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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



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

Bhopal: Nine kids, between 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 Shivlings when the 50-year-old wall gave way.

This is the second such incident in the state in two days. Four children, aged 5 to 7 years, had died in a wall collapse while returning from school in Rewa district Saturday. The common link in both instances was that the dilapidated walls had been left unattended like a ticking time bomb. Late Sunday, CM Mohan Yadav ordered the removal of the Sagar collector, SP & the local SDM over collapse. He also suspended the chief municipal officer and a sub-engineer of Shahpur. **TNN**

► Only child of parents, P 16

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

'WA Chats Show Top Govt Lawyer Was 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.

► 'Enough proof', P 7

ED to give ₹12cr attached scam money to victims

Enforcement Directorate is set to start restituting money to individual victims of scams, starting with disbursement of nearly Rs 12 crore in attached FDs of Rose Valley group of companies in Kolkata to around 22 lakh small depositors who had been lured into investing money in the group against exorbitant returns that never materialised, reports Pradeep Thakur.

In a first, a special PMLA court in the city ordered ED on July 24 to transfer the money kept in 14 attached FDs to a court-monitored asset disposal committee so that the sum could be disbursed among the duped depositors. PM Modi had pledged during this year's LS poll campaign he would explore legal options to compensate victims of financial crimes. **P 7**

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

TIMES AT THE GAMES

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Paris: Yves-du-Manoir, the venue of India's hockey quarterfinal 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 a 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 Jil 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

FULL COVERAGE | P 13, 14, 15



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-

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

Judicial scrutiny for Waqf assets?

Proposed amendments to Waqf Act are likely to include judicial scrutiny to determine whether a property is a Waqf asset and provision of registration of properties with district collectors for their actual valuation. **P 5**

No property tax hike this yr: BMC

Your property tax spend will remain the same as BMC has informed the state it intends to issue property tax bills for 2024-25 without any revision in rate. It was last effected in 2015-16. **P 3**

Sr govt officer in hit-&-run in Delhi

Cops are investigating an excise deputy commissioner in Delhi govt, who allegedly returning home in his Creta, hit a bike and dragged it for 2km before both vehicles turned into fireballs. **P 7**

UP man sent to jail for interfaith love

A 21-year-old man whose house was set on fire by a mob Friday, was sent to jail by UP police on Sunday for allegedly eloping with a 20-year-old woman from another community. **P 16**

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

'Secret' group opens its SoBo halls to public

The Freemasons' Hall at Fort, opposite Sterling Cinema, is the convening place for members of an enigmatic fraternity with an intriguing history that dates back to Biblical times, and it is now set to welcome the public for an extensive tour of its hallowed halls and commemorate one of its most distinguished members in India — oriental scholar and linguist, K R Cama — on Aug 10. Cama was a prominent Freemason and the first Indian to be bestowed with the title of Provincial Grandmaster. Nikita John reports. **P 3**

Deposit crunch forces banks to raise rates

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 direction of interest rates. "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," Khara said.

According to Bank of India chairman Rajneesh Karnatak, the fight for resources is likely to continue. "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." **P 11**

Himanta: Will bring law to give life term for 'love jihad' & another to halt 'land jihad'

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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.

A law requiring prior chief 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 ji-

'Only Assam-born will get govt jobs'

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. "The state govt has recruited over 97,000 people in a transparent manner since May 2021, creating an ecosystem that builds trust," Sarma said. **P 9**

had 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

► Land jihad big threat, P 9

5 drown as rivers in Maharashtra, Army to evacuate from areas within Pune

At least five persons died and two were feared dead in rain-related incidents in Maharashtra as heavy showers pounded most parts of the state Sunday, sending rivers across Pune, Nashik, Sangli and Kolhapur in spate and causing floods in the low-lying areas. Several areas, including Thane, Lonavla and Mahabaleshwar recorded triple-digit rainfall.

A BMC staffer drowned in the Bhatsa in Thane's Shahapur, while a tourist was swept away in Godavari waters in Nashik city. In Nashik, a woman was also feared drowned in a rivulet. Two brothers and their cousin drowned in the Jalgaon's Bhokarbari dam while a youth was feared dead in Nagpur and 4 friends had a narrow escape as their car was swept away when trying to cross a low

City lake levels up 7% in 24 hrs, reach 89%

The total water stock in the 7 lakes that supply water to Mumbai rose by 7% in one day, touching 89.1% of the required quantum of 14.5 lakh million litres, with Middle Vaitarna becoming the 5th lake to overflow Sunday. While Sunday's level matched that of Aug 4, 2022, in 2023, it was at 79.3% of the required quantum. **P 3**

bridge on the Katta river.

The officials in Pune had to seek assistance from the Army and NDRF to evacuate people from affected areas.

For Monday, IMD has issued a yellow alert for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar, indicating heavy rainfall at isolated places. **TNN P 3 & 6**

Chirag to seek review of SC/ST sub-quota order

Expressing disagreement with Supreme Court observations on the creamy layer among SCs and STs, Union minister and LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan said his party would file a review petition against the ruling. "We are clear that the

► Centre's 2011 push for SC sub-quota: 8 states silent, P 8

basis of classification of the Scheduled Caste is untouchability not educational or economic status. So, there can't be a provision for creamy layer," the BJP ally said, adding people from this community face discrimination even today. "Many from this community hold high positions yet when they visit temples, these places are purified". **P 8**

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

MK.Sunilkumar @timesofindia.com

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.

As a resident of Chooralmala and recognising the tell-tale signs of a devastation unfolding — the roar of the wind, the thunder 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. "She called me up around 1.30am. She told me that there was a massive landslide in

Teenager deletes cherished memories on phone as tragedy wipes out his entire family

Punchirimattom, the once safe and beautiful village that Abhijith Kallingal (18) often clicked and shared with friends, turned into a site of an unimaginable tragedy. Tuesday's landslide flattened the village and shattered Abhijith's life, claiming the lives of his entire family, eight in all — including his parents, siblings, grandmother, uncle, aunt, cousin, and four close neighbours. At a relief camp, Abhijith sat deleting the cherished photos, unable to bear the memories they evoked. **P 8**

► Kedarnath rescue ops on, 400 still stranded, P 8

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.

► Days after HP cloudburst, no trace of 44 people, P 8

Palliyal pacified Neethu, telling her that help was on the way and then got around to arranging it.

► Bangle helped, P 8

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UK woman loses bag in cab, cops get it back in 1 hr

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Mumbai: What could have been a nightmare served as a lesson on faith in the goodness of people. Carina Reid, a UK tourist, was able to get back in just an hour her bag she had left behind in a cab while checking into an Andheri hotel on Friday.

Reid, who was in Mumbai for a two-day stopover before taking a flight to Rishikesh, got out of a cab and checked into the hotel around 12.30pm. "After entering, she realised that one of the bags that had important documents like her passport, cash and valuables was missing. The cab had left with two passengers from the hotel," said S Joseph, the hotel's security manager.

With Joseph's aid, Reid sought help from Sahar police. The hotel's CCTV cameras had captured the cab's licence plate. Under the supervision of senior inspector Dhananjay Sonawane, duty officer and assistant inspector Kiran Koli contacted the Chennai-based fleet service that operated the cab and obtained information on the driver, Aadesh Mali. Police called up Mali, who returned. "It took 15-20 minutes to gather the driver's information and another 40-50 minutes for Mali to return," said Koli. "The driver was unaware of the bag being left behind," said a police officer.

According to Joseph, Reid expressed her admiration for police, saying had this occurred in the UK, the odds of getting back her bag would've been slim. She wanted to reward the police personnel, but Joseph suggested she email police instead, commending the swift action.

Soc chairman bites off thumb tip of member

Mumbai: Police have detained the chairman of a housing society in Dahisar West for allegedly assaulting a member and biting off the tip of his thumb during a meeting on Sunday. The victim was taken to hospital where he received treatment.

MHB Colony police, who have registered a case in the matter, said an altercation arose when the members were deliberating on various issues pertaining to the society. Police claimed the situation escalated when the victim raised certain questions, prompting the chairman to engage in a heated argument with him. The confrontation turned violent as the chairman allegedly sat on the man's chest, broke his spectacles, and bit off the tip of his thumb, claimed police.

In chilling 'digital detention' scams, cybercriminals pose as cops, CBI, ED

Nitasha Natu & Mateen Hafeez | TNN

In early April, an elderly man from Malabar Hill began to compulsively share his location with an unknown individual every few hours. He went about liquidating fixed deposits that comprised his life's savings without saying a word to anyone. His family was oblivious to the nightmare unfolding until it was too late - he had been defrauded of over Rs 2 crore in a scam involving fake digital detentions.

Cybercriminals are masquerading as law enforcement officers and deploying chillingly simple yet effective methods to trick unsuspecting victims. Posing as policemen, CBI, or ED officers, these fraudsters launch online in-

TIMES Special

terrogations, typically through platforms like WhatsApp or Skype, where victims can be monitored over the camera. The victims are isolated, forbidden from contacting anyone, and subjected to a barrage of intimidation to extract money. "Interrogations" could range from a few hours to two or three days, and the victims are told that they are under "digital detention".

In the Malabar Hill case, the elderly man was given a "digital bond" of confidentiality by the fraudsters. He was asked to share his location so they could keep tabs on his whereabouts whenever he stepped out. He liquidated his fixed deposits on being served a "letter from the Supreme Court" requiring him to submit all assets for inspection by law enforcement agencies.

In another case, a south Mumbai resident was forced to send selfies every hour to his cyber captors. The fraudsters claimed that his Aadhaar card was implicated in money laundering and he had been "digitally detained". He

THE UNSUSPECTING GIVE IN TO ONLINE 'INTERROGATIONS'

When confronted with unexpected accusations or demands for money, it is crucial to verify the information through independent channels and seek advice from trusted individuals

Cybercriminals are deploying increasingly sophisticated tactics to dupe individuals. It is imperative to stay informed about the latest scams and to exercise caution before sharing personal information online

If you have been the victim of cybercrime, immediately dial 1930. The helpline is managed by Mumbai Cyber Police and attempts will be made to freeze the perpetrator's bank account in case of a financial cybercrime

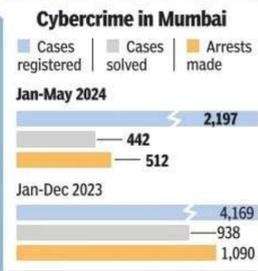
Register an FIR at the nearest police station if you have lost money to a scammer

Online complaints can be lodged on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in). The portal is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India

Intermediary platforms that are being used to contact victims of cybercrime cannot shirk their responsibility. They are answerable on what is being done at their end to prevent such crimes from reoccurring

Ritesh Bhatia | PRIVATE CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATOR

Police will never call you over Skype. Never share any financial or banking information, click on unverified links or transfer money to an unknown person or entity. To verify whether a caller is a law enforcement officer, immediately approach your nearest police station



was coerced into paying Rs 13 lakh to settle.

Scammers often begin by casting a wide net, calling up individuals with claims of drugs being found in their courier packages, or their personal information being misused for money laundering. The victims are then subjected to a high-pressure interrogation, complete with threats of legal action or arrest. In one incident, fraudsters told the victim that his mobile number popped up during the investigation of a criminal case involving a former state minister from the NCP.

The emotional toll on victims is immense. A homema-

ker, targeted in a similar scam, was reduced to tears after being subjected to a barrage of abuse. She was threatened that her explicit videos had been leaked, leaving her shattered. "The use of profanity by scammers is a tactic to mimic aggressive demeanour often attributed to police officers in movies," said cyber investigator Ritesh Bhatia. It would increase the victim's belief in the legitimacy of the situation.

To enhance their credibility, cybercriminals have been known to create elaborate setups, resembling police stations, complete with men donning uniforms and official-

looking logos. In one instance, scammers used a fake profile picture of a policeman on WhatsApp and called up a businessman, accusing him of being involved in human trafficking. They sent him a fabricated arrest warrant and seizure order via an online link. One of the scammers even impersonated a Supreme Court judge in a call with the victim. The fraudsters convinced the businessman that he needed to undergo a "fund legalization process" and deposit his money in an RBI account. The scam, which unfolded over seven to eight hours, resulted in a loss of Rs 1.3 crore.

Another victim, a doctor,

was compelled to apply for a pre-approved loan and transfer the full amount to the fraudsters, who had told her that she was under digital detention and maintained a constant watch on her through a Skype call.

"When faced with a situation that seems suspicious, don't hesitate to ask too many questions," advised Bhatia. "Fraudsters often become uncomfortable when confronted with scrutiny and will typically end the call abruptly," he said. Bhatia also pointed out the irony of our heightened awareness in offline situations compared to our online complacency.

Just 4 cluster varsity proposals in 8 months

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Mumbai: Eight months after the state gov't released regulations for cluster universities, there have been only four proposals. Three are from private colleges, and one from Nagpur involves government-managed colleges. Despite the state's push for colleges to use new schemes and become independent, managements remain hesitant. For instance, the vertical university plan has also seen no interest since Malad's Atharva Educational Trust.

While TOI reported on the proposal from Malad-Kandivali Education Society's (MKES) Nagindas Khandwala College, two other proposals are from Kolhapur's

SOME COLLEGES SAY IT'S IDEAL, BUT...

