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

Slapped boy goes blind, FIR against 2

Following a court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against the principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army public school for "slapping a Class 7 student who later turned blind". No arrests have been made so far. **P 7**

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

Lakhs of villagers in Karnataka and AP face danger as the 19th crest gate of Tungbhadra reservoir broke down and got washed away, leading to concerns about the dam's safety. **P 8**

Pawar heckled by Maratha activists

Sharad Pawar faced the ire of Maratha activists as they blocked his convoy in Solapur district. Later when he was addressing a farmers' meet, activists raised slogans and waved black flags. **P 5**

Kochi's last fgn Jew woman dies

Queenie Hallegua, the last of the Paradesi (foreign) Jewish women in Kochi, passed away Sunday at the age of 89. Her death leaves her nephew as the only surviving Paradesi Jew in Kochi. **P 8**

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

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

Stay Calm, Probed Most Claims, Sebi Tells Investors

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

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

She has admitted to some issues: H'burg

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

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 with exposure to Adani stocks, which led to Sebi "drawing a blank" in its probe against the group. **TNN**

► '2 cos went dormant', **P 12**

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

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

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

Oppn 'conspiracy' to destabilise economy: BJP

BJP claimed Congress and other opposition parties were part of a "conspiracy" to create financial "instability and chaos in the world's fastest-growing economy". Calling it a classic "Congress-style innuendo and lies glued together,"

Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Hindenburg attacked Sebi in an "obvious partnership" with Congress. BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed the opposition knew the report was forthcoming. **P 7**

Rahul: Risk in mkt, JPC must probe charges

Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and Sebi chief Madhabi Buch, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi Sunday demanded a JPC to probe the allegations. Warning of a serious threat to hard-earned investments, Rahul

also demanded the sacking of the Sebi chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. While SP sought "a historical investigation of Sebi", AAP demanded PM Modi's resignation. **P 7**

Ancient rock art in state notified as 'protected'

The state govt has notified geoglyphs and petroglyphs — ancient art forms involving creation designs on earth or rock surfaces — that date back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago) in Deud, Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments'. The petroglyphs depict a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints. **P 2**

Civilian injured in J&K gunfight succumbs, toll 3

The death toll in Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in the remote upper reaches of J&K's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of the two civilians caught in the crossfire dying of gunshot wounds Sunday. Police said the presence of the two civilians close to shootout site is "being investigated". **P 10**

No hoardings on Coastal Road: SoBo locals' plea

Breach Candy residents have launched an online petition appealing to BMC to abandon its plans to allow hoardings along the Coastal Road saying not only will it spoil aesthetics but also distract drivers and lead to increased accidents. The petition has got nearly 5,000 signatures and support from Worli and Nepean Sea Road locals. **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 1.4bn people, our return of one silver and five bronze is very meagre. That the world's most populous country couldn't produce a single gold medal is hard to digest.

However, if we look at India's showing in the past Summer Games, the Paris tally isn't too bad. Yes, we couldn't better our 2020 Tokyo haul of seven (one gold, two silver, four bronze) but we did much better than in Rio 2016, when

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

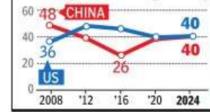
► **India at No. 71, P 17**

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

FINAL MEDALS TALLY	US	G	S	B
China	40	44	42	
Japan	20	12	13	

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



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

FULL COVERAGE | P 16-18

Hasina never resigned as Bangladesh PM, claims son

Dhaka: In a stunning twist to developments in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed claimed she never resigned as PM and reports to

► **Media cos risk shutdown for misinformation, P 15**
► **Mamata dials Odisha CM over attack on Bangalis, P 8**

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," he wrote on X.

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

A letter allegedly from Sheikh Hasina is circulating among her party supporters, suggesting her ouster was due to US pressure regarding crucial St Martin's Island. **P 15**

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

► **'Will ask India to...', P 15**

Ex-MLA's wife killed in IED blast in Manipur

The wife of Yamthong Hakkip, a Manipur ex-MLA, was killed in an IED blast next to their house in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district Saturday. It was initially suspected militants had triggered it, but police later said she might have accidentally set off the IED while burning waste. Also, four armed men are feared killed in a fratricidal shootout between militants and village guards in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said. **P 8**

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State notifies ancient rock art in Ratnagiri as 'protected monument'

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Mumbai: In a major move towards conservation, the 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 the culture department. Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms, both involving the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

The petroglyphs depict a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints, as per the notification. It said that this group of petroglyphs in the 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. The newly protected petroglyphs are located on land owned by Prasad Shankar Apte and others. Anthropologists estimate the petroglyphs to be around

CONSERVATIONISTS CONCERNED OVER REFINERY



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

Officials noted that in June 2021, the state govt issued a two-month notice of its intention to declare the geoglyphs as protected monuments, and no objections were raised against the declaration.

“Rock art in India is one of the oldest material evidence of the country's early human creativity. Typically found in the form of rock paintings, etchings, cup marks, and ring marks across India, (their) dense concentration on the laterite plateaus of the Konkan stands as the most remarkable open-air ensemble of prehistoric human expression in the region — Unesco's description

10,000 years old. 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, a form of prehistoric rock art carvings, are spread along 900 km of the Konkan coast in Maharashtra and Goa. Although locals had known about some of these cultural relics left by their ancestors, their initial discovery was formally recognized in 2012. Ratnagiri alone is home

to more than 1,500 such art works across 70 sites, seven of which are on the Unesco's tentative World Heritage list.

“Geoglyphs are a unique typology in human creative art in terms of size and scale. Evidence of the largest span of time, Geoglyphs exist worldwide and are important cultural expressions since Paleolithic times. 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 the 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 of the Konkan petroglyphs states.

“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 of the Konkan petroglyphs states.

City flat sizes grew just 5% in 5 yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Among the top seven Indian urban areas, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) saw the least growth in average flat sizes in the five-year period between 2019 and 2024. According to a report released by Anarock Group, the average flat size in MMR rose from 784 sqft in 2019 to 825 sqft in the first half of 2024 — a mere 5% rise.

“In this five-year period, only 2020 saw a notable 21% annual rise in the region's average flat size against 2019. Since 2020, the average size (in MMR) was the highest in 2022 — at 840 sqft. It fell by 5% in 2023 against the preceding



year,” it said.

Among the top seven urban areas, NCR overtook Hyderabad to record the highest average flat size of 2,450 sqft in H1 2024 (first half of the year). In Hyderabad, it was 2,010 sqft. Average flat sizes in the two other major southern cities — Chennai and Bengaluru — were 1,450 sqft. and 1,630

sqft, respectively, in H1 2024.

Kolkata's average flat size stands at 1,125 sqft, while in Pune, it is 1,103 sqft. “While 5-year trends indicate a significant jump in flat sizes across cities because of the pandemic-specific demand profile, the rise on a half-yearly basis highlights this continued consumer preference — despite life returning to normalcy and prices rising across cities,” said the report.

Besides seeing the highest rise of 96% in average flat size in the last five years, NCR has also recorded the highest rise in the last six months: by 30% — from 1,890 sqft by 2023-end to 2,450 sqft in H1 2024 — essentially due to

the increased new supply in the luxury segment in this period.

Of the roughly 24,300 units launched in NCR in H1 2024 across different budget segments, luxury homes comprised the maximum share of 77% — about 18,600 units. In 2023, the average flat size across the top seven cities was 1,420 sqft — indicating a 7% jump in the last six months alone.

“A deep dive into data from the top seven cities shows that NCR saw the highest growth — a staggering 96% — in average flat size in the last five years: from 1,250 sqft in 2019 to 2,450 sqft in H1 2024,” it said.

Konkan rly journeys safer as rockfalls down 99% in 25 yrs

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Mumbai: In the tough terrain of the Western Ghats made tougher by the onslaught of the monsoon, unpredictability always tripped Konkan Railway (KR) — from unexpected flooding and tree falls to rockfalls and landslides. But protocols tailored to the rains over the last few years have remarkably reduced not only such incidents — from 200 boulder falls in 1998 to just two recently — but also service disruptions — from six lasting more than an hour every season in 2010 to three in recent years.

What is so tricky about the region nestled between Arabian Sea and the scenic Sahyadri hills? With 563 cuttings and 91 tunnels along its 739km stretch, the KR network cuts across three states through laterite soil, laterite boulders mixed with soil and jointed basalt rock, and features long tunnels, 62 of which are between Roha and Ratnagiri alone, and high viaducts across major rivers (see graphic). “About 25km of tracks is above water and almost 43% is in geologically challenging areas of tunnels and cuttings,” said Santosh Kumar Jha, CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL).

Besides, the region receives the highest rainfall outside of Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, one of the wettest places in the world, said Jha. “It experiences rainfall ranging from 3,500mm to 5,000mm annually, often exceeding 50mm per hour and peaking at 100mm per hour during the monsoon.”

Preparations to surmount these challenges begin four months prior to the monsoon. KRCL allocates Rs 5-7 crore annually for safety maintenance and another Rs 10 crore for monsoon readiness. “The route passes through a 224-km stretch with cuttings as high as 50m,” Jha said. Nearly 40km of the route is based on embankments, minimising waterlogging risks. “We invested Rs 345 crore from 1999-2024 in geo-safety works, like flattening cutting slopes and measures in tunnels,” said Jha.

Wherever cutting was undertaken, rock bolting was adopted to stabilise rock slopes and tunnels. The method involved installing steel bolts in rocks to prevent rockfalls. Granitic grouting was used to stabilise loose soil, and tunnel

91 TUNNELS, 1,891 BRIDGES IN WET ZONE

Why Konkan Railway is prone to disruptions

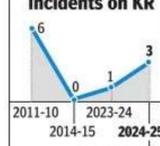
Due to geological constraints, tracks have been laid through long tunnels, deep cuttings of hillocks, and viaducts crossing major rivers, especially in Maharashtra. The strata through which the line is built is made of laterite soil, laterite boulders mixed with soil, and jointed basalt rock

Why disruptions recur

- Unexpected flooding owing to hilly terrain
- Soil slips in soft soil cuttings
- Rockfalls from rock cuttings, and inside tunnels with soil/slush
- Eruption of water jets
- Tree and branches fall



Incidents on KR



Manpower deployed to rectify issues

680



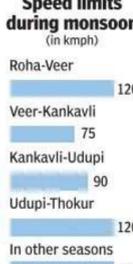
Avg rainfall in region

3,500-5,000mm

Highest intensity

50-100mm per hour

Speed limits during monsoon (in kmph)



In other seasons

120

Konkan Railway length:

739km

Tunnels: 91 (Cumulative length: 84.5km)

Bridges: 1,891, including 750 major ones

Route above water: 25km

Daily services: Mail/express: 52 | Freight: 18

Vulnerable locations: 68 (Maharashtra: 55 | Goa: 7)

Locations of anemometers:

Parval viaduct in Ratnagiri, Mandvi bridge, Zuari bridge, Sharavati bridge

Locations of flood warning systems:

Kali bridge, Vashisti bridge, Savitri bridge

Monsoon preparedness spend: ₹10cr

Passengers 3.1cr per year

Geo-safety expenses ₹345cr (since 1999)

Infra & technological interventions

- Anemometers, which measure wind speed and direction, installed on long bridges
- Flood warning systems on flood-prone bridges
- A rail track monitoring and alert system using artificial intelligence and machine learning
- algorithm being developed with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Thiruvananthapuram
- Collaborations with meteorological and water resources departments for heavy rain and flood warnings

linings were strengthened.

The annual safety precautions include drain cleaning, tree cutting, patrolling the tracks, and maintaining clear water paths on bridges. Boom lifts check for cracks and loose boulders, and shotcreting provides a durable concrete layer on complex surfaces. Each 80-100km section has zonal contracts for these tasks, with 680 people deployed on monsoon work. “This means every kilometre is manned,” Jha said.

A special timetable is also prepared for the season which reduces train speed to 75-90kmph, with loco pilots fur-

her reducing it to 40kmph during heavy rain for safety.

The patrolling teams play a critical role. They immediately alert the control unit about any infringement on the tracks. This brings train movement to a complete halt, thus preventing any major accident, said Jha. The practice of on-the-spot rewards for the patrol teams has also helped bolster the safety procedures.

The numbers tell the success story. In about two months since the onset of the monsoon this year, KR services were disrupted only twice — the first on July 14 that lasted 24 hours due

to silt slippage in Ratnagiri, and the other on July 18 that lasted 18 hours after water seeped into a tunnel in Goa.

There is still room for improvement, though. While commuter Prasad Naik commended KR for ensuring no major mishap occurred this season, some like Thane resident Dayanand Ranade said it is high time the railway board approved the doubling of the line to allow more trains to operate. KRCL has also approached the board for two new tunnels in Goa to address ongoing maintenance challenges with four soft soil tunnels.

No hoarding along coastal rd, SoBo locals urge BMC, launch campaign

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Mumbai: Days after BMC published its draft policy on the city's outdoor advertisement, south Mumbai residents have launched an online petition urging it to abandon plans to allow any hoarding that will face the coastal road. The campaign has received nearly 5,000 signatures.

“[Installation of hoardings] would not only spoil the aesthetics but also potentially distract drivers, leading to an increase in accidents along this buzzing thoroughfare. Additionally, such hoardings would have an environmentally harmful knock-on effect — from manufacturing to disposal. The coastal road, our latest shared heritage, is meant to be a beloved sight for residents and tourists alike for decades. It is not designed to be shrouded by commercial hoardings and should not be co-opted for such purposes,” stated the petition launched by Rajesh Dahiya, member of the Breach Candy Residents Forum and chairman of a housing society. It has received support from residents of Breach Candy, Worli and Nepeansea Road.



BMC officials have said no hoarding has been proposed along the project's reclaimed land

Dahiya said locals have enjoyed an unobstructed view of the sea long before the coastal road was even conceived. According to him, allowing these hoardings will set a precedent that will “turn the scenic landscape into another Western Express Highway”.

BMC, however, said no hoarding has been proposed along the reclaimed land. Officials said four hoardings were approved on the erstwhile Tata Garden land, but with the land falling in coastal regu-

lation zone-2, the company that bagged the 10-year contract is now awaiting permission from the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority. Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aadiya Thackeray has demanded the scrapping of the contract.

Nandini Chabria, another forum member, said it doesn't matter to the residents if the hoardings are not on reclaimed land. “We don't want hoardings anywhere along our locality.” Residents said they plan to meet the authorities.

Fake Mumbai cops dupe techie of ₹20L

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Online fraudsters posing as officers of Mumbai crime branch cheated a 27-year-old software engineer from Pune of Rs 20 lakh in a parcel fraud case in the last two months. The techie filed a complaint on Saturday.

Police said the crooks called up the techie, claiming that they had intercepted an Iran-bound parcel with the techie's name as sender. It contained drugs, they said.

On the pretext of investigating the case, they took details of the techie's Aadhaar and bank account. Later, they claimed that his acco-

unt was misused for money-laundering involving a prominent businessman.

A police officer said, “The crook threatened to arrest the techie and sent him a bogus arrest warrant... Fearing arrest, the techie kept following their instructions. The crooks misused his Aadhaar and bank details to avail a pre-approved loan from a bank.”

The private bank deposited the loan amount to the techie's bank account, the police officer said, adding that the cyber crooks then transferred it to other accounts.

The police said that they are trying to establish the money trail in the case.

Sena's Jadhav appointed to district planning body

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Mumbai: State govt has nominated former Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant Jadhav to the District Planning and Development Council (DPDC) for Mumbai City. The decision is seen as an attempt to strengthen the former BMC standing committee chairperson's position ahead of the assembly polls, following his wife Yamini's drubbing in Lok Sabha polls.

Sena functionary Vijay Lipare too has been nominated to the DPDC, which is headed by Mumbai City guardian minister Deepak Kesarkar. Sena MLA from Byculla

Yamini had contested LS polls from Mumbai South seat and had lost to Arvind Sawant of Sena (UBT) by over 52,000 votes. Sawant's win was attributed to the massive leads of 46,066 votes in Byculla and 40,779 votes in Mumbadevi assembly constituencies.

“After the rout in LS polls, especially in Byculla, assembly polls seem to be an uphill task for Yamini. So, the DPDC nomination is an attempt to strengthen Yashwant Jadhav's position... However, with just two months to go for assembly polls, it may not have much of an impact,” said a political observer. DPDC funds are usually allocated to MLAs and MPs by Mhada.

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

CAN A SMARTWATCH PREDICT YOUR CARDIAC HEALTH?

Smartwatches are great for tracking essential health metrics, especially in the case of heart conditions. Cardiologists have started recommending them as screening tools, with their smart features acting like on-the-spot ECGs to detect rhythm disorders early. So, are smartwatches accurate indicators of cardiac health?

Every **Wednesday**, get answers to more such thought-provoking questions in **The Times of India Health+** section - your credible go-to source for anything to do with health and wellness. Receive a weekly round-up of in-depth articles researched by a team of experts.

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5 Bangladeshis held with PAN, Aadhaar cards

Navi Mumbai: Five Bangladeshi nationals, four of them women, were arrested on Saturday for illegally entering India and staying in Koparkhairane. They were found to have Aadhaar and PAN cards, which they allegedly procured using fake documents, the police said, adding that they did not possess a valid passport.

Senior inspector Aundhar Patil said that the four women worked as domestic helpers with the man did house painting work. They had taken a flat on rent in Khairane village.

The officer said the accused had not submitted the house rent agreement to the police though it is a must. The real estate agents and flat owner will be summoned for inquiry, he said. —George Mendonca

'Drunk' motorist assaults cop on duty, held in 15-min chase

Told To Halt After Collision, Car Driver Flees, Raising Suspicion

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Mumbai: A 40-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, and for assaulting a traffic cop at Goregaon Friday evening.

The man, Shailesh Kumar Singh, a Nallasopara resident, was driving his car at Penkarpada junction to head towards Dahisar when his car had a collision with a two-wheeler around 9.15 pm.

A traffic constable and a warden, who were on night patrol at the spot, flagged down the motorist even as the biker, who had sustained

minor injury, left the spot without lodging any police complaint. The car driver sped away without halting, raising the suspicion of the police constable.

The traffic constable, Swapnil Gharat, along with the traffic warden whose identity has not been revealed by the police, chased the car on a bike.

"They assumed he was driving drunk," said a police official. They tailed the car for about 15 minutes, before intercepting it at one point, said the official.

When the constable asked the motorist to step out, he refused and got abusive,

said the police. Moments later, when he rolled down the window glass, the smell of alcohol filled the air around, the constable said.

"Later, the motorist stepped out of his car and held me by the collar. I called up the police control room... So on cops from Dahisar police station reached the spot and took him into custody," the constable told TOI.

The traffic constable has also alleged that the motorist threatened him, threatening him that he would "have him fired" for waylaying his car.

The police have claimed that the motorist was drunk at the time. A suo motu case

was registered against car driver Singh at Dahisar police station. He has been booked for 'driving under the influence of alcohol', for 'assaulting a public servant', and for 'detering him from discharging his duty'.

The motorist has been booked under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicle Act for offences including assault on a public servant, rash driving, criminal intimidation, intentional insult, disobedience of orders, dangerous driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol. He has been remanded in police custody.

Woman kills hubby, held; Cops search for her lover

George Mendonca

Navi Mumbai: A 37-year-old woman was arrested by Khadeshwar police for allegedly killing her husband, who was a private detective, in connivance with her paramour. The victim identified as Vishnu Gavali (58), was found dead at his Khanda colony residence on Aug 9, when his wife Ashwini Gavali informed the police. Prima facie, an accidental death case was registered at Khadeshwar police station.

