

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com



Zelensky says he will 'immediately' quit as Ukraine's President in exchange for the country gaining NATO membership. 'If there is peace for Ukraine, if you really need me to leave my post, I am ready... I can exchange it for Nato,' Zelensky says, **P 10**

American Airlines' New York JFK-Delhi nonstop (AA 292) diverted to Rome Sunday evening (IST) following a bomb threat for the flight. Boeing 787 Dreamliner had taken off from JFK on Saturday at 8.14pm and was over the Caspian Sea when it turned back towards Europe

Pakistan and Bangladesh have resumed direct trade for the first time since the 1971 separation, with the first govt-approved cargo departing from Port Qasim, **P 10**

Bangladesh's interim govt chief adviser Muhammad Yunus invites SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to visit Bangladesh and launch Starlink satellite service in the country in 90 days, **P 10**



70 Indians rescued from Myanmar's cybercrime hub

About 70 Indians trapped in the cybercrime hub of KK Park in Myawaddy have been rescued by Myanmar's armed forces and moved to Mae Sot, a border town in Thailand. Indian authorities in Thailand are monitoring the situation and coordinating their return, reports U Sudhakar Reddy. Five women among rescued.

According to sources, about 15 of the rescued individuals are from Gujarat, 20 from Rajasthan, five from Andhra, two from Telangana, and others from Punjab, UP, Bihar, Haryana and Karnataka. The five women are from Gujarat and Maharashtra. KK Park, a big centre for online scams, was raided by Myanmar's Border Guard Forces, who freed individuals that were coerced into cybercriminal activities. The crackdown follows reports of foreigners forced into fraudulent operations. **OTHER BK, P 6**

12 deportees reach India from Panama, P 8

AAP govt has left 'entire exchequer empty': Rekha

'But We Will Roll Out ₹2.5k Mthly Women's Scheme'

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CM Rekha Gupta said Sunday the previous AAP dispensation left the state coffers "empty", but assured that the BJP govt was "committed" to rolling out the Rs 2,500-per month honorarium scheme for eligible women.



Addressing a joint press meet with Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva after a legislative party huddle, Gupta said several rounds of meetings had been held with govt officials on the issue in the past four days since she took over.

"The condition the previous govt left for us... when we sit with officers to review the financial status... the entire govt exchequer is found empty," Gupta said, while replying

With Atishi leading oppn, Delhi gets India's 1st woman CM-LoP combo

Ex-CM and Kalkaji MLA Atishi was elected by consensus in AAP as leader of opposition (LoP) Sunday. This is the first time a woman will hold the post in Delhi assembly and also the first time in any state in India that both CM and LoP are women.



Atishi's name was proposed by Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha and accepted by all other AAP legislators. Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal was part of the meeting.

Atishi said AAP would

show what a strong opposition's role can be and would raise all issues with full force. "We will ensure BJP fulfils all its promises, specifically the pledge to provide Rs 2,500 per month to women in the city by March 8," Atishi said.

Atishi said she was handing over a "fiscally strong" govt. "Delhi's budget outlay increased from Rs 30,000cr to Rs 77,000cr in 10 years of AAP govt." **TNN**

► 'As Oppn, we will...', P 2

after excluding taxpayers, govt servants and beneficiaries of other state welfare schemes, around 38 lakh women above 18 will be eligible for assistance under this scheme. The govt may need over Rs 11,000 crore annually for this.

► 'Viksit Rajdhani', P 2

'Trump, Modi are shaping global trend': Meloni slams Left's 'double standards'

Washington DC: Italian PM Giorgia Meloni has called out the "double standards" of the global political Left-wing while highlighting how world leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and Argentinian President Javier Milei, are among those who are now shaping a new global conservative movement.

"With Trump's victory, their irritation has turned into hysteria. Not only because conservatives are winning, but because conservatives are now collaborating globally," Meloni said while addressing a Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington DC via video link on Saturday. Lending her support to Trump's leadership prowess, the Italian PM said Left-wing is

MODISPEAK

► PM Modi doubles down on his suggestion to reduce monthly edible oil consumption by 10% to prevent obesity, which affects 1 out of every 8 people in India | **P 5**

► PM slams oppn netas for critical remarks on Maha Kumbh, saying those with 'slave mentality' keep attacking India's religious & cultural traditions with backing of foreign powers to break India's unity | **OTHER BOOK, P 6**

► Modi will hand over his social media a/c to women achievers from different fields on Mar 8, observed as Int'l Women's Day | **P 5**

nervous with leaders from conservative parties winning and collaborating globally. **ANI**

► Threat to democracy', P 10

T'gana tunnel collapse: Team Silkyara joins rescue op

Hyderabad: Six members of the team behind the heroic Nov 2023 Silkyara tunnel rescue operation in Uttarakhand joined the Army, NDRF, SDRF and local agencies on Sunday in accelerated efforts to save the eight workers — two of them engineers — trapped inside a collapsed portion of Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district, reports Roushan Ali.

As the clock ticked on an operation that yielded little in over 36 hours, families of the trapped men and agencies trying to reach them drew hope from the rescue of 41 workers confined for 17 days inside the Silkyara Bend-Barkot tunnel after a portion had caved in. There was no contact with any of the trapped men until late Sunday.

► More on OTHER BK, P 6

Trump brings up USAID again, says Biden admin gave India \$18m to help with polls

Washington: US President Donald Trump has claimed that the Biden administration allocated \$18 million in funding to India to help with its elections, arguing that the country doesn't need this money.



His remarks during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference on Saturday follow repeated attacks on USAID for allocating \$21 million in funding to India for "voter turnout".

Trump also accused India of taking advantage of the US. "\$18 million for helping India with its elections. Why the hell? Why don't we just go to old paper ballots, and let them help us with their elections, right? Voter ID. Wouldn't that be nice? We're giving money to

Funds for projects, not turnout: FinMin report

India was implementing seven projects worth \$750 million in partnership with USAID, the finance ministry said in its annual report for the last financial year. In 2023-24, \$97 million was used for projects linked to agriculture, water, sanitation, health and disaster management, among others. **P 8**

India for elections. They don't need money," he said. "They take advantage of us pretty good. One of the highest tariff nations in the world... We have a 200% (tariffs) there and then we're giving them a lot of money to help them with their election," Trump said. **PTI**

► Keeps India pot boiling, P 8

TN teacher hits student for not reciting Hindi poem, suspended

The management of Bhavans Rajaji Vidyashram School in Chennai has suspended a Hindi teacher on charges of hitting a Class 3 student for failing to recite a poem and threatening to bar him from entering the campus, reports Preetika P.

The action followed a written complaint from the child's parents.

P G Subramanian, the principal of the Kilpauk-based school, did not respond to any question.

Guidelines of CBSE, to which the school is affiliated, emphasise that corporal punishment is strictly prohibited, and any physical, verbal or emotional abuse of students can lead to disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal of a teacher. **P 7**

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

► Temple-mosque disputes: Archaeology now a minefield
► How Trump's DEI policy has impacted India Inc

Tharoor won't quit or join CPM: KPCC

Amid speculation over Shashi Tharoor's future, KPCC chief K Sudhakaran Sunday expressed confidence he won't quit Congress or join CPM. He added it was "unfortunate he spoke against the party's interest through media". **OTHER BK, P 6**

Lingo row: Maha, K'taka stall buses

Two days after a Karnataka conductor was assaulted, allegedly by Marathi people, in Belagavi when he told two persons to speak in Kannada to buy tickets, Karnataka and Maharashtra Sunday suspended inter-state govt bus services till the tension subsides. **OTHER BK, P 4**

Russian skier dies in Manali avalanche

A Russian tourist, 58, was buried alive in an avalanche while skiing in Kothi area near Manali Friday. After locals and emergency responders pulled him out of snow, he was airlifted to a hospital in Manali, where he succumbed. **OTHER BK, P 6**

Maha pharma raided for Africa opioid link

An exposé on a Maharashtra's Palghar-based pharma company accused of illegally manufacturing unlicensed, addictive opioids and exporting them to West Africa led to a joint raid by state and Union drug inspectors over the weekend. **P 5**

TISS prof quits over sex assault plaint

A TISS assistant professor of law has quit a day after a student filed a sexual harassment complaint, accusing him of toxic behaviour on the campus, harassment, and intimidation. An internal panel is probing the allegations. **OTHER BK, P 4**

New Metro height record of 28.3m

DMRC on Sunday achieved a new record with the construction of a 490m stretch of the extended magenta line at 28.3m, its highest point ever, near Haiderpur Badli Mor, surpassing the previous record of 23.6m at Dhaula Kuan. **P 3**

KING KOHLI RETURNS AS INDIA OUTPUNCH PAK

Hyped as the biggest match of the Champions Trophy, Sunday's India-Pakistan encounter turned out to be a bit of an anti-climax with Rohit's boys cantering to a 6-wicket win. Pakistan, who set a modest target of 241, were never in the contest, as the Men in Blue outplayed them in every department, despite losing a record 12th successive toss in ODIs. This was India's 18th win over Pak in 22 ICC tournaments across formats



28 of Virat's 51 ODI tons have come in chases, including 24 in successful chases
OTHER BK P 10

What Turned It For Men In Blue

PAK BATTERS CHAINED | There were 147 dot balls in Pak innings of 241. Run rate during partnership of 104 between Saud Shakeel & skipper Mohd Rizwan was 4.3, lowest in a century stand for Pak in men's ODIs since 2014

KULDEEP-HARDIK SHOW | While Hardik Pandya struck 2 major blows up top, including the prized scalp of Babar Azam, Kuldeep Yadav took out 3 middle & lower-middle batters, never letting Pak innings gain momentum. In 6 ODIs against Pak, Kuldeep has claimed 15 wickets at 14 runs apiece

Pakistan, including 4 tons and 2 fifties in just 17 matches

► Kohli hit the winning 4 to reach 100. He became the 3rd and fastest batter to 14,000 ODI runs, getting there in 287 innings. Tendulkar reached the mark in 350 innings and Kumar Sangakkara took 378

► At 158, Kohli now has the highest number of catches by an Indian in ODIs

► It only takes an India-Pak encounter for Virat to return to form. The champion batter averages 59.8 runs in ODIs against



truelcaller

Finally works on iPhone!



Available on the App Store



*iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries and regions.



Delhi's pvt discoms rated A+ for power supply | 4

TEMP ON SUNDAY

26.7°

MAXIMUM

10.3°

MINIMUM

FORECAST

Shallow fog likely. Max and min temperatures on Monday would be around 27°C and 11°C

MOONSET 2.20PM (MON)

SUNSET 6.18PM (MON)

MOONRISE 4.59AM (TUE)

SUNRISE 6.50AM (TUE)

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Cops charge three with murder of constable three months ago | 4

144

AQI IN DELHI ON SUNDAY (MODERATE)

Laying of entire RRTS corridor nearly done | B2, 3



With Fund Flow Assurance, DJB Proposes 100-Day Yamuna Plan

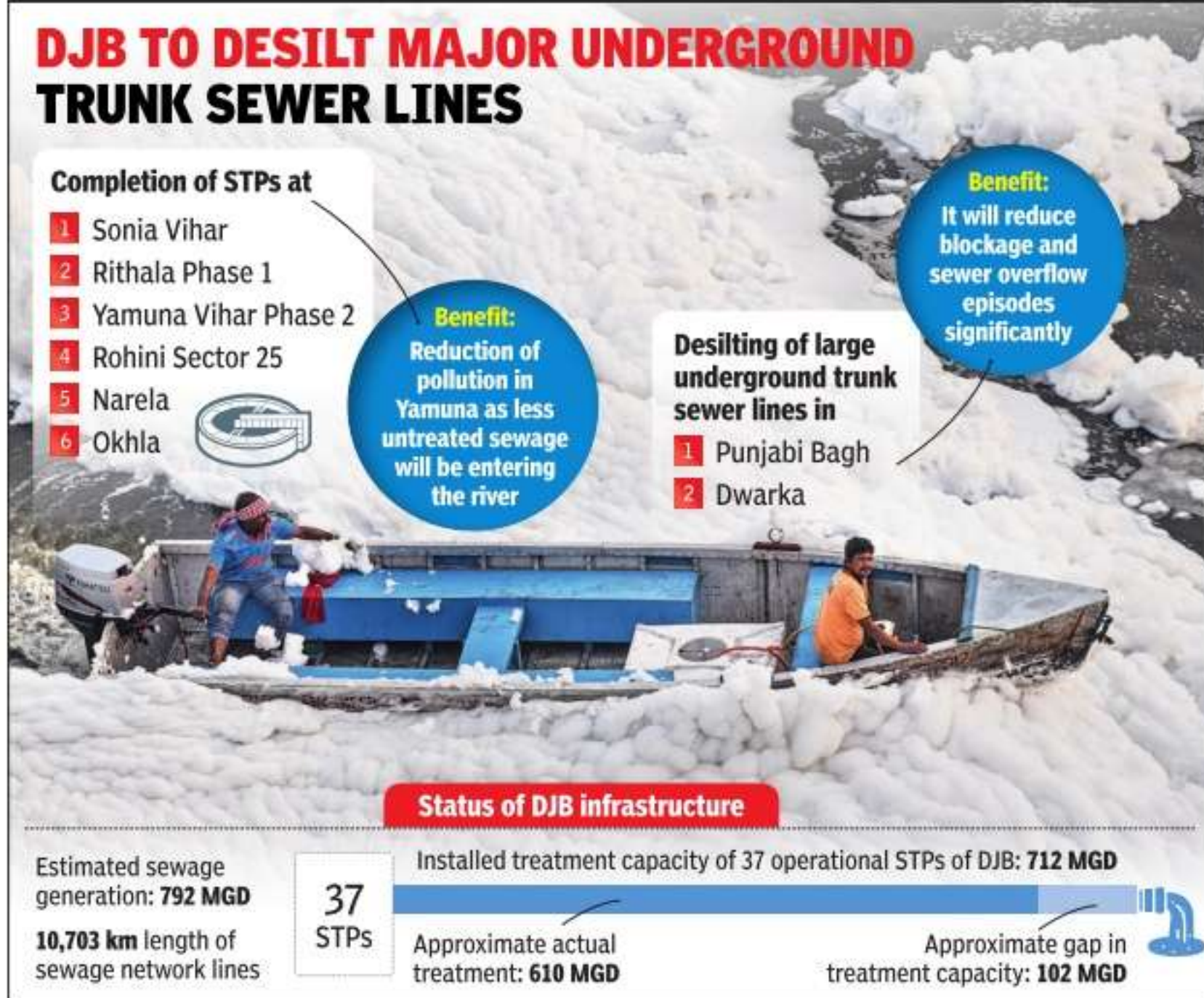
Will Focus On Minimising Discharge Of Untreated Sewage Into The River

Siddhanta Mishra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In the next three months, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will focus primarily on minimising untreated sewage discharge into the Yamuna while addressing issues of drain overflow in the city. Officials have confirmed plans for desilting major underground trunk sewer lines, implementing drainage trapping measures, and upgrading four sewage treatment plants. The new BJP govt has pledged the cleaning of the Yamuna as a significant electoral commitment.

Last week, in a meeting with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, DJB officials presented her with an outlay for the next 100 days of projects that can be completed. "The response of the CM towards the plans of DJB was positive in the meeting. The CM asked us to give updates on the progress being made and that financial issues of the board will also be solved soon. The priority in the sewage management sector is to stop untreated materials entering the Yamuna river," informed a senior DJB official.

DJB has been at the centre of the tussle between LG V X Saxena and the previous AAP govt. Legacy financial issues of



Gzb family strip, molest woman over dowry; 6 held

Keshav.Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

Pilibhit: Six members of a Ghaziabad-based family were booked by Pilibhit police on Sunday for allegedly stripping, molesting and torturing a 27-year-old woman over dowry.

The woman from Pilibhit stated in her police complaint that despite giving a huge dowry during her marriage to a diamond trader in Ghaziabad on July 7, 2022, her husband and her in-laws demanded "Rs 10 lakh along with a luxury car and things became unbearable after she gave birth to a girl child last year".

SHO Pawan Pandey said on Sunday: "Six individuals, including the woman's diamond trader husband, were booked under BNS sections 85 (subjecting a woman to cruelty by husband or his relatives), 74 (assault or criminal force against a woman to outrage her modesty), 76 (criminal force against a woman with the intent to disrobe her), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult), 351 (3) (criminal intimidation), and sections of the Dowry Prohibition Act."

The woman claimed her father had already given Rs 50 lakh, among other items, at the time of her wedding. "My husband routinely thrashes me after getting drunk following provocation by his kin. He even forced me into unnatural sexual relations. I was regularly threatened by them," she said in her complaint.

She added: "Things became worse after the birth of our daughter on Feb 2, 2024. My in-laws demanded an additional Rs 10 lakh but my father could offer just Rs 3 lakh. They started behaving more cruelly with me... On April 26 of last year, I was stripped and molested. I couldn't bear it any longer and told everything to my brother, who brought me back to my parents' place."

Undertrial dead in Tihar

New Delhi: An undertrial prisoner was found dead in Tihar Jail's number 8. On Saturday, when he failed to emerge from his cell, jail staff entered to check on him and found him unconscious. He was rushed to the jail dispensary, where doctors declared him dead. An inquiry was ordered. **TNN**

JNU Hostel Is Under Repair Even Before Opening Doors

Was Inaugurated In Feb 2024, But Final Handover Delayed

Sugandha Jha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Despite being inaugurated with much fanfare, Jawahar Lal Nehru University's Barak Hostel remains non-operational and is now undergoing repairs even before welcoming its first batch of students.

The hostel, a long-standing demand of JNU students to address the accommodation crisis, was inaugurated in Feb 2024 by home minister Amit Shah. However, the newly-constructed building has been lying vacant, reportedly due to delays in the final handover to the administration, pending quality approval.