A representative from an interested college management said that the cluster university plan was an ideal option for them, but the terms and conditions are not favourable

A principal from another group of colleges, which has been exploring all options to become a university, said there is also the question of losing the brand value of the parent university, in this case Mumbai University

Shree Warana Shikshan Sanstha and Wardha's Shiksha Mandal, with Bajaj College of Science as the lead college. An official said that another group from Latur is interested, but their proposal is not yet on paper. A Mumbai colle-

ge that showed interest a few months ago has now delayed its plans to focus on improving its infrastructure. Proposals from MKES and Kolhapur's Warana group are being reviewed by a state-appointed committee and will be

presented to the cabinet for approval. The third proposal, involving government colleges in Nagpur, is also under consideration and will be the second government-managed cluster in the state after Homi Bhabha State University, which unified Sydenham, Elphinstone, Institute of Science, and ST Teachers' Training College. But it was formed under the central government's Rashtriya Uchchatar Shikshan Abhiyan scheme, not under the National Education Policy of 2020.

An MKES official said they've moved their school to a new location and are redeveloping their old building into a 12-storey structure for the cluster university. Additional plans are underway.

When the state gov't came out with its regulations, at least 15 college managements across the state showed interest. However, after the regulations were released in December, many colleges took a step back to assess them. A principal from a city college said the cluster universities will be public universities under the chancellorship of the governor, which not many managements are seeing as a lucrative option. "Instead, colleges are exercising more flexibility under the empowered autonomy status, where degrees can be awarded jointly with the parent university. Colleges are free to collaborate with other institutions, offer innovative courses," said the principal.

Mumbai's vehicle count crosses 48 lakh, 60% are two-wheelers. Experts worried

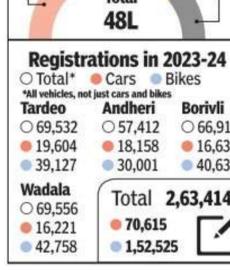
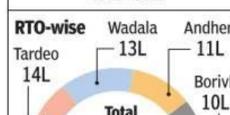
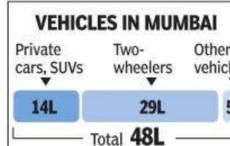
Somit.Sen@timesofindia.com

The city's vehicle count has exceeded 48 lakh, including 14 lakh private cars and nearly 29 lakh two-wheelers. In 2023-24, an average of 721 vehicles were registered daily at the four regional transport offices (RTOs) in Mumbai. The western suburbs have 21 lakh registered vehicles, the island city has 14 lakh, and the eastern suburbs 13 lakh vehicles.

Experts are worried about the city's rising vehicle numbers, which continue to grow despite limited road infrastructure. This trend could lead to more congestion, pollution, and parking problems. Mumbai's roads are already bursting at the seams, with experts stressing the need to control vehicle growth to ease congestion, reduce pollution, improve air quality, and minimize commuting delays.

Transport expert Vivek Pai said, "The vehicle count of Mumbai is thrice of what the city can accommodate. To prevent the growth of cars, we need to adopt policies such as congestion charges in commercial hubs, lottery sy-

SOME BLAME CENTRAL GOVT'S 'CAR-CENTRIC POLICY'



One of the reasons for increasing private vehicles is the Union gov't policy, which is car-centric. The government gets a lot of GST from car sales and this also provides employment - Ajit Shenoy | MUMBAI MOBILITY FORUM

stem for purchasing cars like in some foreign countries, having a strong parking policy and measures for car sharing by which private vehicles don't keep waiting at one place for 22 hours a day and instead are shared between people. In the long term, we need to ensure that each city has a car census, to understand the problem better." Public policy (transportation) analyst Paresh Rawal said, "With the rise in Mumbai's population, there has been a surge in its vehicular numbers too. Along with people, cars and bikes are also jostling for space. The overburdened suburban rail network has nearly maxed out its capacity. Hence, there's a need to strengthen other public

transportation networks. Buses need to be boosted, as it will give us much-needed last-mile connectivity." "If dedicated bus lanes are provided, it will enhance the effectiveness of trains and metros further. It's only then will we see some slowing down in the use of private vehicles," he said.

A transport activist said that although each Metro line is expected to reduce road traffic by 15%, the freed-up space will quickly be filled by new cars. "The availability of car loans and festival discounts further boosts vehicle sales, contributing to the growing vehicular population." Another expert said, "The gov't should also encourage the use of carpooling and ride-sharing services to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Additionally, the gov't should invest in the development of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to reduce air pollution and dependence on fossil fuels."

Experts also pointed out that without ensuring reliable and comfortable first- and last-mile connectivity through public transport, the number of private cars and bikes will continue to rise unabated.

Rooftop solar generation in Maha breaches 100 MW-mark

Mumbai: The rooftop solar generation in Maharashtra under the ambitious Pradhanmantri Suryaghar Muft Bijali Yojna has now surpassed the 100 MW-mark, a media statement issued by MSEDCL on Sunday mentioned. Under this scheme, 25,086 consumers have installed rooftop solar with a cumulative capacity of 101.18 MW. MSEDCL managing director Lokesh Chandra said that under the scheme initiated in Feb 2024, the Central gov't has extended the maximum subsidy of Rs 78,000 for a 3 KW plant. "For the 25,086 consumers who have opted for rooftop solar, we have provided them with a subsidy of Rs 160 crore which has been directly transferred to their accounts," he added.

Consumers generating solar power on rooftop can sell it to MSEDCL - which offsets it with monthly electricity bills. "If there is more generation on the rooftop, it can bring down your power bill to zero and for any surplus generation, you can earn extra income at home," an official added. Deputy chief minister and state energy minister Devendra Fadnis has directed MSEDCL for speedy implementation of the scheme.

BMC defies fiat, gives exec role to tainted engr

Sanjeev.Devasia @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A sub-engineer who faces anti-corruption charges has been reappointed by BMC in an executive post in the building and factory department of A ward despite a review committee's direction against assigning such roles.

An official said "they had no other option" as the ward doesn't have non-executive posts. "The appointment has been approved by the deputy municipal commissioner zone-1 and the city engineer as well."

The review committee, under the BMC chief's chairmanship, had said employees facing criminal or corruption cases need to be given non-executive postings after being deployed for election duty. Civic officials said the case of the sub-engineer, Sandip Gite, may not be the only instance of officials being given executive roles despite ongoing cases.

Meanwhile, following a complaint on the reappointment, BMC officials said they will review the postings of engineering staff and take action accordingly.

BMC had temporarily reinstated suspended employees involved in corruption and criminal cases during the pandemic. Some of them were also deployed for the LS polls. A committee meant to review their status was formed in March this year. It directed the officials that suspended employees should be reinstated subject to the outcome of the departmental inquiry and co-mittee case and then sent for election duty. It also said that on being relieved of poll duty, heads of departments/assistant commissioners should ensure that they are given only non-executive posts if corruption cases are still pending.

"Sandip Gite was appointed to the building and factory department of A ward, where he was posted earlier, and that, too, in violation of BMC's own policy and directions of the review committee... This move will embolden officials embroiled in various cases and complainants, too, will be hesitant to come forward," said activist Sanjay Gurav, who obtained information on the appointment under RTI and raised the subsequent complaint with BMC.

Additional municipal commissioner Amit Saini said if employees have been reinstated in violation of the directions of the review committee, then action will be initiated.

BJP neta: Will move Lokayukta if CC rds contract cost hiked

Chaitanya.Marpakwar @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Former BJP corporator Makarand Narwekar has said he will move Lokayukta if BMC goes ahead and awards a contract for cement concrete (CC) roads in south Mumbai at Rs 150 crore higher than the project estimate.

In a letter to BMC commissioner Bhushan Gagrani, Narwekar said the additional sum would be a bonanza for the contractor, NCC Ltd, adding that it would be perceived as corruption ahead of the assembly elections. He pointed out that no other CC roads contract awarded across the city saw a cost escalation. "If BMC is hell-bent on awarding the contract with above-estimate rates, then I will be compelled to approach Lokayukta to seek justice for the citizens of south Mumbai. Due to non-constituted of CC roads, the citizens of south Mumbai have been enduring difficulties for over one-and-a-half years. I urge the civic body not to test their patience further," Narwekar wrote.

CC roads projects in the city were inaugurated by the PM 18 months ago, but BMC is yet to begin work in south Mumbai. It finalised NCC Ltd after terminating Roadways Solution Infra India Ltd's (RSII) Rs 1,600-crore contract in Jan 2024, but the company, which had emerged as the lowest bidder, had quoted 9% more than the estimate.

Narwekar said since he flagged the issue, he has learnt that BMC initiated negotiations with the company, but NCC Ltd appears to have refused to accept the original cost estimate. Additional municipal commissioner (projects) Abhijit Bangar had earlier said BMC was negotiating with the bidder. "Nine percent above the estimate is on the higher side. We are negotiating with the bidder. We should be able to finalise the process soon," he said.

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CITYLIGHTS

Lost & Found

Mahim resident Mushtaq Ansari, who has been battling for pothole-free roads online, recently went to a garage in Bandra Reclamation. There, he met another biker named Amir who was asking the staff to expedite the servicing of his bike. Amir said he needed to go to Borivali to return a wallet his elderly father had found on a train. The wallet had an Aadhar card, a driving licence and cash. Ansari overheard the conversation and suggested a more efficient approach. He advised Amir to share a photo of one of the ID cards from the wallet, which he then posted on X. Within hours,



MAKING MEMORIES: Youngsters pose for photos during a pleasant drizzle in Thane last week

the wallet's owner responded to the post and contacted Ansari. On July 31, the three met outside Bandra (West) railway station, where the wallet

was returned to its rightful owner. In a video posted on X, the owner of the wallet, identified as Borivali resident Amey, thanked the online

Samaritans.

MLA's Dilemma

Mumbai gears up for the upcoming state assembly

elections, sitting legislators are ramping up their campaigning in the hope of securing their party's ticket once more. In a twist to traditional electioneering, these politicians are increasingly being approached by social media management agencies, promising to amplify their digital presence and connect with voters online. One seasoned MLA expressed his reservations to this correspondent. "It's the first time I've had multiple agencies calling, offering to boost my online reach," he shared, adding he is skeptical whether online followers will translate into votes. "I've always done well on the ground and my small team manages our social media decently," he said. As digital outreach collides with traditional politicking, his dilemma isn't surprising.

CR Bytes

Central Railway has been in the spotlight most of the time for introducing new services or for train disruptions that leave commuters fuming. Few though know of the men instrumental in providing key information to mediapersons after any incident or announcement, who have now retired, with two of them, senior public relations professionals A K Jain and A K Singh, completing their tenure lately. Another senior PR professional, Chandrasekar V, retired last year. These officials were felicitated at the CSMT headquarters in the presence of mediapersons. During the event, an official called them the three pillars of their department.

(Contributed by Richa Pinto & Somit Sen)

On Rajiv Gandhi birth anniv, Cong to sound assembly poll bugle

Prafulla Marpakwar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Lok Sabha leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge will launch the campaign for the assembly polls during Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrations in Mumbai on Aug 20, in the presence of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray.

AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala said senior Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders will meet on Aug 7 to discuss the seat-sharing formula for the assembly elections. "Senior Congress leaders met today, but there was no discussion on the seat-sharing formula," said Chennithala, who is AICC in-charge of Maharashtra. He had a marathon meeting with state Congress president Nana Patole and vice-president Nana Gawande, Congress legislature party leader Balasaheb Thorat, former CM Prithviraj Chavan, and city Congress president Varsha Gaikwad to review the preparations for the Aug 20 meeting.

Chennithala further said that after success in the Lok Sabha elections, MVA is determined to wrest power from the Mahayuti alliance. "I am sure the people of Maharashtra will stand by MVA and repeat the Lok Sabha performance," he said. In LS polls, MVA won 31 seats out of the 48 seats against 17 by Mahayuti, bringing down BJP's tally from 23 in 2019 to nine.

Patole said the Mahayuti govt, led by chief minister Eknath Shinde, is determined to lower Maharashtra's image. "While leading industries have been shifted to Gujarat, prime pieces of land too have been sold out. MVA will come out with a black paper against the Mahayuti govt," he promised. Clarifying that Congress is not against the CM Laddi Bahin scheme, Patole claimed govt is promoting a fake narrative against the party. "Congress is not a party to the petition before the high court. In fact, Congress-led Telangana and Karnataka have already launched the MahaLaxmi scheme for women. Mahayuti govt has copied our scheme," he said.

No blessings in disguise from Ladki Bahin, 'Delhi trip'

NCP president and deputy CM Ajit Pawar is facing flak over the inept handling of the row over the financial viability of CM's Laddi Bahin Yojana, a scheme to provide financial aid to poor women. He is also facing a hard time defending himself on reports of travelling to Delhi in disguise to meet Union home minister Amit Shah.

Apparently, when the scheme for poor women was presented before the cabinet for approval, no minister objected since it was a populist move in view of the assembly elections. According to re-

Supriya Sule said it was bad for a politician like Ajit Pawar to travel in disguise and the issue raised questions about security agencies' competence. Reports said the information was revealed by a top aide of Ajit Pawar in Delhi. Again, Ajit Pawar made umpteen attempts to deny the reports, but it was a futile exercise.

