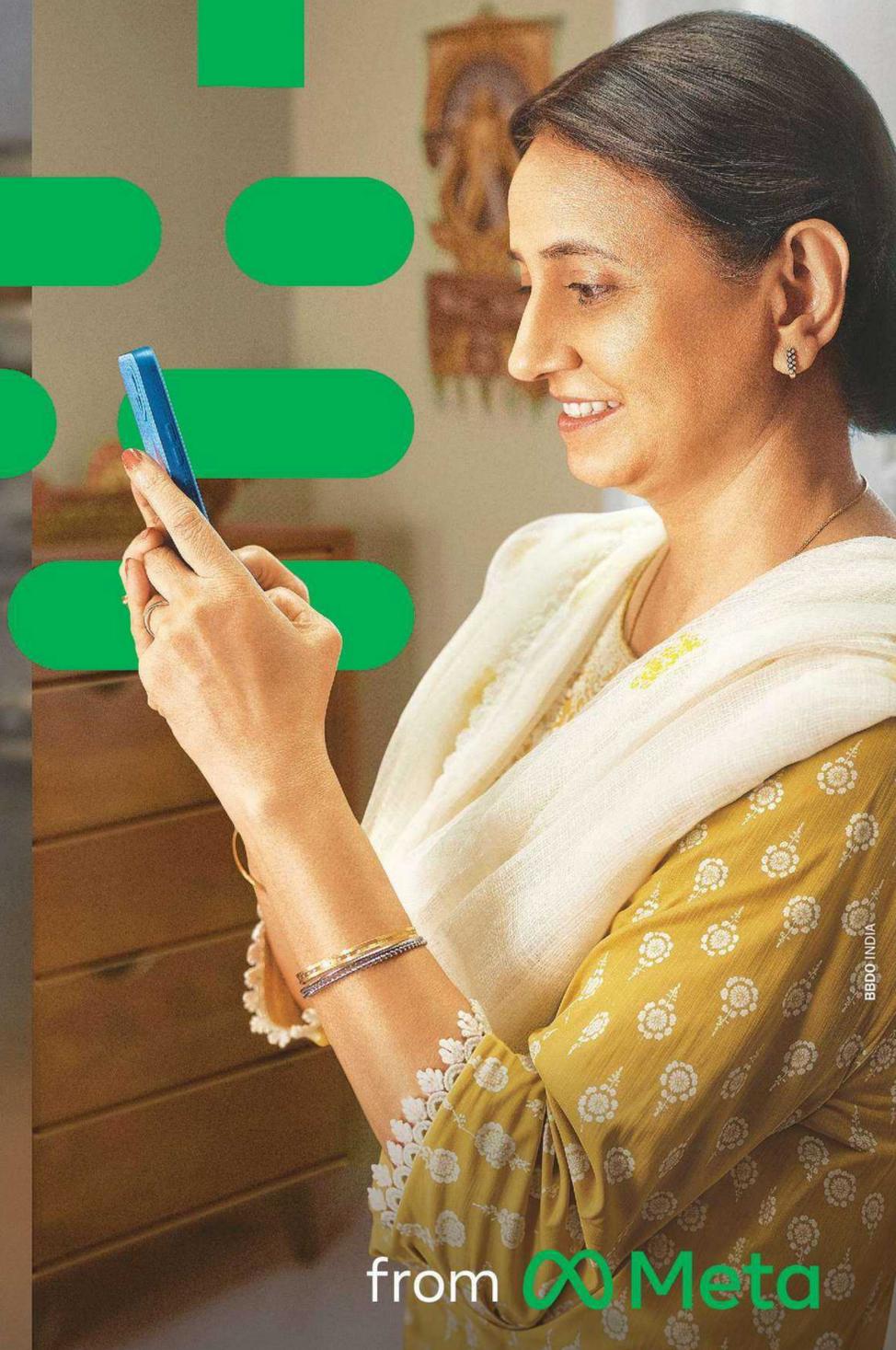
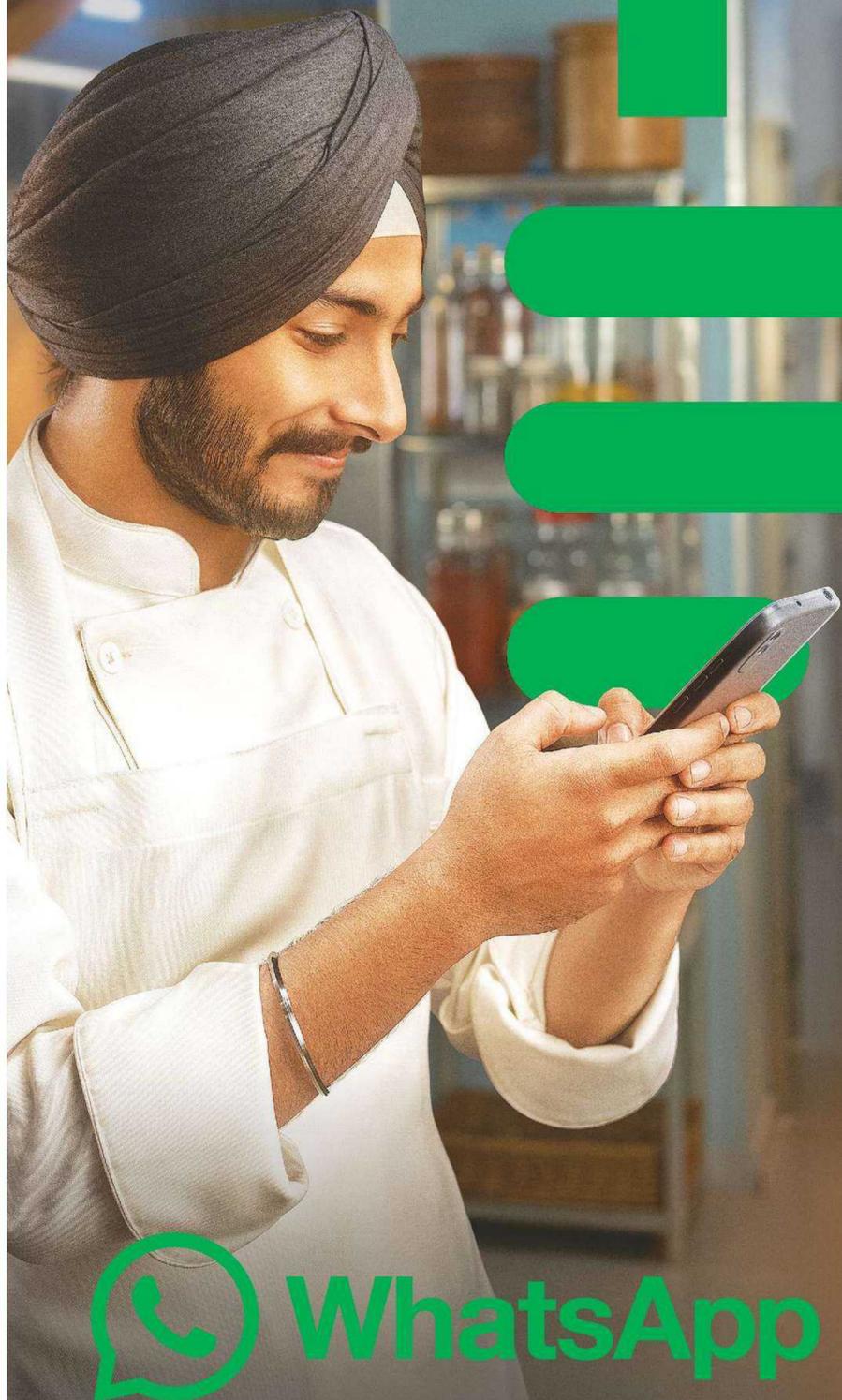




# Hindustan Times

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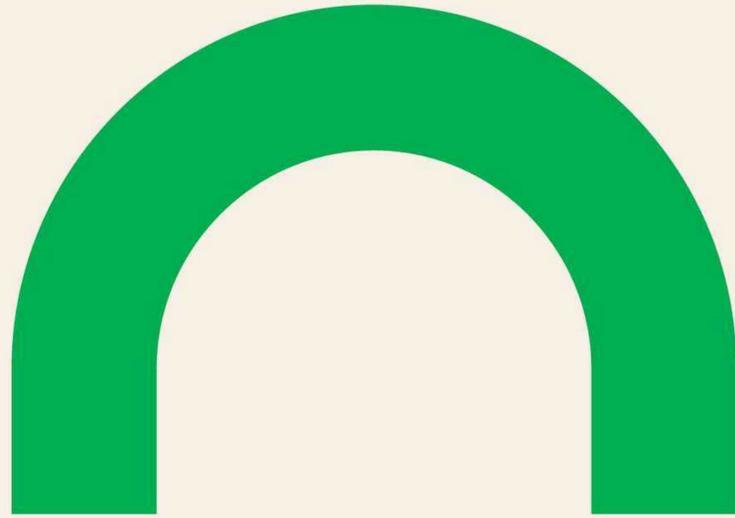


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# Hindustan Times

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INDIA,  
THIS IS YOUR TIME!



India's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, left, celebrates with teammates after the win against Great Britain in Colombes, France.

## 10-man India storm into semis, keep hopes alive

**Sandeep Nakal**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**PARIS:** Having come through several tough situations in penalty shootouts, custodian PR Sreejesh was not unduly perturbed that the result of the hockey quarterfinal against Great Britain hinged on his heroics in the 2024 Olympics, which he has chosen as his swansong. He was feeling the excitement of a debutant thrust

into the limelight. A veteran of four Olympics, Sreejesh duly surmounted the odds in the penalty shootout to carve a 4-2 victory that lifted India to the semi-finals.

There were smiles galore in the Indian camp when the hooter sounded the end of the regulation period - leaving India and Great Britain level on 1-1. It marked the end of a sustained period of heroic defence by the 10-player

Indian side, something not famously associated with teams of yore. All-out attack has been India's inherited legacy since their first appearance on the world stage in 1928.

Sunday morning was different. India shed their attacking instincts, perfected the craft of stubborn defence by staying within a

### DJOKOVIC BEATS ALCARAZ IN GOLD MEDAL CLASH

**PARIS:** Novak Djokovic completed his career Golden Slam as the 37-year-old Serb fought off Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a magnificent Olympic men's singles final battle at Roland Garros on Sunday, winning 7-6(3), 7-6(2).



continued on → 8

### 77 PROTESTERS KILLED AS B'DESH FORCES CRACK DOWN ON STIR

**DHAKA:** At least 77 protesters and 14 police officers were killed on Sunday as renewed anti-government protests swept across Bangladesh, with people calling for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign, even as she accused them of "sabotage" and cut off mobile internet in a bid to quell the unrest. The demonstrations follow protests last month that began with students calling for an end to a quota system for government jobs. As the renewed violence raged, Hasina said the protesters who engaged in "sabotage" and destruction were "no longer students", but criminals and said the people "should deal with them with iron hands". In an advisory on Sunday, the Indian government warned its citizens against travelling to Bangladesh.

## Nine children dead as wall collapses in MP

**Shruti Tomar and Anupam Pateriya**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**BHOPAL/SAGAR:** Nine children were killed and four injured on Sunday after a wall collapsed on a tent where they were attending a religious function in Shahpur village of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh, police said. The incident is the latest in a string of rain-related accidents and calamities that have claimed several lives across the country. It also came a day after four school students were killed in another wall collapse incident in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh.



The incident came days after a similar wall collapse killed four students in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.

clear the debris. Nine children were found dead while four were rescued with injuries," said additional superintendent of police Sanjeev Uike. Police said the incident took

place when the children were participating in a programme where they were making shilings out of clay in a tent inside a temple. The wall of a dilapidated

continued on → 8

### HEATED SESSION TO RESUME AS PARLIAMENT REOPENS TODAY

**NEW DELHI:** The Parliament's Budget Session resumes on Monday with several key bills on the agenda.

In the Lok Sabha, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Appropriation Bill and Finance Bill. Law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is set to present legislation on readjusting representation of Scheduled Tribes in Goa's assembly constituencies. In the Rajya Sabha, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri will introduce the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill by on Tuesday.

## Prelim drilling for hydro projects exempted from forest clearance

**Jayashree Nandi**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has exempted surveys involving drilling and felling of up to 100 trees for hydro and other developmental projects in forest areas from taking prior forest clearance.

According to the minutes of FAC's meeting held on July 4, the forest panel of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate

change (MoEFCC) has observed that surveys involving drilling for hydro and other developmental projects in the forest area "are of relatively lesser intensity and does not result any permanent change in the forest land use".

"Such preliminary drilling is crucial for project design, preparation of detailed project report and estimating the financial provisions of the proposed development project," the minutes added. The FAC noted that if the find-

ing of such drilling indicates the involvement of forest land during the implementation, a prior forest clearance will be required.

The statutory forest body considered the matter following a request by the Union power ministry. The power ministry secretary on May 28 wrote to the MoEFCC requesting that the dispensation provided to mining projects for drilling 25 bore holes and felling of 100 trees be extended to hydro and pump storage projects also.

## Govt, workers thrash out key issues in new pension scheme

**Rajeev Jayaswal**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Representatives of the government and its employees have reached a consensus on the contentious pension issue, addressing concerns about post-retirement benefits without reverting to the old pension scheme (OPS), according to two people familiar with the matter.

The agreement, which is still being finalised, aims to safeguard a minimum assured pension for government workers, who have sought a return to the OPS since it guaranteed 50% of the last-drawn salary. "The main work is done, now details are being worked out," said one person, speaking on condition of anonymity. "After working

THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS BEING FINALISED, AIMS TO SAFEGUARD A MINIMUM ASSURED PENSION FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS

out the finer details, the committee will submit its report to the government soon."

The resolution addresses three core apprehensions of employees, according to a second person. "Their primary concern was that they should not be left at the mercy of market fluctuations. The committee has addressed this concern in a

suitable manner," this person explained. Other key issues included factoring in inflation and the duration of service required to become eligible for drawing a pension.

The government formed a committee on April 6, 2023, chaired by finance secretary TV Somanathan, to review the National Pension System (NPS) introduced for state and federal employees from April 1, 2004. The NPS replaced the OPS.

Under the NPS, contributions from both employer (14% of the salary) and employee (10% of the salary) are invested in debt and equity instruments. While it may provide higher returns in the long run depending on market conditions, it does not guarantee a fixed pension amount.

## Leh-Srinagar highway cut off by heavy rain



A cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir forced the closure of the arterial Srinagar-Leh national highway, cutting off the Kashmir Valley from Ladakh.

## Himanta says Assam will limit govt jobs to those born in state

**GUWAHATI:** Assam will soon introduce separate laws to check instances of "love jihad" and "land jihad", as well as a new domicile policy to limit government jobs to those born in the state, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday. The legislation on "love jihad"

will ensure life imprisonment for those found indulging in such practices while the law on "love jihad" will make government approval mandatory for land transfers between Hindus and Muslims, Sarma added. "We will bring domicile policy for government jobs recruitment

in next two months allowing only those born in Assam," he said.

He also said that though the government cannot prevent such a transaction, it has made it mandatory to take consent of the chief minister before going ahead.

## J&K completes five years of Article 370 abrogation by Parl

**Ashiq Hussain and Mir Ehsan Khalil**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Five years ago when Union home minister Amit Shah rose in Parliament to speak on the morning of August 5, few had any clue about the tectonic changes his speech would bring.

Over the course of the next few hours, the Union government stripped the contentious region of its special status by effectively abrogating Article 370, revoked its statehood, and bifurcated it into two Union territories. Internet and phone services were suspended in the Valley and curfew-like conditions were imposed for months even as activists and Opposition members approached the Supreme Court, which finally upheld the move last year.

Today, as Jammu and Kashmir stands on the precipice of the first assembly elections in a decade - the top court mandated deadline is September 30 - the response in the region is decidedly mixed. The Union government

believes it streamlined local politics, weeded out extremists and tamped down on terrorism and stone pelting, protected reservations and expanded employment, all the while boosting tourism and building infrastructure.

The Opposition and civil society members argue that human rights were trampled, terrorism didn't die down but took new forms, and that tourism numbers hide ground sentiment that remains sharply opposed to the abrogation of Article 370 and stripping of statehood. As the region completes five years after the landmark changes, HT takes stock of the area's politics and security.



→ FULL REPORT ON PAGE 10

## KOTA STUDENT FOUND DEAD IN SUSPECTED SUICIDE

**Senjuti Sengupta**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**JAIPUR:** A 16-year-old student preparing for the national medical entrance exam NEET was found dead in his hostel room Sunday in Kota, a city that has grappled with student suicides for the last few years.

Police are investigating whether the death was suicide or natural causes. However, the death is now the fifteenth in the state yet among youngsters enrolled in one of the hundreds of coaching institutions. Last year, 27 such deaths had taken place.

"Prima facie, he went to his room after having dinner last night. However, when he did not respond to several knocks, the hostel authority broke open

## Ex-IRS man, wife hurt in Vasant Kunj robbery

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A 61-year-old retired Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer and his wife were attacked with a knife while resisting robbery by a man who broke into their house in Vasant Kunj early on Saturday.

Two men, including the alleged robber, were arrested. They were identified as Jitender Kumar, from Meerut, who robbed the house and his associate Arun Kumar, who received the stolen property, said deputy commissioner of police (south west) Rohit Meena. Both lived in Palam Village.

The suspect, brandishing a large knife, threatened to kill them if they raised alarm. "I got injured in my head. I tried to snatch the

THE COUPLE, THEIR SON AND DOMESTIC HELP TRAPPED THE THIEF IN A ROOM, BUT HE ESCAPED THROUGH THE BALCONY, TAKING A BAG WITH HIM

knife so I got injuries in my hands as well. He attacked my wife too," the retired officer, Abhay Kumar Singh, told police in the FIR.

Subsequently, his son who lives on the first floor and domestic help came to their rescue and all four of them locked the accused in the room where the attack took place. The thief, however, fled from the balcony.

{ ANTI-IMMIGRANT CLASHES } ORGANISED, VIOLENT THUGGERY, SAYS PM STARMER

## Fake news fans UK's worst riots in 13 yrs, many held



A rioter uses a fire extinguisher on a police officer outside a hotel in Rotherham, England on Sunday.

**Agencies**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**LONDON:** At least 100 people have been arrested after far-right protests descended into rioting this weekend in England and Northern Ireland, as the government pledged tough action against those it said were exploiting the murder of three girls to stir up disorder.

Violent protests involving hundreds of anti-immigration

groups have erupted in towns and cities, including Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Blackpool and Belfast since Friday night, with a number of police officers attacked and injured.

In a statement on Sunday afternoon, UK prime minister Keir Starmer said, "I guarantee you will regret taking part in this disorder, whether directly or those whipping up this action online and then running away themselves," he said.

## PARSVNATH CEO HELD OVER FIRs BY CONSUMER PANEL

**DELHI:** The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested the managing director-chief executive officer of Parsvnath Developers, Sanjeev Kumar Jain, after the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission issued four non-bailable warrants against him, officers said on Sunday. Jain, a resident of Gurugram, was arrested after a team of special staff of Shahdara district tracked him for over 60km.

PAGE ONE PLUS PARIS OLYMPICS

INDIA'S SCHEDULE TODAY

SHOOTING

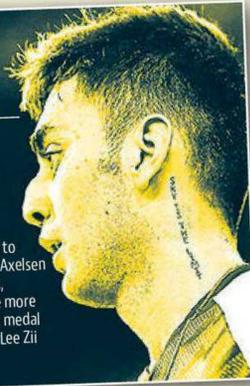
**Time: 12:30PM**  
Skeet men's team qualification  
MAHESHWARI CHAUHAN & ANANT JEET SINGH NARUKA



BADMINTON

**Time: 6PM**  
MEN'S SINGLES BRONZE PLAYOFF  
LAKSHYA SEN VS LEE ZII JIA (MAS)

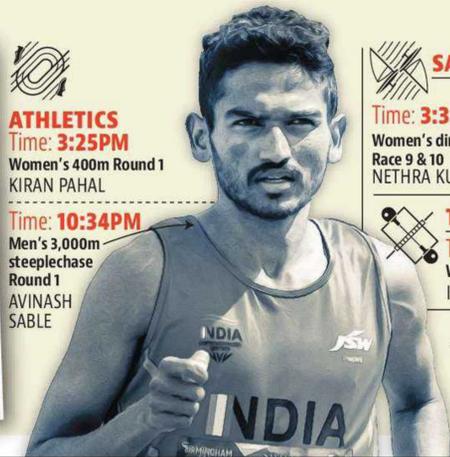
After a heartbreaking loss to reigning champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semi, Lakshya Sen will have one more chance to win an Olympic medal as he takes on Malaysian Lee Zii Jia in the bronze playoff.



ATHLETICS

**Time: 3:25PM**  
Women's 400m Round 1  
KIRAN PAHAL

**Time: 10:34PM**  
Men's 3,000m steeplechase Round 1  
AVINASH SABLE



SAILING

**Time: 3:35PM**  
Women's dinghy Race 9 & 10  
NETHRA KUMANAN

**Time: 6:10PM**  
Men's dinghy Race 9 & 10  
VISHNU SARAVANAN

TABLE TENNIS

**Time: 1:30PM**  
Women's team Round of 16  
INDIA VS ROMANIA

WRESTLING

**Time: 6:30PM**  
Women's freestyle 68kg Round of 16  
NISHA VS TETIANA SOVA RIZHKO (UKR)

All timings in IST

medalstally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1 China	19	15	10	44
2 USA	17	26	25	68
3 France	12	14	17	43
4 Australia	12	9	7	28
5 Britain	10	12	15	37
6 Korea	10	7	7	24
7 Japan	8	5	10	23
8 Italy	6	9	5	20
9 Netherlands	6	5	4	15
10 Germany	5	5	2	12
11 Canada	4	4	8	16
12 Romania	3	3	1	7
12 Hungary	3	2	2	7
14 Ireland	3	0	3	6
14 New Zealand	2	4	1	7
16 Sweden	2	3	2	7
57 INDIA	0	0	3	3

settingthepace



Simone Biles (R) won her third gold medal of the Paris Games on Saturday.

A reminder: All body types can be part of the Games

Susan Ninan  
susan.ninan@hindustantimes.com

Growing up, Simone Biles didn't look like other kids in her class. "I looked more like a boy. I was stronger than most of the girls, stronger than most of the boys too even. When I was younger, I would try to hide my muscles." Biles has 10 Olympic medals, three gold medals from Paris alone, and is now the most decorated gymnast of all time.

Traditionally, female gymnasts have been freakishly young and conditioned to be compliant, with child-like bodies and little agency over their person. Biles flipped that. The idea of the small, slender female gymnast being the sole prototype for success saw a shift with the arrival of a strong, muscular Biles ("I wish I had that kind of muscles in my calves," Kevin Durant gushed). At 27, she's also the oldest female gymnast in team USA since 1952.

As much as it's a testament to the human spirit, the Olympics are also about an assortment of body types — the long-limbed, the hulking, the spider-armed, the broad shouldered, and the 4-foot 8-inch woman who can rock a Yurchenko double pike. There's often a proclivity to imagine athlete bodies a certain way.

The Olympics is our quadrennial reminder that sport takes all sorts. For a couple of weeks every four years, the Games shows us a bevy of athletes — lunging, parrying, striding, stroking through water, doing handstands and pirouettes and lifting twice their body weight up above their heads. If you put gold medal winners across sports at the Games in a line-up, you'll know there's no cookie cutter mould, no one type of body shape, size, height that has it beat. If sports like weightlifting demand explosive power and muscle mass, long torsos and short legs can come good in swimming.



South Korea's Kim Woo-jin became the most decorated Olympic archer with five gold medals.

"All body types matter," Paris' breakout rugby star Ilona Maher said in a social media video post. "From the smallest gymnast to the tallest volleyball player, from a rugby player to a shot-putter, a sprinter. All body types are beautiful, and can do amazing things. Truly see yourself in these athletes and know that you can do it too."

Women in sport have long struggled with body image issues. Two-time Olympian Ilona has often taken to social media to respond to hecklers calling her 'overweight' or 'manly'. "They think women should be fragile and petite and quiet and meek, but that's not the case," she said in a video. "Women can be strong, and they can have broad shoulders, and they can take up space, and they can be big. Don't let anybody try to define or dictate how you feel about yourself. You get to decide that." She wears red lipstick as "war paint" and believes "I can be a beast and play this very physical, aggressive sport but also not have to sacrifice my femininity" for it.

Through her staggering count of 23 Grand Slam titles, Serena Williams changed how women athletes are viewed. She brought ruthlessness on court with her mould-breaking large biceps and imposing muscular frame. "When I was growing up, what was celebrated was different," Williams was quoted saying. "Venus looked more like what is really acceptable. She has incredibly long legs, she's really, really thin. I didn't see people on TV that looked like me, who were thick. There wasn't a positive body image. It was a different age."

The Olympics allows us to see female athletes of all sizes and shapes — those who starkly differ from the body standards women are conditioned to adhere to — climb podiums and rewrite sporting history.

"The Olympics have heavily straightened out my standard of beauty. Like fixing a stiff neck and putting it back in place. You can't use pale and baby smooth skin, straight shoulders, A4 waists, supermodel legs etc measurements to define them (women)," a Chinese user wrote in a now viral social media post.

In an interview, Biles who spoke the question she has been asked most often said — "I wish people would stop asking me, 'How tall are you? Are you gonna grow?' I'm not going anywhere. I'm 4'8". I'm stuck. I think I've learned to love my muscles a lot more than when I was younger. I got made fun of for my arms a lot. Some people would say mean things. At the time, it didn't make me feel the best, so I wore sweaters or jackets all year long. Now, I show off my arms all the time."

