

**HINDUSTAN LATEX FAMILY PLANNING PROMOTION TRUST**

Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPPT) invites bids from experienced vendors for the supply of six (6) buses on monthly hiring basis. These buses to be fabricated, designed and branded for the RED RIBBON BUS (RRB) campaign (as per details mentioned in the RFP) to be conducted across India over a period of 3 years. For detailed RFP, please visit website i.e. <https://hlfppt.org/rfp-tenders>, <https://allianceindia.org>, [www.saathi.in](http://www.saathi.in)

**REQ** Computer Teachers to teach HTML, basic coding in Schools at Chembur, Mahim, Andheri. Also Req Robotics teacher. Tel: 98205 20034

**REQ** Teacher for Jr College at Borivali(W) for OC, SP, Ec, BK, English & IT Fresher & Exp. Full/ Part Time whatsapp-ur Biodata @ 8779688825

**REQ** female accountant with tally experience, graduate must & staying near by Mazgaon walk in Zaha hardware next to dockyard station - 9867418730

**ACCOUNTANT** Required for Nariman Point with min 3 yrs exp. in Accounts. Tally in excel, email: [gvr.mumbai@gmail.com](mailto:gvr.mumbai@gmail.com)

**REQD** qualified Digital Marketing and a Field Marketing executive for a Banquet hall in Mulund with 0-5 yrs of experience. Fresher may apply. Send resume at [E.maincareers09@gmail.com](mailto:E.maincareers09@gmail.com)

**REQUIRED** Digital Marketing, Tele-Marketing and Web Designer. Experience of 3-4 years. Call: 8928001138 / 9892076331

**SR ACCT** stay BVI-Palghar B.Com/ CA well Exp in Tally, Tax Returns, Finalization, Banking GST. Ph: 7977065822 jobs\_simpex@gmail.com

**EXECUTIVE- Accounting** of investment portfolio Candidate should have an experience of 3-4 years in dealing with accounting of investment portfolio management, with working knowledge of Tally/GST, TDS. Please apply at Andheri West, [hr@freightlines.co](mailto:hr@freightlines.co) (Salary will not be constraint for the right candidate.)

**TELECALLER** with experience for recruitment at VILEPARLE (W). Send CV on 730464287. Salary + Attractive Incentives on performance

**TELECALLER** with experience for recruitment at VILEPARLE (W). Send CV on 730464287. Salary + Attractive Incentives on performance

**WANTED** Chartered Accountant having knowledge of GST/Taxes and Compliance with a statutory body. Please apply with full biodata on [admin@shahlogistics.com](mailto:admin@shahlogistics.com)

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**WANTED** Back Office Staff and Godown Supervisor for an interested person in masjid bunder. Interested persons may apply. Contact: 9867297509

**REQD.** FEM.GRADUATE OR 12TH PASS.ASSIST PRIVATE TUITION 5-6 HRS JOB PAY 1-1.2 K P.M. E.M.A.I.L NAVYABAFNA@GMAIL.COM

**WE** require Accounts Manager, Operations Manager, Logistics Manager and steno Typist with logistics work experience. send Resume email: [roadwingswestern.com](mailto:roadwingswestern.com)

**REQD.** Civil Site Engineer (Structural)- Exp. 10 years in structural Execution (2 nos.) / Sales Exec. (2 nos.) - Exp. 1-2 years & Stores keepers for 10 Years Exp. for Mega Project in Vasai (East). Call: 9881245367.

**AVIATION** Instructors Req'd. for Teaching Air Navigation, Regulation, Meteorology, Radio Transmission, Recreational, Aircraft & Engines for Commercial Pilot License (CPL) & Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Apply with CV to [paramjits8ahluwalia@gmail.com](mailto:paramjits8ahluwalia@gmail.com), [iaas\\_9@yahoo.co.in](mailto:iaas_9@yahoo.co.in), Mob 9869882592/ 8097461326. Place of Work at Federation of Indian Pilot, Lotus Corporate Park C-1202 Goregaon (East) Mum- 400063. Pay Commensurate with Experience & As per Industry Standards.

**WANTED** SAFETY ENGINEER (for our MRVC- Rly.PROJECT) MUMBAI B.E. (Industrial Safety). exp. 3 yrs above in handling site safety construction environment. CIVIL ENGINEER / SUPERVISOR (for our MRVC- Rly.PROJECT) MUMBAI B.Tech (CIVIL). exp. 5 yrs above & able to handle sites & exp in Auto CAD **9390040925** Email: [koneru.constructions.pvtltd@gmail.com](mailto:koneru.constructions.pvtltd@gmail.com)

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

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

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

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

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

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

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

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

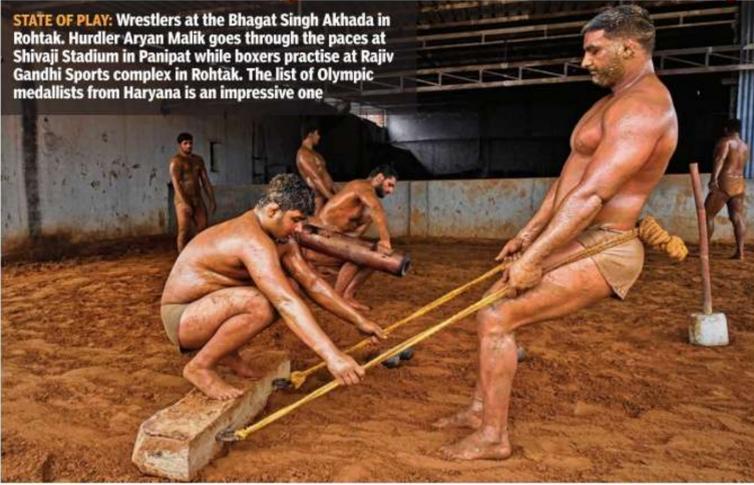
## Just Naturally Tough

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

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



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Dhoni Doesn't Mean Cricket

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

agement campus in Rohtak.

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

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

Akhadas aren't just about learning the intricate

## HARYANA'S OLYMPIC MEDALS

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



knots of 'kushti' but also life lessons like the 'gurusishya' 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 'gurujii', 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 medalist. The announcement created a buzz. The Bhopinder Singh Hooda govt took this a step further with Haryana Sports Policy, 2006, making support to sports and sportspersons structural and systemic. It linked sporting achievements not just to cash incentives but also employment in the form of high-level govt jobs. The slogan was 'padak lao, pad pao (bring a medal, get a job)'. Added focus was put on building modern training centres and wrestling and boxing academies. The assurance of financial and job security made a big difference.

