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

Skin under PGT doc's nails is of accused, says forensic report

Smothering And Throttling Caused Death: PM Report

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamagna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Investigators on Sunday found the strongest evidence yet against Sanjay Roy, the prime accused in the rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital: traces of blood and skin found under the victim's fingernails are a perfect match with Roy's, and correspond to the injuries he suffered.

RG KAR HORROR: P 2, 3 & 4

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday had directed the police to ensure a fast-track trial, calling it a "despicable crime". Kolkata Police sources said they tried their best to speed up their probe after that.

The victim — even half-asleep — had desperately tried to fight back, and it was this fight that gave investigators the proof they needed, said a senior cop. "She had tried to resist, and caused deep injury marks and scratches on the hands of the accused. In a me-

'NOTHING TO HIDE... WILL PROBE EVERY COMPLAINT'



Unusually heavy police presence at the RG Kar Medical College & Hospital's main entrance on Sunday, two days after the junior doctor was found killed on campus

If you have any information, if you think anyone is involved, let us know. We will look into it. There is nothing to hide — Vineet Goyal | COMMISSIONER, KP, TO PROTESTING STUDENTS

POSTMORTEM FINDINGS

- Death from smothering, throttling
- Victim sexually abused & murdered

PRELIMINARY FORENSIC FINDINGS

- Skin and blood samples collected from nails of victim match Roy's and corroborate police theory

WHAT INVESTIGATORS SAY

- Only motive so far appears to be lust, or sexual gratification
- Nothing to show victim and accused knew each other

We trust the police probe. We want to know whether there were multiple attackers. Did the attacker act at the behest of someone else? — Victim's father

medical examination, the scratch injuries on Roy's body matched the skin and blood samples collected from the fingernails of the victim. We expect to get the final forensic report soon," he told TOI.

The postmortem report has said the death was due to smothering and throttling. There are abrasion marks and bruise marks on the victim's face, on the eyes till the neck. The report mentions that the accused "got certain advantage as the victim

was in deep sleep at the time of the attack." The report, however, said that the judicial inquest was wrong in suggesting a collarbone and pelvis fracture.

Police commissioner Vineet Goyal said the police had "nothing to hide". Meeting the protesting students on the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital campus, he said: "We have handed over the postmortem report to the victim's family, and have apprised them of the probe."

The police claimed that the

only motive, for the prime accused, appeared to be lust, or sexual gratification. "There is no evidence of the victim and the accused knowing each other," an officer said, but added that that line was still being probed. The cops also said that a male doctor, who was a close friend of the victim, had also given his statement, as had several other doctors and colleagues, whom she was close to.

'Insider hand', P 2

Super removed, transferred out

Giving in to demands of agitating junior doctors, the state health department on Sunday removed Sanjay Bashista, RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's medical superintendent and vice-principal, from his post. He has been transferred to Calcutta National Medical College. P 3

Uniforms, ID cards must for each staffer

The health department on Sunday asked staffers of private agencies, contractual staffers and civic volunteers on duty at hospitals to wear uniforms and display identity cards. The department said it would act strongly against violations. P 2

Accused's sis wants 'harsh punishment'

RG Kar rape-murder accused Sanjay Roy's sister, an ASI with Kolkata Police, on Sunday demanded the harshest possible punishment for his crimes, if found guilty. "Do whatever you want to do with him," she told reporters. P 2

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 1.4 billion people, our return of one silver and five bronze is very meagre. That the world's most populous country could not produce a single gold medal is hard to digest.

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

However, if we look at India's showing at 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 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 — there were six fourth-place finishes. Besides, Vinesh Phogat's disqualification meant India lost a gold or silver.

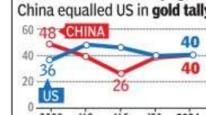
What may rankle is that

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

our elite athletes now get the facilities they want — the best training, good exposure and medical support.

While at the grassroots level, sport still craves for attention and support, govt does make things easy for top athletes to train, prepare and perform.

For preparing the contingent for Paris Olympics, 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 crore) followed by badminton (Rs 72 crore), boxing (Rs 61 crore) and shooting (Rs 60.4 crore). 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 on 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 medalist, praised the Indian contingent's show as "commendable".

FULL COVERAGE | P 16-18

'High quality', P 17

Hasina never resigned as Bangladesh PM, claims son

In a stunning twist to developments in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina's son, Sajeb Wazed, on Sunday claimed that his mother never resigned as PM and reports to the contrary were "completely false and fabricated", report AKM Moinuddin and agencies. "...I have just confirmed with her that she did not make any statement before or since leaving Dhaka," Wazed wrote on X.

His assertion contradicted a claim made by Mohd Touhid Hossain, the interim govt's foreign policy adviser, that she quit before fleeing.

Yunus acquitted in corruption case, P 15

Asked at his first press briefing whether the new govt would ask India to deport Hasina back to Bangladesh, Hossain said he would 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, whose position is equivalent to that of a minister.

According to earlier acco-



Protesters in front of a vandalised mural of Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka

unts, Hasina wanted to announce her resignation on TV before leaving her residence, but did not get to do so because of the army's insistence that she leave immediately in view of violent protesters closing in on her residence. She took off in a chopper to board a C-130 that took her to Delhi.

That would leave the question of whether she resigned unsettled — a bone of contention for the opposite groups.

'Want smooth ties', P 15

US design behind my ouster: 'Hasina letter'

A letter allegedly from former Bangladesh 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.

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 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. P 15

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

Stay Calm, Probed Most Claims, Sebi Tells Investors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/ Mumbai: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval, on Sunday trashed allegations of impropriety levelled by Hindenburg and hit out at the short seller for "attacking" Sebi's "credibility" and attempted "character assassination" without responding to a Sebi show-cause.

The market watchdog, too, waded in, saying it had acted

EDIT PAGE: The Point Hindenburg Didn't Raise FULL COVERAGE: P 13

on the allegations made against 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

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

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

with exposure to Adani stocks, which led to Sebi "drawing a blank" in its probe against the group. Adani dismissed the report, saying it was "malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions".

'Two cos named...', P 14

Oppn 'conspiracy' to destabilise eco: 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 "to discredit the financial system". P 5

Rahul: Risk in mkt, JPC must probe charges

Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and the Sebi chief, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi on Sunday demanded a JPC to probe the allegations. Warning of a serious threat to the hard-earned investments of investors, Rahul also demanded the sacking of the Sebi chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. P 5

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 13

Civilian succumbs to injuries, J&K encounter toll rises to 3

Saleem Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Srinagar/Jammu: 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 crossfire dying of gunshot wounds on Sunday.

Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Himachal — both attached with 1 Para Special Force — were killed in the encounter on Saturday. 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 was "being investigated". There have been reports of locals being coerced or lured by terrorists



Security personnel during the encounter in Anantnag on Sunday

to help them navigate the challenging terrain. The operation to hunt down terrorists, who have escaped deep into the jungles, continued on Sunday despite heavy rain and the challenging landscape of Ahlan Gagarmandu. Earlier in the day, a brief gunfight between security forces and terrorists was reported from a remote forest in Kishtwar district. No casual-

ties were reported. Officials said the shootout had no impact on the annual pilgrimage to Machail Mata shrine in Kishtwar. "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.

> 16 personnel killed... P 9

Three arrested for gang-raping girl with disabilities

Three persons were arrested on Sunday on charges of gang-raping a 19-year-old with disabilities after overpowering her and her boyfriend in East Burdwan's Nadra on Wednesday evening. The first-year college student lodged a police complaint on Saturday. Her parents told cops she had been too traumatised to speak of the assault.

According to the complaint, the girl and her boyfriend were sitting together when three men approached them. They claimed the couple had been caught in a "compromising position" and started demanding money. When the couple said they did not have money, the trio tried to physically abuse the girl. The boyfriend tried to fight them but was overpowered. The three — identified as Tapas Pandit, Sajal Ghatwal and Bikram Malik — then raped the girl. P 9

Debashis Konar & Ashok Pradhan | TNN

Kolkata/Bhubaneswar:

Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday called up Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, seeking his intervention in reports of workers from Bengal in Odisha being assaulted, intimidated and abused as "Bangladeshis" by local vigilante groups.

Odisha govt has asked police to remain vigilant. Banerjee also sought Majhi's help to facilitate the return to Bengal of any such worker, should they want to, said Bengal govt sources.

The attacks or incidents of harassment were reported from Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Sambalpur districts. In most cases, local residents confronted roadside vendors and workers speaking Bengali and asked them to show documents to prove they were not illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. In Sambalpur, a group of local people forced more than 30 Bengali-speaking workers to go to Ainthapali PS. They were let off after police verified their documents and found such charges baseless. In a video, one of several that have surfaced on X, a hawk — who claims he is from Nadia's Ranaghat, and

Three B'deshis arrested on border

BSF on Sunday arrested three Bangladeshis, one of them Abdul Kadir (25), an Awami League students' wing leader, when they tried to cross the border and sneak into India. BSF sources on said that 11 Bangladeshis had been apprehended at the border while trying to cross over to India in the past 24 hours, of whom two were nabbed from the Bengal border. Two of the arrested will be handed over to the state police. P 4

king Bengali and asked them to show documents to prove they were not illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. In Sambalpur, a group of local people forced more than 30 Bengali-speaking workers to go to Ainthapali PS. They were let off after police verified their documents and found such charges baseless. In a video, one of several that have surfaced on X, a hawk — who claims he is from Nadia's Ranaghat, and

now stays in Kendrapada — is being assaulted for not having an Aadhaar card while he is selling goods stacked on a bicycle. While he attempts to show his attackers a soft copy of his Aadhaar on his cellphone, he is assaulted for not having a "genuine" one. An attacker is heard saying that he was a Bangladeshi. In the other video, a Muslim man says he suffered a bleeding forehead after he was assaulted on suspicion of being a Bangladeshi. The other two videos are also similar.

"There were no major incidents of violence and police have acted promptly in isolated cases of Bengali-speaking people being targeted. We are alert to prevent any untoward incident. Action will be taken against the guilty," said Odisha DGP Arun Sarangi. The state's law minister, Prithiviraj Harichandan, said Odisha govt would soon begin the process of verifying identities of Bangladeshi citizens entering Odisha without valid papers.

> Helpline created, P 9

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 on 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 5

Dad freed after 5 yrs 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 5

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". P 9

Dam gate gives in, alert in K'taka, AP

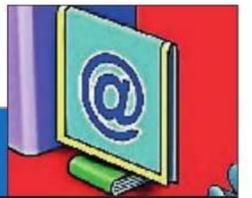
Lakhs of villagers in Karnataka and AP face danger as the 19th crest gate of Tungabhadra reservoir broke down and got washed away, leading to concerns about dam's safety. P 6

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SCARED BANGLADESHIS TRICKLE IN, BSF PERSONNEL ARREST 3 ON BORDER | 4

IN SECOND PHASE OF ADMISSIONS, CENTRALIZED PORTAL GETS 2.5 LAKH APPLICATIONS IN 5 DAYS | 4



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Pockets of insecurity dot govt hospital campuses, say docs, staff & patients' kin

'Outsiders Hang Out, Pass Lewd Comments'

Tamaghna Banerjee, Sumati Yengkhom & Srishti Lakhota | TNN

Kolkata: Almost every govt-run hospital campus has a few pockets where women — patients, their kin and even hospital staffers — complain of "a feeling of insecurity, especially at night". Following the rape-murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor on RG Kar Medical College and Hospital premises, TOI visited several govt hospitals and spoke to woman doctors, nurses and patients' relatives to find the vulnerable zones.

At RG Kar Hospital, there are at least two desolate stretches — one behind the emergency building and another near the mortuary next to the



Desolate stretches on the RG Kar hospital campus and (right) on the Calcutta Medical College & Hospital premises

wall beside railway tracks.

"There are some stretches on the hospital premises that we dread at night where outsiders drink, smoke and pass lewd comments at women — be it staffers or relatives of patients. But now that my colleague has been brutalized and killed in the safety of the hospital building, I don't know where we can feel safe," said a second-year MBBS student. At Calcutta Medical College

and Hospital, the stretch that connects the main campus with Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, the stretch on campus next to the gate near STM and the area behind the academic building are notorious for illicit activities.

"I was heading to the toilet around 2 am last week when some men started following me from near the academic building. They were sitting in a group and once they saw me,

they started calling out and then chased me. I started running and thankfully spotted two security guards and sought their help. Seeing the guards, the men fled," said a woman whose son had been admitted to the hospital.