There's still some way to go perhaps though when it comes to how we choose to define women. Gender policing — how women should look, and who qualifies or doesn't qualify as a woman based on what we believe are the standards, shows up often enough. "We want (female athletes) to take care of themselves, feel their best, eat healthy and understand that it's OK to have muscles — because in some sports, you need those muscles," Michelle Carter, the first American woman to win a gold in shot put in Rio 2016 was quoted as saying. "We don't want to put them in a box. We want to take away the box so they can be all they can be."

{ WOMEN'S 100M FINAL } ST LUCIA RISES

## World's fastest woman

Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred stunned US favourite Sha'Carri Richardson to win the Olympic women's 100m gold medal on Saturday, etching her name into history to claim the Caribbean nation's first ever medal at the Games

**Was it a surprise?**  
Alfred had never finished on podium at a major outdoor championship prior to Saturday's final as she conjured a superb race to win in 10.72secs. Favourite Richardson took silver in 10.87secs and compatriot Melissa Jefferson won bronze in 10.92secs.

**Why?**  
Richardson, the reigning world champion over 100m, had been hotly tipped to become the first American to win the coveted Olympic crown since Gail Devers in 1996.

**What it meant?**  
Alfred's gold gave St. Lucia their first ever medal of any colour at an Olympics. The island nation only began competing at the Games in 1996.

**Warning shot**  
It was an incredible performance by Alfred, who had fired a warning shot across Richardson's bows in the semi-finals, finishing ahead of the American in 10.89sec. The semi-final proved to be an ominous portent for Richardson, who was slow out of the blocks and never looked like reeling in Alfred, who could even afford to ease up as she crossed the line to clinch gold.

**FAST AND FURIOUS**  
A look at how often the two runners have dipped under different markers

Time Marker	Julien Alfred (St Lucia)	Sha'Carri Richardson (USA)
< 10.70	1	0
< 10.80	2	0
< 10.90	10	8
< 11.00	29	17
< 11.10	31	24
< 11.20	35	27
< 11.30	29	29
< 11.40	41	31
< 11.50	45	32
< 11.60	51	35
< 11.70	56	42
< 11.80	60	42

**2008**  
Shelly-Ann Fraser (JAM)

**2012**  
Shelly-Ann Fraser (JAM)

**2016**  
Elaine Thompson-Herah (JAM)

**2020**  
Elaine Thompson-Herah (JAM)

**2024**  
Julien Alfred (St Lucia)

Sports science: The open secret to getting faster, higher and stronger

Shantanu Srivastava  
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**NEW DELHI:** Every night before hitting the bed, Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chhanu straps a heart rate monitor to her chest that records key cardiovascular data as the lifter's body recovers. Next morning, she shares this feedback with her physio Rohit Chhabria. Ranging from the quality of sleep to resting heart rate to instances of sleep interruptions, Chhabria and national coach Vijay Sharma analyse the data before firming up her training plan for the day.

It's a ceaseless cycle that helps the lifter train with the right intensity as she targets a second Olympic medal. In Chennai, table tennis ace Sharath Kamal, 42, has monitored his heart rate for over two decades, customising his training to continuous advancements in sports science. To say that Sharath's longevity is a direct result of his scientific aptitude besides his redoubtable talent won't be too far off the point.

At the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) in Bellary, sports science experts figured that the best way to get Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra close to hitting the 90m mark is to increase his strength by "10-15%" this season. The 26-year-old thus has worked furiously in the gym — heavy enough to add distance to his throws but light enough to not compromise with his innate elasticity. The "bar speed" is recorded and progress evaluated, leading to incremental millisecond gains that



Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra during a training session.

will hopefully translate into extra centimetres in competition. In table tennis, robots sparring with the world's best is not an unusual sight. In the shooting range, stable jackets have increasingly played a key role in the rifle scores going up while experts work overtime to simulate match tension to prepare for that perfect shot under competition pressure. At the core of the preparation and training regimen of these elite athletes are critical data sets that are analysed through a combination of human and machine intelligence before presenting the most potent way to elevate their game. With parameters like VO2 max, lactates and electrolyte balance available at the click of a button, modern sport has long passed the 10,000-hour rule. Real-time data collection has been the

big differentiator, leading to advanced performance analysis and the development of predictive models. Safe to say, sport now is as much a function of the athletes' physical and technical prowess as it is about attuning oneself to ever-evolving sports science. The US swim team at the Paris Olympics is travelling with Professor Ken Ono. The 56-year-old mathematics professor at the University of Virginia uses mathematics to create 3D models of the athletes and comes up with suggestions that help the US swimmers shave off crucial milliseconds. Ono, whose day job is studying problems in number theory, began working with the swimmers at the Emory University in Atlanta 10 years back, then using basic accelerometers strapped to athletes. He now relies on sensors

and high-definition underwater cameras to gauge the swimmer's acceleration and the G-forces acting against them. The corrections could be as simple as altering diving depths, the way they anticipate a turn, or just the way they hold their head in the water. "The level of involvement of science in modern sport, be it in training to mapping and optimising performances has changed dramatically over the past decade. The use of AI and Virtual Reality will be the next big gamechanger," feels Tom Brownlee, assistant professor in Applied Sport Sciences at University of Birmingham. "Let's imagine that you are a football defender and are beaten by a winger. The defender can put on those VR goggles and replay the scenario to figure out the best way to deal with the situation. You can also use it for pattern recognition in sports that require a great deal of repetition, such as jumps and throws. It can be a great visualisation tool too," Brownlee adds. Indian ecosystem, by and large, is still coming to terms with the next-gen technology. If the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City first opened sports scientists to the possibilities of quicker sprint timings at altitude and birthed the idea of high-altitude training for distance runners, India embraced the idea only over the last decade. Boxer Amit Panghal thought his preparation was foolproof after a month-long camp in Shilaroom, 8000 feet above sea level. Problem is, boxers are beginning to lean on VR and Extended Reality (XR) to condition themselves. "In India,

sports science is at a neo-natal stage. We are way behind the curve," says Ramji Srinivasan, former strength and conditioning coach with the men's cricket team. "A lot of our sports federations haven't even started recording basic physiological data of athletes. We tend to copy training and diet plans before giving much thought to our body type and genetics. We need to Indianise our training," he says. "Data is the key," agrees Samuel Pullinger, head of sports science at IIS. "Since we don't have historical physiological or nutritional data to benchmark an athlete's parameters, we regularly conduct strength assessments and musculoskeletal screening to track their levels. Ideally, the best technology needs to be applied right at the talent identification level." The Long Term Athlete Development Plan (LTAD) of sports bodies needs to integrate sports science, feels Srinivasan. "It has to be a systemic intervention. You can't just wake up one day and expect athletes to be comfortable with the technology," he says. A case in point is the resistance among some shooters, which surfaced last year, to the methods of high-performance coach Pierre Beauchamp. They were loath to share their data and a lot of them saw little worth in the process. "Why do we need to share how many hours we slept? What's the colour of my urine got to do with my shooting?" a shooter told HT then. A lot of them still bought into the idea. One of them is coming home with two Olympic medals.

MY DELHI

# NGT slams agencies over choked Barapullah drain

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**NEW DELHI:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed disappointment over agencies not taking responsibility to desilt and dredge the Barapullah drain, stating a key segment of the drain was yet to be dredged even as it directed the Delhi chief secretary to convene a meeting of all agencies, fix responsibility and take action, according to documents seen by HT.

The 16km-long drain flows through south, central and southeast Delhi, including Chirag Delhi, INA, Mehrauli, Defence Colony, GK, Nizamuddin and Pushp Vihar, before eventually meeting the Yamuna. Once a natural stream fed by monsoon rain, the drain carries almost 80% of wastewater from the Barapullah basin region into the Yamuna, accounting for a major chunk of the pollution in the river. Land along the drain is a marshland of sewage and wastewater, a breeding ground for disease, and pestilence.

Noting that agencies were still "playing a blame game", NGT, in its order dated August 2 uploaded on Sunday, said that while an early segment of the drain was being dredged by the irrigation and flood control department, a portion of the drain, closer to the Yamuna was yet to be desilted by any agency and is likely causing waterlogging.

NGT has been hearing various pleas, including one by the Nizamuddin West RWA, seeking remedial measures to treat the Barapullah and its subsidiary drains, including the Kushak drain. "It has been pointed out by learned senior counsel appearing for the applicant that so far desilting/dredging of stretch A-1 to A-7 of Barapullah drain is concerned, the work has been taken up by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, but from A-7 to B, which is the last stretch, no work has been done and it is a



MCD officials work on clearing the Barapullah drain near Nizamuddin on Sunday. SANCHIT KHANN/HT PHOTO

crucial stretch because unless A-7 to B is dredged, the backflow will take place and desilting/dredging of upper stretches of drain will not serve any effective purpose," NGT said in its order.

The Barapullah drain flooded large parts of south and central Delhi on June 28 — when over 200mm of rain was recorded in a single day and water began to backflow from the drain. Waterlogging complaints were received from areas like Jangpura, Lajpat Nagar, Nizamuddin and Chirag Delhi, among other locations around the drain, impacting traffic on the first monsoon rain of the season.

NGT said the I&FC department has said the stretch from A7 to B was yet to be handed over to them by the Delhi Development Authority, DDA, when asked, said, "desilting and dredging was not its responsibility".

"None of the authorities is in the position to state as to who or which authority is responsible for desilting of the stretch from A-7 to B. We find it strange that though the matter has been

heard at length on the previous date on the issue of dredging of Barapullah drain..." said the tribunal in its order, directing the chief secretary to immediately intervene.

NGT will be hearing the matter next on August 6.

### Shahdara drains not up to standard, NGT told

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) reported to NGT that the Sahibabad, Indrapuri, and Banthla drains — all supplementary drains of the Shahdara drain in Delhi — were not meeting requisite standards for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). The report said that samples collected showed three to four times the permissible limit of 30mg/l. UPPCB attributed the high BOD to "untreated domestic effluents" and initiated action against 13 industries along these drains.

No civic agency in Delhi has made submissions in this regard, and the I&FC department did not comment on the matter.

### AAP, LG TRADE BARBS AS ARTERIAL DRAINS CLOGGED

**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena inspected three major arterial drains in Delhi — Barapullah, Kushak and Sunehri — on Sunday and found them heavily choked with debris and silt deposits, and said that they have not been desilted for years despite claims made by civic agencies.

Hitting back, the AAP government said that the LG was engaging in "dirty politics" instead of taking action against officers.

"It requires urgent corrective measures... These three arterial drains are under I&FCD and MCD. They have not been desilted for years, despite claims to the contrary," Saxena said.

Responding to LG's remarks, the AAP said: "Now that the monsoon is almost over, LG has come to pay lip service and engage in dirty politics. It would have been better if the LG took action against the chief secretary and the PWD secretary." HTC

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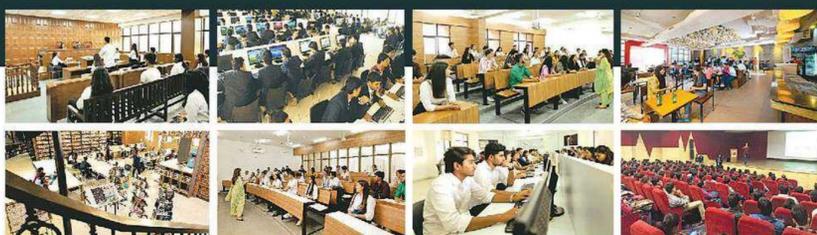
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# Rajendra Nagar and genesis of the IAS dream

Soumya Chatterjee  
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**NEW DELHI:** As one approaches Old Rajendra Nagar, located just 4.5km west of Connaught Place, it would appear that the existence of the entire neighbourhood is dependent on producing the next batch of civil servants for the country.

It's not just the billboards advertising preparatory institutes that litter the Karol Bagh Metro station, Rajendra Nagar's nearest transit link, but the station itself is called Drishti IAS Karol Bagh Metro station as part of a co-branding initiative. Below the elevated station, the chaotic Pusa Road looks even more disorderly with banners hanging over building façades. Enter Bada Bazaar Road, there is an entire ecosystem selling the great IAS dream.

For most hours of the day, streets are full of aspirants and tutors moving in and out of coaching institutes. Apart from the hundreds of these institutes that are located on the main road, the bylanes are densely packed with rental accommodations, paying guest facilities and dormitories for students.

To cater to this community, there are permanent and makeshift businesses selling books on current affairs, optional subjects, and mess-style eateries and tiffin services selling a variety of regional food options.

But since Saturday, the area has been packed with police in their usual khakis and the Rapid Action Force in their blue camouflage. A small part of the Bada Bazaar Road has been cut off for normal traffic movement as protesters gather in relays over the death of three of their fellow IAS aspirants, which have justifiably dominated the headlines and news TV debates over the past week. The torrential downpour on Wednesday evening and the resultant inundation failed to deter them from their resolve. The rains, this time far worse than on the fateful night of July 27, brought similar experiences. The same road got inundated in no time with water rising above the knee and basements filling up with the run-offs. Only this time, they were all, 35 of them, sealed by the civic agency in the aftermath of the tragedy.

While Saturday's situation caught attention due to the loss of young lives, it is symptomatic of the fallout of inadequate and ad-hoc planning, design, and execution apparatus functioning in Indian cities, including the national Capital. The issue also collectivised the students over problems troubling them primarily what they call an unholy

nexus of brokers, landlords and these coaching institutes with the tacit support of authorities.

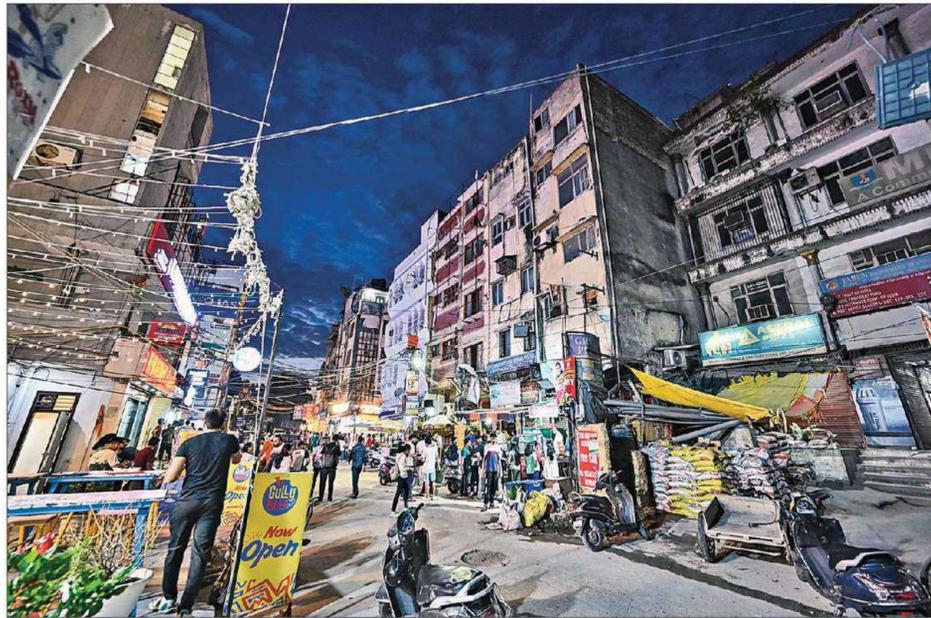
The students and shopkeepers who have been here, some for more than five years, say the Bada Bazaar Road, on which the Rau's IAS building stands, gets inundated even with moderate rain. Basements of the entire vicinity within a radius of half a kilometre would also get filled as seen in many low-lying areas of Delhi. The fact that the area is flood-prone is not surprising.

**The Rajendra Nagar story** Divided as Old and New by Shankar Road, Rajendra Nagar was one of the 16 rehabilitation colonies set up in the 1950s in Delhi by the first Union government to accommodate refugees coming from Sindh and Punjab regions of Pakistan following the Partition. The colonies — named after India's first president Dr Rajendra Prasad — were carved out of the Central Ridge. New Rajendra Nagar is situated on an elevation called the "pahari" by the residents, while Old Rajendra Nagar is located below.

"While in New Rajendra Nagar, refugees were allotted houses built on 128 and 200 sq yard plots, in Old Rajendra Nagar, it was 50 or 80 sq yards," said Arvind Mehta, a resident-activist living in New Rajendra Nagar since 1953. Just like most parts of Delhi, this neighbourhood is no longer reminiscent of how it looked in the 50s. Old-timers say that a lot did not change for a long time with the area remaining primarily residential or mixed-land use with many private schools and government educational institutes coming up. It was only in the mid-90s, with the "builder" boom, the neighbourhood began to change, and quite rapidly so.

The current proliferation of these coaching institutes in Old Rajendra Nagar started only around 2006 when the first such institute Vajirao started after the adjoining areas such as Mukherjee Nagar and Patel Nagar became saturated with institutes and a trend of out-of-state students lodging here for exams cemented. Before that, locals said, these institutes did crop up but did not make a noticeable difference to the area. But as Kota emerged as the unofficial capital for students preparing for engineering entrance exams, Delhi became the hub of UPSC aspirants and areas such as Rajendra Nagar became the preferred destination thanks to its proximity to New Delhi Railway Station and symbolically — the Lutyens' Delhi.

This reason also contributed to the rise in rental demand as some aspirants also worked. Landlords



After a mid-90s 'builder' boom, the area saw a drastic change — a large number of coaching institutes cropped up, and owners of houses started cashing in on the demand by students by dividing floors into single-room rentals. RAJUKRAI/HT

too realised that renting out to students on a per-room basis fetched more money compared to renting out floors to families. Students said that a single room with bare basic amenities can go up to ₹20,000 rent per month.

**Downside of a rapid boom** AK Jain, former planning commissioner of the Delhi Development Authority, said noticing this opportunity, some owners starting with those having plots by the arterial roads joined hands and combined the small plots to house coaching institutes and other commercial activities. When DDA was formulating the Master Plan 2021 in 2007, officials noted the

socioeconomic change and relaxed floor area ratios leading to addition of floors and allowed mixed-use subject to conditions. Basements were allowed to function as commercial entities subject to safety and structural checks. But activists say until the last decade basements were not rampantly used for coaching or other functions that see an assembly of multiple persons. Mehta said, "When even the newly built floors were also fully utilised, some landlords started renting out their basements for gyms, libraries and beauty parlours."

On this, Jain said, as part of the master plan even when basements were allowed, it had to be

within FAR norms. "But there was no strict enforcement. Overnight, many buildings changed their usage from residential to commercial without even paying conversion fees. MCD didn't keep a check on illegal construction beyond the permissible G+4 norms." He also said as part of the new master planning process, noting the increase in load, DDA recommended an overhaul of the drainage and sewage infrastructure in the area. The last time the area, along with the rest of Delhi, had an upgrade in its drainage infrastructure was in 1980s.

"But that could not account for the growth in population due to the liberalisation," said R Srinivas, former country and town planner with the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs.

However, these building norms were modified without noting the location specifics but based on broad city-wide trends. KT Ravindran, formerly vice chairman of the Central Environmental Impact Assessment Committee and member of an advisory board for the United Nations Capital Master Plan, questioned whether basements should have been allowed to be built in the first place when the area is known to be low-lying. He said over the years, with more rainy years, the water table of some areas has risen, which has made the situation complex forcing the need for detailed bylaws that dictate which sort of land and location can accommodate what type of development.

Further, he said that classes and libraries can have close to 40 persons at a single time, which should be treated as an assembly function in building use parlance. "So, a library should never function in a single entry-exit basement."

Srinivas recounts despite DDA allowing commercial activities in its master plan, the Delhi high court in 2021 had observed that it should be disallowed over safety concerns.

Further, residents said what worsens the waterlogging is the failure of civic agencies to maintain the already inadequate infrastructure. They point that storm-water drains have not been desilted which compounds the urban flooding problem. Some said complaints to the police over illegal building modifications and illegal commercialisation had fallen on deaf ears.

Neeraj Gupta, another lifelong resident-activist in the area, said the resident welfare associations (RWAs) have highlighted the issue of flooding since the time when Shieela Dikshit was Delhi chief minister. He blamed the administration for allowing the area's commercialisation without first creating the necessary civic infrastructure. Further, he said many residents were forced to move out of the area as it became unliveable due to the excessive footfalls. He said other than the issues of flooding, there are other issues like the hanging of overhead wires which are disasters waiting to happen.

## The widespread issue of drain encroachment

Paras Singh

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**NEW DELHI:** In a report submitted to the chief secretary by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on July 29, the agency detailed the wide range of problems afflicting the Rajendra Nagar area, which lead to intense waterlogging during monsoon. The report, submitted in the aftermath of the death of three civil service aspirants who drowned in a flooded basement on July 27, shed light on a problem that prevails across the entire city, and not just Rajendra Nagar — the encroachment of drains.

Large swathes of the Capital have been unable to cope with the population influx combined with dated infrastructure. This is especially true for inner colony roads where local construction hampers public infrastructure — cases in point large ramps for vehicles; additional staircases to access houses at elevation; and the covering of drains by building owners.

HT spoke to members of resident welfare associations, who argued that lack of enforcement aggravates poor road elevation planning.

Atul Goyal, who heads Urja (United RWAs Joint Action) — a collective body of RWAs — said that the issue of ramps over drains was not as prevalent in the 70s and 80s but emerged over the last three decades.

"Basements and still parking came up, and vehicle occupancy increased. Ideally, these ramps should be inside the premises, but people invariably build prop-

erties at higher plinths with ramps and staircases extending on the pavements and drains. This has not only destroyed walkways but also the local drainage system," he added.

Goyal said that equal blame lies on road-owning agencies. "Instead of removing the layers of existing roads, agencies build new roads on top of existing ones, decreasing the plinth level," he added.

A senior MCD official said that the walkways and drains are public property with the road-owning agencies. All building extensions, like ramps and staircases, are illegal. "Such extensions cannot be out of the property boundary. The demolition drive started in Rajendra Nagar will be extended to other parts of the city," the official added.

In east Delhi, BS Vohra, who heads the East Delhi RWA joint front, said the problem of ramps over drains is prevalent. "In areas like Krishna Nagar, the sewage drains are underground, and the barsati drains along roads are separate," he added.

The problem is rampant in unplanned areas.

Ranbir Singh Solanki, the president of Madhu Vihar colonies welfare association in southwest Delhi, said that crores have been spent on roads and new drains to no avail. "Similar situation prevails in Goyla and Qutub Vihar," he added.

In north Delhi, Ashok Bhasin, president, North Delhi RWA, said that 40-50% drains in the area are covered and illegal construction happens in collusion with area junior engineers.



A footpath and drain encroached upon by a ramp at Rajendra Nagar in the city. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTO

## GZB MAN RAPES, IMPREGNATES HIS 13-YR-OLD COUSIN; ARRESTED: COPS

**GHAZIABAD:** Police arrested a 21-year-old man on Sunday for raping his 13-year-old cousin sister in March, officers aware of the case said. The case came to light when the police received a hospital memo on July 11 that mentioned that the minor girl had suffered an abortion in the fourth month of pregnancy. Police then registered suo motu first information report (FIR) as the girl's family did not come forward to report the case.

"Taking cognisance, we reached out to the victim's family and counselled them several times to come forward and give a complaint considering the severity of the incident. But they did not come forward. The suspect was arrested from Sahibabad," said assistant commissioner of police (Sahibabad Circle) Rajneesh Kumar Upadhyaya.

## BJP LAUNCHES CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN 252 SLUM CLUSTERS IN CITY

**NEW DELHI:** The BJP on Sunday launched an outreach campaign in 252 slum clusters in Delhi through a sanitation drive in which senior state leaders, MPs, MLAs and area councillors participated. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, who took part in the drive in Anand Vihar, said: "We have conducted cleanliness drives in slum areas of Delhi and our slum expansion volunteers will continue to raise awareness about cleanliness. The rainy season brings diseases, so cleanliness is necessary."

Union minister of state Harsh Malhotra, who participated in a drive in Kalandar Colony and Dilshad Colony slum areas, said, "We are committed to making slum dwellers self-reliant by keeping their slum areas clean." At least 1.55 million people live in Delhi's 675 slum clusters. HT

## SC ruling on Delhi govt plea against aldermen appointments today

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is set to deliver its judgment on Monday on a petition by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government challenging the lieutenant governor's appointment of 10 aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without consulting the state cabinet.

The judgment will be pronounced by justice PS Narasimha, alongside the Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and justice JB Pardiwala. The verdict follows a protracted legal process that began over 15 months ago, with the court concluding its hearings on the matter in May 2023.

The judgment is particularly significant as it would come amidst severe criticism of the Delhi civic body's handling of essential services, notably its management of city drains and storm-water systems. The inadequate management has been linked to

the tragic deaths due to the drowning of three IAS aspirants in the basement of a coaching centre in Old Rajendra Nagar, intensifying scrutiny of the MCD's operations.

After the AAP won the municipal elections in 2022, the LG appointed 10 aldermen. The petition of the Delhi government seeks the quashing of the orders where the LG nominated these 10 people to the MCD.

The Delhi government's petition argued that the LG's unilateral nomination of aldermen was an unprecedented deviation from constitutional norms, adding that the only permissible actions for LG were to either accept the names or, if in disagreement, refer the matter to the President. LG, however, submitted that appointing aldermen is an independent power available to the "administrator" (LG) under the DMC Act. HT

{ 2017 CONSUMER COURT CASE } TRACED USING PHONE

## Parsvnath CEO, on the run since July 18, held at airport

HT Correspondent  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested the managing director-chief executive officer of Parsvnath Developers, Sanjeev Kumar Jain, after the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission issued four non-bailable warrants against him, police said on Sunday.

