



Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose appoints interim VC's in 6 state-run univs, prompting state education minister Bratya Basu to question the timing and legality of the move, P 13

A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the heart of the Turkish capital while a second assailant was killed in a police shootout. The attack occurred hours before Prez Erdogan's address in Parliament, P 18

At least 13 people have been killed in a fire in a nightclub in Murcia in southeast Spain, say emergency personnel. Rescuers are still searching for people unaccounted for after the blaze, P 18

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chief of Russia's Security Council, says any British soldier training Ukrainian troops in Ukraine will be a legitimate target for Russian forces. He also says German factories producing Taurus missiles will be targeted if they supply them to Kyiv, P 18



## 8 acquitted in Muzaffarnagar riots case of 2013

The court of additional district and sessions judge in Muzaffarnagar on Saturday acquitted eight persons, accused of burning down the house of a villager and attacking his family during the riots in the district in 2013, due to "lack of evidence". One of the accused had died during the trial. P 14

## Stop automatic 498A arrests: Tripura HC

The Tripura HC has cited an SC ruling and issued guidelines for cops to prevent automatic arrests under Sect 498A of IPC, which deals with crimes against a woman by her husband or in-laws. P 16

## Commercial LPG costlier by ₹209

The price of commercial LPG refills went up by Rs 209 on Sunday following a rise in benchmark rates, but the price of household cylinders was kept unchanged. P 12

## IAS officer, a doctor, saves baby on flight

An IAS officer, a qualified medical professional, gave CPR to a baby with breathing issues on a Ranchi-Delhi flight Saturday, saving the child's life with another doctor's help. FLAP OPP

## Woman bludgeoned to death in Gr Noida

A woman (23) was bludgeoned to death with repeated blows of a brick on the head and face at her Greater Noida home Saturday night. Her mother and sister were asleep in another room. P 10

## INDIA HAULS 15 ON SIZZLING SUNDAY BEST DAY EVER AT ASIAD; SABLE SETS SCORCHING PACE

Avinash Sable became the 1st Indian to win gold in men's 3,000m steeplechase in Asian Games, battering the **Asiad record** and giving India its 1st track-and-field gold in Hangzhou in the process. Minutes later, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his 2018 gold. The 3rd gold, part of 15 medals India won on Sunday – its highest tally in a single day in Asiad – was clinched by the men's trap team shooters

► Sable (29), an Armyman from Maharashtra, **led from start to finish** clock a Games record time of 8:19.50, bettering 8:22.19 set by Iran's Hossein Keyhani in 2018

► Toor (28), the 2018 Asiad gold medallist, **threw 20.36m on his last attempt** to overhaul Saudi Arabia's Md Daouda Tolo (20.18m). He also holds the Asian (21.77m) and Asiad (20.75m) records

“I feel really good. My wife asked me to bring her gold, only gold – TS Toor



“I have always followed the pace set by others. Today, I decided to set my own pace – Avinash Sable

► The men's trap shooting team of Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Kynan Chennai, Prithviraj Tondaiman clinched gold. With three medals on the final day of shooting events, the **shooters will return home with 22 medals** – 7 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze – their highest-ever in the continental showpiece

► In a dramatic development, Jyothi Yarrajai's bronze was upgraded to silver in women's 100m hurdles after Wu Yanni's disqualification

► Men's badminton team bagged silver, India's 1st medal in men's team event in 37 years at Asiad

► Aditi Ashok 1st Indian woman to win an Asiad medal in golf



FULL COVERAGE P 22 & 23

## LeT operative shot in Karachi in yet another mystery killing

New Delhi: In yet another mysterious killing of a terror operative in Pakistan, unidentified gunmen shot dead a key Lashkar-e-Taiba man in Karachi on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Mufti Qaiser Farooq, who was shot multiple times from close range at Gulshan-i-Umar seminary

► J&K orders suspension of DySP for 'aiding' ultras, P 12

in the Edhi Center locality, reports Rajshekhar Jha.

Dawn newspaper reported that Farooq, who was in his 30s, was shot in a "targeted attack". While Pakistani media remained silent on the possible motive, sources attributed the murder to infighting among Lashkar cadres.

► 'Impossible for...,' P 14

## PM MAKES A CLEAN SWEEP



PM Narendra Modi stressed on fitness and hygiene in daily life as he, along with fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuri, wielded a broom and collected trash as part of 'shramdaan' under the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign. Modi said that his sleep and meal timings have lately been erratic | P 13

## 2 yrs on, cop held for killing former colleague who spurned him

Two years after former Delhi Police constable Monika Yadav, 28, had disappeared without a trace, the crime branch Sunday claimed to have cracked the case, saying she was murdered by her ex-colleague and serving constable, Surendra Singh Rana, report Abhay & Siddhivin Singh.

The victim's skeletal remains have been recovered and sent for DNA profiling, special commissioner Ravindra Yadav said, adding that Rana and two others have been arrested for the crime. Police said Rana had fallen in love with Yadav but her repeated rejections led him to plot the murder. Rana went to great lengths to build a fictitious story of Yadav having "eloped" with one Arvind, a character he had created, and used her past voice recordings and ID papers to keep the illusion alive. P 22

## GPS shows river as flooded road, 2 doctors drown

Two doctors drowned after a car they were travelling in sank in Gothuruth area of Ernakulam district around 12.30am on Sunday. They were among a group of five returning to Kodungallur from Kochi after a birthday celebration.

The driver, a doctor, had turned on GPS to navigate a dark and waterlogged road. It pointed straight ahead, and the vehicle went into the river. While he and another doctor drowned, the other three passengers managed to extricate themselves from the vehicle. FLAP OPP

## Union minister Shekhawat vs Gehlot? Buzz on

Imphal: The CBI took into custody four people, including the wife of the main accused and another woman, and detained two minors in the Henglep area of Churachandpur on Sunday for the disappearance and suspected killing of two students from Imphal, reports N Benson Singh.

► AFSPA lifted from four of Assam's 8 districts, P 14

The four are identified as Paominlun Haokip, S Malsawn Haokip, Lhingneichong, Baitukku, and Timneihing Henthang. They were taken to Guwahati, where they will be produced in a court. The two kids, who accompanied the adults, were handed over to the district child protection officer. P 12

► 'Removing CM...', P 14

## 2 women among 4 held for 'killing' 2 Manipur students

After state BJP unit blames own govt for crisis, 23 MLAs back CM

Imphal: Days after its Manipur unit wrote to BJP president JP Nadda flagging "public anger" against its own government, 23 of the state's 32 BJP MLAs, including several ministers, have affirmed their trust in CM N Biren Singh and rejected calls for his replacement. During a meet in Delhi on Saturday with representatives of a new group, "Youth of Manipur", they also dismissed a proposal for the creation of a regional party, reports N Benson Singh.

## Actor held after his car mows down woman

Kannada actor Nagabhushana NS was arrested after a car driven by him hit a couple in Bengaluru Saturday night. The 48-year-old woman died and her husband was severely injured. Though Nagabhushana was "not found drunk" at the time of the crash, cops said the accident occurred because of negligent driving. Charged under various sections, including rash driving and causing death by negligence, he was later released on bail. Nagabhushana claimed the couple "suddenly entered the road from a footpath". He also said he rushed the couple to a hospital but the woman could not be saved. P 12

## Indo-US ties will go to Moon and beyond: EAM

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNM

Washington: In a clear indication that New Delhi views the spat with Ottawa and Washington over the killing of pro-Kashmiri terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada as an aberration, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday that it is "hard to put a limit" on India's ties with the United States and "you ain't seen anything yet".

Speaking about US-India partnership at a festive 'Colors of India' event in Washington DC, Jaishankar said, "I can promise you that

► In this changing world, India and the US have moved to a position where we really see each other as very desirable, optimal and comfortable partners...

(Earlier) we used to deal with each other...now we work with each other

— S JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

this relationship, like the Chandrayaan, will go to the Moon, maybe even beyond."

► 'Optimal partners', P 14

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Expect mercury to start going down from next week | 4

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FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 35°C and 22°C  
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SUNSET 6.06PM (MON) MOONSET 10.15AM (TUE)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

**147**

DELHI AQI  
ON SUNDAY  
(MODERATE  
CATEGORY)



Four people arrested in three separate cases of cybercrime | 5

# Cop Held For Murder Of Missing Ex-Colleague

From False Alibis To Vaccine Certificate, Here Is How Accused Kept Killing Secret For 2 Yrs

Abhay & Siddhiv Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Sunday said it had solved the case of constable Monika Yadav's disappearance two years ago by arresting her alleged murderer, constable Surendra Singh Rana.

Special commissioner Ravindra Yadav told TOI that they had arrested Rana, his brother-in-law and a friend.

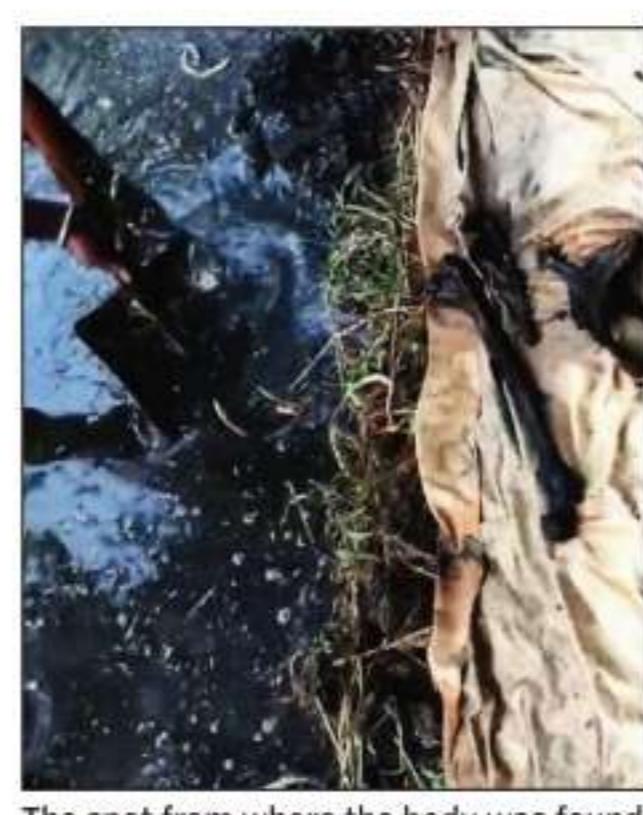
Rana allegedly strangled Yadav (28) and dumped her body in a drain in north Delhi. The police have retrieved the skeletal remains and sent them for DNA profiling. Rana had wanted to marry Yadav, his PCR unit colleague. Her repeated rejection led him to plot her murder, police said. On the pretext of taken her to his home in Alipur, Rana allegedly murdered her in Burari Pushta.

What has emerged is an elaborate, insidious web of false leads that Rana generated to keep Yadav's family thinking that she was alive.

Rana's brother-in-law has been identified as Ravin (26), from Jhajjar, a BCom graduate and ran a stationery shop. The third suspect, Rajpal, is his helper in the shop.

The police at Mukherjee Nagar had received a complaint regarding Yadav's disappearance on October 20, 2021. Her family said Yadav was missing since September 8, 2021.

Two years after the local police failed to trace her, an FIR of abduction was registered in April this year after police commissioner Sanjay Arora's intervention. The investigation was transferred to a crime branch team led by DCP Sanjay Bhattacharya in July.



The spot from where the body was found

Despite the G20 Summit, the probe continued. Rapid developments

happened in the last one week.

The police first traced Rajpal who had got a fake SIM card and then caught Ravin who spilled the beans on Rana.

Constable Rana confessed he and Yadav had a fight on September 8, 2021, as she was not keen on him and threatened to reveal his activities. He got angry and decided to kill her.

Police said that after the murder, Rana kept visiting her family, even attended social events. He took the assistance of Ravin, who used to make phone calls to the family, adopting the persona of "Arvind". These orchestrated calls conveyed a fabricated narrative that Yadav had eloped with Arvind and married him.

Rana generated fictitious leads and the Yadavs pursued these. He

even visited Mukherjee Nagar police station, often telling investigating officers to diligently probe the case. He took her relatives to various places on the pretext of a search.

Rana also scattered copies of Yadav's identification documents at various locations, creating an illusion that she had visited Punjab, Haryana and Himachal. He even fabricated a false Covid document in her name.

The suspect accompanied a woman to hotels to establish alibis.

The constable had kept Yadav's phone. He exploited previously recorded conversations of Yadav to mislead her family. By juxtaposing the recordings and placing calls from different locations, he created an illusion that Yadav was alive somewhere.

## A MURDER AND HIDE & SEEK

### SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

**1 Posting & Friendship**  
► Yadav joined Delhi Police as constable in 2014, came in touch with Rana in 2018  
► Both were posted in police control room unit; became friends

► Yadav resigned from Delhi Police in 2020 after clearing UP Police sub-inspector exam

► She was staying at a PG in Mukherjee Nagar, preparing for UPSC; Rana would help her

► Both became close, he attended her family functions

**2 Rejection & Murder**  
► Rana developed feelings, started pressuring her to live in with him; Yadav, treated her as a fatherly figure  
► On September 8, 2021, there was an argument; Rana decided to kill her; he took her to Burari Pushta, strangled her; dumped body in a drain

**3 Missing Complaint & Sister's Hunt**

► On October 20, 2021, a missing complaint was filed at Mukherjee Nagar police station

► There was no breakthrough as Rana kept misleading investigators

► FIR registered in April 12, 2023, after Rana's sister approached police commissioner

► Case subsequently transferred to Crime Branch in July

**4 How Suspect Covered Tracks**  
► Rana roped in his brother-in-law. He claimed that Yadav had run away with him and

they were safe; Rana was in touch with family, generating fake leads

► He also asked IO to probe properly

► The suspect used the victim's old recordings to misguide family

► Rana used deceased's documents, took women along at different hotels to make it seem like she had visited them

► He operated the bank account of the victim, took out money from ATMs wearing a helmet

► Created a fake Covid vaccine certificate

**5 How Cops Cracked The Case**  
► Crime Branch initiated a reverse investigation, scanned details of different numbers from which family received calls

► They apprehended one Rajpal who had issued a fake SIM to Rana

► Cops later apprehended Rana who disclosed the name of Rana

► Rana was interrogated; he confessed and took cops to the spot where the body was dumped

## Repeated calls from a number led police to constable's killer

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Four months after Delhi Police constable Monika Yadav was reported missing, her family started receiving calls from a number 74968495\* in January 2022.

The man on the other side claimed he was the husband of the yet untraced woman constable, who was single when she had vanished from the face of the earth. The caller said he and Yadav (28) were in hiding as they had got threats from his family.

These calls, however, did not ring the alarm bell for officers at Mukherjee Nagar police station trying to trace Yadav. Rather they kept feeding on the baits thrown at them.

After some months rolled by and, police commissioner Sanjay Arora asked the Crime Branch to investigate the case in July. Special commissioner (crime) Ravindra Yadav formed a team, led by DCP Sanjay Bhattacharya.

The same phone number, after several twists, led the police to Delhi Police constable Surender Singh Rana.

From the details of the phone number of the supposed husband, the team learnt that it was registered in the name of Pawan Kumar, a resident of Rewari, Haryana.

Yadav was reported missing on September 8, 2021. The number was activated 20 days later or September 28, 2021. The police traced Pawan. He said he had never used the number. This suggested that someone had misused his details to procure a SIM card.

The SIM was procured from Charkhi Dadri, Haryana. A manhunt began for the suspect whose photo was on the SIM docu-

ments. The telecom company gave the police the photo. The police found the number active around Charkhi Dadri by someone called Rajpal of Jhajjar. The cops detained Rajpal. His appearance matched the photo.

