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Reacting to Israel's attack, Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says, 'The evil of the Zionist regime two nights ago should neither be magnified nor belittled... They should understand the strength, will of Iranian nation & country's youth', OTHER BK, P12

Trump is claiming that Google CEO Sundar Pichai called him to praise his visit to McDonald's, amid reports that big-tech CEOs are 'seeing the writing on the wall' in the prez elections and therefore folding before Trump to avoid retribution, OTHER BK, P12

Wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Rizwan has been named Pakistan's ODI and T20 captain, replacing Babar Azam, as the selectors announce the squads for the white-ball tours of Australia and Zimbabwe beginning Nov 4, P 13

Tesla and SpaceX honcho Elon Musk is laughing off reports that he began his tech career illegally in the US after dropping out of college, even as he rails against illegal immigration, OTHER BK, P12



DOUBLE DELIGHT

Today's bumper issue of TOI is organised in two sections, both equally packed with news and analysis. To get the full reading experience of today's edition, make sure you don't miss the other section

OTHER BOOK TOP STORIES

- PMS & CJs do attend social events at judges' homes: CJ
- Discounts come as Diwali gift as auto cos try to drive sales
- Farm fire share down yet air quality dips sharply

Indian dies in bid to cross Eng Channel

An Indian man about 40 years old died Sunday in northern France after the inflated boat he and other migrants had boarded to cross the English Channel deflated, French authorities said. The migrants returned to the beach swimming but the Indian suffered a cardiac arrest and died. **OTHER BOOK, P12**

16-yr-old shot dead by minors over tiff

A 16-year-old boy was chased, stabbed and shot dead, and his friend was injured after four juveniles allegedly fired at them in Kishangarh in southwest Delhi. The victim had got into an altercation with one of the attackers a few days ago and slapped him, police said. **P2**

PCs, telecom parts push China imports

Chinese imports into India rose to \$46.6 billion in Apr-Aug, from \$42 billion in the same period last year. An increase of \$1.5 billion is on account of computers and machinery and \$3.2 billion due to electrical machinery, electronics and telecom goods. **OTHER BOOK, P13**

India's value huge, Modi can impact end of war: Zelensky

'Must Go Beyond Just Saying It Is Against War'

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PM Modi can influence the end of the Ukraine war. This is the huge value of him in any conflict. This is the huge value of India," said TOI EXCLUSIVE Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky in an exclusive interview to TOI. Asked about the possibility of PM Modi holding negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, Zelensky gave his strongest signal yet, "Undoubtedly it can be in India and PM Modi can really do that... (but) only

"You cannot be neutral because it would mean you are on the side of Russia. Between the aggressor and the victim, there cannot be neutrality. I consider this a hidden support for Russia..."

...Those at the (Brics) summit saying they would like to help solve the conflict, in my opinion, look more pro-Russia

Modi is PM of a really huge country, from perspective of population, economy, influence and impact. Such a country cannot just say we're interested in end of war...

Blocking of Russian economy, blocking of cheap energy resource, blocking of defence-industrial complex of Russia will lead to the decrease in capacity of Moscow to wage wars against us

- VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

according to our format because the war is in our land... we have the platform which is the peace summit."

Ukrainian forces have been under pressure in recent months with Russia making advances in the Donbas region. Add to this the uncertainty posed by the upcoming

presidential elections in US where a Trump victory might see Kyiv lose vital American support. Washington is Kyiv's biggest source of military aid and any cut in this support will be a huge setback for Ukraine. Kyiv already faces restrictions in using American supplied long-range weapons to hit Russian military targets deep inside Russia.

"This is the third hard winter for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people... We are step-by-step strengthening our energy systems and aren't just going to allow Russia to kill our people," said Zelensky.

On Modi's statement that he is ready to work to bring peace in Ukraine, Zelensky said a country like India "cannot just

► FULL Q&A: P 8
► EDIT PAGE: Zelensky's New Peace Formula

say we are interested in the end of the war..." Specifically, he asked Modi for help to bring back Ukrainian children forcibly deported to Russia. "PM Modi can use his influence and tell Putin just give me 1,000 Ukrainian children... Let PM Modi bring back at least 1,000 Ukrainian children," he said.

PM flags 'digital arrests', says no govt body issues phone threats

'Investigating Agencies Working To Combat Scam'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a recognition of the rampant threat of cybercrime, PM Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged the issue of fraudsters targeting people through "digital arrests" as he clarified that no govt agency threatened individuals over phone or demanded money.

In his 115th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the PM detailed the modus operandi of the scam and explained how to handle it in case someone was cheated.

Modi suggested that anyone who receives such a call needn't be afraid. "The three

Call drop saves techie from 30-hour 'arrest'

A Hyderabad techie Sunday narrowly escaped a 30-hour digital arrest, which forced him to drive from home and check into a lodge. A call drop allowed him to reach out to cybercrime cops. In UP, Uttarakhand STF arrested a person for allegedly duping a Dehradun man of Rs3 crore. **P11**

steps to digital security are: stop, think and act. If possible, take a screenshot or record the call," he said, adding investigating agencies were working in partnership with state govts to combat the scam. However, he said, awareness was essential in protecting oneself from fraudsters. He said there was no system like digital arrest in the law and this was just a fraud.

► 'Preserve evidence', P 11

Will mark Birsa Munda anniv nationally: PM

The 150th birth anniversary year of Sardar Patel will be celebrated nationally from Oct 31 and that of iconic tribal leader Birsa Munda from Nov 15, PM Modi said in his Mann Ki Baat address.

"Both these great souls faced different challenges but their vision was the same, that of 'unity of the country'," he said. He also spoke about his visit to Jharkhand's Ulihatu village, the birthplace of Birsa Munda, last year on Nov 15. He said it was one of the most memorable moments of his life: "This visit had a great impact on me."

Interestingly, the mentions in PM's monthly radio broadcast comes at a time when Jharkhand is set to go to polls in Nov. **P8**

Fresh violence in Manipur, drones sighted

Fresh violence erupted Saturday night in Manipur's Imphal West and Bishnupur districts, with reports of suspected militants using sophisticated firearms and bombs in both attacks. No fatalities were reported at the time of going to press, reports Kangkan Kalita.

Militants launched an attack around 7pm in Koutruk Ching Leikai village in Imphal West, prompting retaliatory action by security forces. Residents of nearby villages said they saw drones. Around 9pm, militants struck Tronglaobi village in Bishnupur. **OTHER BOOK, P10**

Govt will have to decide on 4 key appointments soon

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New Delhi: Centre will have to decide on four key appointments in as many months, starting with a replacement for G S Murmu, whose term as comptroller and auditor general is due to end in Nov. A trusted Modi govt bureaucrat is likely to bag the coveted assignment to keep a watch over the Centre's spending and accounts.

While Murmu can't be given a fresh term, the other three incumbents — Reserve Bank of India governor, chief economic adviser and Sebi chairperson — can be reappointed. After CAG, govt has to decide if it wants to give another stint to Shaktikanta Das in Dec or look for a replacement for the crucial job on Mumbai's Mint Road.

► Dilemma for Sebi pick, P 11

10 hurt as festive rush sparks Mum station stampede

Ten people were injured, with two of them in critical condition, after a stampede broke out at Bandra Terminus early Sunday when scores of passengers bound for their hometowns in UP for Diwali and Chhath Puja attempted to board unreserved Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express.

Eyewitnesses said as the unreserved 22-coach festival special train approached platform No. 1 from the yard around 2.45am, passengers rushed to board it, leading to a stampede. As doors were locked, many people fell between the coaches. **P8**

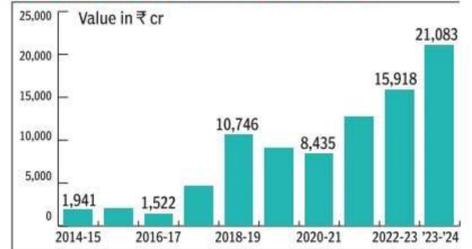
US, France & Armenia top three buyers of Indian defence exports

Rajat Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With India shedding its hesitation in exporting lethal arms to other countries, Armenia has emerged as its biggest client of "finished" weapon systems like Akash air defence missile systems, Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems and 155mm artillery guns, among others.

The US, France and Armenia ranked as the top three destinations for defence exports by India, which chalked up military sales worth Rs 21,083 crore (\$2.6 billion) to other countries in 2023-24, official sources said on Sunday.

INDIA'S GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS



Indian public and private sector firms are exporting a wide range of arms, ammunition and fuses to 100 countries, which also include some complete weapon systems. **► Interest in BrahMos, P11**



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Healthcare workers report several safety issues | P7

TEMP ON SUNDAY
34.2° MAXIMUM
20.1° MINIMUM
 FORECAST: Mainly clear sky. Max & min temperatures on Monday would be around 34°C and 20°C
 MOONSET 3.31PM (MON) MOONRISE 3.37AM (TUE)
 SUNSET 5.39PM (MON) SUNRISE 6.31AM (TUE)

3 | 5 | 6
 DELHI AQI ON SUNDAY (VERY POOR CATEGORY)

Delhiites escape pollution, celebrate Diwali in nature | B2P2



Delhi courts reduce backlog; adjournments remain issue | P4

Your Head On Line: Uncertified Helmets Easy On Pocket, But Have A Cost On Life

With Centre Ordering Crackdown, Experts Hope People Will Prioritise Their Safety Over Money

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While the Centre has ordered district collectors to crack down on manufacturers and sellers of non-ISI-certified helmets in the wake of rising casualties in accidents, curbing the sale and use of such helmets in Delhi seems likely to be a challenge.

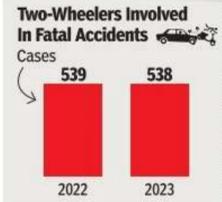
TOI conducted a reality check on the sale of helmets and found several streets flooded with such headgear being sold roadside. These roadside helmets were priced between Rs 200 and Rs 2,000. Many of these helmets had stickers of 'ISI' pasted on them, giving an illusion of safety.

On Sunday, people were seen buying helmets from these roadside vendors in Delhi. The sellers claimed to be unaware of govt's recent directive over sub-standard helmets. When asked, these vendors claimed that their products adhered to all essential safety standards mandated by govt. However, a closer look at the market revealed a complex picture, where affordability often trumps safety.

Sagar, a 33-year-old vendor on Panchsukian Road, said many customers primarily purchased helmets to avoid traffic fines. While some prioritised safety and opted for more expensive helmets, others were drawn to cheaper options. "Many often prioritise affordability over quality and this makes the market thrive," said the owner of a shop selling branded helmets in Jhandewalan.

Other shop owners pointed out how the need for a "spare helmet" for the pillion rider also drove a lot of sales. "Many people buy an authentic helmet for themselves but just keep a cheap one for the pillion to avoid traffic challan," another shop owner said. Besides the low-cost factor, these shopkeepers

TEMPTING FATE?



What Cops Found

- Most fatalities died due to head injuries
- People often use substandard helmets to avoid fines
- They found substandard helmets being sold on roadsides cheaper than those in showrooms

New Directions

- The Centre has directed a crackdown on unsafe helmets
- A report revealed that 70% of two-wheeler accident fatalities involved non-helmet wearers
- A total of 162 helmet manufacturer licences were cancelled or expired, 96 of those in Delhi



What Rules Say

- A protective helmet must bear the ISI mark
- People involved in manufacturing of helmets must comply with guidelines given by Bureau of Indian Standards
- A helmet should weigh around 1.2 kg. The helmet's visor should be made of high-quality transparent material
- The helmet should have a thickness of 20 to 25 mm or more

also offer helmet repair services. Rajnish, a resident of Bharat Nagar, purchased two helmets priced at Rs 500 each. He emphasised their affordability and perceived safety compared with branded options. Krishan Kumar, another customer, echoed this sentiment. "There's a substantial price difference of at least Rs 700-1,000 between these roadside helmets and branded ones," Kumar said. He further noted that vendors often stocked two types of helmets: cheaper, lower-quality op-

tions and more expensive, higher-quality ones. Prabhu Dayal, a seasoned vendor, said most customers preferred helmets priced between Rs 250 and Rs 600, with some opting for options up to Rs 1,000. He said selling helmets was his sole means of livelihood. Jai Prakash, another seller, said they exclusively stocked helmets priced between Rs 500 and Rs 2,500. He claimed to be committed to providing safe helmets and avoiding low-quality products.

As many as 2,288 road accidents involving two-wheelers in Delhi, including 539 fatal ones, took place in 2022. The number of fatalities marginally fell to 538 in 2023. A traffic police officer said they found that, in most cases of road accidents involving two-wheelers, the fatalities happened due to head injuries. "People also use substandard helmets to avoid traffic fines rather than to protect themselves from accidents. There are instances where they carry helmets and only put

them on when they see policemen," the officer said. It's crucial for consumers to prioritise safety over cost. Investing in a certified helmet could significantly reduce the risk of head injuries in the event of an accident, the officer added. Traffic police said they regularly conducted drives to check if people were wearing helmets. They also raise awareness about the importance of helmets. As Delhi records an alarming number of fatal two-wheeler accidents, experts empha-

Minor stabbed, shot dead in Kishangarh by juveniles, 5 held

Times News Network

New Delhi: A 16-year-old boy was chased, stabbed and shot dead, and his friend was injured after four boys allegedly fired at them in Kishangarh.

An inquiry revealed that a few days earlier, the boy allegedly had an altercation with one of his suspected attackers and had slapped him.

A person with a criminal background, Sanjay Mehlawat, who was known to the boy who was slapped allegedly plotted to kill the 16-year-old. Mehlawat was arrested, and four juveniles were apprehended.

Mehlawat (38) was previously allegedly involved in a case of attempted murder and the Arms Act, 2019. The case against him is registered at Vasant Kunj North police station. The four juveniles, aged about 17 years and residents of Mehrauli, are also identified as suspects in last Friday's case.

At 5:45 pm on Friday, police got a PCR call regarding the stabbing of two boys at Gaushal village in Kishangarh. Upon arrival, officers found blood at the scene and an empty 7.65 mm bullet casing. Local enquiries revealed that two injured boys were taken to Safdarjung Hospital, where they were identified as Saurabh Yadav, 18, and a 16-year-old boy who was declared dead on arrival.

Saurabh told police that he was visiting his grandmother in Kishangarh where he met his friends—Kunal, Uday, and Tushar — all residents of Mehrauli Ward 2, at 3pm.

They went for a ride on two scooters, reaching Gaushal at 5pm, where the armed boys ambushed them. One attacker fired a bullet that struck Saurabh in the back, causing him to fall. The attackers then chased and stabbed his friend multiple times before fleeing.

A probe has revealed that the attackers were juveniles acting on the instructions from Mehlawat, a Kishangarh resident known to the boys.

According to the uncle of the deceased boy, his nephew went to the gaushal (cow shelter) with friends to feed cows when the crime happened. "They shot my nephew and injured his friend," he said. "He was brutally killed," he said. Around six to seven rounds were fired, and the boy was stabbed half a dozen times, the uncle said.

Asked about the motive, the uncle said that one of the attackers tried to recruit his nephew into illegal activities, but he refused. "The attacker pressured the 16-year-old, which led to an argument. He even threatened my nephew," the uncle said.

The victim is survived by his father, mother and three sisters.

Two hurt as e-bus catches fire

New Delhi: A DTC electric bus caught fire near Delhi Cantt on Sunday, injuring two passengers, including a child. At the time of the incident, the bus had 10-15 passengers on board.

Videos circulating online suggested that an explosion caused the fire, however, police have dismissed these claims, stating that a short circuit was likely the cause.

According to police, the bus driver made a PCR call at 5:43 pm to report the fire and a team rushed to the scene. The conductor said that at 5:15 pm, while traveling from Ring Road, Naraina, to Dhaura Kuan near metro pillar 22, smoke began to fill the bus from the back. The driver stopped the bus, allowing passengers to evacuate. Two passengers sustained minor injuries, and the driver used a fire extinguisher to extinguish the fire. 📄



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More Cases Disposed Of Than Instituted In Last 2 Years, But Long Way To Go Yet

Unavailability Of Lawyers, Accused Absconding, Adjournments Behind Big Pendency Numbers

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New Delhi: Breaking a pattern that adds to pendency of cases, district courts in Delhi have disposed of more cases than were instituted since 2022, according to data from National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

However, in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the institution of cases was more than the disposal, adding to the pendency. As of Oct 15, 2024, a total of 1,467,956 cases are pending in Delhi district courts. Of these, 1,248,374 are criminal cases and 219,582 are civil ones. More than half of the total pending cases, 53%, are less than a year old, 23% are 1-3 years old, 11% are 3-5 years old, and another 12% are 5-10 years old. Only 1% of the cases are over 10 years old.