This delay has raised concerns after the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) shared photos and videos last week showing visible signs of damage, such as peeling plaster, broken windows, and other structural flaws. A **TOI** spot check confirmed that repair work began at the hostel soon after these images started circulating. When contacted for comment, JNU vice-chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit directed the query to the dean of students, who did not respond.

Several students have expressed frustration over the newly-built hostel, which took years to complete, already requiring repairs. JNUSU president Dhananjay said, "This new building, inaugurated by home minister Amit Shah last year, which is yet to be opened for students, is already in need of repairs. This reflects the administration's lack of attention, as they failed to ensure proper construction. We demand that the hostel be opened immediately, even as repair work continues, with the administration taking full responsibility for any future incidents due to poor construction."

He added, "The condition of other hostels is even worse, with broken doors and malfunctioning washrooms."

The foundation stone for Barak Hostel was laid in 2017 by Jitendra Singh, the Union minister for development of



the north eastern region (DoNER). Built at Rs 28.3 crore, the hostel was envisioned primarily for students from northeastern states. The four-storey building was designed to house 424 students, with 75% of the rooms reserved for students from the northeast.

The prolonged delay in making the hostel operational has triggered multiple student protests over the years. JNUSU has repeatedly raised the issue in its demonstrations, including a 17-day hunger strike demanding its immediate opening. Last year, student outfits such as the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) also staged protests, calling for the university to expedite the process.

"ABVP has relentlessly struggled to ensure the opening of Barak Hostel. Our continuous efforts led to the allocation of funds from the DoNER ministry in 2015. I personally protested barefoot for several days to push for this cause. Despite being in union for the past nine years since 2016, the Left has attempted to halt the process of its opening. Due to our persistent pressure, the inauguration of Barak Hostel became a reality. However, we strongly condemn the poor construction of the hostel and demand that the administration expedite repairs and open the hostel at the earliest," said Rajeshwar Kant Dubey, ABVP JNU unit president.

Barak Hostel's situation is not an isolated case—several other hostels in JNU have faced concerns over infrastructure. Residents of Lohit, Kaveri, and Sabarmati hostels have repeatedly complained about

leaking roofs, broken ceilings, and falling structures. In 2022, heavy rainfall led to parts of a hostel balcony and ceiling collapsing, raising safety concerns among students. These recurring issues have led to growing demands for better maintenance on campus.

Kunal, former president of Sutej Hostel and NSUI unit general secretary, highlighted the ongoing issues, stating that essential facilities, such as toilets, are in poor condition. "The bathrooms lack proper piping, and several urinals are broken. Repairs are promised but often take an excessively long time—what should be completed in three months stretches to over a year. This extended delay has caused significant inconvenience to students, who are forced to use bathrooms on other floors," Kunal said.

Delhi youths among those held as rave party busted

Nitesh.Kumara
@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Nearly 150 youths from Jaipur, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Delhi were allegedly caught consuming drugs and liquor during a rave party at a farmhouse-cum-resort in Labana village, located on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway, around 1:30 am Sunday. The police seized a small quantity of smack, over 500 bottles of beer, 17 bottles of foreign liquor, and several hookahs from the venue, about 35 km from Jaipur.

The farmhouse owner, Sanjay Luhadia, 49, and the party organiser, Harshvardhan Kumar Saini, 30, were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Excise Act. The police let the youths go after penalising 63 of them under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and informing their parents about their involvement. Sanjay Luhadia is a resident of Shivaji Nagar, Sodala, while Harshvardhan resides in the Shipra Path area of the city.

Jaipur Rural SP Anand Sharma said the event was held at Stories – The Organic Farm Café in Labana village without the required excise licence. He added that the rave party invitation was circulated in WhatsApp and social media groups, offering tickets for up to Rs 5,000, with discounted rates for couples.

Sharma confirmed that the guests came from at least four cities. During the raid, loud music was playing, and most attendees were under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The operation was part of "Operation Knock Out," a campaign aimed at curbing drug consumption and peddling in rural Jaipur. The Jaipur Rural DST team acted on a tip-off, forming a special team under the supervision of Jaipur Rural cyber cell RPS officer Khaleel Ahmed to conduct the raid. Cops detained 63 youths and issued them challans under the COTPA Act, while the remaining attendees were let off without further action. Further investigation is underway.

Chutki bajate hi doodh finish.

MOTHER DAIRY
maa jaisi

Mother Dairy **Core milk**

Easy to Digest

Good Taste

Order Now

Senior citizen murdered

New Delhi: A 60-year-old man was murdered, while his wife and daughter were injured after a group, including two brothers, their father, and their friend, attacked them in Northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh. Police said the accused wanted to take revenge for their brother's beating by the victim's son. Police arrested four people in the case.

The deceased was identified as Kali Charan, who lived with his family in Shalimar Bagh. His wife, Sudama (60), and daughter, Anita (40), were receiving treatment. Police said the incident

started after Kali Charan's son, Bharat, a history shooter at Shalimar Bagh police station, along with his friends Mukhtyar, Chinu, and Nikesh, quarrelled with Sanjay (23), also a history shooter at Shalimar Bagh police station. Sanjay was badly beaten up by Bharat. Cops said that after learning about the incident, Dhar-mender alias Doremom (25), along with his injured brother Sanjay, friend Raman (27), and his father Ram Charan (53), went to Bharat's house seeking revenge, but they did not find him. Instead, they stabbed other members. **TNN**

Man dies in bike accident

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man died, while his nephew was injured after they lost control of their motorcycle and fell from a height of 25 feet on Geeta Colony flyover in north east Delhi.

According to police, a call was received at 3.02pm on Sunday reporting that two men fell from the flyover. Both of them were already taken to a hospital by bystanders.

At the hospital, Sonu (30), a resident of Bhagirathi Vihar, was declared dead, while his 27-year-old nephew, Sonu, from Madanpur JJ Colony remained in critical condition. The two

were travelling from Bhagirathi Vihar to Sangam Vihar. The deceased worked as a sanitation worker in a private university, while his injured nephew works at a jeans factory in Ghaziabad.

DCP (Shahdara) Prashant Priya Gautam said, "As per the MLC report, both individuals consumed alcohol before the accident. A case has been registered under relevant sections of BNS, and further investigations are underway."

Police said they are scanning CCTV footage of the area to ascertain whether the duo was hit by any other vehicle. **TNN**

BRAND EQUITY

YOUNG LIONS
INDIA

START YOUNG

Winners get a trip to Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity*.

Categories: Print | Digital

Winners will be announced on our social media pages.

Deadline: 28/02/2025

Participants must be aged 30 years or under (born on or after 20th June 1994).

BRIEF IS OUT

SCAN TO GET THE BRIEF & PARTICIPATE

Times Power of Print | Times Power of Print | officialtimesofindia

Supported by
Ministry of Power
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Ministry of Heavy Industries
Government of India

Focus Country
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
New Delhi

Associate Partner Country
Business France

ieema
your link to electricity

INDIA OPENS THE GATE TO THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

16th Edition
ELEC RAMA 2025
Powering the Future of Energy

22 - 26
February 2025 | India Expo Mart
Greater Noida, Delhi NCR

VISIT TODAY

CEOs POLICY ROUNDTABLE
22 FEBRUARY 2025 | NEW DELHI

CO-LOCATED EVENTS
World Utility Summit
eTECHNXT
CHANGE X CHANGE
Reverse Buyer Seller Meet
DBSM
ELECTRAVERSE SPARK
WOMEN POWER

THEMATIC SPONSORS
Innovation
Sustainability
Schneider Electric

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR
SERVOKON

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS
APAR
ATLANTA
HYOSUNG
jrk
LASER

WORLD'S LARGEST ELECTRICAL SHOW

www.elecrama.com | LinkedIn | Facebook | YouTube

Published for the Proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., by Rajeev Jyoti at Times House, 7, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002 and printed by him at Times of India Press, 13, N. H. Industrial Area, Sahibabad (UP), Delhi; Jagann Press, P.V.N.O. C-2/2, 1, Sakauli Industrial Area, Dehradun (UT/TARAHKAND) and Delhi; Jagann Press, Bhaman Nagar, Pithampur Bypass Road, Bareilly (UP) and Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. Plot No. 7-8, Sector III, Transport Hub, Industrial Model Township, Manesar, Haryana-122051, Regd. Office: Dr. Dadothar Narain Prasad, Mumbai-400001, Editor (Delhi Market): Dinkar Ahluwalia—responsible for selection of news items under PRR Act. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of Publisher is prohibited.

INNO-505057

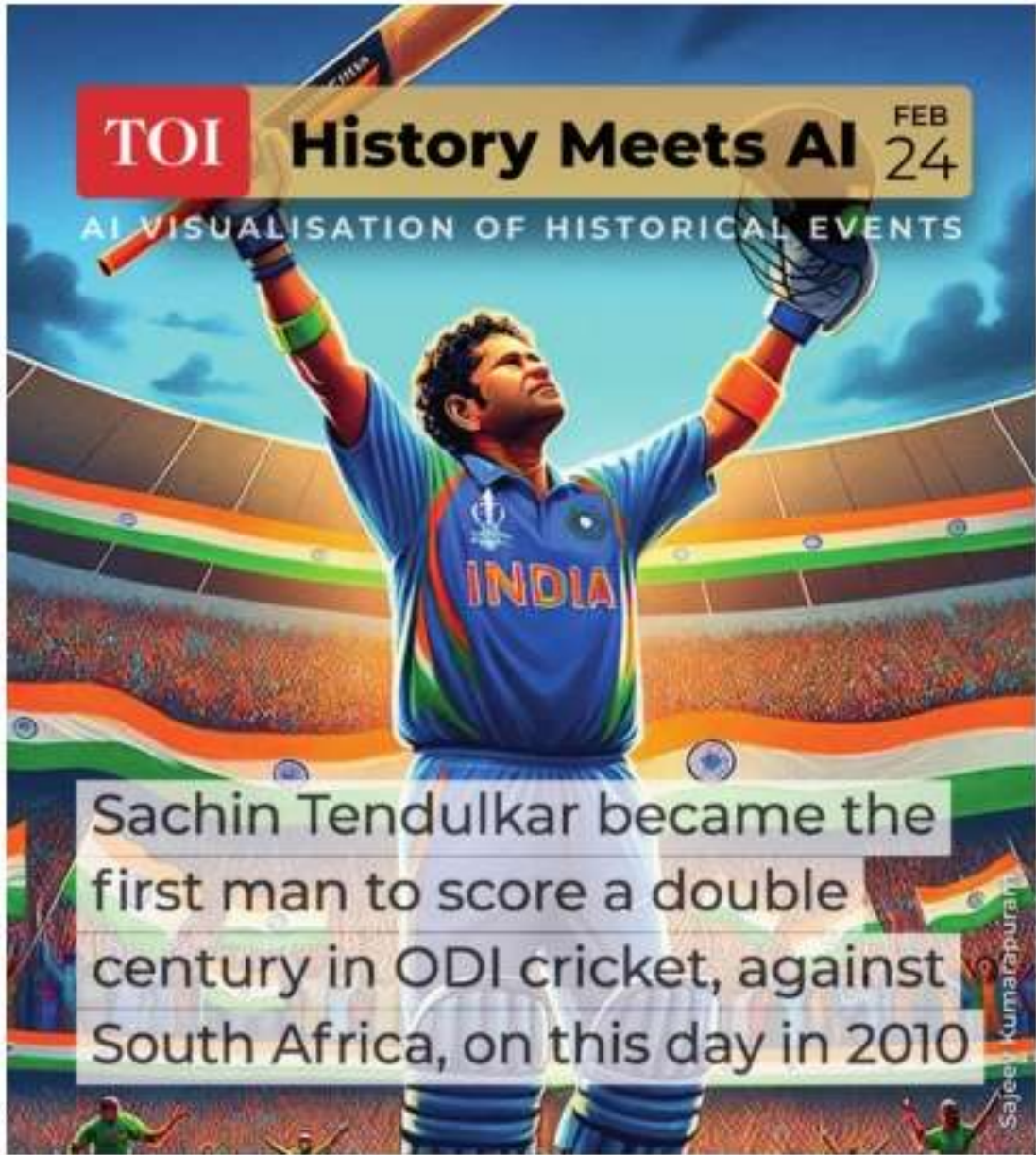
Air Charge: Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, Nagpur & Jaipur Rs. 5.00; Luck, Srinagar and Var. Rs. 2.00; Price in Nepal: NEP Rs. 15.00

Made in India



MEHBOOBA ACCUSES J&K ASSEMBLY SPEAKER OF IMPOSING A FORM OF 'MARTIAL LAW' IN STATE

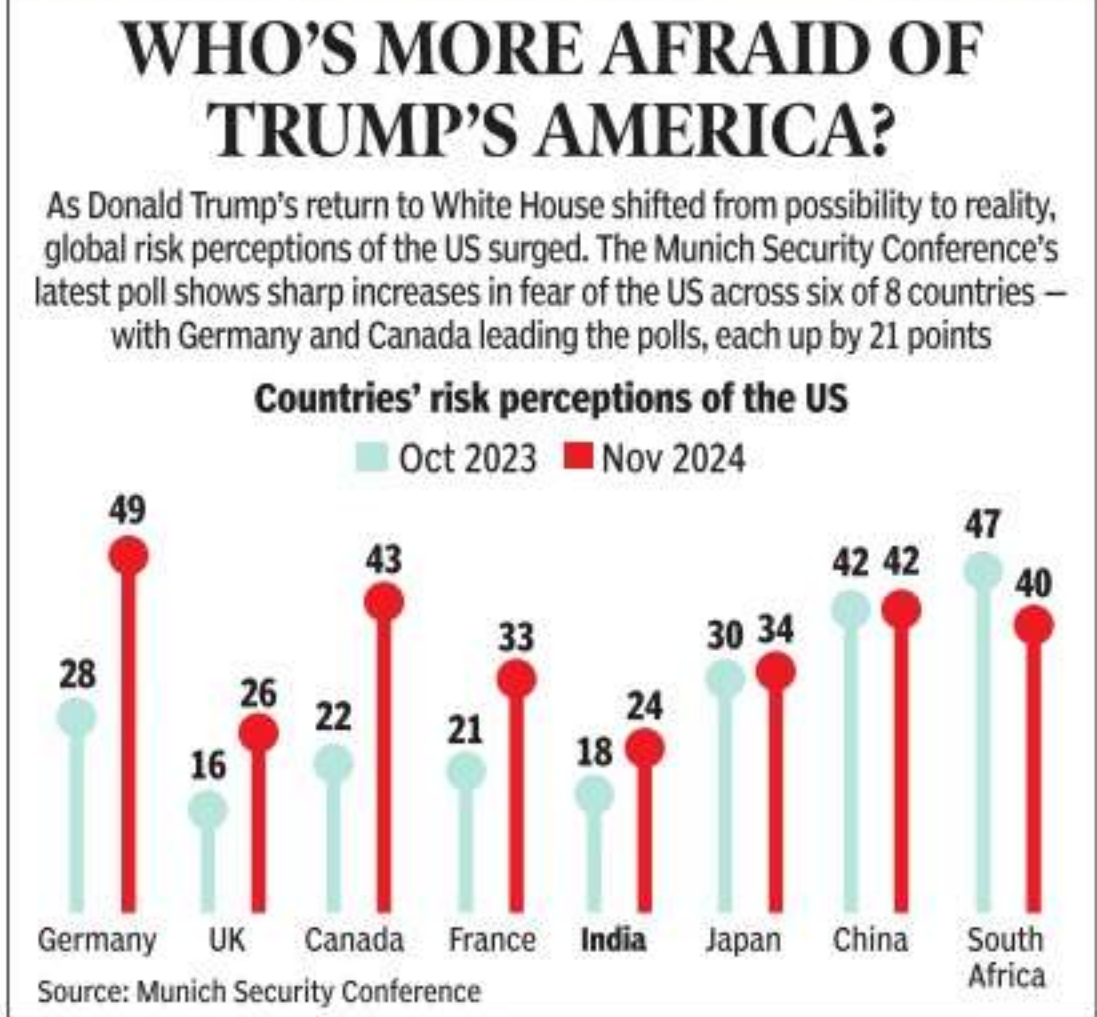
SP CHIEF AKHILESH MOCKS BJP'S DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVT IN UP, CALLS IT A 'DOUBLE BLUNDER'



No one clears Odisha dist judge test

Not a single candidate has cleared a written test for posts of 45 district judges in Odisha through direct recruitment from among advocates and judicial officers, show results posted on the high court website, reports Lal Mohan Patnaik. HC had invited applications from law graduates aged 35-45 with minimum seven years of practice as advocates and judicial officers with at least five years of experience as civil judge (senior division). After scrutiny, 283 advocate candidates were found eligible for the Jan 5 test for 31 posts. Of them, 180 took the test. Another 83 from among judicial officers were cleared to take the exam for 14 posts. But two notices issued by the registrar (examination) on Feb 17 revealed no qualifiers.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers By Richa Gandhi



Centre bans manufacture & export of 2 drugs 'fuelling' W Africa opioid crisis

Naomi Canton & Eshan Kalyanikar | TNN

Photo: Ashad Shaikh

'HARMFUL FOR HEALTH': MD SAYS ON CAM

A Palghar-based company, Aveo Pharmaceuticals, manufacturing unlicensed, highly addictive opioids and illegally exported them to Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, according to a BBC documentary titled 'India's Opioid Kings'. Consumption of the pills has created a major public health crisis in the West African region



DEADLY DRUG MIX

Tapentadol | A powerful opioid that causes deep sedation and breathing difficulties

Carisoprodol | A muscle relaxant banned in several countries due to its addictive properties

Effect of combining them | Their combination produces severe side effects including seizures, respiratory failure and death from overdose

SUPPLY CHAIN

Aveo produces the pills under brand names like: Tarmadol (the most popular) | Timaking | Super | Royal-225 | Taamdol | Tarmaking > The pills are packaged to appear legitimate

THE EXPOSE

Aveo MD Vinod Kumar Sharma was captured on a hidden camera openly discussing the products. He admitted that the pills are harmful but called his activity "just business"

This is very harmful for their health, but the customer cannot understand that... This is a very harmful product... but nowadays this is business

OUTRAGE

(Mumbai region's) Aveo Pharmaceuticals is manufacturing highly addictive opioids and exporting them illegally to West Africa. It's creating major drugs & public health crisis in Ghana, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire — reveals BBC. Why is India not acting? Stopping it?