Rajpal confessed that he had got the number issued using Pawan's documents, and had given his friend, Ravin, a SIM. The police tracked down Ravin. To the teams shock, he turned out to be the brother-in-law of Delhi Police constable Surender Singh Rana, who had supposedly guiding Yadav's family in the crisis. Ravin told sleuths that Rana had asked him to get a SIM card on fake documents.

The team now knew that Rana, who was a PCR van driver in the New Delhi district, would have to be apprehended. The ACP, PCR, was alerted and he instructed the PCR-in-charge to detain Rana. However, due to his shift change, Rana had left for the day before the message to detain him flashed. The police obtained his mobile location and found him on the metro, going to his Alipur house. Another team waited near his house.

Rana was questioned at length. He confessed to murdering Yadav, saying that she had threatened to make their "affair" public and he couldn't let her do so as he had a family. The police, however, figured out that Rana (42) had harassed Yadav, pressuring her to marry him.

Rana initially did not tell the cops where he had dumped the body, hoping he might go free if there was no body to show. He took the cops on a wild goose chase, prompting the use of divers and boats. After "sustained interrogation" by special CP Yadav and DCP Bhattacharya, he said he had dumped the body in a drain.

They were safe; Rana was in touch with family, generating fake leads

► He also asked IO to probe properly

► The suspect used the victim's old recordings to misguide family

► Rana used deceased's documents, took women along at different hotels to make it seem like she had visited them

► He operated the bank account of the victim, took out money from ATMs wearing a helmet

► Created a fake Covid vaccine certificate

## A sister's two-year battle for justice brings closure

Siddhiv.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: For two years, Nithya (name changed) looked for her younger sister, constable Monika Yadav, chasing each lead. Every time she returned home with her hope dimmed a bit more.

As children, when the siblings played hide-and-seek, her younger sister would hide in far-off corners of their house. Nithya always found her. When in September 2021, the young woman constable was reported missing, her older sister had little clue of where to look for her.

Nithya looked under every rock. "I scoured Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Ha-

ryana, Karnataka and NCR, following tips that led to dead ends," she told TOI.

The police in Mukherjee Nagar, where Yadav's missing complaint was being probed, failed to make headway. They also taunted Nithya on her search, claiming that her sister had eloped.

Two years later, when all trails led nowhere, Nithya contacted the special commissioner of Delhi Police's crime branch. The case was transferred to the crime branch and the sleuths caught Yadav's alleged murderer, constable Surender Singh Rana.

The two years destroyed the schoolteacher's life. Nithya was posted away from Delhi and juggling work, family

and the endless hunt to locate her sister.

It was a relentless cycle of hope, brought forth by information of Yadav's presence in some distant place, and despair each time the lead turned out to be false.

The older sister scanned highways, checked hotels and ATM kiosks. The emotional toll on Nithya was immense and the tears don't stop as she recounts the agonising journey. "Once received a call from Karnataka, claiming she was there, looking for a job. I told them to tell her to wait. I travelled all the way there." It was a false lead.

In the middle of the pandemic, Nithya went to vaccination centres following what seemed like a lead, but rea-

ised it was a case of fake documents.

These leads, it has now turned out, were planted by Rana, the constable who allegedly harassed his sister and then murdered her. He kept Nithya and the police running in an endless circle of fake leads. "The calls never added up," Nithya said.

The family faced judgmental questions and was ostracised and misunderstood.

"We thought she was just angry and would return, but I yearned to hear the truth from her own lips," Nithya said.

Whatever closure Nithya may have sought through her search, for that she got her sister's skeletal remains, fished out of a drain.

## A promising career, civil services dream cruelly cut short

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Monika Yadav was all of 24 when she joined Delhi Police in 2014. For a constable, she had a pretty impressive profile – a master's degree, along with a BE complemented by a junior research fellowship. However, Yadav had her eyes set on bigger goals.

She not only cleared the UP police assistant sub-inspector exam and resigned from Delhi Police in 2020, but also started pursuing her dream of becoming an IAS officer. However, destiny had other plans.

It was not just Yadav's dream to clear UPSC, but also of her father. "She was very attached to him and often scribbled 'Miss You Papa' in her notebooks and even on the walls of her room. Her father was in UP Police and was killed in the line of duty in 2011," her sister told TOI on Sunday. A native of Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, Yadav is survived by three siblings and their mother. "She often used to write IAS before her name in her notebook's first page... She said it kept her focused on her goal," her sister added.

Yadav was a bright student in school. Her relatives recalled how she used to get 100 out of 100 in mathematics. "She was a topper all through," said a relative.

Before getting selected for Delhi Police, Yadav used to give tuition to children to help her family. "She was the sole breadwinner for her family at the time and worked hard to cover family expenses. She wanted to give a better life to her family," an officer said.

After joining the force, she was posted with the PCR. After completing the long and tiring duty hours in PCR, she used to come home and study late into the night for various competitive exams. After she cleared the UP police exams, she shifted to a PG accommodation in Mukherjee Nagar and was regularly attending her coaching classes.

It was during the PCR duty that she met Surender Singh Rana, who had joined the force in 2012 and remained attached to PCR unit all through. Both were deployed in north zone. Rana lived with wife and son, besides other family members, in Alipur.

The cops who interrogated him described Rana as cunning, shrewd and criminal-minded. "He used his police experience in the case to mislead victims and cops," an officer said.

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**195** BRANCHES  
ACROSS INDIA

## Rai orders probe into mandi fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Development minister Gopal Rai on Sunday ordered a probe into the fire that broke out at Asia's largest wholesale vegetable market, Azadpur Mandi.

Rai directed officers concerned to investigate the incident and submit the report at the earliest, an official said.

Delhi Fire Services said

the fire broke out at Tomato Mandi in Azadpur and that there were no casualties.

In view of the facts that have come out after the inquiry and the demand of traders' organizations of mandi, direction have been given to the mandi officer that the traders of the damaged shed should be shifted to another shed for a few days," said Rai, directing the Mandi secretary to

complete the shed's repair work within 45 days.

Directing mandi officials to take all necessary steps to prevent such incidents of fire, Rai said that according to traders, the fire inside shed was caused due to the fire in garbage near the wall.

"Therefore, the tin shed has been installed and ordered to be elevated to stop similar incidents in future," he added.

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Position of AAA = Acceded Word No. MC/Qzd/2022-23/1278-81 Dated : 07-06-2022

Position of TS = vide T.S. No. CE (R&B) KTS/946 of 2022-23 Dated : 17-02-2023.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktdinders.gov.in](http://www.jktdinders.gov.in) as per below schedule:

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 27/09/2023

2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 02/10/2023,11.00 A.M to 17/10/2023, 4.00 P.M

3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting 03/10/2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam

4. Bid submission Start Date 04-10-2023 From 10.00 A.M

5. Bid Submission End Date 17-10-2023 upto 4.00 P.M

6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) 18-10-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam.

7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Ref Govt. Order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission Date) and EMD (% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintendent Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam [Tender Receiving Authority]. However the Treasury Challan / Receipt of the Contractors who have participated in Bidding process for the NIT. No. 36 of R&B/Qzd/2023-24/3293-3307 Dated 06-07-2023 (E-tendering) shall remain valid to be uploaded for the Fresh NIT.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD @2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintendent Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam [Tender receiving authority] within 15 Days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD @2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

6. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktdinders.gov.in](http://www.jktdinders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B) circle Kulgam. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

8. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

9. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, If:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.

c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

10.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktdinders.gov.in](http://www.jktdinders.gov.in) to acquire bid submission process.

10.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

10.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

10.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

10.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.

Note :- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

11. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

12. Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintendent Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam (Tender Receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the Technical bid documents for the work. After opening of financial bids, the lowest bidder shall submit the Performance Security in the form of CDR/BG/DR/BG within 15 Days in the Office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Kulgam. Failure to do so shall render the first lowest successful bidder non-responsive. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD (earnest money) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

13. Instruction to bidder (ITB)

13.1 All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.

a. All Bidders shall upload Copies of Original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address.

b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and Earnest Money/Bid PAN No.

c. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with revenue (Latest/current). Valid GSTIN No. & Valid PAN No.

d. Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending August-2023, OR April - June Quarter- 2023.

e. Bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.

15. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on Website.

SD/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund.

No: 6230-45  
Dated: 27-9-2023  
DIP No:DIP-9585/23/30.09.2023.

## 3 Cases, 4 Arrests: Delhi Cops Crack Down On Cyber Crooks

School Vice-Principal, Pvt Firm Executive Among Victims

Siddhiv@timesgroup.com

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NO 57% YES 43%

id Joy Tirkey DCP (northeast). A detailed technical surveillance was conducted, leading to Naem's arrest.

His approach involved posing as an online agent, convincing the traders to have their monthly soundbox rent waived, and then manipulating their mobile phones to alter UPI ID settings linked to their bank accounts, facilitating the illicit transfer of funds, officers added.

In the second incident, a school vice-principal fell victim to a scam amounting to Rs 4 lakh, orchestrated by his driver, Sandesh Chaudhary (23).

Chaudhary secretly obtained his employer's ATM information during his tenure as the personal chauffeur. Exploiting the victim's reliance on him for financial transactions, Chaudhary adeptly executed fraudulent transactions by gaining access to the necessary OTPs required for online payments. The crime came to light when the victim received a notification from his bank.

tion of financial indebtedness from his bank.

"The victim began to harbour suspicions of foul play and subsequently uncovered a total of 18 fraudulent transactions over four months," the DCP said.

"After successfully completing transactions on an e-commerce site, he erased any evidence of these activities from his employer's mobile phone, leaving no room for suspicion," police added.

Similarly, fraudsters impersonating as bank officials cheated a man of approximately Rs 90,000 under the guise of providing credit card protection services.

Ravi Kumar (27), and Ajay Yadav (23), from Jharkhand were apprehended. The victim received a phone call during which the accused individuals requested the victim's OTP to purportedly secure their credit card. Unfortunately, the victim complied with the request," said Ankit Chauhan, additional DCP (south).

Expect temp to start going down from next week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The city saw a warm and humid day with moderate air quality. IMD expects the morning to see light mist over next few days while drop in the minimum temperature may begin after a week.

Meanwhile, to deal with pollution, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) came into effect in Delhi on Sunday though the air quality continued being moderate. The restrictions under GRAP will come into force if the air quality turns poor. According to the early warning system (EWS), the air quality is likely to remain moderate for next few days as well.

"The air quality is likely to remain in Moderate category from Monday to Wednesday this week. The predominant surface wind is likely to be coming from Northwest directions in the capital with wind speed ranging 06-10 kmph, mainly clear sky and mist expected on Monday morning," stated the EWS forecast.

According to the weather analysts, with monsoon withdrawing from the region on Saturday, there are still chances of rain depending on the western disturbance which will start bringing the minimum temperature down.

"There are chances of rain, though not this week. It will largely depend on the western disturbance which will cause snowing on the mountains and thereafter the temperature in the national capital may drop. However, for next six days, chance of rain and substantial drop in the minimum temperatures are very low," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, IMD.

On Sunday, city's maximum temperature was 35.3 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, against 35.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 22.1 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, against 22.6 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

According to the IMD, the maximum and minimum temperature on Monday may hover around 35 and 22 degree Celsius respectively.

## 2 murdered in Bhalswa Dairy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two men were murdered in Bhalswa Dairy on Saturday. Cops are probing whether friendship with a girl was the reason behind the murders of Himanshu and Azad, both lived with their families in Mukundpur.

After receiving an information about a quarrel-murder incident near Santa Vihar drain in Bhalswa Dairy at 9.45pm on Saturday, police took Himanshu, who was lying in a pool of blood, to hospital where he was declared dead, said deputy commissioner of police (outer north), Ravi Kumar Singh.

"We came to know that apart from Himanshu, two more people were taken to the hospital," an officer said. At the hospital, Delhi police came to know that one of the victims, Azad was declared dead, whereas Virender was receiving treatment.

Virender told cops that murders were result of a quarrel between his younger brother Azad and one Hemu on the issue of a girl with whom they both used to talk, police said.

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नित्यं सर्वगतं स्थाणुरचलोऽयं सनातनं ॥२४॥१॥”

The soul is indestructible; it can't be destroyed by the elements of earth or weapons or by water, fire and air. Therefore it is absolute ignorance to lament for it.



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- Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi Jayanti,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October



“Gandhi Ji envisioned a country where every child receives a good quality education, every sick person receives proper treatment, and all people irrespective of caste and religious belief, live in harmony. We are all fully committed to making Gandhiji's dreams a reality.”

-Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi



## Regularise services of 23 TB health visitors: HC

Vineet.Upadhyay  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has directed the Delhi government to regularise the services of 23 TB health visitors who were employed between 1996 and 2002 on contract.

"The management is directed to implement the award within 30 days of its publication with an interest of 8% per annum from the date the arrears became due," the court of Ajay Goel, presiding officer of an industrial tribunal at Rouse Avenue Courts, stated.

"This tribunal holds that the workmen concerned, whose particulars are mentioned in table above as well as in Annexure A of the terms of reference shall be regularised on the post of TB health visitors w.e.f. their respective initial dates of joining in regular pay scale with all consequential benefits either monetary or otherwise. The similarly placed TB health visitors, who were working under the schemes/societies were eventually regularised by the management of MCD w.e.f. their respective initial dates of joining."

The petitioners submitted before the court that "non-regularisation of services of the workmen on the post of TB health visitors in proper pay scale since his initial date of joining and non-payment of difference of salary on the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' was totally illegal, bad, amounting to unfair labour practice for the following amongst other reasons".

Advocate Rajiv Agarwal, appearing for the petitioners, stated that several posts of TB health visitors were lying vacant, and juniors to the petitioners had been regularised in services.

"It is, therefore, prayed that an award be made in favour of the workmen and the management be directed to regularise the services of the workmen concerned retrospectively with effect from the date of their initial appointment and pay them the entire difference of salary on the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' from their initial appointment onwards along with the cost of litigation," the counsel submitted.

# Gangster Killed By Rival Gang In Delhi

Lawrence Bishnoi Claims Responsibility

Rajshekhar.Jha  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Gangster Deepak Maan of Punjab's Bambiba syndicate was bumped off on Delhi's outskirts on Saturday, allegedly by the henchmen of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his Canada-based associate Goldy Brar. Maan was first assaulted and then shot multiple times from point-blank range, sources said.

The Bishnoi gang accused Maan, alias Manjot, of being involved in the killing of Brar's cousin, Gurulal, a former leader of the Student Organisation of Panjab University (SOPU), who was shot dead in October 2020.

The Bishnoi gang incidentally got gangster Sukhdoor Singh alias Sukha Duneke bumped off in Canada last week, accusing him of being involved in Gurulal's killing.

After Duneke's murder, gangster Maan had incidentally challenged Bishnoi on Facebook and dared to touch him. The Bishnoi syndicate located and killed him within four days, it appears.

**The Bishnoi gang accused Maan, alias Manjot, of being involved in the killing of Brar's cousin, Gurulal, a former leader of the Student Organisation of Panjab University**

seems that the murder was committed about 15 hours before the body was found. This would have happened in the early hours of Sunday," said a senior police officer. Maan belonged to Faridkot in Punjab and had several criminal cases against him, the officer added.

The Haryana cops acknowledged the claim made by Goldy Brar on Facebook. "The message in Punjabi reads that Bambiba group had killed our brother, Gurulal, in sleep. Of all the drug addict dogs of Bambiba, Maan was left. We have given him the right treatment by assaulting and shooting him (sic)," reads the message.