Women at the helm

It is a different kind of coincidence—all three all-India services in the state are headed by women. Sujata Saunik, IAS officer of the 1987 batch, is the chief secretary; Rashmi Shukla, IPS officer of the 1988 batch, is the DGP; and Shomita Biswas, an IFS officer of the 1988 batch, is the principal chief conservator of forests. Barring Shukla, who has been given a fixed tenure of two years as per an SC order, Saunik and Biswas will retire next year. Saunik had the opportunity to take over the reins of the state bureaucracy last year. However, she was superseded on two occasions—first by husband Manoj Saunik and later by Nitin Kareer.

The biggest challenge before the three officers will be to bring in administrative reforms by using new technology. For several years, women officers have struggled to secure key administrative posts. A few years ago, some women bureaucrats had called on then CM Vilasrao Deshmukh to demand that women officers be considered for appointments to key posts, chief secretary, BMC chief, DGP and Mumbai police commissioner.

PUBLIC EYE

PRAFULLA MARPAKWAR

ports, the finance department had sounded out govt over the massive annual expenditure of Rs 46,000 crore in view of the state's deteriorating economic condition and an unprecedented debt burden, which has crossed Rs 8.5 lakh crore. Ajit Pawar maintained a discreet silence for a few days and then said no objection had been raised, not even from the finance department. But his clarification came too late and there were no takers for it.

When reports of Ajit Pawar travelling in disguise appeared in vernacular dailies, he ignored them at first but couldn't stall any longer after the issue made the headlines in national dailies. There were specific details of how he changed his name on the boarding pass and wore a mask and a cap. The reports became politically significant when

18 spl train services to UP & Bihar

Mumbai: Eighteen special train services from LTT—16 to Gorakhpur, UP, and two to Raxaul, Bihar—are being operated beginning this month to deal with increased passenger demand. An official said LTT-Gorakhpur biweekly special will halt at Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Bhalsava, Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Rani Laxmibai Junction, Kanpur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti and Khalilabad. LTT-Raxaul superfast special will halt at Kalyan, Manmad, Bhalsava, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj, Cheoki, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Patna, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Kamtaul, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi and Baighania.

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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.idbibank.in or contact on 022-66553371/66194339. The last date for submission of application is **27 August, 2024 at 3.00 PM**. Any further Corrigenda in respect of the above shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers. Sd./ DGM (IMD)

GMDC
TENDER NOTICE
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mechanized Mining, Crushing, Screening, Sorting, Grading and Stacking of Various Grade of Barxite through Mining Contractor at Gadhisia Group of Mines, Gadhisia, 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)
Khanji Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

MAHATRANSCO E-TENDER NOTICE
MSETCL SRM invites online RfX (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
E-tender No./ RfX No. 7000032545 Name of work : "Erection, Testing & Commissioning of additional 400/220 KV, 3 X 167 MVA (500 MVA) ICT-IV along with spare unit HV and LV bay at 400 KV Kharghar Substation under Panvel Circle. (ICT will be provided by MSETCL)" Estimated Cost: Rs. 10,72,34,870/- Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.
Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents: From 05.08.2024 @ 15.00 Hrs to 19.08.2024 @ 16.00 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: <https://srm.tender.mahatransco.in>
Sd./ CHIEF ENGINEER, EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Vashi

After kicking out refinery plan, Nanar opposes bauxite mining

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: After campaigning against a refinery project, Nanar villagers in Ratnagiri have launched a protest against a bauxite mining project on 358 acres of land having 10 million tonnes of bauxite reserve.

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has announced a public hearing on Aug 29. In Mumbai, a group held a meeting on Saturday in Parel to oppose the mining activity. A protest is already on by Nanar villagers there.

The Nanar gram panchayat comprises 12 hamlets. This is their second fight after forcing the exit of the refinery project in 2017-18. The sea-facing village has farmers and fisherfolk.

State govt had awarded the mine for 50 years to a Goa-based company in Sept 2020.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Area 358 acres	Bauxite reserve 10 million tonnes
	Production capacity 0.9 million tonnes/pt
Water requirement 150 kilo litres/day	> 233 plant and 223 animal species
	Project cost ₹4.2cr

Another local Sanjay Desai complained, "The Konkarn Refinery Virodhi Sanghatana is opposing the project at the local level. In our Parel meeting, it was decided to meet chief minister Eknath Shinde demanding postponement of the public hearing and submit our opposition in a single letter for format to be separately signed by all."

Another resident Dhanaji Valam said, "Two resolutions were passed by the gram panchayat to oppose bauxite mine and a third will be passed soon." Local leader Ashok Valam said, "Initially mining starts in a small area and later spreads covering more area. We will not allow the project."

The regional officer of MPCB has also requested the public to send their views in writing within 30 days. The public hearing will be held in Rajapur.

A Nanar villager, Satyavan Palekar, alleged, "The area is eco-sensitive. Locals grow mango, cashew, jackfruit among others. Mining will prove environmentally fatal due to the release of chemicals and dust besides escalating the ground water crisis."

Deputy CM: BJP workers burnt out before LS polls

Mumbai: For the last five years, BJP party workers were given so many tasks that burnt out resulted in many of them not throwing themselves completely into Lok Sabha poll work, admitted deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Addressing party workers in Nagpur on Sunday, Fadnavis said: "Many party workers pulled back thinking 'anyway, we are going to win.'" He urged party workers to get into the field with confidence. "We have got used to victory since 2014 and with one setback, we have got demoralised. Our fight is to bring in the rule of farmers. Some party workers are pessimistic and put a spoke and dissuade others who are ranging to go. Appeal to such party workers to stay home for the next three months..."

Fadnavis further said that like in other parties, several 'chamkesh karyakartas' have emerged in BJP as well, who are there when there are cameras, but are nowhere to be seen when work has to be done. "The advantage of losing an election is you realise who is 'chamkesh' and who is really working," Fadnavis said.

Fadnavis expressed confidence that the Mahayuti saffron flag will fly atop Mantralaya. He said it was important to counter the false narrative that was created during the Lok Sabha elections and continues even now. "Our welfare schemes have not been designed for the elections. We have provided finance and only then have we announced these schemes..." — Clara Lewis

Fadnavis cites ex-city CP's complaint to target Deshmukh

Clara Lewis@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Anil Deshmukh, as home minister, had appointed Param Bir Singh as Mumbai police commissioner, and it was Singh who accused Deshmukh of extorting Rs 100 crore, said deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday. He was responding to Deshmukh's accusation earlier in the day that Singh had made the extortion allegation at Fadnavis's behest.

"It is not possible that at the behest of the opposition leader, the commissioner of police would file a complaint against the home minister," he said, adding that neither BJP nor the Centre had anything to do with the subsequent action against Deshmukh. "Today, he says 'Fadnavis told Param Bir Singh to file a complaint against me' only to garner sympathy. We have to give a fitting reply," he told BJP workers in Nagpur. He said HC had ordered a CBI probe into Singh's charge because it felt that under Deshmukh, poli-



Amid Deshmukh's (L) allegations, Fadnavis (R) said he has become everyone's fave punching bag

ce would not do a fair job.

Deshmukh also accused Fadnavis of using dismissed cop Sachin Waze to level bribery allegations against him. While being escorted by police on Saturday, Waze, who has been jailed in a murder case, had reiterated that Deshmukh had sought a bribe through his personal assistant. "What's new in these false allegations by Waze? He said the same thing three years ago and then backtracked while deposing before the Justice Chandiwala commission that probed these allegations," he said. "So on Fadnavis will get another criminal to make allegations against me. Everyone knows that three years ago, it was Fadnavis who made Waze

and Param Bir Singh level charges against me." He demanded that the commission's report be made public.

He alleged that Fadnavis had adversely impacted Maharashtra's political image through his strategy of splitting parties.

On the repeated diatribe against him, Fadnavis said he has become everyone's favourite punching bag. "They speak only against me. They are aware that until they corner me, they cannot win the [assembly] election... Abhimanyu was trapped in a *chakravayuh* and did not know how to breach it. I know how to breach it."

Meanwhile, BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule said Deshmukh must undergo a narco test, just like one Waze has agreed to. On Deshmukh's allegation that the deputy CM was trying to malign his image, he said, "Fadnavis has no need to resort to such antics as his work has always been above board." (With inputs from Nagpur)

'Quota at 100% risk': Marathas, Kunbis pose threat to real OBCs: VBA chief

Yavatmal: Asserting that Marathas and Kunbis are not true OBCs, VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar has said that their inclusion poses a significant threat to the OBC community's reservation.

As his 'Reservation Protection Yatra' arrived at Pusad in Yavatmal district on Saturday, he pointed out

that in the assembly, there are 190 MLAs from Maratha-Kunbi communities, compared to only 11 OBC MLAs. He expressed concern that OBC reservation is at 100% risk due to this imbalance.

Ambedkar also highlighted that Maharashtra has 57 reserved seats for SCs and STs, and the division

between Maratha and OBC votes could lead to a situation where neither group votes for each other. He emphasised on the importance of the 57 reserved seats, stating that while OBCs need to protect their reservation, Marathas are trying to enter the OBC category. —Bhaskar Mehare

Bank liable for providing net banking without consent

Jehangir Gai

Biresh Chandra Gangopadhyay and his wife Aarti had a joint saving account in their personal names with State Bank of India. As they were senior citizens who were not tech savvy, they had sought "view only" facility for seeing the account details online, without obtaining transactional rights for net banking.

Aarti also held three fixed deposits of Rs 10 lakh, Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 15 lakh, totalling Rs 40 lakh). When Biresh obtained the account statement for the period Nov 2018 to Mar 2019, he found that an amount exceeding Rs 63 lakh had been illegally withdrawn through several internet banking transactions even though no

such facility had been obtained. A complaint was lodged with the bank as well as with the police. A consumer complaint was also filed before the Telangana State Commission. State Bank contested the case, stating that transactional rights had been obtained

by calling from their registered mobile for activation. The bank faulted the couple for failing to prevent misuse of their banking password and mobile device due to which their domestic servant performed 37 transactions in which Rs 63,74,536 was transferred to five companies. The bank argued that the complaint should

be dismissed as the servant and beneficiary companies were not impleaded as parties. The State Commission noted that the customer had not opted for net banking facility. It castigated the bank for making defamatory statements against an old, vulnerable and long standing customer, and ordered the bank to reimburse the amount of Rs 63,74,527 along with 9% interest. Additionally, Rs.3 lakh was awarded as compensation and Rs 20,000/- towards costs.

The bank challenged the order. The National Commission dismissed the appeal by its order of July 30, 2024, delivered by the Rajendra, holding that the reasoning given by the State Commission was correct and the bank had rightly been held liable.

Need For Soft Infra

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

CITY CITY BANG BANG

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.

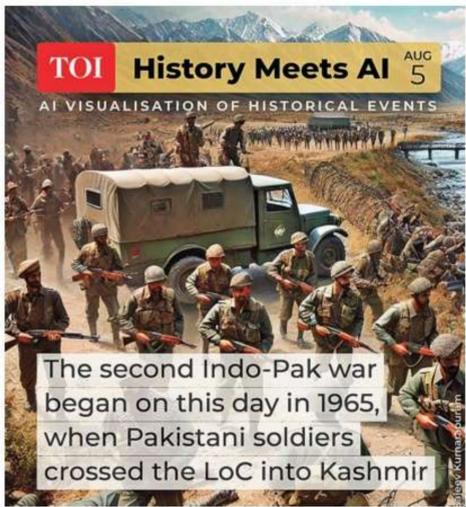
Development is not about the height of our skyscrapers or the speed of our trains. It lies in making life predictable and comfortable, in knowing that things will work and then that when they don't, they will get fixed on their own.

santosh365@gmail.com



NEW CRIMINAL LAWS & JUSTICE SYSTEM WILL PROVE TO BE THE BIGGEST REFORM OF 21ST CENTURY, SAYS SHAH

PASSIVE GOVERNOR CONCEPT GONE, THEY MUST PLAY ACTIVE ROLE: BENGAL GOV 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

4 of MP family killed in Raj accident

Four members of a Madhya Pradesh family returning home from a relative's funeral in Rishikesh died while five others were left injured when their car crashed early on Sunday into a truck on Delhi-Mumbai expressway in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district. The police suspect that 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. 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. Other victims include Monika Prajapat (24), Rajan Prajapat (22) and Rekha (42). Monika and Rajan were siblings, while Rekha was another of Dhapu's daughters. The injured are a child (1) and car driver Shaqel Khan (24). **TNN**

7 killed, 25 injured in UP bus-car hit

Seven people died and 25 others were injured in a collision between a Delhi-bound bus and a car on Lucknow-Agra Expressway 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, said SSP Sanjay Kumar Verma. Bus passenger Ranjana alleged that the bus driver was using his mobile throughout journey despite passengers' protests. **TNN**

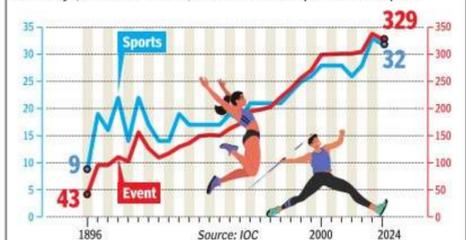
Loan sharks drive woman to death

A 45-year-old Dalit woman and mother of seven children died after consuming a poisonous substance allegedly due to frequent harassment by a moneylender in Firozabad, reports **Deepak Lavania**. Munna Laland his wife had borrowed Rs 10,000 from their neighbour Ramnaresh Yadav a year ago at a "monthly interest rate of 10%". In his complaint, the woman's husband alleged that on Friday, Ramnaresh visited their home and claimed they owed him Rs 1.5 lakh with interest. He threatened to kill her husband and children", the complaint said. Distressed, she took poison. **TNN**

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers **Mudita Girotra**

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



Muda 'scam': Cong backs CM Sidda on gov's notice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Congress' high command has resolved to support chief minister **Siddaramaiah** on the issue of the show-cause notice issued by governor **Thaawar Chand Gehlot**, with the party declaring that it will fight the accusations politically and legally. The backing follows a meeting in Bengaluru 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 budge 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 and charges are, we will fight it legally," **Venugopal** said. "We are not scared. Both **BJP** and **JD(S)** want to save the political careers of their children and are thus targeting our elected gov't. They are trying to permanently tarnish the image of a person (**Siddaramaiah**) who stands for the poor of Karnataka."