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

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

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

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

## Winning Gender Battle Too

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

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

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

## INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

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

## ANSWERS

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

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

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

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

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

## Dedicated Pathways

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

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

# In Vadodara, crocs prefer subway during rains

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



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

urgently summoned to deal with the unwelcome intruder.

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

It's difficult to keep a tab on crocodiles' movements as they keep travelling around," said Hemant 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.

## They Don't Mind Jail Visits

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

## Meet The Mugger

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

# Short-range projectile killed Hamas chief Haniyeh: Iran

## 'Israel Was Supported By US In Attack'

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Saturday that Israel killed Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh using a "short-range projectile" launched from outside of his accommodation in Tehran. "This terrorist operation was carried out by firing a short-range projectile with a warhead of about 7 kilograms — causing a strong explosion — from outside the accommodation area," the Guards said.

It added that Israel was "supported by the United States" in the attack. Haniyeh was killed early Wednesday in the Iranian capital where he was attending the swearing-in of the new president, Masoud Pezeshkian. Iran and Hamas have vowed to retaliate. The Guards repeated their insistence that Haniyeh would be avenged and that Israel would receive "a severe punishment at the appropriate time, place and manner".



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

Iran, which has declined to comment on Haniyeh's killing, had earlier struck a Hezbollah stronghold in south Beirut. That strike killed a senior commander of the Lebanese militant group it blamed for a deadly weekend rocket strike on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

The killings are the latest of several major incidents that have inflamed regional tensions during the Gaza war, which has drawn in Iran-backed militant groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. In

Iran, the voices clamouring for revenge have intensified since Haniyeh's killing.

On Saturday, the ultraconservative Kayhan daily said retaliatory operations were expected to be "more diverse, more dispersed and impossible to intercept."

"This time, areas such as Tel Aviv and Haifa and the strategic centres and especially residences of some officials involved in the recent crimes are among the targets," the newspaper said in an opinion piece. AFP

## Iran arrests dozens in search for suspects

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

## Ukraine: Sank Russian sub, hit airfield & oil depots

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

The military's general staff said the attack on Sevastopol port also significantly damaged four launchers of the S-400 anti-aircraft "Triumf" defence system. There was no immediate comment by Russia on the Sevastopol attack.

In other, overnight attacks, the military said it hit an ammunition depot at Morozovsk airfield where Russian forces stored guided aerial bombs among other equipment and a number of oil depots and fuel storage facilities. "Russian combat aviation must be destroyed wherever it is, by all effective means. It is also quite fair to strike at Russian airfields. And we need this joint solution with our partners — a security solution," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

He has repeatedly called on his Western allies for permission to use their weapons for long-range attacks on Russia, in addition to striking military targets close to the border. He said Russian forces had used over 600 guided aerial bombs to attack Ukraine in the past week.

In Russia, local officials reported that tanks at a fuel-storage depot in the Kamensky district of Rostov region caught fire as a result of a drone attack. REUTERS

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

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

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

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

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



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

visiting to enjoy the amenities the city has to offer."

And Humber Police in a statement said three police officers have been injured and four people arrested following disorder in Hull, a city in the northeast of England. Earlier, windows of a hotel in Hull that is used to house migrants were smashed.

Elsewhere, bricks were thrown at police officers in Stoke-on-Trent in central England while scuffles have also been reported in Belfast, Manchester and Nottingham.

There were no reports of far-right marches in London. Separately, thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched peacefully through the city to protest Israel's military operation in Gaza.

Britain's new Labour PM Keir Starmer held a crisis meeting with ministers on Saturday, in which he said police have the government's "full support" to take action against "extremists" attacking officers and attempting to "sow hate," according to his office in No. 10 Downing Street. AP

# Israeli strikes kill 15 in school shelter

## 9 Militants Die In West Bank

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

The Israeli military said the first of two West Bank

airstrikes hit a vehicle in a town near the city of Tulkarm, targeting a militant cell it said was on its way to carry out an attack.

The school sheltering displaced persons was in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, the Hamas-run government media office said.

The Israeli military said the school was being used as a command centre for Hamas, to hide militants and manufacture weapons. Hamas has denied Israeli accusations.

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

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

said its forces had struck militants and destroyed Hamas infrastructure in Rafah and elsewhere in the enclave.

At least 39,550 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli military campaign in Gaza, said Gaza health officials.

A high-level Israeli delegation made a brief visit to Cairo on Saturday in an attempt to resume Gaza ceasefire negotiations, Egyptian airport authority sources said. It returned to Israel hours later, Israeli media said. REUTERS

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

Naomi Canton

London: In a landmark ruling the UK's court of appeal has overturned the decision of a lower court which declared Indian-origin teenager Sudiksha Thirumalesh lacked mental capacity to make decisions about her medical treatment. This led to her life-saving treatment being withdrawn.

Thirumalesh died aged 19 on Sept 12, 2023 after her wishes to seek experimental life-saving treatment overseas were denied by doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham following a court of



RIGHT TO DISAGREE WITH DOCS

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

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

Her Christian parents Thirumalesh Chellam 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. NPT

## French director to face trial for abusing minor actor

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

# Somalia beach attack kills 37 civilians, says minister

Mogadishu: At least 37 civilians were killed and 212 were injured in an explosion at a popular beach restaurant in the Somali capital late on Friday, the health minister said, an attack the government blamed on militant Islamist group al-Shabaab.

Ali Haji told a press conference that 11 of those injured in the attack in Mogadishu were in a critical condition.

It was the deadliest attack in the Horn of Africa country since twin car bombs detonated near a busy market intersection in Oct 2022, killing at least 100 people. In addition to the civilians killed at the beach restaurant, police spokesperson Abdifatah Aden said one soldier was killed during the assault.



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 lightning and a huge blast," he said. "We were covered with smoke. Inside and outside the restaurant many people were lying on the floor while others were bleeding and crying." On Saturday morning, the beach was strewn with sandals and shoes.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre met with security agencies after the attack and drew up plans to strengthen the city's security. REUTERS

## AROUND THE WORLD



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

## Hawaii announces \$4 bn settlement in wildfire lawsuits

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

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

## 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.

## 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,

# AI lawsuits create new music copyright puzzle for US courts

Country musician Tift Merritt's most popular song on Spotify, "Traveling Alone," is a ballad with lyrics evoking solitude and the open road. When prompted to make "an American song in the style of Tift Merritt," the artificial intelligence (AI) music website Udio instantly generated "Holy Grounds," a ballad with lyrics about "driving old back roads" while "watching the fields and skies shift and sway."

