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Israel is already in a 'multi-front war' with Iran and its proxies, PM Benjamin Netanyahu tells a Cabinet meet, as US & allies prepare to defend country from an expected counterstrike and prevent a more destructive regional conflict, P 12

The body of a 26-year-old Indian IT professional who drowned in Glacier National Park in the American state of Montana last month has been recovered by park rangers, P 12

Police across towns and cities in the UK brace themselves for further rioting from far-right activists as violence that erupted in the wake of a stabbing rampage at a dance class shows few signs of abating, P 12

Hundreds of Silicon Valley venture capitalists, investors and tech leaders have rallied to support Kamala Harris for the White House, pushing back at unexpected inroads her rival Trump has made in the tech world through Tesla's Elon Musk and early PayPal investor & CEO Peter Thiel, P 12



Deposit crunch forces banks to raise rates

Even as analysts are forecasting the MPC meeting this week to vote for another pause with a rate cut pushed to Dec, banks have been raising deposits and lending rates. What is skewing the interest rate market is that while depositors are punishing banks for not offering enough on savings accounts, large corporates are still deciding borrowing rates. **P 11**

Violence flares up in B'desh; 97 dead

At least 97 people, including 14 cops, were killed and hundreds injured Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding PM Sheikh Hasina's resignation and ruling party supporters, forcing authorities to cut off mobile internet and enforce a nationwide curfew. **P 12**

Wall collapse in MP kills 9 children

Nine kids, aged 10 to 14 years, were crushed to death and four others critically injured at a temple when the crumbling wall of an adjacent house weakened by incessant rain collapsed on them in Shahpur, MP. **P 6**

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Tainted babus contacted C'garh HC judge: ED to SC

'WA Chats Reveal AG Acted As Bail Intermediary'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told Supreme Court that Anil Kumar Tuteja and Alok Shukla, two senior bureaucrats who are accused in Chhattisgarh's Nagrik Apurti Nigam (PDS) scam, "were in touch with the high court judge who granted bail to Shukla" in Oct 2019. The then advocate general, Satish Chandra Verma, had been Liaisoning between the two and the judge, ED has claimed.

Though ED's Aug 1 affidavit does not name the judge in question, annexures containing WhatsApp chat details show he was Justice Arvind Kumar Chandel, with ED stating he was approached through his brother and former

'QUID PRO QUO'

ED claims in court that 2 senior Chhattisgarh bureaucrats Anil Kumar Tuteja and Alok Shukla were in touch with HC judge, Justice Arvind Kumar Chandel, with help of AG Satish Chandra Verma

Judge, who has since been transferred to Patna HC, had granted anticipatory bail to Shukla in Oct 2019. Shukla and Tuteja are accused in state's PDS scam

WhatsApp posts reveal bio-data of judge's daughter, son-in-law were sent to Tuteja for 'favourable action', ED says

state chief secretary Ajay Singh. Chandel was transferred to Patna HC this year.

ED has claimed the two bureaucrats in the then Baghel-led Congress govt were tampering with evidence to dilute the case against them.

► Tampered with proof, P 5

ED to give ₹12cr attached scam money to victims

New Delhi: ED is all set to re-stitute money to individual victims of scams, starting with the disbursement of nearly Rs 12 crore in attached fixed deposits of Rose Valley group of companies in Kolkata to around 22 lakh small depositors who had been tempted into investing money in the group against exorbitant returns that never materialised, reports Pradeep Thakur.

In a first, a special PMLA court in Kolkata on July 24 asked ED to transfer 14 attached FDs having a total value of Rs 11.9 crore to a court monitored Asset Disposal Committee (ADC) "subject to the condition that the amount shall be disbursed to bona fide claimants on pro rata basis or as may be directed by ADC or court".

► Money returned, P 7

Assam to bring law against 'love jihad', 'land jihad': CM

Guwahati: BJP-governed Assam is ready with a proposed law mandating life imprisonment for anyone convicted of "love jihad". CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said Sunday, less than a week after the UP assembly passed a Bill amending the state's 2021 anti-conversion legislation to increase the punishment for offences linked to marriage or elopement from the current maximum 10-year jail term to life, reports Mukut Das.

A law requiring prior chi-

ef ministerial consent for land-related transactions between Hindus and Muslims is also in the works to halt what Sarma labelled "land jihad".

"We spoke about love jihad during the elections. It is a real and serious issue, involving forced conversions and deceitful romantic relationships. In the next few days, we aim to take steps to make this punishable with a life sentence," the CM said.

► Only Assam-born will get govt jobs, P 5

► Indigenous people, P 5

Cash for transfer: CID to probe Yadgir PSI death

Bengaluru: Home minister G Parameshwara Sunday said the govt has handed over probe into the death of 35-year-old police sub-inspector Parashurama to the CID as it now involves a ruling party MLA and his son who allegedly harassed the officer.

His wife Shwetha filed a complaint against Congress MLA from Yadgir, Channareddy Patil Tunnur, and his son Pampanaganouda. **TNN**

► Job for PSI's wife, P 4

10-man India stun Britain, enter hockey semis after Sreejesh's shootout sparkler

TIMES AT THE GAMES
BIJU.BABUCYRIAC @timesofindia.com

Paris: Yves-du-Manoir, the venue of India's hockey quarter-final match against Great Britain, was the setting of one of the greatest underdog sports films of all time - Escape to Victory. On Sunday, Indian goalkeeper P R Sreejesh rose to the cinematic heights of Captain Robert Hatch, the Allied POW team goalkeeper played by Sylvester Stallone in the film, as the defending bronze medallists fashioned an incredible escape to make the semifinals.

Reduced to 10 men in the second quarter after defender Amit Rohidas got a red card, it was seemingly a losing battle for India. But Sreejesh deci-

LAKSHYA TO RALLY FOR BRONZE TODAY



Goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, 37, is mobbed by teammates following the team's 5-3 win in the shootout against Britain

BADMINTON
Spunky Sen Falls To Great Dane: Lakshya Sen loses to defending champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in straight games in men's singles semis despite initially leading in both games. He will now play Lee Ji Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal match today

BOXING
Women's 75kg QF: Lovlina Borgohain loses 1-4 to China's Li Qian to end India's campaign in boxing

INTERNATIONAL
US swimmer Katie Ledecky collects a 4th straight 800m freestyle title and 9th career Oly gold, equalling the most ever won by a woman athlete in any sport

Novak Djokovic becomes 5th player to complete career Golden Slam (4 Grand Slam titles & Oly gold) in singles after beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6, 7-6 in the final. Others are Serena Williams, Steffi Graf, Agassi & Nadal

Indians celebrated, confident that Sreejesh, who'll retire from international hockey after the Games, would be hard to beat. The 37-year-old brought all his experience in-

ded that nothing was going to go past him on the day. After Britain's equaliser, he made save after save for the next two quarters as the match ended 1-1 after 60 minutes.

to play, forcing Connor Williamson to shoot out and then saving the 4th penalty by Roper to set up a famous 5-3 win.

► Of guts & glory, P 13

Survey: 104 Kodagu areas prone to floods, 2,995 families at risk

Madikeri: With brutal Wayanad landslides leaving more than 300 dead, Karnataka govt has shifted nearly 300 families to safety and opened 10 relief centres in Kodagu district.

In 2018 and 2019, the coffee district in Karnataka was racked by floods and landslides, prompting the govt to conduct surveys by geologists and experts on areas in hilly and riverside regions likely to witness landslide incidents.

The report submitted by Geological Survey of India experts has identified 104 landslide-prone areas in Kodagu, posing danger to 2,995 families. Madikeri and Kushalnagar taluks have 40 such landslide-prone areas each, Virajpet-Ponnampet 13 and Somwarpet taluk 11. **TNN**

► 10 care centres functioning, P 4

Task force to clear encroachments in Western Ghats

Bengaluru: Two days after the state govt ordered crackdown on illegal construction along Western Ghats within a month, forest minister Eshwar Khandre Sunday announced a task force to clear encroachments in the Ghats spread across 10 districts of the state.

The forests and Western Ghats encroachment clearance task force, led by the principal chief conservator of forests and head of forest force, is set to begin operations Monday. **TNN**

► Illegal structures, P 4

Wayanad woman who sent 1st SOS, then went to help others, is also dead

Kochi: At 1.30am on Tuesday, Neethu Jojo made the first phone call that let the world know of the tragedy that was about to unfold in Wayanad, reports MK Sunil Kumar.

As a resident of Chooralmala and recognising the telltale signs of a devastation unfolding—the roar of the wind, the thunder

► Teenager deletes memories on phone as tragedy wipes out his entire family, P 5

of rocks tumbling down and the gushing water that entered her home—Neethu lost no time in calling up Wayanad Institute of Medical Sciences (WIMS) where she worked as an executive.

► Body retrieved from Soochimala, P 5

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Yashaswini.Sri@timesofindia.com

The up-and-coming science experience centres in Bengaluru are turning a new page where classroom theories end. From exploring the universe to unravelling the mysteries of physics, and diving into biology's depths, these centres are offering an array of concepts to learn without any fear. With options to touch, explore, build and engage, these hands-on centres are beginning to fill a STEM gap that conventional schooling has failed to do so far

WHY SCI-HUBS ARE THE NEW

GAME ZONE FOR B'LURU KIDS

Armed with a huge trove of on-line wisdom — thanks to channels like kurzgesagt and ted-ed, and STEM youtubers — more and more youngsters in the city are seeking out avenues to experience science. And this demand couldn't have come at a better time! Post pandemic, at least three science experience centres have come up in the city, blending engaging exhibits with cutting-edge technology to turn learning into a lot of fun.

GEN ALPHA IS THRILLED

Zara is a Generation Alpha child. She has just turned five, and she already knows science is fun. A frequent visitor to science galleries in the city, Zara says she does "some cool experiments" there. Her older brother Aryaan, 10, chimes in with enthusiasm, "I could understand and feel the Fibonacci sequence, and do cool experiments with kinetic energy."

Their parents, Muskaan and Syed, both techies from Hebbal, are equally excited. "We take the children to science galleries because it's not just fun but educational too," says Muskaan. "They come home buzzing with curiosity and new knowledge," says Syed. "It's amazing to see them so engaged and learning without even realizing it. It's a win-win for us as a family," he laughs.

Priyansh Kumar, an 8 year old from RT Nagar, was fascinated to see how a zip works on his first visit to Visves-

AYAAN MISHRA, 10

Science centres in Bengaluru are awesome. Last time, I learnt how my body works and even saw my own heart beat on a screen. I got to test my reflexes with a fun game

varaya Museum. It just hooked him to the world of science. "Every time I visit a science museum, I find something new to be curious about. It makes me want to ask questions and learn more. It's like a treasure hunt for knowledge, and I always leave wanting to explore more," says Priyansh. His fun schedule includes understanding the science principles behind everyday activities.

PARENTS ARE EXCITED TOO

It is not only children who are in love with these science centres, it's parents who are delighted to have a place that inspires their children. Kiran Bhasker, a techie from Sarjapur, always earmarks

Sundays to take his two children out to science centres. "Visiting a science centre is a wonderful family activity. It gives us the opportunity to learn together and discuss what we've seen and done. It's a bonding experience that also enriches our knowledge. It's so much fun to see who in the family can build the tallest tower or solve puzzles first!"

"Also, science centres often show the real-world applications of scientific principles, which can sometimes be abstract for kids. When they see how electricity works to power a light bulb or how ecosystems function, it makes the science they learn in school more relevant and exciting," says Kiran.

For many parents, science centres are more than just educational spaces—they're a gateway to their children's future careers. Shenaz, a homemaker, is among those who view these centres as vital inspiration hubs. "I pursued science for my education," she shares, "and I want my daughter to be a woman of science. I hope she'll see the diverse career paths available and make an informed choice for herself. Science experiential centres showcase real-world opportunities that can ignite her ambition. Unlike my time, when opportunities were confined to textbooks, she now experiences everything right before her eyes. These centres offer a glimpse into the exciting world of science beyond the classroom."

For parents like Shenaz, these centres are where dreams are sparked and future scientists are born.

Anita Saran, 34, a high school teacher, says seeing her son engage with interactive exhibits makes her hopeful for his future. "I believe these science centres

Pics: TOI & Chethan Shivakumar



are crucial for him to visualize the real-world applications of what he learns in school. With these interactive centres, my son can touch, explore, and understand scientific concepts first-hand. I want him to experience the thrill of discovery and see the endless possibilities in science. It's not just about science; it's about opening doors to careers he may never have considered otherwise. It's a wonderful shift

STEMMING FEAR: (Clockwise from top) A session on carbon at Science Gallery; kids at Curiositycity; a child operates pulleys at ParSEC; a pedalled walking cycle; a soundwave installation

from the traditional, textbook-based learning," she says.

CATALYSING LIVE LEARNING

Many schools are now bringing their

students for an outing to these science centres for hands-on experience. On a trip from her school to one of these centres, Elisa Fernandes, 14, says, "Going to the science museum with my friends is awesome. We work together on projects and experiments, and we learn from each other. It's fun to share our ideas and findings, and it makes the experience better. Seeing science in real life helps us understand how it works in the world. Whether it's watching how plants grow in a greenhouse or seeing how robots are made, we see science in action. It makes learning feel real and important." Her friends nod in agreement.

THE TRAILBLAZER VITM

In the early 1960s, Bengaluru was abuzz with the opening of an interesting space that became a must-go place for everyone — the Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum on Kasturba Road. Six decades and several upgrades later, VITM is still an inter-generational hit. Listen to what Tushikaa, an 8-year-old resident of Shanti Nagar, has to say: "My parents recently took me to the Visvesvaraya Museum, and I loved it! They have this amazing exhibit on engines and machines where I got to see how different engines work. My favourite part was the interactive section where I could operate a mini steam engine." VITM gets over a million visitors every year, says director Sajoo Bhaskaran.

The museum was the brainchild of visionary journalist and nationalist B N Gupta. Having travelled widely and inspired by institutions like the Smithsonian, Gupta conceived the idea of establishing a similar museum in Bengaluru in 1958. His ambition materialised into a sprawling 40,000 sq ft building. VITM opened its doors to the public on July 14, 1962, after being inaugurated by then PM Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

ISHIKA SHARMA, 11

Science interactive centres turn boring school subjects into fun activities. I especially love the chemistry exhibits in these centres where I can mix chemicals and see reactions

Our goal is straightforward — to make science a lifestyle," says Ganesh Prasad, deputy director of Param Science. The Magadi centre, which would also be a cultural, historic and incubation space besides being a science hub, will open next year. ParSEC caters to people of all ages, with a focus on making science fun. Visitors have an incredible time engaging with hands-on exhibits that spark critical thinking and curiosity.

Nithya.Mandyam@timesofindia.com

Auto driving has historically been a male-dominated profession in Karnataka, epitomized by the legendary Shankar Nag in the film 'Auto Raja.' But recent years have witnessed a growing number of women breaking free from societal norms and choosing it as a career to support themselves and their families. TOI spoke with women auto drivers in the city, uncovering their challenges, triumphs, and love for the vehicle.

A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE

Raised in Bannerghatta by a single mother, Jancy BV's early life was fraught with hardships. Her father, a lorry driver, passed away when she was just ten, leaving her mother to care for the family. Inspired by her father's profession, Jancy nurtured a dream of driving. Her life took a positive turn when she met her now husband, Vinod Babu. "Marrying him has been the best thing in my life so far. He protects and supports me like a king," she says with a smile. The couple faced financial difficulties, especially during the pandemic, with Vinod's autorickshaw business suffering severe losses. They struggled to repay the vehicle loan and resorted to running a tea stall with meagre earnings.

One morning, Jancy asked Vinod if she could drive the auto. He was not only supportive, but also stood up for her when friends and family resisted. "Why shouldn't she drive? It's her choice. She will uphold our family's respect."

Jancy faced initial struggles, driving the auto registered under Vinod's name. A customer complaint regarding wrong driver led Uber officials to suggest transferring the registration to her name. "My husband immediately transferred the licence to my name," she says.

The auto has now become her best friend. "I want to take it on an adventure, maybe to Ladakh," she says. Jancy is one of over 2,000 women auto drivers in the city, many of whom belong to various unions, some formally registered, others self-organized.

TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT

Raghu Gowda, founder of Peace Auto Union, has trained over 200 women drivers. "It's not a one-day task to teach and then let them take the wheel. It requires a lot of training," Raghu explains. Using his personal autorickshaw, Raghu has helped many women become independent.

If there's someone who knows the way out of Bengaluru's infamous gridlock, it is the auto driver. A job that has traditionally been dominated by men is now being actively pursued by women drivers, thanks to the advent of aggregator apps, auto unions and a few ambitious women who have taken the road less travelled

WHEN WOMEN TAKE THE WHEEL



POWER DRIVE: These women are not only earning a livelihood but also breaking stereotypes and inspiring others

Daily training sessions are held in Bilekahalli, near Bannerghatta Road, where 7-10 women are trained. An autorickshaw costs around Rs 2.8 lakh. Raghu assists in securing loans for those who can manage the down payment, ensuring they own their vehicle.

Prathima Rajappa, a resident of Kengeri and a member of Jai Karnataka Sarathi Seva Trust, has been driving for ten years. "People often think we are divorced or widowed, but it's about being self-sufficient, independent, and content with life," Prathima says. She began driving after her husband lost his job. "Many people think of suicide when they feel helpless. But during those times, we need to fight harder and show the world who we are," she says.

Prathima has trained over 70 people through her organization. "Not everyone who learns to drive becomes an auto driver. Some pursue it, some see



it as a challenge. For those who need support, union members crowdfund to help with the down payment and get loans," she adds.

EVERYDAY CHALLENGES

On an average, an auto driver earns about Rs 150-200 per ride, with peak

hours fetching Rs 300-350. Daily earnings range from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,800, excluding fuel and repair costs.

Despite the financial benefits, these women face significant challenges, including societal prejudice and the lack of proper facilities. Manjula Ganesh, a 30-year-old driver, says, "Riding an autorickshaw is like having your own freedom, but it's a little restricting when it comes to using washrooms." She often has to drive back home to use a hygienic washroom, especially during her menstrual cycle, which is a waste of both time and fuel.

Manjula previously worked at a logistics company but quit after her employer refused her maternity leave. "My child needed me, but my employer never understood. I decided to work for myself and took up auto driving," she says.

OVERCOMING GENDER STEREOTYPES

Prabhavathi Shivakumar, another trailblazing driver, took up the profession 11 years ago, challenging her husband's belief that women are unfit for such jobs. "I felt our family income was insufficient and wanted to support my husband, but he believed that women couldn't drive. With my brothers' support, I proved him wrong," Prabhavathi says.

Today, Prabhavathi has trained over 2,000 women. "Every day between 2 pm and 4 pm, I take a break to train women who want to pursue this profession," she says.

These women, by stepping into a male-dominated field, are not only earning a livelihood but also breaking stereotypes and inspiring others. Their stories of resilience and determination underscore the potential for change when barriers are challenged and new paths are forged.

Sketchbooks are in, cameras out at these M'luru heritage walks



A DEEPER CONNECT: These heritage walks create a sense of familiarity, encouraging people to support the conservation and protection of historical sites and monuments

Deepthi.Sanjiv@timesofindia.com

Many groups and organisations in coastal Karnataka believe that heritage walks are essential for conservation. Subash Basu, convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Mangaluru, has led numerous programmes over the years exploring Mangaluru's streets and historical places.

Basu says heritage walks lead to awareness. "If we have a group of people, we have a chance to discuss issues with them, and that's how the word spreads. This is one way to spread awareness. We also engage in sketching. I think, more than photography, sketching as an activity involves people in a different way. Initially, people learn about a place, then they become involved in it. When something goes wrong in this place, these are the people who will protest. This leads to conservation and also helps keep the place clean. It creates a sense of interest in our heritage," he says.

He says heritage walks help people view these sites from different perspectives, shifting from a passive approach to actively identifying and valuing heritage. While tourism often focuses on food and popular attractions, turning attention to local culture reveals many

layers to explore. "The idea is to make people aware of their culture, which is slowly becoming compartmentalised. It is also important to involve school children," Basu continues.

In an attempt to document historical sites through sketches and personal narratives, Bahaasa Gallery and Studio, in collaboration with Bhavana Foundation, launched the 'Ancestral Affair' initiative about two years ago. This programme brings together around 50 like-minded individuals, including architecture students and artists, to explore and preserve the cultural heritage of various locations. Artist Janardhan Havanje, curator of this initiative along with architect Shrayya Hegde, says that the goal is to develop a deeper understanding of historical places from both historical and local perspectives.

"These walks/excursions are often coupled with bird watching and sketching series, aiming to build a community of enthusiasts and conservationists. Over the past two years, the initiative has grown, attracting more participants and raising awareness about the importance of preserving historical sites," says Havanje.

They recently conducted the heritage documentation of Perdoor region. One significant aspect is documenting the parts of the old city that are being lost to highway expansion.

Builder sells someone else's site, told to pay buyer ₹7L

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After being sold a litigation-prone site that the builder had no legal right to sell, an 81-year-old Vidyanapur resident took Mega City (Bengaluru) Developers & Builders to Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, which asked the real estate firm to pay him about Rs 7 lakh.

F-II block of Vajragiri on Aug 26, 1999. However, the builder failed to execute the sale deed, leading to multiple follow-ups by Sharma.



After 10 years, a sale deed was executed for another site in A-1 block, Sheshagiri-halli village, Ramanagara, on April 6, 2009.



he paid Rs 2.4 lakh. He also paid Rs 50,000 towards betterment charges, Rs 12,340 for registration, and Rs 81,600 as stamp duty. His payments totalled Rs 4.9 lakh.

Sharma alleged the sale deed was merely a paper that conferred no real rights. Moreover, the original landowners had regained ownership through a court order

transaction that conferred no real rights, as the original owners were still cultivating the land. Moreover, the landowners had regained ownership through a court order. Faced with the situation, Sharma filed a consumer

complaint seeking a refund from the developer. The builder argued that the complaint was time-barred, as it was filed 12 years after the sale deed's execution. However, the commission rejected this argument, stating that the limitation period should be considered from the date of Sharma's legal notice on Sept 23, 2020.

Unfair trade practice

After considering all the pro, the commission said the developer was guilty of deficient service and unfair trade practices as it had kept

hidden from the complaint the fact that the site sold to him belonged to another person and was not developed at the time of the sale deed. This misrepresentation led to Sharma experiencing mental agony and stress. The commission directed the builder to refund Rs 4.9 lakh Sharma had paid, with 12% interest per annum from the date of receipt until payment and also pay him Rs 2 lakh as compensation for the mental agony and physical inconvenience caused to him and Rs 25,000 towards litigation costs.

Brit's decomposed body found in flat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 59-year-old UK national's highly decomposed body was found in a flat at Koramangala VII Block here on Saturday afternoon. Prima facie, he appears to have killed himself overdosing on tablets after leaving behind a suicide note, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Gavin James Young, a chef. Koramangala po-



Left behind notes

Davin James Young had left behind details of a few issues he was facing on multiple self-stick notes, pasted on the teapoy and walls. He said he was having health issues and was taking medicines daily. He also mentioned that his wife had divorced him and she and their children were living away from him. "We've seized the slips and have sent them to FSL to confirm they were written by him," a senior cop said.

SUICIDE SUSPECTED

lice said Young was a UK citizen but a resident of the US for some time. Police are trying to contact his family with the help of the UK embassy and have preserved the body in a mortuary. A case of suspicious death has been registered.

A senior police officer said Young had booked the flat — belonging to one Jagadish — on the first floor of an apartment on July 1 through Airbnb, an American vacation rental company. Police are yet to find out whether he was working in Bengaluru.

On July 27, Young sent a message to Jagadish asking him not to disturb him till Aug 1 through messages or calls as he was busy with work and was doing night shifts. Jagadish heeded to his request. On Saturday, the apartment's inmates sensed a foul smell coming from Jagadish's flat and alerted him.

Jagadish tried in vain to connect with Young over phone. He rushed to the apartment, and when there was no response, had the front door brought down, only to find Young's decomposed body. He alerted police, who rushed to the scene and collected evidence.

Syringes, tablets found
Police found multiple syringes and tablet strips in the flat.

Young was a diabetic and was taking insulin regularly. He was also taking medicines for blood pressure and other health issues. "We found multiple tablet strips. A couple of tablet strips were empty; we suspect he took excessive pills and killed himself. Based on the decomposition of his body, we suspect it happened on Aug 1. But the autopsy report will give us the time and cause of death. There was no forced entry into the flat or any signs of scuffle," a cop added.

Police also found his UK passport and are ascertaining his visa details. "We suspect he came to India on a tourist visa in April and stayed elsewhere. One of his family members has spoken to us," the officer shared.

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

Dengue effect: Supply-hit blood banks struggle as platelet demand goes up

10-15% Drop In Collection Since Covid

Hamsaveni.N
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The post-Covid dip in blood collection at private blood banks across Bengaluru has had a ripple effect now: The current dengue surge — the city is reporting about 200 cases every day — has pushed up the demand for platelets.

The private blood banks in Bengaluru put the average drop in their collection at about 10-15%. The banks attribute it to the emergence of work-from-home culture in multinational corporations (MNCs), rejection of blood donors, and altered health conditions post-Covid.

"With the dengue spike, we have a daily demand for 40 to 50 units of platelets to meet but we are getting a supply of only 15 to 20 units. The demand has risen substantially over the past few weeks in July. In 2019, we collected 37,000 units of blood. In 2023, we managed to collect only 26,000 units. In the last seven months of 2024, we have pro-

CAMPS & REGULAR FOLLOW-UP WITH DONORS

Some blood banks are seeing a turnaround. Rashotthana Blood Centre, which had collected only 22,000 units of blood in 2023-24 as against 33,000 in 2019-20, said they managed to procure 9,000 units from April to July this year.

Dr Ankit Mathur, additional medical director of Rotary TTK Blood Bank, said with regular follow-up with their donors and extensive camps, they are trying to get back to the pre-Covid level.

"In 2019-20, we collected 37,000 units of blood, and in 2023-2024, it was down to 34,000 units. In the past four months, we managed to collect 12,000 units, and we are confident that we will reach the 37,000-mark in this financial year," he added.



Photo for representation

DEALING WITH DIP: Private blood banks attribute the fall in supply to the emergence of work-from-home culture at the city's MNCs, rejection of blood donors, and altered health conditions after Covid

"We have counsellors working on educating the crowd about blood donations, mainly single-donor platelets, which is much needed during seasons like this. We have been receiving at least 20-30 calls every day requesting platelets for nearly a month. Undoubtedly, the demand for platelets has gone up.

To meet this demand, we are conducting regular blood donation camps and reaching out to our regular donors, requesting them to donate. Consequently, our platelet collection has also increased

Dr Ankit Mathur | ADDITIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF ROTARY TTK BLOOD BANK

duced 15,000 units of blood," Sridhar, a lab technician from Red Cross, told TOI.

According to him, the emergence of numerous private blood banks in the market with mobile facilities has impacted their blood collection. "Our primary source of

donations is MNCs and the camps we organize. Now that MNCs have adopted a hybrid work culture, we urge them to make blood donation mandatory, and we can arrange camps on the days when employees come to office. Changed health conditions and fre-

quent deaths in the middle-age group have also instilled fear in people, hindering them from coming forward to donate blood," he said.

Chandrashekar R, a social worker at Rashotthana Blood Centre, said they are having a tough time meeting

the demand, particularly for single-donor platelets (SDP). "In July, we had 60-70 patients requesting SDP; however, we could provide them to only 30-40 people. Work-from-home system and online classes were the major reasons for the dip in donations," he added.

Unfit and unwilling

Deepak from Lion's Blood Bank, Vasanth Nagar, attributed the decline to rejection of donors. "In 2019, we used to collect 20,000 to 22,000 units of blood. But now, until July this year, we had collected around 8,000 units. After Covid, many donors are not fit to donate blood. Some have developed high haemoglobin levels, while others have diabetes and other health issues," he said.