— **Jawhar Sircar** | FORMER RAJYA SABHA MP
This is going to blow back on India very soon — **Amitav Ghosh** | AUTHOR

dard Control Organization (CDSCO) is responsible for testing the exports as per their protocols, and the state does not play a role. Both the medicines have their use separately, but their combination is harmful, and it is already banned in India.

Monish Bhalla, former senior officer of India's Nar-

cotics Control Bureau, said, "The checks and balances on imports in India are far more stringent than for exports."

Aveo is breaking Indian law because it is not meeting import requirements in Ghana, but "the Indian authorities pay little attention to pharma drugs not sold in India," the documentary states.

An undercover BBC reporter went to Aveo Pharmaceuticals' factory posing as a businessman looking to supply opioids to Nigeria and met the managing director Vinod Kumar Sharma. Whilst being plied with snacks and Bisleri, Sharma showed him the pills boxed under different brand names such as

Reduce oil intake, fight obesity, PM appeals again

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Modi Sunday doubled down on his suggestion to reduce monthly edible oil consumption by 10% to prevent obesity which, he said, affected one in every eight people. He also asked people to pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake to 10 others.

During the opening of National Games in Dehradun on Jan 28, Modi had highlighted the role of excess cooking oil in causing obesity and suggested that families reduce their consumption of edible oil by 10% each month. He said small steps such as this could lead to significant health improvements.

YOU READ IT HERE

People should reduce intake of edible oil by 10% to cut obesity risk: PM



Related reports, Other Book, P6

In his Mann Ki Baat radio address on Sunday, Modi went a step further and shared messages from Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra, boxer Nikhat Zareen and eminent cardiac surgeon Dr Devi Shetty on the issue. "Decide that you will use 10% less oil every month. This will be an important step towards reducing obesity," the PM said. He added that cases of obesity had doubled in recent years, but what was more worrying was that the problem had increased four-fold even among children.

DSPL-397



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Inauguration of

Odisha Travel Bazaar

In the August Presence of
Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Union Tourism Minister

Smt. Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

24 February 2025 | Mayfair Convention, Bhubaneswar

Exhibition & B2B Meetings

25 - 27 February 2025
Swosti Premium,
Bhubaneswar

Explore Business & Tourism Synergies

Discover opportunities, forge partnerships & experience Odisha's rich heritage

- Domestic & Foreign Tour Operators (DTOs & FTOs)
- Odisha's tourism industry showcasing unique offerings
- Structured, pre-scheduled Business to Business interactions
- Exclusive FAM Tours for Buyers
- Cultural Showcase

Entry by Invitation only

Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha



Industry Partner



To Get All The Popular Newspapers.
Type in Search Box of Telegram

@sharewithpride

If You Want to get these Newspapers Daily at earliest

English Newspapers»»»

Indian Express, Financial Express, The Hindu, Business Line, The Times of India, The Economic Times, Hindustan Times, ET wealth, Business Standard, First India, Mint, Greater Kashmir, Greater Jammu, The Himalayan, The Tribune, Brill Express, The Sikh Times, Avenue Mail, Western Times, Millennium Post, The Statesman, State Times, The Pioneer, Hans India, Free Press, Orissa Post, Mumbai Mirror, Mid-Day, Deccan Chronicle, Deccan Herald, Telangana Today, Financial Times, The Asian Age, The Telegraph, Oheraldo, Gulf of Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Times

Hindi Newspapers»»»

दैनिक जागरण, राजस्थान पत्रिका, दैनिक भास्कर, दिव्यभास्कर, हिंदुस्तान, नवभारत टाइम्स, बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड, अमर उजाला, जनसत्ता, द पायोनीर, राष्ट्रीय सहारा, प्रभातखबर, लोकसत्ता

Others»»»

Hindi & English Editorial, Employment News, Malayalam Newspapers, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Gujarati

Type in Search box of Telegram https://t.me/Magazines_8890050582 And you will find a Channel named @Lalit712 join it and receive daily editions of all popular epapers at the earliest

Or

you can click on this link

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>

Face it! Men's makeup is a booming beauty business

Cosmetics firms launch targeted brands for men even as influencers and makeup artists normalise beauty products

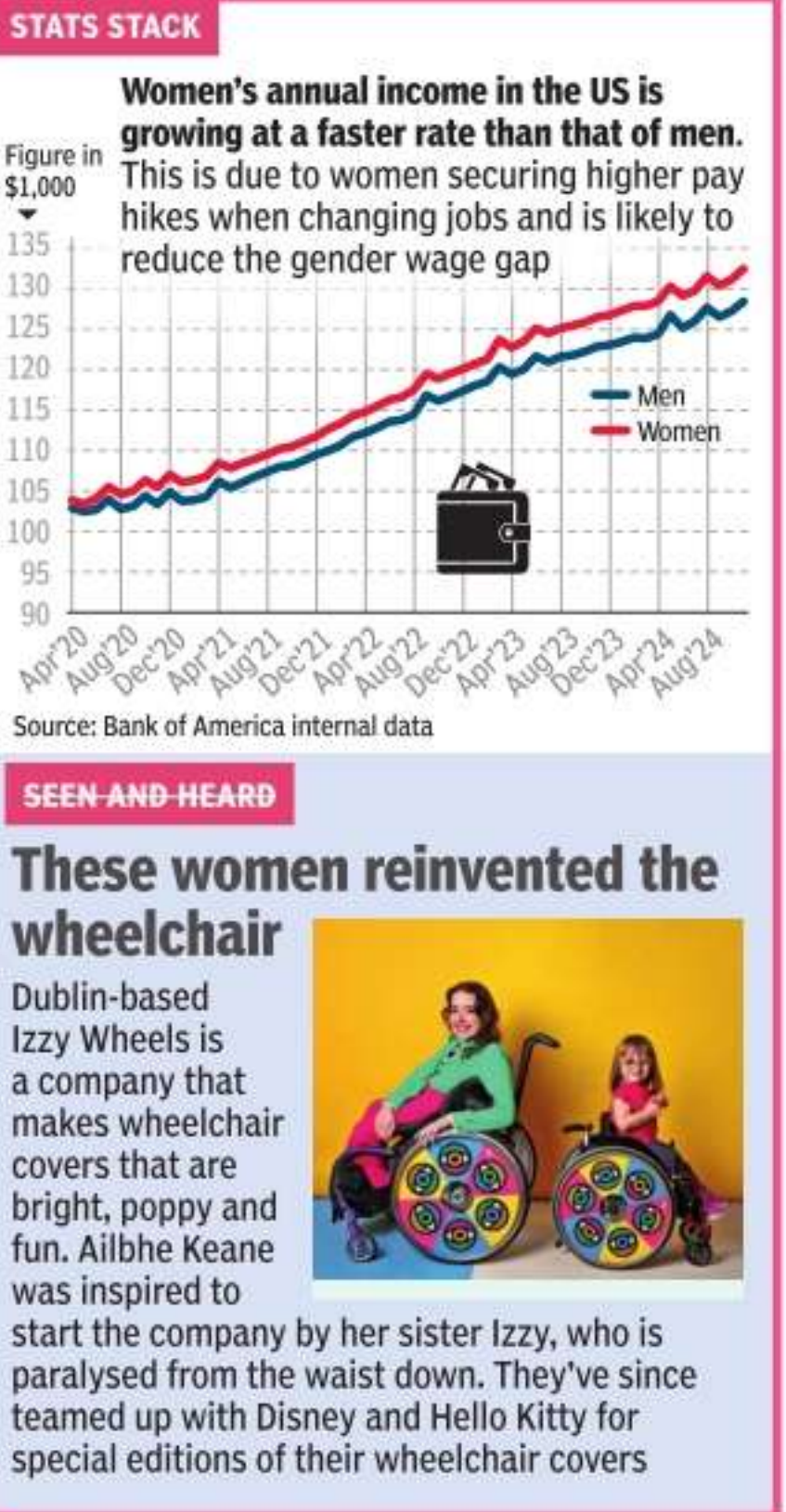
Shruti.Sonali@timesofindia.com

For the longest time, men wearing makeup have been used as a comedic trope in Indian films. With plump red lips, unruly wigs, and rosy cheeks, they either impersonated women to fool cops in heist thrillers or were made the butt of 'gay' jokes in scenes with a roaring laugh track. Cut to 2025, however, and the world of men's makeup is on our screens for a different reason.

In an episode of popular startup pitching reality show 'Shark Tank India', Ahmedabad's Rahul Shah stood in front of the judges, pitching Yaan Man — India's first makeup brand exclusively for men. Shah, who worked for five years as a cosmetic formulator in the US, returned to India in 2018 to break taboos.

"In the US, I saw a lot of heterosexual men from Asia and other parts of the world using makeup to hide their dark circles, acne, and improve their skincare. But in India, most brands who even catered to men were only focusing on beard and hair care," Shah says.

The path was not that easy, though. When he discussed his idea of selling concealers, foundation, and tinted moisturisers for men suited to Indian skin tones and weather conditions, people around him, including his friends, laughed. Most of them were reluctant to even use a proper face wash or apply sunscreen, forget anything else. Despite the taboos, he knew



there was a growing market for it. After all, traditional players like Lakme India and MAC Cosmetics have introduced products for men, while representation has been growing — thanks to the glassy skin of K-drama heartthrobs and the videos of male beauty influencers like Ankush Bahuguna raking in millions of views.

In fact, data by consumer research firm Mintel shows that one in every five beauty and personal care products launched in India since July 2022 was targeted at men — the biggest share for the category in the Asia-Pacific markets. Though the Indian market is smaller than that of China and Japan, the report adds, it is growing at a much faster rate, with the Indian male grooming category valued at more than Rs 10,000 crore.

Social media has been the main catalyst for this shift, says Mumbai-based makeup artist Karan Chugh. "For the longest time, heterosexual men associated taking care of their physical appearance to only going with the gym and oiling their beards. However, with access to trends from across the world, they realise now that this need not be the case." In terms of products, concealers and tinted lip balms have become quite popular in



CHANGING NARRATIVES: Ankush Bahuguna posts his makeup and skincare routines online

the last year or two, he adds. A number of brands Chugh works with are also hiring male models for campaigns centred around beauty. A recent social media campaign he worked on for Nykaa Cosmetics, for in-

stance, features 28-year-old Hindi film actor Gurvath Singh Pirzada wearing nothing but an apron (and makeup). Centred around Valentine's Day, Pirzada stars as 'Pookiemani', posing with a bunch of gender-neutral lip products, with names like Lip Glaze, Lip Cloud, and Butter Bomb — quite a shift from the matte black

Initially, I faced a lot of criticism. A number of people asked me if I was transgender and used slurs. They could not digest what they were seeing

MOHAMMED MAAZ KHAN, MALE GROOMING CONTENT CREATOR

'machoness' that male grooming products have traditionally relied on. This shift is not just limited to the sets of a reality show or the glittery world of Mumbai. Mohammed Maaz Khan, who hails from Rampur village in Uttar Pradesh, says he was more into fashion than all the other boys in his college. During Covid, he started posting grooming content online. A few of them went viral, and he was even featured on Instagram's official ac-



count. A chemical engineering graduate, Khan went on to pursue a course in cosmetology. However, the journey wasn't smooth as body butter. "Initially, I faced a lot of criticism. A number of people asked me if I was transgender and used slurs. They could not digest what they were seeing," Khan says.

His attempt to normalise makeup led him to start posting the beauty routines of Bollywood and TV actors. "Many men admire actors and aspire to look like them but aren't aware of the products they use to look that way," Khan adds. He soon began posting about the benefits of using face serums, BB creams, CC creams and tinted lip balms, along with advice for tackling dark circles and wrinkles.

Soon, his inbox was flooded with requests from curious men who wanted to know more. Several grooms-to-be reached out too, to enquire about the right products to look good on their wedding day. "A lot of them would never have walked up to someone in real life and asked these questions out of fear of being ridiculed. But messaging someone online helped them overcome that," points out Khan, who has over 6 lakh followers on Instagram today.

Meanwhile, Yaan Man founder Shah says the broader shift in Indian men's mentality will not happen overnight, but the response from users has been far better than expected. "A lot of men are still hesitant to post public reviews or talk about it. But they're buying more and more products," he says. Now, he wants to double down on them, with four more products already in the pipeline scheduled to be launched later this year.

'Kerala's adult movie industry broke norms by highlighting female desire'

In 'Rated A: Soft-Porn Cinema and Mediations of Desire in India', Darshana Sreedhar Mini studies Kerala's once-bustling adult film industry. The assistant professor of film at the University of Wisconsin-Madison talks to Ketaki Desai about the labour behind this mini-industry and starlets like Shakeela who powered it

■ **What inspired you to study the soft porn boom of '90s and 2000s Kerala?**

While doing my MPhil, I was trying to understand how young boys or teens get to know about sex education. After much coaxing, they said they learnt about sexuality and intimacy (what a condom was, for instance) through soft porn films. That made me think about the genre, but there wasn't much scholarship about it then. Everyone told me these movies were made in Kodambakkam, Chennai. So, I went there, to the streets everyone told me existed, but no one was there. That's when I learnt about Kodambakkam's fictitious, pseudo-nym-driven production culture that capitalised on the reserve pool of mainstream cinema. They were tapping into people waiting for a break that never came. I started spending time at film labs and, after five months of waiting, I was finally introduced to someone who worked in soft porn.

■ **What led to its swift rise and fall?**

Soft porn became a parallel industry in the 1990s and early 2000s primarily owing to the financial crisis mainstream cinema faced. Many films made by prominent directors, featuring A-list actors, failed miserably at the box office. Exhibitors and distributors were trying to figure out what would work, and the quickly produced, low-budget formula of soft porn made it viable. However, oversaturation led to its decline — films with similar storylines, the same cast and crew with maybe 10 or 15 women who acted in all these films. Shakeela, for instance, began to charge per day rather than per



ed to see her as the actress. Interestingly, for someone seen as the fantasy of heterosexual men, Shakeela was closely associated with the trans community and its causes. Now that she

film at one point. She got Rs 1.5 lakh a day, but what she didn't know was that one day's footage was being used for multiple films.

■ **Shakeela became synonymous with the industry. How did it impact her life?**

Soft porn did become equivalent to Shakeela, but its fallout was that she never got to play a real character in Malayalam cinema. She tried directing a film, but everyone wanted to see her as the actress. Interestingly, for someone seen as the fantasy of heterosexual men, Shakeela was closely associated with the trans community and its causes. Now that she

is gearing up for politics, I'm curious to know how she navigates the expectation of respectability.

■ **How much control did starlets working on these projects have?**

They didn't have much control over what ended up at the editing table. They

The men acting in soft porn were embarrassed, as their work was seen as demasculinising

shared quasi-family relationships with directors and technicians, so it wasn't direct exploitation. Some told me it was a way to get a foothold in the mainstream industry and make connections with directors. But once you're a part of soft porn, your chances in the mainstream went down.

■ **Were women able to watch these films?**

Most cinema halls I went to in Kerala weren't willing to have women in the audience, unless they were sex workers. But I spoke with many women who watched these films on cable television late at night. The female lead appeals to people because she's sexually autonomous and doesn't care about middle-class morality. Funny, the men who acted in soft porn were more embarrassed to speak with me as their work was seen as demasculinising. The strong female lead was the fulcrum of the narrative. She needs to have sex, and sometimes there are references to it not being fulfilling. The men take that personally, feeling like they were just an extra in a Shakeela film, rather than an actor.

■ **These films portrayed unexplored forms of desire such as female orgasms and masturbation. Was it deliberate?**

Female sexual pleasure is a big no-no in mainstream filmic depiction. Women as agents of pleasure was something impossible to imagine in dominant media. When I asked directors why they wanted to show female pleasure, they said they wanted to change the dynamics, where instead of a hero dictating things, it's a woman. The female lead then stands in for the man and is allowed those desires.

Chennai kid fails to recite Hindi poem, teacher suspended for hitting him

Preetika P | TN

Chennai: A Hindi teacher at a Chennai school has been suspended on charges of hitting a Class 3 student for failing to recite a poem and threatening to bar him from entering the campus.

The management of Bhavans Rajaji Vidyalashram School in Kilpauk said it took action against the teacher following a written complaint from the parents. CBSE, to which the school is affiliated, maintains a "zero tolerance" policy towards any form of violence by teachers against students. "The incident happened



DMK cadres defaced Hindi letterings on the name boards of two railway stations in Tamil Nadu on Sunday amid NEP row

a couple of days back. He was disturbed that day. We requested the school to take action and we believe they would act in favour of the child," the parent told TOI.

Principal PG Subramanian did not respond to queries. Director of private schools, M Palanisamy, said he had yet to examine the matter. "I will speak with

the school management and release a report on Monday," he added.

CBSE's guidelines emphasise that corporal punishment is strictly prohibited, and any physical, verbal, or emotional abuse can lead to disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal of the teacher. Dharani Prabha, member of Students' Parents' Welfare Association said schools are required to establish mechanisms for reporting and addressing such incidents. "School management committees have to regularly review such concerns and ensure child safety," Prabha said.

