

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF EDUCATION TIMES & DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



Official Nutrition Partner of Team India



HERBALIFE IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NUTRITION PARTNER OF TEAM INDIA FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

IED explosion kills Manipur ex-MLA's wife

The wife of Yamthong Haokip, a Manipur ex-MLA, was killed in an IED blast next to their house in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district Saturday. It was initially suspected militants had triggered it, but police later said she might have accidentally set off the IED while burning waste. **P 9**

Dad freed after 5yrs for daughter's 'rape'

A Pocco court in Dehradun acquitted a man, 42, who had been accused of raping his 15-year-old daughter and spent the past five years in jail, after finding out the girl falsely incriminated him when he objected to her bunking school and having a relationship with a boy. **P 11**

Slapped boy turns blind, FIR against 2

Following a CJM court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against the principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army public school in Meerut Cantt for "slapping a class 7 student who later turned blind". The boy's mother claimed cops failed to take action. **P 15**

Do not miss Education Times, a 6-page pullout with today's issue

Buchs, Sebi, Adani, fund deny H'burg allegations

Stay Calm, Probed Most Claims, Sebi Tells Investors

New Delhi/ Mumbai: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval, Sunday trashed allegations of impropriety levelled by Hindenburg and hit out at the short seller for not responding to a Sebi show-cause notice and instead "attacking" Sebi's "credibility" and attempting "character assassination".

The market watchdog, too, waded in, saying it had acted on the allegations made against...

She has admitted to some issues: H'burg

Late Sunday, Hindenburg responded on X saying the Sebi chief had admitted to some of the issues raised by it and demanded that she release the full list of clients and the details of their engagement. **P 12**

inst Adani Group, with 23 out of the 24 probes completed by March, 2024. "Investors should be calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports," Sebi said.

Hindenburg's report had alleged Puri Buch and Dhaval had investments in two funds with exposure to Adani stocks, which led to Sebi "drawing a blank" in its probe against the group. **TNN**

► 2 cos named..., **P 12**

Decision to invest in this fund (IPE Plus) was because **CIO Anil Ahuja is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT-D...** (with many decades of a strong investing career... in 2018, Ahuja left his position... we redeemed the investment —MADHABI PURI BUCH & DHAVAL

...Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest... **Relevant disclosures** required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers **have been made by the chairperson** from time to time... (she) has also **recused herself** in matters involving potential conflicts of interest —SEBI

IPE-Plus Fund 1 made zero investments in any Adani Group shares directly or indirectly through any fund... No investor had any involvement in the fund's operations or investment decisions. **Madhabi Buch & Dhaval Buch's holdings in the fund were less than 1.5% of total inflow** —360 ONE WAM

We completely reject these allegations... Group has **absolutely no commercial relationship with individuals** or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing... —ADANI GROUP

Oppn 'conspiracy' to destabilise economy: BJP

BJP claimed Congress and other opposition parties were part of a "conspiracy" to create financial "instability and chaos in the world's fastest-growing economy". Calling it a classic "Congress-style innuendo and lies glued together," ex-Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Hindenburg attacked Sebi in an "obvious partnership" with Congress. BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed the opposition knew the report was forthcoming. **P 9**

Rahul: Risk in mkt, JPC must probe charges

Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and Sebi chief Madhabi Buch, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi Sunday demanded a JPC to probe the allegations. Warning of a serious threat to hard-earned investments, Rahul also demanded the sacking of the Sebi chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. While SP sought "a historical investigation of Sebi", AAP demanded PM Modi's resignation. **P 9**

Kol crime: Delhi hospitals to halt elective services

Major govt hospitals across Delhi are set to indefinitely halt elective services (opted for by patients, not urgent) from Monday in response to the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor in Kolkata.

Forensics points to suspect's hand, P 9

The strike is being called to demand action and protection for healthcare workers. Resident doctors' bodies of Maulana Azad, RML, Lady Harding, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, GTB Hospital and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital called for suspension of elective services. **P 6**

Civilian dies, J&K encounter toll rises to 3

The death toll in Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in the remote upper reaches of J&K's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of two civilians caught in the cross-fire dying of gunshot wounds Sunday, **report Saleem Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria**. Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Himachal were killed in the encounter. Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of Kokernag, died in hospital. Kashmir Zone IGP VK Birdi said the presence of the two civilians close to Saturday's shootout site is "being investigated". **P 15**

6 medals, 0 gold: India's haul sub-par but it's not all gloom

Shashank Shekhar @timesofindia.com

As curtains fell on Paris Olympics on Sunday, Indian fans were left with a mixed feeling over the country's performance. For a nation of 1.4bn people, our return of one silver and five bronze is very meagre. That the world's most populous country couldn't produce a single gold medal is hard to digest. However, if we look at India's showing in the past Summer Games, the Paris tally isn't too bad. Yes, we couldn't better our 2020 Tokyo haul of seven (one gold, two silver, four bronze) but we did much better than in Rio 2016, when

► EDIT PAGE: Model For Medals/Games Over...

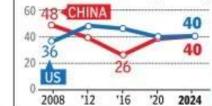
mer Games, the Paris tally isn't too bad. Yes, we couldn't better our 2020 Tokyo haul of seven (one gold, two silver, four bronze) but we did much better than in Rio 2016, when

US BAGS LAST GOLD TO TOP TALLY

US won a close women's basketball final, beating France 67-66, to equal China's gold haul & top medals tally

	G	S	B
FINAL	40	44	42
MEDALS	40	27	24
TALLY	20	12	13

1st time since 2008 Beijing, China equalled US in gold tally



India's flagbearers Manu Bhaker & PR Sreejesh during the Olympics closing ceremony in Paris. During 16 days of sporting excellence, at least 17 world records were set. Next games in LA in '28 **FULL COVERAGE | P 16-18**

our medal count was just two. The performance, especially in badminton, boxing and archery was disappointing, as medals were expected. Still, there is a flicker of hope

► **India at No. 71, P 17**

Hasina never resigned as B'desh PM, claims son

Dhaka: In a stunning twist, Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed claimed on Sunday that his mother never resigned as Bangladesh PM and reports to the contrary were "completely false and fabricated", **report AKM Moynuddin and agencies**.

► 'Media cos risk shutdown for misinfo', INSIDE JACKET

"...I have just confirmed with her that she did not make any statement before or since leaving Dhaka," Wazed wrote on X. His assertion contradic-

US 'design' behind my ouster: Hasina 'letter'

A letter allegedly from ex-PM Sheikh Hasina is circulating among her Awami League supporters, suggesting that her ouster was due to US pressure regarding crucial St Martin's Island. **INSIDE JACKET**

ted claim by Mohd Touhid Hossain, interim govt's foreign policy adviser, that she had quit. **► Full report, INSIDE JACKET**

Another child drowns in city, third in 24 hrs

A seven-year-old boy drowned in a pond formed by rainwater in a DDA park in Rohini Sector 20 on Saturday. This incident occurred on the same day two children

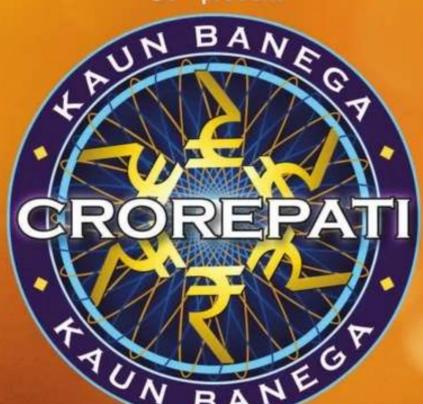
► Rain fury leaves 30 dead in 4 northern states, P 9
► GURGONE: City gets 97mm of rain in 6hrs, P 3

drowned in Rohini's Prem Nagar. The boy was identified as Tarun, who lived with his family in Aman Vihar & was a student of Class IV. **P 2**

AAPKA MANCH. AAPKA KHEL. AAPKA DAUR. AAJ RAAT 9 BAJE SE



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MON-FRI 9:00 PM



दिल्ली पुलिस
शान्ति सेवा न्याय

स्वतंत्रता दिवस-2024 INDEPENDENCE DAY-2024

प्रवेश सिर्फ आमंत्रण पत्र के द्वारा ही होगा
Entry strictly through Invitation Card only

आगंतुकों के लिए निम्नलिखित वस्तुएं सख्ती से प्रतिबंधित हैं
FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FOR THE VISITORS

 खाने-पीने की चीजे Eatables	 सिगरेट, बीडी, लाइटर Cigarettes, Bides, Lighter
 थैला, ब्रीफकेस Bag, Briefcase	 शराब, इत्र, स्प्रे, आग्नेयात्र Alcohol, Perfume, Spray, Replica Fire Arm
 रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेप रिकॉर्डर, पेजर Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, Pager	 नुकीला हथियार, तलवार, पेंचकस Dagger/Sword, Cutting/Sharp Pointed edged Materials, Screwdriver
 कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडीकैम Camera, Binocular, Handicam	 मोबाइल चार्जर, इयरफोन, पावर बैंक Mobile Charger, Earphones, Power Bank
 थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन, छाता, खिलौना पिस्तौल/खिलौने Thermos Flask, Water Bottle, Cans, Umbrella, Toy Gun/Toys	 चाकू, कैंची, रेजर, ब्लेड, तार Knife, Scissors, Razors, Blade, Wires
 ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, माचिस Inflammable Items, Match Box	 हथियार और गोला-बारूद, पटाखे आदि Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers, Explosives etc.
 डिजिटल डायरीज, पाम-टॉप कंप्यूटर, आईपैड, आईपॉड, टैबलेट, पेनड्राइव Digital Diaries, Palm-Top Computer, iPads, iPods, Tablets, Pendrive	 रिमोट नियंत्रित कार लॉक चाबियाँ Electronic Car Keys/ Remote Control Unit

यदि कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दें, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं
Any unidentified object, if notice may be brought to the notice of nearest Security Personnel

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पुलिस आयुक्त, दिल्ली को ई-मेल करें cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in | लिखें: पुलिस आयुक्त, दिल्ली को, पोस्ट बॉक्स नं 171, जीपीओ, नई दिल्ली पर

तुरंत पुलिस सहायता के लिए 112 पर कॉल करें पुलिस को सूचना देने के लिए कॉल करें 14547

Another Child Goes Out To Play, Never To Return Home

Seven-Year-Old Drowns In Park, Third Such Death In One Day

A SERIES OF TRAGEDIES

- Two boys drowned in a water-filled pit in Rohini's Prem Nagar on Aug 9
- Two boys, aged eight and 10, drowned in a rainwater-filled ditch in northeast Delhi's New Usmanpur in June
- Two drowned at Samaypur Badli underpass in June
- Three students drowned in the basement of a coaching centre at Old Rajender Nagar in July



A 23-year-old woman and her son drowned in a half-open under-construction drain on a waterlogged street in east Delhi's Ghazipur in July



TRAGIC END: Tarun drowned in the submerged DDA park in Rohini

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A seven-year-old boy drowned in a pond formed by rainwater in a DDA park in Rohini Sector 20 on Saturday. This incident occurred on the same day two children drowned in Rohini's Prem Nagar.

The boy was identified as Tarun, who lived with his family members in Aman Vihar and was a student of Class IV. Police said at 6:30 pm, they received a PCR call about the drowning of a child in the park. "When we reached the spot, we found that the child had already been

moved to hospital, where the doctor pronounced him dead on arrival," an officer said.

Jaswant Singh, a relative of the deceased, said the family was unaware of when the boy ventured out of the house and went to the park. "We are uncertain whether he inadvertently slipped while playing or had gone to bathe in the pond," he said. He added that at 8 pm, on receiving a phone call from the authorities, they rushed to the hospital.

"It was an utter display of apathy and negligence that resulted in the tragic loss of the young boy's life. The ab-

sence of a security guard and the lack of adequate safety measures to caution individuals about the presence of the pond were glaring oversights," he said.

The boy is survived by his father, who is employed at a garment shop in a shopping centre, and his mother, a housewife. A video of the park revealed that it was submerged in water, with even the concrete benches inundated.

The body of the boy was preserved in the hospital for postmortem. "Necessary legal action has been taken into the matter," a senior officer said.

In a statement, DDA said

the incident occurred at Chhat Ghat inside the district park, adjoining Aman Vihar resettlement colony in Rohini. "This is a 12-acre park and the chhat ghat area is around 3000 sq m with a depth of around 3.5 feet. The water body is fenced through a grill all around and residents have been warned not to enter that area. Yesterday, despite warning from the guard, 7 to 8 children were playing in the area where water had collected due to heavy rain." It added that a guard came to the rescue of the child who was drowning and took him to hospital where he was declared dead.

13-yr-old playing cricket electrocuted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 13-year-old boy died of electrocution while playing cricket on a training ground in Ranhola, west Delhi.

Police said the boy, Aditya Mehto, had gone to collect a ball on Saturday when he came in contact with a live wire hanging from an iron pole.

Police got a PCR call at 1:30pm and during an inquiry they came to know that the boy was playing cricket on a ground in Kotla Vihar Ph-2.

Aditya suffered the shock from the pole carrying the electric wire to a gashala in a corner of the ground. He was immediately taken to a hospital in the PCR van, where he was declared brought dead.

A case under section 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of

BNS has been registered.

Bechan Mehto, a labourer and the boy's father, said he was at work when his wife told him about the electrocution.

"Aditya, along with his brothers, Deep Raj and Sahil, used to go to the ground to play. When Aditya suffered the shock, his brothers tried to save him with a bat but they also got an electric shock," Mehto said, adding that another boy informed the family.

The family resides in a leased dwelling in Ranhola and protested against alleged negligence by placing Aditya's body on the road.

Aditya was a diligent student in the seventh grade. "Despite his tender age, he was acutely aware of my financial

struggles and often expressed his determination to help us overcome our impoverished circumstances. My son exhibited a remarkable aptitude for academics and harboured ambitious aspirations of excelling in competitive examinations. As a father, despite our economic constraints, I never compromised on his education and provided him with every resource he required," Bechan said.

A resident said that approximately 200 to 300 children come to the ground that happens to be a cricket training facility. "At the moment of the unfortunate occurrence, numerous children were playing there. The wires need maintenance. However,

the people responsible failed to address the issue," he said.

According to an officer, the ground is on private land. The officer mentioned the presence of an office nearby, from which an electrical wire extended to a neighbouring gashala. It was at this point that the live wire became exposed.

Sources said they are probing the roles of the alleged cricket academy's owner and the person who runs the gashala. They are also checking for any electricity theft.

"Action will be taken once we scan documents to see whether several people are owners of the property or only one," the officer said.

Investigators need to find out if the property, belongs to multiple individuals or has a sole proprietor.



Aditya Mehto



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Full-Dress Rehearsal on 13th August 2024

PLAN YOUR ROUTE, FOLLOW TRAFFIC ADVISORY

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM on 13.08.2024 and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chhatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chhatta Rail.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
- Outer ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e., Salimgarh Bypass.

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04:00 AM TO 10:00 AM ON 13.08.2024:

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid C-Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A Point, Tikli Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Netaji Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg, Ring Road between Nizamuddin Khatta and ISBT Kashmiri Gate & Outer Ring Road from Nizamuddin Khatta & ISBT Kashmiri Gate via Salimgarh Bypass.

NORTH-SOUTH ACCESS:

Alternative-1: Aurbindo Marg - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Kautilya Marg - S.P.M. Marg - 11th Murli - Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Road and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.

Alternative-2: Reach Connaught Place - Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg - Ajmeri Gate - Stradhnanand Marg - Lahori Gate Chowk - Naya Bazar - Peeli Kothi - S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa.

Alternative-3: Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna - Pushtha Road - G.T. Road and cross Yuddhishtar Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa.

EAST WEST ACCESS:

- NH-24 (NH-9) - Nizamuddin Khatta- Barapulla Road- under AIMS Flyover- Ring Road.
- DNB- Barapulla Road further as per 1 above OR via Ashram on Ring Road & proceed accordingly.
- NH-24 (NH-9) - Nizamuddin Khatta- Ring Road- Bhaoran Road- Mathura Road- Subrahmanyan Bharti Marg- Rajesh Pilot Marg- Prithviraj Road- Safdarjung Road- Kamal Ataturk Marg- Panchsheel Marg- SP Marg/Ridge Road accordingly and vice-versa.
- Vikas Marg- IP Marg- DDU Marg- Minto Road then either via Connaught Place or Ajmeri Gate- DBG Road & proceed further.
- Pusta Road (Shastri Park)- GT Road- Yuddhishtar Setu- ISBT Kashmiri Gate and proceed accordingly via Ring Road or Rani Jhansi Road.
- DNB - NH24 (NH9) - Yuddhishtar Setu- Signature Bridge- Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.
- Old Iron Bridge and Geeta Colony Bridge towards Shanti Van will be closed.
- People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush and inconvenience.
- All RWAs are hereby requested to collect/purchase their essential commodities before 22:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2024 for citizens of Delhi.

SIGNAGES

Adequate informative signage will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

- Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Khatta and Wazirabad bridge from 12:00 Midnight of 12.08.2024 to 11:00 AM on 13.08.2024.
- Interstate buses will not be allowed between Maharana Pratap ISBT and Sarai Kale Khan ISBT from 12:00 Midnight of 12.08.2024 to 11:00 AM on 13.08.2024.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS:

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 12:00 Midnight of 12.08.2024 to 10:00 AM on 13.08.2024 between ISBT Kashmiri Gate and Ring Road - NH-24(NH-9)/NH 11 point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take available alternative route.

The following road shall also be closed for movement of Inter City/DTC buses from 12:00 Midnight of 12.08.2024 to 10:00 AM on 13.08.2024.

(A) Lothian Road from Chhatta Rail Chowk to Kashmiri Gate (Boulevard Road).

(B) Netaji Subhash Marg from Chhatta Rail Chowk to Delhi Gate.

(C) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg.

(D) Ring Road between Nizamuddin Khatta (NH-24) and Northern loop of ISBT Kashmiri Gate.

(E) "Hexagon", Shershah Road, Dr. Jai Prakash Singh Road, Pandara Road, Shanjan Road, Akbar Road, Rajpath, Ashoka Road, KG Marg, Copernicus Marg, Tikli Marg, Purana Qila Road, Sikandra Road, Bhagwan Dass Road and BSZ Marg.

(F) Ashoka Road from RIA Windsor Place to "C" Hexagon.

(G) KG Marg from Farozeshah Road to "C" Hexagon.

(H) Vikas Marg, beyond loop towards Delhi Secretariat.

(I) Mathura Road from Ashram Chowk to W Point.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- Opposite Ramlika Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi.
- At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West via Barakhana and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge.
- At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 10:00 AM.

How to Approach / Reach Important places:-

1) OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION:-

a) From West and South Delhi:- Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard Road - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station or Dhauka Kuan - Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road - Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice-versa.

b) From North:- Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

c) From East/North East:- Pusta Road - Yuddhishtar Setu - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

2) NEW DELHI RLY. STATION:-

a) From East:- Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, ND Railway Station.

b) From North East:- Yuddhishtar Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DDBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori Gate, Pul Dufferin, S.P. Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

BUSES COMING FROM SOUTH DELHI

Buses bound for Red Fort, Old Delhi Railway Station, Bhai Mati Dass Chowk (Fountain) from South Delhi will be diverted via Ring Road upto R/A Karol Bagh Faiz Road Filmistan Azad Market Chowk, Boulevard Road and reach Mori Gate/ISBT.

Return journey by taking U Turn and proceed further via ISBT Bridge.

- Buses bound for Connaught Place from South Delhi shall be diverted towards Ring Road and further take Upper Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh and reach Connaught Place via Jhandewalan Panchkuan Road Shivaji Stadium Terminal.
- Buses bound for ISBT Maharana Pratap Terminal shall proceed Ring Road and further take Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh Faiz Road Filmistan Azad Market Chowk, Boulevard Road and reach Mori Gate/ISBT.
- Buses bound for East Delhi from South Delhi shall proceed via Ring Road - Hazrat Nizamuddin Bridge - (NH-24) - New Patpur Gany Road.
- Buses bound for East Delhi from South Delhi coming at Lala Lajpat Rai Marg will be diverted on Mathura Road towards the Ashram Chowk - Ring Road from Lodhi Fly over R/A Neela Gumbad.
- Buses bound for Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Kauriya Pul from Firozshah Road and going towards Mandi House shall take Barakhana Road from Mandi House, Ranji Singh Flyover and terminate Opp. Turkman Gate Asaf Ali Road.

Return journey via J.L.N. Marg, Ranjeet Singh Flyover by taking U Turn and proceed further.

6. Mudrika Services (Buses) shall take route via new ISBT Bridge, Shastri Park, Pusta Kailash Gandhi Nagar - Vikas Marg - Outer Dairy Road - NH-24 - Nizamuddin Bridge - turn left Ring Road for Sarai Kale Khan.

INTER STATE BUSES

INCOMING

- All buses coming from Ghaziabad towards Delhi shall move via Bhopura Chungi Road from Mohan Nagar for Wazirabad Road and then towards Chandigarh Ram Akhara - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.
- All Buses coming from Dhauka Kuan shall be diverted on Ring Road for taking Punjabi Bagh - Azad Pur - Akhara Chandigarh Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.
- All Buses operating between ISBT and Faridabad (Badarpur) shall either terminate at Sarai Kale Khan or be diverted on Ring Road via Dhauka Kuan Punjabi Bagh - Azad Pur - Akhara Chandigarh Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.

OUTGOING

- No bus will be allowed to take U turn on northern loop of Ring Road near Bugh Vihar (Monastery) and would be diverted towards Wazirabad to go Trans Yamuna or take U turn from Chandigarh Ram Akhara and take loop of ISBT Flyover to go towards Shastri Park and Buses bound for Dhauka Kuan shall take Boulevard Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Link Road and upper Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg).
- Buses bound for Lon Border shall proceed via Wazirabad Bridge and those bound for Ghaziabad shall proceed via ISBT Bridge.

DTC RECOVERY VANS

DTC recovery vans shall be stationed (from 05:00 AM on 13.08.2024 onward till diversions are cleared) as under:-

- Central Control Room - Gokhale Marg
- Chhatta Rail Chowk
- Yamuna Bazar
- Delhi Gate
- Chhatta Rail Chowk

Note:- BUSES ORIGINATING FROM EAST, NORTH, CENTRAL, WEST, SOUTH AND INTENDING TO USE BSZ MARG-TILAK MARG-SUBASH MARG-RING ROAD (BETWEEN AKHARA CHANDIG RAM AND HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN BRIDGE) BE DIRECTED TO AVOID THESE STRETCHES & TAKE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- General public is advised not to bring cameras, binoculars, Remote Control car keys, umbrellas, handbags, briefcases, transistors, cigarette lighters, tiffin boxes, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.
- Don't touch any suspicious object. Immediately report about the presence of any unidentified/suspected object, suspicious movement of individuals & vehicles or anything out of the ordinary, to the nearest policeman.
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Rain Cools Delhi, But It Hits Where It Hurts

Waterlogging Complaints At Various Places; 3 Delhi-Bound Flights Diverted, 50 Delayed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: Several parts of Delhi experienced an intense downpour on Sunday evening, following a moderate spell of rain in some areas earlier in the day. The weather caused three Delhi-bound flights to be diverted, while over 50 flights were delayed at IGI Airport. Rain is likely to continue on Monday, with the Met department issuing a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate showers. SPS Mayur Vihar in east Delhi received the maximum rainfall on Sunday, logging 56 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. On Saturday, Mayur Vihar reported 66 mm of rainfall. From 8.30 am to 8.30 pm on Sunday, Safdarjung — the city's base station — received 28.8 mm of rainfall, Palam received 45.2mm, and Najafgarh logged

28.5mm of rainfall. Until 5.30pm, Ayanagar recorded 49.4mm of rainfall, Gurgaon 80 mm, and Lodhi Road 30.8 mm. "The monsoon trough is near its normal position, and a cyclonic circulation lies over northeast Rajasthan and neighboring areas. Under the influence of these systems, Delhi saw a light to moderate spell of rain," said a Met official. India Meteorological Department has placed a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate rain for Wednesday and Thursday too, with the possibility of light showers on Friday and Saturday. The maximum temperature on Sunday dropped to 31 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal and 1.8 degrees lower than Saturday's maximum. The relative humidity ranged from 91-100%. The minimum temperature was 26 degrees Celsius,



MORE IN STORE: Met dept has issued a 'yellow' alert for Monday

one degree below normal. So far in Aug, Safdarjung has received 185 mm of rainfall, against the normal of 233.1mm for the entire month. The air quality remained in the 'satisfactory' category on Sunday with an AQI of 69. It is expected to stay in the same category until Aug 14. Meanwhile, parts of the city, particularly outer Delhi areas like Najafgarh and Mundka, faced waterlogging on Sunday. According to Public Works Department (PWD) flood control

room, a total of 40 complaints were received throughout the day, with only three being resolved by evening. While waterlogging occurred at the Pul Prahladpur underpass, it did not disrupt traffic. However, waterlogging on the Najafgarh-Dhansa road led to traffic disruptions. "In Mundka and Najafgarh, response teams have been deployed to remove water from the roads," said a PWD official. PWD is also planning to repair a drain between Zakhira and the Raja Garden flyover, which is expected to address the recurring issue of waterlogging on Najafgarh road. Traffic was impacted on the Mehrauli-Badarpur Road in the carriageway from Khanpur towards Hamdara due to excessive waterlogging. Similarly, vehicular movement was hindered on the Outer Ring Road from Chirag Delhi due to water accumulation under the Savitri flyover. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said they received complaints of waterlogging from 12 locations, while falling of trees was reported from five places. "We received complaints of waterlogging from Rohini, Prem Nagar (Najafgarh), Naraina Industrial Area, Dwarka Sector 19, Raja Puri (Uttam Nagar), Netaji Subhash Place (Pitampura), Indra Vikas Colony (Mukherjee Nagar), and Laxmi Vihar (Navada)," stated an MCD central control room report. MCD officials claimed that all control rooms in its 12 zones were fully operational to receive complaints and act promptly. However, residents continued to complain about incomplete desilting work on drains.

Growing incidents of electrocution deaths need probe, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said it was unfortunate that at a time when the city was grappling with waterlogging, drowning incidents and deaths caused by electrocution, Delhi's ruling party was busy glorifying its leader's release on bail. He spoke about the electrocution death of a 13-year-old boy in Kotla Vihar, west Delhi and demanded an investigation. Sachdeva said it is the seventh such incident in this monsoon season where deaths have occurred on Delhi's streets due to the negligence of power companies. He said the growing incidents of electrocution deaths pointed to the criminal negligence in maintenance by power discoms. "Our condolences are with the family of the deceased. Based on ground reports, the tragic incident occurred within an enclosed private playground when the boy came in contact with an iron pipe. It appears that the iron pipe had an electrical leakage from an internal wire on the premises that was wrapped around it, which led to this accident," he said. The discom network is not involved in the incident, he said. AAP gov't later said: "We are treating this matter with the utmost urgency. We will ensure that the guilty are identified and punished strictly in accordance with the law."



GURGONE AGAIN: Millennium City breaks down after receiving 97mm of rain in 6 hours

Ipsita.Pati@timesofindia.com
Gurgaon: Roads resembled lakes, traffic came to a crawl and houses plunged into darkness — six hours of rain once again brought the city on its knees on Sunday. Gurgaon received 97.5mm of rain between 6am and noon — more than 93.1mm it recorded through July. Though it continued to rain through the afternoon, the intensity was much lower. None of the scenes that the city portrayed through the morning was unknown to its residents as the showers lifted the veil off the authorities' lack of preparedness for the rains come weeks late. Key stretches that were left waterlogged were Golf Course Road, Huda Metro road, NH-8 in Narsinghpur, the road near Sheela Mata Mandir, Khandasa Chowk, Rajiv Chowk and Medanta Road. Traffic moved at snail's pace and commuting became arduous. It being Sunday, traf-

fic was thinner than other days. "I could barely see anything through the windshield. It was as if I was driving with a blindfold. Potholes filled with rainwater made it worse. Driving through such stretches was extremely risky," said Chirag Gupta of South City-1. Kriti Pandey a commuter, faced congestion on the sector 30-31 road. "The road leading to Huda metro station was choked as well," she said. Traffic cops were deployed at key stretches to guide vehicles. "Teams were clearly instructed to ensure traffic was on the move, even at waterlogged stretches. In some areas, where vehicles got stuck, cranes were called to remove them. Rajiv Chowk underpass, Sheela Mata Mandir road, Narsinghpur and Mahavir Chowk were some of the areas worst affected by the rain," said Virender Vij, DCP (traffic). Deputy commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav inspected some of the flooded areas and claimed that the situa-

Downpour floods service roads of Dwarka expressway; underpass shut
Heavy downpour on Sunday triggered flooding on the service roads of newly inaugurated Dwarka Expressway too, underscoring several deficiencies on the speedway. The authorities had to shut Bajghera underpass due to waterlogging. Several internal roads in new sectors along the expressway also witnessed waterlogging. Residents, who began moving into these areas as early as 2017 are expressing growing frustration as the inadequate infrastructure continues to exacerbate the problem. GMDA had earlier claimed the drainage network in these new sectors would be completed by 2025. However, recent developments indicated that this timeline may be overly optimistic. Sunday's rain highlighted severe deficiencies, with service roads along the expressway resembling rivers. Commuters were left stranded, unable to navigate flooded roads. Residents claimed that waterlogging in new sectors is symptomatic of a larger issue — a critical gap in infrastructure planning and development. TNN
tion could have been worse had the administration not taken ample measures. "This time, we were prepared to deal with the problem of waterlogging. We identified 112 critical points across the city and deployed 14 senior officers to ensure water was drained out. That is why traf-

ing. Till late on Sunday evening, power had still not returned to many societies. The 'Red Run Marathon', which was organised in Laser Valley to raise awareness about HIV on Sunday was cancelled. Sunday's rain was by far the highest the city received this monsoon. The observatory recorded 35mm of rain on July 3 and 39.5mm on July 31. Through the entire month of July, Gurgaon received 93.1mm on an average against a normal of 175.4mm. Data sourced from the district administration showed Wazirabad received 108mm, followed by Sohna at 75mm, Manesar 70mm, Kadipur 69mm, Harsaru 69mm, Badshapur 45mm, and so on. The maximum temperature, however, didn't see much change. It came down by 0.8 degrees from 31.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday. India Meteorological Department has predicted more spells of moderate to heavy showers over the next few days.