Doctors and staffers said outsiders hanging around the campus was a common issue in all govt hospitals but it was most felt on large campuses, like Calcutta Medical College,

where outsiders are mostly brought in by group D staffers and doms who live on the premises. "They create trouble for doctors. They burst crackers and play loud music during festivals, causing discomfort to patients," said a PGT at the hospital.

At NRS Hospital, the stretch next to the mortuary and the corners of the field next to it are known for such illicit activities.

There are some stretches on the hospital premises where outsiders drink, smoke and pass lewd comments at women

A 2nd-yr MBBS student at RG Kar

I was heading to the toilet around 2 am when some men sitting near the academic building started chasing me. I sought help from security guards, after which the men fled

A woman whose son had been admitted to Calcutta Medical College and Hospital

An SSKM Hospital nurse said the stretch next to the gastroenterology building and a stretch towards the hospital kitchen are particularly risky for women. "There have been two instances in the recent past when nurses were followed at night," the nurse said.

Family suspects insider hand

Continued from P 1

Interestingly, the cops said they learnt that the victim had a tiff with a civic volunteer some months back, but no one seems to be sure if that

had been working with an accomplice.

This question is also troubling the victim's friends and family. "We had asked the (additional) police commissioner on whether there was some-



Junior doctors protest at RG Kar Hospital on Sunday

was Roy. At least one woman doctor, however, told the probe team that she — not the victim — had an argument with Roy.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is set to meet the three-member forensic team which conducted the postmortem with some specific queries on Monday. The SIT wants to know — based on the evidence collected — whether the injuries on the victim's body could have been caused by Roy alone, or whether he

one else. We have been told that police are investigating that aspect as well," the victim's father told reporters after meeting the additional CP at their home. "We suspect an insider's role," he added.

Commissioner Goyal also requested students to volunteer information "if you think anyone is involved", promising to look into all such claims. He also asked them to be wary of several rumours that were doing the rounds.

Lalbazar opens helpline for case info, shares plan to boost women's safety in govt hosps

Tamaghna Banerjee, Dwaipayan Ghosh & Srishti Lakhota | TNN

Kolkata: Lalbazar has come up with a toll-free number — 18003455678 — on which anyone with information about the rape-murder at RG Kar Hospital can share it while remaining anonymous.

"The helpline is meant for the safety of students and staff of all medical colleges and hospitals in case of any emergency. At present, we are keeping this helpline open for any information related to this case," said an officer.

The helpline was shared by cops on Sunday evening, shortly after Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal had a meeting with protesting

WHAT KOLKATA POLICE WILL DO



Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal at RG Kar Hospital on Sunday

students of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Earlier in the day, Lalbazar, under instructions from Goyal, issued a plan emphasizing the need for enhanced safety measures for women in

govt hospitals and a renewed check on its own force deployed at the hospital. The plan called for identifying crime-prone zones, increasing cop presence and installing CCTV cameras with the help of pri-

private entities. It also stressed the importance of involving more women officers.

"We have been asked to identify spots on the hospital premises and hostels where security for women needs to

be increased. We have been asked to speak to women — students, doctors and hostel residents — to understand if there is any lacunae in security and make necessary amends at the earliest," said an officer.

The plan also called for increasing the number of woman cops on hospital premises. "A mechanism will also come into place to keep watch on cops at the outposts and other parts of the hospitals so they don't break any law. There will be checks on activities of civic volunteers as well," said the officer.

The officer said the OC of the hospital's police outpost will be in charge of briefing non-police personnel, like civic volunteers, NVF and green police who work there.

Every hosp security staffer must wear uniform, ID card

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The health department on Sunday asked staffers of private agencies, contractual staffers and civic volunteers on duty at the hospital to wear uniform and display identity cards. The health department said it will act strongly if any violation is reported.

The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital authorities on Sunday also issued instructions for the security staff and the civic cops to wear uniforms and identity cards during duty hours, and restrict outsiders from moving around on the hospital premises.

Patients' families were asked to display visitor cards to be allowed on campus. The security at all the hospital gates has been increased and just



Uniformed security personnel at RG Kar hospital wear ID cards around their necks on Sunday

one emergency gate will remain open at night. Cops will always keep a close watch.

After the notice was issued, the hospital's main gate was blocked by a guard rail and all entering were checked. Civic cops at the spot immediately started wearing identity

cards around their necks.

A section of patients' family members on the campus complained that the civic volunteers were behaving like they were actual cops. Raju Ghosh, a family member of a patient in ICU, shouted at the civic cops after being stopped from visiting the patient. "My wife's uncle is admitted to the ICU. I brought my wife, who has a hand fracture, but we were stopped and the civic volunteers misbehaved with us. Where are they getting the strength to misbehave with patients' relatives after such incidents?" Ghosh said.

Speaking to TOI, a civic cop said, "All are targeting us now as the accused was from the same platform. We are following all instructions given by the hospital authority."

Civic volunteer's ASI sister for 'strictest possible punishment'

Debobrata Shome | TNN

Kolkata: Disowning her brother, Sanjay Roy — arrested for the brutal rape and murder of the RG Kar Hospital's trainee doctor — the accused's sister, an assistant sub-inspector with Kolkata Police, on Sunday demanded the harshest possible punishment for his crimes.

"Do whatever you want to do with him, please do not bring his body back home. We will not receive it. No one can have a relationship with such an inhuman," she told reporters.

The sister, who refused to be identified due to the nature of her job, said she had severed all ties with him long ago due to his excessive drinking and violent behaviour. "I have no relation with him and never want to have any," she stated in response to questions about the allegations against her brother.

Sanjay Roy, the family said, had a history of troubling behaviour. He was married four times, with the recent one solemnized in Feb, 2022. "We were unaware of his previous marriages and abusive tendencies. Sanjay's violent nature came to light when he kicked my



A photograph from Sanjay Roy's wedding album

three months pregnant sister in the stomach, leading to the death of their unborn child," said the sister of Sanjay's fourth wife.

Tragically, his wife was later diagnosed with blood cancer and admitted to NRS Hospital for six months, where she eventually died. "Despite this, Sanjay refused to

hand us my daughter's death certificate. Police refused to take any action against Sanjay despite our complaint. He would come home drunk, beat people up, and threaten to kill us," said mother of Sanjay's wife. She also claimed to have cut ties with him long before the tragic incident unfolded.

Sanjay's mother, Malati, who also bore the brunt of his violent behaviour, remained silent on the matter. "A bell doesn't ring on its own," Malati said. She insisted that Sanjay never cared about the family, nor did he ever take care of her. "My daughters look after me," she said. Asked about her son's crime, she said, "A mother always tries to raise all children in the best way she can. Now, I am hearing about his misdeeds. It is difficult to believe."

Neighbours claim Sanjay was a local tough. "He always claimed he was from the Kolkata Police's armed battalion. He had also learnt boxing when he was young. He had taken money from some people promising them police jobs. We do not know how such a person with this background was allowed to stay with the police force," a local, refusing to be named, said.

Doc's last rites performed at home, sr cop shares probe progress with family

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: On Sunday — the day when last rites of the 31-year-old PGT doctor were performed at her home — Kolkata Police additional commissioner, Murlidhar Sharma, apprised her family of the investigation done in the case so far.

During their meeting with Sharma, the family wanted to know whether Sanjay Roy — the key accused — had an accomplice. They also urged the senior investigator to bring the entire department of chest medicine at RG Kar Hospital under the probe ambit.

The family informed the officer that their daughter was "under mental pressure."

"The (additional) police commissioner had come to our home today (Sunday). He has confided in us the progress of the probe. He has also given us the postmortem report. He spoke to us in detail. We have also conveyed to him what we want," the victim's family told re-



(Left) Additional commissioner of Kolkata Police, Murlidhar Sharma, near the victim's house in Sodepur; (right) women in her neighbourhood take out a rally



porters. The family said they were initially bewildered after receiving a call from an 'assistant superintendent' of RG Kar Hospital that their daughter had died by suicide. "After CM Mamata Banerjee spoke to us, and today (Sunday) after speaking to the police commissioner, we have complete faith in CM Banerjee and the police. All we want is justice and exemplary punishment of the culprits," they added. Sharma, after speaking to the family, said, "It is not about a lady doctor being brutally murder-

red. She is like my own sister and niece. We will see the end to this." Though the family appeared satisfied with the probe's progress, they made it clear that something was ailing in the RG Kar Hospital. "My daughter did not like going to the hospital again. For example, when four male and one female doctor were allotted duties, no thought was given to the provision of retiring rooms for the female doctor. And, nothing moved there. Even after being told repeatedly, nothing happened. So,

yes, my daughter was under mental pressure (working in that hospital). And, we have reasons to suspect that others in the hospital may also have been involved. We have demanded that the entire chest medicine department be brought under the probe ambit," the father said. Speaking on the autopsy report findings shared with them by police, the father said, "We are not medical experts but what we were told generically is that there were injuries in her lower parts, and she was murdered. But for the sake of ongoing investigation, please do not ask any more questions on this."

In the morning, the last rites were conducted in a simple manner. The home was closed for outsiders. There were some, who had come to express solidarity with the family, they were politely asked to return. Later in the evening, around 100 local women took out a 3km silent march in the neighbourhood. They refused to let in political flags in their rally. "I will try to be with the protesting students in RG Kar Hospital (on Monday). I support their demands. All we want is justice. We will fight for it," the father said.

RG Kar super removed but doctors, students demand principal's scalp

ACP Of Hosp Cop Outpost Also Shunted

Sumati.Yengkhom@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Giving in to the demands of the agitating junior doctors, the state health department on Sunday removed R G Kar Medical College and Hospital medical superintendent and vice principal Sanjay Basistha from his post. He has been transferred to Calcutta National Medical College as a professor in the physiology department. Bulbul Mukhopadhyay, former dean of student affairs of R G Kar, has taken over as the new vice principal and superintendent of the hospital, where a post-graduate trainee was brutally raped and murdered early on Friday, sparking protests across medical colleges in the city and state.

The protesting resident and junior doctors on Friday had also demanded resignations of principal Sandip Ghosh, the chest medicine head and the ACP of Kolkata Police outpost on the hospital campus, setting a 12-hour deadline for their ouster. After meeting the agitators, Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal said ACP Chandan Guha has been removed immediately, and said the other demands were also being looked into.



Doctors and students protest on R G Kar campus on Sunday



But the students remained adamant on the ouster of the hospital principal and the chest medicine head.

"Shunting out the MSVP is only

an eyewash. The first head that should roll is that of the current principal. We demand his immediate removal and we are going to intensify our

Every allegation of irregularities in R G Kar in recent years revolves around the principal. He should be removed with immediate effect

Manas Gumta | ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH SERVICE DOCTORS WEST BENGAL

agitation until our demands are met," said a protesting junior doctor.

Various doctors' organizations have been asking for the removal of the principal. The demand has turned louder with bodies like the Association of Health Service Doctors West Bengal (AHSWB), West Bengal Doctors' Forum and the Service Doctors Forum also putting in pressure. They said they stood by the demands of the agitating doctors.

"The MSVP is a scapegoat. Every allegation of irregularities in R G Kar in recent years revolves around the principal. He should be removed with immediate effect," said surgery professor Manas Gumta of AHSWB.

Even the agitating resident doctors of IPGMER have also demanded Ghosh's ouster.

The R G Kar protesters have also demanded that the SIT formed to investigate the crime should reveal the

R G Kar Hosp emerges as headache for health dept



details of the probe. A judicial inquiry has also been demanded along with adequate compensation to the family of the deceased doctor.

Hassan Mushtaq, a protesting junior doctor, said, "We demanded a written apology and resignation of the principal, MSVP, chest medicine HOD and the on-duty ACP of R G Kar Medical College police outpost within 12 hours. We are happy that the process has begun but we want the resignation of all officials who failed to protect our colleague."

Even as the doctors' stir continued to rock R G Kar on Sunday, the medicals claimed that their agitation has not affected treatment. The hospital's emergency department, though, remained shut on Sunday.

TOI tried to contact Ghosh for his reaction on Sunday but he didn't respond. On Saturday, he had said that the deceased PGT was 'like a daughter to me'. "The unfortunate incident has put me and the entire hospital administration in deep shock. We are trying to address the security and amenity concerns of our resident and junior doctors," Ghosh had said.

Sukanta seeks CBI probe, writes to Nadda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Union minister Sukanta Majumdar on Sunday wrote to Union health minister J P Nadda seeking his intervention in the R G Kar incident.

Seeking a CBI inquiry, Majumdar requested Nadda to send a National Medical Commission team to assess the infrastructure of the medical colleges. "I request to send a team of National Medical Commission to investigate the matter and take appropriate action. Also, enforce stringent security protocols,

including the installation of more CCTV cameras, presence of adequate security personnel and the restriction of unauthorised access to sensitive areas within medical institutions," Majumdar wrote in the letter.