NDA will be back in 2029, form govt under Modi again, says Shah

New Delhi/Chandigarh: Home minister **Amit Shah** on Sunday asserted that **NDA** gov't will not only complete its full five-year term but also take the helm at the Centre in 2029 and **Narendra Modi** will be prime minister again. "I want to assure you that whatever the opposition wants to say, you don't need to worry. In 2029 also, **NDA** will come (to power)... **Modi ji** will be **PM** again," the home minister said while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the

24x7 **Manimajra** water supply project in **Chandigarh**.

"They (opposition) feel that with some success, they have won the elections. They do not know that in three elections, the number of seats **Congress** got, **BJP** won more than that in this election (2024 **Lok Sabha** polls)," he said.

Shah added, "They (opposition) should also know that **NDA's** only one member, **BJP**, has more than the total number of seats which their whole alliance has." **TNN**

Proposed bill seeks to make women waqf board members

Registration To Be Must For Asset Valuation

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 was to broaden 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.

Gov't is also considering giving a new name to the law akin to the meaning of "hope", sources said.



'FOR WELFARE OF POOR'

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. As per the 40 amendments that were cleared by Cabinet on Friday, 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 benefit, sources said. All income from **Waqf** properties are meant to be spent for charity.

Will take legal steps to thwart attempts to change existing law, says AIMPLB

Reacting to gov't's proposal, **All India Muslim Personal Law Board** on Sunday said that any change or alteration in the existing law "will not be tolerated" and it will take "legal and democratic measures to thwart this initiative". With the Bill approved by Cabinet likely to be brought to Parliament soon, the Board appealed to **NDA's** allies and opposition parties to resist any such move and to prevent it from being passed by Parliament. The Board, in a statement, also appealed to "all Muslims and their religious organisations to unite against this malicious act." **TNN**

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

most benefit as there will be proper use of **Waqf** assets for welfare of poor Muslims. They added, while assets will remain with **Waqf Boards**, these will be registered and there will be audits of these entities, stressing that amendment to allow judicial scrutiny of **Waqf Boards'** decisions, are based on recommendations of **Sachar Committee** and **K Rahman Khan-led** joint parliamentary panel.

Bengal mantri who called official 'beast' resigns after furore

Suman Mandal | TNN

Contai: Bengal prisons minister **Akhil Giri** resigned from state cabinet on Sunday amid intense pressure from both within Trinamool Congress and external quarters following his insulting outburst against forest ranger **Manisha Shaw**, calling her "beyadob" (disco-urteous) and a "janowar" (beast). Despite stepping down, **Giri** remained adamant against personally apologising to **Shaw**, although he maintained he was "repentant" of his remarks.

tuesday included 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 **TMC** chief and **CM** **Mamata Banerjee** to publicly apologise on his behalf.

Following his latest outburst, **TMC** state chief **Subrata Bakshi** demanded **Giri** resign or face expulsion. At a press conference on Sunday, **Giri** said, "I should not have said that, but I cannot take back what I said. The forest officer's misbehaviour with the locals angered me," he said. "I have never apologised to a state officer, and I never will."

Jharkhand causing man-made floods in Bengal: Didi to Soren

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

'Assam doesn't blame Bhutan or Arunachal'

Kolkata: Bengal chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** on Sunday dialled **Jharkhand** counterpart **Hemant Soren**, urging him to check "sudden and huge release of water" from **Tenughat** dam on **Damodar** river in **Bokaro** district affecting her state. **Banerjee** said she also told **Soren** that "Jharkhand waters have been flooding Bengal, and this was man-made".

Banerjee posted on X: "I have... been monitoring the situation and have spoken to all the DMs concerned in south Bengal as well as in north Bengal. I have asked the DMs to be particularly vigilant and take proper care of the calamity situation in the next 3/4 days. I told them to take all precautionary measures so that there is no untoward incident anywhere."

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) released 1.2 lakh cusec water from **Panchet** and **Maithon** dams along the **Jharkhand-Bengal** border on Sunday morning after heavy discharge of water from **Tenughat**. A total of 90,000 cusec was released from the two dams on Saturday. "Less water is expected to be discharged from **Tenughat** now since rainfall has reduced. This means discharge from **Maithon** and **Panchet** will also be lesser," executive director of **DVC's** **Maithon** dam, **Anjani Dubey**, told **PTI**.

Dubey said the **Bengal** flood threat now with the dip in rainfall and **Bengal** gov't's good work in water flow management," he added. A state gov't official said Sunday that none of the rivers were flowing above danger mark, even as some, including **Damodar**, were close to red mark.

Giriraj slams Uddhav for 'Abdali' jibe at Shah

Rajiv.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Begusarai: Union minister and **Begusarai** MP **Giriraj Singh** launched a scathing attack against **Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray-UBT)** chief **Uddhav Thackeray** on Sunday for dubbing Union home minister **Amit Shah** as a political scion of **Ahmad Shah Abdali**.

Abdali was an Afghan invader who conquered **Marathas** in 1761. "Uddhav Thackeray has grown into **Ahmad Shah Abdali** to seek Muslim votes. He has forgotten his identity and high values and morals set by his father late **Balasaheb Thackeray**," **Singh** said in **Begusarai**.

On Saturday, **Sena (UBT)** chief claimed **Shah** to be a political heir of **Abdali**. He was addressing a party meet in Pune ahead of assembly polls likely to be scheduled in October this year. "Amit Shah is political descendant of **Ahmad Shah Abdali**. Even he was a **Shah**," **Uddhav** had said. He was replying to a remark by **Shah**, who labelled **Sena (UBT)** chief as 'leader of Aurangzeb Fan Club' on July 21.

India plans to explore extended continental shelf for oil and gas

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: India is preparing to extend its offshore hunt for oil and gas to extended continental shelf (ECS), with gov't working on a plan to press state-run explorers **ONGC** and **Oil India Ltd** into service for conducting seismic survey beyond its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in east and west coasts, people in the know said. Seen in the backdrop of increased movement of Chinese 'research' vessels in the vicinity of Indian waters, the plan can be seen as step to mark territory since it will help bolster India's claim of ECS boundary beyond **EEZ**.

According to **UNCLOS III** (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), **EEZ** of coastal states can extend up to 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. Under the same law, the continental shelf can extend up to 350 nautical miles from the baseline. The plan in the works envisages acquiring high-resolution 2D seismic data for 30,000 line-km in two years for processing and interpretation at a cost of roughly **Rs 400 crore**, to be paid for by Centre. The move primarily aims at developing a better understanding of the presence and nature of sediments. The data is expected to help evaluate the potential for hydrocarbons and other minerals. At a larger level, it will boost development of a 'blue economy'.

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Eligibility Criteria
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Application Forms are available in the Institute Office on all working days between 10.00 am, to 5.00 pm.
The Application form duly completed and accompanied by relevant certificates / mark sheets should be submitted to the Institute's Admin. Office.
The date of the interview will be displayed on the Institute's notice board and website and conveyed to you by email.
The last date of acceptance of applications will be 14th August 2024.
Admission Procedure: Students selections and their admissions shall be as per the rules and procedure laid down by University of Mumbai.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we are investigating the leasehold right, title and interest of **M/s. M. D. Construction Company**, a partnership firm, having its principal place of business at 3/611, Shree Vishal Complex, opposite Sajawat Building, Nursing Lane, off N. L. High School, Malad (West), Mumbai 400 064 ("Lessee") represented by its partner, **Mr. Yogesh Anantrai Mehta**, to the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Property"). The Property is owned by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

All persons/entities having or claiming to have any share, right, title, estate, interest, claim, objection and/or claim in respect of the leasehold right, title and interest of the Lessee to the Property and/or the Property or any part thereof whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, allotment, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), inheritance, occupation, possession, share, gift, lien, outgoings, maintenance, bequest, easement, trust, covenant or condition, litigation, family arrangement/ settlement, deed, document, decree or order of any Court of Law or revenue or statutory authority or arbitration, a ward, release, relinquishment, succession, family arrangement/ settlement, rights or FSI/DR consumption or under lost and misplaced title deeds or otherwise whatsoever of any nature whatsoever, are hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such claim, share, right, title, benefit, interest, claim, objection and/or demand exists and the same shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED HEREINAbove
(Description of the Property)
ALL THAT piece and parcel of land measuring 1272.59 square meters equivalent to 1522.01 square yards bearing Plot No. 11 and corresponding Cadastral Survey No. 440 of Colaba Division lying, being and situate at Off. Wodehouse Road (now known as Nathalia Parekh Marg), Colaba, Mumbai 400 039, in the Registration District and Sub-District of Mumbai City and within the limits of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai bearing Ward No. A 1306(2), Street No. 13 Wodehouse Road and Ward No. A1306 Street No. 6 Convent Street together with: (i) a building known as 'Schoen House' comprising of ground floor plus 2 (two) upper floors; (ii) 1 (one) outhouse comprising of ground floor plus 1 (one) upper floor, (iii) 1 (one) single storey structure; and (iv) 3 (three) garages standing thereon and bounded as follows, that is to say:

On or towards the North-East: By Plot No. 11A of Wodehouse Road Estate;

On or towards the South-East: By Plot No. 12 of the Wodehouse Road Estate;

On or towards the South-West: By Convent Street; and On or towards the North-East: By Wodehouse Road now known as Nathalia Parekh Marg.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2024.
Mr. Ruchit Parikh
Partner
AZB & Partners
Advocates and Solicitors
AZB House,
Peninsula Corporate Park,
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg,
Mumbai 400 013.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that my clients **MR. MILAN HARISH GOSWAMI** is the owner of Flat No. C-96, Carpet area of the 4th Floor of the building known as Building No. C, situated in Reserve Bank Employees' Snehadhara Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. situated at Dadabhai Cross Road No. 3, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400 056 (said "Flat") and 5 fully paid Shares of Rs. 50/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. from 531 to 535 (Both inclusive) under Certificate No. 107 and another 15 Shares of Rs. 50/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. 2416 to 2430 (Both inclusive) under Share Certificate No. 274 (said "Shares").

Video Deed of Gift dated 5th March, 2011 made and entered between Late SMT. MOHINI CHELLARAM RAHEJA (herein referred to as "the DONOR") and present Owner Mr. MILAN HARISH GOSWAMI (the DONEE therein), the DONOR Late SMT. MOHINI CHELLARAM RAHEJA out of the religious belief and the natural love and affection she bears towards her religious Guru Mr. MILAN HARISH GOSWAMI gifted her said Flat & the said Shares to Present Owner Mr. MILAN HARISH GOSWAMI. The said Gift deed dated 5th March, 2011 has been lost/misplaced and after diligent search it is not found.

Any person/s, firm/s, institute/s, company/ies, having any right, title, interest, possession or claim in respect of the aforesaid Flat & Shares is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary evidence, to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Dated this 5th day of August 2024
Adv. Mitesh Shah
Advocate High Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that under the instructions of our clients, we are investigating the right, title and interest of **MR. BASANT FULCHAND JAIN** residing at 61, B Grand Park, August Kranti Marg, Mumbai 400036 ("the Owner") in respect of the agricultural lands more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the said Land").

All persons having any claim, share, right, title, interest or estate in respect of the said Land or any part thereof by way of an agreement, sale, transfer, exchange, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), gift, lien, charge, trust, inheritance, maintenance, bequest, possession, easement, assignment, license, demise, partition, charge, pledge, guarantee, family arrangement, development rights, power of attorney, joint venture, partnership, loans, advances, acquisition, requisition, encumbrance, FSI / TDR consumption, injunction or any other attachment, or under any decree, order or award passed by any Court of Law, Tribunal, Revenue or Statutory Authority or arbitration, right of prescription or pre-emption or by operation of law or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Dated this 05th day of August, 2024.
LAW POINT
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
301, Vaibhav Chambers, 3rd Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Opp. Income Tax Office, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051.
Email: response@lawpointindia.com
Rameshwar Media

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that under the instructions of our clients, we are investigating the right, title and interest of **MR. MAHESH BHAGCHAND BASANTANI**, aged 60 years, an Indian Inhabitant residing at Bungalow No. 2, Subhash Nagar, Behind Fatima School, Bellavli, Badlapur, Thane - 421 503, and **MR. PRAVIN BALKRISHNA BHOIR**, aged 48 years, an Indian Inhabitant, residing at Barvi Dam Road, Sai Gaon, New Ambarnath, Badlapur (West), Thane - 421 503, to the land described in the First Schedule hereunder written ("First Land"), and the title of **MR. DATTATRAY MARUTI KAMBRI**, aged 55 years, an Indian Inhabitant, residing at Karjat Road, Near Hanuman Mandir, Chantoli, Vangani, Thane - 421 003, to the land described in the Second Schedule hereunder written ("Second Land"). The First Land and Second Land are hereinafter collectively referred to as "the said Land".