His brother alleged that Gavali's wife and her lover had eliminated the victim for his property. In his complaint, Gavali's brother stated that he was murdered by Ashwini who was having an illicit relationship with Sameer Thackeray (26), a Panvel resident, who was employed by the victim as a driver since Jan 2023. The brother stated that Gavali sacked Thackeray after he found out about the affair.

Acting on a complaint by the victim's brother, on Sunday, an FIR of murder was registered under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the accused Ashwini was arrested. While, Thackeray is being traced, the police informed.

TOI has gathered from sources who were close to Gavali that just over a week prior to his murder he had submitted a detailed letter to the Khadeshwar local police station stating that if any harm befalls him then his wife and her paramour should be held responsible for it. "Gavali ji was well-known among media persons and many politicians also knew him," said a Navi Mumbai based friend.

On August 7, Justice Manish M Pitale, while granting bail to Peshkar Khan and his two sons — Vasin and Nasim, said that while they were initially believed to be co-conspirators with Ashok Chhajed, the main accused, there was insufficient evidence linking them to the crime.

Chhajed himself was granted bail in July 2022 due to lack of motive being attributed to him.

The high court said, "When this court has already found lack of material to show any motive for Chhajed to eliminate deceased

ring her WhatsApp app, all apps on her phone and the phone system were intact and were not hacked."

Pune rural police are now trying to find out more details. "As of now, we don't know how it was hacked and who the persons behind it were. We will probe how the suspects gained control of her WhatsApp account," said Deshmukh.

Separately, Sule told reporters that Pune has become the state's "crime capital", referring to the recent brutal murder of a youth in Daund that was caught on camera.

She also demanded that Ajit Pawar's NCP make its stand clear on the proposed Waqf Board Act changes. (Inputs by Prasad Kulkarni)



Man, 2 sons held for murder over biz rivalry get bail

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Bombay High Court granted bail to a man and his two sons after the prosecution failed to establish their involvement in a conspiracy to murder a developer, Abdul Munaf Shaikh.

Shaikh was stabbed to death on August 17, 2020 after he exited a mosque, allegedly due to a dispute over a slum redevelopment project in Andheri.

Officials of the crime branch of the city police had arrested six people, including three members of one family, and had invoked MCOCA.

On August 7, Justice Manish M Pitale, while granting bail to Peshkar Khan and his two sons — Vasin and Nasim, said that while they were initially believed to be co-conspirators with Ashok Chhajed, the main accused, there was insufficient evidence linking them to the crime.

Chhajed himself was granted bail in July 2022 due to lack of motive being attributed to him.

The high court said, "When this court has already found lack of material to show any motive for Chhajed to eliminate deceased

Munaf, it obviously has an adverse effect on the same being relied upon by the investigating authority against the three applicants."

The crime branch of the city police had arrested six people, including Khan and his two sons.

The police said that the accused conspired to eliminate Shaikh because of business and personal rivalry over the redevelopment project.

However, the court found that the evidence that had been presented did not support this theory. Advocate Sana Raes Khan, representing Nasim Khan, argued that both Nasim and his father were not in Mumbai at the time of the crime and that merely having an employee [Nadeem Shaikh] involved in the crime was not sufficient to implicate them as co-conspirators.

The court also said that the accused have been in jail for around four years and there is a remote possibility of the trial concluding anytime soon.

The court observed that the existence of criminal antecedents alone is not a valid reason to deny bail, particularly when there is lack of incriminating evidence.

Bandra man held for sending porn to 25 women using different SIMs

Mumbai: A 36-year-old man from Bandra (east) has been arrested for sending pornographic video clips to at least 25 women over the past few months. The arrest comes nearly two months after a 30-year-old woman who had received one such clip filed a complaint. Mohammed Shaikh used eight phones with different SIM cards to send the clips, the police said. "He claims he sent the clips to random numbers, but we are not buying out this claim," said an officer. The accused was accused of an acid attack on his wife and son last month. —

Chargesheet on fake RBI officer in ₹35L con filed

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The crime intelligence unit of Mumbai police has submitted a chargesheet against Tushar Sutar who allegedly impersonated an RBI officer and defrauded a businessman of Rs 35 lakh.

The police recovered Rs 29.2 lakh, an RBI's B grade officer appointment letter, air tickets from Mumbai to Delhi and Delhi to Dubai, cheque books, a passport, and Rs 2 lakh that Sutar had transferred to his girlfriend from a five-star hotel in Nari-man Point.

In total, 80% of the stolen money has been recovered. With the court's permission, the recovered money was returned to the complainant, a 72-year-old Worli resident, director of a five-star hotel.

The chargesheet was filed under IPC sections 419, 420, and 170 for cheating and pretending to hold a particular office as a public servant. Sutar had contacted the businessman whose bank

account had been frozen and declared an NPA due to an alleged loan default of Rs 13 crore; the businessman also had a case pending before the Debt Recovery Tribunal.

Sutar, claiming his name was Sharma, told the businessman that he had connections in the Central govt and RBI and could help settle his loan account and litigation. The victim paid Rs 35 lakh to Sutar, who then started avoiding him. Realising that he had been duped, the businessman approached the police and an FIR was lodged.

Sutar had previously cheated his father and a friend of lakhs of rupees under the pretext of pursuing higher studies. Instead, he used the money to live lavishly, including frequent travel and five-star hotel stays.

The chargesheet includes an RBI letter confirming that no person named Tushar Sutar works in the organisation, CCTV footage from the hotel, and bills proving his extravagant lifestyle.

Yr after marriage, woman hangs self, hubby & 4 of his family held

Kalyan: A 25-year-old woman, Aarti Bhangare, hanged herself at her Tiwala home on Saturday, a year after marriage, over "harassment" by her husband and in-laws, the police said. Her husband, Ketan Bhangare, his parents and two other family members have been arrested in connection with her death. The woman's brother, Janardan Ghare, has said in his police complaint that his sister's parents-in-law, and others at home tortured her, demanding Rs 20 lakh to buy a flat. They told her she did not cook well, the complaint says. —

Man arrested for raping girlfriend

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A 21-year-old man from Nagpada, Sobail Khan was arrested for rape, molestation, and violations under the Information Technology Act, following a complaint filed by his girlfriend.

According to the complaint, Khan allegedly deceived the girl by offering to drop her off from college. Instead, he took her to a hotel in Byculla, where he forcibly engaged in sexual intercourse with her against her will. The girl stated that they were in a relationship and their parents had agreed to their marriage. However, she claimed that the accused persistently pressured her for physical intimacy, despite her objections. The girl's family had informed him that they would arrange their marriage once her father recovered from his illness.

Doctor molests woman at hosp, FIR registered

Navi Mumbai: An oncologist at a hospital in Belapur has been booked by CBD-Belapur police for allegedly molesting a 56-year-old woman, whose 29-year-old son succumbed during his cancer treatment on May 30. She blamed the oncologist concerned for her son's death, alleging negligence during his treatment. As the woman questioned the doctor, an argument ensued between them, during which the doctor allegedly hurled expletives and pulled her dress. —George Mendonca

GEAR UP! NOT EVEN A MONTH LEFT



With less than a month to go for Ganesh Chaturthi festivities, idols of Bappa being taken through Lalbaug

Sule's WhatsApp account hacked, \$400 demanded; cops restore it in a few hrs

Anurag.Bende@timesofindia.com

Pune: Baramati MP Supriya Sule on Sunday said her WhatsApp account was hacked and a demand for \$400 was made.

After finding out that her account had been hacked, Supriya immediately sent an online complaint application to Pune rural police. Based on her complaint, Pune rural police found out that her account was active on another device and managed to restore it in a few hours.

Sule told TOI that she was at a party event in Pune district's Daund tehsil in the morning when she realised that her WhatsApp account had been hacked. "I received a message on WhatsApp from a

known number. Since it was a known number, I replied to the message and my WhatsApp was hacked."

According to the Baramati MP, after gaining access to the account, the hacker sent a

“A constitutional amendment is needed to give quota to different communities. Parties like BJP have double standards when it comes to giving reservation. They don't have the same stand in state and Centre

Supriya Sule | BARAMATI MP

message through it to one of her team members, demanding \$400 to give it back.

"I immediately shut down my phone. I requested (NCP (SP)'s) Jayant Patil, who was next to me, to send me a mes-

sage on WhatsApp. When he sent it, the hacker replied to him while my phone was switched off. I immediately informed police," Sule said.

Asked if she suspected any conspiracy behind the



hacking episode, Sule said, "I do not know who is behind it. The police investigation will hopefully bring some light on the entire issue."

SP (Pune rural) Pankaj Deshmukh told TOI, "Bar-

BMC considers smaller alternative than IIT's on Malabar Hill reservoir

Richa.Pinto@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Senior BMC officials are considering reducing the size of the alternative Malabar Hill reservoir proposed by IIT Roorkee, as it will become redundant once the main reservoir is repaired and fully operational. They are consulting former hydraulic engineers for their opinion. An IIT Roorkee team, commissioned by BMC to assess the need for an overhaul of the Malabar Hill reservoir, recommended an alternative of capacity over 52 million litres until repairs are completed.

The report, submitted by IIT Roorkee, states, "In the present scenario, there is a shortage of usable storage of 13.24 million litres. In view of repair work on any one of the tanks - 1A, 1B and 1C - a new tank of usable capacity (35.35 plus 13.24, adding to 48.59 mil-



IIT Roorkee recommended an alternative of capacity 52 million litres

lion litres) is to be constructed. In case tanks 2A and 2B are to be repaired, then a usable capacity of 52.4 million litres would be needed. So, the minimum usable capacity for an alternative tank will be 52.41 million litres."

The report mentions that though structural and non-

structural distresses were observed in various portions of the reservoir, the overall condition of the reservoir is adjudged to be largely satisfactory. "Compartments 2A, 2B and 1A were noted to be mostly sound, while structural distresses could be seen in 1B and 1C. The tank 1C had some serious

symptoms of corrosion of reinforcement in RCC elements," it mentions. A senior BMC official said efforts are being made to remove as few trees as possible for the repairs; but a portion of land will be required. "For that, we would try to ensure that minimal trees are affected. Meanwhile, we are also evaluating if the size of the alternative tank could be further reduced as the same may not be required once repairs are complete."

Malabar Hill MLA MP Lodha announced in June that the original Rs 698-crore plan to reconstruct the reservoir had been scrapped; instead, it would be repaired. Lodha said that if the environment is not being affected, which was one of the primary concerns of local residents, infrastructure upgrade work should not be stopped.

'Auto-taxi board a poll gimmick'

Chaitanya Marpakwar & Somit Sen | TNN

Mumbai: Even five months after announcing Rs 50 crore for the "Auto Taximen's Welfare Board", the state transport department is yet to set up the body. Without the board, schemes like social security and health insurance for auto and taxi drivers can't be provided. The state govt announced the Rs 50 crore allocation in the 2024 budget.

The state mooted the idea of setting up the "Maharashtra State Auto Rickshaw and Taxi Drivers-Owners Welfare



The govt's promised welfare board is yet to see light of day

Corporation" to implement welfare schemes in the 2023 budget. Neither has the body been set up, nor has any of the schemes taken off. "We have sent the propo-

sal for registration (of the board) and it will be formed soon. Once that is done, any decision on providing facilities to auto and taxi drivers can be taken," said transport commissioner Vivek Bhimanwar. Mumbai Auto Rickshaw Men's Union leader Shashank Rao, representing one of the biggest unions of drivers, told TOI on Sunday, "I have petitioned the govt that they have merely proclaimed the board but not divulged their intended course of action. One of our main demands was medical insurance of Rs 10 lakh for families. In

the event of any crash, the family should receive Rs 10 lakh. Upon attaining the age of 65, we should be entitled to a pension amounting to approximately 30% of earnings - which will equate to a minimum of Rs 5,000 (considering average earnings of Rs 15,000 per month). The govt lacks earnestness in implementation of the board and it seems to be a mere gimmick in view of the forthcoming elections."

In March, a government resolution (GR) stated there was a demand for a separate board for auto-taxi drivers.

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CITYLIGHTS

Praying for Peace

While watching neighbouring Bangladesh descend into political turmoil this past week, Abraham Mathai, head of city-based Harmony Foundation, fondly remembered his close friends there. He recalled an important event in the city in 2016 when family members of Faraz Hossain, the high school boy who was killed in a terror attack at an upscale Dhaka cafe, had flown in to receive an award. That year the foundation decided to give its annual Mother Teresa Memorial Award to Faraz posthumously. Before terrorists attacked Faraz, they asked him his name and gave him the option of reciting a Quranic verse (in Arabic), which he did correctly.



PREPARING TO WELCOME BAPPA: A dhol tasha group practises for the upcoming Ganeshotsav

He was asked to leave but he refused to go unless his Hindu friends were freed too, and was killed. Mathai said his thoughts were with Faraz's family and other Bangladeshis, and prayed for normalcy.

When Actors Bat

Over the years, actors have sought the help of former India cricketers while preparing for roles. India's 1983 World Cup hero Balwinder Singh Sandhu trained Aksh-

ay Kumar who played the role of a fast bowler for England, for Patiala House released in 2011. Sandhu later coached the entire cast of '83, which was based on India's famous 1983 World Cup triumph, and released in 2021. Former India

wicket-keeper Kiran More trained Sushant Singh Rajput for the role of Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the latter's biopic titled MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, the 2016 movie, at the Mumbai Cricket Association's ground in BKC. More recently, former India and Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayyar, currently assistant coach of Team India, trained an actor in the sport. "It was great fun and also an experience like none other... The actor was as hardworking as any cricketer I have worked with," Nayyar told this correspondent just before he took over his Team India job.

Glass Language

Seated on the floor of the city's only blown-glass studio in Govandi, Rukhsar—the housekeeper who cleans the many fragile objects around her by laying them out on a foam mat—was having lunch this past week when she re-

ceived a wide smile from Matthew Piepenbrok. Though fairly fluent in broken versions of Hindi, Marathi and English, the 48-year-old American doesn't typically need words to connect. "Glass is a universal language," says the veteran multimedia artist, referring to his favourite medium of expression for two decades. Years of melting and melding this transparent medium have baked into him a certain calmness. "Glass demands attention," says the 1976 born who wanted to be a painter growing up in rural Wisconsin but found himself initiated into blown-glass art by teachers around age 10 when he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). "The teachers built the classes around me," says the grateful multimedia artist. (Contributed by Mohammed Wajihuddin, Gaurav Gupta & Sharmila Ganesan Ram)

Light in Our Lives

Santosh Desai

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

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

Over and above the economic necessity, perhaps it was an acknowledgement of the power of a night as a primal force, a sign of respect that while we were flouting the laws of nature by illuminating our abodes artificially, we were doing so with the full knowledge that this is not how things were meant to be. We apologised even as we lit our electric lamps—for some reason, always with a little prayer: That was a time when we consciously shrank our world at night, lighting up only the most necessary parts of our lives. It was time to be home, not go gallivanting around outside. In any case, we barely had any streetlights in the small towns where I spent most of my childhood, and going out at night for any errands was a much grumbled-about event. The night felt distinctly different from the day; it was as if we lived life in two different registers.

The flashlight was an integral asset in those times. The power supply was erratic, and street lighting was virtually non-existent. In rural areas, in particular, life would be unimaginable without this sturdy companion; a fact that made Nokia one of the best-selling phones in India. The light bulb changed civilisation of course, by being, as Marshall McLuhan put it, a medium without a message. It transforms the environment merely by its presence, turning night into day and, in effect, doubling the world we have access to. We could work 24 hours a day. The idea of 'night life' is a direct

result of the bulb, yet another way in which human ingenuity has thwarted the designs of nature.

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

Today, of course, as one looks upon empty office buildings late at night that are ablaze with light, it is easy to see dramatically how our relationship with lighting has changed. And while it is true that the power situation in India has improved significantly, what this really points to is the change in our attitude towards lighting. We abhor darkness and have begun to find it unnatural. Darkness feels like a void, an aberration

that we are no longer comfortable with. We rarely encounter darkness in our lives anymore until it's time to go to sleep. Light is a sign of space being animated by life. This probably explains the urge to keep one light on even if we are not at home.

The advent of LED technology has helped bring about this transformation. Lighting is now much cheaper and more versatile. Lighting methods have changed, and modern homes today can have a dazzling array of lights used in different ways. Lighting has become a lifestyle accessory, to be used for aesthetic as well as functional reasons. Today there is talk about lighting design, which involves using light purposefully to highlight and underline different spaces that we use.

CITY CITY BANG BANG

There are cove lights, spotlights, accent lights, and ambient lights; a whole new vocabulary of lighting has sprung up. If earlier we lived by the rules of the lighting options available to us, today we paint our lives with light in the way we see fit.

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

As our lives become more brightly lit, it is curious how, in some ways, we seek out its absence. There is a market for dimly lit bars, and films and television seem to revel in producing content that is so poorly lit that it is difficult to follow what is being depicted. That's a full circle of sorts. From a time when we made do with the little light that we could afford to a time now when we seek out some version of darkness. santosh365@gmail.com

Maratha vote will be key in 113 assembly seats: Jarange

Kolhapur/Pune: Reservation activist Manoj Jarange said on Sunday that the Maratha vote will play a decisive role in at least 113 assembly constituencies in Maharashtra. He said the decision to either field candidates supporting Maratha reservation or defeat those who oppose it will be taken on Aug 29, the anniversary of the Maratha quota stir. "Our demand has not changed since the beginning: reservation for Marathas under OBC. If govt fails to meet the demand, we will contest the assembly elections. We have done a detailed study, and do not doubt that BJP will be wiped out in Vidarbha and Marathwada. In Mumbai region, too, BJP will suffer losses," he said in Satara.

Later in the day, Jarange asserted in Pune that Maratha community members from several regions are

united and stand firmly behind the cause of getting quota. "Two to three days ago, some people were saying that the Maratha community is not united and its members from Marathwada, Vidarbha, western Maharashtra, Mumbai and Konkan regions are divided. However, this huge gathering has proved them wrong," he told supporters during a halt of his 'Shantata (peace) rally'.

Jarange reiterated that defeating political leaders who are against reservation for the Maratha community was his top priority and that he will soon visit Mumbai with his supporters to stage a protest if the demands are not fulfilled.

Soon after the rally was over, Jarange was taken to a hospital for treatment as he had started feeling dizzy. **TNN**

It was a reaction to action: CM; blames UBT for Uddhav attack

Manoj Badgeri & Chaitanya Marpakwar | **TNN**

Thane/Mumbai: Holding Shiv Sena (UBT) responsible for the attack on party chief Uddhav Thackeray's convoy in Thane on Saturday, chief minister Eknath Shinde said it was a "reaction to action". Shinde, however, denounced the attack where a few MNS activists allegedly hurled cow dung, bangles and coconuts on Uddhav's convoy and warned that such incidents will not be tolerated as it was never a tradition of Maharashtra's political legacy.

The attack on Uddhav's convoy was reportedly a retaliation for Friday's incident in Beed, where Sena (UBT) workers allegedly threw betel nuts and tomatoes at MNS chief Raj Thackeray's convoy. "Saturday's violence is a repercussion of their [Sena UBT] action. Their office-bearers seem to have provoked the violence by allegedly creating mischief during Raj Thackeray's tour... They have also been hurling accusations at me and castigating our govt for the last two years. But we are adhering to the principles of Balasaheb Thack-



CM Eknath Shinde has denounced the attack on Uddhav's convoy in Thane

eray and my mentor Anand Dighe and retorting to them with developmental work instead..." Shinde told the media on Saturday night.