The primary factor contributing to the delay in the disposal of 598,692 cases is listed as 'unavailability of lawyers' on NJDG website. Staying of the cases for various reasons and absconded accused also cause delays. Time and again, the adjournment of cases contributes to delays in disposal, creating a backlog. This has been highlighted by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

In March this year, CJI said the culture of adjournments prolonged the agony of litigants and perpetuated the cycle of backlog, as courts should not wait for the citizens to die for their cases to be decided. Last year too, CJI had flagged the adjournment issue, saying Supreme Court must not become a 'tareekh

pe tareekh' court.

President Draupadi Murmu, while addressing the valedictory ceremony of a two-day national conference of district judiciary last month, pointed out that the culture of adjournment was painful for litigants, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. "If someone gets justice after 32 years, there would hardly be any happiness left in that person," she said.

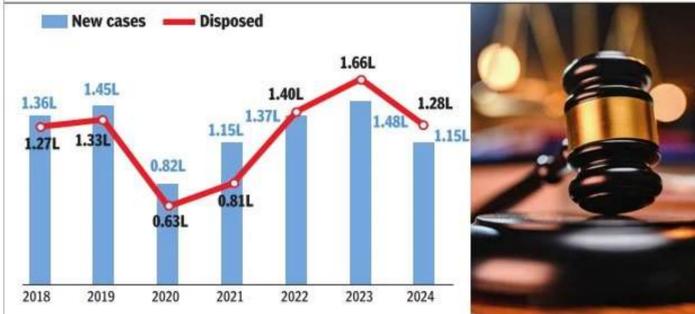
Kerala High Court in March this year outlined that due to unnecessary adjournment of cases, justice was denied to real aggrieved persons. It said time-bound disposal of cases was not taking

TIMES Special

place due to unnecessary adjournments. Legal stalwarts and practitioners expressed their views on the reasons behind the pendency and its effects on litigants, lawyers and the judicial system.

Commenting on the pendency and various aspects related to this issue, senior advocate N Hariharan said, "A good sign in this data is that disposal has gained momentum. However, putting blame on lawyers alone for pendency is not fair. A lawyer representing someone carries a responsibility. Also, a lawyer has to take more than one case for survival. This data should be looked at with perspective, including all factors, such as what goes on in the whole process after the case is instituted. There are various

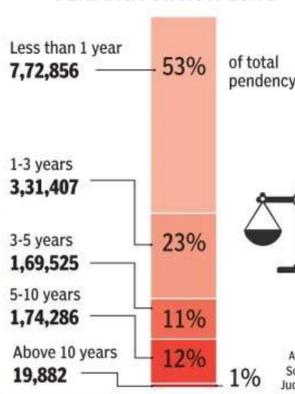
53% PENDENCY FOR CASES LESS THAN 1 YEAR OLD



WHY DELAY IN DISPOSAL

Counsel not available	3,00,381
Stayed for various reasons	2,19,858
Accused absconding	32,077
Awaiting documents	20,223
Witness	10,185
Parties not interested	4,161
More witness	3,970
Misc applications blocked	3,901
Frequent appeals	2,181
Stayed by HC	628
LRs not on record	364
Execution of decree	360
Record Unavailable	298
Stayed by DC	67
Stayed by SC	38

PENDING FOR HOW LONG



us reasons a matter goes for adjournment. And I would say, justice should not be hurried because justice hurried is justice buried."

Senior advocate HS Phoolka told TOI, "The litigant must always come first" is the approach that must be adopted. Lawyers, judges, courts

and the entire judicial system are, at the end of the day, there to give justice to the litigant, a citizen. Unfortunately, in courts, the convenien-

ce of lawyers and judges is given priority, whereas it is the interest of the litigant that should be the focus. This change of approach will definitely improve the disposal rate of cases, besides restoring the faith of the common man in the system."

Advocate Sanjay Sharma, a lawyer who practises in Tis Hazari Court of Delhi, spoke to TOI about the judges having robust powers to dispose of the cases and still having a huge number of pending litigations. "The idea of door-to-door justice has just been an occupier in the phrases of jurisprudence, but is yet not implemented in our legal system. Any litigant steps into the courts with great hopes from judges as well as their counsels to get justice, for which both the counsel as well as the judges are duty-bound. But we have seen litigants face many challenges in all tiers of courts, be it the district, high court or Supreme Court."

Advocate Sharma gives an example of a case of one Shyam Sunder Maggo pending since 2013. "He is an elderly citizen and suffers from chronic kidney disease. He has to be a part of litigation pending in both district as well as high court since 2013. To date, he has not been able to get justice but has been a victim of adjournments due to one reason or other. Supreme Court has emphasised so many times that matters should not be adjourned as a matter of habit. It's high time to end this vicious circle of pendency of trials," he said.

HC concerned over unchecked sale of expired food products

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has raised concerns over the sale of expired food products that are being reintroduced into the market after repackaging and rebranding with new expiry dates. It stated that consumers should not be made to unknowingly consume "adulterated" food items.

In a recent hearing, the court emphasised that selling expired

items cannot be permitted as a business. "People cannot be having adulterated food in Delhi. Give us suggestions on how this can be tackled," a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela told authorities while hearing a public interest litigation initiated after several instances of expired products being repackaged with new expiry dates came to light.

Advocate Shwetashree Mazum-

dar, assisting the court as amicus curiae, suggested that manufacturers could generate a QR code for all packed food items, enabling tracking of the original expiry dates. She noted that while legislation exists to address this issue, the penalties are not sufficiently deterrent and should be revisited to strengthen enforcement.

"Food business operators should be directed to mark all food products with a unique alphanumeric code or

a QR code that is identifiable by an FSSAI representative by cross-reference to a centralised database. This will reveal the batch number and expiry date of a product immediately and on-site, to obviate testing and sampling to ascertain whether expiry dates and other information on the label have been tampered with," the amicus submitted.

The court asked the authorities to submit suggestions on how they plan

to improve sample collection and testing. It also directed Delhi Police to file a fresh status report on the matter and requested that certain alleged counterfeiters, found selling expired chocolates by repackaging, be present in court for the next hearing.

The high court had previously issued notices to central govt, Delhi govt, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and Delhi Police, seeking their responses.

MCD readies detailed proposal to replace around 4 lakh LED lights across four zones

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New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has developed a proposal to replace approximately 4 lakh LED lights on streets, in parks and other areas in phases across the central, south, west and Najafgarh zones.

The proposal, costing Rs 1,144.3 crore, also includes the operation and maintenance of lights for 10 years. It will be presented in the House meeting on Monday for administrative approval and expenditure sanction.

However, the civic body will need a final nod from the standing committee for finalising the rate and the agency. If the standing committee, pending for more than over 21 months, is not formed by Dec, then the civic body will need to make other arrangements. There are various other projects pending approval for the same reason.

"The eight-year contract done with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for the installation and maintenance of LED lights for the existing contract is set to expire in Dec. Under this contract, sodium lights were replaced with energy-efficient LEDs and maintained by EESL for seven years, and then extended by a year. To ensure the continued efficient operation of these lights in the future, MCD prepared a proposal with an estimated cost of Rs 1,144 crore," the civic body said in the proposal.

The proposal stated that the useful life of LED fittings is nearly 12 years, but due to practical site or climatic conditions, the actual life is around 8-9 years. "It is very difficult to constantly maintain such old fixtures since faults occur in them often. Once all fittings are replaced in a period of three years, outages will not arise, and energy can be saved too," the proposal said. The new fittings to be

installed should provide a minimum system illumination of 120 lumens/watt.

While MCD House can accord the administrative and expenditure sanction for the operation and maintenance contract along with phase-wise replacement of LED public lights for a period of 10 years — which is extendable by two years — the civic body will incur the expenditure over 10 years with an average payment of Rs 125 crore every year and Rs 21 crore in the first year.

The proposal also includes authorising the MCD commissioner to approve the request for proposal (RFP) and make necessary changes in the RFP, if required during the tendering process," the proposal document to be placed in the House on Oct 28 said.

"By doing this, we will save time, and as soon as the standing committee is formed, the rate and agency for the project will be given the final nod," an official said.

Solar panels at 573 spots help MCD generate annual revenue of ₹9 crore

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: MCD has successfully installed solar panels at 573 locations, resulting in annual savings of 89 lakh units of electricity and generating revenue of Rs 9 crore per year, according to officials.

Last year, the civic body had installed 399 solar panels with a capacity of 13.2 MW. Thereafter, solar panels have been installed at another 164 buildings in north Delhi and 10 buildings in east Delhi.

Apart from municipal offices and schools, MCD also installed solar panels in Roshanara Bagh and Bharat Darsan Park. They were also put in place at Waste-to-Wonder Park in Sarai Kale Khan, but these became non-functional after a portion was occupied for the RRTS project.

"MCD has set a target to install solar panels at 989 new sites in FY 2024-25, utilising both the capex and renewable energy service company (Resco) models. We have solar panels in place at least five parking lots and three gardens or parks," said an official.

In the capex model, the civic body bears the entire expense for installing the solar



573 solar panels installed in MCD office buildings, schools, parks, etc

These include 399 panels in school buildings in erstwhile south corporation area

164 at buildings and parks in north Delhi and 10 in east Delhi

Solar panels also installed at 5 parking sites and 3

gardens, including Roshanara Bagh in north Delhi

13.2 megawatt is the peak capacity of these panels

89 lakh units per annum savings done

₹9cr per year revenue generated by MCD from these panels

Proposal to install 989 panels in buildings in MCD jurisdiction

Corporation of India (SECI) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN). The upkeep of the panels is under the scope of the vendor for a defined time period," said the official.

"In south Delhi, out of 399 buildings, we installed the panels through the capex model at 373 buildings with the help of SECI. At the remaining 26 buildings, the panels were installed

using the Resco model through NVVN," added the official.

MCD said the project was completed after eight years of consistent efforts. "Seeing the success of the solar project at these sites, we decided to install these panels at identified locations in north and east Delhi. Thereafter, the process for surveying the structural strength of the buildings, especially the roofs, was done to ascertain if these could operate smoothly for at least 25 years," the official said.

The civic body installed solar panels with a capacity of 110 KWP at Bharat Darsan Park in Punjabi Bagh. At the newly renovated Roshanara Bagh, a provision for 50 KWP solar panels has been made near the parking area where there is sufficient sunlight. "These panels fulfil the requirements of the parks first, and if excess energy is generated, it is exported to the grid," said the official.

MCD is also covering some of the stack and multilevel parking lots with solar panels. "At the Lajpat Nagar stack parking lot, solar panels of 96 KW capacity have been installed. The initiative aims to minimise carbon emissions and save expenses incurred on power bills," said the official.

3 men dupe people with promise of high returns on investments, arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Police have arrested three men who were duping people by promising high returns from investments.

The complainant, Ankit, alleged that he was scammed during a phone call in which he was promised huge profits for investing in a company. He deposited Rs 23.9 lakh into the specified accounts and lost all his money. Thereafter, he filed a complaint on NCRP portal.

Deputy commissioner of police (outer north) Nidhin Valsan formed a team under SHO (cyber) Raman Kumar Singh. The team conducted raids in various locations in Gujarat and nabbed two cyber criminals who were attending the inauguration of a newly opened shop selling ready-made garments and accessories in Kerala village, Vadnagar.

The cyber criminals were identified as Karan Dabhi (23) and Ankit Dabhi (22). Two mobile phones containing evidence linking them to the crime were recovered. It was revealed that the ready-made garments and accessories were purchased with the defrauded money by the ringleader, Prakash, and the shop's inauguration ceremony was scheduled

to take place in the name of his deceased wife, on Oct 24.

Another accused, Suresh Thakor (26), had been arrested earlier in this case and is in judicial custody since Sept 11.

Police said the accused called people using fake numbers, tricking them into investing in various schemes with promises of huge profits. They then asked them to open a demat account and transferred the call to another accomplice.

"The next caller asks the victims to transfer money to fake accounts, promising huge profits. Eventually, all the money is lost, and no profit is returned. The criminals use fake SIM cards and fake accounts belonging to labourers," a cop said.

Two of the accused are diploma holders in ITI from Gujarat. They used to call people to invest money in different commodities. "Ankit is the younger brother of kingpin Prakash. His father is posted as a GRD (Gram Rakshak Dal) assistant at Vadnagar police station," police said.

Suresh worked in a factory and acted as the middleman for Prakash, arranging fake accounts. He would collect cash through ATM withdrawals and hand it over to Prakash.

73-yr-old duped of ₹16L in 'SIM upgrade' scam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 73-year-old man was duped by scammers of Rs 16 lakh on the pretext of SIM upgradation in Dwarka.

The victim was identified as Ramvir Singh Chaudhary. "I received a call from an unknown number regarding the upgradation of my mobile SIM from 4G to 5G, but I did not respond," the complainant said. Over a three-day period, a staggering sum of Rs 16,64,300 vanished from his bank accounts — a life's worth of savings.

Chaudhary approached the cyber police station in Dwarka. He drafted a complaint, detailing the ignored call, the unauthorised deductions, and the stolen amount across his three bank accounts. A case was registered under a section of cheating.

This was not the first time a senior citizen was targeted. In July, Krishna Dasgupta, a

72-year-old resident of CR Park in south Delhi fell victim to an elaborate fraud. Scammers used a tactic known as "digital arrest" to steal Rs 83 lakh from her bank accounts.

Last year, scammers posing as Mumbai Police sleuths duped a 72-year-old man by claiming he was involved in trafficking tiger skins in Malaysia.

In May last year, another elderly person was duped. He alleged that he received a WhatsApp video call from a random number showing a girl stripping. He disconnected immediately but soon received calls from unknown individuals claiming to be from the cybercrime division. They threatened to make a screenshot from the call go viral and arrest him unless he paid a huge sum. Fearing consequences, the complainant transferred Rs 47,076 into the fraudster's bank account, but later informed the police.

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New Delhi: Amid concerns of water shortage, Delhi Jal Board vice-chairperson Vinay Mishra inspected the Sonia Vihar water treatment plant on Sunday and said AAP govt will soon have a dialogue with Haryana.

DJB VC visits Sonia Vihar plant amid water shortage

production took a hit due to industrial waste from Haryana crippling the Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi plants, which were operating below capacity. "AAP govt is firm in securing clean water for

Delhi and is set to have a critical dialogue with Haryana govt," Mishra said. Delhi govt said the Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar WTPs were affected due to maintenance in the Upper Ganga Canal

till Oct 30. Due to the presence of ammonia in the Yamuna, there was a 30% reduction in production. "Haryana is dumping industrial waste into the Yamuna," Mishra said. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said govt "failed" to ensure proper supply. **TNN**

Earnings From GST And VAT See Marginal Rise

Mop-up From Motor Vehicle Tax Declines

Atul Mathur
@timesofindia.com

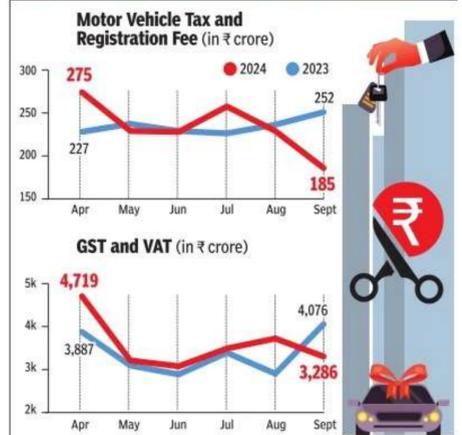
New Delhi: Delhi's earnings through motor vehicle tax and goods and services tax in the first six months of the 2024-25 financial year tax revenue were not very "encouraging", sources in govt said.