Links to societies flooded, long outages follow

Akanksha.Gupta@timesofindia.com
Gurgaon: In a city familiar with the disruption caused by monsoon — a fault largely of its own making — heavy showers on Sunday turned colonies into islands, cut off from arterial roads, while prolonged power outage and traffic chaos forced many to stay indoors over the weekend. Residents of colonies, sectors and societies said streets were filled with knee-deep waters, with garbage floating on it. Vanita Pasricha, who lives in Sushant Lok-1, said she had planned to go to Delhi for a family gathering on Sunday. "All my other sisters managed to reach my brother's place to celebrate an early rakshabandhan, but we are stuck in our house here. It's impossible to go out for basic items like milk or bread. The streets are so flooded, that we can't think of driving or walking anywhere," Pasricha said. She added that instead of providing relief from summer, monsoon has become a nuisance for those who live in the city.

"My grandkids are restless indoors, and garbage is piling up because no one can come and collect it. It's really frustrating," she said. The struggle was similar for residents of Sushant Lok-2 and 3, DLF-1, 2 and 3, Palam Vihar, Greenwood City, Mayfield Garden and sectors 9A, 9, 10A, 23, 23A, 51, 52, 14, 27, 40, 31, 39, 47, 43 and 57. In Sushant Lok-2, a portion of a road in F block caved in after Sunday's downpour. Many residents and commuters took to social media to complain about the lack of proper infrastructure, including a stormwater drain network, and poor maintenance of public utilities across the city. Some residents pointed out that their colonies get flooded every year during monsoon, but authorities have not connected the main stormwater drain within sectors and localities. It ends up causing water to accumulate that takes days to clear, increasing the risk of mosquito breeding in stagnant water. "We are once again flooded and it's obvious that MCG does not have any functional arrangement to counter flooding. They have not made any internal stormwater drains in Sector 9A despite the area being flood-prone and pumps are not enough for the kind of flooding that happens here. GMDA's master drain is adjacent to our sector but serves no purpose. MCG officers keep changing and plans to build internal drains also get delayed. Residents, meanwhile, continue to suffer in silence," said Suraj Bhola, general secretary of Sector 9A RWA.



Many residents took to social media to complain about the lack of proper infrastructure

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Sisodia Discusses Assembly Poll Strategy At Party Meet

Plans To Hold Padyatras From Aug 14 To Bolster Campaign

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Manish Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister released from jail on Friday, plans to start padyatras from Aug 14 onwards to bolster AAP's campaign for the upcoming Delhi assembly elections that will be held early next year.

The party announced that Sisodia would relentlessly campaign for the polls, beginning with meeting party MLAs on Aug 12 and councillors on Aug 13.

This will be followed by padyatras across Delhi to expose the BJP's alleged attempts to obstruct the city's progress.

Supreme Court granted Sisodia bail on Friday in the corruption and money laundering cases related to changes in Delhi's excise policy. He was released after 17 months of imprisonment.

The decision regarding his campaign strategy was made during a meeting on Sunday, attended by top party leaders, including Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and



Manish Sisodia convenes a meeting with senior AAP members including Sandeep Pathak, Sanjay Singh, Gopal Rai and Atishi on Sunday

ministers Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Atishi.

According to a senior party functionary, during the meeting, Sisodia gathered feedback on Delhi's current political situation, and a detailed discussion took place on the strategies the party needs to adopt to defeat BJP in the polls, scheduled for Feb next year.

AAP has been at the helm of govt in Delhi three consecutive times—2013, 2015 and 2020. "The leaders' suggestions were carefully considered,

and continues to perform well, making progress in every state. When asked about Sisodia's potential role in the party, Pathak mentioned that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal will take a decision on this matter in due course.

Bharadwaj said there was enthusiasm among party leaders, cadres and the people of Delhi after Sisodia's release. He said that in the upcoming assembly elections, the people of Delhi will not give a single seat to BJP.

In response, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor stated that the results of the 2025 Delhi assembly election will mark the end of Kejriwal's "anarchic" regime in the city.

Kapoor said it was strange that AAP leaders expected to win in Delhi despite voters rejecting Kejriwal's appeal to vote for the party to save him from going to jail during the recent parliamentary election.

He said that AAP made the Lok Sabha polls a referendum on Kejriwal's jail, but voters in Delhi, Goa and Gujarat completely rejected the party.

14 injured as residential bldg in south Delhi catches fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Fourteen people were injured, and nearly ten narrowly escaped injury when a fire broke out in a residential building in south Delhi's Asola Enclave on Sunday.

Police said the fire started in the morning when many residents were asleep. It started in a parking area and quickly engulfed the entire space.

According to eyewitnesses, there was only one exit route, which was also in flames. Those who tried to escape suffered burns. With the help of police and others, they managed to escape by climbing onto a neighbouring building.

The fire department said the fire started around 5 am. A senior police officer said that on reaching the spot, the cops found the four-storey edifice engulfed in a raging inferno.

"The occupants of the apartments were evacuated, and the blaze was quelled with the assistance of fire department personnel. Preliminary investigation suggested that the conflagration originated on the ground floor possibly due to an electrical short circuit," the officer said.

Fourteen people, comprising six women, four children and four men, all residents of



There was only one exit route, which was also in flames, witnesses say

the building, had either reported respiratory distress or burn injuries. They were transported to the AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital, where they are receiving treatment.

Rachna, who was on the third floor, said that they were sleeping when the fire started. "I, along with my family, went to the balcony to save ourselves. Those who tried to escape were injured," she said. Later, the residents were evacuated using the terrace of a nearby building. She said a 70-year-old woman has suffered critical injuries.

Satish Kumar, who was on

the top floor, said he smelled smoke and, when he opened the gate, smoke flooded his house. "The fire started in the parking area, and there was one staircase that was filled with smoke. People were screaming, there was no light, and no one could see anything," he said.

Dhaneswari, another resident, said that she saw people running towards the terrace. "I ran to the terrace to save myself. The people who were on the first floor jumped to save themselves. At the time of the incident, there were around 30-35 people trapped," she said.

NDMC to carry out repair work on Ashoka Rd

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will begin repair work on Ashoka Road starting Monday until Sept 10. A portion of the road near Jaswant Singh roundabout caved in on July 7, and the civic body could not repair it because it required closing an entire lane.

Due to the repair of the sewer barrel by NDMC, one carriageway on Ashoka Road from Jaswant Singh roundabout to Windsor Place roundabout will be closed, the civic body said in a public notice.

"There will be one-way traffic on Ashoka Road from Windsor Place towards Jaswant Singh Chabray," said NDMC.

On July 7, a section of the road collapsed near the intersection opposite Le Meridien, and on July 10, another section collapsed near a bungalow on Ashoka Road. An NDMC official stated that while the work is already in progress, it will take about 25 days to complete. The old sewer lines on this stretch have collapsed and require proper repair, they said.

"Commuters going towards Windsor Place from C-Hexagon India Gate are advised to use Kasturba Gandhi Marg and reach Windsor Place via Firoz Shah Road," said Delhi Traffic Police in its advisory. **TNN**

AAP HQ moves to a new address

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New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday relocated its new headquarters at 1, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane in Lutyens Delhi. Sources in the party said the process of vacating the party's former headquarters at Rouse Avenue started on Sunday. In the newly allocated building, which will now serve as the party's headquarters, AAP has already installed its board.

It is a central govt bungalow in compliance with a court order. The transition from Rouse Avenue to Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane is expected to be completed soon, said a party functionary.

The office will host all party meetings, press conferences and other related activities, he added. The allotment of the type-VII bungalow comes follow-



The transition from Rouse Avenue to Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane is expected to be completed soon, said a party functionary

ing directions of Delhi High Court. As per norms, all national parties are eligible for office accommodation in Delhi.

The court on June 5 asked Union govt to decide on the allotment of accommodation to AAP like other parties within six weeks after it approached the court.

Supreme Court has given ti-

me till Aug 10 to AAP to shift its head office to the new address. The bungalow allotted to AAP was earlier given to NCP. But after the party lost the national party status last year, the allotment was cancelled and the address was lying vacant. AAP has been using its old office on DDU Marg since 2015 after it formed the govt in Delhi. Before that, it

was headquartered at rented properties in Patel Nagar and Connaught Place earlier.

The last event that the party saw in its old office was former deputy CM Manish Sisodia addressing a gathering of workers after being in Tihar jail for 17 months.

A party functionary said, "We have a lot of emotions attached to this office. It is from this place that strategies were made and we grew from one-state party to forming govt in Punjab and now we are a national party."

The party was formed in 2012 following the 2011 anti-corruption movement. After forming govt in Punjab in March 2022, AAP went on to become a national party in April 2023. It has CMs in Delhi and Punjab and has won five assembly seats in Gujarat and two in Goa. It has 10 Rajya Sabha and three Lok Sabha members. It also holds the Chandigarh mayor post.

PWD starts work on Delhi's 4th high-security jail in Narela

New Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) has started work on Delhi's fourth high-security jail in Narela at an estimated cost of Rs 99 crore.

The design will be like Cellular Jail on the Andaman and Nicobar islands and will be spread across 40 acres.

A consultant will be hired by the agency to work out the ground details and maybe later execute the project.

Cellular Jail, constructed by the British, is now a national memorial monument.

Delhi govt is likely to bear 20% of the budget. The rest will come from the Centre. This new jail is likely to have barracks on two floors, eight watch towers and an administrative block which will have two floors.

Work on the prison cells will start in the first phase and then the rest of the areas in the second phase of construction.

PWD said the consultancy firm will take around two years to come up with the final concept of this modern jail. The new prison also has a waterbody on one side of the wings.

According to the plan, the prison will have 250 cells. In the first phase, four wings will be constructed, which will radiate from a central watch tower, making the entire complex look like the spokes of a wheel. It will have modern security features, such as automated locking, X-ray baggage scanners, full-body human scanners and body-worn cameras. These will help authorities in curbing the formation of gangs and checking violence on the premises. The Union home ministry has sanctioned about Rs 100 crore for the project. **TNN**

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'Breaking' news: Hip-hop Delhi tunes into new Olympic sport!

Aakriti Bhandari
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As the eyes of millions of Indians were glued to their screens, watching hockey, wrestling, javelin throw and badminton at the Olympics, a group of young and curious dancers from Delhi were captivated by a different event altogether. They were witnessing the highly anticipated debut of 'breaking' at the 2024 Paris Olympics, marveling at the sight of an art form they had been practising for years finally being celebrated on the world's biggest sporting stage.

The two-day event saw 32 breakers compete for a spot on the podium. On the first day, Aug 9, Japan's Ami Yuasa, also known as B-girl Ami, clinched

the Olympic gold in the women's breaking category by defeating 17-year-old Dominika Banevic, or B-girl Nicka from Lithuania, in a thrilling final. China's Liu Qingyi, or B-girl 67L, took home the bronze medal. The second day saw Canada's Philip Kim, or B-Boy Phil Wizard, winning the men's breaking gold medal with a clean sweep over France's Dany Dann, while USA's B-Boy Victor secured the bronze.

Breaking, often loosely referred to as break-dancing, made its mark at the Olympics at France's Parc Urbain, Place de la Concorde, just two days before hip-hop's 51st anniversary. This dance form originated in the block parties of the 1970s Bronx, USA, and emerged as one of the core founda-

tions of hip-hop culture. From New York, hip-hop, and with it breaking, spread across the world, including India, garnering a devoted following.

Jasika Chadha, a Delhi-based hip-hop dancer, exclaimed: "It's amazing to see how a layman is getting aware of what hip-hop is, what battles are. And they are loving it. I experienced how my parents were enjoying the whole event, how it takes place and the excitement to see who is winning."

For the dancing community, seeing breaking pave the way for a culture they have been living in for a long time is a historic feat. They believe this platform will expose the mostly niche dancesport to a larger public.

Naresh, a 24-year-old Delhi-based B-Boy known as Draw, who has been practising the art form since 2017, shares his thoughts: "When I was watching the live, I could see 69 lakh viewers streaming alongside me, that was an amazing feeling. I felt this is how the public will know more about breaking and hip-hop." For him, breaking in the Olympics is a significant opportunity for a whole generation of artists who will now officially be considered athletes.

Johnny, 27, who has been B-boying since 2016, adds, "A lot of people who had stopped breaking for a while, they too came back with a hope that they may now get a chance to represent India internationally, and have more opportunities open to them as well."

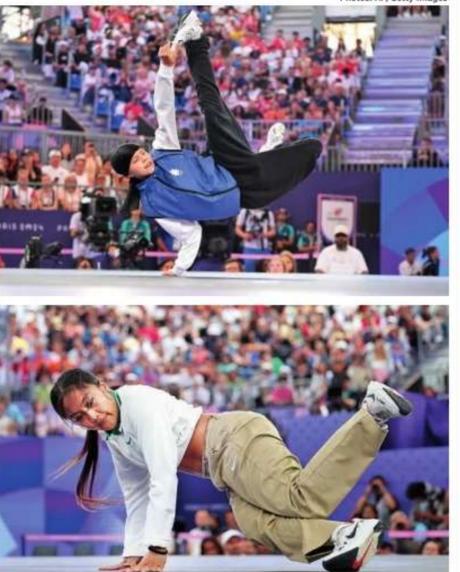
Although breakers from India participated in qualifying events held in different parts of the world over a two-year cycle, they failed to make the Olympic cut. The breakers attribute this to a lack of consistent support from governing bodies such as the All India DanceSport Federation in providing training facilities, finances, and management. Breaking was introduced to attract a younger generation deeply involved in urban sports, many of which are associated with various subcultures. These include earlier additions, such as skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing.

However, according to the official Olympic website, breaking is not scheduled to be included in Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. This raises questions from both participants and the audience about the progress made to elevate the dancesport coming to a halt. Naresh adds, "In India, we don't get much support from our families. If there is a consistent addition of breaking in the Olympics, it will give people new motivation, to keep on going, to keep holding on to their art, amid the difficulties." But until then, the b-boys and b-girls persevere, their feet moving to break-beats, leading them to a brighter future with newfound recognition that was long overdue.

TWISTS & TURNS

Techniques used

1. Standing footwork known as top rock
2. Floor movements known as down rock
3. Tricks and power moves, such as twists and spins, and the freeze
4. Deejays give music to the two battlers, who improvise to the song on the spot
5. Judgment given on the basis of five criteria | Musicality, vocabulary, originality, technique and execution. Each category has 20% weightage in the score
6. Judges score the breakers based on battles that are best-of-three rounds, also known as throwdowns. Each breaker has 60 seconds to complete a routine
7. Athletes can be penalised for misbehaviour



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Stage Set As DU Kicks Off ECA Trials For Admissions

5% Of Total Seats In Each College For ECA And Sports Categories

Meghna Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As the physical trials for Delhi University's ECA quota seats commence on Aug 12, candidates vying for one of the 1,365 available spots will have their talents put to the test.

A total of 11,692 applications have been received by the university under ECA (extracurricular activities) quota this time, up from 9,858 last year, said an official. "The number of applications under the quota has gone up significantly. What is surprising is the kind of response we have got for the debating category, which has seen a jump of about 42% in the number of applications," said Deepti Taneja, joint dean of Culture Council and convener of ECA admissions at DU.

This year, DU has allocated 5% of the total seats in each college for ECA and sports categories. Those who pass these trials will get a concession in their academic merit to secure admission into specific programmes.

As per the university schedule, the trials will begin with Indian classical dance, Hindi debate, theatre and Indian classical music on Aug 12. Trials will be held for all activities, excluding those seeking admission through National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS). For sports quota candidates, trials will take place between Aug 20 and Aug 22. "We have increased the number of panels this time. Sessions that are bigger will be carried out before two-three panels so that each student

YOUR READY RECKONER

- ECA**
- 1 Creative writing | Aug 16 (Hansraj College)
 - 2 Dance (Mata Sundri) Indian classical | Aug 12-17 Indian folk | Aug 20, 21
 - 3 Western | Aug 21-22
 - 4 Choreography | Aug 23
 - 5 Debate (Ramjas) | Aug 12, 13
 - 6 English | Aug 13-22
 - 7 Digital media, includes photography, animation and filmmaking | Aug 20-22 (Maharaja Agrasen)
 - 8 Fine arts | Aug 20-23 (Rajdhani)
 - 9 Vocal music, Indian and western | Aug 12-23 (Bharati)
 - 10 Instrumental music, Indian and western | Aug 20-23 (Sri Aurobindo)



SPORTS

- AUG 20**
- Men & women** | Archery, athletics, gymnastics, table tennis, weightlifting, badminton
- Men** | Basketball, cricket, hockey, tennis
- Women** | Football
- AUG 21**
- Men & women** | Chess, fencing, shooting, taekwondo, kabaddi
- Men** | Baseball, handball, volleyball
- Women** | Cricket, kho kho, netball
- AUG 22**
- Men & women** | Boxing, judo, squash, swimming, wrestling
- Men** | Kho kho
- Women** | Badminton, basketball, handball, hockey, softball, volleyball
- *For detailed information on centre and timings, please visit du.ac.in

gets due time to show their skills," Taneja said.

Different colleges have been designated as centres to carry out trials for 12 different activities, which are divided into several sub-categories. A DU official said it was important that all candidates carried a photocopy of their DU registration receipt to the centre where their trial was scheduled to take place and report at the allotted time. "Everyone coming for the trial must bring their own instruments, equipment, writing material, camera, painting tools, etc, as these will

not be provided at the centre. Those taking part in different dance forms must come in their required costumes and make-up. Also, no extra time will be given for preparation, unless specified in the guidelines, so every candidate should come geared up," the official added.

During the trials, judges can ask the students to repeat their performance or ask certain questions related to their chosen activity. For certain trials like those for creative writing and quizzing, candidates will not be allowed to carry mobile phones in the

test rooms.

The university has taken special note of candidates coming from outside Delhi for the trials. "We have got so many requests from outstation candidates who have applied for more than one activity. In such cases, one may have to go through one trial at the beginning of the schedule and then wait for the next one till the end, which is quite inconvenient for those who don't live here. So, we are considering all those requests and trying to club some days for them, so they get done in 2-3 days," Taneja said.

PWD urged to finalise preparation of drainage mgmt plans by Sept 15

Priyangi Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Integrated Drain Management Cell (IDMC) has asked PWD to accelerate the preparation of detailed project reports for drainage management plans of the city by Sept 15 and implement these plans by early next year. It has also asked agencies to conduct a thorough evaluation of the silt quantity present in the 22 primary drains, which meet Yamuna in Delhi.

IDMC, at a recent meeting held on July 15, reviewed the status of drainage management plans for three basins and 22 primary drains. The timelines were decided following an HC order. The 22 major drains, which fall in Yamuna in Delhi, are part of the three major basins in the city: Najafgarh, Barapullah and Trans-Yamuna.

A report prepared by

IDMC stated that consultants have been hired for all three basins, while the ground survey is in process for Najafgarh basin. "After administrative decisions are taken on the three basin DPRs by year-end, the work on the implementation of these plans will start by early 2025. The proposed timelines for the initiation of work on the Najafgarh basin is Jan 31, 2025, and the targeted timelines for 'Trans-Yamuna and Barapullah basins are Feb 28 next year," said the report.

IDMC, in its report, said due to the multiplicity of authorities for the management of the drainage system, Delhi govt has assigned the responsibility for the management and operations of 22 drains falling in Yamuna to irrigation and flood control department by an order dated April 29 this year. "After the handing over of drains by drain-

aging agencies, the work on the assessment of the quantity of silt in 22 drains will start. The targeted timeline for the completion of work is Nov 15 this year," said IDMC report.

The report added that desilting of 21 drains out falling in Yamuna will be undertaken on a war footing and is targeted to be completed by Dec 31 this year. The removal of encroachments from these drains should be completed simultaneously. However, desilting of the Najafgarh drain and removal of encroachment from this drain is expected to be completed by June 30, 2025.

National Green Tribunal, in March 2020, had constituted IDMC to improve the drainage system of Delhi and ensure better coordination of work due to the involvement of multiple

agencies for different drains. Since most areas are flooded in an intense spell of rain for a few hours, experts have been emphasising better plans for the management of the city's drains. Delhi's decades-old drainage system can handle only 50 mm of rainfall in a day, according to a report.

Diwan Singh, an environmental activist, said the creation of such plans will have meaning only when they are properly implemented during the set deadlines. "Linking of stormwater drains with waterbodies is most important to prevent waterlogging as no drainage system can accommodate sudden downpour. A decentralised system of waterbodies can act as a safety cushion during heavy rainfall," said Singh.



'Lifestyle changes can curb cervical, breast cancers'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lifestyle habits play a crucial role in the rising incidence of cervical and breast cancer. Making informed decisions regarding them can help in early detection and even prevent these diseases.

This was stated by experts at a cancer awareness and screening camp on Sunday held in Vasant Kunj. "By staying knowledgeable about their well-being, women can take proactive steps to safeguard themselves against the diseases," they said.

The event, which aimed at educating and supporting women in the fight against cancer, was organised by Rachna Naresh Jain to commemorate the sixth death anniversary of social worker Anand Prakash Jain.

The event saw participation from over a hundred wo-

men and was conducted in collaboration with Vardhman Recycling and National Association of Mentors for Adolescent Health. Addressing the gathering, Dr Seema Prakash, from G7B Hospital and president of the National Association of Mentors for Adolescent Health, explained the intricacies of breast and cervical cancer.

She urged women to take a few minutes from their daily routines for themselves and to contact their doctors immediately if they experience any discomfort.

Rachna Naresh Jain voiced her concern over reports showing that women, who carry the full burden of managing households, are becoming increasingly ill. She highlighted that the event was created by women for women and expressed her pleasure at the active participation of many women.

DU releases simulated ranks for UG candidates

New Delhi: As part of its admission process under Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS), Delhi University on Sunday released simulated ranks for all candidates.

A simulated rank is a tentative rank given to each candidate based on the scores and preferences submitted at the end of Phase II. After reviewing the rank, which is visible on every candidate's dashboard, one will get another chance to rearrange their preferences. "If any candidate wishes

to add, delete or reorder their preferences, they will have time till 11.59pm on Aug 12. Following this, the first CSAS list will be declared on Aug 16," said Haneet Gandhi, dean of admissions at DU.

Once the first list comes out, candidates will have to accept allocated seats by Aug 18. Colleges verify and approve the online applications by Aug 20. This will be followed by the online fee payment deadline of Aug 21. Classes are scheduled to begin on Aug 29. **TNN**

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The Light in Our Lives

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SANTOSH DESAI



An indelible memory of my childhood is that of my insomniac grandmother playing hand and Solitaire (which she called Patience) lit by a zero-watt bulb while we were all sprawled on the floor trying to sleep. Her sight was extremely poor, and it was a miracle that she managed to, by squinting ferociously at the deck of cards, navigate her way through her nightly pastime in such dim light.

But then those were the days of bulbs that were extremely miserly when it came to delivering even a reasonable quantity of illumination, and my memory of childhood is dotted with scenes of dimly lit rooms with perfunctorily whitewashed walls. A 60-watt bulb was considered robust, and a 100-watt bulb was a shameful indulgence. The economic burden that the magic of electricity placed on us was only too evident in our niggardliness when it came to wattages, but it was also a recurring feature of our growing-up years to be admonished by our parents every time we left a room without switching off the lights. I remember many lengthy sermons on the virtues of frugality, thanks to the light bulb. Besides, stories of relatives who had assiduously studied late at night under a lonely streetlamp were a staple. The message was very clear: artificial lighting was a scarce resource to be used with great care.

Over and above the economic necessity, perhaps it was an acknowledgement of the power of a night as a primal force, a sign of respect that while we were flouting the laws of nature by illuminating our abodes artificially, we were doing so with the full knowledge that this is not how things were meant to be. We apologised even as we lit our electric lamps—for some reason, always with a little prayer. That was a time when we consciously shrunk our world at night, lighting up only the most necessary parts of our lives. It

was time to be home, not go gallivanting around outside. In any case, we barely had any streetlights in the small towns where I spent most of my childhood, and going out at night for any errands was a much grumbled-about event. The night felt distinctly different from the day; it was as if we lived life in two different registers.

The flashlight was an integral asset in those times. The power supply was erratic, and street lighting was virtually non-existent. In rural areas, in particular, life would be unimaginable without this sturdy companion; a fact that made Nokia one of the bestselling phones in India.

The light bulb changed civilisation of course, by being, as Marshall McLuhan put it, a medium without a mes-

As our lives become more brightly lit, it is curious how, in some ways, we seek out its absence. There is a market for dimly lit bars, and films and television seem to revel in producing content that is so poorly lit that it is difficult to follow what is being depicted. That's a full circle of sorts

sage'. It transforms the environment merely by its presence, turning night into day and, in effect, doubling the world we have access to. We could work 24 hours a day. The idea of 'night life' is a direct result of the bulb, yet another way in which human ingenuity has thwarted the designs of nature.

The coming of tube light was a sharp stab of abundance in the parsimonious world of the light bulb. It shone white with gauche unselfconsciousness, without any of the modesty of the bulb. It consumed less electricity too, and hence soon came to dominate our lives with ease.

Today, of course, as one looks upon empty office buildings late at night that are ablaze with light, it is easy to see dramatically how our relationship

with lighting has changed. And while it is true that the power situation in India has improved significantly, what this really points to is the change in our attitude towards lighting. We abhor darkness and have begun to find it unnatural. Darkness feels like a void, an aberration that we are no longer comfortable with. We rarely encounter darkness in our lives anymore until it's time to go to sleep. Light is a sign of space being animated by life. This probably explains the urge to keep one light on even if we are not at home.

The advent of LED technology has helped bring about this transformation. Lighting is now much cheaper and more versatile. Lighting methods have changed, and modern homes today can have a dazzling array of lights used in different ways. Lighting has become a lifestyle accessory, to be used for aesthetic as well as functional reasons. Today there is talk about lighting design, which involves using light purposefully to highlight and underline different spaces that we use. There are cove lights, spotlights, accent lights, and ambient lights; a whole new vocabulary of lighting has sprung up. If earlier we lived by the rules of the lighting options available to us, today we paint our lives with light in the way we see fit.

Along with the greater versatility of artificial lighting, there is a craving for natural light. We evaluate homes based on how much natural light is available. In an earlier time, when homes had courtyards, natural light was never an issue. Today, with more and more urban life being centered around apartments, this need has become heightened. Not only do we want to be suffused by natural light, but we also even want the artificial light to resemble the real thing.

As our lives become more brightly lit, it is curious how, in some ways, we seek out its absence. There is a market for dimly lit bars, and films and television seem to revel in producing content that is so poorly lit that it is difficult to follow what is being depicted. That's a full circle of sorts. From a time when we made do with the little light that we could afford to a time now when we seek out some version of darkness.

santosh365@gmail.com

As kite-flying season starts, discoms bat for safe manjha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ahead of Independence Day and Rakshabandhan, Delhi's power distribution companies issued an advisory, urging people not to use metal-coated manjha for flying kites. The discoms, BSES and Tata Power, advised consumers not to use the metal-coated thread as it can conduct electricity and can even lead to electrocution.

Every year, the metal-coated manjha causes numerous instances of power disruptions and equipment damage, stated BSES, adding that such acts are punishable under Electricity Act and Delhi Police Act. Tata Power has ur-

ged its consumers to use the string made of cotton or any other natural fibre.

In case of any emergency, consumers can reach out to BSES through call centre number BRPL 19123, BYPL 19122 or on WhatsApp by typing 'HI' and sending it to 8800919123 and 8745999808, respectively. In case of Tata Power, they can connect on toll-free number 19124.

Tata Power is conducting special awareness sessions in govt and private schools to educate students about the hazards related to flying kites. "Reckless kite flying, especially with metal-coated manjha, can even electrocute for the kite flyer," said an official

Metro urges people to avoid kites close to elevated lines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has urged the public to avoid flying kites near elevated Metro lines passing through residential areas to ensure safety and prevent service disruptions.

DMRC warned that any contact with the 25,000-volt overhead equipment (OHE) could be fatal and may cause OHE tripping or damage to Metro trains, leading to service disruptions.

"As kite flying will start to gather pace around Independence Day, there is a high likelihood of kite strings getting entangled in OHE wires or getting stuck in the pantog-

raph (equipment which draws power from OHE) of a moving train if flown near elevated Metro lines," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC.

He added that such incidences have the potential to not only disrupt Metro services by damaging or tripping the OHE or pantograph but could also prove fatal to those flying kites with metallic manjha.

To prevent such incidences, DMRC will deploy dedicated teams near kite-prone stations to swiftly remove kite strings as and when spotted, besides advising train operators and station staff to be more cautious, said an official.