Last week, when the relationship between India and Canada had reached a flashpoint, armed gunmen had barged into a second-floor flat in Winnipeg, Canada, and shot gangster Duneke nine times in the head. Before killing him, the shooters, allegedly sent by Lawrence Bishnoi, confronted Duneke with the murder of Gurulal Brar, and told him that no one from his gang would be spared.

"There was a lot of blood on the spot. Looking at the condition of the body, it

## JNU walls defaced with slogans, ABVP seeks probe

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Several walls on Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus were found defaced with messages of "Indian Occupied Kashmir," "Free Kashmir" and "Bhagwa Jalega" on Saturday night, the photos of which went viral on the social media.

Students claimed that the walls of School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies-II were defaced with such slogans, but were later whitewashed on Sunday morning. The name plates of some professors were allegedly blackened too. Ink was allegedly smeared at some places.

The walls of JNU have, many times, become a medium for political messages in the past. A few months ago, the walls of SL and SIS were painted with anti-Brahmin slogans, "there will be blood," etc.

**Students claimed that the walls of School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies-II were defaced**

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) demanded an investigation into the latest incident. An ABVP statement said, "We would also like to inform you that some years back, Swami Vivekanand's statue was also painted with 'bhagwa jalega' slogans. It is clear as daylight that such shameful incidents bring a bad name to our esteemed institution on the national level. We demand the installation of CCTV cameras on prominent JNU spots as soon as possible".

TOI's attempt to seek a response from the JNU administration didn't elicit any response.

## GPS tracker, ignition kill outsmart car thief

Ishita.Singh  
@timesgroup.com

**Gurgaon:** The GPS tracker and ignition kill switch helped police recover a cab, hours after a 20-year-old youth who had booked a ride threw the driver out at knifepoint and fled with the vehicle. The accused was arrested from his house in Manesar on Friday.

A little after midnight on September 25, Sahdev Rana had booked an Ola ride to go from Sector 70 to Manesar. When the cabbie, Arjun, arrived at the pickup point, Sahdev calmly shared the OTP with him and boarded the white Ertiga.

Merely 2km into the ride, Sahdev placed a knife at Arjun's neck and asked him to pull

the cab up by the side of the road. "He pushed the driver out of the car and sped away towards Manesar. He took away his phone and wallet too," said Varun Dahiya, ACP (crime).

Arjun waited for some time until a passerby offered him a phone to make calls. He informed the cab aggregator and called up police.

Dahiya said since the cab was equipped with an ignition kill setup, the service provider switched it on remotely. After moving a certain distance, the car came to a halt and would not start.

Sahdev thought the car had run out of fuel and tried to push it to a nearby petrol pump. But the emergency brakes had

jammed the tyres. After a while, he gave up and left with the car's keys.

A police team, meanwhile, reached the spot where Arjun was pushed out of the car. The cab's location was tracked with the help of the GPS device installed in it and CCTV footage on the route it had taken.

"The car was found abandoned near Hotel Highway King on the road towards Rewari. The accused had left with the keys. We recovered the cab and started a search for the youth," said sub-inspector Lalit Kumar of the crime branch in Manesar.

The cops traced the phone number with which Sahdev had booked the Ola ride on September 25.

"We got in touch with the accused's brother, who lives in Sonipat. After questioning him, we came to know the accused was staying in a rented house in Manesar. We arrested him from there on Friday. The cab's phone, wallet and other things were recovered from him," Kumar said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Sahdev rode a bike taxi in Gurgaon for a living, but took to thefts and snatching to augment his income. An FIR was registered against him under sections 379A (snatching) and 503 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC at Badshapur police station. He was produced in court on Saturday and remanded in police custody.



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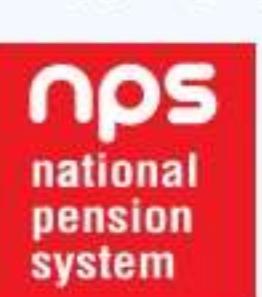
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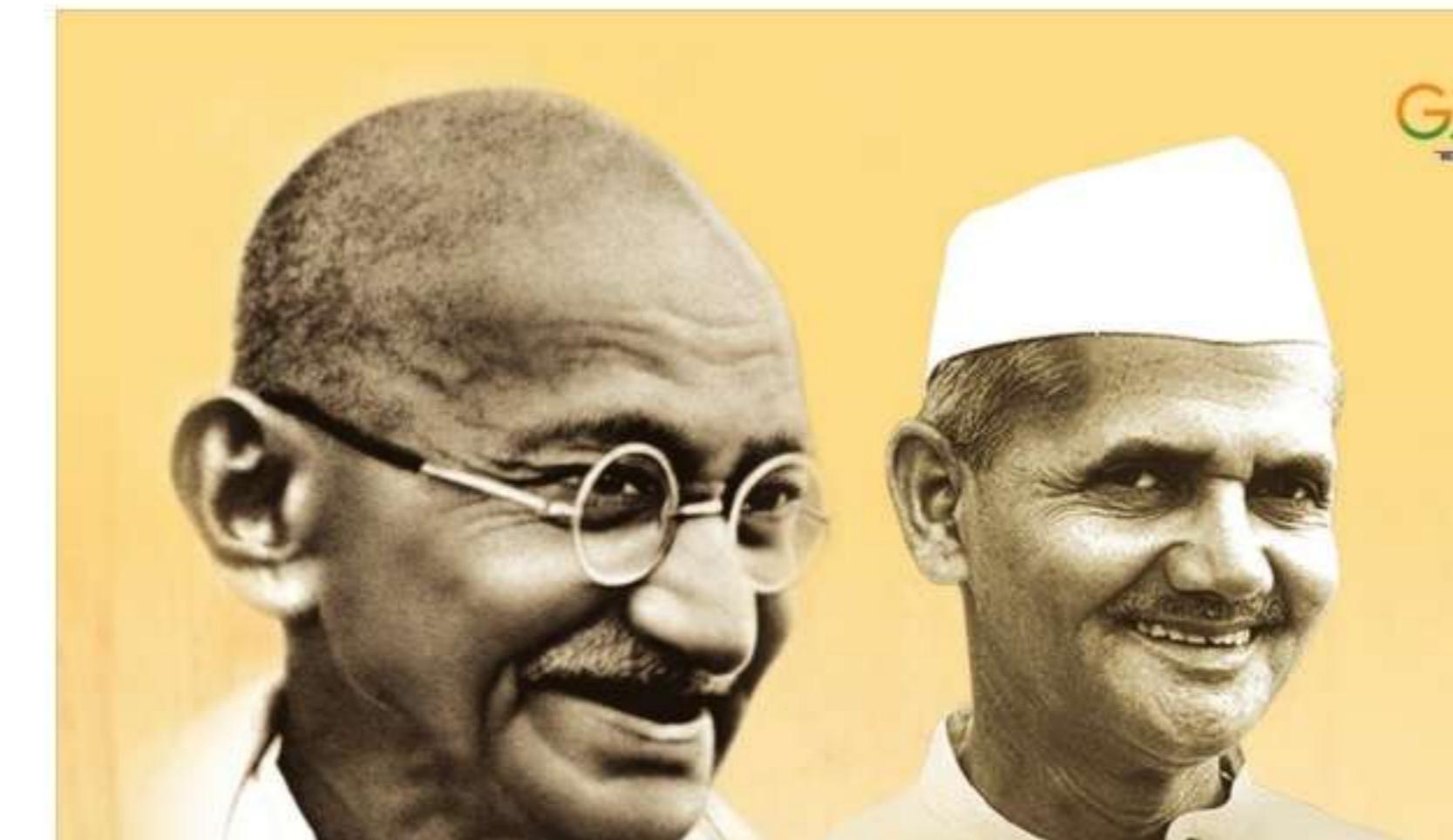
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**National Pension System**

**2 October**

### Nation pays tribute to Gandhi ji and Shastri ji on their Birth Anniversary



**2 October**

**Mahatma Gandhi ji's thoughts have inspired the entire world. Bapu's speciality was to connect with people and make them connected with him. In the same way, Lal Bahadur Shastri ji will always be remembered for his tough leadership at a very crucial time of our history.**

- Narendra Modi







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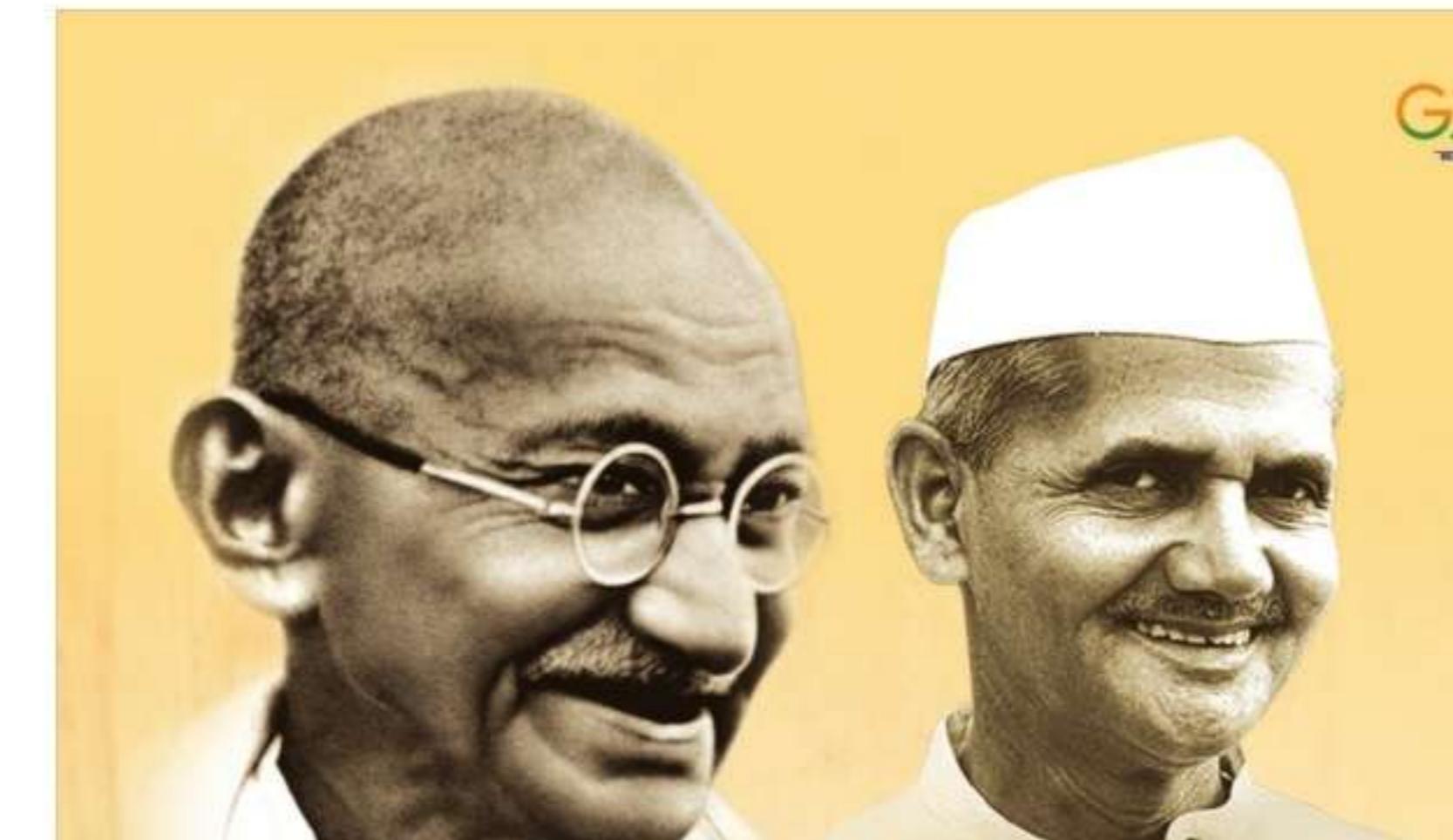
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**2 October**

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- Narendra Modi

## Pradhan leads campaign at DU, urges students to take active part

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi University, along with its affiliated colleges, organised 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign on Sunday in the presence of Dharmendra Pradhan, Union minister of education and skill development and entrepreneurship. The drive involved cleanliness activities at G C Narang Marg and Patel Chowk of the North Campus.

This cleanliness drive was in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for active participation of people in cleaning public spaces, such as slums, parks, and lakes, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Pradhan, along with 25 senior ministry officials, including Sanjay Murthy, secretary of higher education, acting DU vice chancellor Balram Pani, and Shri Prakash Singh, director South Campus, attended Swachhata Shramdaan for the drive. The event was also attended by A K Bhagat.

president of Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA), and Tusha Dedha, president of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), along with teachers, students, administrative staff, and local residents.

The Union minister, while actively participating in the campaign, inspired university teachers, and students to uphold the spirit of cleanliness, initiated by the Prime Minister, and encouraged them to continue with this tradition beyond the Swachhata Pakhwada.

Pradhan also interacted with the doctors at the Vallabhbhai Patel Chowk Institute and asked them to be the vanguard of cleanliness in the country.

The 'Ek Tarikh Ek Ghanta Ek Sath' campaign, from 10am to 11am, resulted in a thorough cleaning of several places in the varsity's premises. It also engendered discussion and mindfulness amongst the university community on their role as responsible citizens to keep public spaces clean.

# 'Swachhata Hi Seva': Mission To Drive Out Filth Begins Across City

## Civic Bodies, Other Agencies Hold Events

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The civic bodies – Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council – held drives to increase public awareness about cleanliness under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath', MCD organized special cleanliness drive from 10am to 11am along with MPs, MLAs, area councillors, RWAs and market traders associations (MTAs) at more than 500 locations, said officials.

Under the cleanliness campaign, various activities were conducted in all 12 zones, all 1534 schools, hospitals, and other MCD establishments. In Shahdara, the drive was followed by a 'Swachhata Pledge' and distribution of appreciation letters and cloth/tote bags.

Over 200 people, including senior officers of steel ministry, participated in the cleanliness drive near Lotus Temple. Apart from this, two other drives at Purana Qila and Chatt Ghat were attended by senior government officers.

EPFO, Delhi (North) organised several activities over two weeks to raise awareness about cleanliness. Shramdaan of officers and staff happened at Wazirpur office and adjacent areas.

NDMC on Sunday deployed 8,000 field staff to assist RWAs and MTAs in the drive, which included washing of footpaths, sweeping of roads, cleaning of garbage dumps and removal of waste from offices, roadsides, parks, and residential complexes.

On the occasion, NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay contributed his shramdaan at Princess Park slum area along with residents and school students.

NDMC chairman Amit Yadav visited an exhibition by Navayug School students on the theme of "Best of Waste" in which they exhibited items made from the waste items under the initiative of 3Rs – Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

"Delhi Metro Rail Corporation carried out 'shramdaan' (cleanliness drives) at 90 locations across DMRC's stations, depots, residential colonies, and construction sites. Announcements were also made in the metro stations informing the passengers about the initiative so that they could also participate in such activities" said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, Corporate Communications, DMRC.

In south Delhi's Ambedkar Basti near RK Puram, chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes, Nitin Gupta and other officials cleaned several spots and garbage dumping areas, said joint commissioner of income tax Maninder K Biswas.