Merritt, a Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter, says the "imitation" Udio created "doesn't make the cut for any album of mine." "This is a great demonstration of the extent to which this technology is not transformative at all," Merritt said. "It's stealing."

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

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

Merritt, who is a long time artists' rights advocate, isn't the only musician sounding alarms. In April, she joined Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj, Steve 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," McBrearty said. "It has pitch, and it has rhythm, and it has harmonic context. It's a richer mix of different elements that make it a little bit less straightforward." Some claims in the AI copy-

right cases could hinge on comparisons between an AI system's output and the material allegedly misused to train it, requiring the kind of analysis that has challenged courts in cases about music. In a 2018 decision that a dissenting judge called "a dangerous precedent," Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams lost a case brought by Marvin Gaye's estate over the semblance of their hit "Blurred Lines" to Gaye's "Got to Give It Up." Artists like Katy Perry and Ed Sheeran have since fended off similar complaints over their own songs.

Julie Albert, an intellectual property partner at law firm Baker Botts in New York, says fast-evolving AI tech is creating new uncertainty at every level of copyright law. REUTERS

# Potatoes and pills: Feeding the body when feeling frail

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

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

**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 frighteningly 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 mah-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

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

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

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

Illustration by Cheyenne Olivier



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RECIPES

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

### MIMI'S POTATOES WITH (LOTS OF) BLACK PEPPER

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



### LEEK-INFUSED MASHED POTATOES

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



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

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

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

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

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

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 'te-

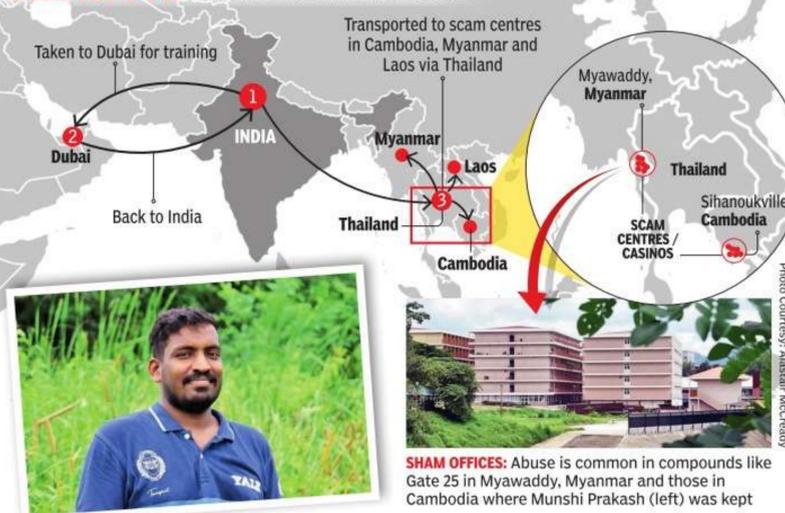
chiefs' answered them so as not to arouse suspicion. "The company gave good returns in the beginning when customers invested small amounts like \$100 or \$200. But when the customers invest huge sums of money like above \$10,000, the company would block them," says Stephen, who quit his graphic design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

The exact number of trafficking victims is unknown but a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report puts it at hundreds of thousands. Five hundred Indians have reportedly been rescued thus far but that's just the tip of the iceberg. An Indian victim told TOI he saw about 3,000 Indians at just the compound he was at in Cambodia. The issue has begun to get attention in India, with external affairs minister S Jaishankar taking cognisance. At the ASEAN meeting in Laos, he spoke with the Prime Minister of Laos and the foreign ministers of Cambodia and Thailand, the latter often being a stop-over on their way to scam compounds. The CBI has filed a FIR which refers to Indians being forced into cybercrimes by "Chinese control scam centres".

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

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

## THE ROUTE TRAFFICKERS USE



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

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

### Fees to breathe

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

While some are incentivised with money to dupe those they

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

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

### Pig butchering scam

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

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

### Myanmar chaos fuels crime

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

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

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

### Punishing the victims

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

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

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

## Electric shocks, beatings: Rescued man talks of Myanmar horrors

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It was an acquaintance who offered Vaishakhan Raveendran a job as a 'data entry operator' in Thailand for a price of Rs 30,000. The journey from Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram to what he thought was a dream foreign job began. Two people came to pick him up about an hour after he landed at Bangkok airport on August 3, 2022. There were two others with him.

"We were taken to Mae Sot, a city on Thailand's border with Myanmar. It was about a six-hour journey. When we reached the banks of a river, they made us get on a small boat. Once we crossed, then the journey was through corn and sugarcane fields," says the 33-year-old. Only when they saw boards welcoming them to Myanmar, they realised they

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

### Cooking is cool again

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

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

### Raising healthy eaters

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Meet the moms who are rocking Paris Olympics

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



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

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

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

### Deepika Kumari

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



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

### Allyson Felix

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



Sources: Nottingham Trent University, Olympic.com

## HOW TO RAISE A KITCHEN PRO

### Under two years

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

### Two to five-year-olds

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

### Six to twelve-year-olds

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

### Thirteen onwards

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

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

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

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

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

ing. But that's easy to handle provided you take care of your fitness and mental well-being. When you are making a film, you are dealing with 250 children raised by other parents.

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

### Over the past decade, several single celebrities have had children via adoption or surrogacy. Has single parenthood gained wider acceptance?

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

### Our society is not always kind to single parents. People can be inquisitive and insensitive. Have you faced any issues?

I have never faced any problem, but people can get inquisitive and judgemental. You

should know how to draw boundaries. Not many people can ask me questions, because I'm not liable to give them any answers. My children may face some questions when they grow up. My job as a parent is to make them very proud of their journey. I will tell them how our soul connection is stronger than any other connection. I think both my daughters are brave.

### Did you have to wait long before you could adopt?

Yes, it's a long wait. But it's a clean system; one

### Did you have a preference?

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

### Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the responsibility of raising two kids alone and wished for a partner who could share the duties?