Minor runs over woman in TN, dad is arrested

Chennai: A 17-year-old boy attempting to drive his father's minivan parked outside their house in Kancheepuram ran over a 53-year-old woman, killing her on the spot on Sunday.

Police arrested the minor's father, Rassa, who prepares snacks at home and delivers them to shops in his minivan, for allowing his son to drive the vehicle. The van hit Saraswathi, who was drawing a kolam in front of her house, then collided with a pushcart and a scooter before coming to a stop, police said.

Neighbours rushed to rescue Saraswathi, who was trapped underneath the vehicle. They lifted the van off her, but she had died by then. ❧

Drones used in Manipur violence procured from Del, Haryana: NIA

Ngathingkhui Jagoi | TN

Imphal: NIA has identified the suppliers of drones used by tribal militants to drop 40 bombs on Koutruk and Kandangband villages in Imphal West district on Sept 1 last year, killing a 31-year-old woman and injuring her 6-year-old daughter.

Khagoulen Kipgen, alias David, purchased the drones and accessories from Mayank Sharma of New Delhi's Ramesh Nagar and Vikram Chaudhary from Haryana's Rohtak, special public prosecutor told a special court.

Another individual, Lakshangam Albert Singh (36), also bought drones and bat-

teries from Sharma and Chaudhary. This was the first time in Manipur's history that bombs had been dropped using drones.

Will find and seize illegal weapons, says chief secy: Manipur chief secretary Prashant Kumar Singh on Sunday said seven days are sufficient if one decides to surrender illegal weapons. "It can be done in a day. Once the governor's ultimatum expires, we will find and take it (weapons)," he said at an event in Imphal East.

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla had on Feb 20 issued an ultimatum to the people of the state to surrender illegally held weapons within seven days.

At least 30 weapons looted from security forces were turned in on Saturday. The looting of arms from troops has been a persistent issue in Manipur since the outbreak of ethnic violence on May 3, 2023. The chief secretary said illegal weapons in the hands of public or private pose serious dangers, and therefore, recovering them promptly and peacefully is imperative.

Highlighting the priority of restoring peace and normalcy, Singh assured security deployments on the state's highways are being reinforced with additional forces.

Sir J. J. School of Art, Architecture and Design, Mumbai
(Deemed to be University under De-novo category)
Dr. D. N. Road Fort, Mumbai- 400 001

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Advt. No.: SJJSAAD/VC/2025/1
SEARCH-CUM-SELECTION COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Sir J.J. School of Art, Architecture and Design (Deemed to be University under de-novo category) was formed in 2023 and is governed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). It is a multidisciplinary University integrating Art, Architecture and Design, and carries forward the glorious legacy of the Sir J.J. School of Art, Sir J.J. College of Architecture and Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art. The school was established in 1857 with a generous donation from Sir Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy, noted philanthropist and city-father. Over a century and a half, the various schools on the South Mumbai campus have produced several international and national practitioners of art, architecture and design. Now, as an integrated (de novo) University, this education legacy continues, offering unique and emerging areas of knowledge in art, architecture and design not offered by conventional institutions to the next generation of creative professionals.

Applications/Nominations are invited from eminent academicians who fulfil the qualifications and experience prescribed for the post of Vice-Chancellor as per U.G.C. (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulation, 2018.

Candidates who fulfil the prescribed qualification and experience and are willing to take on this prestigious and challenging assignment may apply in the prescribed format in hard (4 copies) by post/courier in an envelope superscribed with "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Sir J. J. School of Art, Architecture and Design" as well as soft copy with all necessary enclosures, attachments, credentials and testimonials to the Nodal Officer at the following address so as to reach on or before Tuesday, the 25th March, 2025 upto 5.00 p.m.

Name and address : Prin. Ajay Bharamore of Nodal Officer Pro Vice-Chancellor University of Mumbai Fort, Mumbai-400 032 Contact: +91-98335 22608 Email: pvc@fort.mau.ac.in

The detailed advertisement, essential qualifications and experience, format of application and other requisite documents are available on the website www.sirjsschool-aad.in Applications received after due date shall not be considered.

Date: 24th Feb. 2025
DG/PR/2024-2025/6626

Search-cum-Selection Committee

When you don't compromise on designs for your clients,

why compromise on security?

AnG India

Trust the specialist in Electronic Surveillance Solutions.

Central Monitoring | Access Control | CCTV Surveillance | Fire Alarms | Electronic Security Systems

1800-111-264 | reason@angindia.in | angindia.in

Scan to know more

Government of India

6 YEARS OF PRIME MINISTER KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI

Till now, farmers have received nearly **₹3.5 Lakh Crore** Worth of Honorarium

One of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes

Annual assistance of ₹ 6000 to farmers

More than 85% of PM Kisan beneficiaries are small and marginal farmers

At least one among 4 PM Kisan beneficiaries is a woman

And today, under the 19th installment of PM Kisan, an amount of **₹22 thousand crore** to be directly transferred to the accounts of more than 9.8 crore farmers of the country

Transfer the 19th installment of PM Kisan

Dedicate 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to the Nation

Inaugurate Center of Excellence for indigenous breeds in Motihari and Milk Product Plant in Barauni

Additionally, doubling of Warisaliganj - Nawada - Tilaiya (36.45 km) rail section at a cost of more than **₹570 crore** and dedication of Ismailpur - Rafiganj Road Over Bridge to the nation

Date - 24 February 2025 | Time - 12 Noon | Venue - Bhagalpur, Bihar

Live telecast of the programme on DD News and DD Kisan

Under the **Kisan Samman Ceremony**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to

SHE WAS YOUNG, HEALTHY, AND FULL OF LIFE – SO WHY DID HER HEART STOP?

A 23-year-old woman recently collapsed mid-dance at a wedding in Madhya Pradesh, dying of sudden cardiac arrest. With no prior health issues, her death echoes rising cases of unexplained heart failures in young adults, sparking urgent calls for cardiac screening and awareness

Lata Mishra & Karishma Kotwal | TNN

A viral video from a sangeet ceremony in Vidisha, a town in Madhya Pradesh known for its historical significance, has left viewers in disbelief. In the clip, 23-year-old Parinita Jain, full of life and energy, takes the stage, dancing to the popular Bollywood song ‘Sharaara Sharara’. Just 30 seconds into her performance, the MBA graduate from Indore suddenly stumbles forward slightly, and then collapses onto the floor. Initially, guests at her cousin’s wedding thought she had merely lost her balance or fainted due to exhaustion or dehydration. However, as she lay motionless, panic ensued.

Family members are seen rushing to her side, shaking her in an attempt to revive her, while others call out for help. Despite frantic efforts, she remained unresponsive. She was immediately transported to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared that she had suffered a fatal heart attack.

Medical professionals at the hospital confirmed that Parinita was unresponsive upon arrival, showing no pulse or signs of breathing. Despite immediate and extensive resuscitation attempts, including advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), she could not be revived. An electrocardiogram (ECG) revealed no detectable electrical activity in her heart, confirming that she had succumbed to sudden cardiac arrest.

Parinita’s death is especially unsettling because it seemingly occurred without warning. A week before the incident, she had reportedly visited a doctor for hair loss and undergone routine blood tests. Her results were completely normal. Her family is now grappling with unbearable grief, made worse by the eerie parallel to a tragedy they endured in 2009 — her twin brother, when he was just 7, also suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while riding his bicycle. His death had remained a mystery, with no prior symptoms or indications of an underlying health condition. Now, more than a decade later, the family finds itself facing the same devastating loss.

Given their tragic history, experts suggest that the family could have undergone genetic screening or cardiac evaluations to check for hereditary conditions that might predispose them to sudden cardiac events. While such tests are not always routine, they can sometimes provide early warnings in cases like these.

Her father, Surendra Jain, struggling to process what has happened, spoke to media persons about his daughter’s vibrant spirit. “She was full of life...” he said. More surprisingly, Parinita was highly health-conscious — she practised yoga regularly, followed a disciplined fitness routine, and was careful about her diet and overall well-being. There had also been no signs of any health issues, which



TRAGIC MOMENT: Just 30 seconds into her performance at a sangeet ceremony in Vidisha, MBA graduate Parinita Jain stumbled forward slightly before collapsing on the floor, suffering a fatal cardiac arrest

has made her sudden death all the more shocking.

Parinita’s case is a stark reminder of a growing but poorly understood phenomenon: sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in young, otherwise healthy individuals. Experts believe that such cases are often triggered by undiagnosed heart conditions that remain silent until a crisis moment.

Unlike traditional heart attacks that are caused by blocked arteries, sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical malfunction of the heart that causes it to stop beating within moments. There is usually no warning.

No danger signs

Dr Pravin Kahale, consultant cardiologist at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, explains that SCA in young adults can be linked to structural heart diseases, electrical disorders, and vascular anomalies. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), one of the most common inherited heart conditions, causes the heart muscle to thicken, making it difficult to pump blood efficiently. Another possible culprit is Long QT syndrome, an electrical disorder that disrupts the heart’s normal rhythm, increasing the risk of sudden arrhythmias and cardiac arrest.

“Such conditions often go unnoticed because they may not present any symptoms until a fatal event occurs,” says Dr Kahale. “Genetic factors can play a role, and individuals with a family history of unexplained sudden deaths should undergo cardiac screening.”

Parinita’s case raises concerns about whether intense physical exertion, such as dancing, can trigger a cardiac episode in those with underlying conditions. Dr Praveen Kulkarni, senior consultant cardiologist at Gleneagles Hospital, Mumbai, believes it is entirely possible. “Unexpected physical exertion can trigger latent heart conditions in individuals who are otherwise undiagnosed. The heart races with exercise and demands more oxygen. If there is an undetected issue, this can lead to fatal arrhythmias or cardiac arrest,” he explains.

What makes Parinita’s case stand out from regular heart incidents is the absence of common risk factors. Unlike cases where

heart attacks are linked to high cholesterol, obesity, or lifestyle choices, Parinita showed no warning signs. Unlike older patients, where plaque buildup in arteries is often a leading cause, her case suggests a possible underlying congenital condition.

Her death is in some way similar to that of Arjun Deshmukh, a 20-year-old state-level badminton player who collapsed mid-match during last year’s Maharashtra state championship at Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune. Competing in the quarterfinals, Arjun had just finished a gruelling rally when he suddenly stumbled and fell. Initially, spectators and officials assumed he had simply lost his balance due to exhaustion. But within moments, it became clear something was terribly wrong — he was motionless and unresponsive.

Coaches and medical staff rushed in, performing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), but despite their efforts, Arjun was declared dead on arrival at Sassoon General Hospital, Pune. His sudden passing sent shockwaves through the sports community.

An autopsy and genetic testing later revealed he had arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) — a rare, inherited heart disorder that silently replaces normal heart tissue with fibrofatty deposits, disrupting electrical signals and triggering fatal arrhythmias during intense physical exertion. ARVD often remains undiagnosed until sudden cardiac arrest occurs, making it one of the leading causes of athlete deaths.

Devastated by the loss, Arjun’s family underwent genetic screening, which revealed that his younger sibling also carried the ARVD mutation.

The tragedy reignited calls for mandatory pre-competition ECG screenings in Indian sports, particularly for young athletes in high-intensity disciplines. In contrast to countries like Italy, where routine cardiac testing has significantly reduced sudden athlete deaths, India still lacks standardised heart screenings for state and national-level players.

What can one do?

Parinita’s death underscores

COMMON CAUSES OF SUDDEN CARDIAC EVENTS

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | A genetic disorder where the heart muscle thickens, making it harder for the heart to pump blood efficiently.

Dilated cardiomyopathy | The left ventricle enlarges and weakens, reducing the heart’s ability to circulate blood effectively.

Arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia | Fatty or fibrous tissue replaces heart muscle, disrupting electrical signals and increasing the risk of fatal arrhythmias.

Long QT syndrome | A disorder that affects the heart’s electrical activity, making it more prone to dangerous arrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest.

Brugada syndrome | A genetic condition affecting sodium channels, leading to abnormal heart rhythms and a heightened risk of sudden cardiac death.

Congenital coronary anomalies | Structural abnormalities in the coronary arteries can restrict blood supply, especially during intense physical exertion.



OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Myocarditis | Inflammation of the heart muscle, often caused by viral infections.

Electrolyte imbalances | Irregular levels of key minerals (such as potassium and magnesium) can disrupt heart function.

Substance abuse | Stimulants, energy drinks, or drugs can trigger arrhythmias and increase the risk of cardiac events.

RECOMMENDED CARDIAC SCREENING TESTS FOR ATHLETES

Electrocardiogram (ECG) | A baseline test that detects electrical abnormalities and irregular heart rhythms.

Echocardiography (Echo) | Ultrasound imaging of the heart to assess structural abnormalities and overall function.

Stress/treadmill test | Evaluates how the heart responds to physical exertion, identifying hidden cardiac issues.

Genetic testing | Recommended if there is a family history of sudden cardiac death or inherited heart conditions.

Holter monitoring | A 24-hour ECG that continuously records heart activity to detect intermittent arrhythmias.

the importance of early detection and awareness of hidden heart conditions. Experts strongly recommend regular heart screenings for young adults, especially those with a family history of heart disease. The American Heart Association has introduced a 14-element checklist to screen for cardiac risk, assessing factors such as family history, exertional chest pain, and unexplained fainting. If symptoms or risk factors are identified, additional tests such as ECG, echocardiograms, and genetic testing may be necessary.

In cases like Parinita’s, where cardiac arrest happens suddenly, CPR can be a lifesaving intervention. Dr Mehta stresses the importance of immediate bystander CPR, which can significantly increase survival chances. “CPR keeps oxygenated blood flowing to the brain and other vital organs, delaying tissue death. Without CPR, brain damage is likely within five minutes, and death becomes almost certain after eight minutes,” he warns.

Here are the immediate steps bystanders should take if someone collapses suddenly

- Determine unresponsiveness: Shake the person and loudly ask, “Are you okay?”
- Call emergency services.
- Check for breathing: Turn the person’s body face up and look to determine whether breathing has stopped or is not normal.
- If the person isn’t breathing, push hard and fast on the centre of the person’s chest, about 100 to 120 pushes a minute. If you have been trained in CPR, check the person’s airway and deliver rescue breaths after every 30 compressions. If you haven’t been trained, continue chest compressions.
- Use an automated external defibrillator (AED) if one is available. AEDs come with voice instructions. Parinita Jain’s tragic and untimely death leaves many questions unanswered, but it highlights the pressing need for greater awareness, proactive cardiac health screenings, and rapid emergency response training. Could her life have been saved with earlier detection of an underlying condition? It’s a question that lingers.

Assam Rifles seizes 622kg of explosives in Aizawl, 3 held

Aizawl: Assam Rifles arrested three people and seized a large quantity of explosives from their vehicle in Aizawl on Friday, reports **HC Vanlalruata**.

They intercepted a vehicle and a thorough search led to the recovery of 4,980 sticks of emulsion explosives, weighing 622kg. Among the arrested were two women.

The destination of explosives is not yet known, though the possible involvement of a Bangladesh insurgent group

The destination of explosives is not yet known, though the possible involvement of a Bangladesh insurgent group has not been ruled out.

Earlier, on Feb 2, police arrested three smugglers and seized two AK-47 assault rifles, five US-made M4 carbines, 20 magazines, 504 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 4,675 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition and Rs 49,550 in cash, ID cards, SIM cards, ATM cards, and five mobile phones in south Mizoram’s Lunglei.

A source said that the weapons were intended for Bangladesh-based Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, a breakaway faction of Bangladesh insurgent group ‘Shanti Bahini’.

AICC to discuss fight against BJP ‘anti-people’ policies in Apr

New Delhi: Congress will hold its All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad on April 8 and 9 to deliberate on the challenges posed by the governing BJP’s “anti-people” policies and its “relentless attacks” on the Constitution as well as for charting the party’s future course of action.

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said an extended Congress Working Committee meeting will be held on the first day, followed by the AICC delegates’ meeting on the second. The session will be chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, CMs, AICC office-bearers and AICC delegates, he said.

“The upcoming session will serve not only as a platform for crucial deliberations but also as a reaffirmation of Congress’s collective resolve to address the concerns of common people and present a strong alternative vision for the nation,” he said. **TNN**

With repeated USAID funding claims, Trump keeps India political pot boiling

► Continued from P 1

Donald Trump also criticised USAID for giving \$29 million to Bangladesh. “\$29 million goes to strengthen the political landscape and help them out so that they can vote for a radical left communist in Bangladesh,” he said, without naming anyone.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that USAID under the previous administration led by Joe Biden allocated \$21 million in funding to India for “voter turnout”, sparking a row in the country over the assistance.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said the information put out



by the Trump administration people is “concerning” and that gov’t is looking into it. During an interaction at an event in New Delhi, he also said USAID was allowed in India “in good faith, to do good faith activities”, and suggestions are being made out of America that “there are activities which are in bad faith”.

“So, it surely warrants a look. And, if there is something to it, I think the country should know who are the people involved in the bad faith activities,” the minister said.

Congress on Saturday urged PM Modi to “talk to his friend” and strongly refute the allegation.

BJP peddling ‘fake news’ from America, indulging in ‘anti-national work’: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Stating that claims about USAID funds to India have proved to be false, Congress on Sunday accused BJP of indulging in “anti-national work” by spreading “fake news from America”. It said while BJP is actively involved in using fake news to defame Congress and the opposition, it is silent on insults being heaped upon India by US president Donald Trump and Elon Musk to secure pardon for Adani, who is facing



cases in America. Congress spokesman **Jairam Ramesh** called “BJP a procession of liars and illiterates”, as he reiterated what has become public — that \$21 million that Trump and Musk claimed were for voter turnout for India, were actually for Bangladesh. He said Musk made a false claim and Trump was confused between Dhaka and Delhi but BJP spread the lie further, which was seized upon by “BJP’s bootlickers”. “Now, BJP should answer

this: Why did BJP spread fake news about India’s democracy? Why did BJP do anti-national activity by spreading fake news from America? Is BJP’s accusation against India’s opposition party using fake news from America not treason?” he asked.