The BJP move comes a day after Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee called for introducing a Bill in Parliament to fast-track trial and conviction of rapists and murderers within a week. He criticised BJP for protesting on the streets and urged them to instead press the Centre to pass a Bill for swift justice.

Accused's role in money chain: Getting patients from local nursing homes, running tout racket

Sumati Yengkhom, Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: An independent investigation by TOI following the horrific rape-murder of a young doctor has revealed several other ills plaguing R G Kar Medical College and Hospital under the current dispensation led by principal Sandip Ghosh.

One of them is the "regular practice" of "helping" cash-strapped patients being treated in nearby nursing homes get beds at the hospital — of course — for a fee. And Sanjay Roy, the civic volunteer arrested by cops for the crime, has been a key part of this chain.

"He had great connections with the local police station and was very pally with every junior and senior officer posted at the cop outpost of the hospital. There is one junior officer in particular with whom he mostly used to team up to run the racket. But the money he charged from the harrowing patients filled several pockets in an organi-

ILLS PLAGUING RG KAR HOSPITAL

Practices Sanjay Roy is known for

- Being part of a tout racket operating out of the hospital. Charged money, promising cash-strapped relatives of patients admission at R G Kar Hospital for a fee
- Charging bribe for free or services at discounts at the hospital — like beds and various tests
- Promising admission of patients at nearby nursing homes for a fee in case they don't get admission at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital
- Taking money from innocent job seekers promising them jobs as civic volunteers or in the police force



Accused Sanjay Roy would charge money for arranging hospital beds and tests

He was part of the police welfare cell and his job at R G Kar was only helping those who would get admitted there. He had no role in the police outpost — A police officer

sed chain," said a source at the hospital.

Cops probing into the rape and murder of the young post-graduate trainee doctor at R G Kar Hospital said since 2019 Roy was never deployed in any police activity.

"He was part of the police welfare cell and his job at R G

Kar was only knowing and helping those who would get admitted there. He had no role in the police outpost. However, he visited this hospital regularly and used to visit the outpost very frequently," said an officer.

Among some of his other activities was heading a

racket of tous who would charge money for several ills and malpractices at the hospital like arranging multiple visiting cards and hospital beds and tests before others in the queue.

"Spotting patient relatives arriving at the R G Kar Hospital, who were seem-

ly well to do, he would also lure some of them to nursing homes nearby promising better treatment than the govt hospital while claiming doctors from the same hospital will treat patients there," said another source at the hospital.

Sources said flaunting his connections with some senior officers of Kolkata Police, he had even threatened the district reserve officer to allot him a spot in the fourth battalion barrack at Bidhanagar.

"He is known to drop names often to get his jobs done and claimed to know multiple influential police officers," said the officer.

Another officer said flaunting his connections and riding a motorbike that had KP written on the visor, he also allegedly duped young jobseekers promising them jobs within the force for a fee. "There is also an allegation against him that he had taken over Rs 2 lakh from a hawker promising him a job as a civic volunteer," said a source.

SIT moves out of Lalbazar, sits at RG Kar

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: In a rare instance, the special investigating team (SIT) probing the rape and murder of a 31-year-old PG trainee doctor at R G Kar Hospital has moved out of Lalbazar and is now operating from the hospital.

Within a few hours of taking over the probe, 15 officers of Kolkata Police detective department's cyber cell moved into the students' study room at the administrative building with 15 computers and set up

Tala PS. The SIT is reporting to additional CP 1, Murlidhar Sharma.

After taking over the probe, Sharma and other officers were there at the makeshift office at R G Kar till 2 am on Saturday during which 16 persons were questioned. Questioning of accused Sanjay Roy began at 10.30 pm after which he was taken to Lalbazar. Sources said that from 2 am, Sharma himself interrogated him and around 5.30 am, he allegedly confessed his crime.

Other witnesses were called to the makeshift room to



Additional CP Murlidhar Sharma, whom the SIT is reporting to, at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital on Sunday

their office there. "Each officer was given a task of studying 20 minutes of CCTV footage of the night of the incident. Since then, we have been conducting our entire operation from this room," said a senior officer.

The 7-member SIT is led by divisional commissioner (detective department) Vidit Raj Bhundesh, inspectors from detective department's homicide squad and an officer of

record statements. The officers also took printouts of Roy's photograph and moved around the wards at the floor where the woman's body was found inside seminar room to check whether Roy had visited any of them between 4 am and 4.35 am as per his claim.

Police commissioner Vineet Goyal also visited the hospital on Sunday and interacted with the officers before meeting the students.

ॐ श्री गणेशाय नमः

With profound sorrow we inform the loss of our beloved mother,
Dr Asha Padgaonkar
who left for her heavenly abode on 10th August 2024.
A prayer meet, to celebrate her life, will be held on : **Tuesday 13/8/24**
Time : **5pm- 6pm**
Venue: **Haldiram Banquets (opp CCFC Club)**

With love,

Devika Padgaonkar Chase & Steve Chase (Daughter & Son in law) Kirin Gupta & Irfan Mahmud, Tara Gupta (Grandchildren)	Kavita & Himanshu Ajmera (Daughter & Son in law) Sneh & Hitesh Ajmera, Mridul & Krish Ajmera (Grandchildren) Anaika Ajmera, Veda Ajmera (Great Grandchildren)
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Scared Bangladeshis trickle in, BSF personnel arrest 3 on border

11 Held In 24 Hours On Indo-Bangla Border, BSF ADG Reviews Security

Sukumar Mahato | TNN

Behrampur: The Border Security Force on Sunday arrested three Bangladeshi nationals, including an Awami League students' wing leader identified as **Abdul Kadir** (25), when they tried to cross the border and sneak into India.

BSF sources on Sunday said that in the past 24 hours a total of 11 Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended at the border while infiltrating into India. Two were nabbed from the West Bengal border. "We have not ascertained or confirmed their political identities. They were Bangladeshi nationals who tried to sneak in," said a BSF official on Sunday. Two of those who were arrested were questioned by the BSF and will be handed over to the state police for further legal action, sources said.

Meanwhile, Kadir, the Awami League students' wing leader, was caught



BSF on high alert on the Murshidabad-Bangladesh border

by BSF jawans near Boyraghat border outpost area under Raghunathganj police station. Sources said that on Saturday night, Kadir tried to cross the border. According to documents available with him, Kadir is a resident of Narayanjan. On Sunday, police produced Kadir before Jangipur court for crossing the border without valid papers. Following the resignation of former

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, several Awami League and student leaders have faced attacks and tried to cross the border seeking shelter in India.

On Saturday, the additional director general of the Eastern Command of BSF, Ravi Gandhi, chaired a meeting to review security along the 4,096-km-long India-Bangladesh border "amid the current unrest in Bangla-

Detailed deliberations were held to further enhance border control, security and management. It was also decided to continue the close collaboration with our counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh

A K Arya | DIG BSF, SOUTH BENGAL FRONTIER

desh". Earlier, he had visited the Petrapole border area and the border outpost at Ranaghat.

"The primary objective is to assess the tactical and operational preparedness and deployment strategies of BSF at these key locations in view of recent developments in Bangladesh," a BSF spokesperson said. "Detailed deliberations were held to further enhance border control, security and management. Besides, it was decided to continue the close collaboration with our counterpart, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)," he said.

At Khuti Puja, club prays for B'desh peace

Sudipto.Das@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Due to the recent unrest in Bangladesh, a club in north Kolkata organised a peace prayer on the occasion of their Khuti Puja—the ceremonial start of the Durga Puja preparations—on Sunday.

On the 64th year of Shyam-bazar Palli Sangha's puja, blind and disabled children gathered **N KOL DURGA PUJA** at the venue to recite poems and sing Rabindrasangeet.

"We believe that the upcoming Durga Puja of our club should invoke an emotion of peace among everyone," said Subrata Bhattacharya, club secretary. "Durga Puja is an occasion in which one can reach out to the masses with a message of positivity and brotherhood," he added.

This year the theme of the puja is 'Bandhan' (human bondings), which will be executed by theme artist Badal Mistri.

Kolkata, Bangla artists protest against vandalism in Mujibnagar

RohitKhanna@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Cultural workers and intellectuals in Kolkata and Bangladesh have criticized the vandalism that was carried out in Mujibnagar at Meherpur where nearly 200 sculptures were destroyed. They claimed that the attack on sculptures and theatre groups point at the involvement of forces which have earlier been part of anti-sculpture movements in Bangladesh.

Last week, 50 intellectuals, including Pabitra Sarkar, Aparna Sen, Koushik Sen, from Bengal had appealed to the Bangladesh govt to restore peace and stop attacks. But the attacks have continued unabated and the offices of theatre and musical groups have been targeted. Nearly 200 sculptures in Mujibnagar were vandalised. The house of singer Rahul Anand was also ransacked. Several offices of theatre



Nearly 200 sculptures in Mujibnagar have been vandalised

groups were set on fire.

"Offices of a theatre group at Bagura were burnt. The attacks are now being targeted at cultural heritage, artists and cultural workers," said thespian Debesh Chattopadhyay. "It seems that a force which was against the statues and sculptures in Bangladesh has become active again," he said. In 2013, organisations like Hefa-

zat-e-Islam had created ruckus over its 13-point programme, including a strong opposition to statues and sculptures.

Several theatre groups, including Bikkhubdha Theatre Kormigan, in Bangladesh have protested against the ransacking of offices of theatre groups. "There had been vandalisms at some art academies. We had protested when stu-

dents were killed during the protest. We are protesting again now. Vandalising Bangabandhu's statue or the museum cannot be accepted. Attacking someone belonging to a different political philosophy is never in favour of a healthy democracy," said Kazi Rokana Ruma, a theatre worker.

"Bangladesh is not just a neighbouring country to the people of West Bengal in terms of location, but also a neighbour at heart, as we share language, culture and history," intellectuals from Bengal said in their letter.

"If anyone has vandalised a cultural heritage or broken a statue, the govt should restore that. Those who carry out such acts of vandalism are terrorists. I am sure Professor Muhammad Yunus, head of the interim govt will look into that," said Major Shamsheer Momin Chowdhury, former Bangladesh foreign secretary.

UG entry phase 2: In 5 days, portal gets 2.5L applications

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The centralized portal for undergraduate admissions received 2.5 lakh applications from 32,000 applicants till Sunday for second phase of admission process. Of the 32,000 applicants, 17,000 are new.

The second phase of admissions was rolled out on Aug 7. It has been found that over 2.5 lakh applications were received from 32,000 candidates. There were 15,000 names cancelled after the first phase of admissions.

A state higher education department officer said, "The figure shows that this time students have been applying for at least 6-7 colleges

that we had said earlier. Those who had made mistakes while choosing preferences are quite clear about filling up preferences now. So, we are expecting a good number of students in this round as well.

Following the first round of admissions, 3.7 lakh undergraduate seats were filled up. In the second round only 1.2 lakh seats were unreser-

32,000 APPLICANTS

- Total number of UG seats | 9.4 lakh
- Applications till Sunday | 2.5 lakh
- Fresh applications | 17,000
- Cancelled applications after first round | 15,000

The figure shows that this time students have been applying for at least 6-7 colleges that we had said earlier

A state higher education department official

Seats are lying vacant in several courses. We are not very hopeful about filling those vacancies as they are in reserved categories

—Principal of a south Kolkata college

ved while around 5 lakh were for reserved categories.

State higher education department officials said that the continuous effort to reach out to the students to bring them into the higher education system impacted the second round of admissions. College and even school staff members were being engaged to make calls to students who had passed the Plus II exams. "The entire department has been engaged to run the system smoothly. Over 17,000 fresh applicants applied in the second round of admissions and we are hopeful that this number will increase till the portal closes on Aug 23," the officer added.

TOI had reported earlier that the undergraduate courses across colleges that are under the CAP started first semester classes with around 50% seats being vacant. The principal of a Kolkata college said, "There are huge number of seats lying vacant in several courses. So, we are not very hopeful about filling up those vacancies because many of these seats are vacant in reserved categories. In that case, in the second round there is very little chance of getting applications for these courses."

The portal will receive applications till Aug 23. The second round, which will end on Sep 7, will also have an upgrade round.

MISSION ADMISSION

that we had said earlier. Those who had made mistakes while choosing preferences are quite clear about filling up preferences now. So, we are expecting a good number of students in this round as well.

Sundarbans tourism set to get costlier from Sep

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The forest department has revised tourism fees in the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve and the new rates will be applicable from Sep 1.