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

### How do you deal with tantrums?

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

### What is your parenting mantra?

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

### How do you manage to stay completely off the phone at home?

I keep my phone in a cabinet and go to check it periodically. I don't carry it around or use

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

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

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

### Who has inspired or influenced your choices as a parent?

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



# Making a case for attracting Chinese FDI

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR



This year's Economic Survey, overseen by the chief economic advisor, has suggested a major but overdue policy change, aiming to attract foreign direct investment from China. Many economists, me included, will cheer. But the proposal has to overcome strong resistance from the security establishment. Balancing economic and security needs is always tricky.

The US is even more upset with China than India, and has stopped exports of high-tech equipment that can militarily help Beijing. But treasury secretary Janet Yellen has formulated a policy of 'high fence, small yard'. That is, the US will identify areas where connections with China will impair security, and define this narrowly rather than broadly. This will be the 'small yard'. Surrounding it will be high tariffs and outright bans, the 'high fence'. All else will be open.

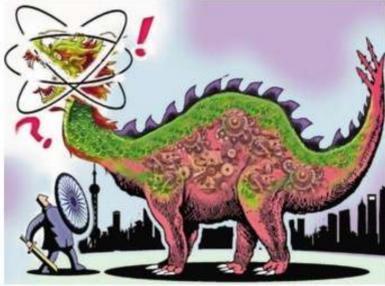
Logically, India should follow a similar policy. Alas in practice, India's 'small yard' seems to mean 'every single yard'. There is no specified Lakshman Rekha. India's security establishment has long opposed Chinese FDI, saying this will send the wrong signals to China, which transgressed on Indian territory in the Galwan Valley, Ladakh, leading to a military clash causing the death of 20 Indian soldiers in 2020. After this, the security establishment said, economic ties with China could not be business as usual.

No Chinese investment is now allowed through the automatic route available to other countries, and all Chinese applications undergo a screening process with so many rejections that the message is clear — you are not welcome here. 'No business as usual' seems to have become 'no business at all'. Some years ago, Great Wall Motor Company, a conventional auto manufacturer, proposed a billion-dollar investment in India. It did not get clearance.

More recently, BYD, the biggest electric car company in the world — its sales exceed that of Tesla — proposed another billion-dollar investment. This included a mega-battery plant with cutting-edge 'blade technology'. But this too was not cleared.

Luxshare is one of the biggest Chinese companies in the Apple value chain. It makes wearables like Apple watches and AirPods. It had proposed to invest Rs 750 crore to become a major local supplier to Apple. Despite strong support from the Tamil Nadu govt, clearance has not come.

One official told the Economic Times, "Frankly, a large part of the supply chain of Apple has China origins. So, if we keep saying no to all of them, how



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

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

Will this really improve India's security, or reduce clashes in Ladakh? The security establishment is either unaware or determined to ignore the fact that China is now the largest source of investible savings in the world, a role once played by the US. China also has some of the best global technology, being numero uno in e-vehicles, batteries, solar panels and windmills. All these are high-priority areas in India's bid to curb climate change. Why keep out the best companies in such vital sectors?

In autos, India allowed investors from every country to enter. All the global companies came in, interacted with our ancillary companies, raised their technical skills, started R&D centres, and ended up making India a world hub for small cars and auto ancillaries. We need a similar approach in key areas like e-vehicles and renewable energy. Get the best companies in the world to invest in India, including the Chinese ones.

The concept of 'China plus one' refers to the aim of many global investors to diversify out of China into other developing countries. That's fine, but China itself wants to diversify to other destinations.

The Economic Survey has an additional justification. "Focusing on FDI from China seems more promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past. This is because China is India's top import partner, and the trade deficit with China has been growing. As the US and Europe shift their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from China, adding minimal value, and then re-exporting them."

The Survey says India has a big trade deficit with China. One way of reversing the flow would be Chinese investment in India. The dollars flowing out will flow back. And, hopefully, earn even more dollars by investing in export-oriented areas, such as Apple's value chain.

Let the govt declare the precise limits of its security yard, and erect high fences there. Let all else be open to the world, including China. ■

# 'A childhood spent in the lap of Wayanad makes me feel the losses more intensely'

Malayalam novelist **Sheela Tomy** hails from the misty hills of Wayanad — which were devastated by twin landslides last week that washed away hundreds. She has seen its forests disappear over decades, and also borne witness to the plight of near and dear ones working as caregivers in the Middle East. Tomy speaks to **Shruti Sonal** about infusing her fiction with lived realities

**Your hometown Wayanad features often in your writings and has been unfortunately ravaged by landslides. How have you seen the landscape change?**

My first novel, 'Valli', was inspired by the changes Wayanad's natural habitat has undergone since my childhood. It's so sad to hear of innocent people losing their lives in landslides and natural disasters now. I have seen how much forest has vanished from my homeland over the last four decades. The mist has disappeared. Now, drought and heavy rainfall visit the land intermittently instead. Perhaps, it was a childhood spent in the lap of the river and forests — with the land's joys and sorrows — that makes me think about the losses so intensely now. Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau had rightly said, "If I would paint the spring, it must be in winter."

**What role can fiction play in sensitising people about climate change?**

I think fiction has a big role in reminding the world about the dark times, and how we are creating hell for ourselves on this very earth. People read history or scientific articles but they don't really experience it till they are on the receiving end of their thoughtless deeds. But fiction, with its emotions, can evoke more sensitivity. 'Valli', for instance, is a work of eco-fiction. Wayanad was a land rich in biodiversity. It was a land that belonged to indigenous tribes. While the aboriginal people and migrants used nature for survival, encroachments

by corporations are the real threats for the environment today. Even as I speak, I can hear the news of landslides from Western Ghats and the loss of hundreds of lives. 'Valli' ends with the 2018 Kerala floods. In the novel, we can see how human greed has transformed the land beyond recognition over the last five decades.

**Your new book 'Do Not Ask the River Her Name' throws light on the plight of Malayali nurses who take up caregiving roles in the Middle East. Why did you choose to write about this?**

I was a migrant in the Middle East for more than two decades. After writing my first novel, which depicted the stories of my homeland, I wished to write about the life of Malayali women. I would say "those women who carry their homes to the ends of the world". Many of my friends and relatives are working as nurses and caregivers in various parts of the world. I have heard about their struggles for a decent life, and their perseverance. Many Malayali teachers and medical workers had reached the distant shores of Singapore, America, Africa and Europe prior to the Gulf. Kerala has many families that survived because of the dedication of these women. Much has been written in Malayalam fiction about the journeys of men across the seas, but the journeys of these hardworking, selfless women are often forgotten. This thought made me write about Ruth, the Malayali nurse who went abroad and the paths she traversed while searching for a job, unveiling the untold stories of many Malayali women.