All persons having or claiming any share, right, title, estate, or interest by way of sale, transfer, development right, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, license, care-taker basis, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, will, bequest, beneficiary/ies, possession, release, relinquishment, or by way of any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, development agreement, memorandum of understanding, letter of intent, devise, bequest, succession, family arrangement / settlement, litigation, decree or court order of any court of law, contracts/agreements, or FSI consumption or encumbrance or otherwise whatsoever with respect to the said Land or any part thereof and / or otherwise whatsoever of any nature whatsoever, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary evidence, to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Dated this 05th day of August, 2024.
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301, Vaibhav Chambers, 3rd Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Opp. Income Tax Office, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that under the instructions of our clients, we are investigating the right, title and interest of **MR. SUBHASH FULCHAND SUNDESHA** residing at Flat No. 11, Dumbhash Lane, Napeansea Road, Mumbai 400036 ("the Owner") in respect of the agricultural lands more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the said Land").

All persons having any claim, share, right, title, interest or estate in respect of the said Land or any part thereof by way of an agreement, sale, transfer, exchange, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), gift, lien, charge, trust, inheritance, maintenance, bequest, possession, easement, assignment, license, demise, partition, charge, pledge, guarantee, family arrangement, development rights, power of attorney, joint venture, partnership, loans, advances, acquisition, requisition, encumbrance, FSI / TDR consumption, injunction or any other attachment, or under any decree, order or award passed by any Court of Law, Tribunal, Revenue or Statutory Authority or arbitration, right of prescription or pre-emption or by operation of law or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2024.
LAW POINT
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
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Dated this 05th day of August, 2024.
LAW POINT
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
301, Vaibhav Chambers, 3rd Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Opp. Income Tax Office, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051.
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TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: **ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884**

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All persons having or claiming any share, right, title, estate, or interest by way of sale, transfer, development right, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, license, care-taker basis, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, will, bequest, beneficiary/ies, possession, release, relinquishment, or by way of any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, development agreement, memorandum of understanding, letter of intent, devise, bequest, succession, family arrangement / settlement, litigation, decree or court order of any court of law, contracts/agreements, or FSI consumption or encumbrance or otherwise whatsoever with respect to the said Land or any part thereof and / or otherwise whatsoever of any nature whatsoever, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary evidence, to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

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ED to return ₹12cr scam money to victims

In 1st Such Order, Court Relief For 22L Small Ponzi Scheme Investors

Pradeep.Thakur
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate is set to start restituting money to victims of scams. It will start with disbursement of nearly Rs 12 crore in attached fixed deposits (FDs) of Rose Valley group of companies in Kolkata to around 22 lakh small depositors who were tempted by the accused companies into depositing money with them by promising exorbitant returns that never materialised.

In a first, a special PMLA court in Kolkata on July 24 asked ED to transfer 14 attached FDs valued at Rs 11.99 crore in the Rose Valley scam to a court monitored Asset Disposal Committee (ADC), "subject to the conditions that amount

shall be disbursed to the bonafide claimants on pro-rata basis or as may be directed by ADC or by the court".

ED started implementing the order, in keeping with PM Narendra Modi's promise during Lok Sabha campaign to compensate victims of financial crimes by distributing among them accused's assets that have been seized by ED.

The Kolkata court and ED have found a way out in Section 8(8) of 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 money laundering". ED has to prepare panchnama for such transfer of attached property which may be used



RULING SETS PRECEDENT

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.

Restitution of money to scam victims is a first of its kind. So far, only banks allegedly defrauded by Vijay Malya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi had succeeded in realising Rs 13,000 crore generated by auctioning assets of the three fugitives.

Enough evidence to initiate probe into attempt to derail trial, says ED

From P 1

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

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

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

ding 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 drafting and modification of statement of co-accused Shiv Shankar Bhatt to dilute role of other prime accused in the scheduled offence," it added.

ED said, "There is enough evidence to initiate probe by an independent agency with regards to involvement and concerted effort to derail the trial and tamper with evidence by accused in connivance with highly placed state officials."

Car rams into bike, drags it for 2km & goes up in flames; probe leads cops to Delhi govt official

New Delhi: A PCR call about a car up in flames in central Delhi's Jhandewalan prompted the cops and fire officials to rush to the spot early Sunday. When they reached, they found a bike under the burning car as well, prompting a hunt for possible victims of this conflagration. An hour later, after scanning CCTVs, the police officers found themselves investigating a hit-and-run in which a bike had been dragged for 2km before the vehicles turned into fireballs.

Soon, the cops were looking at a senior Delhi govt official who was allegedly driving the car that was gutted. His

questioning led them to the bike owner, Gurvinder, who works with Rapido. He had escaped with minor injuries. The charred car and bike were impounded. The driver was detained and his blood

samples taken for testing of alcohol content. "The driver claimed to be excise deputy commissioner R C Meena. He was let off as the case was registered under bailable sections," said a police officer. TNN

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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/ NDDB from eligible bidders for the works listed below:

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 NDDB/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. 27.08.24 15:30 hrs.
II	Ointment & Brucella Diagnostics Reagents facility of GMP Grade at IVP, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu NDDB/HO/Purchase/40/24-25/ET/40 (CIVIL-RANIPET)	670 Lakh/ 12 Months	10.08.24/ 02.09.24	02.09.24 15:00 hrs. 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 NDDB/HO/Purchase/41/24-25/ET/41 (CIVIL-BHILDI)	10200 Lakh/ 12 Months	12.08.24/ 02.09.24	02.09.24 15:00 hrs. 02.09.24 15:30 hrs.
IV	Strengthening of Semen Station at Purnea, Bihar NDDB/HO/Purchase/42/24-25/ET/42 (CIVIL-PURNEA)	467 Lakh/ 09 Months	12.08.24/ 02.09.24	02.09.24 15:00 hrs. 02.09.24 15:30 hrs.
V	Vaccine Manufacturing Facility for Anthrax & Enterotoxaemia at OBPI Berhampur NDDB/HO/Purchase/43/24-25/ET/43 (CIVIL-BERHAMPUR)	830 Lakh/ 12 Months	06.08.24/ 27.08.24	27.08.24 15:00 hrs. 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 NDDB/HO/Purchase/44/24-25/ET/44 (LMP-KANGRA)	6200 Lakh/ 12 Months	05.08.24/ 27.08.24	27.08.24 15:00 hrs. 27.08.24 15:30 hrs.
II	Ammonia based Refrigeration Plant including PUF Insulation works for Cold stores at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDDB/HO/Purchase/45/24-25/ET/45 (REFRI-KANGRA)	980 Lakh/ 12 Months	07.08.24/ 28.08.24	28.08.24 15:00 hrs. 28.08.24 15:30 hrs.
III	2 X 4 TPH Solid fuel fired Boiler at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDDB/HO/Purchase/46/24-25/ET/46 (BOILER-KANGRA)	310 Lakh/ 10 Months	06.08.24/ 27.08.24	27.08.24 15:00 hrs. 27.08.24 15:30 hrs.
IV	11KV/433 V Electrical Substation with DG set at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDDB/HO/Purchase/47/24-25/ET/47 (SUBS.-KANGRA)	380 Lakh/ 10 Months	07.08.24/ 28.08.24	28.08.24 15:00 hrs. 28.08.24 15:30 hrs.
V	Fire hydrant system at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDDB/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. 29.08.24 15:30 hrs.
VI	Effluent treatment plant at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh NDDB/HO/Purchase/49/24-25/ET/49 (ETP-KANGRA)	600 Lakh/ 12 Months	08.08.24/ 29.08.24	29.08.24 15:00 hrs. 29.08.24 15:30 hrs.
VII	20 KLPD RO Plant with other accessories at Barauni Dairy Bihar NDDB/HO/Purchase/50/24-25/ET/50 (WTP - Barauni)	118 Lakh/ 6 Months	07.08.24/ 28.08.24	28.08.24 15:00 hrs. 28.08.24 15:30 hrs.
C	Providing & carrying out Facility Management Services at NDDB, Anand. NDDB/HO/Purchase/51/24-25/ET/51 (FMS - Anand)	125 Lakh/ 12 Months	09.08.24/ 30.08.24	30.08.24 15:00 hrs. 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.misecommerce.com (for any clarification please contact Group Head (Purchase), NDDB, Anand-388001)
NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites.

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

Applications are invited in the prescribed form for PhD Programmes for below mentioned categories:

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.

Last dates for receiving applications is 21/08/2024 5:00 PM. Applications received after the last date will not be entertained.

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Monday | August 5, 2024

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Educational TIMES

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Advertorial, Education Promotional Feature

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

The demand to restore state-level exams has increased as it may help less-resourced students

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

The aftermath of the NEET UG paper leaks and postponement of the NEET PG exam, has increased the demand from several states to cancel NEET UG PG exams, 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.

Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, too, defended NEET in the Rajya Sabha, as she suggested ensuring cost-effective medical education. NEET was notified in December 2010, when 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) and in 2013, the first exam took place.

"A standardised exam has reduced 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 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 from TN," says Dr B Srinivas, secretary, NMC. "The question paper should discriminate between good students, average students, and bad students. Instead of cancelling NEET, we must raise the level of school education," says Dr Srinivas.

The states' demand for the cancellation of the NEET exam has two aspects - merit, and social justice. "There is a perception that people from lower socio-economic 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, president of

IMA TNSB. In 2020-21, the TN set aside 7.5% of MBBS/BDS seats from its quota for government school students.

"TN wants to revert to the old system for medical colleges admission based on class XII marks. The state feels that there is no level playing field as students attending coaching classes crack the exam," says Dr Hasan.

Before the NEET PG/UG exam, there were state-based exams. "A student had to pass these exams to get a seat, which simplified it into a single NEET entrance exam.

In TN, class XII marks were considered for admission to medical college. However, there were many flaws in the system. Instead of projecting that poor people can not afford coaching, the state government can start low-cost coaching centres. Additionally, the NTA should transparently conduct the NEET. Postponing exams/paper leaks erode students' trust in the system," says Dr Vinayaka, MD student in a Tamil Nadu based medical college.

Rising value of liberal arts education in India

It equips students with tools to create meaning, writes Prof Sanjeev Kumar

According to the techno-optimist and famous venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, the challenge posed by poor intelligence is being solved as the cost of intelligence is going down dramatically. 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. In the time of flux, those equipped with leadership skills, critical thinking, and an exploratory nature will flourish.

The realm of liberal arts begins where the realm of science ends. The subject equips students with tools to create meaning and extract idiosyncratic sense. It unlocks the true potential of an individual, a family, a community, and the very existence itself.

(The author is dean, School of Liberal Arts, Bennett University)
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1	317699510	B.Tech Artificial Intelligence & Data Science	180	36	
2	317625310	B.Tech Internet Of Things (IoT)	30	06	
3	317692110	B.Tech Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	180	36	
Bachelor of Engineering (B.E. Programs)					
1	317624510	B.E. (Computer Engineering)	240	48	
2	317637210	B.E. (Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering)	120	24	
3	317624610	B.E. (Information Technology)	180	36	
4	317690010	B.E. (Electronics and Computer Science)	60	12	
5	317661210	B.E. (Mechanical Engineering)	60	12	
6	317619110	B.E. (Civil Engineering)	60	12	
7	317625910	B.E. (Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering (Additive Mfg.))	60	12	
8	317691010	B.E. (Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security))	60	12	
Master of Engineering (M.E. Programs)					
1	317637210	M.E. (Communication Technology & Management)*	18	04	
2	317624510	M.E. (Computer Engineering)	18	04	
3	317624610	M.E. (Information Technology)	18	04	
4	317619110	M.E. (Civil Engineering)	18	04	
5	317661210	M.E. (Mechanical Engineering)	18	04	
Master of Business Administration (MBA Program)					
1	317610110	Master of Business Administration (MBA)	120	24	
Working Professional Programs					
1	317624580	B.E. Computer Engineering (Bachelor of Engineering - Technology - Direct Second Year)	30		Admission will be as per CET Cell / ARA (Admission Regulating Authority) Guidelines.
2	317699580	B.E. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (Bachelor of Engineering - Technology - Direct Second Year)	30		
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With Power of Knowledge, Celebrate Life

SC judge: Some guvs doing what they shouldn't

Bengaluru: Some state governors are doing things they shouldn't and not doing things they should, Justice BV Nagarathna of Supreme Court said while delivering keynote address at a National Law School of India (NLSIU) conference in Bengaluru Saturday. SC judge highlighted the importance of governors maintaining neutrality, quoting Durgabai Deshmukh, a member of Constituent Assembly of India, who had emphasised that governor's role was intended to foster harmony and remain above party politics. "Certain functions are expected to be discharged by governor," the Judge said. **TNN**

37 years after her broken dream, Kerala teacher 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 worst natural disaster.

Vijayakumari, a 57-year-



Rescuers conduct a search and rescue operation in Wayanad

old anganwadi teacher at Muppainad 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 Mundakkai and Chooralmala devastated, the caller said. Vijayakumari stepped out within minutes, riding her scooter to Chooralmala. She reached the area, only to find the neighbourhood she knew reduced to heaps of mud and slush.

Vijayakumari offered to join the rescue effort, 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.