In a notification issued by the chief wildlife warden, it has been stated the daily entry fees per Indian tourist will stand revised at Rs 180, while the same for foreigners will be Rs 1,000. Per day charge for a tourist visiting Netidhapani will be Rs 300. According to the notification, entry fee for non-AC boat, non-AC launch and AC launch-boat has been revised to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,500 and Rs 3,000, respectively. Similarly, daily guide charges for Indian tourists will be Rs 800 while that of foreign tourists will be Rs 2,000.

Charges for shooting films and advertisements have also been revised. "Charges for



A file picture of the Sundarbans

shooting of still/videos with crew members up to 3 will be Rs 5,000 per day, while the same for crew members up to 10 will be Rs 25,000 for a maximum of three days," the notice said.

Annual registration charges for AC/non-AC launch, 6-cylinder, 4-cylinder, and 2-cylinder boats, too, have been revised.

RG KAR HORROR

Judicial probe on junior docs' demand list, govt scurries to fill hospital gaps

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The agitating doctors at RG Kar Medical College hospital on Sunday demanded a judicial probe, daily update on the probe progress, compensation to the victim's family and capital punishment for the perpetrator to end the ongoing cease work. Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Goyal spoke to the agitators and promised "speedy and transparent" action.

The Resident Doctors' Association of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital has made it clear that they will continue to cease all work, including emergency services. Lahari Sarkar, speaking on behalf of the protesting doctors, said: "Our demands are clear, and we will not rest until justice is delivered."

All junior doctors of medical colleges and hospitals in Bengal have joined the cease work in solidarity.

KEY ISSUES



Students protest at Calcutta National Medical College on Sunday

Judicial Inquiry: The protesting doctors are calling for a thorough judicial probe, insisting that all relevant evidence, including CCTV footage, forensic analysis, and the post-mortem report, be presented transparently

Accountability: A 24-hour ultimatum has been issued, demanding the resignation of the principal and the head of the chest medicine dept

Compensation: Immediate compensation for the victim's family

Daily updates: The protesters demand daily updates on the progress of the investigation

The protests at various state-run hospitals is likely to severely disrupt hospital operations statewide from Monday. On Sunday, the state health department cancelled offs and holidays of all senior doctors to tackle the stalemate.

Outpatient departments (OPDs) are not open in state-run hospitals on Sunday. "We expect a huge rush of patients from Monday as OPDs will be opened. That is why leaves of all senior doctors were cancelled," the official said. None of them joined duty

on Sunday. The authorities in various hospitals are facing problems in providing service to patients, officials said. A protesting junior doctor, Anupam Roy, said: "Senior doctors are there to do hospital duties, but we will continue cease work until our de-

mands are met."

The protest has garnered support from resident doctors' associations at other hospitals in the city, including SSKM Hospital, where doctors held a press conference to express their solidarity. They condemned the alleged assault on junior doctors who had gone to RG Kar to join the protest.

The Federation of Resident Doctors Association has announced a nationwide halt of elective services in hospitals on Monday to show solidarity to the resident doctors of RG Kar Medical College.

In Delhi, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, and associated hospitals have also decided to suspend elective services. Maulana Azad Medical College and its associated hospitals will begin an indefinite suspension of elective services, including OPD, wards, and elective operating theatres, starting Monday.

How the Sanjay Roys flout every point in rulebook

Srishti.Lakhotia@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Arrested for the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata Police civic volunteer Sanjay Roy is accused of blatantly disregarding every rule in the book.

A case in Calcutta High Court dealing with excesses of the civic volunteers in the state had paved way to state producing a rulebook specifying their exact role. Following directions of Justice Rajasekhar Mantha in March 2023, the state inspector general of police (welfare) had submitted a circular which highlighted the five areas in which civic volunteers can assist the police.

Taking note that a civic volunteer was entrusted with patrolling duties in the particular case, Justice Mantha had said that they cannot be entrusted with any law enforcement duties. The police were asked to ensure that the same was kept in mind when dealing with them in future.

In Roy's case, he joined as a civic volunteer in 2019 in a disaster management group but using the "right channel" he got shifted to the welfare cell wing. He claimed to be the PA of an influential cop while to others he claimed himself to be a home guard.

In the circular presented in the court it was specified that civic volunteers are to "assist" the police. In this case, Roy, even though a civic volunteer, claimed to be part of the force. It was learnt that he was issued a bike and he used to take it around with a sticker of Kolkata Police.

Considering civic volunteers were hired to assist the police but cannot be given any law enforcement duties, as per the state circular, Roy seemed to have flouted the rule by posing as a member of the police force, exerting powers similar to a cop.

On multiple occasions, he

WHAT GUIDELINES SAY

- Civic volunteer Force is set up to assist police
- For traffic management
- In major festivals
- Regarding unauthorised parking of vehicles
- Ensuring public safety
- Any other duties or responsibilities relating



to public assistance to be assigned by unit heads



Cops in front of the emergency ward of RG Kar on Sunday

was posted at RG Kar Hospital's police outpost, sometimes for long stretches. It gave him easier access to the hospital. It was claimed that Roy, being a civic volunteer, was allowed to enter and exit the hospital whenever he wanted.

Roy was a civic volunteer attached with the police welfare board and often found residing in the Kolkata Police 4th battalion quarters. Locals claimed he used to say in his neighbourhood that he works as the Kolkata Armed Police and even took money from people promising them police jobs

In the rulebook, it is clearly mentioned that civic volunteers can assist the police in any other duties or responsibilities relating to public assistance to be assigned by respective heads of the unit. The role of civic volunteer limits them to assisting police

in traffic management, in major festivals, ensuring public safety and unauthorised parking of vehicles.

Roy was a civic volunteer attached with the police welfare board and often found residing in the Kolkata Police 4th battalion quarters. Locals claimed he used to say in his neighbourhood that he works as the Kolkata Armed Police and even took money from people promising them police jobs.

The civic volunteers are not recruited like other uniformed personnel, officers said. They first have to appear before an interview board comprising a DCP-ranked officer, an assistant police commissioner and an Inspector. They are usually attached to a unit headed by a DCP ranked officer. Once selected they have to undergo only a two-week training course under the DCP (Home Guards). A civic volunteer just needs to have a class VIII pass certificate, no criminal antecedent and has to be physically and mentally fit. There is no other screening process for these volunteers for assisting police.

Patients left in pain as jr docs' cease-work disrupts treatment at RG Kar for 2nd day

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Patients were in the lurch at RG Kar Medical College on Sunday as junior doctors continued their cease-work and vowed to carry on the protest till all their demands are met.

Four-year-old Arian Molla from Bhangar was brought to the hospital with a fractured right hand on Saturday night but was refused admission. He was referred to NRS Hospital instead. His mother Muslima Bibi had to rush to NRS with the child. "My son is in acute pain but we have been told nothing can be done here as the doctors are on cease-work."

Arian's grandfather, Chhaha Ali, said: "We have come a long way and are now heading to NRS Hospital. We don't know where and how his treatment will start."

Razia Bibi, suffering from age-related issues, was referred from Barasat

My child got his right hand fractured while he was playing on Saturday evening. Since he was suffering from acute pain, we brought him to Bhangar hospital, but they referred us to R G Kar. They then told us to take him to NRS. Now we are confused

Muslima Bibi | PATIENT'S MOTHER

Hospital at RG Kar on Sunday. But she was denied admission. Razia was sitting in an ambulance in front of the trauma care building. Ibadat Mandal, her family member, said, "We came from Berachampa in an ambulance and now we don't know where to go."

Rajat Kar came with a breathing

We brought our patient here following a referral from Barasat Hospital as they don't have the required machines for her treatment. We came all the way from Berachampa on an ambulance, but they refused to admit her. Now we don't know where to go

Ibadat Mandal | PATIENT'S FAMILY MEMBER

trouble but was refused admission. He said he was worried about his treatment that needs to begin soon.

Manju Jadav, who stays very close to the hospital, came to the emergency along with her husband, Umesh Jadav, with an acute pain in her ear. She, too, was refused admission.

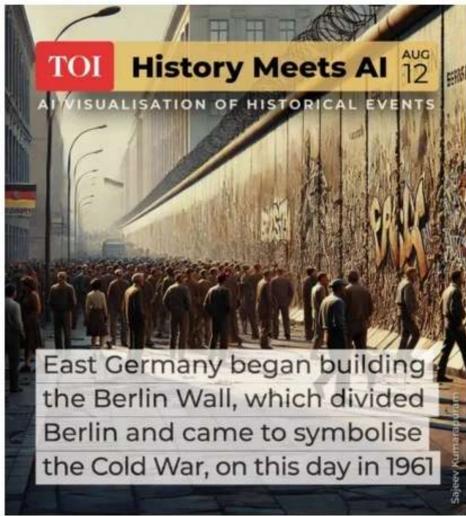
Suresh Purokait, another patient, had a fracture in one leg and has been in the hospital for the last few days. He had one operation a few days ago, and another surgery was to be held, but the date is now uncertain. Another patient's family member, Prabhati Adhikari, said, "My son is admitted here with a fracture at the hip joint. I came to speak to the doctors, but no one was there to talk to. The reason for which these doctors are protesting is absolutely justified but we are in a spot."

The emergency building and ticket counter were found empty on Sunday, and those who came at the emergency for treatment were either referred to other hospitals or released after treatment. Arindam Ghosh, who took his mother to the emergency as her sugar level had dropped, said, "My mother was treated even during the movement. I have nothing to say. My mother is feeling much better now."



JITENDRA SINGH FLAGS OFF INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE DOORSTEP MEDICAL SERVICES IN J&K'S UDHAMPUR

BJP DIDN'T DO ANY DEVPT WORK IN PAST 10 YRS, VOTE FOR AAP TO BUILD 'NEW HARYANA': SUNITA KEJRIWAL



TOI History Meets AI AUG 12
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS
East Germany began building the Berlin Wall, which divided Berlin and came to symbolise the Cold War, on this day in 1961

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

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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."

Kharge, calling Adani a close associate of PM Modi, reminded that Sebi had previously cleared the billionaire businessman following the Hindenburg report allegations in Jan 2023. He said, "A JPC inquiry is imperative to investigate this massive scandal. Until then, concerns persist that PM Modi will continue to shield his ally, compromising India's constitutional institutions, painstakingly

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

built over seven decades." Party spokesperson Jairam 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 bot-



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

tom 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.

Oppn Wants To Create Chaos, Instability, Says Saffron Party

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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 short-selling firm, which last

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.

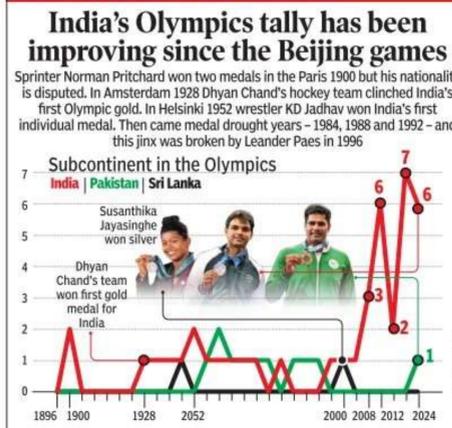
Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia too claimed Congress was behind the Hindenburg report. "Congress work is only to spread anarchy and entangle the country in controversial matters," he said. He said PM Modi and BJP workers were carrying the "torch of development and progress", whereas Congress has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

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

Two teenage friends drowned in Bhakra canal near Ablowal 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**

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers



Sharad convoy halted by Maratha stir, man tries to self-immolate

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 attempted self-immolation during his rally in Barshi on Sunday.

The activists demanded that Pawar 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 Agey Bado Hum Tumhare Saath Hai" - and waved black flags. Pawar paused briefly before resuming his speech, highlighting farmers' issues.

Soon after, an activist doused himself with petrol at the rally. Cops nearby intervened quickly, extinguishing the flames. They

Phone, WhatsApp hacked, says Sule

NCP (SCP) 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 net, a police complaint regarding the hacking was lodged online. **PTI**

later took him into custody. Pawar alleged that PM Narendra Modi failed to fulfill his promise of doubling farmers' income. "Instead, the rate of farmer suicides has doubled," he said. 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.

TMC: Did Sebi chief disclose investments?

Kolkata: A day after a Hindenburg Research report came to the fore accusing the Sebi chief of holding stakes in offshore funds used by Adani Group, Trinamool legislators on Sunday raised questions over whether the market regulator chief had disclosed her investments.

Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra posted on X: "Did Madhabi Puri-Buch disclose

her ownership in offshore opaque funds before Cabinet Committee appointed her? Was it there in her IB report?" Earlier in the day she posted a series of questions pointing towards a number of entities involved in the allegations.