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee



Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan



Power minister R K Singh



Fire brigade personnel participate in the Swachhata Hi Seva drive

## Nadda: Duty of people to take sanitation movement further

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

## NADDA SAYS

**This programme is not for one hour, or one day, but a life-long mass movement**

New Delhi: BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said that the sanitation movement started by Mahatma Gandhi was strongly adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now, it was the duty of the people to take it further.

Nadda participated in a cleanliness drive in Delhi under the "Swachhata Pakhwada" programme, along with Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi and Delhi BJP unit chief Virendra Sachdeva, in Jhandewalan.

"I am here at this Ambedkar Basti and the people here have given me a lot of love and respect. We had the privilege of

participating in this campaign," he said. "I got a chance to associate myself with this mass movement. It is important to conduct sanitation programmes, but, at the same time, we should desist from spreading filth on streets and open spaces."

He added, "BJP workers are engaged in creating public awareness to strengthen people's lifestyle and habits, and for this, this programme is not

## Massive cleanup drive at AIIMS

New Delhi: A massive cleanliness drive was organised at AIIMS on Sunday to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary, under Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.

The event was attended by senior officials from the health and family welfare ministry like secretary Sudhanshu Pant, joint secretary Vishal Chauhan, joint secretary Ankita Misra and AIIMS director Prof M Srinivas, who joined the participants in taking the swachhata pledge — affirming their unwavering commitment to cleanliness and hygiene.

A short *nukkad natak* was also performed by AIIMS staff to create awareness about the importance of cleanliness and finer details of various wastes. TNM

## Committed to revamp, beautification of every part of capital, says Saxena

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Sunday said he was committed to the revamp and beautification of every part of Delhi on the lines of the effort made in New Delhi and Central Delhi in the run up to the G20 Summit.

As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign, Saxena visited Shahdara drain. He said the efforts to clean Delhi were showing encouraging results. He kicked off the drive by removing silt out from the drain near Kanti Nagar-Bihari Colony and walked through the 3km stretch, clearing footpath and dividers of shrubs.

Saxena, who was equipped with a broom, tree pruner, scissor and other cle-



LG removed the silt from a drain near Kanti Nagar-Bihari Colony

ning equipment, was joined by scores of municipal workers in cleaning the roads, pavements and dividers. He was seen using the shovel to pick up debris and putting them into the wheelbarrow.

Saxena later inspected the

rejuvenation work on the 5km Shahdara Drain (Trunk Drain 1) under the irrigation and flood control department of GNCTD and expressed satisfaction with the progress. The drain is estimated to have about 1 lakh MT of hardened garbage and silt deposited in it. In the last four days, 3,000MT of garbage and silt had been removed, officials said.

Saxena also participated in shramdaan and inspection of roads starting from Kanti Nagar-Bihari Colony to Bholanath Nagar, Frash Bazar, Vishwas Nagar, East Azad Nagar Metro Station and Krishnagar Metro Station.

During his walk, he was joined by a group of children from a government school who came out with placards in support of a garbage-free India and chanted slogans for making the environment clean.

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May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear.  
How much we love and miss you and wish you were here.

KEVAL KRISHAN CHOPRA  
(5th October 1939 - 2nd October 2020)

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to a wonderful father and a special man-gone but never forgotten

Deeply missed and remembered by  
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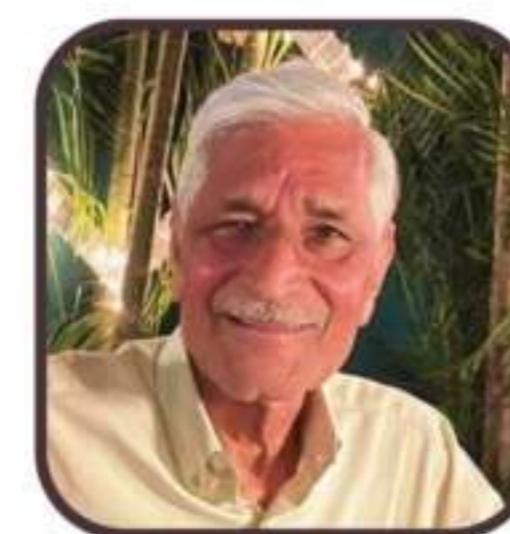
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Join us for a prayer meeting  
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Monday, October 2nd, 2023  
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Your presence will bring solace to our prayers and warmth to our memories

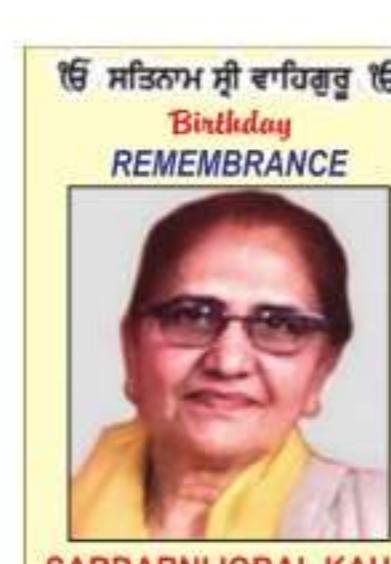
Join online through Zoom meeting <https://bit.ly/3LHmolv>

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Vinod & Meenakshi Marwaha  
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Bhalla family  
Taparia family

## OBITUARY

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# Viral fake news on jawan attack and free mobile recharge by govt busted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indian Army Jawan attacked by five-six people who allegedly painted PF (Popular Front of India) on his back." This was among thousands of forwarded messages including, "Indian Fire Department Reveals: Handful of Flour Can Extinguish Gas Cylinder Flames" and "Govt. of India offers Free mobile recharge of 28 days to citizens ahead of 2024 elections" that TOI recently busted as fake.

Under the 'Times Verified' campaign, readers send suspicious messages circulating on social media to this paper on the WhatsApp number 9819888887. To verify their credibility, our expert panel — made up of reporters, editors and representatives from the municipality and the government — taps into its network of trustworthy sources. Later, the readers aka chain-breakers share the messages bearing the bold red 'This is Fake' stamp on their social media to accumulate shares, likes and views.

Since the national launch of the 'Times Verified' initiative on November 21 last year, TOI's editorial team has received nearly 2.5 lakh, 50% of which turned out to be false. Besides misleading international headlines such as "NFT version of Leonardo Da

## MEET FOUR OF THE CHAIN-BREAKERS



### Watch out for

- Fake News Of The Day column on page 2
- Weekly round-ups of top trending fake news and appeals to join the fight against fake news by sharing these on your social networks, so that communities, near and dear ones are made aware

### How to use Times Verified

- Step 1: Save the number **9819888887** on your phone as 'Times Verified'
- Step 2: In case of doubt, send your message to this number for verification by TOI expert panel
- Step 3: TOI will let you know if the message is true or fake

1



Vinci's Last Supper sold for \$100 billion in Rome", the deluge of misinformation also included messages like "New Facebook feature '@' mention in comments reveals profile visitors."

lated as one from Canada. In another instance, the High Commission of India in Maldives issued a press release denouncing a campaign of fake reports that appeared to be designed to induce fear against the local Indian expat community in the lead-up to elections in Maldives on September 30.

Given this backdrop, the job of our vigilant army of 'chain-breakers' — people who have shared 'Fake news of the day' on their social media handles and accumulated shares, likes and comments — becomes significant. Chain-breaker Vinod Sapra's recent Instagram post, flagging the headline "Massive dol-

pin stampede spotted along the coast in California on 20th August, 2023" was the Most Viewed Post while Ram Prasad's post debunking the same headline was the most shared. For calling out the headline "Elon Musk's company plans to produce a 'Robot Wife' and is expected to roll out in Sept 2023" as fake on their Facebook accounts, Yogita Baid and Anita Chakraborty won the most likes and comments, respectively.

To join their fight against lies and half-truths, share the headlines debunked by our expert panel on your social media handles. The more you share, the more you care.

## 21-year-old biker hits pedestrian in Ggn, falls; dies

Ishita.Singh@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: A 21-year-old student riding a bike died of injuries he sustained after hitting a pedestrian who was on a walk near Hanuman Chowk in the early hours of September 30.

The pedestrian and the biker's flatmate Sanchit Mehra (21), who was riding pillion, were injured. Both them are stable.

Sanchit told police that Mausam alias Kittu was speeding while they were going to Sector 21 from Dundhera village on Saturday morning.

"Kittu was driving at a high speed. I constantly told him to slow down but he didn't because he wanted to have an 'adventure'. At around 4:20 am, when we reached near the Hanuman Chowk red light, an unknown man suddenly appeared in front of us while we were crossing the road. Kittu couldn't press the brakes on time and collided. All three of us fell on the road," Sanchit said in his complaint against Mausam at the Udyog Vihar police station.

Sanchit said he rushed Mausam and the pedestrian to Narayana Hospital in DLF-3.

"Kittu had head injuries and I suffered with injuries on my left arm, knees and shoulders," he added.

## Childhood cancer survivors demand policy for treatment, early diagnosis

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A number of childhood cancer survivors from different states and associated with the NGO CanKids KidsCan (National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India) have written a letter to the Prime Minister, Union health minister and members of parliament, demanding a comprehensive childhood cancer policy.

The have sought early cancer treatment for patients near their home states so that they don't have to travel long distances, besides timely and early diagnosis to save lives.

"September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We urge you on this occasion to consider our demand and make a comprehensive policy to bring childhood cancer under control," wrote a cancer survivor living in Delhi.

Anju Aleida, a teacher at CanKids KidsCan's unit — a home to accommodate childhood cancer survivors in Kotla — said these kids were fighting a terrible disease, and a policy is needed so that they don't have to run from pillar to post for treatment.

Childhood cancer is ranked fifth globally as a leading cause of death among children between five and 14 years.

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## Activists say rules against animal cruelty lack teeth



**DEMAND FOR STRICTER RULES:** Activists gather at Jantar Mantar to protest against cruelty against animals on Sunday

Kushagra.Dixit  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Several activists came together at Jantar Mantar on Sunday to hold a rally. Jeene Bhi Do Yaaro, in a continuation to their No More 50 campaign that demands stricter rules against cruelty to animals.

Under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, any offender, despite the nature of cruelty against an animal, can currently get away with a penalty as low as Rs 10 to Rs 50. At the rally, the agitators collected signatures of people supporting the cause. However, the event saw only a few activists and animal lovers, with some participants pointing to the lack of awareness among people towards animal rights. They also spoke about the "lack of empathy and intent to recognise the perils of this cruelty". Among the supporters were many artists, including musician and social activist Rahul Ram from India Ocean, who sang 'we shall overcome' for the crowd.

The protesters also raised the issue of lifting and relocating of dogs during the G20 Summit. "Whether it is goats exported to the Middle East or camels and cows smuggled into Bangladesh, our animals are being exploited and murdered. The fine for crimes against animals is laughable," stated a joint statement from the participating organisations.

Holding placards with various slogans, the activists also promoted vegetarianism. "It is not as if there is no alternative food available. In the Northeast,

we often see open culling of animals... we also see children using catapults to kill birds. It is time for a wake-up call. There should be stricter norms," said Neeta Singh, a freelance documentary filmmaker from Manipur.

"Even for the most heinous acts of cruelty, offenders get quick bail," said Sanjay Mahapatra, founder House of Stray Animals.

Gaurav Dar, volunteer at People for Animal (PFA), said, "The whole narrative of declaring dogs a menace is the failure of agencies to manage them. If you see this right, treat them right, then you will start feeling safe around them".

According to the experts, society at large is failing to recognise the deeper consequences of turning a blind eye to cruelty against animals. "We have been recommending amendments for over two decades. We want stricter punishment for this cruelty. Society must understand that cruelty towards animals is a reflection of the mentality of such people. Videos circulating of young people setting pups on fire is really sad," said Geeta Seshamani from FriendsIndia.

The activists said there was a provision for jail term only if one could prove the cost of the animal was more than Rs 10. "If the animal's value could be proven through bills of vaccination, then an offender could face a jail term up to 5 years," said Kaveri Rana, who runs Smart Century, an animal rehabilitation centre in Greater Noida.

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## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one dead male was found at Main GTK Road Libaspur Flyover, Delhi, on dated 20.09.2023. In this regard a FIR No. 838/2023 U/s 279/304 A IPC, Dated 20.09.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'6" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Grey Colour Half Pant & Light Cream Colour Half Sleeves T-shirt.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

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**TIMES CITY****Woman bludgeoned to death in Noida as kin slept in another room**

Avishek.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Noida: A 23-year-old woman was bludgeoned to death with repeated blows of a brick on the head and face after home in Greater Noida's Ecotech-3 on Saturday night.

Pinky Singh's mother and sister, who were asleep in another room on the same floor, found her dead in the morning. Her face was covered in blood and a piece of brick lay nearby. Police said she tried to fight off the attacker as things lay strewn on the floor.

After her father passed away, Pinky lived with her mother, sister and niece in a three-storey building in Habibpur village. Police said the family owned three buildings in the area and had given out 48 rooms in total on rent.

DCP (central Noida) Suniti said they received information about the murder around 8.30am. Before informing police, Pinky's family had taken her to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. They brought her back and then dialled the cops.

"A police team that reached the house found the woman dead in bed. She had severe injuries in the face and head. Her family members found her body in the morning," she added. "It seems she was bludgeoned to death with a brick. A piece of brick with blood stains on it was found nearby."

A forensic team also inspected the building. Police said some blood marks were found outside the room where Pinky's mother and sister were sleeping.

The cops are questioning the woman's family and tenants who live in the building but on other floors. Pinky, her mother and sister live on the second floor.

"We suspect someone from within the building had a role in the murder. We are questioning her family and tenants. The building had only one entrance. We have collected CCTV footage and will go through it for any clues," the DCP said.

Following a complaint by the family, an FIR was registered against unknown persons under Section 302(murder) of the IPC. Four teams have been formed to investigate the case.

**Court acquits doctor of dowry death charge**

New Delhi: A Delhi court has acquitted a doctor of the charges of cruelty and causing dowry death of his wife, saying there were material inconsistencies in the testimony of the prosecution witnesses and a lack of cogent evidence.

The woman was a doctor at AIIMS and died by suicide in 2013.

The court of Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Pahuja observed that the prosecution had miserably failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt "that the deceased was harassed by the accused during her lifetime. We have collected CCTV footage and will go through it for many other decisions of far greater consequence. Why do low-stake decisions cause us so much discomfort?

The court was hearing a case against one Paras Khanna, who was accused of offences under Sections 304B (dowry death) and 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code.

After his wife, Varuni Khanna, committed suicide in a hostel room at AIIMS in August 2013, an FIR was registered on the basis of the statement of her father, who alleged that she was harassed by her husband and her in-laws for dowry since their marriage in November 2012.

Asserting that that the evidence on record entitled the accused to the benefit of doubt, the court observed, "In view of the material inconsistencies in the testimony of the prosecution witnesses and due to the lack of cogent evidence, this court is of the view that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt."

The court said the "circumstances appearing on record" did not indicate the accused's guilt. TNN

**Unbearable Heaviness Of Small Decisions****CITY CITY BANG BANG**

SANTOSH DESAI



It stands to reason that the most difficult decisions in life are the ones that carry the greatest consequences. Who to choose as a life partner, which surgeon to go to for life-and-death medical procedure and which school to admit one's child to. But somehow, it is the trivial, low-stake choices that seem to befuddle us the most. Is there anything more difficult than figuring out where to order from tonight? It takes hours of flipping through food delivery apps and involves many false starts and incomplete orders before a final decision is reached.