**In the book, the protagonist talks about her struggle with dubious agents, miserable living conditions, racism, and a longing for home. Did you speak to people who've gone through such journeys?**

Of course. Also, I have seen their struggles directly during my stay abroad. And some of them told their life stories with open minds, revealing sensitive things.

**A large part of the book is set in Jerusalem, and is thick in the conflict between Palestinians under siege, Hamas fighters, Zionists, and moderate Jews. How difficult was it to untangle these fractured identities, especially at a time of heightened tensions and violence?**

My Palestinian colleague told me about her childhood in refugee camps as her birth city was destroyed by missiles. On realising the sorrows of those people, the entire focus of my novel shifted to Jerusalem. It was difficult to handle the sensitive politics. Besides, there was the challenge of depicting an unknown land and its culture. I did a lot of reading and explored the media to understand the history, politics, geography, culture and traditions of Palestine and Israel. I went through the works of many writers and thinkers. I wanted to tell the world a story of love rather than a story of war. At the same time, I longed to stand with people who lost everything and are fighting for their land. I managed to tell the story through the experiences of two close friends — Sahal, a Palestinian poet, and his friend Asher, an Israeli citizen. While writing the novel in 2021, I never imagined a dark October 7 two years on, and a dreadful war that still destroys the lands. This novel ended up as a proclamation of union with all the diverse people facing genocides by authoritarian regimes across the world.

**The book features poetry by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who wrote evocatively about his homeland. What were your takeaways?**

The intense poetry which Palestinian poets write with their blood depict their unending struggles and pain. Many talented writers of Palestine are forced to be silent in our time and even face interrogations. War has taken the lives of a few. Sahal, the novel's poet-protagonist is a fond lover of Darwish's words. Even the book's title has been inspired by a line from Darwish's poem 'The Passport'.

FOR THE RECORD



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

BY INVITATION

BADRINARAYAN



The Supreme Court's recent verdict on reservations permitted states to sub-categorise scheduled castes and tribes for more effective redistribution of opportunities. It instructed states to do a judicious and empirical identification of the most marginal communities in their societies, and then provision a quota within the quota for them.

This verdict could influence society and politics in two ways. First, it may diversify and redistribute the resources available for social justice. This may reshape the workings of social mobility, and of the representation and participation of marginal communities. Secondly, it may also produce new political mobilisations.

Social justice is about the fair and equal distribution of public resources and state-initiated pro-

vision of opportunity to deprived sections. However, it always produces its own politics. Democracy is not just about a moral and ethical frame, it is a matter of pragmatic electoral politics in South Asian societies, especially in India. Recently, we have seen huge political violence and upheaval in Bangladesh around the issue of reservation. And so, any kind of reservation opportunities provided by the state evoke intense debate around governance and facilitates political mobilisation.

The demand for sub-categorisation in SC reservation, and the politics around it, have been brewing in many states. Interestingly, in most cases, these are led by the second-largest Dalit communities, and a few others. They complain that their fair share in jobs and other developmental opportunities is being denied, as most are cornered by the largest and most capable SC communities. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, this movement is led by Madigas 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 immedi-

ately welcomed by the chief ministers of Telangana and Karnataka, Siddaramaiah and Revanth Reddy. Most parties understand the implications of the issue and have started negotiating with various communities in their own ways.

An important question emerges here: how will these parties engage with the largest and most influential SC castes, who are being targeted as the main beneficiaries of reservation so far? How will national and regional parties deal with communities like Paswans in Bihar, Jatavs and Pasis in Uttar Pradesh, Malas in Telangana, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Chamars in Punjab? While these castes have established loyalties with various political parties, this changed context may see them cohesively mobilising with their own political party such as the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in north India. They will also look towards any political parties that might criticise the sub-categorisation policy. These communities and their leaders may also cast this as an effort to fragment the unity of scheduled castes. These sections, which have

emerged as strong interest groups, do not desire any division of opportunities, and are likely to mobilise against it. BSP supremo Mayawati has already criticised this verdict, because the Jatavs form the BSP's base. The scheduled caste political sphere is likely to witness a new polarisation.

Parties such as Congress, Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal may find it difficult to take a position in the states of UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar. This is because of the huge presence of the Jatav and Chamar baradari, and the upcoming elections. BJP may support the redistribution of reservation among the most marginal and invisible scheduled castes, but there may be some gains and some losses. In the frame of political morality, all political parties — left, right, and centrist — should support the move. And yet, the pressure of their caste bases and electoral pragmatism may compel some to oppose it. Wait and watch: the picture will become clearer soon. ■

The writer is director of the GB Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

# Do it 1991-style: Three reforms India needs in higher education

BY INVITATION

V RAMGOPAL RAO



Why have we landed ourselves in the current mess involving NEET, JEE, and other high-stakes exams? While India has the potential to lead the world in higher education, we are burdened by the mushrooming of coaching institutions, rampant cheating and a lack of trust in exam bodies, bureaucratisation of higher educational institutions, degradation of the university system, and, most concerning, stress and mental pressure on our youth. Over 35% of recorded suicides in India occur in the 15-24 age group. In 2022, more than 750,000 students also left India to pursue higher education abroad, a 35% increase from the previous year. Projections indicate that Indian households will spend an estimated \$70 billion on foreign education by 2025, 14 times the govt's 2023 higher education budget allocation. These students are leaving not because they cannot find a seat in our institutions but because they seek quality education.