According to him, on normal days, they have a demand for 20 to 30 units, but in the past few weeks of July, it has escalated to 70 to 80 units per day. "Although we are currently managing the situation, we may require additional supply considering the monsoon season. In a typical week, we usually procure at least 100 units of blood, but at present, we are only receiving 20 to 30 units," Deepak added.

Blackmailed by ex-schoolmates, woman ends life

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Depressed after some former schoolmates blackmailed her seeking personal favours and threatening to spoil her family life, a 31-year-old homemaker hanged herself at her house in Bagalagunte, north Bengaluru, last week.

The deceased has been identified as L. Mamata, wife of food-delivery executive Lokesh and mother of a two-year-old son.

Married to Lokesh four years ago, Mamata left behind a suicide note in Kannada. It read, "If something happens to me, Ashok and Ganesh are responsible." Police said Ashok and Ganesh were her high school-mates and had been harassing Mamata by sending lewd messages and seeking physical favours.

The incident came to light when Lokesh alerted a neighbour saying Mamata was not responding to his calls. When the neighbour peeped in through the window, he saw Mamata hanging and their child asleep.

Speeding goods vehicle kills expressway staffer on flyover

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 47-year-old employee of Hosur Road elevated expressway was killed after a speeding mini-goods vehicle knocked him down on the flyover on Saturday night, when he and his colleagues were towing away a car. Another employee sustained severe injuries and is undergoing treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Manjunath P, a resident of Gollahalli. The injured is Rajanna, 48, a resident of Kammasandra. Manjunath was a route patrolling officer, and Rajanna a patrol vehicle driver.

The incident happened between Kudlu Gate and Singasandra around 11.30pm. The Bangalore Elevated Tollway Pvt Ltd (BETPL) received information about a car (Hyundai i20), heading towards the city, that had broken down on the right lane of the flyover. Tasked with towing it, Manjunath, Rajanna and Sateesh, a helper, rushed to the spot.

The trio put traffic cones surrounding the car. Sateesh was holding the traffic baton warning light and was busy diverting the traffic to the adjacent lanes, while Manjunath and Rajanna clamped the car to the towing vehicle. A few seconds before they could tow the vehicle, a mini-goods vehicle hit Rajanna, Manjunath and then the car.

Speaking to TOI, Sateesh said, "I was signalling the vehicles to move away using the light, but the goods vehicle

TRUCK MOWS DOWN BIZMAN ON HIGHWAY

Bengaluru: A speeding truck mowed down a 45-year-old businessman near Bommasandra on Hosur Road Sunday afternoon. His wife has lost both her legs, and their 10-year-old son escaped with minor injuries. Another biker, Prabhu, sustained injuries.

Hebbagodi police said that the accident took place around 2.45pm on Bommasandra down ramp after the expressway flyover ends. The deceased is Prakash.

Prakash, his wife Mahadevi, 38, and their child were heading towards Hosur on a bike. When they neared Bommasandra, Prakash slowed down as there was a tabletop speed breaker. Prabhu was also riding his bike, adjacent to them. A speeding truck hit Prakash's bike. All three fell on the road. The truck's front wheel ran over Prakash's abdomen, claiming his life, and

on his wife's legs. The son fell on the other side of the road and escaped with injuries. The truck then hit Prabhu's bike, and as he was holding on to the bike's handle, it pulled him and his bike 100 metres away, before grinding to a halt. The truck driver abandoned the vehicle and fled. Prabhu has filed a complaint against the driver with Hebbagodi police. A senior officer said, "We have secured the driver and are interrogating him."

Cops suggested NHAI remove speed breaker

According to Hebbagodi police, accidents are common there due to the tabletop speed breaker. "We have asked National Highways Authority of India to remove it. But they say they cannot do it and it is necessary because vehicles drive/ride faster and the speed goes up due to the down ramp," a cop said.

driver failed to notice it and was speeding close to 100km an hour. As he neared the car, I raised an alarm and ran aside. He ended up hitting Manjunath and Rajanna. Manjunath was tossed on to the central median. He sustained severe head and rib injuries, while Rajanna sustained injuries in his leg and head. The goods vehicle driver also sustained injuries."

An ambulance was passing by Sateesh, with the help of the car owner, stopped it and rushed all three to Narayana Hrudayalaya. The doctors declared Manjunath brought dead. Both Rajanna and

the driver — Sandeep, 28, from Haryana — are undergoing treatment.

According to police, Sandeep was allegedly under the influence of alcohol.

Manjunath is survived by his wife and children, and had been working with BETPL for the past 12 years.

Police have seized the goods vehicle and car and have registered a case against Sandeep, based on the complaint filed by Sateesh. Manjunath's body was handed over to his family after postmortem. "Once Sandeep recovers, we will complete his arrest procedures," a cop said.

OFFSIDE



Two arrested for killing man over property issue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Ramamurthy Nagar police, investigating the murder of a 53-year-old man in Vijinapura recently, have arrested two of his relatives.

The arrested are Bharath Reddy, 28, owner of a petty shop, and Gopal Reddy, owner of a water tanker. The deceased was identified as Babu Reddy, who also owned water tankers and was a real estate broker. All of them are residents of Vijinapura.

Citing preliminary investigation, police said Bharath was the nephew of Babu and, Gopal his brother-in-law. The duo stabbed Babu to death outside his house around 5.30pm Friday over a property row.

The duo said that the family has ancestral property and Babu allegedly got signatures on a few documents fraudulently and, registered the property in his name. The civil dispute case was pending before the court. The duo was angry with Babu as he had cheated them and hence, they wanted to take revenge. They spotted Babu standing outside his house, stabbed him multiple times, and escaped.

The police nabbed them on Saturday and are investigating the case further. Babu's wife had filed a complaint against the two men.

ALMANAC (5.8.2024)

Karnataka Masa 20 Shri Krodhi Nama Samvatsara - Dakshinayana - Varsha Ritu - Tithi: Shrawana Sukla Pratipad h. 18-04 Nakshatra: Ashlesha h. 15-22 Yoga: Vyatipata h. 10-38. 30 Muharram Kali Day 1872062 Rahu Kalam 7.30am - 9am - K.L. Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Veggie seller loses ₹1L to crooks

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A 49-year-old vegetable vendor had a shocker recently when he realised at least seven transactions worth Rs 1 lakh had been done using the credentials of his EMI card from a financial services firm without his knowledge.

When he checked with the finance company, they informed him that the transactions were related to online shopping. However, he had not purchased any of those items. Kumar from Azad Nagar in Chamaraajpet and a vendor in KR Market, told Chamaraajpet police that he received a call from his finance firm staff on July 8 asking him to pay the pending EMI. He told them that he had already cleared his previous loan and owed them nothing. They informed him there was a transaction of around Rs 1 lakh in his account.

He then checked his phone



EMI PAYMENT GONE WRONG

and found messages of Rs 6,375 debited from his bank account in two transactions on July 2. He had received another message of Rs 3,492 debited from his account on July 5. Both were payments of EMI for the finance company.

He visited the finance company office in Uttarahalli to check why they had deducted the amount when he had already cleared the EMIs for the refrigerator he had purchased in the past. The staff told him that the amount was debited because of his recent purchases made on an online shopping platform.

There were four purchases using his account. One was made on June 6 for Rs 30,058, the second on June 7 for Rs 13,058, the third on June 8 for Rs 35,098, and the fourth on June 9 for Rs 20,058. The purchases totalled Rs 98,272. The staff suggested he lodge a complaint with police as they suspected his account was hacked.

A mobile phone worth Rs 30,058 was purchased and delivered to an address in Rajarajeshwarinagar, and a Rs 35,098 purchase was also a mobile phone delivered to another address. The miscreants had bought other valuables and got them delivered to different addresses, Kumar said.

Kumar said he lost Rs 9,867 from his account, which was deducted by the finance firm. The remaining amount is in the form of a pending loan in the company's account. A police officer said that a case has been registered under the Information Technology Act.

Police inspector BS Manjunath shot one round in the air to warn Raju. However, he continued to attack, and Manjunath shot Raju in the left knee and took him into custody," an officer said. Raju has been shifted to Anekal govt hospital.

27-yr-old man attacks policeman, shot at

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Police shot and injured a 27-year-old man, booked in three attempt-to-murder cases after he attacked a policeman at Ragihalli in Anekal on Saturday evening.

The accused is Venkata Raju, alias Tukadi, of Anekal. Attibele police were looking for him. "We received information that he was hiding at Ragihalli, and a police team went to detain him. Then, he attacked and injured police constable Suresh.

There were four purchases using his account. One was made on June 6 for Rs 30,058, the second on June 7 for Rs 13,058, the third on June 8 for Rs 35,098, and the fourth on June 9 for Rs 20,058. The purchases totalled Rs 98,272. The staff suggested he lodge a complaint with police as they suspected his account was hacked.

JC Road parking facility elicits poor response

Santoshkumar.B
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Parking may be a burning issue in the central business district (CBD) areas, but BBMP's multi-level car parking (MLCP) complex on JC Road has elicited a poor response, prompting the civic body to utilise one of the four floors for commercial activities.

According to sources, the Palike has given the basement, ground, first, and second floors of the complex to a private agency to operate the parking facility for five years from 2023. The facility has the capacity to accommodate 292 four-wheelers and 252 two-wheelers. However, the agency, Al-like Marketing Pvt Ltd, wro-



Syed Asif

The contracted private agency has agreed to run the parking facility in the basement, ground, and first floors. BBMP will soon float a tender to operate commercial enterprises on the second floor for the next five years

UNDERUSED: The parking complex has a capacity to accommodate 292 four-wheelers and 252 two-wheelers

te to BBMP on March 6 about the huge losses it is suffering as only 40% of the space is occupied. So, the agency

requested BBMP to float a tender to give the second floor to run vacuum cleaning and automobile services.

According to Palike officials, the agency has agreed to run the parking facility in the basement, ground, and first floors. They said they have given permission to the agency to run the parking facility on three floors and will take possession of the second floor. The civic body will soon float a tender to run a commercial activity (vacuum cleaning and automobile services) on the second floor for five years.

Safety concerns

However, citizen activists are blaming BBMP for failing to draw the public to utilise its parking facilities for various reasons. An RTI activist, Amareesh S, told TOI that people will prefer BBMP parking lots only if

they feel their vehicles are safe. At present, signs are displayed everywhere that parking is at the owner's risk. As a result, people think there is no guarantee for the safety of their vehicles. Consequently, they park anywhere, including the roadsides. The Palike should address this issue by installing enough CCTV cameras and security staff to attract more people, he said.

Mahesh, a resident of Kodigehalli, said the Palike and traffic police should effectively implement the no-parking rules on nearby roads and should install signage indicating the location of nearby BBMP parking lots. This way, people will become aware of it and start utilising the facility.

VB Express to stop at Yadgir

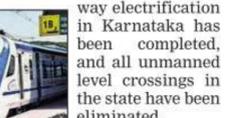
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Union minister of state for railways V Somanna on Sunday flagged off the SMVT (Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya Terminal) Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Vande Bharat Express with an additional stoppage at Yadgir railway station.

The inauguration was done remotely via video link from the Bengaluru divisional railway manager's office.

This marks a significant development for Yadgir district, as it becomes the first Vande Bharat Express service for the region. The train will depart from Yadgir at 5.55am towards Bengaluru and return, reaching Yadgir

at 9.44pm en route to Kalaburagi. Somanna highlighted the substantial increase in railway budget allocation for Karnataka, which stands at Rs 7,560 crore for 2024-25, nine times higher than the annual average during 2009-14. He also mentioned that 90% of railway electrification in Karnataka has been completed, and all unmanned level crossings in the state have been eliminated.



The addition of this stoppage at Yadgir is expected to provide convenient connectivity for the public to travel to and from the capital city region of Karnataka. The new service will start from August 4 for the Kalaburagi-bound train.

— Adithri Chittoor

Congress throws weight behind Siddaramaiah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Congress has resolved to support chief minister Siddaramaiah on the issue of the show-cause notice issued by governor Thaaar Chand Gehlot, with the party declaring that it will fight the accusations politically and legally.

MUDA IMBROGLIO

The backing follows a meeting on Sunday between AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala with Siddaramaiah and his council of ministers to take stock of allegations that the CM indulged in corruption to ensure his wife BM Parvathi secured sites via Mysore Urban Development Corporation (Muda) and to thwart political manoeuvring on the issue by the opposition BJP and JD(S), now NDA allies.

Venugopal told reporters after the closed-door meeting that the party will not judge despite the ongoing 'Mysore Chalo' padayatra by the combined opposition to press for a CBI investigation into the 'scam' and to pressure Siddaramaiah to quit.

"Whatever the allegations



READY FOR BATTLE: Siddaramaiah with KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala in Bengaluru on Sunday

and charges are, we will fight it legally," Venugopal said. "The law will take its course. We are not scared. Both BJP and JD(S) want to save the political careers of their children and are thus targeting our elected govt. They are trying to permanently tarnish the image of a person (Siddaramaiah) who stands for the poor of Karnataka."

Venugopal praised Siddaramaiah and said "none can question his integrity and that people are aware of his ideological commitment". The MP said BJP and JD(S) have been rattled by the Karnataka govt's guarantee schemes and the

serious charges against "children of their leaders" and are thus attacking Siddaramaiah to divert attention.

"BJP and JD(S) are rattled that the guarantee schemes will harm them politically. They have brought certain issues against Siddaramaiah and the Congress govt after cases were filed against children of their party brass," Venugopal said.

He went on to suggest that governor Gehlot had "unfortunately" become a puppet of BJP, a stand taken by the party. "Today, Congress party has decided to fight against the conspiracy of BJP and JD(S),"

Pull up socks, AICC tells mins

Prior to the meeting with Siddaramaiah and his council of ministers, AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala is said to have asked some cabinet ministers "to pull up their socks or face the axe" in a couple of months.

Sources say the party high command was disappointed with some ministers and have asked them to connect better with the public to lift the image of the govt. This is said to be the "last warning". But Venugopal insisted that their visit to Karnataka was not to "review performance of ministers". "It was solely to tackle political concerns in the state," he said.

He said. "Ministers have been told to go to districts and the assembly segments to explain to people the contribution of the guarantee schemes towards their welfare and the conspiracy hatched by BJP to finish the guarantees by trying to destabilise the govt."

Channapatna bypoll in focus during padayatra

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

Ramanagara: Although called to force Siddaramaiah to quit as chief minister, the second day of the 'Mysore Chalo' BJP-JD(S) padayatra appeared to revert to electioneering especially with a bypoll looming to Channapatna assembly seat which falls along the route.

BJP and JD(S) attempted to turn the foot march into a preliminary campaign for the bypoll, while Congress even sounded the poll bugle, with deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar insisting that regardless of whom the party chooses at its candidate, it would be him and chief minister Siddaramaiah who will be on the ballot.

The stakes are especially high for JD(S) since the constituency falls in the Vokkaliga belt, its bastion, and the seat was held by its state president and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy prior to his election to the Lok Sabha in May. The padayatra will traverse Channapatna assembly constituency on Monday.

JD(S) is keen on retaining the seat and is moving to stymie any plans from BJP to move in on its territory by pushing for Kumaraswamy's son and party youth president Nikhil as the candidate.

If the bonhomie between BJP state president BY Vijayendra and Nikhil during the padayatra on Sunday was any yardstick, then BJP appears willing to back the youngster as the NDA candidate. The two not only walked together, but also jointly greeted cadres of BJP and JD(S) amid cheers, while local functionaries jointly garlanded them at stopovers.

"The Channapatna bypoll



STAMP OF RECOGNITION: Nikhil Kumaraswamy was the toast of party members and cadres on the second day of the padayatra on Sunday

is very crucial and the yatra will have its impact since it is part of our fight against the corrupt Congress rule," said Vijayendra. "It is a fact that JD(S) holds Channapatna seat and it is natural that they seek to retain it. But we also are exploring options to field our candidate. Our high command and seniors of JD(S) will sit together and decide."

BJP does have serious stakes since its former minister CP Yogeshwar had represented it for five terms in the past and is aspiring to contest again.

"There is no denying Yogeshwar has represented Channapatna in the past, but it is also a fact that it is our holding seat," said Nikhil. "JD(S) is strong here and our party workers feel that we will win hands down in alliance with BJP. Many of them are even urging me to contest. But it is up to brass of both parties to take the call."

But supporters of Yogeshwar were openly miffed that the party appears to be leaning towards Nikhil. Yogeshwar was conspicuous by his absence at the padayatra, although he is expected to

take part in the public meeting when the march reaches Channapatna on Monday. He indicated that he would contest as a rebel if BJP denied him the ticket.

"I know there is speculation about the potential candidate for Channapatna," Yogeshwar said. "I will contest as the party candidate if given the ticket. If not, then I will consult my supporters about my next course of action. But surely, I will contest."

His supporters have organised a meeting titled "Namma shasaka-namma ayke" (Our MLA, our choice) on August 11, where they are expected to warn BJP brass against ignoring Yogeshwar.

Congress is also aggressively preparing for the bypoll. At the party's Janadolan Samaveshha rally in Channapatna, Shivakumar, also state congress president said: "I would like to tell the people of Channapatna that whoever is picked as the Congress candidate, the real candidates will be me and chief minister Siddaramaiah. I will work as your MLA. You must give us an opportunity."

10 care centres functioning, 95 planned if needed

► Continued from page 1

With Kodagu district receiving 24% more rainfall than usual amid forecast of heavy rain in the coming days of Aug, the govt has shifted its focus to evacuating at-risk people to safety.

Deputy commissioner Venkat Raja said they have taken revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda's orders seriously on early evacuation of people living in the path of likely danger.

The district administration is on tenterhooks as Kodagu witnessed a wave of tragedies in Aug 2018 and 2019. The Geological Survey of India has given a list of disaster-prone areas in the district.

The district administration has also identified sensitive and hyper-sensitive areas, including areas where natural calamities have occurred in the past, and informed families which need to be relocated. It has also marked locations for opening care centres close to the spot, but away from danger.

At present, 10 care centres are functioning, and a total of 95 care centres are planned if the situation demands.

Focus will be on removing illegal structures

► Continued from page 1

Their focus will be on removing unauthorised resorts, homestays and other structures that have encroached upon forest lands since 2015 in the hilly tracts of Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, Chikmagalur, Hassan, Kodagu, Mysuru and Chamrajnagar districts.

This decision comes in the wake of recent tragedies in Uttara Kannada district and Kerala's Wayanad, where landslides claimed more than 300 lives and caused extensive environmental damage. Concerned over rapacious anthropogenic activities imperilling the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, Khandre said: "If we don't wake up now, the next generation will not forgive us."

The task force has been instructed to expedite the clearance process under Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, which deals with forest land encroachment and eviction procedures. Forest officials at various levels have been directed to conduct proceedings twice a week to resolve pending cases swiftly.

Khandre stressed the law would be applied equally to all offenders, regardless of the scale of encroachment. Priority will be given to vacating illegal commercial establishments before addressing plantations and other buildings.

HDK's family wealth in benami of his bro: DKS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Channapatna: Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, on Sunday, continued to target Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, accusing him of amassing huge amounts of wealth in terms of benami land through his elder brother and former KAS officer HD Balakrishna.

At its Jana Andolan rally, Congress' counter to the BJP-JD(S) 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra, Shivakumar, also Karnataka Congress president, hit out at Kumaraswamy, saying before he levels accusations at others, the JD(S) state president must come clean on the vast amounts of property amassed by his brother.

"Let Kumaraswamy tell us about his brother Balakrishna, a former govt servant who holds huge parcels of land in his wife and his wife's relatives' names," Shivakumar said. "Let him tell us how someone who grows onions and potatoes can amass such wealth. Be it Bengaluru, Srirangapatna, Maddur, Mysuru or other parts of the state, how many acres of land does his brother and brother's wife own in their relatives' and as benami?"

Shivakumar claimed it was only the tip of the proverbial iceberg and he is "yet to touch on" several cases of corruption allegedly involving Kumaraswamy and what he was talking about was only a "trailer".

"I have not yet spoken about Kumaraswamy's denotification cases," he said. "I am yet to speak of his involvement in mining scams. I will soon release a list of corruption cases involving Kumaraswamy," he said.

Shivakumar also lashed out at the BJP-JD(S) alliance, saying the regional outfit and the saffron party have always been at each other's throats and have only teamed up for the sake of "convenience".

"Kumaraswamy has never even once considered handing party authority to an ordinary JD(S) worker," Shivakumar said. "For Kumaraswamy it has always been himself and his family's interests. Even this

HDK wears khaki underwear: Khan

Housing minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan took a swipe at friend-turned-foe HD Kumaraswamy, claiming he wears "khaki colour underwear" which has now been "proven" with his party's alliance with BJP. Zameer had switched from JD(S) to Congress in 2018. At the Congress Jana Andolan programme in Channapatna, Zameer said: "I had said this before, but nobody believed me. I used to be with Kumaraswamy for 16 hours a day and have seen all his colours. I had said that he wears khaki chaddis. Today, that has been proven with the JD(S)-BJP alliance."

alliance with BJP is to ensure he becomes more powerful."

Shivakumar claimed Kumaraswamy had ensured cases were filed against him, his wife, brother and sister. "But nothing happened. All those cases were dismissed. I hope you [Kumaraswamy] remember them," he said.

Preparations in place for Mandya leg

Shrinivasa.M@timesofindia.com

Mysuru: BJP and JD(S) have made elaborate arrangements to ensure the padayatra is a huge success in Mandya, constituency of Union minister HD Kumaraswamy and heartland of the Vokkaliga community to which he belongs.

The padayatra is scheduled to reach Mandya on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, it will pass through Maddur and Mandya towns where functionaries will halt for the night.

NS Indresh, BJP Mandya district unit president, said all preparations are now complete for the padayatra. "We have coordinated with JD(S) functionaries from the district to make it a success," he said. "In Mandya, the party Kisan morchha national president Rajkumar Chahar will join the padayatra. We will hold a 'barukolu chaluvali' to send a strong message to the state govt."

Former minister CS Puttaraju of JD(S) denied any local differences with ally BJP. "We are working together to make this yatra a grand success," Puttaraju said. The allies will hold corner meetings in all villages and residential areas.

Won't stop until CM quits: BSY

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ramanagara: Senior functionaries of BJP and JD(S) warned their protest will not end until Siddaramaiah quit as chief minister.

At a public meeting at the end of the day's march in Ramanagara on Sunday, Union minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) said: "We are not holding this padayatra out of jealousy. Our objective is to create public awareness about the corrupt rule of Congress. The fight we have launched has assumed the magnitude of a tsunami. The Siddaramaiah-led govt will be washed away in this tsunami."

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa of BJP said Siddaramaiah would do well

GT DEVEGOWDA STAYS AWAY

Eyebrows were raised when organisers of the padayatra called JD(S) MLA Sa Ra Mahesh to the dais during the public meeting in Ramanagara. Mahesh is among functionaries whom Congress claims had availed

to resign before the padayatra reaches Mysuru. He said BJP JD(S) will "fight to throw out the govt" if he fails to do so.

"If he has any self-respect, Siddaramaiah will step down on his own," said Yediyurappa. "He has committed a crime by availing 14 sites in a prime developed layout for his family. People will not forgive him if he resigns. We will not rest until

Muda sites illegally. However, JD(S) MLA from Chamundeshwari, GT Devegowda, stayed away from the padayatra. He is another prominent opposition member who allegedly secured a site.

we throw out this corrupt govt."

BY Vijayendra, Yediyurappa's son and state party chief, said "people's anguish against the Congress is taking the shape of a forest fire" as the govt is embroiled in a series of scams including the latest incident of PSI Parashram's death.

On Sunday, the second day, the padayatra resumed from Bidadi and reached Ramanagara. Marchers will proceed to Channapatna on Monday.

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Mothers' Instinct (Drama, Thriller) ★★
Cast: Jessica Chastain, Anne Hathaway, Anders Danielsen Lie
Direction: Benoit Delhomme
Duration: 1 hour 36 minutes
Language: English (UA)

Set against the backdrop of 1960s Americana, this is a remake of the 2018 Belgian film 'Duelle' and an adaptation of Barbara Abel's novel.

The story revolves around Alice (Jessica Chastain) and Céline (Anne Hathaway), neighbours and best friends whose idyllic lives unravel after a tragic death. This event sets off a series of suspicions and psychological battles between the two women, leading to a tense and dramatic exploration of grief, guilt, and paranoia.

Chastain and Hathaway shine in their roles, delivering captivating performances. Their portrayal of Alice and Céline's crumbling friendship is a highlight, capturing moments of support, betrayal, and suspicion with a nuanced touch. The film's meticulously crafted visual style extends to its settings as well. The suburban neighbourhood where Alice and Céline live is depicted as an almost dreamlike space, with perfectly manicured lawns and spotless interiors. While beautiful to look at, this artificiality often feels disconnected from the story's emotional core. The film's cinematography, overseen by director Benoit Delhomme, who has a rich background as a director of photography, is undeniably striking but lacks the dynamism needed to elevate the film's tension and suspense. However, the film's intense focus on visual aesthetics sometimes detracts from developing a convincing emotional narrative.

Additionally, the plot's potential for deep psychological insight is often overshadowed by its tendency to rely on dramatic clichés and unexamined stereotypes about women's mental health. The film's tone swings between



intense melodrama and near-parody, which can be both a strength and a weakness. While some viewers might appreciate the high drama and stylish presentation, others might struggle to take the story seriously. The pacing feels rushed, leaving little room for the characters' internal breathing struggles. Although visually meticulous, the direction lacks the dynamic flair one might expect from Delhomme's cinematographic background. The husbands' roles are minimal and underdeveloped, serving as plot devices rather than meaningfully contributing to the story.

Mothers' Instinct offers an intriguing yet flawed take on a suburban thriller. It struggles with pacing issues, cramming its runtime with constant incidents that leave little room for character development. The story unfolds rapidly, with twists and turns that are more predictable than surprising. The script, while ambitious, fails to delve deeply into the psychological complexities of its characters, relying instead on clichéd portrayals of female hysteria and mental illness. Nevertheless, the performances of Chastain and Hathaway and the film's striking visual style provide some redeeming qualities despite the film's uneven tone and underwhelming narrative depth.

— Neil Soans

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

RATING SCALE
TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

Some guys do what they shouldn't, says SC judge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Some governors are doing things they shouldn't and are not doing things they should, Justice BV Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, has said. She was delivering the keynote address of the National Law School of India (NLSIU) Pluralist Agreement and Constitutional Transformation (PACT) conference in the city on Saturday.

On the subject of neutrality of governors, she quoted remarks of Durgabai Deshmukh, a member of the Constituent Assembly of India. "Certain functions are expected to be discharged by the governor. We wanted to introduce the governor in our Constitution because we thought that an element of harmony would be there and that institution would bring about some understanding and harmony between the conflicting groups of people if really the governor is conscious of his duties and he functions well. It is only for this purpose this is proposed, the governing idea is to place the governor above party politics, above factions and not to subject him to party affairs," she said.

"In today's times, unfortunately, some governors in India are playing a role where they ought not to and are inactive where they ought to be," she said. Talking about deepening Indian constitutionalism, Justice Nagarathna said, "We should emphasise federalism, fraternity, fundamental rights, and principled governance."

Explaining 'federalism', she said, "It needs to be borne in mind that Union and the state have the mandate to attend to subjects of national and regional import respectively." She added that states should not be considered incapable or subordinate. "The spirit of constitutional statesmanship -- and not partisan brinkmanship -- should be the mantra." Fraternity, she said, remains even today to be least understood, least discussed and, perhaps, the least practised of the four ideals spelt out in the preamble. "Fortunately, there is a Constitution which touches, moves and inspires our collective lives like a north star. It is a permanent reminder that a more democratic, a more equal, a more just and a more tolerant nation continues to remain an ideal, even in contemporary times," she added.