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Bid submission: Start from: 05.08.2024 at 11:00 a.m. Closing end: 26.08.2024 at 12:00 Noon. Opening on: 28.08.2024 at 12:00 Noon.
ICA-T13898(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Western Electrical Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of **Repairing work for 02 (two) nos. LIFT (Make-EVS) at Gynecology Building of Bardhaman Medical College and Hospital, Purba Bardwan eNIQ No. - WBPWD/SEWEC/ BED/NIQ-50/2024-25.** Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_731068_1. Bid submission start date(online): 13.08.2024 from 03:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 20.08.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.Q. and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- S.K.Biswas, Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Western Electrical Circle. ICA-T13909(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Niet No. CMOH/CBR/3644/24
Date: 07/08/2024
Sealed e-tenders are invited for providing 1 (one) driver of Food Safety Wheel at at CMOH Office, Cooch Behar. For more details contact CMOH office/visit <https://wbenders.gov.in> and www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- CMOH, Cooch-Behar ICA-T13897(2)/2024

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Tender Notice
Online e-tender is invited by the office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. I, Housing Directorate-eNIT No: WBHD/EE/ED-1/ENIQ-06/2024-25, Tender id: 2024_HSD_73091_1. Name of work: Deployment of man power Skilled (Electrician), Semi-skilled (Assistant Wireman & Pump operator) and unskilled (Valve Operator) for Electrical Installation work (Internal & External) ind. operation of Pump-motor & valve sets within the campus of different RHE, Guest House, Rest Shade, WHW etc. on all working days including Saturday, Sunday & Govt. Holidays for during FY-2024-2025 within the jurisdiction of Electrical Sub-Division No.-I, Housing Directorate from 03.09.2024 to 31.03.2025 = 7 Months= 212 Days. Bid Submission end date: 27.08.2024 upto 2 P.M. Tender Opening Date: 29.08.2024 after 2 P.M. Website-wbenders.gov.in, Tender Location-Within jurisdiction of Electrical Sub-Division No.-I, Housing Directorate. Tender details may be obtained from Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. I, Housing Directorate, New Secretariat Building, "B", Block Ground Floor 1.53 Roy Road, Kolkata-700001 on all office days during office hours. ICA-T13917(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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Date: 07/08/2024
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Vide Memo No. MSO/MCH/PR/2247/24
Date: 08.08.24
e-Tender is invited by the Principal, Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital, Berhampore, Murshidabad for **CARR MACHINERY FOR THE DEPT. OF ORTHOPAEDIC FOR MURSHIDABAD MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL.** For details please visit the website: www.wbenders.gov.in and www.msdmch.org or office of the undersigned. Sd/- Principal, Murshidabad Medical College, Berhampore, Murshidabad. ICA-T13906(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.: 03/KMDA/S&S/W/EE/ (P) Dm/2024-25
Online e-tenders in two part system are invited by Executive Engineer, (Civil), Planning Division, S&S&W Sector, KMDA, VIP Block, 1st floor, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from bonafide, reliable, experienced & successful firms / individuals contractors, for the work, **Name of work, Estimated Value of the work, Earnest Money deposit, Time of completion, Operation and Maintenance of the 30 KLD Capacity Septage Treatment Plant at Pramod Nagar constructed for the Baranagar, North Dum Dum and Dum Dum Municipality including cost of all required Manpower, Chemicals & Reagents Electricity & Transport charges, Gardening, Safe Disposal of dried sludge, Repairing of all civil Structures, Machinery & Laboratory equipments complete for 15 Months 20 Days, Rs.42,65,566/-, Rs.85,311/- (Online through e-Procurement System of Govt. of W.B.), 477 Days. Last date & time of online Tender Submission: 27.08.2024 upto 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-399) www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T13902(3)/2024**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The MSVP, IPGMR-SSKM Hospital, having its office at 244, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata 700020 is inviting e-Tender under the Liner Store for supply of nos. of Non CAT Consumables (1st Call) under Liner Store wide NIT No. SSKM/MSVP/8366 dated 06.08.2024 of IPGMR-SSKM, from the bonafide bidder. For details log on to www.wbenders.gov.in and www.sskm.gov.in Online document will be available from 12.08.2024. Sd/- Medical Superintendent cum Vice Principal, IPGMR-SSKM Hospital, Kolkata-20. ICA-T13891(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. WBW/SE/NIC-I/NIT-01(1)/2024-25
The Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle-I, Green Park, Malda, I&W Dte. on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, invites online tender from eligible bonafide contractors having requisite credential and turnover for 1 (One) no. protection work under CSDS. Amount put to tender: Rs. 1,84,88,844.00. Last date and time of submission of Technical & Financial bid (online)-03.09.2024 upto 17.30 hrs. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.wbenders.gov.in & URL <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- (P. Bhaicharya), Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle-I, Green Park, Malda. ICA-T13888(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
O/O the Superintending Engineer, PWD South-Western Electrical Circle, Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani, Midnapur-721101
Notice Inviting e-Quotation
No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ28/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_731498
Last date of submission of bid: 24.08.2024 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Name of Work: SFT of silent DG set, UPS and AC machines along with related FI work within the campus of Government of India Coal sampler station (G.F.TS) at Jampur in the dist. of Purba Medinipur - SFT of Air-conditioning machines. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- S.Das, SE, SWEC, PWDte. ICA-T13914(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The MSVP, IPGMR-SSKM Hospital, having its office at 244, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata 700020 is inviting e-Tender under the Liner Store for supply of nos. of Non CAT Consumables (1st Call) under Liner Store wide NIT No. SSKM/MSVP/8366 dated 06.08.2024 of IPGMR-SSKM, from the bonafide bidder. For details log on to www.wbenders.gov.in and www.sskm.gov.in Online document will be available from 12.08.2024. Sd/- Medical Superintendent cum Vice Principal, IPGMR-SSKM Hospital, Kolkata-20. ICA-T13891(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. e-NIT-06/2024-25 of Executive Engineer, MMED.
Online tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for the work. Last date and time of application is 28th August, 2024 12:00 hrs. ST. Others details may be available from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working days. Details of tender notice may be seen at www.wbenders.gov.in and <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Metropolitan Mechanical & Electrical Division ICA-T13890(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTTP/CC-2216 Date: 08.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/BKTTP/NIT/E3241/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in> by the General Manager -BKTTP. WBPDC from eligible Agencies / Companies in bid system for "Annual Maintenance Contract for Operation & Maintenance of one Coal sampler at Stage-1 & Stage-II of BKTTP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.08.2024 at 09.00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 31.08.2024 at 05.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager, CC, BKTTP. WBPDC. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbenders.gov.in> ICA-T13916(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Quotation
No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ28/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_731498
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Name of Work: SFT of silent DG set, UPS and AC machines along with related FI work within the campus of Government of India Coal sampler station (G.F.TS) at Jampur in the dist. of Purba Medinipur - SFT of Air-conditioning machines. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- S.Das, SE, SWEC, PWDte. ICA-T13914(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTTP/CC-2216 Date: 08.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/BKTTP/NIT/E3241/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in> by the General Manager -BKTTP. WBPDC from eligible Agencies / Companies in bid system for "Annual Maintenance Contract for Operation & Maintenance of one Coal sampler at Stage-1 & Stage-II of BKTTP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.08.2024 at 09.00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 31.08.2024 at 05.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indrani Chakraborty, Sr. Manager, CC, BKTTP. WBPDC. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbenders.gov.in> ICA-T13916(2)/2024

Woman, family members assaulted over property
New Delhi: A woman and her family members suffered injuries on Sunday after allegedly being violently assaulted by a group of ten people over a property dispute in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar. An video allegedly showing the incident has gone viral, in which masked men can be seen entering the house and attacking them. A case has been registered in this regard. TNN

ASI To Restore 400-Year-Old Barapullah Bridge In 3 Mths

LG: Install Proper Lighting To Enhance Aesthetic Appeal

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: LG VK Saxena has entrusted Archaeological Survey of India with the responsibility of restoring the historic Barapullah Bridge within three months. "ASI has been tasked with not only restoring the bridge but also installing proper lighting to enhance its aesthetic appeal," LG's house said in a statement on Sunday.



This was LG's second visit to the bridge, with the first being on Aug 4

The handover took place following LG's visit to the site. The 17th-century bridge, which runs almost parallel to elevated Barapullah road, is over 400 years old and has been designated as a monument of national importance. However, it has been overrun by squatters in recent times. The old, dilapidated stone bridge, believed to have been commissioned by Emperor Jahangir during his reign in the 1600s, measures 200 metres in length and features 12 piers and 11 arches. Historians suggest that Mughals used this bridge to cross

the drain flowing under the bridge. "Within a week of their concerted efforts, the encroachments have been removed, and the desilting of the drain is currently underway. ASI will commence the restoration work immediately after the completion of the desilting process," said Raj Niwas. LG's house emphasised that the conservation and restoration of heritage structures in Delhi has been a key focus for Saxena since he assumed office. Under his guidance, historical monuments such as St James's Church and Mehrauli Archaeological Park have been revived and restored, attracting a significant number of visitors every day. In addition to these, several other monuments, including Roshanara Bagh, Shalimar Bagh, Anang Tal Baoli, Rajon ki Baoli, Qila Rai Pithora, Jamali Kamali mosque complex, Dilli Chalo Park, Ghata Masjid, and Urdu Academy Park, were currently undergoing restoration, said LG's house.

UP in talks with global cos for repair hub at Noida airport

Aditya.Dev@timesofindia.com

Noida: Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) is set to issue an expression of interest (EOI) next month for establishing a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) hub adjacent to the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar.

This hub will be a part of the airport project's second phase, and it will involve the acquisition of 1,365 hectares of land specifically designated for this sector and an aviation hub. The land acquisition process is currently underway. NIAL officials said that they are in discussions with some of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers to collaborate on this initiative. To encourage investment, the govt has introduced a new MRO policy, offering capital investment subsidies ranging from 5% to 12% for companies that submit their applications by 31 Dec 2024. NIAL CEO Arun Vir Singh said, "We are currently in talks with four major companies and urging them to invest in Jewar. Govt is committed to developing the state as an MRO hub and has introduced an exclusive poli-

cy to support this. The demand for MRO services in India is expected to grow faster than the global average, driven by the increasing fleet size and passenger traffic. "Currently, major airports in India have limited or no provision of land for establishing MRO hangars within or near the airport. Noida International Airport will not only have an MRO facility within the airport premises but also a larger-scale facility adjacent to it. This sector has significant potential, as maintenance costs account for around 12% to 15% of overall revenue, making it the second most expensive item after fuel," he explained.

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Deputy General Manager, Delhi, Central Delhi Regional Office
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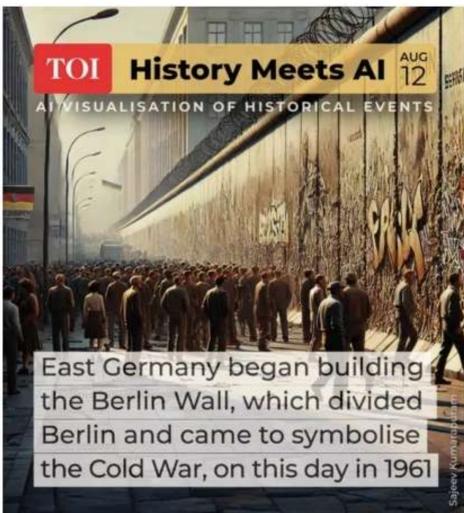
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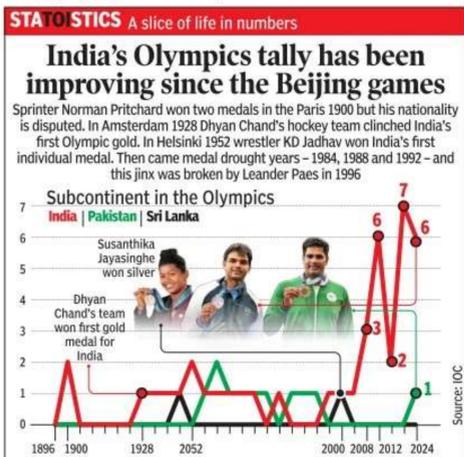
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AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Boy making video falls into Punjab canal, friend jumps in, both drown

Two teenage friends drowned in Bhakra canal near Ablawal in Punjab's Patiala district on Saturday. One of the boys fell into the canal while recording a video on his mobile phone, and the other jumped in to rescue him but was swept away by the current. Patiala Civil Lines SHO said a search operation was underway to find Karan (14) and Sahil (17). They both hailed from Patiala. "The boys' friends reported the incident three hours later, reducing their chances of survival. Sahil was a good swimmer and jumped into the canal to rescue Karan. However, it appears that Karan, likely in a state of panic, grasped Sahil from the front, locking his arms and dragging them both down," a diver deployed for the rescue operation said. TNN



Oli invites Modi to Nepal as foreign secy calls on him

Kathmandu: Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli on Sunday extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to visit the Himalayan nation. Oli extended the invitation to Modi through visiting foreign secretary Vikram Misri, who paid a courtesy call on the Nepalese PM, according to a statement issued by the PM's secretariat here.

Oli was sworn in as Nepal's PM for a fourth time last month. He assumed office after the govt led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' lost a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.

Misri also called on former PM and Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba at his residence at Budhanilkantha on the outskirts of Kathmandu. During the meeting, they discussed various matters relating to mutual interest, according to Deuba's office. The two sides discussed subjects related to strengthening Nepal-India relations and further moving forward mutually beneficial cooperation, it said. PTI

'JPC probe' vs 'plot': Cong, BJP in slugfest over Hindenburg report

Sack Sebi Chief, Says Rahul; SP, AAP Rally Behind INDIA Ally

NEW DELHI: Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and Sebi chief Madhabi Buch following fresh Hindenburg claims, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Sunday demanded that govt constitute a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the allegations, warning there is a serious threat to the hard-earned investments of small and medium investors. Rahul also demanded the sacking of the Sebi chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. AAP, meanwhile, demanded PM Narendra Modi's resignation over the issue.

SP chief too wrote on X: "There should be a historical investigation of Sebi because the history of Sebi has been such that it has never become the true protector and support of investors. Only an impartial investigation can restore Sebi's reputation to instill a sense of security in investing in the Indian markets."

Oppn Wants To Create Chaos, Instability, Says Saffron Party

NEW DELHI: BJP on Sunday claimed Congress and other opposition parties were part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India, as the party rejected Hindenburg's charge against the Sebi chairperson as an attempt to discredit the financial watchdog.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the party spokesperson Jai-ran Ramesh said the SC expert panel had noted that the Sebi had shown strange reluctance to probe the Adani 'MegaScam', while underlining that the Sebi had in 2018 diluted, and in 2019 entirely deleted, the reporting requirements relating to the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds, which tied the hands of the expert panel and led to Sebi's failure to reach to the bottom of the irregularities.



IN THE EYE OF THE STORM: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

bi's failure to reach to the bottom of the irregularities. AAP's Sanjay Singh, demanding a JPC, said, "Any statement or report made by the Sebi chief in the SC on Adani's probe has no meaning. The Court should take cognisance of this, because the truth has been hidden from it."

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete asked if the govt curtailed the Budget session of Parliament because it was aware of the impending release of Hindenburg report.

said opposition leaders were aware that the report was coming when Parliament was in session. The monsoon session of Parliament was scheduled to end on Monday but was cut short by one working day and ended on Friday.

BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Hindenburg had attacked Sebi in an "obvious partnership" with Congress and had an ominous motive. "It is to destabilise and discredit one of the world's strongest financial systems and create chaos in the world's fastest-growing economy," he said on X.

"I have said often and say again, many global forces with the help of the Congress dynasty want to slow down or trip up India's rise. We won't let them," he said.

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia too claimed Congress was behind the Hindenburg report. "Congress work is only to spread anarchy and entangle the country in controversial matters," he said. He said PM Modi and BJP workers were carrying the "torch of development and progress", whereas Congress has been trying to keep it in the dark for years.

The Adani group also termed the allegations malicious and based on manipulation of select public information. The company said it has no commercial relationship with the Sebi chairperson or her husband.

Bihar cop exam: 3 more of 'solver gang' arrested

CHhapra: Bihar Police Sunday arrested three more members of the "solver gang" active during constable recruitment exam in Saran district, reports H K Verma. This follows the arrest of three persons last Sunday and one on Saturday. Police now have with them seven members of the gang.

SP Kumar Ashish said the gang worked in collusion with exam centres. Its members had devised a plan to solve question papers using Bluetooth and other equipment. Ashish said the accused have confessed to their involvement not only in constable recruitment exam but also in Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET), Secondary Teachers Eligibility Test (STET), and Common Management Admission Test (CMAT).

Forensic tests point to suspect's hand in Kol doc's rape-murder

Kolkata: Traces of blood and skin found under the nails of the 31-year-old post-graduate trainee doctor found raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital are of arrested suspect Sanjay Roy and correspond to his injuries, forensic tests confirmed Sunday in what constitutes the strongest evidence yet of him being the perpetrator of the crime. The emergence of what investigators said was clinching evidence against traffic police volunteer Roy coincided with his policeman sister disowning him and demanding the harshest punishment for him.

Doctors and nursing staff protest against the rape and murder of a doctor, in Kolkata on Sunday

CM Mamata Banerjee, who ordered police to ensure a fast-track trial, said the perpetrator of such a "despicable crime" must be "hanged".

Investigators said the victim, who was cremated in her native place Sunday, provided the evidence they needed against her rapist-killer. "She fought and caused deep injury marks and scratches on the hands of the accused. Based on the forensic medical investigation, the injuries on Roy's body match the skin and blood samples collected from the nails of the victim," a police officer said.

The postmortem report states the death was caused by smothering and throttling, and the judicial inquest was wrong in suggesting a collarbone and pelvis fracture. The SIT intends to meet the forensic team that conducted the postmortem to be sure if the victim's injuries were caused by Roy alone or if he had an accomplice. (With inputs from Debabrata Shome)

Rain fury claims 30 lives in 4 northern states; 5 missing

NEW DELHI: Rain fury in the north left 30 people dead on Sunday across Rajasthan, Himachal, UP and Punjab, where nine from an extended family were washed away after their car sank in a stream. At least five people were missing. Rajasthan, especially Jaipur and

Related reports, P 11

Bharatpur, bore the brunt, with 16 deaths and two people missing. The dead included three men who went for a dip in Jaipur's Kanota dam. Two others in the group are missing.

In Bharatpur, seven young men posing for reels near the Banganga fell into the river and lost their lives after ground beneath them caved in. Three youths drowned in a rain-fed pond in Jhunjhunu after getting stuck in sludge. In Karauli district, which witnessed a flood-like situation with record rainfall of 380mm on Sunday, a man and his 10-year-old son Jia were killed when a portion of a neighbour's house collapsed on their home. Jodhpur reported one death, of a 17-year-old who drowned in Koilana lake during a trekking trip.

The rainfall caused widespread damage throughout Rajasthan. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed the situation Sunday and told officials to provide timely help to the affected.

In Punjab's Hoshiarpur, the nine died when their Innova was negotiating a seasonal stream at Jajon Doaba village on the border with Himachal. According to locals, the driver apparently misjudged the depth of the stream after watching a bulldozer wade in and cross it. A teen was rescued but two were still missing.

"The strong flow swept the Innova away. Two-three of us immediately rushed to get a rope and the bulldozer driver tried to reach them, but he had to fall back due to the swift currents. Those inside the vehicle were washed away, but a teen-aged boy was pushed to the side of the stream and we pulled him out," said a villager.

In Himachal, three girls died and one person was missing after landslides and flash floods over the last two days.

In UP's Jalaun, a woman and her seven-year-old son died after the roof of their house collapsed following rain.

IED explosion near home kills ex-MLA's wife in Manipur

Kangkan Kalita @timesofindia.com

Militants, village guards exchange fire, 4 feared killed

Guwahati: A former Manipur MLA's wife was killed in an explosion Saturday in the compound of an abandoned house adjacent to theirs in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district. Although the blast was initially suspected to be a militant attack, police haven't ruled out the possibility that Yamthong Haokip's wife Charubala accidentally lit an IED while burning waste in the compound belonging to a relative in Saikul.

Haokip and their daughter, who were also home at the time of the explosion, were unhurt. Haokip (64) was a two-time MLA from Saikul who switched from Congress to the governing BJP ahead of the 2022 assembly polls. Haokip was a Kangpokpi (hills) native, while Charubala was from the valley (Imphal East).

Four armed men are feared killed in a fratricidal shootout between militants and village guards in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said, reports Kangkan Kalita. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front and three village volunteers of the same community were reportedly killed near Molmoh area Friday.

Police are yet to recover the bodies, but search operations by central forces continue. Reports suggest the bodies of the volunteers have been kept in a nearby village. As the fight was between two groups of a community and not between two different communities, CM N Biren Singh said there was no cause for alarm of a communal clash.

Maha rock art now 'protected monument'

Chaitanya Marpakwar @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In a major move towards conservation, state govt has notified geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960. The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago), according to a notification by culture department. Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms, both involving the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

The petroglyphs depict a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints, as per the notification. It said this group of petroglyphs in Konkan holds extraordinary importance as it represents the creations of Mesolithic humans; the total area around the monument to be protected is 210 sq metres.

While seven — one 17-ft long — have been discovered in Umbarle village, Dapoli taluka, the eighth is in Borkhat village, Mandangad taluka. Clusters of geoglyphs are spread along 900 km of the Konkan coast in Maharashtra and Goa. Ratnagiri alone is home to more than 1,500 such artworks across 70 sites, seven of which are on the Unesco's tentative World Heritage list.

"While most common rock art in India are in the form of rock paintings, rock etchings, cup marks and ring marks, the large concentration of geoglyphs on the laterite plateaus (Sada) in Konkan are unique and most remarkable open-air ensembles of prehistoric human expression... These are distinct concentrations of pictorial representations that include marine and riverine (life, as well as mammals), reptiles, amphibian and avian life which vanished from the region centuries ago," the Unesco description states.

Conservationists have expressed concerns over a proposed oil refinery in Barsu, warning that it could damage the geoglyphs in the area.

450 helipads for Naveen aide under scanner

Riyan Ramanath @timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Days after Odisha commerce and transport minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena called for a thorough probe into V K Pandian's helicopter rides, state law minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday said the govt will investigate how 450 helipads were constructed to land the chopper carrying the bureaucrat-turned-politician.

Pandian, a close aide of former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, took helicopter rides between Feb and Sept last year during BJD govt to interact with the public and gather feedback.

"We will investigate who covered the cost of the helicopter rides. Clarity must be provided on this matter. It needs a thorough probe. At the govt level, helipads were constructed wherever the helicopter landed, and govt funds were used. He (Pandian) visited 400-450 places. It is not clear who authorized this and how the authorization was issued. A department secretary does not have the authority to use helicopters. How, then, was permission granted?" asked Harichandan. Pandian is the 5T secretary at the time.

Harichandan, also the works minister, added that BJP govt will include everything in the investigation. "After the investigation is complete, we will consider the appropriate punishment," he told reporters.

Odisha Sookhana Adhikar Abhijan, a group of RTI activists, staged a demonstration on July 24, alleging misuse of helicopters and chartered flights by Pandian, who took voluntary retirement from IAS in October and joined BJD the following month. He campaigned extensively for the party in Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

In response to the ministers' calls for an investigation into the helicopter rides, BJD functionary Sambit Routray said, "BJP and Congress functionaries should focus on whether there has been development across the state. Why are they concerned with who rode what?"

Why regime changes come with selfies and toppling of statues

Himanshi Dhawan & Ananya Khera | TNN

One person clutched a pale pink Dior suitcase, another took a duvet, some seized livestock, another gang gleefully unfurled a red zari sari. As protestors forced out the Sheikh Hasina government from Bangladesh, the scenes at the prime minister's residence evoked both carnival and mayhem. A few years ago in Sri Lanka, mobs had ransacked the presidential palace, some diving into the pool, others looting the former president's high four-poster bed. In Kabul, there were images of Taliban fighters using the presidential palace gym.

NUSRAT CHOWDHURY, PROFESSOR

The objects found in Gonobhaban are suffused with the aura of power. In touching, destroying, or pilfering these objects, the crowds saw themselves as partaking of a power that until then was elusive

These recent events in our neighbourhood come out of different histories and backgrounds. But the scenes are familiar: the storming of the citadels, the sense of a vacuum, the toppling of statues, the jubilation of the new order that often proves short lived.

Iconic oil paintings form our imagination of famous revolutions. Newspaper photographs and TV cameras recorded the upheavals of the last century. Today's political uprisings are captured by smartphone selfies and satirised through memes. They are "a way of mapping yourself in historical events,"

Mob madness or revolutionary joy? Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other sites of uprisings may be very different but bring up similar visuals and emotions

says Subir Sinha, South Asia director at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

Regimes can be toppled by a relatively peaceful popular upsurge, foreign invasions, violent rebellions, military coups or palace takeovers. The situation in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka can't be conflated with Afghanistan, or the Arab Spring experience, or that of eastern Europe throwing off communism. But as far apart as they are, the moment of public disorder looks similar: "Sab taj uchhale jayenge, sab takht giraye jayenge" — the day of revolution, or judgement, in the famous poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz imagines the rule of the people, rather than icons who falsely claim to represent them.

Every uprising has an inflection point. In Bangladesh, years of steady growth had ended after Covid, political fissures widened, and the election was widely seen as meaningless. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, had seen a severe economic crisis, with 50% inflation, power cuts and shortages. Austerity measures were prescribed for the people, even as then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa continued to enjoy a life of luxury.

But what to make of these dramatic ruptures, when mobs rampage through the seat of power, taking what they want? It is the distance between those in power and ordinary citizens that makes for such eruptions, says Nusrat Chowdhury, professor of anthropology at Amherst College, Massachusetts. "In Bangladesh and many parts of South Asia, public property is used as private luxury by regimes that thrive on nepotism and crony capitalism. Ordinary people have to wait in traffic for hours as VIPs pass through." Over time, this alienation builds up, and taxpayer-funded property becomes perceived as a fortress to lay siege to. "Gonobhaban, Hasina's residence, literally means the home of the people, but every news outlet has been describing it as her palace. It was guarded like one, with very few people ever having an idea how luxurious or palatial it was until the crowds stomped on its grounds," says Chowdhury.



DIFFERENT LENS: Iconic oil paintings formed our imagination of famous revolutions. Today's political uprisings are captured by smartphones

er-funded property becomes perceived as a fortress to lay siege to. "Gonobhaban, Hasina's residence, literally means the home of the people, but every news outlet has been describing it as her palace. It was guarded like one, with very few people ever having an idea how luxurious or palatial it was until the crowds stomped on its grounds," says Chowdhury.

But leaders like Hasina and Rajapaksa had relatively modest lifestyles. The fall of famous tyrants has exposed far more eye-popping visuals of opulence. In Libya, armed rebels posed on baroque furniture in Gaddafi's palace. There were stories of the expensive things found in Malacañang Palace, the residence of ousted Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos. The estimated 3,000 pairs of shoes belonging to the first lady, Imelda Marcos, have become the stuff of legend. The huge marble palace, crystal chandeliers and brocade wallpaper of Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu

were dismantled by mobs, and revealed to the world.

Of course, those who storm the fortresses also help themselves to the booty. This kind of "soft vandalism" brings a thrill to many protestors because "it represents a fundamental sense of victory," says Michael Kugelmann, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington DC. This looting is not just about economic gain. "The objects found in Gonobhaban are suffused with the aura of power, a power that until that moment seemed all-encompassing, invincible. In touching, destroying, or pilfering these objects, the crowds saw themselves as partaking of a power that until then was elusive. In other words, these objects are now fetishes," says Chowdhury.

The Bangladesh uprising was one of the most documented events of its kind. Official narratives were belied by thousands of TikTok videos and YouTube shorts, which were like a visual archive of the violence inflicted on protestors.

says Chowdhury. As the Hasina regime clung on to power, security forces fired at protesting crowds from helicopters. This fuelled greater rage, including targeting anything linked to Hasina, her party or family, says Kugelmann.

In Dhaka, protestors defaced and took down a statue of Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. "Personally, I find these attacks distasteful and short-sighted," says Naomi Hossain, a SOAS professor. "Young people do get over-excited and try to show their passion by destroying symbols that matter to others, as we have seen in recent years in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya, Europe and North America," she adds. But this iconoclasm is part of the moment, say others. "In Bangladesh, all governmental and non-governmental establishments were forced to display portraits of the PM and her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This, along with the fact that any criticism of the PM or her father was deemed criminal, made this moment of 'release' historical," says Chowdhury.

Far more concerning are the reports of attacks on religious minorities and Awami League supporters, says Hossain. While the picture is still blurry, and it's also been blamed on the Awami League's youth militia, even as the BNP and Jamaat try to present themselves as reformed actors, "a tiny minority of bad actors still wants violence, and seem to be armed, organised, and very dangerous," she says. A popular uprising cannot be exactly planned, wrote Ryszard Kapuscinski, a reporter who chronicled many global turning points, from Iran to Ethiopia. "The hour of that outbreak takes everyone, even those who have been striving for it, unawares... It demolishes so ruthlessly that in the end it may annihilate the ideals that called it into being."

Haathi & saathi: What animals can teach us about luv, shuv, shaadi

Amid a backdrop of icy grey acacia trees, four elephants stood in a trance. A female recognisable by the geometric planes of her head and three bull elephants. Perched on the bouncing seats of a khaki jeep, I had stumbled upon a primeval mating ritual. The elephants moved slowly. Approaches. Rejections. Swiping right and left with their trunks. The mating was short-lived and clumsy. Like a section of Indian men, bull elephants also seem to believe that if two minutes are good enough for Maggi noodles, then it's good enough for them. Our safari guide, who could be mistaken for Shikari Shambu, informed us that the elephants would mate several times over the next few days and then go their own way. The resulting calf would be raised by a herd of predominantly female elephants.

This was a common phenomenon among the mammals I spotted in Tanzania: lionesses protecting their cubs and tiny wildebeests running alongside their moms and aunts. Communities of females raising their young, with males either absent, or wandering in and out without doing much of the heavy lifting. I found it intriguing how we humans evolved from these collective structures into units of two and decided that our mating rituals had to include both monogamy and matrimony. Why did we confine ourselves in a 2BHK, hum-do-hamare-do cage? And if marriage is about everlasting love, why does it seem to run out faster than an Eveready battery?

A little digging into history brought up a startling fact. The concept of marriage had initially nothing to do with love but was due to the advent of agriculture. When we were nomads, it didn't matter if the child you were carrying was Sharma ji's from the neighbouring cave or that foolish Desai's who was scared of the rain. Then came farming, and land became an ownable commodity. Men needed to ensure that only their biological children would inherit their assets. Enter wedlock, a mechanism to tie down a woman by making the prosperity of her children dependent on her monogamy. Only around the 18th century did luv, shuv and all the bheja fry that entailed enter the fray.

While a marriage does have its chafing issues, it has some surprising medical advantages. A recent paper published in the Annals of Behavioural Medicine found that people who never married were twice as likely to die early as those in solid marriages. It's men, though, who seem to wither away without partners, while women tend to put on their lipstick and just get on with it. There is also enough research that shows raising a family with a reliable partner has definite advantages over being a single parent. But how do you sleep next to a partner when, at least twice a week, you are overcome with the urge to strangle them — and that's not counting the times when their snoring is louder than the baboons chattering outside your tent. While philosophers and self-help gurus dissect human nature, I chose to focus on nature itself, observing the techniques animals use as their survival often hinges on a delicate balance of cooperative hunting strategies and symbiotic relationships.