While the collection from motor vehicle tax and registration fee decreased by Rs 1 crore between April 1 and Sept 30 in the current fiscal year compared with the same period in the 2023-24 financial year, the earnings from GST and VAT saw a marginal increase of about 6.4%. Sources said efforts were being made by govt to improve the collection in the remaining six months. In first two quarters of 2023-24, GST and MV tax had registered a growth of 16.8% and 10.8%, respectively, in comparison to the same period in the preceding financial year.

While GST and VAT are Delhi govt's mainstay of tax revenue and contribute nearly 70% of the total collection, taxes on motor vehicles and registration fees are also an important component. Delhi govt collected Rs 53,680 crore as tax revenue through GST and VAT, MV tax, excise on liquor, and stamp and registration fees in the 2023-24 financial year. While presenting the budget for 2024-25, it projected a total tax revenue collection of Rs 58,750 crore in 2024-25. Sources said the collection in two other categories was satisfactory, but the fall in GST and VAT and MV Tax was indeed alarming.

In the first two quarters of the current fiscal year, Delhi govt collected Rs 1,404 crore as MV tax against Rs 1,405 crore earned during the same period in the last finan-

HOW MUCH GOVT EARNED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF FISCAL



cial year. It registered a decline in three months—May, Aug and Sept—compared with the preceding fiscal year, while it was the same as last year in the month of June. The MV tax collection was more in April and July this year compared with 2023.

"The revenue earned in the month of Sept was abysmally low, with just Rs 182 crore coming into govt's kitty. But that was probably because of the 15-day period of 'shraadh,' which is considered inauspicious by some, and they don't buy new vehicles during that month," said an official, adding that the situation improved in Oct. Till Oct 26, Delhi govt managed to earn Rs 282 crore as MV Tax.

Through GST and VAT, Delhi govt earned Rs 21,439 crore in the first six months of 2024-25, which is only 6.4% more than Rs 20,179 crore collected last year during the

same period. The current fiscal year started on a good note, with govt mopping up Rs 4,719 crore in April compared with Rs 3,887 crore collected during the same month last year. The period of May, June, and July, however, was not as good, and the increase in GST and VAT collection during these three months was only 3.6%, 6.6%, and 2.6% more, respectively, compared with last year. With Rs 363 crore received as GST compensation from the Centre, the collection was almost 29% more in Aug 2024 compared with the same month last year. It, however, fell by almost 20% in Sept since govt received Rs 1,137 crore compensation during the same month in 2023.

Delhi govt has projected a revenue collection of Rs 41,000 crore through GST and VAT and Rs 3,600 crore as MV tax in 2024-25.

AAP, BJP spar over notices to slum residents

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Accusing BJP of hatching a "conspiracy" by serving notices to evict the residents of a slum cluster in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, AAP on Sunday said it would fight for those families.

Former deputy CM Manish Sisodia claimed that the families were living in that slum for over 90 years, but DDA served them notice to vacate the cluster within 15 days. Sisodia said it was unwarranted to evict the slum dwellers before Diwali. "These jhuggis have

been home to families for over 90 years, with 2-3 generations living here. Children living here approached me and asked where they would go if their homes were taken?" Sisodia said.

In a joint statement, Union minister and East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra, former minister Arvinder Singh Lovely, and Gandhi Nagar MLA Anil Bajpai said no slum cluster existing for more than 20 years could be vacated without prior approval from DUSIB.

"The Gandhi Nagar slum settlement is over six decades old. It is unlikely that

DDA issued the notice without DUSIB's approval. Instead of misleading the slum dwellers, Sisodia should clarify why DUSIB granted permission to the land-owning agency for the demolition of the slums," the statement said.

"If the notice was issued without DUSIB's consent, it indicates a disconnect between the department and the minister. If Delhi govt wishes to protect these slums, the minister in charge of DUSIB should call a meeting and discuss the issue. BJP will fully support it," the statement added.

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It has been 14 years! We carve for your presence ever since the day you left us. The void remains and not a day goes by without remembering you! Your love, strength and unmatched passion for life is a memory that inspires us. Hope you are smiling where you are. We all love you.
Prabhash, Tulika, Pankaj, Mukta, Anuj, Geeta, Vedika, Bani, Varun, Kabir.

REMEMBRANCE
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Life is one eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil.
Shree Spoke Zarathustra

60% Of Health Professionals Don't Feel Safe At Workplace

Majority Of Those Surveyed Not Satisfied With Security Measures

Anuja Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

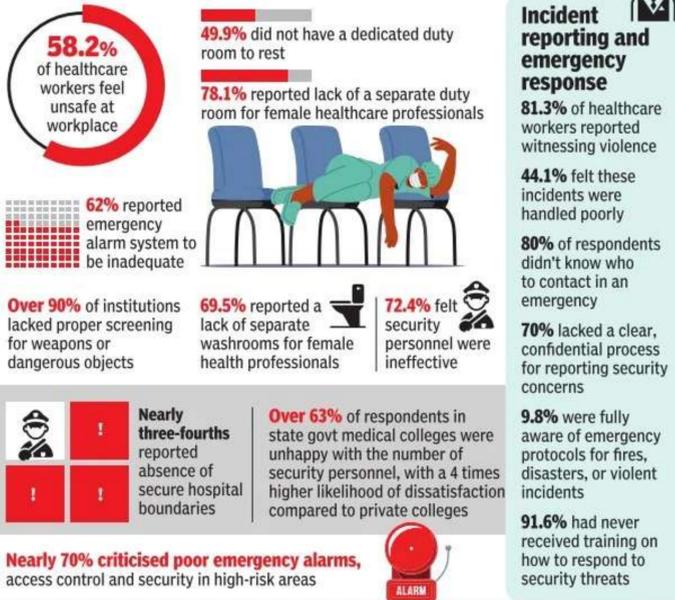
New Delhi: Widespread fear and insecurity seem to prevail among healthcare professionals. A recent study revealed that nearly 60% of the 1,566 professionals surveyed felt unsafe in their workplace due to various threats. Worryingly, more than 78% of them reported being threatened at least once while on duty.

This study, titled 'Workplace Safety and Security in Indian Healthcare Settings: A Cross-Sectional Survey' and conducted by Safdarjung Hospital in collaboration with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, surveyed healthcare workers from various settings, including central, state, and private medical colleges in Delhi, as well as public health institutions such as primary and community health centres and district hospitals. The results of the study were recently published in the journal *Epidemiology International*.

The collaborative effort of Dr Kartik Chadhar and Dr Jugal Kishore of VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital along with Dr Richa Mishra, Dr Semanti Das, Dr Indra Shekhar Prasad and Dr Prakash Gupta of AIIMS revealed that the perception of low safety was more prevalent among undergraduates (74.2%) than among faculty members (51%). The study also determined that over 90% of institutions lacked screening for dangerous objects and nearly 75% had no secure hospital boundaries. The study underscores the urgent need for improving the prevailing safety and security measures in healthcare settings. This comes at a time when resident doctors across the country are demanding security in the workplace.

The authors commented that the lack of safety in healthcare settings not only exposed workers to violence, stress and burnout but also hindered their ability to provide quality care. The situation is further aggravated by

78.4% OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS REPORTED HAVING BEEN THREATENED ON DUTY



The authors of the study commented that the lack of safety in healthcare settings not only exposed workers to violence, stress and burnout but also hindered their ability to provide quality care. The situation is further aggravated by rising workplace attacks, inadequate staffing, and poor infrastructure.

The study conducted among 1,566 respondents, including 24.7% from Delhi, revealed that nearly half of the healthcare workers did not have a dedicated duty room while working for long hours or at night. The existing duty rooms were grossly inadequate in basic amenities and services such as regular cleaning, pest control, ventilation, room space and air conditioning. A staggering majority of healthcare workers

expressed deep dissatisfaction with existing security measures in their institutions. Over 70% felt security personnel were ineffective and 62% reported the emergency alarm system to be inadequate. Nearly half claimed severe gaps in access control, surveillance and security in high-risk areas like ICUs and psychiatric wards. These findings paint a dire picture of insufficient security in critical healthcare settings, putting both workers and patients at significant risk.

The dissatisfaction with workplace security was particularly high in state govt medical colleges, where dissatisfaction rates were four times higher than in private institutions. The study also revealed that 81% of the respondents had witnessed violence and 44% believed that such incidents were poorly handled. Almost 80% lacked awareness about emergency contacts or protocols.

To address these issues, the study recommended measures like strengthening security in high-risk areas, increasing the number of security personnel, improving duty room conditions and implementing clear violence-handling protocols. The authors also suggested regular security training for healthcare workers and collaboration with national agencies on legal frameworks that ensure workplace safety.

DUSU polls: VC, other officials inspect cleanup

Meghna Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Student organisations at Delhi University are eagerly waiting for the upcoming high court hearing regarding defacement during the Delhi University Students' Union elections, scheduled for Monday. The outcome of this hearing is likely to impact the vote-counting process.

In the lead-up to the hearing, DU vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh, along with other university officials, carried out a four-day drive to inspect how much of the defacement across the university was removed.

DUSU candidates claimed they cleaned up the campus and urged the authorities to initiate the vote-counting process. "No election result should be stalled like this," said an ABVP representative. NSUI also requested the authorities to make the election results public as soon as possible. "We also request the release of live recordings from the strongroom to ensure transparency," said an NSUI member. During the inspection drive, the VC met principals and officials concerned over the issue and discussed the matter with them.

According to the chief election officer of the polls, Satyapal Singh, all colleges were also inspected by committees, which were formed this year to remove posters, banners, etc. from the properties. "With the cooperation of the students and the university, the defaced properties were cleaned. The VC himself is visiting some of the colleges and inspecting the arrangements," said Satyapal.

Shots fired at realtor's house

New Delhi: Several rounds were fired at the house of a property dealer in Pitampura on Saturday. A note was left at the scene claiming responsibility for the attack by Bamba Gang, sources said. Police have initiated an investigation, focusing on extortion. According to the cops, they received a PCR call around 8.40pm on Saturday regarding the firing at a house in Sharda Niketan.

7-yr-old dies after falling into drain

New Delhi: A seven-year-old boy died after falling into a drain in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad. Police said that, on Oct 24, a person informed them about his minor son having gone missing around 6pm the previous day. A case of kidnapping was registered and efforts were made to trace the boy. CCTV footage from the area was scanned.

Footage near a school in Mustafabad was reviewed, that showed a boy walking and collecting rubbish on the footpath before suddenly falling into the drain.

Police said the drain was searched, and the boy was found dead and identified by his parents. The drain is approximately six feet deep and three feet wide. "It is almost covered with slabs, but in some places,

one or two slabs are missing. At the point where the boy fell into the drain, two slabs were missing," police said.

This incident is far from an isolated one. Earlier this month, a two-and-a-half-year-old girl lost her life after falling into an open drain in northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas. In Sept, a 32-year-old man died after falling into an open drain in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura.

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'There can't be neutrality between aggressor & victim. It only means you're with Russia'

PM Modi can influence the end of the war... He should also bring back at least 1,000 Ukrainian children kidnapped by Russia... Brics summit was a failure... Not everything depends on US elections... Russia is advancing but facing huge losses, we are trying to save our people... We want invitation to Nato not quick membership
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky speaks exclusively to TOI's Rudroneel Ghosh

What did you think about the Brics summit in Russia and PM Modi saying he is ready to work for peace in Ukraine at the summit?

Zelensky: First and foremost the Brics summit in Russia failed. It was a total failure. Not everyone was there, even looking at today's composition of Brics, we couldn't see many leaders whom Russia was relying upon within Brics besides the guests. Saudi Arabia wasn't there at the level of the leader and there was no unity within Brics. I think Brics is divided by Putin himself by his policy of war. And I think Putin's aim for the summit was to polarise the world and he did not achieve this. He will subvert the Brics' purpose and use the platform for his own policy of war. That's why he wants to divide the world into so-called West-plus and Brics-plus. But as of today he has failed to do that for many reasons. First, I think everyone understands that he is a murderer and a terrorist. That today Russia is just a cheap energy resource, and some of the states are using that. But even the states that understand that they can help their economy in this manner, don't want to spoil the process for themselves with Putin. Plus, Putin is not consistent, and even the proposals of Brazil and China, which were more political and not very specific, were not acceptable to Putin from the perspective of territorial integrity. And for China, I would say, this was a slap on the face. For Brazil too, and that's why Brazil was not present at the summit at the level of the leader. So Brics in effect did not take place.

standing that the energy resource they are buying is helping fuel the war - if they re-evaluated their values, then the sanctions would be functioning fully. Now they are working only partially because the world is implementing them partially.

Everyone is looking to the US elections and there is a belief that a ceasefire could be reached after the elections. Do you think that's possible?

■ So many things depend on the policies of US. But it's not a deep analysis to say everything depends on US. Many things depend, but not everything. In the beginning of war in Ukraine our nation stood together against the enemy, let me remind you, without the support of allies, including US. The unity of people of Ukraine, our population and society, this is what in fact repelled the attack of the Russians, stopped them. But the occupation, of course, we wouldn't be able to respond to without the support, or at least it would be very hard because of human losses. And that's why we are very grateful to our allies for their help and support. But still, not everything depends on US elections. US policies change not only because of the leader. We don't know who will become the US president, but undoubtedly the bipartisan support for Ukraine will stay. And the US Congress, in any case which we are cooperating with and have developed strong connections, will have its personal impact on this war. The US president will definitely shape the foreign policy because it's his or her constitutional obligation. And undoubtedly if US policy changes and it says we don't support Ukraine in its sovereign and just protection of its territories, it will be really hard for us. This is if the policy totally changes. Then we will think what we will do with that. Definitely not now, we will think on that only then.

Another argument is that we shouldn't forget that Europe is a powerful continent on its own. In fact, India and China shouldn't forget about that in spite of the fact that India and China are great economies, still Europe is five times bigger than Russia by population and dozens of times bigger economically. Hence, Europe is a more attractive market. So we need to understand that US population is half the population of Europe. And we need to understand that Europe as it is, when it is not divided, is powerful. It is important for us to preserve this unity in Europe, and not to change the policy of Europe about this war. This is the second aspect. And the third about the ceasefire, we need to understand that we are against a frozen conflict, we don't want the third war. Because in 2014, one war started, and our territories were occupied. In 2022, the full-scale war started, though before 2022 we used to have a frozen conflict. There was a ceasefire already. There were Normandy and Minsk processes where there were dozens of negotiations with Russia and other partners in different platforms. And then we had the full-scale war. So if we now freeze the conflict without a proper understanding of what will happen tomorrow, which guarantees of security the Ukrainian people will have, our children will have, then I think it is a huge risk, a very high risk. Everything should be done on paper and should be comprehensible. How this war ends, and who and how much will bear responsibility for it? Definitely the aggressor will do that.

Europe is a powerful continent on its own. India and China shouldn't forget that in spite of the fact that India and China are great economies, still Europe is five times bigger than Russia by population and dozens of times bigger economically. Hence, Europe is a more attractive market

As for the presence of the UN secretary general, I think that altogether this is a kind of a surrealistic thing. It's not only about the UN but many other countries. I think that you cannot just say that you are neutral in the war between Russia and Ukraine. You cannot be neutral because it would mean you are on the side of Russia. Neutrality really helps just Russia. And between the aggressor and the victim, there cannot be neutrality. I consider this a hidden support for Russia, and the ones who were present there at the summit and speaking about their neutrality and saying they would like to help to solve the conflict, in my opinion, they look more pro-Russia. And that means it's not about peace because Russia started this war and continues to wage it. And whether they want it or not, or understand it or not, that is not important. This is the fact: neutrality in this war means support for Russia. After all of the victims, after all of the tortures and deportation of Ukrainian children, this is how it looks.

As for the position of PM Modi, I think that any assertions today should not end with words only. Modi is the PM of a really huge country from the perspective of population, economy, influence and impact. Such a country cannot just say we are interested in the end of the war - we are all interested in that. All of the leaders would tell you that they would like to end the war, even the enemy of peace, Putin, will say that even he wants peace. This is a common thing. Especially for such a huge country like India, PM Modi can influence the end of the war. This is the huge value of him in any conflict. This is a huge value of India. Blocking of Russian economy, blocking of cheap energy resource, blocking of defence-industrial complex of Russian will lead to the decrease in capacity of Moscow to wage wars against us. Then the G20; the G20 is considered the 'Great 20' because they are main economies of the world. And the whole world is looking to them. That's why the 20 great economies can just easily put Putin in his place and end the war. Not just incentive but the opposite, slow down all of Putin's desires. And you don't need to say we would like peace, you need to act. Because the daily war is killing people.