Even as Thane and Palghar MNS president Avinash Jadhav warned Sena (UBT) to refrain from attempting to criticise or target Raj, Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut blamed Union home minister Amit Shah for the political sluff, claiming that "Ahmed Shah Abdali from Delhi has given supari (contract) to some leaders to create chaos in Maharashtra ahead of the assembly elections". "Ahmed Shah Abdali [Shah] has given crores of

Bawankule: Thackeray has abandoned saffron

State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule launched a scathing attack on Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, claiming he has abandoned the 'bhagwa' (saffron) ideology and has distanced himself from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legacy. His comments come in the wake of Thackeray's speech to party workers where he accused CM Shinde of capitulating to Delhi, declared the assembly polls as a battle against those who "hate" Maharashtra, and said his party workers were his 'wagh-nakh'. **PTI**

rupees to two to three leaders. One of them performed... in Thane on Saturday... But such incidents do not matter to us..." he said.

In a jolt to Sena UBT in Thane, senior-most Dighe loyalist Anita Birje shifted allegiance to Shinde at the Shiv Sena headquarters at Tembhi Naka on Saturday when Uddhav was addressing his supporters barely a kilometre away at Gadkari Rangayatan.

Be vigilant against bogus voting: Uddhav to workers

Manoj Badgeri@timesofindia.com

Thane: Insinuating fraudulent voting in Thane during Lok Sabha elections, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday urged party workers to remain vigilant and focus on verifying electoral rolls to prevent bogus voting in the ensuing state assembly polls.

Addressing party workers at Gadkari Rangayatan in Thane, CM Eknath Shinde's bastion, Thackeray accused

against those who "hate" the state. Thackeray said former Sena (UBT) Thane MP Rajan Vichare, who had alleged the duplication of 1.6 lakh voters during LS polls, has speculated that the figure may touch 1.7 lakh in the assembly polls. Vichare said he had approached Thane election department alluding to the potential occurrence of 'double voting' during assembly polls and seeking a thorough re-examination of voters' lists, albeit to no avail.

"...It appears that the administration is disregarding our plea for an investigation. I am imploring party workers to authenticate names in their respective areas and remain vigilant..." Thackeray said. "The public is extending their support to us, which was seen in LS and MLC polls. They [govt] are now likely to resort to employing unscrupulous tactics like financial inducements..."

Reacting to Thackeray's statements, Shinde said Sena UBT was oblivious to ground realities. "They have been rejected by citizens, which is evident from the high strike rate that we got in LS poll results... They are criticising my Delhi trips which are for our state's advancement. But he [Thackeray] seems to have disregarded how, in the past, Delhi politicians used to frequent Matoshree [Thackeray's residence] and how he is now helplessly travelling to the capital seeking a position of power..." he said. (With PTI inputs)

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1	Physician	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS with P.G. Degree of equivalent from recognized university with post PG experience of three years	Rs. 60,000/ per month for 4 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
2	General Surgen	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	OR PG Diploma from recognized university. Having post PG experience of 5 Years respectively in particular specialty	Additional Rs. 15000/- per month performing emergency call duties for morning sessions of Part time Specialists
3	Orthopedic	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS with PG degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
4	Gynaecologist	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
5	Pediatrician		1							1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	12 P.M. to 4 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
6	Ophthalmologist	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
7	ENT Specialist	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
8	Skin Specialist	1								1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 1 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
9	Medical Officer		1	1	1					4	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS with PG degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
10	Medical Officer	4	2	1						10	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
11	Medical Officer For Secondary Care		1	1						1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.
12	Medical Officer For Reimbursement		1	1						1	22/08/2024 11 AM To 4 PM	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	upto to 69 years as on the date of interview	MBBS degree	Consolidated Remuneration of MBBS Rs 75,000/- & 7 hours session per day for 6 days in a week.

DGIPR/2024-2025/1808

School food poisoning: MP seeks inquiry

Paigah: BJP MP Hemant Sawra on Sunday said he has demanded an inquiry into the recent incident of food poisoning in which students of ashram schools took ill. He said he met Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, and submitted a memorandum seeking an inquiry. Sawra, in his memorandum, said 663 students from 33 ashram schools fell ill on Aug 5. The legislator sought the Centre's intervention. **PTI**

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

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

2. Eligibility: As per G.O.Rt.No.151 Higher Education (TE) Department, Dated: 25-06-2018
a. Last date for receiving of applications: 19-08-2024
b. Physical Counselling and Issuance of Allotment orders: 23-08-2024
For Further details visit: <https://tgeapcet.nic.in>
Date: 08-08-2024, Place : Hyderabad
R.O. No. : 318-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/12/2024-25 Date: 08-08-2024
Sd/- A. Sridevasena, IAS
CTE & Convener 2024

TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

Sl. Specification No. Description of Work / Materials Due date & time for submission of e-tender

1 Coal (SHIP) - 168 Dated 08.08.2024 TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF - TINTING PANAMAX / KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 1st OCT to 15th OCT 2024 FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS + 3 MONTHS OPTION + 1 MONTH CHOITION +/- 15 DAYS CHOITION

22.08.2024 Upto 14.30 Hours.

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

Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website www.tangedco.gov.in, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. www.tenders.tn.gov.in and from National Informatics Center website ntenders.gov.in/nicgepp free of cost. Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal: <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgepp> DIPR/2511/Tender/2024

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31% surge in bus travel bookings for festive wknd

Somit.Sen@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Private bus operators have reported a remarkable 31% surge in travel bookings during the extended Independence Day - Raksha Bandhan weekend in Mumbai and across Maharashtra.

To accommodate the burgeoning demand, these operators are gearing up to provide 4,571 bus services, a significant increase compared to the previous year's I-Day weekend.

The state has witnessed a substantial uptick in reservations from August 17 to 19. A representative from redBus, a prominent online bus ticketing platform, informed this newspaper, "Based on a comprehensive analysis of data from various private operators, the most sought-after inter-state routes include Mumbai-Indore, Pune-Indore, Pune-Bangalore, and Pune-Hyderabad. Additionally, the favoured intra-state routes encompass Mumbai-Mahabaleshwar, Mumbai-Kolhapur, Pune-Nagpur, Nagpur-Pune, and Mahabaleshwar-Mumbai."

A western suburbs-based operator affirmed, "We are diligently striving to ensure a sufficient supply of vehicles to accommodate the burgeoning passenger volume. The surge in bookings underscores the growing propensity of individuals to embark on leisure trips and visit their hometowns during festive occasions."

DRI busts ₹78 crore drug production facility, 52kg seized

Mumbai: In a major crackdown on illegal drug manufacturing, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) uncovered a clandestine mephedrone production facility in Nagpur's Paachpavli area.

Acting on specific intelligence, the DRI-Mumbai unit found a fully equipped laboratory in an under-construction building. In the lab, the unit found

4 ARRESTED

advanced stages of production of over 100 kg of mephedrone, a psychotropic substance regulated under the NDPS Act, 1985. The team seized 51.95 kg of mephedrone in liquid form, valued at approximately Rs 78 crore. Raw materials and machinery capable of producing more of the substance were also confiscated. The mastermind behind the syndicate, along with three accomplices involved in the manufacturing process, were arrested. TNN

Maratha activists stop Pawar's convoy, say 'clear stand on quota'

Police Foil Protester's Bid To Self-Immolate At Farmers' Meet In Solapur Dist

Abhijeet.Patil@timesofindia.com

Kolhapur: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar faced the ire of Maratha activists while on his way to Barshi in Solapur from Pune and at the venue where he addressed a congregation of farmers on Sunday.

Pawar's convoy was stopped near Kurduvadi after he left Pune. The activists demanded that Pawar clear his stance on Maratha reservation, and complained that he had not done much so far. They let him go after he responded, while sitting inside his SUV, that he supports reservation.

However, barely five minutes into his 20-minute speech

in Barshi, Maratha activists started shouting slogans — 'Ek Maratha Lakh Maratha' and '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, a Maratha activist doused himself with petrol at the rally. Policemen standing nearby intervened quickly. They later took him into custody.

In his speech, Pawar said PM Narendra Modi had promised to double farmers' income. "Doubling of income has not happened, instead the

rate of farmer suicides has doubled...reason is that farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce."

Pawar added that Modi was not using his power for the sake of workers, farmers and youths. "...Youths have no jobs. If the youth of any country goes into depression, the future of that country faces the same fate — it goes into depression."

After the event, NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar targeted the Mahayuti gov't for the anger among Marathas. "The protesters may not be aware of who is in power and who is in the opposition. But we uphold the values

of democracy...Devendra Fadnavis's supporters challenged the reservation of 16% we gave to Marathas, and the same people are also challenging the reservation given by the current gov't. Fadnavis should ensure his people do not go to court," he said.

On the US-based investment research firm Hindenburg Research's latest allegations about the SEBI chief and her husband investing in offshore accounts used by Adani, Rohit said the claims should be investigated through a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Rohit further alleged that there could be attempts to damage companies in Maharashtra and across India.

"I PRAYED TO GOD BECAUSE I WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE FROM FALLING INTO THIS MANHOLE"



BHANDUP

THAT TOO IN FRONT OF A BMC OFFICE: This is on the footpath on LBS Marg, Bhandup (W), near Ishwar Nagar and the BMC office with missing street lights and waste carrying vehicles lined up —Mohan V.

AND IF CARS COULD PRAY: "I DID NOT ESCAPE BUT STILL THANKED GOD TOO THAT I AM MADE OF METAL"



BANDRA

SUNK: This was on the corner of Manuel Gonsalves Marg and St Anthony's Lane, Bandra (W) —Neil Pais

BANNERS ARE BACK: The BMC's clean up vans should be authorized to pull them down. This is opposite Siddhivinayak Temple, Prabhadevi —Rajesh Ashar



PRABHADEVI



THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS

'Ladki Bahin instalments to be credited in a/c's on Aug 17'

Akola: The state gov't will deposit on August 17 the 'Ladki Bahin' instalments for July and this month in the beneficiaries' accounts, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday.

The newly introduced scheme is getting a huge response in the state and 1.5 crore women have registered for it so far, he said during an address at a meeting of BJP workers in Akola.

Under the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, married, divorced, and destitute women aged 21-60 will receive Rs 1,500 per month, with the annual family income of beneficiaries capped at Rs 2.5 lakh. He said that the instalments for July and August will be credited to the beneficiaries' accounts on August 17.

According to the deputy CM, the government is working towards providing apprenticeships to one million (10 lakh) unemployed youths in the state for six months under the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Karayaprashikshan Yojana'. Fadnavis said the government has generated 12,000 megawatts of solar energy in the past one and a half years. As there will be no financial burden on the government due to solar energy, farmers will be provided free electricity, he added.

In the state budget presented in June, a few months ahead of the assembly elections, the Maharashtra government announced a slew of populist measures for women, unemployed youths, farmers and households. 71

KOLIS PREP TO SET SAIL AGAIN



TESTING WATERS: Fishermen of Worli Koliwada test the seaworthiness of their boats before resuming work after a two-month monsoon break at Narali Purnima, on Aug 19

Want public hearings of Waqf institutions in Maha: SP MLA

Chaitanya.Marpakwar@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Samajwadi Party MLA from Bhiwandi (East) Rais Shaikh has demanded that Maharashtra State Board of Waqf (MSBW) conduct public hearings of Waqf institutions, instead of in-chamber. At present, hearings for 184 Waqf institutions are being conducted by the board.

In his letter to MSBW chairman Sameer Kazi, Shaikh said there are 27,000 Waqf properties in the state, with 11,000 properties having been legalised. As per the Supreme Court verdict in 2022, MSBW must conduct the hearings related to the Waqf properties within six months. "Waqf properties belong to Muslims and the community has a right to know about them. Therefore,

Muslims protest outside Matoshree over Sena UBT MPs' absence during bill debate

A group of Muslims protested outside Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's Bandra residence, Matoshree, on Saturday to condemn the absence of his MPs from Parliament during debates. The sloganising group alleged that the community had voted for Sena (UBT) candidates in Lok Sabha polls, but the party "ditched" them. "...At Govandi, we helped Sanjay Dina Patil win the seat...Yet, Sena (UBT) MPs remained absent from Parliament during debates," said Salim Siddiqui from Govandi. Juma Masjid of Bombay Trust member Shueb Khatib asked why Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawat was part of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the Bill, when the party MPs were absent from the debate. "Sena (UBT) should clear its stand," he added. — Mohammed Wajihuddin

public hearings should be held..." Shaikh said.

In 1995, Centre passed the Waqf Act empowering state Waqf Boards to declare such properties. The MSBW, established in 2002, declared 11,000

Waqf properties till 2004. While upholding MSBW's decision on these properties, SC asked it to hear the respondents to determine if their properties are Waqf. Hence, the hearings are being held.

Avg wholesale onion prices up by 21%, tomato costs dip

Tushar.Pawar@timesofindia.com

Nashik: Average wholesale prices of two kitchen staples have seen noticeable changes in the last one week. The cost of onions at Lasalgaon APMC rose by 21%, and those for tomatoes dipped by 30% during the same period at Pimpalgaon APMC. Both locations are the country's largest wholesale markets for their respective produce. Average wholesale onion prices increased amid a hike in demand in the domestic market as compared to supply, while there has been a rise in the supply of tomatoes as compared to demand. In Lasalgaon,



Surge in price due to hike in demand

said, are not bringing the onions to mandis in the district due to ongoing rains. However, the demand for onions in domestic and export markets has increased. Onion trader Manoj Jain said, "Export demand from Sri Lanka has risen in recent days alongside demand in domestic markets." The average wholesale tomato prices in Pimpalgaon APMC declined from Rs 461 per crate (20kg) on Aug 3 to Rs 350 per crate on Aug 10. Pimpalgaon APMC officials said arrivals of the tomatoes increased by three times at the market in the last one week, from 8,000 crates a day on Aug 3 to 24,000 crates a day as of Saturday.

Shinde & Fadnavis on dais, 'senior' Ajit Pawar rues missing CM's post

Sixty-five-year-old Ajit Pawar himself has disclosed that despite being senior to CM Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis in politics, he still missed the bus for the CM's post. He revealed his career graph at a well-attended event in Thane in the presence of governor C P Radhakrishnan, Shinde and Fadnavis. He said he was sworn in as the deputy CM on multiple occasions, but could not become the CM.

Ajit Pawar was first elected to the assembly in 1991 from Baramati. He also served as a Lok Sabha MP. Fadnavis was first elected to the assembly in 1999 and Shinde in 2004; both became CM. Fadnavis was sworn in as CM on Oct 31, 2014, with his gov't supported by Sharad Pawar-led undivided NCP. Shinde was appointed

as CM on June 30, 2022, after many Shiv Sena legislators deserted Uddhav Thackeray and joined him.

Ajit Pawar observed that had Fadnavis given him the offer of the CM's post, he would have ensured that the entire NCP had joined him. Immediately after the 2019 assembly polls, when no party

secured a clear majority, Ajit Pawar quietly joined hands with Fadnavis and formed gov't in the wee hours. Then, Fadnavis was sworn in as the CM and Ajit Pawar as the deputy CM. That gov't lasted fewer than 80 hours as Ajit Pawar was unable to secure the support of all NCP legislators; of the 44 NCP legislators, only

four extended their support to him. It appears that Ajit Pawar will have to wait longer for the top political post.

Rot in BMC
For the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), it was a prized catch when it nabbed a designated officer of BMC's K-East ward. The BMC officer had demanded Rs 2 crore from a builder to regularise a four-storey structure in Andheri. As per an understanding between the officer and the builder, the first instalment was to be for Rs 75 lakh. The builder then approached the ACB. While the BMC officer is at large, two middlemen have been arrested accepting the bribe amount.

Significantly, on Nov 6, 2022, an officer of the same rank and from the same ward

was arrested by the ACB for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50 lakh for regularising an illegal structure.

No doubt, the law will take its own course but responsibility must be fixed on superior officers for their lack of supervision and dereliction of duty. Further, the BMC administration led by veteran bureaucrat Bhushan Gagrani must ensure that the case is fast-tracked so that it is disposed of in a time-bound period.

In 1997, when Manohar Joshi was the CM, the urban development department had issued a stringent circular stating that the ward officer and senior police inspector would be held responsible for illegal and unauthorised constructions. BMC does not have a record to show action taken against erring officers.

5k Illegal structures razed around Navi Mum airport

Navi Mumbai: City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has taken decisive action against unauthorised constructions and encroachments in the Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) from 2020 to 2024. More than 5,000 illegal structures have been removed to facilitate the development of a new township based on land pooling. CIDCO has also initiated criminal proceedings against those involved in illegally dumping of debris and soil theft. Despite the challenges faced in removing encroachments, special teams have been deployed to carry out the task effectively. CIDCO chief vigilance officer Suresh Mengde, who conducted the raids, said

as many as 48 cases have been registered in the case of unauthorised dumping of debris, soil theft, and illegal transportation, during which 124 vehicles have been confiscated in the late-night operations. "We will continue the drive to crack the whip on all encroachments in

2020-2024 DATA

the coming days. Debris dumping activity has been reduced substantially after a series of night raids," added Mengde. During late-night operations, 48 cases have been registered for unauthorised dumping of debris, soil theft, and illegal transportation, resulting in the confiscation of 124 vehicles. — BB Nayak

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E-mail: ajit.mmla@gmail.com

tender &
notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, we are
instructed and authorized by our
clients, (i) Mr. Manoj Nari Sainani
and (ii) Mr. Sumit Singh Chawla to
give notice to the public at large that,
amongst others, our clients (i) Mr.
Manoj Nari Sainani and (ii) Mr.
Sumit Singh Chawla (hereinafter
jointly referred to as the "Owners")
had instituted a Suit bearing No. 358
of 2022 ("Said Suit"), before the
Hon'ble Bombay High Court against
(i) M/s. Rudratara International
Private Limited (ii) Manjula
Sharma and (iii) Arvind Kumar
("Defendants") for various reliefs as
is more particularly prayed for in the
Said Suit with respect to the
Schedule Property including an
alternate prayer for cancellation of
the Agreement of Sale dated
15th November 2018. The Said Suit
has now been transferred to the
Hon'ble City Civil Court of Bombay
and the same is re-numbered as Suit
No. 2936 of 2024.

That, recently, it had come to the
knowledge of our clients that the
Defendants are making an endeavor
to sell the Scheduled Property to
some third parties and/or are making
an endeavor to create third party
rights with respect to the Scheduled
Property and accordingly, our clients
preferred a Notice of Motion No.
115095 of 2024 before the Hon'ble
City Civil Court at Bombay, Mumbai
in the Said Suit, seeking ad-interim
reliefs / prayers against the
Defendants; in which Notice of
Motion, the Hon'ble Court vide its
order dated 07th August 2024 ("Said
Injunction") was pleased to grant an
order restraining the Defendants
from selling or creating any third-
party interest in the Scheduled
Property until the next date of
hearing, which is scheduled for
10th October 2024.