Which is then instantly regretted and roundly criticised. One is always left with the feeling that something much better was missed and that perhaps a decision was made with unseemly haste. Choosing a show or movie to watch on an OTT channel is perhaps worse. We can spend hours trying to figure out how to spend the next few minutes. Nothing feels good enough or precisely right enough at that moment. It helps to create watchlists, but when the time comes, we still cannot stop ourselves from drifting from one choice to another, often starting a show just to abandon it because we aren't 'feeling it'.

Why are the most difficult decisions in life often the most trivial? To be fair, this is not literally true, but it does feel that way. We agonise over where to eat, what colour of garment to order, and which OTT programme to watch far more than in the case of many other decisions of far greater consequence. Why do low-stake decisions cause us so much discomfort?

One easy answer is the amount of choice we have today and the way it is presented to us. From an earlier time when exam papers did not have multiple choices, we live in a world that thrives on offering us options. And that too, in the comfort of our home, without lifting a finger. Or perhaps just by lifting one. We can sit and thumb through thousands of options without having a clear way of choosing between them. The easy abundance of choices is de-

out on something truly special—that exact thing that would have been just right but which we missed our chance at because we did not search enough. The paradox of choice is that the more it expands, the less meaningful it becomes. The more one searches, the less one finds.

Beyond a point, the greater the number of options, the lower the satisfaction in choosing between them. The human mind cannot process options beyond a certain point. What was liberating starts becoming a burden. Who has ever seen page 11 of a Google search result?

The problem with our mental model of options is that we believe that where there is difference, there is hierarchy. Something must be better than the others, and as makers of that choice, it becomes our responsibility to choose the better option; otherwise, we make the very purpose of having options meaningless.

The form in which choices are laid out in front of us makes a huge difference. In the physical world, choices were aplenty, but exercising that choice required effort.

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**Court frames murder bid charge, but says will wait for evidence**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court has framed charges of attempt to murder and other offences against three men but stated that this was not the right stage to speak on whether the complainant's complaint was correct or that of the injured as this can be appreciated only after evidence is given by both the parties.

The complaint had alleged that the accused persons attacked him with a knife on the intervening night of September 7-8.

The court of additional sessions judge Shivali Sharma ordered for the framing of charges under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 34 (common intention) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

According to the FIR, Shekhar Sharma attacked Amit Singh with a chopper used for cutting meat. Singh's friend Nand Kishore, who was also present at the spot in the Punjabi Bagh area, shielded him which resulted in an injury on Kishore's hand. Sharma's friends Surya Prakash Negi and Sundeep Singh were with him. Following this, Singh rushed Kishore to a hospital. Three chargesheets were filed by the police—one main and two supplementary.

The court noted that the investigation officer (IO) had placed on record two statements by Kishore that contradicted each other. The first was his handwritten statement bearing his thumb impression and attestation of the IO. The second was his statement under Section 161 CrPC recorded by the IO.

"The delay in recording of statement of victim Nand Kishore can also be explained during trial. However, at this stage, considering the handwritten statement of victim Nand Kishore, dated 25.10.2020, and medical documents on record clearly a prima facie case u/s 307/34 IPC in respect of attack on complainant Amit and u/s 326/34 IPC in respect of injury to the victim Nand Kishore is made out against all the accused persons. Let the charge be framed accordingly," the court said.

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Dated 30/09/2023

Sd/- Chairman,

Recruitment Committee

(For selection of Police Driver (Contractual)/

Driver on contractual basis under Kolkata Police)

ICA-T20360(3)/2023

**2 minors held for murder**

New Delhi: Two minors were detained on Sunday for allegedly killing an 18-year-old youth following

a scuffle in northeast Delhi's Welcome area, police said. PTI



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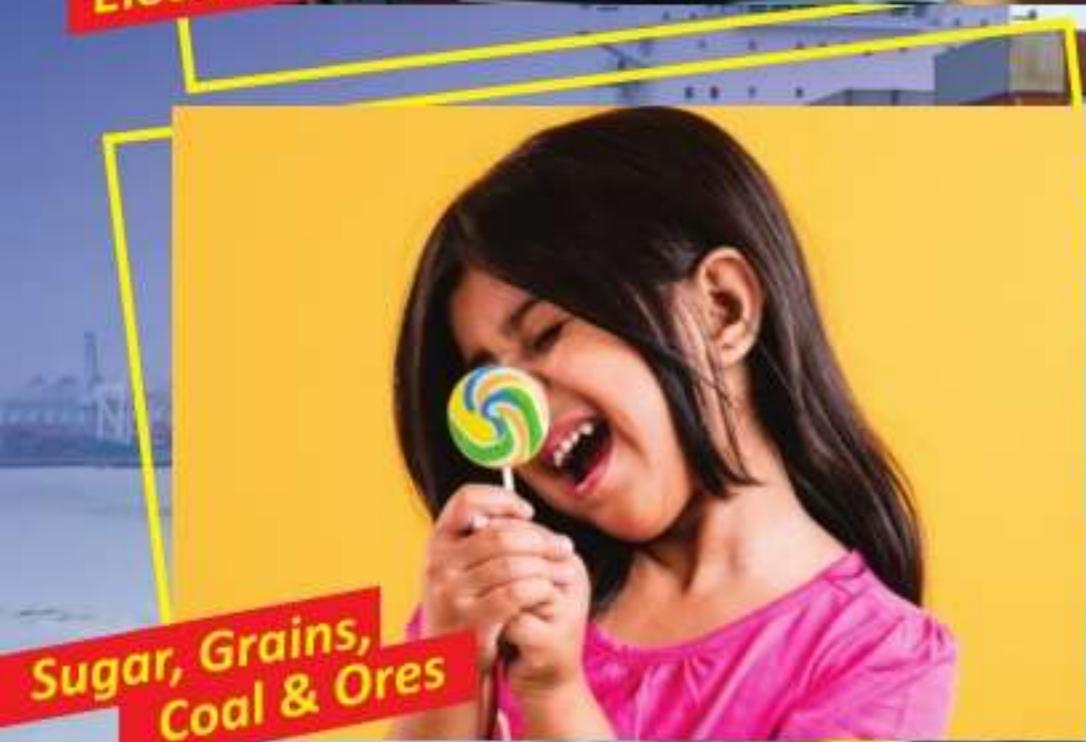
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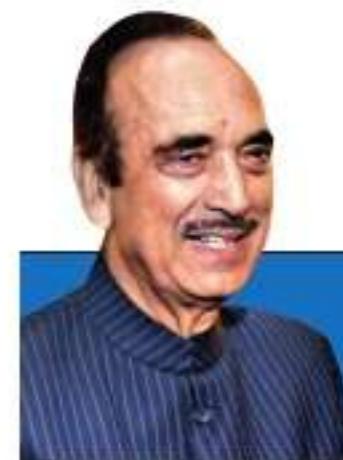
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EX-CM GHULAM NABI AZAD DISPELS 'RUMOURS' OF BEING J&K'S NEXT LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

'EVERYONE KNOWS WHO IS NCP FOUNDER': PAWAR SAYS HE WILL ATTEND EC HEARING ON PARTY SPLIT



Kannada actor drives car into couple, kills woman; held

Bengaluru: A 48-year-old woman died and her husband was severely injured after a car driven by Kannada actor Nagabhusana NS allegedly hit them in Bengaluru on Saturday night.

Nagabhusana was charged under various sections, including rash driving and causing death by negligence, after Prema S died and husband Krishna B, 58, was wounded in the crash on Vasantha pura Main Road. The actor was arrested but got bail from the police station.

Police said Nagabhusana, who is in his late thirties, was "not found drunk" at the time of the crash. But DCP (traffic south) Shiva Prakash Devaraj said the accident occurred because of negligent driving by the actor.

Nagabhusana claimed that the couple "suddenly entered the road from a footpath" and he was "taken aback". He also said that he rushed the couple with some others to a nearby hospital but Prema could not be saved.

Police filed the case on a complaint by Prema's son Partha K, a software engineer. Krishna B, his injured father, is an autorickshaw driver. TNN

## 4, including 2 women, arrested by CBI for Manipur duo's killing

2 Minors Detained, Later Handed Over To Child Care Officials

N Benson Singh | TNN



Members of a Manipuri organisation protest against violence and urge for restoration of peace in the strife-torn state, in Jiribam on Saturday

### Centre's ₹38cr aid for violence-hit farmers

Extending its assistance to farmers affected by the ongoing ethnic strife and taking into account the inadequate monsoon rains in Manipur, the ministry of home affairs (MHA) has approved release of Rs 38 crore as crop compensation package for the state, reports **K Sarojkumar Sharma**. Owing to the clashes that first erupted on May 3, most farmers could not move out to go to their paddy fields in vulnerable areas, and some of them were even injured in attacks while farming. The compensation package will cover 5,127 hectares of severely affected agricultural areas in eight districts, both in the valley and the hills.

The disappearance of 17-year-old girl Hijam Linthoingambi and 20-year-old youth Phijam Hemjiti Singh of Imphal West district triggered massive protests in Imphal valley this week after images of two bodies purportedly belonging to the two students appeared on social media. Protesters even tried to storm CM N Biren Singh's residence.

This heightened tension

in the state, which is in the grip of protracted sectarian strife since May 3, leaving more than 175 people dead and several hundred others wounded.

The two students were last seen riding a two-wheeler to

gether on July 6 from the Keishampat junction in Imphal, with CCTV footage capturing them in Nambol of Bishnupur district on the same day. Linthoingambi's mobile phone was last traced to Kwatha, a Bishnupur area

bordering Churachandpur district. Call records indicated that Hemanjt's phone may have been used by someone residing in Churachandpur.

Photographs of their alleged bodies circulated on social media after the Manipur government lifted the mobile internet ban on September 23, leading to further unrest in Manipur. The government reinstated the internet ban on September 26.

A CBI team led by its special director Ajay Bhatnagar arrived in Imphal on September 27 to investigate the case.

CM Biren Singh praised the swift action of the security teams and affirmed his government's commitment to ensuring that the culprits face exemplary punishment under the law. He described the arrests as a significant breakthrough in the case. The CM appealed to the people of Manipur to remain calm and maintain law and order, emphasising the need to allow the authorities to take action and seek justice for the recent tragedies amid the crisis.

(With inputs from K Sarojkumar Sharma)

## Cabbie dies in accident but gives new lease of life to 5

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**Madhan Kumar was returning home after work when he met with an accident and was declared brain dead 3 days later. His parents are into cattle farming. As the discussion on organ donation was initiated, everyone in the family was in total agreement, said Manjunath SV, Kumar's brother**

Bengaluru: When Madhan Kumar SV, 22, a cab driver from Somasagara, Nelamangala taluk, met with an accident on September 24, in Dabaspet, and was declared brain dead 3 days later, his family decided to donate his organs.

Kumar's liver, kidneys, heart, and corneas have given 5 people a new lease of life.

Kumar, who was returning home after work when he met with the accident, was rushed to V-care Hospital. He

was later shifted to Siddaganga Hospital in Tumakuru, from where he was referred to SPARSH Hospital, Yesh-

wantpur. Despite every effort to save his life, Kumar succumbed to his injuries.

Kumar's parents, Vijay

Kumar SV and Laxmi Devi, are into cattle farming.

As the discussion on organ donation was initiated, everyone in the family was in total agreement, said Manjunath SV, Kumar's brother.

"When one life was lost, we wanted to give life to others. There are many who are badly in need of organs and we wanted to do our bit," Manjunath said.

Joseph Pasangha, Group COO, SPARSH Hospital, told TOI: "Kumar's family's decision reflects the values of com-

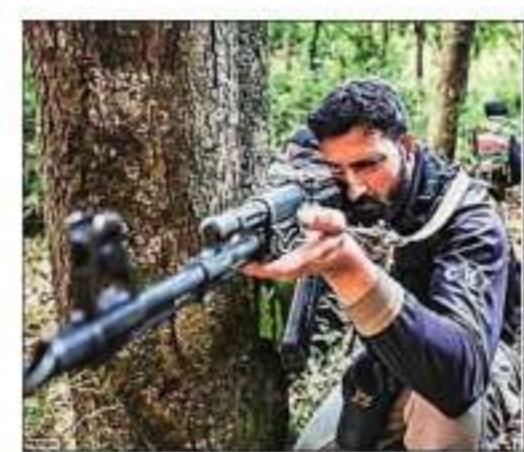
passion and unity that define our community. This remarkable act reminds us of the profound impact one family can have on countless others."

Officials from SOTTO (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation) — the government body which oversees cadaver organ donation in the state — took written consent from the family and initiated the organ-donation process.

The recipients were selected as per waiting list and the organs were transplanted.

## Arrested J&K DSP took bribe to 'save' terror-funds case accused Was In Touch With Lashkar Operatives

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com



J&K Police's crisis response team conducts a special operation near Jammu on Sunday

luxurious and flamboyant life. As a DySP in the traffic department, he is said to have forced young men and mostly well-off women to present themselves before him for alleged traffic violations, including fabricated ones. A source said he would either lure or threaten these young women to a room he had kept for himself at the tourist reception centre, Srinagar, and sexually assault them.

Aadil is a popular figure on social media and has over 44,700 followers on Twitter.

Another deputy SP in J&K police Davinder Singh was arrested in 2020 for aiding terrorists, placed under suspension and finally dismissed from service under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution. Sources said the charges against Aadil are serious enough to invite similar action.

The dossier against Aadil — based on technical surveillance mounted on him for the past six months or so — apparently reads like a thriller, painting him as a man "with good looks" who joined the Kashmir Police but was eventually overpowered by alleged greed and desire to maintain a

Not only did Aadil try to save the accused in the LeT terror funding case while he was the investigating officer, but even after he was shifted out from Nowgam in March 2023 and lost control of the probe, he tried to help terror financier Muzamil Zahoor by taking assistance of his juniors to engineer some false statements.

## Man beaten to death for dialling wrong number

## Commercial LPG price up ₹209 per cylinder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

seasons when sales rise.

After the increase, each blue coloured commercial refill of 19 kg will cost Rs 1,731.50 in Delhi, Rs 1,684 in Mumbai, Rs 1,898 in Chennai and Rs 1,839 in Kolkata.

The price of commercial LPG was last slashed by Rs 158 on September 1 and by Rs 99.75 on August 1. These refills are sold at market rates that are benchmarked to Saudi Contract Price.

The price of red coloured domestic cylinders of 14.2 kg remains unchanged at Rs 903.

# THE SOUL THAT SURVIVED

by **Discovery CHANNEL**

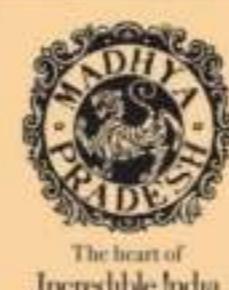
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## Congress picks Maken as new party treasurer, replaces Bansal

New Delhi: Congress on Sunday appointed Ajay Maken as the party's treasurer in place of Pawan Kumar Bansal, who was appointed interim treasurer in November 2020, following the demise of Ahmed Patel.

The decision was announced by organisation general secretary K C Venugopal through an office order, in which he said, "Congress has appointed Ajay Maken as the treasurer of the All India Congress Committee, with immediate effect."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also thanked Bansal for his services to the party. Bansal had not been attending office since he was dropped from the reconstituted Congress working committee on August 20 this year. He was, however, included as a permanent invitee to the party's top decision-making body. **TNN**

## In Delhi today, TMC to protest against Centre over WB's dues

New Delhi: The Trinamool Congress will hit the streets of central Delhi on Monday and Tuesday in protest against non-payment of dues by the Centre for the MGNREGA and PM Awas Yojna schemes and plans to turn the demand into a mass mobilisation exercise, reports **Mohua Chatterjee**.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had planned to lead the TMC brigade but unable to travel due to a recent injury, she has handed over the baton to nephew and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

On Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, 100-odd TMC leaders will pay homage at Raighat in a silent march and a contingent of atleast 1,000 party members will protest at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday. Party sources said around 3,000 TMC members, including panchayat and zila parishad members, MLAs and MPs, are slated to reach Delhi by Sunday.