India needs reforms for higher education akin to the sweeping economic reforms of 1991. Three primary issues must be addressed to bring accountability to our educational institutions: faculty quality, financial model and governance issues. Currently, Indian institutions fall into two categories: those that depend on govt for 90% of their sustenance and those that rely on student tuition for 90% of their survival. The over-reliance on govt funds causes major governance and scalability issues in publicly funded institutions, while depending on tuition fees brings quality and trust issues in private institutions. Both models are flawed and perilous. For example, 23 IITs admit roughly 16,000 undergraduate students, and 20 AIIMS admit about 2,000 MBBS students, highlighting the issue with scale. One single large university in the US would admit as many undergraduate students as our 23 IITs put together. Here are three essential reforms that the sector needs:

**1. Improve quality of faculty in Tier-2 institutions and universities:** One salient feature of the US system of education is that there is not much difference between their Ivy League universities and their Tier-2 institutions when it comes to quality of instruction at the undergrad level. The same can't be said here. This often creates a stampede of sorts for admission into a handful of elite institutions in India. The creation of more IITs and AIIMS has inadvertently led to a significant decline in the quality of education in Tier-2 institutions and universities. Faculty recruitment is often mired in legal complications and litigation in govt institutions. Even approval of positions from respective govt can take years, forcing these institutions to hire contract faculty. Faculty recruitments must be based purely on merit. To address this, create a national pool of IIT/AIIMS-grade faculty and mandate these people to teach in Tier-2 colleges and universities. These faculty must be hired centrally with the active participation of IITs/AIIMS, offering IIT/AIIMS faculty pay scales, given a similar teaching load, and provided generous grants



NOT-SO-NEET AFFAIR: Higher education institutions need greater administrative and financial autonomy to thrive

to perform high-quality research. It's important that such a pool helps establish a culture of excellence wherever they work. Even their promotions must be based on standards of performance similar to these elite institutions. Over a period of time, increase this pool of faculty nationally to improve the standards of education outside our elite institutions.

**2. Provide outcome-linked grants to institutions:** Linking grants to outcomes can incentivise higher educational institutions to boost student enrolment and encourage faculty to secure competitive research grants. Funds should be linked to student enrolment numbers, research grants generated, patents filed, and IP licensed to industries. This will drive institutions to expand enrolment and increase research productivity. To support higher education sustainably, institutions must diversify their revenue streams. Policies should encourage philanthropy, industry participation, and generous overheads on research grants. Additionally, govt policies should promote the development of substantial endowment funds, similar to those in top US universities. Implementing 'study-now-pay-later' schemes, akin to Australia's HELP program, can ensure affordability and support diverse career pursuits. These schemes allow students to defer tuition payments, repaying them once their income exceeds a specified threshold. This approach balances the need for immediate educational investment with long-term financial viability, ensuring that higher education remains accessible without placing undue financial strain on students or govt.

**3. Address governance issues:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises autonomy for educational institutions. However, excessive bureaucratic interference and controls have caused governance structures in academic institutions to hit a new low. Implementing NEP's reforms is crucial. Building a strong board and empowering it to make financial, administrative, and academic decisions is essential. With a proper financial model that promotes expansion, excellence, and equity, coupled with administrative autonomy, our higher educational institutions will thrive.

It's imperative we use the recent NEET fiasco as a wake-up call. ■

Prof Rao is vice-chancellor for BITS Pilani group of institutions and former director, IIT Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

INBOX

## Rahul Gandhi's new political avatar

This refers to 'From inept pappu...' (ATM, July 28). Chetan Bhagat has rightly presumed Rahul Gandhi as a PM contender in future. Rahul has shown surprising spine and resilience not just to counter the mockery thrown at him but also to reinvent himself. As a LoP, he continues to challenge PM Modi on the floor of the House. However, he needs to acquire fresh skills to bring a bunch of ideologically disparate and ambitious allies to support his cause. Advantage of age and social acceptability can help.

— Gregory Fernandes, Mumbai

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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 [sundaytimes@timesofindia.com](mailto:sundaytimes@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 VP sure is on a roll, and the impact is showing in the polls with the de facto Democratic nominee closing the gap on Trump. Besides the fact that she is both Black and desi, Kamala's pop culture cred seems to be resonating. First, Beyoncé's 'Freedom' became the soundtrack for her campaign video. Then British singer Charli XCX tweeted "Kamala IS brat". This led to overnight online fandom for Kamala, who is being described by meme creators as "viral gold". Working with Joe Biden, on the other hand, was like "manufacturing excitement from vapour". The latest meme released by her campaign calls for a 'Femininomenon' at the polls this November, using the hit song from Chappell Roan.

'Khive' is dominating the internet and has even moved to TikTok. But how far can memes go in building political momentum? The dictionary defines meme as a noun, an image, video, text, typically humorous in nature that is copied and spread rapidly by internet users. Some say it comes from the Greek word 'mimema' meaning 'imitated', which was introduced to us in 1972 by British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins. The term 'internet meme' was coined by Mike Godwin in 1993 who described it as a "scientific field related to how units of information evolve and replicate." In simpler lingo, memes are the internet's inside jokes, meant only for the people who share them.

The French, of course, insist it's their creation since 'meme' in French translates to 'same'. So far, no Sanskrit scholar in India has traced the meme to our ancient Indian texts, but then that claim could surface any time, complete with 'proof'.

Till then, let's focus on the cultural phenomenon that is Kamala Harris. Her poster 'Yes I Kam' has beaten Barack Obama's 'Yes, We Can', the iconic viral slogan of 2008. Once again, America is bracing itself for a rousing election 2024 via a brat summer, with memes galore featuring coconut trees swaying, and a voice say-

ing, "I can't stop winning". Why coconut trees? It is a callback to the vice-president quoting her Indian mother's habit of asking, in frustration, "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?" Trendy Kamala-inspired merch is flying off the shelves, with message tees shouting, 'Brats 4 kamala' and 'I'm so Kamala'.

Will all this hype translate into votes? Political analysts aren't sure. If anything, this level of hoopla could backfire and take away from the seriousness of the campaign. When fun and froth, irreverence and cool talk replace in-depth discussions on policy and reform, the shallow messaging damages a candidate's prospects and converts a serious political player into a joke. A lightweight.

For anyone in the public space, exaggerated internet mania is a double-edged sword. Those hooked on generating likes on social media, beware! The same fans could turn into overnight

foes and destroy all the goodwill within seconds. We have seen it happen in India. Influencers can dent credibility and destroy carefully constructed social media identities before one can say 'meme'. Meme creators thrive on controversy and movie and sports stars are soft targets. Nothing and nobody is spared the brutality of a meme onslaught. Recently, pop singer Dua Lipa spoke about how humiliating and hurtful it was to be turned into a viral joke. However, most global celebrities have made their peace with meme armies, reasoning wisely that their own relevance in the highly competitive international pecking order relies heavily on their presence on social media. Savage memes that attack where it hurts the most get the maximum traction. But they also generate a huge buzz-oxygen needed by supercelebs to stay in the game.