In view of the Said Injunction, our
clients inform the public at large to
not deal with the Defendants in any
manner whatsoever, either by way of
sale, mortgage, assignment,
exchange, lease, lien, license,
deposit of title deeds, surrender of
tenancy, pledge, gift, occupation,
possession, tenancy, sub-tenancy,
leave and license, sub-lease, sale of
Shares, etc. or encumbrance
howsoever, with respect to the
Scheduled Property till 10th October
2024 and/or till the Said Order is
confirmed and/or till the Said Order is
in force. That, any attempt to deal
with the Scheduled Property shall
be null and void in contemplation of
the Hon'ble Court's Order and
irrespective shall be subject to the
prior rights of our client.

**THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED
TO:**
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+ Ground Floor + Mezzanine
1st Floor) in the Building known as
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belonging to Oshiwara Sonal
Shopping Center Co-operative
Society Limited, situated in MHADA
Scheme, Code 04, MAHADA
Layout situated at Plot No: A/2,
Survey No. 41 (part), CTS No. 1
(part), Oshiwara Village, Adarsh
Nagar, Jogheshwari (West), Mumbai
400 102.

Dated this 7th day of August 2024
For Mr. Deepak Chitnis -
Chitnis & Co.
Mr. Deepak Y. Chitnis,
Advocate/Partner
110, Vardhaman Chambers,
Cawasji Patel Street,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 023
Tel.: 022-2238480/ 8263 8442,
E-mail ID: dcfort@yahoo.co.in

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(Owner) his right, title and interest
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Society Limited, situated in MHADA
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exchange, partition, lien, lease,
leave & license, tenancy, sub-
tenancy, release, mortgage,
relinquishment, mortgage
(equitable or otherwise), charge,
gift, covenant, trust, inheritance,
occupancy, possession,
allotment, family arrangement,
settlement/understanding,
maintenance, encumbrance,
attachment, lis-pendens,
agreement, partnership,
caretaker basis, litigation,
arbitration, award, injunction or
any attachment before or in
execution of, any decree or order
passed by any Court of Law,
Tribunal or Statutory Authority,
demand or commitment or
otherwise howsoever or on the
basis of the aforesaid Agreement
or any other agreement,
document etc., are hereby
required to notify the same in
writing along with supporting
documentary evidence to the
undersigned at their office at
Swagatam, 4th Floor, Plot
No.141, S.V. Road, Opp. Khar
Police Station, Khar (West),
Mumbai-400 052, within 14 days
from the date of publication of
this notice, failing which the
claims and/or objections, if any,
shall be considered as waived
and/or abandoned and our
clients shall complete the sale
transaction without reference to
such claims and/or objections.
Dated this 10th day of August,
2024.
For Divya Shah Associates,
Partner

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER
IT MAY CONCERN

NOTICE is hereby given that
our clients Avishkar
Concreal Pvt. Ltd having its
office at 101, First Floor,
Balaji Arcade, Central
Avenue Road, Near
Diamond Garden,
Chembur East, Mumbai-
400071 have instructed us to
investigate their title in
respect of their property
owned by them bearing
CTS No. 902, 902/1, 902/2,
902/3, 902/4, 902/5 and
902/6, Plot No. 3 all situated at
N.G. Acharya Marg,
Village Chembur (East)
Mumbai 400071 MSD
measuring about 1466
sq. Meters equivalent to
15780 sq. Feet as per the
property card extract it is
further divided as Plot No.
3A and 3B alongwith the
structures standing
thereon comprising shops
etc., which were given on
monthly tenancy at
Suburban Scheme No.III,
Group Chembur Mumbai-
4000071.

All persons having any
claim/right/title/interest, if
any, in the said property
alongwith the structure
standing thereon or any
part thereof by way of sale,
transfer, exchange, gift,
sub-lease, charge, lien,
mortgage, charge, lien,
lease, tenancy, trust,
possession, license or
otherwise howsoever are
hereby requested to make
the same known in writing
along with copies of
supporting papers to the
undersigned at the address
mentioned below, within a
period of 14 days from the
date of publication hereof,
failing which, it will be
presumed that the title of
our clients in respect of the
aforesaid property is clear,
marketable and free from
all encumbrances and
claims if any are deemed to
have been waived, and we
will issue our Title
Certificate certifying thereon
that our clients' title
to the said property
alongwith the structure
standing thereon is clear,
marketable and free from
all encumbrances and
reasonable doubts.

Dated this 7th day of August 2024
For Mr. Deepak Chitnis -
Chitnis & Co.
Mr. Deepak Y. Chitnis,
Advocate/Partner
110, Vardhaman Chambers,
Cawasji Patel Street,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 023
Tel.: 022-2238480/ 8263 8442,
E-mail ID: dcfort@yahoo.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the
public at large that our client is
negotiating to purchase and
acquire from Kantilal V. Devani
(Owner) his right, title and interest
in residential Bungalow bearing
No. B-9 having ground plus 1
upper floor (Said Bungalow) of
Daryalal Co-Operative Housing
Society Limited, situated in MHADA
Scheme at Silver Sands, near
Mather Aviation, behind Kothari
Sanatorium, Juhu Tara Road, Juhu
Santacruz, Mumbai - 400 054,
together with 5 (five) fully paid-up
shares of Rs. 50/- (rupees fifty
only) each, bearing distinctive
Nos. 41 to 45 (both inclusive)
issued under share certificate No.
09 dated 15th December, 1983
(Said Shares).

All persons/entities including
individuals, Hindu undivided
families, companies, bank(s),
financial institution(s), non-
banking finance companies,
housing finance companies,
firms, association of persons or a
body of individuals whether
incorporated or not, lenders
and/or creditors, having any
objection, claim, demand, right,
title, benefit and/or interest in
respect of the said Bungalow and
the said Shares or any part
thereof by way of sale, transfer,
exchange, partition, lien, lease,
leave & license, tenancy, sub-
tenancy, release, mortgage,
relinquishment, mortgage
(equitable or otherwise), charge,
gift, covenant, trust, inheritance,
occupancy, possession,
allotment, family arrangement,
settlement/understanding,
maintenance, encumbrance,
attachment, lis-pendens,
agreement, partnership,
caretaker basis, litigation,
arbitration, award, injunction or
any attachment before or in
execution of, any decree or order
passed by any Court of Law,
Tribunal or Statutory Authority,
demand or commitment or
otherwise howsoever or on the
basis of the aforesaid Agreement
or any other agreement,
document etc., are hereby
required to notify the same in
writing along with supporting
documentary evidence to the
undersigned at their office at
Swagatam, 4th Floor, Plot
No.141, S.V. Road, Opp. Khar
Police Station, Khar (West),
Mumbai-400 052, within 14 days
from the date of publication of
this notice, failing which the
claims and/or objections, if any,
shall be considered as waived
and/or abandoned and our
clients shall complete the sale
transaction without reference to
such claims and/or objections.
Dated this 10th day of August,
2024.
For Divya Shah Associates,
Partner

All that piece and parcel of
land measuring 3,835.47
square meters (as per title
documents) and 3,836.15
square meters (as per the
Property Register Card)
bearing Cadastral Survey
No.820 of the Lower Parcel
Division together with the
structures standing thereon
known as (i) Deepak
Talkies, (ii) Saraswati
Building, (iii) Baiithi
Chawl, (iv) A.C. Sheds, (v)
Swagatam, 4th Floor, Plot
No.141, S.V. Road, Opp. Khar
Police Station, Khar (West),
Mumbai-400 052, within 14 days
from the date of publication of
this notice, failing which the
claims and/or objections, if any,
shall be considered as waived
and/or abandoned and our
clients shall complete the sale
transaction without reference to
such claims and/or objections.
Dated this 10th day of August,
2024.
For Divya Shah Associates,
Partner

Readers are recommended to make appropriate
enquiries and seek appropriate advice before
sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on
medical recommendations or entering into any
commitment in relation to any advertisement
published in this publication. The Times of India
Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the
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BOOK YOUR TENDER/NOTICE ADS

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EXCLUSIVE
OFFERS AND
ASSISTANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to
the public that we are
investigating the
ownership right, title and
interest of (1) Shobhana
Sahadev Shah (PAN:
AAVPS1789D) and (2)
Punit Sahadev Shah
(PAN: ANOPS0965K),
both adults, Indian
inhabitants, in respect of
land together with 6 (six)
structures standing thereon
as more particularly
described in the Schedule
hereunder written ("Said
Property").
All person(s)/ entity(ies),
including, but not limited
to, an individual, Hindu
undivided family (HUF),
company(ies), bank(s),
financial institution(s),
non-banking financial
institution(s), firm(s),
association(s) of persons or
a body(ies) of individuals,
whether incorporated or
not, lender(s) and/or
creditor(s), having any
direct or indirect claim,
objection, demand, share,
right, interest and/or benefit
in respect of or against the
said Property or any
part/portion thereof by way
of sale, transfer, agreement
for sale, assignment,
exchange, right, title,
interest, share, benefit,
lease, agreement for lease,
sub-lease, tenancy, sub-
tenancy, surrender of
tenancy, license, lien,
mortgage, charge, lien,
encumbrance, occupation,
care-taker basis, covenant,
trust, easement, gift,
inheritance, bequest,
maintenance, possession,
development rights, option
agreements, right of way,
reservation, family
arrangement/settlement,
partition, relinquishment,
agreement, power of
attorney, lis-pendens,
decree or order of any
Court of Law, partnership
or allotment or otherwise
howsoever and of
whatsoever nature
("Claims") are hereby
requested to give notice
thereof in writing, along
with documentary
evidence, to the
undersigned having its
office at 113-114, Free
Press House, Free Press
Journal Marg, Nariman
Point, Mumbai - 400 021
and/or by way of email at
objections@dhaivalussonji.com
and manisha.paranjape@dhaivalussonji.com, within 14 (fourteen)
days from the date hereof,
failing which, the Claim/s,
if any, of such person or
persons will be considered
to have been waived,
released, relinquished
and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE
(Description of
said Property)
All that piece and parcel of
land measuring 3,835.47
square meters (as per title
documents) and 3,836.15
square meters (as per the
Property Register Card)
bearing Cadastral Survey
No.820 of the Lower Parcel
Division together with the
structures standing thereon
known as (i) Deepak
Talkies, (ii) Saraswati
Building, (iii) Baiithi
Chawl, (iv) A.C. Sheds, (v)
Swagatam, 4th Floor, Plot
No.141, S.V. Road, Opp. Khar
Police Station, Khar (West),
Mumbai-400 052, within 14 days
from the date of publication of
this notice, failing which the
claims and/or objections, if any,
shall be considered as waived
and/or abandoned and our
clients shall complete the sale
transaction without reference to
such claims and/or objections.
Dated this 10th day of August,
2024.
For Divya Shah Associates,
Partner

SOCIETY CONTACT DETAILS:
Mr. Sitaram Karamani -
9819592116
Mr. Ganesh Khandelwal -
9820070290
Mr. Mahendra Maurya -
9899427761
Mr. Jagdish Shetty -
9820123379
PALASH PMC LLP
9821322140 / 9821715564
palashpmc@gmail.com
M/S SOLICIS JVPD
9820026003 / 9594883232
adityabhath@solicislex.com
The society reserves the right to
accept or reject any or all bids
without assigning any reason
thereof.

**TO
ADVERTISE
IN THIS
SECTION
CALL
JITESH
DOMINIC:
9867407521**

**TO
ADVERTISE
IN THIS
SECTION
CALL
JITESH
DOMINIC:
9867407521**

**TO
ADVERTISE
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SECTION
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9867407521**

**TO
ADVERTISE
IN THIS
SECTION
CALL
JITESH
DOMINIC:
9867407521**

NOTICE FOR
REDEVELOPMENT
TENDER FOR PMC

Vita Sanjay C.H.S.,
located at a prime location
with 9189 sq. meters of
freehold land, invites
tenders from Project
Management Consultants for
redevelopment.
Interested parties can
collect the tender
documents from the
Society's office between
13th August 2024 and
26th August 2024, from
11:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m.
For more details, please
contact: Mr. Harshad
Choudhary, Secretary
Vita Sanjay C.H.S., Near
Vashi Village, Chembur,
Mumbai 400 074 Contact
No. 9619593138.
Sd/- Satish Deshpande
Chairman

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from
Reputed contractors for Repairs
and Renovation Works of
**SHAGUN PARADISE
CHSL.**
PLOT NO.61/A, SECTOR 5,
ULWE-410206, Navi Mumbai
CONSULTANTS:
"CIVIL TECH"
CONSULTING
CIVIL ENGINEERS
Regd. Off. - 78, Business Park,
Unit No. 337, Station Road,
Bhandup West, Mumbai-
400078.
8693022111 / 9967082611
A set of blank Tender
form is available at
Consultant Office from-
12/8/2024 to 20/8/2024
between
11.00 A.M. To 6.00 P.M.
Tender Submission at
Society's Office on
26/8/2024 by 6.00 P.M.
Tender Cost: Rs 2,500/-
in Cash
(Non-Refundable)
Society will decide the
date of Tender opening
afterwards.
The society reserves
the right to accept /
reject any tenders
without
assigning any reasons
whatsoever.

REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited from
reputed Developers for
REDEVELOPMENT with FSI
available under DCPR2034 33(7)
(B)/33(11).
GREENLAND CHS LTD.
AT CTS No 37 A of village Chakala
and CTS no 248 A, 248/7 to
248/34 of village Kondvita at
Andheri East, J.B Nagar,
Mumbai 400059.

HIGHLIGHTS:
+Prime Location
+18.30 Mtrs. Wide Road
+Site Walkable Distance
from J. B. Nagar Metro Station
PLOT DETAILS:
Area as per Conveyance
= 8571.00 sq.mtrs.
Plot Area in possession as per
Pvt. Survey = 8517.00 sq.mtr.
MEMBERS DETAILS:
Existing Carpet Area of 181
Residential flats = 82,673.00
sq.ft. Existing Carpet Area of 30
Shops = 10,170.00 sq.ft.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:-
1. Bids from Hindu Undivided
Family Trusts, Proprietorship,
Co-operative Societies, AOP's or
other unregistered Firms or
unincorporated entities shall not
be considered. 2. Tenderers who
have completed and procured
occupation certificate from
planning authorities for minimum
three (3) residential/residential
cum commercial buildings in the
last 6 (six) years ending on 31st
March, 2024 with the following
parameters:- (i). Total residential/
residential cum commercial
buildings/ developed by
consumption a minimum FSI of
not less than 90.000 SMD (along
with necessary evidence), ii) The
Project costs of each of residential/
residential cum commercial
buildings/ having minimum Rs.
300,00,000/- (Rupees Three
Hundred Crores Only). 3. The
minimum annual sales of the
Tenderer shall not be less than
Rs. 500,00,000/- (Rupees Five
Hundred Crores Only) in the last 3
years ending 31.03.2024. 4.
Submit an Affidavit of on-going
cases against the Developer by
societies and that of Purchasers/
Home Buyers in MahaRera/
Consumer Courts etc. 5. Submit
last 3 projects OC Copy. 6.
Minimum experience of
undertaking 3 society
redevelopment projects. 7. CA
certified Net Worth Certificate
with minimum net worth of 200
Cr. The Tenderer shall submit the
necessary documentary
evidence for all of the above.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from
Reputed and Experienced
Builders/Developers for proposed
Redevelopment of
**NAV SWAPNA
CO-OP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD.**
Plot bearing CTS No. 5090,
5090/1, 5090/2, 5084/A/20 to 23,
5084/B, 5092, 5092/1 to 15,
Village Kofekalyan, S.C.L.R.,
Santacruz (E), Mumbai 400098.
Plot Area is 940.90 sq.mt.
(10,127.85 sq.ft.).
Tender Documents can be
obtained from PMC's office at
M/s. S.P. Shevade & Associates
3, Ramvati, Parthana Sama Road,
Vile Parle (E), Mumbai-400057
from 12/08/2024 to 26/08/2024
between 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
ON PAYMENT OF RS.25,000/-
(Non Refundable) by PO/DD/cash
in favour of Nav Swapna Co-op
Housing Society Ltd.
Date of Bids submission shall be
On or Before 26th August 2024
upto 7.00 p.m. at PMC's Office.
The Tender opening shall be
on 27/08/2024 at 7.00 p.m
at Society's office Kalina.
The Society reserves the right
to extend/accept/reject any or
all the tender proposals received
without assigning any queries.
For further enquiries call
Ar. Soumil Shevade:
022-31983143.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby
invited from reputed real estate
developers for
Proposed Redevelopment of
"Suryaprakash Co-operative
Housing Society Ltd",
Final Plot No. 255, 256, 257,
P.T. Scheme 01, Near Tekdi,
Petrol Pump, Shiv Tekdi,
Naupada, Thane (W) - 400602
to build Residential Premises.
Architect/PMC: Ambiance
Design Pvt. Ltd, 702/A, B, C,
WIFI IT premises CSL, Above
Hotel Satkar Grand, Near
Mulund Check Naka, Wagale Ind.
Estate, Thane (W) - 400604,
Contact: 022-25827840/
25828300
Tender will be issued from:
12/08/2024 to 02/09/2024,
between 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.,
on Monday to Friday from the
PMC office on payment of
Tender Fee Rs.10,00,000/-
(Rupees Ten Thousand only)
Non-Refundable (Payment to be
made in cash)
Sealed Tender should be
submitted at the Society
Office on 13/09/2024, between
11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Tenders will be opened on
13/09/2024, 6.00 p.m. at the
Society Office
EMD: Cheque of Rs. 50,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) in
favour of "Suryaprakash Co-
operative Housing Society Ltd."
(Interest free) to be submitted
with submission of Bid.
The Society reserves the right to
accept or reject any or all
tenders without assigning any
reasons therefor. Incomplete
offers / tender forms will be
rejected.
Sd/-
Secretary/Chairman
For Suryaprakash Co-op.
Housing Society Ltd.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby
invited from reputed real estate
developers for
Proposed Redevelopment of
"Suryaprakash Co-operative
Housing Society Ltd",
Final Plot No. 255, 256, 257,
P.T. Scheme 01, Near Tekdi,
Petrol Pump, Shiv Tekdi,
Naupada, Thane (W) - 400602
to build Residential Premises.
Architect/PMC: Ambiance
Design Pvt. Ltd, 702/A, B, C,
WIFI IT premises CSL, Above
Hotel Satkar Grand, Near
Mulund Check Naka, Wagale Ind.
Estate, Thane (W) - 400604,
Contact: 022-25827840/
25828300
Tender will be issued from:
12/08/2024 to 02/09/2024,
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Tender Fee Rs.10,00,000/-
(Rupees Ten Thousand only)
Non-Refundable (Payment to be
made in cash)
Sealed Tender should be
submitted at the Society
Office on 13/09/2024, between
11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Tenders will be opened on
13/09/2024, 6.00 p.m. at the
Society Office
EMD: Cheque of Rs. 50,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) in
favour of "Suryaprakash Co-
operative Housing Society Ltd."
(Interest free) to be submitted
with submission of Bid.
The Society reserves the right to
accept or reject any or all
tenders without assigning any
reasons therefor. Incomplete
offers / tender forms will be
rejected.
Sd/-
Secretary/Chairman
For Suryaprakash Co-op.
Housing Society Ltd.