Jain, a resident of Gurugram, was arrested after a team of special staff of Shahdara district tracked him down over 60km, said deputy commissioner of police (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary.

Police said that the non-bailable warrant was issued against him on July 18 by the joint registrar of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) Delhi in a case



Sanjeev Kumar Jain

reported to the panel in 2017.

"The non-bailable warrant was issued against Sanjeev Jain on July 18, but he did not appear before the commission. Four non-bailable warrants and one bailable warrant from the commission were pending in Shahdara police station against Jain," the DCP said. But police did not share details about the NCDRC case against Jain.

After July 18, a team of six special staff officers raided his office in Shahdara, his house in Guru-

gram, and other locations connected to him but he was not found there.

A senior police officer said that Jain's phone was put on technical surveillance and on Saturday afternoon, his location was traced to Asola.

"The team immediately left for Asola but again did not find him there," an investigator said. His next location was traced to Vasant Vihar but police did not find him there either. "He was then found to be going towards the airport and then back 15km towards south Delhi but returned to the airport late evening. He was finally arrested from the airport," the officer said.

On Sunday, Jain was produced before the commission, the DCP added.

HT reached out to Parsvnath Developers for a comment, but did not receive a response.

{ UNIFORMITY } PROJECT TO COST ₹18CR

## NDMC area road signs to be changed to blue

Paras Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will replace all existing road signs in Lutyens Delhi to ensure uniformity in size and colour according to Indian Roads Congress (IRC) rules, senior NDMC officials have said. It will convert all green background road signs into blue ones, correct any mistakes in the signs, and add new ones near vulnerable sites such as schools, they added. The project will cost ₹18 crore.

A senior NDMC official on condition of anonymity said a proposal in this regard is

expected to be presented soon.

NDMC manages 1,298 km roads along with 52 rotaries and roundabouts where there are more than 6,439 signs. The road signs have green backgrounds with names written in English, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi. Unlike the rest of the city, NDMC areas have signboards in green in both rectangular and triangular shapes. According to IRC guidelines on signage, green signages are meant for national highways. Similarly, all information-based signage should be on rectangular boards. The NDMC official said that the changes will bring all road signs in conformity with the rest of the city.

{ VASANT KUNJ } D-BLOCK

## 61-yr-old man, wife stabbed in robbery

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** A 61-year-old retired Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer and his wife were attacked with a knife while resisting robbery by a man who entered their house in Vasant Kunj early on Saturday. Two men, including the alleged robber, were arrested over the incident, police said.

The victim was identified as Abhay Kumar Singh and the accused were identified as Jitender Kumar alias Jitu, native of Meerut, who robbed the house and his associate Arun Kumar, who received the stolen property, said deputy commissioner of police (south west) Rohit Meena.

Police received a call at 1.15am on Saturday regarding burglary and injury to two people. When police reached the spot in Vasant Kunj's D-Block, the victim said that he and his wife Anupama

woke up when they heard a loud noise. "He saw a man entering the bedroom through a door. Singh started shouting waking his wife up. The intruder injured Singh and his wife," Meena said.

Police said that the family was able to lock the man inside the room but he escaped from the balcony. In the FIR filed in the case, seen by HT, Singh detailed the incident saying that the accused threatened to kill them with a knife if they raised alarm. "He attacked me with the knife and I got injured in my head... My wife was shouting for help and he attacked her too," the FIR said.

Subsequently, his son who lived on the first floor and his domestic help came to their rescue and they locked the thief in the room where the attack took place. The thief, however, fled from the balcony.

He fled with a duffle bag containing some items including a silver article.

{ IGI AIRPORT } 'BOUND DOWN BY LAW'

## Canadian tourist, 32, stopped from flying back home over possession of horns she picked up during a trek in Ladakh

Jasjev Gandhiok and Hemani Bhandari

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**NEW DELHI:** A 32-year-old Canadian tourist, in possession of the horns of an unidentified animal in her luggage, was apprehended at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi by security, police said on Sunday. She said she "found" the horns, which officials said appear to belong to a native bull species, during her trek in Ladakh and decided to take them back to Canada with her.

The woman was headed to Montreal on Friday when a baggage check revealed suspicious images, officials said. Delhi's forest and wildlife department said

the horns appear to belong to a native bull species, but they will be sent to the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun for confirmation. The woman has been "bound down by law", meaning that she has not been arrested but is also not flying back to Canada, said police.

"To possess any wildlife items, special documents are required, which she did not possess. Customs were informed and the forest department of Delhi was also called in to inspect them," said an airport official on condition of anonymity, adding that the woman was unable to produce any documents for the horns.

The incident occurred at 9pm when the woman was set to board an Air Canada flight and

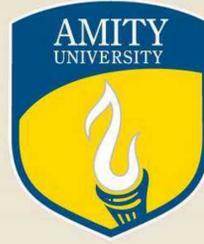


The recovered horns, thought to be of a bull or yak. HTPHOTO

checked in her luggage. After airport security found suspicious item during the scanning of her luggage, officials carried out a physical inspection of the bag and two horns were recovered. Rajesh Tandon, deputy range

officer (west) of forest department said the horns could belong to a bull or a yak, but the final confirmation will only be done by FRI.

"This is likely an animal that could be part of Schedule 2 of the



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## Residents protest as Khyber Pass demolition continues

HT Correspondent  
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**NEW DELHI:** Bulldozers rolled down the lanes of Khyber Pass in Civil Lines tearing down illegally constructed double-storey brick and mortar houses as the Land and Development Office (L&DO) continued a demolition drive in presence of heavy deployment of police personnel.

Residents, meanwhile, complained that they were not provided enough time to relocate.

The drive also led to traffic being affected on Ring Road from Mall Road to Vidhan Sabha metro station, Delhi Traffic Police said. Vehicles travelling from Mall Road and heading towards IP college were diverted towards Timarpur and Outer Ring Road.

L&DO department, which falls under the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, had earlier cleared almost 15 acres of land in Khyber Pass on July 13 under the previous leg of the demolition drive. The land is owned by L&DO and it was given to the Union defence ministry in 1935, according to officials at L&DO.

The eviction was first started in March but later stayed by Delhi high court in July 9, and was resumed later that month. On Sunday, the demolition drive was being carried out right next to Civil Lines police station.

Residents, meanwhile, said that they had been living in these houses from decades. Kamla



Demolition drive at Khyber Pass on Sunday. ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

Singh (60), whose house was razed, sat next to the Ring Road with her belongings out in the open. "I have raised three generations in this house, my husband died 26 years ago, this house was all I had, now I have nothing." She added that she had no means of earning, and nowhere to go.

While many occupants claimed that due process was not followed before the demolition drive as it was only "announced two days ago". Faiz Ansari (21) another resident said "all these notices were plastered just a few days before the demolition notice far away from where we live."

Ganesh (40), who runs a cellphone repair shop said: "I invested close to ₹12 lakh in this home two months ago, we paid all the bills

on time, we had all the necessary documents." He said that his eviction notice was dated 5 August, but he had to take out his belongings as the demolition started a day earlier.

The matter of encroachments over Khyber Pass is a long-pending issue. Earlier this year, residents had approached the HC challenging a March 1 notice issued by the L&DO, ministry of housing and urban affairs, directing occupants of 32 acres of Khyber Pass to vacate "all unauthorised occupation and remove illegal construction from the land immediately" by March 4. While an interim stay was granted by the court of Justice Subramonium Prasad, in a verdict dated July 9, he refused to quash the L&DO notice.

## Govt blames LG for vacancies in Delhi hospitals; Saxena hits back

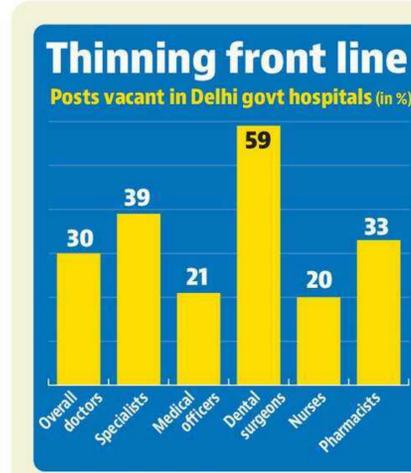
HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday said that the Delhi government hospitals and dispensaries were facing an acute shortage of doctors and healthcare workers, impacting the healthcare services even as he blamed lieutenant governor VK Saxena for not initiating the hiring process through the services department.

Bharadwaj alleged that he wrote to the LG multiple times flagging the scarcity of doctors in government-run hospitals, but no action has been taken. He also released a series of five letters to Saxena and senior bureaucrats from April 2023 regarding the matter. The letters were dated April 19 and June 6 in 2023 and January 2, June 25 and July 27, in 2024.

In the final letter, the minister said that since the services department comes directly under the LG, the hiring should be expedited.

Meanwhile, the LG office responded to Bharadwaj's statement and said that all services matter, including appointments, postings, transfers and disciplinary actions, are decided National Capital Civic Services Authority (NCCSA), which is headed by chief minister and put up to LG for approval, adding that the CM



has "not convened a meeting of the NCCSA in a long time".

"I wrote the first letter to the LG informing him that there was a shortage of 292 general medical duty officers (GDMOs), and 234 specialists and appealed to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. No action was taken, rather the doctors holding high positions in government hospitals through Central Health Services

(CHS) were also recalled by the central government," he alleged.

In July, the Delhi high court directed the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) to speed up the process of filling staff vacancies in state-run hospitals, observing that the shortage of manpower was "serious".

"Even when CM Arvind Kejriwal was out on bail and authorised by the Supreme Court to

### Vacancy of specialist

Radiologist	78%
Plastic surgeon	62%
Eye	50%
Neurosurgery	50%
Medicine	49%
Surgery	41%
Ortho	40%
Skin	39%
Anesthesiologist	35%

**Even when Arvind Kejriwal was out on bail and authorised by the Supreme Court to conduct the meeting, he did not do it. Bharadwaj should have taken up these matters with his superior, rather than writing fig leaf alibis to the LG.**

—LG'S OFFICE

and has powers to take decisions by a simple majority of two members. The decisions are then referred to lieutenant governor who can either return, approve or overrule them.

### Blame game continues over Ghazipur deaths

Over four days after a 23-year-old woman and her three-year-old son died after they fell into a drain near Ghazipur in east Delhi, the civic agencies in Delhi continued to trade charges over the responsibility and jurisdiction of the site of accident.

The Delhi Development Authority in an official statement on Sunday said that the allegation by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi that the site of incident belongs to DDA was "wrong and a blatant attempt to shift responsibility." "The document being circulated is an internal MCD paper which has not been seen/signified by any official of DDA.

Delhi minister Gopal Rai had said that MCD report found the drain belonged to DDA. "LG should immediately take action against DDA whose negligence has led to this death," he said.

DDA added the open drain falls under the MCD. "The jurisdiction of DDA's 350-meter portion is fully covered," it added. HT reached out to the MCD which did not respond to queries seeking comments.

conduct the meeting, he did not do it. Bharadwaj should have taken up these matters with his superior, rather than writing fig leaf alibis to the LG," the LG office said.

The matter refuelled the longstanding dispute on control of the services department in Delhi.

NCCSA, headed by the CM, comprises the chief secretary and the principal secretary (home)

seeking comments.

## Inauguration of a NEW SCHOOL BLOCK

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World class schooling facilities for children of highly dense areas near Dilshad Garden of North East Delhi



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Inauguration Ceremony

Monday, 5th August, 2024

Chief Guest

Atishi,  
Minister, Education and  
Public Works Department, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Ram Niwas Goel,  
Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly  
MLA, Shahdara Constituency

Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi



{ DELHI BJP ALLEGES } AAP COUNTERS

## 'Not enough cabinet meets held in Delhi'

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Virendra Sachdeva on Sunday alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government "does not believe in democratic processes", adding that the number of cabinet meetings held in the Capital was inadequate. The AAP hit back alleging that the BJP has "problems with honest governance or AAP".

Sachdeva said that the foundation of a democratic government is discussion in cabinet meetings, where the chief minister's proposals are reviewed by the cabinet members, along with the chief secretary and other officials, who offer suggestions.

Decisions are then made unanimously. In an emergency situation, there is a constitutional provision for circulation meetings of the cabinet, wherein the chief minister can make decisions and implement them, with all ministers and officials to later sign on them, he added. "From 2022 to July 31, 2024, the Delhi government held a total of 71 cabinet meetings, of which 56 were circula-

tion meetings. This means that Kejriwal made arbitrary decisions, which the relevant ministers and officials were later pressured into approving. In the past two and a half years, there have only been 15 actual physical cabinet meetings in Delhi according to the rules," he alleged.

Responding to the allegations, the AAP, in a statement, said that the BJP has issues with "honest governance".

"BJP's only issue is honest governance, which provides facilities to its citizens whether it is 24x7 electricity or free electricity or top-notch public transport system or the several welfare schemes. Arvind Kejriwal was granted bail by the Supreme Court too. BJP's dictatorial mindset is evident from its misuse of agencies to prevent the release of the CM," the AAP said.

## 2 arrested for forcing minors into sex work

**NEW DELHI:** Two minor girls who were pushed into sex work in a brothel in the city, were rescued by a Delhi Police team, officers said on Sunday. The girls were being falsely portrayed as adults by using forged Aadhaar cards, officers said, adding that two traffickers were arrested in the case.

The two arrested people were identified as Kiran Devi and Lala Ram, according to deputy commissioner of police (central) M Harsha Vardhan.

Police said that the team visited a brothel for a routine inspection and they found two girls who appeared to be minors and were unable to give convincing responses to question posed by the police personnel.

"Upon suspicion, an inquiry was conducted and it was found that both the girls were minors. Both were rescued and a counsellor was called from an NGO. Both of them were then taken to a shelter home," the DCP said.

During counselling, the girls allegedly told the official that they had come to the brothel with one Kiran Devi a year ago. Subsequently, Devi was arrested and based on her statement, the second accused Ram - who police said tampered with Aadhaar cards - was nabbed as well.

Police said that two separate cases were registered against both under relevant sections, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act. **HTC**

### 'Serial snatcher', 4 associates arrested in Dwarka: Cops

**NEW DELHI:** A 35-year-old man who allegedly committed a series of snatchings across Delhi was arrested after two back-to-back snatchings in Bindapur on July 20, police said on Sunday. Police have also arrested four of his associates who helped him dispose of jewellery. The accused was identified as Jaswinder Singh alias Rommy, and his associates were identified as Rajender Pal Singh, 33, Laxman Kumar, 51, and Umesh Rajput, 42, and Manoj Kumar, 45. **HTC**

### Man, 33, found dead with ligature marks on his neck: Police

**NEW DELHI:** A 33-year-old man was found dead at his house in Dwarka's Chhawla on Sunday morning, police said, adding that they are probing the role of his wife in the case. The police control room received a call early morning reporting the presence of a body at a flat in Shyam Vihar, according to deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh. When police reached the spot, the man was dead on the floor with ligature marks on his neck. **HTC**

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Govt. of Haryana



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**Non-Stop Haryana**

**We Haryanvis**

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quality education**

**Laid foundation stone of Bhagat Phool Singh Government  
Medical College for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat-Phase-III**

**Government college at every 20 km started in the State**

**241 PM SHRI, 1419 Government Model  
Sanskriti Primary Schools Started**

**National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Panchkula,  
IIM in Rohtak, and an extension centre of  
IIT Delhi in Sonapat established**

**Free tablets for 10th and 12th-grade students**

**Education to  
every child continuous**

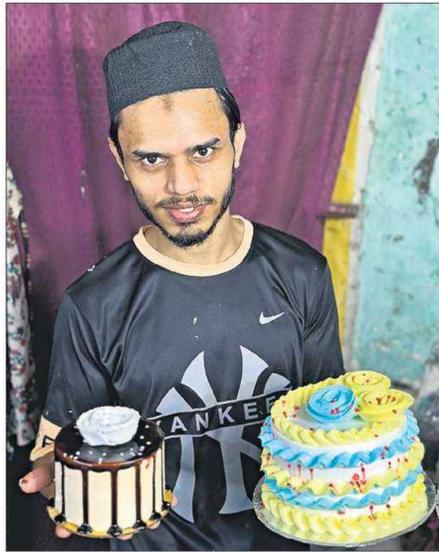


## Delhiwale

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Mayank  
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## Old Delhi's rose-tinted cakes

A curious aspect from the world of Walled City bakeries

### PUBLIC INTEREST

"Beauty's rose might never die; roses have thorns... I have seen roses damask'd, but no roses see I in her cheeks." These are some of Shakespeare's many literary roses; the rose appears 13 times in his immortal love sonnets.

If Shakespeare, like Ghaliib, had been a dweller of Old Delhi, his 154 sonnets would have had far more roses. For cakes and pastries in many Purani Dilli bakeries tend to sculpt their creamy icing into the likeness of a rose.

This afternoon, at Sikander Confectionery near Kucha Chelan, a creamy white cake is topped with a green rose and a red rose. A cake in Lakshmi Confectionery Shop, on Tiraha Bairam Khan, is decorated with three roses in blue, pink and red respectively. Another cake too has three roses—they are not of cream, they are real roses, blackish red.

The phenomenon is not common to the whole of Delhi. A foray into the major bakeries of Connaught Place and Khan Market failed to show a single cake or pastry showing any hint of rose.

"To us Purani Dilli wale, a cake looks tastier with gulab," remarks Sabeeha Jhunjhianvi of Chitli Qabar Chowk. Her palate being more exposed to the cosmopolitan influences of her beloved

Wenger's Cake Shop and other iconic New Delhi bakeries, she has grown out of Old Delhi's "gulab wale cake." She says: "those gulab have too much cheeni and colours."

Turning two this Independence Day on 15th August, the modestly named cake shop The Great Cake, which replaced an atta chakki (flour mill) on Shah Abul Khair Marg, is aggressively spearheading the heritage of creamy rose. The glass counter displays cakes with roses in white, brown, blue and yellow. The young rose maker's desk in the back-kitchen is cluttered with a dozen bottles containing various food colours. A large bowl is filled with cloudy swirls of white cream. Muhammad Suhail (see left photo), whose father too is in "bakery line," learned "cake icing" in a Noida confectionery. Fresh cakes are supplied to his shop every morning by a distant bakery, which he then decorates with cream and colours. The fresh cream too arrives daily from a "supplier."

"Gulab is a symbol of love," observes Suhail, as he quickly rustles out a paper cone, crams it with cream, and squeezes the cream out of a nozzle onto a "flower stand." A new rose is born in an instant. He sprays it with a shade of powdery red—see other photo. "Gulab is the raja of flowers, and it is also easy to make."

Graciously agreeing to a request, Suhail gets all the rose cakes from his counter, arranges them on his desk, and poses for a portrait.



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Rush at Kartavya Path following rain in the city on Sunday.

ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

## Man killed as gusty winds hit Delhi

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Strong winds, touching speeds of up to 40km/hour, hit the Capital on Sunday leading to the death of a man in north Delhi when the branch of a tree fell on him, officials said.

Several parts of the city also recorded brief, but intense, spells of rain on Sunday evening, according to officials of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

While no rain was reported across the city till 5.30pm, IMD

said several parts of the city recorded spells of rain accompanied by gusty winds till around 8.30pm. IMD said wind speeds of up to 40 km/hour were recorded in parts of the city, including most places in north Delhi.

A man, identified by the Delhi Police as Anees, who was travelling on a cycle on the main road in Khyber Pass, near Civil Lines, was killed at around 9.30pm after a branch of a tree fell on him. He was admitted to Parmanand Hospital by his son, where doctor

**A BRANCH FROM A TREE FELL ON THE CYCLIST, LEADING TO HIS DEATH NEAR CIVIL LINES, POLICE SAID**

declared him dead on arrival, police officers aware of the case said, adding that the man was a resident of Aruna Nagar in Majnu Ka Tila.

The maximum temperature at the Safdarjung observatory

(considered representative of Delhi's weather) on Sunday was 36 degrees Celsius, two degrees above what is considered normal for this time of the year, according to IMD data. The minimum stood at 27.4°C, a degree above normal.

Forecast for Monday shows scattered very light to light rain likely across Delhi-NCR with surface winds of 25-35 km/hour expected during the day.

Safdarjung and Mayur Vihar recorded 4.5mm of rain during these three hours; Narela 3.5mm and Palam 1.5mm.

### { FROM PAGE 1 }

#### HOCKEY HEROICS

structure, simply playing half-court and falling back to crowd their 25-yard territory. Yet, they succeeded in thwarting all-out raids from the British rivals. A red card flashed at defender Amit Rohidas early in the second quarter threatened to snuff the life out of the Indian challenge and turned this into an unequal battle—10 players versus 11 for almost 40 minutes.

But the Indian team under Harmanpreet Singh regrouped quickly and went defensive to keep their aspirations alive. The smiles in the Indian camp at the end of the regulation period underscored that their aspirations were not just alive, but in Sreejesh's safe hands. Also, Britain had lost the oneman advantage with the final hooter.

While Sreejesh was confident of delivering a positive result for India, the British players did not seem equally confident of going into a shootout against such an outstanding goalkeeper. In the last quarter of the match, which was mostly played in the Indian 25-yard territory, Britain's players were often observed looking at the giant clock overlooking the field of play. They were desperate to breach the Indian defence just one time to secure passage into the semi-finals.

Sreejesh emerged with aplomb from the challenge as he let in only two goals from four British shootout attempts, while India fired on target on all four occasions to clinch victory—sparking celebrations among Indian supporters who have travelled from across the world to support the hockey team.

Less than an hour ago, there was a stunned silence in the stadium when South African umpire Sean Rapoport flashed the red card at Rohidas after rival midfielder William Calnan fell during a 16th minute midfield collision, indicating he had received a blow on his face. Just as the British player got up and walked off the turf, umpire Rapoport raised the red card, leaving the Indian camp dumbstruck.

India were incensed by the verdict, but the die had been cast. There was nothing to change this. A milder penalty of a yellow card for such an infringement was the talk around the stadium even as India regrouped to fight an unequal battle. It is in such situations that teams usually reveal the strength of their resolutions. India did exactly that by strengthening their defensive structure.

Five minutes later, the Indians surged into the lead when Harmanpreet's rasping penalty corner went into the cage. It was now the time of the British to be stunned. India's lead was neutralised within six minutes as Lee Morton scored on a rebound after Sreejesh had padded Gareth Furlong's cross from the right.

The second half was a one-way street, but India were not willing to let their citadel fall without a contest. Sreejesh padded away a series of goal-bound shots and the defenders held firm on repeated raids,

including eight penalty corners. Jarmanpreet Singh brought off a goal-line save before the goalkeeper to keep India's challenge alive.

Umpire Rapoport was back in focus at the end of the third quarter when he sent off Indian defender Sumit for a rough tackle on two British players, but he was back on the pitch in just a few minutes. Raiding almost at will, Britain threw everything into the attack, but in vain. India did not even concede a penalty corner in the last quarter. The final hooter produced more smiles among the Indians than sighs of relief.

Now the stage was set for Sreejesh to step up. India did well to score on all four attempts—erasing the unhappy memories of the 2023 World Cup when they repeatedly faltered in the shootout against New Zealand to fall short of making the quarter-finals.

Britain slipped behind in the shootout as Conor Williamson sent a reverse hit—their third attempt—soaring over the crossbar. Sreejesh then produced one of his trademark saves by diving to his right to block Phillip Roper's shot.

Having converted their previous attempts through captain Harmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh and Lalit Upadhyay, India were smelling victory when Raj Kumar Pal came in and he sealed the shootout triumph with a deft scoop just over the diving goalkeeper.

A beaming Sreejesh sought to underplay his gallant show. "Shootouts are normal for goalkeepers, we practise them a lot," he said. "The idea is to transfer the pressure to the opposition so they try something wrong."

"One's confidence goes up when your teammates are converting their attempts. They make my job easy, that's just what happened here," said Sreejesh.

In the semi-finals, India will meet the winners of the contest between world champions Germany and 2016 Olympic gold medalists Argentina.

Spain, who shocked defending champions Belgium 3-2 in the quarter-finals, now await the winner between two former Olympic champions Australia and The Netherlands.

#### MP WALL COLLAPSE

dated house located close to the temple collapsed on the tent. All the victims were aged between 10 and 14.

Expressing grief over the deaths of the children, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, said, "The incident caused by the wall collapse in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh is heart-breaking. My condolences to the bereaved families of the children who lost their lives in this incident. May God give them strength to bear this pain. I wish speedy recovery of all the injured."

Separately, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a message on X, said the PM had announced ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PM National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased, and ₹50,000 for each family of those injured.

years old. As soon as the information was received, municipal council employees, police, and locals reached the spot and started a rescue operation," Uike said.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav has announced an additional assistance of ₹4 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and ₹1 lakh to the families of each of those injured.

The chief minister has also suspended the chief municipal officer (CMO) of Shahpur Nagar Panchayat and a sub-engineer for negligence, said officials.

Yadav has instructed all district collectors to identify dilapidated buildings in their areas and take action. "This will prevent recurrence of the incident. Negligence will not be tolerated," the CM said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a "red" alert for east Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Konkan, Goa and central Maharashtra, predicting heavy rains in these regions.

#### PENSION TALKS

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the pension issue in her budget speech on July 23, stating, "The Committee to review the NPS has made considerable progress in its work. I am happy that the Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery for Central Government Employees have taken a constructive approach. A solution will be evolved which addresses the relevant issues while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect the common citizens."