"When you were wholtime director of SEBI, did you ever have a shareholding in Agora Partners in Singapore or Agora Partners in India?"

Did you disclose this shareholding and the incomes and revenues received?...Before stating to the Supreme Court that SEBI 'had drawn a blank', did you inform the committee / Supreme Court that the some of the funds that you were tasked to investigate were in fact part of the same entity that you had invested in to?" Moitra said. After the news surfaced

on Saturday, BJP's national IT cell head Amit Malviya pointed at the timing of the report and a Congress statement. Questioning this, Trinamool's RSM P Saket Gokhale said on X: "The Hindenburg report does not mention Modi, BJP or any of its leaders. Why then is BJP's IT cell head the 1st person to scream conspiracy when it doesn't even involve his party?" **TNN**

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 date back to Mesolithic era (20,000-10,000 years ago)

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.

Oli invites Modi to visit Nepal

Kathmandu: Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli on Sunday invited PM 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 Prime Minister's secretariat here. Oli was sworn in as Nepal's PM prime minister for a fourth time last month. Misri also called on former PM and Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba at his residence at Budhanilkatha. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to mutual interest, according to Deuba's office. **PTI**

Lens on 450 helipads for Naveen aide

Riyan Ramanath @timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Days after Odisha commerce and transport minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena called for a thorough probe into V K Pandian's helicopter rides, former CM 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 Hari-chandan. Pandian was the 5T secretary at the time. Odisha Sookhna 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.

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Govt looking at 5% ethanol mix in diesel plan

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 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 learnt that Automotive Research Association of India had done a trial run in 2018-19. It was done on BS-III and BS-VI buses to assess performance, emission and durability.

Dam gate fails, lakhs in K'taka, AP at flood risk

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN

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 Tungabhadra river failed on 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 Tungabhadra 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



The dam releasing water on Sunday

dam, 22 were opened on Saturday evening, releasing nearly 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river.

Tungabhadra Board secretary ORK Reddy assured there was no immediate cause for concern, noting that the dam's design allows for the release of up to 6.5 lakh cusecs of water at once, though the maximum release recorded so far was 3.6 lakh cusecs in Dec 1992.

'Extreme rainfall may rise due to high CO₂ emission'

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 Neha Madaan.

An Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology study published recently in 'Nature' attributed the likely rise to high carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. It 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%.



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 Indian Kanoon.

109 high-yield crop varieties released

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.

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 simmering 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 climate resilient varieties of different crops will increase yield as well as farmers' income in addition to encouraging them towards environment-friendly sustainable farming practices. Agriculture minister Shriyraj Singh Chouhan accompanied Modi to ICAR-IARI farms.



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. e-NIT-06/2024-25 of
Executive Engineer, MMED.

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ICA-T13890(3)/2024

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NIT No. CMOH/CBR/364/24
dated 07/08/2024

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ICA-T13896(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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Vide Memo No. MSD-MR/PR/2247/24
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ICA-T13910(3)/2024

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I, RANJAN Kumari w/o Debashish Chowdhury (U/o Baijyanand Choudhary, P/O 243, Garia Gardens, Mahamayapur School Rd, Garia, Kolkata-84, have changed my name to "Ranjana Chowdhury" for all future purposes vide affidavit on 8.8.2024 sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore.

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ICA-T13891(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-N.I.T No. WBII/SE/NIC-I/NIT-01(e)/2024-25

The Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle, Green Park, Malda, 18/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.wbwd.gov.in and URL <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- (P. Bhattacharya), Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle-I, Green Park, Malda
ICA-T13888(3)/2024

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; Trust Carrying Piece, Drg. No: 3TWD.096.037 ALT-5, Spec. No: IS: 10192-1982, GR. EP.3, 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]; 02/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]: 75243746A; Modified Hand Brake Assembly (Gear Type) for WAG-9HC to RDSO 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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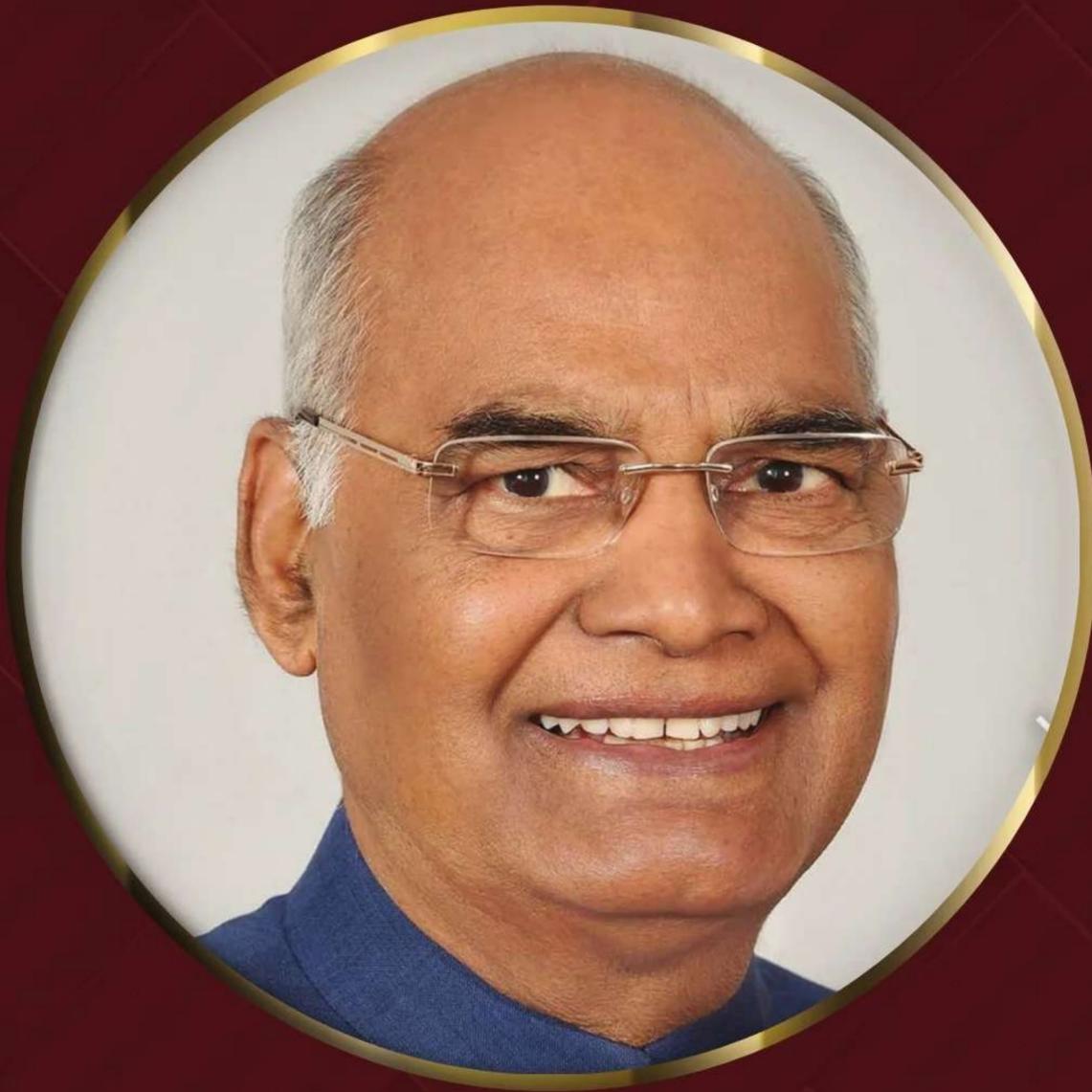
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Online e-tender is invited by the office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 1, Housing Directorate-eNIT No. WBHD/ED/ED-1/ENIC-06/2024-25. Tender id: 2024_HSD_730511. Name of Work: Deployment of man power: Skilled (Electrician), Semi-skilled (Assistant Wireman & Pump operator) & unskilled (Valve Operator) for Electrical Installation work (Internal & External) incl. operation of Pump-motor & valve sets within the campus of different RHE, Guest House, Rest Shade, WWH etc. on all working days including Saturday, Sunday & Govt. Holidays for during FY-2024-2025 within the jurisdiction of Electrical Sub-Division No. 1, Housing Directorate, New Secretariat Building, "B", Block Room No.1 Ground Floor, J.K.S. Roy Road, Kolkata-700021 on all office days during office hours.
ICA-T13918(3)/2024

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B	10/09/2024	11:00 Hrs
Tender Forms request Last Date		
C	11/09/2024	11:00 Hrs
Date (CAT-1 e-submission)		
D	11/09/2024	17:00 Hrs
Tender Closing Date (CAT-2- Manual submission)		

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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 on 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 'releases' 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 be 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 sets 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

A lady, 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

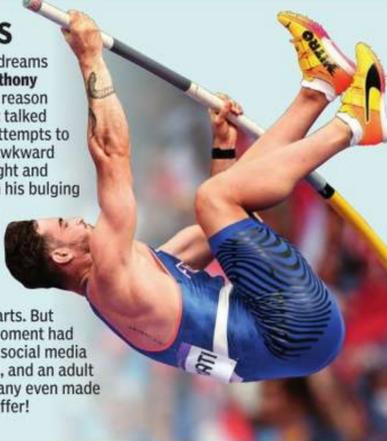
South Korean pistol shooter Kim Ye-ji not only won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol women's event, but also countless fans for her style. An all-black attire, a cap turned around, futuristic gaming-like glasses and a savage demeanor catapulted her to internet fame. Some said the 31-year-old looked 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.



16 J&K security personnel killed since May 4

Authorities Plan To Arm Village Defence Guards

Continued from P 1

According to officials, three to four "highly trained Pakistani men" suspected to be from the banned Jaish-e-Muhammed group were involved in the attack on a security search team that was in pursuit of terrorists spotted in the mountainous forests of Kapran Garol in Kokernag.

The terrorists crossed the Pir Panjal's Kishtwar range of mountains 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, the officials said.

On Saturday, the terrorists were sighted in the Ahlan Gagarmandu forest of Anantnag, — located at an altitude of over 10,000ft and known for its thick foliage, large boulders, rain-fed streams and rugged terrain. As soldiers approached the location, the hiding terrorists unleashed a barrage of gunfire, wounding six soldiers and two civilians. Havildar Yadav and Lance Naik Sharma suffered fatal wounds and died in the hospital.

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 on June



Security personnel during an encounter with terrorists in Anantnag on Saturday

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 the Jammu zone.

Recent spike in violence has been attributed to "intruders" from Pakistan, operating in small groups of three to four and armed with sophisticated weapons, such as American M4 carbines.

To counter the evolving threat, authorities have decided to arm village defence guards with weapons and night-vision devices to "add a new level of difficulty for the enemy", according to DGP RR Swain. "The aim is to strengthen the anti-infiltration grid with the help of village defence guards," he said on Sunday.

19-yr-old girl with disabilities gang-raped in Burdwan, 3 held

Mohammad Asif | TNN

Burdwan: Three persons were arrested on Sunday on charges of gang-raping a 19-year-old with disabilities after overpowering her and her boyfriend in East Burdwan's Nadra on Wednesday evening. The first-year college student lodged a police complaint on Saturday. Her parents told cops she had been too traumatised to speak of the assault.

According to the complaint, the girl and her boyfriend were sitting together when three men approached them. They claimed the couple had been caught in a compromising position and started demanding money. When the couple said they did not have money, the trio tried to physically abuse the girl. The boyfriend tried to fight them but was overpowered. The three then raped the girl.

Accompanied by her parents, the survivor filed an FIR against the three accused at East Burdwan Women police cell. A case was registered under BNS sections 70 (D), 64 (2) (K) and 308 (6), which pertain to gang rape and extortion.

Three persons — identified as Tapas Pandit, Sajal Ghatwal and Bikram Malik — were arrested in Shaktigarh. Police are looking into whether they have criminal antecedents. East Burdwan SP Amandeep told TOI: "We produced the three accused before an East Burdwan court with a prayer for a test identification. The girl has given a statement before a judicial magistrate and her medico-legal examination has been conducted."

Student 'blind after slap', FIR against principal

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 was suffering from a retinal problem and had very low vision, and after the yoga instructor, Daksh, slapped him, there was further damage. She said the principal, despite knowing about the incident that happened last year, didn't take action. The child underwent five major eye surgeries, but lost his vision. Police have registered an

FIR. No arrests have been made so far.

Principal Rita Gupta told TOI: "The student was involved in a scuffle and the teacher intervened. The teacher informed us he merely tapped the child and did not slap him. But, even tapping is unacceptable. Consequently, his services were terminated."