As of now, Kamala Harris has benefited greatly from the bratification. She certainly got young America talking! Overshadowing Donald Trump who comes with his own meme juggernaut is quite a feat. Will he out-meme his biggest rival and pip her to the post? That's the biggie nobody can crack right now. Remember poor Hillary Clinton who tried to deliver a topical Pokemon joke at a campaign stop: "I don't know who created Pokemon Go, but I'm trying to figure out how we get them to have Pokemon Go...to the polls." The Trump campaign one-upped by posting a video showing a mock-Pokemon Go game called 'Crooked Hillary No'. Meme se meme milao and survive! ■



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



**DANIEL WIFFEN**  
IRISH SWIMMER AFTER WINNING 800M FREE GOLD

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."

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

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

# BILES' NEW HIGH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suffering 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



# INVINCIBLE LEON

**MARCHAND MEDALS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Dressel said the Games have been "a little heartbreaking, a little heartbreaking for sure." After leaving the pool deck, he broke down in tears.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### China's Zheng beats Vekic to win historic gold

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



**VS**  
DJOKOVIC  
**ALCARAZ**  
**HEAD TO HEAD**  
**3 3**



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The United States set their

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

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

## HINCHLIFFE DAMPENS THE LYLES SHOW IN 100M HEATS

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

Coached by Carl Lewis and the first European to win the NCAA title in the United States,

Hinchliffe finished strongly and Lyles, not exactly easing up, took second in 10.04 to also go through safely.

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

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

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



## RISE AGAINST HATE

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



"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.



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

LIN YU-TING

## ALGERIA, TAIWAN STAND WITH THEIR BOXERS

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

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

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

## MACRON PRAISES THE OPENING CEREMONY THEME

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

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



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

—EMMANUEL MACRON, FRANCE PRESIDENT

## NO ROOM FOR POLITICAL GESTURES

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



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

**ARMAND DUPLANTIS**  
POLE VAULT WORLD RECORD HOLDER





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# NO THIRD PARTY



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

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

**TIMES AT THE GAMES**  
ALOK.SINHA  
@timesofindia.com

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

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

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

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

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

The fourth series was an average 3/5 and Manu slid to the sixth place, just a shot below three above her. But she was very near elimination. Another poor round and it would be all over.

But no, that was not the script. She shot a perfect 5/5 to move towards safety and a possible medal. She was now third on 18 points, a point behind Hungary's Veronica Major and two behind South Korea's Yang Jin who went on to win the gold medal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Alok.Sinha**@timesofindia.com

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

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

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

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

On her routine here at the Olympics, she said: “I have a very rigid routine. I don't know about others. But I like to work out in the gym every day, every time before matches, after the matches. I am 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. 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)

## LAKSHYA'S BIGGEST TEST IS HERE



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Same old story for Deepika

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

**TIMES AT THE GAMES.**  
**BIJU.BABUCYRIAC** @timesofindia.com

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

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

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

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

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

fans. But the second set was a different story. The Korean opened with a 9 and Deepika also found a 10.

The Korean then fired a 10 and Deepika, who was racing against the clock, crashed down with a six-point shot. That was a big cushion for the Korean, who claimed the second set after taking her tally to an unbeatable 28. Deepika was back in form in the third set firing two 10s to take the lead.

The Korean finished with a tally of 28 points and the Indian found a perfect 10 to win the set 29-28 and take a 4-2 lead. From then on, Deepika found it difficult to handle pressure. She hit two 10s with her last six arrows while the Korean had four. After surrendering her advantage with another bad shot that got her just 7 points, in the fourth, Deepika couldn't hit the inner circle.

The Korean showed great composure to score 19 points with her first two shots. Deepika responded with 9s that saw her trail 18-19. Suheyon showed great composure and capped her comeback with another 10 with her last shot and began the celebrations as it took the match beyond Deepika's reach.

## Kersee, 'mad scientist' who churns out gold medallists for fun

**The 70-Year-Old, Who Coached The Likes Of Flo Jo & Allyson Felix, Is Now In Charge Of McLaughlin-Levrone, US' 400m Hurdles Queen**

**Saint-Denis:** Bobby Kersee was in a taxi to the airport the night his current protégé, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, broke the world record in the 400m hurdles at the US Olympic trials.

“I haven't seen one of Sydney's world records live yet,” Kersee says. Once his athletes step on the track, Kersee considers his work done, and he quietly slips away from the stadium. All perfectly fitting for the “mad scientist” — a coach whose presence at any of the world's major track meets, including the Paris Olympics, is enormous whether he's watching the action or not.

Many of America's biggest track stars — Florence Griffith Joyner, Gail Devers, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Al Joyner, Allyson Felix and, these days, Athing Mu and McLaughlin-Levrone — have one thing in common: coached by Kersee.

“Bobby is the best ever,” said Al Joyner, who won the triple jump at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. “Because Bobby brings out the best in you. At the same time, he's not a hold-your-hand coach.”

After the Paris Games end, the 70-year-old Kersee will have coached athletes in 12 Olympics and 47 US championships. Those athletes have taken home at least one gold medal from every Olympics since the 1984 Summer Games. McLaughlin-Levrone is a favorite to keep that streak going in the 400m hurdles final on Aug. 8.

The method to Kersee's madness? He'll never give away the Xs and Os, but he, at different times, compared his job to that of a baker, a chemist, a woodworker and a psychologist. “If I can't explain to them in detail why I want it done this way, and what the end



result is going to be, then you shouldn't trust in me,” Kersee said. “Because those that know the ‘why’ can beat those that know the ‘how.’”

McLaughlin-Levrone had already been to an Olympics at age 16 and had her career was on a fast track. But after losing a pair of races in 2019 to Dalilah Muhammad, who broke world records both times, she became frustrated. One obvious fix was to see if Kersee would coach her.

It's a decision that changed history — both for McLaughlin-Levrone and for track. A record that stood at 52.34 seconds for nearly 16 years before Muhammad broke it now belongs to McLaughlin-Levrone at 50.65. Many

think sub-50 will come soon — maybe in this year's Olympic final. “Growing as a person and as an athlete, he challenges me and pushes me in ways I didn't think were possible,” McLaughlin-Levrone said. At the practice track he calls his “lab,” Kersee has turned McLaughlin-Levrone into arguably the most indomitable force in track.

Yet, after she had lowered the record in the 400 hurdles for the fourth time in 2022, she became nearly invisible in her best event for two years. She raced in regular sprints at 200 and 400 metres and also in the short hurdles — 100m, and 60m indoors.

All of that wasn't meant to prepare McLaughlin-Levrone for another event at the Olympics. Instead, it made her even better at her best event.

“When she started running the short hurdles, everyone started freaking out,” hurdling great Edwin Moses said. “All she was doing was learning how to perfect jumping off the opposite leg. Bobby knew what he was doing.”