Ramesh said PM Narendra Modi and external affairs minister S Jaishankar must answer why are they silent to repeated insults heaped upon India by Trump and Musk. “Is the country’s self-respect being compromised to beg for mercy for Adani?” he asked.

FinMin: India was working on 7 projects with USAID

New Delhi: India was implementing seven projects worth \$750 million in partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which has been at the centre of controversy since US President Donald Trump alleged funding for elections in the country.

The money — \$97 million (around Rs 825 crore) in 2023-24 — was used for seven projects covering agriculture, forest and climate adaptation, water and sanitation, renewable energy, health and disaster management, the finance ministry said in its annual report for the last financial year. In its previous report also the ministry had listed the same set of projects but did not mention the extent of funding for 2022-23. In fact the projects have remained unchanged for the last few years, with around \$70 million each provided for FY22 and FY21, the annual reports said.

The finance ministry said the US has been providing bilateral development assistance since 1951 and it is largely thorough USAID. Over the last 73 years, USAID has provided economic assistance of \$17 billion for 555 projects spread over multiple sectors, the ministry said. **TNN**

‘Lean cushion’, not ‘broken seat’, behind Shivraj row?

New Delhi: Union agriculture minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**’s seat on the Air India Airbus that flew him Bhopal-Delhi Saturday was not “broken”. That, sources say, is the new light seat increasingly chosen by airlines to keep aircraft weight low and help save fuel burn with the lean cushion taking all the passenger weight, giving the effect of being sunken.



“The seat was reclining and not broken. It has been checked by engineers. But the lean cushioning often gives a sunken feel, especially during turbulence when flyers may feel the seat is moving,” said sources.

A senior DGCA official said on Sunday evening Air India was yet to submit its report on the Union minister’s experience. The former MP CM wrote on X Saturday: “I had booked a ticket on AI 436. I was allotted seat number 8C. I went and sat on the seat, the seat was broken and sunken in. Sitting was uncomfortable.... Not just one, there are more such seats....”

He added: “After charging passengers full amount, seating them on a bad and uncomfortable seat is unethical. Is this not cheating the passengers? Will Air India management take steps so that in the future no passenger faces such discomfort, or will it keep taking advantage of passengers’ urgency to reach their destination?” Air India has apologised to Chouhan. **TNN**

Deported by US to Panama, 12 illegal migrants reach India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Amritsar: A batch of 12 illegal Indian immigrants deported from the US to Panama arrived Sunday in Delhi via Istanbul on a Turkish Airlines flight, making them the first group to be sent back without restraints since three American military aircraft brought 332 deportees to Amritsar within a fortnight this month.

The 12 deportees are said to be among 50 undocumented Indian nationals who reportedly arrived in Panama recently. Panama has been assisting the US in its deportation efforts.

According to local media reports, the UN-affiliated International Organisation for Migration helped purchase plane tickets for people of various nationalities whose citizenship was confirmed, 17 of them Indians. More deportees from the group are expected next week once MEA verifies their nationality.

Deportation from Panama is being carried out under the Regional Assisted Voluntary Return Programme, an IOM protection and support response to facilitate the dignified, safe, regular and orderly return, as well as voluntary and based on an informed decision, of migrants to their countries of origin.

Four men from Punjab in the latest batch took a connecting IndiGo flight from Delhi to Amritsar.

Airport authorities in the city were informed in ad-



Illegal Indian immigrants were shackled and handcuffed when they were earlier deported from the US in three American military aircraft. The batch of 12 who arrived in Delhi via Istanbul on a Turkish Airlines flight on Sunday were the first group to be sent back sans restraints

vance about the arrival of Patiala resident Jatinder Singh, Maninder Dutt of Jalandhar, and Jugraj Singh and Harpreet Singh from Gurdaspur, but it wasn’t immediately clear whether they came unescorted all the way from Panama.

Official sources said after the mandatory debriefing that Jatinder, 34, paid a travel agent from Patiala Rs 52 lakh to help him enter the US through a route crisscrossing Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Maninder, 21, put his faith and Rs 42 lakh in the hands of a Delhi-based illegal immigration agent, who then sent him on a perilous journey through Spain, Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico. Jugraj and Harpreet, both 30, paid Rs 38 lakh each to an agent from Batala and reached the US via Nicaragua. Punjab NRI minister Kul-

deep Singh Dhaliwal said the state govt had registered cases against 15 travel agents based on complaints from natives of the state who were deported from the US this month. Of these, three agents have been arrested, while police have been raiding offices and homes in search of the absconding 12.

Sources said the deportees who arrived on Sunday told authorities they intended to file cases against the travel agents who duped them only if there was a chance of getting their money back.

The first US military flight that arrived on Feb 5 brought 104 deportees, with both men and women handcuffed and their feet shackled. The second flight, carrying 119 deportees, arrived on Feb 15. The third flight, with 112 deportees, landed on Feb 16, this time with only the men in shackles.

(With inputs from Yudhvir Rana in Amritsar)

A Divine Celebration of Faith

@MAHAKUMBH 2025

As the number of devotees visiting Mahakumbh 2025 reaches 62 crore, the rising appeal of this grand congregation has also had a significant impact on the cities of Kashi and Ayodhya. The mega congregation in Prayagraj has resulted in a surge at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, with more than 2 crore devotees thronging the revered shrine since the beginning of Mahakumbh 2025. Likewise, over 69 lakh people have booked homestays in Ayodhya through Divya Ayodhya app. Visitors and pilgrims who are coming to take a holy dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj are also paying homage to their favourite deities in Ayodhya and Kashi



"Blessed to be at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. Like crores who have taken part in it, I am also filled with a spirit of devotion. May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good health and harmony."

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

AN EIGHT-DAYS MAHAKUMBH OF SPORTS – KHEL MAHAKUMBH

The Khel Mahakumbh, organised as part of the grand Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, proved to be an excellent platform for promoting India's indigenous sports and nurturing young talent. The event saw participation from over 800 young athletes and renowned sports personalities. At the conclusion of the Khel Maha Kumbh, a resolution was passed to work towards including India's indigenous sports in the 2036 Olympics.

Several eminent figures supported discussions on taking India's traditional sports to the international level, including:

- N Biren Singh, former CM, Manipur
- Anurag Thakur, Union sports minister
- Yogeshwar Dutt, wrestler
- Dipa Karmakar, Khel Ratna awardee
- Deepa Malik, Padma Shri Paralympian
- Vishweshwar Nandi, coach
- Sangram Singh, wrestler
- Mary Kom, world champion boxer
- Narendra Yadav, mountaineer
- Mayank Srivastava, sports administrator (DDG, Sports Authority of India)

'ZERO DISCHARGE' INITIATIVE: A GLOBAL SANITATION BENCHMARK

A remarkable highlight of this year's Mahakumbh is the unparalleled wastewater management system and zero discharge policy, ensuring that no polluted water enters the river. These efforts have surpassed even global benchmarks, presenting a unique and inspiring model for large-scale events worldwide.

- Local administration has successfully managed wastewater from over 1.5 lakh toilets daily, ensuring zero discharge into the river
- QR code-based monitoring system ensures real-time maintenance, while jet spray cleaning technology and eco-friendly chemical solutions help maintain hygiene and odour-free sanitation facilities
- A robust waste management system, processing 650 metric tonnes (MT) of waste every day at the Baswar plant
- 94 suction machines have been installed for liquid waste management
- For efficient garbage collection, 120 hopper tipper trucks and 40 compactors have been deployed



SIGHTS ON 4 WORLD RECORDS

The first record targets 15,000 workers conducting a simultaneous cleaning campaign across 10 km of the Ganga and Yamuna riverbanks, alongside 300 workers participating in river cleaning

The second Guinness World Record is aimed at 300 workers diving into the Ganga for an unprecedented underwater cleaning operation, with an allocated budget of Rs 85.53 lakh

The third record attempts to showcase 1,000 e-rickshaws operating simultaneously on Triveni Marg within the Mela grounds, promoting the Green Mahakumbh initiative

The fourth record attempt is aimed at collecting 10,000 handprints within 8 hours on canvases installed at Ganga Pandal and other key locations



PICS: DIPK. GOVT. OF UTTAR PRADESH



ANANDIBEN PATEL, governor, Uttar Pradesh, took a holy dip at Sangam and described the occasion as special. The governor said that taking a dip at the Mahakumbh was a divine and unforgettable moment. Commending the CM Yogi Adityanath-led government and local administration, the

governor highlighted that Prayagraj is the spiritual centre of the entire nation and the world. She praised the authorities for ensuring a well-organised and seamless pilgrimage experience. She also appreciated the disciplined way pilgrims took their holy baths at various ghats and moved towards their destinations.



PAWAN KALYAN, deputy CM, Andhra Pradesh, visited the Mahakumbh along with his wife, Anna Lezhneva, and his eldest son, Akira Nandan. Pawan Kalyan said that we may be different in terms of language or culture, but our religion is one. "We are Sanatanis, and Mahakumbh is the biggest moment for every Sanatani."

Kalyan also praised the arrangements made by the Yogi-led state govt in Maha Kumbh. He further said, "Taking a dip at the ongoing Mahakumbh was my biggest wish for the last many decades, which has been fulfilled."

SUNIL GROVER, actor and comedian, offered prayers at Mahakumbh. In a social media post, he shared a video of himself taking a dip in the river. He captioned the post, "Divine to be here at the Mahakumbh 2025. Feeling blessed to take a much-awaited dip. So many Sadhu, Sant, Rishi, Muni, Mahatma have been coming here for thousands of years in the same water. I feel full, complete. Gratitude to each and every one who helped me to reach here. Jai ho!"



Bollywood actor, **RAJKUMMAR RAO**, and his partner Patralekhaa attended the Mahakumbh together. They took a dip at the Sangam alongside yogini Ira Trivedi and Bhagawati Saraswati. In a joint post, they shared glimpses of their experience.

MILIND SOMAN, model and actor, and his wife Ankita Konwar also visited Mahakumbh and took a holy dip at Sangam. Posting on her social media account, the latter said, "I have never experienced anything like this ever before! The intensity of the crowd and the faith I observed in each one of them, will forever be a part of my existence. Blessed to have been a part of this once in a lifetime event."



VIJAY DEVERAKONDA, actor and producer, was seen taking a dip at the Sangam at Mahakumbh. He was joined by his mother Deverakonda Madhavi.

RUPALI GANGULY, Indian television actress, shared her spiritual experience of visiting Mahakumbh on social media, expressing gratitude and sharing candid moments. She visited the Mahakumbh with her husband, Ashwin Verma, and their son, Rudransh. The family took a holy dip at the Sangam, embracing the spiritual essence of the event. Taking to social media, she stated, "Blessed to have experienced this with the family. The faith, the people, the dharma, the power, the all-encompassing and overwhelming divinity—Har Har Gange, Har Har Mahadev."



"Mahakumbh is not just a religious event but a festival that conveys the message of unity."

YOGI ADITYANATH, Chief Minister



"There is 'Amrityoga' in this Kumbh. I have personally experienced the immortality and spiritual power that is contained in the water of the Sangam. This time, Mahakumbh is unique in every respect. I have been coming to Kumbh since 1977, but I have never experienced a more beautiful and divine Kumbh than this. This event is truly a wonderful confluence of grandeur, devotion and Indian culture."

JAGAD GURU RAMABHADRACHARYA, Tulsi Peethadishwar

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR, spiritual saint, praised and congratulated CM Yogi Adityanath for the seamless arrangements at the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025. He commended both the Central and the Uttar Pradesh government for their efforts in ensuring a smooth experience for the millions of devotees participating in the religious event. He said, "All the arrangements have been made so smoothly by the Central government and the Uttar Pradesh administration. Lakhs of devotees are following their devotion, and performing their worship here."



"Chief minister Yogi Adityanath left no stone unturned in making the Mahakumbh grand and divine. He has worked with all his heart and soul. He is the first chief minister to visit Prayagraj the most during the Mahakumbh. He gave instructions to improve every arrangement."

JAGADGURU SWAMI ADHOKSHAJANAND DEVATIRTHA



SUNIL GAVASKAR, former Indian cricketer and former captain of the Indian cricket team, visited Mahakumbh and took a dip at the holy Sangam. He shared the moment with his fans by taking to his social media account and posted photograph of his visit.

Expressing his delight after performing the required rituals during the *snan*, he posted on his social media account, "Feeling blessed after visiting the Mahakumbh."



• More than 50 lakh devotees from Nepal have taken a dip in Sangam

• In 2025, during the 45-day Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, more than 62 crore devotees have bathed at Sangam so far

• The average number of devotees bathing daily at Sangam is more than 1.19 crore, excluding the 6 shahi snan dates

• If the number of pilgrims reaches 62 crores, UP's GDP could see a boost of Rs 3.25 to Rs 3.5 lakh crore

PLEDGE FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: NETRA KUMBH @MAHAKUMBH 2025

For the first time in Mahakumbh, devotees are voluntarily taking a pledge to donate their eyes. About 22 people, including eye patients and other devotees participating in the Netra Kumbh at Sector 6 Bajrang Chauraha of Maha Kumbh, are filling the pledge form for eye donation every day. At the Netra Kumbh, that started in January 2025, 5,670 people have pledged to donate their eyes so far.

- More than one lakh five thousand people have been examined for their eyes. 7,926 people have been advised to undergo cataract surgery
- 68,460 people have been given free cataract surgeries
- Among those who have filled the pledge form for eye donation in Netra Kumbh so far, the youngest is a 12-year-old student and the oldest is a 78-year-old man

PRAYAGRAJ AIRPORT CLIMBS TO INDIA'S TOP 20 @MAHAKUMBH 2025

In just 35 days, alongside 40 routine flights, more than 700 chartered flights landed in the region

Prayagraj airport has experienced unprecedented growth during the Mahakumbh, handling daily traffic volumes that previously equalled a full month's worth. Flight frequencies have more than quadrupled, with traffic also surging in nearby cities like Varanasi and Ayodhya. Thanks to an expanded terminal and apron area, operations have extended into the night, allowing for a significant increase in flight departures.

In fact, flight frequencies have more than quadrupled compared to pre-Mahakumbh times. According to exclusive data from aviation analytics firm Cirium, Prayagraj airport can handle over 42 departures on some days, which is an astounding four-fold increase over previous figures.

- On February 2, a total of 9516 passengers travelled to Prayagraj airport. In this, 4945 passengers arrived by various flights, while 4571 passengers departed from the airport. A total of 31 planes landed, while 31 planes flew to other cities
- On February 1, 10599 passengers travelled by air at the former Prayagraj Airport. During this period, 64 scheduled flights operated. Apart from this, 23 non-scheduled flights operated
- This figure is the highest so far at Prayagraj Airport

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



KATE HUDSON REGRETS TURNING DOWN 'DEVIL WEARS PRADA' LEAD ROLE: 'IT WAS A BAD CALL. SHOULD'VE MADE IT HAPPEN'



GEORGE CLOONEY FLED FARM LIFE TO PURSUE HOLLYWOOD, ONLY TO END UP BACK IN IT: ACTOR REVEALS HE DRIVES TRACTOR AT HOME IN FRANCE

Zelensky offers to resign for Nato entry

Opposes US Demand For \$500bn Fund In Minerals Deal To Repay War Aid

Kyiv: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday that he was willing to step down if it meant peace in Ukraine. His remark came days after Trump questioned his legitimacy and called him a "dictator without elections", echoing a Kremlin talking point. At the same time, he continued to push back against Trump's insistence that he sign a minerals deal that Ukraine says is unacceptable. And he announced a meeting on Monday of over 30 countries in person or online as a kind of coalition of support for Ukraine's war effort. It was not immediately clear whether Zelensky had seriously considered the option of stepping down or was merely

responding to the latest jabs from Washington and Moscow. He added that he could trade his departure for Ukraine's entry into Nato — a highly unlikely scenario given. Trump's opposition to allowing Ukraine into the military alliance. "If it brings peace to Ukraine, and if you need me to step down — I am ready," Zelensky said during a news conference, on the eve of the third anniversary of the war. "Second, I can exchange this for Nato."

For now, Zelensky said, Ukraine and the US remain locked in negotiations over a deal to trade Ukraine's minerals and other natural resources for US aid. Zelensky said he was still not ready to sign the US' latest proposal, which would require Ukraine to pay the US \$500 billion using revenues from its natural resources. "I



RECORD DRONE STRIKE IN UKRAINE ON EVE OF WAR ANNIV Russia launched 267 strike drones into Ukraine overnight on Sunday, more than in any other single attack of the war. It came a day before the three-year anniversary of Moscow's full-scale invasion

am not signing something that will be paid by ten generations of Ukrainians," he said, noting that talks would continue. The talks had already stretched late into Saturday night, according to two Ukrainian officials briefed on the negotiations, and coincided with a huge Russian drone assault on Ukrainian cities overnight.