Many would argue that sanctions haven't stopped Russia and more sanctions would cripple the global economy. So how do you convince more countries to your point of view?

■ Sanctions are working. Sanctions have led to effect. If the great economies of the world like India, China, Turkey and others, which did not impose sanctions on Russia, if they would not help Russia survive in the war economically - they actually helped Russia earn money, sometimes even with the under-



Sanctions are working. If the great economies like India, China, Turkey and others, which did not impose sanctions on Russia, if they would not help Russia survive in the war economically - they actually helped Russia earn money - if they re-evaluated their values, then the sanctions would be functioning fully. Now they are working partially because the world is implementing them partially

You recently revealed your Victory Plan which includes quick Nato membership for Ukraine. But many countries are divided about your plan. Do you think the plan is practical or is it just a bargaining chip?

■ The Victory Plan is not a bargaining chip or a topic of negotiations with Russia. Let's not confuse this. The Victory Plan is not a platform for response for all of the countries of the world. The Victory Plan is the plan for strengthening Ukraine today. Strengthening of Ukraine before heading into those diplomatic formats of negotiations, peace summits, so that Ukraine could be strong. That's why the Victory Plan is given to countries who are ready to



strengthen Ukraine. It's not about talks with Russia, because Russia is not making us stronger, it's making us weaker. It's not a proposal for negotiations. This is a request, very specific one. I shouldn't 'ask' in my Victory Plan. As for the invitation to Nato - I would like that people don't misunderstand this - the first point is not Nato membership or quick membership of Nato. The first point is invitation to Nato so that in the future nobody can change their opinion. Everything shouldn't be just in words, but documented in papers, fundamentally and legally. We are talking about invitation, not membership, because during the war we cannot become Nato member obviously. And this point is only for the Nato countries because we would like to be invited to Nato.

The second point of the Victory Plan is strengthening the Ukrainian army with weapons today at the battlefield, not tomorrow. We are not talking with Putin about that or the countries of the Global South who do not strengthen us with weapons today. We speak about this with the Ramstein countries which helped Ukraine with weapons during this conflict. Point three is about the package of deterrence against Russia. It does not mean the use of missiles. However, this would be just because Russia is using missiles against us. But we are saying that it's not about the use of missiles but deterrence of Russia. This is the package of long-range weapons which Ukraine will not use if Russia stops the war against us. Stops the aggression against us. Stops killing our people. That is why this package of long-range weapons should be in Ukraine. This is the prevention measure of weapons. This is the warn-

ing army as part of the security of Europe. And it is exclusively about Europe. So it is not the plan that will end the war where we unite the whole world. This is the plan of victory that leads us to the plan to end the war. This is the plan of strengthening of Ukraine.

What is the position of the war as of now? Because Russia has been making some gains on the battlefield, and with winter coming many believe you will face a tough few months.

■ Well, this is the third hard winter for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Russia is doing the same thing every year of this war. We are studying how to protect ourselves. Russia attacked our energy centres since the very beginning to breed chaos in Ukraine, so that our people would starve, so that our people will be ill without having the opportunity to provide insulation and winterisation of their houses. So that the people would die. We as a state started to oppose that. We restored our energy systems. We are step-by-step strengthening the protection of our energy systems. And we aren't just allowing Russia to kill our people. Gradually we have begun to cope with their attacks on our energy systems. We know how to retaliate to their strikes, but we do that very cautiously. We never target the people, we never target the schools and universities - which Russia does. So they have felt that Ukraine can respond. And in those operations none of our partners have helped us. This is what we have done alone in our response, unfortunately.

As for the battlefield, you are right, Russia has more people and more weapons. In many directions, technologically, we are better than them already. Many partners agree with that, especially in long-range drones, systems of electronic warfare etc. But it's not enough because the most important thing is to save the people. So we look at the battlefield from the perspective of how to save our people. We can lose equipment, we can lose technologies, but we should minimise human losses. Sometimes by the price of metres or few kilometres of land. Yes, the human being is more important than the land, though this is our land. But our land will be brought back later, but we will not be able to bring back the human being. And we live according to this law. It is hard to be at war with Russia by this law because they have a different law - if they are not attacking, if their soldiers are not on the offensive, they are shot by the Russians themselves. Russians are killed by Russians. The Russians have killed many of their own mobilised soldiers just because these soldiers were afraid to attack, to perish under the bullet or to be wounded. So they retreated and this is where they were killed by their own army. This is their law of war. They don't quantify, they don't calculate the numbers. They have approximately 650,000 victims already who were killed or wounded in Russia. Just imagine, that's a lot.

And you know what's really scary? The same is continuing and they don't even retrieve the bodies. The bodies are just rotting on the battlefield, they don't take them back. This is the face of today's Russia, today's Putin. And what's more interesting, yes they are having gains in Ukraine's east because of this strategy, because of this meat-grinder, because they are throwing bodies onto us. But when we came to Kursk region and had a preventive attack against their territory, because they wanted to have a separate operation and occupy our north, we can see that they are attacking their own territory. They are themselves killing their own civilians in Kursk. And our people are giving them food and water because they are civilians not soldiers. Our soldiers are giving away and sharing what they have. And we can see the bodies of Russian civilians, civilians who were shot by Russian artillery. This is the war.

... just one mechanism, just one ICC cannot fully correct the situation. It cannot fully influence Putin and his allies. But all of them together, the ICC, the leaders, international law, UN, G20, altogether can definitely end this war

When PM Modi was in Kyiv he along with you visited the Martyrologist Exposition dedicated to the fallen children of this war. Can you detail the overall impact of the war on Ukrainian children?

■ First of all I thank PM Modi who joined me and commemorated the perished children. You know the real number of Ukrainian children who have been killed in the war is unknown. Nobody knows the real number, unfortunately. We can definitely state that dozens of thousands of children were deported and kidnapped by Russia. But how many of them were killed, we will only get to know after the war. Dozens of thousands of deported children. Thousands with changed names and surnames. They have been forced to speak a different language. Many of them who were teens, they have been forced to the battlefield to fight against their own country. This is just horrible. Their relatives don't have their children back. And unfortunately, with dozens of thousands having been kidnapped, less than 1,000 have been brought back. That's why it's very important that many countries join the coalition to bring back Ukrainian children. We would really like India to help with this. Today, the coalition is working with more than 40 countries. But unfortunately, not many countries have managed to bring back our children. Besides this, many children have been affected by the war in Ukraine. Schools have been hit, universities have been hit. Many children have been wounded, many have lost their limbs, and many children have been killed. Many children have left Ukraine with their parents. You know that more than 7 million

We know how to retaliate to their strikes, but we do that very cautiously. We never target the schools and universities - which Russia does. So they have felt we can respond. And in those operations none of our partners have helped us. This is what we have done alone, unfortunately

Ukrainians are now abroad. A big number of them are children. Their parents are staying sometimes here. For instance, the men in the family are left here or they are on the frontline of the war. And their children are being deprived of their childhood. Some of those fathers are dying in the war. This is the situation about the children.

What can India do specifically to bring back the forcibly deported Ukrainian children?

■ You can join the coalition to bring back Ukrainian children. You can support the joint communique of the Peace Summit because the third point was about bringing back the children, you can call Putin and ask him who he is, you can force him to bring the children back, PM Modi can do that because he really has huge influence, he can just say specifically how many Ukrainian children will be given to me so that I could bring them back to Ukraine, just say that directly, just give me 1,000 Ukrainian children who will be brought back to Ukraine. This is the real step. Putin took dozens of thousands. Let PM Modi bring back only 1,000 at least. And if every such influential person as PM Modi is able to bring back 1,000, we will be able to bring back the majority of our children. That's what is needed to be done. You need to raise this issue at the meeting of G20. India can invite us to this meeting as well together with Brazil. So the G20 can divide the obligations. If 20,000 of Ukrainian children are deported, every leader should take the responsibility to bring back 1,000 children. It's not just to sit at the table during this summit but to really help the children. The world should be helping.

ICC issued arrest warrants for the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children. But those were not implemented as we saw recently with Mongolia. Do you still have faith in international mechanisms to bring back the children?

■ We believe just in the international law. We believe in the international influence of the leaders. We believe in the international mechanism. You are right, just one mechanism, just one international criminal court cannot fully correct the situation. It cannot fully influence Putin and his allies. But all of them together, the ICC, the leaders, international law, UN, G20, altogether can definitely end this war. But the results of the ICC are still felt. Putin is not travelling to the majority of world countries. We can see that. The majority of the leaders who acknowledged and approved the Rome Statute, and still acknowledge the verdict of the ICC, the majority of them try not to visit Putin. Remember, this (the deportation of children) is only the first case of war crimes. There will be many more cases for which more evidence will be provided. As for Mongolia, unfortunately it showed that it is not an independent country.

The Brics summit was a total failure... I think Brics is divided by Putin himself by his policy of war. And I think Putin's aim for the summit was to polarise the world and he did not achieve this. He will subvert the Brics' purpose and use the platform for his own policy of war. That's why he wants to divide the world into so-called West-plus and Brics-plus

Do you think there's any possibility that PM Modi can host negotiations between Ukraine and Russia?

■ As for PM Modi, we have the platform which is the Peace Summit. The second Peace Summit could be conducted in any respected capital and we communicated that it could be held in New Delhi. Undoubtedly it can be in India and PM Modi can really do that if he can organise a certain summit. But for that we need to prepare ourselves in terms of the proposals on which any number of countries could be heard - the proposals of India, EU, the African continent etc. So if Brazil and China would like to see us as well and they have proposals, please by all means, but only according to our format because the war is in our land. So I think that such a summit can be hosted in India.

Thanks, Mr President, for speaking to The Times of India.

■ Thank you and I wish the people of India peace. This is really important.

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PINARAYI-LED KERALA GOVT SLAMS CENTRE'S 'NEGATIVE ATTITUDE' TOWARDS WAYANAD REHAB



State-sponsored infiltration in WB, says Shah, TMC hits back

BJP Neta Says Party Win In '26 Can End Smuggling, Graft, Syndicate Raj

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Peace can be established in Bengal only when infiltration stops, said Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday. Urging voters to give BJP a chance, Shah said, "Bengal is witnessing state-sponsored infiltration. To stop this, you have to vote BJP to govern the state. Rabindra Sangeet has been replaced by bomb blasts. Only BJP can put an end to cattle smuggling, coal smuggling, corruption and syndicate raj," he said.



Amit Shah with party functionary Mithun Chakraborty during BJP's membership drive in Kolkata

Launching BJP's national membership drive, Shah said, "2026 will be a milestone in the assembly polls in Bengal. BJP will win the election with two-thirds majority."

"When you join BJP in Bengal, you also join the movement to free the state from the terror of Communists and Mamata didi," Shah said.

Referring to BJP's dismal

performance in the state in recent elections, he added: "Mamata didi is happy seeing a lower seat tally for BJP. She thinks BJP has slackened the pace in Bengal. Her happiness is not going to last long."

Earlier, opening a new passenger terminal at Petrapole, Shah said that people in Bengal were not getting benefits of Central schemes. "If voted to power, BJP will roll out all Central schemes in Bengal. MGNREGA workers would

No meeting with kin of RG Kar victim

The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape-murder victim's parents could not meet Shah on Sunday. Bengal BJP sources said meeting the parents was not in his itinerary. Earlier this week, the parents of the 31-year-old PGT intern sought an appointment with Shah.

get their pay. Aap ke achhe din dur nahin (good days are not far off)," he said.

Setting a target of enrolling 1 crore members in the next 20 days for his party colleagues, Shah said, "...BJP swept the polls in MP, Rajasthan and Odisha. Our govt was formed in Haryana for the third term, and I can assure BJP govt in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Our next big target is Bengal."

nised Bangla as one of the classical languages of India, fulfilling the dream of cultural icons like Jaidev, Mahakavi Chandidas, Rabindranath Tagore, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and Saratchandra Chattopadhyay. Mamata didi not even express gratitude to him for granting Bangla classical language status," Shah added.

Referring to the RG Kar Medical College rape-murder, the home minister said: "Women are being tortured across Bengal. Whether it is Sandeshkhali or RG Kar, women are not safe here..."

Reacting to Shah's allegations of infiltration across the border, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "Raising the infiltration bogey in Bengal, which Centre is supposed to stop, was akin to scoring a self goal." "If he (Shah) speaks on infiltration, he is presenting his own report card," Ghosh added.

Militants open fire, hurl bombs as fresh violence hits Manipur

Kangkan, Kalita @timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Fresh violence erupted Saturday night in Manipur's Imphal West and Bishnupur districts, with reports of suspected militants using sophisticated firearms and bombs in both attacks. No fatalities were reported.



Militants launched an attack around 7pm in Koutruk Ching Leikai village in Imphal West district, promoting retaliatory action from security forces stationed in the area. "The militants also triggered explosions in Koutruk," a security source said.

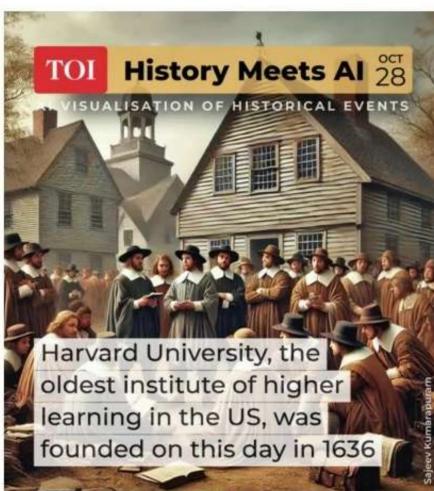
Adding to the tension, residents of nearby Meitei-populated villages situated 5km to 7km from Koutruk reported sightings of drones in the evening. "We saw drones and it created panic. The militants used drones to launch an aerial attack in Koutruk on Sept 1," a resident said.

Security agencies are on high alert over the use of drones in and around the area. Koutruk has remained one of the flashpoints since ethnic violence broke out in

Security agencies are on high alert over the use of drones

Manipur on May 3, 2023. The state's sectarian strife has claimed more than 225 lives and displaced around 60,000 people, creating a deep divide between Kuki-Zo tribal people and Meiteis. In the second attack, militants targeted Tronglaobi village in Bishnupur district, opening fire from Molngat and Molshang areas around 9pm.

Manipur police announced the arrest of two members of the banned People's Liberation Army (PLA) near the India-Myanmar border in Tengnoupur Sunday. The duo has been identified as Ningombam Priyo Singh and Saikhom Devjit Singh, both 21 years old.



Harvard University, the oldest institute of higher learning in the US, was founded on this day in 1636

Girl, 3, killed as boats collide in Assam

A three-year-old girl died in a boat collision in Assam's Dhubri district Saturday evening. Six persons were injured in the accident that took place in the Tipkai river and were hospitalized, reports Kangkan Kalita. They were said to be out of danger. "The child could not be located even as State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) conducted search operation until 1am Sunday. Her body was later found floating about 100m from the accident site," an official said. Several people also went missing, but were rescued by SDRF, with locals' help. Others managed to swim to the riverbank. One of the boats was reportedly carrying passengers to attend a wedding. It collided with two other boats that were jointly transporting a piece of heavy machinery. "The vessel with passengers tried to send signals but the two boats jointly carrying an excavator couldn't stop due to the weight," the official said.

India still leads ICC Test championship points table

Every side plays six Test series—3 at home, 3 away—in the tournament that ends coming June. India next visits Australia, a tough challenge. Win gets 100%, tie 50%, and draw 33.3% of 12 points at stake per engagement. Points are docked for slow over rate

Rank	Matches	Win	Lost	Draw	WTC Points	ICC % points
1 India	13	8	4	1	13	63
2 Australia	12	8	3	1	12	63
3 Sri Lanka	9	5	4	0	9	56
4 New Zealand	10	5	5	0	10	50
5 South Africa	7	3	3	1	7	48
6 England	19	9	9	1	19	41
7 Pakistan	10	4	6	0	10	33
8 Bangladesh	9	3	6	0	9	31
9 West Indies	9	1	6	2	9	19

PM's 'unity' call to mark 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Birsu Munda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat on Sunday said the 150th birth anniversary year of 'Iron Man of India' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will be celebrated from Oct 31 and that of iconic tribal leader Birsu Munda from Nov 15.