Govt will provide job for PSI's wife: Home min

► Contd from P1

The MLA and his son have been accused of abetment to suicide and cash-for-transfer which saw Rs 30 lakh allegedly exchanging hands for a posting in Yadgir. Parameshwara was not required as the officer's death

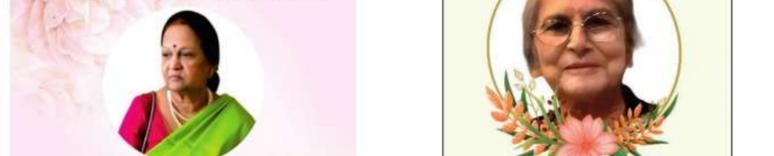
was never considered a murder or a case of death by suicide. "The CID comes into play as ruling party MLA has been allegedly named," he said.

Opposition leader R Ashoka met Parameshwara's wife and offered condolences. The PSI died Friday night.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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MRS. KUMARI PRABHA NTT, MA, B.Ed
WIFE OF LATE MR.G.DANIEL BAKTHAVATSALAM
FOUNDER MEMBER OF HOLY CHRIST EDUCATION SOCIETY
November 6, 1950- August 3, 2024

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Smt. Shyama Sandill
aged 88 years (W/o Late Dr. C. Sandill)
on 31st July 2024 at Ajmer.

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Arvind and Arti, Prema and K.K. Gaur, Amit and Jyothi, Anuj and Meenakshi, Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren & other family members.

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PHILOMENA NORINE NORONHA
(Ex MES College Lecturer)
w/o Late J.H.V. Noronha

Passed peacefully on 4 Aug 2024
Viewing and funeral at 11 am on
Monday, 5 August 2024 at
St. Vincent Pallotti Church,
Banaswadi.

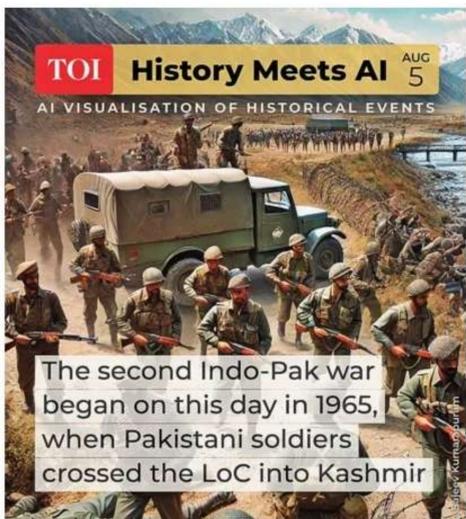
Marisa, Mariola, Maria, Stella and Families
9739317497, 9886081976



GIRIRAJ SLAMS UDDHAV JIBE AT SHAH, SAYS UBT CHIEF HAS HIMSELF BECOME ABDALI TO GET MUSLIM VOTES



PASSIVE GOVERNOR CONCEPT GONE, THEY MUST PLAY ACTIVE ROLE: BENGAL GUV ANANDA BOSE



TOI History Meets AI AUG 5
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The second Indo-Pak war began on this day in 1965, when Pakistani soldiers crossed the LoC into Kashmir

Rescue op continues, 400 still stranded on Kedarnath route

Over 1,200 People Moved To Safer Locations On Sun

Gaurav.Talwar@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: A multi-agency rescue operation continued at Kedarnath for the fourth day with 400 people still stranded after severe rains ravaged the area on Wednesday night. Over 1,200 individuals, including pilgrims and locals, were moved to safer locations on Sunday, even as the Indian Army began constructing a foot-bridge on the damaged stretch between Sonprayag and Gaurikund on the Kedarnath National Highway to facilitate further evacuations.

The district management department said, "Approximately 400 people were escorted on foot from Kedarnath to Lincholi, from where they were airlifted to various locations, including Char Dham and Sirsi helipads." Five small helicopters have been deployed for the rescue efforts, airlifting around 640 people from Lincholi, Bhimbali, and Kedarnath.

Since the rescue operations began on Thursday, 2,622 individuals have been airlifted from different locations, including 138 from Lincholi, 2,409 from Bhimbali, and 75 from Chidbasa. As of Sunday, 10,374



Army personnel reconstruct a bridge that got damaged at Sonprayag

Delhi duo rescued after 48-hr survival battle

Two young residents of Delhi were rescued after a harrowing 48-hour ordeal in the Kedarnath region, where they were stranded without food in a jungle and rescued from a 6,500 feet mountainous terrain beyond Triyuginarayan, 13km from the Kedarnath temple, reports Gaurav.Talwar. Ankit Mandal, 22, and Sunil Singh, 15, from the Delhi's Sarita Vihar locality, embarked on their first pilgrimage to Kedarnath, expecting a spiritual journey. Instead, they found themselves in a desperate fight for survival. The trouble started when they chose an unfamiliar route from Gaurikund to Sonprayag for their return from Kedarnath. TNN

people have been rescued from along the Kedarnath trek route.

Dense clouds over Kedarnath and the upper route have significantly disrupted rescue operations. The Indian Air Force's Chinook helicopter has been grounded due to persistent bad weather, while the MI-17 helicopter has managed only three flights, rescuing 60 people despite adverse conditions.

Officials said all passengers have been evacuated from Gaurikund, leaving only locals,

shopkeepers, and animal handlers in the area. "Most people from Bhimbali and Lincholi have also been rescued. However, about 50 remain in Lincholi, and around 350 people, including tourists, devotees, priests, and shopkeepers, are still at Kedarnath," an official said.

The State Disaster Response Force continues its search operation in the Lincholi area, which suffered extensive damage from a flash flood near Junglechatti Wednesday.

4 days after HP cloudburst, 44 still untraced

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu: As many as 44 people are still missing after cloudbursts and flash floods in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla regions of Himachal Pradesh four days ago. Among the missing are 33 people from Samej village of Rampur sub-division in Shimla district.

At the same time, two more bodies were still missing in Mandi's Terang village, raising the rain-related deaths to nine—eight in Mandi and one in Kullu.

Mandi deputy commissioner Apporv Devgan said two people were still missing in Terang. "The search will continue till they are found. NDRF teams are being helped by sniffer dogs in the operation," said Devgan.

In Samej on Sunday, the search teams combed more areas through debris left behind by the flash floods. Among the missing are villagers, employees of a hydro project and eight schoolchildren.

"Over 40 people in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla are still missing even after four days and chances of their survival looking minimal," former CM Jai Ram Thakur said.

CM: BJP committed to protecting rights of indigenous people

Continued from page 1

Also, if a Muslim wants to buy a Hindu's property or a Hindu wants to buy a Muslim's property, it will be subject to scrutiny," the CM said at BJP's state executive meeting in Guwahati. Besides UP in 2021, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh have enacted anti-conversion laws with separate and stricter clauses against change in religion deemed to linked to "love jihad".

In Assam, the BJP-led govt last month moved to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act and Rules of 1935, which permitted underage marriages under specific conditions. CM Sarma mentioned at the BJP meeting that his govt viewed "land jihad" as a serious threat to the state's demography and had already reclaimed encroached areas through a series of eviction campaigns.

He said a span equivalent to the size of Chandigarh had been freed from encroachment by people from a particular community. "Thousands of hectares are still under encroachment."

BJP is committed to protecting every right of the indigenous people of the state, the CM said. "We will have a new law to protect land in historically and culturally

Assam to roll out domicile policy for state govt jobs

Guwahati: Assam will introduce "within the next two months" a domicile policy aimed at making only those born in the state eligible for state govt jobs, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said Sunday. "The state govt has recruited over 97,000 people in a transparent manner since May 2021, creating an ecosystem that builds trust," Sarma said on Sunday. "The list of recruits, when published, will prove how indigenous people have been given priority." BJP's campaign pitch for the 2021 assembly elections included a lakh govt jobs for the state's youth. TNN

important regions like Barpeta, Majuli, and Batabara so that only the people from those places can purchase property there."

Sarma said the delimitation exercise last year was a crucial step towards safeguarding the state's future. "Now, delimitation of panchayats will be done without reducing their number."

On CAA, CM Sarma mentioned that the "limited impact" of the agitation against the law.

Assam to hold first magic festival to revitalise lost traditions of Mayong

Assam prepares to host its first-ever magic-focused tourism festival, get ready to be mesmerised by an egg flying, a torn bamboo being joined or a handful of rice transforming into flattened rice in the blink of an eye. The town of Mayong in Morigaon is all set to host the "Mayong Indrajal Magic Festival", scheduled for Aug 18. As many as 101 magicians of Mayong, including some who have been practising the art for several decades, will participate in the festival and showcase traditional and new-age magic tricks to the visitors, reports **Dhruvajyoti Malakar**. The festival is set to feature a vibrant day-long programme, beginning with a grand cultural procession highlighting Mayong's age-old magical traditions, local arts and unique cultural elements. Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Morigaon DC Devashish Sharma said the festival, which will be held every year, is set to preserve and promote Mayong's heritage and provide a new avenue for tourism. Assam's renowned magician "Jadu Samrat" Bikram will also perform at the festival.

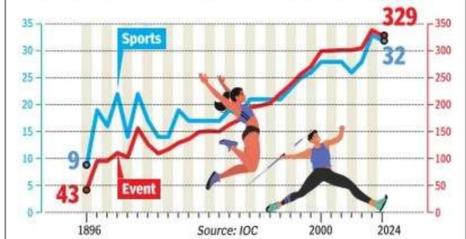
West Bengal minister abuses woman official, quits after furore

Bengal prisons minister Akhil Giri resigned from the state cabinet Sunday amid intense pressure from both within Trinamool Congress and external quarters following his insulting outburst against forest ranger Manisha Shaw, calling her "beyadob" (discourteous) and a "janowar" (beast). Despite stepping down, Giri remained adamant against personally apologising to Shaw, although he maintained he was "repentant" of his remarks. Shaw had angered the minister by disputing local allegations of high-handed behaviour during an anti-encroachment drive on forest land along the Tajpur coastline in Purba Medinipur district. The septuagenarian minister's tirade Saturday included instructing the 36-year-old officer on proper conduct, shouting: "A state employee should talk with his/her heads bowed down." This was not Giri's first brush with controversy. In Nov 2022, he faced backlash for making objectionable comments about President Droupadi Murmu, prompting Mamata Banerjee to apologise on his behalf. The party had also cautioned him against such behaviour. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers **Mudit Gira**

From A Leisurely Sports Carnival To A Fierce Competition

The first modern Olympics held in Athens in 1896 was a largely athletics festival where 43 medal events were held in 10 days. Two hundred-eighty male athletes from 12 countries participated in 9 sports. James Connolly from USA won the triple jump to become the first Olympic champion after 393AD when the last ancient Olympics were held. In Paris-2024, 329 medal events are slated to be held in 17 days, and more than 10,500 athletes are expected to compete



7 killed, 25 hurt in bus-car collision in UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: Seven people died and 25 others were injured in a collision between a Delhi-bound bus and a car on Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Usrah area in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah between Saturday and Sunday.

Three of the deceased were car occupants and four were bus passengers, police said.

The car crossed the divider and crashed into the bus, causing it to overturn and fall into a 50-foot ditch. The car driver may have fallen asleep, SSP Sanjay Kumar Verma.

Bus passenger Ranjana alleged that the bus driver was using his mobile phone throughout the journey despite protests from some passengers.

The injured have been admitted to the trauma centre of Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences in Saifai.

4 of MP family killed, 5 injured in Raj crash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Four members of a Madhya Pradesh family returning home from a relative's funeral in Rishikesh died and five others were injured when their car crashed early Sunday into a truck on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district. Police suspect the driver of the speeding car had dozed off. The crash adds to the list of around 40 accident fatalities on the showpiece highway in the past three months.

The 6:30am collision in Soorwal area was so severe that the car remained stuck under the truck, which continued moving for more than 1km, dragging the vehicle along with it. The truck driver fled the spot, police said.

The car's front portion remained stuck under the truck and a crane had to be brought to extricate it.

The accident was a double whammy for the family returning home to MP's Vikramgarh Alot. One of the women who died, Dhapu Devi (65), had lost her daughter, Bholi Bai (46), only two days ago and the relatives had gone to Rishikesh for her funeral.

37 yrs after cop dream broken, Kerala woman aces rescue role

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Meppadi (Wayanad): Not all broken dreams die; some live to find a way in the most unusual circumstances.

Anganwadi teacher Vijayakumari N.S, who couldn't become a policewoman because her father tore off her selection letter 37 years ago, found inspiration in her unfulfilled dream to work alongside uniformed forces as the lone woman civilian volunteer helping retrieve and transport bodies in the aftermath of Wayanad's disaster.

Vijayakumari, a 57-year-old anganwadi teacher at Muppandal panchayat, was also the first woman volunteer to reach the disaster zone after the twin landslides almost a week ago. Her mission started the moment she woke up to her phone ringing at 4am on July 30. Two landslides in as many hours had left Mundakkal and Chooralmala devastated, the caller said.

Vijayakumari stepped out within minutes, riding her scooter to Chooralmala in blinding rain. She reached the area around 5am, only to find the neighbourhood she knew reduced to heaps of mud and slush.

Vijayakumari immediately offered to join the rescue ef-



Rescuers conduct a search operation in Wayanad on Sunday

Foresters trek hours to rescue tribal family of six from cave in Wayanad

A four-member forest team spent several hours trekking through 8km of rocky terrain to rescue a tribal family of six, including four minor children, from a cave in Attamala area of Wayanad's Chooralmala on Thursday. The team, led by Kalpetta forest range officer K Ashif, had found Santha, a woman belonging to the Paniya community, and her baby wandering in the forest on Tuesday, the day the landslides struck Chooralmala and Mundakkal. When they saw Santha again two days later on Thursday in search of food, they were told that her husband Krishnan and three other children were inside the cave atop a hill facing a gorge. The officers took Santha to a camp. Later, the team ventured in search of her other family members amid downpour. Armed with a rope, courage and risking their lives, the foresters made their way through treacherous terrain dotted with rocks left slippery due to heavy rain. TNN

fort, telling officials that she was a trained civil defence volunteer. By 8pm, she had helped retrieve 17 bodies.

"It was an unsettling sight, but one that I couldn't turn my back on," she told TOI.

Over the next two days, Vijayakumari worked tire-

lessly in the temporary morgue set up at Meppadi to keep bodies and body parts brought from Nilambur. "I had to constantly keep my emotions in check. I thought my presence would help the women who came to identify their loved ones," she said.

ED: Accused tampered with evidence to dilute case against them

Continued from page 1

The accused through the then advocate general were in touch with the judge of Chhattisgarh HC who had granted anticipatory bail to Shukla on October 16, 2019. Tuteja was in touch with the judge through AG Satish Chandra Sharma as is evident from WhatsApp messages of July 31 and Aug 11 of 2019," ED said.

"WhatsApp messages exchange has revealed that bio-data of the daughter and son-in-law of the judge were sent to Tuteja for favourable action by then advocate general who has been liaising between the judge and both the prime accused Tuteja and Shukla," it added.

The agency claimed that the two accused, powerful bureaucrats in the earlier Bhubaneswar-led Congress govt, were tampering with evidence to dilute the case against them.

"Tuteja and Shukla were (also) in touch with the judge's brother (Ajay Singh) re-

garding the matter of anticipatory bail of accused Shukla, which was pending before the bench of the judge. As soon as both accused were granted bail on Oct 16, 2019, the judge's brother was removed from the post of chief secretary and appointed as vice-chairman, Planning Commission, on Nov 1, 2019," ED said. "The accused persons were involved in sharing and modification of the draft statement of co-accused Shiv Shankar Bhatt to dilute the role of other prime accused in the scheduled offence," it added.

"Analysis of WhatsApp chat of Oct 4 to Oct 16 of 2019 between Tuteja, Shukla and then advocate general reveal the role of the brother of the judge and the then ADG Economic Offences Wing-Anti-Corruption Bureau, Raipur, who was in charge of defending the scheduled offence, in diluting the case against both the accused in order to acquit both the accused from the charges of corruption," the ED said.

Med student held in paper leak case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna/Bhilwara/Jaipur: A medical student from Rajasthan was arrested by CBI in Patna on Saturday in connection with the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak case. He is the eighth MBBS student to be nabbed so far.

Sandeep Kumar Bishnoi, a first year MBBS student of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia (RVRS) Medical College in Bhilwara, was called to Patna by the Central agency for questioning. During the course of questioning, Bishnoi allegedly confessed to his involvement in solving the NEET-UG question paper.

Following this, he was formally arrested and produced at a special court in Patna. The court granted five-day custody to the agency. According to CBI sources, Sandeep was part of a solver gang and, along with other medical students, had solved the NEET-UG question paper at Hazaribag in Jharkhand ahead of the May 5 exam conducted by the NTA.

Teen deletes memories after landslide wipes out entire family

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Kozhikode: In a different time, 18-year-old hotel management student Abhijith Kallangal would have gone for a long, leisurely stroll in his village of Panchirimattom to capture its lush green hills and waterfalls with his mobile phone, as he did almost every day. But this is now. Sitting in a relief camp in Meppadi's govt high school this weekend, he was deleting these cherished photos, unable to bear the memories they evoked.

Abhijith's life was shattered when a landslide early Tuesday flattened his village and claimed the lives of his entire family, eight in all—including his parents, siblings, grandmother, uncle, aunt, cousin, and four close neighbours who had sought refuge in his home as it rained non-stop for two days in these parts of Kerala's Wayanad.

The teenager survived only because he was away in Thiruvananthapuram for his studies. His once safe and beautiful village, often photographed and shared with friends, became the site of an unimaginable tragedy.

Abhijith's home, perceived as safe due to its elevated location, was completely destroyed. All its 12 occupants at

Neethu's body retrieved from Soochimala

Continued from page 1

She called me up around 1.30 am. She told me that there was a massive landslide in her area, and the area was being inundated. She asked me to send a vehicle to rescue them," Shanavas Palliyal, deputy general manager at WIMS, told TOI.

"It is around 40-45 minutes' drive from our hospital. So, I asked her to wait for some time. Then, I called the police station in Meppadi but the line was busy. Then I tried the number at Kalpetta station, but the cops there were unaware of the landslide. Then I dialled 100 and got to the control room at Thiruvananthapuram and shared the news," Palliyal said. An ambulance was rushed to Neethu's house. But the bridge beyond Chooralmala town was blocked by an uprooted tree and the ambulance was stalled. By the time a smaller ambulance -- an Omni van -- was found and sent to the place, it was too late. Inside Neethu's house, the situation was dire with the water rising by the minute. She urged her husband Jojo to take their five-year-old son and her parents to leave the place and seek higher ground. "The river started to widen and change its course in the area where her house was located. She along with others was washed away," he said. Neethu's body was retrieved from Soochimala waterfalls and her husband and colleagues identified her.

the time perished. He had spoken to his family at 4pm Sunday; they were cheerful, believing they were safe. The bodies of his father, sister, uncle, and aunt were found in the rubble, but his mother, brother, grandmother, and cousin remain missing. Adding to his grief, Abhijith lost an aunt who was visiting relatives in Chooralmala—the site of another devastating landslide.

Abhijith is left alone, accompanied only by his cousin Pranav, the sole survivor from

his uncle Narayanan's family. Amidst his trauma, Abhijith left the relief camp to perform the last rites of his father and sister at the Mariyamam temple funeral grounds.

"Our village was so beautiful. I had taken so many images. The Seethamakkundu, the green hills, the mist, the small waterfalls... I have deleted most of them. What is the use of keeping them when everything is lost?" he said. The pictures were erased, but the scars remained.

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Proposed bill seeks to make women waqf board members

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The proposed amendments to the Waqf Act will include, judicial scrutiny to determine whether a property is a Waqf asset and mandatory provision of registration of properties with district collectors for their actual valuation. Another major proposed change will to broad-base the composition of the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards in states by mandating inclusion of two women as members in each of these entities, sources said on Sunday.

Govt is also considering giving a new name to the law akin to the meaning of "hope", sources said. There are 30 Waqf Boards in the country looking after properties spanning more than eight lakh acres, which make them the third largest owner of real estate after the



There are 30 waqf boards in the country looking after properties spanning more than eight lakh acres, which make them the third largest owner of real estate after the ministries of railways and defence

ministries of railways and defence. As per the 40 amendments that were cleared by Cabinet on Friday evening, the entire mechanism for collection of revenue from commercial use of Waqf properties and expenditure will be made online, which will bring transparency and benefit the "poor, children and women", who hardly get any benefit, sources said. All in-

come from Waqf properties are meant to be spent for charity.

Rejecting allegations from some sections that gov't is trying to take over Waqf properties by bringing changes in the law, sources said the proposed amendments will rather ensure the deprived sections get the maximum benefit as there will be proper use of Waqf assets for welfare of poor Muslims. They

also said while assets will remain with Waqf Boards, these will be registered properly and there will be proper audits of these entities, stressing that the amendment to allow judicial scrutiny of Waqf Boards' decisions, are based on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and K Rahman Khan-led joint parliamentary panel.

Govt will establish a framework on how Waqf properties should be used so that revenue earned from them are spent for welfare of only poor Muslims.

"Despite the Waqf Boards having more than 8.7 lakh immovable properties, the total revenue is barely Rs 200 crore. These boards are also controlled by only around 200 people. So the need was felt after getting representations from Muslim women and intellectuals to bring the amendments," said a source.

Need For Soft Infrastructure

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



Manoj Kathuria is in jail and has been denied bail. His fault? While navigating knee-deep water in his SUV, he unwittingly pushed water into the basement, where three students who were trapped died. There is no possible way he could have known that the simple act of driving on waterlogged streets would result in such a tragedy; it is strange that he is being held responsible.

The problem is, what is at work is a patented way of defusing crises whenever the system is challenged. Take immediate and visible action, find a scapegoat, however improbable, and shield those who are truly responsible till the controversy dies down. Go back to life as usual.

And as it happens, in the last few weeks, we have seen a procession of things going wrong. The new Parliament building leaking. Parts of airports caving in or flooding. Train accidents galore. Bridges collapsing. Cities drowning. Exam papers leaking. Questions are being asked of the governments in power, as they should be. But there is a deeper malaise that we don't really discuss—one that implicates all governments, whatever their political hue.

We are deeply involved with the question of infrastructure. It is an area that has received attention from successive governments, both at the central and state levels. We applaud the building of new highways, the overhauling of airports, the construction of flyovers and underpasses, and the refurbishment of railway stations as signs of our development, and indeed they are.

What is rarely discussed is the reason why all these infrastructural advances don't quite translate into a sustained sense of well-being. There is a reason why bridges are so prone to collapsing, why new roads disappear at the drop of rain, why young kids drown in a basement because of flooding and why rich people keep driving over innocent bystanders with impunity.

What we lack is attention towards soft infrastructure—the protocols of administration, regulations, healthcare, education and financial services, as well as judicial and police action. Beyond a point, the difference between developed countries and others does not lie in hard infrastructure but in all that supports this infrastructure and keeps it going.

None of our institutions work in the manner intended. The process for choosing the best partner is deeply suspect. A favoured party wins the contract by putting in a low bid, which is subsequently revised. The quality of construction is abysmal. The average life of a highway internationally is supposed to be 28.2 years; I don't know the corresponding number in India, but we have all seen pictures of potholes in the roads of our major metropolises. And as one travels

to smaller towns, roads are spray-painted on rather than built, and every monsoon means a fresh refurbishment of the roads designed to last no more than a few months. The same goes as far as maintenance is concerned. And the less said about accountability, the better.

Corruption has infiltrated every possible aspect of our lives. Every rule can be broken or bypassed, and every safeguard can be ignored. Any major accident brings forth a flurry of action designed to quell controversy, but only in the immediate vicinity of the problem and for a limited period. Corruption is not only monetary but also exists under the guise of influence. No action can be taken against someone who is rich or important (or has been important once).

Corruption is not only a moral problem or an issue of some people making money illegally; it works to dismantle the entire logic on which the idea of administration rests. For things to work, individuals playing an official role need

to work in a manner divorced from any personal interest. An auditor needs to audit, a fire safety inspector needs to pull up those who are violating guidelines, a purchase officer chooses the best option in an impartial way, and so on. In a corrupt system, none of this happens; every step is compromised, tainted by some personal interest or another.

Until we recognise that our administrative structure is essentially defunct and needs a drastic overhaul, nothing in India will work like it is meant to. No government has shown an interest in this, and it is admittedly a mammoth task. The problem is not that governments don't understand the need for doing this, but that they have developed a vested interest in keeping things the way they are.

Control over institutions is desired; elections must be funded; and local politicians must be appeased by giving them money-making opportunities. It is not as if things cannot work in India. UPI is a great example. It helps that there is no need for human intervention or adjudication here. Our airports too are, on the whole, success stories. They can compete with airports anywhere in the world, and the immigration experience is far superior to that of most developed countries. Even here, some of the problems outlined earlier do exist, but by and large, things work. The reason for that is that here the intention is clear and has, for the most part, been translated into action.

It is customary to blame people for a lot of this mess. We complain about the lack of a civic sense and a 'chalta hai' attitude in our public behaviour. There is truth in this, but it is also a consequence of living in a system that doesn't work. One must look out for oneself because following the rules will only mean that one will be left behind. Which is why the same people who migrate overseas have no trouble following the rules.

Development is not about the height of our skyscrapers or the speed of our trains. It lies in making life predictable and comfortable, in knowing that things will work and then that when they don't, they will get fixed on their own.

santosh365@gmail.com

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

PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 20/2024-25
Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- I. Phase-XI in Kolhapur District Talukas- Radhanagar Estimated cost of Rs. 137.30 Lakhs for Total 1 Package, 1 (Remaining Conts.Majour Bridge) Work Tender is Published on the website <https://pmgsytenders.gov.in> dated 05/08/2024 from 11.00 am.

Sd/- [Sanjay B.Katkar] Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Kolhapur
Sd/- [Maithili Zanjurne] Superintending Engineer PMGSY, Pune Region Pune

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

PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 21/2024-25
Under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- 1. in Kolhapur District Talukas-Panhia Estimated cost of Rs. 179.50 Lakhs for Total 1 Package, 1 Work Tender is Published on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> dated 05/08/2024 from 11.00 am.

Sd/- [Sanjay B.Katkar] Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Kolhapur
Sd/- [Maithili Zanjurne] Superintending Engineer PMGSY, Pune Region Pune
DGPR 2024-25/1520

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL AT BENGALURU

O.S. 1539/2008
Between: Bashir Ahmed and Ors. Plaintiffs
AND: Mr. Abu Sab and Ors. Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 2 TO 6 UNDER ORDER IV RULE 20 (1A) OF CPC

1. Mr. Ajeed, Aged about 63 years, S/o Abu Sab
2. Mr. Waahid, Aged about 61 years, S/o Abu Sab
3. Mr. Wahid, Aged about 63 years, S/o Abu Sab
4. Mr. B.E. Tukaram, Aged about 81 years, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru-51
5. Mr. Smt. Nagamma, Aged about 46 years, W/o Tangaraju, Riaz Vadamangar, II Main Road, Subramanya Road, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore South Dist-061
6. Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit against you and others for partition and such other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through a pleader on the 21st day of August 2024 at 11.00 am to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 02/8/2024

Sd/- [Sanjay B.Katkar] Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Kolhapur
Sd/- [Maithili Zanjurne] Superintending Engineer PMGSY, Pune Region Pune

Advocate for Plaintiffs UDAYA PRAKASH MULIYA, 937, B-Wing, 5th Floor, Mittal Towers, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001 Ph. No. 9448128741

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ("Client") is desirous of entering into certain transaction in connection with the property being office space in the second floor of the building known as "Purva Gainz", more fully described in the "Schedule" hereto and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" with: (i) Mrs. Shaareefa Atiya ("Owners"). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is/are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claims, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice, if no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been conclusively waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)
All that piece and parcel of property being Office Space measuring 29,756.50 square feet of super built up area on the Second Floor in the building known as "Purva Gainz" together with proportionate undivided share in the land and proportionate undivided share in all the common areas in the project constructed on the converted land being portion of Survey No. 9, measuring 74,836.96 square feet, situated at Beretela Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, and bounded on the:

East by: Property bearing No. 10;
West by: Howrah Road (NH7);
North by: Remaining portion of Survey No. 9; and
South by: 22 feet car road.