# Modi leads BJP huddle to finalise Raj poll candidates

## Saffron Party Likely To Repeat MP Formula, Field Senior Leaders

Akhilesh.Singh  
@timesgroup.com



Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a roadshow in Chanderi district on Sunday

New Delhi: The BJP brass, including PM Modi, got together at the central election committee (CEC) meeting on Sunday with the discussion focusing on finalising candidates for the Rajasthan assembly polls. The party is banking on the revolving door pattern in the state to ride back to office, even as it faces dissension in the ranks and is encountering strong resistance from the Congress.

No announcement was made after the meeting but there is the possibility of a repeat of the Madhya Pradesh formula in which senior leaders, including MPs and Union ministers, were asked to contest. Till now, three senior Union ministers and seven MPs have been named in the Madhya Pradesh list.

Others who attended the CEC meeting included home

minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, party president J P Nadda, state leaders like former CM Vasundhara Raje, state president C P Joshi, Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhwat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, leader of opposition in the state assembly Rajendra Rathore and former state president Satish Poonia.

There is speculation that

Shukhawat, the Jodhpur MP, could be pitted against CM Ashok Gehlot from Sardarpura. Gehlot has been elected five times from the constituency in Jodhpur and his victory in 2018 was his most emphatic yet, trouncing BJP's Shambhu Singh Khetasari by 45,597 votes.

BJP, after the emergence of Modi as the party mascot in 2014, has broken the tradition of going "soft" against prominent rivals as it started taking all constituencies with equal seriousness. Pitting Smriti Irani against Rahul Gandhi in Amethi, resulting in the latter's defeat in 2019, and the loss of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from Gulbarga in Karnataka by BJP's Umesh Jadhav are prime examples.

BJP has decided to contest the state polls without projecting a CM candidate,

the first time in more than three decades as the party had become synonymous

first with Bhairon Singh Shekhwat and later with Vasundhara Raje.

**There is speculation that Gajendra Singh Shekhwat, the Jodhpur MP, could be pitted against CM Ashok Gehlot from Sardarpura**

of going "soft" against prominent rivals as it started taking all constituencies with equal seriousness. Pitting Smriti Irani against Rahul Gandhi in Amethi, resulting in the latter's defeat in 2019, and the loss of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from Gulbarga in Karnataka by BJP's Umesh Jadhav are prime examples.

BJP has decided to contest the state polls without projecting a CM candidate, the first time in more than three decades as the party had become synonymous first with Bhairon Singh Shekhwat and later with Vasundhara Raje.

## PM wishes new Maldives prez on election win

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Maldives president-elect Mohamed Muizzu who defeated incumbent Ibrahim Solih in the presidential run off.

"India remains committed to strengthening the time tested India-Maldives bilateral relationship and enhancing our overall cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region," said Modi on X.

Muizzu is backed by pro-China leader Abdulla Yameen's Progressive Party of Maldives. He had received 54% of the ballots in Saturday's vote, with 46% for Solih.

"I congratulate Muizzu for winning the election and thank the people for their exemplary democratic spirit," Solih said on X. He will remain as president until Muizzu's inauguration on November 17. **TNN**

## Broom in hand, Modi collaborates with influencer for Swachch drive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday sent out a message on maintaining fitness and hygiene in personal life as he took part in a 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti in the company of fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuriya, a resident of Sohna in Haryana.

The PM shared a video of Baiyanpuriya and him wielding brooms and collecting garbage. He tweeted, "Today, as the nation focuses on Swachhta, Ankit Baiyanpuriya and I did the same. Beyond just cleanliness, we blended fitness and well-being also into the mix. It is all about that Swachh and Swasth Bharat vibe."

The PM asked about Baiyanpuriya's fitness routine. During the conversation, Modi said he led a disciplined life but this got affected in the recent past as he was not able to eat and sleep on time.

In the video, PM also mentioned a video of a girl in which she talked about her "mother's gym," explaining the relevance of daily chores in keeping oneself fit.

Modi asked Baiyanpuriya about the latter's 75-day challenge, which went viral on social media for which the PM complimented him and also



PM Narendra Modi and fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuriya participate in a cleanliness drive in New Delhi on Sunday

for the optimal use of social media through which he has inspired millions of youth.

"Keeping the environment clean is our duty. If the environment remains healthy, then we too will," Baiyanpuriya said.

The nation observed a mega cleanliness drive following a call by Modi to dedicate "one hour of shramdaan (voluntary labour) for swachhta" to help build a bright future for the country.

Home minister Amit Shah, who took part in the drive in Ahmedabad, said that the PM had turned several issues plaguing society into mass movements and cleanliness was the first. "By infusing 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' with the power of public participation,莫迪 has implemented Gandhi ji's mantra of 'cleanliness is service'. With his inspiration, every Indian is making an important contribution in the development of the country by making cleanliness an integral part of lifestyle," the home minister said.



taken just two months back, when he had appointed Rathin Bandyopadhyay as the acting VC of NBU. Bandyopadhyay, appointed in NBU on July 17, has been asked to take up the post of Alipurdur University's interim VC.

The appointments drew sharp reactions from the education minister. "The matter is sub judice before Supreme Court. Are these appointments even legal at this point of time? We will raise this point before SC. Appointing retired IPS officers as VCs in state universities is not desirable. This will have a bearing on the academic atmosphere of the universities," Basu said. Raj Bhavan did not issue any statement on this.

## Citing 2011 caste survey, BJP says Cong trying to mislead OBCs again

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

caste-based data.

New Delhi: Citing the exercise of caste enumeration conducted in 2011 during the UPA regime but data not made public due to innumerable discrepancies, BJP on Sunday claimed that Congress, having cheated the OBC community the most in the past, has once again hatched a conspiracy to misguide them.

The party's remarks came a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's assurance that his party will ensure caste-based census if voted back to power.

"Rahul is lying once again," said BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya, sharing detailed data including the remarks of then home minister P Chidambaram in 2010 expressing inability to release

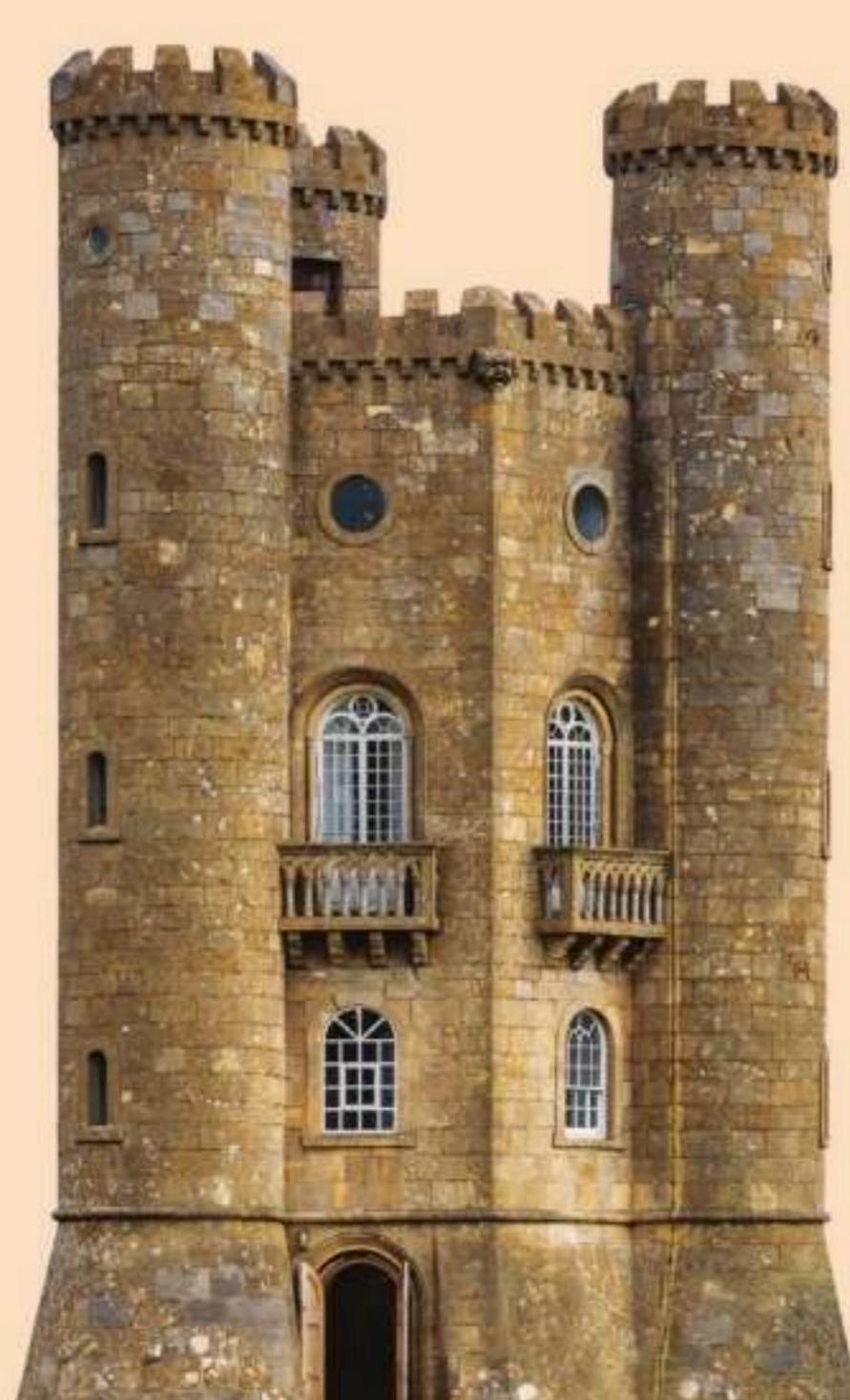
name, sub-name, gotra, community," the BJP functionary said, adding that 1 crore 18 lakh errors were found in the 2011 caste census across the country.

He said not only this, in 2015, the then Congress government of Karnataka had spent Rs 147 crore and conducted caste census in the state but the total number of major castes was found to be much less than expected. But the figures have not been made public till date.

Malviya said the Gandhi family has repeatedly insulted the OBC community. "Indira Gandhi did not recognise the Mandal Commission report and despite Rajiv Gandhi's opposition, after the SC's order of 1995, the central government was forced to give quota in central jobs to the OBC community," he said.

"On this basis, the Congress's UPA government rejected the demand for caste enumeration along with census 2011. But due to political pressure, after spending Rs 5,000 crore in 2011, without any prior preparation, a separate social, economic and caste census was conducted. People registered the names of caste, sub-caste,

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## 8 acquitted in Muzaffarnagar riots case over 'lack of proof'

Agra: The court of additional district and sessions judge in Muzaffarnagar on Saturday acquitted eight persons accused of burning down the house of a local villager and attacking his family during the communal riots in the district in 2013 due to "lack of evidence". One of the accused had died during the trial, reports **Mohammed Dilshad**.

Speaking about the matter, senior defence advocate, Pradeep Malik, said, "The incident pertains to September 8, 2013, when riots had spread in the district's Lisadh village under Phugana police limits. Subedee, a local resident, filed a police complaint claiming that a mob comprising of Azad Patel, Jitendra, Parul, Vikas, Gaurav, Kuldeep, Sanjay, Rishipal and Mithlesh and some unknown persons burnt down his house after looting valuables. Owing to lack of evidence, the court acquitted eight of them."

At least 62 people lost their lives and more than 50,000 were forced to flee their homes in the aftermath of one of the worst-ever riots in the state which erupted after a 25-year-old man, Shahnaawaz, was stabbed to death in Kawal on August 27 allegedly by a group of eight during a clash. Soon after, a large crowd caught two of the alleged attackers, Sachin and Gaurav, and lynched them.

London: The Glasgow gurdwara has strongly criticised British Sikh activists for preventing the Indian high commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami from entering the place of worship last Friday.

Doraiswami was due to attend a function at the Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib Sikhs Sabha Glasgow on Friday. Long tables had been laid with white tablecloths for him and the consul-general of India in Edinburgh, Bijay Selvaraj, to enjoy langar in a visit facilitated by Conservative Sikh member of Scottish Parliament, Pam Gosal. However,

**Shadow foreign secretary David Lammy and former home secretary Priti Patel have slammed the incident as 'unacceptable'**

when the high commissioner's car arrived, three radical Sikh activists barged up and tried to open the door. One of them shouted: "You are the ambassador, right? Yeah, I think it is best if you go."

In a statement, the Glasgow gurdwara said Doraiswami had been on a "personal visit" and that the gurdwara "strongly condemns such disorderly behaviour to disrupt the peaceful proceedings of a Sikh place of worship". The statement added that after the

departure of the dignitaries, "these unruly individuals continued to disturb the gurdwara congregation". Police Scotland was then called.

Shadow foreign secretary David Lammy and former home secretary Priti Patel have also slammed the incident as "unacceptable". Meanwhile, the Sikh Federation UK and National Sikh Youth Federation (NSYF) have since posted a collective statement from "UK Sikh panthic organisations" on X which defends the disruption, claiming a "ban" on Indian officials visiting gurdwaras in an official capacity has been in place since Operation Bluestar in 1984.

The group claimed the gurdwara knew the visit would spark a backlash. They said the "visit" was an "insult" given "the recent revelations" alleging Indian government's involvement in the killing of Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Attacking the Glasgow gurdwara management, the statement said: "If there are Sikhs who want to put their own interests ahead of the Sikh struggle and desire visas, they should go to the Indian Embassy (sic)..."

In 2018, the then Indian deputy high commissioner Charanjeet Singh was turned away by NSYF activists at the Central Gurdwara, London and NSYF activists also gate-crashed an event Rahul Gandhi was holding and had to be escorted out by police.

(Earlier) we used to deal with each other...now we work with each other, Jaishankar said

compared to a few decades ago when she was among the few Indian-Americans in the Clinton administration.

US deputy secretary of state Richard Verma, surgeon general Vivek Murthy, National Science Foundation director Sethuraman Panchanathan, and freshman Congressman Shri Thanedar were among those who reflected on the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries, recalling their or their parents' visits to the US.

"(Earlier) we used to deal with each other...now we work with each other," the minister added.

"You can't throw a stone in the White House without hitting an Indian-American," joked Neera Tanden, President Joe Biden's domestic policy advisor, highlighting the wide presence of the community in US public life

Jaishankar, who served in the US as a young political officer (and later as ambassador) himself reflected on the time in the early 1980s "when you had to explain where you are from, what you are about... it's good to see members of Congress here... those were tough days... they didn't even let you into the rooms in the Congress".

Jaishankar concluded his week-long visit to the US having pushed back strongly at elements in the Biden-Clinton dispensation who sought to put India in the dock for Nijjar's murder. While asserting that it was not the Indian government's policy to carry out transnational assassinations, he, however, left the door open for New Delhi to examine any relevant information that pointed to a rogue operation even as he highlighted the Anglosphere's permissive approach that allowed violent extremists a free run in their country in the name of free speech. The pushback has changed the one-sided discourse on Khalistani militancy abroad.

"Today, peace prevails in Assam. It's good news that as of today, except for four districts, Afspa has been removed from the whole of Assam. The Disturbed Areas Act has been removed outside of these four districts too," he said.