FIR. No arrests have been made so far.

Principal Rita Gupta told TOI: "The student was involved in a scuffle and the teacher intervened. The teacher informed us he merely tapped the child and did not slap him. But, even tapping is unacceptable. Consequently, his services were terminated."

CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS
As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13107 Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express (JCO 13.08.2024) and 13107 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (JCO 13.08.2024) will remain cancelled. Inconvenience is regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
Eastern Railway
Follow us at: @EasternRailway | @easternrailwayheadquarter

CONSULTATION WITH APOLLO EXPERTS
HERNIA CAMP
Dr. PREMKUMAR BALACHANDRAN
MBBS, MS, FRCS (Glas), M.MAS (UK) FICS, FICRS, FIAGES, FAMAIS, Dip. ALS, FALS
Head- Apollo Institute of Hernia Surgery & Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Chennai
Consultation for bariatric (obesity / weight loss) surgery and also for abdominal pain, change in bowel habits, jaundice, gall bladder stones, pancreatic disease & hernia
DATE: Sunday 18th August 2024
VENUE: APOLLO MEDICINE CENTRE
48/1F, Leela Roy Sarani, Gariahat Road, Near Orchestra Cooperative society, ballygaunge, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700019
For appointments & registration please call: 80173 63636 / 62922 33636

DEAR WEEKLY LOTTERY
ADVERTORIAL
₹1 CRORE WON BY DARJEELING RESIDENT
Mr. BINOD KUMAR PRASAD from DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL has won Rs. 1 Crore as first prize in Dear Weekly Lottery in the draw held on 15.06.2024. His winning ticket number is 80C92850. He has submitted his prize-winning ticket along with the prize claim form to the Nodal Officer, Nagaland State Lotteries located at Kolkata. "This occasion has become the happiest moment in our family. I have never expected that I could win One Crore rupees of prize money from Dear Lottery. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dear Lottery and Nagaland State Lotteries for this golden opportunity," said the winner.

Baidyanath
GUIDE TO NATURAL REMEDIES
AILMENTS: Acidity, Amoebiasis, Arthritis, Constipation, Gas & Flatulence, General Weakness, Hair Problems, High Blood Sugar, Indigestion, Insomnia & Anxiety, Liver Problems, Women Problems, Weight Management, Sexual Debility, Skin Problems, Urinary Problems
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AYURVEDIC SHOWROOM WITH DOCTOR CONSULTATION:
GANESH TALKIES (BAIDYANATH BHAWAN): 033 48027439 HAZRA: 033 40001818 NAKTALA: 033 24811313 PRINCE ANWAR SHAH RD: 033 4813 7671 TARATALA: 033 2346 0072 LAKE TOWN: 033 46001008 RANGOLI MALL (BELURI): 033 26540172 BARABAZAR: 833090554 KAKINARA: 7003725195, 790866274 RANGUNJI: 9932166078 DURGAAPUR: 8250588101 ARAMBAGH: 7908560371 HOWRAH: 8583919213 BANDHAGHAT: 9432232034 ANDUL: 6291395112 LILUJAH: 9903165692 BERHAMPUR: 7585032975 GANGARAMPUR: 9933538589 RAIGANJ: 8172074848 RAMPURHAT: 8926913607 CONTAL: 9434415342 SABANG: 8348515201 BANKURA: 9932262651, 7001995797 BISHNUPUR: 9016810539 CHAKDAH: 7001188436
10-15% DISCOUNT

Bengal Migrant Welfare Board sets up helpline

Continued from P 1

Odisha law minister Prithviraj Harichandan said: "While govt is committed to protect refugees who have come during different points of time earlier and were rehabilitated in accordance with law, we will take steps to stop infiltrators. Govt will identify the infiltrators from any country and deport them."

The minister said Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi had instructed authorities to take steps to stop illegal immigrants from entering the country. "The Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police are on alert," he said.

Senior Bengal govt officials told TOI that Majhi had promised help to CM Mamata Banerjee. The Bengal Migrant Welfare Board has also started a helpline — 18001030009 — which people, facing such attacks, could dial for assistance.

Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam, who chairs the state migrant welfare board, confirmed Banerjee's call to Majhi and the setting up of the helpline. "I urge anyone facing such problems to call the helpline," he added.

Odisha CM speaks to Mamata on potato crisis

Minati.Singha@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: With potato prices rising again, Odisha CM Mohan Majhi spoke to his Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee on Sunday, seeking her help to normalise supply of the kitchen essential. This is the second time in a fortnight Majhi has taken up the matter with Banerjee.

The CMO said Banerjee had assured Majhi that appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

Consumers in Odisha have been struggling with rocketing potato prices due to disruption in supply from Bengal for the last one month. On Sunday, potatoes were selling at Rs 40-50/kg in different markets.

Traders alleged that Bengal govt was not allowing potato-laden trucks to enter Odisha. "The govt may be taking steps to resolve the potato crisis, but it seems the steps are not adequate," said Sudhakar Panda, secretary of Odisha Traders' Association. Since Saturday, Odisha has been procuring potatoes from Nafed and selling them at Rs 100 for 3kg.

Bihar cop exam: 3 more 'solvers' arrested

Chhapra: Bihar Police on Sunday arrested three more members of the "solver gang" active during constable recruitment exam in Saran district, reports H K Verma. SP Kumar Ashish said the gang worked in collusion with exam centres. Its members solved question papers using Bluetooth and other equipment.

Ashish said the accused have confessed to their involvement in Central Teachers Eligibility Test, Secondary Teachers Eligibility Test and Common Management Admission Test, too.

Practical Workshop on Gem Registration & E tendering
Course duration: 4 days
Course Timing: 1.30 pm to 5 pm
Course Date: 24, 25, 31, AUGUST
Course Fee: 4000/-18% GST in the name of IDEMI, Mumbai
Product upload, E-tendering, Supply Payment Process
Email: training@idemi.org Website: www.idemi.org
For whom: Small Scale Industries, Traders, Dealers, Startup & Interested Persons
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QR Code for Registration and Payment:
Call for details between 10 am to 6pm
Contact- 8007765693, 9403566219, 9270076724, 9869087617

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.rrbahmedabad.gov.in	Chennai www.rrbchennai.gov.in	Muzaffarpur www.rrbmuzaffarpur.gov.in
Ajmer www.rrbajmer.gov.in	Gorakhpur www.rrbgkp.gov.in	Patna www.rrbpatna.gov.in
Bengaluru www.rrbnc.gov.in	Guwahati www.rrbguwahati.gov.in	Prayagraj www.rrbald.gov.in
Bhopal www.rrbhopal.gov.in	Jammu- Srinagar www.rrbjammu.nic.in	Ranchi www.rrbanchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar www.rrbbs.gov.in	Kolkata www.rrbkolkata.gov.in	Secunderabad www.rrbsecunderabad.gov.in
Bilaspur www.rrbilaspur.gov.in	Malda www.rrbmalda.gov.in	Siliguri www.rrbiliguri.gov.in
Chandigarh www.rrbcdg.gov.in	Mumbai www.rrbmumbai.gov.in	Thiruvananthapuram www.rrbthiruvananthapuram.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)

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
Office of the District Magistrate & Collector, Purba Medinipur
VIII- Ganapatnagar, P.O.- Uttar Sonamul, P.S.- Tamluk, Dist.- Purba Medinipur, Pin.- 721648
(Land Acquisition Section)
(Block- "A", 5th Floor)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under Section 3G of NH Act, 1956.
In exercise of powers vested under section 3D (1) and 3D (2) of National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) the Central Government vide their Gazette Notification No. S.O. 3153 (E), dated 06.08.2024 has acquired the lands indicated in the schedule hereunder for "Rehabilitation and Upgradation to 2-Land with paved shoulders configuration of Nandakumar-Contai-Chandaneswar Road from Km. 0.00 to Km. 25.500 and from Km 41.000 to Km 64.700 of NH-116B on EPC Mode" in the district of PURBA MEDINIPUR in the state of WEST BENGAL
Under the provision of section 3G (1), 3G (2), 3G (3) & 3G (4) of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), it is hereby informed to the land owners and the other interested persons whose lands are acquired for "Rehabilitation and Upgradation to 2-Land with paved shoulders configuration of Nandakumar-Contai-Chandaneswar Road from Km. 0.00 to Km. 25.500 and from Km 41.000 to Km 64.700 of NH-116B on EPC Mode" in the district of PURBA MEDINIPUR in the state of WEST BENGAL, to appear and to submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents, i.e., (i) Sale/Partitions/ Other Deeds of the Title, (ii) Bank Account Passbook, (iii) Conversion Certificate (iv) Voter Card, Aadhar Card, PAN Card etc. along with other documents in persons or through agents or through Advocates at the office of the Spl. Land Acquisition Officer & the Competent Authority of Land Acquisition under NH Act' 1956, Office of the District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur, Village-Ganapatnagar, P.O.-Uttar Sonamul, P.S. Tamluk, District- Purba Medinipur, PIN-721648 on the date as indicated here under and to state their respective interest on such lands.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	P.S.	Name of the Mouza, J.L. No.	Date of hearing & time	Plot Nos.	Remarks
1	Purba Medinipur	Chandipur	Kalikakhal, 91	21.08.2024 Time - 11:00 am	CS 1121	

Sd/-
Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority of Land Acquisition under NH Act, 1956
Purba Medinipur

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 6th August, 2024
S.O. 3153(E). - Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways number S.O. 2322(E), dated the 14th June, 2024, published in the Gazette of India, extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii) and issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the notification for "Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to 2-Lane with Paved Shoulders Configuration of Nandakumar-Contai-Digha-Chandaneswar Road from Km 0.000 to Km 25.500 and to Km 41.000 to Km. 64.700 of NH 116B on EPC Mode" in the District - Purba Medinipur in the State of West Bengal".
And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Times of India" and "Bartaman" both dated on 21.06.2024 under sub-section (3) of Section 3A of the said Act.
And whereas the Competent Authority has received no objection filed under section 3C;
And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government.
Now therefore, upon receipt on the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section(1) of Section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.
And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the official Gazette, the land specified in the said schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structure in respect of falling within the stretch of land from Km 0.000 to Km 25.500 and to Km 41.000 to Km. 64.700 of the National Highway-116B in the district of Purba Medinipur in the state of West Bengal.

State	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of Land Owner/ Interested Person
WEST BENGAL					
	1	2	3	4	5
Taluk: Nandigram-III					
Village: Kalika Khali (J.L. No.-091)					
1	CS 1121	Private	CS-DOBA ("ROAD") AS PER HONOURABLE HIGH COURT ORDER DT 10.05.2024)	0.0445164	SANTOSH KUMAR BHUINYA (AS PER HONOURABLE HIGH COURT ORDER DATED 03.07.2023 IN WPA NO. 18479 OF 2022 AND ORDER DATED 10.05.2024 IN CPAN NO. 1489 OF 2023)
				Total	0.0445164

[F. No. RW/NH-12014/9/2016/WB/P-3/3D]
ABHAY JAIN, Director

Cessna crash: 2 pilots injured

Bhopal: A two-seater Cessna 152 aircraft, that took off for a test flight at Madhya Pradesh's Guna airport around 1pm on 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. The injured, Captain V Chandra Thakur and pilot Nagesh Kumar, are from Hyderabad and getting treated in hospital. **TNN**

Monsoon fury leaves 30 dead in 4 north states

9 Of Pjb Family Killed As Car Sinks In Stream

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Rain fury in the north left 30 people dead on Sunday across Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, where nine from an extended family were washed away after their car sank in a stream. At least three people were missing in the four states.

Rajasthan, especially Jaipur and Bharatpur, bore the brunt of the monsoon misery, with 16 deaths and two people missing. The dead included three men who had gone 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 be-



Vehicles on the waterlogged Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway on Sunday

neath them caved in. Three youths drowned in a rain-fed pond in Jhunjhunu after getting stuck in sludge. In Karauli, which witnessed a flood-like situation with record rainfall of 380mm on Sunday, a man and his 10-year-old son 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 Met office predicted that heavy rainfall would continue

Monday, including in Jaipur and Bharatpur. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed the situation on Sunday and instructed officials to provide timely assistance to the affected.

In Punjab's Hoshiarpur, the nine died when their Innova was negotiating a seasonal stream at Jaijon Doaba village on the border with Himachal. According to some locals, the SUV 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 victims were part of a group of 12 relatives headed to a wedding in Hoshiarpur from Himachal's Una district.

Manoj Kumar Sharma, a villager, said he could see the others being washed away but could do nothing. "Five bodies were found around 1km away, caught in bushes, and four were fished out later," he said. Hoshiarpur DC Komal Mittal said NDRF teams were searching for the two missing.