Date: 05/08/2024
Place: Bengaluru

M. Brijita Prakash
Partner
J. Sagar Associates
Level 3, Prestige Oberkiss
3, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Ph. 080-4350 3600/080-4350 3676
Email - brijita.prakash@jlsalaw.com

IDBI BANK LIMITED

Regd. Off. IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400005
Tender for Procurement of CCTV, FAS, SAS and ACS on rental basis for Bank's PAN India Branches

Tender applications are invited for Supply and Installation of CCTV, Security Alarm System (SAS), Fire Alarm System (FAS) and Access Control System (ACS) on rental basis for Bank's PAN India Branches. For details please visit Bank's website www.idbi.bank.in or contact on 022-66553371/66194339. The last date for submission of application is 27 August, 2024 at 3.00 PM. Any further Clarifications in respect of the above shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers.

Sd/- [Sanjay B.Katkar] Executive Engineer PMGSY, MRRDA, Kolhapur
Sd/- [Maithili Zanjurne] Superintending Engineer PMGSY, Pune Region Pune

Advocate for Plaintiffs UDAYA PRAKASH MULIYA, 937, B-Wing, 5th Floor, Mittal Towers, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001 Ph. No. 9448128741

National Dairy Development Board
PB No. 40, Anand, Gujarat-388001, Tel: 02692-260 148/149/160 Fax: 02692-260 159
Website: <http://www.nddb.coop>, Email: purchase@nddb.coop

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)
Bids are invited on behalf of Service Recipients/ NDBB from eligible bidders for the works listed below:

Schedule of Bids

Sl. No. **Description of works / Bid Reference** **Est. Cost (₹) incl GST/ Duration** **Event Start/ Close Date** **Bid submission / opening date & time**

A Civil, Structural, Water Supply, Sanitary & Other Misc. works including Internal Electrification works for:

I 1.5 LLPD Automated Dairy Plant at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/39/24-25/ET/39 (CIVIL-KANGRA) 5400 Lakh/ 15 Months 05.08.24/ 27.08.24 27.08.24 15.00 hrs.

II Rinipet, Tamil Nadu NDBB/HO/Purchase/45/24-25/ET/45 (REFRI-KANGRA) 670 Lakh/ 12 Months 10.08.24/ 02.09.24 02.09.24 15.30 hrs.

III Centre of Excellence-Banas Bovine Breeding & Research Centre (CoE-BBBRC) & Breed Multiplication Farm (BMF) at Bhildi, Banaskantha, Gujarat NDBB/HO/Purchase/41/24-25/ET/41 (CIVIL-BHILDI) 10200 Lakh/ 12 Months 12.08.24/ 02.09.24 02.09.24 15.30 hrs.

IV Strengthening of Semen Station at Purma, Bihar NDBB/HO/Purchase/42/24-25/ET/42 (CIVIL-PURNA) 467 Lakh/ 09 Months 12.08.24/ 02.09.24 02.09.24 15.30 hrs.

V Vaccine Manufacturing Facility for Anthrax & Enterotoxaemia at OBPI Berhampur NDBB/HO/Purchase/43/24-25/ET/43 (CIVIL-BERHAMPUR) 830 Lakh/ 12 Months 06.08.24/ 27.08.24 27.08.24 15.30 hrs.

B Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning the following:

I 1.5 LLPD Automated Dairy Plant at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/44/24-25/ET/44 (LMP-KANGRA) 6200 Lakh/ 12 Months 05.08.24/ 27.08.24 27.08.24 15.30 hrs.

II Ammonia based Refrigeration Plant including PV insulation works for Cold stores at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/45/24-25/ET/45 (REFRI-KANGRA) 980 Lakh/ 12 Months 07.08.24/ 28.08.24 28.08.24 15.30 hrs.

III 2 X 4 TPH Solid fuel fired Boiler at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/46/24-25/ET/46 (BOILER-KANGRA) 310 Lakh/ 10 Months 06.08.24/ 27.08.24 27.08.24 15.30 hrs.

IV 11KV/433 V Electrical Substation with DG set at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/47/24-25/ET/47 (SUBS.-KANGRA) 380 Lakh/ 10 Months 07.08.24/ 28.08.24 28.08.24 15.30 hrs.

V Fire hydrant system at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/48/24-25/ET/48 (FIRE-KANGRA) 110 Lakh/ 10 Months 08.08.24/ 29.08.24 29.08.24 15.00 hrs.

VI Effluent treatment plant at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDBB/HO/Purchase/49/24-25/ET/49 (ETP-KANGRA) 600 Lakh/ 12 Months 08.08.24/ 29.08.24 29.08.24 15.30 hrs.

VII 20 KLPH RO Plant with other accessories at Barauni Dairy Bihar NDBB/HO/Purchase/50/24-25/ET/50 (WTP - Barauni) 118 Lakh/ 6 Months 07.08.24/ 28.08.24 28.08.24 15.30 hrs.

VIII Providing & carrying out Facility Management Services at NDBB, Anand. NDBB/HO/Purchase/51/24-25/ET/51 (FMS - Anand) 125 Lakh/ 12 Months 09.08.24/ 30.08.24 30.08.24 15.30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit these websites: www.nddb.coop, and www.mstccommerce.com or eproc@nddb.coop for any clarification please contact Group Head (Purchase), NDBB, Anand-388001

NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH/Procurement/24/48 Dated: 01/08/2024, PCMM/CLW/HW on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tenders is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective bidders are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.: Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [259]; [4242585A]; 1. Catenary Voltmeter To CW Spec. No. Per Wires: 3/0070; 2. Voltmeter Battery To CW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0073; [Quantity Tolerance (+/-) 5%]; Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs); As Per Tender/Document; 21/08/2024; ₹ 0.00; [260]; [25245119]; Hydraulic Base Scissor Type Lifting Trolley; As Per Tender/Document; 21/08/2024; ₹ 0.00; [261]; [25245113]; (i) Poly Belt - 7M X 965; (ii) Flat Belt - 1970 x 40 mm Width x 15 mm Thickness; (iii) V-Belt No. SPA-1320; (iv) Timing Belt No. L-450 x 25 mm; (v) V-Belt No. A-52; (vi) Poly Belt #Size: 7M x 900; (vii) Poly Belt #Size: 7M x 1250; (viii) Poly Belt #Size: 7M x 1220; (ix) Ribbed Poly V-Belt, Type: MBL-RIBSTAR No.320-J-60; (x) V-Belt No. SPZ-787; (xi) V-Belt No. SPA-2000; (xii) V-Belt/Poly Belt No. SPB-2240; (xiii) Ribbed Poly V-Belt No.10 PL 1422; (xiv) B-Type Laminated Belt, SAC Code: 995473, Make/Brand: Fenner/Flexer/gates/Goodyear or equal required for maintenance of the loco; As Per Tender/Document; 23/08/2024; ₹ 0.00; [262]; [25245115]; Olivine Sand As Per IS:7297 Latest Revision, Grades-40. As Per Tender/Document; 20/08/2024; ₹ 0.00. PR2/562 PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwraiyaw

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com

No: SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/INS/01/2024-25 Dated: 03-08-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed e-Tenders are invited by interested eligible firms in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for Supply of Instruments for Cardiology Department of Charaka Super Speciality Hospital attached to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru. Tenders may be submitted after viewing details regarding tender form, EMD and Terms & Conditions etc. at Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> & DD for Rs. 2,000/- towards tender processing fee (Non-refundable) shall be submitted in favour of The Director Cum Dean, SABVMCRI, Bengaluru and acknowledgment thereof shall be enclosed along with e-Tender. Interested tenderers should register in e-Procurement Portal. Details required for registration may be viewed at website. For further details please contact e-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com and Phone No: +91 8431186388.

1) Date of Downloading Tender Documents is from 05-08-2024. 2) Last Date for Online Queries: 08-08-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 3) Last Date and Time for Uploading of Tenders: 14-08-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Tenders (Single Cover): 17-08-2024 at 10.30 AM.

In case, if any further details are required in this regard, please contact the Director Cum Dean / Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPRI/CP/1261/Advt/2024-25

9 kids killed as shaky wall near MP temple falls due to showers

Bhopal: Nine children, aged 10 to 14 years, were crushed to death and four others critically injured at a temple when the crumbling wall of an adjacent house weakened by incessant rain collapsed on them in Shahpur town of MP's Sagar district on Sunday. The kids were making earthen Shivalings when the 50-year-old wall gave way.

This is the second such tragedy in the state in two days. Four children, aged 5 to 7 years, had died in a wall collapse after leaving their school in Rewa district on Saturday. The common link in both instances was that the dilapidated walls had been left unattended like a ticking time bomb. CM Mohan Yadav suspended the chief municipal officer and a sub-engineer of Shahpur over Sunday's accident.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

VELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MMS/2024-25/20 Dated: 02.08.2024

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works).

Tender No. RWF/M/OT/MMS/2024-25/34 dtd. 02.08.2024

Name of the work: Replacement of Pivot Pin Bracket and 600mm dia pipe.

Estimated Cost: ₹ 8,48,746.00
EMD: ₹ 17,000.00

Completion period: 12 Months

Closing Date & Time for Tenders: 24.08.2024 at 10.30 Hrs.

This tender notice can be viewed on this website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer-WII

Deve Gowda gets emotional at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister and JD (S) supreme HD Deve Gowda visited the Prime Ministers' Museum in New Delhi on Saturday. Expressing great satisfaction with the efforts put in by Prime Minister Narendra Modi behind the museum, Deve Gowda also became emotional while remembering the past moments.

Reacting to his visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X, "It's so heartening to see our former PM and respected statesman H D Deve Gowda Ji visiting PM Sangrahalaya (museum) where he himself is prominently featured." The museum officials welcomed the former Prime Minister and provided information about the PM Sangrahalaya. The museum showcases the



Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda rides a Metro train, in New Delhi, on Sunday

achievements of all the Prime Ministers of India, and Deve Gowda was pleased to see his contributions and legacy displayed at the

Sangrahalaya. Deve Gowda wrote on X, "I visited the PM's Museum at PM Sangrahalaya in New Delhi. It was an overwhelming and humbling experience. I congratulate PM Narendra Modi for conceiving this project, which recognises the contributions and diverse backgrounds of all our PMs."

"I am also grateful to Nripendra Misra, who gave me a warm welcome at the museum. He has with great dedication implemented the vision of the PMO. I am very thankful to A Surya Prakash for showing the museum to me with great patience," Deve Gowda added. The veteran politician also said that he shared his emotional experience in the PM Sangrahalaya's visitors' book.

business

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real estate

BANGALORE

SARIJAPUR ROAD

FULLY Furnished 1846 Sqft super built for rent. Ideal for offices, IT Co's, 3rd floor, Sarjapur Main Road, Near Bellandur Police Station. 9601517148 / 9878118855

UTTARAHALLI

LUXURIOUS 3 BHK Flat for sale in Uttarahalli, A Kaha, 1782 sqft, Lake View, 3 Balconies, Amenities, North facing, Semi-furnished, Contact 9980029179

VARTHUR

SALE: 3210 Sft Commercial Site for Sale, Near Varthur, WEST Facing, B' Khatra, in BEMEP Limit. Contact - 9353532940

WHITEFIELD

RENT: Prestige Shantiniketan opp - Prime Commercial 4500 Sft-15000 Sft in 3rd, 4th & 5th floors avail for rent on IPTL main Rd. Suitable for Restaurants, Co Working, Offices etc. # 9353532040

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

BSK 6th STG, 4th B BLK FURTHER EXTN BDA SITE FOR SALE 60/40 E/F, prtm1899@gmail.com BROKERS EXCISE.

tender & notices

TENDERS

NOTICE FOR TENDER INVITE FOR SOLAR POWER PLANT PROJECT UNDER RESCO MODE

La Martiniere Girls' College invites tenders from interested solar companies / developers for setting up of 215kWp Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV Power Plant, with net metering facility under RESCO mode. The details of the Tender will be available from Tuesday, 6th August, 2024 at 12:00 noon to Wednesday, 21st August, 2024 till 5:00 p.m. on LMGC website: <https://laminieregirlscollege.com>

jobs

SITUATION VAC

Whatever the result of trial, investors would get their money returned: Court

Continued from page 1

PM Modi had pledged during this year's LS poll campaign he would explore legal options to compensate victims of financial crimes. Modi had said that upon being re-elected, he would find ways for restituting victims of frauds by distributing among them the assets of the accused which remain with ED during pendency of the case; often, a long-drawn out process spanning many years which compounds the woes of the duped.

The Kolkata court and the ED have found a way out in Section 8(8) of the PMLA under which attached assets confiscated by ED can be restored to "a claimant with a legitimate interest in the property, who may have suffered a quantifiable loss as a result of the offence of mon-

ey laundering". ED has to prepare panchama for such transfer of attached property which may be used as evidence during trial, according to the law.

Although there is no clarity on the amendments govt is planning to bring to help victims, given the PM's focus during the campaign, ED is all set to use the Kolkata court order as a precedent.

The restitution in the Rose Valley case is based on an earlier direction from Calcutta High Court where it had constituted the ADC headed by Justice Dilip Kumar Seth, former judge of Calcutta HC, to sell the assets of the accused company situated in West Bengal in public auction and the sale proceeds to be deposited in a separate account

to be opened by the committee. Significantly, the special court, while passing the landmark order, also factored in the possibility of acquittal of the accused, a prospect which is a deterrent for govt's plan to compensate the duped.

"I have also taken into account the eventuality, that is to say, suppose the accused are acquitted after trial, and then what will be the effect of such restoration order? The answer is, whatever is the result of the trial, the investors would get their money returned," the special court judge said. The court order further justified the restitution and said, "It is appropriate and rational that the money should be utilised in returning the bankrupt investors/depositors instead of keeping it idle as NPA for a prolonged period because the trial in money laundering takes time."

Delhi HC orders removal of videos about 'centipede' in Amul ice cream

Vadodara: Delhi high court has directed a Noida resident and some social media platforms to remove defamatory videos on Amul products. This followed a post by a resident, Deepa Devi, in June claiming she had found a centipede in an Amul vanilla tub purchased from Blinkit, sparking an internet furore.

A bench of Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora passed the order after lawyers for Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (AmulFed) — the makers of Amul products and brand — told that Noida's Deepa had failed to appear before the court despite several notices.

Jayen Mehta, managing director of GCMF, called it

a "milestone" verdict. "This has established that a consumer has no right to recover money by illegal and defamatory posts misusing social media," said Mehta.

In an interim order last month, HC had directed the Noida resident to take down her posts. Now, the court has issued another order, stating that the defamatory content should be removed from all social media platforms.

The high court had ordered that if the video and the post, or parts of them, are found uploaded, they shall all have to be deleted. The court observed that the URLs of the posts had already been provided to the counsels for X, YouTube, Meta and other platforms. TNN

Kerala MLA's son killed in road accident

Thiruvananthapuram: The son of MLA OS Ambika, who represents Attingal in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, was killed in a collision between his bike and a car at Pallipuram early Sunday. He was 35. Vineeth died on the spot. His friend, Akshay (25), who was on the bike with him, has sustained severe injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital. Police said the car driver missed a deviation sign and went straight through a one-way road. Both could not apply brakes on time when they spotted each other abruptly.

A case has been registered under BNS sections 106 (1) (causing death by negligence), 125 (act that endangers human life), and 281 (rash driving). The car driver was arrested and later released on bail. Vineeth and Akshay were close friends. Vineeth was an employee of Edacode Cooperative Service Society. TNN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SCHOOL GAMES FEDERATION OF INDIA
18 Park Road, Lucknow, UP, 226001
CEO Required
School Games Federation of India invites applications from experienced and qualified candidates by 26.08.2024. For other details and to apply visit website: <https://www.sgfiorg.in>
President
School Games Federation of India

GMDC
TENDER NOTICE
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mechanized Mining, Crushing, Screening, Sorting, Grading and Stacking of Various Grade of Baruxite through Mining Contractor at Gadhsisa Group of Mines, Gadhsisa, District-Kutch (Gujarat) in Two Packages
E-Tender No.: GMDC/Tech-II/BX/GS/01/2024-25
GMDC invites proposals for captioned activity. Interested parties can download the RFP document from GMDC website (<http://www.gmdcltd.com>) from 05/08/2024 to 07/09/2024 and submit their proposals on nprocure website - <https://gmdc.nprocure.com> by 14:00 Hrs. Dt.: 09/09/2024.
Sr. General Manager (Tech.)
GMDC
Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
Deemed To Be University
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Phone No 0141-2635816, 2635709
File No. F1/2022/NIADU/PhD Ent-22-23 Date 02/08/2024
NOTIFICATION
Applications for PhD (Ayurveda) Programmes for Academic Session 2024-25
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A. Written Entrance Examination for admission in NIA Regular PhD Programmes in 02 Departments (Ayurveda Samhita evum Siddhant and Kayachikitsa for Joint PhD degree programme and Single center) for the academic session 2024-25.
B. Interview of UGC-NET/JRF/SLET/AYUSH-NET/CSIR-NET Qualified candidates.
The brochure containing details of entrance test along with link of application form is available on Institute website www.nia.nic.in.
Eligible candidates can submit the application form with supporting documents and prescribed fees to NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA on the link provided on Institute website www.nia.nic.in.
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Education TIMES

'No NEET' comes roaring demand from states even as NMC defends it

Amid the NEET fiasco there is growing resentment over the entrance exam which is claimed to be impacting the less-resourced students in remote areas

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

The aftermath of the NEET UG paper leaks and postponement of the NEET PG, has increased the demand from states to cancel NEET UG, replacing it with state-level selection processes. States such as Tamil Nadu (TN), Karnataka, and West Bengal have passed resolutions against the NEET in their respective state assemblies and have suggested reinstating the state-level selection exam/processes for medical colleges. The NMC, however, says it is important to have a standardised exam that allows students to take a medical seat anywhere in the country, and the states must improve education delivery to ensure that their students remain competitive.

Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, too, defended NEET in the Rajya Sabha, as she suggested ensuring cost-effective medical education. "Certainly, it has hurt some vested interests, particularly those in the medical education field, because selling medical seats is no longer possible. Therefore, it has hurt a lot of people. That is why a particular lobby was actively against NEET even before the leak issue arose," said Sitharaman, pointing out that the NEET was notified in December 2010. It was led by the then DMK Minister Gandhi Selvan, who served as MoS for Health and Family Welfare as part of the Congress-led UPA II Government. In 2012, the UPA 2.0 introduced NEET (UG) for medical admissions. And in 2013, the first exam took place.

"A standardised exam has re-

duced corruption and increased options for students. It will be difficult for students to appear for exams in different states. Any student from across the country can take the exam through NEET, and upon clearing, he/she will be eligible to take a seat anywhere. At an individual level, it will be difficult for students to take the exam in different states. It will also be difficult to compare the marks obtained in exams conducted in different states; the Supreme Court (SC) has supported it. In NEET PG, according to the statistics released by the NTA, the second largest student group was from Tamil Nadu, and NEET UG also has a substantial number of students

The states' demand for the cancellation of the NEET has two aspects, merit and social justice

from TN," says Dr B Srinivas, secretary, NMC.

He adds that this year's paper was simpler, as questions from the state board were also included. "The question paper should discriminate between good students, average students, and bad students. Instead of cancelling NEET, it's important for the states to raise the school education level," says Dr Srinivas.

The states' demand for the can-

Eroding trust

"The state government can start low-cost coaching centres. Additionally, the NTA should transparently conduct the NEET exam. Postponing exams/paper leaks erode students' trust in the centralised exam system," says Dr Vinayaka, who is pursuing MD in Tamil Nadu.

cellation of the NEET has two aspects – merit, and social justice. "There is a perception that people from lower socioeconomic strata are deprived of success in NEET. That is why the TN government allocated a 7.5% seat quota to government school students," says Dr KM Abul Hasan, chairman, IMA Junior Doctors Network.

In 2020-21, the Tamil Nadu government set aside 7.5% of MBBS/BDS seats from its quota exclusively for students who have passed out of government schools.

"TN wants to revert to the old system of selecting students for medical colleges on the basis of class XII marks. The state government feels that there is no level playing field. People have to be coached well to crack the exam. That kind of coaching may not be accessible across the state," says Dr Hasan.

Before the NEET PG/UG exam, there were state-based local examinations.

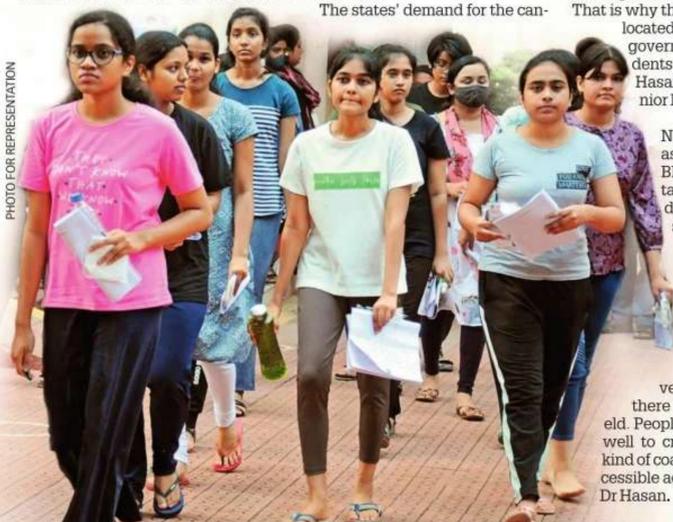
Potential benefits

Several doctors in states such as West Bengal and Karnataka claim that abolishing NEET could benefit students from less privileged socio-economic backgrounds.

"NEET preparation often requires expensive coaching classes, study materials, and mock tests. By eliminating NEET, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds would be relieved of this financial burden. State-level exams would allow students to compete on a more level playing field. NEET, being a national exam, can disadvantage students who lack access to quality education or face language barriers," says Dr Partha Pratim Mandal, RMO, Anaesthesiology department, Calcutta Medical College.

"A Common Entrance Test (CET) designed around their curriculum might reduce exam stress and better align with their learning. Additionally, this change could improve opportunities for local students by enhancing reservation policies for Karnataka residents in undergraduate medical programmes. However, this transition might come with challenges, such as adapting to a new exam format and ensuring the new system maintains high educational standards. The success of this shift will largely depend on how effectively the state manages the implementation and addresses any emerging issues," says Dr Somashekhar, chairman, medical advisory board, Aster DM Healthcare - GCC & India.

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION



Well-defined BS syllabus led to highest number of perfect scorers in CUET UG

While Business Studies had 8,024 students scoring full marks, English had a relatively modest run



Rajlakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

BS is followed by Political Science with 5,141 top scorers, and History with 2,520

Out of the over 22,000 students who secured perfect scores across 45 subjects in CUET UG 2024, the highest number of perfect scorers was in Business Studies (BS) with 8,024 students getting full marks in the subject. Owing to delays due to alleged irregularities and paper leaks in competitive exams such as NEET UG and UGC NET, the National Testing Agency (NTA) did not release the stream-wise toppers list this year. However, the exam-conducting body has provided subject-wise numbers of perfect scorers in which Business Studies tops the list, followed by Political Science with 5,141 top scorers, History with 2,520, English with 1,683, and Psychology with 1,602. Last year, as per the subject-specific CUET topper list, English had the highest number with 5,685 students who obtained the 100-percentage score. The second group included Biology, Biological Studies, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry, where candidates obtained perfect scores.

Experts attribute the top spot clinched by Business Studies to its streamlined syllabus, wide plethora of resource materials both online and offline, and the MCO test format which makes arriving at the correct answer with the right level of preparation much easier.

Binary answers

Speaking to *Education Times*, Harish Kumar, faculty, Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Delhi University, says, "In Business Studies, the syllabus is very well-defined and there is no scope for ambiguity, hence, students either know the answers to the questions or they don't know. But when it comes to answering questions for a poem with its metaphors or similes in English, it may not be that simple to evaluate an answer. There could also be a lot of binary answers in business studies (where the response format is in terms of 'yes' or 'no', 'true' or 'false'), but that cannot always be said of English or many other subjects. In Business Studies, the questions are more straightforward, so it becomes easier to attempt them and hit upon the right answer."

However, despite the high scores in Business Studies, it is

just one subject that will be considered in the BCom (Hons) admission process. Consequently, a perfect score in Business Studies will benefit only a fraction of the students and does not necessarily ensure admission to the desired college. To apply for BCom (Hons) in DU, for instance, students' best of four subjects are selected, in which at least one language from around 33 languages for which the NTA conducts the exam is considered, apart from Mathematics/Accountancy which is compulsory, along with any two subjects such as Management, Business Studies, Anthropology, Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Psychology etc from a list of 18 subjects. "Since Business Studies is not a compulsory subject to be considered for admission in BCom (Hons), hence, student with a perfect score in the subject have as good a chance of getting admission as another student who could have got a perfect score in Biology, for instance," says Haneet Gandhi, dean (Admissions), DU.

Underlying differences

Defining the key differences, Bhupendra Bahadur Tiwari, professor and director, School of Economics and Commerce (SOEC), CMR University, Bengaluru, says, "The large number of perfect scorers in Business Studies this year may be due to the subject's objective nature, which allows for precise answers and scoring. Additionally, effective teaching methods, well-structured study materials, and targeted mentoring can significantly enhance students' performance."

On the other hand, English is a more subjective course, involving critical analysis and expressive skills. "This year's English paper might have included more complex comprehension passages, nuanced literary analysis, contributing to the lower number of perfect scorers. The balance between objective and subjective evaluation plays a crucial role in the disparity between the two subjects," he adds.

TALKING POINT

Is the system crushing students' hopes and dreams

The tragic death of UPSC aspirants in Delhi underscores the urgent need for systemic changes in India's education

Bureaucracy with integrity

The tragic death of civil service aspirants highlights the dire consequences of compromised civic services due to ineffectual agencies and staff. A crucial lesson for all future civil servants is this: when joining the service, have the courage to uphold the true objectives of the sector. In this case, it means systematic town planning. This tragedy demands accountability from the regulatory and sanctioning authorities that perpetuate a *chalta hai* (lackadaisical) attitude. It is equally important to re-evaluate improper building usages and strictly enforce corrections.

ARUNA SHARMA
PRACTITIONER DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST, AND FORMER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND IT

Curb coaching craze

Often, test centres are randomly allotted to students, and untrained staff manages the centres, which impacts students' performance. For preparation, students must attend coaching classes, which add significant expenses on top of private school fees, which many middle-class families struggle to afford. To address this issue, the content covered in entrance exams, NEET and JEE, should be included in the school curriculum. Students should be taught how to answer NEET/JEE questions in schools.

DR MANISH JANGRA
FOUNDER, FAIMA

Well-regulated environment

By creating a culture that prioritises results over learning and well-being, it is true to a large extent that coaching centres have dehumanised our students. Our schooling system needs to prepare them adequately for professional courses like medicine and engineering, leading to the rise of unregulated coaching centres, which are often driven by commercial interests.

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Students are driven towards coaching centres to fulfil their parents' aspirations, self-pressure, and peer pressure, and they follow a herd mentality. Coaching centres work hand in glove with the system and exploit students. They are often cramped places devoid of basic facilities. Nobody takes care of students' holistic wellness. The failure of our system of education has created artificial demand.

SUDHA ACHARYA
PRINCIPAL, IITL PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE

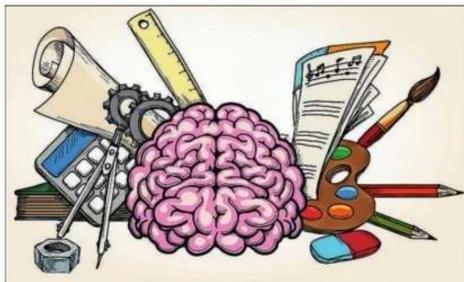
—As told to Sonal Srivastava

The value proposition for a liberal arts education

The focus on critical thinking, leadership skills, and ease in taking and processing multiple perspectives makes liberal arts education indispensable, writes Prof Sanjeev Kumar

According to the technologist and famous venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, the challenge posed by poor intelligence is being solved as the cost of intelligence is going down dramatically. What does this mean for the purpose of education? Education will primarily be about seeing farther, deep listening to others, and a sharper sense of discernment (*vivek*). Given that almost all recorded knowledge is now so easily accessible, the pedagogy has to evolve to be content-light and experience-heavy.