Modi said both Patel and Munda faced different challenges but their vision was that of 'unity of India'

"Both these great souls faced different challenges but their vision was the same, one that of 'unity of the country'," the PM said. He also spoke about his visit to Jharkhand's Ulihatu village, the birthplace of Birsu Munda, last year on Nov 15.

PM recalled how special events materialised when the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated. "From Times Square, New York to the smallest village in Africa, people across the world understood, re-discovered, and lived India's message of truth and non-violence," he said.

Car falls into HP gorge, 5 returning from wedding die

Kullu: Five men returning from a wedding were killed when their car plunged into a 300-metre gorge in Chauhara Valley of Himachal Pradesh's Mandi on Saturday night.

The bodies were spotted by a shepherd near Vardhan village on Sunday morning. Police and locals retrieved the bodies from the mangled remains of the car. Police said that the driver likely lost control of the vehicle at night.

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed grief and assured all possible assistance to the bereaved families. District authorities provided Rs 25,000 to each of the deceased's next of kin as immediate relief.

Festive rush triggers stampede at Bandra station, 10 injured

Manthan K Mehta, Somit Sen & Eshan Kalyanikar

Mumbai: Ten people were injured, two of them critically, in a stampede at Bandra Terminus around 2.45am Sunday when thousands of passengers headed to UP for Diwali and Chhath Puja tried to board the unreserved Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express.

Even as Western Railway has launched an inquiry into the stampede, Maha Vikas Aghadi called the incident a "govt failure" to ensure smooth transportation during the festival season.

While the train has a seating capacity of 2,037, an estimated 2,540 tickets were issued, creating heavy overcrowding on the platform. Government Railway Police sources said that another Gorakhpur-bound train, delayed by 16 hours, had led some unreserved passengers to linger on the platform, increasing crowd to 2,500-3,000 people.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-194 Date: 24.10.2024
E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through online (E-Tendering) for the following work.
Description of Work: Jhansi-Parana-Heavy repair to height gauge at RUB 1128/1, LHS-125, 152 and other locations in JHS- PRN section under ADEN/HQ- I/JHS sub-division.
Approx. Cost: ₹ 8132465.50 Earnest Money: ₹ 162700.00
Date of Closing Tender: 18.11.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
Date of completion / period from issue acceptance letter: 06 Months.
Note: (1) Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs. on 18.11.2024. (2) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in. 1868/24(A)
North central railways | @CPNCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-GSU-08-24 Date: 24.10.2024
E-Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ GSU/ Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through online (E-Tendering) for the following works.
Description of work: Provision of Dual Detection of Track circuit with axle counter on UP/DN main line from VGLU to BINA section of Jhansi division (17 stations).
Approx Cost: ₹ 192240010.29 Earnest Money: ₹ 1111200/-
Cost of Tender Form: Nil Opening of tender: 15.11.2024 Time 15:00
Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 18 Months
Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs. on 15.11.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in (JHANSI DIVISION-GATI SHAKTI, NORTH CENTRAL RLY) 1867/24(DG)
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SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Roshini Khatoon D/o Md. Shamim, R/O: 115, Mahesh Ka Makan, Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi, Age-13 Yrs 9 Months**, has been reported missing since 05.10.2024 from Sunlight Colony, Delhi vide, **DD No. 338/2024, Dated 24.10.2024, U/s 137(2) BNS**, registered at **Police Station Sunlight Colony, South-East Distt., New Delhi**. Her physical description is as under:
Sex: Female, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'0", Face: Long, Build: Medium, Hair: Long, Religion: Muslim, Wearing: Cocoa Brown Suit-Salwar and Pink colour Slippers on her feet.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing Girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing Girl, please inform to the following:
SHO, Police Station Sunlight Colony, South-east Distt., New Delhi Ph.: 8750870928, 9711753129
Website: <https://cbi.nic.in>
DP/14282/SE/2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 08/2024-25 Dated: 25.10.2024
E-Procurement Tender Notice
On behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, invites the E-procurement tender for following item.
Tender No.: 92246880B Qty.: 7580 Nos.
Brief Description: Rail Cutting Wheel Abrasive Disc as per RDSO Specification No.-TMSM/2, Rev. 01 Of 2020.
Tender opening date: 18.11.2024
Note: • The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website Le <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Please visit this website regularly for any changes/contingendum in the tender. No separate corrigendum will be published in the newspaper. 1878/24 (C)
North central railways | @CPNCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
E-tenders are invited by Chief Workshop Manager Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Jhansi from experienced or interested contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.
Open Tender No.: JHS-RCKN-M-FUR-24-25-08
Name of Work: Complete furnishing activities of AC & Non-AC Coaches during SS-II/SS-III schedules of LHB type of BG Coaches as per Scope of Work at Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Jhansi.
Cost of work: ₹ 2,50,85,119.06/- (Including 18% GST)
Time of completion: Twenty-Four Months | Bid Security: ₹ 2,75,400/-
Online tender closing date and time: 18.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.
Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website www.ireps.gov.in 1877/24 (MG)
North central railways | @CPNCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Annu Kumari @ Jyoti, D/o Nivender Tiwari, R/O: H.No. B-6/283, Ground Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, Delhi, Age-17 Yrs**, has been reported missing since 22.10.2024 at about 8.00 PM from her Residence vide, **FIR No. 394/24, U/s 137 (2) BNS, Dated 23.10.2024**, registered at **Police Station K.N. Katju Marg, Rohini Distt., Delhi**. Her physical description is as under:
Sex: Female, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'4", Wearing: Blue Plazzo, Maroon T-Shirt and Peach colour Slipper on her feet.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl, please inform to the following:
SHO, Police Station K.N. Katju Marg, Rohini Distt., Delhi Ph.: 8750870928, 97118881148
Website: <https://cbi.nic.in>
DP/14315/RD/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one Male (depicted in the photo) namely **Sarvesh Mani Tripathi S/o Umesh Mani, R/O: H.No. 712, Maruti Chowk, Ghitorni, New Delhi, Age-42 Yrs**, has been reported missing since 22.10.2024 at 9.30 AM. from his Residence vide, **DD No. 124A, Dated 25.10.2024**, registered at **Police Station Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi**. His physical description is as under:
Sex: Male, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'9", Wearing: Green Shirt, Light Green Pant.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing male, please inform to the following:
SHO, Police Station Vasant Kunj South New Delhi, Ph.: 7011154382
Website: <https://cbi.nic.in>
DP/14317/SW/2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 10820242025 Dated: 24.10.2024
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online open tenders (E-tender) as detailed below:-
E-Tender Notice No.: 10820242025-234 GEM/2024/B/8543786 Dated-24.10.2024
Name of Work: Housekeeping and operation of new officer's rest house (03 floor) in G+5 building at city side Prayagraj for 05 months during Kumbh Mela-2025
Approx Cost (In Rs.): Rs. 68,50,589.00 Earnest Money (In Rs.): Rs. 1,33,010.00
Date & Time of Closing of tender: 14.11.2024 at 20:30 hrs.
Completion Period: 05 Months | Nature of work: Any work of housekeeping or cleaning
Note: (1) For full details and submission of tenders, please see the website www.gem.gov.in.
Maha Kumbh 2025 Railway Toll Free No. 1800 4199 139 1870/24 (C)
North central railways | @CPNCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

उत्तर मध्य क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, प्रयागराज (संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
14, सी.एस.पी. सिंह मार्ग, प्रयागराज-211001
दूरभाष - 0532-2421955
e-mail: nczcc@rediffmail.com, website: www.nczcc.in
राष्ट्रीय शिल्प मेला-2024
आवश्यक सूचना
उत्तर मध्य क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, प्रयागराज द्वारा राष्ट्रीय शिल्प मेला-2024 के लिये पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के क्रम में सूचित किया जाता है कि राष्ट्रीय शिल्प मेले की परिवर्तित तिथि दिनांक 01 से 12 दिसम्बर, 2024 होगी। अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
निदेशक
उ.म.क्षे.सां.के., प्रयागराज

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (East),
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through kpp portal)
BWSSB invites Short term tender from registered Agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender
		EMD Amount
No. BWSSB/EIC/CE/AJCE/AJCE/E-HDCE(M)-HTA(E)/6512/2024-25	Date: 25.10.2024	
1	Tender for the work of providing and laying of 150mm and 100mm dia DI water supply line at 17th A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H main road and 1" 2" 3" 4" 5" 6" cross, 5th block Koramangala coming under KML-1 service station of AE/EE-5 sub division (CALL 2) (Action plan work)	Rs.392.68 Lakhs Rs.5.89 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/EIC/CE/AJCE/AJCE/E-HDCE(M)-HTA(E)/6513/2024-25	Date: 25.10.2024	
2	Tender for the work of providing, laying and linking of 900mm dia MS pipe line in Bannerughatta road along Hosur road to CLR in place of existing CI line coming under Johnson Market service station of AE/EE-1 sub division. (CALL 2) (Action plan work)	Rs.396.63 Lakhs Rs.5.95 Lakhs

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East)
The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 11.11.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. and the bids will be opened on 12.11.2024 after 16.00 hrs.
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/CP/2780/AKAR/2024-25

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female **Namely NISHA, W/o: Biru, R/O: Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi**. The body found dead on **Date: 23.10.2024**, at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard **DD No.: 86A, Dated: 23.10.2024** has been lodged at **Police Station, Sarita Vihar, Distt. South East, New Delhi**.
Identification of unidentified dead body of female is as under:
Sex: Female, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5'3" Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Light green color Suit.
If any one having any information or clue about this female deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.
SHO, PS Sarita Vihar Distt. South East, New Delhi Mob.: 8750870921, 9410009387
DP/14313/SE/2024

NATIONAL CREDIT GUARANTEE TRUSTEE COMPANY LIMITED
National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) is a wholly owned company of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on March 28, 2014 to act as a common trustee company for multiple credit guarantee funds.
NCGTC is looking to recruit suitable professionals for various positions (on contract basis).
Please visit the website www.ncgctc.in for further details. Addendum/ Corrigendum, if any, will be published on NCGTC website only. Candidates should refer the same before submission of final application. Last Date of Submission of Applications is November 15, 2024

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U48101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com
Office No-967
Tender Notice Date: 26/10/2024
Letter of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Kullhal Power Station, Kullhal, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
i. Tender No.13/UJVN/EE (M&G)/KPS/2024-25 "Polysulfide based epoxy resin (polypropy) protective coating on penstock, staylans along with cooling water line outer surface area at Kullhal Power House"
ii. Tender No. 14/UJVN/EE(M&G)/KPS/2024-25: "Making and Installation of M.S. stairs for EOT crane and M.S. platform of Unit B & C at Kullhal Power House."
Estimated cost : i. Rs.19,58,147/- GST Extra, ii. Rs. 8,90,000 /- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website: 29/10/2024 11:00Hrs
Last date for submission of tender: 18/11/2024 15:00Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
Executive Engineer (M&G) Kullhal
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Har Tyohaar ke sang Malabar

Govt dismisses reports of dip in MGNREGS enrolments

New Delhi: Dismissing reports that enrolment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is going down, rural development ministry Sunday said it is not possible to fix targets for total enrolment in the demand-driven scheme as the financial year is still going on.

"Since MGNREGS is a demand-driven scheme and current FY is still ongoing, hence, it is not possible to fix an exact target of person days generation. However, states/UTs can send proposals for labour budget revision as per the locally felt needs," the ministry said in a statement, adding, "The total person days generated between FY 2006-07 to FY 2013-14 were 1,660 crore, whereas the total person days between FY 2014-15 to FY 2024-25 has been 2,923 crore."

On direct benefit transfer (DBT) and Aadhaar seeding, the ministry said, "As on Oct 26, Aadhaar seeding has been done for 13.1 crore active workers, which is 99.3% of total active workers (13.18 crore)." **TNN**

BrahMos stirs interest in Asean, Gulf nations

Continued from P 1

Indian public and private sector firms are exporting a wide range of arms, ammunition and fuses to 100 countries, which also include some complete weapon systems and platforms like BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Dornier-228 aircraft, artillery guns, radars, Akash missiles, Pina-ka rockets, and armoured vehicles, sources added. Exports to the US, however, mainly consist of sub-systems and components, which include global defence majors like Boeing and Lockheed Martin sourcing fuselage, wings and other parts of aircraft and helicopters from India. Tata Boeing Aerospace venture in Hyderabad is making fuselage and secondary structures for Apache choppers.

"France, in turn, is importing a lot of software and electronic equipment," a source said. The former Soviet Republic of Armenia, on its part, has inked a flurry



Armenia is 1st foreign customer for Akash air defence missiles

of deals with India over the last four years for import of 'finished products' like missiles, artillery guns, rocket systems, weapon-locating radars, bullet-proof vests, and night-vision equipment as well as a wide variety of ammunition and artillery shells. Some of these deals were inked even during Armenia's clash with Azerbaijan — which has close ties with Turkey and Pakistan — over Nagorno-Karabakh, as reported by TOI earlier.

Armenia is first foreign customer for the indigenously-developed Akash air defence missiles, which have an interception range

of 25km, while other countries like Brazil are even keen on co-production and co-development of advanced versions of the system.

Similarly, after India clinched the \$375-million contract in Jan 2022 for the export of three BrahMos anti-ship coastal missile batteries to Philippines, other Asean countries as well as some Gulf nations are increasingly showing interest in acquiring the precision-strike missiles that India has co-developed with Russia. India, of course, continues to remain in the strategically-vulnerable position of being the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 9.8% of the total global imports in the 2019-2023 time-frame.

The country, however, is now progressively expanding its domestic defence-industrial base (DIB) and banning import of some weapon systems under the drive for 'Aatmanirbharta' or 'Make in India', while aggressively pushing arms exports.

Stalin son's rare Diwali wishes draw BJP's 'Narakasura' jibe

Chennai: In a rare departure from DMK's traditions, Tamil Nadu deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin has extended Diwali greetings to those "who have faith," remarks that drew sarcastic response from opposition BJP.

BJP has been targeting DMK for not wishing people on Hindu festivals, including Diwali and Vinayaka Chaturthi. DMK members including its late president and former CM M Karunanidhi had not greeted people, in line with their rationalistic beliefs.

However, at a party event Saturday, while extending his greetings to supporters for the party's platinum jubilee celebrations, Udhayanidhi said: "I extend my greetings on our (DMK) platinum jubilee celebrations: Deepa oli thirunaval greetings to those having belief and celebrating it," he said.

TN BJP's Narayanan Thirupathi took a swipe at Udhayanidhi. In a post on X, he referred to the deputy CM's comments and said, "for those who don't have belief, greetings to live like Narakasura." **PTI**

Govt may face biggest dilemma in picking new chief of Sebi

Continued from P 1

Das, an ex-civil servant, was given a three-year term in Dec 2018 after Urjit Patel's sudden resignation following a bitter tussle with govt. Das was given a second term three years ago and is widely seen to have managed the financial sector well and has had a smooth relationship with Centre, something his two predecessors could not manage.

A month after RBI appointment, govt will be faced with the same question on whether to continue with chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran. Given that the budget exercise kicks off in next few weeks, govt may decide earlier if its top economist is likely to get a fresh term. The CEA authors the Economic Survey along with his colleagues in finance ministry's economic division.

The fourth job, that of Sebi chief, is likely to pose the biggest dilemma for the govt

A month after appointment of new RBI governor, govt will be faced with the question on whether to continue with chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran

given the controversy around Madhabi Puri Buch, the first woman and the first from the private sector to head the regulatory agency. Puri Buch has faced allegations of impropriety and conflict of interest, charges she has denied, amid chatter in govt over how civil servants are best suited to take up such regulatory assignments.

On March 1, 2022, the former banker was named Sebi chief for three years and is eligible for a fresh term.

At least three of her predecessors have had three-year stints.