Taking a cue from her coach, McLaughlin said she treats every race like a heavyweight bout. She views the hurdles as Joe Frazier and herself as Muhammad Ali. It's one of the many sports metaphors Kersee embeds in his runners' minds. **AP**

## No room for slip-ups against plucky GBR

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After a rather indifferent start to their Olympics campaign, the Indian hockey team has gathered momentum and confidence, especially after a 3-2 win against heavyweights Australia in their last league outing on Friday. In a repeat of the Tokyo Games quarterfinals, India will take on Great Britain in the last-8 contest on Sunday. Although India had defeated Great Britain 3-1 in Tokyo and finished with bronze, there will be no room for errors against their spunky opponents.

The 1-2 loss against defending champions Belgium earlier in the week was a wake-up call for Harmanpreet Singh and his men and

they came out with renewed purpose and determination against the Aussies.

The turnaround in India's performance has been telling. The strikers have found their feet, especially with the red-hot Abhishek and the dependable Sukhjeet Singh showcasing their skill and speed and the defence has shown marked improvement.

Much like the previous game, it will be important for Mandeep Singh to shoulder more responsibility and go into the attack in tandem with midfielder Rajkumar Pal. Also, the seasoned trio of Harmanpreet, Manpreet Singh and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will have to continue with their sub-

line form and weigh in with experience. While India qualified as the second-placed team from Pool B, Great Britain ended third in Pool A.

Although the teams have had contrasting fortunes in their respective previous outings, Great Britain will have a slight psychological advantage.

Since the Tokyo contest, the two teams have squared off in four FIH Pro League matches, with India winning one through shootouts. In June, GB beat India 3-1 and 3-2 on their home turf.

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

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

**#RuknaNahiHai**

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**INDIA VS GREAT BRITAIN**

**HEAD TO HEAD**

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

### Shami eyes India return through domestic cricket

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**Kolkata:** Mohammed Shami is still not sure when he would be able to wear the India jersey again, but the pacer has decided to make his comeback through domestic cricket. Shami, who is recuperating from an ankle surgery which he underwent in February this year, has already started bowling at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. However, he is yet to bowl at full throttle.

"It's difficult to say when I will be back. I am trying hard but hopefully you will get to see me in Bengal colours before I don the India jersey again," he said while being felicitated by the East Bengal club in Kolkata. "I will come to play two-three matches for Bengal and will come fully prepared for it," he added.

Interestingly, BCCI secretary Jay Shah has also asked centrally-contracted India players to "prove" themselves in domestic cricket if they aspire to play for the country.

Shami said the injury came to hurt him at a time when he was trying to recover from India's ODI World Cup final defeat. "We never thought the injury will be this serious. The plan was to address it after the T20 World Cup since we had the IPL and the ICC T20 mega event coming almost back-to-back. But it turned worse during the ODI World Cup itself and I did not want to risk playing on with it," he recalled.

## Visitors Look To Regain Control Against Crafty SL Spinners Can India crack spin puzzle?

**Colombo:** Measures to battle a sluggish pitch and an assortment of Sri Lankan slow bowlers will feature high on India's strategy list for the second ODI to be played here on Sunday.

Chasing a manageable 231, India were comfortably placed at 130 in the first ODI on Friday before losing their way against Lankan spinners, who showed enough pluck to bowl out the visitors for 230 to earn a tie.

Once they survived the Rohit Sharma onslaught up-front, Lanka executed their

### SECOND ODI

plans well against the Indian batters, who are not the cleverest performers on rank turners. 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 trio 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 Dunieth 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.

Fernando repaid the faith in him with the wicket of Shreyas with a peach, also the



Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir (centre) with KL Rahul (right) and Virat Kohli during team's practice session at the R Premadasa Cricket Stadium in Colombo

only Indian wicket to have fallen to a quick.

Rahul, another excellent player of spin, too was snuffed by Hasaranga.

But stuttering in one match offers too small a footprint to go after some of the accomplished names, but the Indians will be eager to bat long and rotate strike, which is the key to nullifying spinners on such decks.

Sri Lankans Pathum Nissanka and Wellalage showed their enroute to their fifties despite a flurry of wickets at the other end, while dealing with Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar.

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.

Bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule said as much. "We did bat well in patches, and we could have had some partnerships that would have taken us (home) with less wickets going. We tried our best to get into partnerships," said Bahutule after the first match.

One option India can mull is to bring in either Rishabh Pant or Rryan Parag as both are extremely good at countering spinners and can upset their rhythm playing some of those unorthodox shots.

Additionally, Parag comes in with the bundle offer of being an off-spinner and leg-spinner at the same time.

But it remains to be seen whether the Indian team management will make a change after just one match, which has not been their trait for a while now.

From Sri Lanka's perspective, they will enter the sec-

ond match of the three-match series with a better frame of mind after shackling a much superior and vastly experienced opponent. However, they will keep an eye on the fitness of Hasaranga, who was seen clutching his hamstring towards the end of his spell in the opening one-dayer. **PH**

**Teams (from): India:** Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Rryan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed & Harshit Rana.  
**Sri Lanka:** Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunieth Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Akila Dananjaya, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana & Asitha Fernando.

### Sangakkara yet to hear from ECB about prospect of coaching Eng

**Former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara** has said it would be an "exciting prospect" to coach England in limited-overs cricket, but

has been mentioned for some reason, but there has not been any approach as such," Sangakkara told Britain's PA news agency.

### SNAPSHOTS

**Pune races postponed to Tuesday:** Due to incessant rain, the RWITC has postponed Sunday's Pune races to Tuesday, Aug 6. Same card will hold good. **AGENCIES**

### ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET:** India vs Sri Lanka; 2nd ODI 2.30pm (Sony)

**OLYMPICS:** Ilam onwards (JioCinema, Sports18)

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COLLECTION

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OFFER VALID TILL 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024



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Artistic Impression



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Outside Views are subject to changes depending on flat location and other factors. View from select apartments. \*T&C Apply. Limited period offer applicable from 2<sup>nd</sup> July till 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024 on select inventories. MahaRERA Registration No. Piramal Mahalaxmi: North Tower MahaRERA No - P51900021057, Central Tower MahaRERA No - P51900016482 & South Tower MahaRERA No - P51900015854. Project is funded by YES Bank Limited. For more details log on to <https://maharera.mahaonline.gov.in/>