The Ukrainian Air Force said Russia had launched 267 drones, calling it a "record" since the war began three years ago. Ukraine said that most of the drones were shot down or disabled by electronic jamming, but that debris from destroyed drones damaged houses and sparked fires in parts of Kyiv. On Saturday evening, Pre-

US, Russia talks on ties likely this week

Russian and US teams at the level of departmental heads plan to meet this week to discuss improving relations after the war in Ukraine had pushed ties to the worst level since the depths of Cold War, a senior Russian diplomat said on Sunday. Presidents Trump and Putin spoke on Feb 12 about improving relations and ending the war, and US and Russian officials met in Riyadh on Feb 18 to that end. REUTERS

sident Trump ramped up pressure on Ukraine to sign the deal, which has now been under negotiation for more than 10 days. Several draft agreements have already been rejected by the Ukrainian side because they did not contain specific US security guarantees that would protect Kyiv against further Russian aggression. nvt

German conservatives to win with 28.5% of votes: Exit polls

AfD Set For 2nd Spot, Posts Its Best Result At 20%

Berlin: Germany's opposition conservatives won the national election on Sunday, putting leader Friedrich Merz on track to be the next chancellor while the far-right Alternative for Germany came in second, its best ever result, exit polls showed. Following a campaign riddled by violent attacks, and interventions by US President Trump's administration, the conservative CDU/CSU bloc won 28.5% of the vote, followed by AfD with 20%, an exit poll by ZDF public broadcaster showed.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's SPD tumbled to their worst result since World War II, with 16.5% of the vote share, according to the ZDF exit poll. Greens were on 12% while FDP hovered around the 5% threshold to enter parliament. A late campaign surge by far left Die Linke party gave it 9% of the vote while breakaway leftist party BSW got 5%.

The results set the stage for protracted coalition talks and likely mean a three-way coalition made up of one or two of the three parties that were part of Scholz's unpopular alliance that fell in Nov. Merz, 69, has no previous govt experience but has prom-



THE NEXT CHANCELLOR: Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leader Friedrich Merz, a wealthy businessman, has promised to crack down on migrants and slash taxes and business regulations in a bid to kick-start economic growth

ised to provide greater leadership than Scholz and to liaise more with key allies, restoring Germany to the heart of Europe. A brash economic liberal who has shifted the conservatives to the right, he is considered the antithesis of Angela Merkel, who led Germany for 16 years. Short of a majority in an increasingly fragmented political landscape, however, his conservatives will have to sound out partners to form a coalition. Those negotiations are certain to be tricky after a campaign which exposed sharp divisions over migration and how to deal with AfD in a

country where far-right politics carry a particularly stinging stigma due to its Nazi past. That could leave Scholz in a caretaker role for months, delaying urgently needed policies to revive Europe's largest economy after two consecutive years of contraction and as companies struggle against global rivals. It would also create a leadership vacuum in the heart of Europe even as it deals with challenges including Trump threatening a trade war and attempting to fast-track a ceasefire deal for Ukraine without Europe.

Germany's conservatives will do everything they can to form a govt capable of taking action as quickly as possible, Merz said Sunday. "Tonight we will celebrate and from tomorrow we start working," he said in a first reaction in Berlin. "The world out there is not waiting for us." Scholz, meanwhile, conceded defeat after what he called "a bitter election result." AfD's Alice Weidel said "we have become the second-strongest force." She said her party is "open for coalition negotiations", and that "otherwise, no change of policy is possible in Germany." AGENCIES

Musk to govt staffers: Detail workweek or lose jobs

Kash Pushes Back, Asks FBI Staff To Pause Response

Elon Musk deepened the confusion and alarm of workers across the federal govt Saturday by ordering them to summarise their accomplishments for the week, warning that a failure to do so would be taken as a resignation. Shortly after Musk's demand, which he posted on his social platform X, civil servants across the government received an email from the Office of Personnel Management with the subject line, "What did you do last week?"

The missive simultaneously hit inboxes across multiple agencies, rattling workers who had been rocked by layoffs in recent weeks and were unsure about whether to respond to Musk's demand. Musk's mounting pressure on the federal workforce came at the encouragement of President Trump, who has been trumpeting how the billionaire has upended the bureaucracy and Saturday urged him to be even "more aggressive."

In his post, Musk said employees who failed to answer the message would lose their jobs. "All federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand wh-



ON A CHOPPING SPREE

8-year-old dies as boat with migrants sinks off Panama

A boat with 19 migrants blocked from entering the US sank near Panama due to bad weather as they returned to their home countries, leaving an 8-year-old Venezuelan dead, authorities said Saturday. The event was that of "reverse migratory flow," they added. AFP

at they got done last week. Failure to respond will be taken as a resignation," he wrote.

However, that threat was not stated in the email itself. "Please reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what you accomplished this week and cc your manager," said

the Office of Personnel Management message that went out to employees Saturday afternoon. The email told employees to respond by midnight Monday and not to include classified information.

Some agency leaders welcomed Musk's move. But in a sign of the upheaval and the potential legal and security issues caused by the demand, officials at some federal agencies told their staff to hold off on responding and await further guidance. Among them was Kash Patel, the new FBI director. "The FBI, through the office of the director, is in charge of all of our review processes, and will conduct reviews in accordance with FBI procedures," Patel wrote in an email to staff obtained by NYT. "When and if further information is required, we will coordinate the responses. For now, please pause any responses."

In response to his threat of dismissal if workers did not comply, the American Federation of Govt Employees, the largest federal employee union, said it would challenge any "unlawful" terminations. "It is cruel and disrespectful," the union's president said. nvt

Pope Francis, critical, has restful night as he spends 10th day in hosp

Rome: Pope Francis was conscious but still receiving high flows of supplemental oxygen Sunday following a respiratory crisis and blood transfusions, as he remains in critical condition with a complex lung infection, the Vatican said.

"The night passed quietly, the pope rested," Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in an early statement. Further clinical tests were being performed on the 88-year-old pope, who had part of one lung removed as a young man. On Saturday, Francis suffered a prolonged asthmatic respiratory crisis that required "high flows" of oxygen to help him breathe through a nasal tube. He also received blood transfusions after tests showed low counts of platelets. Doctors said Saturday his prognosis was "reserved."

Doctors have said Francis' condition is touch-and-go, given his age, fragility and pre-existing lung disease. His condition has revived speculation about what might happen if he becomes unconscious or otherwise incapacitated, and whether he might resign.

Francis was supposed to have celebrated Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica as part of the Vatican's yearlong Holy Ye-



Prayers are being held across the world for the 88-year-old's recovery

ar commemoration. At the Mass, Archbishop Rino Fisichella called for "stronger and more intense" prayers for Pope. Doctors have warned that the main threat facing Francis would be the onset of sepsis, a serious infection of the blood that can occur as a complication of pneumonia. As of Friday, there was no evidence of any sepsis, and Francis was responding to the various drugs he is taking, the pope's medical team said in their first in-depth update on the pope's condition.

Spending his 10th day in hospital, the pope was admitted to the Policlinico Agostino Gemelli on Feb. 14 with a complex respiratory tract infection that developed into pneumonia in both lungs. AP

Israel stalls release of Palestinians over 'humiliating' hostage handovers

Tel Aviv: Israel says the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners is delayed "until release of the next hostages has been assured, and without the humiliating ceremonies" at handovers of Israeli captives in Gaza. The statement by PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office came early Sunday as military vehicles that normally move in advance of the buses carrying prisoners left the open gates of Ofer prison, only to turn around and go back in.

The release of 620 Palestinians had been delayed for several hours and was meant to occur just after six Israeli hostages were released Saturday. It was meant to be the largest one-day prisoner release in Gaza ceasefire's first phase. Israel's announcement abruptly put the future of the truce into further doubt. The Israeli statement was likely a reference to a video released by Ha-



Tens of thousands of people bid farewell to Hezbollah's slain leader Hassan Nasrallah at a funeral in Beirut Sunday. Carrying pictures of Nasrallah and Hezbollah flags, and chanting anti-Israel slogans, people filled a 55,000-seat sports stadium as Israeli jets flew by above

mas showing two hostages who have yet to be released watching Saturday's handover and speaking under duress.

Hamas accused Israel of violating the ceasefire deal and said Netanyahu was "deliberately stalling", a clear violation of the terms. AGENCIES

Israel troops to stay on in WB 'for a year'

Israel said on Sunday troops would remain "for the coming year" in parts of the occupied West Bank where they have launched a weeklong offensive and would prevent tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from returning. Defence minister Israel Katz said he had instructed the military to prepare to remain in urban refugee camps, from where he said 40,000 Palestinians had fled leaving it "emptied of residents." He said he had ordered the military to "prepare for an extended stay in the camps that were cleared for the coming year and to not allow the return of residents or for terror to grow again." The camps are home to descendants of Palestinians who fled during wars with Israel decades ago. AP

Pak and B'desh conduct direct trade for first time since 1971 separation

Islamabad: Pakistan and Bangladesh have resumed direct trade for the first time since the 1971 separation, with the first govt-approved cargo departing from Port Qasim, according to a media report. The agreement was finalised in early Feb when Bangladesh agreed to purchase 50,000 tonnes of Pakistani rice through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). East Pakistan separated from Pakistan in 1971 to form the independent state of Bangladesh. The transportation of the goods marked the first instance of official trade relations being restored since 1971.

Under the deal finalised, Bangladesh is set to import 50,000 tonnes of rice from Pakistan through the TCP. The

Yunus invites Musk to launch Starlink net

Dhaka: Chief adviser Muhammad Yunus has extended an invitation to Elon Musk, urging him to visit Bangladesh and launch the Starlink satellite internet service in the country, reports Ahsan Tasnim. "Integrating Starlink's connectivity into Bangladesh's infrastructure will have a transformational impact, particularly for Bangladesh's enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women, and remote and underserved communities," state-run BSS news agency reported on Sunday, quoting the letter.

In the letter sent on Feb 19, Yunus told Musk his visit would allow him to meet young men and women who would be among the main beneficiaries of this leading technology. "Let us work together to deliver our mutual vision for a better future," he wrote. Yunus has asked his high representative, Khalilur Rahman, to coordinate with SpaceX to ensure completion of necessary work to make Starlink ready for launch in Bangladesh within 90 days.

shipment will be completed in two phases, with the remaining 25,000 tonnes to be dispatched in early March. The Express Tribune newspaper.

The development is seen as a positive step in fostering economic cooperation and re-opening trade channels that were dormant for decades. PTI

Man accused of murder killed by mob in Pak's KP

Islamabad: A mob enraged by a local's murder over a parking dispute snatched the suspect, a watchman, from police and lynched him in Galiyat region of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sunday, reports Omer Farooq Khan. Several policemen were wounded in the violence. Police said Imran Abbasi had parked his car in the designated area of a housing society and left for home. When he returned the next day, he got into a fight with watchman Khan Zaman who stabbed him to death and wounded his brother. As word spread about the murder, a mob milled in the area and burned down five houses. Police apprehended the culprit from the basement of a building, and were about to take him away when the mob swooped on him and beat him to death.

When Trump, Modi, Milei and I talk, we are called a threat to democracy: Meloni

► Continued from P 1

When Bill Clinton and Tony Blair created the global Leftist liberal network in the '90s, they were called statesmen. Today, when Trump, Meloni, Milei or maybe Modi talk, they are called a threat to democracy," Meloni said. "This is the Left's double standard, but we are used to it. And the good news is, people no longer believe in their lies", Meloni said.

The Italian PM noted that despite all the mud they throw at them, citizens continue to keep voting for them

because, "We defend freedom. We love our nations. We want secure borders. We preserve businesses and citizens... We defend family and life. We fight against wokeism. We protect our sacred right to our faith and our free speech. And we stand for common sense. So ultimately, our struggle is hard, but the choice is simple."

Meloni also gave a call to bring lasting peace in Europe through strengthening security measures. She said there is a growing awareness in Europe that security is now top priority and freedom cannot be defended if one lacks the means or courage to do so. ANI



No passengers, no planes: China-funded \$240m Gwadar airport sits idle

Gwadar: With no passengers and no planes, Pakistan's newest and most expensive airport is a bit of a mystery. Entirely financed by China to the tune of \$240 million, it's anyone's guess when New Gwadar International Airport will open for business. Located in the coastal city of Gwadar and completed in Oct 2024, its stark contrast to the impoverished, restive southwestern Balochistan province around it.

For the past decade, China has poured money into Balochistan and Gwadar as part of a multibillion dollar project that connects its western Xinjiang province with Arabian Sea, called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC. Authorities have hailed it as transformational but there's scant evidence of change in Gwadar. The city isn't conn-

ected to the national grid — electricity comes from Iran or solar panels — and there isn't enough clean water. An airport with a 400,000 passenger capacity isn't a priority for the city's 90,000 people.

"This airport is not for Pakistan or Gwadar," said Azeem Khalid, an international relations expert who specialises in Pakistan-China ties. "It is for China, so they can have secure access for their citizens to Gwadar and Balochistan."

CPEC has catalysed a decade-long insurgency in resource-rich and strategically located Balochistan. Separatists, aggrieved by what they say is state exploitation at the expense of locals, are fighting for independence — targeting Pakistani troops and Chinese workers in the province and elsewhere. Members of Pakistan's



MADE BY CHINA, FOR CHINA? Completed in Oct 2024, the New Gwadar International Airport a stark contrast to the impoverished and restive Balochistan province around it. 'This airport is not for Pakistan or Gwadar,' said Azeem Khalid, an international relations expert. 'It is for China, so they can have secure access for their citizens to Gwadar and Balochistan'

ethnic Baloch minority say they face discrimination by govt and are denied opportunities available elsewhere in the country, charges govt denies. Pakistan, keen to protect China's investments, has stepped up its military footprint in

Gwadar to combat dissent. The city is a jumble of checkpoints, barbed wire, troops, barricades, and watchtowers. Roads close at any given time, several days a week, to permit the safe passage of Chinese workers and Pakistani VIPs.

DAILY PLANET



French President Emmanuel Macron at an agricultural fair in Paris

Thieves use stolen card, buy winning \$523k lottery ticket

Thieves used a stolen card to buy a winning French lottery ticket worth 500,000 euros (\$523,000). But they vanished before cashing in — and now they're among France's most famous fugitives. The man whose card was stolen, identified as Jean-David E, is offering to split the cash with the lucky winners. He wants his wallet back, too. The thieves, meanwhile, face arrest. As of Saturday, the state lottery operator said no one had submitted the ticket to cash out. Jean-David discovered earlier this month that his backpack had been stolen from his car in Toulouse, including bank cards and other documents. He asked his bank to block the card, and learned it had already been used in a local shop. At the shop, a vendor told him two homeless men had used one of his cards to buy the winning ticket. Jean-David filed a police complaint about the theft, but is ready to withdraw it if the thieves share the money. Prosecutors may try to

seize the winnings, considering them illegally obtained gains.

New York Yankees drop ban on beards, 49 years after it was imposed

New York Yankees dropped their ban on beards Friday, 49 years after it was imposed by owner George Steinbrenner, in a move aimed to improve player recruitment as the team tries to win its first World Series title since 2009. Current owner Hal Steinbrenner announced the change on Friday, calling the ban "outdated" and "somewhat unreasonable."

AROUND THE WORLD

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the original name of Los Angeles was El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula, which translates to "The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula". The name was shortened to mean "The Angels" in Spanish

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



RURAL MARKET IS AT AN INFLEXION POINT, OFFERS SCOPES TO FMCG COs: MARICO CEO SAUGATA GUPTA

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

HOUSING DEMAND REMAINS STRONG BUT EUPHORIA IS COOLING SLIGHTLY, SAYS PIROJSHA GODREJ



Outflows from FIIs touch ₹1.1L cr in 2025

Continued Selling Leads to 4% Decline In Nifty Year-To-Date, Put Pressure On Re

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued to sell in the Indian stock market, offloading equities worth Rs 81,903 crore in Jan. The trend persisted in Feb, with Rs 30,588 crore sold till the 21st, bringing total FII outflows in 2025 to Rs 1.1 lakh crore, according to NSDL.

This has led to a 4% decline in Nifty year-to-date.

Indian equities have underperformed Asian peers due to FII outflows, also pressuring the rupee. Investors are tracking key indicators like the US Core PCE Price Index and India's GDP growth. Brokers said, corporate earnings recovery and improved global liquidity would be the next major triggers.

V K Vijayakumar, chief in-

LIQUIDITY SET TO TIGHTEN

► Market liquidity is set to tighten as several upcoming IPOs will divert funds from the secondary market

► Renewed foreign interest in Chinese equities and India's premium valuations remain concerns, says an expert

► India's premium valuations

over emerging markets are pushing global investors to reassess their positions

► However, market watchers say that inflows may return in 3-6 months, backed by India's strong domestic demand and infrastructure push

vestment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said the US market has seen large capital inflows following Trump's election victory. China has also become a key destination for portfolio investments.

He noted that the Chinese president's initiatives with business leaders have raised hopes

of a growth revival, boosting the Chinese stock market.

"The Hang Seng index, through which FIIs buy Chinese stocks, surged 18.7% in a month, contrasting with Nifty's 1.6% decline," he said. Since Chinese equities remain undervalued, he added, the "sell India, buy China" trade may persist but

cautioned that "such trades have fizzled out in the past due to structural issues in China's economic recovery."

Market liquidity is set to tighten with upcoming IPOs diverting funds from the secondary market. Key IPOs include Reliance Jio (Rs 8 lakh crore), LG Electronics India (Rs 15,000 crore), Ather Energy (Rs 4,500 crore), Zepto (over \$1 billion) and JSW Cement (Rs 4,000 crore).

Vikram Kasat, head of advisory at PL Capital — Prabhudas Lilladher, said Sensex has lost 2,300 points this month, with FIIs withdrawing Rs 23,000 crore, triggering a selloff in small- and midcap stocks. Renewed foreign interest in Chinese equities and India's premium valuations remain concerns.

India's long-term growth pro-

spects remain strong, but near-term valuation concerns and weak corporate earnings have led to profit booking. India's premium valuations over emerging markets are prompting global investors to reassess their positions.

India's premium valuations relative to peers like Indonesia, South Korea, and Taiwan have been a headwind. A consolidation or earnings-driven growth could reset valuations and attract FIIs. Vaibhav Porwal, co-founder of Dezerv, said India's market cap has declined by \$1 trillion since Oct 2024, while China's has increased by \$2 trillion, indicating a tactical shift in FII flows. "NSDL data shows FPIs pulled out around Rs 25,000 crore from Indian equities in Jan 2024, contrasting with inflows of over Rs 1.7 lakh crore in 2023," he said.