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 footbridge 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



Army personnel reconstruct a bridge that got damaged at Sonprayag

2 Delhi youngsters rescued after 48-hr ordeal

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 Sarita Vihar locality in southeast Delhi, embarked on their first pilgrimage to Kedarnath, expecting a spiritual journey. Instead, they found themselves in a desperate fight for survival.

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 people have been rescued from along the Kedarnath trek route.

4 days after HP cloudburst, 44 still untraced

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 recovered 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. Among the missing are villagers, employees of a hydro project and eight children. **TNN**

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Former minister of J'khand joins JD(U)

Patna: Former Jharkhand minister Saryu Roy joined Bihar CM Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) in the presence of senior party leaders in Patna on Sunday. Roy, who beat then Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das in the 2019 state polls, is likely to play a leading role in JD(U) in coming assembly polls. **TNN**

Teen deletes memories after landslide wipes out family of 8

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Kozhikode: In a different time, 18-year-old hotel management student Abhijith Kallingal would have gone for a long, leisurely stroll in his village of Panchirimmattom to capture its lush green hills and waterfalls with his mobile phone, as he did almost every day. But things have changed. 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 nonstop for two days. 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.

Blocked bridge led to stalling of ambulance

► From P 1

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 at Chooralmala from the medical college. 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.

Foresters trek hours to rescue tribal family of 6

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 Attamalla 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 Mundakkai.

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. **TNN**

Centre's '11 push for SC sub-categorisation: 8 states with more than 50% Dalits silent on it

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court's landmark judgment allowing for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes, and empowering the states to undertake it, has clinched a long unresolved issue which the Centre is still pursuing with the states. In 2011, Union ministry of

social justice and empowerment asked the states if they were in favour of sub-categorisation of SCs - then a subject of serious political controversy. The exercise elicited a mixed response from the states and remained incomplete.

Fourteen states opposed any move for sub-categorisation of SCs, while seven favoured it. But crucially, eight states

which have over 50% of Dalit population have not answered the Centre's query yet. The exercise is still on, with the social justice ministry sending reminders to the states that have chosen to keep mum.

Among those which have opposed the proposed move include Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, HP, Kerala, MP, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Bengal.

Will file review plea against ruling: Chirag

Manoj.Chaurasia@timesofindia.com

Patna: Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on Sunday expressed his disagreement with the Supreme Court observation over creamy layer among Scheduled Castes (SC) and

SC/ST SUB QUOTA

Scheduled Tribes (ST) and announced that his party would file a review petition against the ruling.

Chirag, who got elected from his father late Ram Vilas Paswan's home constituency of Hajipur in the Lok Sabha polls, draws strength from a sizeable Dalit vote base. According to the recent Bihar caste survey, SC

and ST together comprise 21.33% of the state's total population, indicating their political significance.

Talking to mediapersons here, Chirag said the basis for granting reservation to this community is "untouchability" and hence the concept of "creamy layer" should not apply.

"We disagree with the Supreme Court's observation and have registered it prominently. We are clear that the basis of classification of the Scheduled Caste is untouchability, not educational or economic status. So, there can't be a provision for creamy layer... reservation within reservation is not fair," Chirag said, adding his party would soon file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

Engaged with new UK govt to advance FTA & boost ties: Govt

New Delhi: India is engaging with the new Labour government in the UK to take forward India-UK ties, including through a mutually-beneficial free trade agreement (FTA), the govt told Parliament.

to work out a trade deal that is fair, equitable and mutually beneficial, which takes into consideration the ambitions and sensitivities of both the sides," said junior external affairs minister Kirti Vardhan Singh in Lok Sabha. **TNN**

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Assam to roll out domicile policy for state govt jobs

Sarma: Will Bring It 'Within Two Months'

Mukut.Das
@timesofindia.com



Citing MP, Uttarakhand and Gujarat as examples, the CM said they had domicile policies for recruitment to govt jobs

U'khand to implement UCC by Nov 9: CM Dharam

Dehradun: Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday announced implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the state before State Foundation Day on Nov 9. Uttarakhand govt introduced the UCC Bill on Feb 6, this year. On Feb 7, the bill was passed in the legislative assembly. ANI

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 on Sunday. "State govt has recruited over 97,000 people in a transparent manner since May 2021, creating ecosystem that builds trust," Sarma said on Sunday. "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. Citing Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Gujarat as examples, Sarma said they had domicile policies for recruitment to govt jobs so that local candidates were not denied. In Bengal, being able to read and write Bengali is mandatory for certain posts, he said.

'Land jihad' serious threat to Assam's demography: Sarma

From P 1

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, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said at BJP's state executive meeting in Guwahati. In Assam, BJP-led govt last month moved to repeal Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act and Rules of 1935 that allowed underage marriages under specific conditions. The chief minister said 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," he claimed. Sarma said the delimitation exercise last year was a crucial step towards safeguarding the state's future. On CAA, Sarma mentioned the "limited impact" of the agitation against the law. "Bringing CAA was a brave step by BJP govt. We are going to initiate a process to unlock biometrics of people that were blocked," he said.

NTA rebuts Jairam claim of exam body's ₹448cr profit

Times News Network
New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA), which is "at the very heart of the NEET scandal" on Sunday rebutted claims that it had made a profit of Rs 448 crore in the past six years through conduct of exams. Sources in NTA said the allegations were "based on inadequate understanding and facts". Citing data based on the reply to a Parliament question, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh had said on X, "This corpus, however, has not been used to build the agency's capabilities to conduct tests itself, or to strengthen regulatory and monitoring capabilities for its vendors."

Ramesh shared junior minister for education Sukanta Majumdar's reply in Rajya Sabha on July 31 to a question on NTA. The reply stated, "NTA collected an estimated Rs 3,512.98 crore while it spent Rs 3,064.77 crore on the conduct of examinations, it therefore netted a profit of Rs 448 crore in the last six years", he said. A senior NTA official said, "Having a corpus of Rs 450 crore to Rs 500 crore in the bank doesn't mean we are in the positive, as they are not considering the liabilities. Apart from the cost of conducting exams, salaries are also paid from the same collection of registration fees." He said the organisation was operating at a loss since it started in 2018.

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
No. Dy.Ch.E(Imp.)/586 dated 02/08/2024
e-TENDER NOTICE
Subject: Allotment of Municipal land on lease bearing C.S. No. 1500 of Fort Division at Ramabai Ambedkar Marg, Mumbai-400001, Through E-Tender.

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (BMC) invites e-tenders for allotment on lease of Municipal land bearing C.S. No. 1500 of Fort Division at Ramabai Ambedkar Marg. The Bidders / Tenderers shall pay E.M.D (Earnest Money Deposit) amounting to Rs.10,00,00,000/- for Plot area 8116.11 m² to BMC for faithful compliance of e-tender conditions during period of validity. On violation of terms or conditions during validity period or on withdrawal of offer during validity period, the amount of EMD shall be forfeited. The cost of the e-Tender document: Nil and Scrutiny Fee as applicable as per circular no. CA/FRG/04 dtd. 24/05/2023.

Name and Location of Work	Earnest Money Deposit
Allotment of Municipal land on lease bearing C.S. No. 1500 of Fort Division at Ramabai Ambedkar Marg, Mumbai-400001, Through E-Tender.	E.M.D (Earnest Money Deposit) of Rs.10,00,00,000/- and Bank Guarantee of Rs.20 Cr.

The Bidder will be required to deposit, along with its Bid, an Earnest Money Deposit as stated above (the "EMD"), refundable in accordance to the relevant clause of document, from the Due Date.

In terms of the 3 stage system of e-tendering, a Bidder will be required to deposit, also with its Bid, an Earnest Money Deposit as mentioned above. The 'EMD' is refundable in accordance to the relevant clause of bid document, from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the selected Bidder whose Bid Security/EMD shall be retained. The bidders will have to provide Earnest Money Deposit through the payment gateways while submitting the bids. The bid shall be summarily rejected if it is not accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit. The e-tender is available on said portal (<https://mahatenders.gov.in>) as mentioned in the Header Data of the tender.

As per three packet system, the document for Packet-A, B & C shall be uploaded by the bidder in vendors documents online in packet A, B & C. Packet-A, B & C shall be opened on dates as mentioned in Header Data. All the responsive and eligible bidders if they so wish can remain present at the time of opening of bids in the office of Dy. Chief Engineer (Imp.). The Packet-C shall be opened if bids submission in Packet A & B satisfies or includes all the requirements and same are found acceptable to the Evaluation committee.

The Municipal Commissioner reserves the right to reject all or any of the offers, without assigning any reasons at any stage. The dates and time for submission and opening the Tenders are as shown in the Header Data. If there are any changes in the dates, the same will be published on the said Portal. (<https://mahatenders.gov.in>)

The interested Participants for the above referred works may contact the Office of Dy. Chief Engineer (Imp.) at the following address on any working day during office hours.

Tender Document No. / No.	2024_MCGM_1063939_1
Name of Organization	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)
Scope of Work	Allotment of Municipal land on lease bearing C.S. No. 1500 of Fort Division at Ramabai Ambedkar Marg, Mumbai-400001, Through E-Tender.
Cost of Tender	NIL
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.10,00,00,000/-
Date of issue of tender (Start Date)	05/08/2024 from 11:00am
Last date & time for sale of tender	28/08/2024 upto 03:00 pm
Submission of Packet A, B & C (Online)	28/08/2024 upto 03:00 pm
Opening of Packet A	29/08/2024 at 03:00 pm
Opening of Packet B	03/09/2024 at 03:00 pm
Opening of Packet C	18/09/2024 at 03:00 pm
Website	(https://mahatenders.gov.in)
Nodal Officers	1. Rajesh Dholay, Dy. Chief Engineer (Imp) i/c. (Mob. No. 9819154259) 2. Lalitkumar Shah, Ex. Engineer (Imp) i/c. (Mob. No. 9820996974) 3. Anil Kshirsagar, Asstt Engineer (Imp.) (Mob. No. 9820821702)
Email-Id	dycche01.improvement@BMC.gov.in
Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid meeting	12/08/2024 at 3.00 p.m. Office of the Addl. Municipal Commissioner (ES), 2nd Floor, Annexe Building, BMC Head Office, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai- 400 001.
Address for Communication	Office of the Dy Chief Engineer (Imp.) 3rd Floor, Worli Engineering Hub Building, Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli Naka, Worli, Mumbai- 400 018.

This tender document is not transferable. Sd/-
PRO/801/ADV/2024-25 Dy.Chief Engineer (Imp.)
जलजन्तु आजार टाढापासादी पाणी गाळून व उकळून प्याव

Post threat, slain TN neta's family gets police protection

Chennai: Two armed women commandos have been stationed at Chennai's Ayanavaram apartment complex where the family of slain Tamil Nadu Bahujan Samaj Party

functionary K Armstrong resides. Security was heightened after his wife received a letter threatening abduction,

purportedly from a man named Sathish. A weapon guard with a pistol will also be stationed at the entrance and near the lift on their floor. TN

Government of Karnataka
Department of Collegiate and Technical Education
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 001
Phone: 080-22223906, email: dce.tenders2017@gmail.com

No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/11/2024-INFO (Computer No. 1481437) Date: 03.08.2024

E-Tender Notification

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following Tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Tender Schedules are as below

Sl. No.	Tender Name & Number	Date of Floating Tender on e-Procurement Portal	Date and Time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal
1.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0027 "Supply of Furniture for Mandya Unitary University & Maharani Cluster University of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	03/08/2024	06/08/2024 11.00 AM	14/08/2024 5.30 PM
2.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0025 "Supply of Furniture to RUSA funded Government First Grade Colleges of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	03/08/2024	06/08/2024 12.00 Noon	14/08/2024 5.30 PM
3.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0026 "Supply of Furniture to Government First Grade Colleges of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore, as per the Institutional Development Plan(IDP)"	03/08/2024	06/08/2024 03.00 PM	14/08/2024 5.30 PM

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/1273/Zen/2024-25 Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore

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

ENQUIRY OF RATES

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

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

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

Govt. of Bihar
Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna - 800014.
TEL. No:- 0612-2225659, 2224423 Fax 0612 2226414
e-mail-cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter. No: सि०वि०नि० (विविध)-05-76/2023 - 667

NOTICE INVITING BID

Sealed offers under TWO BID SYSTEM are hereby invited by the Govt. of Bihar from eligible Non Schedule Operator Permit holders (Non-scheduled category) under DGCA, India, for WET LEASE (not more than 07 years old at any point of time during contract period) **Twin Engine Helicopter** for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and entire Territory of India, for an initial period of 5 (five) years, which can be extended for another 02 years on satisfactory performance. Specification of helicopter is appended below:-

THE DESIRED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HELICOPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

- The helicopter should be certified vide FAR 29 or CS 29 certification standards
- Twin engine having good operational capability/reliability and easy maintainability.
- Minimum Range 300 NM with AUW at 35°C OAT & 1500 ft. AMSL.
- Minimum cruising speed 130 knots.
- Category A performance capability.
- Dual flight control with Auto Pilot.
- IFR capability.
- Fully air conditioned.
- CVR/FDR, EGPWS and other essential equipment installed as per applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)
- Seating capacity as per Type certificate data sheet.
- The helicopter and its engine to be type accepted by DGCA
- AUW below 5700Kg.
- Helicopter should be in VVIP/VIP configuration.
- 7+2/8+2 (Passengers + Pilot) seating capacity.
- One in number Twin Engine Helicopter 7+2/8+2 (Passenger + Pilot) seater for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and all airports in India. Approximate utilization of flying hours will be 540 hrs per year (i.e. 45 hrs per month).
- Bidder has to deposit Bid Bond (Earnest Money) of 2% of annual contract value in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents.
- Other terms and conditions and technical parameters required for the Helicopter are specified in the Detailed Tender Documents.
- The Government of Bihar will not be responsible for non-reaching of the Tender Documents due to postal delay or misplacement etc.
- Tender Documents can also be downloaded from the website "<http://state.bihar.gov.in/csd>" or "<http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar>".
- Company or Firm who has already submitted the tender, need not submit it again. Already submitted tender will be considered while finalising the tender.
- Last date and time of receipt of Tender by post or by hand is **15:30 hours (IST) on 23.08.2024** in the office of Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
- Sealed Tenders will be opened in the office chamber of The Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat Department), Govt. of Bihar, Patna at 17:00 hours (IST) on **23.08.2024** by a committee constituted by the Government of Bihar. If intervened by a holiday, Tenders will be received/opened at the same time on next working day.
- After opening of Sealed Packets of Tenders, only the Technical Bids shall be opened on **23.08.2024 at 17:30 hrs** for scrutiny of the bid documents and technical data etc. The schedule of events for different activities is given below:-

Sl. No.	Schedule of Events	Date
1.	Request for Proposal	02.08.2024
2.	Last date for submission of proposals & Technical bid opening	23.08.2024
3.	Presentation by Bidding organisations	29.08.2024 (11:00 AM)
4.	Opening of Financial Bid	06.09.2024
5.	Award of Contract	13.09.2024
6.	Positioning of Helicopter	27.09.2024

If Technical Bid of any bidder is found incomplete, not supported by requisite Bid Bond and/or required documents or deficient of any technical parameters as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents, their Financial Bid shall not be opened and same will be returned to the bidder in sealed condition as submitted by the bidder.