The education system remains more in tune with the times of manufacturing primacy. When the cost of acquiring information and knowledge was large, it made sense to specialise, but now that the cost of acquisition of information and knowledge is low, adaptability is key in the light of the faster rate of knowledge obsolescence. The value proposition for a liberal arts education emanates from the fact that it arms students with adaptability, which is much needed in the



age of AI and superintelligence. The era of a generalist is upon us. In the time of flux that we are living in, those equipped with leadership skills, critical thinking, and an exploratory nature will flourish.

"The limits of language mean the limit of my world," proclaimed philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. The realm of liberal arts education almost begins where the realm of science ends. A liberal arts education equips students with the tools to create meaning and extract idiosyncratic sense from an inordinately complex and incom-

prehensible world around them. It is said that those trained in creative arts and philosophy could hear the footsteps of time. Before the likes of Ganes and others pointed out the futility of interpersonal comparison—aren't we all unique and special?—paintings of clouds by artists like Constable hinted at the redundancy of the need for a reference point to assign value to our experiences. Before Karl Popper bestowed the falsification methodology to help us understand how to do science by discarding what was not the truth, Caravaggio

sculpted David by removing what was not David; the architect Kokasa built the world-famous Kailash Temple at the Ellora caves by removing the stones that were not the temple he had visualised.

Unlocking true potential

A liberal arts education is about realising the true potential of an individual, a family, a community, and the very existence itself. What about a liberal arts education that helps unlock the values mentioned above? It has to do with historical rootedness, awareness about the context, inter- and multidisciplinary, cognisance of language's limitation, and the consequent critical roles of rituals and paradoxes for humans—the realm where the sciences find it hard to venture into. All education is about learning to think and solve problems—both the very purpose of a liberal arts education.

(The author is dean, School of Liberal Arts, Bennett University)

For admissions, visit <https://www.bennett.edu.in/>

UPSC 2024 aspirants in a fix as MCD shuts libraries in Delhi

Candidates rely heavily on mock tests, but the suspension of classes has hampered their preparation for the Main exam

Ayushi.Gupta
@timesofindia.com

Troubles have increased for UPSC aspirants as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) shut down coaching centres, rental houses, and libraries operating from basements in Old Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar and other localities famously running coaching institutes in Delhi. Thousands of aspirants protesting at Rajinder Nagar have been demanding better facilities and to take strict action against illegally built coaching institutes. However, several aspirants set to appear for the UPSC Main are equally anxious about their preparations as they find themselves in an ethical dilemma – whether to join their protesting peers or remain in their cramped rooms to continue preparing for the exam scheduled on September 20. The students are also struggling to find a conducive environment to study peacefully amid limited library services and hiked fees.

Limited options

Rohit Kumar (23), from Samastipur, Bihar, preparing for UPSC Main has been living in Old Ra-

ajinder Nagar for about 15 months and is worried about the preparation. He tells *Education Times* that following the news of the deaths at Rau's IAS Centre, his parents are terrified about the situation. "Since it is humid, it is nearly impossible to study in the room. The Main demands practising long-form answers, which is best achieved through the mock tests. I enrolled in a UPSC Main crash course, but the classes have been discontinued until further notice. At this stage of preparation, aspirants rely heavily on mock tests, but with classes being suspended, our only option is to practise as much as possible within the confines of our rooms," says Rohit.

Students expected the tea-

chers and mentors of the institute to extend a helping hand for the mock tests. However, the teachers have been directed by the owners of the coaching institute to avoid any kind of interaction with the aspirants, said the students. Main aspirants are largely resorting to self-studies with only a month and half left for the exam. Due to the unavailability of enough libraries, many aspirants have temporarily shifted to Noida or have relocated to their hometowns. "Around 95% of libraries in Old Rajinder Nagar were operating from basements, which have now been sealed by the MCD. The ones situated

No refunds

Many students are expecting the coaching centres to find an alternative process for classes or refund the amount paid as a fee for library memberships. However, no written clarification has been provided regarding the suspension of classes and the date of reopening. Swarnim Saini (23) from Saharanpur, UP, has been attending UPSC coaching in Old Rajinder Nagar for the past 2.5 years says, "I have learned that many Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission coaching centres, which were operating in basements, have been shut down permanently."

on the first or ground floors have hiked their monthly membership fee from Rs 3,000 to around Rs 5,000. I used to study in one of those basement libraries. Studying there was beneficial because it allowed me to interact with fellow aspirants and share tips and strategies—which is not possible while

studying in silos," adds Rohit. Shivam Yadav (23), from Ashoknagar District, MP, says, "My coaching centre has started offering online assistance for the Main preparation. Since the exam is in pen-and-paper format, online test series will not be sufficient. With the exam approaching soon, I am losing confidence because I cannot accurately assess my performance or identify areas where I need improvement."

Additionally, the coaching centre has informed students that classes will not resume until the protests in the area are re-

Students protest outside an IAS coaching institute in Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi



solved. "A few days ago, I received an email from my coaching centre stating that classes cannot be resumed due to the student protests," adds Shivam.

Financial burden

Vivek Chauhan (26) of Shamli, UP, says his preparation time has reduced to less than half of what it used to be. "Usually, the rooms are very small and students share a single room. It gets difficult to concentrate while studying in the room, due to which most of us join the library while the rooms are meant only to sleep," says Vivek.

The MCD's measures to prevent the misuse of basements and address related issues have been implemented in response to the tragic deaths of aspirants. "These measures were not designed to improve conditions but only to mellow down the anger among the protesting students. It would have been beneficial for the aspirants if the crackdown on libraries operating in basements had included provisions for alternative solutions. The sudden closure of these libraries has only exacerbated the difficulties," adds Vivek. Kuldeep Chaudhury (24), from Hisar, Haryana.

UGC allows universities to conduct tests to fill vacant seats

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced that central universities can conduct their entrance exams for undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes if seats remain vacant after the Common Entrance University Test (CUET) admission counselling. The Commission said that vacant seats after multiple rounds of counselling not only lead to inefficient use of resources in central universities but also deny numerous prospective students the chance to obtain higher education. To address this issue, it has released Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which will help central universities to fill the vacant seats. According to the SOP, candidates who had appeared for CUET but had not registered for a respective university may also be considered to sit for the entrance exam conducted by the university.

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CONTRAPUNTO

The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part

—PIERRE DE COUBERTIN

So Far, So So

Midway through Games, India's performance is average. Sports ecosystem needs more change

So close, yet so far. That's been the story of India's participation at the ongoing Paris Olympics. At the halfway stage, India has won just three bronze medals, all of them courtesy our shooters. True, Manu Bhaker has created history by becoming the first Indian since 1947 to win two medals at the same Olympics. But as the accompanying article highlights, more shooting medals were well within our grasp.

Hockey bright spot | The men's hockey team has made a strong run that now sees India in the semifinals for the second Olympics in a row. The team pulled off a huge upset in beating Australia after 52 years at the Olympics. It then followed this up with a superb display against Great Britain in the quarterfinals where it was down to 10 men in the 17th minute. The players defended out of their skins to hold the score at 1-1 till full time. In the shoot-out, veteran goalie PR Sreejesh stood tall, making a crucial save to ensure India reach the final four.

Boxing disappointment | India's boxing contingent held a lot of promise but failed to deliver. Nikhat Zareen and Tokyo bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain were among medal hopefuls at Paris. But both crashed out before the medals stage. So did Amit Panghal and Nishant Dev in the men's categories. Tweaks are in order before the Los Angeles Games in 2028.

Lakshya's near miss | Lakshya Sen created history by becoming the first Indian male player to reach the semifinals of badminton at the Olympics. But here he came up short against defending champion Viktor Axelsen. In that match, Lakshya even had three game points in the first game but squandered them. After PV Sindhu's earlier exit, Lakshya can still secure a badminton bronze for India. But it would still feel like an opportunity missed.

Reality check | India now ranks 54 in the Paris Olympics medal tally. That's, frankly, disappointing. We are the worst performing Brics nation so far. Ukraine, a country at war and sending its smallest contingent in history, is placed 29. Of course, a nation of 1.4bn people should be doing better. Money too is no longer a constraint. What India lacks is a grassroots system that continues to churn out Olympic-level athletes. For that it needs a proper sports culture, not a four-yearly affair with the Olympics. Neeraj Chopra might yet win us another Olympic gold. But where are the next Neeraj Chopras?



Riots & Wrongs

UK's street violence played out like far-right's actions always do, everywhere

After a week of rioting in UK, one thing can be seen clearly in the smoke. While far-right forces were held back in the recent elections, their potential to make trouble continues unabated. This time, the trigger was the stabbing of three girls at a children's dance and yoga class, in a city. The victims' families had barely begun mourning, when violence and arson broke around them. It then spread wide, from Manchester to Hull to London. The rioters' slogan ran along the lines of 'We want our country back' and 'Stop the boats'. But, contrary to the rumours that fed the fires, the accused is UK born-and-bred.

The role played by disinformation raging on social media, to wreck the peace of streets, is something India is intimately familiar with, unfortunately. A sinister SMS campaign sent the Northeast community fleeing from Bengaluru in 2012. Fake news spread on WhatsApp and Facebook has seen innocents being killed on suspicion of child-lifting in multiple states. Last year, social media posts and videos played a key role in setting off communal violence in Nuh. In many cases, police actively holds back from pre-emptive action, as a result of mixed political signalling. Beyond this, the problem is it's still operating in 20th-century terms. In the UK case, revealing the identity of the accused took days, during which disinformation kept spreading. It doesn't help that social media companies like X have retreated from clampdowns on incitements to violence.

Nigel Farage's anti-immigration party may have won only 5 seats in UK polls, but it got 14% of the vote nationwide. This week, he predictably helped whip up suspicions that "truth is being withheld from us." With neo-Nazis, Islamophobes, xenophobic soccer fans, and other hate groups making common cause, the true victims stood forgotten, while new ones got created.



Fad newz

Even if we buy up clothes to hide the real us...

Shinie Antony



Practically all our waking hours are filled with 'what to wear?' Clothes - we are either putting them on or taking them off. Whether we Marie-Kondo closets into neatly folded OCD sections, mixing and matching a handful of well-worn favourites, or have a higgledy-piggledy mess tumble down on us, causing injury or death while opening cupboards, style is no longer just throwing on what comes to hand. Even the man who shrugs with disdain - 'I don't care what I wear' - is putting in an equal amount of time into how not to look like he cares.

Until recently, sartorial obsessions were considered girly. As part of the 'girls are silly' global gaslighting movement, their penchant for shopping was a punchline for men. The same men who recently came apart at the seams when Kate Middleton walked into Wimbledon. *The Colour Purple* is no longer a cult book, it is what Kate wore. Back home looms are taking on MNCs. Saas-bahu serials did their bit to revive heavy silk, with women bustling into kitchens in bridal wear. As the Indian Olympic team reached Paris, we fretted more about their uniform than medals. Everyone knows it's a fashion show.

Clothes can become a terminal condition, with Jean-itis as fatal as Sari-itis. Just when you buy skinny jeans, bell bottoms are back: Denim's Law. As you collect saris with a junkie's stealth and speed, you justify: 'I don't have this shade, I don't have that weave. All the mul, linen, khadi, banarasi, bhujodi, pattedu anchu, gomi teni along with mulberry, tussar and eri silks ask only one question: 'Will I ever be worn?' And they get a Dear John letter: 'It is all over between us. It is not you, it is me. I have met another Sari.' We may not visit a dying relative in our own home but will move to another city for a sari sale.

I've already informed family and friends of what I want to be buried in. Something formal enough for that last selfie with me, but informal enough for everyone to break into warm stories about me. Hand-me-downs have had their own rags-to-riches story when repositioned as vintage wear. Shrinkers may declare that we buy up clothes to hide the real us, but rarely appear naked to say this. Dress up or down, but do dress. One man's wedding finery is another nation's war costs.

Colour-Coding Kamala? Get In Line

Harris is comfortable carrying a heritage that's from two very different countries in different hemispheres. That a White man wants to restrict her identity tightly, has a long history

Rashmee Roshan Lall



Donald Trump continues to celebrate the Indian half of his political rival Kamala Harris's identity and that's a problem. Harris, born to Shyamala Gopalan from Chennai and Donald Harris from Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica, has long embraced her biracial roots.

Cooking Indian food with Mindy Kaling, who is of Indian heritage, Harris told the American actress, "You look like the entire one half of my family." Having chosen Howard, one of America's oldest institutions in the category of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Harris has spoken about her divorced mother's very deliberate "choice of community" for her and her younger sister Maya. "She had two Black babies, and she raised them to be two Black women," Harris said.

As she tells it, Harris was always at ease with claiming both halves of her being. But not the man she is fighting to win White House on Nov 5.

Audaciously, Trump first asked if Harris was even Black at the annual convention of National Association of Black Journalists in Chicago. "She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting the Indian heritage," he declared. "I didn't know she was Black, until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black. So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?"

A day later, Trump posted a photo of a sari-clad Harris on social media, captioning it as follows: "Your warmth, friendship, and love of your Indian Heritage are very much appreciated."

Devoted followers of the Republican presidential nominee have followed in his wake, with a prominent podcaster from Texas musing that Harris "has not lived the Black experience. She has an Indian name. She's light-skinned, she has, what could be argued, more Indian features and less traditionally Black features."

Harris supporters, meanwhile, have hit back on social media with swipes at American politicians who really did work to erase their Indian identity. "If you rename yourself Nikki," one pointed out on X, in sly reference to the avatar Nimarata Randhawa has

preferred for her public persona in Republican politics.

There have been others who went the same way, not least former Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal. He entered the 2015 Republican Party race to be presidential nominee with a socially conservative, Bible Belt pleasing line, while refusing to accept the label Indian-American. He ended up being widely mocked by Indians, both in US and in India, for being a "coconut", brown on the outside but inwardly white.

Kamala Harris is no Bobby Jindal. Nor a Nikki Haley. Harris appears not to have felt it a burden to acknowledge a heritage that draws from two very

different countries in different hemispheres, as well as a third international connection in Montreal, Canada, where she spent part of her youth.

There are several problems with a man who's of German and Scottish descent, questioning his political rival's racial identity. Trump, who once falsely claimed his father came to America "from Sweden as a child", has more recently pointed to his roots in the Hebrides as well as Kallstadt, his grandfather's hometown in Germany. With respect to Harris, however, many might find it outrageous that a White man should dare to continue the despicable tradition of trying to define the identity of others, particularly people who don't look like him. It was ever thus. Long-forgotten words like quadroon, octoroon and quintroon once signified the fractions of someone's Blackness (or aboriginal ancestry), as trotted up by White colonial society in the Americas and Australia.

In British-ruled India, biracial individuals or Anglo-Indians were often described as half-baked bread and graded by their colouring, from teen pao to adha seer or half a pound. The term Anglo-Indian was originally applied to all the British in India, but was officially adopted in 1900 to describe people of mixed descent or Eurasians. Informal colour-coded categorisation soon followed. We now consider such a frame of thinking as outdated and offensive.

There is also the issue of Blackness vs Indianness in the Western world, with the first arguably a less desirable condition, particularly in US. As Shilpa Dave, assistant prof of media studies and American studies at University of Virginia, has pointed out, "South Asians have always been in an ambiguous racialised space in the United States," not quite White, but also not as Black as African-Americans.

Until recently, the most famous Indian in US was arguably Apu Nahasapeemapetilon, proprietor of the Kwik-E-Mart in *The Simpsons*. In the 1950s, the only Indian that Americans saw on television was Ganga Ram, the elephant boy, who was played by an Italian actor. In the case of Harris then, Trump seemed to be suggesting two alternate things. That Harris had insulted her Black roots by preferring a visibly Indian identity and its relative privilege for much of her life. And that Harris is now insulting her Indian roots by her political opportunism in claiming a Black identity.

If anything, clues to the identity preferred by Harris may be found on her kitchen shelves. Famously fond of cooking, her eclectic cookbook collection recently emerged as a shelfie snap. It shows a real interest in African diaspora cuisine, all the way through the Caribbean and into US. And there is a book by a former Mumbaikar who now lives in California and has become famous for reimagining Indian food. Nik Sharma's 2018 book of Indian recipes is a nod to the flavours of home while wandering across America and the world. A little like Kamala Harris herself?

Lall is based in London and writes on international affairs

3 Out Of 30 Is A Start, Not A Triumph

Those shooting bronzes shouldn't make us forget we can, and must, do better. Mental training is key

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com



What do we call a 22-year-old who has won two medals, and almost a third, in a single Olympics? The greatest Indian shooter?

It's not our fault. We simply don't have the sporting vocabulary. Suddenly, here we are, dealing with a first-world problem.

Yes, Abhinav Bindra showed us that Indians can win individual gold at the Olympics. Neeraj Chopra further instilled faith in those watching track and field.

But Manu Bhaker's feat supersedes theirs. She has warmed us up to the idea of seeing an Indian girl win medals, not one, but two, in the same edition of the biggest sporting spectacle. The girl who was never given a chance after a forgettable debut in the Tokyo Games. The girl who was trolled for her pistol malfunction. And the girl who displayed immense strength by approaching her estranged coach to bring her back on track.

Manu wasn't alone in success. Sarabjot Singh helped the Haryana girl win her second bronze at Paris. First-timer Swapnil Kusale joined the party and took India's tally to three bronze medals after sealing third place in men's 50m rifle 3 positions event. Kusale was not considered a medal hope by most followers of the sport. But that's how the Olympics work. The Kolhapur boy triumphed just like armyman Vijay Kumar did in 2012. Not many had heard of Vijay, just like his event, 25m rapid-fire, before he won second place and became a household name.

Paris can be safely termed as India's best show in shooting, considering that the shooters had failed to win any medal at the 2016 Rio Games and in the previous edition in Tokyo. After one silver and a bronze from London 2012, Paris has brought shooting back into the limelight. With a gold, two silvers and four bronzes, shooting now has become the most successful individual Olympic sport for the country. Wrestling with six medals is second.

At Paris, five shooters made it to the finals with

three medals won. Almost 70% finished within Top-12 in the rifle and pistol category. There were two shooters who missed the finals by small margins.

But is this good enough? Could we have won more medals at Paris? Yes, three is a good number, but we could have more, especially after all the heartburn we endured at Rio and Tokyo. National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) did well by not repeating the mistakes made in the past two cycles.

One of the biggest corrections that NRAI made was allowing personal coaches a respectable position in the preparation of the shooters. Personal coaches, who were kept at bay till Tokyo, were involved in the planning and training process for Paris. The four-match trials conducted to pick the squad also ensured shooters with good current form got to Paris.

But there are still some gaps that need to be filled. Full marks to India for sending 21 shooters, our highest

ever, to the Paris Games. But there needs to be improvement in our conversion to medals in the run-up to the 2028 Los Angeles Games. A lot more can be done in the area of mental fitness of our shooters. We saw Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta miss out on medals after reaching their respective finals. Elavelil Valarivan shot a 9.8 and exited just when she looked comfortable to reach the 10m air rifle final.

India's introduction to shooting podiums at the Olympics began with Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore winning that silver at the Athens Games in

double trap. Ronjan Singh Sodhi, the then World No.1 and world record holder, was a big hope ahead of the London Games. However, the shotgun fervour has been missing since. Almost one-third (six) of the shooting contingent went for the shotgun competition. But their performance was nowhere close to their rifle-pistol teammates.

None of the six shotgun shooters qualified for the finals in the Games where Guatemala, a country with a population of 1.7cr, won their first-ever Olympic gold through Adriana Ruano in women's trap. Joining Adriana, Jean Pierre Brol won men's trap bronze for the nation that had sent a contingent of just four shooters.

The national shooting body as well as Sports Authority of India need to create a rifle-pistol like system for the shotgun discipline too. The small-bore categories have a strong bench strength and even a small slip can cause shooters to lose their place to a bunch of teenagers looking for their way up.

On the other hand, a few youngsters 'co-exist' in the shotgun setup. The complacency needs to go.

India has come a long way in making shooting not just popular, but also accessible. But in a sport that offers 15 golds and overall 30 medals for a country to win at the Olympics (shooting allows every team two players in each event), winning three medals should only be treated as the start of a journey, and not the destination.

Calvin & Hobbes



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SCOOP ONE HALF STRAIGHT DOWN AND THEN DIG OUT THE OTHER SIDE FROM THE BOTTOM, SO PART OF THE TOP REMAINS UNDISTURBED UNTIL THE VERY END!



WHAT ON EARTH FOR? IT'S A RITUAL! YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE TOP OF THE PEANUT BUTTER SMOOTH!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR OWN SANDWICHES. IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR PEANUT BUTTER, YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO CONTROL YOUR LIFE. DID YOU CUT THE BREAD DIAGONALLY?

Sacredspace



A man is seated on top of a tree in the midst of a burning forest. He sees all living beings perish. But he doesn't realise that the same fate is soon to overtake him also. That man is fool.

Mahavir

Melody Flows Only Through A Knot-Free Flute

Swami Sukhabodhananda

There is a story in the puranas about Krishna's flute. Rukmini, Krishna's wife, asked the flute, "What is the secret to Krishna keeping you so close to him always. It is only when he bathes that he leaves you behind?" The flute replied, "I do not know. The one thing I do know is that I am empty. I do not have any inner blocks. I am ready for the Lord to take over me entirely."

An accomplished poet commented on this story, beautifully describing the sweetness of the flute and three lessons to be learnt from it. First, the flute is sweet because it only sings when it is blown. In contrast, people open their mouths and talk when not required. Second, a flute played well results in melody. Likewise, people should ensure

that whatever they say is always sweet. Finally, the melody and sweetness flow through a flute because it is free of knots.

Sant Kabir said, "Aisee vani Boliye, Man Ka Aapa Khoye, Auran ko Sheetal Kare, Aap bhi Sheetal Hoye." This translates into, "Speak in a manner that makes others feel calm, and you will also become calm, bereft of ego."

The upanishads call this hridaya granthi. People are noisy because there are many knots within. They are not empty; therefore, the sweetness of their beings does not emerge. The flute only sings when it is blown into; its melody is sweet when it sings, and it is free from inner knots.

We should be empty like the flute. If

one is empty as a flute, there is an understanding that is beyond words - wordless wisdom. Our entire education system is based on words, *shabda*. Hence, the vedas say words tried to unfold the truth; however, it cannot be grasped through words. Listening is an art, and teaching is an art.

Only when these two arts meet, can the music flow.

There was a son who was particularly anxious. He was tense because his friends were receiving presents from their parents; however, his father did not give him anything. He had completed his education and got a job in Delhi. He expected something from his father. The son thought, "I have passed my exams and got a job in Delhi. My father will surely give me something." He always wanted

a motorcycle. He expressed his wish to his father, but since the father was a retired old man, it was not possible. The father told his son, "Now that you have graduated and got a job in Delhi I will give you a gift." He gave his son a copy of the Bhagwad Gita. The son was not pleased with the gift. Disgusted, he took the book, placed it in his luggage and left for Delhi.

Within a few days of reaching Delhi, he received the news that his father died. He remembered the gift his father gave him - the Bhagwad Gita that he had not bothered to open. He took out the Gita, and as he turned the pages, a key fell. This was when he realised that his father had indeed bought him a motorcycle and placed the key in the Gita.

Swami Sukhabodhananda is conducting online workshops; contact: 63666 01235/91080 70452/99017 77003



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Dollar path divides Goldman, Fidelity on emerging mkt bonds

Goldman Sachs says emerging market investors should favour dollar-denominated bonds over local-currency ones. Fidelity International says the opposite. Goldman argues that dollar debt will outperform as US election volatility bolsters the greenback and leads to policy changes that could hurt developing-nation assets. Fidelity says local currency assets will perform better as the Fed starts to cut rates. The clash mirrors the uncertainties that lie ahead due to the US election, and the debate over how fast the Fed will ease monetary policy. BLOOMBERG

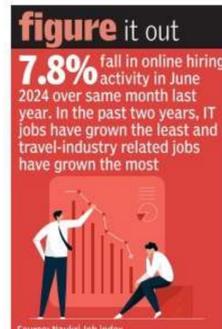


IIHL failed to deposit money: RCap admin

New Delhi: The administrator of Reliance Capital has filed an affidavit with NCLT, accusing IIHL of non-compliance as the Hinduja Group firm failed to meet the conditions set by the tribunal. However, IIHL denied allegations saying there has not been any contempt of NCLT order. AGENCIES

FPIs put ₹32,365cr in equities in July

New Delhi: Foreign investors infused Rs 32,365 crore into Indian equities in July. However, they pulled Rs 1,027 crore from equities in the first two trading sessions of Aug. AGENCIES



SL FTA: Lower duty on cars on the cards

New Delhi: India is seeking customs duty concession on a number of goods including cars, commercial vehicles and machinery from Sri Lanka under a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), talks for which are underway, an official said. India has also sought easier visa norms to further facilitate entry of professionals from here, the official said. The 14th round of talks between senior officials of India and Sri Lanka was concluded recently in Colombo. Issues which came up for the talks included rules of origin, goods, services, and technical barriers for trade. Sri Lanka has sought removal of a quota on apparel exports to India. The island nation is also asking for duty concessions on tea and certain agricultural commodities. Sri Lanka has placed items like automobiles and electrical goods on its negative list, restricting their import. AGENCIES

Why GST rate rationalisation is both due & needed

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Transport minister Nitin Gadkari's letter to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on reducing the GST on health and life insurance has struck a chord with most consumers, who have to shell out 18% tax to cover their medical risk when quality healthcare is something that the Centre and states should have been providing with the taxes they collect.

Gadkari's suggestion for removal of the levy is unimplementable, since it will break the GST chain, denying refunds to those who sell goods or services to insurers. But many see merit in a reduction. Around six months ago, a parliamentary standing committee headed by Jayant Sinha had underlined the need to reduce GST on health and term insurance.

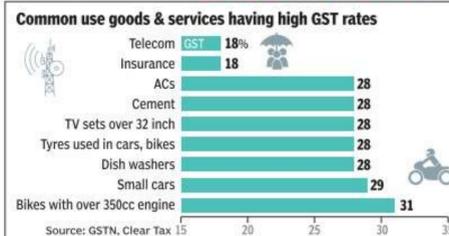
But it isn't just insurance, govt is seen to be imposing hefty levies on consumers for several other basic services, including telecom, which too attracts 18%, and 28% on air conditioners and cement, which are part of the demerit goods slab. Despite cement being a key construction input, GST Council, comprising the Union and state FMs, has ignored demands for a cut.

A look at your last car invoice would reveal how much tax you have paid to the Centre and states—43% GST if you bought a "luxury vehicle" (classified as anything which is more than 4 metres long), and a steep registration cost apart from motor insurance, where the premium only keeps rising even if you don't make a claim, and the govt then levies 18% GST. For a sin goods like gutka or pan masala, the effective rate is in three digits.

For several years, GST Council has been talking about reviewing rates but has refused to move even as tax collections rose month after month. There are talks of discussions starting at the next meeting, but it is unlikely that a decision will be taken for several months. For that, a panel of ministers led by Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Chaudhary needs to work out a blueprint and that will also be linked to the item-by-item review by the GST Council secretariat to ensure that there is no revenue loss.

The rationalisation of GST rates is overdue. It was to be undertaken a few years ago

...AND HERE ARE SOME PAIN POINTS



Source: GSTN, Clear Tax 15 20 25 30 35

This is a good time to move ahead with rationalisation... The revenue situation has improved considerably, the economy is doing well and inflation has eased and is likely to improve further

—VIVEK JOHRI | FORMER CBIC CHAIRMAN

its rollout. Initially, Covid played spoilsport. Although the finance ministry faces much of the flak for tax rates, officials said, the states were not keen as they feared a revenue loss at a time when compensation cess was to be phased out. Compensation cess was a temporary measure to ensure 14% annual growth in revenue for states for five years. But it had to be extended in the wake of Covid.