**EAM: India, US 'optimal & comfortable partners'**

## Skips Mention Of Nijjar Issue At US Event

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN



Washington: External affairs minister S Jaishankar made no mention of the hot button Hardeep Singh Nijjar issue at an event here, 'Colours of India', where Indian-American elites in the US administration and public life also talked up the ties, illustrating the human resources heft the two sides have built up with immigration.

"In this changing world, I would say today that India and the US have moved to a position where we really see each other as very desirable, optimal and comfortable partners with whom it's a natural instinct today to pick up the phone or if you meet someone and have a natural conversation," Jaishankar said.

"(Earlier) we used to deal with each other...now we work with each other," the minister added.

"You can't throw a stone in the White House without hitting an Indian-American," joked Neera Tanden, President Joe Biden's domestic policy advisor, highlighting the wide presence of the community in US public life

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**Afspa extended in 4 Assam dists, withdrawn from 4 others**

Guwahati: The controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1952 (Afspa), has been lifted from four of Assam's eight districts where it was in force while being extended in the remaining four; reports **Kangkan Kalita**.

The act has been lifted in Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. It has been extended in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo for six more months from October 1 (Sunday).

The Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government had recently recommended complete withdrawal of Afspa but as the four districts are still witnessing militant activities of the outlawed Ulfa over the decades, they will continue to have the "disturbed areas" status, resulting in the enforcement of Afspa. DGP GP Singh said as Assam is going through a peaceful stage after witnessing the volatile past during the last three to four decades, the act has been withdrawn from most of the districts. He gave credit for the peaceful environment to the concerted efforts of state police, Army and CAPF for the last 30 to 40 years.

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## 'Impossible for an outsider to execute LeT man's killing'

**Continued from P 1**

Reports in Pakistani media cited police sources as saying that Farooq suffered bullet wounds in the back and was shifted to a hospital where he died during treatment. A 10-year-old boy was injured in the attack, which the cops suspect was collateral damage. Videos claiming to be CCTV footage of Farooq's killing surfaced on social media. The footage showed people running and a man, supposedly Farooq, falling down on the road after being shot. Several others were seen running for cover.

Sources said the murder was evidently executed by shooters who were aware of the topography of the area and could be locals, adding that it was impossible for an "outsider" to execute a killing in the high security area. In September, there was a spate of killings of religious clerics closely affiliated with terror outfits. Lashkar operatives were the most frequent targets.

The killing has also put the spotlight on the chaos in the terrorist outfit and suggests that ISI's attempts to strike a truce have failed. A large section in Lashkar has revolted against the elevation of Hafiz Saeed's son Talha as the second-in-command.

Talha has been spearheading India-centric operations as Lashkar-e-Taiba's second-in-command. He had narrowly escaped assassination in a bombing near a refrigerator shop in Lahore in 2019, a development which has been attributed to the infighting in Lashkar. Resultantly, many senior Lashkar operatives have of late expressed threat to their lives.

Over a dozen terrorists and their sympathisers in Pakistan have been lodged in ISI safe houses after the recent killing of LeT operative and prominent cleric Maulana Ziaur Rehman, who was shot dead a few days ago in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

## Removing CM, forming new party tantamount to inviting Prez rule: Manipur mantri

**Continued from P 1**

At the moment, removing the chief minister or forming a new regional party as proposed by the Youth of Manipur is tantamount to inviting President's rule, said consumer affairs, food, and public distribution minister L Susindro Meitei, speaking to the media upon returning from Delhi at Imphal airport on Sunday.

While 22 BJP MLAs continue to stay in Delhi, legislators from other parties, including Congress, are reportedly also in the national capital. Ten Chin-Kuki-Mizo group MLAs have already formed a team, advocating for a separate administration for the hill districts in Manipur.

However, Susindro firmly rejected the demand for a separate administration and reaffirmed his commitment to preserving the state's territorial integrity.

The 60-member Manipur assembly has 32 BJP MLAs, and they have support from five of six JD(U) legislators. Additionally, three independent MLAs, two from the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA), and five from NPP have also backed BJP. Through its alliance with BJP at the Centre, all seven National People's Party (NPEP) MLAs have also supported the Biren Singh government, effectively giving it a strength of 54. The lone JD(U) MLA from Liang, M Abdul Nasir, and the five Congress legislators are the only opposition members in the House.

Furthermore, the idea of changing the CM was initially discussed but subsequently dismissed. The demand for a change in chief ministership overshadowed the meeting. It also mentioned that some of the demands made by the youngsters were unrelated to the core issues and deemed unacceptable. Sources privy to the meeting revealed that the Youth of Manipur became hostile and attempted to physically confront Susindro during the meeting.

A statement from the state directorate of information and public relations disclosed that one representative of the Youth of Manipur became hostile and attempted to physically confront Susindro during the meeting.

The 22 MLAs in Delhi expressed their eagerness to return to Imphal promptly to formalise their request for a meeting with PM Narendra Modi and the state leadership, according to the sources.

Overall, there are 37 representatives from the Meitei community, 10 from the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group, 10 Nagas, and three Manipuri Muslims. Of the 32 BJP MLAs, 25 belong

to the Meitei community, two are Nagas, and five are from the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group.

All Congress legislators come from the Meitei community, while the five NPP MLAs are Nagas. Among the six JD(U) MLAs, two each are Meiteis, Manipuri Muslims, and Chin-Kuki-Mizo.

The three independents represent the Meitei, Naga, and Chin-Kuki-Mizo groups. Among the seven NPEP MLAs, four are from the Meitei community, two are Nagas, and one is a Manipuri Muslim. The remaining two from KPA hail from the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group.

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## 13-year-old girl gang-raped in Guj; Instagram friend among 3 arrested

Surat: Parents of a 13-year-old girl filed a police complaint on Saturday night against three men in their early twenties, alleging that two of them — including one whom their daughter had befriended in September last year on Instagram — had gang-raped her in December 2022.

Police on Sunday arrested the accused trio and booked them for gang rape and abduction under relevant sections of the IPC and PoV Act. The girl studies in Class 8 while her parents work in a factory. Of the three accused, two are pursuing graduation — one of whom is also a kabaddi coach — while the third works as a labourer. TNN

**Office of The Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone) P.W.D Bhopal (M.P.)**

### Tender Notice

NIT No. 48 / G. /1/Mis/Bpl.Z./2019 (Year 2023)

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal <https://mpitenders.gov.in> Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In, lac)	Remarks
1	2023_PWDRB_310245_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Kaloda To sukhram Via Kelanpur Road Length 0.60 K.M Under Mandi Nidhi Fund	5th Call	677.56	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
2	2023_PWDRB_310247_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Bunda To Galah road length 6.50 km under mandi nidhi	1st Call	704.37	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
3	2023_PWDRB_310249_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Thorehaboda Neemrara Dhanvara Kudava Choukdi road length 13.5 km under mandi nidhi	1st Call	739.89	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
4	2023_PWDRB_310250_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Singa ji Mandir Kukrawat To Roopiparetiya Road Length 6.00 km under mandi nidhi	1st Call	601.27	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
5	2023_PWDRB_311967_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Slabedi to kayaogaon via neengma jhada Road Length 12.00 km under mandi nidhi	1st Call	1488.61	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
						4211.70	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 10-10-23 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

**Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone) P.W.D Bhopal Madhya pradesh**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

### SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vaseem S/o Munney R/o VPO Laliyan, Distt. Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250104 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No.171/2023 U/s 25(8) Arms Act. P.S. Special Cell, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Vaseem cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vaseem has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vaseem of FIR No.171/2023 U/s 25(8) Arms Act. P.S. Special Cell, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.10.2023

By Order

MS. Snigdha Sarvarya  
Ld. CMM Patiala  
House Courts, New Delhi

DIP/10939/Spl.Cell/2023 (Court Matter).

## UJVN LIMITED



ADVERTORIAL



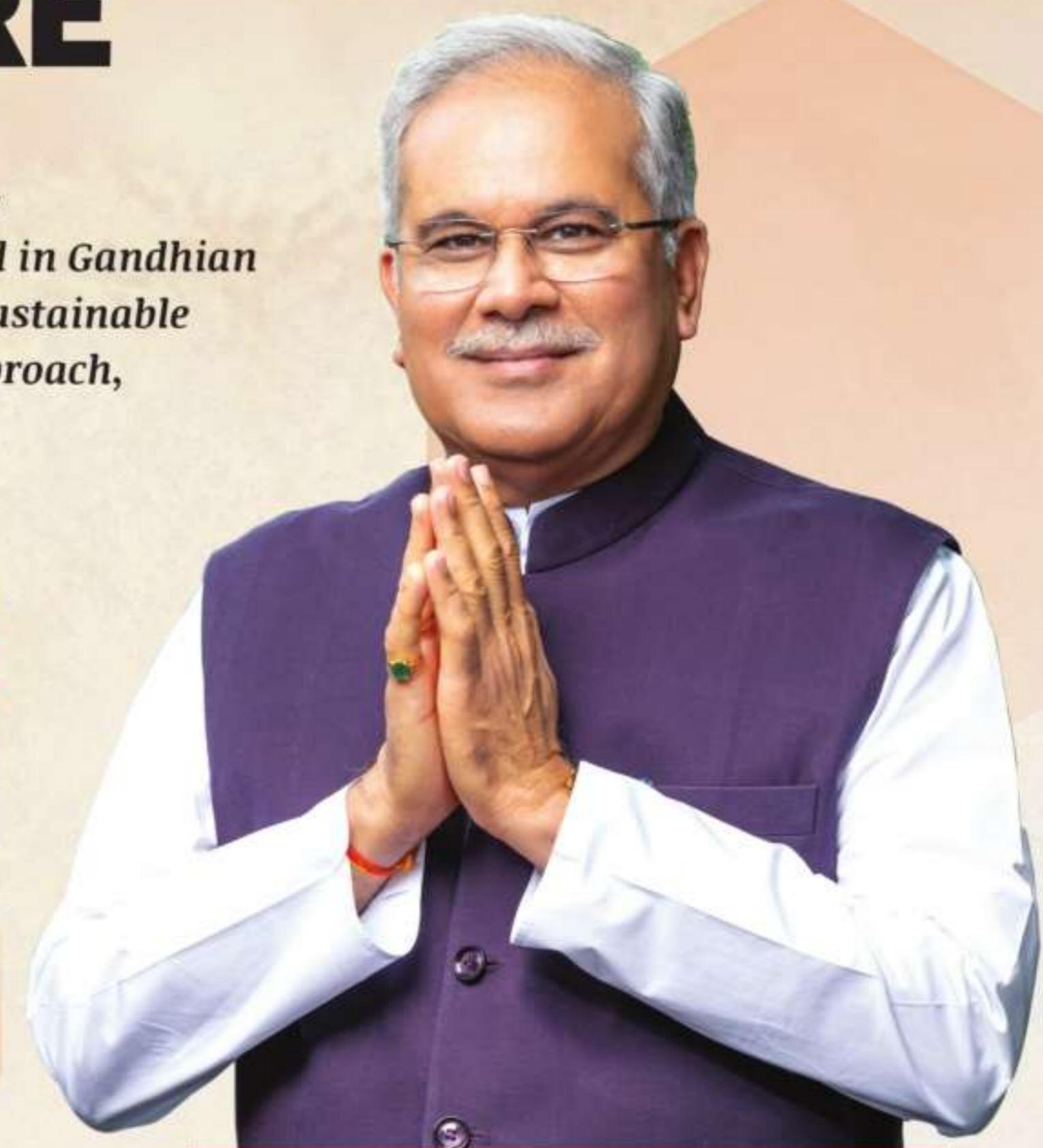
# GANDHIAN VALUES DRIVING CHHATTISGARH'S PURSUIT OF MASS WELFARE

The Bhupesh Baghel government has embraced the timeless ideals of Mahatma Gandhi to drive transformative initiatives in the state of Chhattisgarh. These programmes and schemes, rooted in Gandhian principles of self-reliance, social justice and rural empowerment, span diverse areas such as sustainable rural industrialisation, education, forest rights and poverty alleviation. Through a holistic approach, Chhattisgarh is on a path to prosperity, making Gandhi's vision a reality.

## Sustainable Rural Industrialisation through RIPA

The Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) being set up by the Chhattisgarh government will provide the much-needed boost for sustainable rural industrialisation in the state. RIPA intends to rejuvenate the village economy by promoting decentralised micro-industries, social enterprise, and shifting back the control of native production to rural areas.

- Sevagram in Nava Raipur will work as a supporting organisation with roots in every village through RIPAs.
- Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) shall cover 6-7 villages production zones.



**Bhupesh Baghel**  
CM, Chhattisgarh



## Embracing Gandhian Ideals of Sarvodaya

Chhattisgarh government has promulgated a project to set up a Sevagram Ashram similar to Gandhi's Sevagram Ashram of Wardha. A place to learn from, re-live and remember Mahatma Gandhi, the Nava Raipur Sevagram shall be a reflection of Gandhi's teaching of unity, harmony and kindness.

- Nava Raipur Sevagram will be an important centre to safeguard and showcase Chhattisgarh's rich heritage and tribal culture.
- Sevagram in Nava Raipur will have a visitors' centre to spread Gandhian ideology, arts and crafts village, seva ashram and a school for the Gandhian studies.

## Big impetus to education

The Chhattisgarh government's relentless efforts have transformed the education landscape, ensuring the delivery of high-quality education to all. The state's initiatives have propelled it towards the pinnacle of educational excellence.



- The flagship schemes like Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan and Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools are resonating across India.
- Mahatma Gandhi's push for good education and adequate nutrition is being achieved through these schemes.

## Rights to forest dwellers



The law and state policies under the recognition of forest rights Letter have ensured the right of land occupied in forest to the tribals and traditional forest dwellers, which is first in the nation. So far, a total of 5,03,993 forest rights recognition letters have been distributed, out of which 4,54,45 individual forest rights letters, 45,847 community forest rights certificates, and 3731 community forest resource rights certificates have been provided for 38.85 lakh hectares of forest land. This land has become a livelihood for more than 5 lakh families.

## Unlocking the rural economy

The Chhattisgarh government has initiated several unprecedented policies and programmes to transform the rural economy. Expansion of gothans in the state through the Godhan Nyay Yojana and Narva, Garva, Ghurva and Bari (NGGB) scheme to prepare vermicompost and other products has given a huge boost to rural economy in the state.



## MGNREGA playing a key role in Reducing poverty and empowering women

Mahatma Gandhi was one of the early supporters and proponents of the idea of self-reliance in modern history. He presented a clear and alternative perspective on development to strengthen the rural economy. Chhattisgarh ranks 5th in the successful implementation of MGNREGA and giving work to the needy. Women Self-help groups too has brought about a transformation in the lives of women.

Riding the wave of monumental achievements by female solo circumnavigators before them, Naval officers Dilna K and Roopa Alagirisamy will soon set out to create a record of their own

# AN OCEAN OF POSSIBILITIES



Newton.Sequeira  
@timesgroup.com

**N**early half a century ago, when Polish sailor Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz and New Zealander Naomi James took up the daredevil task to single-handedly sail around the globe, the two women's jaw-dropping feat left the world in disbelief.

Now, buoyed by the success of the first-ever circumnavigation by an all-women crew of six Naval officers in 2018, two young Lieutenant Commanders are preparing to follow in Krystyna and Naomi's footsteps.

From being washed overboard to colliding with cargo vessels, solo circumnavigation has its fair share of perils. And if the ocean does not kill you, then extended solitude can, as seen in the tragic story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst, whose doomed expedition in 1968 ended with him reportedly taking his own life.