1. Hyena's Hustle: Hyenas don't battle with lions for a share of the kill. They approach stealthily and run away with a juicy bit. Instead of constant confrontations, perhaps sometimes we should just resort to trick-

ery. When your partner starts singing Punjabi songs at ear-shattering decibels, asking him to stop may become a battle of freedom like he is Gandhi ji fighting for swaraj. Instead distract him with questions like, "What was that movie we saw that day with that guy? It was on Netflix, remember?" While his mind does multiple cartwheels, enjoy the blissful silence.

2. Bonhomie of Baboons: I watched baboons grooming each other and playing together. These creatures tend to live in large groups where females make lifelong bonds. After entering a relationship, women especially tend to concentrate primarily on their partners. Focus is a

Mrs. Funnybones



TWINKLE KHANNA

er and playing together. These creatures tend to live in large groups where females make lifelong bonds. After entering a relationship, women especially tend to concentrate primarily on their partners. Focus is a



Illustrations: Chad Crowe

dangerous thing if directed only in one direction. It's how a magnifying glass sees paper on fire. Perhaps we are better off strengthening our social network like baboons. Basically, keep your man close but your girlfriends even closer.

3. Giraffe's Gaze: Giraffes seem to be eternally scanning the landscape. In relationships as well, it's better to look through a wide angle instead of a zoom lens. Your partner's poor jokes and preference for mummy's rajma can feel like significant grievances in the moment but fade away a week later.

4. Hint from Hippos: Hippos communicate through grunts, roars, and sprays of water. Our guide told us that these signals convey their moods and avoid conflicts within their group. Communication in a marriage is often not about what you are saying but how you present it. I have a friend who, whether she is asking her husband to empty the bin or share her biryani, always begins



by calling him 'baby'. I used to laugh at her in our twenties but looking at them still going strong three decades later, I have to say that effective communication is the true Fevicol ka Jod.

5. Cheetah's Composure: Cheetahs are gifted with speed, but they wait and go for the kill only when the time is right. Instead of getting into heated discussions over whose turn it was to take your kid shopping for sneakers and why dirty clothes are on the floor, wait till you both have downed a glass of wine or whatever beverage helps you see the world through rose-tinted glasses. Then, when your partner, like the grazing impala, has his guard down, launch your attack.

On our last game drive, we saw another herd, with a solitary bull elephant walking far ahead of the females with calves. The bull elephant had my husband's sympathies. "Poor guy, he is all alone." I was more focused on how the male could wander off as he pleased, while the females had to take care of the young. That, I suppose, is marriage in a nutshell — two people looking at the same scenario with different interpretations and then bickering over what is right, and often these days, why right is wrong and left is right.

Driving back to camp that evening, the guide pointed out a pair of birds called tik-tik who are so devoted to each other that when one dies, the other sometimes kills itself by eating poisonous grass. I told my husband, "Acha, if I die first, you better eat poisonous grass too. If I see your second wife walking around with my handbags, I promise I will come and haunt you both."

He shook his head and replied, "I want to eat that poisonous grass right now, at least then I won't have to listen to all this nonsense." Then he swatted a mosquito on my arm, the human equivalent of baboons delousing each other. We continued engaging in the complex choreography of cooperation, affection and mutual tolerance as our jeep raced against the setting sun.

No ruffing it! How AC first class became the 'kutton ka dabba'

The premium coach is a howling success with pet parents who don't want to park their furry babies in plane cargo holds and train luggage vans

Mohua Das & Manthan K Mehta | TNN

Alady, slightly flustered and with her excitable cocker spaniel in tow, was recently navigating the Bombay Central platform in search of the first-class coach. Desperate for directions, she stopped a coolie for help, who responded with a knowing nod, "Oh, you mean 'kutton ka dabba'?" Confused, she corrected him, "No, no, AC first class!" Unfazed, the coolie insisted, "Haan wohi toh... kutton ka dabba!"

And just like that, the elite class had earned an unexpected nickname among train attendants. And why not? The AC first-class two-berth coupes or four-berth cabins have quickly become the preferred ride for passengers with tails and their dotting owners, given that they make for a stress-free alternative to the nerve-wracking options available otherwise.

Not that there are too many choices. In trains, none of the other coaches allow pets in the compartments. They can only be carried in a dog box in the second-class luggage and a brake van (SLR), while currently, only a few airlines like Air India and Akasa, allow domestic pets — dogs and cats — in the cabin. However, the combined weight of the pet and its container must

not exceed 7 kg and heavier ones must be transported in the cargo compartment as baggage.

Ranju Panicker credits his her first-class train journeys from Delhi to Bengaluru to her feline trio, Coffee, Chase and Yoshi. "Not fat-shaming, but my furry babies are way over that limit. There's no way I was sending them in cargo," she laughs.

Prashi Chaturvedi recounts her journey from Mathura to Mumbai on the August Kranti Rajdhani Express with her parents and their indie dog, Ginger. "We were three of us but secured an extra ticket in the four-berth cabin," she says. "It was a breeze. We just needed to show up 90 minutes early and take the dog to the luggage booking department where they weighed it, checked for vaccinations and for around Rs 200, Ginger had his ticket. He could roam around, and we could even take him for quick walks at station stops," she says, waving off flights as a "nightmare".

Flying can be challenging for dogs, especially elderly ones or those with health or behavioural issues. Aircrafts make for loud noises, bright lights, crowds and rapid changes in air pressure and cabin temperature while for pets relegated to the second-class luggage van on trains or the cargo hold on flights, the experience can be even more daunting, separated from their beloved owners and placed in an unfamiliar environment for hours.

Western Railway's chief public relations officer Vineet Abhishek says, "Many passengers find train travel less stressful because it offers ample space for movement and allows pets to stay in a familiar environment with their owners, which significantly reduces anxiety."

Aarushi Bhaumik, who recently moved from



Mumbai to Coimbatore, knows this all too well having tried out all the options with her canine companions, Dobbie and Ghost. "Dobbie's like my kid," she says, reminiscing about her first big trip together with the indie — who she found on a fateful night under her building — for a post-pandemic escapade to Goa with friends in September 2021.

"Because of my travel companions and budget constraints, I booked myself in the general compartment and had to put Dobbie in the brake van," she says. It's an experience she vows never to repeat. "It was traumatic for her. The coach was miles away, so I was unable to comfort her through the journey. The train was loud, dark, and dingy and by morning when we reached, she was too scared to step out."

Determined to spare Dobbie from further distress, Bhaumik opted for a two-berth coupe on her return journey, despite the higher cost almost bordering plane

PAWSOME PASSENGERS: Mridula Iyengar and Noor (above) have taken three train trips, while Ranju Panicker's cats have made their way from Delhi to Bengaluru in first-class

TRAVELLING IN STYLE

PET PASSENGERS IN AC FIRST CLASS SEE SURGE

Western Railways

2021-2022 1,404
2023-2024 2,307
64% rise

Central Railways

2021-2022 570
2023-2024 719
26% rise

Source: Railway data

AS PARIS OLYMPICS DRAWS TO A CLOSE, A LOOK AT ITS FIVE VIRAL STARS

1 THE NAME IS BOND

South Korean pistol shooter **Kim Ye-ji** not only won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol women's event, but also countless fans for her style. An all-black attire, a cap turned around, futuristic gaming-like glasses and a savage demeanor catapulted her to internet fame. Some said the 31-year-old looked straight out of a James Bond film, while others drew manga versions of her icy cool avatar.

2 HITMAN-NEXT-DOOR

Turkish shooter **Yusuf Dikec** became an online sensation for quite the opposite reason. Unlike Ye-ji, Dikec looked as if he was going for a walk in the park, with one hand tucked in his pocket. There was no fancy gear, only a T-shirt and a pair of everyday glasses. The everydayness of his style led to wild speculations, including jokes about him being a retired hitman on one final mission: winning an Olympic medal.

3 SIZE MATTERS

Not even in his wildest dreams could French pole-vaulter **Anthony Ammirati** have predicted the reason he'd become one of the most talked about athletes in Paris. His attempts to clear the pole took a rather awkward turn when he missed the height and accidentally hit the pole with his bulging crotch before falling to the ground. Later, it was clarified that his failure to qualify was due to his knees touching the pole first, not his private parts. But by then, clips of the moment had gone viral, Ammirati's social media followers had shot up, and an adult entertainment company even made him a \$250,000 job offer!



4 TT GRANNY

It's never too late to make your dreams come true. That's what table tennis player **Zeng Zhiying** reminded everyone as she made Olympic debut at the age of 58. Nearly four decades after she missed out on being selected to represent China in 1984, Zeng qualified as part of the Chile team. Even though she lost in the opening round, 'table tennis Grandma' earned a lot of affection.



5 CLARK KENT 2.0

In a discipline focused on physique, US gymnast **Stephen Nedorock**, now dubbed the Pommele Horse guy, became an overnight sensation for something else: his nerdy demeanor. The bespectacled 25-year-old, who has a disease that renders his eyes permanently dilated, solved the Rubik's Cube about 100 times to prepare for the final. Before executing a medal-winning performance he took off his glasses, drawing comparisons to a Clark Kent-to-Superman transformation.



Improve potato supply: Odisha CM to Mamata amid shortage

Bhubaneswar: Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday spoke to his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee and requested her to improve potato supply.

During a telephonic conversation, Majhi said the supply of potatoes to Odisha had improved after their meeting in New Delhi, but now the situation deteriorated again.

"Banerjee has assured him of appropriate steps to resolve the issue," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

The Odisha CM dialled Banerjee after the West Bengal Police allegedly installed CCTV cameras in border villages to check unauthorised transportation of potatoes to Odisha. Odisha gov't has started selling potatoes at Rs 100 for 3 kg in retail shops across the state under the public distribution system (PDS).

Odisha food supply and consumer welfare minister K C Patra on Sunday said potatoes have been sent to various places in the state through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

Odisha has been facing an acute potato crisis after West Bengal stopped the transportation of the tuber.

Bengalis labelled Bangladeshis, attacked in Odisha: Didi to Majhi

Odisha DGP: No Major Violence, Will Take Action

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata/Bhubaneswar: Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee contacted Sunday her Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi, urging his intervention following reports of Bengali-speaking workers being assaulted and labelled as "Bangladeshis" by local vigilante groups in his state.

Four videos surfaced on social media over the past 24 hours, purportedly showing attacks on Bengali-speaking people in Odisha.

Attacks were reported from Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, and Sambalpur districts in Odisha, where locals confronted Bengali-speaking workers, demanding proof of their Indian citizenship. In one video, a hawk from Bengal's Ranaghat was assaulted in Kendrapada for not having a physical Aadhaar card, despite showing a digital copy. An attacker is heard saying that he was a Bangladeshi.

Another clip shows a



Bangladeshi Hindus hold a protest rally condemning atrocities committed against them, in Dhaka on Sunday

man suffer a head injury after being attacked on suspicion of being a Bangladeshi. In Sambalpur, over 30 Bengali-speaking workers were taken to Ainthapali police station but were released after their Indian citizenship was verified.

Banerjee requested Majhi to ensure the safe return of any workers wishing to leave Odisha. In response, Odisha gov't instructed police to remain vigilant against attacks on Bengali-speaking people suspected of being illegal immigrants.

Odisha DGP Arun Sarangi said: "There was no major violence and police have acted promptly on isolated inci-

dents of Bengali-speaking people being targeted. Action will be taken against the guilty as per law."

Bengal Migrant Welfare Board has launched a helpline (18001030009) for those facing such attacks. Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam, who heads the board, urged affected people to seek assistance through the helpline.

The alleged attacks stemmed from fears that Bangladeshi refugees have illegally entered Odisha amidst the upheaval in the neighbouring nation that saw the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's gov't and the formation of an interim administration Thursday.

11 Bangladeshis held in WB, NE for illegal entry

New Delhi/Kolkata: Eleven Bangladeshis have been arrested for illegally entering India. Border Security Force (BSF) said on Sunday.

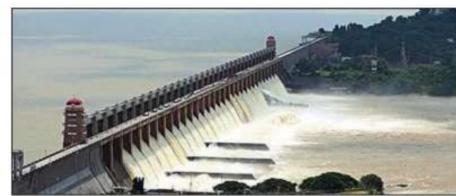
"Two each were apprehended at West Bengal and Tripura borders, while seven were caught at Meghalaya border. We have not yet ascertained or confirmed their political affiliations, but all are from Bangladesh," said BSF's South Bengal Frontier in Kolkata.

After preliminary questioning, they will be handed over to the respective state police for further legal action, a BSF spokesperson stated.

An Awami League student wing functionary, arrested by the BSF at the Bengal border on Saturday, was produced before Murshidabad's Jangipur court for crossing the border without valid papers. BSF has thwarted several infiltration attempts and sent back thousands of Bangladeshis in recent days with the assistance of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). TNN/AGENCIES

Dam gate gives way, puts lakhs in K'taka, Andhra at flood risk

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN



Water gushes out of the 71-year-old dam on the Tungbhadra river

Munirabad (Koppal): Lakhs of people in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh braced for potential flooding after the 19th crest gate of the 71-year-old dam across the Tungbhadra river failed Sunday afternoon. The dam, about 350km from Bengaluru, saw water gushing out after the gate gave way, putting downstream districts in north Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool and Nandyal on high alert.

The Tungbhadra dam, inaugurated in 1953 with a maximum storage capacity of 133TMCFT (thousand million cubic feet), had 100TMCFT of water as of Saturday, with the remaining 33TMCFT being silt. Of the 33 crest gates at the dam, 22 were opened Saturday evening, releasing nearly 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river.

Districts downstream of dam, including those in AP, have been put on high alert. Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar visited the site to assess the situation. "On Saturday night, 40,000 cusecs of water was being released into Tungbhadra river through 10 crest gates. At 12.50am, the 19th gate malfunctioned, causing a huge flow of water into the river," he said.

(Inputs from Samdani MN in Vijayawada)

'Extreme rainfall' risks to rise for India: Study

Pune: Extreme rainfall events in India may see a significant rise by the end of this century with the Western Ghats and central India likely to be most affected, reports Naha Madaan.

An Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) study published recently in 'Nature' attributed the likely rise to high carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. It also indicated increased risks for the eastern coastal region and foothills of the Himalayas.

Areas experiencing extremely heavy rainfall during long-duration extreme events are likely to increase by 18% by years 2071-2100 compared to 1982-2014. Currently about 8% of India's land area sees such

extreme rainfall. Intensity of extreme rainfall thresholds are projected to rise by 58% under high carbon dioxide emission scenario.

The study projects a two-fold increase in long-duration extreme events (lasting 3-6 days) compared to short-duration events. Such prolonged wet spells can have a socio-economic impact.

IITM scientist Jasti S Chowdhary said, "By the end of the century, we project that the total number of days with extreme rainfall could rise to nine days per year for long-duration events, up from about four days now. In the far future, monsoon rainfall is projected to increase by 6% and 21%, respectively, under moderate and high scenarios."

Natwar: From Cong's 'charmed circle' to persona non grata

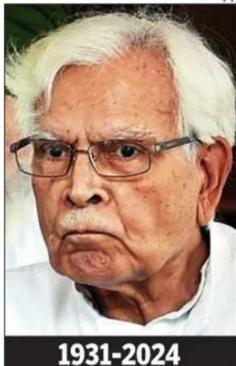
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: He could have been anything and he did become everything. A royal who wore many hats and a diplomat who was witty and also excelled at arts and letters. A politician who had the free pass as someone "close" to four generations of the Gandhi family, starting with Nehru. Natwar Singh achieved so much and more, that his death could have been a glowing celebration across partisan lines.

But when Singh did depart at the ripe age of 93, he was remembered as a bitter man who had a sad falling out with the Gandhi family, with a cloud of corruption over his head, and his counter charges against Congress and its leadership. And, as a man who shook hands with "communal forces" out of personal pique.

Singh's journey from Congress towards BJP dominated his obituaries, when the man could have been toasted just for the breadth of his experiences, nicely compressed in his book 'Profiles and Letters' about his elite acquaintances, that included EM Forster and Rajagopalachari.

Singh was a member of the Congress's "charmed circle", since he joined politics and became an MP and minister in 1984, after a rich life as diplomat of IFS who had served key postings in China, the US, Pakistan



1931-2024

and the UK. He was close to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and then to Sonia Gandhi. But the dominant and defining chapter of his life came with the Volcker Report and the allegations about his having benefitted from 'Oil for Food' programme of the UN by using his acquaintance with then Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein. That sparked a furore under the initial days of the UPA gov't led by Manmohan Singh. Interestingly, the timing of the case in 2001 was when Congress was in the opposition and Singh was the head of the party's foreign affairs cell.

Aniel Matherani, who in 2005 was ambassador to Croatia, and two other Congressmen were said to have gone to Iraq as

part of the party delegation. Matherani laid the blame on Singh, and "corroborated" the allegations that the veteran had laid the ground for benefitting his son and son's friend. Singh contested the claims and pointed out that Congress too was named in the annexures of the Volcker report.

Singh left the gov't and the party, and quickly turned into a paraiah. The Justice RS Pathak Committee was, as was reported, said to have fixed the responsibility with Singh. He always countered the view and insisted that he had been exonerated, as per his interviews and press reports.

From charmed circle to persona non grata, Singh lived his later years with bitterness, his comments about Sonia Gandhi, and even bars at other members of the family betraying his peeve. On Sunday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge paid tributes to Singh, writing on X: "Our deepest condolences on the passing away of Former Union minister K Natwar Singh. An acclaimed intellectual and a Padma Bhushan recipient, he made a profound contribution to India's diplomacy and external affairs. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and followers."

Praising his personality and achievements, Jairam Ramesh said, "He was truly someone who has left behind his 'footprints on the sands of time'."

Twin-seater aircraft on test flight crashes, 2 pilots injured

Bhopal: Two-seater Cessna 152 aircraft, that took off for a test flight at Madhya Pradesh's Guna airport around 1pm Sunday, crash landed at the same place around 40 minutes later, injuring its two pilots. Both are reportedly out of danger, Cantt police officials said.

Preliminary reports suggest engine failure caused the crash. A detailed probe will be carried out by aviation officials, said Guna tehsildar GS Bairwa.

The injured, Captain V Chandra Thakur and pilot Nagesh Kumar, are from Hyderabad and getting treated at a local hospital.

The aircraft belonged to Belgaum Aviation Training Institute, Karnataka, and was brought to Guna's Sha-Shib Academy for testing and maintenance. TNN

Maratha quota protesters halt Pawar's convoy, activist tries self-immolation

Abhijeet.Patil@timesofindia.com

Kolhapur: NCP-SCP chief Sharad Pawar faced the ire of Maratha activists who halted his convoy in Kurduvadi in Maharashtra's Solapur district and later an activist tried self-immolation during his rally in Barshi on Sunday.

The activists demanded Pawar to clear his stance on Maratha reservation. They let him go after he expressed support for their cause. However, barely five minutes into his 20-minute speech at Barshi, Maratha activists started shouting slogans — "Ek Maratha Lakh Maratha, Manoj Jarange Tum Aage Bado Hum Tumhare Saath Hai" — and waved black flags. Pawar paused briefly before resuming his speech, highlighting farmers' issues.

Soon after, a Maratha activist doused himself with petrol at the rally. Policemen standing nearby intervened quickly, extinguishing the flames.



NCP-SCP president Sharad Pawar and Congress' Sushilkumar Shinde during a rally in Solapur district on Sunday

They later took him into custody.

Pawar alleged that PM Narendra Modi failed to fulfill his promise of doubling the farmers' income. "Instead, the rate of farmer suicides has doubled. Farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce," said Pawar.

Phone, WhatsApp hacked, claims Sule

NCP-SCP MP Supriya Sule has alleged that her phone and WhatsApp have been hacked. In a post on X on Sunday, the Baramati legislator requested



people not to call or message her. "My phone and WhatsApp have been hacked. Please do not message or call me. Please note that I am filing a police complaint," Sule wrote. According to a source close to the NCP-SCP functionary, a police complaint regarding the hacking was lodged online. PTI

He also accused the PM of neglecting youth issues. "They have no jobs. They are in depression which may plunge the economy in depression," said Pawar.

After 5 yrs in jail, man cleared of daughter's 'rape'

Dehradun: The additional district judge of a special Pocos court in Dehradun acquitted a 42-year-old man, who had been accused of raping his 15-year-old daughter and had spent the past five years in jail, after it was found that he had been falsely incriminated by the girl since he objected to her bunking school and associating with a boy, reports Panik Sharma. Upon scrutinising the evidence and hearing witnesses, the court discovered that the girl's beau had instigated her to implicate her father in a fabricated rape case.

A case was registered on Dec 25, 2019 based on a complaint filed by Child Welfare Committee (CWC), in

FALSE CHARGES

which the committee members said that "the girl had told them about sexual abuse by her father and her younger sister also supported her claim". The man, who worked as a laundryman in Dehradun, was arrested and sent to jail on Dec 27.

During the investigation, police recovered some letters written by the girl to her boyfriend. She later confessed during cross-questioning that she was in love with a boy who instigated her to lodge a false complaint with CWC.

The girl also admitted to being upset with her father due to his disapproval of her relationship with the boy and skipping school.

Furthermore, during the trial, the doctor informed the court that the girl's medical reports came negative, and it could not be confirmed that she had been raped. After reviewing the evidence, the court declared the man innocent and issued an acquittal order last week.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION - 2024
(For the Wards of Kashmiri Migrants into Professional and Technical Institutions)

1. Applications are invited from the wards of Kashmiri Migrants for admission into 1st year Engineering / MBA and MCA Courses offered in Professional and Technical Institutions in Telangana.

2. Eligibility: As per G.O.Rt.No.151 Higher Education (TE) Department, Dated: 25-06-2018

a. Last date for receiving of applications: 19-08-2024
b. Physical Counselling and Issuance of Allotment orders: 23-08-2024

For Further details visit: <https://teapcet.nic.in>
Date: 08-08-2024, Place: Hyderabad
R.O. No.: 318/PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 08-08-2024
Sd/- A. Sridevasena, IAS
CTE & Convenor 2024

TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender through e-procurement platform at <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app> as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal (SHIP) - 168 Dated: 08.08.2024 for time chartering of One Self-Trimming Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TNPCL.

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Date & time for submission of e-tender
1	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX / KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAIDAYS FROM 1st OCT to 15th OCT 2024 FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS + 3 MONTHS CHOPTION + 1 MONTH CHOPTION +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION.		22.08.2024 Upto 14:30 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app>
Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification: 17:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2024
Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification: 14:30 Hrs on 22.08.2024

Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website www.tangedco.com.in, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. www.tenders.tn.gov.in and from National Informatics Centre website <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app> free of cost. Tender will be opened. Through the NIC portal <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app>
DIPR/2911/Tender/2024 CHEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TNPCL / CHENNAI - 2

LUCKNOW SMART CITY LIMITED
(CIN: U74999UP2015SGC085631)
Regd. Office: ICCB Building, In front of Lalbagh Girls Inter College, B.N. Road, Lucknow - 226001
e-mail: lkosmartcity@gmail.com

NIT No: 260/GM/P/LSCL/24-25 Date: 10.08.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
SELECTION OF AN AGENCY FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTRE AND OTHER FACILITY AT ALIGANJ SECTOR - B

Lucknow Smart City Limited invites online Request for Proposals from reputed firms for "Selection of an Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Senior Citizen Community & Recreation Centre and other Facility at Aliganj Sector - B, under Smart City Mission".

Tender document with all other details can be downloaded from www.etender.up.nic.in from 12.08.2024.

The last date for submission of bids is 02.09.2024 till 1500 hrs. Technical Bids will be opened on 02.09.2024 at 1630 hrs.

For all further corrigendum/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit www.etender.up.nic.in.

GENERAL MANAGER (PROJECT)

ASRTU
ASRTU BHAWAN PLOT NO.4-A, PSP Block
Pkt.14, Sec.-8, Dwarka NEW DELHI-110 077
Ph. 011-43294294 Extn. 404/414

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID
NIT NO. 2/2024 - 269' SC (S&C)

A	Tender Commencement Date	12/08/2024 11 00 Hrs
B <td>Tender Forms request Last Date</td> <td>10/09/2024 11 00 Hrs</td>	Tender Forms request Last Date	10/09/2024 11 00 Hrs
C <td>Tender Closing Date (CAT-1 e-submission)</td> <td>11/09/2024 1100 Hrs</td>	Tender Closing Date (CAT-1 e-submission)	11/09/2024 1100 Hrs
D <td>Tender Closing Date (CAT-2 Manual submission)</td> <td>11/09/2024 1700 Hrs</td>	Tender Closing Date (CAT-2 Manual submission)	11/09/2024 1700 Hrs

Cost of Tender form including GST Rs 3,540/- to be paid only at www.tenderwizard.com/ASRTU for more details of Tender Notice Visit www.asrtu.org

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162
Date: 08/08/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 91240873A; Thrust Carrying Piece, Drg. No: 3TWD.096.037 ALT-5, Spec. No: IS: 10192-1982, GR. EP3, STR NO: CLW/TM/17030 REV-1. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 1140.00 Numbers; ₹ 0.00; 31/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243850; (i) Set of Stainless Steel Hardware Items consisting of 35 Items for WAG-9HC As per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/040, Alt-15. [Each set is a Loco set consisting of 35 items as per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (ii) Stainless Steel Hardware items for ELAAU/DRAE as per Drg./Specn. no. CLW/MS/3/040 Alt.15. [Each set is a Loco set consisting of 26 items as per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]; (i) 856.00 Set, (ii) 90.00 Set; ₹ 119830.00; 02/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243746A; Modified Hand Brake Assembly [Gear Type] for WAG-9HC to RD50 Drg. No: SKEL-4993 Alt-0, SKEL-4998 Alt-0, SKEL-4999 Alt-1, SKEL-5000 Alt-0, SKEL-5001 Alt-0, SKEL-5002 Alt-1. [01 (One) Set consisting of 06 (Six) items as per Set Details attached] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 390.00 Set; ₹ 76290.00; 02/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. PR3/579 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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Government of India, Ministry of Railways

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) No.04/2024

Recruitment of the various posts of Paramedical categories

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the various posts of Paramedical categories in the table below. The last date for submission of application is 16.09.2024. Application (complete in all respect) must be submitted ONLINE ONLY.

Opening date of application : 17.08.2024
Closing date for Submission of Application : 16.09.2024

Name of the Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Initial Pay (₹)	Medical Standard	Age as on 01.01.2025	Total Vacancies (All RRBs)
Dietician (Level 7)	7	44900	C2	18-36	05
Nursing Superintendent	7	44900	C1	20-43	713
Audiologist & Speech Therapist	6	35400	B1	21-33	04
Clinical Psychologist	6	35400	B1	18-36	07
Dental Hygienist	6	35400	C2	18-36	03
Dialysis Technician	6	35400	B1	20-36	20
Health & Malaria Inspector Gr III	6	35400	C1	18-36	126
Laboratory Superintendent	6	35400	B1	18-36	27
Perfusionist	6	35400	B1	21-43	02
Physiotherapist Grade II	6	35400	C1	18-36	20
Occupational Therapist	6	35400	C1	18-36	02
Cath Laboratory Technician	6	35400	B1	18-36	02
Pharmacist (Entry Grade)	5	29200	C2	20-38	246
Radiographer X-Ray Technician	5	29200	B1	19-36	64
Speech Therapist	5	29200	B1	18-36	01
Cardiac Technician	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
Optometrist	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
ECG Technician	4	25500	C1	18-36	13
Laboratory Assistant Grade II	3	21700	B1	18-36	94
Field Worker	2	19900	C2	18-33	19
Grand Total					1376

"This includes a relaxation of 3 years in age beyond the prescribed age limit as a one-time measure due to the Covid-19 pandemic".

For further details, please refer to the detailed centralized Employment Notice (CEN) No. 04/2024 available on the official websites of all participating Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) listed below.

Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No.04/2024

Ahmedabad www.rbahmedabad.gov.in	Chennai www.rbchennai.gov.in	Muzaffarpur www.rbmuzaffarpur.gov.in
Ajmer www.rbjmer.gov.in	Gorakhpur www.rbgkp.gov.in	Patna www.rbpna.gov.in
Bengaluru www.rbbnc.gov.in	Guwahati www.rbguwahati.gov.in	Prayagraj www.rbbal.gov.in
Bhopal www.rbbhopal.gov.in	Jammu- Srinagar www.rbbjammu.nic.in	Ranchi www.rbranchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar www.rbbbs.gov.in	Kolkata www.rbbkolkata.gov.in	Secunderabad www.rbbsecunderabad.gov.in
Bilaspur www.rbbilaspur.gov.in	Malda www.rbbmalda.gov.in	Siliguri www.rbbiliguri.gov.in
Chandigarh www.rbbcdg.gov.in	Mumbai www.rbbmumbai.gov.in	Thiruvananthapuram www.rbbthiruvananthapuram.gov.in

This notification is purely indicative in nature. Candidates are required to go through the Post Parameter Table and Vacancy Table of detailed CEN No.04/2024 to ascertain their eligibility before applying through ONLINE mode. Any Corrigendum/addendum/Important Notice related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be issued time to time on the above websites of RRBs only.

No. RRB/MFP/Advt./CEN 04/2024(Paramedical)/2
Date : 12.08.2024

Chairpersons
Railway Recruitment Board (RRBs)

A free primary care physician for every Indian available 24x7 and a free tutor for every child is doable in 2-to-5 years

Between the perils of tomorrow and the promise of tomorrow, Vinod Khosla has always bet on the latter. That's why billionaire founder of Khosla Ventures, who describes himself as a 'techno-optimist with caring & empathy', is busy convincing the world of an AI-powered future that can be good for all. Among the first investors in Open AI — and several Indian AI startups — Khosla spoke to Rohit Saran, Sujit John and Surojit Gupta of TOI on a host of issues ranging from AI to startups to Muhammad Yunus and Elon Musk. Here's an edited excerpt:

You have been one of the early investors in OpenAI. You have also invested in AI startups in India. As a longtime technologist and tech investor what are your views on AI and the opportunities it offers?