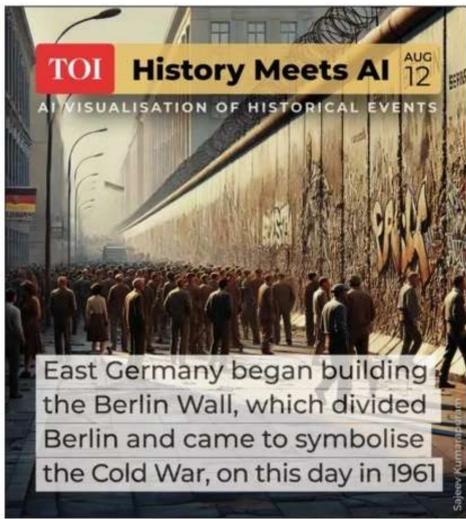
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby
invited from reputed real estate
developers for
Proposed Redevelopment of
"Suryaprakash Co-operative
Housing Society Ltd",
Final Plot No. 255, 256, 257,
P.T. Scheme 01, Near Tekdi,
Petrol Pump, Shiv Tekdi,
Naupada, Thane (W) - 400602
to build Residential Premises.
Architect/PMC: Ambiance
Design Pvt. Ltd, 702/A, B, C,
WIFI IT premises CSL, Above
Hotel Satkar Grand, Near
Mulund Check Naka, Wagale Ind.
Estate, Thane (W) - 400604,
Contact: 022-25827840/
25828300
Tender will be issued from:
12/08/2024 to 02/09/2024,
between 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.,
on Monday to Friday from the
PMC office on payment of
Tender Fee Rs.10,00,000/-
(Rupees Ten Thousand only)
Non-Refundable (Payment to be
made in cash)
Sealed Tender should be
submitted at the Society
Office on 13/09/2024, between
11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Tenders will be opened on
13/09/2024, 6.00 p.m. at the
Society Office
EMD: Cheque of Rs. 50,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) in
favour of "Suryaprakash Co-
operative Housing Society Ltd."
(Interest free) to be submitted
with submission of Bid.
The Society reserves the right to
accept or reject any or all
tenders without assigning any
reasons therefor. Incomplete
offers / tender forms will be
rejected.
Sd/-
Secretary/Chairman



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 YEARS, 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

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

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

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 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 Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation over the issue. Samajwadi Party 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. A thorough investigation of the Sebi case is an imperative for India's economy." 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. Party spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said the Supreme Court expert committee had noted that the Sebi had shown strange reluctance to investigate the Adani 'MegaScam'.



Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch

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 national financial watchdog. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the short-selling firm, which last year levelled serious allegations against the Adani group, was facing scrutiny from Indian probe agencies. "Opposition is echoing its allegation, and the conspiracy is now clearly visible that it wants to create chaos and in-

stability, especially in the financial sector," he said. Noting that many such critical reports emanating from foreign soil were released just ahead of or during Parliament sessions, he 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.

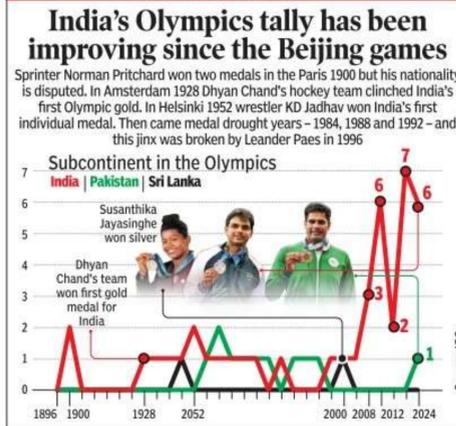
Boy 'loses vision after slap', principal, teacher face FIR

Krishna Chaudhary | TNN
Meerut: Following a Chief Judicial Magistrate court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against the principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army public school in Meerut Cantonment, for "slapping a Class 7 student who later turned blind". The student's mother, Indu Devi, alleged her son had been suffering from a retinal problem and had very low vision, and after the school's yoga instructor, Daksh (first name available), slapped him hard, there was further damage to his retina. She alleged the principal, despite knowing about the incident, which happened last year, didn't take action. The child underwent five major eye surgeries since then, but lost his vision. School principal, Rita Gupta, meanwhile, told TOI: "The teacher informed us he merely tapped the child and did not slap him. But, even tapping the child is unacceptable, and consequently, his services were terminated."

Police recruitment exam: 3 more 'solver gang' members held in Bihar

Bihar Police Sunday arrested three more members of the "solver gang" active during constable recruitment exam in Saran district, reports **HK Verma**. This follows the arrest of three persons last Sunday and one on Saturday. With the latest arrest, police now have with them seven members of the gang. SP Kumar Ashish said the gang worked in collusion with exam centres. Those arrested have been identified as Saran residents Ravikesh Kumar, Randhir Kumar Mishra and Rajnish Kumar. Ashish said they have confessed to their involvement not only in constable recruitment exam but also in Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET), Secondary Teachers Eligibility Test (STET), and Common Management Admission Test (CMAT). Police have seized a Bluetooth device, 24 signed blank cheques, seven cellphones, an earpiece, a laptop, two bank passbooks and 50 educational certificates of the examinees.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers



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

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

Delhi doctors to halt services in protest
Resident doctors at major govt hospitals across Delhi are set to indefinitely halt all elective services starting Monday to protest the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor in Kolkata. They are demanding immediate action in the case and measures to ensure protection for all healthcare workers. TNN
CM Mamata Banerjee, who ordered police to ensure a fast-track trial, said Saturday the perpetrator of such a "despicable crime" should be "hanged".
Investigators said the vic-

tim, who was cremated in her native place Sunday, provided the evidence they needed against her rapist-killer. "She fought and caused deep injury marks and scratches on the hands of the accused. Based on the forensic medical investigation, the injuries on Roy's body match the skin and blood samples collected from the nails of the victim," a police officer said. The postmortem report states that the doctor's death was caused by smothering and throttling. It mentions that the judicial inquest was wrong in suggesting a collarbone and pelvis fracture. The SIT intends to meet the forensic team that conducted the postmortem for more details.

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Government of India, Ministry of Railways

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) No.04/2024

Recruitment of the various posts of Paramedical categories

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

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

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

*This includes a relaxation of 3 years in age beyond the prescribed age limit as a one-time measure due to the Covid-19 pandemic".
For further details, please refer to the detailed centralized Employment Notice (CEN) No. 04/2024 available on the official websites of all participating Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) listed below.

Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No.04/2024

RRB	Website
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.rbranchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar	www.rbbbs.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)

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

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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.rbranchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar	www.rbbbs.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 Boards (RRBs)

Thieves break into SP's house to steal sandalwood tree; 2 held, rest escape

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nashik: A group of six to seven thieves entered the premises of Nashik rural superintendent of police (SP) Vikram Deshmane's official residence and attempted to steal a sandalwood tree on Aug 5.

The attempt failed when police guards were alerted, leading the burglars to flee the scene. Two of the thieves have been arrested by the police from Kannad in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. The police have registered an FIR against the of-

Sandalwood tree stolen from Pune bungalow

A gang of eight men with sharp weapons and a hand-saw threatened a 41-year-old lawyer and her family before chopping and taking away a sandalwood tree worth Rs50,000 from her bungalow in Pune early on Saturday, reports Gitesh Shelke. The police said CCTV footage collected showed that the men reached the spot in a car and entered the lawyer's bungalow to cut the sandalwood tree. "The family was threatened into submission as the gang continued to cut the sandalwood tree," said senior inspector Girish Nimbalkar.

fenders under section 312 (attempt to commit armed robbery) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The burglars Liyakat Sayyad Ali and Anis Mohammad Sharif Pathan were arrested.

A probe revealed that they are repeat offenders, who have committed similar thefts multiple times in the past. Most recently, another FIR was filed against them with the local police for sandalwood theft from the premises of a school in the Air Force area on Aug 2. Cases have been registered against them in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Pune, and Nandurbar districts, said the police.

Bengalis labelled Bangladeshis, attacked in Odisha: Didi to Majhi

Odisha DGP: No Major Violence, Action Assured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

Four videos surfaced on social media in 24 hours, showing attacks on Bengali-speaking people in Odisha. Attacks were reported from Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, and Sambalpur districts in Odisha.

In Sambalpur, over 30 Bengali workers were taken to Ainthapali police sta-



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

tion but were released after verifying their Indian citizenship.

Banerjee requested Majhi to ensure safe return of workers wishing to leave Odisha. Govt instructed police to remain vigilant against attacks. Odisha DGP Arun Sarangi said: "There was no major violence and police have acted promptly. Action will be taken against the guilty as per law."

BSF arrests 11 Bangladeshis entering India

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

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

After preliminary questioning, they will be handed over to police, BSF spokesperson said. An Awami League functionary held on Saturday was produced before court for crossing without valid papers. TNN

Odisha CM calls Didi over potato supply shortage

Bhubaneswar: Amid a steep rise in potato prices due to a supply shortage, Odisha CM Mohan Majhi spoke to his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee again on Sunday, seeking her intervention to normalise the supply.

Potato supply to Odisha had been streamlined after Majhi raised the issue with Mamata during their meeting in New Delhi on Aug 5, CMO said. In recent weeks, Odisha has been facing the crisis again. Mamata has assured Majhi of steps to resolve the issue, it added.

Since Saturday, the govt has been procuring potatoes from NAFED and selling them. —Minati Singha

Dam gate gives way, puts lakhs in K'taka, Andhra 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.



Large quantity of water was released after 19th crest gate of the dam failed

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 dam, 22 were opened on Saturday evening, releasing nearly 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river. Engineers estimate that 60TMCFT of the stored water must be drained before they can replace the damaged gate. The process, along with constructing a new gate, could take up to four days or longer.

Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar visited the site.

More days of extreme rain likely as CO₂ emissions rise

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. An Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) study published recently in 'Nature' attributed the likely rise to high carbon dioxide emissions. Areas experiencing extremely heavy rainfall are likely to increase by 18% by years 2071-2100 compared to 1982-2014, reports Neha Madaan.

"On Saturday night, 40,000 cusecs of water was being released through 10 crest gates... We've taken every possible precaution," he said. 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.

AP govt placed officials in Kurnool and Nandyal on alert. Kurnool city is on the banks of the Tungabhadra. CM N Chandrababu Naidu directed senior officials from the water resources department to assess the situation and dispatched a team of senior engineers to the site. (Inputs from Sandani MN in Vijayawada)

Landslide warning signals identified in '22 remain unheeded: Joint study with Unicef

Neha.Madaan | timesofindia.com

Pune: As landslides threaten lives and properties in Maharashtra this monsoon too, critical early warning signals identified two years ago remain unheeded.

A 30mm/hour rainfall intensity, a fivefold increase in spring discharge or 5 degree rise in spring water temperature are among vital indicators that could presage a deadly landslide, stated a comprehensive 2022 assessment by Pune-based Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Ma-



Assessment done in 6 talukas of Pune, Satara, Raigad dists & Konkan

agement (ACWADAM), and Unicef. This assessment was done on behalf of state disaster management authority, with Geological Survey Of India and Gro-

undwater Directorate Of Surveys and Development Agency as advisers.

Himanshu Kulkarni, scientist (Emeritus), ACWADAM, said, "Assessment

found that over 60% of landslides occurred at contact between vesicular amygdaloidal basalts (VAB) and compact basalts (CB)." Additional 20% were associated with fracture zones in bedrock. This geological vulnerability, along with intense rainfall events, has created recipe for landslide." Assessment was conducted in six talukas of Pune, Satara, Raigad districts and Konkan. As many as 84 landslides were surveyed from Bhor and Velhe talukas, Mahabaleshwar, Patan, Mahad, Poladpur and Chiplun in three months.

Last 'Paradesi' Jewish woman Hallegua passes away aged 89 in Kochi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Queenie Hallegua, the last of the Paradesi (foreign) Jewish women in Kochi, passed away on Sunday aged 89. Her death leaves her nephew, Keith Hallegua, as the only surviving Paradesi Jew in Kochi. Queenie was the daughter of Satto Koder and married into the Hallegua family of Jew Town.

Her grandfather, Shabdai Samuel Koder, was an Iraqi immigrant who settled in Kochi and established the Koder House, a historic three-storey Jewish bungalow now functioning as a 3-star hotel. This building, renowned for its Portuguese architecture, faces Nehru Park in Fort Kochi. Koder House, reconstructed from a 19th-century Portuguese mansion, is famous for its unique windows made of Belgian-imported glass. Queenie sold the property to the hotel's current owners 15 years ago, and it remains a popular spot for tourists.

K J Sohan, former Kochimayor, said Cochim Electric Company, which was responsible for distributing electricity in Cochin at the time, was operated by Samuel Koder. "Koder family also managed a boat service



Queenie Hallegua's death leaves her nephew, Keith Hallegua, as the only surviving Paradesi Jew in Kochi

to Mattancherry, a textile business, and other enterprises in Cochin. Samuel Koder was a prominent leader within the Jewish community," he added.

"European Jews in Kochi trace their origins to Baghdad, Netherlands, Babylon, and Spain. Over the past few decades, all Jews from these regions left Kochi, leaving only Keith as the last remaining member of this community," says K J Joy, caretaker of the Paradesi synagogue in Mattancherry.

Queenie's funeral was held at the Jewish cemetery near the 456-year-old Paradesi Synagogue. She was the MD of S Koder Pvt Ltd, and the last Koder department store was closed in 2011.

Manipur ex-MLA's wife killed in IED explosion; police suspect accident

Guwahati: A former MLA's wife was killed in an explosion on Saturday in the compound of an abandoned house adjacent to theirs in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district in Manipur.

Although the blast was initially suspected to be a militant attack, police haven't ruled out the possibility that Yamthong Haokip's wife Charubala accidentally lit an IED while burning waste in the compound belonging to a relative in Saikul area.

4 men feared dead in fratricidal clash

Four armed men are feared killed in a fratricidal shootout between militants and village guards in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front and three village volunteers of the same community were reportedly killed in the gunfight on Friday. Police are yet to recover the bodies, but search operations continue. TNN

Charubala (59) was rushed to a primary health centre, which referred her to Kangpokpi district hospital. But she died on the way, police said, reports Kangkan Kalita.

Haokip (64) was a two-time MLA from Saikul who switched from Congress to BJP ahead of 2022 assembly polls. Haokip was a Kangpokpinative, while Charubala was from the valley (Imphal East).

Charubala was cleaning her own compound and the one next door when the IED, suspected to be locally made and hidden beneath the trash, went off. "She might have inadvertently lit the device," a police officer said, adding the blast left a crater.

Haokip lodged an FIR Sunday, requesting the cops to determine the type of explosive. Police said a probe was on but no arrests had been made yet.

2 pilots injured in MP aircraft crash

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

Rain fury claims 30 lives in Raj, UP, HP & Punjab

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Rain fury in the north left 30 people dead on Sunday across Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, UP 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 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. In Bharatpur, seven young men posing for reels near the Banganga fell into the river and lost their lives after ground beneath them caved in. Three youths drowned in a rain-fed pond in Jhunjhunu after getting stuck in sludge.

In Karauli district, which witnessed a flood-like situation with record rainfall of 380mm on Sunday, a man and his 10-year-old son Jia were killed when a portion of a neighbour's house collapsed on their home.



Health workers waded through a waterlogged area near a hospital after rainfall in Patna on Sunday

Jodhpur reported one death, of a 17-year-old who drowned during a trekking trip.

In Punjab's Hoshiarpur, the nine died when their car was negotiating a seasonal stream on the border with Himachal Pradesh. According to some locals, the SUV driver apparently misjudged the depth of the stream after watching a bulldozer cross it. A teen was rescued but two were still missing.

In Himachal Pradesh, three girls died and one person was missing after landslides over last two days. In UP's Jalaun, a woman and her son (7) died after roof of their house collapsed in the district's Koch area.

TN panchayat men create 'phantom' village, siphon off ₹58L govt funds

Ram Sundaram | TNN

Chennai: For nearly five years, three men from a panchayat on Chennai's outskirts slyly and gradually siphoned off Rs 58 lakhs from govt's Mineral Resource Fund claiming to install streetlights and water taps. But all the development work existed only on paper.

Not a single brick was laid. Finally, holding them guilty of the crime, Chengalpet judicial magistrate announced one year

imprisonment to all three. Announcing the sentence on Aug 5, Judge RD Aarthi also ordered them to pay Rs 10,000 fine and an additional month in jail if they failed to pay the amount.

TRIO GETS 1 YR IN JAIL

Keerappakkam panchayat's president M Sabiya Parveen, its vice-president S Ruthrakoti, and assistant R Dillibabu have been convicted of orchestrating the misappropriation from Mi-

neral Resource Fund, a govt initiative intended to benefit areas impacted by mining activities.

The funds, allocated between 2003 and 2004, were intended for the development of essential infrastructure. Court found that projects which included work on roads and drinking water lacked both technical approval and the necessary panchayat resolution. There was no documentary proof of the projects. The discrepancies were uncovered during an audit in 2006.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory Of

ARUN R. GUPTÉ
12th August 2016

YOU WALKED A PATH AND LEFT AN IMPRINT FOR US ALL.

GUPTÉ FAMILY

1st Death Anniversary
12.08.2024

In Loving Memory

ASHISH CHOWDHARY
Navi Mumbai Ulwe News Sampadak (02.01.1968 - 12.08.2023)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

We loved you, but God Loved you more

REMEMBRANCES

In fond and ever loving memory of our dear parents

Salma & Enayat Lokhandwalla
(12th August 1986)

Who passed away Thirty Eight years ago in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Arif - Zainab, Saema - Hussein, Sakina - Farhan

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAD DEMISE

In loving memory of **Mrs. Thresiamma Varghese**

LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 8th July 2024.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY Children and grandchildren

SAD DEMISE

Mr Bazil Gonsalves
D.O.B: 03/01/1947
D.O.D: 10/08/2024
S/o Late Mr Carlit Gonsalves & Mrs Maria Gonsalves
H/o Gerard & Sharon, Marc & Felicia and Krystal.
Gr./F/o Alessa

RADHA SOAMI

MADHU V. ASRANI
1953-2024

Left peacefully for her heavenly abode on Saturday, 10th August 2024

Marka on
Monday, 12th August 2024, 5pm to 5.30pm, Gurudwara Saibaba Nagar, Borivali West

Loved and missed by Asrani, Kalyani & Wadhwa Families

4th August 1930 - 11th August 2024

We regret to announce the passing of **Dr. Cynthia Naomi Pinto**

Loving Wife of (late) Dr. Owen Pinto

Beloved Mother of Dr. Brian/ (late) Shehnaq, Jean/ Dr. Mark, Dr. Susan & Gillian/ Amilya.

Doting Grandmother of Vikram, Soniya, Ryan, Kurt, Maya & Joshua.

Celebration of her life with Mass at 11am on Thursday, 15th August, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church, Santa Cruz (West) followed by burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Juhu Tara Road.

MARKA

OM SHANTI
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved

Shri Ram Merani
(S/o Lt. Shri Gangaram Merani & Lt. Smt. Sadoribai Merani)
left for heavenly abode

Marka
will take place on Monday, 12th Aug 2024 from 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm at Nijthawn, 219, L.S. Raheja Rd, Khar (W)

Grief Stricken
Wife: **Seema Merani**
Daughter & Son-in-law **Mahira & Amit Lalwani**
Merani, Lalwani & Tekchandani family
Deepak Merani 9821246225
Shankar Merani 7021183316
Bharat Tekchandani 9321193411

OUR BELOVED

Dr. Harshveena (Meenaben) Vishnukumar Jani
22-08-1941 - 10-08-2024

Dr. Harshveena (Meenaben) Vishnukumar Jani left for heavenly abode on 10th August, 2024.