2 arrested for Mishra's murder in Bagraich, 2 others for arson

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh police Sunday arrested four persons in connection with violence that broke out in Maharajganj area of Bagraich during Durga idol immersion on Oct 13. Two were arrested for murder of Ram Gopal Mishra, and two others were held for arson and vandalism that occurred after Mishra was shot.

Police said a review of CCTV camera footage and intelligence gathering showed accused Maruf and Nankau were on the rooftop from where Sarfaraz, allegedly opened fire at Mishra. Police detained the two near a bridge. Sarfaraz, his brother Talim, and three others, were arrested on Oct 17.

In the second case, Sushil Kumar Dwivedi & Mannu were held for indulging in arson and vandalism on Oct 14. Police said they set fire vehicles, house and looted homes across Maharajganj, Maheshpurwa, Jot Chandpara and Parsohana. So far, police have arrested 100 people and lodged 15 FIRs in this connection. **TNN**

Trapped in 30-hr 'digital arrest', Hyd techie saved as call drops abruptly

Pinto, Deepak
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: A 44-year-old software professional from Hyderabad narrowly escaped from the clutches of cyber criminals Sunday, albeit after a 30-hour-long digital arrest. The ordeal that started Friday night saw the victim ride 15km from his home, at an ungodly hour, and check into a lodge — all the while being on video call with the perpetrators. It ended Sunday when the victim's call abruptly dropped, and he managed to reach out to cyber crime cops for help.

Initially, the IT professional received a series of suspicious text messages, which he ignored as spam. The torment began Saturday, when the victim received a call from the fraudsters — first posing as FedEx courier agents and then as Mumbai police officials —

Man held in UP for ₹3cr 'digital arrest' con

Uttarakhand STF and state cyber police arrested a 27-year-old man from Bahraich, UP, in a joint operation Sunday for allegedly defrauding a man of Rs 3 crore by placing him under "digital arrest" at the latter's house in Dehradun's Rajpur area, reports Kalyan Das. Accused Manoj Kumar was arrested during probe into a fraud case registered in May. Victim had alleged that Kumar called him on WhatsApp on May 20, claiming that security agencies had seized a parcel in his name containing drugs and passports. Posing as an officer of Greater Mumbai police, Kumar threatened to book him in a money laundering and drug trafficking case and forced him to transfer the amount to clear his name. Over the next two days, Kumar put the man in a "digital arrest" and maintained constant contact with him through WhatsApp video and voice calls. Kumar was tracked down using his phone numbers and bank account information.

who said his Aadhaar number was linked to a money laundering case. This time, the victim believed it to be genuine.

The fraudsters forced him to get on a WhatsApp video call and stay on it till his account was verified. They instructed him to isolate himself from his family. The victim was on the video call even while riding to

a lodge in Ameerpet as the scammers threatened him with arrest & legal trouble for his family, if he didn't obey.

This continued till Sunday morning. When the victim's call suddenly dropped at this hour, he managed to call Hyderabad cyber crime helpline, where cops realised that he had been conned.

PM: Preserve evidence by recording fraud calls

Continued from P 1

However, PM Narendra Modi said, awareness is essential in protecting oneself from fraudsters. "If you get a call, stop... don't panic, stay calm, don't take any hasty steps, don't give away your personal information to anyone; if possible, take a screenshot and record it for sure. No govt agency threatens you on the phone like this, neither inquires nor demands money on a video call like this," Modi said.



The PM urged victims to dial national cyber helpline 1930 and report such incidents on cybercrime.gov.in. He urged people to inform family and police, and preserve evidence by recording the fraud call. During his broadcast, he also shared a

conversation between a victim and a fraudster to highlight the 'digital arrest' scam. "The fraudsters of digital arrest phone calls, at times impersonate as police, CBI, narcotics, at times RBI... using such various labels, they converse as fake officers with a lot of confidence. Many listeners of 'Mann Ki Baat' have wished that we must discuss that," Modi said.

He reiterated that there was no system like digital arrest in the law and this was just a fraud, deceit and a lie. The gang of criminals and those who do this are enemies of society, Modi said. He said the effort for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' was making strides in every sector, noting that the country was exporting its defence products to over 85 countries now.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER- 2nd Call (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB, invites item rate e-Tenders in Two Stage Tender system from eligible contractors through KPP Portal for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender
		EMD
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/6523/2024-25 Date: 25.10.2024		
1)	Providing and laying of various dia DI feeder main distribution pipeline to replace the existing old leaky mains to water Remco layout DMA coming under Hosahalli service station of AEEW-1-1 sub division.	Rs. 199.03 Lakhs Rs. 2.99 Lakhs
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/6517/2024-25 Date: 25.10.2024		
2)	Providing and laying various dia DI Water supply lines in lieu of existing CI lines in BCC layout & Gangonahalli layout DMA (part-1) coming under Chandra Layout Service Station, area of AEEW-1-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 159.97 Lakhs Rs. 2.40 Lakhs
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/6516/2024-25 Date: 25.10.2024		
3)	Providing and laying various dia Water supply lines in lieu of existing DI lines in Cauverypura, coming under Vijayanagar OHT Service Station, area of AEEW-1-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 142.70 Lakhs Rs. 2.15 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **13.11.2024 upto 16.00 hrs.** The bids will be opened on: **14.11.2024 after 17.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (West)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2788/Zen/2024-25

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CONTRAPUNTO

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies

- GROUCHO MARX

West Asia & Beyond

Call it the butterfly effect on US elections - Israel strikes Iran, Musk-Putin talks & fears of oil price shocks

Tuesday week is the US presidential election. Three events over the weekend unrelated to elections may still impact voting as the Trump-Harris fight comes down to the wire. First, as expected, Israel targeted Iran's military infra. What was unusual is Israel claimed the hits, making its covert war with Iran turn overt, returning West Asia's volatility to the centre of conversation. This can impact turnout in a swing state like Michigan - home to the largest numbers of Palestinian- and Lebanese-Americans in US, who helped Biden win in 2020. But, since Oct 7 last year, there has been open discontent with Democrats' support for Israel, and Biden's failure to negotiate a ceasefire. Saturday's strike may keep anti-Trump voters home, because the weekend sharpened the anti-Harris feels too.

The second event is what didn't happen. There's alarm over escalation of conflict, but global oil prices didn't react though prices soared 9-10% after Iran had sent missiles to Israel. The new reality is US and Saudi have capacity enough to cover shortfalls from Iran's absence in the oil market. Beijing buys 90% of Iran's oil, which is around 15% of China's needs, and imports the rest from Russia, Saudi etc. But for American voters, fear of global oil price shocks impacting domestic gas prices (read inflation) is a big deal days ahead of polling.

It's said the storyline of conflicts in West Asia is 'continuity'. Saturday's strike was in tune, with Tehran playing down damage, and Tel Aviv stopping after three rounds of 'targeted, precise' attacks that spared oil/nuclear facilities - as demanded by US. Washington's control over pace of West Asia conflicts is near-absolute. It's largely true even for the Russia-Ukraine war. Take, for instance, Trump's promise to stop both wars if he's elected, regardless of his ability to do so. Fact is, next phase of both wars will depend on who takes White House.

Which brings one to the third event - WSJ's potentially explosive report of Trump's vociferous supporter Musk being in frequent contact with Putin. The report triggered a demand for an investigation from Nasa chief - Musk's SpaceX has multibillion-dollar US gov contracts - and hot denials from Kremlin. That Russia interfered in US's 2016 presidential polls to sway the election outcome is established. Musk-Putin tangos little impact the Trump voter, but can bother the non-Trump Republican. And Harris's campaign won't shy from a last-ditch effort to make something of it, especially since it's looking like who stays home might decide the vote.

Blowing In The Wind

Delhi's toxic air is killing us softly with its smog. Netas give a damn

Sunday's AQI touched 352, but Delhiites don't need to know the number - from their burning eyes, irritable throat, dry cough, wheezing, breathlessness, over 15% rise in cases of asthma, COPD and pneumonia as early as Sep, they can tell air's a killer. It is nothing new, but what doesn't cease to amaze, year after year, is the state's stilted response to air pollution.

Listing out what needs done is flogging a dead horse. Yet the state will slip into the same old ritual, flog ineffective plans that environmentalists have long said are either ineffective or have limited scope. Measures that should be year-round, such as ban on open burning and suppressing dust on roads and construction sites, and traffic management, are ignored till AQI hits a high note and All Scramble. Then courts All Rise, wagging a finger and scolding Delhi's neighbours on non-compliance, who in turn, will move some, but farm stubble, it will burn. There is no excuse for the collective failure of govts and authorities in NCR. Problem is, govts are acting like extensions of party offices - squawking at cross purposes with little commitment to their office, and near zero investment in public welfare.

Air pollution cripples productivity. An NCAER study in 2023 on economic costs of Delhi's air pollution calculated annual productivity loss to be ₹31.3bn and health expenditure at ₹4.1bn. Other studies have measured loss of life expectancy by 6.2 years for Delhi's residents. Improved public transport is the one thing entirely in Delhi gov't/LG's control. But nothing has been done to fix it. Massive surge in PM2.5 from vehicular pollution as traffic volumes explode ahead of Diwali is deliberately unseen. How to tackle Delhi's scourge? Close your eyes. Wait till it goes away some.

The safety net

It's great...and out of reach of most Indians

Anupam Srivastava



The seller greeted me warmly and welcomed me into his office. I had told him I was on the verge of turning sixty, the time in one's life when a productive asset metamorphosises overnight into a Kafkaesque creature, bearing no semblance to one's previous self.

Without social security, wealth, or medical cover, this phase of one's life is fraught with anxiety about the future for most. I needed a medical cover, a safety net to support me if I fell ill, so that my family wouldn't bear the "catastrophic expenditure" which the National Health Policy acknowledges as a major contributor to poverty.

Soothing my frayed nerves, the seller pointed out a safety net in the display window. "That's for you, it provides medical cover of ₹5L, all paid by gov't," he said, smiling.

I was transported to a state of bliss. It is human not to want to die early and prolong one's life with medical treatment when one needs it. I immediately reached out for the net, but somehow could not get to it. He explained patiently, "You will see it at a distance, always above you, until you turn seventy. After that, it will find its place below you."

Crestfallen, I pleaded that wouldn't work for most Indians as on an average Indians are expected to live less than seventy years. At sixty, their incomes dwindle, or altogether vanish. World Bank estimates there are 93m people in the 60-69 age group, and only 45m in the 70-80 age group. How many would cross over to the other side?

"You know how much it'll cost to cover people above sixty?" thundered the seller. Yes, but would that be too much for the world's fifth largest economy, which habitually spends on non-essentials? The seller looked upset. There was already a precedent, I argued. Govt-supported cover for its employees, the judiciary, and elected representatives was extremely generous. Why couldn't everyone have the same cover, like it was in most of Europe and so many other countries?

By this time, more people had entered the shop. The seller became occupied with them, showing them other exciting items. I withdrew, to find the safety net I would look at for the next ten years, if I lived that long.

Zelensky's New Peace Formula

It includes Global South, particularly India. Western military aid can defend Ukraine but not end the war. Here's Kyiv's new hybrid approach

Rudroneel Ghosh@timesofindia.com



Reading his TOI interview closely, it was clear how Zelensky's thinking about how to end the war is evolving.

First, it appears he has accepted that while he may need US and his Western partners to defend against Russian attacks, the war cannot be ended without the support of Global South nations. He alluded to this during the interview when he accepted that sanctions against Russia have not functioned fully. In other words, Russia has been able to evade the impact of sanctions through bilateral trade with certain countries.

The problem, as Zelensky sees it, is that these countries, while voicing support for ending the war, are carrying out their trade with Russia on economic self-interest. They cite the need for dialogue to avoid taking a position on the war. Hence, Zelensky's strategy now seems to be twofold. Call out neutrality as hidden support for Russia, and compel those who say they want to help bring peace, to walk the talk.

In the process, Zelensky is laying down parameters for dialogue to end the war. Such dialogue should stem from or closely track Ukraine's Peace Formula and Peace Summit joint communique. Talks could also be on specific points of the formula or communique, such as the return of forcibly deported Ukrainian children. This way, Zelensky feels, Ukraine can control the dialogue to its advantage.

Second, Zelensky clearly knows getting into peace negotiations right now is not to Ukraine's advantage. Despite the Kursk operation, Kyiv hasn't been able to completely halt the Russian onslaught. This is due to a combination of delayed military supplies to Ukraine from US, and plain old numerical advantage Russians have. Moscow can afford to throw bodies into the battlefield, Ukraine can't. Therefore, as Zelensky says in the interview, Ukraine has to

save its people by giving up land. Meanwhile, Putin, given his position in the Russian political system, can tolerate giving up people for land. And land is also what gives him a potential off-ramp to end the war.

To counter this disadvantage, Zelensky now has a 'Victory Plan' that includes the West offering - not granting - Nato membership to Ukraine and giving it a long-range weapons package as a deterrence against Russia. Zelensky wants it in writing that

But if he can successfully pitch Ukraine's value in a post-war European security architecture, Zelensky feels he'll have greater bargaining power at the eventual negotiating table with Russia. The last thing he wants is a frozen conflict that'll allow Moscow to restart the conflict some years down the road. European and Nato security guarantees are the best way to thwart Russia's "nefarious" designs in future.

And finally, Zelensky has come to appreciate India's strategic autonomy. Still frustrated about India-Russia defence and oil trade, he nevertheless senses New Delhi at this point may have more elbow room than Beijing to consider Ukraine's point of view. There's little strategic daylight between Beijing and Moscow. New Delhi, on the other hand, can toggle between Brics and Quad. This is why he is looking at opening a humanitarian angle for New Delhi's buy-in through the issue of the return of Ukrainian children.

Modi could ask Putin to find and return Ukrainian children to Kyiv. This'll also allow Putin to follow through voluntarily. Putin could also stick to the argument that these children were relocated to protect them from the war. It would embarrass International Criminal Court, sure, but Ukraine would get its children back, Modi, a diplomatic win, and Putin, some credit.

This in turn would also be a litmus test for India in terms of how far it's willing to go to facilitate dialogue. And should there be progress on returning the children, other parleys to end the war could follow.

Zelensky knows he needs to come to the negotiating table to end the war. He knows military strength on the battlefield alone won't stop Russia. He needs a hybrid strategy that combines deterrence of Russia on the frontline and talks with Global South nations to be in a strong negotiating position. And with US elections too close to call, he is hedging his bets. Zelensky's showing a willingness to be flexible.



Chad Crowe (USA)

Method In Tel Aviv's Aggression

Israel's strike on Iran means it has had its revenge without crossing the red line set by US. Iran's been prevented from entering into direct conflict with Israel

Aydin Sezer



With limited strikes against Iran on Saturday, Israel once again implemented its so-called strategy of 'preventive war' outside its territory. Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen are the battle zone for Israel to execute this strategy.

Almost three weeks have passed since Iran's attack on Israel. Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian had said at the time, "Region's security means security of all Muslims. We don't want a war or massacre. I've emphasised our demand for security and peace. No country and no nation can prosper in the midst of war. We've been left with no choice but to respond. If Israel decides to retaliate, it'll face an even stronger response."

Pezeshkian has often repeated, "Our patience doesn't mean we're afraid." Undoubtedly, a message to the Iranian public, but also a call to build a front within the Islamic world. The new Iranian leadership is dealing with serious economic challenges but doesn't want to remain a bystander to the escalating developments in the region.

But it simply doesn't have the financial resources to maintain influence on the region. Balance between Iran's economic capacity and its foreign policy objectives is out of whack, and if conflict continues, this gap will only widen, with consequences for the current Iranian leadership's future itself.

Three developments help better understand the region, or predict developments, in reality largely unpredictable.

- While US's ceasefire plan was being negotiated, Hamas's Ismail Haniyeh, who was supportive of the ceasefire, was killed in Tehran.

- On the plan falling through, Pezeshkian later said, "We were deceived by the promise of a ceasefire by American and European leaders. It was to be in

exchange for not responding to Haniyeh's assassination." Iran had been stalled.

- Lebanese foreign minister also told CNN Hezbollah's Nasrallah and Lebanon had agreed to a ceasefire with Israel and had communicated the same to Israeli gov't, and to US and France, with Netanyahu accepting the proposal. Immediately after this agreement, Israel killed Nasrallah.