Let's look at a couple of different aspects of AI. From the national security point of view, govts want to be in control of their AI destiny, not be dependent on foreign algorithms.

This is why we invested in Sarvam in India. Because India should have a national AI champion. We have invested in a company called Sakana in Japan. Japan has already announced doubling of its national defence budget. They made it clear that AI be a Japanese AI, so they have control over it. Sovereignty and AI are important at a level people don't quite understand.

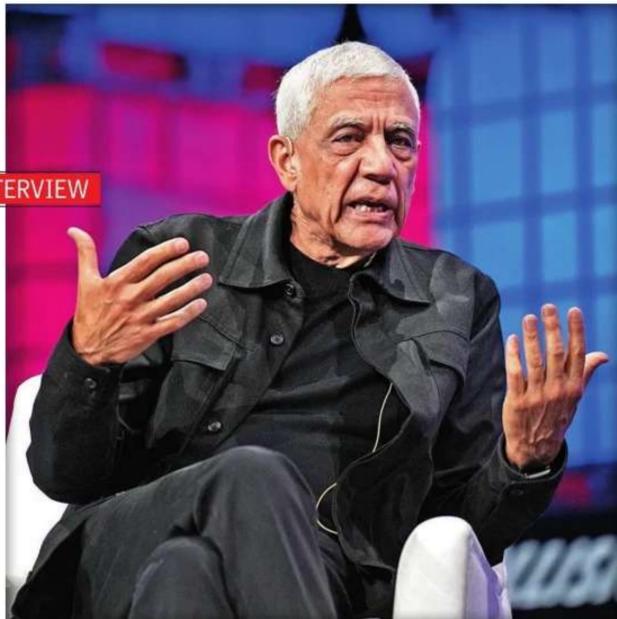
I would like to see a primary care physician for every Indian, available 24/7, for free as part of the set of digital services the govt offers. Aadhaar was the first example of such a service. The hardest part of that service was identity, and that's already done. With UPI payments are done too. There's no reason not to add other digital services — the two most important ones are a free tutor for every child and a free primary care doctor for every citizen of the country.

I would like to send a clear message to the Indian govt that AI educators, AI teachers for every child in India would cost far, far less than today's schools and provide much more personalised instruction. Similarly, AI primary care doctors could scale primary care and health far better than any other way. None of these are hard technologies in today's context of AI, and we are working on both. If the Indian govt wanted to take and offer it as their service, we would give them all the technology for free. There's no agenda here. I'd give them all the technology for free, so it becomes a govt service, and nobody has any questions about what the agenda is, other than these services should be available to every Indian and every Indian child and even adult education. It's very, very doable in the very short-term, and I mean two-to-five years max.

“If the govt wants to take and offer it as their service, we'd give all the technology for free”

Where does one start? What would be the roles for the govt, private sector?

My wife is in India right now, talking about our free AI tutor (CK-12 tutor). One way is to just take it over. It's used in many countries already. It's being translated into 120 different languages. I'm fine if they develop it inside India and take it over and have a starting point that's useful today. Kids using

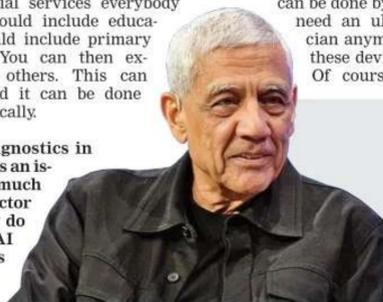


TOI INTERVIEW

this tutor do better. Turns out it's not only cheaper, but also substantially better. It can teach each kid at the level at which they are, in their language, in a way that the kid will understand best. For example, the same physics concept can be explained using the analogy of cricket or dance, depending on which kid understands better with what analogy. You can generate AI explanations in real time, generate the content so it looks more interesting, though it's teaching the same concept. An AI tutor would change the level and method of teaching depending on each student's level of understanding. If they're not keeping up with the class. Teach them in simpler steps, change the language...

I really hope this becomes a national agenda in India. We would give the technology. The content is already there. I think fairly large chunks are translated into the Indian context. It's relatively lightweight to launch it as part of the digital public infrastructure. Digital public infrastructure should include payments, which are basic financial services everybody needs. It should include education. It should include primary healthcare. You can then expand it to others. This can be done, and it can be done philanthropically.

Medical diagnostics in rural areas is an issue, not so much getting a doctor online. How do you think AI can solve this problem?



“An ultrasound can be done by an AI. You don't need an ultrasound technician anymore”

In India we started '10 Bed ICU' during Covid, because ICUs were not available in most parts of rural India. I donated the first couple of 100 to remote areas and we wanted to cover all 700 remote districts in India. It's working really, really well. AI lets you take an unskilled person and teach them very quickly how to do skilled tasks, because the expertise sits in the AI. A 10 Bed ICU is a very simple version of it, typically under the supervision of a regional hospital. A hospital in Manipur would cover the remote areas around it. It's just the beginning of what is really possible.

Yes, if you need an MRI, you are going to go to a city to get an MRI. But for simpler things like even an ultrasound can be done by an AI. You don't need an ultrasound technician anymore. You can buy these devices for Rs 50,000. Of course, there's expen-

“Risk-taking is very different from the financial venture ecosystem in India — it's less risk-taking and more focused on growth investments. I hope we start to get to more fundamental risk-taking in India”

“Do we want farm labourers to be earning (low) farm wages working in 45 degrees centigrade? No, that's not a job. It's servitude, but it's a necessity today...we can change the nature of those jobs”

sive ones too, but small hand-held, portable ones are becoming inexpensive and adapted to the Indian environment. All six lakh, however many villages there are, should have one. In fact, these diagnostics can be put in one van—blood test, ultrasound, ECG...

We have a company called Alivecor that sells ECG machines in the US for \$99. They diagnose without a cardiologist 35 different cardiology conditions with AI. It's FDA approved. Most of cardiology can be done with a simple device, and you don't need expertise, and expertise is what's expensive. The cardiologist is what takes 20 years to train. So, this is the promise that I hope India pivots to rapidly.

India has large youth unemployment and the fear is that AI could worsen it...

This is a real issue. Firstly, you can upgrade the skills of India's youth very quickly with AI. We had a company (that General Electric bought) to teach an Uber driver to do a cardiac ultrasound in a week. It's FDA approved. This is an extension of the idea of an AI tutor, which is where we should start. You can impart skills, which very quickly, can be upgraded so they can participate at a higher level. The countries that do this well will be more competitive than others. Secondly, it's hard to imagine the kind of abundance we can get (in an AI-driven economy). If GDP grows 10% in real terms for the next 25 years, you can imagine the standard of living we can achieve and the kind of surplus we can have to provide income and other support to people for whom transition will be hard. The economy can grow much, much faster, and people can be upskilled much faster. We should think about the transition period. There's very much Utopia at the other end, but there is a transition period, and people will get disrupted.

Are you talking about guaranteed work or guaranteed income?

India has schemes for guaranteed work. I think we will have to get guaranteed income.

Should it be universal basic income?

I think it will be absolutely required. I first wrote about it in 2016 that AI will cause great GDP growth, great productivity growth. I ended that piece by saying, we will need to think about universal basic income. It's very clear to me, it's where it leads, but there will be enough abundance. If we are thinking of the world in 2050 do we want farm labourers to be earning farm wages working in 45 degrees centigrade heat in the fields? No, that's not a job. In my view it's servitude, but it's a necessity today, and if we can change the nature of those jobs then it's a good thing. The notion of GDP creation and GDP acceleration is separate from the notion of distribution in the west. It's a controversial idea... everybody wants low taxes. India is in a much better position to tackle it. Things like guaranteed work schemes were a bad idea from an economist point of view when they were enacted. They may not be a bad idea in the world of AI, because they are really ways for redistributing income.

“We have to find somebody who has a vision and can turn it into a reality. Mukesh Ambani did that with Jio. Sam Altman is doing it with Gen AI. He was a big part of my belief in AI”

How should AI be regulated? There are differing views on this...

I believe there's some right level of regulation. I was very involved in what President Biden did with what's called the 'executive order on AI', and that was the right level to focus it on. The technology is in very early stages. Remember, it was only December of 2022 that ChatGPT was released. It's so new, most people haven't had time to adjust. And, my bet is that in 6-12 months from now, the capability will be substantially better than it is today. Technology is making rapid progress, but, you know, human beings adjust at their pace, and jobs will take a decade or two to adjust. If you look at my robot prediction (over a billion robots that will do most of the low-value labour work done today), it's like creating a business larger than the auto industry globally. How long does that take to put in place? A long time. So, the physical world moves at a different pace, even with technology like robots. We just have to recognise that these things have to be managed and managed closely. Regulation may need to protect certain people.

What do you think about the future of entrepreneurship as an individual

passion, and startup as a business in India?

The venture business in the US is very different what's called the private equity business, which is the investing business, where you run spreadsheets and you calculate rates of return. We just bet on big ideas and we bet on technological risk. India's startup system has been closer to private equity than real risk-taking. If you need a physics invention or an AI algorithm invented, you don't know you can do it when you start. So, risk taking is very different from the financial venture ecosystem in India. It is less risk-taking and more focused on growth investments. I hope we start to get to more fundamental risk taking in India.

Should the govt play a role in setting up a large fund itself?

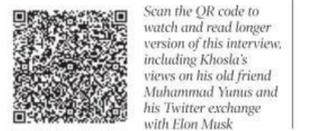
I don't think govts should be in this business. It's too dynamic a business for governments.

You were one of the earliest backers of Sam Altman. What prompted you to invest in Open AI?

Look, there are so many good ideas. People don't try them, and when they try them, you need certain types of special individuals to make them happen. These things don't happen because some academic made a forecast. They happen because one person decides to change things. When Elon Musk said, I will build an electric car, every major automaker in the world had given up on it. In fact, the department of energy here did a forecast for the number of electric cars in 2035, which Elon Musk (Tesla) exceeded in 2016 itself. So, big companies and institutions don't do these things. We have to find somebody, who has a vision and can turn it into a reality. Mukesh Ambani did that with Jio. He said, I will lay fibre... I don't care about the market. Everybody thought it was a stupid \$10 billion investment. He just made it happen. So, it takes individuals, and Sam was a big part of my belief in AI.

Dependence on technology is also creating a lazy workforce at a time when India needs to reap benefits from the demographic dividend...

The one problem technology will not solve is human motivation. If there's an easier way, humans tend to take it. I am not sure we should say technology will solve every problem, because human motivations will not change. They haven't changed for the last 500 years. In the new context, they're presented differently, but personal self-interest has always been the case. Less work and more goods have always been something people strive for.



Scan the QR code to watch and read longer version of this interview, including Khosla's views on his old friend Muhammad Yunus and his Twitter exchange with Elon Musk

Govt moves to ready ground for 5% ethanol mix in diesel

New Delhi: Govt is looking at a new plan of 5% blending of ethanol in diesel (ED-5) as it moves closer to achieving the target of 20% blending in petrol in the next two years, reports Dipak Dash.

The PMO last week held a meeting on the new proposal with all ministries concerned, sources said.

In June, ethanol blending with petrol touched 15.9%. Sources said govt wants to get the ground ready for ethanol blending in diesel. "Though ethanol blending in diesel will mean that we have to produce more of this green fuel, it will be good for the environment and cut our crude oil imports and save foreign exchange," said an official.

TOI has learned that Automotive Research Association of India (ARA) had done a trial run in 2018-19. The trial was done on BS-III and BS-VI buses to assess vehicular performance, emission and durability. The test was conducted for 500 hours and no major failure was recorded. Sources said the pilot project found fuel consumption was slightly lower than normal diesel.

However, the trial of ethanol-blended diesel has so far not been done on BS-VI vehicles. One of the oil PSUs is likely to undertake a trial of the fuel on a heavy-duty vehicle for assessment.

Recently, while replying to a question in RS, petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said blending of ethanol with diesel was at an experimental stage and initial tests showed the formation of deposits in fuel tanks and other implications.

Buchs: 2 firms named by H'burg went dormant when Madhabi joined Sebi

Continued from P1

Adani dismissed the report saying it was "malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions".

Giving a point-by-point rebuttal, Puri Buch and Dhaval, who have had long corporate careers, said the investment in the fund was made when they were both private citizens. The statement pointed out that the Sebi chief had graduated from IIM Ahmedabad and her husband from IIT Delhi before joining the corporate sector. "During this long period, Madhabi and Dhaval have accrued their savings through their salaries, bonuses and stock options. Insinuations about their net worth and investments referencing Madhabi's current govt salary is malicious and motivated," it said seeking to dismiss Hindenburg's claims of the Indian consulting firm set up by her reported revenue that was 4.4 times her disclosed salary at Sebi.

The couple said the decision to invest in the fund was taken two years before Puri Buch joined as a whole-time Sebi member.

"The decision to invest in this fund was because the chief investment officer, Anil Ahuja, is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT-Delhi and, being an ex-employee of Citibank, J.P. Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of a strong investing career. The fact that these were the drivers of the investment decision is borne out by the fact



LENS ON WATCHDOG

that when, in 2018, Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund. As confirmed by Ahuja, at no point in time did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company," their said.

Hindenburg's report had said Ahuja had served as a director on the board of Adani Enterprises, and insinuated irregularities. Sebi said, "Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report."

Separately, 360 One Wam, which ran the fund where the couple had invested, said: "Throughout the fund's tenure, IPE-Plus Fund I made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund... The fund was managed as a discretionary fund by the investment manager. No investor had any involvement in the fund's operations or investment decisions. Mrs Madhabi Buch & Mr Dhaval Buch's holdings in the fund were less

than 1.5% of the total inflow into the fund."

The Adani Group said Ahuja was a nominee director of 3i investment fund in Adani Power (2007-2008) and, later, a director of Adani Enterprises until 2017. "The Adani Group has absolutely no commercial relationship with the individuals or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing. We remain steadfastly committed to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements," the statement said.

In their statement, the Sebi chief and Dhaval said the two consulting companies, named by Hindenburg, were set up while Puri Buch was in Singapore and became immediately dormant on her appointment to the regulatory agency. "These companies (and her shareholding in them) were explicitly part of her disclosures to Sebi... When the shareholding of the Singapore entity moved to Dhaval, this was once again disclosed, not just to Sebi, but also to the Singapore authorities and the Indian tax authorities."

Madhabi's response raises new critical questions: H'burg

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Late Sunday night, Hindenburg Research put out its response to a release by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and husband Dhaval that had called out the US short-seller's Saturday report as an attempt of "character assassination" of the regulatory chief.

Posting on its X account, Hindenburg said that the response from Puri Buch "includes several important admissions and raises numerous new critical questions".

In its release—the second one on Sunday—they had detailed their investments through the offshore investment vehicles. They also said that Hindenburg was served a show cause notice for violations of various laws in India.

In its reply, Hindenburg, among several follow up queries and comments, pointed towards an email by Puri Buch that she sent on behalf of her husband on Feb 25, 2018. "This is especially important given whistleblower documents showing that Buch used her personal email to do business using her husband's name while serving as a whole-time member (WTM) of Sebi," Hindenburg said. "In 2017, weeks ahead of

her appointment as Sebi (WTM), she ensured the accounts with ties to Adani "be registered solely in the name of Dhaval Buch," her husband, per whistleblower documents. "Despite disclaiming control, a private email she sent a year into her Sebi term shows she redeemed stakes in the funds through her husband's name," Hindenburg said.

"This raises the question: What other investments or business has the Sebi chair-

FRESH SALVO

person engaged in through her husband's name while serving in an official capacity?"

The response from Hindenburg also noted that Buch's response now publicly confirmed her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani (elder brother of Gautam Adani). "She also confirmed the fund was run by a childhood friend of her husband, who at the time was an Adani director," it said.

While attaching a screenshot, the short-seller also said that one of the two advisory firms was still generating revenue, despite claims that they were dormant.

Maldives at heart of 'neighbourhood first' policy: EAM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Maldives is very much at the heart of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and a key partner in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), foreign minister S Jaishankar said as he joined his counterpart Moosa Zameer in Addu city in inaugurating the Addu detour link bridge project facilitated by India.

Jaishankar's three-day visit is said to have reaffirmed the continued commitment of both countries to strengthening their multi-dimensional bilateral relationship and deepening their close people-to-people ties. During the visit, both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India-Maldives defence and security partnership.

In the last few years, India has invested around \$220 million which provides a fair idea of the importance that it attaches to regional development in the Maldives, he said. "We are today among the largest trading partners." We're also witnessing greater investment flows from India to the Maldives particularly in the tourism sector," he said. India has partnered with govt of Maldives on the Addu reclamation and shore protection project to find a sustainable way to develop it as a regional hub, he said.

The reclamation of 184 hectares of land was concluded earlier this year. This ambitious \$80 million pro-



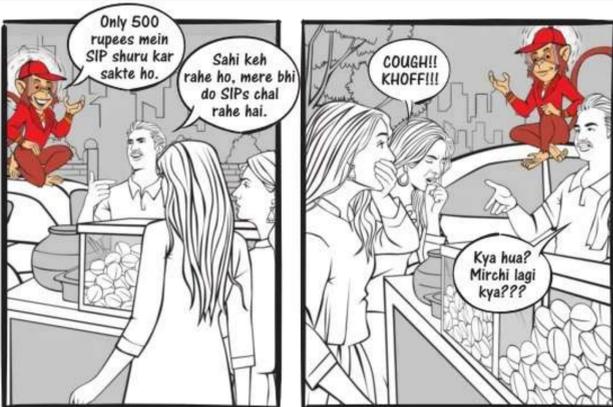
EAM S Jaishankar with Maldives foreign minister Moosa Zameer in Maldives on Sunday

gramme involves land reclamation for the purpose of tourism development, as well as for the overall economic development of Addu. The project will help in the overall growth of the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade.

"Another important project being carried out is the redevelopment of the Addu roads and drainage development with an outlay of \$70 million. This project is in the last phase and once completed, will provide a solution to problems of water logging of roads in Addu," Jaishankar said.

"The Addu detour link road is an important component of this project and will significantly ease connectivity within the atoll," he said. The Maldives, under the Indian LoC, is also undertaking the redevelopment of the Gan International Airport, a connectivity project with an outlay of \$29 million that will bridge the gap between Addu Atoll and the Maldives and the rest of the world.

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Visit <https://grp.hsbc/kyc> w.r.t. one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) process, complaints redressal process including SEBI SCORES (<https://www.scores.gov.in>). Investors should only deal with Registered Mutual Funds, to be verified on SEBI website under Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions (<https://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html>). Investors may refer to the section on Investor Education on the website of HSBC Mutual Fund for the details on all Investor Education and Awareness Initiatives undertaken by HSBC Mutual Fund.

CL 1717

Amara Raja plans to set up battery plant in North India

Divitipally: Battery maker Amara Raja Group, which has entered the race to set up India's first gigafactory after players like Ola and Exide, is looking to set up a 6-million units per annum lead acid battery plant in North India. This is part of efforts to de-risk the business and cater to markets in North and West India better, Group chairman Jayadev Gallia said at the inauguration of its 1.5GWh Li-ion battery plant and groundbreaking of its customer qualification plant for cell manufacturing on Saturday. **TNN**

Sebi: Have mechanisms to fix conflict of interest issues

Regulator Says Chief Recused Herself In Potential Cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi on Sunday said that US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research's latest report was "inappropriate" and that it had "adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest". In its report, Hindenburg has alleged conflicts of interest by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. Sebi has asked investors to take an informed decision before reacting to such reports. "It is emphasised that Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal. It is noted that relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers have been made by the chairperson from time to time. The chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest," Sebi said. Sebi release also, in detail, produced relevant data,

Take Informed Decision Before Reacting: Sebi

Sebi had completed 22 out of 24 investigations into Adani Group. Subsequently, one more investigation was completed in March 2024, and one remaining investigation is close to completion. More than 100 summons, around 1,100 letters and emails have been issued to seek information. Further, more than 100 communications have been made seeking assistance from domestic/foreign regulators and external agencies...

—Sebi's statement in response to Hindenburg's latest report

to deny Hindenburg's allegations that the regulator had not taken any action against Adani Group. The report had also questioned Sebi's action of issuing a show-cause notice to the US-based short-seller. "...Sebi had completed 22 out of 24 investigations into Adani Group. Subsequently, one more investigation was completed in March 2024, and one remaining investigation is close to completion. During the ongoing investigation in this matter, more than 100 summons, around 1,100 letters and emails have been issued to seek information. Further, more than 100 communications have been made seeking assistance from domestic/foreign regulators and external agencies. Also more than 300 documents containing around 12,000 pages have been examined," it said, adding that enforcement proceedings have also been initiated where the probe has been completed. On June 27, Sebi's show-cause notice to Hindenburg had, among other issues, pointed out that before the release of Hindenburg first report against Adani Group on Jan 24, 2023, a fund run by Kingdon Capital had built short positions in the group's companies. These positions were built based on a report by Hindenburg that was shared with the fund be-

fore it was released publicly. The positions were squared off by Feb 22, 2023, at a profit of about Rs 183 crore. As part of the deal, Hindenburg received a 25% profit from Kingdon Capital. Sebi believed such gains were illegal and hence had issued to Hindenburg and some other related entities as to why legal actions should not be initiated against them. Sebi had also asked the entities to disgorge those ill-gotten gains. There are several people in the market who believe that Hindenburg's latest report against the Sebi chairperson was mainly to get back to the regulator for issuing the show-cause notice. In its release, Sebi also denied it had changed any regulations for REITs "to benefit a diversified multinational financial conglomerate". Hindenburg had alleged that some changes to rules were made to benefit global financial giant Blackstone since Dhaval Buch, husband of Sebi chairperson, was employed by its India arm.

Tough-talking Puri Buch broke several barriers

Sebi Chief Hasn't Shied Away From Publicly Flagging Concerns Unlike Her Predecessors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In 2022, when Madhabi Puri Buch took charge as Sebi chairperson, she broke several barriers — primary of them being the first woman and the first former private sector professional to head the markets' regulatory body. After a four-and-a-half-year stint as a whole-time member at Sebi, she had taken a few months off due to personal reasons but in March 2022 came back to head it. At Sebi, Puri Buch, a tough taskmaster, is known for bringing in a collaborative practice in decision-making, especially in putting in place new rules for the regulated entities. She also put strong focus on IT in market regulation and surveillance. In addition, she's known for her data-driven approach to management and decision making. Unlike many of her predecessors, the 59-year-old has not shied away from publicly flagging concerns, be it those related to futures and options or valuation of SMEs. Besides, she has initiated fresh changes in regulating mutual funds and used technology cracked down on market manipulators. Before Sebi, Puri Buch — a graduate of in maths from St Stephen's College with an MBA degree from IIM Ahmedabad — had a long innings at ICICI Bank and at one point was identified as one of the women leaders at the private sector lender. She was among those recruited from top business schools just before the 1991 economic reforms that also transformed the financial sector in India. From IIM-A's 1989 batch she has several prominent batchmates, including Ramesh Shah, chairman of Edelweiss; Sanjeev Bikhchandani,

ni, founder of Naukri.com; Nirmal Jain, CEO of India Infoline; Rahul Bhasin, managing partner at Baring Private Equity and Vedika Bhandarkar, former Credit Suisse CEO, who now heads Water.org founded by Matt Damon.

Dhaval An HUL Veteran: Dhaval is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and has had a corporate career of 35 years in Hindustan Unilever in India and then in Unilever globally as part of its senior management team. Currently, he is a senior ad-

ICICI Bank Veteran 1st Woman & Pvt Sector Professional To Head Sebi

At Sebi, Madhabi Puri Buch brought in a collaborative practice in decision-making, especially in putting in place new rules for regulated entities. Unlike many of her predecessors, the 59-year-old has not shied away from publicly flagging concerns. Puri Buch had a long innings at ICICI Bank and in 2011, she moved to Singapore along with her husband Dhaval Buch, an HUL veteran, who was appointed as a senior adviser at Blackstone in 2019. She took charge as Sebi chief in 2022 after a four-and-a-half year stint as whole-time member at the markets regulator.

India's economic reforms gave ICICI an opportunity to break out into multiple new financial services that opened up for the first time. Puri Buch was among the young management graduates to take leadership positions in the new housing finance unit. Much of Buch's character was shaped by her early years at ICICI, where she gained foundational experience in retail finance and an understanding of technology in the financial sector. The ICICI environment instilled in her a strong drive for getting things done. She later went on to head ICICI Securities after the global financial crisis. In 2011, Puri Buch moved to Singapore to head business development at Greater Pacific Capital. The shift was because her husband Dhaval Buch had just moved there as a senior leader in the multinational supply chain vertical as part of Harish Manwani's team. Blackstone sources said that Buch's appointment at the India unit of the US-based buy-out fund pre-dates Madhabi's appointment as Sebi chief in 2022. Buch was appointed as a senior advisor of Blackstone in 2019. Dhaval didn't have any private equity experience before Blackstone as he had spent a good part of his career in procurement and supply chain. At Blackstone, Buch exclusively advises private equity companies across Asia on procurement and supply chain related topics, which is his area of expertise.



TaMo pins hopes on revival in demand

New Delhi: Tata Motors expects demand to remain sluggish in overseas markets this fiscal while pinning hopes on a bounce back in India on the back of new launches and the festive season. Tata Motors CFO P B Balaji said that commodities are likely to remain range bound and therefore, the automaker is confident of sustaining the performance. **AGENCIES**

Oyo raises ₹1,457cr in latest funding round

New Delhi: Oravel Stays, the parent company of Oyo, has raised Rs 1,457 crore from a consortium of investors in the latest funding round, sources said, at a valuation of \$2.4 billion. **AGENCIES**

FPIs turn net sellers, withdraw ₹13,400cr

New Delhi: After infusing money for two months, foreign investors have turned net sellers as they pulled out over Rs 13,400 crore from equities in Aug due to unwinding of the yen carry trade and US recession fears. **AGENCIES**



Govt unlikely to wade into row, officials say report 'malicious'

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt is unlikely to immediately step into the controversy created by the Hindenburg report as senior officials believe that the charges against Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval, are "untrue and malicious" and are in response to the regulator's notice to the short seller. They alleged that Hindenburg may also be trying to make a quick buck from the Indian markets through its latest action and the regulator and govt are keeping a close tab on how the developments unfold. Describing it as a fresh attempt to "create a smokescreen", a govt source suggested that this may be part of a larger attempt to discredit the regulator at a time when the Indian stock market is seeing a good run on the back of healthy macroeconomic fundamentals and strong growth prospects with clean corporate and bank balance sheets.

TERM ENDS IN 6 MTHS

- Market players are closely monitoring gov't response, given that Madhabi Puri Buch has over six months to go as Sebi chief and is eligible for another term
- She took over as Sebi chairperson in March 2022 and was given a three-year term
- Senior govt officials alleged that Hindenburg may also be trying to make a quick buck from the Indian markets

The source alleged such actions were part of a pattern to hit Indian markets but argued that the markets were now strong and deep enough to withstand Hindenburg-type attacks. "There have been a series of regulatory actions to improve the overall functioning of the markets and the regulator itself has not shied away from cautioning investors, wherever it sees pressure building up," another official said, while listing out a host of measures taken by Sebi. The official said that Sebi has submitted its probe findings on issues raised by Hindenburg in its earlier report to the Supreme Court. Pointing to the statements issued by Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch, who both worked in the private sector, officials said required disclosures had been made, which may not be in public domain like those of civil servants. While suggesting that some of Puri Buch's actions may have upset some of the market participants, sources said, the regulator has followed an elaborate consultation paper, even in the case of REITs, amid suggestions by Hindenburg that the rules benefited Blackstone, where Dhaval is an adviser. Market players are closely monitoring gov't response, given that Puri Buch has over six months to go as Sebi chief and is eligible for another term. She took over as Sebi chief in March 2022 and was given a three-year term.

Two industry bodies call allegations 'unwarranted'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At least two industry bodies — Amfi and The Indian Venture and Alternative Capital Association — on Sunday publicly came out in support of Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and the markets regulator and called Hindenburg's allegations "unwarranted" and "lacking in context". "We believe that the recent allegations made by Hindenburg are unwarranted and do not reflect a deep understanding of the Indian regulatory environment... India is one of the fastest-growing markets in South Asia, and much of this success is attributed to the robust framework and oversight provided by Sebi," IVCA said in a statement. Amfi, the industry body for mutual funds, described the allegations as an attempt to "undermine" India's "economic progress" by creating a "trust deficit" in the market. "Left unchecked, it can create unnecessary hurdles in the path of the world's fastest-growing economy. These statements, lacking in context and understanding of our regulatory environment, seek to malign the hard-earned achievements of our nation. Such advances must be viewed as creating a hurdle in India's endeavour to become a developed economy," Amfi said, while advising stakeholders to stay confident.

What Are REITs & Why They Are Taking Heat

- REITs or real estate investment trusts are entities that primarily own and operate a portfolio of real estate properties for returns, mostly rental income
- The portfolio is divided into units, which are sold to buyers. 90% of the income generated is distributed to unitholders
- In India, these entities are incorporated as trusts
- Over the years, many changes to rules have made REITs an attractive asset class
- Recently, the mcap of all listed REITs & InvITs (Infra investment trusts) crossed the ₹10L cr mark
- Hindenburg alleged that some changes to rules were made to benefit financial giant Blackstone since Dhaval Buch, the husband of Sebi chief, was employed by its India arm as an adviser

Report not big negative for D-St: Mkt players

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Dalal Street on Monday is unlikely to react negatively to Hindenburg Research's latest report that alleged instances of conflicts of interest by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. Traders, dealers and fund managers that TOI spoke to and also who commented on social media messaging groups that are private, were more annoyed with the US based short-seller than pointing fingers at the people and entities named in the report. Market players feel that,

How Adani Group's Market Cap Has Swung



for one, with Hindenburg's second report, unlike from the first one, the 'shock value' is lost. After the first report in January 2023, in about five weeks the Adani group had lost about 65% of its combined market value. Since then,

most of that loss has been recovered. Also investigations to look into Hindenburg's allegations against Adani Group have mostly drawn a blank. Market players feel that "shock value" is lost with the second Hindenburg report. As a result, "Hindenburg has been found to be a toothless entity," said Arun Kejriwal, director, KRIS, an investment advisory firm. "Nobody believes Hindenburg (any more)," he said. Kejriwal also believes that

this repeated attempt by Hindenburg to disrupt the Indian market is setting a bad precedent. "It's high time India takes up this matter with IOSCO and initiate legal steps against it (Hindenburg) and the people behind it." IOSCO, the International Organization of Securities Commissions, is an association of securities markets regulators globally. Market players feel that the negative global factors like geopolitical issues or the volatile world markets could impact trading on the Street in the new week than the Hindenburg report.