The first person stressed that the Somanathan committee, after extensive consultations with stakeholders including multiple meetings with states, has reportedly found a solution to address the "uncertainty" element in the NPS. This will help retirees to be certain about their minimum pension amount after retirement.

"The old pension scheme is not viable, financially unacceptable and not feasible," the person added. "If OPS is restored, it may be beneficial to employees, but it will be extremely harmful to the common citizen. Because larger-and-larger share of the government's budget will go to the government servants rather than to the citizens. Almost a substantial share of the budget will be swallowed by salaries and pensions."

The committee is working on a formula that would provide a certain amount post-retirement, some compensation for inflation, and may propose a minimum pension for employees who take early retirement. However, the recommendations of the committee are not binding on the government, which may accept, reject, or modify them.

The pension issue has become politically polarising, with several opposition-ruled states reverting to the OPS for their employees. States such as Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have made this decision, despite concerns

about fiscal sustainability. As of December, there were 6.79 million retirees, including those from military forces, drawing federal pensions in India. Currently, there are 8.7 million federal and state government employees contributing to the NPS.

Under the current system, employees contribute 10% of their basic salary, while the government pays 14% to a pension fund. The final payout depends on returns from that fund, which is mostly invested in government debt instruments.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser of State Bank of India, has warned that the old pension scheme is fiscally unsustainable and could worsen the debt of state governments. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, India's federal pension budget was ₹2.34 lakh crore, according to a policy note.

#### KOTA DEATH

the door and found him lying dead on his bed," said Harinarayan Sharma, station house officer at Jawahar Nagar police station.

The student, originally from Bihar, had been studying in Kota for a year to prepare for the National Entrance Eligibility Test (NEET). No suicide note was found, and police reported no recent behavioral changes.

This marks the 15th death of a student preparing for competitive exams in Rajasthan this year, with 13 occurring in Kota alone.

Kota, often called India's coaching capital, hosts a test-prep industry worth an estimated ₹10,000 crore rupees annually. Students flock to the city after 10th grade, enrolling in residential institutes to prepare for medical and engineering entrance exams.

The pressure-cooker environment has raised concerns about student mental health. In 2022, local authorities mandated spring-loaded fans in hostels to prevent hangings.

The Rajasthan government has also introduced measures including mandatory screening tests and alphabetical sorting of students to reduce their stress.

Despite these efforts, student deaths continue. In June, two NEET aspirants died by suicide within weeks of each other. Multiple similar incidents have been reported throughout the year.

According to police data, Kota saw 15 student suicides in 2022, following a two-year lull during the Covid-19 pandemic when coaching centres operated online.

The Union education minister recently released guidelines for coaching centres, restricting enrollment to students 16 and older and threatening hefty fines for violations.

**THIS MARKS THE 15TH DEATH OF A STUDENT PREPARING FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS IN RAJ THIS YEAR, WITH 13 IN KOTA ALONE**

## HT Homage

### 13th Death Anniversary



**Late Sh. Om Prakash Sabharwal**  
(1925-2011)

Founder of Gaiinda Brand Phenyle

Your Death has left a Heartache, no one can heal...  
But your love has left some memories, no one can steal...

Your guiding hands on our shoulders  
will remain with us forever

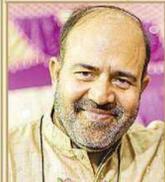
Fondly remembered by

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS, RELATIVES,  
Staff, Workers & Distributors of :-



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### 4th Anniversary



**Shri Vijay Kaul**  
(04.03.1955 - 05.08.2020)

Founder and Exec. Dir. of Society  
for Hemophilia Care, Delhi

"The Legend never dies.  
Your life and noble deeds  
continue to inspire us"

Today the entire Hemophilia  
community remembers you.  
In Reverence & Remembrance

Board Members:

Mr. Jitendra Kapoor (Chairman)  
Smt. Ranjana Ramchander  
(Vice-Chairwoman)  
Dr. R. K. Sharma (Finance Sec.)  
Dr. Surabhi Kaul (Medical Advisor)  
Aadhya Kaul (Executive Director)  
Contact: +91 9205517647  
Email: info@shcindia.org

### In Loving Memory of



**Mr. Amit Sharma**  
(03-09-1974 - 05-08-2019)

To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die.  
The absence of your laughter creates a void no  
time can fill. Your memory's warmth remains  
eternal. Five years on, we honor your legacy.

Remembered by:  
Shanta Sharma, Preeti Sharma, Anita and  
Ramesh Sharma, Geeta & Anil Sharma, Meenu &  
Rajesh Sharma, Shweta and Rakesh Sundar,  
Subhanna & Aditya Sharma, Vaibhav, Siya, Akshat  
Riyana, Kabeer, Hridaan & Friends & Family

## HT Unforgettable

### In Loving Memory Of Seema Nayyar 01-04-68 To Forever



Hey Mona it's 34 years since  
you are not physically with us,  
but we still cherish all the  
pranks, the laughers, the fun  
filled moments which we  
spent together, you will  
always be loved, and you will live in our hearts forever.  
Neena, Sangeeta Rajeev, Sunjay Nivedita,  
Divya Eshaan, Siddhant, Samridhhi Nitesh, Muskan,  
Noorr & Seher

### S. Rajinder Singh Suptd. of Police 1921-Forever



Your love and blessings guide  
us always, and we feel  
your presence everywhere.  
Love and miss you every  
moment. 28, Hemkunt Colony,  
New Delhi. # 9810080705,  
9810392134.

### JASSIMRAN 22.07.85 - 05.08.07



Not a single moment has  
passed without missing you.  
You remain forever in  
our hearts and thoughts.  
Fondly remembered by Jagtar,  
Jeet Family and Friends

### JASSIMRAN 22.07.1985 - 05.08.2007



We wish , we could climb up to  
heaven to give you a hug and  
tell you how much we love you  
and miss you. Prem Uncle,  
Kanval Massi & All family  
members.

### In Loving Memory of Shri S.D. Nayyar 12-10-38 To Forever



Hey dad, it's been 40 years  
since you're not with us  
physically, but not a single  
minute passed by that you  
were not with me in my heart  
or in my mind, I don't miss  
you at all because you're always with me. Love  
you lots, you will live in our hearts forever.  
Neena, Sangeeta Rajeev, Sunjay Nivedita,  
Divya Eshaan, Siddhant, Samridhhi Nitesh, Muskan,  
Noorr & Seher

# Green nod no longer needed for some project survey work

Jayashree Nandi  
letters@hindustantimes.com

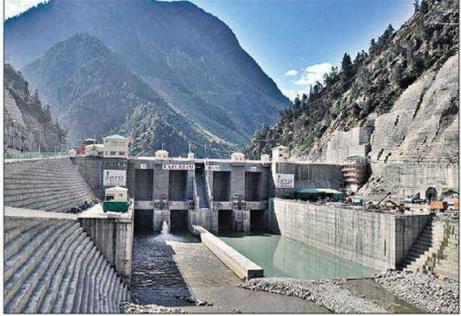
**NEW DELHI:** The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has exempted surveys involving drilling and felling of up to 100 trees for hydro and other developmental projects in forest areas from taking prior forest clearance.

According to the minutes of FAC's meeting held on July 4, the forest panel of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) has observed that surveys involving drilling for hydel and other developmental projects in the forest area "are of relatively lesser intensity and does not result any permanent change in the forest land use".

"Such preliminary drilling is crucial for project design, preparation of detailed project report and estimating the financial provisions of the proposed development project," the minutes added.

The FAC further noted that survey-related drilling is a pre-requisite activity for such development projects and in any case, if the finding of such drillings indicates the involvement of forest land during their project implementation, a prior forest clearance will be required.

The statutory forest body con-



Surveys for projects like hydel plants involve drilling and tree-felling, which normally need forest clearance. HT ARCHIVE

sidered the matter following a request by the Union power ministry. The power ministry secretary on May 28 wrote to the MoEFCC, requesting that the dispensation provided to mining projects for drilling 25 bore holes and felling of 100 trees be extended to hydro and pump storage projects also.

The power ministry also pointed out that MoEFCC in a November 29, 2023 notification exempted survey for mining projects that include drilling of 25 bore holes of four-inch diameters per 10 sq km; felling of up to 100

trees in the entire prospecting area; and 80 shot holes of 6.5-inch diameters per square kilometre. For other developmental projects including hydro, the survey in forest areas is restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches for purpose of sighting, therefore, invariably the user agency needs to abide by the entire process of approval as envisaged in the Forest Conservation Amendment Act, it further pointed out.

Hydroelectric project developers are required to carry out activities such as exploratory

core drilling/drifting works, rock testing etc. for preparation of DPR. Most hydro projects are also located in ecologically sensitive river basins. Presently, there is resistance to building of multiple dams and hydro projects in Arunachal Pradesh by local indigenous people. Civil society groups, such as Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum, Dibang Resistance and North East Human Rights, have expressed concern about the 11,000 MW Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage project in the light of its possible adverse environmental repercussions.

**'White' industries exempt from pollution nod**  
The MoEFCC, in a draft notification on July 19, has also proposed that certain categories of industries will be exempted from requirement of prior consent to establish or operate from central and state pollution control boards. The notification stated that the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was amended (in February) with a view to exempt certain categories of industries/activities from dual compliance of consent to establish (CTE)/consent to operate (CTO) and environmental clearance.

## HIMACHAL FLASH FLOODS: 4 MORE BODIES FOUND, TOLL RISES TO 13

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**SHIMLA:** The toll in flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh increased to 13 on Sunday with the recovery of four more bodies from Mandi and Shimla, officials said.

Over 40 people are still missing after a series of cloudbursts occurred in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31 and wreaked havoc, the officials added.

The bodies of Sonam (23) and three-month-old Manvi were recovered from Rajbhan village in Padhar area of Mandi district on Sunday, Shimla SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said. Later in the day, two bodies were recovered from near Dhakoli on the banks of Satluj River in Rampur. They are yet to be identified, he said.

Rescuers have intensified the search operation by deploying more machinery, sniffer dog squad, drones and other equipment, the officials said.

The officials said that 410 rescuers from teams of the army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt.

Meanwhile, former chief minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur visited Samej village on Sunday and took stock of the situation and met the disaster affected people.

The state government on Friday announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 for the victims and said they would be given ₹5,000 monthly for rent for the next three months along with gas, food and other essential items.

**OVER 40 PEOPLE ARE STILL MISSING AFTER A SERIES OF CLOUDBURSTS IN KULLU, MANDI AND SHIMLA ON JULY 31**

## { WAYANAD LANDSLIDES }

# 221 dead as agencies continue search ops

Vishnu Varma  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOCHI:** The toll in Wayanad landslides rose to 221 on Sunday, as rescue personnel from various agencies continued their search for victims under the debris of three villages flattened on the morning of July 30.

A release from the chief minister's office said that apart from the dead, 172 body parts were also retrieved from the affected areas, and from the Chaliyar river in neighbouring Malappuram district. Rescue personnel from the army, NDRF, Kerala fire and rescue services, coast guard, civil defence volunteers and locals continued to scan various parts of the Chooralmala, Mundaakkai and Panchirimattom villages using advanced equipment and modern sensors for sign of survivors and remains of victims.

Multiple landslides, within a space of three hours, early on July 30 flattened the three villages, which housed over 400 buildings including homes, mosques, temples, schools and shops.



NDRF personnel conduct a search and rescue operation for the sixth consecutive day in Wayanad, on Sunday. NDRF/IX

Rescue personnel believe the remains of the victims may have flowed into the Chaliyar river from the Iruvazhinji river, one of its tributaries, which carried the most parts of the landslide debris and slush. The state has also started the process of collecting blood samples from the kin of the dead in order to help identify the bodies and body parts through DNA tests.

Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the model of rehabilitation implemented in the aftermath of the 2019 Puthumala landslide, in

which 17 people died, will form the basis of the rehabilitation plan now. "Seven kilometres away from the Puthumala landslide site, plots measuring eight cents and a home were prepared for 63 persons as part of the project called 'Harsham'. Voluntary organisations and NGOs also held hands with the state government in implementing the rehabilitation plan. Apart from housing, facilities for farming and leisure were also arranged there," the CM said in a statement.

## { UTTARAKHAND } AFTER CLOUDBURST

# Over 1K stuck on Kedarnath route rescued

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**DEHRADUN:** Nearly 1,000 people, mostly pilgrims, stranded on the rain-ravaged trek route to Kedarnath in Rudrapur district of Uttarakhand, were evacuated on Sunday as the rescue operation entered its fourth day, officials said, adding that the Indian Army has also joined the rescue operation.

Army personnel from the 6 Grenadiers Unit have started the construction of a footbridge on the washed away road between Sonprayag and Gaurkund on the Kedarnath National Highway near the Mandakini river, officials said. The army personnel will also assist in the restoration of damaged infrastructure on the shrine route.

"The army has sent two sniffer dogs to the (Kedarnath) Yatra

route. They were transported to Lincholi using a helicopter. From Lincholi, the canines will search the entire area as many people moved towards the forests to save their lives due to heavy rainfall. At the same time, there is a possibility of many people losing their way," Rati Lal Shah, district information officer, Rudrapur, said.

Around 10,000 pilgrims, including approximately 2,000 by helicopters, have been rescued so

far since July 31 night, when a cloudburst in Junglechatti near Lincholi caused extensive damage to the trek route to Kedarnath, the DIO said.

"On Sunday, around 1,000 pilgrims were rescued, including over 400-500 through private helicopters," he said. "IAF choppers—Chinook and Mi-17—were stationed in Gauchar but they were unable to fly on Sunday due to bad weather."

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NIT No.: CE/PI/WBSETCL/200 MVA Trf./24-25/04 Date: 05.08.2024	Procurement of 200 MVA, 220/132/33 KV, 3 Phase Auto Transformer.
NIT No.: CE/PI/WBSETCL/315 MVA Trf./24-25/05 Date: 05.08.2024	Procurement of 315 MVA, 400/220/33 KV, 3 Phase Auto Transformer.

Bid documents can be downloaded from 05.08.2024, 12:00 Noon and bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 02.09.2024. Visit the following websites: www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details. ICA- T13312(3)/2024

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**RO No. 687 e-Tender Notice Dated: 03/08/2024**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Monitoring) "Ujjwal", GMS Road, Dehradun, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. 01/EE(M)/2024-25  
Name of work: Preparation of petitions for true up of FY 2023-24, Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2024-25 and Multi Year tariff for the Control Period from FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30 along with Business Plan for the control period of (05) Five financial years from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2030 of UJVN Limited.  
Estimated cost : Rs 35,00,000/-Only (Exclusive of Tax)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 05-08-2024 at 11:00 Hrs  
Last date for submission of bids on website: 26-08-2024 up to 17:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

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

**PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 20/2024-25**

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I, Phase-XI in Kolhapur District Talukas-Radhanagar Estimated cost of Rs.137.30 Lakhs for Total 1 Package (Remaining Conts Major Bridge) Work Tender is Published on the website <https://pmgsytenders.gov.in> dated 05.08.2024 from 11.00 am.

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

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**VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. P-01/2024-25**

**NOTICE**

**Sub: Engagement of Part-Time Medical Officer on contract basis in TRAI (HQ).**

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, intends to engage the services of a qualified and experienced medical specialist on part time contract basis. The Doctor is required to visit the office of TRAI located at Tower-F, NBCC World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi for three hours twice a week.

2. Detailed terms and conditions, qualifications & experience for engagement are available on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in). The last date for receipt of applications is **6th September, 2024**.

CBC 06202/12/02020/2425

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

**PUBLIC SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 21/2024-25**

Under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I, in Kolhapur District Talukas- Panhala Estimated cost of Rs.179.50 Lakhs for Total 1 Package. 1 Work Tender is Published on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> dated 05.08.2024 from 11.00 am.

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

DGIPR/2024-2025/ROC 1520

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कार्पोरेशन लि०**  
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**ई-निविदा सूचना**

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क्र. सं.	ई-निविदा संख्या	कार्य का विवरण	ई-निविदा ऑनलाइन तथा ऑफलाइन (हार्ड प्रिंट) जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा बिड पारट-1 ऑफ लाइन खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा बिड ऑन लाइन खुलने की तिथि एवं समय
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	वि०वि०मं०(च०) 25/2024-25	वि०वि०खं० सितारगंज के जेलकैम्प अनुभाग के अन्तर्गत सिसौना के विभिन्न ग्राम में एल०टी० लाईन पर स्थापित जी०ए०-सी०ए०-आर० वीजल कण्ट्रोलर को ए०बी० केबिल में बदलने का कार्य, निविदा विशिष्ट के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 2,60,000/-	22.08.2024 12:00 बजे तक	22.08.2024 13:00 बजे	23.08.2024 12:00 बजे
2	वि०वि०मं०(च०) 26/2024-25	वि०वि०खं० खट्टीमा के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के 0वी० बिद्युत उपस्थान कंजाबाग से पोषित चक्रपुर पोषक के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न ग्रामों में एल०टी० लाईन पर स्थापित जी०ए०-सी०ए०-आर० वीजल कण्ट्रोलर को ए०बी० केबिल में बदलने का कार्य, निविदा विशिष्ट के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 11800/- एवं घरोहर धनराशि रू० 3,00,000/-	22.08.2024 12:00 बजे तक	22.08.2024 13:30 बजे	23.08.2024 12:30 बजे

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Which Indian wrestler won a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics?

A. Bajrang Punia  
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C. Sushil Kumar  
D. Pawan Kumar

**4th August Answer**

How many gold medals has India won in hockey at the Olympics?  
C. 8

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## SPOTLIGHT | ARTICLE 370

ON PRECIPICE OF ELECTIONS

## 5 yrs later, J&amp;K awaits new beginning

Mir Ehsan & Ravi Krishnan Khajuria  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**SRINAGAR/JAMMU:** Five years ago when Union home minister Amit Shah rose in Parliament to speak on the morning of August 5, few had any clue about the tectonic changes his speech would bring. Over the course of the next few hours, the Union government stripped the contentious region of its special status by effectively abrogating Article 370, revoked its statehood, and bifurcated it into two Union territories. Internet and phone services were suspended in the Valley and curfew-like conditions were imposed for months even as activists and Opposition members approached the Supreme Court, which finally upheld the move last year.

Today, as Jammu and Kashmir stands on the precipice of the first assembly elections in a decade — the top court mandated deadline is September 30 — the response in the region is decidedly mixed. The Union government believes it streamlined local politics, weeded out extremists and tamped down on terrorism and stone pelting, protected reservations and expanded employment, all the while boosting tourism and building infrastructure. The Opposition and civil society members argue that human rights were trampled, terrorism didn't die down but took new forms, and that tourism numbers hide ground sentiment that remains sharply opposed to the abrogation of Article 370 and stripping of statehood. As the region completes five years after the landmark changes and looks forward to local polls, mere months after record-breaking turnouts in the parliamentary elections, HT takes stock of the area's politics and security.

## Politics

Hasnain Masoodi was sitting across from Shah in the Opposition benches on August 5, 2019, and remembered his protests in the House drowned under the cheer from the treasury benches as Article 370 was abrogated, one of the core goals of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological fount, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The former Anantnag MP and senior National Conference leader said the region's people remain sceptical about the political scenario.

"It's unfortunate, they promised return of statehood five years ago and are still singing the same old tune," said Masoodi. "PM Modi promised elections again after taking charge in June, but now people and politicians are sceptical. If we are getting to elect a chief minister here, why is the lieutenant governor being given more powers?" he asked.

Over the last five years, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed elections to local bodies and panchayats. The three-tier panchayat elections were completed with the first District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020 in which all major parties, including the NC, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and People's Conference, participated under the banner of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). The PAGD won 110 of the 280 seats across 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, while the BJP bagged 75 seats. The recent Lok Sabha elections also saw a robust campaign that resulted in a record voter turnout of 58%, the highest in 35 years in J&K. The BJP won the two Jammu seats, while NC won two of the



The Clock Tower at Lal Chowk in Srinagar illuminated with the Tricolour on August 14, 2023.

WASEEM ANDRABI / HT ARCHIVE

three Valley seats with the third being won by a former dissident who is in jail on terror funding charges.

The BJP points to the reduction in terror strikes in Kashmir to argue that the public mindset has changed. "Tourism has taken the place of terrorism. The Tricolour is unfurled with pride in the Valley," said former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

Apni Party founder Altaf Bukhari, who was the first to reach out to New Delhi after the revocation of Article 370, said there was some dejection in the Valley. "We want our democratic rights," Bukhari said.

PDP leader Waheed ur Rehman Parra said the abrogation of Article 370 was still a major issue among the people. "Today, Kashmir is silent and Jammu is seeing a surge in violence... the losses are evident," he said, referring to the recent surge in terror strikes in Jammu.

## Security

On August 5, 2019, security officials on the ground feared "beyond expectation" retaliation through mass protests, stone pelting and terror attacks across Kashmir, said a police officer who was dealing with law and order in J&K then. Some protests rocked the Valley in the initial weeks, but the security agencies were largely able to gain control of the streets. Even as activists and locals alleged rights violations, the government touted its success in clamping down on protests — from 1999 incidents of stone pelting and protests in J&K in 2019 to less than 10 in 2023, and from 255 militancy related incidents in 2019 to 94 in 2023.

A senior officer who was in charge of

law and order in 2019 said the forces worked without any pressure. "Officers got a free hand which led them to restore peace. Besides, actions taken against handlers, overground workers and those trying to provoke people worked," he said. The number of local young people joining militancy has dipped from 200 in 2019 to just 20 to 25 last year.

But Jammu's security has emerged as a new concern. The Jammu division, which was almost free from militancy over the past two decades, has seen a spike in attacks, a clear indication that Pakistan-sponsored terror has shifted focus from the Valley to the mountainous forests of Jammu.

This year, so far, 16 defence personnel and 34 terrorists have died in separate gunfights in Jammu and Kashmir. Fourteen civilians also lost their lives.

"A bunch of highly trained militants are currently operating in the Jammu region. They know how to take advantage of topography and are using encrypted messages to communicate. It is clear that Pakistan has shifted the terror theatre to Jammu," said a top security official who did not want to be named.

**THE RESPONSE IN THE REGION IS DECIDEDLY MIXED. THE UNION GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT STREAMLINED LOCAL POLITICS AND TAMPED DOWN ON TERRORISM, ALL THE WHILE BOOSTING TOURISM. THE OPPOSITION AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS ARGUE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE TRAMPLED AND TERRORISM DIDN'T DIE DOWN BUT TOOK NEW FORMS**

The attack on a bus full of pilgrims in Reasi in June underlined the threats that have now forced concern at the highest levels.

While the 2021 ceasefire between India and Pakistan on the Line of Control still holds and intrusion through its traditional routes in Kashmir has come down, Jammu and the International border (IB) is turning out to be a new infiltration route. Officials believe that 50 to 70 militants, mostly foreigners, have managed to sneak into Jammu in the last 24 months.

They admit that three to five groups have entered Jammu in recent months while quadcopters and drones are being used to drop weapons and drugs. "The tactics of militants and their handlers have changed. Now the focus has shifted to Jammu region, especially Poonch, Rajouri and Doda," said a senior officer deployed in the region. "The pattern of attacks in Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri and Doda is an indication that the militants have latest weapons such as US-made M4 carbines and AK-47s in their arsenal," he added.

## Tourism

In Srinagar, Rauf Trambo is overjoyed.

The president of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir points to the rising tourist numbers as the defining change in the Valley since 2019. A record 21.1 million visitors arrived in the UT in 2023, up from 18.8 million in 2022, and 11.3 million in 2021. In 2018, this stood at 16.8 million. The number of tourists in Kashmir has also tripled, he pointed out.

"For three decades, Kashmir was in disarray due to militancy and protests. Tourism was neglected but after the revocation of Article 370, peace returned to the Valley and so have the tourists. Today, most of our tourist destinations are crowded," he said.

"Interest in the sector is growing. More people are investing in hotels, guest houses, transport and houseboats. Restaurants and handicraft showrooms are coming up," he added.

## Awaiting elections

"Earlier, local leaders used to meet us but we don't have an elected government for the past six years... the term of the district development councils will be over soon," said Vinkal Sharma, an unemployed 30-year-old engineering graduate.

Former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta admitted there was anger among the people of Jammu, particularly young people. "People need representatives. We demand early assembly elections," he said, but argued that the revocation of Article 370 had unleashed development. "IIMS, IITs, AIIMS, IIMs, medical colleges, ring roads, the train to Kashmir, flyovers and record turnout of voters all happened due to the revocation of Article 370."

## Challenges in court

**2019**

- Aug 5 GOVT MOVE:** Centre revokes Article 370 and bifurcates Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories
- Aug 6 FIRST CHALLENGE:** First petition challenging the presidential order scrapping Article 370 filed in the Supreme Court by advocate ML Sharma. SC later pulls up petitioner over "defective" plea
- Aug 10 NC MOVES TOP COURT:** National Conference moves the top court against the scrapping of the state's special status

**2020**

- Sept 19 BENCH FORMED:** SC sets up five-judge bench to hear pleas challenging revocation
- Aug 28 MATTER REFERRED TO CONSTITUTION BENCH:** A bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi refers the matter to a five-judge Constitution bench
- March 2 NO 7-JUDGE BENCH:** SC declines to refer batch of plea to a 7-judge bench
- July 11 SPEEDING UP HEARING:** SC says it will commence day-to-day hearing of petitions
- Aug 2 HEARINGS BEGIN:** SC commences day-to-day hearings
- Dec 11 THE RULING:** Apex court upholds govt's decision to revoke Article 370. Adds that steps should be taken to conduct assembly polls in UT by Sept 30, 2024
- Sept 5 VERDICT RESERVED:** Court reserves verdict on 23 petitions

**2023**

- May 21 SC dismisses petitions seeking review of Dec 2023 judgment**

## What all has changed

- 'Two Durbar' system discontinued
- 53 schemes worth ₹58,769 cr implemented
- 20mn+ TOURISTS VISITED IN 2023
- End to stone pelting
- Weak and deprived section nomenclature changed to OBC
- THEATRES REOPENED AFTER 33 YEARS
- ₹90,000 cr worth investments in four years
- Muharram procession taken out after 34 years

\*SOURCE: UNION HOME MINISTRY

## Raj introduces bill to monitor coaching centres in the state

Senjuti Sengupta  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**JAIPUR:** The Rajasthan government has come up with a draft bill to monitor coaching institutes in the state, proposing a two-tier administrative system, mandatory registration of coaching centres with district authorities, while limiting study hours to five hours a day with no classes during the school hours for students also enrolled in schools.