Govt proposes new rules for faster pollution complaint resolution

New Delhi: Seeking to speed up compliance, the environment ministry has issued draft notification rules proposing mechanisms for lodging of air and water-related pollution complaints and their disposal in a time-bound manner by adjudicating officers in states and UTs, reports **Vishwa Mohan**.

Under the proposed rules, Centre will appoint adjudicating officers either on its own or on request by state govts and UT administrations from among secretary-rank officers. The adjudicating officers may be provided with manpower assistance, office space and technical assistance.

"Though aggrieved parties will have right to appeal in NGT if they are not satisfied, the new compliance mechanism will cut unnecessary delay and the possibility of lingering court cases," said an officer.

Pakyong to get Kol connect, ferry flights from Bagdogra

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Darjeeling: Sikkim is set to get new players on its aviation map with maiden flights from Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati, and ferry flights from Bagdogra. Blaze Aviation, a well-capitalised regional carrier, plans to launch five ferry flights to Pakyong airport in the Himalayan state from Bagdogra. Senior airport officials said proposals were also in place to have IndiGo operate flights from Delhi and Kolkata to Sikkim.

Jettings Airways has already received permission from the civil aviation ministry to operate on the Pakyong-Guwahati sector.

SpiceJet is the only airline operating at Pakyong airport now, with a daily 78-seater flight from Kolkata and a 90-seater flight from Delhi. However, the airline stalled its operations from June 13 this year due to inclement weather.

Pakyong airport director



Flight operations at Pakyong have been halted since June 13

Sanjeev Kumar Singh said: "The ferry flights will use a 24-seater aircraft, which will operate only between two sectors for easy connectivity between Siliguri and Sikkim. These are capable of landing even in poor weather conditions, which would be an advantage."

Jettings has been allotted the Pakyong-Guwahati sector, Singh said, adding: "We have proposed IndiGo flights between Pakyong-Delhi and Pakyong-Kolkata. We are awaiting approval from DGCA." Pakyong, 130km from Bagdogra airport, will be the additional gateway for domestic and foreign tourists to this region.

TIMES BUSINESS BUSINESS

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No.	Specification	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & time for submission of tender
1	Coal (SHIP) - 108 Tons	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX / KAMBARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 1st OCT TO 15th OCT 2024 FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS + 3 MONTHS CHOITION + 1 MONTH CHOITION -- 15 DAYS CHOITION	22.08.2024 Upto 14:30 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal (SHIP) - 108 Tons Dated 08.08.2024 for time chartering of One Self-Trimming Panamax / Kambarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TNPGL.

Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website www.tangedco.gov.in, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. www.tenders.in.gov.in and from National Informatics Center website <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> free of cost.

Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TNPGL / CHENNAI - 2

DI/PR/2011/Tender/2024

DATE: 08.08.2024

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: HYDERABAD

DATE: 08.08.2024

PLACE: HYDERABAD

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Source: Macdon Survey

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UGC issues SOPs for National Credit Framework

The UGC has announced the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for implementing the National Credit Framework (NCF) in higher education, vocational education, Training and Skill (VETS) and school education. The NCF was jointly developed by UGC, AICTE, NCVET, NIOS, CBSE, NCERT, DGT, MoE, and MSDE to implement NEP 2020.

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Divyansh Kumar

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Worried about the well-being of their family members back home as the political turmoil escalates in Bangladesh, the native students studying in India have expressed their gratitude for the support and safety provided by Indian universities. More than 2,000 students are in India pursuing various courses, and amidst the upheaval, they dream of restoration of peace in their country.

As many as 17 students from Bangladesh are studying in Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), with most of them regularly calling their families back home to learn about the safety of their families. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has been a favourite university for international students, particularly those from Bangladesh. Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has 205 students, who are getting management support. Several students who have completed their course have been given hostel facilities with their fees waived off by the management considering the crisis in Bangladesh.

A 22-year-old final year student of MA (Human Rights) from JMI, who wished to remain anonymous, wants to return to Bangladesh to participate in the student movement for the formation of a strong government. A native of Naogaon, she aims to actively support human rights

restored," she added.

A 21-year-old Sociology student from Bangladesh's Jashore studying at JMI who also agreed to talk to Education Times on the condition of anonymity, said, "The youth of Bangladesh dream of a democratic and secular country. We want the country to offer better education but also have more job opportunities for their citizens."

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Another student in BHU, who is from Bangladesh's Sherpur district, echoed these worries as he was also unable to contact his family and friends. The student said that he watches news on every possible platform as one of his friends has died and many have sustained injuries during the protests in Bangladesh. "It is impossible to get an ex-

act and clear picture of what is happening even from the news because of the spread of fake news, however, we get a rough idea of the possible scenario from TV and the internet," said the 20-year-old student who wishes to go home but is unable to do so in the wake of the ongoing unrest. The motive of the protest, according to him, was justified but the violence that erupted in the name of protests was wrong.

As of now, 31 students are in the AMU campus with more girls from the country, who have been supported by the management.

"Female students from Bangladesh have been traditionally enrolling in AMU. Our international desk is helping them get in touch with their families. None of them have felt insecure on campus, as they have been assured of help by the management," said Omar Perzada, AMU spokesperson.

SVS Raju, coordinator, BHU's International Centre, said that the university would provide all possible support to Bangladeshi students wishing to stay on campus, waiving any charges for their extended stay. "We have assured the students that if they face any difficulty during their stay on campus, the university will take necessary measures to address it," said Raju.

In Gujarat, state education minister Praful Pansheriya confirmed that 20 Bangladeshi students, sponsored by Government of India and studying at Gujarat University, are safe amidst the ongoing crisis.

Prof Vijay Khare, director, International Centre, SPPU, says, "Students feel secure here but their hearts remain with their families back home. Studying in a city far from home can be challenging, especially during turbulent times."

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NCERT launches project to boost learning for visually challenged students

Priyadarshini Gupta
@timesofindia.com

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is developing a touch/talking pen project called 'Kitab Ek Padhe Anek' aimed at making educational content accessible to all learners, including those with visual impairment or special needs.

The ongoing project, which is being developed by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent of NCERT, includes the creation of interactive textbooks with touchpoints. These touchpoints provide audio descriptions of illustrations or other content when a talking pen is placed on them. The initiative is different from audiobooks launched in 2020, as it involves interactive elements within the regular physical books.



Subjects covered

The project which began in May has so far covered subjects such as Hindi, English, and Mathematics for classes I and II. It plans to extend to class V and will gradually cover other subjects as well. The NCERT aims to have these books ready by the next academic session which will be made available to all students across the country.

A primary teacher in a Delhi school and a participant in the project, says, "A few teachers have been attending workshops being held in batches for this project. I was part of the second batch of teachers which consisted of 25 teachers from across Delhi. We were briefed about the project's goals and given a demonstration as to how the talking pen will function with the help of a demo book. The team has completed making the touchpoints, and now the audio will be prepared for the

respective content." Sudha Acharya, NPSC chairman and principal of TTL Public School, says, "The interactive nature of the talking pen will allow students to explore the material at their own pace without relying solely on teachers' assistance."

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-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 these changes, we might have to continue to endure underwhelming performances at sport's greatest event.



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.

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.



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.



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.

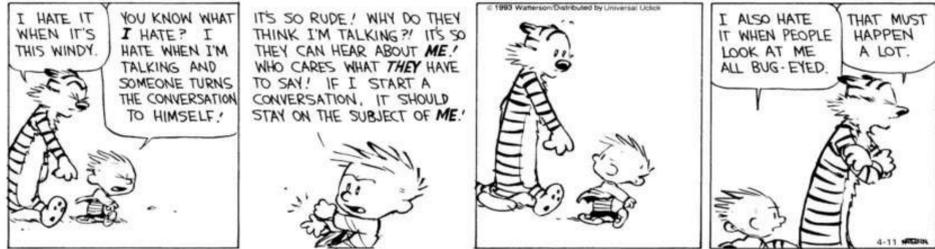
There is this GPS thing in your car where the disembodied voice tells you to stay left and you follow a blue streak and there was a time when it was an adventure to lose your way and then be delighted to find you are back on track and ask directions from strangers who invariably pointed you in the wrong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

Calvin & Hobbes



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.



THE SPEAKING TREE

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

The writer is a consultant neurosurgeon

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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

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

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,

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 Dhalval 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 Rakesh 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.

Dhalval An HUL Veteran: Dhalval 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 Dhalval 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 Dhalval 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. Dhalval 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.

crazy bosses



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**

figure it out

₹4.3L Cr worth was the output of 'fruits & vegetables' in 2022-23 at constant (2011-12) prices compared to ₹2.9L crore in 2011-12



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,

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 Dhalval, 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 measu-

res 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 Dhalval 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 Dhalval 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 Alternate 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.

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 precedence. "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.

How Adani Group's Market Cap Has Swung

Jan 24, 2023 Pre-Hindenburg Report	₹19.2L Cr
Feb 27, 2023 Post-Hindenburg Low	₹6.8L Cr
June 3, 2024 Hindenburg Losses Recouped	₹19.4L Cr
Aug 9, 2024 Latest Market Cap	₹17.2L Cr

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,

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.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at <https://scores.gov.in>

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

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

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.

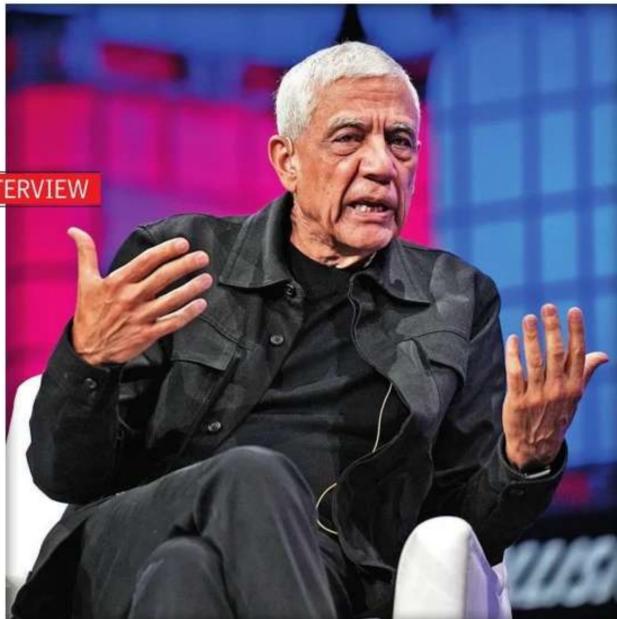
I would like to see a primary care physician for every Indian, available 24/7, for free as part of the set of digital services the govt offers. Aadhaar was the first example of such a service. The hardest part of that service was identity, and that's already done. With UPI payments are done too. There's 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

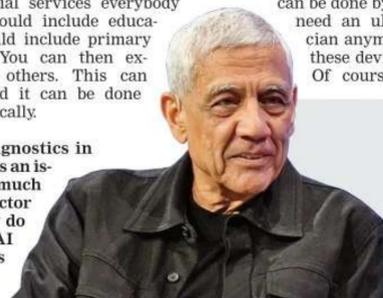


TOI INTERVIEW

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

MEA: Maldives at heart of 'neighbourhood first' policy

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 reclamation and shore protection project and 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.

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 \$80 million programme involves land reclamation for the purpose of tourism development, as well as for the overall economic development of Addu.

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

Continued from P 1

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 that when, in 2018, Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund.



LENS ON WATCHDOG

As confirmed by Ahuja, at no point in time did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company," they 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 1 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 on Sunday, 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 to 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 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 chairperson engaged in through her husband's name while serving in an official capacity?"

FRESH SALVO

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.

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

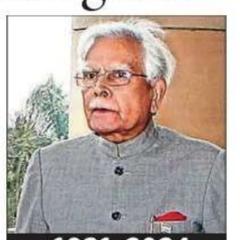
New Delhi: He could have been anything and he did become everything. A royal who wore many hats and a diplomat who was witty and also excelled at arts and letters.

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 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



1931-2024

Volcker Report and the allegations about his having benefited 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 govt 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 govt and the party, and quickly turned into a paraiah. The Justice RS Pathak Committee was said to have fixed the responsibility with Singh. He always countered the view and insisted that he had been exonerated.



IS SELENA GOMEZ ENGAGED? ACTOR SPARKS RUMOURS WITH MIRROR-SELFIE, COVERING RING FINGER WITH HEART EMOJIS

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

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.

Want smooth relations with India & China: B'desh foreign policy adviser

Continued from P1

In his briefing, Mohd Touhid Hossain, the interim govt's foreign policy adviser, said 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."