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Why Flexicap Funds Are A Good Starting Point For Investors

For investors making an entry into equity mutual funds or moving some money away from deposits, financial planners say flexicap funds are a good starting point. These all-weather funds can form a core allocation of an individual's equity portfolio.

What Are Flexicap Funds?

A flexicap mutual fund category, according to regulatory guidelines, is one in which the fund manager can choose to invest across companies of any market capitalisations, be it large, mid or small-cap companies, without restrictions. The fund manager has the complete freedom here unlike other categories, where they need to allocate a fixed amount to a category. A flexicap scheme needs to have a minimum investment in equity and equity-related instruments of 65% of the total assets of the scheme and the fund manager is free to choose a suitable benchmark.

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

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

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

Why It Is A Preferred Category?

Schemes in large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap and multi-caps have restricted mandates and are required to stick to the companies that are defined by market cap. For example, a large-cap fund will have to invest a minimum of 80% in companies ranked 1 to 100 by market capitalisation, while a mid-cap fund needs to allocate at least 65% of its portfolio to companies ranked 101-250 by market cap and a small-cap fund needs to invest 65% in stocks ranked 251 and below. Such schemes also work for investors who are unable to decide whether to opt for large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap, multi-cap, or sectoral funds.

How Large Is The Category?

Flexicap is the largest category in the equity MF space, with many funds in this space being flagship schemes for the fund house. All the schemes put together manage a total of ₹3.9 lakh crore of assets. There are 39 schemes in this category.

Who Should Consider This?

Wealth managers believe these are all-weather funds for any equity investor. Long-term or first-time investors, who do not want to take the trouble of stock selection, and want to make a long-term allocation to Indian equities, can opt for flexicap funds. Investors looking for just one fund in their portfolio where the fund manager makes a decision and gives them access to the best bets in the market irrespective of market capitalisation with the aim to balance risk and volatility and help them accumulate wealth to meet long-term goals can consider the flexicap category as a core portfolio allocation. Investors looking to stagger their investments through systematic investment plan (SIP) could also look to using this category of funds.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



CONTRAPUNTO

If my mind can conceive it and my heart
can believe it - then I can achieve it

-MUHAMMAD ALI

Model For Medals

Olympics tally won't rise unless more athletes
are picked. Create larger talent pool

A medal tally of 6 – no gold – is a disappointing Olympic performance for India. There were as many as 6 fourth-place finishes that could have gone our way, but for a nation of 1.4bn, even that's not really good enough. Though there is no doubt India has improved considerably at Games since Beijing 2008, we have stayed in the 2-7 medal range in the last five editions. In what is a striking and sobering contrast, China bagged second place in total medals tally at Paris, even as it matched US in number of golds. For India, rethink of strategy and implementation is required to move to the next level.

Contingent's still small | One reason we haven't enough to show is that we aren't sending enough athletes to Olympics. Our 117 athletes at Paris made for a representation of just .08 per mn population. Compare that with 37.8 for New Zealand. Or, Japan, with less than one-tenth of our population, sending more than 400 athletes. A larger pool at the Games is the first step to go up the medal tally. Increasing the number of sports we compete in is one way this can be done. At Paris, we were in the reckoning in just 16 of the 32 sports. Our neighbour China competed in 30. The problem is too few athletes qualify for Olympic selections.

Expand pool to draw from | Widening of the talent base is what's needed if more of our athletes are to qualify for the Games. Our top-level infra has improved immensely in recent years. But, barring sporting states like Haryana and Punjab, it is largely urban talent that is benefiting from such infra. This will not change without a grassroots-based approach. We need to create a sporting culture and build infra at our schools and universities. Such infra is what is behind US's sporting success. To take just one example, American universities have produced US gymnastics champions.

Reform sporting bodies | And then there's the pressing need to change how our sporting federations function. As the Wrestling Federation of India controversy highlighted, politicians, their kin, or their aides continue to rule the roost at many of these bodies, often at the cost of our athletes. A Vinesh Phogat bloomed not because of the system but despite it. The National Sports Development Code of India, meant to reform their functioning, is yet to be followed by many federations. Unless this changes, we might have to continue to endure underwhelming performances at sport's greatest event.

Property, Propriety

Two jobs for waqf JPC: block ways for dodgy
business & retain board's unique identity

As the Waqf Amendment Bill with 40 amendments goes to a joint parliamentary committee, parties must keep in mind the uniqueness of waqf alongside the urgent need for sharp oversight of its management and property. It's good to remember the two parts of waqf, jurisdiction and administration, have always been contested issues.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

Misuse | While that is waqf's noble nature, it is the not-so-noble nature of its administrators down the decades that has made many waqf issues cesspits of graft and misuse, a political hot potato and a fraught matter for the Muslim community. State waqf bodies abuse accountability and transparency. Enumeration of property is patchy. Almost 5% India-wide have been encroached. Disputes are plenty over lease, sale, tenancy and encroachments. Cases run for decades in constitutional courts and in understaffed, underfunded waqf tribunals. Land mafia has grabbed waqf property. Enforcement of existing law is absent – it's lucrative to look away.

What's needed | Opposition parties and Muslim bodies have challenged the amendments as failing constitutional guarantees. Objections have been raised to amendments proposed, such as online asset management by GOI, stripping state waqf boards of power, replacing elections to state waqfs with nominations, opening CEO-ship of a board to non-Muslims, among others. Yes, waqf assets – 9.4L acres countrywide, estimated worth of ₹1.2L cr – need efficient management. But amendments mustn't exacerbate existing challenges.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

What the OTP

Convenience has taken the fun out of life

Bikram Vohra

You know what I am missing. It's inconvenience. Want it back, yes I do. There's just too much convenience around and taking the fun out of things, making them all antiseptic and clinical and efficient. Remember going to a bookshop on a rainy day where you could browse through the books and inhale that special fragrance and make friends with the librarian and ask for an opinion or share one. Now you hit a cold button and it appears on a cold screen and it is so convenient and utterly lifeless to download a book.

I'm at a friend's place for lunch and he has ordered his groceries from a grocery app and where is the pleasure in scrolling pictures for fruit and vegetables. Imagine giving up the tactile pleasure of selecting oranges and checking out the apples and working over the aubergines and haggling with the grocer and suspecting a scale, then adding an extra potato; there was so much fun. It was the sheer inconvenience that made you feel alive.

There is this GPS thing in your car where the disembodied voice tells you to stay left and you follow a blue streak and there was a time when it was an adventure to lose your way and then be delighted to find you are back on track and ask directions from strangers who invariably pointed you in the wrong direction and you deliberately went the other way.

Take the remote controls that 'control' our lives and what is the problem in just getting up and switching on the TV or AC or some other contraption rather than spending 20 minutes hunting for the remote...it was here a minute ago, where the heck is it gone?

We treasured our LPs and our DVDs and our choices were visible and personal as a signature; now we have online lists that simply lack that gravitas. The instant email correspondence of today fries your synapses and there's no joy of receiving letters days after they were written without annoying emojis.

Holiday time and one loved going to a travel agency and working on getting a good deal while being surrounded by posters of sun-kissed people on a boat or under a palm tree, not waiting for an OTP. People buy clothes online. Ladies order shoes long distance. Would love a little of the old inconvenience where I could get off my backside and leave off to do something without pressing A and hitting C and having it delivered to my door. And you can keep your one-time password.

Games Over, So Is Fraternité?

Basking as Olympics host, French found common cause. Question is will this survive
renewed encounter with deep political divisions in the country

Gilles Verniers



France is currently experiencing an unusual sentiment, collective enjoyment, starkly contrasting with its usual, self-imposed pessimism and brooding. It hosted the Olympics, which ended yesterday, with great success. Detractors were forced to mute their criticism. Even the Olympics mascot, two Phrygian hats, which were initially derided, was enthusiastically adopted by the crowds.

Sport has the ability to bring people together beyond their differences, to celebrate their shared sense of belonging to a national community. In 1998, France's victory in the football World Cup led to a celebration of its social diversity, reflected in the composition of its national team. The fact that France is doing well in these Olympics – they finished fifth among nations, and were fourth in absolute number of medals – contributed to this domestic Olympic truce.

The question is: is this a temporary pause between phases of political and social discord, or will the fraternity that manifests itself during major sports events have a more lasting effect. One could argue that the capacity to feel and express fraternity already exists within French society. Fraternity finds expression in moments of collective celebration, and these Olympics have proven to be an excellent catalyst for it. The Games produce national heroes, who get celebrated regardless of their social or ethnic origins.

Nonetheless, the Olympic Games are, by definition, a fleeting event that does not answer or address the causes of the disgruntlement that characterise French society and politics in regular times.

France is nowhere nearer to having a govt now than before the Olympics. The pre-poll prime minister, who initially stayed in position after elections, heads a caretaker govt. The left front succeeded in finding a consensus candidate for the PM position: Lucie Castet, a 37-year-old economist and civil servant in charge of finances and procurement for the city of Paris. Other parties have also floated various names for the top position. Still, the fact is that the appointment of a PM lies solely in the hands of President Macron, whose intentions remain shrouded in mystery.

The key challenge for French parties and political leaders after the election was to learn how to deal with an intensely fragmented National Assembly. French MPs filled the Speaker position (by re-appointing the incumbent Speaker) and appointed the heads of major



parliamentary standing committees. But they must still learn the art of producing legislation without a majority. For now, some parties have adopted new names to convey their willingness to change, but they

have yet to mend their political ways and accept to seek compromise with other formations.

Over the past few weeks, Macron has sent signals that he would rather work with parties to the right of the ideological spectrum than seek accommodation with the left, which remains united. This tilt towards the right has created rifts within his party, which has already been weakened after losing its majority in 2022, and by the setback of July's elections. As compared to 2022, Macron's party, Renaissance, has lost 70 seats – plus its immediate allies lost another 30. Some of his political family's remaining left and centre-left-leaning members have expressed disillusionment and unwillingness to continue with Macron's political experiment.

These issues will resurface now that the Games are over, bringing France back to its usual state of discontent. After all, the exhilaration and the celebration of multiculturalism arising from the 1998 World Cup victory did not last long. It was followed by the ascendancy of Jean-Marie Le Pen, who succeeded in qualifying for the second round of the 2002 presidential election. France's other World Cup victory in 2018 was followed by the Yellow Vest movement, which plunged the country into violence.

This should not come as a surprise, as the concept of an Olympic truce has always been more fiction than reality. Since 1992, United Nations has adopted a resolution every two years ahead of the Olympiads, calling for the respect of a truce, a revival of a tradition inherited from ancient Greece. Greek kings used to sign a peace treaty that enabled their subjects to travel safely and attend the Games. This truce (*ekecheira*) would come into effect a week before the event and end a week after it, which UN still adheres to. However, the Games have had zero impact on the ongoing wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan. All these issues, currently sidelined in France's national discourse, will resurface and affect its politics.

Still, the 2024 Olympics allowed France to display a positive image of itself, with remarkable success. Setting the Games in the heart of Paris produced stunning visuals. It has also enabled many French people to experience fraternity again, which in these days should not be scoffed at. One can only hope that it encourages people to think about other ways of creating this kind of bonding.

The writer is Karl Loevenstein Fellow & visiting assistant professor, political science, Amherst College, US. Views are personal

The Point About Regulators Hindenburg Didn't Raise

Regulators need autonomy from executive & accountability to public. That's why the best forum
for Sebi chief, who's issued a statement, to explain herself is a multi-party committee of MPs

TK Arun



They also serve who stand and accuse. Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Sebi chief should, regardless of the specific merit or otherwise of charges, lead to some systemic improvement of the regulatory regime.

Madhabi Puri Buch has denied the allegation of any conflict of interest – the context is past association with a fund related to the Adanis – either while Sebi investigated charges raised by Hindenburg against the Adanis or while issuing a show-cause to Hindenburg. Buch and her husband issued a statement yesterday.

Buch is the first person from the private sector to be appointed to head the markets regulator. She and her husband have had successful careers in corporate and financial worlds, saved amounts that look significant to most Indians, and invested those savings, including in overseas instruments.

The ethical nature of such investments has to be judged by the manner in which such savings were accumulated, and the normative legitimacy of the investment methods adopted. It would be wrong to proceed on the assumption that if the savings in question involve a confusingly large number of zeros, the confusion must be smoke emanating from a bonfire of ethics.

Past heads of Sebi have all come from within the govt, and they have done a decent job, too. India's capital markets serve to let Indians deploy their savings to claim ownership of and/or returns from the economy's productive capacity. The market is able to absorb large inflows from abroad and tolerate outflows, without being overwhelmed. Securities are dematerialised, trades are cleared and settled, with total reliability and speed.

It is the absence of such a functional capital market that lies at the root of China's current property crisis: most Chinese see property as their most reliable form of savings, and buy second homes, and, in some cases,

even third homes. Oversupply of real estate, financed through loans, can avoid a crisis only for so long. Thanks to a well-regulated capital market, India's savings find more diversified deployment.

This does not mean that there remains no scope for regulatory improvement, in terms of structure or practice. Finance is a continuum and calls for unified regulation, with macroprudential regulation alone being left to another agency, say a committee of the central bank, as in UK, or, ideally, an economic advisory council. When different regulators oversee different segments of finance, the borders between the segments either go under-regulated or lead to turf battles.

To take an example, credit default swaps insure bonds against default. Should these be regulated by the insurance regulator or the bond market regulator? What public purpose is served by having separate regulators for pensions and insurance, considering that annuity plans are formulated by the insurance industry, making use of its actuarial expertise?

The accumulation stage of a pension fund is similar to the accumulation stage of a life insurance policyholder who refuses to die in a hurry. Why have two different regulators for govt bonds and corporate bonds? Fortunately, we have done away with separate regulators for commodities and securities markets, and never had the US idiosyncrasy of separating the regulatory responsibility for spot and forward markets.

These are problems of regulatory structure, fashioned by law and flawed policy. But regulators alone are to blame for deficient regulatory practice. India has a stunted market for corporate bonds, and only large companies, for whose custom banks grovel, have access to the bond market. The regulatory

practice does not support a market for corporate control. In fact, the delisting norms reinforce incumbent control, at the expense of the small shareholder.

Some problems are created by uninformed investors, such as overvalued small companies. Others, by deficient regulation: for example, the futures and options market functioning virtually as a casino, rather than to hedge against risk. The budget's solution of a higher securities transaction tax induces inefficiency, whereas regulatory action to significantly increase the lot size would preclude gambling by the small fry.

A practitioner from the industry is better equipped to improve regulation than a civil servant. The US markets regulator is headed by Gary Gensler, a Goldman Sachs veteran.

The service rules for Sebi staff are outdated – these bar employees from badla, for example, long after badla itself has been abolished. Regulation 64 bars employees from investing in equities, the restriction extending to spouses and children. More sensible is the comparable US regulation, requiring employees to not misuse privileged access to information, to have minimum holding periods and full disclosure.

The biggest change required in the regulatory regime is to make all regulators periodically testify before multi-party committees of legislators, as happens in US. This would give them autonomy from the executive, and yet hold them accountable to the ultimate sovereign, the people.

Buch deserves a chance to explain how her conduct entails no conflict of interest to a committee of elected representatives.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

Be not
astonished at
new ideas; for
it is well
known to you
that a thing
does not therefore cease to be
true because it is not accepted
by many.

Baruch Spinoza

True Competition Kindles Self-Actualisation

Deepak Ranade

Paris Olympics saw the Swedish pole-vaulter Duplantis, clearing the bar at a new world record height of 6.25m, having already secured the gold medal earlier by clearing 6.00m. This is the ninth time Duplantis has broken the world record, bettering his own effort of 6.24m he set in the Xiamen Diamond League in April this year.

Olympics represents man's relentless competitive spirit, his eternal endeavour to push himself 'faster, higher, longer'.

It is a sporting event that brings out the best, demands utmost dedication and perseverance and commitment to find a place on the podium and assert being the 'best of the best'.

Duplantis's effort to go beyond the gold medal effort, stood out on this global competitive arena. The crowd was cheering and encouraging a man

who was competing with the most challenging competitor – himself. The rapturous applause at the end of his spectacular leap was not for the height he cleared, but for the victory that man had achieved over his own mind.

The quest for reaching higher had a pristine divine element – to better oneself. It transcended the need to overtake another. It was more about taking over one's own limitations and doubts. The competition was between one's own abilities and one's doubts.

Competition with another surely brings out the best, but taken to the extreme, it can degenerate to a rat race, each attempting to outdo the other and, in some cases, even 'undo' the competitor.

Olympics has always been testimony to man's constant efforts to seek perfection in a myriad of activities. It

reflects his undaunting spirit to triumph over formidable odds and opponents. Opponents who more often than not spur each other to delve deep down in the vaults of courage, resilience and confidence and reveal flashes of extraordinary skills and strengths that might have languished untouched for want of being summoned. The quest to beat oneself was perhaps best embodied by Sergei Bubka.

With a career that spanned over 15 years, Bubka broke the world record for the pole vault an astonishing 35 times. His ability to consistently break records became his trademark, as he continuously pushed the self-imposed boundaries. He broke his own record 14 times and that showed his remarkable ability to surpass himself.

"Believe in yourself, even when others doubt you. You can achieve anything you set your mind to," says Bubka.

In today's world, competition has degenerated from being a healthy virtue of improving oneself into an unhealthy effort to win at any cost, using any means. Such a mindset and approach are the surest recipe for disaster. Competition that results in eliminating a rival can never be deemed as a victory. It is a cursed, Pyrrhic victory. True competition helps mankind evolve; it nurtures the spirit to improve and excel rather than stifle competition. It kindles the spirit of self-actualisation.

When Duplantis cleared 6.25m, he successfully vaulted restrictive and regressive understanding of competition. He truly raised the bar of dealing with the fears and doubts of not others, but more importantly of overcoming the fears and doubts lurking within oneself. He seamlessly delivered competition from the science of decimating the opponent to the art of transcending the self.

The writer is a consultant neurosurgeon



THE SPEAKING TREE



The people who are fighting for the right to be forgotten

Despite acquittals, they say they continue to face loss of respect and employment opportunities

Sneha.Bhura@timesofindia.com

Raj Mukim (name changed) had a promising life abroad. He fell in love and got engaged in 2011. But soon, the relationship turned into a nightmare with accusations of assault and alcohol abuse. After returning to India, Mukim was slapped with charges of rape by his former girlfriend. Although he was acquitted of all charges and declared innocent in a court of law in 2014, his troubles did not end.

Media reports and records of his legal history continue to linger. This has limited his opportunities, matrimonial prospects shrunk and job applications abruptly stalled after background checks. "I am unable to find work. A bit of stock trading doesn't help much as I have three children to raise," says Mukim whose wife pitches in with the household expenses. For the last few years, he has been fighting for digital anonymity with the 'Right to be Forgotten' (RTBF). "I am doing this for my children and to clear my name." Mukim is one among many petitioners seeking redaction of digital records through RTBF.

This controversial right allows individuals to request the removal of personal information from Internet search results, databases and other digital platforms. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, codified RTBF under the provision of 'right to correction and erasure of personal data'. However, there are exceptions, especially when the retention of data is necessary for a specific purpose or compliance with any existing law. The demand is a contentious one, say experts where public interest and privacy could be on opposing sides of the spectrum.

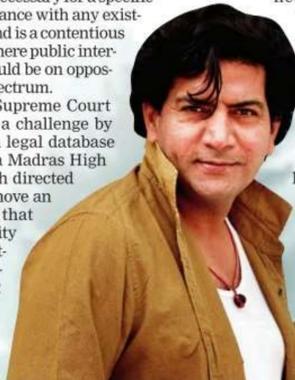
Last week, a Supreme Court bench addressed a challenge by Indian Kanoon, a legal database website, against a Madras High Court order which directed the website to remove an entire judgment that revealed the identity of a person acquitted in a sexual assault case. Staying the HC order, the SC acknowledged the need to settle the law on RTBF.

This is pivotal in the ongoing legal discourse around privacy and public records in India and comes at the back of conflicting judgments by various high courts on whether individuals can request the removal of judicial records from public access, particularly when they pertain to sensitive personal information and acquittals.

Jyoti Panday, regional director of Internet Governance Project at the Georgia Institute of Technology, believes the case involves a direct conflict between the idea of the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and how a democracy should function. "What the RTBF petitioners are arguing for is that historical integrity in public records is secondary to their right to reputation," says Panday, pointing out how the precedent can encompass media records, cases of defamation, and sharing of non-consensual information like videos or clips of women. "It may seem simple when you ask why shouldn't an individual want correction of their data? But it is a very serious legal matter. In the best-case scenario, the SC will weigh in and draw the contours of circumstances under which somebody can exercise RTBF. Even in that scenario, it will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis because the context is important."

In December 2022, the Kerala HC recognised RTBF in three cases. In one, the petitioner requested de-indexing of her name from a judgment related to a failed marriage under the Special Marriage Act. In Kerala, unions under SMA need to be registered through a court petition. "The petition was filed in Kerala HC but, unfortunately, the marriage never took place. When she tried to re-marry, her alliances would break because of online searches showing her name in the judgment. She had to con-

IN A LIMBO: Actor Ashutosh Kaushik, arrested for drunk driving, claims he is still haunted by one stray video 15 years later



stantly explain her past," says Vipin P Varghese, advocate for the petitioner. The court acknowledged the importance of privacy in matrimonial affairs and upheld the petitioner's privacy rights and directed that in such matters, upon request, the names and details of the parties should be masked.

But for criminal cases, the court had ruled that public records of individuals involved in criminal proceedings cannot be erased forever. For a dentist from Kollam — who was cleared of sexual harassment charges in 2018 after a five-year battle — seeking removal of the judgment or even his name and address through an RTBF plea filed in 2020 naming Google, Indian Kanoon, and the Indian govt as defendants, has led nowhere. "I have given up. I have lost a lot of money already and don't plan to fight this," he says. The case was dismissed by the Kerala HC in 2022. "The bail order is circulating on Google, everyone got to know. The complainant in my case withdrew charges saying she made a mistake, but my life is ruined."

JYOTI PANDAY, RESEARCHER
What the Right to be Forgotten petitioners are arguing for is that historical integrity in public records is secondary to their right to reputation. This is a very serious legal matter

Ashutosh Kaushik, a former reality TV star, says deletion of articles as an extension of RTBF is only possible for the rich and powerful. In June 2009, Kaushik was arrested for drunk driving in Mumbai, following which he was fined and detained for a day. Known for shows like Roadies and Big Boss, Kaushik claims his career suffered after the arrest. In 2021, he filed a petition in the Delhi HC to remove these online records of his arrest. He was confident RTBF would be recognised as a law. Today, he is just going through the motions as the case drags on. "Even now, people send me old videos asking, 'Guru yeh kya kar diya?' I have to remind them to check the dates. Only one news channel removed it on personal request. My two-year-old son has started fiddling with the cellphone. Now it's his turn to ask questions," says an exasperated Kaushik. On the other side is Indian Kanoon, a search engine considered the largest online repository for Indian legal documents that has become an ever-present defendant in cases about RTBF. On average, some 20,000 judgments are uploaded every day on the website. "We don't usually remove judgments or carry out name redactions unless required by law to maintain parity with other legal databases. Our readers have the right to free speech and the right to know and I will fight for that as long as possible," says Sushant Sinha, founder of India Kanoon.

Civilian dies, toll in J&K encounter hits 3

Police Launch Probe Into His Presence At Shootout Site

Saleem.Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Srinagar/Jammu: The death count from Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in the remote upper reaches of J&K's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of the two civilians caught in crossfire dying of gunshot wounds in the hospital on Sunday.

Deceased were identified as Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Sirmour (in Himachal), both attached with 1 Para Special Force, and Abdul Rashid Dar, of Kokernag.

Kashmir Zone IGP VK Birdi said presence of the two civilians close to Saturday's shootout site is "being investigated". There are reports of locals being coerced or lured by terrorists to help them navigate the terrain. Operation to hunt down terrorists, who escaped deep into the jungles, continued despite heavy rain & challenging landscape of Ahlan Gagarmandu.

According to officials, three to four "highly trained Pakistani men" suspected to



On Saturday, terrorists were sighted in Ahlan Gagarmandu forest of Anantnag. As soldiers approached the spot, the terrorists unleashed a barrage of gunfire, wounding six soldiers and two civilians

be from banned Jaish-e-Mohammed were involved in the attack on a security search team that was in pursuit of terrorists spotted in Kapran Garol in Kokernag.

The terrorists crossed Pir Panjal's Kishtwar range and entered south Kashmir on Aug 5, escaping a manhunt in Doda district of Jammu division following an attack on July 15 that left four soldiers dead, officials said.

On Saturday, the terrorists were sighted in Ahlan Gagarmandu forest, Anantnag. As the soldiers approached the location, the hiding terrorists unleashed a barrage of gunfire, wounding six soldiers and two civilians.

Early on Sunday, a brief firefight between security forces and terrorists was reported from a remote forest in Kishtwar. No casualties were reported. The shootout had

no impact on annual pilgrimage to Machail Mata shrine. "As a precautionary measure, traffic and movement of pilgrims were stopped briefly. There is no need to panic," an official said, assuring pilgrims of adequate security. Machail Mata Yatra started on July 25 and is scheduled to conclude on Sept 5.

The two slain soldiers were among 16 security personnel killed in J&K since May 4, while 10 civilian fatalities have been reported since an ambush on a bus in Reasi district on June 9 left seven pilgrims, the driver, and conductor dead.

Most of these fatalities are from Jammu region, which has seen an increase in terrorist violence this summer. Official sources estimate that of the 70 to 80 Pakistani terrorists active in J&K, nearly 55 to 60 are in Jammu zone.

'Drunk' Mumbai motorist hits biker, assaults cop, arrested

Mumbai: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol and assaulting a traffic cop at Goregaon Friday evening, reports V Narayan. The man, Shailesh Kumar Singh, a Nallasopara resident, was driving at Penkarpada junction to head towards Dahisar when his car had a collision with a two-wheeler at around 9.15pm.

A traffic constable and a warden, who were on night patrol, flagged down the driver even as the biker, who had sustained minor injury, left the spot without lodging any police complaint. The car driver sped away without halting, raising suspicion of the constable.

Traffic constable Swapnil Gharat, along with the traffic warden whose identity has not been revealed by the police, chased the car on a bike. They tailed the car for about 15 minutes, before intercepting it at one point. "When he rolled down the window, the smell of alcohol filled the air. He stepped out and held me by my collar. I called up the police control room... Dahisar police station cops reached there and took him into custody," the constable told TOI.

He has been booked under BNS and MVA for offences including assault on a public servant, rash driving, criminal intimidation, intentional insult, disobedience of orders, dangerous driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Sub-quota a plot to divide & rule Dalits, allege SP veterans

Subodh Ghildiyal | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party's Dalit functionaries have dubbed the proposal of sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes a ploy to "divide and rule", arguing that the party stands strongly for the unity of the community as prescribed by Ambedkar.

Veteran MPs RK Chaudhary and Awadhesh Prasad told TOI that division of SCs into sub-groups will sound the death knell of Dalit unity, which cannot be accepted. "SP led by Akhilesh Yadav stands resolutely with the SC/ST community. SCs are one bloc and there should be no change in it," he said.

The views of the MP duo from Uttar Pradesh came as SP is positioning itself to tap into BSP's support base which has diminished amid steady erosion of its Dalit base. Several BSP members have joined SP, with Chaudhary being a key figure from Kanshi Ram's era. As Mayawati has come out strongly against the Supreme Court judgment on sub-categorisation and has historically stood for a single bloc of SCs, the views of SP's Dalit brass are politically significant given its firm eyes on the fragmenting BSP vote bank.

Chaudhary said Kanshi Ram played a big role in uniting Dalits across divisions and sub-categorisation will be an assault on that unity. "Kanshi Ram believed they should unite and only with the united struggle of the 'Bahujan Samaj' which includes SC, ST and OBCs, can the community succeed in securing its participation (in the society)," he said.

Maya: Cong favours sub-classification

BSP president Mayawati on Sunday said Congress has stated it would consult NGOs and lawyers before making its stand clear on sub-classification within SC/STs. This shows it is in favour of sub-classification, she added. She also slammed the party for crediting Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi for reservation instead of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. She said despite having 99 MPs, Congress did not raise its voice to try to make SC Order (of Aug 1, 2024) ineffective in Parliament. "This is when this party won seats in the name of saving the Constitution and reservation," she said. TNN

Prasad said Ambedkar enshrined in the Constitution the privilege for the entire SC community and "splitting them as Pasi, Rajdas, Dhanuk, Koeri" will not work. Questioning the argument over affirmative action benefits being monopolized by some dominant sub-castes, Chaudhary said sub-categorisation is not the answer to the issue. "The Supreme Court has not studied the issue but decided according to the 'mahabul'... nobody is stopping the other (weaker) sub-castes," he said.

PM releases 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient crop varieties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops, and suggested that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) should proactively inform farmers about benefits of the new varieties. Farmers will receive seeds of all new varieties within three years.



PM Narendra Modi accompanied by Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan (L) at ICAR-IARI in New Delhi on Sunday. PM said adoption of organic farming by farmers will be quite beneficial for them

Lauding scientists for development of these varieties, the PM said they would lead to value addition, thus boosting farmers' income. PM proposed that experts from KVKs, ICAR and state agricultural universities engage with farmers one day each month and the goal of this exchange should be to tackle a current issue related to agriculture and attempt to identify answers through mutual learning. Such an exchange will be helpful in handling the sim-

merging tensions among farmers at a time when a section of them has constantly been on protest demanding better price for their produce either through MSP or other interventions. These crop varieties have been developed for different agro-climatic zones of the country, focusing on short duration, resistance to floods and droughts/heat, and adaptability to various biotic and abiotic conditions. Interacting with farmers at the farms of ICAR-IARI, Modi said these varieties of

different crops will increase yield as well as farmers' income in addition to encouraging them towards environment-friendly sustainable farming practices.