The Government of Bihar reserves the right to reject any or all the bids offer without assigning any reasons thereof.

This information is available on state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

Director
Directorate of Aviation,
Cabinet Secretariat Department,
Govt. of Bihar, Patna

PR-05280 (C S D) 2024-25
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



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 girlie. 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

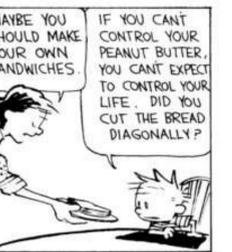
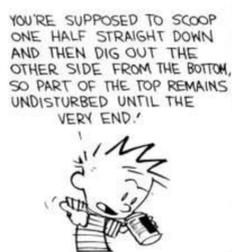
double trap. Ronjan Singh Sodhi, the then World No.1 and world record holder, was a big hope ahead of the London Games. However, the shotgun fervour has been missing since. Almost one-third (six) of the shooting contingent went for the shotgun competition. But their performance was nowhere close to their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



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

CL 1690

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

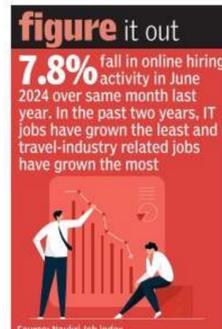


IHL failed to comply with NCLT: RCap admin

New Delhi: The administrator of Reliance Capital has filed an affidavit with NCLT, accusing IHL of non-compliance as the Hinduja Group firm failed to meet the conditions set by the tribunal. However, IHL 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 ₹32,365 crore into Indian equities in July. However, they pulled ₹1,027 crore from equities in the first two trading sessions of Aug. AGENCIES



Sri Lanka 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

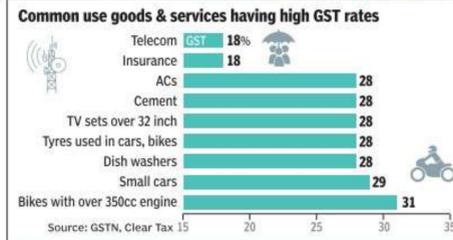
Why GST rate rationalisation is both due & needed

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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 unimpeachable, 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 af-

...AND HERE ARE SOME PAIN POINTS



“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

ter 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 ₹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-

ter than the current 12%. 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.

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 an issue as refund outgo will be larger than tax collected in the final stage.

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 repo loan decreased by 11 basis points (00bps = 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 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, which continues to prevent durable disinflation in the headline rate,” said Sodhani.

Israeli co in talks with HAL for P2F conversion unit

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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.

SBI Gen: Cut in wait time for existing diseases to up costs

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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 bank 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 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 too Simba which empowers the distributor to customize products on their own”

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

We expect to grow 50% this fiscal, no carrier has grown faster: Akasa

Saurabh.Sinha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Boeing's inability to deliver its B737 MAX aircrafts has made the journey of India's youngest airline — Akasa, which turns two on Wednesday (Aug 7), a turbulent one. With 24 aircraft in its fleet currently — the last MAX delivered this Feb — and just under 800 pilots on its rolls, the low-cost carrier is facing growing resentment from pilots over issues like slow training and very low utilisation that has affected their pay cheques. Akasa founder Vinay Dube told TOI he hopes “Boeing will be getting its storied past back” under the newly-appointed CEO and requested pilots to “be a little more patient.” Excerpts: Akasa has 226 B737 MAX on order. What was the original fleet size expectation at the end of two years and where are you at present? We have 24 aircraft and the last



“In the short or medium term, we are not looking at inducting Airbus in our fleet... If we get no MAX between now and end of the year, we have one degree of patience. If we get very close to our expectations, things are different.” —VINAY DUBE | AKASA FOUNDER

one was delivered this Feb. We have stopped giving (fleet) guidance... (Despite Boeing's delivery issues) If we are the fastest growing airline. In last fiscal, we saw our available seat km (ASKM) (a measure of an airline's carrying capacity available to generate revenue) grow by 300%. This fiscal, we expect to grow by 50%. No other carrier in India or globally has grown that fast. I am not looking at aircraft count alone as there are a number of things that allow us to grow capacity in ASKM terms. Are you looking at wet/damp/dry lease to overcome capacity challenges and how patient are you willing to be with Boeing before you start looking at the alternate? Till the first part of FY26 for sure we are not looking at any wet or damp leases. Despite that, we will still grow 50% this fiscal (in ASKM terms). We continue on the path of getting our Boeing aircraft. In the short or medium term, we are not looking at inducting Airbus in our fleet. How patient we are going to be with Boeing depends on circumstances. If we get no MAX between now and end of the year, we have one degree of patience. If we get very close to our expectations, things are different. Many Akasa pilots are unhappy over slow training and low pay package due to less flying. Some have been sitting at home for as long as a year and are looking for options.

How do you plan to allay their concerns? You are right that there are a number of pilots that are not flying (line released) yet and we are in the process of changing that. Training is yet to start for only 21 of our under 800 pilots. Everybody else is part of the training mix order. These 21 joined much more recently. We are a very fast growing airline. What I would say to them is be a little more patient. When people look back on us 10 years from now, they would have enjoyed a very fulfilling career at one of India's best airlines and that they would be senior pilots in a highly employee-centric organisation. Akasa has been talking to investors. What is your funding status? We are very well financed, well funded. To give you a data point, we started with a certain amount of capital and today we have more than that initial amount of capital in our bank account.

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 potentially 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 hold 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
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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 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

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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 Chateaux National Shooting Centre near here. Sidhu ended with a total of 583 with 26x while Bhanwala tallied 582 with 22x.

Maheshwari falters in fifth round

In the women's skeet event, Maheshwari 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. Maheshwari will now team up with Anant Jeet Singh Naruka in the skeet mixed team event on Monday.



ANISH BHANWALA

Constant pressure of game helped in shoot-out: Sreejesh

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Paris: India custodian PR Sreejesh got a standing ovation even from the British fans on Sunday. The 37-year-old was emotional, trying to soak in the moment as chants of "Sreejesh, Sreejesh" from the stands made it a morning to remember for all those who were at the Yves-du-Manoir.

"I grew up hearing chants of 'Sachin, Sachin' and when you hear your name being chanted in such a big stadium, it feels special. That's the beauty of hockey Irrespective of where you are from, if you are playing well, everyone will support you. Sometimes, I wondered if they were calling Britain, Britain or my name. Then I realized it was my name only. But I stood grounded and won," Sreejesh said.

Asked whether he felt confident going into the shoot-out, the seasoned campaigner said his extra workload helped him do well in the tie-breaker.

"Throughout the game there was more pressure on me. I was making many saves and automatically you get tired. But the British 'keeper didn't face many such problems, so he was relatively fresh. I think those saves stood me in good stead and increased my confidence."

Sreejesh said unlike many previous occasions, the Indian players scored without any trouble. "When I saw our players score, I grew more confident. Normally, I find them under pressure in such situations but today they scored easily. So when we scored twice, my confidence level shot up," he said.

"In a shootout, the idea is to kill the eight seconds. Then the pressure goes to the rival player and often he makes a mistake. But you also need your players' support. They scored four goals and that was important.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey also lavished praise on the India custodian. "Sreejesh was our god today because of the way he saved the day for us," the former India skipper said.

Sreejesh's 'abuse' a motivating factor

Medio Manpreet Singh, who fell back to help the defence after Amit Rohidas' exit, said he feels it odd if Sreejesh doesn't shout from the post. "It's his last dance and he always saves us in the shootout. Even if he abuses me, I take it sweetly. If he is quiet then I feel as if something is wrong," he said, laughing.

Sreejesh also explained why he sometimes sounds harsh in the heat of the game. "I know how to keep the defenders on their toes. For outsiders that might be abuse, but they take it well. When they hear it they know something is wrong. It is a motivation for them and for me it's like they are listening to me and playing well," Sreejesh said.

Manpreet, meanwhile, said that this was one of their greatest wins.

Row over video tablet

The shoot-out was delayed before Sukhjeet Singh took India's second shot after the officials took away an iPad from the British 'keeper Ollie Payne. An official appeared to have taken the tablet and Payne was seen digging into it. Hockey India, later officially raised concerns. "The key issues highlighted include inconsistent video umpire reviews, particularly regarding the red card decision for an Indian player, which has eroded trust in the video review system," HI said. "Coaching of a goalkeeper from behind the goal during the shoot-out and use of a video-tablet by a goalkeeper during the shoot-out is also a matter of concern."

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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...

SHA'CARRI RICHARDSON



MELISSA JEFFERSON



Pics: AFP, Getty Images, AP

TOP-THREE FINISHERS



JULIEN ALFRED

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 100 metres semifinal 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.

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 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

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)	Canoeing & 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. "She's a once-in-a-lifetime talent."

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

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.



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.

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

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

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

SEMIFINAL RUNS
Both Khelif and Lin have now reached the semifinals 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,

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.

NO HARM DONE: Lin's opponent Staneva protests with an 'X' sign

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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

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 No. 2 Victor 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 unafected 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-

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.

And what was his weapon against the Indian? "Good badminton," said the Dane with a smile as he walked away.

And what did Sen think of the missed opportunity. "I should have won the first game. Overall, it was a good match, and I am already looking ahead," he said, not wanting to speak about the bitter defeat.

"I have to learn to be a bit more patient. I made errors but honestly, I played what I thought was the best in that situation on the court. 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," he said.

He will be back on the court on Monday. He still has a date to keep - the bronze match against World No. 7 Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia.

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-Lakshya Sen

"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

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.

TEAM INDIA | Reliance Foundation

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

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

Sleepwell

"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."

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 sway 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 not 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 qualifies) (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 in tennis?
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

SNAPSHOTS

Bouzkova beats Sabalenka

Marie Bouzkova 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 semis. AP

Kasare scrapes past Gore into 2nd round: Manoj Kasare put up a fighting performance and overcame Ashish Gore 4-3 (52-18, 79-35, 35-61, 30-72, 69-27, 45-82, and 61-46) in senior snooker first-round match of the CR Realty-Western India Billiards and Snooker Championships on Sunday. TNN

Crawley to miss Lanka series: England opener Zak Crawley has been ruled out of the forthcoming Test series against Sri Lanka due to a broken finger. Crawley has been ruled out after he fractured the little finger on his right hand. AP

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Durand Cup, Mumbai City FC vs CISF Protectors, 4 pm; Goa vs Hyderabad, 7 pm (Sony Sports)

Olympics: 11 am onwards (Jiocinema, Sports 18)

Vandersay the hero for Sri Lanka as India flunk another spin test

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.

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 for 64 (44 b, 5x4, 4x6).

In the company of a compact Shubman Gill (35, 44b), he helped India to waltz 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.

India lost 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



Sri Lankan spinner Jeffrey Vandersay (centre) is the toast of teammates after taking his fifth wicket against India at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo

6/33 Jeffrey Vandersay has produced his best bowling performance in ODIs - his first five-wicket haul across formats, surpassing the 4/10 vs Zimbabwe at Pallekele on January 21, 2022. He is the first wrist spinner to bag a six-wicket haul vs India in ODIs.

Vandersay's delivery that pitched outside the channel onto his stumps. Axar Patel (44, 44b) added 38 runs for

Sarfraz to lead Mum in Buchi Babu tourney

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Mumbai: India's Test batsman Sarfraz Khan will lead Mumbai in the Buchi Babu All-India Invitational Tournament in Tamil Nadu - a red-ball event to prepare for the Ranji Trophy which will begin from August 15.