So, what really happened after Iran's attack three weeks ago? We know Netanyahu, who has the support

with US. Washington has all along cautioned Israel against striking Iran's nuclear facilities or oil infra. Indeed, Israel's revenge strikes were precisely as authorised by US - against limited military targets.

Israel kept the promise it made to US of "proportionate response", with no energy or nuclear facilities among the targets. US said it knew of Israel's plan - Tel Aviv had informed Washington.

Iran's statements were as expected. It said that its air defence systems successfully tracked and countered Israel's "aggression" but that there was some limited damage. Israel, again as expected, warned Iran that Tel Aviv would be "forced to respond" if Tehran launched fresh escalation. It was all perfectly executed.

A key priority for US was to eliminate the risk of Iran falling into Netanyahu's trap of getting forced into a direct conflict with US military in the region. In this, US succeeded. The attack was deemed inadequate by hardliners in Israel, but Israel got to strike Iran.

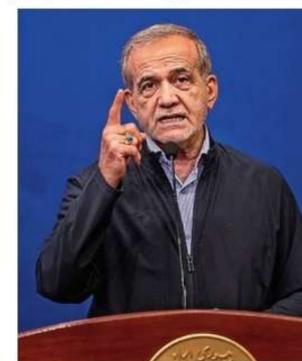
Point is, there's a massive power gap between Iran and Israel. The West is all-in for Israel, while Iran has no serious supporter. To what extent Iran can trust Russia is debatable given Moscow's relations with Israel - more than a million Russian citizens live in Israel today.

It's possible to see the scope and restraint of Saturday's attack as a success of the Biden administration. If a more comprehensive attack had been carried out, Iran's immediate response could completely change the electoral climate in US. Netanyahu's influence on the US election process needs no repetition.

In fact, Israel knows and wants to prove to its allies, especially US, that Iran is not as powerful as it's perceived to be, and that fighting organisations it supports won't lead to frightening doomsday scenarios.

Israel and its allies are exploring the possibilities of changing the region's dynamics, but one must await the results of US elections to see what shape the process will take.

The writer is a former diplomat



not only of US and UK but of all Western countries, is openly coddled. After Iran's strikes, even German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called on Hezbollah and Iran to "stop their attacks on Israel", saying Tehran was "setting the whole region on fire".

This was hardly the statement of an independent or impartial observer. Biden spoke with G7 to discuss Iran's unacceptable attack on Israel and to coordinate the response, including new sanctions.

Tehran's response was swift: "The only way to prevent Israel's 'atrocities' is to attack American targets in the region; US isn't capable of going to war with Iran."

For nearly three weeks, Israel had been working on the plan for Saturday's attack, including negotiations

Calvin & Hobbes



If You Are Lonely, It's A Sign You Are Ready

James Anderson

We are never truly alone. Loneliness is perplexing and painful, but essentially it is an illusion, a mask created by the surface consciousness. Losing a 'soulmate' is unbearable if one doesn't recognise the immortal spirit residing in all. This truth is our first step away from loneliness. It is illusory because, innately, we are divine and one with everything.

If you are lonely, you stand on a bridge between two worlds: one of lack, the other plenitude. The lack creates a vacuum which will be assuaged if one adopts a conscious approach. Because of this, loneliness offers an ideal platform for the spiritual life. The Mother said: "Those who feel lonely in the world are ready for union with the Divine." Somehow, the emptiness has to be filled. Aloneness is generally regarded as

something to be avoided. It is radical to consider it an opportunity. When alone, many will search for props. Generally, these episodes are used unwisely. We indulge our senses. We drink or eat too much. We interact on social media and generate virtual relationships to blot out the void. We switch on the television to create new images and noises. The distraction is viewed as company: anything to expunge the nightmare. Anything but this silence. The prospect of sacrificing such accessories is considered unbearable.

The yearning for company is embedded in us the moment we are born. Then, gradually, we get with the social fabric and become magnets for every conditioning, so much so, we might interpret aloneness as a sign of inferiority. The herd mentality is what

we must swim against. Isolation leads to further morbidities and creates self-pity, a sign of misplaced self-love. Instead of loving for the sake of loving, we erect so many conditions. We identify the ego as ourselves. We must continuously step back and disengage from the flux in order to discover our Inner Friend and this is when we begin to expand and grow. Seize this vibration if it visits you and offer it to the Light.

In Integral Yoga, every knot is an opportunity for growth. We absorb a simple truth: do not expect anything from anyone. Otherwise, you'll wind up hurt. Attachment only festers loneliness. It comes when we slide onto the surface, far away from our 'true home'. We can only depend on what lies inside. The surface consciousness cannot process aloneness. There is outer and inner loneliness.

With outer, one constantly erects scaffolding to keep one's life from falling apart. It is all the ego can manage - makeshift reactions and piecemeal solutions. It is a common condition. It requires catastrophe to truly transform this affliction because it is only a reversal of awareness that will transform. Inner loneliness is 'direr'. It may be precipitated by intense grieving, bereavement or loss. The being craves affection and love. The past is often idealised and there is an aching chasm inside the heart. One might feel an intense ache and not know why. There is a remedy. Sri Aurobindo states: "The inner loneliness can only be cured by the inner experience of union with the Divine; no human association can fill the void." So, if you are in this state, take this as a sign that you are ready! It is now time to make your life divine.

The writer is coordinating editor of NAMAHA, the Journal of Integral Health

Sacredspace



If the many and the One be indeed the same Reality, then it is not all modes of worship alone, but equally all modes of work...all modes of creation, which are paths of realisation. No distinction, henceforth, between sacred and secular.

Sister Nivedita



THE SPEAKING TREE



ETHIOPIAN YOMIF KEJELCHA BREAKS MEN'S HALF-MARATHON WORLD RECORD BY 1 SECOND



CHINA'S ZHENG QINWEN BEATS SOFIA KENIN TO CLAIM PAN PACIFIC OPEN TENNIS TITLE

A SOBERING LOSS & SOME HARD LESSONS

India's Failures In Bengaluru And Pune Were A Result Of Failing To Understand The Grammar Of Test Match Batting

Amit.Karmarkar@timesofindia.com

Pune: When Rohit Sharma said he doesn't want to be too critical of his players after seeing India's invincibility at home end against New Zealand after 12 years and 18 series in Pune on Saturday, he may have had a point.

A close look of this Test team in all conditions reveals a few serious shortcomings. Crucially, the commitment of the players and the stars to domestic multi-day cricket must be questioned.

It starts with the batters appearing in no position to either hone or polish their defensive techniques or increase their ability to bat for long periods of time. Not just because they play a very high percentage of white-ball cricket where explosiveness is rewarded more than balance, technique and patience, the busy international calendar and star culture also means they hardly get to play domestic first-class cricket.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have not played a first-class game this season. All other pure batters in the team picked for the Test series against NZ, had played at least a game — either in the Duleep Trophy or Ranji Trophy.

The reason behind Rohit and Virat not playing any first-class game, be it either citing fitness worries or workload management, could be genuine and may have been recommended too by the medical team and team management. But not spending time in the middle, under the sun and in competitive environment can lead to failures. The runs, or lack of runs, in domestic cricket can help a player and his team to understand where he stands in terms of form and match-readiness.

When Washington Sundar made a dramatic Test comeback on the first day of the Pune game, all experts were united in their opinion: He was ready after playing against Delhi only a few days ago.

Besides Sundar, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also played a domestic First-Class game despite his chronic groin issue. And so did Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan, KL

Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Akash Deep, Dhruv Jurel and Axar Patel.

Like Rohit and Virat, even Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohd Siraj did not play a domestic First-Class game before the Bangladesh series or before the first Test against NZ in Bengaluru.

Rohit himself confessed that his reading of the pitch on the first day in Bengaluru was incorrect. The Pune pitch seemed to have slightly stumped him too as he took pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep out of the game in the second innings. The talk of playing five specialist bowlers in Indian conditions never rang so hollow.

The Indian skipper with the hitherto Midas touch felt that there have been only two batting collapses, and the team should be allowed concessions after doing so well over the years at home.

It would be good to remember that India were all out for 145 (vs England, Ahmedabad 2021) and 109 & 163 (vs Australia, Indore 2023) too. While a completely doctored pitch ensured that the Ahmedabad game got over within two days, the crushing Indore defeat had seen Rohit winning the toss and opting to bat first.

When India won the 2020-21 Test series in Australia, Rohit Sharma missed the first two Tests and KL Rahul came back after missing the first Test due to injury. Virat too played just the Adelaide Test (all out 36); the game India lost.

Now, the troika is expected to provide calming influence on India's batting Down Under which seems a tall ask. Especially going by the form and manner of dismissals of Rohit and Virat in the longest form of the game.

To their credit, Rohit or coach Gautam Gambhir have not given the impression that they have not accepted the team's shortcomings — patience, technique, handling pressure and failure to bat out sessions consistently. Hence there is still optimism — for both the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Down Under and WTC qualification.

Yashasvi Jaiswal played a similar role in Pune with an attacking 77. But Rohit Sharma (8), Virat Kohli (17) and Rishabh Pant (0) failed to essay the kind of roles played by Gautam Gambhir (66*), Sachin Tendulkar (103*) and Yuvraj (85*) from the class of 2008.



LOOK, RUNS OVER THERE: Lack of adequate match practice in red-ball cricket has hurt Indian batting stalwarts, skipper Rohit Sharma (right) and ex-skipper Virat Kohli

SHORT TESTS A NORM

It was the third Test at the Gahunje stadium and none have gone into the fifth day. India added five more new Test centres, besides Pune, in recent years. They are Rajkot, Indore, Ranchi, Visakhapatnam and Dharamshala. These other five

centres have hosted a combined 14 Tests with three lasting five days, seven four days and four three days. So, Tests ending early is an overall norm. The preceding Test in Bengaluru also lasted only four days with the first day being washed out. TNN

CLASS OF 2008

India had scored 387-4 for their most remarkable successful Test chase in recent years against England in Chennai in 2008. The target of 359 in Pune was similar. Virender Sehwag (83) had given India a blazing start in Chennai.

SHASTRI BACKS GAMBHIR AFTER SERIES DEFEAT TO NZ

Pune: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri came out in support of the current Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir after the side conceded the ongoing Test series to New Zealand. India, captained by Rohit Sharma, marking their first Test series loss at home in 12 years. Shastri explained that since Gautam Gambhir is in the early phase of his coaching stint.

Indian batters collapsed against the Kiwi spin attack led by Mitchell Santner, who took 13 wickets as New Zealand defeated India by 113 runs to secure the series 2-0 with a game to go. "New Zealand have beaten them (India) handsomely in both the Test matches. It's food for thought (on series loss). He (Gambhir) has just taken over the job. It is never easy being coach of a team that has such a big following. It is still early days in his career as a coach. But he'll soon learn," Shastri said on commentary during the second Test in Pune. ANI

SANTNER EXPOSED INDIAN BATTERS' TECHNIQUES: DOULL

Pune: Former New Zealand pacer Simon Doull attributed India's shocking series defeat to their batsmen's inadequacies against spin bowling but he was not ready to write off underwhelming star batter Virat Kohli.

"There's a misconception that Indian players are better players of spin. I think they've had better spinners and they've been able to expose the opposition batters. But in this Test (at Pune), their batters were exposed a little bit by a very, very good performance from Mitchell Santner," Doull told PTI Videos.

"I think you get used to playing on such good wickets. And when it does turn, techniques get exposed. For a long time, when India played on turning surfaces, they still had the best spinners in the world in Jadeja and Ashwin. So, they've been able to undo other sides. In this Test, they were undone by a New Zealand side that, with all due respect, is not a world-class spin attack," he added. PTI

TURNERS HAVE AFFECTED IND BATTERS' CONFIDENCE: BHAIJI

New Delhi: India's star batters have lost a lot of confidence over the years by playing on rank turners, feels former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

"If you have had great record at home for so long and if you lose, obviously there will be chatter. It was a tailor-made condition for spinners where ball was supposed to turn from first hour," Harbhajan told PTI in an interaction. The man who played in over 100 Tests stressed the reasons for the batting woes.

"Look at the trend during last decades. We are playing mostly on turners through the last decade with the hope that we will win the toss, score 300 and control the game," he added.

"Our batters have lost a lot of confidence playing on these tracks. The biggest example is Ajinkya Rahane, a fine player. His career suffered because of these kind of surfaces," Harbhajan said. PTI

PERFORMANCE OF LEFT-ARM SPINNERS VS INDIA IN TESTS IN THE LAST TWO DECADES

Bowler	For	Span	T	Wkts	Ave	Best inns	Best match	5WI	10WM	SR
Monty Panesar	Eng	2006-12	11	36	40.94	6/81	11/210	2	1	85.1
Rangana Herath	SL	2009-17	11	33	48.06	7/48	7/115	2	0	88.8
Shakib Al Hasan	Ban	2007-24	10	25	40.88	5/62	7/174	1	0	62.6
Mitchell Santner	NZ	2006-24	4	23	29.60	7/53	13/157	2	1	53.1
Paul Harris	SA	2007-11	9	22	51.86	4/129	5/179	0	0	106.9
Tom Hartley	Eng	2024	5	22	36.13	7/62	9/193	1	0	68.3
Jack Leach	Eng	2021-24	6	21	33.90	4/54	6/178	0	0	62.2
Ajaz Patel	NZ	2020-24	5	21	28.42	10/119	14/225	1	1	47.8
Daniel Vettori	NZ	2009-10	6	21	41.80	5/135	6/199	1	0	96.3
Steve O'Keefe	Aus	2017-17	4	19	23.26	6/35	12/70	2	1	56.5

—Rajesh Kumar

Panesar to Santner, India's woes vs left-arm spin remain

Mitchell Santner's 13-wicket haul in the Pune Test is not the only time that a left-arm spinner has troubled India. TOI highlights some other instances post 2010.

MONTY PANESAR (ENG: 5-129, 6-81 AT MUMBAI, 2012)

After beating England at Ahmedabad earlier, India were confident of turning over their rivals on the red dirt of Wankhede. Kevin Pietersen's stunning 186 helped England reply to India's 327 with a robust 413. Monty Panesar, who had toiled for 47 overs for his five-for in the first innings (which included a brute to dismiss Sachin Tendulkar bowled), found the pitch much more to his liking in the second dig. He got Tendulkar again with an arm ball, this time lbw and devoured the rest of the batters with his quickish deliveries to help Alastair Cook's side record a famous 10-wicket thumping.



TOM HARTLEY (ENG: 7-62 AT HYDERABAD, 2024)

England had no business competing in this Test after India had rattled up 436 in reply to England's 246. At 5-163, and a deficit of 27, defeat, possibly by an innings loomed large. But Ollie Pope produced an innings for the ages like Pietersen had in Mumbai to score 196 and give India a nervy chase of 231 on a crumbling pitch. Cashing in on India's diffidence and lack of technique, Hartley, on debut, exploited the conditions perfectly and bowled England to a famous win by 28 runs in fading light.

MATT KUHNEMANN (AUS: 5-16 AT INDORE, 2023)

A late venue swap from Dharamshala to Indore didn't aid pitch preparation as the venue, known for belters dished out a bald, dry track. India won the toss and batted, but Matthew Kuhnemann bowled in the right areas to exploit the roughness in the surface to have batters stumped or caught at slip. With dream figures of 5-16, India could manage just 109 in 33.2 overs. Nathan Lyon produced an 8-for in the second dig as Australia won by nine wickets.

AJAZ PATEL (NZ: 10-119, 4-106 AT MUMBAI, 2021)

Red soil pitch in Mumbai with bounce is a left-arm spinner's delight. Murali Kartik, Nilesh Kulkarni, Ankeet Chavan, Ravi Shastri, have run through sides in domestic cricket. Ajaz Patel, a Mumbai-born Kiwi found the pitch to his liking too as he got the turn to produce the edges and got the ball to skid on too using natural variations to get batters bowled or lbw. With 10-119, he became just the third cricketer in Test history after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble to bag a perfect 10. He wasn't done, in the second dig, he got four more. His 14 scalps are the most by an overseas bowler in India.