What added to the conundrum was higher inflation and the prospects of the 12% and 18% rates being merged to a median rate of 15-16%. That will marginally lower rates for biscuits, ice cream, paints, refrigerators and TV sets (up to 32 inches) as well as insurance and telecom. This will also mean that bicycles, clothing and footwear that cost up to Rs 1,000 a pair; pencils, pre-packed namkeen and bhujia and several other food items will see a price increase as they will attract a higher le-

tax experts have been demanding the change for months. "The process of rationalising the rates of GST and compressing the rate slabs in GST should now begin as the tax has now entered a stable phase with stable collections, increased compliance, and the growing focus on audits. Tax simplification has, in the past, led to increased collections arising from improved acceptance and the resultant growth in the number of compliant taxpayers," said M S Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

GST Council will have to decide the road map for cess on items like tobacco products, pan masala, automobiles, coal and soft drinks. The rationalisation exercise will come with its own challenges. For instance, lowering GST on insurance to the lowest slab will mean that several inputs face higher levy and tax refunds will be larger than tax collected in the final stage.

Besides, it will also entail the GST Council to not just increase the 5% rate to 7-8% to not just ensure steady revenue but also narrow the difference between the new median rate and the rate for merit goods. For the govt, almost two-thirds revenue comes from the 18% slab and another 15-20% from goods and services that attract 28%. While a third of the items, mostly household, are in the 5% segment, their contribution to revenue is in single digits. There has been a suggestion to bring some tax-exempted goods under the tax net.

"This is a good time to move ahead with rationalisation, which cannot be done overnight as the entire exercise will take a few months. The revenue situation has improved considerably, the economy is doing well and the inflation has eased and is likely to improve further," said former CBIC chairman Vivek Johri.

Deposit crunch forces banks to raise rates

RBI Expected To Hold Rates Steady This Week, Earliest Repo Rate Cut Seen In Dec: Economists

Mayur.Shetty@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Even as analysts are forecasting the monetary policy committee meeting this week to vote for another pause with a rate cut pushed to Dec, banks have been selectively raising deposits and lending rates.

According to SBI chairman Dinesh Khara, markets can no longer look up to the US Federal Reserve for the direction of interest rates. "There is a lot of decoupling that is happening. It is not that US Fed reduces rates and everybody else starts falling. We have seen the Bank of England reduce first followed by Australia. Japan has increased. All the central banks are not in sync," Khara said.

According to Bank of India chairman Rajneesh Karnatak, the fight for resources is like to continue for a few quarters. "We are passing on the increase in cost of deposits to borrower in the form of higher MCLR rates and we may increase the spread over the repo rate



as well," he said.

What is skewing the interest rate market is that while depositors are punishing banks for not offering enough on savings accounts, large corporates are still deciding their borrowing rates.

"Corporate still holding the pricing power — the weighted average lending rate on fresh rupee loan decreased by 11 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) from Jan to June 2024 even though the weighted average domestic term deposit rate increased by 3bps. A classic case of asymmetric transmission," said Sodhani.

sion," said an SBI research report. This means small businesses are bearing the brunt of the rate hikes.

According to Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, the earliest rate cut can happen in Dec 2024. "RBI's MPC is likely to hold repo rate steady. The stance of the monetary policy is also expected to be retained at withdrawal of accommodation. Incidentally, the stance of the monetary policy was last changed in June. This is because RBI is unlikely to be comfortable with the elevated levels of food inflation in the recent months," said Sabnavis.

According to Barclays regional economist Shreya Sodhani, the rate cut is likely to get pushed to 2025. "We continue to expect the window for a rate cut to open only in Dec 2024, but see the risks that the first cut will be delayed into 2025. Recent communication by RBI has turned increasingly cautious over elevated food inflation," said Sodhani.

Israeli co in talks with HAL for P2F conversion unit

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is in talks with at least two desi aviation majors — including Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) — to set up a passenger to freighter (P2F) facility in India for wide body aircraft. The Israeli major sees IndiGo and Air India as potential partners for the P2F facility, which it hopes to have up and running within two years. It is also keen to have an engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) in India, IAI's EVP (aviation group) Shmuel Kuzi told TOI.

IAI has four facilities at four sites — Abu Dhabi, South Korea and two in the US. "All these sites are full till 2027. India has the ability for having a wide body conversion facility, it has immense potential. We are in talks with HAL and one more company. There is a situation in our region (the Mid East tensions and flights to Israel are currently suspended). We need some quiet. We will like to finalise the India facility at the earliest, hopefully by the end of the year so that it gets ready in another year and become operational by 2026," Kuzi said. HAL did not comment on this issue.

'Lower wait for pre-existing diseases to raise premiums'

Mayur.Shetty@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Regulator Irdai's decision to cut the waiting period for pre-existing diseases in health insurance from four years to three, starting from April 2024 will push up health insurance premiums, SBI General Insurance's chief business officer Rakesh Kaul said.

The non-life arm of the country's largest insurer said that it has not decided how much of the increased cost will be passed on to the policyholder yet. Kaul told TOI that the reduction in the waiting period would increase the costs by 10-20% however the company has not taken a decision on passing the cost of the increased risk to the customer.

"Medical inflation is 7-8%. Our approach is not to revise every year but to wait for three years before reviewing the rates," said Kaul. Irdai, in its health insurance

guidelines effective April 2024, said that insurers cannot reject any claim on the grounds of pre-existence of ailment three years after the issue of policy.

According to Kaul, the pricing of the product is not going to hit demand. "Health is not a price seeker market it

The reduction in waiting period can increase costs by 10-20% said SBI General Insurance's chief biz officer

is a value seeker market. It is our ability to customise and bring products to market. Unlike motor insurance, where the covers are pretty much standardised, health has lot of scope for customisation," he said.

SBI General Insurance is looking to launch a slew of new products every quarter. On the anvil is a health plan where the customer can 'drag

and drop' do-it-yourself covers to the policy based on the environment. The company is also coming up with a super top-up health cover.

The company's focus is now on increasing the share of its individual health insurance business. "We have set up a strategic business unit for handling health insurance underwriting and claims in Pune and are now servicing most of our individual claims in-house," said Kaul. He added that SBI General has the largest network of private hospitals with which it has service level agreements.

Kaul said that growth drivers will be the ability to innovate and customize products for segments based on each distribution channel. This has been made possible because of the insurers new technology platform. "We have put in place a partner engagement tool Simba which empowers the distributor to customize products on their own"

Cos do the balancing act as they enforce return-to-office mandates

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: MNCs and consulting firms are working to strike a balance to ensure a smooth return to the office while still offering flexibility to their employees. Although many firms are requiring employees to work from the office for at least a few days each week, the specifics of the hybrid work arrangement are frequently left to the discretion of individual line managers.

Accenture, which employs over 3 lakh people in India, has requested that employees return to their assigned base locations. "This message is consistently reinforced during leadership and all-hands, as recently as the April-June quarter," sources told TOI.

Earlier this year, Accenture opened its 13th advanced technology centre in Bhubaneswar, adding to its existing network of ATCI across various cities in

ShareChat raises ₹134 cr from S'pore based co

New Delhi: Home-grown social media firm Mohalla Tech, which owns ShareChat platform, on Sunday said it has raised Rs 134 crore, or \$16 million, through debt bonds from Singapore-based investment firm EDBI. With this fresh fundraise the company has expanded its ongoing convertible debentures round to \$65 million. AGENCIES

India. TCS, for instance, has revised its variable pay policy to include work from office (WFO) as a key factor. The updated policy, implemented shortly after the company's quarterly results, features four attendance slabs that determine employees' variable pay. Milind Lakkad, TCS CHRO, said, "There are implications for people who're not coming to the office. We are bringing in more discipline. About 70% of our employees are back in the office." He emphasized that linking TVP to return to office is a temporary measure, with the goal of eventually rewarding those who come to the office. IBM, known for offering remote work flexibility even before the pandemic, is utilizing tier 2 locations to encourage employees to return to the office. Employees have the option to work from any of IBM's offices in India. The requirements are based on their roles and whether they are expected to be in the office, according to Thirukumaran Nagaran, vice-president of HR for IBM India and South Asia. IBM has offices in Kochi and Ahmedabad. Audit firms are adopting a similar approach. Deloitte has communicated that employees can work from any of

office unless their project requires them to be based in a specific city. Deepthi Sagar, chief people and experience officer at Deloitte India, told TOI, "Not much of a nudge has been necessary since professionals themselves agree with the merits of this best-of-both-worlds approach."

EY India has mandated that employees come to the office at least three times a week, but they have the flexibility to choose a location closest to them. EY India has 23 offices, including those in tier II cities such as Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, and Pune. "Firms have been consistent in their communication to the workforce about the virtues of working together in a physical workspace. At the same time, they show flexibility by delegating the implementation to the operating layers of management rather than painting the entire canvas with the same stroke of the brush," Aditya Mishra, CEO of CIELHR, said.

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Split MF Portfolio Into Core & Satellite To Meet Long-Term Goals

Many young investors are increasingly using mutual funds to meet their long-term goals. Investors can use a core and satellite approach to building their equity mutual fund portfolios as it is one of the simplest ways to diversify.

What Is The Core & Satellite Strategy?
It is an investment strategy which divides the portfolio into two parts: the core portfolio and the satellite one. The core portfolio is built according to the investor's objectives, age, risk-taking capacity and time horizon to reach goals. The primary objective of the core portfolio is to provide stability to the overall portfolio to achieve long-term goals. It is large-cap oriented as these companies have proven track records and strong management teams which can face any difficult domestic or global situations. To build the core equity portfolio, investors can use a mix of large-cap schemes, flexicap schemes and index funds.

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at <https://scores.gov.in>

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

The satellite portion consists of more aggressive funds like small-cap, microcap, momentum or sectoral funds like infra, banking, IT, pharma and thematic funds like business cycle, and manufacturing, which carry higher risk but have the potential to generate higher alpha.

How Much To Allocate To Each?

Based on an individual's risk profile and time frame for investment, financial planners believe investors can allocate a between 70% and 80% to their core portfolio, and the balance 20-30% to the satellite portion. While the core portfolio can be stable and would not require high churn or frequent changes, the satellite portion could require investors to time entry and exit to generate maximum returns.

Who Should Consider This?

The core and satellite portfolio strategy works well for long-term investors who want a balanced approach for their investments combining stability with the potential for high growth. It also helps investors who are disciplined, have a clear long-term focus and are open to taking short-term tactical calls in the satellite portion while maintaining a long-term focus in the core portfolio.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



KESHA CLAIMS SHE 'DIDN'T KNOW' PROP KNIFE WAS REPLACED WITH 'REAL BUTCHER KNIFE' DURING LOLLAPALOOZA FEST SET

ZAC EFRON HOSPITALISED AFTER 'MINOR SWIMMING INCIDENT' DURING VACAY IN IBIZA, HIS TEAM SAYS HE'S DOING FINE NOW

Nearly 100 die in anti-govt stir in B'desh, hundreds more hurt

Mobile Net Cut Off; Social Media Shut Down; Nationwide Curfew Imposed For Indefinite Period; Troops, Paramilitary Border Guards Deployed With Police

Dhaka: Nearly 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured Sunday as renewed anti-govt protests swept across Bangladesh, with protesters calling for the prime minister to resign, and PM Sheikh Hasina accusing them of "sabotage" and cutting off mobile internet in a bid to quell the unrest.

The country's leading Bengali-language newspaper, Prothom Alo, said at least 97 people, including at least 14 police officers, died in the violence. Channel 24 reported 85 deaths.

The military announced that a new curfew, including in the capital, Dhaka, and other divisional and district headquarters, was in effect Sunday evening for an indefinite period. The govt had earlier imposed a curfew with some exceptions in Dhaka and elsewhere. The govt also mobilised troops, paramilitary border guards BGB, and elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion alongside police.

Demonstrators are demanding Hasina's resignation following protests last month that began with students calling for an end to a quota system for govt jobs. Those demonstrations escalated into violence that left over 200 dead. As the renewed violence raged, Hasina said the protesters who engaged in "sabotage" and destruction were no longer students but criminals. "People should deal with them with iron hands."

The governing Awami League party said the demand for Hasina's resignation showed that the protests have been taken over by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the now-banned Jamaat-e-Islami party. Also Sunday, the govt announced a holiday from Monday to Wednesday.



A vehicle is set ablaze inside the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical Univ Hospital in Dhaka; a cop uses tear gas to disperse protesters in Bogura

India asks students to remain vigilant

With Bangladesh gripped by another round of violent protests on Sunday, the Indian assistant high commission in Sylhet asked Indian students living under its jurisdiction to remain alert and be in touch with the Indian mission. While New Delhi is said to be monitoring the unrest in Bangladesh closely at senior levels, it continued to maintain complete silence on what is turning out to be the most serious challenge to pro-India PM Sheikh Hasina's authority in years. Official sources reiterated India sees the protests as an internal matter of Bangladesh. India is aware that any display of solidarity with Hasina will likely exacerbate the situation for her. Amid fresh protests, a group of retired army generals asked the Hasina govt on Sunday to recall soldiers from the streets and to not use the army for a "disgraceful campaign". After the protest last month by students against reservation in govt jobs, New Delhi had facilitated the return of thousands of Indian students from Bangladesh. There were around 8,500 Indian students in Bangladesh before protests erupted. India, however, managed to ensure the return of close to 7,000 students last month with help from local authorities. **TNN**

day. Courts were to be closed indefinitely. Mobile internet service was cut off, and Facebook and messaging apps, including WhatsApp and Instagram, were inaccessible. Junior minister for I&B Mohammad Ali Arafat said the services were severed to help prevent violence.

At least 11,000 people have been arrested in recent weeks. The unrest has also resulted in the closure of schools and universities across the country, and authorities at one point imposed a shoot-on-sight curfew.

Protesters called for a "non-cooperation" effort, urging people not to pay taxes or utility bills and not to show up for work on Sunday, a working day in Bangladesh. Offices, banks and factories opened, but commuters in Dhaka and other cities faced challenges getting to work. Th demonstrators attacked Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, a major public hospital in Dhaka, torching several vehicles.

Video footage showed protesters vandalising a prison van in the chief metropolitan magistrate's court in Dhaka. Other videos showed police opening fire on the crowds with bullets, rubber bullets and tear gas. The protesters set fire to vehicles and Awami League's offices. Some carried sharp weapons and sticks. In Dhaka's Uttara neighbourhood, police fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of people who blocked a major highway. Protesters attacked homes and vandalised a community welfare office in the area, where Awami activists took up positions. Some crude bombs were detonated, and gunshots were heard, witnesses said. At least 20 people were hit by bullets in the area. **AP & PTI**

Zelensky says Ukraine has got first F-16 jets, hopes for more

Kyiv: Ukraine has received its first batch of US-made F-16 fighter jets, Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday, adding that more are needed to be at back Russian forces. For more than two years, Ukraine has pleaded with its Western partners for the aircraft — long considered the crown jewel in the sprawling list of military hardware Kyiv has sought.

"We often heard the word 'impossible'." Now it is a reality. Reality in our skies. F-16s in Ukraine. We made it happen," Zelensky said, as some flew above him during the announcement.

Zelensky was standing in front of what looked like two grey, partially-covered F-16s branded with the Ukrainian trident, in a location reporters were asked not to disclose for security reasons. "I am proud of all our guys who are mastering these aircraft and have already started using them for our country," he said.

He did not say how many jets had been delivered and declined to comment on their specific tasks, but AFP journalists saw at least two F-16s on the spot. The announcement will likely be welcomed by many and comes as Kyiv's forces are struggling to hold back advances by Russian troops in recent weeks.

Kyiv hopes the arrival of the fighter jets — touted for their precision, speed and range — will enable it to better protect itself from Russian bombardment. Zelensky, however, immediately warned more were needed. "Our partners know that the number of F-16s we have in Ukraine, the number of pilots who have already been trained, is not enough," he said. "The good news is that we are expecting additional F-16s," he added. **AFP**

Silicon Valley unites behind Kamala after Trump inroads

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Hundreds of Silicon Valley venture capitalists, investors, and tech leaders have rallied to support Kamala Harris for the White House, pushing back at unexpected inroads her rival Donald Trump has made in the tech world through Tesla's Elon Musk and early PayPal investor and CEO Peter Thiel.

In a statement under the aegis of a group called VCsForKamala, the tech leaders, including Linked-in founder Reid Hoffman, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, and Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla said they are united in their support for Kamala Harris in this "pivotal moment".

"We are pro-business, pro-American dream, pro-entrepreneurship and pro-technological progress... We also believe in democracy as the backbone of our nation. We believe that strong, trustworthy institutions are a feature, not a bug, and that our industry — and every other industry — would collapse without them," the group said in a statement, now signed by over 700 tech leaders.

The public rallying for Harris, who is district attorney of San Francisco and attorney general of California before she became a senator from the state, comes amid efforts by Trump backers to characterise her as a left-liberal politician whose policies would be detrimental to the tech world. They specifically accuse her of being against cryptocurrency, which Trump has been talking up lately. Democrat activists say the backing from Harris from so many VCs "is a powerful rebuke to far-right Silicon Valley billionaires like Musk who have thrown their support behind Trump's fascist movement in the hopes of more tax cuts".

Incidentally, the congressional district in which much of Silicon Valley is located is represented by Democratic lawmaker Ro Khanna, an Indian-American whose father-in-law Monte Ahuja is a Republican supporter.

In fact, the Trump v Harris battle has caused an unprecedented schism in the tech world with public online spats among principals who have often worked together in the past. Notably Hoffman, Thiel, and Musk were part of what was called the "PayPal mafia" before they went their own way, first in the companies they invested in, and now politically.



700 TECH LEADERS RALLY FOR HARRIS: In a statement under the aegis of a group called VCsForKamala, tech leaders, including (L to R) Linked-in founder Reid Hoffman, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, & Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla said they are united in support for Harris in this 'pivotal moment'. It was signed by over 700 tech leaders

Thiel has also been a patron of Trump's vice-presidential nominee JD Vance, bankrolling his election as a senator. Much of the Silicon Valley drift towards Trump was precipitated by what some saw as tough regulatory policies of the Biden administration. Musk is particularly agitated by what he characterises as the left's "woke virus". But Harris, who has been cozy with the tech world for many years, is seen as a potential ally despite the Trump efforts to portray her as "radical left". She is said to be close to Democratic mega-donor Laurene Powell Jobs, the billionaire philanthropist and wife of the late Steve Jobs, and former Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, and its president Sean Parker, whose wedding she attended. Then there's also family links: Tony West, her brother-in-law (married to her sister Maya Harris) is the general counsel of Uber, and her husband Doug Emhoff was a litigator whose clients included Walmart and Merck.

Debate over the debate: Harris, Trump spar over date, network

Atlanta: Kamala Harris' campaign branded Donald Trump "scared" Saturday after he proposed changing the debate schedule, as the Republican rallied in Georgia seeking to blunt the vice prez's surging momentum in her bid to become America's first woman president.

Trump said he was willing to debate Harris on the conservative-leaning Fox News network on Sept 4, while declining to participate in a previously scheduled debate on ABC.

He said it would occur in Pennsylvania — a crucial battleground — before a live audience. "We're doing one with Fox, if she shows up," Trump told his Atlanta rally. "I don't think she's going to show up. She can't talk." The Harris campaign dismissed Trump's idea as "games". "He needs to... show up to the debate he already committed to on Sept 10," Harris' campaign communications director said. **AFP**

Emhoff admits to affair during 1st marriage

Doug Emhoff, the husband of vice-president Kamala Harris, said Saturday that he had an extramarital affair during his first marriage, years before he met Harris. The acknowledgment came hours after a British tabloid reported that Emhoff had a previously undisclosed relationship with a teacher who worked at the elementary school his children attended in California, approximately 15 years ago.

At the time, Emhoff, an entertainment lawyer, was married to Kerstin Emhoff, a film producer, with whom he had two children. The couple filed for divorce in 2009. Emhoff met Harris in 2013, and they married the following year. "During my first marriage, Kerstin and I went through some tough times on account of my actions," Emhoff said in the statement. "I took responsibility, and in the years since, we worked through things as a family and have come out stronger on the other side." The Biden campaign was aware of the affair before it decided to tap Harris as V-P in 2020, according to a source. This person added Harris knew of the affair before she married Emhoff in 2014. **NYT**

think she's going to show up. She can't talk." The Harris campaign dismissed Trump's idea as "games". "He needs to... show up to the debate he already committed to on Sept 10," Harris' campaign communications director said. **AFP**

Far-right rioters in UK try to storm hotel 'housing migrants'

London: Police in the north of England town of Rotherham were struggling to break back a mob of far-right rioters Sunday who were seeking to break into a hotel believed to be housing asylum-seekers.

Footage from Sky News showed a line of police officers with shields facing a barrage of missiles, including bits of wood, chairs and fire extinguishers, as they sought to prevent the rioters from entering the Holiday Inn Express hotel. A small fire was also visible while windows in the hotel were smashed. A police helicopter circled overhead, and at least one injured officer in riot gear was carried away as the atmosphere turned increasingly febrile.

It was the latest bout of rioting to grip the UK following a stabbing rampage at a dance class last week in the north of England that left three girls dead and several wounded.

Brendan Cox, whose law-maker wife Jo Cox was murdered by a far-right extremist in 2016, said on X that the scenes in Rotherham "are an ongoing attempt to murder the men, women & children inside by burning them alive."

Elsewhere, the atmosphere is particularly tense in In the northeast town of Middlesbrough, where protesters broke free of a police guard. More demonstrations are taking place around the UK.

On Saturday, far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters across the UK, with violent scenes playing out



Protesters clash with police outside the hotel in Rotherham on Sunday, UK PM Keir Starmer said 'this is not a protest, it's organised, violent thuggery'

in locations across the UK, from Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, to Liverpool in the northwest of England and Bristol in the west. Around 100 people were arrested but more are likely as police scour CCTV, social media and footage from body-worn cameras.

The violence erupted earlier this week, ostensibly in protest of Monday's stabbing attack in Southport. A 17-year-old male has been arrested. False rumours spread online that the young man was a Muslim and an immigrant, fuelling anger among far-right supporters. Suspects under 18 are usually not named in the UK, but the judge ordered Axel Rudakubana, born in Wales to Rwandan parents, to be identified,

in part to stop the spread of misinformation. Police said many of the actions are being organised online by shadowy far-right groups, who are mobilising support online with phrases like "enough is enough," "save our kids" and "stop the boats". They are tapping into concerns about the scale of immigration in the country.

A key player amplifying protest calls is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, a longtime far-right agitator who uses the name Tommy Robinson. He led the English Defense League, which police has linked to the violent protest in Southport Tuesday. The group first appeared around 2009, leading a series of protests against what it described as militant Islam. **AP**

Israel in 'multi-front war' with Iran, says Bibi; US, allies ready defence

Tel Aviv: Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting Sunday, as the US and allies prepared to defend Israel from an expected counter-strike and prevent an even more destructive regional conflict.

Tensions have soared following nearly 10 months of war in Gaza and the killing last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas chief in Iran. Iran and its allies have blamed Israel and threatened retaliation.

Netanyahu said Israel was ready for any scenario. Jordan's foreign minister was making a rare trip to Iran as part of diplomatic efforts, while the Pentagon has moved significant assets to the region. "We are doing everything possible to make sure that this situation does not boil over," White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told ABC.

In Israel, some prepared bomb shelters and recalled Iran's unprecedented direct military assault in April following a suspected Israeli strike that killed two Iranian generals.

A stabbing attack Sunday near Tel Aviv killed a woman in her 70s and an 80-year-old man, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service and a nearby hospital, and two other men were wounded. The police said the attack was carried out by a Palestinian militant, who was "neutralised." **AP**

Israel strike on Gaza schools kills 30

Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike hit two schools in Gaza City on Sunday, killing at least 30 people, while the military reported it had struck Hamas command centres. These bring to at least 11 the number of schools in Gaza to be struck since July 6, killing around 150 people, based on a tally of tolls previously given by officials in the Hamas-run territory. Israel's military confirmed the strike targeting the two schools. "The schools were used by Hamas' Al-Furqan Battalion as a hiding place for its terrorist operatives and as command centres," the military said in a statement. **AFP**

Leave Lebanon now: France & Italy to nat'l's

France and Italy on Sunday urged their citizens in Lebanon to leave the country due to the risk of military escalation in West Asia, their foreign ministries said. In two separate travel advisories, the French foreign ministry recommended citizens residing in Iran to temporarily leave the country given the risk of its airspace being closed. The ministry called on its citizens in Lebanon to leave on commercial flights available to leave. Italy's foreign minister Antonio Tajani on X urged Italians temporarily in Lebanon not to travel at all to the south of the country and to return to Italy as soon as possible. **REUTERS**

15 Russian 'neutrals' at Oly are politically isolated & rarely in spotlight

Paris: Rarely on the podium and barred from the opening ceremony, the 15 Russians competing at the Paris Olympics have an uneasy status as "Individual Neutral Athletes" following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Some in the Olympic Village opposed them taking part in the Summer Games, and Russian opinion is divided. In Russia, the Olympics aren't being shown on TV and some politicians and media figures have even described those willing to compete in Paris as traitors. It's a complex environment for the athletes, some of them teenagers, to navigate and they're wary of talking about politics or

the war: "My family is proud of me, that's all that matters," said tennis player Diana Shnaider.

The 20-year-old former college player for North Carolina State said it was "amazing" to be at her first Olympics. "There are still a lot of people from my country in the stands... I heard words of encouragement today," she said after winning in Thursday's quarterfinals.

Tennis players like Shnaider and 2021 US Open winner Daniil Medvedev are used to dealing with the media and playing around the world without a Russian flag. Others seem a little overwhelmed. Anzhela Bladtcva, a 19-year-old tram-



Neutral athlete Diana Shnaider. When a neutral athlete wins a gold medal, an 'anthem' commissioned by the IOC plays. Their medals don't count in Olympics' official medal table

polinist, placed fifth in her event Friday and clutched a stuffed animal as she spoke with media afterward. "There are so

many emotions, so many people, everyone is so kind and happy and so helpful," she said.

National delegations sailed down the Seine River on a flotilla of boats in the opening ceremony, but the neutral athletes weren't included. "It's upsetting that they didn't let us, but what can you do?" said Bladtcva. Of the 32 "neutral" athletes in Paris, 17 previously represented Belarus and just 15 represented Russia. That's compared to more than 300 Russians at the last Summer Games in Tokyo. International Olympic Committee restrictions barred Russian athletes who are in the military or publicly supported

the invasion of Ukraine. The IOC also blocked Russians from team sports. Track and field enforced its own blanket ban.

In gymnastics and weightlifting, Russia's teams skipped qualifying events in protest of being forced to compete as neutrals or to undergo vetting, including checks of their social media. Some athletes even qualified, accepted their IOC invitations, then withdrew weeks before Olympics began. It wasn't clear whether they made that decision under pressure.

When a neutral athlete wins a gold medal, an "anthem" commissioned by the IOC plays: More like the soundtrack to an

inspirational video. Their medals don't count in Olympics' official table. At least 82 athletes at the Paris Olympics were born in Russia, including the neutral athletes. That leaves more than 60 competing for other nations. Some have lived outside Russia for years or moved abroad as children. Others switched their sporting allegiance since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Some Ukrainians view changes of allegiance with suspicion, too. Fencing champion Olga Kharlan said last month that Russian athletes who switched allegiance to other countries' teams after the invasion "should be checked more". **AP**

WORLD WATCH



BIG PLUNGE: A cliff diving competition in Hrimezdice, Czech Republic

Anne Frank statue in Amsterdam defaced with pro-Palestinian graffiti, says report

A statue of Anne Frank, famous for her diary account of hiding from the Nazis during World War II, has been covered with pro-Palestinian graffiti, AFP reported Sunday. According to images published on X, the base of the statue was spray-painted with the slogan "Free Gaza", while the girl's hands were painted with the same blood-red colour. Police have opened a probe into the most recent defacement, which likely occurred in the night from Saturday to Sunday, an Amsterdam police spokesman told AFP, adding that no suspect had yet been identified.