Veteran batsman Ajinkya Rahane, who captained Mumbai to their 42nd Ranji Trophy title in March, will miss the tournament as he's currently playing for English county side Leicestershire.

"Sarfraz will be leading Mumbai in Ajinkya's absence. Sarfraz will be available for only the first two matches of Buchi Babu, after which he and around seven-eight out our players should be leaving for the Duleep Trophy (The Duleep Trophy will begin from September 5 in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh). This will provide our under-23 players with a good opportunity to play in the knockouts," Mumbai chief selector Sanjay Patil told TOI.

"I'm impressed with the commitment of players like Ajinkya and Sarfraz for Mumbai. Coming off a break,

Sarfraz made it a point to go to Alur to join our team's camp there. Ajinkya is in touch with Omkar Salvi (Mumbai head coach) and told him he scored more than 19 points in his yo-yo test in UKI," he added.

This is the first time that Sarfraz has been named the Mumbai captain. Earlier this year, the 26-year-old made his much-awaited Test debut against England at Rajkot, and scored 200 runs in three Tests@50.00.

The squad also includes Sarfraz's younger brother Musheer, who scored 433 runs in three matches@20.80. Left-arm spinning allrounder Shams Mulani (undergoing rehab for a hamstring injury at the National Cricket Academy since the last one month) and opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi (stress fracture) missed out due to injuries.

The squad: Sarfraz Khan (Captain), Divyansh Saxena, Amogh Bhatkal, Akhil Herwadkar, Siddhesh Lad, Musheer Khan, Nutan Goel, Suryansh Shedge, Hardik Tamore, Prasad Pawar, Tanush Kotian, Atharva Ankoekar, Himanshu Singh, Dhanit Raut, Sylvester Douza, Junaid Khan, Harsh Tanna.

EXTRA TIME

HAALAND 'TRICK HELPS CITY WIN

Erling Haaland's hat trick, including two goals in the first five minutes, led Manchester City over Chelsea 4-2 on Saturday in an English club football friendly at Columbus, Ohio. Reigning Premier League champion City scored goals 54 seconds apart in the first half and 71 seconds apart in the second half to dominate the fixture, part of a US pre-season tour for both clubs. AFP

West Ham swoop for Leeds winger 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. Summerville agreed a five-year contract with the Hammers after finishing as the Championship Player of the Year last season. AFP

Kroos, Alonso win top football accolades in Germany

Toni Kroos has been voted Germany's player of the year for the 2023-24 season. Meanwhile, Xabi Alonso won the coaching accolade for leading unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title. AP

THE SPEAKING TREE

ENRICHING SERVICE

A committed person assigns value to his work, as well as believes in seva, service; in this orientation, things are not done to impress but for the sake of the work done well, writes

HOMAYUN TABA



ARUNDYUTI DAS BASU

out of expectation of reward or recognition but for the sake of the work done well. A committed person is self-propelled. The person assumes his or her role as a facilitator. At times, there is a passion for the work itself, but even otherwise, underlying it, there is a substratum of concern to ease the burden of others. What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other, asks George Elliott.

All too often, we find ourselves frustrated, distressed and weary of being at the receiving end of cold, non-recognition, and non-engaging responses from an officer, who is technically called a public servant, meaning at the service of the public. However, there are some rare moments when we are pleasantly surprised.

Nestled in the crowded Malad suburb of Mumbai lies a small post office, which starts functioning around 9 am. This writer has regularly posted boxes of books for remote schools and libraries, mainly in the north and west of the country.

To beat the rush, one has to reach there before nine. The last four times, one has met the new postmaster, a 51-year-old man, very well-dressed and soft-spoken. Invariably, the person in charge of booking the parcels arrives late for whatever reason. However, this has not stopped the postmaster from leaving his desk and coming to our aid. This is all the more surprising. What we see is that the higher up the person, the less willing she or he is generally to do the work of those lower in the hierarchy. This

particular man does this helping most effectively without any fuss or sign of pride in his high position. After weighing and pasting stickers, he willingly helps us lift and stack them in a corner. On finishing, he moves quickly out of the way, not even giving us a chance to thank him. One has been to various post offices in the city and has hardly ever received such a response.



PURE LIVING

In order to unpack this rare behaviour, we need to look at the difference between compliance and commitment.

Compliant means rule-bound, doing everything mandated either by the book or the rank, making no extra effort or going out of one's way to help. While compliance is vital, we need a more humane and creative way of enriching service delivery. Commitment implies working towards whatever more is possible—the value-added principle.

A committed person assigns value to his work, as well as believes in seva, service. In this orientation, things are not done to impress or

ted behaviour lies in some internal intention or belief. The delivery of any excellent quality work, whether as a product or service, is never accidental but deliberate and intentional. Which brings us, on our part, to be mindful when we receive any such service, never missing the chance to acknowledge and thank the person for it.

By striving to become a committed person, not only towards family and friends circle but people at large, there will be one less 'compliance-only-bent' person in the world. What we are, or have become, our levels of dedication to any task before us, our work ethic, often gets reflected in how we serve.

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece, John Ruskin has reminded us. The lives of committed people and their contribution to the betterment of service often go unnoticed and they mostly remain uncelebrated. What we need to do is to redress this, by first stating how much we appreciate them, and secondly make sure to send in their direction a prayer and a blessing. ■

NEET leak: Raj student held, 8th to land in CBI net so far

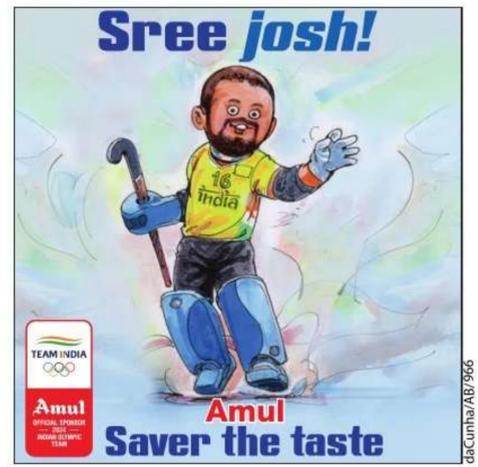
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna/Bhilwara/Jaipur: CBI arrested a medical student from Rajasthan in Patna on Saturday in 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 CBI for questioning. Bishnoi allegedly confessed to his involvement in solving NEET-UG question paper. There-

after, he was arrested and produced at a special court in Patna, which granted CBI his custody for five days. CBI sources said Sandeep, along with other medical students, had solved NEET-UG question paper at Hazaribag in Jharkhand ahead of the May 5 exam.

According to the information obtained from RSRV Medical College in Bhilwara, Sandeep hails from Sanchore in Rajasthan. Principal Dr Varsha said Sandeep was last seen in the university on July 13. He then went home.



After home set ablaze, UP man sent to jail over interfaith relation

Bareilly: A 21-year-old man, Mohd Saddam, whose house was set on fire by an angry mob on Friday night, was sent to jail by the police in Bareilly on Sunday for allegedly eloping with a 20-year-old woman from another community.

An FIR under the BNS section of abduction has been registered against Saddam following a complaint by the woman's father, reports Kanwarddeep Singh.

The incident took place at Chandupura Shivnagar under Sirauli limits of Bareilly district. Notably, none of the 51 people charged with rioting have been arrested.

Additional SP Manush Pareek said, "Saddam was sent to jail as the section in the FIR against him was cognisable, and the court sent him to judicial custody. We'll soon record the woman's statement before the magistrate and take action as per the law. We're also investigating the FIR related to rioting and looking for the culprits. We've identified some of them, including the woman's kin, who were possibly involved in vandalising Saddam's house."

HC orders removal of videos on insect in Amul ice cream

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Vadodara: Delhi high court (HC) has directed a Noida resident and some social media platforms to remove defamatory videos on Amul products.

This followed a post by the 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 recently after lawyers for Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (AmulFed)—the maker of Amul products and owner of its brand—told the HC that the Noida resident had failed to appear before the court despite several notices and opportunities.

Jayen Mehta, managing director of GCMME, called it a "milestone" verdict. "This has established



'CLIPS ARE DEFAMATORY'

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, the HC had directed Deepa to take down her posts. Later, the court has issued another order, stating that the defamatory content should be removed from all social media platforms, including X, YouTube and Meta. If requests to take down URLs cannot be acceded to, social media platforms will have to intimate Amul within 48 hours to enable it to seek legal redress, the order added.

Many killed in MP wall collapse were only child of their parents

From P 1

Over a dozen children gathered under a tent to create Shivlings out of clay as a huge crowd of devotees thronged Hardsaul Baba Temple in Shahpur. Around 10am, the wall of adjoining house collapsed on the tent, trapping the kids under a mound of debris.

Collector Deepak Arya, who supervised the rescue, confirmed the wall collapse was triggered by rain. Amid screams and wails, parents and other villagers scrambled through the debris to reach the children. Police joined the rescue effort and an excavator was also deployed.

The two survivors are in stable condition at district hospital, Arya said. Local Rehli MLA Gopal Bhargava said many of those killed were the only child of their parents.

CM Yadav expressed grief and announced aid of Rs 4 lakh each for the deceased's kin.

He ordered an immediate statewide review of dilapidated and dangerous buildings and asked officials to take action so that there was no repeat of such tragedies.

Cow slaughter accused held post shootout

Varanasi: Sahid, accused in multiple cases of cow slaughter, was arrested after a brief exchange of fire in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district early on Sunday. He suffered bullet injuries to his leg and was hospitalised. Police was on lookout for Sahid after he fled on July 16, after being caught slaughtering a prohibited animal along with his four accomplices, police said. **TNN**

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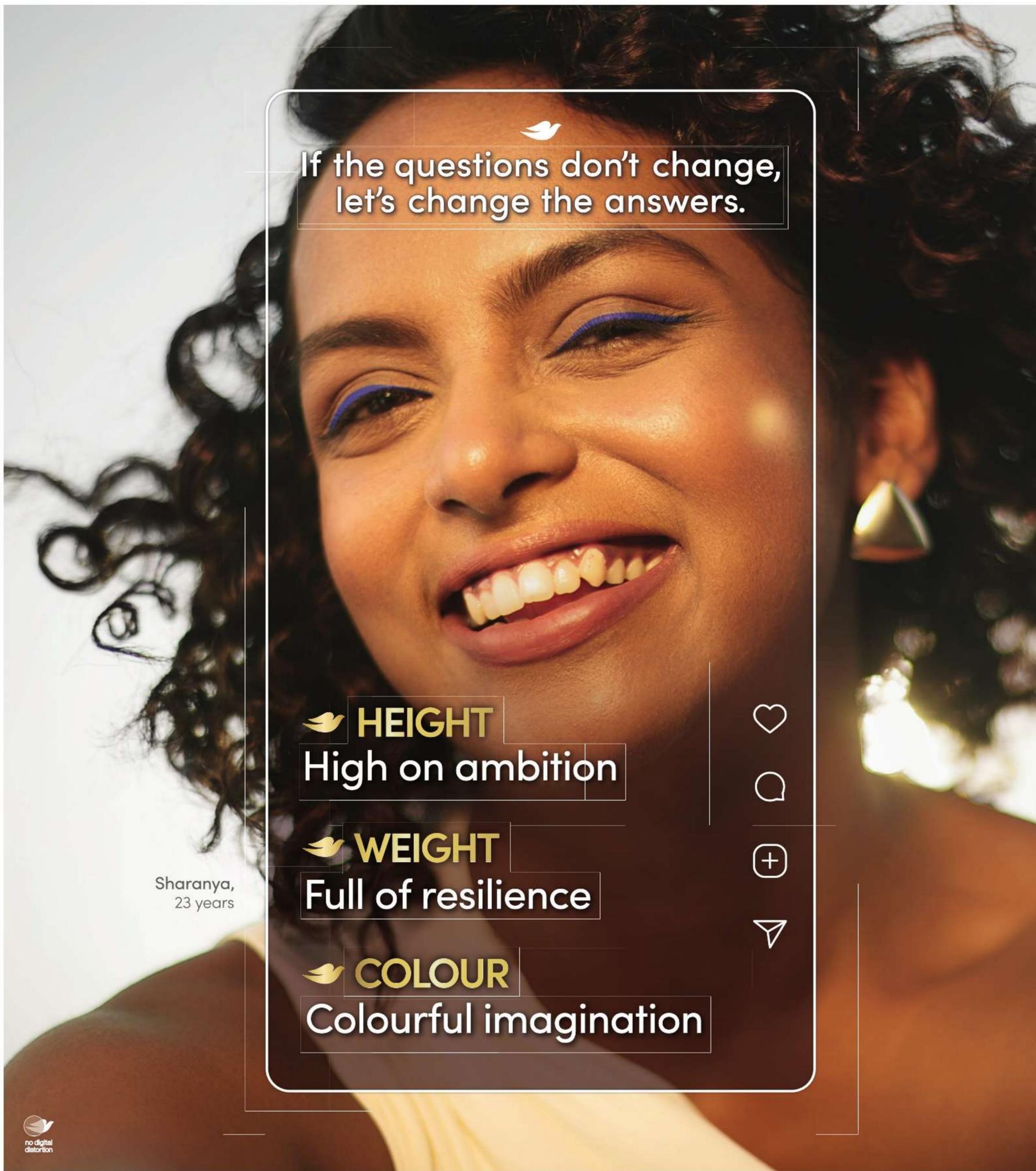


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