STEVE O'KEEFE (AUS: 6-35, 6-35 AT PUNE, 2017)

At 94-3, replying to Australia's 260, things looked steady for India as they hoped to be on par with Steve Smith's side on the first innings. Enter Steve O'Keefe. The left-arm spinner just landed the ball on a length and challenged the batter's defences as India lost 7-11 to be bowled out for 105. On a pitch that was dry, a 155-run deficit soon turned into a target of 441 as Smith produced a masterclass on how to bat on a turner and grinded out a 109. O'Keefe was in business again exploiting the pitch, which had by now started to turn ragged and produced identical figures in both innings of 6-35. India lasted just 33.5 overs as Australia won by a mammoth 333 runs.

GALLERY

India women lose to Nepal in penalties

Kathmandu: India crashed out of the SAFF Women's Championship as they lost to Nepal 2-4 in penalty shootout in the semifinal match marred by utter confusion after the home side held up play for more than one hour in protest against a decision of the referee, here on Sunday.

Lewis ton guides WI to 8-wkt win

An explosive century from comeback man Evin Lewis helped West Indies secure a 8-wkt win over Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI, earning their first win on Sri Lankan soil after 2005. Lewis, playing his first ODI since 2021, hit the winning runs and reached his fifth ODI century off 61 balls AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Ranji Trophy, 9.30 am (Jiocinema); **TENNIS:** Paris Masters, Rd 1, 3.30 pm (Sony Sports)

Babar, Shaheen, Naseem return for series vs Oz

Rizwan Named New White-Ball Captain, Agha Is Deputy

Lahore: Wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Rizwan was on Sunday named Pakistan's ODI and T20 captain, replacing Babar Azam, as the selectors announced the squads for the white-ball tours of Australia and Zimbabwe beginning Nov 4. Salman Ali Agha was made vice-captain for all future ODI and T20 international assignments. Pakistan will play three ODIs and as many T20Is in their Australia tour.

Agha will lead the T20I side in Zimbabwe as Rizwan is rested under a workload management plan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement. Pakistan's tour of Zimbabwe — for three ODIs and three T20Is — is from Nov 24 to Dec 5. The first match — an ODI — will be played in Bulawayo.

Babar, pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah returned to the Pakistan team for the Australia tour after being sidelined for two Tests against England. However, they have been rested for the Zimbabwe tour. Many new faces have been brought into the squads, while senior players like Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan missed out on selection. Fakhar is facing an inquiry from the PCB for tweeting in support of Babar.

Afridi demoted in new contracts

Shaheen Shah Afridi has been demoted in the new central contracts offered to 25 players by the PCB on Sunday. Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were retained in Category A, while fast bowler Naseem Shah, Test captain Shan Masood and Afridi are in category B. Masood's contract level was subject to whether he continues to lead the national team in Tests. AGENCIES

Ranji Trophy: Batters fail again as Delhi trail Assam by 116 runs

New Delhi: Delhi's woes with the willow continued as the team struggled to 214 for 6 after the likes of Yash Dhull and Himmat Singh failed to convert their starts into substantial knocks in their Ranji Trophy match against Assam here on Sunday.

Resuming from their overnight score of 264 for 6, Assam's first innings innings ended at 330 with wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar making 162 off 237 balls. Ghadigaonkar was overnight 120, having seen his colleagues blown away by Harsit Rana's excellent bowling.

Having received his maiden Test call-up, Rana ended with fine figures of 5/80 in 19.3 overs, wrapping up Assam's innings with the wicket of Mrinmoy Dutta. Delhi were 214 for six at stumps on day two, trailing Assam by 116 runs. Sumit Mathur (19 batting) and Rana (15 batting) held fort for the home team. PTI

BRIEF SCORES: ROUND 3, DAY 2

GROUP A:
● J&K 228 (S Khajuria 55; V Choudhary 35/5) beat Services 71 & 132 in 32 overs (S Rohilla 47; U Nazir Mir 6/53, Y Charak 3/35).
● Mumbai 450 (S Shedge 99, S Mulani 71, S Thakur 62) vs Tripura 60/1.
● Baroda 354/six (V Solanki 98, K Pandya 88 not out; G Poddar 4/96) vs Odisha 193.
● Maharashtra 263/5 (H Kate 117 batting; Akash Choudhary 3/59) vs Meghalaya 276 (B Anirudh 142; M Choudhary 4/88).
GROUP B:
● In Dehradun: Vidarbha 326 (Y Rathod 135; M Mishra 3/72) vs Uttarakhand 242/7 (R Samarth 119; A Wakhare 3/47).
● In Visakhapatnam: Andhra 344 (S Rasheed 69, H Viharai 66; D Sharma 5/60) vs Himachal Pradesh 198/4.
● In Jaipur: Gujarat 335 (P

Panchal 110; Arafat Khan 4/50) vs Rajasthan 180/5 (A Tomar 77).
● In Hyderabad: Hyderabad 536/8 decl (T Agarwal 173) vs Puducherry 24/2.
GROUP C:
● In Mullanpur: Punjab 210 (P Mann 61; S Mavi 4/29) trail UP 293/3 (M Kaushik 128 batting, Rinku Singh 46 batting).
● In Patna: Bihar 143 (S Gopal 4/28) lead Karnataka 16/0 by 127 runs. No play on Day 2 due to rain.
● In Kolkata: Kerala 51/4 (Ishan Porel 3/18) vs Bengal.
● In Indore: Madhya Pradesh 308 (H Mantri 97, J Yadav 5/84) lead Haryana 185/3 (L Dalal 60 batting, H Rana 90; Avesh 2/25) by 123 runs.
GROUP D:
● In Delhi: Assam 330 (S Ghadigaonkar 162; H Rana 5/80) lead Delhi 214/6 (H Singh 55; S Purkayastha 3/46).

Bates, Devine trump India women as NZ level series

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Ahmedabad: New Zealand head coach Ben Sawyer had talked about the need for partnerships, which was missing from their batting performance in the opening ODI. On Sunday in the second ODI here, New Zealand women delivered on his talk. Senior batters Suzie Bates (58 off 70b; 8x4) and

2ND ODI

Sophie Devine (79 off 86b; 7x4, 1x6) led with big knocks while Bates's fellow opener Georgia Plimmer (41 off 63b; 6x4, 1x6) and middle-order batter Maddy Green (42 off 41b; 5x4) chipped in with meaningful contributions as the White Ferns accumulated 259/9, which proved more than enough as the hosts were bowled out for 183. The series is tied, with the final ODI to be played on Tuesday. Chasing a stiff target of 260, India's start was hardly the one they were looking for. Southpaw Smriti Mandhana (0) had a loose waft at a wishful

delivery and was caught at point by Plimmer on the second attempt off Lea Tahuhu (3/42). Fellow opener Shafali Verma (11) hit two sublime boundaries but was trapped in front by pacer Jess Kerr (2/49). Number three Yastika Bhatia (12) too was caught behind off Tahuhu's away-going delivery as India slipped to 26/3 in five overs. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (24) and Jemimah Rodrigues (17) steadied the ship with a 38-run partnership but the latter's dismissal, caught behind off Devine's (3/27) bowling, pegged India back.

The New Zealand captain then struck another telling blow, having Kaur caught at deep midwicket to leave India reeling at 77/5. Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma and Arundhati Reddy followed soon. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 259/9 in 50 overs (S Devine 79, S Bates 58; R Yadav 4/69, D Sharma 2/30) bt India (R Yadav 48; S Devine 3/27, L Tahuhu 3/42) by 76 runs.



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Study suggests siblings who fought as children tend to spend more time together during Diwali

Noise levels set to rise during Diwali as neighbours organise a street-wide 'Antakshari' contest

Diwali melas experience a revival as more people encouraged to celebrate the festival in person with loved ones

Diwali wishes on social media don't have the same warmth as meeting in person, say experts

Sweets fed by mother somehow taste better

There is a unique magic in sharing sweets during Diwali, particularly when they come from a beloved family member. While festive occasions are filled with an assortment of desserts, the experience is elevated when a mother feeds them to her child. The warmth of her hands and the love behind each bite transform even ordinary chocolate into something extraordinary. "It's not just about the taste; it's about the love and memories associated with it," reflects Shraddha Sharma as she reminisces about her childhood.

Three generations, one celebration

In a delightful display of familial unity, three generations are preparing to come together under one roof to celebrate Diwali this year. Priya and Arjun's parents are expected to join the festivities, sharing stories and traditions, while their children add to the joyful chaos. This vibrant gathering will be centred around the goodness of meetha and the joy of being together.

The real essence of Diwali? Sharing meetha with family

Diwali sparks a migration of people who are eager to reconnect with loved ones over Cadbury Celebrations

As the festival of lights, Diwali, approaches, the hustle and bustle of travellers is filling the air. Families across the country are reuniting, making the journey home to celebrate this cherished occasion together. While the festivities are marked by dazzling lights and colourful decorations, the true essence of Diwali lies in the warmth of family bonds and the joy of sharing meetha—especially when it comes in the delightful form of Cadbury Celebrations.

In cities and villages alike, Diwali sparks a migration of people eager to reconnect with loved ones. Whether by train, car, or plane, nothing compares to the anticipation of sharing moments with family. As families gather around tables laden with sweets, the act of shar-



ing creates unforgettable memories and strengthens bonds.

Cadbury Celebrations has become a beloved tradition during the festive season, offering a wide

array of chocolates that bring joy and smiles. Picture this: a beautifully wrapped box of Cadbury Celebrations opened amidst laughter and stories, with each chocolate

shared symbolising love and togetherness. This Diwali, the spirit of sharing takes centre stage, turning each moment into a sweet and cherished memory.

Siblings reunite to share meetha and memories

This Diwali, the reunion of siblings adds a heartwarming narrative to the festival's celebrations. After several years apart, Priya and Arjun have reunited in their childhood home to celebrate the festival of lights. Their bond, strengthened by the passage of time, is rekindled over shared plates of meetha and the joy of Cadbury Celebrations.

Settling into the familiar surroundings of their family home, memories flood back as they laugh over old photos, recall mischievous antics, and recount cherished family traditions. "Growing up, we always fought over the last piece of chocolate," Priya says with a laugh as she opens a box of Cadbury Celebrations. "Now, we just enjoy it together!"

The two spend the evening decorating diyas and preparing sweets, their laughter ringing through the house. The simple act of sharing chocolates becomes a vehicle for nostalgia, transporting them back to their carefree childhood days. Each piece of meetha they savour is imbued with the sweetness of shared memories, further strengthening their bond. "This Diwali is special because



we have each other again," Arjun reflects, his eyes gleaming with happiness. The reunion, filled with laughter and love, showcases the true spirit of Diwali—a celebration of togetherness.

Man, 65, to take first-ever flight to meet sister

In a heartwarming story, 65-year-old Rajesh Kumar is set to take his maiden flight from Pune to Delhi, eagerly anticipating a reunion with his sister after years apart. "I've always preferred trains, but this year, I want to surprise her," Rajesh shared. His journey highlights the lengths to which families will go to celebrate Diwali together.

Is technology replacing real connections?

As Diwali approaches, concerns are growing about the impact of technology on the festival's spirit. While text messages and video calls have made it easier to send greetings to loved ones, many argue that these virtual interactions lack the warmth and intimacy of in-person interactions.

In previous years, Diwali was a time when families and friends gathered to share sweets and celebrate together. The laughter and conversation that filled homes during these joyous reunions created lasting memories. However, with the rise of digital communication, more people are opting for quick messages over personal visits. "A text may convey good wishes, but it can't replicate the joy of feeding meetha to your friend in person," says Ramesh Kumar, a local community leader.

As neighbourhoods grow quieter during the festival, some worry that the essence of Diwali is fading.



DIAL F FOR FAMILY: While technology has made it easier for families to stay connected, it can never replace the emotional depth of an in-person interaction

"We're losing the magic of connecting face-to-face, sharing meetha, and lighting diyas together," reflects Priya Singh, a long-time resident. This Diwali, as we scroll through

our phones to send virtual wishes, let's also consider making the effort to reconnect with loved ones in person. Revisiting these traditions could help restore the true spirit of the festival.

Video calls: on; meeting friends and family: off

Today, video calls have become the go-to method for connecting with loved ones, but in-person gatherings are on the decline. As Diwali approaches, families are opting for virtual greetings over traditional visits, leaving many feeling disconnected during the festive season. "It's convenient to wish everyone through a screen, but it lacks the warmth of being together," says Neha Datta, reflecting on the missed joy of shared celebrations. This Diwali, as lights adorn homes, let's remember the importance of personal connections.

Homeward bound: Diwali sees surge amongst travellers

Airports and train stations are seeing a surge in passengers, with most travellers eager to return home for Diwali. From bustling cities to serene villages, families are reuniting to celebrate this joyous occasion. Despite the jump in bookings, travellers appear excited as they look forward to the warmth of home-cooked meals and the sharing of sweets.

This Diwali, as we travel far and wide to meet our loved ones, let's make it a point to share not just sweets, but moments filled with laughter and love. Cadbury Celebrations provides the perfect addition to any gathering, ensuring that every shared chocolate adds to the festive spirit.

In the end, the real sparkle of Diwali lies not just in the lights that illuminate our homes, but in the bonds we nurture with each shared meetha.

BIG FAMILIES NOISIER THAN CRACKERS



Homes across India are buzzing with excitement as families prepare to reunite for the Diwali celebrations. The joyful laughter, animated chatter, and playful banter of large gatherings often outshine the sound of firecrackers, creating a festive symphony that lights up entire neighbourhoods.

Phones are keeping families apart on Diwali

While smartphones and social media offer instant communication, many families find themselves increasingly disconnected, especially during Diwali. Concerns are growing about how technology is affecting the essence of this cherished festival.

Traditionally, Diwali was a time for families to gather, share meals, and celebrate together. However, the convenience of texting and video calls has led to a decline in in-person visits. "We used to spend hours with relatives, sharing stories and laughter," says Anjali Verma, a mother of two. "Now, we send quick messages and feel satisfied, but it's just not the same." This shift has made celebra-



tions quieter and less vibrant, with children missing out on the joy of playing together and the rich tradition of sharing sweets fading away.

This Diwali, there is a call to prioritise personal connections and embrace in-person celebrations. By doing so, families can restore the true spirit of togetherness that defines this joyous occasion.

Neighbours set to reconcile over sweets this Diwali

For years, Ramesh and Deepa have exchanged nothing more than curt nods; their feud is rooted in a property dispute that has cast a shadow over their homes.

However, with the festival of lights approaching, Ramesh has decided that it's time to mend fences, with a box of Cadbury Celebrations. As he gathers the courage to make amends, he wonders how she will react.

When questioned about what he plans to say to break the ice, he replied, "Happy Diwali! I thought it might be a good time to start anew. Deepa may hesitate, but with any luck, a smile will break across her face as she accepts the gesture." He hopes that they will open the box together, sharing chocolates and laughter while reminiscing about the neighbourhood's vibrant past.

Bring back the '90s Diwali: A millennial's appeal to restore festival's community spirit

As Diwali approaches, a wave of nostalgia sweeps over millennials yearning for the simpler, more vibrant celebrations of the '90s. In an era where social media dominates our interactions, many are calling for a revival of the community spirit that once defined the festival.

Back in the '90s, Diwali was more than just a personal celebration; it was a time when neighbourhoods came alive with the laughter of children playing with sparklers and families gathering for shared meals. Streets



were adorned with rangoli, and the air buzzed with the sounds of laughter and chatter. "We need

to reclaim that sense of togetherness," says Anisha Sharma, a passionate advocate for reviving traditional Diwali celebrations.

Millennials are now organising local events, from community potlucks to neighbourhood diya-lighting ceremonies, aiming to foster connections with neighbours and friends. "Let's bring back the joy of celebrating together, sharing Cadbury Celebrations, and creating memories as a community," Sharma urges.

As we revel in the festive lights, let's also remember the importance of community spirit.

Diwali: India's annual family reunion season

For many, Diwali is the season of family reunions, where loved ones travel from distant cities and towns to come together. The aroma of traditional sweets fills the air, while the clamour of children playing complements the warm conversations of adults reminiscing about cherished memories. It is a time when the heart of the home truly comes alive, highlighting the importance of familial bonds.

As families gather to light diyas and share meals, the joy of togetherness resonates louder than any festive display. This Diwali, while fireworks may illuminate the sky, it is the sounds of family love and laughter that will truly brighten spirits.

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