Pope, plugging for books, reveals love for tragedies

Pope Francis' bookish side emerged Sunday, after the Vatican published a letter in which the pontiff encourages young priests to read — while revealing that he himself likes the great tragedies. "How can we speak to the hearts of men and women if we ignore, set aside or fail to appreciate

the 'stories' by which they sought to express and lay bare the drama of their lived experience in novels and poems," asked the pontiff in his July 17 letter to priests-to-be, published by the Vatican on Sunday. In the lengthy text — peppered with references to literary greats like C.S. Lewis, Marcel Proust, T. S. Eliot and Jorge Luis Borges — Francis argued that reading was "part of one's path to personal maturity".

Beachgoers in Italy struck by lightning

At least three people were injured, one of them seriously, when lightning struck a beach packed with holidaymakers on Italy's Adriatic coast on Saturday. The bolt of lightning hit the stretch of beach near Alba Adriatica, in the central Abruzzo region. Photos posted on social media showed emergency workers crowded around what appeared to be a woman on a stretcher on the beach.

AROUND THE WORLD

A hexagonal, polished piece of iron taken from the Eiffel Tower is being embedded in each gold, silver and bronze medal at the Paris Olympics 2024. The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



"Obviously, I want to play more in the future and will continue my game. I really want to win an Olympic medal and I won't quit until I achieve that. I'll train harder and come back strongly."

DEEPIKA KUMARI
INDIAN ARCHER

OF GUTS AND GLORY

Sreejesh The Hero As India Defy Odds To Make Semis

TIMES AT THE GAMES
BIJU.BABUCYRIAC
@timesofindia.com

Paris: The wave of British attacks kept lashing Indian shores but PR Sreejesh stood tall at Yves-du-Manoir on Sunday. The saves kept coming in after India were reduced to 10 men following Amit Rohidas' expulsion and as the match went into a shoot-out, the entire team felt super confident.

While Sreejesh was the hero, the whole team had put their bodies on the line to drag the game into shoot-out. James Alberry put Britain ahead in the tie-breaker while beating Sreejesh with a fine dribble but Harmanpreet drew India level as he rounded off rival keeper Ollie Payne. Zach Wallace looked to be in trouble as he went wide but still found the board to put Britain back ahead. It was Sukhjeet's turn next and the Jalandhar player tricked Payne with a fine dodge to make it 2-2. For Williamson and Roper, the pressure was just too much and Lalit Upadhyay and Raj Kumar Pal kept their nerves to take India home.

"(It is a) daily job of a goalie. Some days it's a different effort (but) today is our day.

Even in the shoot-out, the guys who took shots didn't disappoint," Sreejesh said.

The two teams had also clashed in the quarterfinal in Tokyo three years ago and Britain had dominated a couple of halves, but in that game India had a two-goal lead to play with. On Sunday, it was a different ball game altogether as Rohidas, one of India's penalty corner specialists, was shown the red card by the umpire following a video referral for a high stick that hit William Calnan on the face in the 17th minute.

But the Indians, led by Harmanpreet Singh, took it as a wake-up call and attacked with renewed vigour and won

the contest, frustrating Britain with their defensive skills. Before the game went into that mode where India were pinned down in their own half, Harmanpreet gave the boys in blue the lead from a penalty-corner against the run of play. The Brits knew they had the numerical advantage and they restored parity within five minutes. Britain forced a penalty corner and Samuel Ward's try was saved by Sreejesh but the danger was not fully averted. Rupert Shipperly tested the India keeper with another stinging shot and Sreejesh's block came back to Lee Morton



SAVIOUR: Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh saves Britain's fourth penalty to set up India's win on Sunday

"I COULDN'T STOP MY TEARS. I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH PERFORMANCE IN MANY YEARS AND NOW I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS TEAM CAN BRING US THE OLYMPIC GOLD AFTER 44 YEARS. I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I STARTED SHOUTING LOUDLY AFTER INDIA'S FOURTH GOAL IN THE SHOOT-OUT. I WAS TOLD THAT PEOPLE IN MY SOCIETY APARTMENT WOULD COME OUT BUT I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I COULD NOT CONTROL."

—Dhanraj Pillay | FORMER CAPTAIN

who fired in from close as Sreejesh's efforts went in vain. Changing ends, Britain forced three penalty corners in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Gareth Furling, one of the three Wales players in the British team and their leading scorer with three

goals here, tried two different shots but it was not enough to beat Sreejesh, who had all the angles covered. The Indian defence comprising the skipper and Sanjay, who was in to beef up the defence in Rohidas' place, also did a great job saving India twice towards the

INDIA		THE SHOOT-OUT		ENGLAND	
Attacker	Result	Round	Attacker	Result	
Harmanpreet Singh	Goal	1.	James Alberry	Goal	
Sukhjeet Singh	Goal	2.	Zach Wallace	Goal	
Lalit Upadhyay	Goal	3.	Conor Williamson	Miss	
Raj Kumar Pal	Goal	4.	Phillip Roper	Miss	

end of the quarter. The Indians, who were forced to fall back quickly to negate Britain's numerical advantage, managed just four penalty corners while Britain had 10 without success. The fourth quarter was all about Britain seeing their attacks

fade away in vain as Sreejesh was in no mood to concede again. The last of the many saves from the champion custodian came in the 60th minute and the Indians celebrated. And come the tie-breaker, Sreejesh ensured that it was no premature celebration.

Shooters fail to make it to title round

Biju.BabuCyriac@timesofindia.com

Paris: India's medal haul in shooting at the Olympics continued to be limited to pistol shooter Manu Bhaker's two bronze

medals as the rest of her compatriots found the going tough against the best in the world.

On Sunday, India's challenge in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol came to an end in the qualification round as Vijayveer Sidhu and Anish Bhanwala crashed out, unable to produce their best.

While Sidhu ended 9th, Bhanwala came home in 13th spot. Both the Indians did well in Stage 1 as they shot identical scores of 293 each. But they



failed to keep the momentum going in Stage 2, firing scores of 290 and 289 respectively at the Chateauroux National Shooting Centre near here. Sidhu ended with a total of 583 with 26x while Bhanwala tallied 582 with 22x.

Maheswari falters in fifth round

In the women's skeet event, Maheswari Chauhan finished in 14th spot after raising vi-

sions of a final berth.

Resuming her fourth round on Sunday in the eight spot, the Indian shot down all the 25 clay birds for a perfect score to add to her tally of 23, 24 & 24 on Saturday.

But she buckled under pressure as she ended with a 22 — her worst score in all the five rounds — for a total of 118. Maheswari will now team up with Anant Jeet Singh Naruka in the skeet mixed team event on Monday.



ANISH BHANWALA

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Indian Shuttler Throws Away Opportunities To Lose Semifinal, Will Now Play World No. 7 Jia For Bronze

VIKTOR EXCELS SEN

TIMES AT THE GAMES

ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: "The real test begins now," Lakshya Sen had said on Friday evening after making the semifinals of the men's singles. The Indian shuttler found out that it was indeed real, and mentally bruising, at the Porte de la Chapelle arena on Sunday. The 22-year-old was up against world's No. 2 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark. World champion, defending champion, towering over his rival at six feet four, the 30-year-old Dane was a formidable, intimidating opponent.

Sen knew that. He had won just one in eight encounters against the Dane before this and taken just three games off him.

But the Indian was fearless when he went in there. He gave it his all, left his heart out there on the court. He walked away with several unanswered questions ringing in his head. He had lost 20-22, 14-21 and it would take time to sink in.

Sen was in control of the first game. After fighting with all his skills and courage, he had the Dane cornered, having scored six points in that game at one stage to go up 17-11. He finally had three game points in his hands. 20-17. He had to go for the kill. Something snapped. He lost it there.

Sen was probably thinking too much, too hard. He made a service error. You don't do that against a player who has often come back from the dead in hostile arenas across the world. This was the life-line Axelsen needed. He could see that the Indian across the net was nervous. It was his turn to go for the kill. Axelsen drove the knife in hard, taking the game at 22-20, reeling off five straight points.

The tone of the contest was set. Or was it? Sen returned to serve in the second game and looked unaffected as he scored seven straight points. 7-0. This was unreal. Axelsen looked a bit unsettled as he kept making unforced errors, sending his returns long or wide. Sen was cruising. He served well, returned well, had a couple of delectable drop shots and a few smash hits too.

But the fans in Sen's corner were probably thinking too far ahead.

Probably so was Sen. Axelsen being a champion of comebacks, got a foot in the door when a Sen return went wide. Down 1-7, the Dane slowly started catching up.

Sen was the better player at the net throughout the contest. He kept trying to draw his tall rival in with his drop shots. The Indian won some crucial points at the net and his experienced rival realised that he needed a change in strategy. Instead of playing the drop shot contest, he hit out long and took control from the backcourt. From there came the half smash, the flick and the stinging powerful smash.

Axelsen caught up with Sen at 10-10 with his trademark smash. Lakshya stayed in the game till 12-12 and then suddenly lost rhythm. He was losing control. Axelsen sensed it and knew just what to do. Sud-

Team India,
achhe se sona!
Good sleep can
lead to 60% better
performance.



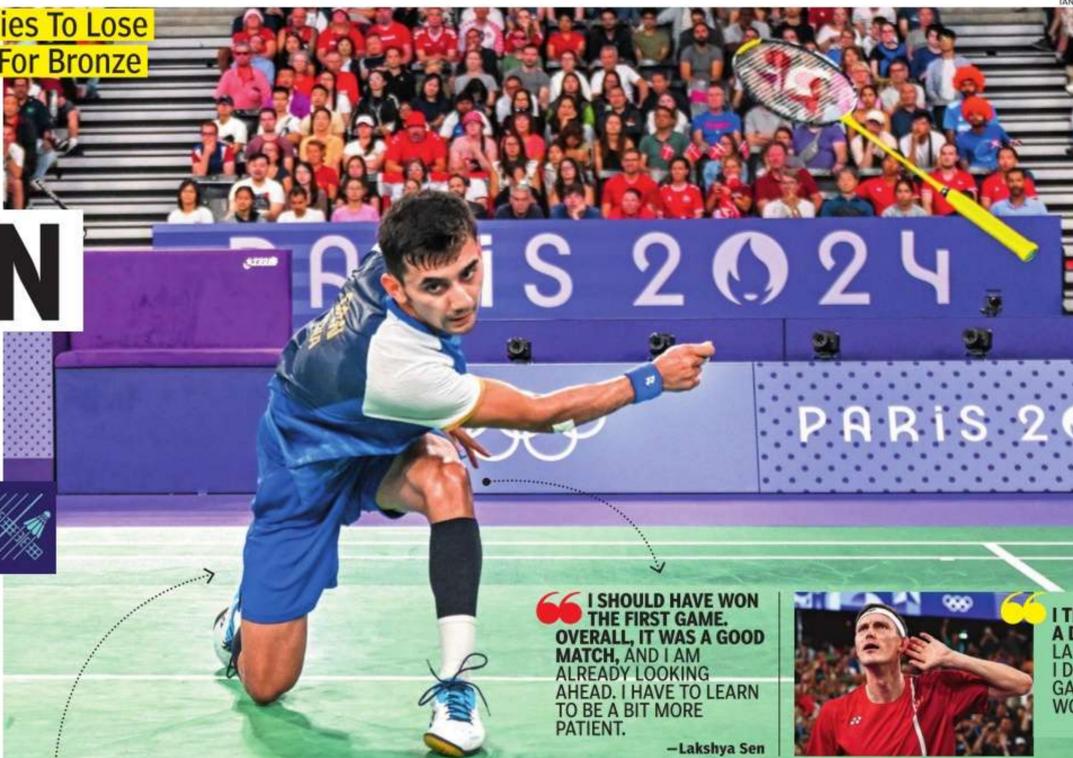
"THERE ARE MANY LESSONS FOR ME FROM THIS MATCH. BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT THEM NOW. I HAVE TO FORGET THIS AND THE EARLIER MATCHES."

denly, he looked to be in a hurry. He smashed at will, hard and brutal. Sen had no more answers. He kept making unforced errors and threw in the towel.

After the match, Axelsen admitted that Sen played better on the day. "He could have won today. Four years down the line he will be a better player, I am sure," he said.

So, what was he thinking when he was down 17-20 in the first game? "I tried not to think. I was blank. He thought a lot. It is natural. He got nervous and I had to strike. He made mistakes due to his nerves. My experience helped me."

When asked about Sen's game, Axelsen said: "He played better than me. But I won it here," he said, pointing to his head.



"I SHOULD HAVE WON THE FIRST GAME. OVERALL, IT WAS A GOOD MATCH, AND I AM ALREADY LOOKING AHEAD. I HAVE TO LEARN TO BE A BIT MORE PATIENT."

-Lakshya Sen

SIANS

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.



MEDALS TALLY

P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
1	CHN	18	15	10	43
2	USA	16	25	25	66
3	FRA	12	14	16	42
4	AUS	12	9	7	28
5	GBR	10	12	15	37
6	KOR	10	7	7	24
7	JPN	8	5	10	23
8	ITA	6	8	5	19
9	NED	6	5	4	15
10	GER	5	5	2	12
57	IND	0	0	3	3

Updated till 11 pm

"I THINK THE EXPERIENCE MADE A DIFFERENCE TODAY. I THINK LAKSHYA PLAYED BETTER THAN I DID IN BIG PARTS OF THE GAME. SO HE COULD HAVE WON THE MATCH."

-Viktor Axelsen

Lovlina exits arena, but not without a fight

TIMES AT THE GAMES

SIDDHARTH.SAXENA @timesofindia.com

Paris: Lovlina Borgohain entered the arena with a smile, and with a strange, awkward looking way to the music almost as if she was willing herself to be in the zone that was required of her. She smiled through almost all of her bout with old foe Li Qian, showing even through the exaggerated pouts that mouthguards give boxers - once even offering to help pick up the Chinese when the double Olympic medalist and the world No 1 found herself on the floor during a second round brawl. The last Indian boxer in the fray here, was she not aware of the task ahead of her in Paris? Or was appearing blissfully oblivious her way of deflecting all things mental in boxing?

Maybe, that is how she is made. Is Lovlina too much of a nice guy in this grab and smash world of Olympic women's boxing? It was an aspect that she may have perhaps needed to conceal, disguise in this high-



FEELING THE PUNCH: China's Li Qian (R) and Lovlina fight it out

stakes bout with Qian, one that would grant her entry to the Roland Garros venue as a semi-finalist in the women's 75kg, and ensure her of a medal, her second at the Olympics.

Because at some level there was disappointment too, and overnight anger. Disappointment because Lovlina was the last of the Indian boxers here in Paris, after a shrill campaign that had promised much but unfortunately delivered little. And anger from overnight, because many in the Indian camp felt that late-evening fighter, Nishant Dev was robbed of a genuine win against Mexico's Marco Alvarez in the strangest of split decisions in Saturday's men's 71kg quarterfi-

nals, after he had taken the lead in the first round and had looked the better puncher in the final third. Lovlina entered the ring with a smile, but left with a little tear in her eye. Because, it would go in similar fashion on Sunday morning as well, the Indian being edged out in a 4-1 split decision in a close fight to a familiar foe.

The bout began with Lovlina needing to stay out of the Chinese's reach, not get too close and get ensnared in a scrap which would allow Qian employ her clinching tactics. But just the reverse happened. Lovlina was drawn into the fight at the level and nature that Qian would have liked, the holding and clinching ensued leaving Lovlina having to drag herself from it. Still, it was a close verdict - 3-2 - in the Chinese boxer's favour.

Realising that she may have a chance if she reverted to her type, Lovlina began Round Two in just that way. Like she did with her easy-looking manner in the last bout against Norway's Sunniva Hofstad, Lovlina kept away forcing Qian to charge. The taking over of momentum worked,

as Lovlina seemed much more in control, dictating the fight her way. It was the best round of boxing of the bout with the two gangly 75 kg boxers sizing each other up, parrying and trading punches. It was again 3-2 in favour of Qian, but a much-improved show from Lovlina - two of the judges who had ruled in favour of Qian in the first round choosing to award the Indian here. It gave much hope for the final three minutes, where maybe there lay in store, a semifinal entry for Lovlina, and her own second Olympic medal.

She had to fight to recover, to draw level and to take the lead. In the third then, dropping her defences Lovlina waded in, in an attempt to turn the tide but Qian was more than prepared. Trailing after the first round has afflicted the Indian boxers here in Paris, leaving them with having to do the rallying in the second and fight for parity and hope for an inch-close win off the final. More often than that will not work at this highest level of competition, and certainly not for India at Paris here.

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS: Women's 400m heat: Kiran Pahal (4pm), Men's 3000m steeplechase: A Sable (10.50pm)

BADMINTON: Men's singles bronze-medal playoff: Lakshya Sen vs Lee Zii Jia (Mas) (6pm)

TABLE TENNIS: Women's team Rd 16: India vs Romania (1.30pm)

SAILING: Women's Dinghy: Nethra Kumaran (3.45pm); Men's Dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan (6.10pm)

SHOOTING: Mixed Skeet team qualification: C Maheshwari, Anant Jeet Singh (12.30pm); Medal matches (if qualifying) (6.30pm)

WRESTLING: Women's 68kg Rd 16: Nisha Dahiya (6.30pm), (if qualifies) QFs: 7.50pm, Semis: (1.10 am, Tuesday)

Djokovic adds a golden hue to his career

Beats Alcaraz To Win Long-Awaited Olympic Gold Medal, Completes Career Golden Slam

Paris: Novak Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal by beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in an enthralling men's tennis singles final on Sunday, giving the 37-year-old from Serbia the last significant accomplishment missing from his glittering resume.

Djokovic's impressive career already featured a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks spent at No. 1 in the rankings by any man or woman. It also already contained a Summer Olympics medal, from 2008, but it was a bronze - and he has made clear that simply was not sufficient.

Until he got past bronze medalist Lorenzo Musetti of Italy in the semifinals on Friday, Djokovic was 0-3 in that round at the Games. He lost to the eventual gold winner each time: Rafael Nadal at Beijing in 2008, Andy Murray at London in 2012, and Alexander Zverev in Tokyo three years ago.

In Paris, wearing a gray sleeve over the right knee that required surgery for a torn meniscus two months ago, Djokovic faced Nadal in the second round and eliminated him in straight sets. Now Djokovic is the oldest man to win the singles gold in his sport since 1908

— and prevented Spain's Alcaraz, who is 21, from becoming the youngest.

When the victory was his, when the gold was his, thanks to one last forehand winner, Djokovic turned toward his team in the stands - sitting in front of his wife and their two children - and dropped his racket as he knelt on the clay. As emotional as ever, he cried and covered his face, then rose and grabbed a red-white-and-blue Serbian flag. After hugs in the stands, Djokovic waved that flag. Alcaraz wept afterward, too.

The final, which lasted 2 hours, 50 minutes despite being decided in only two sets, was a rematch of the Wimbledon title match three weeks ago that Alcaraz won to follow up his French Open title in June. AP



A tearful Novak Djokovic embraces his daughter Tara after winning the Olympics gold on Sunday

What is a career Golden Slam?

The honour is earned when a player wins all four Grand Slams and an Olympic gold in singles. Steffi Graf is the only player to do it in one calendar year.

PLAYERS COMPLETING THE CAREER GOLDEN SLAM (SINGLES)

STEFFI GRAF (GER)	1988
*ANDRE AGASSI (USA)	1999
*RAFAEL NADAL (ESP)	2010
S WILLIAMS (USA)	2012
N DJOKOVIC (SRB)	2024

*While Agassi won the Oly gold in 1996, Nadal won in 2008

GALLERY

Crawford becomes 4-division champ by defeating Madrimov

Los Angeles: Terence Crawford, the consensus best pound-for-pound boxer in the world, defeated Israel Madrimov by unanimous decision on Saturday night to become a four-division champion. Crawford won the WBA super welterweight title in his first fight at 154 pounds, taking it 116-112, 115-113 and 115-113 on the judges' scorecards. Crawford (41-0, 31 KOs) had not fought since he stopped Errol Spence Jr. in July 2023 to become the undisputed welterweight champion. He has also won titles at super lightweight and lightweight. The victory could set up a fight between Crawford and Canelo Alvarez, the reigning 168-pound champion. "You know what I say, if the money is right, we got to fight," Crawford said immediately after the fight. The mostly unknown Madrimov (10-1-1) acquitted himself well on the highest-profile stage to date for the 29-year-old from Uzbekistan. "I fought the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, and I believe I did enough because I was the champion," Madrimov said.

Toni Kroos is Germany's player of the year: Toni Kroos has been voted Germany's player of the year for the 2023-24 season while Xabi Alonso won the coaching accolade for leading unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title. The 34-year-old Kroos won the award organized by German sports magazine Kicker for the second time. AGENCIES

India fail spin test again, fall behind in ODI series

Leggie Vandersay's 6/33 Dismantles Rohit's Team As Sri Lanka Win By 32 Runs

Colombo: Leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay's magical six-wicket haul robbed the roar from Rohit Sharma's brutal fifty as Sri Lanka etched an emotional 32-run win over India in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Sri Lanka now lead the three-match series 1-0 after the first match ended in a tie.

India were asked to chase down 241 on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for the spinners, and they ended up at 208 all out in 42.2 overs with Vandersay wrecking them with a haul of six for 33. A different result loomed as long as skipper Rohit was at the crease, creaming the Lankan bowlers en route to his 64 off 44 balls (5x4, 4x6).

Unmindful of the nature of the pitch, Rohit cut, swept and pulled spinners Dushan Mendis and Akila Dananjaya and pacer Asitha Fernando to all parts of the ground in the company of a compact Shubman Gill (35, 44b) as India waltzed to 97 in just 13.3 overs.

But a fatal reverse sweep off Vandersay that was taken by a diving Pathum Nissanka snapped Rohit's stay, and it also put the Indian batting unit in a tailspin.

The 97 for one became 116 for two in 17.1 overs and it transpired into even trickier 116 for three for balls later.

But more shocks were in store for the Indians as they tumbled to 123 for four, 133 for five and eventually to 147 for six.

That was six wickets for 50 runs in the span of 10 overs, and the dance of destruction was performed by one man - Vandersay - who came in as a replacement for injured Wanindu Hasaranga.

Gill drove away from his body for Kamindu Mendis to take a screamer at first slip, Shivam Dube (0) failed to pick a ripping leg-break, Virat Kohli (14) did not read a wrong'un and Shreyas Iyer was defeated by a slider.

Dube, Kohli and Shreyas were adjudged leg before, indicating the indecisiveness in their feet and mind. KL Rahul lasted just two balls before dragging Vandersay's delivery that pitched outside the channel onto his stumps.

Axar Patel (44, 44b) played smart cricket and milked 38 runs for the seventh wicket with Washington Sundar to keep India ticking. Axar took 14 runs off Charith Asalanka's first over (6, 4, 4) and later moussed Akila Da-

nanjaya for a six over mid-off. But even that feeble lifeline halted when Axar slapped a catch back to Asalanka (3/20) and the rest was a mere formality.

Earlier, Indian spinners led by Washington put the Lankan batters through a test of skill, but the hosts found enough fight from their late order to make an acceptable 240 for nine.

Washington (3/30) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/33) were at their smartest as the home batters found the going tough. It required a 72-run association for the seventh wicket between Wellalage (39) and Kamindu (40) for them to wriggle out of a stifling 136 for six.

The first blow was landed by Mohammed Siraj when he had Nissanka caught by Rahul behind the wicket. But a recovery phase followed as Avishka Fernando (40, 62b, 5x4) and Kusal Mendis (30, 42b, 3x4) used the freshness of the new ball to add 74 for a rather fluent second wicket stand. PTI

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka: P Nissanka c Rahul b Siraj 0, A Fernando c and b W Sundar 40, K Mendis lbw b W Sundar 30, S Samarawickrama c Kohli b Axar 14, C Asalanka c Axar b W Sundar 25, J Liyanage c and b K Yadav 12, D Wellalage c S Dube b K Yadav 39, K Mendis run out 40, A Dananjaya batting 15, J Vandersay batting 0; **Extras:** (b-9, lb-8, w-7) 24;

Total: 240/9; FoW: 0-1, 74-2, 79-3, 111-4, 136-5, 136-6, 208-7, 239-8, 240/9; **Bowling:** M Siraj 8-1-43-1, Arshdeep 8.5-0-57-0, A Patel 9-0-38-1, S Dube 2-0-10-0, W Sundar 10-1-30-3, K Yadav 10-1-33-2, R Sharma 2-0-11-0

India: R Sharma c P Nissanka b Vandersay 64, S Gill c K Mendis b Vandersay 35, V Kohli lbw b Vandersay 14, S Dube lbw b Vandersay 0, A Patel c and b Asalanka 44, S Iyer lbw b Vandersay 7, KL

Rahul b Vandersay 0, W Sundar lbw b Asalanka 15, K Yadav not out 7, M Siraj lbw b Asalanka 4, Arshdeep run out 3; **Extras:** (b-4, lb-6, w-4, nb-1) 15; **Total: 208 all out in 42.2 overs; FoW:** 97-1, 116-2, 116-3, 123-4, 133-5, 147-6, 185-7, 190-8, 201-9; **Bowling:** A Fernando 7-0-31-0, D Wellalage 6-0-41-0, A Dananjaya 10-1-54-0, K Mendis 3-0-19-0, J Vandersay 10-0-33-6, C Asalanka 6.2-20-3.

AFP



JOY RUN: Jeffrey Vandersay celebrates with teammates after dismissing Virat Kohli in Colombo on Sunday

CHANGE
OF GUARD

SHA'CARRI RICHARDSON WAS PRIMED TO END USA'S LONG WAIT FOR A GOLD IN THE WOMEN'S 100 METRES BUT ST LUCIA'S JULIEN ALFRED RAN A NEAR PERFECT RACE TO CRUSH HER DREAM...

TOP-THREE FINISHERS

SHA'CARRI RICHARDSON



MELISSA JEFFERSON



JULIEN ALFRED



Pics: AFP, Getty Images, AP

KNOW ALFRED

- Her athletics career began when she was six at the behest of her PE teacher.
- She quit the sport at 12 after her father died but was encouraged by her coach to return.
- With not many facilities in St Lucia to take the next step, she moved to Jamaica when she was 14. She later moved to University of Texas to further her athletics, besides studies. A string of NCAA titles last year showed that the St Lucian was ready to take the big leap.

Dad believed that I could do it. He passed away in 2013 but I know he will always be so boastful of his daughter being an Olympian and now this."

0.15 Alfred's winning margin over Richardson is the biggest in an Olympic 100m final since 2008. Her time of 10.72s was also the joint eighth fastest in the history of women's 100m.

I'M JUST HAPPY IT HAPPENED IN THE BIGGEST RACE OF MY CAREER. I'M GOING TO BE HONEST, I WATCHED USAIN BOLT'S RACES THIS MORNING. I WATCHED HOW HE EXECUTED. I GREW UP WATCHING HIM TOO."

10

ALFRED'S gold made St Lucia the 10th nation to win a women's 100m gold. USA top the lists with nine golds followed by Jamaica on four.

32

For the first time in 32 years—since the 1992 Barcelona Games—that Jamaica have failed to win a medal in the women's 100m. They had won the gold in every Olympics from Beijing 2008 to Tokyo 2020. At the last Games, they had swept all three medals.



DISAPPOINTMENT FOR FAVOURITE SHA'CARRI

When the night began, Sha'Carri Richardson was the overwhelming favourite for the gold. After all, she had entered the final as the world champion and the fastest woman in 2024. But by the time the race ended, she was left wondering what had gone wrong.

The American looked nervous at the start and her problems multiplied when she was slow off the blocks—a difficulty which has haunted her this year. By the halfway mark, Alfred had gone and she could only play catchup. Paris was a bid for her redemption, coming three years after she was barred from Tokyo Games after testing positive for marijuana but had to be content with silver.