The development comes amid rising student suicides in the state, where 15 NEET and JEE aspirants have died by suicide this year, including 13 such cases being reported from Kota — considered the coaching hub of India — alone. One suicide death each has been reported from Sikar and Jaipur districts.

The draft bill, titled Rajasthan Coaching Centre (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2024, seen by HT, is based on the coaching centre regulatory guidelines notified by the Union education ministry on January 16 this year.

The draft bill proposes a two-tier system for better supervision of coaching institutes, including setting up of a 12-member Rajasthan coaching centres (control and regulation) authority, headed by the higher education department secretary. Secretaries of school education, medical education, and technical education departments, as well as the director general of police (DGP) will also be part of it.



The move comes amid rising student suicides in the state, where 15 NEET and JEE aspirants have died this year.

HT PHOTO

formed in each district to be headed by concerned district collector. The 12-member district panel will include police superintendent, chief medical and health officer, and the chief district education officer as its key members.

The higher education department on July 22 directed the commissioner of college education to "...upload the draft on the website of the department to take views of all the stakeholders by August 6."

Besides mandatory registration of coaching institutes with the district authority, the draft proposes setting up of grievance redressal cells at district and block levels for "prompt and effective resolution" of grievances of students and parents. The state-level authority will prepare a centralised portal to gather information sent from districts.

The draft bill prohibits coaching centres from issuing bogus advertisements and false claims of selection, and enrolling stu-

dents below 16 years of age. It also asks them to conduct a mandatory screening test during admissions without segregating batches based on merit, as well as to maintain a healthy teacher-student ratio in every class and provide students with career options other than JEE and NEET.

The draft bars coaching institutes from scheduling classes during the school hours for students also enrolled in schools.

A mandatory weekly off for both teachers and students, a gatekeeping session for teachers to improve communication with aspirants, and career and psychotherapeutic counselling have also been proposed at each coaching centre in the draft bill to keep students stress-free.

The bill empowers the district authority to penalise institutes in case of any violation, with a penalty of ₹25,000 for first offence, ₹1 lakh for the second offence and revocation of registration for subsequent offences, the draft bill states.

{ BJP-JD(S) PADAYATRA }

## Never going back to Cong, says JD(S) prez

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**BENGALURU:** Janata Dal (Secular) president HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday dismissed any possibility of reuniting with Congress, saying that he is committed to work alongside the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to bring back an NDA government in Karnataka.

Kumaraswamy reaffirmed his support for the BJP during the second day of the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra, which was organised over the alleged MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority) site allotment and Maharshi Val-

miki Corporation scams.

Addressing the public in Ramanagara, Kumaraswamy said, "There's no question of going back to Congress in my lifetime. Back in 2018, it was not me who sought the Chief Minister's position; Congress approached me..."

In response to the BJP-JD(S) coalition, the Congress on Sunday launched a counter protest titled 'Jana Andolana'. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar and other prominent Congress leaders participated in the protest in Channarayana to 'expose corruption and wrongdoings during the BJP's tenure'.

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A 19-year-old Indian student, who was arrested last month for falsifying admission documents to attend a US university, will return to India after agreeing upon a plea deal with American authorities.

The accused, identified as Aryan Anand, had submitted fake records to gain admission to Lehigh University for the 2023-2024 academic year. Apart from

the false admission documents, Anand had also faked his father's death to secure admission and a scholarship to the university.

According to Lehigh University's student newspaper, The Brown and White, Anand was produced before the district magisterial judge Jordan Knisley on June 12 with a bail of \$25,000 (₹20.9 lakh).

Anand agreed to plead guilty to one count of forgery. Lehigh also didn't seek damages

## 7 killed, 40 injured after bus collides with car in Etawah

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KANPUR:** At least seven people were killed and 40 others sustained injuries after a car crashed into a bus causing both vehicles to plunge into a 20-foot deep gorge near the Usrahara area of Etawah district on Sunday, police officials said.

The officials said the accident took place at around 12.30am on Sunday on the Lucknow-Agra expressway.

Etawah SSP Sanjay Kumar said that the car crossed into the oncoming lane and collided with a double-decker bus which was carrying 60 passengers.



The double-decker bus had collided with a car driving in the wrong lane.

PTI

"An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the crash," the SSP said.

Of the seven people that died, four were from the bus, which

was travelling from Rae Bareilly to Delhi. The other three victims were passengers of the Lucknow-bound car.

Soon after the accident, a police team rushed to the spot. Officials formed a human chain to rescue the injured and transport them to a trauma centre in Saifai.

"Rescue operations are also being made. We are making all possible efforts to make sure that all the other people reach their destinations," the SSP said.

Expressing his grief over the deaths, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to expedite relief work for the injured.

## Indian student to return to India under plea deal after faking records for US university admission

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**ANAND PRODUCED FALSE SCHOOL CERTIFICATES, TAX DOCUMENTS AND FAKED THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER TO SECURE ADMISSION**

amounting to \$85,000.

As part of the plea deal, Anand was sentenced to one to three months in Northampton County Prison. His custody has

now been handed over to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The incident came to light when details of the forgery were shared by Anand in a now-deleted Reddit post titled 'I have built my life and career on lies' on April 26.

In the post, Anand revealed that he had created a fake email address for impersonating a school principal. He also submitted a fake death certificate to gain hardship financial aid. The

investigation into the matter also revealed that he falsified his academic certificates, such as his senior secondary school examination transcripts, and tax documents.

The post was brought to the attention of Lehigh's admission officials. An investigation into the post's content and the email address used to access the account helped Lehigh police to identify as the culprit.

With inputs from PTI

{ ASSAM } CM AT STATE BJP EVENT

# 'Will introduce laws to check love, land jihad'

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**GUWAHATI:** Assam will soon introduce separate laws to check instances of "love jihad" and "land jihad", as well as a new domicile policy to limit government jobs to those born in the state, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

The legislation on "love jihad" will ensure life imprisonment for those found indulging in such practices while the law on "love jihad" will make government approval mandatory for land transfers between Hindus and Muslims, he added.

The chief minister was speaking at the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) extended executive meeting at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati when he made the remarks.

"Love jihad" is a term used by right-wing groups to describe an alleged conspiracy by Muslim men to woo and seduce Hindu women, although courts and the Union government do not officially recognise it. "Land jihad" is used to describe "outsiders" encroaching upon land owned by indigenous tribes.

"We spoke about 'love jihad' during the elections. Soon, we will bring a law, which will award life imprisonment in such cases," Sarma said.

He said the state government has also taken a decision regarding the sale of land between Hindus and Muslims. He said though the government cannot prevent such a transaction, it has made it mandatory to take consent of the chief minister before going ahead.



Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at the state BJP executive meeting in Guwahati on Sunday.

"If a Muslim wants to buy a Hindu's property or a Hindu wants to buy a Muslim's property, he will have to get government permission..." he said.

On March 7, the state government had issued a notification, stopping sale of land between two different communities for three months to avoid any possible "conflict on communal lines" ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Sarma said a new domicile policy will also be introduced soon, under which only those born in Assam will be eligible for state government jobs. "We will bring domicile policy for government jobs recruitment in next two months allowing only those born in Assam," he said.

Asserting that his government has been working to protect the rights of indigenous people, the chief minister said they have been accorded priority in the "one lakh government jobs" provided as per a pre-poll promise,

which will be evident when the complete list is published.

On the contrary, people of a "particular community" had got up to 30% of constable jobs in the state police force under the Congress government, when the incumbent Dhubri MP was in charge of the home department, Sarma claimed, without elaborating further.

Congress's Rakibul Hussain had won the Dhubri Lok Sabha seat in this year's elections.

On July 17, Sarma stoked controversy through his remark that the Muslim population in Assam has risen to 40% in the past seven decades and the change in demography has become a "matter of life and death".

In February, he said his government is closely monitoring a bill on the Uniform Civil Code drafted by the Uttarakhand government to see if the same can be implemented in the north-eastern state in entirety.

# Over fourfold surge in cases filed over illicit traffic of drugs since 2020: Data

Neeraj Chauhan  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The number of cases registered under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act — with provisions to detain habitual drug traffickers for a year and attach their properties — has gone up by over four times in the last few years, people familiar with the matter said, pointing to the extensive use of the stringent law by central agencies as well as state police forces.

The increased use of the 1988 law is aimed at dismantling the organised drug smuggling networks, the people said, adding that Union home minister Amit Shah has been prodding the anti-narcotics units to apply it.

According to the 2023-24 annual report of the Narcotics Control Bureau, released last month, while only 159 cases under the PITNDPS act were initiated by the NCB and various



Punjab police officers with seized drugs before burning them on June 26.

states in 2020, the tally rose to 340 in 2021, 707 in 2022 and 719 last year. This year, 182 cases have already been initiated in the first few months, the people said.

Under the law, a drug trafficker can be kept under preventive detention for a year.

"The objective is to target individuals such as (drugs smuggling) syndicates, financiers and their agents who organise things from behind the scenes," an offi-

cer said, requesting anonymity. "Under the PITNDPS, once a preventive detention order is issued against a suspect, their illegally acquired properties or that of their relatives and associates can be seized, frozen and forfeited through a quasi-judicial process."

The law, according to the officer, is not a substitute for prosecution, but an additional weapon to fight organised drug trafficking. "It is invoked to snap the nexus/network of crime. It is a very potent law, which has been extremely underutilised," the officer added.

Detailing the process followed under the PITNDPS, a second officer said sponsoring authorities such as police, NCB or Customs send a proposal for preventive detention to the detaining authority. Officers at the rank of joint secretary and above in the Union government and secretary rank in states are only allowed to issue such detention orders.

Shah, while chairing a high-level meeting of Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in Delhi last month, asked all the states and central agencies to "increase the use of PITNDPS". In the last two-three years, he has on several occasions maintained that police and agencies need to be ruthless against drug smuggling networks instead of focusing on users.

Referring to the trends in drugs smuggling in India, the NCB report highlights an increase in instances of trafficking through dark net involving cryptocurrencies, seizures from check-in baggage, body concealment and air cargo at airports, diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and influx of ATS from Myanmar and through courier parcels in India.

In the last 10 years, over 500,000 kg of drugs worth ₹22,000 crore were seized across the country as compared to 52,000 kg worth ₹5,933 crore between 2004 and 2014.

# CONSTITUTION HELPED US MOVE TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE: SC JUDGE

Utkarsh Anand  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court judge Bhushan R Gavai has emphasised the pivotal role of the Indian Constitution and Dr BR Ambedkar's visionary principles in advancing social and economic justice, articulating how the Constitution has empowered individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including himself, to attain prominent positions.

Speaking in Guwahati on Saturday to commemorate the birth centenary of SN Bhuyan, the late advocate general of Assam and father of Supreme Court judge Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice Gavai, who is in line to become the Chief Justice of India next year, pointed out that the progress made in ensuring reservation benefits reach the most disadvantaged groups is a testament to the Constitution's effectiveness. He highlighted the judiciary's proactive role in this endeavour, stating: "It is only because of the Indian Constitution and the vision of Dr Ambedkar that we have progressed towards social and economic justice."

# 'SOME GOVERNORS ARE PLAYING A ROLE WHERE THEY OUGHT NOT TO'

**NEW DELHI:** Underlining the evolving role of governors within the Indian political framework, Supreme Court judge BV Nagarathna has criticised governors for either overstepping their constitutional role or failing to act effectively when needed.

In her keynote address at the Pluralist Agreement and Constitutional Transformation Conference organised by NLSIU in Bengaluru on Saturday, Justice Nagarathna said: "...Unfortunately, some governors in India are playing a role where they ought not to and are inactive where they ought to be."

Stressing on the importance of federalism and fraternity in strengthening Indian democracy, the judge said federalism should not lead to the marginalisation of States but should ensure that both Union and state authorities work collaboratively.

# HARYANA GOVT TO BUY ALL CROPS ON MSP, SAYS CM SAINI

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KURUKSHETRA:** The Haryana government will procure all crops at the minimum support price, chief minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Sunday, also waiving ₹133 crore in outstanding canal water irrigation charges, months before the state is scheduled to vote in the assembly elections.

"I am happy to state that in the last 10 years, the state government purchased 14 crops at MSP. Today, nine more crops are pending... All crops in Haryana will now be bought at MSP by our government," Saini said during the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "Vijay Shankhnaad" rally in Kurukshetra.

He introduced a slew of sops for farmers and promised that 40,000 vacant positions in state government jobs will be filled.

He also announced the payment of pending ₹137 crore compensation to farmers who suffered crop damage during natural calamities in Rohtak, Nuh, Fatehabad and Sirsa before 2023.

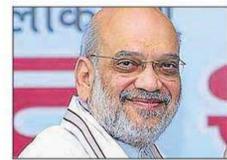
# NDA will again form govt in '29 with Modi at helm, says Shah

Hillary Victor  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**CHANDIGARH:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday lashed out at the Opposition for raising questions about the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre, asserting that the alliance will not only complete its third term but also return to power in 2029.

"I want to assure you (people) that let the Opposition make a fuss, you do not worry. In 2029 also, the NDA will come (to power), (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji will come," he said.

"They (Opposition) feel that with some success, they have won elections. They do not know that the BJP won more seats in this election (2024 Lok Sabha polls) than the number of seats the Congress got in the past three elections... The BJP alone has more seats than the total



Amit Shah

number of seats which their whole alliance has," he added.

Shah was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 24x7 Manimajra water supply project in Chandigarh when he made the remarks.

Though the BJP emerged as the single largest party, winning 240 seats in this year's general elections, it fell short of the simple majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, making it dependent on allies to form the next government. Overall, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) enjoys a comfortable majority with 293 seats.

# 'Fadnavis is using ex-cop Waze to take political revenge'

**NAGPUR:** Senior NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh on Sunday alleged former cop Sachin Waze was levelling allegations against him at the behest of Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who wants to exact political revenge.

# TMC asks Bengal jails minister to quit for 'threatening' officer

**KOLKATA:** The TMC on Sunday asked West Bengal jails minister Akhil Giri to resign and apologise to a woman officer of the state forest department following a row over video clips showing him threatening and verbally abusing her.

# Case registered after Bihar CM's office gets bomb threat: Police

**PATNA:** Bihar Police have filed a case in connection with an email threatening to blow up the chief minister's office in Patna, a senior officer said. The sender of the email claimed he was associated with Al-Qaeda, the officer added.

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one Male Person (depicted in the photo) name unknown, residence and family is unknown age about 60 years was found dead at In Front Of LNJP Hospital, Delhi on 22.06.2024. During treatment in LNJP Hospital Dr. declared dead on 24.07.2024. In this regard a DD No. 70A, Dated 24.07.2024 has been lodged at PS Daryaganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved MAMC Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification.

His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** about 60 yrs., **Height:** 5' 5" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue Shirt and White Payjama.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-  
**SHO PS: Daryaganj, Delhi**  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-23274682, 23279331  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-23274682, 23279331  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob.: 8750870421  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/10295/CD/2024

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male person (depicted in the photo) name Unknown, residence and family is Unknown age 50 years approx. was found dead at Under Railway Bridge, Near Naat Fauji Dharamshala, Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 01.08.2024 at 8:50 am. In this regard a DD No. 43A Dated 01.08.2024 has been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 50 years approx., **Height:** 5' 7" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Blue Pant.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following:-  
**SHO PS: Kashmere Gate, Delhi**  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-23968730  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-23968730  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mobile: 8750870123  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/10308/N/2024

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Rahul Sharma S/o Lt. Subhash Sharma R/o House No. D-16/288, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 174/20 U/s 188 IPC, PS North Rohini, Distt. Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Rahul Sharma can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Rahul Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Rahul Sharma of Case FIR No. 174/20 U/s 188 IPC, PS North Rohini, Distt. Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 19.09.2024 at 10:00 AM.

By Order  
Ebbani Aggarwal (N/W)  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 107, First Floor,  
Rohini District Courts, Delhi  
DP/9018/RD/2024  
(Court Matter)

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Repair work is to be done by the Public Works Department on Sarita Vihar Flyover

Ashram to Badarpur (Half Carriageway) will be closed for repair work from 29.07.2024 to 12.08.2024

### Route Diversion Plan (Phase-1)

**SARITA VIHAR FLYOVER**

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0151/24-25 EE/F-51

Thane Municipal Transport, undertaking Thane

## E-TENDER NOTICE

Thane Municipal Transport Undertaking invites On-line tender through E-tendering system from eligible bidders, under Central Government NCAP scheme (15<sup>th</sup> Pay commission Fund) for "Selection of Bus operator for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of Stage Carriage Services for public transport of

- 1) 100 Nos. Midi (09mtr) AC Electric Buses with Driver & Maintenance
- 2) 60 Nos. SD (12mtr) AC Electric Buses with Driver & Maintenance
- 3) 10 Nos. Mini (09mtr) AC Electric Buses with Driver & Maintenance
- 4) 10 Nos. Double Decker (09-10 mtr) AC Electric Buses with Driver & Maintenance

in the city of Thane & its neighbouring Suburban cities and Mumbai on GROSS COSTCONTRACT(GCC) model.

Description	Tender Form Cost (Inclusive of all Taxes with GST)	EMD
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PROCUREMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 100 (Nos) 9 MTR, 60 Nos. SD (12mtr), and 10 (Nos) 7MTR, 10 (Nos.) Double Decker (09-10 mtr) AC FULLY BUILT PURE ELECTRIC BUSES ON GROSS COST CONTRACT BASIS	29,500/-	62,96,000/-

The Request for Proposal (RFP) tender document & other detail information will be available E-tendering website <https://www.mahatender.gov.in/nicgp/app>. The Pre-bid conference will be held on 12/08/2024 at 12:00 Hrs. at Thane Municipal Transport Office, Rd Number 27/34, Wagle Estate, Hanuman Nagar, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane West, Thane, Maharashtra 400604.

The schedule of online tender bidding activities is as follows.

Tender download & Uploading	From Dt. 05/08/2024 upto 15:00 Hrs to Dt. 26/08/2024
Opening of technical bids	Dt. 28/08/2024 at 16:00 Hrs. (If possible)
Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated later

Tender form Cost & Earnest money should be paid by way of online payment through e-tender portal <https://www.mahatender.gov.in/nicgp/app> by payment gateway by the way of Debit/Credit Cards, Net banking, NEFT/RTGS. All rights to accept or reject any or all bids are reserved with Authority. Please note that for execution of contract agreement applicable stamp duty as per government rules should be paid by successful bidder.

T.M.C.P.R.O.T.M.T/228/2024-25 Sd/-  
Dt. 02.08.2024  
PLS VISIT OUR OFF.WEBSITE  
[www.thanecity.gov.in](http://www.thanecity.gov.in)

Transport Manager  
Thane Municipal Transport  
Undertaking, Thane

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) name: Unknown, residence and family is Unknown about 35 years of age was found Dead at In Front Of MES 11 KV Elect. Supply, Near Kothi No. 2, Delhi Cantt. Station Road, Delhi on Dated 01.08.2024 at 11.30 am. In this regard a vide DD No. 55A Dated 01.08.2024 has been lodged at PS Delhi Cantt., New Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5' 8" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Id Mark:** अजय अनिलकंठ and मर्द Written on Chest, **Wearing:** Red T-Shirt and Sky Blue Lower.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-  
**SHO PS: Delhi Cantt., New Delhi**  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-25694444  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-25694444  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob.: 7065036229  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/10306/SW/2024

Have fun with facts on Sundays

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**TWTW**  
THE WEEK THAT WAS  
A quiz on the week's development.

**HT** NETWORK (ON SUNDAYS)

Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board  
Vikas Kutir, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

## E-Auction Notice

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board re-invites online e-auction of 13 sites of various Assets/Premises of DUSIB for renting out for installation of Mobile Network Tower (as per list available on website) on temporary basis as per prescribed terms & conditions for an agreement for a period of six years from the date of taking over the possession with one extension of 4 years and total maximum period upto 10 years with the approval of competent authority. There will be an automatic escalation/increase in the rates of license fee (rental) by 8% every year at the beginning of each successive year.

**DATE OF E-AUCTION**  
30.08.2024 (Friday) from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM  
Online registration starts: 05.08.2024 (Monday)  
Last date for online registration/submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 20.08.2024 (Tuesday) upto 6.00 PM

For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website <https://dusib.delhishelterboard.in> or DUSIB website [www.delhishelterboard.in](http://www.delhishelterboard.in).

Dy. Director (RP)  
(Mob. No. 8826697456)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0141/24-25

Hindustan Times

**AAHANA S KUMRA: IF YOU'RE TOLD TO MAKE A REEL DAILY AND DANCE TO GET CAST, WHO'S GOING TO ACT?**

HT City

CHECK OUT TODAY'S EDITION



# OPINION

The  
**Hindustan Times**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

## State's role in Kanwar chaos

Focus on administrative readiness for yatra, not supporting violent majoritarian assertion

The Kanwar Yatra risks losing its aura of *kanwariyas* (pilgrims)' resolute spiritualism, becoming instead a spectacle of disruption and aggression, with politicisation of faith being the cherry on top. The 12-day yatra this year ended on Friday with near-constant blaring of music massive boomboxes atop trucks and tractors, traffic snarls, tonnes of garbage strewn on the streets (and in Haridwar itself), brawls between *kanwariya* groups, and the tragic death of a few in accidents. Over the past few years, very little faith and much more of muscular assertion by the pilgrims has been on show on North India's roads, including in the National Capital Region.

The problem lies in how the political dispensations in the states view the yatra. Their approach, instead of being purely administrative, has been one of passive encouragement of *kanwariya* aggression. Instead of sticking to essentials such as healthcare arrangements and demarcating portions of the road network for the safe passage of the pilgrims, there has been a soft push by the states to majoritarian politics in the name of the yatra. While permits for massive sound equipment and their unrelenting cacophony and the egregious use of state resources (showing flowers from helicopters) are some examples of this, the tolerance for a belligerent claim to public space much beyond the sanctioned routes and the conspicuous use of the yatra for outrageous communalisation by political leaders are far more troubling signs. Following reports of *kanwariya* aggression, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath did well to emphasise the need for "self-discipline" in spiritual undertakings such as the yatra, but it was also his administration that mooted the blatantly divisive "nameplate" measure in the name of faith. Hoardings welcoming *kanwariyas* to pit-stops are all about making political and quasi-political patronage conspicuous, assuring them of the backing of the powerful, and implicitly offering the promise that the State will overlook any disruption of public harmony.

The pilgrims undoubtedly have a right to public spaces, but not at the cost of having these overrun by hordes of young men quick to violence. The need now is to dial down State facilitation of muscular religiosity of any hue and revive the true spirit of the yatra — fundamentally a daunting pilgrimage made on foot, for the pilgrim's own spiritual fulfilment, not a loud show-and-tell exercise.

## In UK, the far Right's playbook of bigotry

The deep divisions existing in British society since Brexit, and the impact of the short-sighted policies of previous Conservative Party governments, burst out into the open during the violent rioting across the UK over the weekend. The disorder, arson and looting — the worst in more than a decade — followed the rapid spread of false information on social media, especially X, and calls by far Right groups for protests against immigrants and Muslims. The misinformation blamed the murder of three young girls last week on a Muslim migrant, though authorities identified the attacker as a Christian teenager born to Rwandan parents. Far Right activists clashed with police in Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Belfast, Stoke and Hull, showing how social media can be used to stoke tensions in different corners of a country. Despite dozens of arrests and a warning from home secretary Yvette Cooper that those responsible for the rioting will "pay the price", Britain remains on edge because of fears of further violence.

The rioting represents the first major challenge for Prime Minister Keir Starmer, not so much in terms of controlling the violence and restoring calm, but containing the dangerous fanning of xenophobia and hatred by the far Right. Countering their narrative will be more difficult, given that the far-Right Reform UK ranked third in overall votes in the recent election, suggesting support for its policies amid political and economic uncertainties. Starmer, who has promised to "rebuild" the UK after people voted for a change, will now have to move swiftly to find solutions to tricky issues such as immigration and Right wing populism.

## Are critics of quotas within quota right?

Fears are this would exacerbate the issue of unfilled quota seats and push sub-quota politics rather than challenging caste. But the states have enough tools to fight such portents

How India should deal with the presence and legacy of caste has been at the forefront of the political debate for several months. The Opposition has made its commitment to the constitutional scheme of reservations and a caste census a key part of its campaign. No census since Independence has collected data on the social, economic, and educational position of individual castes. For too long, our collective attitude has been to claim to eradicate caste by closing our ears and eyes. But caste will not go away unless we know what we are facing. One advantage of a caste census is that it helps understand the differences better — if any — between different castes of the same legal category. This is where the issue of sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SC), which the Supreme Court allowed in its *Davinder Singh* judgment, comes into play.