Fondly Remembered by:- Naren & (Late) Rajshree Miness & Smriti Dev, Aaryan, Aakashna, Arjun, Tejal Mewar, Kothary Family, Patel Family & All Jani, Pandya & Mehta family.

Prayer Meeting:- Monday 12/08/2024 Time:- 5 to 7 pm, Place:- Jalaram Hall, N. S. Road No. 6, JVPD Scheme, Opp. Joggers Park, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai - 400049.

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: 9867505472

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SANSAR 9867505472

SAD DEMISE

SHAM ALWANI
2.3.1934 - 11.8.2024

We bid farewell to our beloved Sham, a loving soul, a dedicated husband & father who touched the hearts of everyone he encountered. May his soul find eternal peace. He will be deeply missed & forever remembered.

Dear friends & family, thank you for your love, concern & support. However, we request that you respect our privacy during this difficult time & refrain from offering condolences at our home. There will be no prayer service.

Gulrukh, Neesha, Manish and members of the Alwani family

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SANSAR 9867505472



Education TIMES

Disabled aspirants face systemic barriers increasing need for reforms in UPSC

The cancellation of Puja Khedkar's candidature has brought to light the manifold challenges faced by the specially abled aspirants in the civil services

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

The UPSC recently cancelled Puja Khedkar's candidature and debarred her from future exams, accusing her of 'misrepresenting information.' Khedkar had submitted multiple 'questionable' disability certificates and was inducted as a trainee IAS. The ride is bumpy for several specially-abled candidates who have cleared the UPSC, with many from 2008 still waiting for an appointment in any of the 24 posts.

Aspirants from the specially-abled category face significant difficulties preparing for the UPSC exams. Visually impaired candidates do not get access to the required study material in Braille. Once they clear the Preliminary, Mains, and Personality Test, they have to wait for an appointment, unlike general category candidates, who are inducted into the civil services as soon as they clear the UPSC exam. Many disabled candidates have to approach the courts to get an appointment. Ira Singhal (topper in 2014) had to file a case in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), and after four years, she was appointed as an assistant commissioner in the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).

Besides these challenges, they must contend with influential candidates who can game the system to enter the civil services. "Candidates with a missing finger are given an appointment, technically that is considered a disability, while visually impaired candidates

have to wait for vacancies," says Jobin S Kottaram, founder of IAS Absolute Academy, Kottayam. Khedkar presented certificates for multiple disabilities, says Kottaram, while candidates such as Kartik Kansal, who has been suffering from muscular dystrophy, have been waiting for an appointment for the past eight years. A mechanical engineering student from IIT Roorkee, Kansal is a wheelchair-bound since 14. He was selected for the civil services four times, however, he was not appointed as muscular dystrophy was not included in the list of conditions in the functional classification eligible for any UPSC posts.

Candidates with a missing finger are given an appointment, while visually impaired candidates have to wait for suitable vacancies

"Franklin D Roosevelt was disabled, yet he was President of the US. There are around 2.2 crore disabled people in India, and almost 85% of them are unemployed. Disabled candidates work hard to prepare for the civil services, putting wholehearted efforts into Preliminaries, Main, and Interview, and they also get into the final ranks list. However, some candidates have been waiting for appointments since 2008," adds Kottaram. It is concerning that Khedkar managed to submit certificates with multiple disabilities and was hired briefly. "As per the Right To Disability Act, at least 4% of appointments should be for disabled candidates. However, most of the time, appointments are not available for such candidates. Some aspirants are 100% visually impaired and are very smart, but they are not appointed. People with minor disabilities and influence get appointments. Still, such provisions are made to support people with severe disabilities," says Kottaram, who started Project Chitrashala to help disabled candidates prepare for the CSE. He points out that in Kerala alone, there are 10 lakh disabled people. "Books are not available in Braille; we have over 20 visually impaired students who are given audio content for studies by the Academy. Once such

aspirants clear the CSE, they get media attention, but after that, they get nothing and have to fight legal battles," Kottaram elaborates.

Prioritising public interest

The functional requirements differ significantly between the IAS, IPS, and IRS roles. "IAS and IPS officers often need to engage in extensive fieldwork, whereas IRS officers typically have more desk-based responsibilities. In today's digital age, resources and information are readily accessible online, including UPSC-empowered scribes for visually impaired candidates. However, medical ethics play a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of the selection process, especially when doctors may collude with candidates," says JK Dadoo, a retired senior IAS officer.

To maintain the integrity of the medical examination, candidates must undergo tests at reputable hospitals such as AIIMS and RML, he suggests. "Implementing a system where candidates are sent first to AIIMS and then to RML could be beneficial. After a comprehensive examination, a cross-check by a UPSC-appointed doctor could further ensure the accuracy of the process," adds Dadoo. Disabled candidates with cerebral palsy must wait for appointments despite clearing the CSE, he says, "Public interest must be prioritised alongside the candidates' disabilities. Appointing an unsuitable candidate can have adverse effects on public service. Therefore, it is crucial to uphold stringent medical examination standards and the integrity of the selection process," explains Dadoo.



4,27,085 Indian students opted for Canada: MEA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indian students going to Canada for higher education has significantly increased over the past three years, reaching a peak in 2023 with as many as 4.27 lakh students enrolling in the universities in Canada, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed the Rajya Sabha. In 2023, Canada emerged as the most popular destination for Indian students, with 4,27,085 students heading there. The USA followed closely, attracting 3,51,106 students.

The UAE also saw a significant number of 2,47,325 students enrolling in its institutions. Germany and Russia were next on the list, with 24,474 and 25,278 Indian students, respectively. Australia continued to be a favoured destination, hosting 1,24,829 Indian students. The UK accepted around 1,20,000 Indian students. Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Georgia rounded out the top ten, with 9,785, 16,500, and 16,254 Indian students, respectively.

Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State (MoS), MEA in a written reply to Congress MP Renuka Chowdhury's query regarding the number of Indian students studying in Canada, said, "According to IRCC Indian student intake at Canadian universities has increased."

ALERTS

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NCERT's 'Kitab Ek Padhe Anek' project to help visually challenged students

Priyadarshini.Gupta
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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 aimed to 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.

Subjects covered

The project which began in May, is available in 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.

A primary teacher in a Delhi school and a participant in the project, says, "Teachers have been attending workshops being held in batches for this project. I was part of the second batch of 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 ITL Public School, says, "These books will be a boon for the visually challenged children. The interactive nature of the talking pen will allow students to explore the material at their own pace without relying solely on teachers' assistance. The child friendly book will help students develop a sense of independence and confidence in their learning journey. The talking pen will make learning more engaging, interactive for the children who usually remain dependent on the teachers."

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The people who are fighting for the right to be forgotten

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

Sneha.Bhura@timesofindia.com

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

Media reports and records of his legal history continue to linger. This has limited his opportunities, matrimonial prospects shrunk and job applications abruptly stalled after background checks. "I am unable to find work. A bit of stock trading doesn't help much as I have three children to raise," says Mukim whose wife pitches in with the household expenses.

For the last few years, he has been fighting for digital anonymity with the 'Right to be Forgotten' (RTBF). "I am doing this for my children and to clear my name." Mukim is one among many petitioners seeking redaction of digital records through RTBF.

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

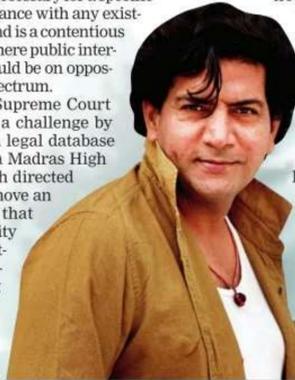
Last week, a Supreme Court bench addressed a challenge by Indian Kanoon, a legal database website, against a Madras High Court order which directed the website to remove an entire judgment that revealed the identity of a person acquitted in a sexual assault case. Staying the HC order, the SC acknowledged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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Ashutosh Kaushik, a former reality TV star, says deletion of articles as an extension of RTBF is only possible for the rich and powerful. In June 2009, Kaushik was arrested for drunk driving in Mumbai, following which he was fined and detained for a day. Known for shows like Roadies and Big Boss, Kaushik claims his career suffered after the arrest. In 2021, he filed a petition in the Delhi HC to remove these online records of his arrest. He was confident RTBF would be recognised as a law. Today, he is just going through the motions as the case drags on. "Even now, people send me old videos asking, 'Guru yeh kya kar diya?' I have to remind them to check the dates. Only one news channel removed it on personal request. My two-year-old son has started fiddling with the cellphone. Now it's his turn to ask questions," says an exasperated Kaushik.

On the other side is Indian Kanoon, a search engine considered the largest online repository for Indian legal documents that has become an ever-present defendant in cases about RTBF. On average, some 20,000 judgments are uploaded every day on the website. "We don't usually remove judgments or carry out name redactions unless required by law to maintain parity with other legal databases. Our readers have the right to free speech and the right to know and I will fight for that as long as possible," says Sushant Sinha, founder of India Kanoon.

Civilian dies, toll in J&K encounter hits 3

Cops Probe Why He Was Present At Shootout Site

Saleem Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Srinagar/Jammu: The toll from Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in upper reaches of J&K's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of the two civilians wounded in the cross-fire dying in hospital Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh, both working with 1 Para Special Force, and Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of Kokerang. Sharma (28), who was to get married this Oct, is survived by his mother, grandmother and two sisters.

Kashmir Zone IGP V K Birdi said presence of the two civilians near Saturday's shootout site is "being probed". There have been reports of locals being coerced or lured by terrorists to help them navigate the challenging terrain.

The operation to hunt down the terrorists, who have



Security personnel during an encounter with terrorists at a forest area in Anantnag district of south Kashmir on Sunday

escaped deep into the jungles, continued despite heavy rain and challenging landscape of Ahlan Gagaramandu.

According to officials, three to four "highly trained Pakistani men" suspected to be from banned Jaish-e-Mohammed 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 Kokerang.

Early Sunday, a brief gunfight between security forces and terrorists was reported from a remote forest in Kishtwar district. No casualties 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 for panic," an official said, assuring pilgrims of adequate security.

The Machail Mata Yatra started on July 25 and is scheduled to conclude on Sept 5.

Since May 4, many fatalities have been reported from Jammu region, which has seen an increase in terrorist violence this summer. Sources estimate that of 70 to 80 Pakistani terrorists active in J&K, nearly 55 to 60 are in Jammu zone. The recent spike in violence has been attributed to "intruders" from Pakistan, operating in small groups.

Pune ZP sends disability certs of 12 teachers for reassessment

Pune: Pune Zilla Parishad's primary education department has started re-verification process for disability certificates of newly recruited teachers claiming Persons with Disabilities (PwD) status, reports Neha Madaan.

The department has referred 12 prospective teachers and their disability certificates to Sassoon General Hospital for a comprehensive reassessment to rule out any potential cases of fraud to secure govt benefits. The candidates will have to visit Sassoon hospital for re-verification of their disabilities.

The scrutiny comes in the wake of recent case involving former probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar.

A senior official from Pune ZP's education department told TOI, "Individuals with disabilities are entitled to various govt benefits, including preferential treatment in transfers, tax exemptions, doubled vehicle allowances, and specific disability allowances. We want to ensure that these benefits reach those who genuinely qualify. If any candidate is found to have falsified their disability status, we will take strict action. This includes cancelling their appointment and barring them from recruitment."

Natwar Singh: From Congress's 'charmed circle' to persona non grata

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: He could have been anything and did become everything. A royal who wore many hats and a diplomat who was witty and 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 died 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 "com-



1931-2024

munal forces" out of personal pique. Singh's journey from Congress towards BJP dominated his obituaries, when he 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 Sonia Gandhi. The dominant and defining chapter of his life came with the Volcker Report and the allegations about his having benefitted from 'Oil for Food' programme of the UN by using his acquaintance with then Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein. That sparked a furore under the initial days of the UPA 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. Matherani laid the blame on Singh, and "corroborated" the allegations that the veteran had laid the ground for benefiting his son and son's friend. Singh contested the claims. Singh left the govt and the Congress party, and quickly turned into a pariah. The Justice RS Pathak Committee was, as was reported, said to have fixed the responsibility with Singh. From charmed circle to persona non grata, Singh lived his later years with bitterness, his comments about Sonia Gandhi, and even barbs at other members of the family betraying his peeve.

Dehradun man jailed for 'raping' daughter acquitted after 5 yrs, girl 'instigated by beau to file complaint'

Dehradun: A special Pcoo court in Dehradun acquitted a laundryman (42) who spent nearly five years in jail on the charge of raping his daughter, then 15. The court found that the girl had falsely incriminated

her father since he objected to her bunking school and for associating with a boy. It also learnt that the boy had instigated her to implicate her father. Police filed an FIR on Dec 25, 2019, on a complaint from Child

Welfare Committee stating that the "girl told them about sexual abuse by her father, and her younger sister also supported her claim". The girl later confessed to having falsely accused her father. TNN

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops, and suggested that 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) — agri extension centres — should proactively inform farmers about the benefits of the new varieties as it will help them produce more, spend less and earn more. Farmers will receive seeds of all these new varieties within three years.

Lauding scientists for development of these new varieties, the PM said they would lead to value addition, thus boosting farmers' income. The remarks came amid signs of a fresh attempt to get a section of farmers to revive their protests against the govt.

The PM proposed that



Modi at ICAR-IARI in New Delhi. He said adoption of organic farming by farmers will be quite beneficial for them

experts from KVKs, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (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.

It is expected that regular interaction will not only help farmers know about best farm practices and effectiveness of new varieties but also solve their problems of how to get the best

Oli extends invitation to PM for Nepal visit

Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli on Sunday extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to visit the Himalayan nation. Oli extended the invitation to PM through visiting foreign secretary Vikram Misri. PTI

price for their produce. They will also be helpful in handling simmering tensions among farmers at a time when a section of them has constantly been on protest mode demanding better price either through minimum support price (MSP) or other interventions.

The 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.

Miffed with K'taka BJP over Mysore yatra, netas mull march to Ballari

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

Members of this group, who have all along opposed the elevation of Vijayendra as president of the state unit, met on Sunday at a private hotel on the outskirts of Belagavi to discuss plans for a 188-km 'Ballari Chalo' padyatra.

Led by Vijayaputra MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatra and Gokak legislator Ramesh Jarkiholi, the group intends to highlight the Valmiki corporation scam and diversion of funds meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for the state govt's guarantee schemes.

He said 'Ballari Chalo' padyatra would be subject to clearance from the high command. "We will convince the high command about the need for this padyatra. The dates will be finalised after the Ganesh festival," he said. TNN

Maha's economy better than other states': Tatkare

Nashik: State NCP chief and MP Sunil Tatkare on Sunday said Maharashtra's economy is better than other states. Tatkare stated that the state incurred debt to establish proper infrastructure, but the debt incurred is significantly lower than the limitation set by the planning commission, reports Tushar Pawar.

Tatkare made these remarks while addressing a gathering at a programme in Nashik. He also emphasised that the NCP will strongly insist the Centre to refrain from imposing onion export bans in the future.

SP netas slam sub-categorisation, say 'it's a divide-and-rule strategy'

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesofindia.com

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

Veteran MPs RK Chaudhary and Awadhesh Prasad told TOI that division of SCs into sub-groups will sound the death knell of Dalit unity, which cannot be accepted.

Questioning argument that affirmative action benefits have been monopolised by some dominant sub-castes, Chaudhary said sub-categorisation is not the ans-

Cong in favour of sub-classification: Maya

SP president Mayawati on Sunday said Congress has stated that it would consult NGOs and lawyers before making its stand clear on sub-classification within SC/STs. This shows it is in favour of sub-classification, she added in a post on X. She also slammed Congress for crediting Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi for reservation instead of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. She said despite having 99 MPs, Congress did not raise its voice to try to make Supreme Court order (of Aug 1) ineffective in Parliament. TNN

They should not be divided but should be awakened and empowered," he opined. Prasad termed it "betrayed decision of PM Narendra Modi" on creamy layer, saying his words betray a dilemma which cannot be taken at face value.

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Brand antiquity: Portuguese signage survive neon blaze

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Over the past 100 years, Panaji shops have been intensifying the neon glare of their modernity, but a wooden signboard of a jeweller, proclaiming "GX Verlecar Joalharia", sparkles like a heritage ornament from the Portuguese era.

The enterprise, near the Panaji post office, has worn the board like a badge of legacy since 1927.

"I represent the third generation of owners of this store and my son is the fourth generation," said Suvarnakumar Verlecar. "Some people do ask me to modernise, but it is not my shop to change. It is my grandfather's establishment and I must take it (the cultural bequest) forward."

The Verlecars have also retained the entire antique wooden interiors of the store.

Across Goa, many shop owners have devised a rapprochement between the needs of en vogue labelling and the preservation of historical branding.

In another part of Panaji, near Mahalaxmi Temple, lies a mechanical repairs store. The owners, the Charis, decided to supplement the store's old signboard with a new one some 40 years ago.

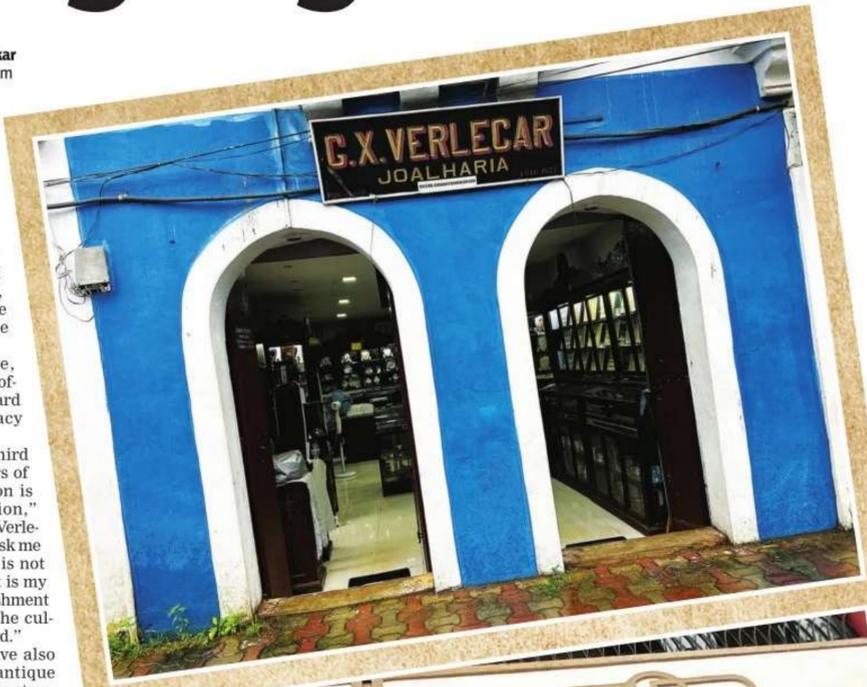
"But we have retained the name of our business, 'Oficina de Serralharia', in Portuguese. We have not taken the old signboard down," said Harish Chari. "As we run a fabrication business, the signboard had been made by my previous generations — at our store. My father had painted it by hand."

PRECIOUS VESTIGES

As for Verlecar, he said many people appreciate the heritage value of his establishment's signboard. "Even foreigners come to see it," he said. "We repaint the signboard every five years. Fortunately, it has survived the ages though it is made of wood."

Umesh Naik operates his family stationery store in one of the bylanes near Panaji's Garcia de Orta Gardens. He recalls an interesting tidbit from the Portuguese times.