Hossain said it is meaningless to assume that this interim govt is focused solely on any particular direction. "We intend to maintain smooth and positive relations with all... including India and China," said Hossain, who previously served as a deputy high commissioner to India.

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".

This was the first media interaction of Hossain since the interim govt was sworn in on Thursday after Hasina resigned

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.

and fled to India.

Hossain said the interim administration was committed to staging a fair and impartial election.

"Speculation at this point is unnecessary," he said, without commenting on the interim govt's possible tenure. He sought support from the international partners for the interim administration, saying, "Their concerns are our concerns." Hossain said that the interim administration was committed to bringing to justice the perpetrators of violence, including attacks on minorities, after the ouster of the Awami League govt.

AKM Moinuddin and 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

torium 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 par-

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 Supradee 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 we 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 we copycatkamala is doing the rounds online

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 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 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

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

of xenophobic attacks on social media since she was announced as a finalist in July, with many, including cabinet ministers, questioning her credentials because of her Nigerian descent.

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.

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.

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

INDIA'S SIGN OF FOUR

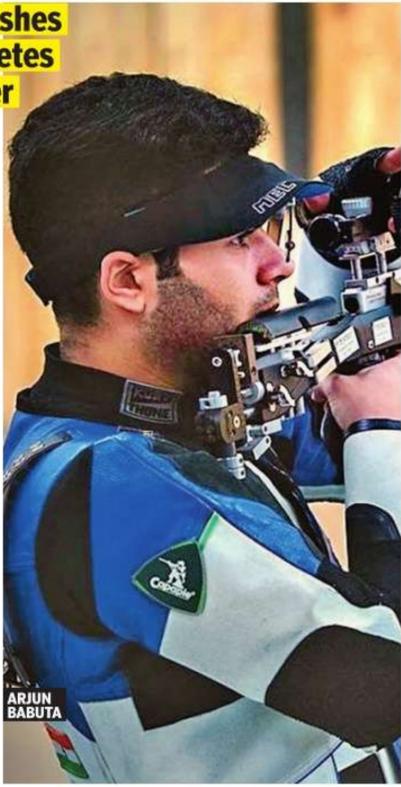
Six 4th-Place Finishes Show Indian Athletes Are Getting Better

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

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

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 materialize 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

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

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

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

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

WRESTLING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

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.

"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

Shooters tick most boxes

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

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

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

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

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

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

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.



INDIA





"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



THE HEARTBREAK:
Vinesh Phogat



THE HIGH:
Manu Bhaker

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.

Imane files a 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

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 Anika 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 cafe. 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 to win marathon gold

Paris: Nobody will ever accuse Sifan Hassan of taking the easy route at the Olympics. Heading into the last 150 metres of her 10-day Olympic odyssey that spanned three events and 38 miles, the Netherlands' runner traded elbows with Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia, and then sprinted by her to win the last track event of the Paris Games.

Hassan added gold to the bronze medals she won in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.

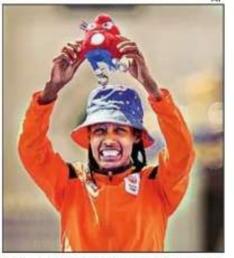
"I feel like I am dreaming. At the end, I thought, 'This is just a 100-meter sprint. Come on, Sifan. One more. Just feel it,'" Hassan said. "Every step I challenged myself, and now I am so grateful."

Hassan raised her hands and yelled as she crossed the line, before wrapping the Dutch flag around her head. Then, taking in the enormity of her win, Hassan plunged her head in her hands and appeared to weep with joy.

The finish had everything: suspense, speed, grit and feistiness, all against the stunning backdrop of a golden dome glittering under the morning sun.

Hassan, an Ethiopia native, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. Assefa won silver; three seconds behind, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the bronze.

The Ethiopian team lodged



Gold medalist Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands in Paris on Sunday

a protest to have Hassan disqualified for obstruction, but it was rejected by the Jury of Appeal. It looked as if Assefa was blocking Hassan before they traded elbows.

Hassan did not attend the post-race news conference, where Assefa said she would have won if Hassan hadn't impeded her.

"I didn't expect at that moment it would happen. Maybe at that moment, if she didn't push me I would have the gold," Assefa said through a translator. "But anyway, I'm so happy for her that she gets the gold medal."

Assefa declined to specify if she was asked for the protest or if it was the Ethiopian team on its own. "I can't say anything, but she is a good athlete," Assefa replied. AP

The competition at this level is relentlessly high quality

Continued from P1

A bhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, praised the Indian contingent's show. "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

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...

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.



LANDMARK GAMES: The Eiffel Tower was the backdrop to the beach volleyball action



9 Mondo Duplantis broke his world record for the ninth time with a height of 6.25 metres.

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.



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).



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 breaststroke to freestyle, 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.

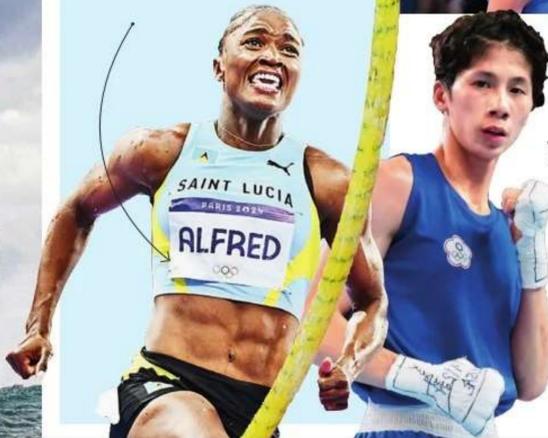


120

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."



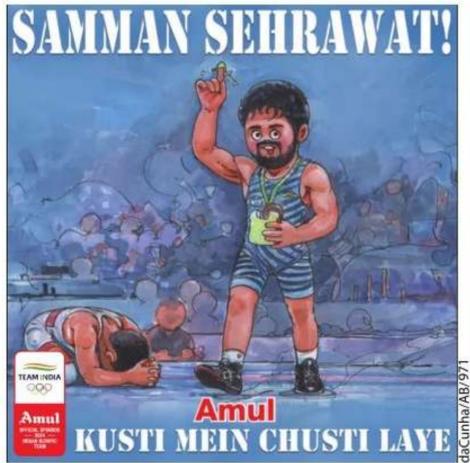
THE TURKISH SHARPSHOOTER

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.



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.



WARPING TIME

Success or failure is defined by cruelly tiny increments. American Noah Lyles (lane 7) won the men's 100m dash by 0.005 seconds from Jamaica's Kishane Thompson (lane 4). If he had been slower by a blink of an eye, generally accepted to last 0.1 of a second, he would have finished seventh. Kenny Bednarek of the United States won a silver medal after running the 200 in 19.62 seconds; Letsile Tebogo of Botswana won gold by finishing 0.16s faster. Those hundredths of a second are microscopic, but they created a huge difference in the experience of the two men: Tebogo won his country's first Olympic medal ever. Bednarek mulled what he could have done better.

34 Medals (14 gold, 11 silver and nine bronze) won by the US in track and field is the most they have won since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Americans also swept all four hurdle events for the first time in history and the men's squad clinched a medal in nine of 10 individual track events



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.

One-point win 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

Some Indians must play abroad to grow: Manolo

Marcus Mergulhao @timesofindia.com

Panaji: Manolo Marquez — now doing the dual job of continuing to coach his club FC Goa, and also India duties — has a piece of advice for national players.

"In five years, the level of Indian players is better, but they could have improved faster. My feeling is that maybe some Indian players are very comfortable playing in ISL. I tell this to my players: you are very comfortable in India and will grow when you play abroad. I understand life is good for most of them here. If Indian players play abroad, they will find strong opposition and their improvement will be faster," Manolo said during his presentation in the Capital on Sunday.

Manolo, who won the ISL trophy with Hyderabad in 2022, also felt domestic players should show more hunger to succeed with the national team, besides improving their mentality.

George stun Bagan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: George Telegraph rode a second-half brace from Amit Ekka (54 and 57 minutes) to stun Mohun Bagan SG 2-1 at the Kalyani stadium on Sunday. The result left Mohun Bagan with 12 points from 8 matches. East Bengal FC, Bhawanipore Club and Calcutta Customs are currently the top three teams with 19 points each and on track for advancing from Group B to the Super Six stage (championship round).

George Telegraph under Gautam Ghosh have also kept their hopes alive with 15 points from 9 matches. Mohun Bagan came into the match looking for a hat-trick of wins following their demolition of Eastern Railway (5-0) and Tollygunge Aggragami (5-1).

Serto Wornelien converted a penalty give Bagan the lead in the 30th minute. But Bagan were undone by their poor finishing as well as poor defending. On the first oc-



Action during Mohun Bagan SG and George Telegraph's match in Kalyani on Sunday

casation, Bagan captain Sumit Rathi failed to check Harsha Parui's run as the latter's cross was met with a diving header by Samaresh Das. As the ball ricocheted off the post, Ekka was nearby to slot it in.

Bagan goalkeeper Raja Barman soon made a mess of a back-pass. Although he managed to block Abhishek Chakraborty's shot, Ekka finished it with a powerful left-footer. Bagan centre-back Raj Basfor claimed to have made a goal-line save but the referee allowed the goal to stay, paving the way for George to complete a remarkable comeback.

Oz 'A' sweep series

Tahila McGrath was the lead cast with an unbeaten 50 as Australia Women's 'A' team defeated India by seven wickets in the third and final T20 to complete a series sweep in Brisbane on Sunday. Brief scores: India 'A' 120/8 in 20 ovs (Kiran Navgire 38, Minnu Mani 22; Nicola Hancock 2-40, Grace Parsons 2-18, Maitlan Brown 2-19). Australia 'A' 121/3 in 13.5 ovs (Tahila McGrath 51n.o.)

Truth may prevail

Khainin Haidermota
Kolkata: S Sreekanth-saddled Truth should bag the Bhagyanagar Million at Malakpet on Monday. The grey is the winner of the Calcutta St. Leger and will have Kuldeep doing duty in the saddle.
HYDERABAD SELECTIONS
1.20pm: 1. White Pearl 2. Caraxes 3. Exclusive Spark
1.55pm: 1. Nav Lakhaa 2. Exeter 3. Blue Label. 2.30pm: 1. Espionage 2. Classy Dame 3. Crimson Rose. 3.05pm: 1.

Pragg eyes an improved finish

GM R Praggnandhaa will lock horns with the world's best yet again as he takes on an elite field in the St Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament that gets underway in St Louis, USA. Praggnandhaa will be looking forward to finish on the podium in the final standings of the Grand Chess Tour.

Sanchez returns to Udinese: Alexis Sanchez returned to Udinese after the

Chile attacker was released by Serie A champions Inter Milan. In a statement, Udinese said Sanchez, 35, had signed a two-year deal with the club.

Chelsea add winger Neto: Chelsea announced the signing of Portuguese winger Pedro Neto from Wolves on Sunday for a reported fee of £54 million (\$65 million). Neto has signed a seven-year deal and will cost an initial £51 million with a further £3 million in add-ons.

Priceless Prince 2, Jim 3, Golden Unicorn, 3.40pm: 1. Devils Magic 2. Bangor On Dee 3. Wind Sprite.

4.15pm: 1. Truth 2. Livermore 3. High Command. 4.50pm: 1. Malibu 2. Winning Attitude 3.

RACING CORNER

Happy Go Lucky. Day's Best: Espionage. Good Double: Priceless Prince and Truth.

Divine Art obliges: S Narredu-nursed Divine Art claimed the Golconda Juvenile Million at Malakpet on Sunday.

The winner was piloted by Suraj Narredu.

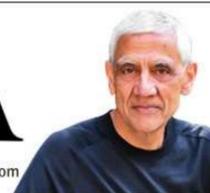
HYDERABAD SHORT RESULTS (WITH INTER-VENUE DIVIDENDS)
1: (5-9-4) Uchchaishravas 1; Gloria 2; Tiger Ruby 3.
2: (2-4-9) Nonpariel 1; Torchbearer 2; Shooting Star 3.
3: (4-7-9) Indian Sniper 1; Toffee 2; Queen Empress 3.
4: (5-4-2) Divine Art 1; Purnajaya 2; Dapper Look 3.
5: (8-5-1) Encore 1; Brooklyn Beauty 2; Delhi Heights 3.
6: (4-5-10) Carnival Lady 1; Code Blue 2; See My Attitude 3.
Jackpot: Rs 1,333 (c) Rs 96.
Mini Jackpot: Rs 657. Treble: (1) Rs 246 (11) Rs 226.

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 14

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