The issue of sub-classification has ignited debate. Supporters have hailed the judgment as a step forward and a

landmark in India's jurisprudence on reservations. Reservation policies can now be fine-tuned to prioritise Dalit castes, like castes associated with manual scavenging, who have faced the greatest exclusion and obstacles to opportunity. This is the rationale behind policies championed by Nitish Kumar targeting Mahadalits in Bihar. *Davinder Singh* also overruled an earlier judgment that deemed unconstitutional a subclassification adopted by the Chandrababu Naidu government in then undivided Andhra Pradesh.

At the same time, the judgment has received criticism from some Dalit activists and intellectuals. One set of criticisms focuses on mandatory creamy layer exclusion, a matter which was not in dispute in the case. Another set focuses on Justice Pankaj Mishra's remarks critical of reservations as a whole. While these criticisms are important and correct, the objections against sub-classification are worth examining in light of the judgment.

The consequence of the judgment is that states can sub-classify SCs, but they are not under any requirement to do so. The judgment enables them for this, but they could refuse to sub-classify. This is important insofar as many of the legitimate concerns raised against sub-classification can be accommodated in state policy.

The most troubling scenario is the following. In the present system, many seats and appointments remain vacant because no suitable candidate from the

reserved category was found. This might be because qualifications were set artificially high to exclude Dalits or because discrimination made it too difficult for candidates to acquire the qualifications. Either way, this phenomenon explains why, despite quotas, SCs and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are seldom represented in high-level posts in universities and administration.

If the SC quota for such posts was subdivided, then this risks increasing such unfilled seats. If it was already difficult to find an SC candidate, then it would be even harder to find candidates among those SCs who face the greatest burden of exclusion, discrimination, and hardship. The result would be a decrease in the representation of SCs at large. This result is at odds with the vision of seeing sub-classification as a tool to fine-tune social justice policies.

However, we should remember that states are not forced to sub-classify. When the risk of vacant seats looms large, states have two options. First, they could simply refuse to sub-classify SCs for these positions.

Second, they could implement rules that unfilled seats among the most disadvantaged SCs can be filled by any SC candidate. Ordinarily, unfilled seats cannot be transferred to another category. There is good reason for this. We want to prevent a prejudiced selector who deems any Dalit unqualified in order to transfer the seat to the general category. However, this concern is less pressing in the case of sub-classifica-



One mechanism against politicisation is that any sub-classification effort will have to be based on objective data  
SUSHIL KUMAR/HT PHOTO

Such attitudes of untouchability and casteism apply to Dalits as a whole rather than against specific Dalit castes. Allowing seats to transfer among SCs does not raise the spectre of "stealing" quota seats.

This concern does not speak to those areas of education and employment in which seats are unlikely to remain vacant. States should not fall into the trap of applying the same standard to every selection. The contexts of higher education and the different levels of employment differ.

Other legitimate concerns can be accommodated, too. One worry is that giving states the power to sub-classify turns reservations from a tool of social justice into a political game. Governments would use the power for electoral dividends rather than to challenge caste. This would allow them to divide and rule Dalits and raise caste consciousness for each caste and sub-caste rather than agitating against the caste system.

There are two mechanisms which work against this. First, states should recognise that "one size fits all" is a flawed approach in reservations. If so, then sub-classification occurs for some selection processes, but not others. The

resulting system need not mirror caste in society. The second reason is that the judgment holds that any sub-classification has to be based on objective data. Governments don't have unlimited authority to sub-classify SCs according to electoral ambitions. Any sub-classification could be challenged in court, and must abide by constitutional standards. Basing sub-classification on objective data also mitigates the objection that there are, in fact, no substantial gaps between different Dalit castes. If the data supports this claim, then no sub-classification will be permissible in practice.

The best way to gather the appropriate data would be, of course, a caste census. Census data would be the most reliable source of data to determine that there are indeed wide gaps between different castes listed as SCs, which require political action. Insofar as a caste census helps to bring alive the issue of our unfinished agenda of annihilating caste, there is a silver lining in the judgment, even for those sceptical of sub-classification.

Bastian Steuwer is assistant professor of politics at Ashoka University. The views expressed are personal



Bastian Steuwer

## Indian immigrants' tale: Integration sans erasure

As the first Indian-American to receive a presidential nomination from a major party in the United States (US), Kamala Harris's rise marks a historic milestone. Indian-Americans have arrived as a political force. This narrative belies the fact that Indian-Americans have punched above their demographic weight in politics for some time. Indian-Americans have served as governors, senators, Congresspersons, and at all levels of government administrations — from the surgeon general to key roles in the department of treasury and the Federal Reserve to the sitting head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This is quite a list, given immigrant and native-born Indian Americans make up less than 2% of the US population. Harris's ascent is a signal that Indian-Americans are no longer just passive observers but active participants in shaping the US's future. Harris is not alone. In the Republican Party, Nikki Haley remains a prominent voice, and Vivek Ramaswamy has exerted a strong influence on the direction of the party's policies and rhetoric. On the Democratic side, representative Ro Khanna of California is seen as a rising star. Representative Pramila Jayapal has become one of the leading voices on the more liberal side of the party.

They have made their impact while maintaining a dual identity, embracing global Indian culture while also fully embracing their American citizenship and the American way of being. What's their secret?

The key differentiator in the success of Indian-origin people in American politics is their exceptional ability to assimilate while maintaining their cultural heritage. This assimilation has been crucial in their ability to connect with the broader populace and gain their trust and support while at the same time remaining true to themselves, both in speech and in deed. More importantly, this duality allows them to bring a diverse set of ideas and solutions to the table, enriching the political discourse and contributing to more inclusive governance.

The uniquely fluid and accepting nature of the American (and, to a large extent, British) society makes this assimilation without loss of culture possible. Outside the echo chamber of online media and extreme political views, the US has actually grown more

diverse. It has also grown more integrated, with a higher rate of interracial marriages (to cite one example). We remain a welcoming country built by immigrants.

At the same time, the idea of embracing one's roots and culture has never been more common and acceptable. From Irish-Americans and Italian-Americans to Haitian-Americans and more, US citizens take great pride in their ethnic roots. Yet, with few exceptions, this does not generate challenges to their national allegiance. There is room in the big tent of America for all and room for all histories. Indian-Americans have benefited from these two national traits and, as they grew more and more comfortable with their new home, have grown more comfortable with stepping into public roles.

There is a similar trend in other countries where Indian communities are strong and the national culture is, by and large, welcoming. In the United Kingdom, despite the recent political turmoil, the contributions of Rishi Sunak, who previously served as Prime Minister, and Priti Patel, former home secretary, showcase the significant roles Indian-origin politicians are playing. In Ireland, Leo Varadkar, of Indian descent, serves as the Tánaiste and has previously served as Taoiseach. In Ireland and the UK, no one bats an eye when an Indian-origin politician is on the ballot or elected.

The severe anti-immigrant backlash in Europe, particularly in countries like Sweden, Germany, France, and the UK, highlights the consequences of assimilation and integration not happening. In these countries, the formation of immigrant ghettos has led to significant social friction and political unrest. For instance, in France, there have been numerous incidents of violence and unrest in immigrant-dominated suburbs, often stemming from feelings of marginalisation and lack of opportunities — which are often exacerbated by the lack of assimilation and acceptance of the culture and values of their new countries.

But you will never see Indians creating such unrest in any country. They have shown a unique ability to embrace the values, culture, and ethos of their adopted countries. This assimilation has been crucial in their ability to connect with the broader populace and gain their trust and support. Assimilation does not mean abandoning one's cultural heritage. On the contrary, successful Indian politicians have demonstrated that it is possible to celebrate one's roots while embracing new cultural norms. Sunak and Ramaswamy both take great pride in their Hindu religion and frequently talk about this. This duality allows them to bring a diverse set of ideas and solutions to the table, enriching the political discourse and contributing to more inclusive governance.

In a world increasingly divided by cultural and political differences, the success of Indians in politics serves as a beacon of hope. It shows that with hard work, education, and a willingness to embrace new values, immigrants can overcome barriers and achieve remarkable success. This journey of assimilation and enhancement is not just the secret to their success but a valuable lesson for all.



Vivek Wadhwa



Kamala Harris is one of the many top Indian-origin leaders in the US  
REUTERS

Vivek Wadhwa is the CEO of Vivion Biosciences. The views expressed are personal

{ KEIR STARMER } UK PRIME MINISTER

It is truly inspiring to hear of all the ways in which people have come together in the face of such horrors to demonstrate true bravery ... and solidarity

In the aftermath of the Southport killings in the UK

{ STRAIGHTFORWARD }

Shashi Shekhar



## In J&K, no stopping the caravan of democracy

On July 26, Ruchi, a resident of Sabha Nagar village in Badaun district, Uttar Pradesh, was a bubbly, young wife with a million dreams in her eyes. Today, she is a widow who yearns for something impossible — a call from her husband, Mohit. Lance Naik Mohit Rathore had last called Ruchi on July 26. He had ended the call with the promise to call her the next day. That call never came as Rathore laid down his life while repulsing an attack by Pakistan's Border Action Team.

Ruchi isn't alone in her misfortune. The number of soldiers martyred in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) since Independence surpasses India's losses in the five wars it has fought. Recently, Jammu has seen a rise in terror attacks. In July alone, 12 soldiers have been martyred. It is clear that terrorists have changed their tactics. They have shifted focus from the Valley and are targeting the Jammu region. But why? The question assumes significance as we complete the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and the division of J&K from Ladakh. What do these terror attacks suggest? Has the Centre's Kashmir policy failed? Was abrogating Article 370 wrong? Is the population of J&K in cahoots with the terrorists? The answers to these queries aren't difficult. Before assuming the second term, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was determined to abrogate Article 370. In his first tenure, nullifying the Roshni Act was a test to gauge the mettle of professional dissenters, who mostly stuck to political sloganeering. Still, to err on the side of caution, the Centre deployed forces before announcing the abrogation on August 5, 2019.

A confidant of Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, GC Murmu, was appointed the first lieutenant-governor to establish order all around, though positive changes on the ground began once Manoj Sinha took over. He succeeded in winning the hearts and minds of the locals. It sent a positive message across the globe, too. Last year, more than 20 million people visited J&K, including 55,000 foreigners.

Meanwhile, the Centre worked to connect Kashmiris with mainstream economic devel-

opment. Last March, PM Modi launched schemes of more than ₹5,000 crore for the Union territories. Work is on to connect the Valley with the rest of India via Railways.

Kashmiris, too, have lapped up these changes. In a democracy, success can't be measured solely on the basis of which party won or lost, but by vote share in an election. In the recently concluded general elections, decades-old records were broken. Elections aren't the only indicator; for the first time, on December 31 last year, thousands gathered to usher in the New Year at Lal Chowk. The very next month, Bakshi Stadium was packed to witness the January 26 parade. After many years, Muharram processions started relaying new messages.

Jubilations this side of the border was anathema to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its military headquarters in Rawalpindi. They had tried to internationalise the abrogation of Article 370, but failed. Their moves in the UN Security Council fell flat twice. The Jammu incidents are a reflection of their frustration and a change in tactics. Now, terrorists lay ambushes, use equipment that doesn't use GPS and escape using dirt tracks through thick forests. They are looking at inflicting maximum damage. Another reason for the shift in focus to Jammu is that the region is dominated by Hindus. Killing civilians and pilgrims can spark communal outrage. Then, Pakistan can rake it up at international fora saying that not just the Valley but the whole of J&K is up in flames.

A vortex of violence has been unleashed with this cold calculation. Assembly polls are due in three months. ISI bosses were shocked by the voter turnout at the general elections, and want to tarnish the assembly elections. But, it's highly unlikely they will succeed. In the last five years, the state has witnessed the winds of change. General elections aside, people braved bullets to vote in panchayat and district development elections. The caravan of democracy has started rolling in the state and no one can stop it.

Shashi Shekhar is editor-in-chief, Hindustan. The views expressed are personal

**ECI: NO ACTIVE PETITION OVER DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT**

**Aditi Agrawal**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** None of the election petitions challenging the validity of poll results in 79 Lok Sabha constituencies has raised a question over the difference in voter turnout figures released at 7pm on polling day and those reported the following day, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said on Sunday.

A poll panel official said 92 election petitions have been filed challenging the Lok Sabha results announced on June 4.

"False campaign is being run by some (other than candidates) in furtherance of design to discredit largest elections ever held ... in most transparent manner involving candidates/stakeholders at every stage of elections," ECI posted on X. "Unfounded attempts are made to compare approx turnout fig at 7pm on poll day (when many PS might be closing poll &/or voters waiting in queue) with 'End of Poll' turnout available a day after poll day... no EP is reportedly filed on such grounds."

The poll body's assertions follow two reports — by Vote for Democracy on July 22 and Association for Democratic Reforms on July 29 — that raised concerns about discrepancy in voter turnout released by ECI on polling days and that released a couple of days later, something that dogged ECI throughout the seven phases of the elections.

**Key bills to be tabled in Parl amid talk of Waqf Act tweak**

**Vrinda Tulsian**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The parliament's Budget Session resumes on Monday with several key bills on the agenda, following a week of intense debates between opposition and ruling parties who are likely to again clash over several issues.

In the Lok Sabha, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Appropriation Bill and Finance Bill. Law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is set to present legislation on readjusting representation of Scheduled Tribes in Goa's assembly constituencies.

The Rajya Sabha will see the introduction of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill by Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday.

Reports have also suggested the government may propose amendments to the Waqf Act, potentially limiting the Waqf Board's authority to designate properties. These changes would reportedly include mandatory verification for property claims.

To be sure, there was no confirmation from the government over this and no updates have been made to the legislative agenda since before the session began. Rijiju did not respond to HT's request for comment.

Reports on Sunday cited unnamed government officials as saying the move was in line



The proposed amendments to Waqf Act will potentially limit the Waqf Board's authority to designate properties. AP

India Muslim Personal Law Board, urged government consultation with stakeholders before making changes. "Our ancestors have donated a large part of their property and made it Waqf under Islamic law," Mahali said. "Once a property is made Waqf, it cannot be sold or transferred."

Senior BJP leader Dinesh Sharma, however, defended the move. According to PTI, Sharma said Bohra and other members of the Muslim community have raised the issue of anomalies by Waqf boards. "The main reason behind this is that there have been complaints against Waqf boards, made for benefiting the minorities, being involved in other works," he said.

In 2013, the Congress government expanded the powers of the Waqf Boards through amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995, which regulates assets designated for religious or charitable purposes under Muslim law. The new amendments are designed to increase women representation on the Central Waqf Council and state boards, introduce measures for monitoring properties with district magistrates, and address delays in property surveying.

In the Rajya Sabha, opposition members plan to discuss the functioning of several ministries, including Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New and Renewable Energy, and Cooperation.

**Pilots' federation urges government to implement revised duty timings**

**Neha LM Tripathi**  
Neha.tripathi@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), the pilots' grouping with over 6,000 members, while raising concern about pilot fatigue, has urged the civil aviation ministry to implement revised norms on flight duty and rest period at the earliest.

The implementation of revised civil aviation requirement (CAR) on pilots, which seeks to provide more rest time for pilots amid rising concerns over pilot fatigue, was postponed indefinitely by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in March this year.

"It is deeply regrettable to observe that the DGCA despite its own statement on the impact of flight duty timings on pilot

**THE REVISED FLIGHT DUTY NORMS SEEKS TO PROVIDE MORE REST TIME AMID RISING CONCERNS OVER FATIGUE AMONG PILOTS**

health has arbitrarily decided to indefinitely defer the implementation of the Revised CAR," the FIP wrote in a letter to civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on July 29.

"The DGCA's failure to recognise the gravity of this issue not only jeopardises the lives of pilots but also gravely compromises the safety of the general public travelling by air. More-

over, the DGCA has failed to provide any substantial rationale for its decision to withhold the Revised CAR, capitulating to the demands of commercial airlines, thereby neglecting critical safety imperatives," it added.

The pilots' grouping urged the Union minister to intervene in the matter and direct the DGCA to implement the revised CAR at the earliest.

The aviation regulator, in a written communication on March 14, had stated that the purpose of the said revised rules was in view of the unfortunate instances of pilot's deaths in the recent past allegedly due to publishing roster.

The revised rules were set to come into effect from June 1, but DGCA deferred the implementation on March 26.

**BSP CHIEF OPPOSES SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON SC'S SUB-CLASSIFICATION**

**LUCKNOW:** Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday opposed the Supreme Court verdict allowing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes (SCs), claiming the decision will take away reservation from Dalits and Tribals, which will be given to the general category.

"The sub-classification of people within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been permitted, our party doesn't agree with it at all," she said during a press conference at the BSP office, adding her party will appeal to the Supreme Court to "reconsider" its verdict in the interest of SCs and STs.

"In this way, many such problems will arise from this order due to which the reservation being given to SCs and STs will end...," she claimed. "In the end, the reservation of their share will also be given to the general category in some form or other."

Stating that the Union government should put reservation in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution — to shield it from judicial review —, the former Uttar Pradesh CM appealed to SCs and STs "to unite to put pressure on political parties for a Constitutional amendment." **HTC**

**Wayanad landslide is a wake-up call to many**

**Bharati Chaturvedi**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The crisis in Wayanad should serve as a red flag to other landslide prone areas. We know where these are, based on Isro's Landslide Atlas of India, which identified vulnerable areas across 17 states and two union territories across India.

This data and reports like the Gadgil Committee report of 2011, which suggested protecting 75% of the Western Ghats (and caused protests in Kerala), should be part of a new and non-negotiable plan for nature-based solutions to disasters, particularly in the preventive side of things.

Business as usual in the face of this information will result in many more Wayanad.

The situation requires a heavy hand rather than fence-sitting by the state. A key step to look for is to firstly protect forest and greens. If infrastructure is likely to change or disrupt water flows, or cut across slopes or mountains, it must be stopped, and permissions withdrawn in public interest. Tour-

ism infrastructure such as lodges, hotels, adventure sports must be re-examined, even demolished, if its exacerbating vulnerability. From medical schools to resorts, lives should be prioritised over infrastructure. This is not extreme, it is sensible.

There is no time to waste. We are seeing how the army has been called up to create a bridge. It is not correct to keep reaching out to the army for civilian work. Civilian agencies have to learn to create a preventive regime for landslides and more.

You cannot gnaw away at nature and then expect that it won't revolt.

We've just finished the Lok Sabha election. We have a strong government that can direct states to take strong if not unpopular steps out of this vulnerability. We have no option but to learn, and to finally acknowledge that nature will always be more powerful than us.

*Bharati Chaturvedi is the founder and director of Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group*

**LS SPEAKER TO NOMINATE CHAIRS SOON**

**Key Parl committees constituted through consensus**

**Press Trust of India**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Key parliamentary panels, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), have started taking shape, mostly by consensus instead of requiring elections.

Prior to the PAC, which examines government expenditure, the Committee on Public Undertakings, the Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Joint Com-

mittee on Office of Profit and the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes have been constituted.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to nominate the chairpersons of the panels soon, parliamentary officials said.

Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju and his team of floor managers worked to ensure that appointments to the committees take place by consensus.

Panel members can be finalised either by selection by designation or via election.

As many as 19 nominations were received for the election to the PAC from the Lok Sabha. The Lower House of Parliament elects 15 members to the PAC, while seven members are from the Rajya Sabha. "Subsequently, four candidates withdrew their candidature from the election," the Lok Sabha bulletin said, leading to the remaining 15 members to be nominated to the PAC.

Congress leader KC Venugopal, DMK leader TR Baalu, BJP leaders Anurag Thakur, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Tejasvi

Surya, TMC leader Saugata Ray and SP leader Dharmendra Yadav are members of the PAC.

Similarly, 36 nominations were received for the 30-member Committee on Estimates and six members withdrew from the elections on assurance from the government for a place in other parliamentary panels.

For the 15 seats on the Committee on Public Undertakings, 27 members had filed their nominations. Subsequently, 12 members withdrew their nominations and the candidates were

declared elected unopposed.

For the 20-member Committee on Welfare of SC and STs and the Committee on Welfare of OBCs, 27 and 23 nominations were received by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, respectively.

While seven members withdrew from the race for a seat on the panel on welfare of SC and STs, three members took back their papers from the election on the panel on welfare of OBCs, leading to the appointments to the panels without casting of the ballot.

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**I, SANJEET** Garg S/O, Kamlesh Narayan Shukla S/O 66-1001, Noida, UP have changed my name to Sanjeet Kumar Garg for all purposes.

**I, SIMRANJEET** Singh Deal S/o Sh. Gurmeet Singh Deal R/o H.No.1701, Sector-55, Faridabad have changed my name from Simranjeet S/o Sh. Gurmeet to Simranjeet Singh Deal S/o Sh. Gurmeet Singh Deal for all future purposes.

**I, PUNDEO** Kumar S/O Nagendra Singh, resident of 33/2A, Rail Vihar, Sec-56, Gurgaon have changed my name from Pundeo Kumar Singh to Pundeo Kumar for all future purposes.

**I, ANAS** Ahmad S/O, Naimuddin R/o House No.58 Moholla Toli Loni Dehat Ghaziabad have changed my name to Anas.

**I, SURENDER** Kumar, S/o Late Sh. Hem Chand Jain R/o House No. 4007, Gali Ahiran, Pahari Dhiraj Sadar Bazar, Delhi-06, having passport no. 1320968 have changed my name to Surender Jain for all purposes.

**I, TIRUPATHI** Rao Golla R/O CME Pune have confirm that my mother name and Date of Birth was wrongly mentioned as Papanma & 01 July 1964. In my documents my mother correct name to Golla Papanma & Date of Birth 01 Jan 1956 for all my future purposes.

**I, ANKUR** Goel, S/o Anil Kumar Goel, R/o 1268, Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aahana to Aahana Goel

**LOST & FOUND**

**LOST POSSESSION/** Allotment Letters And Lease Deed Of Ae 27 Shalimar Bagh, Delhi/finder Pls Inform Kapila/Kokila 9891199005

**I, HAVE** Lost my Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC For Water and Electricity Connection of my House no: BA-136 B, Janakpuri, New Delhi. If anyone found, Please contact: Smt Harsh Sidana, D/O Sh Soban Lal Khurana, R/o OSUF Babar Place Todaral Road, New Delhi. M: 9910281666

**WE SAVITA** Dadyan W/o Sh.Parminder Singh Dadyan and Karan Chopra S/o Late Sh. Ravi Chopra and Ajna W/o Sh. Gagan Ajit Singh All R/O, Plot No. 178, Block-BM, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi-110088 have lost our Original Allotment letter, Demand letter, Possession letter, side Possession, Lease Deed, C & D Form, Unregistered Conveyance Deed, All DDA Papers Etc. in respect of above Plot No.178, Block-BM, Shalimar Bagh New Delhi. If any found pls contact above address

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# Fierce clashes in B'desh leave 91 people dead, curfew imposed

PM Sheikh Hasina said that those engaging in sabotage in the name of protest are not students but terrorists

Agencies  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**DHAKA:** At least 91 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and hundreds injured on Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters in different parts of Bangladesh, forcing authorities to cut off mobile internet and enforce a nationwide curfew for an indefinite period.

The clashes broke out on Sunday morning when protesters attending the non-cooperation programme under the banner of the Students Against Discrimination with the one-point demand of the government's resignation over a job quota system faced opposition from the supporters of the Awami League, Chhatra League, and Jubo League activists.

The protesters also launched a disobedience movement, urging citizens to withhold tax or utility bills and asked overseas workers to stop sending remittances home, as part of the nationwide campaign to pressure Hasina and her Cabinet to step down.

At least 91 people have been killed in clashes, shootings and counter-chases across the country surrounding the non-cooperation programme, leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported.

According to the police headquarters, 14 policemen have been killed across the country. Of them, 13 were killed in Sirajganj's Enayetpur police station. One person was killed in Comilla's Elliotganj, the paper said. More than 300 policemen were injured. Police stations and ruling party offices were targeted as violence rocked the country of 170 million people.

The fresh round of clashes



Men run past a shopping centre which was set on fire by protesters during a rally against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday. AP

erupted days after over 200 people were killed in violent clashes between the police and mostly student protesters demanding an end to the controversial quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

Sunday's protests were joined by unidentified people and activists of rightwing Islami Shashontantra Andolon, which erected barricades on several major highways and within the capital city, officials said, adding that protesters attacked the police stations and boxes, ruling party offices and residences of their leaders and burnt several vehicles.

The situation prompted authorities to order a curfew in

major cities and small towns across Bangladesh for an indefinite period from 6pm (local time) on Sunday, mobilising troops, paramilitary border guards BGB, and the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion alongside police.

The government ordered the shutdown of Meta platforms Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram. The mobile operators were ordered to shut down 4G mobile internet, the paper added.

Asif Mahmud, one of the key leaders in the nationwide civil disobedience campaign, called on supporters to march on the capital on Monday. "The time has come for the final protest," he said.

## Why Sheikh Hasina is under pressure

Sheikh Hasina once helped rescue Bangladesh from military rule, but her time in power has seen the mass arrest of her political opponents and human rights violations.

### MASS PROTESTS

• Since July, the autocratic premier has faced mass protests that began as university student-led rallies against civil service job quotas, but which have morphed into some of the worst unrest of her 15-year tenure, with opponents demanding she step down.

• The protests were largely peaceful until attacks on demonstrators by police and pro-government student groups, sparking international condemnation.

### OPPOSITION BOYCOTTS VOTE

The 76-year-old won a fifth term as prime minister in January, with the opposition boycotting a vote she said was neither free nor fair. At the time, Hasina branded the main opposition party a "terrorist organisation".