Sebi may expand angel fund investor pool, scrap 200 cap

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi is looking to expand the definition of qualified institutional buyers (QIB) and remove the 200-investor cap, allowing angel funds to access a broader pool of accredited investors. This move will enable more wealthy investors to participate, boosting funding for startups. It ensures that only financially strong investors take on high-risk investments, helping angel funds raise more capital and support early-stage companies. Sebi has sought public comments on the proposals till March 14. AGENCIES



Bank of Maharashtra slashes rate by 25bps

New Delhi: Bank of Maharashtra has cut interest rate by 25 basis points on retail loans, including home and car loans, in line with reduction in repo rate by RBI. The benchmark rate for home loan has been reduced to 8.10%, one of the lowest in the banking industry, the bank said. AGENCIES

New Shop plans to double store count

New Delhi: Tech-enabled convenience retailer New Shop is on track to double store count to 600 by year-end, a tally that would include rebranded 24Seven stores being acquired from Geoffrey Phillips India, and is also eyeing overseas expansion. Co-founder Aastha Almass said 35 24Seven stores have already been rebranded and franchised out. AGENCIES

US reciprocal tariffs may hit exports of India-made iPhones, auto parts

Pankaj Doval
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Apple could be one of the biggest losers in case the Trump administration decides to slap reciprocal tariffs on import of electronics and smartphones from India as the move may put a spanner in its growing manufacturing investments here.

The situation is equally grave for auto component makers, who ship parts worth billions of dollars to the US — estimated at around \$7 billion for this fiscal against \$1.4 billion worth of American imports — and thus run the risk of losing business in case the US increases tariffs on products coming out of India, an assessment carried out by TOI shows.

Apple currently is one of the biggest exporters of electronic goods from India as it ships iPhones to global markets, with the majority of them flowing into China. Estimates put the shipments to the US at close to \$8.9 billion this financial year itself with the company increasingly using its India factories to produce massively for the American market. The India products reach the US with zero duty, making it a profitable deal for the company.

However, what is bothering the new US administration under Trump is the 16.5% duty that New Delhi charges on phones and other electronics products when they are imported to India. "The fear of the industry is that if Trump really goes ahead and slaps a reciprocal duty of 16.5% on smartpho-

APPLE'S EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT \$9BN

► Apple's shipments to the US are estimated at \$8-9 billion in 2024-25

► The company is increasingly using its India factories to produce massively for the US

► Indian products reach the US with zero duty, making it a profitable deal for Apple

► Auto component exports to the US are estimated at around \$7 billion for the current financial year

► "The saving grace is we are just about \$7 billion to the overall \$300-billion worth of component imports that the US carries out," says an auto vendor

nes and electronics products being shipped out of India, it will immediately reverse the maths against our manufacturing strength," a key vendor in the ecosystem said.

While a recent decision of the Trump administration to slap a 10% duty on Chinese electronics imports is good news for Indian manufacturing, the situation will completely change if India is brought under a 16.5% import duty regime in America. "That would mean our manu-"

facturing will become more expensive than China due to the higher duty. So, Apple will really have no benefit of making in India, and would rather find it beneficial to ship its products out of China at 10% duty," another vendor said.

And it's not just Apple — Samsung is also shipping its India-made devices to the US, and so is Motorola. "The whole business case for export of smartphones to the US will get disrupted," the vendor said.

KKR to buy 51% in oncology hospital HealthCare Global

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: American private equity fund KKR will buy 51% of HealthCare Global Enterprises, a Bengaluru-based, listed company, for Rs 3,203 crore, marking its second investment in India's hospital sector after Baby Memorial Hospital.

As a result, KKR will make an open offer to HGE's shareholders for an additional 26% stake at Rs 445 per share in accordance with India's takeover rules.

If KKR is unable to reach 54% through the open offer, it will buy an extra 3% from the promoters of HGE, according to the terms of the investment agreement.

The deal values HGE at Rs 6,203 crore, which is lo-

wer than HGE's market capitalisation of Rs 7,000 crore based on Friday's closing price of Rs 500 per share. HGE's promoters are Accesco, a part of EuroNext Amsterdam-listed CVC Capital Partners (60.35%), and doctor B S Ajaikumar and family (10.87%). Ajaikumar, **FOR ₹3,203CR**

who founded HGE in 1989, will take on the role of non-executive chairman of the company after the conclusion of the deal. The transaction is expected to be concluded by the third quarter of this year.

Depending on outcome of open offer and other investment terms, KKR is expected to hold an equity stake between 54% and 77% in HGE.

One of the country's largest oncology hospital chains, HGE operates 25 medical care centers across 19 cities including 2,500 beds and nearly 100 operating theaters. KKR will be investing in HGE through Hector Asia Holdings II and KIA EBT II.

Following investment deal, HGE employees with vested stock options, have been given the option to exchange their stock options for cash. This means that instead of keeping the company's shares, the employees can take a payout. In a regulatory filing, HGE said it will accept up to 16.19 lakh options in total from all employees. Though the cash consideration was not disclosed, it is expected that the stock options will be bought at Rs 445 per share.

Property Share holding co Alt to raise ₹2.8k cr

Mayur Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Alt, the holding company for Property Share, plans to raise Rs 2,800 crore this year. Founded by former Blackstone executive Kunal Moktan and his batchmate from IIM Ahmedabad Hashim Khan, Property Share introduced fractional real estate ownership in 2015, allowing individuals to invest in commercial real estate with Rs 25 lakh. The platform manages Rs 1,600 crore in assets.

Following Sebi's SM REIT regulations in 2024, Property Share became the first to secure an SM REIT license in Aug 2024 and listed a Rs 353 crore asset in Dec, marking India's first listed SM REIT. The company is now expanding. "This year, we plan to raise Rs 1,500 crore through SM REITs," said Moktan.

India, UK trade talks: Focus on scotch, visas

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As the new UK govt gets back to the negotiating table on Monday, duty cuts on scotch and cars will back on the table, amid indications that Indian industry has given more elbow room on whisky, with India going to press for easier visas for businessmen and professionals under the proposed free trade agreement.

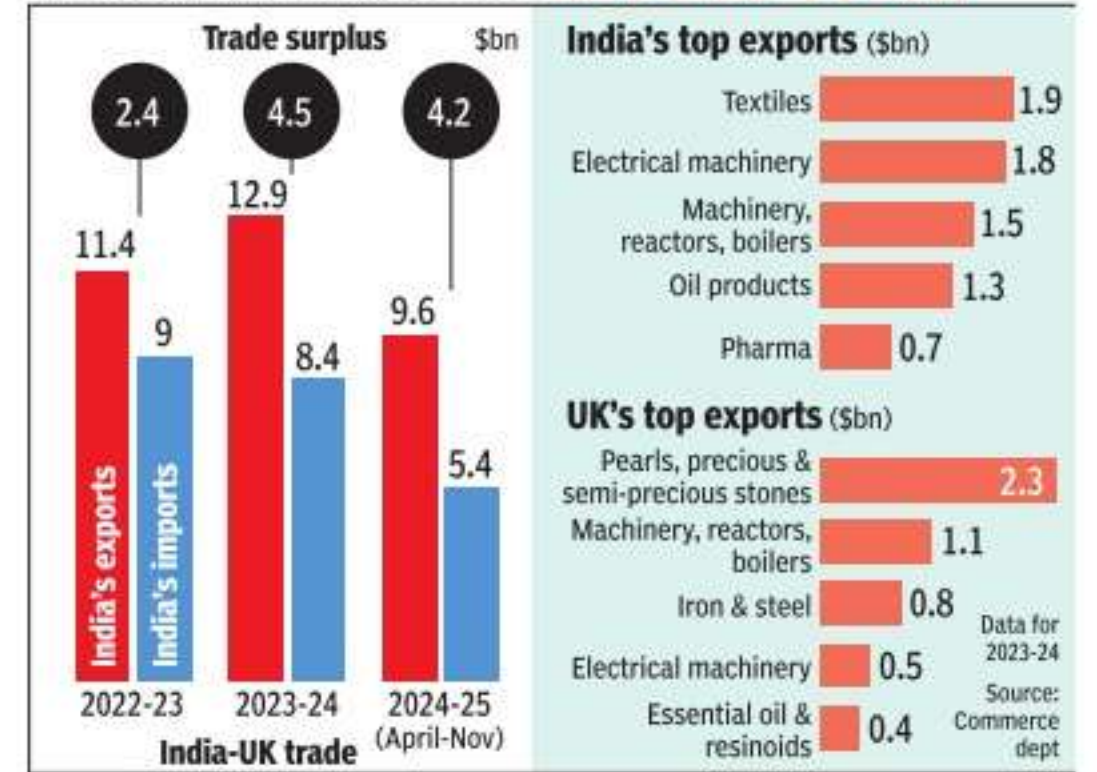
The pact that has been in the works for the last few years and was moving at a fast pace during Boris Johnson's tenure, before getting caught in the slow lane due to political uncertainty, with the Rishi Sunak govt showing reluctance on pushing ahead with it. After deliberating for months, the Keir Starmer govt, that took charge last July has now come back for talks, with UK's secretary of state for business and trade Jonathan Reynolds leading the delegation.

His talks with commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal will set the tone for the talks, amid indications that both sides are keen to move forward.

Both sides are likely to set an ambitious target if the deal goes through. Given the global trade uncertainty in the wake of geo-political tensions and Trump's aggressive stance, bilateral trade deals can help push exports for both trading partners.

Whenever talks have come to a halt, whether it was

NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME TODAY



2012 (when the UK was still part of the European Union) or in 2023, the issue at the centre of discussions has been the reluctance to provide more visas to Indian businesses and duty cuts by New Delhi for products of interest to the UK, or the EU.

For the UK, Scotch is a key area of interest and with India offering concessions to Australia under ECTA, and slashing duties in bourbon for the US ahead of PM Narendra Modi's meeting with American president Donald Trump earlier this month, there is an indication that the bar has been lowered — provided the British negotiators can do a good trade off.

The Indian industry has also shown greater flexibility by indicating its support for a lower import price. But it is keen that there is more

flow through the bulk route, instead of bottled at origin, so that there is business and employment in India. In return, it wants the UK also to treat Indian spirits in a fair manner. Besides, the domestic industry wants safeguards to ensure that Scotch and alcohol from other European countries do not make their way into India, routed via the UK.

For India, business visas are going to be a key demand, especially with govt keen to wrap up ongoing negotiations to boost exports, particularly of labour intensive products, such as textiles, at a time when industry in Bangladesh is going through a rough phase.

A duty cut in the UK will help Indian garments keep more favourably than those going from Bangladesh.

Number of bn-\$ GCCs doubles in 5 years

Shilpa Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: India's GCC (global capability centre) story is getting bigger and bolder. There were 24 GCCs surpassing the \$1 billion export revenue mark in financial year 2023-24, up from 19 in the previous year, according to research by Pune-based consultancy Wizmatic. These 24 collectively generated exports exceeding \$43.6 billion.

GCCs are the technology and operations arms of MNCs in India, and they are increasingly embedding themselves into the core of Fortune 500 enterprises with their innovations and strategic influence.

Wizmatic founder Sandeep Panat says India is beginning to see the emergence of giga capability centres.

The number of billion-dollar GCCs has doubled from 12 to 24 in the five years up to FY24. Various consulting

GCCs WITH MORE THAN \$1 BILLION REVENUE



COMPOSITION OF TOP-24 GCCs	
1 IT Services (4)	\$13.9 bn
2 Software/Tech (7)	\$11.1 bn
3 BFSI (9)	\$12 bn
4 Others (4)	\$6.4 bn

firms have projected that the number of GCCs will grow in the coming years, creating additional jobs. According to a PwC report, by 2028, the country is poised to have 2,100 GCCs, with the market size of the centres touching \$90 billion. A Nasscom-KPMG report estimates India will have 1,900 GCCs, with \$60 billion in revenue, by the end of this year.

While some do not include the Indian operations of IT services companies like Accenture and Capgemini among GCCs, Wizmatic inclu-

des them on the grounds that their operational models and local legal structure in India are no different from that of other MNCs with GCCs in India. The revenue model is based on services rendered to their parent companies and global affiliates, with a predefined markup regulated by transfer pricing norms.

"The revenue gets credited where the clients are, like the US or Europe, not India. For these firms, income is tied to where clients are located, not where the work is executed. In

principle, a GCC doesn't generate revenue independently, it enables revenue for the parent entity," Panat says.

As they scale, their ability to reinvest in R&D, digital capabilities, and strategic initiatives will grow. Transfer pricing policies dictate the margins GCCs can operate on, influencing their financial structuring and growth strategies. "While most GCCs operate on a cost-plus model, the financial success is determined by their ability to increase value addition. Unlike IT service providers that maintain a bench workforce, GCCs function as specialised entities with dedicated service lines for their global parent organisations," says Panat.

Phil Fersht, CEO of HFS Research, said in terms of contributing to the top-line growth of their parent organisations, the jury is still out on whether GCCs can deliver more than efficiency. Currently, they are

more of an efficiency play under the banner of "innovation". "However, the future hope is they will start to contribute to top-line growth as they grapple with AI opportunities and become more integrated with the leadership of their parent organisations. The simple fact that GCCs offer the chance for Indian talent to get closer to global enterprises and have a more direct impact on their clients is making the GCC career option far more attractive than many of these "back office" service provider roles," he said.

Lalit Ahuja, founder of ANSR, said GCCs have always hosted leadership roles and executed functions that directly impact top line of companies. "This includes ownership of revenue driver digital products and platforms such as online banking and e-comm. With scaling of GCCs, the 'billion dollar' impact club continues to grow at a rapid pace."

SIPs IN CHOPPY MARKETS

Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) are a popular way to invest in equity mutual fund schemes, with monthly collections touching ₹26,000 crore. However, as SIP returns from equity funds have slipped into the red for the last year, retail investors with a long-term horizon and well-defined asset allocation and goals should not stop their allocations as a knee-jerk reaction.

Why Are SIP Returns For The Last One Year In The Red?

The value of the units accumulated through the SIP mode of investment over the last one year has fallen due to a sharp decline in the equity markets in the last few weeks. As a result, the net asset value (NAV) of the schemes fell, which has led to a drop in value for investors. The fall has been higher for riskier schemes like small-cap, midcap and some narrow thematic funds, compared to large-cap funds.

investors who have blindly started SIPs in mid-cap and small-cap funds without asset allocation or risk tolerance and are merely chasing high returns might need to relook and balance their equity portfolios.

What Should Investors Factor In While Starting A SIP?

Wealth managers believe investors should consider their time horizon, risk tolerance and existing portfolio before starting a SIP. Equity investments are for the long term with a minimum time frame of five years to go through the entire cycle of ups and downs. If they cannot tolerate volatility, they should invest in a large cap-oriented equity fund or hybrid fund. Those opting for mid-cap and smallcap SIPs should be ready to take higher volatility, risks and intermittent drawdowns. Mid-cap and smallcap equity SIPs should form only a small part of their overall equity portfolio and should not exceed 25-40%.

—PRASHANT MAHESH

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

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

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

Should This Worry Investors? What Should They Do Now?

SIPs help in rupee cost averaging. This method of investing lets you buy a higher number of units when the market is down, thereby averaging your investments. A fall in equity markets should not worry long-term investors using SIP to meet their goals. Typically, if you have staggered your equity SIPs to a long-term goal, assumed a reasonable return of 10-12%, and the monthly investments are in line with asset allocation, risk tolerance and needs, they should not be disturbed by this volatility. There is no reason to stop SIPs due to this fall. However,

GALLERY

‘Chappelli’ ends five-decade-long journalism career

New Delhi: Legendary cricketer Ian Chappell’s insightful writings, critical reviews and anecdotes from his playing days will be missed after the Australian icon called curtains on his more than five-decade-long journalistic career, penning his last piece on Sunday. “I will miss filling a column, as writing has been a favoured task. A writing career spanning more than 50 years means I surpassed my journey both as a cricketer and a broadcaster,” Chappell wrote.

Doncic dominates as Lakers rout Nuggets: Luka Doncic delivered a dominant 32-point performance as the Los Angeles Lakers snapped the Denver Nuggets’ nine-game winning streak with an impressive 123-100 victory on the road in Colorado. Doncic finished with 32 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, while LeBron James backed him with 25 points.

Houlihan qualifies for World Indoors after doping ban: Shelby Houlihan qualified for the World Indoor Championships after a four-year doping ban that she challenged with the now-infamous “burrito defence,” finishing second behind Nikki Hiltz in the 3,000 metres at the US trials. Once considered a promising medal contender for the United States, Houlihan missed the last two Olympics in Tokyo and Paris.

FIA denounces ‘tribalist’ booring of Horner, Verstappen: Formula One’s governing body urged fans to show more respect after ‘tribalist’ booring of four-times champion Max Verstappen and his Red Bull boss Christian Horner at a 10-team season launch. The FIA was also booed by the crowd, whose biggest cheer was reserved for Lewis Hamilton.

Man Singh, Bhagirathi triumph at New Delhi Marathon: Uttarakhand’s Man Singh and Bhagirathi Bisht won the men’s and women’s titles at the Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon on Sunday. The 35-year-old Singh clocked an impressive time of 2:15:24s to emerge winner in a competitive men’s elite field. Bhagirathi, also from Uttarakhand, claimed the top spot among elite women with a time of 02:48:59s.

Ahlawat slips in Kenya Open: Veer Ahlawat had a disastrous third round of 8-over 79 as he slipped to T-67 with one round to go in the Magical Kenya Open. The Indian rookie had a nightmare 11 on the par-5 seventh besides four other bogeys against just two birdies for a 79. His earlier rounds were 70 and 72.