1996

The last time the US won a gold. Then, Gail Devers pipped Jamaica's Merlene Ottey to take the top spot at the Atlanta Games. Marion Jones had won at the 2000 Sydney Games but was stripped of her medals after being found guilty of doping.

SHELLY-ANN INJURED OR DENIED ENTRY?

Jamaican double champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce missed her Olympic 100m semi-final on Saturday after sustaining an injury in the warm-up after her preparation was unsettled by security officials delaying her entry to the Stade de France.

Social media footage showed the Jamaican team members arguing with officials who would not let their vehicle enter.

American Sha'Carri Richardson also appeared in the video.

Fraser-Pryce was shown saying: "They've changed the rules. We came through this gate before but now they're saying athletes who have left can't use this gate." Jamaican chef de mission Ian Kelly said later that there had been a delay but that Fraser-Pryce's absence was due to injury. "There is no truth that she was not allowed to enter. Unfortunately she was not able to compete due to an injury sustained during her final warmup," he said. REUTERS

MAIDEN VOYAGES

It has been a first Oly medal for a few countries in Paris, with the Caribbean queens leading the way

My country's name is Dominica (dah-min-EE-ka). We're not Dominican Republic, so it's pronounced differently. We are about roughly 70,000 people. Not 7 million. Not 70 million. Seventy thousand." - LaFond

LAFOND JUMPS TO GLORY

Thea LaFond made history for her Caribbean island nation of Dominica by winning gold in the women's triple jump to claim the country's first-ever Olympic medal. LaFond clinched the gold with her second jump of 15.02m—the world's best this year. Dominica has a population of just over 70,000.

SAINT LUCIA'S 100M CROWN

Julien Alfred stunned pre-race favourite Sha'Carri Richardson in the women's 100m race to win the gold medal and give Saint Lucia their first-ever Olympic medal. The island nation only began competing at the Games in 1996. Alfred, who honed her craft at the University of Texas, hopes Saturday's victory will improve track and field facilities in St. Lucia.

CAPE VERDE'S STYLE GURU

Cape Verde boxer David de Pina reached the semifinals of the flyweight division and earn his country's first-ever Olympic medal. De Pina has made waves at the Games with his unique hairstyle, which features two buns on either side of his head with fans even wearing headbands to imitate the look.

MEDAL QUEST

USA CHAMPS: More than 150 countries and territories have claimed a medal since the modern Games began in 1896. Entering the Paris Games, USA has the most medals with 2,975 medals, followed by the former Soviet Union (1,204), Germany (1,058), Great Britain (955), France (898).

70 Nearly 70 countries and territories, though—roughly a third of the parade of nations—cannot boast an Oly medalist, summer or winter.

BOLIVIA & BANGLADESH'S WOES: Bolivia, a country of 12 million, attended their first Games in 1936. In 22 trips—15 Summer Games, seven Winter—they have never sent an athlete to the podium. Bangladesh, with 173 million people, is the most populous country never to win an Oly medal.

LEGENDECKY

August 3 is a date that holds significance for Katie. It was the day she won her first Oly gold, in London at the age of 15; same day, 12 years on, the 27-year-old won her ninth career gold

Nanterre: Every year on Aug. 3, Katie Ledecky is reminded of her first Olympic gold medal. She was just 15 years old, a reserved high schooler who had surprisingly made the U.S. swim team for the London Games. Then she went out and shocked the world, beating everyone in the 800-meter freestyle.

Twelve years to the day, Ledecky did it again. Not a stunner, but one for the ages. Gold medal No. 9.

Ledecky capped another stellar Olympics by becoming only the second swimmer to win an event at four straight Summer Games, holding off Ariarne Titmus, the "Terminator," to win the 800 free Saturday night.

It was Ledecky's second gold medal in Paris and the ninth of her remarkable career, which marked another milestone. She became only the sixth Olympian to reach that figure.

Ledecky was very aware of the significance of the date. "Every Aug. 3, the video (of her first Olympic gold) gets posted somewhere and you kind of reminisce," she said. "So, when I saw it was Aug. 3, I was like, Oh boy, I've got to get the job done."

That she did, going faster than her winning time in Tokyo to finish in 8 minutes, 11.04 seconds. Titmus was right on her shoulder nearly the entire race, but Ledecky pulled away in the final 100.

Titmus, who beat Ledecky in the 400 freestyle, settled for silver at 8:12.29. The bronze went to another American, Paige Madden at 8:13.00. Phelps had been the only swimmer to win the same event at four straight Olympics, taking gold in the 200 individual medley at Athens, Beijing, London and Rio de Janeiro. Now he's got company.

Titmus added some perspective to Ledecky's consistency over the last dozen years, noting where she was when the American won that first gold in London.

"I was in grade six in primary school," Titmus said. "That's how remarkable she is."

Their friendly rivalry has driven both to greater heights. They each won two golds and four medals at these games, which pushed Ledecky to 14 overall and left the 23-year-old Aussie with four golds and eight medals in her career. Ledecky has dominated the distance freestyle events over the last dozen years—and

LEDECKY'S OLY MEDAL RECORD

Total	14
Gold	9
Silver	4
Bronze	1

MOST GOLD MEDALS (WOMEN) AT THE SUMMER OLYMPICS

9	Larisa Latynina (USSR)	Gymnastics
9	Katie Ledecky (USA)	Swimming
8	Birgit Fischer (Germany)	Canoing & Kayaking
8	Jenny Thompson (USA)	Swimming
7	Isabell Werth (Germany)	Equestrian

isn't done yet. She's made it clear she plans to keep swimming at least through the 2028 Los Angeles Games. "It's not easy," Ledecky said. "I'll take it year by year, and we'll see if I can keep giving everything I've got for as long as I have left in me."

Bol move clinches gold for Dutch

Saint-Denis: Forget about mixed relay. This was a one-woman show.

When Dutch sprinter Femke Bol entered the final turn of the 4x400m mixed relay in fourth position under a downpour, a medal—let alone a victory—seemed like a difficult proposition for her orange-clad team.

That's when Bol accelerated into another gear and proceeded to reel in the three women ahead of her. "I keep telling people it's just two words. It's 'Femke Bol.' She's just special," said Dutch leadoff man Eugene Omalla.

Bol, whose best race is the 400 hurdles, ran the anchor lap in 47.93 seconds, and the Netherlands team



RUSH HOUR: Femke Bol

of Omalla, Lieke Klaver, Isaya Klein Ikkink and Bol won the race at the Paris Olympics on Saturday in 3 minutes, 7.43 seconds—0.31 clear of the United States.

Bol pulled a similar stunt last year at world championships in the women's 4x400, rallying from well behind late to earn a gold medal. That came after she

tripped and fell in the home stretch of the mixed relay, where she was making up ground on the U.S. "Just keep going. Keep going," Bol said of her mindset. "I channeled my anger from Budapest back and I saw my teammates already cheering on me coming back."

The Americans put the same

team out Saturday as they had the day before when they set the world record at 3:07.41.

The Americans were tied for the lead with Belgium when Bryce Deadmon handed off to Kaylyn Brown for the anchor lap. But Brown could not hold off Bol, who has the sixth-fastest time in the world this year in the 400 flat.

One by one, Bol passed the Belgian, British and American runners who were ahead of her. "Whether somebody is in front of me or behind me, I don't feel nobody," Brown said. "I just keep pushing."

Bol passed Brown with about 10 meters to go. When it was over, Bol covered her mouth in disbelief, and her teammates shook their heads in amazement. "I just went for it," Bol said. "We just wanted a medal this time. We didn't want a time.... We just wanted a medal. And, well, we got gold." AP

MAGICAL MCINTOSH WINS THIRD PARIS GOLD

Paris: Canada's Summer McIntosh enhanced her status as the rising star of women's

swimming by winning her third gold of the Paris Olympics in the 200m individual medley. The 17-year-old produced a brilliant late surge to win in a time of 2min 06.56sec, the third-fastest time in history. Kate Douglass of the USA finished second while Australian Kaylee McKeown took the bronze after American Alex Walsh, who had finished third, was disqualified. "I'm just so proud of myself, how I've been able to recover and manage the events because it is a lot," said the teen, who also won silver in the 400m freestyle.

"I was in grade six in primary school (when she got her first gold). That's how remarkable she is. To think that I challenged her into her fourth consecutive in the 800 is pretty cool, I feel very honoured and privileged to be her rival." Ariarne Titmus

NORWEGIAN ROTH GETS SURPRISE DECATHLON GOLD

Paris: Norway's Markus Rooth captured a shock gold medal in the men's decathlon after defending champion Damian Warner's title defence ended when he failed to clear a height in the pole vault. Rooth amassed 8,796 points.

Germany's Leo Neugebauer won the silver with 8,748 and Lindon Victor of Grenada captured the bronze on 8,711. The 22-year-old Rooth, seventh after day one, took the lead with a terrific javelin throw before beating Neugebauer to the 1,500 metres finish line by about five seconds to seal by far the biggest victory of his career.

"I just won gold, I did not expect this," Rooth told reporters after by far the biggest victory of his career. "I woke up this morning feeling great after an amazing first day. I just kept adding on to that."

Canadian Warner, 34, was lying second heading into the pole vault, the eighth of the decathlon's 10 events, but fouled on his three attempts at 4.60 metres. Norway's Sander Skotheim, in third place, failed three times to clear 4.50m.

Amid outcry, Lin follows Imane in ensuring medal

Paris: Taiwanese boxer Lin Yu-ting became the second fighter at the centre of a Paris Olympics gender row to guarantee herself a medal after convincingly winning her quarter-final on Sunday.

Lin, who together with Algerian boxer Imane Khelif is at the centre of a storm over their eligibility, defeated Bulgaria's Svetlana Staneva on a unanimous points decision to reach the semi-finals of the women's 57kg category. With her second win of the tournament, the 28-year-old Lin is certain to win a medal because losing semi-finalists in the boxing take home bronze. After a scrappy and tetchy fight, the 34-year-old Staneva made an X sign with her fingers to the crowd and, clearly angry, declined to speak to reporters.

But her coach Borislav Georgiev held a piece of paper with the words: "I'm XX. Save woman sport." In most cases, males have both an X and Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes.

Khelif, who boxes again on Tuesday, is also guaranteed at least bronze after winning her quarter-final in the women's 66kg division. Khelif and Lin were disqualified from last year's world championships after failing gender eligibility tests, but were cleared

SEMIFINAL RUNS

Both Khelif and Lin have now reached the semi-finals in their weight categories in Paris. "Yu-ting is great!" Taiwan president Lai Ching-te said after she reached the semi-finals of her featherweight division.

"In recent days, Taiwan's people have been indignant at the slander against her. Facing the challenge, Yu-ting is fearless and uses her strength to crush the rumours. Let us continue to cheer for her!" "These circus acts,

to box in the French capital. They also competed at the Tokyo Games in 2021 but did not win medals. Neither boxer is known to identify as transgender and the exact nature of the test they failed previously is unclear.

After Staneva's defeat, Bulgarian



NO HARM DONE: Lin's opponent Staneva protests with an 'X' sign

when she fell... In general I am indignant at the unfair that is taking place. They have decided to make them champions," said Bulgarian boxing coach Borislav Georgiev. Khelif's father Amar said he was proud of his daughter and backed her to win a medal for Algeria.

president Rumen Radev weighed into the debate, sending congratulations for her "fighting spirit".

"She had the courage to fight not only for victory... but also to defend normality and the Olympic principles in sport," he wrote on Facebook.

IBA GENDER TESTS WERE FLAWED, ILLEGITIMATE: IOC

The gender tests conducted by the International Boxing Association (IBA) Khelif and Lin at last year's world championships that led to their disqualification were illegitimate and lacked credibility, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Sunday.

The IOC said the testing process at that event was completely arbitrary. "Those tests are not legitimate tests. The tests themselves, the process of the tests, the ad hoc nature of the tests are not legitimate," IOC spokesperson Mark Adams told a press conference. "The method of the testing, the idea of the testing which happened kind of overnight. None of it is legitimate and this does not deserve any response," Adams said. AGENCIES

BOXER NGAMBA, A MEMBER OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY, BREAKS REFUGEE TEAM'S DROUGHT

Villepinte: Cameroonian boxer Cindy Ngamba on Sunday became the first athlete on the Refugee Olympic Team to clinch a medal at the Paris Games, offering hope for a team created to call attention to the plight of refugees across the world.

Ngamba's victory comes after a fierce bout with French boxer Davina Michel in the women's middleweight quarterfinals. The win means she's at least scored a bronze medal as she advances to the semifinals.

Ngamba was a flag bearer for the 37 athletes making up the biggest Olympic Refugee Team since the idea was born ahead of the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Ngamba, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, moved to the United Kingdom at the age of 11 and said she was granted refugee status in 2021 because she could have been imprisoned for being gay in Cameroon. AP

Scheffler gets gold in a thriller with a 62

Paris: Scottie Scheffler delivered the best performance of his greatest year by rallying from four shots behind on Sunday with a 9-under 62 to win the Olympic gold medal in men's golf in a thriller at Le Golf National.

Already a six-time winner on the PGA Tour this year, including his second Masters title, Scheffler added Olympic gold to an astonishing season with a round that kept some 30,000 fans on edge for a wild final two hours.

The world's No. 1 player

had plenty of help. Jon Rahm of Spain had a four-shot lead over Tommy Fleetwood when he stepped on the 11th tee. Fleetwood caught him in two holes as the Spaniard had a stunning collapse. That opened the door for six players. It was Scheffler who charged to the front with four straight birdies down the stretch. He set an Olympic record for 72 holes at 19-under 265. Fleetwood's 66 earned him a silver. The bronze went to Hideki Matsuyama. AP



MARIN RETIRES FROM BADMINTON SEMI WITH INJURY: Carolina Marin retired from her Paris Olympics badminton semifinal on Sunday injured and in floods of tears. The Rio 2016 champ was on track to reach the final again but collapsed midway through the second game against China's He Bingjiao

SNAP SHOTS

Crawley to miss SL series

England opener Zak Crawley has been ruled out of the forthcoming Test series against Sri Lanka due to a broken finger. Crawley fractured the little finger on his right hand while attempting to take a catch during the recent third Test victory over the West Indies. With Crawley sidelined, Dan Lawrence is set to open alongside Ben Duckett.

The squad: Ben Stokes (capt), Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Ollie Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood

Bouzkoova ousts Sabalenka: Marie Bouzkoova of the Czech Republic rallied to beat top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 on Saturday night after a long weather delay in the Mubadala Citi DC Open semi-finals. Bouzkoova will face Paula Badosa of Spain, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Caroline Dolehide of the United States in the first semifinal. Fourth-seeded Sebastian Korda will face 10th-seeded Flavio Cobolli of Italy in the men's final, with both looking for their first ATP Tour title.

Results (Semifinals): Men: 4-Sebastian Korda (USA) bt 5-Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-4, 6-4; 10-Flavio Cobolli (Ita) bt 2-Ben Shelton (USA) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. **Women:** Marie Bouzkoova (Cze) bt 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Paula Badosa (Esp) bt Caroline Dolehide (USA) 6-3, 6-3.

West Ham sign Summerville: West Ham signed Leeds winger Crysencio Summerville in a deal worth a reported £25 million (\$32 million) on Saturday as the Premier League club moved closer to a swoop for Germany striker Niclas Füllkrug.

Mangpineng stars for United: Mangpineng Khongsai struck a brace to power United FC Kodagu to a 3-1 win over Pink Panthers FC in the Karnataka women's league football match in Bengaluru on Sunday. While Tanavi Gawade scored the opener for the winners, Anusha S was the lone goal scorer for Panthers.

Results: United FC Kodagu 3 (Tanavi Gawade 19, Mangpineng Khongsai 24, 34) bt Pink Panthers FC 1 (Anusha S 56); Maatru Prathistana FC 2 (Lekshmi VG 45, Tanisha 50) bt Roots FC 0.

Tuesday's matches: Rebels Women's FC vs Kemp FC (8.15am); Kickstart FC vs Misaka United FC (00.15am).

St Joseph hand PES big loss: St Joseph PUC A claimed a seven-wicket win over PES PUC in the REVA Independence day T20 inter-university cricket tournament in Bengaluru on Sunday. Electing to bat, Siddhanth S (31) took PES to 115/7 in 20 overs. Arjun Kurpad (2/19) and Shiv R (2/22) restricted the PES batters. In reply, Talha Sherif struck a 59-ball 58 to help the Josephites chase down the target with four balls to spare.

Brief scores: PES PUC 115/7 in 20 overs (Siddhanth S 31, Siddesh Asalkar 29; Arjun Kurpad 2-19, Shiv R 2-22) **lost to St Joseph PUC 'A' 117/3 in 19.2 overs** (Talha Sherif 58, Dhruv AS 28); **MES Main PUC 117 all out in 19.5 overs** (Neeraj 37, Amruth Raj 35; Tajas KA 3-16) **lost to REVA Independent PUC 'B' 120/4 in 15.1 overs** (Shashank MP 43, Kirthin B 32; Tarun Chandrashekar 3-20).

CM KEEPS WORD TO ATHLETES

Govt Gives Offer Letters To 12 Internationals From Karnataka

Ashim.Sunam@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In 2017, Siddaramaiah, in his first term as CM, had proposed state government employment for international medalists from the state in Group 'A' and 'B' categories. With the change in governments, the proposal gathered dust. Back as CM in 2023 for a second time, Siddaramaiah Sunday delivered on his promise and handed offer letters to 12 international athletes from the state.

These athletes have won medals at quadrennial events, including Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games. Girisha HN, who won a silver in high jump at the 2012 London Paralympics, is the lone athlete to be offered a job in Group 'A' category earmarked for medalists at the Olympics and Paralympics. He has been given the position of taluk panchayat executive officer.

The 11 others, including two-time Olympian and Asian Games medalist SV Sunil, have been offered Group 'B' jobs. Siddaramaiah, congratulating the athletes, said, "The state government is committed to supporting athletes. We have increased the sports reservation in police and forest departments from 2% to 3%." The long-due recognition was welcomed by the athletes. "When opportunities such as this are provided by the government, it gives parents a sense of security of a good future for the children interested in sports. This, in turn, translates into a good sporting culture," said Girisha.

Former India strike Sunil (2014 Asiad gold and CWG silver), shooter Divya TS (two silver medals in the Asian Games 2023) and Sunil's Asian Games teammate Nikkin Thimmiah have been offered deputy superintendent positions in the state excise department. Earlier in the year, the government had issued an advertisement inviting applications for the jobs. They received 48 applications. A four-member committee headed by the chief secretary shortlisted



INCENTIVE: Athletes pose with CM Siddaramaiah and other officials after receiving their offer letters on Sunday

12. Sunil, who is currently employed with BPCL, said, "We have waited for this day for a long time and are grateful that a promise to athletes has been delivered. A government job offers us financial security and an opportunity to serve the state. Since I don't represent the country anymore, the government job will give me a platform to help upcoming play-

ers in the state. I can also guide them and share my experience." Agreeing with Sunil, Divya, who has set her sights on 2028 Olympics, added, "It is not only about financial security. This is a recognition that the government is giving you for excelling in your field. It is a matter of pride when the govt recognises hard work and effort. Also, this is my first job."

Agreeing with Sunil, Divya, who has set her sights on 2028 Olympics, added, "It is not only about financial security. This is a recognition that the government is giving you for excelling in your field. It is a matter of pride when the govt recognises hard work and effort. Also, this is my first job."

ATHLETES AND THE JOB OFFERS

- GROUP A: Girisha HN (Para athlete):** Taluk panchayat executive officer
- GROUP B: Divya TS (Shooting):** DySP, State Excise
- Usha Rani (Kabaddi):** Asst director, food and civil supplies; **Sushmita Pawar (Kabaddi):** Asst director, food and civil supplies; **SV Sunil (Hockey):** DySP, State Excise; **Nikkin Thimmiah (Hockey):** DySP, State Excise; **ishan Ganguly (Blind chess):** Asst director, Directorate of Co-Operative Audit; **agaveendra Anvekar (Para swimming):** Labour Officer; **Radha V (Para athlete):** Labour Officer; **Sharath MS (Para athlete):** Asst director, Directorate of Co-Operative Audit; **Gururaj (Weightlifting):** Asst director, Directorate of Co-Operative Audit; **Malaprabha Yallappa Jadhav (Kurash):** II division assistant, DYES

Aryan clinches sprint crown

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bangalore Urban's Aryan Manoj emerged the fastest athlete of the State athletics meet at the Sree Kanterava Stadium here on Sunday. In the 100 metres event, he clocked 10.42 seconds to walk away with the gold medal.

Belgaum's Vijay Savaratkar was a cut above the rest in the 10,000m event, winning the top prize with a time of 32:36.7

Men: 100m: Aryan Manoj (B'lore Urban; 10.42s); **400m:** Balakrishna (Hassan; 47.78s); **10,000m:** Vijay Savaratkar (Belgaum; 32:36.7); **Decathlon:** Rathod Lokesh Damm (Yadgi; 6189 pts); **Heptathlon:** Rakshita (Udupi; 4370pts).

U-8: Boys: 50m: Sheyas Ponnappa (B'lore South; 8.48s); **Long Jump:** Ayush Diggi (Cambridge; 2.92m); **Girls: 50m:** Talia Madappa (VNS; 8.75s); **Long Jump:** Anam Shariff (Swaraj Sports Club; 2.88m).



GOLDEN EFFORT: Aryan Manoj

Girls: 80m: S Sriswarnarekha (Zest AC; 10.9s); **300m:** Sameeksha S (AAA; 48.3s); **Long Jump:** S Sai Swarna (Zest; 4.10m); **High Jump:** Anju Dhiya R (Kanteerava Sports; 1.10m); **Shot put:** CA Harine (KMS; 7.72m).

U-14: Boys: 100m: Ajay ML (RGK; 12s); **600m:** Ajay Pruthviraj (RGK; 1:30.05s); **Long Jump:** Rakesh Adhithya (Kanteerava AC; 5.15m); **High Jump:** Immanuel (Clearance HS; 1.55m); **Shot put:** Sujay P (Royal; 11.8m).

Girls: 100m: Shamathika Arjun (TF; 13.4s); **600m:** Shweta SB (Kheho India Dhawad; 1:43.03s); **Long Jump:** Adwika KP (Mangala Ath Club; 4.32m); **High Jump:** Shivani Praveena (BSC; 1.35m); **Shot put:** Tejaswini G Rao (Swaraj SC; 11.84m).

U-16: Boys: 100m: Ayush Pranjal (Kheho India, M'lore; 11.3s); **600m:** Ayush (1:26.05s); **Long Jump:** Dishanth P (Mangala Athletic; 5.97m); **High Jump:** Alistair Sam (Udupi; 1.60m); **Shot put:** Likhith KR (AAA; 12.69m); **Hammer Throw:** R Mayur (Kolar; 43.25m).

Girls: 100m: Siri N (Fusion; 13s); **600m:** Saneekha Shetty (Kheho India, M'lore; 1:41.08s); **Long Jump:** Siri (Fusion; 4.80m); **High Jump:** Divya Sriwatsa (Bhaladama; 1.35m); **Shot put:** Sanjana Reddy (Venus Throws; 12.25m).

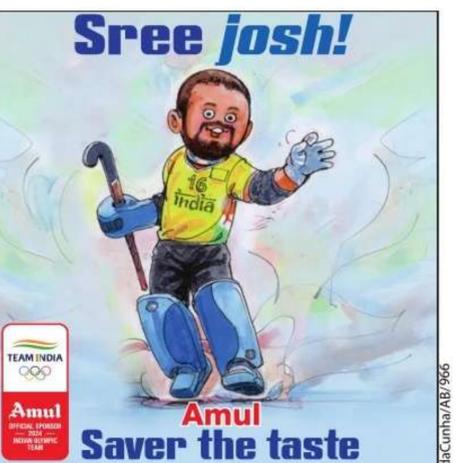
Blazing Gun is best bet for feature event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Magan Singh Parmar-trained Blazing Gun has a good chance to record an encore when he runs S Rangarajan Memorial Cup, the star attraction of the races to be held here on Monday. The first start at 1.25 pm.

1. Palampet Plate (Div II) 1200M: Pontefract 1. Wind Sprite 2. 2. Ascot Plate 1000M: Linda 1, Amboseli 2; 3. Jangaon Plate 1600M: Ampere's Touch 1, Ashwa Gajraj 2. 4. Shamirpet Cup 1200M: That's My Love 1, Antidote 2. 5. Palampet Plate (Div I) 1200M: Adbhut 1, Proud Mary 2. 6. S Rangarajan Memorial Cup 1400M: Blazing Gun 1, NRI Doublepower 2. 7. Fairway Plate 1400M: Planet Super 1, Char Ek Char 2. Day's best: Adbhut, Jackpot: 3, 4, 6, 6 & 7 1st Treble: 2, 3 & 4; 2nd Treble: 5, 6 & 7.

HURRICANE WINS
Hurricane, from the stables of Leo Desilva (Afroz Khan up), won the PG Reddy Memorial Cup, the feature event of Hyderabad races on Sunday.



IOCL are champs

Bengaluru: IOCL clinched a dominating 4-0 win over BPCL to clinch the team snooker title at the 20th PSPB inter-unit cue sports event at the KSBA here on Sunday. In the lop-sided fi-

nal, Dhvaj Haria put IOCL in control, winning both frames against S Shrikrishna. With a 2-0 lead in the pocket, Brijesh Damani put up a fighting performance

CUE SPORTS

Team snooker (final): IOCL bt BPCL 4-0 (Dhvaj Haria bt S Shrikrishna 2-0 (97-30, 73-25); Brijesh Damani bt Manan Chandra 2-0 (68-64, 76-51). **Third-fourth Place:** ONGC bt GAIL (India) Ltd 2-0 (Pankaj Advani bt Faiz Ahmed 2-0 (84-06, 82-15); Sourav Kohari bt Md. Abdul Saif 2-0 (71-06, 64-53). **Snooker (Individual): Final:** Dhvaj Haria bt Brijesh Damani 3-0 (77-31, 82-35, 94 (94-00); Third-Fourth place: Aditya Meh-ta bt S Shrikrishna (BPCL) 2-1 (76-21, 55-70, 73-0). TNN

Chiranth & Sarthak prevail

Chennai: Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath and his TVS Racing team-mate Sarthak Chavan of Pune grabbed the spotlight with thrilling wins in the two Pro-Stock categories after surviving close battles in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship here on Saturday.



MOTORSPORT

Provisional results (all 6 laps unless mentioned): Pro-Stock 301-400cc

Open (Race-1): 1. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, TVS Racing) (11mins, 03.678secs); 2. Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, KTM Gusto Racing India) (11:07.773); 3. A Alwin Sundar (Chennai, KTM Gusto Racing India) (11:08.191). **Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-1):** 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru, TVS Racing) (11:39.135); 2. Ahamed KY (Chennai, TVS Racing) (11:44.485); 3. Jagann Kumar (Chennai, TVS Racing) (11:44.530).

Stock 301-400cc (Novice, Race-1): 1. Raj Kumar (Coimbatore, RDX Torque Racing) (12:17.998); 2. Shyam Sundar K (Chennai, Tachyon Motorsport) (12:17.903); 3. Savion Babu (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Rac-

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-1): 1. Abdul Basim RS (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (12:57.514); 2. Tasmal Cariappa (Mysuru, Motul Sparks Racing) (12:58.337); 3. Lal Nunsanga (Mizoram, Motul Sparks Racing) (13:08.569). **Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R):** 1. Mohsin Paramban (Malapuram) (11:23.545); 2. Siddesh Sawant (Kolhapur) (11:24.755); 3. Prakash Kamat (Bengaluru) (11:24.950).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200, Race-1): 1. Harshith V Bogar (Bengaluru) (13:19.200); 2. CS Kedarnath (Tirupati) (13:19.383); 3. Venugopalan Sundaram (Chennai) (13:45.946). AGENCIES

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