The PM also discussed importance of millets. On benefits of natural farming, he said people have started consuming and demanding organic food and adoption of organic farming will be quite beneficial for farmers. Agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accompanied Modi to ICAR-IARI farms.

Student 'loses vision after slap', principal, teacher named in FIR

Meerut: Following a Chief Judicial Magistrate court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army Public School in Meerut Cant, for 'slapping a Class 7 student who later turned blind', reports Krishna Chaudhary.

The student's mother, Indu Devi, said her son is suffering from a retinal problem and had very low vision, & after the yoga instructor, Daksh, slapped him, there was further damage. She said the principal, despite knowing about the incident that took place last year, didn't take action. The child underwent five major eye surgeries, but lost his vision.

Police have registered an FIR under IPC sections 325, 351 and 201, among others.

Principal, Ritu Gupta, said, "The student was involved in a scuffle and the teacher intervened. The teacher said he just tapped the child. But, even that's unacceptable. His services were terminated."

Miffed with state chief, K'taka BJP bloc plans own padayatra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Miffed with Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra for allegedly not taking them into confidence on the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra, a group of senior BJP members are mulling a similar march from Kudala Sangama in Bagalkot district to Ballari.



Members of the group, who have all along opposed the elevation of Vijayendra (with mike) as state unit chief, met on Sunday

Members of this group, who have all along opposed the elevation of Vijayendra as president of the state unit, met on Sunday at a private hotel on the outskirts of Belagavi to discuss plans for a 188km 'Ballari Chalo' padayatra. Led by Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatalnal and Gokak legislator Ramesh Jarkiholi, the group intends to highlight the Valmiki corporation scam and the diversion of SCPTSP funds meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for the state govt's guarantee schemes.

Those who attended included Harihar MLA BP Harish, former MPs Pratap Simmha, GM Siddeshwar and Annasaheb Jolle, former MLAs Arvind Limbavali and Kumar Bangarappa, and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's personal assistant NR

Santosh. None of them had participated in the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra. Yatalnal told the gathering, "Our fight should be pro-public rather than benefit one functionary. The Muda scam is restricted to Mysuru, but the Valmiki corporation scam and diversion of SCPTSP funds are good issues for BJP to brand the govt as anti-Dalit." He said 'Ballari Chalo' padayatra would be subject to clearance from the high command. "We will convince the high command about the need for this padayatra. The dates will be finalised after the Ganesh festival," he said.

Government of Maharashtra
Department of Fisheries
E-TENDER
Supply of Solar Fish Dryer under Innovative Scheme
E-TENDER File No.: FISH/M/053101/1458/2024-25

On behalf of the Governor of Maharashtra, the Commissioner of Fisheries, Maharashtra State is inviting E-tender for Supply of Solar Fish Dryer for Fishermen of Thane District. In this regard, an online E-tender document is published on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Date 12/08/2024 to 27/08/2024. It is mandatory to submit a bid as prescribed in the E-tender document for the above item. Details as below

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quantity	Capacity
1.	Solar Fish Dryer Heat Pump - DC 24 V Chamber Size - 3 X 1.5 X 2 Meter	5	1 Ton per Dryer

1.	The cost of the tender form	Rs. 13,000/-
2.	E-Tender Sale Date:	Date: 12/08/2024 (05:00 pm) to 27/08/2024 (04:00 pm)
3.	Pre-bid meeting	Date: 19/08/2024, 3:00 PM
4.	The last date for Bid Submission	Date and Time: 27/08/2024 till 04:00 pm
5.	Date and time of opening of e-tender (if possible)	Date and Time: 29/08/2024 up to 04:00 pm
6.	Earnest Money Deposit amount	Rs. 1,25,000/-
7.	Security deposit amount	3%

After completion of the tender process, the deposited amount paid by online mode will be refunded. The E-tender document is published on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Date 12/08/2024 to 27/08/2024. It is mandatory to submit an e-tender for the above item.

Sd/-
(Mahesh Deore)
Joint Commissioner of Fisheries (Marine)
Maharashtra State, Mumbai

DGIPR/2024-2025/1805

राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार

Govt. of Bihar Notice Inviting Tender for selection of agency to provide Physiotherapy services at Sub-Division/Block-level Government Healthcare Facilities, in the State of Bihar
e-tender (NIT) Reference No.:- 05 /SHSB/Physiotherapy Services/2024-25

- The State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB), Patna intends to select an agency via e-tendering to provide Physiotherapy services at Sub-Division/Block-level Government Healthcare Facilities, in the State of Bihar. The State Health Society, Bihar, invites bids from eligible business entities, in providing the services as mentioned in this tender document.
- To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidder/agency are required to get themselves registered with Bihar Government Centralized e-Procurement portal, i.e., <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>, shall contact the helpdesk at the following address, "Mjunction Services Limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar, e-mail id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Toll Free Number- 18005726571 (Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM, All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays)".
- Schedule of Events:**

Sl.no.	Event Description	Timeline
3.1	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	16/08/2024 (Friday) from 11:00 AM, on e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.2	Last date & time for submission (upload) of online bidding document.	06/09/2024 (Friday) till 05:00 PM, on e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.3	Last date & time for submission of EMD (Online Mode)	06/09/2024 (Friday) till 05:00 PM
3.4	Time, Date of opening of Technical Bid	09/09/2024 (Monday) at 1:00 PM on e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.5	Time, Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be announced later on the e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.6	Pre-bid meeting (Date & time)	23/08/2024 (Friday) at 11:30 AM
3.7	Pre-bid meeting venue	Conference Hall, State Health Society, Bihar, 4 th Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014

- Bidder may also download the tender documents (a complete set of documents is available on website) from e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) and submit its tender by using the downloaded document.
- For further enquiry and information, please contact the following officers during office hours 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM-
(i) Dr N. K. Sinha (State Program Officer), Mob. no. 9470003014
(ii) Shri Vikash Kumar, Additional Director-PPP, State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB), Mob. no. -7903367959

Executive Director
State Health Society, Bihar

PR. No. 005870 (B&C) 2024-25
This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also
नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से चार।

INDIA'S SIGN OF FOUR

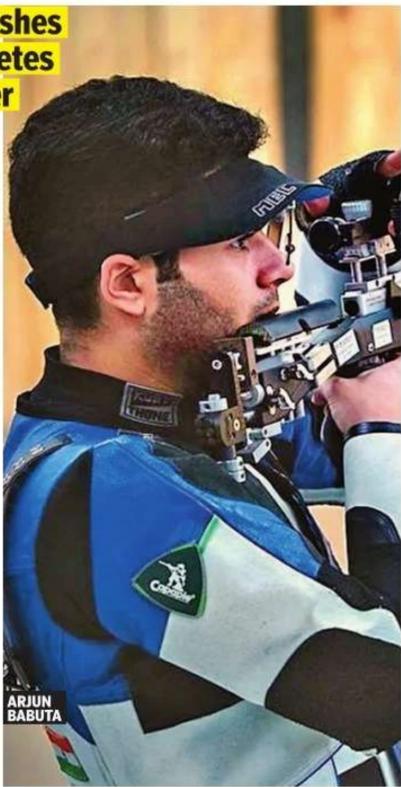
Six 4th-Place Finishes Show Indian Athletes Are Getting Better

Neeraj Chopra

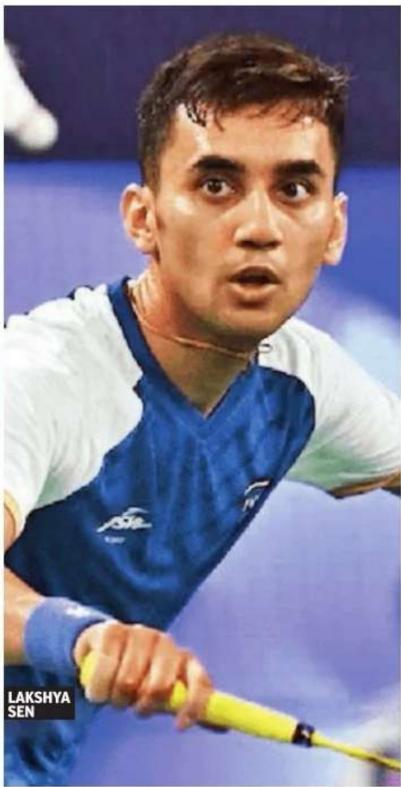
I would have loved to be the reason for the national anthem to ring around the Stade de France, but I am immensely proud I won silver with a throw that was better than my gold-winning effort from Tokyo three years ago. Yes, the time has come for me to seek improvements after I sit with my team and decide on how to manage the injury.

Before heading to the rest of my competitive season, I will soak in the emotions sparked by my second successive Olympic Games medal. I am grateful for the overwhelming support that I have received from each one of you. The motivation and wishes that PM extended to me and my teammates, was the icing of the cake.

However, I want to also celebrate many of my teammates who delivered strong performances. I believe we must not use the medal tally as the only yardstick to assess India's performance. In fact, I would urge you to look at how hard our athletes trained and competed in-



ARJUN BABUTA



LAKSHYA SEN



MIRABAI CHANU

Pix: PTI, IANS, ANI, Reuters

STAGE FRIGHT AND BELOW-PAR COACHING AFFECTING ARCHERS

Archiman.Bhaduri@timesofindia.com

Archers flattered to deceive once again as India still await their first medal from the discipline. Anika Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara came agonisingly close ending fourth in the mixed team event. But that's it — the six-member team was one of the biggest disappointments of the Games for India.

Olympian Jayanta Talukdar agreed that Indian archers suffered from stage fright. "Olympic is different ball game. Handling pressure is so important and I felt our archers messed it up there," he said, explaining the 6s and 7s that some of them hit in crucial stages.

Both Talukdar and his former India teammate Rahul Banerjee were not happy with the coaching staff too. "Our coach Sonam Singh Bhutia should have done more to give the archers confidence in pressure situations," Talukdar said. Banerjee felt the shooting order in the men's team match

against Turkey should have been changed. "That's a coach's call. But our person (Bhutia) was not good or bold enough to take a decision," Banerjee felt.

India's Korean coach Baek Woong Ki was denied accreditation at the Games. Most of the archers felt his presence wouldn't have made a difference. "I doubt," both Talukdar and Banerjee said, raising questions about Baek's expertise. "It's high time we focus on our coaches and youth development programme," Banerjee added.

Looking ahead Banerjee felt there should be 'gap analysis' exercise. "AAI should have a brain-storming session with the archers as well as those who took part in past Olympics to find out where we are falling short. If it is happening again and again then there must be areas which we are not addressing," he said.

According to the London Olympian, we should go ahead with the 'Mission Olympic' motto. "The Korans always give priority to the Olympics. But we want medals in all competitions which somehow is perhaps diluting our Olympic preparation," Banerjee felt.

Olympian Atanu Das called for focus on team competition at domestic level. "We don't get to shoot in team events in national-ranking meets. But I feel we stand a better chance in team and mixed events and hence that could be given priority now," Das, the husband of Deepika, stated.

ARCHERY

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

NEERAJ'S MEDAL NOT QUITE A SILVER LINING IN ATHLETICS

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A 27-member Indian athletics contingent, headlined by Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, competed at the Paris Olympics. They had just one medal to show at the end of the Games — Neeraj's silver in javelin throw.

A lot was expected from the athletics contingent after their impressive show at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the following 2022 Asian Games. The CWG saw Indian track and field athletes bring home eight medals — 1 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze. Then at the, they had 29 medals — 6 gold, 14 silver and 9 bronze.

With such spectacular performances in the two years leading up to the Paris Games, the athletics ecosystem in India anticipated at least three medals from the Olympics. Neeraj's medal colour too was unexpected.

Asian Games champion and CWG silver-medallist Avinash Sable was the only Indian athlete other than Neeraj to make the finals in the track and field events. Sable finished 11th in the men's 3000m steeplechase final. "When 27 athletes qualified for the Paris Games, which was our highest-ever representation at the Olympics, the general mood among our athletics fraternity was quite upbeat.

Everyone thought that Neeraj's gold was a done deal; and apart from him, we would win at least two-three more medals.

"Sable was one contender, the men's 4x400m relay team had built expectations after their outstanding show at the World Championships last year, but things didn't materialise as expected. This points towards a necessity to create a larger pool of elite athletes, if we desire more than one medal at the Olympic level," NIS-trained athletics coach Mahipal Gaur reflected.

According to official data from the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), the government spent Rs 96.08 crore for athletics in the current Olympic cycle. It's the biggest chunk in the close to Rs 470 crore that had been spent on India's preparation for the Games this time across 16 disciplines. In the previous Olympic cycle, athletics received Rs 5.38 crore.

ATHLETICS

ATHLETES: 27 | MEDAL: 1 SILVER

SHUTTLE SERVICE BREAKDOWN AS BADMINTON DRAWS A BLANK



CHIRAG & SATWIK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India was expected to win at least two badminton medals in Paris but they returned empty-handed. Chief coach Pullela Gopichand, who has been at the helm since 2006, was disappointed with the Indian shuttlers' show. "I thought we would come back with more than one medal this time. We expected a medal from men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles," Gopichand said.

Lakshya Sen finished fourth in men's singles while PV Sindhu was ousted in the pre-quarterfinals. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who were the overwhelming favourites to finish on the podium, were shocked in the quarterfinals.

"This was an unexpected result. I think the Badminton Association of India and Sports Authority of India will conduct a thorough investigation. We need to know the reasons behind this poor show.

But I am confident if we correct these flaws we will come up with a good show at the next Olympics," Gopichand said. Despite Gopi being the chief coach, most of the players were with their own coaches in Paris.

BADMINTON

ATHLETES: 7 | MEDAL: 0

INDIA AT GAMES OVER THE YEARS

Games	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2008 Beijing	1	0	2	3
2012 London	0	2	4	6
2016 Rio	0	1	1	2
2020 Tokyo	1	2	4	7
2024 Paris	0	1	5	6

TIME TO LOOK BEYOND BRONZE

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A bronze won or a gold lost? As the euphoria around the hockey bronze is mellowing, there's a feeling in the fraternity that the team should have bettered its Tokyo show in Paris. "First, it is no small feat to finish on the podium in two consecutive Olympics. Also, chief coach Craig Fulton did a commendable job in just 18 months. That said, this team had the potential to play the final," said Olympian Arjun Halappa.

One big chink in India's gameplan, the former midfielder said, was players' tendency to look for penalty corners, in the process squandering good opportunities to score. "There was too much dependence on penalty corner conversion," he said. "By looking to win short corners, strikers were guilty of limiting their goal-scoring options. There were times when players were within 2-3 yards of

goal and had the run of play in their favour. But instead of going for goal, they often looked for a PC. They wasted half-chances too."

Staying on the topic of overdependence, Halappa added, "Manpreet Singh was outstanding in the way he switched roles, but what we lacked was a central midfielder who could control the game."

Halappa insisted Paris is now history and it is time to focus ahead

"As in every cycle, young blood will have to be infused. Fulton did a good job in balancing teams over 18 months. Over the next four years, it is imperative new players get enough game time. India will need to develop a midfielder who has good game sense and can master the drag flick. A supply chain of goalkeepers must be put in place. The focus in this cycle should be more on performance and progress rather than results and Fulton should be given a free-hand to pick his team for 2028."

HOCKEY

TEAM: 1 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

LACK OF NATIONAL CAMPS HURT INDIAN WRESTLERS

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India in Paris will be remembered for Vinesh Phogat. She won and lost in equal measure — there wasn't a medal to show for the 50 kg wrestler — but the brave Vinesh ensured that she will be one of India's most talked-about sportspersons of all time.

She was one of six Indian wrestlers who competed in Paris — Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) in the women's category and Aman Sehrawat (57kg) in the male category. Their preparation going into Olympics wasn't the best due to reasons well-documented —

there were no national camps — and at the end of the day, it was Aman, who trained at

Chhatrasal Akhada under his personal coach till last Saturday, who won India a bronze.

Reetika, too, impressed in her debut Games but Antim and Anshu disappointed.

Nisha's campaign ended abruptly after suffering a severe shoulder injury. Experts, however, feel that the wrestlers should have brought two to three medals. "We can't say it was a disappointing performance but, yes, we should have won two more medals. There was no proper wrestling federation in place and the sport was managed by the SAI and IOA's ad-hoc body in which they clearly failed," said former India wrestler and coach Kripa Shankar Patel.

Jagbir Singh, international referee judge feels the absence of national camps and sparring partners led to such an underwhelming performance.

WRESTLING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

Shooters tick most boxes

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Pune: After firing blanks in the 2016 and 2020 editions, Indian shooters finally came back with three bronze medals from Paris. Six finalists and a few more finishing in top-12 from a contingent of highest-ever 21 shooters, the performance was well above-par.

Legendary German shooting coach Heinz Reinkemeier believes Indian shooters had more than a good outing in Chateauroux. "The obsession for medals must go. Indians have become like that kid who always cries for chocolates. India should be happy for the performance of their shooters," Heinz, who had trained Abhinav Bindra before he won gold at Beijing in 2008, told TOI on Sunday. "Look at the German shooting contingent if you want to talk about disappointment and disaster," he said. The German shooters had won quotas in 13 events but couldn't win even one medal. "There were five No. 1s and

we have more than a million shooters in Germany, but they couldn't win in Paris. Indians should learn to be happy. You should be proud of the way Ramita and Babuta (Arjun) shot. Shooting is a 140-nation sport and to get three medals is a good achievement," he added.

China and Korea topped the medals tally in shooting with 10 (5 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze) and 6 (3 gold, 3 silver) respectively. "If you want to win like China, then start treating your shooters like horses. There is a thing called humanity and I have seen how Chinese athletes get treated by their own country," the German said. "The Indian lot was mentally fit and had nice technique, not just in air events, but also in 50m rifle 3 positions, where Swapnil won a bronze," Heinz said.

Now it's on the shooters to improve their performances and turn the close-finishes into medals at Los Angeles 2028.



SHOOTING

ATHLETES: 21 | MEDALS: 3 BRONZE

MANIKA, SREEJA LEAVE A MARK

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India's table tennis campaign centered around two women paddlers — Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula. Batra became the first Indian TT player to progress to the pre-quarterfinals of the

Olympics. She was later followed by Sreeja Akula in the Round of 16, where both of them lost.

The women's team also reached the quarterfinals and it had its chances against Germany too for a semifinal spot, but it was not enough. The men's show was utterly disappointing. The team of Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar crashed out in the Round of 16.

TABLE TENNIS

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

"To be at the top, a consistent winning mentality should also be there all the time, not just once in a while. The winning mentality is not about 'I want to win', it means I need to have that habit of winning," national coach Massimo Constantini said.

NO MEDAL A RESULT OF POOR PLANNING

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Indian boxers returned from Paris with zero medals despite boasting of some proven performers in Tokyo Games bronze winner Lovlina Borgohain, two-time world championships gold medalist Nikhat Zareen and Asian and CWG champion

Amit Panghal. Only Nishant Dev showed promise and fought his heart out in a close bout in the men's 71kg quarterfinal. The pugilists' disappointing show has much to do with the Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) poor planning, overdependence on foreign experts, lack of trust in Indian coaches and introduction of a much-debatable evaluation test system at its national camps. "It was an underwhelming performance by our boxers. We should

BOXING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

have won at least two boxing medals. The authorities and federation must answer what they do to prepare our boxers for the Games," said Anoop Kumar, former head coach of the Indian women's boxing team.

Another coaching veteran Jagdeep Hooda, who trained both the men's and women's national teams from 2004-22, pinned the blame on the BFI's overdependence on foreign coaches and lack of quality sparring partners. "Between the Tokyo and Paris Olympics

NO MEDAL A RESULT OF POOR PLANNING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

cycle, three head coaches were changed making it difficult for our boxers to follow any particular coaching style. Then, the two foreign coaches — Bernard Dunne and Dmitry Dmitruk introduced the evaluation tests in camps and did away with the tried-and-tested process of holding selection trials," said Hooda.

"I AM ENTERING A NEW SEASON NOW. SO, I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME TO CHANGE TRAINING METHODS OR TECHNIQUE. BUT I HOPE TO IMPROVE THE LINE OF THE JAVELIN. (WILL TRY TO) CORRECT ANGLE OF THROWING SO THAT I GET MORE POWER IN MY THROW. I WILL CERTAINLY WORK ON IT."



NEERAJ CHOPRA

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"I was just in shock. Both me and Shelby were getting a little bit tired after all the jumps we took. I knew I had a good one in me, and I knew that if I could get it up sooner rather than later, then I could just finish the comp and start recovering."

HAMISH KERR
NEW ZEALAND'S GOLD MEDALLIST IN HIGH JUMP AFTER A THRILLING FINAL

KEEP SHINING,
TEAM INDIA.

Reliance
Foundation

MEDALS TALLY

P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
1	USA	40	44	42	126
2	CHN	40	27	24	91
3	JPN	20	12	13	45
4	AUS	18	19	16	53
5	FRA	16	26	22	64
6	NED	15	7	12	34
7	GBR	14	22	29	65
8	KOR	13	9	10	32
9	ITA	12	13	15	40
10	GER	12	13	8	33
71	IND	0	1	5	6

AU REVOIR, PARIS!

From A Worried Vinesh To Nadeem's Travelling Javelin To The Twinkling Eyes Of Manu, It Has Been A Roller-Coaster Ride

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: It started with incessant rain on the night of July 26, right next to the gloriously lit Eiffel Tower. It was an opening ceremony like no other. You watched it on big screens as the athletes and officials cruised on boats on the river Seine, waving at the spectators standing in hordes at the riverside.

Drenched to the bones in open stands, you watched Zinedine Zidane run into the Trocadero arena with the Olympic flame to deafening applause and hand it over to Rafael Nadal. The Olympic cauldron was finally lit with a burning arrow. It was a spectacle to remember.

Then days went by in a blur. It was competition time. The real deal. You got sucked into it. The daily rides in the Metro were the same, the food at the Olympic venues was the same, at every venue! But the action inside every arena had its distinct flavour. It was an emotional roller-coaster ride.

For me, the strongest image of Paris 2024, which ended on Sunday, was that of Vinesh Phogat sitting inside the Games Village, deep in thought, after entering the final of 50kg freestyle wrestling. She had fought bravely that day, had beaten the world champion on the way. But she was worried. Not about her American opponent in the final, but her weight. She was 2.7kg overweight and had to shed it overnight. The weigh-in was early morning and it was not going to be easy.

She missed it by a mere 100g. That must have weighed like a ton on every Indian's mind. Vinesh was severely dehydrated, mentally a wreck. She has healed physically by now. The mind is another matter.

The other image is that of Pakistan's Nadeem Arshad's javelin throw that travelled 92.97m at the Stade de France. And how it ended

Amid gender row, Lin seals emphatic gold in boxing

Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting won her Paris Olympics women's boxing final on Saturday in style, ensuring that the two fighters at the centre of a major gender controversy both take home gold. A day after Algeria's Imane Khelif clinched gold at 66kg, Lin sobbed on the podium after claiming the 57kg crown with a unanimous points decision win over Poland's Julia Szeremetka. It was Taiwan's second gold of the Games and Lin bowed to all four sides of the arena, before kneeling down and banging the canvas with her fists. "I feel incredible. I want to thank everyone who has supported me and thanks to my team and everyone in Taiwan," she said.

Khelif files legal suit over online harassment

Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif has filed a legal complaint in France for online harassment after a rain of criticism and false claims about her sex during the Paris Olympics, her lawyer said Sunday. Khelif won gold Friday in the women's welterweight division, becoming a new hero in her native Algeria and bringing global attention. AGENCIES



THE HEARTBREAK:
Vinesh Phogat



THE HIGH:
Manu Bhaker

India's hopes of a gold medal repeat in the event. Neeraj Chopra, fighting a groin niggle, had a fantastic throw of 89.45m himself. But there was no way he was going to catch up. There will be another time when Neeraj undergoes surgery and returns to action fitter than he has been in years.

Gold and silver. It is massive. The greatest sportsperson of India, ever? Yes, without doubt, and Neeraj is just 26.

The train journeys to Chateauroux - 300km south of Paris - will certainly stay in memories - getting up at 4am to catch the train from Paris-Austerlitz and reaching the shooting ranges bleary-eyed. It was made worthwhile by the smiling, twinkling eyes of shooter Manu Bhaker who created history there. She won back-to-back bronze medals and came very close to winning another. No Indian has two medals in the same Games. She has raised the bar. She is just 22, so will surely be back for more.

Manu's second medal came in the company of Sarabjot Singh in the mixed 10m air pistol event.

Shooting gave us another bronze medal. Swapnil Kusale won it in the 50m rifle 3P event. While the buzz

over Manu's two medals had not yet died down, Swapnil, 29, quietly went about his business and pleasantly surprised us all.

The hockey bronze was special. They had won it in Tokyo and wanted it again. They won it by beating Spain 2-1. Ten of the team were part of the Tokyo bunch which had got India a hockey medal after 41 years. They knew how to win it.

They lost a very close match to Germany in the semifinals. It could have gone either way. It could have broken their confidence. But for them, there was no time to look back. They said they wanted to win a medal for their 36-year-old goalkeeper PR Sreejesh who was playing his farewell match for India. They won it in style. It was after 52 years that India had won back-to-back hockey medals.

On the penultimate day, 21-year-old wrestler Aman Sehrawat won us a bronze. It gave some solace after Vinesh's lost medal. Aman has had a difficult life, having lost both his parents by the age of 11. Wrestling saved him from going astray, gave him a purpose in life. He is giving back to the sport and the country. Those close to him say he rarely smiles. After the medal, post the press conference,

while posing for a selfie, he smiled. It went straight to the heart.

There were six fourth-place finishes for India at the Games: Arjun Babuta in men's 10m air rifle shooting; Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat in mixed team archery; Mirabai Chanu in weightlifting; Anant Jeet Singh & Maheshwari Chauhan in mixed skeet event; Manu Bhaker in women's 25m pistol and Lakshya Sen in men's singles badminton. Six medals could have very well been 12. And such is the world of sport.

Reflecting on India's performance one realized that the city had grown on you. You were reminded of those quick walks out of the competition arenas to enjoy food at the corner café. You were reminded of the volunteers here who made your workplace more comfortable. You were reminded of the croissants at the Chateauroux station, which simply melted in the mouth. You were also reminded of the smiling, welcoming faces of the Sri Lankan Tamils running the provisional store just next to your rented apartment in Belleville.

It is time to go home now, with a bag full of memories. Au revoir Paris.

Sifan trades elbows with Assefa before winning marathon

Paris: Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday.



SIFAN HASSAN

Hassan, an Ethiopian-born racer who runs for the Netherlands, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. Assefa won silver for Ethiopia, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the bronze.

Hassan raised her hands and yelled as he crossed the line, then wrapped the Dutch flag around her head as she celebrated. Wearing an orange bucket hat, she wrapped an arm around Nepal's Shantoshi Shrestha, whose smile was as bright as the sun pouring down on them.

Then, taking in the enormity of her win, Hassan plunged her head in her hands and appeared to weep with joy. The 31-year-old Hassan also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. By simply completing the marathon, she ran more than 62 km. She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500.

Breaking from tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. AP

84 nations won medals in Paris, India at No. 71

Continued from P1

What may rankle is the fact that our elite athletes now get the facilities that they want — the best training, good exposure and medical support. While at the grassroots level, sport still craves for attention and support, the govt does make things easy for top athletes to train, prepare and perform.

For preparing the contingent for Paris Olympics, the Union govt spent Rs 470 crore over the last three years. This is significantly more than what used to be the figure earlier. Looking at the break-up, the highest amount was spent on athletics (Rs 96.08 cr) followed by badminton (Rs 72.02 cr), boxing (Rs 60.93 cr) and shooting (Rs 60.42 cr). All 16 disciplines in which India participated in Paris got funds.

But another number makes it look dismal — 84 countries won medals in Paris and India were placed at 71 in the table. Certainly, not flattering. Those who have a stake in Indian sport must feel the pinch.

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, called the Indian contingent's show 'commendable'. "It's been a spirited performance. All our athletes have performed at a high level," he said. Encouraging words indeed. The problem is that while we improve, the world improves too. The powerhouse nations keep trying to get better and fringe countries keep producing surprise champions. The competition at this level is relentlessly high quality. The challenge is enormous.

The likes of Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Aman Sehrawat give optimism a youthful boost. More of their ilk are welcome.



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AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

OPEN-MOUTHED CEREMONY

Organisers promised a spectacular opening ceremony and the rain-soaked boat parade on the River Seine ended up making global headlines, but not for the expected reasons.

Church leaders and conservatives were left outraged by a scene involving drag queens and lesbian DJ Barbara Butch that appeared to parody Jesus's Last Supper. Artistic director Thomas Jolly denied any such intention. He and others involved ended up facing vicious online harassment that led to police complaints.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, AND A RIVER CALLED SEINE

There have been quibbles — the food at the Olympic Village and the water in the cleaned-up Seine where swimming events were held, for example. Three German swimmers became ill after competing in the open water races, though it was not clear if the long-polluted river was responsible for their sickness. The river remained dogged by pollution problems despite a 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) upgrade to improve the Paris sewerage and water treatment system.

DUPLANTIS VS DUPLANTIS

Armand Duplantis, known as Mondo, had already clinched his second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the men's pole vault. But few in the crowd of roughly 75,000 at the Stade de France in St. Denis were ready to leave. Duplantis, 24, would now try to set a world record for the ninth time since 2020. ABBA's "Dancing Queen" became the national anthem of Sweden as Armand Duplantis soared over 6.25 meters. Duplantis missed once, then twice. On his third and final attempt, he fell to earth while the bar remained on its perch. He had another record, sliced as thinly as an onion.