"Our business was estab-



Heritage boards endure on a few Panaji, Mapusa, and Margao stores. Other vintage displays were erased when the Covid pandemic wiped out the very businesses they were advertising



"We supplemented the store's old signboard with a new one 40 years ago. But we have retained the name of our business, 'Oficina de Serralharia', in Portuguese. We have not taken the old signboard down. As we run a fabrication business, the signboard had been made by my previous generations — at our store. My father had painted it by hand

— Harish Chari | PANAJI SHOP OWNER



lished in 1939. Sometime in the 1950s, the Portuguese decided to levy a higher tax on stores bearing personal names," Naik said. "That is when we had to change our name to G Naik & Irmaos. We eventually had to replace our old board in 1980."

Some store owners say that Portuguese signage may not be understood today. Others fear that the small lettering on the wooden boards may be lost in the age of loudly lit insignias. In some cases, the wooden and hand-painted boards decayed beyond preservation.

LABEL OF UNIQUENESS

Vilas Pankar and his brothers have modernised the workings of their hardware store at the Mapusa

market. But they recognise the antique value of their signboard, which invests uniqueness into their store.

"The board was made of zinc sheets and displayed wooden lettering. We moved the store just before the Liberation to the Mapusa market from the old market on Oct 19, 1961," said Pankar, whose grandfather entered the business in 1902. "We deal in paints, so it is easy to have the signboard repainted locally. The signboard had been made at the Mapusa market by a local fabricator. Today, it is an antique and we will conserve it at all costs."

Leena Sawardekar has inherited a clothes business as well as the store's vintage signboard from her maternal family — the Verlecars — at Mapusa.

"We have never thought of replacing the signboard as it has sentimental value. I have

been looking at it since my childhood," Sawardekar said.

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ANCESTORS' TALISMAN

New boards deteriorate in five to six years, Sawardekar said. "But ours has survived since 1959. We are planning to renovate the store, but we will not replace the signboard. It has the goodwill of our ancestors," she said.

Her husband, Guruprasad, shares her passion for safeguarding heirlooms. "The treasured boards have not

survived simply because people have not maintained them. The boards were made extinct by the newer options," he said. "Most of the old signboards were taken down when stores were renovated. Other Portuguese-era signboards went down when the pandemic struck."

When Umesh Karekar and his brother revamped their jewellery store in Panaji, the signboard created in 1955 was replaced. The family has, however, retained the wall painting with the store's name embossed in Portuguese. The wooden interiors from the halcyon days are intact as well.

"We now feel we should have held on to the traditional signboard," Karekar said. "We had decided to replace the board because we had sensed that people may not decipher the Portuguese original."

Pandian's copter rides, 450 spl helipads to be probed by Odisha govt

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

Pandian, a close aide of former 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 Harichandan. Pandian was the 5T secretary at the time.

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

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

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

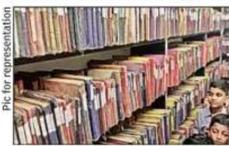


120 books written by teachers to find place in 65,000 govt school libraries

Swati Shinde

Pune: In what is being termed as recognition of govt school teachers' talent and due appreciation for their contribution to enhancing quality of education, at least 120 books written by them will soon be found in state's 65,000 school libraries.

The state education department has set up a panel to pick the best literature written by school teachers on various topics, including sports, poems, environment, and science. District Institute of Education and Training had conducted workshops for teachers on write a book, publication pro-



Teachers have written on various topics, which include poems and literature on science & sports

cess and other details. The panel will shortlist books at district level, which will be sent for final selections at state level. The chosen 120 books will be distributed among students from Std I to XII. "The books would be judged based on a few parameters that include the standard of writing, language, how much preference is given to children in the book, creativity, feel-good factor, graphics, illustrations, and art incorporated," Commissioner of education Suraj Mandhare said.

Mandhare added, "This is part of many measures we are taking for quality enhancement in our schools. So far, the focus has been on infrastructure, but now, we are slowly shifting to quality of education. It begins with the enhancement for teachers. Creative engagement of teachers in activities beyond their regular work will fetch better results."

The initiative, which was started on a small scale in Marathi and Urdu, received good response. It was expanded this year, with additions made in Hindi and English.

Suhas Kendale, a zilla parishad teacher from Pune district, said teachers have been adding to literature in the form of short stories, small booklets, and journals. "Some poems written by teachers are circulated in schools and read out in classrooms. State govt is giving these talented teachers a bigger platform to showcase their work and give them due appreciation," he added.

'Param Bir, Waze parroting script by Fadnavis'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: NCP (Sharad Pawar) leader and former home minister of Maharashtra, Anil Deshmukh, has alleged that former Mumbai CP Param Bir Singh and dismissed cop Sachin Waze are 'parroting' a script written by deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis with the sole purpose of maligning his image. Recently, Singh appeared

before the media after almost three years of staying away from the limelight and alleged that Deshmukh as home minister in 2021, and his son Salil, ran an extortion racket through certain police officers. A week ago, almost similar statements were made by Waze.

In a post written on social media platform X, Deshmukh said, "Both are now parroting what Devendra Fadnavis is telling them to say. We suspended Param Bir Singh three years ago because he was the mastermind behind both cases. He was about to be arrested by a central agency three years ago, but he sought refuge with the BJP, and now he is making accusations as per Devendra Fadnavis' instructions."

The first of two cases which Deshmukh referred to was the 2021 Antilia (Mukesh Ambani residence) bomb scare case in which a SUV laden with explosives was found near the house. The second case was murder of Mansukh Hire, who was the registered owner of the SUV. Deshmukh had alleged that both these cases were masterminded by Param Bir.



NTCA nod to shifting of tigers from MP to 3 states

Bhopal: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the translocation of some tigers from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha, an official said on Sunday.

As per the tiger census of 2022, Madhya Pradesh is home to the highest number of 785 big cats.

"NTCA's technical committee has given its nod for the transfer. Madhya Pradesh govt has sought to know the places from where the tigers will be translocated to the three states. The translocation work will begin following the state govt's

approval," Subharanjan Sen, MP wildlife principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF), told PTI.

The three states have sought three tigers and a tigeress each, he said.

During a programme to mark International Tiger Day last month, MP chief minister Mohan Yadav said some big cats from reserves would be shifted to national parks and sanctuaries in the state, and some would be translocated to other states.

Ajay Dubey, wildlife expert and founder of an NGO for tiger conservation, said translocation of tigers will improve the gene pool. ❧

'Cultural loss': Shinde declares aid to rebuild Kolhapur auditorium

Thane: Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said the state will extend financial support for the reconstruction of the historic Keshavrao Bhosale auditorium, which was ravaged in a fire in Kolhapur last week. Shinde also directed the Kolhapur civic body to initiate a probe into the incident.

A signification portion of the auditorium, named after theatre singer-actor Keshavrao Bhosale, was gutted in the fire, reports Manoj Badgeri. "The auditorium holds an illustrious heritage and is associated with numerous eminent artists from Maharashtra's art and cultural sphere. It is an immense cultural loss for our state, and we will spare no effort in rebuilding it. We will also initiate an inquiry," Shinde said.

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

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

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

Let's look at a couple of different aspects of AI. From the national security point of view, govts want to be in control of their AI destiny, not be dependent on foreign algorithms. This is why we invested in Sarvam in India. Because India should have a national AI champion. We have invested in a company called Sakana in Japan. Japan has already announced doubling of its national defence budget. They made it clear that AI be a Japanese AI, so they have control over it. Sovereignty and AI are important at a level people don't quite understand.

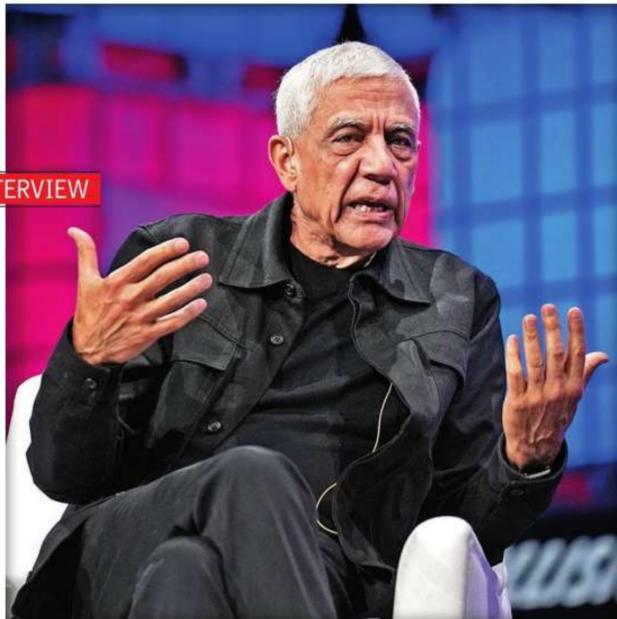
I would like to see a primary care physician for every Indian, available 24/7, for free as part of the set of digital services the govt offers. Aadhaar was the first example of such a service. The hardest part of that service was identity, and that's already done. With UPI payments are done too. There's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

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

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

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

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

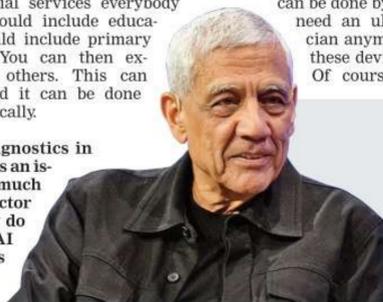


TOI INTERVIEW

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are you talking about guaranteed work or guaranteed income?

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

Should it be universal basic income?

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

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

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

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

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

passion, and startup as a business in India?

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

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

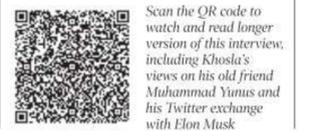
I don't think govts should be in this business. It's too dynamic a business for governments.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

► From P 1

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

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

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

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



LENS ON WATCHDOG

that when, in 2018, Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund. As confirmed by Ahuja, at no point in time did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company," their said. Hindenburg's report had said Ahuja had served as a director on the board of Adani Enterprises, and insinuated irregularities. Sebi said, "Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report."

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

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

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

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

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRESH SALVO

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

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

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

Maldives at heart of 'neighbourhood first' policy: EAM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Maldives is very much at the heart of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and a key partner in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), foreign minister S Jaishankar said as he joined his counterpart Moosa Zameer in Addu city in inaugurating the Addu 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. During the visit, both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India-Maldives defence and security partnership.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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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**



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,

Sebi: Have mechanisms to fix conflict of interest issues

Regulator Says Chief Recused Herself In Potential Cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

Take Informed Decision Before Reacting: Sebi

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

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

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

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

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Tough-talking Puri Buch broke several barriers

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

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

TERM ENDS IN 6 MTHS

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

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

Two industry bodies call allegations 'unwarranted'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At least two industry bodies — Amfi and The Indian Venture and 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.

What Are REITs & Why They Are Taking Heat

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

How Adani Group's Market Cap Has Swung



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

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

this repeated attempt by Hindenburg to disrupt the Indian market is setting a bad 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.

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.

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?

Health 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.

Invesco Mutual Fund

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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.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



CONTRAPUNTO

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

-MUHAMMAD ALI

Model For Medals

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

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

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

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

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

Property, Propriety

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

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

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

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

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

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

What the OTP

Convenience has taken the fun out of life

Bikram Vohra

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

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

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

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

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

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

Games Over, So Is Fraternité?

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

Gilles Verniers



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Point About Regulators Hindenburg Didn't Raise

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

TK Arun



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

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

Baruch Spinoza

True Competition Kindles Self-Actualisation

Deepak Ranade

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is a consultant neurosurgeon



THE SPEAKING TREE



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.

Will ask India to deport Hasina if law min asks for it: Foreign policy adviser

Continued from P1

Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed's assertion that his mother never resigned contradicted the claim made a while ago by Mohammad Touhid Hossain, interim govt's foreign policy adviser, that she put in her papers before fleeing the country for India.

Asked at his first press briefing if the new govt will ask India to deport Hasina back to Bangladesh, Hossain said he will do so only if the law ministry asked for it. "She resigned and the resignation letter is with the President. This has been confirmed. If the law ministry tells us to seek her return, I will do so," said Hossain.

According to earlier accounts, Hasina wanted to announce her resignation in a TV address before leaving her official residence, but didn't get to do so because of army's insistence that she leave immediately in view of violent protesters closing in on her Ganabhaban residence. She instantly took off in a C-130 to New Delhi. That leaves the question of whether she actually resigned unsettled.

Hossain also said that Bangladesh would have a "balanced" foreign policy, asserting that Dhaka intends to maintain "smooth and positive" relations with all, including India and China. "Our policy is to maintain good relations with all countries while protecting our national interests."

Yunus acquitted in corruption case

Muhammad Yunus was acquitted Sunday in a second legal case since taking over as chief advisor of the interim govt in Bangladesh Thursday, reports AKM Moinuddin. Yunus, along with 13 others, was charged by the nation's anti-corruption commission (ACC) on June 12 for the alleged misappropriation of about Bangladesh taka 25.22 crore from Grameen Telecom workers' profit participation funds. Recently, ACC sought the withdrawal of prosecution in the case, leading to Yunus and the others being acquitted by a special court in Dhaka this weekend.

When asked about the interim govt's approach towards India, Hossain said both countries share strong and deep bonds. "(But) it is important that people feel India is a good friend of Bangladesh... We want that, we want to advance the (Dhaka-Delhi) relation towards that direction," said Hossain. He said the interim govt "would like to see India cooperate with us in this regard" and underscored the need for "addressing public expectations by delivering tangible outcomes from the bilateral ties with India". Asked about the interim govt's tenure, Hossain only said the administration was committed to a fair and impartial election.

AKM Moinuddin & Agencies

Zelensky confirms Kursk incursion, says move meant to pressure Russia 'Pushing War Onto Aggressor's Territory To Restore Justice'

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgement of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces on Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest incursion into Russian territory since the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving. Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday.

In his nightly video address, Zelensky said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskiy. "Today, I received several reports from commander-in-chief Syrskiy regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said Saturday. "Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed — pressure on the aggressor."

Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday it had destroyed 14 Ukrainian drones and four Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles overnight over the Kursk region, and 18 drones over other Russian regions that Ukraine frequently attacks. In a statement, it called the ground incursion "barbaric" and said it made no military sense.

Ukraine has at most occupied several tens of square kilometres of Russian terri-



A residential building damaged after shelling by Ukraine in Kursk on Sunday

Hit Ukrainian units 30km into Russian territory, acknowledges Moscow

Russia's army appeared to acknowledge Sunday that Ukrainian units had driven deep into the country, saying it had hit troops and equipment around 30 km from the border. Russia has sent in additional reserves, tanks, drones, artillery and aviation to try to quash the offensive. The defence ministry in Moscow said Sunday that its troops had "foiled attempts by enemy mobile groups with armoured vehicles to break through deep into Russian territory." But in an apparent sign of how far some Ukrainian units have managed to advance, it said it had hit enemy units near the villages of Tolpino and Obshchy Kolodez, which are around 25 km and 30 km from the Russia-Ukraine border. Russia's army said Sunday it had continued to use aviation, drones and artillery to try to put down the attack. It also said it had foiled an attempt by Ukraine to break into another border district of the Kursk region, further to the south from where the bulk of the fighting has occurred so far. AFP

without laying claim to it, while Russia controls more than 100,000 sq km of Ukraine's internationally recognised territory. Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, said on Wednesday the attacks had been halted, but Russia has not pushed the Ukrainian forces back over the border. Russian military bloggers said the situation had stabilised after Russia's reinforcements, though they said Ukraine was

swiftly building up forces. Early on Sunday, Kursk officials said 13 people were injured in the city after debris from a destroyed Ukrainian missile fell onto a nine-storey residential building. Alexei Smirnov, Kursk's acting governor, ordered authorities to speed up the evacuation of civilians in areas at risk. On Saturday, Russia's TASS state news agency reported that over 76,000 people had been evacuated. REUTERS

'Demoralised' police unable to rein in rioters across Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: M Sakhat Hussain, the retired military officer heading home affairs in Bangladesh's interim govt, acknowledged Sunday that the country's police force was "demoralised" and currently unable to operate in the manner required to stem the surge in violence and looting in parts of the country.

"Restoring law and order remains the interim govt's priority, but a state cannot run like this. The politics of a state cannot go on like this. The state is not

anyone's personal property," he said of the continuing lawlessness that has paralysed economic activity. Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain urged people to cooperate with police, saying a society couldn't function without them.

Newly appointed IGP Md Mainul Islam said at least 42 police personnel were killed and many injured in clashes during the student-led upheaval that led to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina fleeing the country. Three of the dead were officers of the rank of inspector. Although 599 of the country's 639 police stations 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 Supradeeep Chakma, two advisers out of the three who couldn't be sworn on Thursday, took the oath of office at the same event. Farooq-e-Azam, the only one remaining, is still abroad. TNN

rtially resumed operations Sunday, they are all hamstrung by a shortage of personnel. A senior police officer said he and

his colleagues were traumatised by what happened and feared returning to work. Many are undecided about whether to remain in the police force, he said.

Violence over the weekend included protesters attacking an army patrol with sharp weapons in Gopalganj, injuring three officers, a junior commissioner and five other personnel. They also set fire to an army vehicle and vandalised two vehicles, according to a military spokesperson. The army patrol fired four rounds of ammunition to disperse the mob.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain said the army and border guard couldn't be expected to continue doing what is the police's job. Videos shared online show mobs that have purportedly done 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 well over the past three years. #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 union 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 well over the past three years, trending #copycatkamala.

It was the second time this week that the Harris campaign has been put on the defensive after it was forced to acknowledge that her running mate Tim Walz "misspoke" when he gave the impression he had served in combat during his 24-year service in the National Guard. With polls showing Harris surging in half a dozen swing states that will determine the outcome of the election, the Trump campaign has stepped up its attack on the first woman of colour to win a major party prezy nomination, with crude sexist and racist salvos led

by the ex-prez himself.

Both the abuse and the tipping issue is seen together in a now infamous video clip in which Trump, driving a golf cart, peels off cash to tip caddies praising his debate performance, while he appears to call Prez Biden "a broken down pile of crap" and Harris a "f...king b...ch". Trump supporters maintain the audio is deliberately distorted and he is actually saying she is "f...king bad". Both sides have now taken to manipulating visuals to undermine the rival campaigns, notably by posting videos — taken hours before rallies — showing unoccupied seats. While both campaigns are attracting large partisan crowds, the inflow of political donations, particularly of small retail contributions, point to a surge of enthusiasm on the Democratic side, backed by polls showing Harris ahead.

Trump campaign says was hacked, blames Iran govt

Washington: Donald Trump's US prez campaign said Saturday some of its internal communications were hacked and blamed Iranian govt, without providing direct evidence. The Republican's campaign statement came after Politico reported it had begun receiving emails in July from an anonymous source offering authentic documents from inside Trump's operation. The Trump campaign referred to a Friday report from Microsoft researchers that said Iranian govt-tied hackers tried breaking into the account of a "high-ranking official" on a US prez campaign in June. The hackers had taken over an account belonging to an ex-political advisor and then used it to target the official, the report said. An Iran official said Tehran "neither possesses nor harbours any intent or motive to interfere in US election". REUTERS

Popular music fades at Trump rallies as Harris hits crescendo

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: If tastes in popular music and support from musicians are any indication of voter support, then Donald Trump is fading even as Kamala Harris campaign is reaching a crescendo in the US elections.

Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies — an anti-Trump line up that includes bands from Rolling Stones to Guns and Roses, and singers Bruce Springsteen to Rihanna.