### RIGHTS ABUSES

Critics accuse her government of a litany of rights abuses. The US imposed sanctions in 2021 on an elite branch of Bangladesh's security forces and seven of its top officers over charges of widespread rights abuses.



**200** More than 200 people have been killed in some of the worst unrest in Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure in Bangladesh last month. At least 11,000 people have been arrested in recent weeks.



Police officers try to restrain a protester in Liverpool on Saturday during the 'Enough is Enough' demonstration held in reaction to the fatal stabbings in Southport on July 29. AFP

## You will regret it: PM warns rioters as UK violence escalates

Associated Press  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly condemned an attack on Sunday on a hotel housing asylum seekers, describing it as "far-right thuggery" as more violence broke out in several towns and cities across the country in the wake of a stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and many more wounded.

In a statement from 10 Downing Street on Sunday afternoon, the prime minister vowed that the authorities will "do whatever it takes to bring these thugs to justice".

"I guarantee you will regret taking part in this disorder, whether directly or those whipping up this action online and then running away themselves," he said. "This is not a protest, it is organised, violent thuggery and it has no place on our streets or online."

Starmer was speaking after another day of far-right violence, which was particularly acute in the north of England town of Rotherham where police struggled to hold back a mob of rioters who sought to break into a Holiday Inn Express hotel being used as accommodation for asylum-seekers.

Before bringing the riot under some sort of control, police officers with shields had faced a barrage of missiles, including bits of wood, chairs and fire extinguishers. A small fire in a wheelchair was also visible while windows in the motel were smashed.

"Right now, there are attacks

happening on a hotel in Rotherham," Starmer said. "Marauding gangs intent on law-breaking, or worse. Windows smashed. Fires set ablaze. Residents and staff in absolute fear. There is no justification — none — for taking this action."

Far-right agitators have sought to take advantage of last week's stabbing attack by tapping into concerns about the scale of immigration in the UK, in particular the tens of thousands of migrants arriving in small boats from France across the English Channel.

Tensions were running high on Sunday in the northeastern town of Middlesbrough, where some protesters broke free of a police guard.

One group walked through a residential area smashing the windows of houses and cars. When asked by a resident why they were breaking windows, one man replied, "Because we're English." Hundreds of others squared up to police with shields at the town's cenotaph, throwing bricks, cans and pots at officers.

On Saturday, far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters across the UK, with violent scenes playing out in locations from Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, to Liverpool in the northwest of England and Bristol in the west. Further arrests are likely as police scour CCTV, social media and body-worn camera footage.

Police have also warned that widespread security measures, with thousands of officers deployed, mean that other crimes may not be investigated fully.

## IN FIRST ATTACK IN 2 WEEKS, YEMEN'S HOUTHIS STRIKE CONTAINER SHIP

Associated Press  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**DUBAI:** A suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a container ship travelling through the Gulf of Aden, authorities said on Sunday, likely the first assault by the group since Israeli airstrikes targeted them.

The Houthis have offered no explanation for the two-week pause in their attacks on shipping through the Red Sea corridor, which have seen similar slowdowns since the assaults began in November over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

But the resumption comes after the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, amid renewed concerns over the war breaking out into a regional conflict.

The attack on Saturday happened some 225 kilometres southeast of Aden in a stretch of the Gulf of Aden that has seen numerous Houthi attacks previously. A security official on the vessel said a missile struck the vessel, but "no fires, water ingress or oil leaks have been observed", according to a statement from the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre.

## US, allies prepare to defend Israel; more nations ask citizens to return

Agencies  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**TEL AVIV/BEIRUT:** Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday, as the United States and allies prepared to defend Israel from an expected counterstrike 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' top political leader in Iran. Iran and its allies have blamed Israel and threatened retaliation. Hamas says it has begun discussions on choosing a new leader.

Netanyahu said Israel was ready for any scenario. Jordan's foreign minister Ayman Safadi 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 "a highly volatile" situation as Iran and its allies ready their



Palestinians inspect the site of Israeli strikes on a school sheltering displaced people, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in the Gaza City, on Saturday. REUTERS

suspected Israeli strike that killed two Iranian generals. Israel said almost all the drones and ballistic and cruise missiles were intercepted.

### Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon

Urgent calls for foreign nationals to leave Lebanon grew on Sunday with France warning of "a highly volatile" situation as Iran and its allies ready their

response to high-profile killings blamed on Israel.

Saudi Arabia joined France, Canada and Jordan in calling on their citizens to leave Lebanon.

"In a highly volatile security context", French nationals were "urgently asked" to avoid travelling to Lebanon, and those already in the country should leave "as soon as possible", the foreign ministry in Paris said. The United States and Britain

have issued similar warnings.

France on Sunday also urged its nationals living in Iran to "temporarily leave", warning Iranian airspace and airports could close. Several Western airlines have suspended flights to Lebanon and other airports in the region. On Sunday, Qatar Airways said the Doha-Beirut route would "operate exclusively during daylight hours" at least until Monday.

## US: Harris interviews Walz, Kelly, Shapiro for vice-president pick

**WASHINGTON:** Vice-President Kamala Harris was to interview three top candidates — Minnesota governor Tim Walz, US senator Mark Kelly of Arizona and Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro — at her Washington, DC, residence on Sunday ahead of a final decision on her running mate.

Harris is expected to announce her choice as early as Monday, ahead of her first public appearance with the vice-presidential nominee on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Reuters was first to report. The Harris campaign is also planning a social media announcement featuring the duo, officials familiar with the arrangements told Reuters.

Harris met with her vetting team on Saturday, including

former attorney general Eric Holder, whose law firm Covington & Burling LLP scrutinised the finances and background of potential running mates. Holder and his office made in-depth presentations on each of the finalists, according to sources familiar with the process.

She met Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg for 90 minutes on Friday. The candidates will be informed on Monday night or Tuesday morning whether they were picked, the sources said. The choice of a running mate is one of the most consequential decisions of Harris' political career, as she has pulled together a campaign to challenge Donald Trump in the November 5 election after President Joe Biden dropped out of the race last month. REUTERS

## Zelensky says Ukraine has received F-16 jets

Agence France-Presse  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KYIV:** Ukraine has received its first batch of US-made F-16 fighter jets, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday, adding that more are needed to beat 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



Dutch F-16 fighter jets fly above Volkel Air Base in Volkel, Netherlands. REUTERS

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.



## WHO chief mulls calling emergency committee on mpox

**GENEVA:** The World Health Organization's (WHO) chief said on Sunday he was considering convening an expert committee to advise on whether the growing mpox outbreak in Africa should be declared an international emergency. AFP

## Paramilitaries shell besieged Darfur city, 23 die

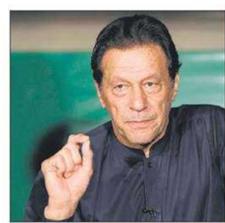
**PORT SUDAN, SUDAN:** Shelling by Sudanese paramilitaries killed at least 23 people on Saturday in the besieged Darfur city of El-Fasher, activists said. The capital of North Darfur state is the largest city in the vast western region not yet under the control of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have been battling the regular army for more than a year and have laid siege to El-Fasher since May. AFP

## 'We have never been so strong': Venezuela's Oppn

**CARACAS:** Venezuela's opposition leader emerged from hiding on Saturday, declaring "We have never been so strong," as President Nicolas Maduro slammed what he called attempts to "usurp the presidency" following last week's disputed election. Thousands gathered peacefully across Venezuela, including in the capital Caracas where Maria Corina Machado made a surprise appearance. AFP

{ PAKISTAN } KHAN OFFERS TO HOLD 'CONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS'

## Would be 'foolish' not to have good relations with army: Imran



Imran Khan AP

**Reuters**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's jailed former prime minister, Imran Khan, who blames the military for his ouster and 12-month-old imprisonment on what he calls trumped-up charges, said on Sunday it would be "foolish" not to have "excellent" relations with the army.

Ahead of Monday's anniversary of his jailing on dozens of charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets, Khan also said in written responses to Reuters questions that he held no grudges against the United States, whom he has also blamed for his 2022 ouster from office.

"Given Pakistan's geographical position and the military's significant role in the private sector, it would be foolish not to

foster such a relationship," Khan wrote in replies relayed by his media and legal team.

"We are proud of our soldiers and armed forces," he said.

Khan said his criticisms since his ouster had been directed at individuals, not the military as an institution. "The miscalculations of the military leadership shouldn't be held against the institution as a whole."

On Wednesday, Khan offered

to hold "conditional negotiations" with the South Asian nation's military — if "clean and transparent" elections were held and the "bogus" cases against his supporters were dropped.

Pakistan's army and government did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Khan's remarks to Reuters. They have both repeatedly denied his assertions. The US denies any role in his ouster.

# High inflation may deter MPC repo rate cut plans

RBI keeps focus on inflation as the UK cuts rate, US weighs it: Mint Poll

**Gopika Gopakumar**  
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**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel may keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged for the ninth consecutive time on Thursday, at a time lower rates gain favour among global central banks.

All 15 economists and treasury heads polled by Mint expect the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to hold the repo rate at 6.5%, while 12 of them see the committee keeping the policy stance unchanged at "withdrawal of accommodation". The MPC will meet from 6 to 8 August.

In the last MPC meeting in June, four members voted for a status quo, while two members—Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R. Varma—voted to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points and changing the stance from



All 15 economists and treasury heads polled by Mint expect the six-member MPC to hold the repo rate at 6.5%. MINT

withdrawal of accommodation to neutral.

"I think that the RBI will be very critically targeting the 4% levels for CPI inflation," said Indranil Pan, chief economist, Yes Bank. "Thus, there is no need to follow the Fed, especially as the RBI numbers indicate that inflation will be lower in Q2 and be in the handle of 4% or even lower. But, Q3 and Q4 are expected to see increases in inflation levels in India."

Last week, the US Federal Reserve signalled the possibility

of a September cut, while Bank of England lowered rates for the first time in four years.

"The concern on food inflation may also sustain as a) spatial distribution of rainfall is not good, b) vegetables have been on the higher side in June and July 2024, c) rice sowing is below last year's level d) month-on-month growth in protein-rich food items has been high," Pan added.

Since June, food price pressures halted the disinflationary trend in the headline rate in June. Consumer price index-

based inflation spiked to 5.1%, higher than the May headline of 4.8%, owing to the sharp rise in perishable food prices following the heatwave and the slow start to monsoon. While the number is likely to reverse from July owing to the base effect, economists expect retail inflation to miss RBI's inflation target for second quarter at 3.8%. That said, RBI will keep the FY25 inflation target unchanged at 4.5%, they said.

"As far as CPI inflation is concerned, we think there could be some upside risks to RBI's forecast of 4.5% average for FY25, particularly after the July telecom tariff hike, but it is not clear to us whether the RBI will revise its CPI forecast higher at this stage," said Kaushik Das, chief India economist, Deutsche Bank.

"Our own CPI inflation forecast for FY25 is slightly higher at 4.6% average, factoring in the telecom tariff hike and other risks, particularly related to food inflation."

The MPC will also take comfort from the Union budget for maintaining its commitment to fiscal consolidation.

# DGGI drops tax notice of ₹3,898 crore: Infosys

**Jas Bardia**  
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**BENGALURU:** Infosys Ltd. said that the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has withdrawn tax demand of ₹3,898 crore for the financial year ended March 2018, in a partial relief for India's second-largest software company.

The move comes after a government official earlier told Mint that the Centre was looking at an early resolution of the ongoing tax battle, which started after Karnataka GST officials raised a ₹32,403 crore notice for unpaid taxes for services availed by the firm from its overseas branches for five years between July 2017 and March 2022.

"The company has now received a communication from DGGI closing the pre-show cause notice proceedings for the financial year 2017-2018. The GST amount as per the pre-show cause notice for this period was ₹3,898 crore," Infosys informed the stock exchanges on Saturday. Infosys added that it has responded to the pre-show cause notice issued by the DGGI from July 2017 to March 2022.



Infosys said that it has responded to the DGGI's pre-show cause notice. MINT

As per the company's financials, this amount of ₹3,898 crore would have made up 24% of the company's ₹16,029 crore net profit for the year ended March 2018.

DGGI's move to drop the tax demand for the first of the five years still leaves the dispute over the remainder ₹28,505 crore unresolved. It is unclear if DGGI, the GST investigative arm, has issued a notice or intimation to Infosys about the remaining amount it alleged the latter has evaded. An email sent to Infosys remained unanswered till press time.

Mint could not independently ascertain how the DGGI arrived

at ₹32,403 crore in unpaid tax, which is more than a third of Infosys's ₹89,494 crore in total profit over five years till March 2022.

The controversy stems from the Karnataka state GST authorities, a reference to the zonal body of the DGGI, sending a pre-show cause notice to Infosys on 30 July, for alleged evasion of ₹32,403 crore in integrated GST for services by its foreign branches from July 2017 to March 2022.

The Karnataka DGGI office said the company had set up branch offices abroad and included the expenses incurred by these branches as part of its export invoices from India. The DGGI said that each of these branches are a "distinct person," adding that the company had not paid tax as a recipient of services from the import of services from these branches.

On Thursday, Infosys informed stock exchanges said the Karnataka GST authorities had withdrawn the pre-show cause notice and directed it to respond to the DGGI's central authority.

The company had received pre-show cause notices from both the central and state offices of the DGGI.

# GOVT TO SLASH DEBT-GDP RATIO ANNUALLY UNTIL DOWN TO 50%

**Rhik Kundu & Subhash Narayan**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Union government plans to aggressively achieve a 1 percentage point reduction in its debt-to-GDP ratio annually from 2024-25 till it is down to a more sustainable 50%. It then aims to further shrink the ratio, used to gauge a country's ability to repay its debt, by 0.5 percentage points annually, two people aware of the matter said.

"Reducing the debt to GDP is a long-term objective of the central government. We have done a lot of simulations on this. We will be able to reduce the debt to GDP every year by about 1 percentage point till we reach the 50% mark. Though this is ambitious, it is doable," the first person mentioned above said, requesting anonymity. "Once we reach 50%, we can work towards reducing the debt to GDP by 0.5 percentage point every year as we don't want to constrain growth," the person added.

Government debt is expected to rise to ₹185.27 lakh crore, or 56.8% of GDP, during the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), according to budget estimates, up from ₹93.26 lakh crore, or 49.3% of GDP, in 2018-19, minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary told the Lok Sabha last week. The ratio stood at 52.3% in 2019-20, 61.4% in 2020-21, 58.8% in 2021-22, 57.9% in 2022-23, and 58.2% in 2023-24.

The increase in debt was due to higher spending on infrastructure and social schemes aimed at stimulating economic growth.

The onset of the pandemic in 2019-20 worsened the situation, pushing the debt to ₹121.86 lakh crore, or 61.4% of GDP, in FY21.

The Centre resorted to extensive borrowing to fund relief measures and stimulus packages, a necessary response to the economic fallout of the pandemic, which further pushed up the debt. "Once the debt falls considerably, we will not be in a debt trap. We will also be on a declining path in the fiscal deficit front," said the person mentioned above.

# Gloom over D-Street as foreign investors' sentiment sours

**Ram Sahgal**  
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**MUMBAI:** Indian stocks may face choppy weather this week after foreign investors' sentiment darkened across cash and derivatives on Friday, tracking weak global cues.

Apart from selling a provisional ₹3,310 crore worth of shares on Friday, FPIs purchased an additional 330,936 index put contracts (Nifty and Bank Nifty) overnight, taking their net total put contracts held to 473,635. Additionally, they cut their net cumulative bullish index futures positions by 21,170 contracts to 145,109 from 166,279

contracts on Thursday.

Tracking the 1.8% fall in the S&P 500 and the 5.8% fall in the Nikkei 225, the Nifty and the Sensex, which closed over a percent lower on Friday, could remain under pressure at opening this week, market experts said. "Global reverberations are bound to be felt by us, as our markets are on high altitude in terms of valuations and expectations," said Nirmal Jain, founder of IIFL Group.

Jain said Indian retail investors should remain "conservative," avoid "leverage" and "dabbling" in derivatives against the "current backdrop of heightening volatility."

While Nifty has risen 13% from 21,884.5 on 4 June, the election results' day, to 24,717.7 on Friday, its trailing price-to-earnings multiple has jumped to 23.09 times from 20.81 times over the same period.

Unemployment in the US surged to a near three-year high of 4.3% in July from 4.1% in the preceding month, raising concerns that the US Fed will have to ease rates at a faster clip to avoid a hard landing. The Bank of Japan, on the other hand, raised its short-term policy rate to 0.25%, the highest in 17 years, in a bid to reduce mounting public debt. Also, escalating Middle East tensions could



While Nifty has risen 13% from 21,884.5 on 4 June, the election results' day, to 24,717.7 on Friday. MINT

cast a shadow.

"This hike by BoJ is adding to the negative foreign portfolio investors (FPI) sentiment here, as it means that people who bor-

rowed cheap in Japan to invest in risky high-yielding shares of emerging markets would have to unwind these trades," said Andrew Holland, CEO, Avendus

Capital Public Markets Alternate Strategies. Nifty options expiring on 8 August (coming Thursday) show that option sellers expect the index to trade over a 2.54% range from 24,700 this week. The support lies at 24,386, while the resistance is at 25,014.

Increased FPI selling could also pressure retail investors who use short-term loans from brokers to buy shares.

While secondary market activity for retail investors on NSE, the country's largest stock exchange, was not available for the current month, the margin trade funding (MTF) book outstanding at brokers' end was at a record ₹74,180.8 crore.

MTF allows investors to meet any shortfall while purchasing shares by borrowing short term from brokers who charge interest from clients in the form of cash or shares.

This book is already under pressure with NSE removing over 1,000 stocks as collateral for margin funding. A pullback in markets due to weak global cues could also result in trades being unwound by some retail investors, feels Rajesh Palviya, SVP, derivatives & technical research head at Axis Securities. He said this could happen if the markets slip below the Nifty's 20-day exponential moving average of 24,548.

The increase in debt was due to higher spending on infrastructure and social schemes aimed at stimulating economic growth.

The onset of the pandemic in 2019-20 worsened the situation, pushing the debt to ₹121.86 lakh crore, or 61.4% of GDP, in FY21.

The Centre resorted to extensive borrowing to fund relief measures and stimulus packages, a necessary response to the economic fallout of the pandemic, which further pushed up the debt. "Once the debt falls considerably, we will not be in a debt trap. We will also be on a declining path in the fiscal deficit front," said the person mentioned above.

## Post-budget 2024: Why commodity and overseas ETFs outshine FoFs

Previously, investments in ETFs and FoFs faced distinct tax rules, but the new regulations have streamlined these, creating a more favourable environment for ETFs.

**Compiled by Anil Poste**  
anilkumar.poste@livemint.com

### Tax treatment for investments

Investment type	Holding period for LTCG	STCG tax rate	LTCG tax rate with indexation benefit
			Before April 1, 2023
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs & funds	36 months	Slab rate	20%
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs & funds	NA	Slab rate	Slab rate

### Tax treatment from July 23, 2024

Investment type	Holding period for LTCG	STCG tax rate	LTCG tax rate with indexation benefit
			Before July 23, 2024
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs	12 months	Slab rate	12.50%
Gold, silver & overseas funds	24 months	Slab rate	12.50%
Debt ETFs/FoFs (over 65% in debt)	N/A	Slab rate	Slab rate
Equity ETFs and FoFs	12 months	20%	12.50%



Note: Effective April 1, 2025, Section 50AA redefines specified mutual funds as those investing over 65% in debt instruments. \*Equity ETFs and FoFs with more than 65% in equity

ETF- Exchange Traded Fund; FoF-Fund of Funds; LTCG- Long Term Capital Gains; STCG-Short Term Capital Gains

Graphic: Pranay Bhardwaj/Mint

## INDIA SEEKS DUTY RELIEF IN FTA TALKS WITH SRI LANKA

**Press Trust of India**  
feedback@livemint.com

**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.

On the other hand, 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.

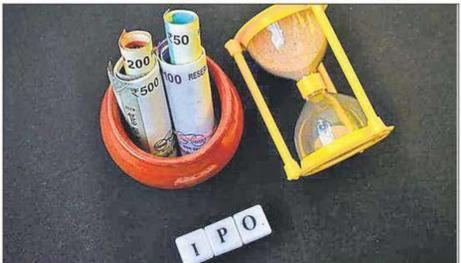
The official said that as elections are announced in Sri Lanka, the next round of negotiations between the two countries will be held after that.

# Startups boost Esops leading to their public listing

**Sneha Shah & Devina Sengupta**  
sneha.shah@livemint.com

**MUMBAI:** A big chunk of Indian companies showered stock options on their key executives in the years before public listing to keep them engaged and motivated, a Deloitte study found.

Of the companies that went public in the last three fiscal years, 54% introduced long-term incentives (LTIs) in the form of stock grants four years before an initial public offering (IPO), said the study, titled Unveiling India's Pre-IPO Long-Term Incentives (LTI) Trends. "For early-stage companies, as well as PE-backed companies, it is as much about wealth creation as it is about purely retention for both employees and shareholders. Also, in all three cases, liquidity invariably comes through only when there is some form of cash inflow for the shareholders; so, there is a



Of the firms that went public in the last 3 years, 54% introduced incentives in the form of Esops 4 years before an IPO. ISTOCKPHOTO

strong element of performance being driven through these plans," said Dinkar Pawan, director at Deloitte, who focuses on executive performance and rewards.

The study considered 60 IPOs, including the top 20 IPOs by issue size in FY22, FY23 and FY24. Deloitte noted that there are three types of pre-IPO LTI practices. First, new age tech-

companies or high growth startups that grant stock to their employees much prior to listing (in most cases, since inception). Second, private equity-backed companies that grant stock to their employees to motivate them to drive a successful listing. Third, promoter-backed companies that make stock grants only when they are in close range of filing their IPO

documents.

Stock grants are now percolating down the hierarchy. "New-age tech companies are beginning to reconsider their stock grant strategy at a junior management level. There are signs that even promoter group led companies are opening to the idea of early stock grants with curtailed eligibility," Pawan said. The study found out that founder CEOs in tech-product/e-commerce companies received an equity grant that was worth 150x of that made to other CEOs. The Indian market has been showing a secular upward trend, prompting many startups to firm up their listing plans. The deepening of the domestic institutional investors' base has led to Nifty 50 gaining 15% year to date to close at 24,717.70 on Friday.

"We have seen through the listings of tech startups such as Zomato, Nykaa, Policybazaar, Ola and FirstCry, that true value has been created for all stake-

holders. The sheer depth of the Esop pool and the number of employees that are now able to realize their holdings are significant. These stories of success and people making money are likely to attract more founders and employees to the startup ecosystem," said V. Jayasankar, managing director and head of equity capital markets for Kotak Mahindra Capital Co.

While the Esop pool in promoter-led companies such as Mankind Pharma and Unicommerce was concentrated among the top CXOs, in some companies such as Swiggy and Zomato, it was more widely spread to include the mid-management too.

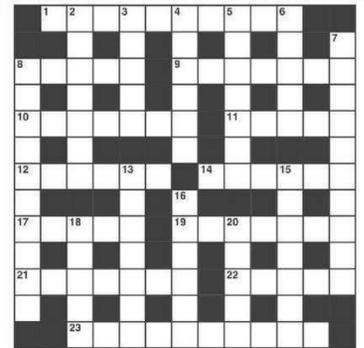
Mankind Pharma's offer documents show it had allotted 46,698 equity shares under Esop to 10 of its key CXOs. In Unicommerce, the Esop pool is of 10% which is concentrated between the top 30 employees of the company, CEO Kapil Makhiya said.

## { THE CROSSWORDS }

### CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- There's a lack of variety still (3,3,4)
  - Won't take authority (5)
  - One who has a strong hand in clubs (7)
  - Half-a-dozen found a place and stayed (7)
  - Everybody at home is worn out (3-2)
  - Records of non-U plants (6)
  - One's occupation may require this regular payment (6)
  - Layer on article turned to shade of red (5)
  - The detachment is not in position (7)
  - Round figures? (7)
  - Make available for sale (5)
  - Rates are changed but rents remain (5)
  - Entertaining form of tapestries (10)
- DOWN**
- Cooperation as in oil production (7)
  - Regard as fun for the children (5)
  - Incorporate dome by reconstruction (6)
  - Lavish praise (7)
  - Two score in Rome we hear and do better (5)
  - Makes clear what is foreign to us? (10)
  - More than one very big ship is the naval order (10)
  - Egg white (7)
  - An artificial textile fibre (5)
  - Vigour (6)
  - Largest US state (6)
  - Hard workers in a city sacked long ago (7)
  - An even chance the matador will try to avoid (4-2)
  - Sisters admit nothing being proper perhaps (5)
  - It was turned over to the church (5)

### PUZZLE 16930 © Gemini Crosswords 2018 All rights reserved



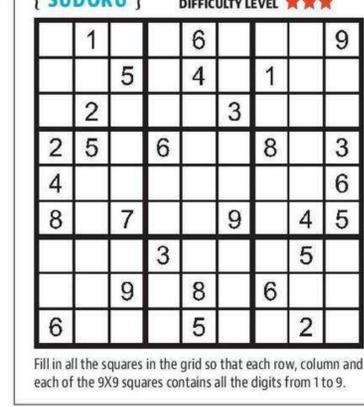
### QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Jane Austen's last novel (10)
  - Finnish steam bath (5)
  - A red pepper (7)
  - Egg white (7)
  - An artificial textile fibre (5)
  - Vigour (6)
  - Largest US state (6)
  - Hard workers in a city sacked long ago (7)
  - An even chance the matador will try to avoid (4-2)
  - Sisters admit nothing being proper perhaps (5)
  - It was turned over to the church (5)
- DOWN**
- Unvarying (7)
  - Sudden convulsive movement (5)
  - Attach (6)
  - Endanger (7)
  - Loud (5)
  - Opera by Wagner (10)
  - John Ford's classic Western (10)
  - Relevant (7)
  - Remainder (7)
  - Stick fast (6)
  - Source (5)
  - Present succinctly (3,2)

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16929)



### { SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

**{ WEATHER }**  
TEMPERATURE • HIGH • LOW

**MONDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with light rain  
34°C | 28°C

**TUESDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain  
34°C | 27°C

**WEDNESDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain  
33°C | 26°C

**ALMANAC Today is**  
5th August 2024  
• 39 Midnights, 146  
• 16 Shrivanas, Shukla  
Paksha 01  
• Samvat 2081  
\*Sunset: Monday  
at 07:08 p.m.  
Sunrise: Tuesday  
at 05:45 a.m.  
\*Moonset: Monday  
at 07:57 p.m.  
Moonrise: Tuesday  
at 07:12 a.m.

**TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS**

Delhi 34°C | 28°C  
Mumbai 29°C | 25°C  
Kolkata 31°C | 27°C  
Chennai 36°C | 26°C



India players celebrate after defeating Great Britain in the shootout in their men's hockey quarter-final of the 2024 Paris Olympics at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium on Sunday.

# INDIA'S TEAM FOR A DREAM

When put under the pump, 10-man India break the shackles and script one of the hockey team's most famous victories

Hardik Singh pumped his chest and clenched his fists towards the crowd. Craig Fulton took one hand off his white board and raised it aloft. Players gathered and wrapped their arms around each other.

If you didn't know the score, you wouldn't know the contest was still alive. This was 1-1 at full time between India and England. The battle was still to be won. The shootout, or its outcome, didn't matter though. The shots were fired earlier, and India were wounded in vigour. Breathing fire, they're now into the semi-finals of the Paris Olympics.

Five minutes after India received a red card to be a player down, Harmanpreet Singh's right arm flung and flexed with greater fury after he put his team a goal up converting the penalty corner. The leader was at it again after putting his team a goal up again, this time in the shootout. Harmanpreet went up close, perhaps feeling personal, while celebrating right by the face of England goalkeeper Ollie Payne. This was no rugby, where big,

bruised frames can run wild in celebrations. This was hockey, where exhausted bodies and minds usually shake hands or embrace in hugs with opposition players.

But this men's quarter-final was no ordinary hockey match. This was a match in which the basic premise of I versus I was thrown out of the window at the start of just the second quarter. This was a match in which Indian players, a man down with 43 minutes on the clock still to run down, stood up collectively running for their lives. This was a match in which India felt wronged on several occasions in various forms (red card, refereeing, English goalie using an iPad at the start of the shootout), yet showed the fight and the poise to come out at the right end of the result.

As coach Fulton put it, "when s\*\*t happens, get together".

When s\*\*t happened, India broke their shackles, rewrote the set structures and scripted one of Indian hockey's most famous victories.

"Was it the greatest win? From one man down, yes," Manpreet Singh, captain of India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medal journey, said.

Manpreet was forced to push back into a more defensive role after the card, which took out



defender and more significantly first rusher Amit Rohidas out of the game. So was Harmanpreet.

Defend to win has been the mantra of this team under Fulton. It was put under the most severe test, in this win-or-nothing match.

India saved 21 shots on goal, including 10 penalty corners with 10 men. They'd practiced scenarios of playing with one man down for a specified penalty time that a

green or yellow card warrants. But a red?

"It's not normal to have a red card that early. Then when that happens, what is plan B? We've been talking about defence for 14 months, and we dug deep," said Fulton, his voice hoarse after all that yelling marshalling his troops against odds.

"When you talk about defence, it's also about showing your love for the teammate, by

covering him, by helping him. Sree (PR Sreejesh) did that for us, and we did that for him."

Sree did what he usually does in the shootout — get the job done. Sree did what he usually does leading the defence all through the match — shouting a slew of expletives in Hindi. Here, he had one less person to shout at.

"I don't know how many kilometres the boys would have covered today. Everyone, from centre forward to those deep in defence was running around," Sree said.

That was what pleased Fulton the most. Faced with a situation that could've easily broken their spirit, the players joined forces to form a sum of all parts.

"Everyone gathered around to work the tactics. The full staff was hands on. It was a fantastic day," Fulton said.

It was also the coach's toughest day in office since he took charge of Team India. "One hundred per cent. Think of what's at stake. Everything. And everything went the other way what we thought it would go."

Fulton, therefore, wouldn't just call this a win. "It was a statement. Just to ourselves. That, OK, when our backs are against the walls, we all roped in, we're all in this together. We had to respond straight away. And we did."

"It was a real statement, think about that."

No one's going to forget this in a hurry, anyway.

## Sreejesh, an artist at his best

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NEW DELHI: It seems PR Sreejesh has grown an extra pair of limbs in Paris. Or perhaps extended the existing ones. Or maybe both.

How can you otherwise explain how the goalkeeper pulled off the number of saves he did, leaping, stretching, performing full splits, to save the Indian men's hockey team on a day when they were tested to the hilt, 10 men against Great Britain's 11 for more than half the game, guiding them to the semi-finals of the Paris Olympics.

Harmanpreet Singh's side suffered a huge jolt when defender and primary first rusher Amit Rohidas was shown the red card — a rarity in hockey — in the 17th minute of the quarter-final against Great Britain. That meant India were especially a man less in the back line, and the burden of defence fell on Sreejesh.

For the next 43 minutes, British forwards unleashed attack after attack with the India goalkeeper blocking the hits with his feet, shin, chest and hands, basically whichever way he could, to safeguard the Indian goal.

Barring one blip in the 27th minute when Lee Morton equalised, Sreejesh made sure India conceded no more goals despite the relentless pressure, thwarting seven of the eight field goal



Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh in action against Great Britain.

attempts that came directly at him, besides all four penalty corners.

In the shootout where Harmanpreet, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Raj Kumar Pal converted, Sreejesh, the 'great wall of India' again came to India's rescue in the 4-2 shootout win after the match had ended 1-1.

While James Albery and Zach Wallace converted, Sreejesh first rushed towards Conor Williamson, and under pressure he went off target. A brilliant save by Sreejesh off Philip Roper then helped secure a shootout win for India that will be remembered for long.

"Sreejesh is a legend, an inspiration not only to the goalkeeping fraternity but to all youngsters who want to take up goalkeeping.

He is an artist at his best," says former India goalkeeper Ashish Ballal, who is best remembered for his shootout heroics that helped India beat South Korea in the final at Bangkok in 1998, ending a 32-year wait for Asian Games gold.

"Today it was the opposition versus Sreejesh. Playing against such a strong team with 10 men, it is because the team had Sreejesh that the confidence level of the rest of the defenders shot up. Some of the saves he made were just spectacular."

Having announced that this Olympics would be his last tournament, the 36-year-old is giving it his all, using all his experience and energy to perform at a great level match after match in Paris, not just in the quarter-final.

If not for the four-time Olympian, the results of all the five matches in Pool B could have been different. Against New Zealand and Argentina too it had come down to Sreejesh's saves, securing a narrow win and a draw respectively. While India beat Ireland easily, it was again the man from Kerala who had to raise his game against Belgium and Australia, beating the latter at the Olympics for the first time in 52 years.

The magnitude of Sreejesh's match-winning saves on Sunday were magnified when not just the India players but South Africa chief coach Craig Fulton too — not known to show emotion on the pitch — ecstatically hugged Sreejesh and rolled on the pitch, in tears of joy.

"The agility he has shown has been eye-catching, especially while making a save, backing it up immediately with another as Britain attacked," adds Ballal.

"The experience, quality and game awareness he has shown is fantastic. I am a big fan of Sreejesh. He is really playing at his best. His presence itself is a big threat to the opposition."

Sreejesh has bigger goals ahead. Before the Olympics he talked about changing the colour of the medal from bronze (in Tokyo). As he walks into the sunset of his career, how about the medal that shines the most?

### howindiafared

#### GOLF

**Men's Round 4**  
● Shubhankar Sharma ended T40 (1-under 283)  
● Gaganjeet Bhullar ended T45 (1-over 285)

#### SHOOTING

**25m rapid fire pistol men's qualification**  
● Vijayveer Sidhu ended 9th  
● Anish Bhanwala ended 13th  
Both failed to qualify for final  
**Skeet women's qualification**  
● Maheshwari Chauhan ended 14th  
● Raiza Dhillon ended 23rd  
Both failed to reach final

#### HOCKEY

**Men's quarter-final**  
● India beat Great Britain 1-1 (4-2)

#### ATHLETICS

**Women's 3,000m steeplechase Round 1**

● Paul Chaudhary ended 21st overall, failed to qualify for final

#### Men's long jump qualification

● Jeswin Aldrin ended 26th overall, failed to qualify for final



#### BOXING

**Women's 75kg quarter-finals**  
● Lovlina Borgohain lost 1-4 to Li Qian (CHN)

#### BADMINTON

**Men's singles semi-final**  
● Lakshya Sen lost 20-22, 14-21 to Viktor Axelsen (DEN)

## Alfred puts St Lucia on the speed map

Agencies  
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred stormed to a fairytale Olympic 100m victory on Saturday, etching her name into history to claim the Caribbean nation's first ever medal at the Games. In an electrifying upset at a rain-swept Stade de France, the 23-year-old stunned the USA's reigning 100m world champion Sha'Carri Richardson with a barnstorming performance to take gold in 10.72sec.

Alfred led from start to finish to power home well clear of Richardson, who took silver in 10.87sec, with fellow American Melissa Jefferson, third in 10.92sec. Alfred choked back tears as she paid tribute to her late father, who died in 2013, while recalling her childhood dreams of one day run-

ning in the Olympics. "He believed that I could do it," Alfred said of her father. "He passed away in 2013, and he couldn't get to see me on the biggest stage of my career. But I know he will always be so proud of his daughter being an Olympian and this happened."

"Growing up I used to be on the field struggling with no shoes running barefoot, running in my school uniform, running all over the place."

Alfred, who honed her craft at the University of Texas, hopes Saturday's victory will improve track and field facilities in her native St. Lucia. "We barely have the right facilities," she said. "The stadium is not fixed. I'm really hoping this gold will also help the youth and help St Lucia build a new stadium and really help the sport grow."

Alfred's gold gave St. Lucia their first ever medal of any colour at an



Julien Alfred of Saint Lucia wins gold in the women's 100m final in Paris on Saturday.

REUTERS

Olympics. Alfred was in tears of celebration after sealing her win, running to ring the trackside victory bell before wrapping herself in her country's flag and embracing her American rivals amid a

deafening roar from the appreciative Parisian crowd as she set off on her lap of honour.

Richardson meanwhile was left wondering what had gone wrong with an Olympics campaign that

had promised to deliver a gold. The American, who upset the odds to win gold at last year's World Championships in Budapest, had been hoping to complete her journey to the pinnacle of her

sport. The American had framed her campaign in Paris as a bid for redemption, coming three years after she was barred from competing at the Tokyo Olympics after testing positive for marijuana as she grieved the death of her biological mother.

And in the build-up to the Games, the stars appeared to be aligning in favour of the flamboyant world champion, with Jamaica's defending Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah ruled out through injury, and another Jamaican medal hope, Shericka Jackson, opting to drop out of the 100m.

Richardson received another boost earlier Saturday in the semi-finals, when two-time Jamaican Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce withdrew from the semi-finals after suffering a reported injury during a warm-up.

But any hope that fate was smiling on Richardson was snuffed out by the imperious Alfred.

# Sen fails to seize the moment against Axelsen in semi-final

The young Indian star had three game points in the first game and led 7-0 in the second before losing to world No. 2

Starting at three game points with the sight and stature of a Danish giant across the net, Lakshya Sen came up with a service error. At that very moment, Viktor Axelsen wasn't thinking anything. He although sensed exactly what Lakshya was.

"He was maybe starting to think: Oh, if I grab this set, then I have the momentum, and I have a big chance," Axelsen said. "This was a big thing for him, obviously. I know what the rings does to you mentally."

For Lakshya, on the cusp of taking one big step towards confirming a medal to go with those rings, the whirlwind of thoughts dragged him down to a whimpering finish.

From 20-17 up against the world No. 2 reigning Olympic champion, India's 22-year-old lost 22-20, 21-14 on Sunday afternoon in the Paris Olympics men's singles semi-final.

Defeats like these can rankle for days. Lakshya has around 24 hours to sweep this aside and spring back to fight for a medal again on his Olympics debut. This time for the bronze, against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia on Monday.

"Now is the time to look back at this match, take a few good things and things that I can work on for tomorrow (Monday)," Lakshya, visibly dejected and seemingly out of words, said. "And then, just forget this."

Can he forget being 17-11 up in the first game? Can he forget that 20-17 moment? Can he forget flying to a 7-0 lead in the second game before being clipped again? Can he forget Axelsen charging away to all corners of the court in pure exaltation after the match?

Straight-faced, Lakshya traced every step of the Dane dash while packing his kit. Perhaps, knowing the kind of champion Axelsen is, it's a stretch to believe Lakshya could've been the one celebrating. Perhaps not,

Closing the first set was important. Maybe if I had done that, I would've had better chances in the third.

LAKSHYA SEN, India shuttler



Lakshya Sen reacts after losing to reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the semi-final in Paris on Sunday.

if the champion himself is to be believed.

"I actually think Lakshya played better than I did for large parts of the game. Experience made the difference. He could've won the match, but I won the match up here," Axelsen, placing his left index finger on the temple, said.

The debutant was a bit slow to start off but once his smash began to find accuracy, he got up and running. Lakshya made it 5-5 with a smash that kissed the line, and went to the first break leading 11-9 with a thunderous cross-court shot.

The Indian had only beaten the Dane once in their previous eight meetings. This felt different. Axelsen sure felt it too.

A misjudged line call followed by an error from him began a run of four straight points for Lakshya. The Indian's jump

smashes were fast bringing the Tokyo champion down, and up he went 18-13. That tall frame wasn't going to go away easily as Axelsen came roaring back to win the next four points. Lakshya though kept pulling away, another crosscourt smash setting up three game points.

Then came that serve, which fell short after brushing the net. Then a couple more errors which sailed long. Lakshya's free-flowing play was suddenly chained. Soon enough, the game slipped away after a wide return and a feeble touch into the net. Those rings, those thoughts, those what-if look-ahead moments.

"Again, it's so natural to think like that. I've been there myself," Axelsen, a two-time Olympic medallist, said. "I think he got a little nervous. And I knew that I had to strike. I have to keep the shot on the court, because then he will maybe make mistakes because of nerves. That's what happened."

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Lakshya knew it too.

"I had to be maybe a little bit patient at that time, and try out a few things that could've gone the other way. But, in that moment, whatever came to my head I did," he said.

Coach Vimal Kumar first dropped a smile before starting to chat with his player at the

break. Mentor Prakash Padukone then took over. They'd know too well squandering a chance like that against a player like Axelsen would cost.

It did, even though the young Indian came out off the blocks in the second game. The body language was still upbeat, Lakshya clenching his fist after winning

the second point. He won five more on the bounce for a 7-0 lead until the one-way traffic was halted with an Axelsen return winner.

The Dane was clawing back again, even more rapidly in this game. Lakshya's yawning gap had been awakened to 11-10. Three points later after a close line call, Axelsen sneaked ahead for the first time in the game. And thus began the march to victory. Axelsen had every answer. Lakshya ran out of ideas. "Closing the first set was important," Lakshya said. "Maybe if I had done that, I would've had better chances in the third."

Axelsen, former world No. 1 and Lakshya's training partner, has no doubt the Indian will get more such chances in the future. Probably even going for a bigger medal at the next Olympics.

For now, in Paris, it is Lakshya going for bronze for a first ever medal by a male in Indian badminton.

Sree josh!

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# Bol's astonishing anchor leg helps Dutch claim gold

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**BENGALURU:** Femke Bol was fourth as she began to come around the final turn. Kaylyn Brown, USA's anchor in the 4x400m mixed relay, was comfortably in the lead. Behind her Amber Anning of Great Britain and Belgium's Naomi van der Broek. The Netherlands didn't qualify for the race in the 2020 Olympics. This time, they switched things up and brought in Bol in place of Cathelijn Peeters to run the anchor leg.

Bol had famously run the women's 4x400m anchor leg at the 2023 World Championships in breathtaking fashion. With Jamaica's Stacy Williams coasting in the clear lead and Bol nowhere in reckoning for gold, the Dutch runner had hauled herself past the field to the finish line. In Paris on Saturday, Bol and the Netherlands were again seemingly out of reckoning for the gold heading into the final lap. USA, the new world record holders, were comfortably astride out in front. Rain fell in the Stade de France as Bol, whose main race is the 400m hurdles, realised she had a lot of ground to cover. "Surely, the USA is too far ahead" — commentator offered. You ain't seen nothing yet, Bol would tell him if she could.

When she was young, Bol broke her arm twice and her doctor recommended she take up judo so she can learn how to fall. She played judo for a year, didn't love it a whole lot and then took to what always called out to her — track and field. She started out with cross-country runs of around 1000m for a Dutch club when she was barely eight and went on to dabble in javelin, long jump and discus throw before the 400m event found her.

At the 2022 European Championships in Munich, she won three gold medals in a single week — 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay. Only the second Dutch athlete to do so after Fanny Blankers-Koen in 1950.

"I visualise that I'm running towards someone. It always helps me a lot," the 24-year-old from the city of Amersfoort said

when asked how she pushes herself.

In Paris, Bol had a nightmare to put past. At this year's World Championships in Budapest, she stumbled and fell face-down just short of the finish line as USA pulled away for the win in the 4x400m mixed relay. Bol and Netherlands missed the podium.

She wasn't having it this time. Bol clinically first ran down van der Broek, then chewed up Anning on her left. Only Brown stood between her and an astounding gold. The crowd was on its feet, their cheers hitting deafening decibels with every runner Bol went past. On a night they were deprived of the sight of some of the big names — two-time Olympic medallist gold medallist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce had a DNS beside her name just ahead of the semi-final race — Bol was switching into overdrive and giving them their money's worth. In her braided pigtails, Bol took long strides. The yellow baton in her hand, seeming gold.

Brown, who'd extended USA's lead in the anchor which they'd held since Vernon Norwood's opening leg, must've believed she had the race in the bag. Suddenly, she had Bol — the queen of insane late charges — running beside her. In a blink, with jet packs for feet, Bol had pulled away, ahead and past the finish line. Bol punched the air, covered her mouth in disbelief and held her head in her hands. Everyone watching around the world was doing the same. It was a European record of 3:07.43, shy of the world record by 0.02. Femke's split — an extraordinary 47.93. Brown's, 49.14. The American runners huddled around, hands on hips, disbelief written on their faces.

"I channelled my anger from Budapest," Bol said. "I just went for it," she said. "We just wanted a medal this time. Well, we got gold. It's absolutely crazy for a small country like us."

Relay wins are supposed to be about the team. But on Saturday night, it was all about this one wondrous woman — Femke Bol, who'd whipped up magic, taken our breath away and had us believe in the impossible.



Femke Bol (L) celebrates the 4x400m mixed relay victory. REUTERS

# Lovlina's loss ends India's campaign

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**PARIS:** Lovlina Borgohain walked into the ring for her women's 75kg quarter-final bout with a smile on her face. At the end of it, despite what came up on the scoreboard, she continued to smile. For the Indian boxing contingent at the Paris Olympics, however, there has been little to smile about.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina lost to China's Li Qian, the top seed in the weight category, in a split 4-1 verdict on Sunday. From being the lone medallist in boxing at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, her exit stamped India's medal-less campaign in the sport. It was a close bout, as Lovlina acknowledged, but one that she didn't turn up expecting to lose despite the Chinese being a two-time Olympic medallist and the Tokyo silver medallist. The Indian showed some fight across the three rounds, but Qian did just enough to impress the judges with her one-two combinations and effective jabs.

"It was a close bout. We have to accept it, and work harder,"

Dmitry Dmitruk, India's foreign coach, said.

Expectations ran high especially from India's female boxers, led by two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen and Tokyo medallist Lovlina who had moved up in her weight category in this Olympic cycle. The boxers spent a good part of the Olympics buildup camping in Saarbrücken in Germany, sparring with boxers around the world.

Attention on individual Worlds medallists aside, Indian boxing wasn't in the best of shape coming into this Olympics. The failure of the male boxers, especially, to secure any quota before the final Olympic qualifiers, was glaring. And it led to the resignation of Bernard Dunne, the high-performance director, just months to go for the Games.

Nishant Dev, India's lone male boxer that was around in Paris after Amit Panghal's early ouster, also went down in a split decision in his 71kg quarter-final to Mexico's Marco Verde on Saturday night. Nishant kicked a couple of chairs around the coaches' area, visibly unhappy about the verdict.

# Tragedy strikes as Marin leaves the court in tears with an injury

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**NEW DELHI:** It was on Wednesday that Carolina Marin had said that she was "happy like a kid" at the Paris Olympics after missing the Tokyo Games three years ago with a serious knee injury.

That feeling went up in a puff of smoke on Sunday as she instead found a tragedy that her older self knows so well.

She was just 11 points away from sealing a place in the final when she finally conceded the match. Just a couple of points earlier, she had landed awkwardly on her surgically repaired knee.

The 31-year-old from Spain, who was leading 21-14, 10-6, immediately knew she was done. "She's bad," said her coach Fernando Rivas just after the game. "She fell and felt something break, a familiar feeling. She couldn't carry on. It was impossible for her to continue. She is devastated. It's really cruel, this situation, how she is ending this Olympic Games."

A familiar feeling indeed. She has been through so much just to make it to the Olympics. A gold medal winner in Rio 2016, she was hot favourite for the Tokyo title



Carolina Marin landed awkwardly on her knee on Sunday. AP

until she suffered a cruciate ligament knee tear just months before the tournament.

That kept her out for a year and it came just two years after she ruptured the ACL in her other knee. That injury had kept her out for eight months of 2019.

She also had to deal with the death of her father in 2020.

But she found support and a goal in badminton and for this to happen in Paris is perhaps the cruellest blow there can be.

As she slapped the court in anger and frustration, the crowd

slowly got to its feet. The realisation that her journey in Paris was over slowly dawned on them.

"It's not fair for her, she's been a warrior and she's been working very hard to get back to a world class level," said Rivas. "I'm really proud of her journey, her resilience. I'm sure now she doesn't feel that way, but she will feel proud of herself in the future."

Her opponent He Bing Jiao was crying in her post-match interview as well. "I really don't want to see this



It's about time. India rises to chant #DeshKaGeetAtOlympics

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# Gold for GOAT: Djokovic fulfils his Olympic quest

Associated Press  
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PARIS: For all of his Grand Slam championships and other titles, for all of his time at No.1, Novak Djokovic really, really wanted an Olympic gold medal for Serbia, the last significant accomplishment missing from his glittering resume.

He finally got one at age 37. Doesn't matter a bit how long it took. Djokovic beat Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in an enthralling and evenly matched men's tennis singles final at the 2024 Games on Sunday.

"I put my heart, my soul, my body, my family — my everything — on the line to win Olympic gold," Djokovic said. "Incredible battle. Incredible fight."

His impressive career already featured a men's-record 24 Grand Slam trophies and the most weeks spent atop 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 made it clear that simply wasn't sufficient.

Until he got past bronze medalist Lorenzo Musetti of Italy in the semi-finals 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.

Before facing Musetti, Djokovic said, "I was like, 'OK, let's get through this one.' That's why today, before the match, I did not feel as nervous as I would normally feel, because I had secured a medal."

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 his longtime rival in straight sets.

Now Djokovic is the oldest man to win the singles gold in his sport



Novak Djokovic celebrates with the Serbian flag after clinching the gold medal in men's tennis in Paris on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

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 — dropped his racket and 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.

"In the tough moments, he gave it an extra push," silver-med-

alist Alcaraz said through his own tears. "It hurts to lose like this."

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.

Alcaraz also defeated Djokovic in last year's final at the All England Club, but Djokovic had won when they met in the semi-finals of the 2023 French Open, the annual clay-court tournament held at Roland Garros, the site used for tennis during these Olympics.

### Players with Career Golden Slam

Serbia's Novak Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz of Spain in the Olympic final to become the fifth person to complete a Career Golden Slam

 <b>1988</b> STEFFI GRAF	 <b>1999</b> ANDRE AGASSI	 <b>2010</b> RAFAEL NADAL	 <b>2012</b> SERENA WILLIAMS
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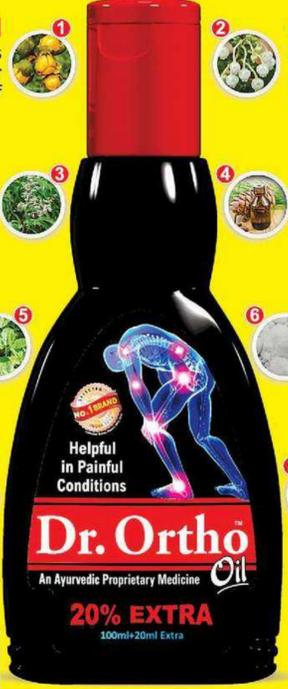
**Manu Bhaker to be flagbearer**  
Manu Bhaker is set to be India's flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association sources stated. India's men's flagbearer for the ceremony is yet to be confirmed.

**World record in men's 1500m freestyle**  
American Bobby Finke smashed the world record time as he defended his Olympic title in the men's 1500m freestyle. Finke clocked 14:30.67, breaking 14:31.02 by China's Sun Yang set in London in 2012.

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