GM Iniyen loses in tiebreak: Indian Grandmaster P. Iniyen finished runner-up in the 41st Cappelle La Grande International Open Tournament in Dunkirk, France, after losing to IM Mahel of France in the tiebreak. The fifth seed Indian scored 7.5 points, with six wins and 3 draws to be tied first alongside Mahel after 9 rounds.

Services clinch men’s national kabaddi title: Services emerged victorious in a nail-biting summit clash against Railways to claim the 71st Senior National Men’s Kabaddi Championship title at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack on Sunday. The star-studded Services team prevailed 30-30 (6-4) in a tie-breaker, showcasing remarkable composure when it mattered the most as the final match could have gone either way. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Champions Trophy, Bangladesh vs New Zealand, 2.30 pm (Star); WPL, Bengaluru vs UP, 6.30 pm (Star); **FOOTBALL:** I-League, Punjab Namdhari vs Churchill Brothers, 2 pm; Rajasthan United vs Real Kashmir, 4.30 pm (Sony); **HOCKEY:** FIH Pro League, India (women) vs Netherlands, 5.15 pm; India (men) vs England, 7.30 pm (Star); **TENNIS:** Dubai Open, 3.30 pm; Acapulco Open, 5.30 am Tuesday (Eurosport)

REDS IN CHARGE OF CITY

Liverpool Go 11 Points Clear At The Top After 2-0 Win; Newcastle Win Thriller 4-3 Against Forest

Manchester: Liverpool took another step towards the Premier League title with a 2-0 win at Manchester City after talisman Mohamed Salah scored their first goal and set up Dominik Szoboszlai for the second as they went 11 points clear at the top on Sunday.

Arne Slot’s side have 64 points from 27 matches ahead of second-placed Arsenal, who have a game in hand. City are fourth on 44 as their early-season quest for a fifth consecutive title has unravelled into a chase for a Champions League berth.

Salah struck his league-leading 25th goal of the season in the 14th minute following a corner with a blistering shot from near the top of box that deflected off the outstretched foot of City defender Nathan Ake past goalkeeper Ederson.

Szoboszlai took advantage of City’s atrocious defending to double the lead in the 37th. Salah found the unmarked Hungarian in the box for an easy pass into the net to the dismay of City fans, whose dismal mood was matched by the driving rain.

Earlier, Newcastle United scored four goals in 11 first-half minutes to keep alive their Champions League qualification hopes with a thrilling 4-3 victory over Nottingham Forest at St James’ Park but had to hold on under heavy pressure in the second period. Newcastle move into fifth place with 44 points from 26 games, outside the top four on goal difference only. High-flying Forest lost for the second week in a row but remain in third with 47 points from the same number of matches.

Forest led early through Callum Hudson-Odoi’s long-range strike but Newcastle roared into life with four quick goals from 18-year-old Lewis Miley, Jacob Murphy and a brace from Alexander Isak, the first a penalty, which gave them a 4-1 halftime lead.

“It was a brilliant first half, the reaction after conceding was really good,” Isak told Sky Sports. “We dropped a bit second half and conceded sloppy goals. I’m obviously happy to win the game.”

On Saturday, Aston Villa boss Unai Emery was full of praise for newcomer Marcus Rashford, the much-maligned former Manchester United forward who has quickly made a terrific impression with his new team.

Rashford, who was signed by Villa on loan from United earlier this month, was a halftime substitute in Saturday’s 2-1 victory over Chelsea on Saturday, assisting on both goals by fellow newcomer Marco Asensio. “(We want to) support him. Help him. Try to help him to feel comfortable here. Try to help him get confidence with us,” said Emery. AGENCIES



Liverpool celebrate their opening goal against Manchester City

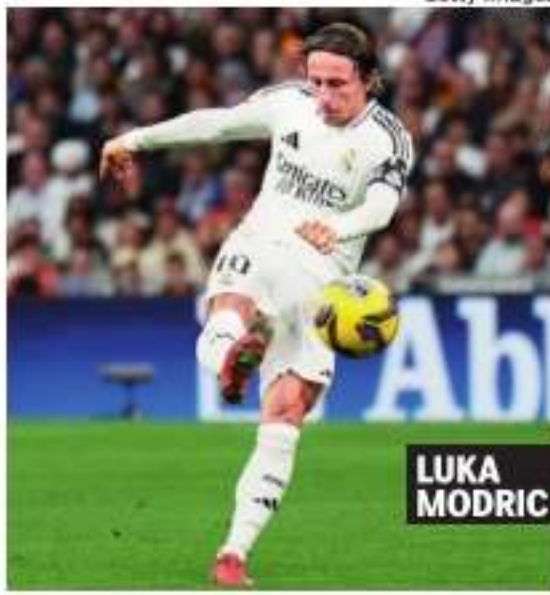
Modric rocket keeps Real level with Barca

Madrid: Luka Modric scored a brilliant goal from long range to help Real Madrid secure a 2-0 win against Girona on Sunday which took them back level with Barcelona at the top of La Liga.

Vinicius Junior wrapped up the win late on as Carlo Ancelotti’s side produced a solid, if not spectacular, display at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After rivals Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, now third, both won on Saturday, the pressure was on for the champions in the title race.

Barcelona were below par but earned a 2-0 win at Las Palmas on Saturday to move back top of La Liga. After Atletico Madrid beat Valencia 3-0 to temporarily take pole position, the



Getty Images

LA LIGA

LUKA MODRIC

Catalans replaced them with a narrow victory on the road and sit one point ahead of the Rojiblancos. Julian Alvarez bagged a brace as Atletico were able to climb to the top of the pile for a couple of hours.

Later, substitute Dani Olmo

produced a fine finish for Barcelona before Ferran Torres drilled home to settle the game and earn Barca revenge for a shock home defeat by Las Palmas earlier in the season. “We scored two goals, we took three points and the three-and-a-half hour flight back is much better with these three points,” Barca coach Flick said. “(Olmo) scored the first goal and this goal was very important for us. In the first half we missed 5-10 percent, maybe more (from our best level).”

Flick took action at the break and brought on playmaker Olmo in place of the quiet Fermin Lopez. The Spain international’s first contribution was a sloppy pass that flew out of play but he quickly found his focus.

Lamine Yamal skipped forward and slipped the ball to Olmo, who showed good footwork to find space in the box and finish. AFP

Kean in hospital for head trauma

Italian collapses on pitch after taking a knock

Newcastle: Fiorentina forward Moise Kean was rushed to hospital after the Italian took a knock to the head but continued playing before he collapsed on the pitch at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Sunday.

Kean was hit in the head while jostling for the ball as the 24-year-old went down having suffered a bang to the face from Pawel Dawid-



MOISE KEAN

owicz’s knee. Kean was treated and then allowed to return and continued playing. However, he suddenly began losing his balance and fell to the turf as players from both teams alerted the team medics who rushed onto the pitch.

The forward, the second-top scorer in Serie A this season with 15 goals, was taken off on a stretch-

er and seen wearing a neck brace before he was rushed to hospital.

“He is in hospital for tests,” the club said.

Fiorentina lost 1-0.

It was the second big scare for Fiorentina this season after midfielder Edoardo Bove collapsed on the pitch against Inter Milan in December, which led to the match being abandoned. Bove underwent successful surgery and had fitted a removable defibrillator. REUTERS

Once it was just one game for India, now it’s 300 for goalkeeper Savita

Arnab.Seal@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Savita Punia never wanted any of this. All she had planned was to play that one match for the national team just to make her parents happy. There were no dreams, high ambitions of making it this big, of playing the Olympics and other lofty stuff.

On Monday, 17 long years later, when she will play her 300th match for India – against the Netherlands at the Kalinga Stadium – she would be grinning through her goalkeeper’s grille at the irony, if not the absurdity of it all. She’ll become only the second Indian woman to achieve this rare feat after Vandana Katariya, the India and Railways mainstay.

For Savita, however, international match No. 300 might not have happened at all had coach Harendra Singh not persuaded her to stay on after the team failed to make it to the Paris Olympics last year. Failure to make the Summer Games was understandably one of the lowest moments of Savita’s storied career.

The India goalkeeper also went through a tough time after India’s debacle at the 2016 Rio Olympics where the team finished last with just one point in the kitty, and she was singled out for the failure. “It was 99% certain that I wasn’t going to be called for the national camp,” recalled Savita on the eve of her landmark game.

Although she kept her place, it wasn’t a great experience. To make matters worse, she even suffered a fracture and was out of action for a while. But in her words, Savita had a “rebirth”, once Sjoerd Marijne took over. Savita started enjoying the game and didn’t look back.

Indian men look to continue winning run: The Indian men’s hockey team will look to maintain its winning streak when they face England in the FIH Pro League at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday. Craig Fulton’s men are in good form, winning three matches on the trot after they lost two of their first three games.

Shalabh.Saxena@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: ‘More Sweat, More Glory’, the TOISA logo says it all and to honour those who pour their sweat to bringing glory to the nation, The Times of India felicitated our sporting stars at the glittering award show in Lucknow on Saturday.

The event began on a patriotic note with the national anthem. The Times of India brought these champions together in ‘Khiladiyon ka Maha Kumbh’ to celebrate their remarkable achievements.

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the sports hub of the country and to honour this, Best State for Sports Promotion has been given to the state and sports minister Girish Chandra Yadav collected the award from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Earlier, Special Recognition for Athletes from UP was also given by Anju Bobby George to chief coach, Indian weightlifting, Vijay Sharma, Shivpal Singh, Shaile Singh, Annu Rani (all athletics), Mohd Aman (cricket) and Akash Kumar (Kho-Kho).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath then awarded Gukesh Dommaraju and Manu Bhaker. At 18, Gukesh became the youngest world chess champion in the history of the game, while Manu Bhaker became the first Indian athlete to clinch two medals in the same Olympics, winning two bronze in Paris 2024.

Gukesh, who also received the Chess Player of the Year Award, said, “I thank The Times of India for this amazing event. I hope 2025 will bring much better results to us.”

Change Agent of Sports award was given to world No. 1 one para badminton player and Uttar Pradesh sports secretary Suhas LY, who clinched consecutive silver medals at Tokyo and Paris Paralympics while the Para Sports Person Award was given to record-breaking javelin thrower Sumit Antil. The Best Para Shooter award in the male and female categories went to Manish Narwal and Avani Lekhara while Kapil Parmar walked away with Best Para Junior Player award.

Earlier, TOISA ambassador of the year actor Suniel Shetty, who received the award from the CM, felicitated the TOISA jury, including chairperson of Athletics Federation of India and world athletics champion medalist, Anju Bobby George, president Paralympics committee of India and a Paralympics gold medalist, Devendra Jhajharia, Olympic medalist boxer Vijendra Singh, Hockey India president and



former Indian skipper Dilip Tirkey and Olympic medalist in wrestling Yogeshwar Dutt. He was then joined by actor Amitabh Bachchan to give Mentor of the Year award to the first-ever



individual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra.

The CM then handed over the Federation of the Year award to Paralympics Committee of India (PCI). Jhajharia also presented a symbolic javelin to CM Yogi Adityanath. Other awards given at the event were Emerging Sports Person of the Year, which went to wrestler Aman Sehrawat for his bronze medal at Paris Olympics and Coach of the Year, which was given to former Indian shooting star Jaspal Rana,

1 UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presents the TOISA award for Sports Woman of the Year to shooter Manu Bhaker, double medal winner at the 2024 Paris Olympics

2 Former world athletics championships medalist Anju Bobby George (left) shares a light moment with television star Divyanka Tripathi and Manu Bhaker

3 Former Commonwealth women’s wrestling gold medalist Geeta Phogat and Yogeshwar Dutt, 2012 London Games wrestling bronze winner, award Lovlina Borgohain, the Tokyo Olympics women’s boxing medalist, for Special Recognition in Boxing

4 Navdeep Singh, Paris Paralympics gold medal winner in the men’s javelin throw F41 is felicitated by Bahadur Singh Sagoo, president, Athletics Federation of India, as Deepa Malik, India’s first woman Paralympics medalist, looks on

who is also Manu Bhaker’s coach. Team of the year award went to the Indian hockey team while the Federation of the Year award was also won by Hockey India.



Say Goodbye to Bad cholesterol today



Upgrade to fortune rice bran health oil



ECSTATIC: Mohun Bagan players celebrate with chief coach Jose Molina

Mohun Bagan make ISL history by defending title

Nilesh.Bhattacharya @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: On a night when India and Pakistan were busy playing out cricket’s greatest rivalry in Dubai, the sight of hundreds of cars causing a traffic jam on EM Bypass in this part of the world was not normal. On a night when Indian club football’s biggest prize was up for grabs and runaway leaders Mohun Bagan SG were at home, the sight of Jose Molina’s team huffing and puffing for a goal in the regulation time, and that too in their formidable fortress, was not normal.

Then, everything became normal, almost with a sense of inevitability, at the Salt Lake Stadium on Sunday.

Dimitrios Petratos, coming off the bench late in the second half, received a ball from Manvir Singh, swivelled to transfer his striking power

from right to left foot and took an aim towards the goal from the edge of the box. The ball flew past a jungle of feet before settling into the bottom left corner of Odisha FC goalkeeper Amrinder Singh’s net.

It was the third of the nine-minute stoppage time but good enough for Mohun Bagan to beat a 10-man Odisha FC 1-0 and become the first Indian club to defend the ISL Shield.

Unlike last season when the team under Antonio Lopez Habas required a win over Mumbai City in the last match of the league stage to lay their hands on the Shield, Molina’s side sealed the deal with two games in hand.

Bagan’s 12th straight win at home also took their tally to 52 points from 22 matches, breaking another new ground in the league and turning nearest rivals FC Goa’s late push into insignificance.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Oppn conservatives win Germany's nat'l election, putting Friedrich Merz on track to be chancellor. Big gains for far-right AfD. Chancellor Scholz concedes defeat, **P 10**

AMGEN

Brave new thinking
from India to fight the
world's toughest diseases.





NEOGEN

At Amgen, we fight the world's toughest diseases by harnessing the best of biology and technology. Using digital innovation, we push the boundaries of science to create life-changing treatments. At our new technology and innovation site in Hyderabad, you have the opportunity to shape the future of biotechnology.

Come join us in our mission to serve patients.

 Amgen India

Scan to know more



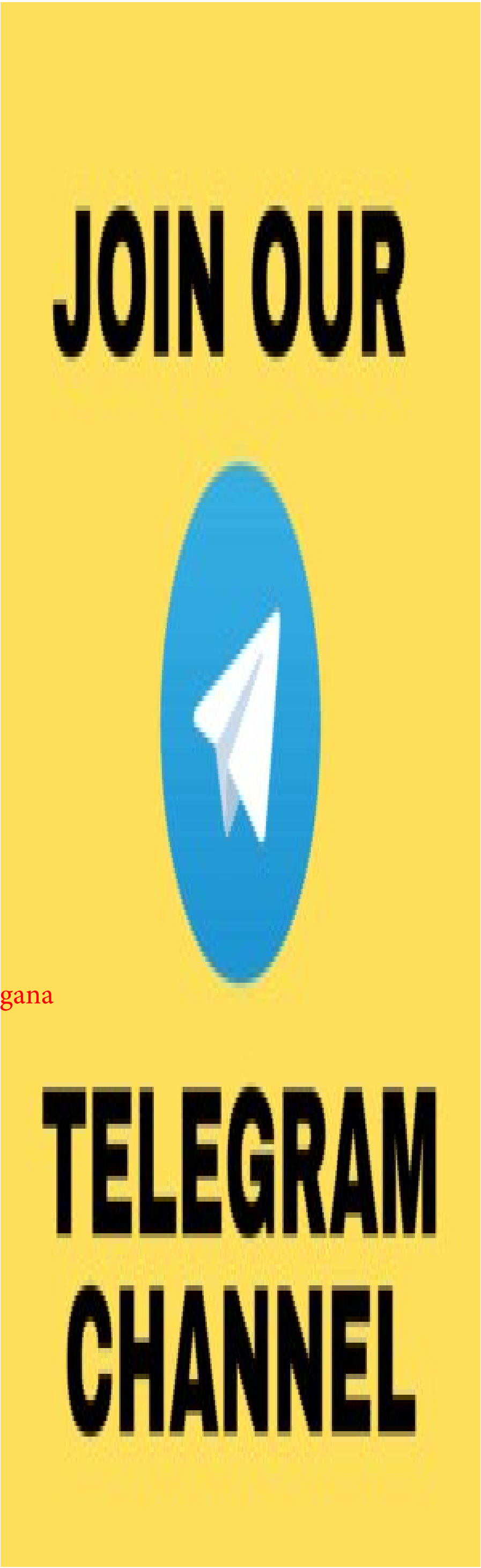
All ENGLISH Newspaper And Magazines

INDIAN English Newspaper

Deccan Chronicle,
Economics times,
Times of India,
Mirror
Financial Express,
Hans india,
Indian Express,
New Indian Express NIE
The Hindu,
Mint, Newspaper
Business standard,
Business Line
, States Man
, Tribune, Newspaper
pioneer Newspaper
millennium Post Newspaper
Hitavada Newspaper
The Daily Guardian,
The Telegraph
Eastern Chronicle
The Goan
First India
Free Press Journal
Mid day English Gujarati
Maharashtra time
And also editorials of all English newspapers.
Etc.....

☪ Also avialble Hindi, Andhra Pradesh Telangana
kannnada, Malayalam, Tamil Telugu
language papers ☪
Bengali | |
Marathi:
Kannada
Mumbai samachar
Sandesh news paper

The Assam Tribune
The Goan
Daily Excelsior
International Magzine
International Newspaper
Gujrati Marathi newspaper
Urdu Newspaper



[More Newspaper and Magazines Details Search](#)

[@Magazines_8890050582](https://t.me/Magazines_8890050582)



Click Here To Join our
Telegram Channel