Ironically, the Trump campaign was using Celine Dion's song "My heart will go on", from the movie Titanic when it was called out by her music label Sony Entertainment. "Celine

Dion does not endorse this or any similar use," the company said, snarkily adding, "... And really, THAT song?" Harris supporters too ridiculed the use of a song from a movie about a sinking ship, joking about Trump hitting a Kamala iceberg.

The entertainment industry has traditionally trended towards Democrats, but it has become even more pronounced in this cycle given Harris' own embrace of music and dance. Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Charli XCX, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for her. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both. Swift has previously expressed disquiet about Republican policies.



Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies. She joins the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, bands 'Rolling Stones' & 'Guns and Roses'

Some of the Trump trashing from the singers' brigade going back to when he first ran for prez has been brutal. When the Trump campaign used the Beatles song 'Here Comes the Sun' to introduce his daughter Ivanka at the Republican convention in 2016, the estate of George Harri-



Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for Kamala. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift, showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both

son, who wrote the song, said Trump didn't have permission to use it, but that they would consider allowing him to use the song 'Beware of Darkness'. In 2020, Leonard Cohen's estate issued a similar snub, criticising Trump's use of his song 'Hallelujah' at the RNC and sug-

gesting they could have approved of 'You Want It Darker'.

Trump's attempted embrace of nativism through the use of Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA' too was rejected in 2016 by the singer, who publicly supported Hillary Clinton. The ex-prez now uses the patriotic song 'God Bless the USA' by Lee Greenwood. An analysis by a local newspaper of music at a Trump rally in Minnesota found that of the 32 songs played, 27 were by white musicians or all-white groups, and 25 were by male musicians or all-male groups. The Harris campaign appears to favour black, female artists, featuring songs such as Beyonce's 'Freedom' and Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car'. The campaign has also used live bands, leading Trumpists to allege

they are used to entice crowds.

The family of Tom Petty denounced Trump's use of the song 'I Won't Back Down' at his rallies, stating the song was written for the 'underdog' and 'common man'. Creditence Clearwater Revival frontman John Fogerty similarly opposed Trump's use of the band's song 'Fortunate Son', noting the song's lyrics were meant as a critique of how wealthy people are unfairly able to avoid the draft and paying taxes. Family members of Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti objected to Trump campaign's use of 'Nessun Dorma', stating that his views on immigration were incompatible with her efforts in raising money, as a UN messenger of peace, in support of immigrants and refugees.

DAILY PLANET



FISHY BUSINESS: Banksy revealed Sunday a new artwork in London featuring a fish shoal on a police sentry box, his seventh animal-themed piece in a week. The series created by the elusive street artist has sparked a frenzy of media interest and questions over its meaning. Unlike his previous dark silhouette images, this one uses translucent spray paint, transforming the box into a giant fish tank

First deaf Miss SA takes title after divisive contest

Mia le Roux made history as the first deaf woman to be crowned Miss South Africa following a contentious competition where one finalist withdrew after facing online harassment over her Nigerian heritage, BBC reported Sunday.

In her acceptance speech, Le Roux expressed her hope that her win would inspire those who feel marginalised to achieve their "wildest dreams". She said her aim is to support those who are "financially excluded or differently abled". Last week, Chidimma Adetshina, a 23-year-old law student, withdrew from the competition after the country's home ministry found that her mother may have stolen the identity of a South African woman in an ongoing investigation. Adetshina has been the subject

Record losses spur Aussies to push for gambling ad ban

An alliance of leading Australians has demanded the govt impose a total ban on gambling ads in a country that racks up some of the biggest losses per person in the world. Gambling losses in Australia, with a population of just 27 million, are estimated at Aus\$25 billion a year (\$16bn) — a global record per capita. Adverts enticing people to risk their cash are widespread on TV, radio and billboards. Slot machines, or "pokies" are installed in many pubs, too.

AROUND THE WORLD

Yellow tennis balls, which look better on colour TV, were the idea of Sir David Attenborough. Tennis balls were traditionally white

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily

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: PTL, 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. Ankita 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 a 'gap analysis' exercise.

"AI 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



tensely. Just spare a moment to understand how many of our athletes gave everything but missed out on podium finishes by a whisker. Even then, as many as 22 of the 117-member contingent — including the 16-member hockey team — will return home with medals from Paris 2024.

India's improved show is reflected by six fourth-place finishes and one heartbreaking disqualification, a medal that was assured, along with the six

we won. Back in the time when legends like Milkha Singh (1960) and PT Usha (1984) got fourth place, both made history and became national role models. Today, in one Olympics, we have seven such athletes who could have won a medal and 15 athletes who made it to the quarterfinals.

This is in comparison to just two fourth-place finishes in Tokyo. This shows that as a nation, our sporting prowess has significantly evolved. As a nation that

has just started to invest heavily in sports — providing world-class facilities to athletes — in the last decade, we must be patient to see these fourth-places convert to medals. I am sure in the next Olympics, many of these athletes and newer ones will bag medals for India. Arjun Babuta, Ankita Bhakat, B Dhiraj, Maheshwari Chauhan, Anant Jeet Singh, Manu's third medal miss and of course Vinesh, these are athletes whose achievements

should be celebrated.

It is only a matter of time that these will transform to top-10 finishes and earn medals for India. It is imperative that we sustain the intensity with which we back the training and competition plans of our athletes across disciplines. Change will come only with such improved performances across disciplines. My confidence stems from our athletes' changed mindset and ap-

proach and the efforts being made by all stakeholders, including the government, to provide support that was unheard of till a decade ago. I have myself trained in six countries for 310 days in the last three years. All the athletes who participated are part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme which provides multiple foreign training to athletes, personal coaches, foreign experts — it is a rather long list. PM

TIME TO LOOK BEYOND BRONZE

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

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

goal and had the run of play in their favour. But instead of going for goal, they often looked for a PC. They wasted half-chances too." Staying on the topic of overdependence, Halappa added, "Manpreet Singh was outstanding in the way he switched roles, but what we lacked was a central midfielder who could control the game."

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

HOCKEY
TEAM: 1 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

LACK OF NATIONAL CAMPS HURT INDIAN WRESTLERS

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

ATHLETICS
ATHLETES: 27 | MEDAL: 1 SILVER

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.

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

Shooters tick most boxes

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

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

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

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

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



SHOOTING
ATHLETES: 21 | MEDALS: 3 BRONZE

MANIKA, SREEJA LEAVE A MARK

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

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

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

TABLE TENNIS
ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

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

NO MEDAL A RESULT OF POOR PLANNING

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

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

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.

BOXING
ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0



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

"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."

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.

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
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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.

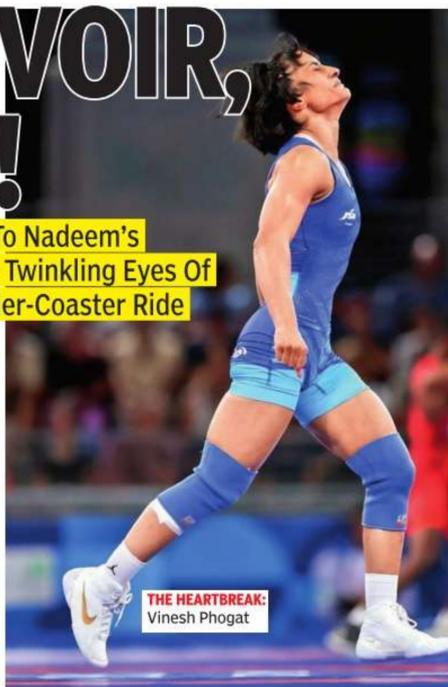
Drenched to the bones in open stands, you watched Zinedine Zidane run into the Trocadero arena with the Olympic flame to deafening applause and hand it over to Rafael Nadal. The Olympic cauldron was finally lit with a burning arrow. It was a spectacle to remember.

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

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 café. You were reminded of the volunteers here who made your workplace more comfortable. You were reminded of the croissants at the Chateauroux station, which simply melted in the mouth. You were also reminded of the smiling, welcoming faces of the Sri Lankan Tamils running the provisional store just next to your rented apartment in Belleville.

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

Sifan trades elbows with Assefa before winning marathon

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



SIFAN HASSAN

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

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

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

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

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 Szeremeta. It was Taiwan's second gold of the Games and Lin bowed to all four sides of the arena, before kneeling down and banging the canvas with her fists. "I feel incredible. I want to thank everyone who has supported me and thanks to my team and everyone in Taiwan," she said.

Khelif files legal suit

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

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

► From P 1

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

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

But another number makes

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

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

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



INDIA'S SPORTING SPIRIT SHINES BRIGHT!

Team India, wherever your journey takes you, I'M WITH YOU



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 metres. Duplantis missed once, then twice. On his third and final attempt, he fell to earth while the bar remained on its perch. He had another record, sliced as thinly as an onion.



HOMETOWN HERO LEON

Whenever Leon Marchand dove off the starting block into the pool, La Defense Arena thrummed with indistinct cheers. But then, in the individual medley, Marchand changed from backstroke to breaststroke, and the noise changed, too. It became a beating call. Every time Marchand emerged from the water to breathe, the crowd shouted his name. When he submerged, the fans fell silent. "Leon! Leon! Leon!" From the stands, it felt as if they were blowing air into him, filling his lungs with their hope and joy.

4 Gold medals French sensation Leon Marchand won in swimming, and in each event he broke the Olympic record. His wins in the 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke came in the same session making him the first Olympic swimmer to do so.

SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR

Brazilian surfer Gabriel Medina, 30, was the subject of one of the most eye-catching photographs at this Olympics. In it, he defies gravity as he floats in the air and poses with one finger pointed toward the sky, his surfboard parallel to him, seemingly mimicking his stance. Aside from being the subject of a stunning photo, Medina took bronze at the surfing competition, which was held in Tahiti — 9,800 miles from Paris.



TAHLIA FIFTY PROPELS AUS 'A' TO 3-0 SERIES SWEEP VERSUS INDIA 'A'

Brisbane: Tahlia McGrath was the lead cast with an unbeaten fifty as Australia Women 'A' team defeated India by seven wickets in the third and final T20 to complete a series sweep here on Sunday. Australia had won the first two matches by five runs and eight wickets respectively. India 'A' will now play three one-dayers before facing the hosts in a one-off unofficial 'Test' from August 22. Chasing a modest 121, Aussies were led by McGrath, who hammered 51 not out off 22 balls with eight fours and two sixes. Australia made 121 for three in just 13.5 overs. In fact, McGrath carried her side home with three successive fours off pacer Shabnam Shakil. Earlier, the hard-hitting Kiran Navigre (38, 20b, 6x4s, 1x6) was the only Indian batter to resist the Aussie bowlers as the visitors ended up with 120 for eight. Skipper Minnu Mani (22, 23b) played a fine support hand to rescue India from 47 for five. Navigre and Minnu made 57 runs for the sixth wicket to help India go past the 100-run mark. **Brief Scores:** India A: 120/8 in 20 overs (Kiran Navigre 38, Minnu Mani 22; Nicola Hancock 2/40, Grace Parsons 2/18) lost to Australia A: 121/3 in 13.5 overs (Tahlia McGrath 51*, Tahlia Wilson 39) by 7 wickets. PTI

Indian players comfortable in ISL, must play abroad to grow: Manolo

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(my home country), India is the country where I have spent the most years. From day one, I felt things are working in a good way for me (here)." It is India that has given him the job that he craved the most. After more than two decades of coaching where he trained almost every possible team — grassroots, youth, third division, second division, women and even LaLiga — Manolo finally takes charge of a national team. "I am very happy, it's a dream for me to be the national team coach of India." Manolo is doing the dual job of continuing to coach his club, FC Goa, and also national duties. "It's about professionalism," he told reporters when questions were asked, assuring everyone that "there won't be any doubts." His first assignment will be the tri-nation tournament in Hyderabad next month where he will field a team only after a couple of days' training.

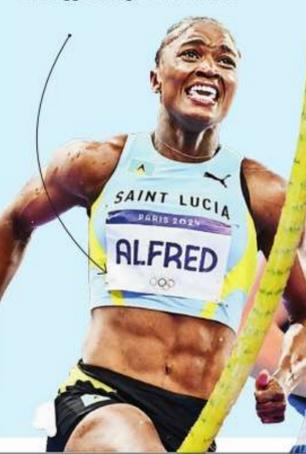


The teams are still in pre-season. The bigger challenge, though, will be getting the best out of the Indian players, particularly with not making enough progress being made in the last five years. "In five years, the level of Indian players is better, but they could have improved faster. My feeling is 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, and they are very comfortable. "If Indian players play abroad, they will find strong opposition and their improvement will be faster," said Manolo. The experienced coach 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. "My feeling is that we are losing the spirit to play for the nation. You have to be angry, disappointed when you lose a game," said Manolo.

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."



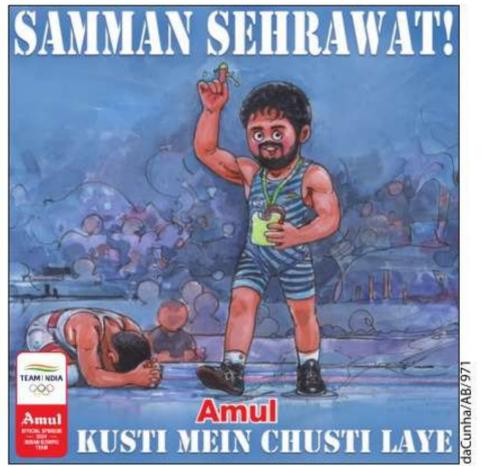
THE TURKISH SHARPSHOOTER

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.



SAMMAN SEHRAWAT! KUSTI MEIN CHUSTI LAYE

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



3 Biles won the all-around crown which was book-ended by the team title & vault gold medal

BOWING TO 'THE QUEEN'

(A moment soured by a CAS ruling) After Jordan Chiles accepted her bronze and Simone Biles her silver, Rebecca Andrade was introduced as the Olympic champion of the floor exercise. As she approached the podium — completing the first all-Black podium in Olympic gymnastics history — Biles and Chiles turned to Andrade, dropped to one knee and bowed. Afterward, they called her a queen. The moment will probably be more poignant because Chiles lost her bronze after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in favour of an appeal by Romania's Ana Barbosu.



TEARS OF JOY

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, 37, has done so much in his tennis career: winning 24 Grand Slam singles titles, earning the world No. 1 ranking and raking in more than \$180 million in prize money. But when he finally achieved the only major milestone missing from his resume, an Olympic gold, he was overcome with emotion. He got down onto the clay at Roland Garros and hunched over. His hands trembled. His body shook. He ran to find his family and sobbed.

CHELSEA SIGN PORTUGUESE FORWARD NETO FROM WOLVES

Chelsea have signed Portuguese winger Pedro Neto from Wolverhampton Wanderers on a seven-year contract, the West London club said on Sunday. Financial details were not disclosed by either club, but British media reported that Chelsea had paid 54 million pounds (\$69 million) including add-ons for the 24-year-old. Chelsea have signed nine players in the close-season transfer window so far. Rublev rolls over depleted Sinner in Montreal. Andrey Rublev defeated a world number one for the second time in his career as he stopped Jannik Sinner 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the semi-finals of the ATP Montreal Masters. The fifth seed caught the Italian at a down moment, with Sinner appearing low on energy in the final set and frequently flexing his right hip. AGENCIES

Anahat retains Squash National C'ship crown

Mumbai: Sixteen-year-old Anahat Singh from New Delhi defended her title when she beat Goa's Akanksha Salunkhe 3-2 in the final to lift the women's singles crown in the HCL 80th National Squash Championship at Bombay Gymkhana on Saturday. In the men's title clash, Tamil Nadu's Abhay Singh beat statemate Velavan Senthilkumar by the same margin to emerge supreme. Pherwani of Khar Gymkhana was in full flow, as he blanked Oswald Massey of Gujarat 4-0 (53-19, 57-20, 70-23, and 67-26) in a senior snooker main draw first round match of the Khar Gymkhana CR Realty-Western India Billiards and Snooker Championships. Meanwhile, seasoned pro, Devendra Joshi (PSPB) came across a stern challenge from Mumbai's Nikhil Saigal but managed to battle through, snatching a 4-3 (32-57, 58-53, 54-66, 71-14, 65-35, 47-54, and 64-49) victory to move into the round of 32. TNN

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Ex-foreign minister **K Natwar Singh** (93), a diplomat who wore many hats and spoke his mind, passes away after prolonged illness

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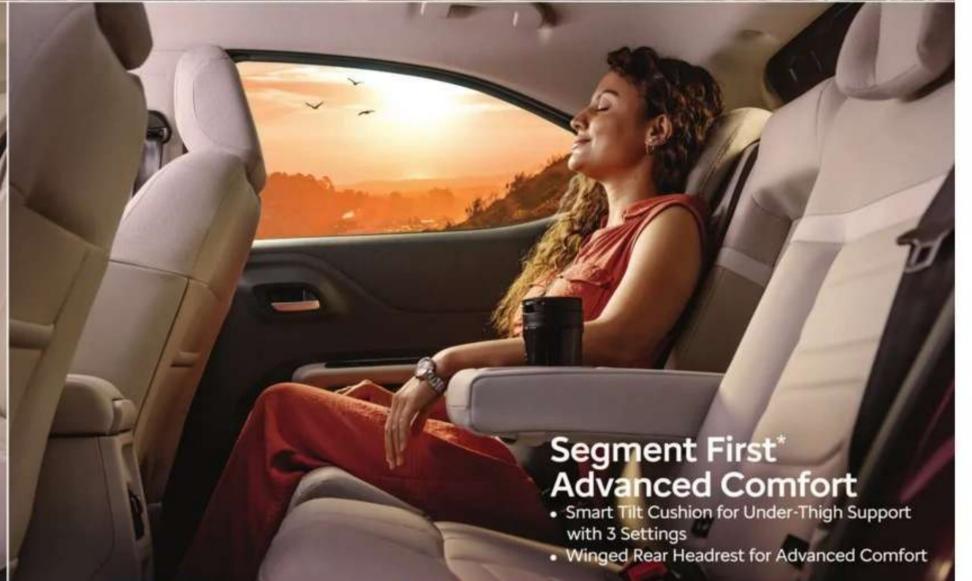


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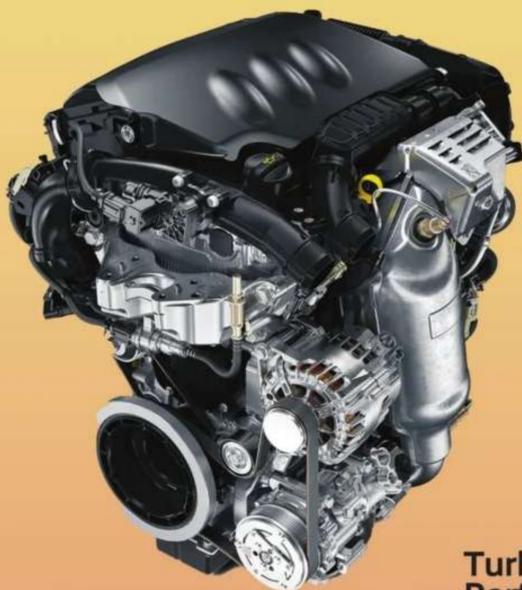


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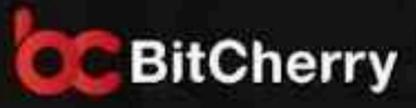
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