HOMETOWN HERO LEON

Whenever Leon Marchand dove off the starting block into the pool, La Defense Arena thrummed with indistinct cheers. But then, in the individual medley, Marchand changed from backstroke to breaststroke, and the noise changed, too. It became a beating call. Every time Marchand emerged from the water to breathe, the crowd shouted his name. When he submerged, the fans fell silent. "Leon! Leon! Leon!" From the stands, it felt as if they were blowing air into him, filling his lungs with their hope and joy.

4 Gold medals French sensation Leon Marchand won in swimming, and in each event he broke the Olympic record. His wins in the 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke came in the same session making him the first Olympic swimmer to do so.

SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR

Brazilian surfer Gabriel Medina, 30, was the subject of one of the most eye-catching photographs at this Olympics. In it, he defies gravity as he floats in the air and poses with one finger pointed toward the sky, his surfboard parallel to him, seemingly mimicking his stance. Aside from being the subject of a stunning photo, Medina took bronze at the surfing competition, which was held in Tahiti — 9,800 miles from Paris.

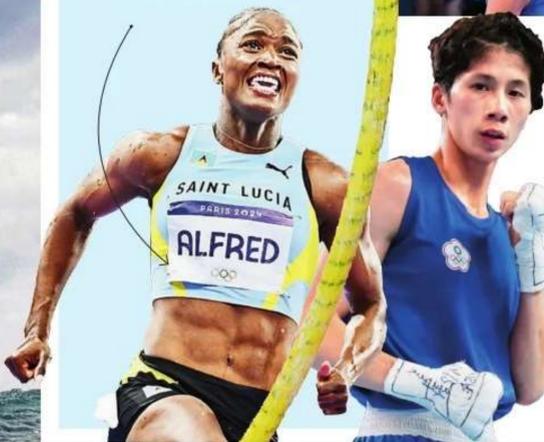


120

Minutes it took to decide the Argentina-Morocco match after the game ended. The match was initially suspended with a 2-2 draw as a group of fans broke onto the pitch, and two hours later the video assistant referee (VAR) ruled out Argentina's final goal for a 1-2 victory to their rivals.

FOR FIRST-TIMERS, SMALL IS BIG

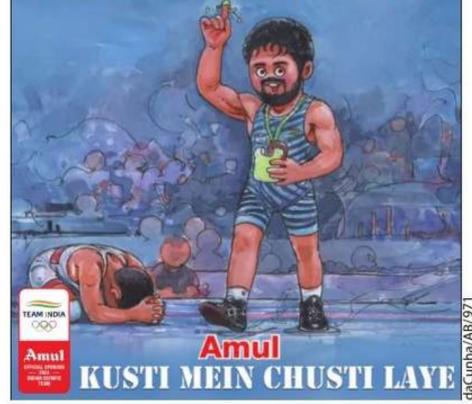
Every once in a while, a new nation joins the medal club. Thea LaFond-Gadson, 30, of the Caribbean island of Dominica, won the gold medal in women's triple jump. Then Julien Alfred, 23, of St. Lucia, also in the Caribbean, won the gold medal in the women's 100-meter sprint. Each medal was the first for their nation. "It means a lot to the small islands," Alfred said. "And seeing how we can come from a small place but also be on the biggest stage of our career."



THE GENDER CHAPTERS

Lin Yu-ting (L), who claimed the women's featherweight gold and Algerian Imane Khelif (top, in red), who won the welterweight division, were both caught up in a storm that has dominated headlines and been the subject of heated debate on social media platforms. The boxers were disqualified by the International Boxing Association (IBA) from the 2023 World Championships, which said a sex chromosome test had ruled them ineligible. Khelif's first opponent, Angela Carini of Italy, abandoned their bout after 46 seconds, saying she was in too much pain from Khelif's punches. "I'm a woman like any other woman," said Khelif.

SAMMAN SEHRAWAT!



Amul KUSTI MEIN CHUSTI LAYE

The Paris Games brought dazzling sport to the heart of the French capital and restored the Olympics' mojo. The spotlight was bright enough to highlight old faves, new faces and unlikely stars...

LANDMARK GAMES: The Eiffel Tower was the backdrop to the beach volleyball action



14 The four medals (two gold, one silver, one bronze) won by Katie Ledecky took her tally to 14 Olympics medals which made her the most decorated female swimmer in the history of Olympics. Her nine gold at the quadrennial event also ties her with Russian gymnast Larisa Latynina for most Olympic gold medals won by a woman.

9 Mondo Duplantis broke his world record for the ninth time with a height of 6.25 metres.

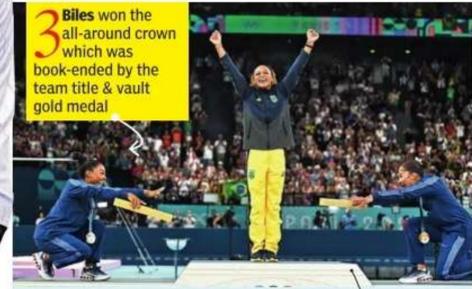


5 Cuban wrestler Mijain Lopez won the 130kg freestyle final to become the first athlete to win gold in the same event at five consecutive Games, and the first wrestler to win five gold medals. Tied at four successive individual golds are Carl Lewis (long jump), Michael Phelps (200m IM), Katie Ledecky (800m free), Al Oerter (discus throw), Paul Elvstrom (sailing) and Kaori Icho (wrestling).



THE TURKISH SHARPSHOOTER

Many people on social media reimagined the pistol shooters at the Olympics as characters from action movies. There was Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec, who nonchalantly competed with both eyes open, no special equipment (i.e., ear protector, specialized lens, eye cover) and one hand in his pocket. Dikec, 51, took silver in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event, his country's first medal in shooting. When he found out about his internet stardom, Dikec told the Turkish media, "I did not need special equipment. I'm a natural, a natural shooter." Casual.



3 Biles won the all-around crown which was book-ended by the team title & vault gold medal

BOWING TO 'THE QUEEN'

(A moment soured by a CAS ruling) After Jordan Chiles accepted her bronze and Simone Biles her silver, Rebecca Andrade was introduced as the Olympic champion of the floor exercise. As she approached the podium — completing the first all-Black podium in Olympic gymnastics history — Biles and Chiles turned to Andrade, dropped to one knee and bowed. Afterward, they called her a queen. The moment will probably be more poignant because Chiles lost her bronze after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in favour of an appeal by Romania's Ana Barbosu.



TEARS OF JOY

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, 37, has done so much in his tennis career: winning 24 Grand Slam singles titles, earning the world No. 1 ranking and raking in more than \$180 million in prize money. But when he finally achieved the only major milestone missing from his resume, an Olympic gold, he was overcome with emotion. He got down onto the clay at Roland Garros and hunched over. His hands trembled. His body shook. He ran to find his family and sobbed.

GALLERY

'Spurs sign Solanke for \$82.93 million'

Tottenham Hotspur signed striker Dominic Solanke from Bournemouth on a deal that will run until 2030. The financial details were not disclosed by either side, but British media reported that the deal is worth around \$82.93 million, making it a record sale for Bournemouth. The 26-year-old, capped once for England, enjoyed a fine 2023-24 season, scoring 19 goals in the English top flight.

Chelsea sign Pedro Neto: Chelsea signed Pedro Neto from Wolverhampton on a seven-year contract for a reported transfer fee of 54 million pounds (\$69 million). The Portugal international joins Enzo Maresca's team ahead of Chelsea's Premier League opener against Manchester City next weekend. AGENCIES

One-point win in final takes USA to top of tally

Paris: The United States held off France 67-66 to win an unprecedented eighth successive women's Olympic basketball gold on Sunday and extend their run of victories at the tournament to 61 games. It also ensured that USA finished on top of the medals tally. A'ja Wilson scored a game-high 21 points for the Americans who won the title for the 10th time overall, surviving a buzzer-beating shot from France's Gabby Williams.

The hosts needed a three to force overtime in Paris but Williams' foot was on the three-point line as she let go of the ball, so her shot counted for just two points in a dramatic finale. "It's all a blur right now," said Wilson, who also registered 13 rebounds and four blocks. "We were just resilient and when we needed to we just kept going."

Kelsey Plum and Kahleah Copper both scored 12 points off the bench for the US. Williams led France with 19.

An eighth straight triumph gave the US women the record for most consecutive gold medals in any team sport at the Olympics, breaking a tie with the US men, who won seven basketball titles in a row from 1936 to 1968.

Curry's late barrage seals basketball men's gold: Stephen Curry was thinking about this two years ago, after winning his fourth NBA title with the Golden State Warriors. The only thing left for him to win was Olympic gold.

And in the ultimate moment, he made sure that medal would be his. The US is atop the international men's basketball world again, after Curry scored 24 points — all on 3-pointers — and led the way to a 98-87 win over France in the final. It was the fifth consecutive gold for US and the 17th in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans. AGENCIES

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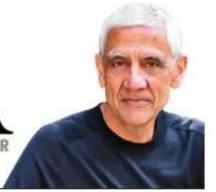


Free 24x7 primary care physician for every Indian & free tutor for every child is doable in 2-5 yrs, billionaire & OpenAI investor Vinod Khosla tells TOI, P 12

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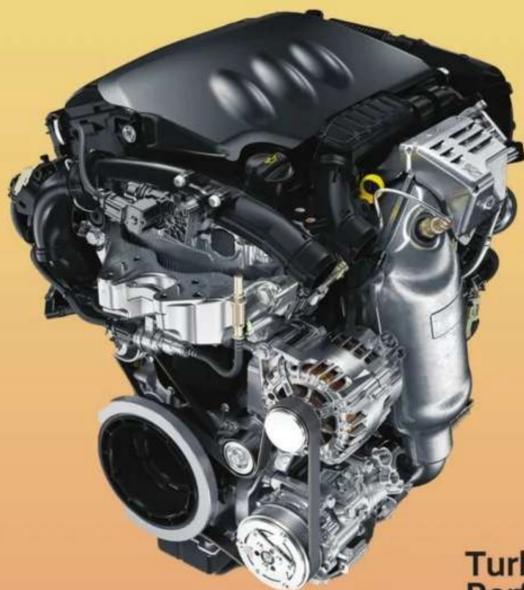
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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Zelensky confirms Ukraine has launched incursion into Russian territory Kursk to 'restore justice' & pressure Moscow's forces, **INSIDE JACKET**



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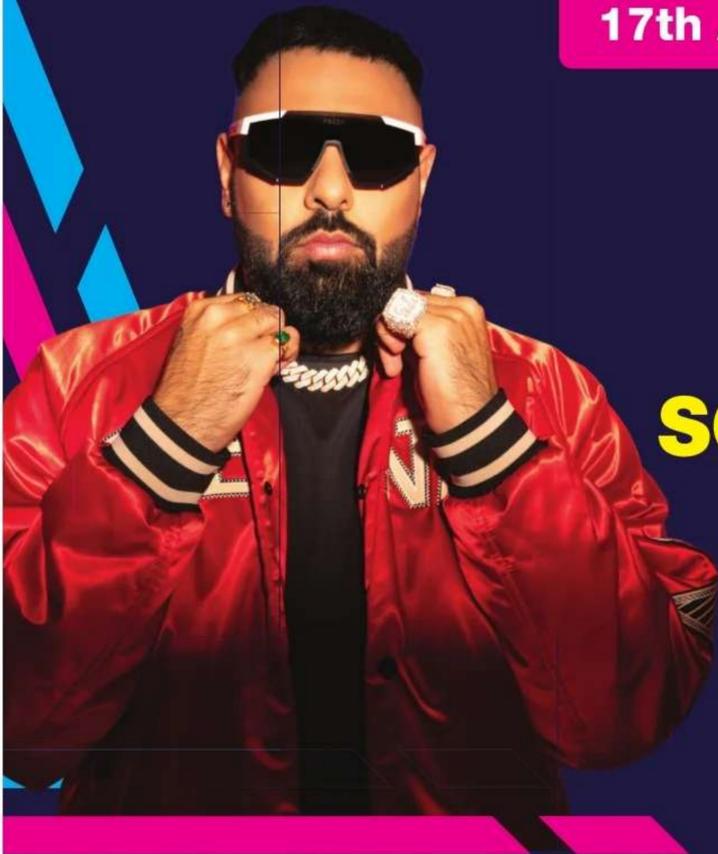
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JUDE LAW ENTERS 'STAR WARS' GALAXY WITH NEW TV SERIES, SAYS HE HAS BEEN A FAN OF THE ORIGINAL FILMS SINCE AGE 10

US pressure over St Martin's Island led to ouster, claims 'Hasina's letter'

Washington Denies Unconfirmed Note's Allegations

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: A letter allegedly from Bangladeshi ex-PM Sheikh Hasina is circulating among Awami League supporters, suggesting that her ouster from 15 years in office was the result of pressure from the US regarding the strategically important St Martin's Island.

The letter, which has gained traction despite the absence of official confirmation, attributes her removal to her refusal to cede control of the island in the Bay of Bengal to Washington. The island's importance is linked to the US's interest in countering China's influence in the Indian Ocean. "I could have remained in power if I had left St Martin's and the Bay of Bengal to America," the letter says.

The message echoed the ousted PM's long-standing stand against foreign intervention in Bangladesh's sovereignty, according to a party activist currently abroad. Last year, Hasina had said, "I don't want to return to power by leasing out St Martin's Island", during a press conference following her visits to Switzerland and Qatar.

St Martin's Island, known locally as "Narikel Zinzira", which translates to "Coconut Island", is in the northeastern part of Bay of Bengal, about 9km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula. With an area of just 3sqkm, the coral reef island is home to about 3,800 residents, most of whom are fishermen. There have been allegations circulating that Hasina's rival and ex-PM Khaleda



A student patrolls a burnt-down police station in Dhaka on Sunday

Media outlets risk shutdown for flattery and misinformation, says interim govt

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: The interim govt warned media outlets Sunday that any attempt at flattery or misinformation instead of publishing or broadcasting the truth could lead to them being shut down. "Shame on you, shame on the media owners... you did not tell the truth," home affairs adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhat Hossain said, alluding to the alleged suppression of truth

about how the country was being run for years. He said he would not recommend the closure of any media outlet "for what they did in the past", but declared this wouldn't be allowed during the tenure of the interim govt. "You know me," the former military officer said. He criticised the "approach" of journalists while asking questions of the erstwhile govt, saying that "a nation falters when the media does not uphold the truth".

Zia had sought to "sell" the strategically important island to the US in exchange for American support in regaining office.

The US authorities have denied these claims, maintaining that it respects the sovereignty of Bangladesh and has no intention of acquiring the island or intervening in the country's internal political matters.

The letter suggests Hasina's departure was motivated by her desire to avoid further blood-

shed. "I will return soon," she is quoted as saying. Hasina, currently in India, is also said to have addressed accusations that she had insulted students; "I never called you Razakars (ruthless mercenaries from the Bangladesh independence war). My words have been distorted."

The alleged claims are similar to Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan's allegations that US pressure played a role in his ouster. The US has denied it.

Will ask India to deport Hasina if law min asks for it: Foreign policy adviser

Continued from P1

Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed's assertion that his mother never resigned contradicted the claim made a while ago by Mohammad Touhid Hossain, interim govt's foreign policy adviser, that she put in her papers before fleeing the country for India.

Asked at his first press briefing if the new govt will ask India to deport Hasina back to Bangladesh, Hossain said he will do so only if the law ministry asked for it. "She resigned and the resignation letter is with the President. This has been confirmed. If the law ministry tells us to seek her return, I will do so," said Hossain.

According to earlier accounts, Hasina wanted to announce her resignation in a TV address before leaving her official residence, but didn't get to do so because of army's insistence that she leave immediately in view of violent protesters closing in on her Ganabhaban residence. She instantly took off in a C-130 to New Delhi. That leaves the question of whether she actually resigned unsettled.

Hossain also said that Bangladesh would have a "balanced" foreign policy, asserting that Dhaka intends to maintain "smooth and positive" relations with all, including India and China. "Our policy is to maintain good relations with all countries while protecting our national interests."

Yunus acquitted in corruption case

Muhammad Yunus was acquitted Sunday in a second legal case since taking over as chief advisor of the interim govt in Bangladesh Thursday, reports AKM Moinuddin. Yunus, along with 13 others, was charged by the nation's anti-corruption commission (ACC) on June 12 for the alleged misappropriation of about Bangladesh taka 25.22 crore from Grameen Telecom workers' profit participation funds. Recently, ACC sought the withdrawal of prosecution in the case, leading to Yunus and the others being acquitted by a special court in Dhaka this weekend.

When asked about the interim govt's approach towards India, Hossain said both countries share strong and deep bonds. "(But) it is important that people feel India is a good friend of Bangladesh... We want that, we want to advance the (Dhaka-Delhi) relation towards that direction," said Hossain. He said the interim govt "would like to see India cooperate with us in this regard" and underscored the need for "addressing public expectations by delivering tangible outcomes from the bilateral ties with India". Asked about the interim govt's tenure, Hossain only said the administration was committed to a fair and impartial election.

AKM Moinuddin & Agencies

Zelensky confirms Kursk incursion, says move meant to pressure Russia 'Pushing War Onto Aggressor's Territory To Restore Justice'

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgement of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces on Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest incursion into Russian territory since the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving. Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday.

In his nightly video address, Zelensky said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskiy. "Today, I received several reports from commander-in-chief Syrskiy regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said Saturday. "Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed — pressure on the aggressor."

Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday it had destroyed 14 Ukrainian drones and four Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles overnight over the Kursk region, and 18 drones over other Russian regions that Ukraine frequently attacks. In a statement, it called the ground incursion "barbaric" and said it made no military sense.

Ukraine has at most occupied several tens of square kilometres of Russian terri-



A residential building damaged after shelling by Ukraine in Kursk on Sunday

Hit Ukrainian units 30km into Russian territory, acknowledges Moscow

Russia's army appeared to acknowledge Sunday that Ukrainian units had driven deep into the country, saying it had hit troops and equipment around 30 km from the border. Russia has sent in additional reserves, tanks, drones, artillery and aviation to try to quash the offensive. The defence ministry in Moscow said Sunday that its troops had "foiled attempts by enemy mobile groups with armoured vehicles to break through deep into Russian territory." But in an apparent sign of how far some Ukrainian units have managed to advance, it said it had hit enemy units near the villages of Tolpino and Obshchy Kolodez, which are around 25 km and 30 km from the Russia-Ukraine border. Russia's army said Sunday it had continued to use aviation, drones and artillery to try to put down the attack. It also said it had foiled an attempt by Ukraine to break into another border district of the Kursk region, further to the south from where the bulk of the fighting has occurred so far. AFP

without laying claim to it, while Russia controls more than 100,000 sq km of Ukraine's internationally recognised territory. Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, said on Wednesday the attacks had been halted, but Russia has not pushed the Ukrainian forces back over the border. Russian military bloggers said the situation had stabilised after Russia's reinforcements, though they said Ukraine was

swiftly building up forces. Early on Sunday, Kursk officials said 13 people were injured in the city after debris from a destroyed Ukrainian missile fell onto a nine-storey residential building. Alexei Smirnov, Kursk's acting governor, ordered authorities to speed up the evacuation of civilians in areas at risk. On Saturday, Russia's TASS state news agency reported that over 76,000 people had been evacuated. REUTERS

'Demoralised' police unable to rein in rioters across Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: M Sakhat Hussain, the retired military officer heading home affairs in Bangladesh's interim govt, acknowledged Sunday that the country's police force was "demoralised" and currently unable to operate in the manner required to stem the surge in violence and looting in parts of the country.

"Restoring law and order remains the interim govt's priority, but a state cannot run like this. The politics of a state cannot go on like this. The state is not

anyone's personal property," he said of the continuing lawlessness that has paralysed economic activity. Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain urged people to cooperate with police, saying a society couldn't function without them.

Newly appointed IGP Md Mainul Islam said at least 42 police personnel were killed and many injured in clashes during the student-led upheaval that led to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina fleeing the country. Three of the dead were officers of the rank of inspector. Although 599 of the country's 639 police stations pa-

New CJ sworn in

Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban Sunday. Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar and Supradeeep Chakma, two advisers out of the three who couldn't be sworn on Thursday, took the oath of office at the same event. Farooq-e-Azam, the only one remaining, is still abroad. TNN

rtially resumed operations Sunday, they are all hamstrung by a shortage of personnel. A senior police officer said he and

his colleagues were traumatised by what happened and feared returning to work. Many are undecided about whether to remain in the police force, he said.

Violence over the weekend included protesters attacking an army patrol with sharp weapons in Gopalganj, injuring three officers, a junior commissioner and five other personnel. They also set fire to an army vehicle and vandalised two vehicles, according to a military spokesperson. The army patrol fired four rounds of ammunition to disperse the mob.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain said the army and border guard couldn't be expected to continue doing what is the police's job. Videos shared online show mosques that have purportedly faced looting attempts over the past few days and the presence of vandals in residential areas.

The home affairs adviser said that he would advocate a police overhaul. "I will insist that the police function under a police commission." He also opposed giving police "lethal weapons", saying he was surprised to see "7.62s in their hands".

England schools to teach how to spot online fake news under govt plans

London: The UK govt said on Sunday schools in England could teach children how to spot extremist and online content spreading "putrid conspiracy theories", under planned changes to the national curriculum. Education secretary Bridget Phillipson said she was launching a review of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools to introduce critical thinking across multiple subjects.

It follows recent disorder in more than a dozen towns and cities following the Southport

knife attack, which officials say were fuelled by misinformation online. The stabbing spree, allegedly carried out by British-born Axel Rudakubana, left three children dead. Online speculation of the tragedy falsely claimed Rudakubana was a Muslim immigrant.

"It's more important than ever that we give young people the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge what they see online," Phillipson told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper. "That's why our curriculum review will develop plans to

embed critical skills in lessons to arm our children against the disinformation, fake news and putrid conspiracy theories awash on social media."

Under the envisaged changes, students would analyse newspaper articles in English lessons to help spot fabricated clickbait, while computer classes would include analysing statistics in context. However, the review is not set to report its findings until next year, meaning reforms would not come into force until Sept. 2025, according to the Telegraph. AFP

Dropped out to avoid becoming a 'distraction': Prez

Washington: Prez Biden, in his first TV interview since dropping out of the White House race, said he had abandoned his bid for a second term because he did not want to create "a real distraction" for Democrats. "A number of my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate thought that I was going to hurt them in the races," he said. "And I was concerned if I stayed in the race, that would be the topic. You'd be interviewing me about, why did Nancy Pelosi say, why did so — and I thought it'd be a real distraction."

Biden said that he had "no serious problem" with his health but added that the highest priority had to be defeating Donald Trump. "A critical issue for me still is maintaining this democracy... He's (Trump) a genuine danger to American security." AGENCIES

Trump attacks Kamala for 'stealing' ideas Harris Backs Ending Taxes on Tips, A Promise Made By Ex-Prez To Woo Working Class

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Charges of plagiarism and stealing ideas erupted against Kamala Harris on Saturday after she pledged a "no tax on tips" policy at a campaign rally in Las Vegas, ground zero of the \$235-billion US hospitality industry that employs nearly 15 million workers.

Eliminating taxes on tipping has been part of Donald Trump's campaign promise and the Republican nominee immediately flew into a rage, accusing Harris of copying his idea for "political purposes". He wondered when she would "steal" his promise to eliminate taxes on social security benefits for seniors. "Kamala Harris, whose "honeymoon" period is ending, and is starting to get hammered in the Polls, just copied my no taxes on tips policy. The difference



TIPPING POINT: Trump supporters questioned why Kamala hasn't taken the lead on this as #copycatkamala is doing the rounds online

is, she won't do it, she just wants it for political purposes! This was a Trump idea — She has no ideas, she can only steal from me," he fumed in a post.

Harris' "no tax on tips" pledge came in a nod to the local culinary industry which was present in strength at a raucous rally in Nevada, a toss-up state. Las Vegas alone employs more than 300,000 workers in hospitality sector, mainly in hotels, casinos and restaurants. Whi-

le Harris' promise was part of a broader agenda in which she also promised to raise the minimum wage for workers and stop "wage theft". Trump supporters questioned why she has not taken the lead on this as he has over the past three years, trending #copycatkamala.

It was the second time this week that the Harris campaign has been put on the defensive after it was forced to acknowledge that her running mate Tim Walz "misspoke" when he gave the impression he had served in combat during his 24-year service in the National Guard. With polls showing Harris surging in half a dozen swing states that will determine the outcome of the election, the Trump campaign has stepped up its attack on the first woman of colour to win a major party prezy nomination, with crude sexist and racist salvos led

by the ex-prez himself.

Both the abuse and the tipping issue is seen together in a now infamous video clip in which Trump, driving a golf cart, peels off cash to tip caddies praising his debate performance, while he appears to call Prez Biden "a broken down pile of crap" and Harris a "f...king b...ch". Trump supporters maintain the audio is deliberately distorted and he is actually saying she is "f...king bad". Both sides have now taken to manipulating visuals to undermine the rival campaigns, notably by posting videos — taken hours before rallies — showing unoccupied seats. While both campaigns are attracting large partisan crowds, the inflow of political donations, particularly of small retail contributions, point to a surge of enthusiasm on the Democratic side, backed by polls showing Harris ahead.

Trump campaign says was hacked, blames Iran govt

Washington: Donald Trump's US prez campaign said Saturday some of its internal communications were hacked and blamed Iranian govt, without providing direct evidence. The Republican's campaign statement came after Politico reported it had begun receiving emails in July from an anonymous source offering authentic documents from inside Trump's operation. The Trump campaign referred to a Friday report from Microsoft researchers that said Iranian govt-tied hackers tried breaking into the account of a "high-ranking official" on a US prez campaign in June. The hackers had taken over an account belonging to an ex-political advisor and then used it to target the official, the report said. An Iran official said Tehran "neither possesses nor harbours any intent or motive to interfere in US election". REUTERS

Popular music fades at Trump rallies as Harris hits crescendo

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: If tastes in popular music and support from musicians are any indication of voter support, then Donald Trump is fading even as Kamala Harris campaign is reaching a crescendo in the US elections.

Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies — an anti-Trump line up that includes bands from Rolling Stones to Guns and Roses, and singers Bruce Springsteen to Rihanna.

Ironically, the Trump campaign was using Celine Dion's song "My heart will go on", from the movie Titanic when it was called out by her music label Sony Entertainment. "Celine

Dion does not endorse this or any similar use," the company said, snarkily adding, "... And really, THAT song?" Harris supporters too ridiculed the use of a song from a movie about a sinking ship, joking about Trump hitting a Kamala iceberg.

The entertainment industry has traditionally trended towards Democrats, but it has become even more pronounced in this cycle given Harris' own embrace of music and dance. Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Charli XCX, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for her. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both. Swift has previously expressed disquiet about Republican policies.



Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies. She joins the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, bands 'Rolling Stones' & 'Guns and Roses'

Some of the Trump trashing from the singers' brigade going back to when he first ran for prez has been brutal. When the Trump campaign used the Beatles song 'Here Comes the Sun' to introduce his daughter Ivanka at the Republican convention in 2016, the estate of George Harri-



Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for Kamala. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift, showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both

son, who wrote the song, said Trump didn't have permission to use it, but that they would consider allowing him to use the song 'Beware of Darkness'. In 2020, Leonard Cohen's estate issued a similar snub, criticising Trump's use of his song 'Hallelujah' at the RNC and sug-

gesting they could have approved of 'You Want It Darker'.

Trump's attempted embrace of nativism through the use of Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA' too was rejected in 2016 by the singer, who publicly supported Hillary Clinton. The ex-prez now uses the patriotic song 'God Bless the USA' by Lee Greenwood. An analysis by a local newspaper of music at a Trump rally in Minnesota found that of the 32 songs played, 27 were by white musicians or all-white groups, and 25 were by male musicians or all-male groups. The Harris campaign appears to favour black, female artists, featuring songs such as Beyonce's 'Freedom' and Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car'. The campaign has also used live bands, leading Trumpists to allege

they are used to entice crowds.

The family of Tom Petty denounced Trump's use of the song 'I Won't Back Down' at his rallies, stating the song was written for the 'underdog' and 'common man'. Creedence Clearwater Revival frontman John Fogerty similarly opposed Trump's use of the band's song 'Fortunate Son', noting the song's lyrics were meant as a critique of how wealthy people are unfairly able to avoid the draft and paying taxes. Family members of Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti objected to Trump campaign's use of 'Nessun Dorma', stating that his views on immigration were incompatible with her efforts in raising money, as a UN messenger of peace, in support of immigrants and refugees.

DAILY PLANET



FISHY BUSINESS: Banksy revealed Sunday a new artwork in London featuring a fish shoal on a police sentry box, his seventh animal-themed piece in a week. The series created by the elusive street artist has sparked a frenzy of media interest and questions over its meaning. Unlike his previous dark silhouette images, this one uses translucent spray paint, transforming the box into a giant fish tank

First deaf Miss SA takes title after divisive contest

Mia le Roux made history as the first deaf woman to be crowned Miss South Africa following a contentious competition where one finalist withdrew after facing online harassment over her Nigerian heritage, BBC reported Sunday.

In her acceptance speech, Le Roux expressed her hope that her win would inspire those who feel marginalised to achieve their "wildest dreams". She said her aim is to support those who are "financially excluded or differently abled". Last week, Chidimma Adetshina, a 23-year-old law student, withdrew from the competition after the country's home ministry found that her mother may have stolen the identity of a South African woman in an ongoing investigation. Adetshina has been the subject

Record losses spur Aussies to push for gambling ad ban

An alliance of leading Australians has demanded the govt impose a total ban on gambling ads in a country that racks up some of the biggest losses per person in the world. Gambling losses in Australia, with a population of just 27 million, are estimated at Aus\$25 billion a year (\$16bn) — a global record per capita. Adverts enticing people to risk their cash are widespread on TV, radio and billboards. Slot machines, or "pokies" are installed in many pubs, too.

AROUND THE WORLD

Yellow tennis balls, which look better on colour TV, were the idea of Sir David Attenborough. Tennis balls were traditionally white

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



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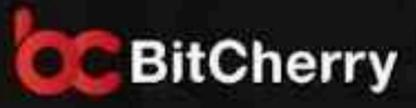
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