It's no wonder then that just 200 people have sailed alone around the world, very few of them women. India, and more specifically the Indian Navy, wants a place on this list.

#### The Origins

If there is one person who deserves credit for the Indian Navy's appetite for ocean sailing and circumnavigation, it is Vice Admiral Manohar Awati (retd). Though he passed away in 2018, his vision and near-fanatic desire to end the country's ocean blindness sowed the seed of ocean sailing.

Awati badgered the Naval top brass to venture into ocean sailing and circumnavigation, but his impassioned pleas fell on deaf ears till Admiral Arun Prakash (retd) became the Chief of Naval Staff.

"I still remember, it was April 27, 2006 when a captain from the Naval HQ asked me if I was interested in going around the world. I immediately said yes. I didn't know what I volunteered for, and it took some time to sink in," says Captain Dilip Donde (retd).

Donde made Awati's vision a reality when he sailed around the world in a 17-meter yacht - built here in Goa - to become the first Indian to solo circumnavigate in 2010. Commander Abhilash Tomy (retd) followed him in 2012 to become the first Indian to sail around the world without a stop.

In 2018, the Navy's all-female crew shattered stereotypes and glass ceilings when they

**The Tarini and her adventurous crew returns from its 17,000 nautical mile expedition to Brazil**



B

## Binsar sanctuary in U'khand plans to launch jungle safari

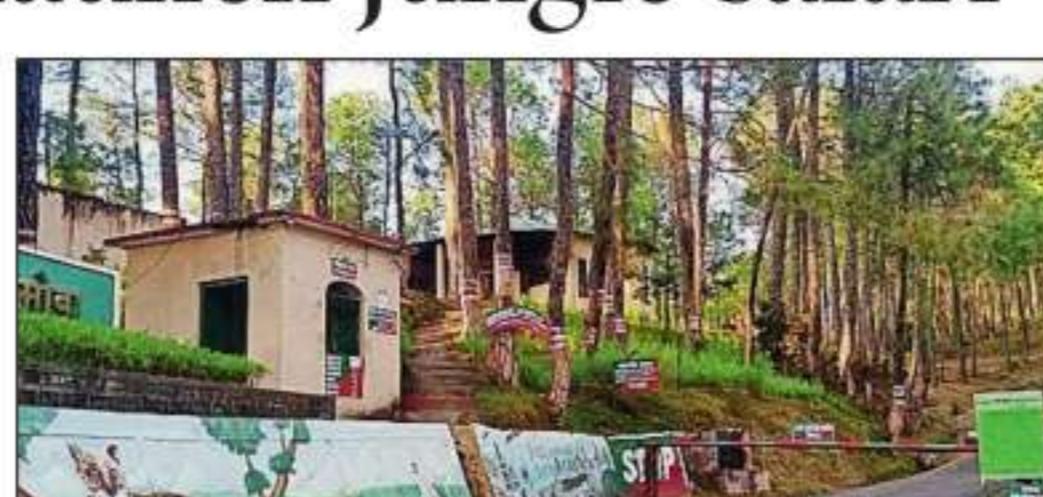
Pramod Dalakoti | TNN

**Almora:** Binsar forest sanctuary near Almora, renowned for its lush green forest and diverse wildlife, may soon offer the options of jungle safari and bike riding to tourists. Officials of the forest department said they have proposed a Rs 12 crore initiative to introduce these facilities in the sanctuary, akin to the Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Currently, visitors to Binsar sanctuary explore the forest on foot.

According to the forest department, the proposal is expected to receive government approval within the next three months.

"For the first time, a safari



has been proposed in Binsar sanctuary. Bike riding will start in Kasardevi Eco Park. After the implementation of both schemes, the tourism activities here will gain momentum," said Deepak Singh, the divisional forest officer.

"Every year, thousands of tourists, from India and abroad, come to visit the sanctuary. Presently, it is home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, leopards, chital, monal, musk deer, bears and wild boars," Singh added.

## Bee attack kills student, dozen others injured

**Jaipur:** A 16-year-old boy died after being stung by bees while over a dozen other students were injured on their way to an educational and religious tour in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Sunday morning.

As many as 50 students of classes V to X accompanied by five staffers of Amar Bharti Educational Institute in Harsad village of Churu district were heading to Jeen Mata and Khatu Shyam Ji temples in the district on a private bus hired by the school when the bee attack took place. The deceased was identified as Hardik. Several other students on the bus fell unconscious and were rushed to the district hospital.

Police rushed to the spot and launched a probe. TNN

## Manjhi: Won't contest polls, I'm too old now

**Patna:** Former Bihar CM and Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular) founder Jitan Ram Manjhi on Sunday announced his retirement from electoral politics, saying he is too old to contest elections now, reports Manoj Chaurasia. HAM(S) joined the BJP-led NDA in June after walking out of the ruling Grand Alliance in the state.

Manjhi, along with his son and party chief Santosh Kumar Suman, met Union home minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Friday. Speculations are rife that he could be given some "post-retirement" post by BJP.

"I am not in a position to contest elections any more. I am already 79," he said, adding people aged 75 should not get involved in electoral politics.

## Tripura HC cites SC ruling, forbids automatic 498A arrests

Biswendu Bhattacharjee | TNN

**Agartala:** The Tripura high court has cited a Supreme Court ruling of July this year and issued guidelines for cops to prevent automatic arrests under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with crimes against a married woman by her husband or in-laws.

According to the guidelines, investigating officers have to fill a checklist of parameters mentioned in Section 41 of CrPC before arresting an accused. Failure to comply would make the officers liable for departmental action and contempt of court.

The police officer shall present the filled checklist along with the reasons and materials/evidence that necessitated a Section 498A ar-

## 2 with cocaine worth ₹300cr arrested in J&K

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

**Jammu:** Jammu & Kashmir Police busted a narco-terror module and arrested two smugglers with 30kg cocaine, worth around Rs 300 crore in the international black market, in Ramban district on Saturday night.

"Around 10.35pm, a police team led by Ramban SSP Mohita Sharma intercepted an Innova heading from Kashmir towards Jammu at Banihal railway chowk. While checking the vehicle, the police team seized approximately 30kg cocaine," ADGP (Jammu Zone) Mukesh Singh said on Sunday while sharing details of the operation.

Two people were arrested in this connection and a case was registered under the NDPS Act at Banihal police station.

An investigation was launched, said ADGP Singh. "The operation was launched based on intelligence inputs generated by SSP Sharma and her team, who have been continuously waging war against drug smugglers and peddlers, several of whom have already been booked by Ramban Police," he added.

This year, 36 NDPS cases have been registered so far in Ramban district alone where in 158 arrests and three detentions were made and 2,500kg poppy straw, 30kg cocaine, 10kg charas, 200g heroin, and 200 psychotropic tablets seized. In 2022, as many as 104 NDPS cases were registered across J&K, ADGP Singh said.

## Pakistan drone with drugs seized in Raj

**SF troopers along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar foiled on Sunday an attempt to smuggle arms and drugs through a drone, seizing 1.5kg heroin worth Rs 8 crore. A carrybag labelled "Lahore Qalandars" was attached to a China-made drone that had fallen near a BSF post in the Kohli area, officials said. The bag contained heroin packets, a foreign-made pistol and eight live cartridges.**

Jaisalmber SP Vikas Sharma said that a search is underway to nab the smugglers who were to take delivery of the consignment. TNN

## 5 held with ₹2cr heroin in Assam

**H**eroin worth Rs 2 crore in the international market was seized in Kamrup district and five persons, including four from Manipur, were arrested by the special task force of Assam Police on Sunday, reports Mukut Das.

Acting on a tip off, police intercepted a vehicle at Amingaon and recovered 250g of heroin during the search.

Those arrested by police are Abdul Rajak Shah (36), Bibi Sara (41), Jarina (25) and Yunus Khan (39) of Manipur's Bishnupur district, while Lila Kanta Saikia (28) hails from Assam's Dhemaji district.

## Procession with Tipu image sparks violence in K'taka, 4 injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Stones were thrown at the processionists and the police, leading to imposition of Section 144 of CrPC in Ragigudda area of Shivamogga as a precautionary measure**

Trouble started early in the day when some Muslim youths erected a large portrait of erstwhile Mysuru state ruler Tipu Sultan at Ragigudda-Shanti Nagar on the outskirts of the city. Right-wing activists took objection, claiming that the portrait depicts Tipu Sultan killing a Hindu warrior.

Local youths gathered at the spot. Shivamogga SP GK Mithun Kumar reached out to leaders from both communities to address the issue. He urged them to persuade the youths to have peaceful Eid Milad celebrations. The SP instructed the organizers to cover the portrait with a curtain to prevent the situation from escalating further.

As tensions continued to rise, additional reinforcements were summoned, with police personnel patrolling the

area to disperse the groups.

A few hours later, a Muslim youth heightened tensions by using his blood to inscribe the words 'Sher Tipu' on the portrait. Following this, security measures in the city were beefed up.

When the processionists reached Ragigudda area around 8pm, a group of miscreants began throwing stones at the procession.

In response, some youths in the procession started pelting stones at nearby houses. Cops came in the crowd to disperse the them.

Shivamogga SP said four people sustained injuries during the incident and were admitted to McGann Hospital. As a precautionary measure, prohibitory orders have been imposed in Ragigudda area.

Shivamogga

An Eid Milad

procession on Sunday stirred up tension in Karnataka's

Shivamogga after stones were thrown at the processionists and the police, resulting in four people getting injured and imposition of Section 144 of CrPC in Ragigudda area as a precautionary measure.

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Cauvery row: TN farmers block rail tracks to protest against K'taka

**Trichy:** Farmers affiliated to Desiya Thenninchiya Nathigal Inaiappu Vivasyigal Sangam blocked railway tracks on the outskirts of Trichy city on Sunday, to protest the Karnataka government's refusal to release Tamil Nadu's share of water from the Cauvery river.

The agitators blocked the

tracks near Mutharasanallur station with wooden objects and girders. They walked along the tracks with green flags while raising slogans. Police detained 22 protesters, including association president P Ayyakkannan and six women. The Railway police will hold an inquiry into the protest. TNN

ing the reasons shall also be liable for departmental action by the high court.

The HC's directions are intended to ensure that police officers do not arrest accused unnecessarily in Section 498A cases and magistrates do not authorise detentions casually and mechanically.

The state government will have to instruct police officers accordingly, telling them that they must satisfy themselves about the necessity of arrests under parameters laid down in CrPC, according to the HC guidelines.

According to the guidelines, investigating officers have to fill a checklist of parameters mentioned in Section 41 of CrPC before arresting an accused. Failure to comply would make the officers liable for departmental action and contempt of court.

The police officer shall present the filled checklist along with the reasons and materials/evidence that necessitated a Section 498A ar-

rest while producing the accused before a magistrate for further detention. The magistrate should authorise further detention only after examining the officer's report and recording his satisfaction.

At the same time, the guidelines specify that a decision not to arrest an accused under Section 498A should be given in writing to the magistrate within two weeks from the date of the institution of the case. The district SP may extend that period but with reasons recorded in writing.

Police must serve an accused notice of appearance under Section 41 of CrPC within two weeks of the case filing date, the Tripura high court guidelines state.

## 'Exasperated' woman flyer's 'bomb' remark delays flight by 5 hrs

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New Delhi: "Mere paas bomb hai (kya)!" — this comment by a woman passenger who was perhaps "exasperated" by strict pre-boarding checks at Varanasi Airport on Sunday, led to a security scare and delayed her Akasa flight to Mumbai by over five hours. Incidentally, two days ago (on September 29) a hoax bomb threat was received for Akasa's Mumbai-Varanasi flight when it was en route.

The Varanasi-Mumbai flight was initially slated to take off at 2.50pm. "Her comments led to CISF getting alerted and triggering the protocol to deal with such situations which involved asking all passengers who had boarded the aircraft to alight. The aircraft, all passengers and their baggage were thoroughly checked again. The aircraft got the security clearance to take off for Mumbai by evening," said a source, adding that the plane finally left Varanasi airport just after 8pm.

In a statement issued before the flight took off, Akasa said, "Akasa Air flight QP 1497, scheduled to fly from Varanasi to Mumbai at 2.50 pm on October 1, 2023, received a security alert during the boarding process. We have followed all required security procedures and all passengers (were) deplaned and are

The same airline received on September 29 a threat call when its aircraft was on its way from Mumbai to Varanasi. On Sunday, its Varanasi-Mumbai flight was delayed due to security scare

safe. Akasa Air is working with local authorities to complete all subsequent security requirements."

While on Sunday the security scare for Akasa's Varanasi-Mumbai flight happened on the ground, two days back the threat call was received on ground when the aircraft was on its way from Mumbai to Varanasi. The pilots were then alerted and given priority landing following which thorough checks were conducted before being cleared to get airborne again for the next sector it was to operate that day. That threat proved to be a hoax.

"People must understand that it's not okay to talk about just anything out of exasperation or even jokingly, which might cause a scare like the one witnessed in Varanasi Sunday. A loose comment can cause so much trouble," said an aviation official.

## Eye on China, Army chief heads for Tanzania as part of Africa outreach

New Delhi: Continuing with India's military outreach to the African continent where China has made deep strategic inroads, Army chief General Manoj Pande is now headed for a four-day visit to Tanzania.

Gen Pande will discuss measures to boost bilateral defence ties and engagements with the Tanzanian defence minister and chief of defence forces, among others, during his visit from October 2 to 5.

The Army chief is also scheduled to address the National Defence College in Dar es Salaam, and also interact with the commandant and faculty of the Command and Staff College at Daulat.

The second edition of the India-Tanzania mini defence-expo, which will showcase Indian defence production capabilities, will also be conducted in Dar es Salaam to coincide with Gen Pande's visit.

In recent months, defence minister Rajnath Singh has visited Nigeria, while Gen Pande has gone to Egypt. India is also looking to export BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and the Akash air defence missiles to some African countries. TNN

## IAF chopper makes emergency landing in MP, all 6 on board safe

Bhopal: An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter made an emergency landing on the outskirts of Bhopal early Sunday. No injuries or damage were sustained in the procedure, the IAF confirmed.

The ALH MK III helicopter of the IAF, on a routine training mission from Bhopal to Chakeri in Uttar Pradesh, carried out a safe precautionary landing 50km from Bhopal Airport, near Dungariya dam, stated the IAF. Police said there were six people on board the chopper when it made the emergency landing in Berasia tehsil. The chopper had been used for the air show in Bhopal a day earlier.

After it landed in the fields of Dungariya, curious villagers flocked to the site to see the helicopter. A team of engineers and technical experts was brought in on a different chopper to resolve the problem. Police said the issue was sorted by the air force team and the helicopter left for its destination early evening.

On Saturday, the IAF held an aerial display over Bhopal, treating the city with acrobatic performances showcasing the nation's air prowess. TNN

## I-T dept attaches property worth ₹10 crore in benami assets case against Ansari

Lucknow: The Income Tax (I-T) department has attached another property worth about Rs 10 crore in Lucknow as part of its ongoing probe against gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and his family. During a recent IT department drive, code-named 'Operation Panther', 23 more benami properties belonging to Ansari have been identified and these will also be attached soon, sources said.

So far, UP Police and other departments have seized properties worth Rs 295 crore belonging to Ansari and his accomplices across the state.

On Sunday, the Income Tax department attached a 3,234 square-foot plot in Lucknow's Dalibagh area. The benamidar (in whose name the property is registered) is a Ghazipur-based woman named Tanveer Sahar.

Sources said that Sahar is an associate/aide of the Ansari family. She never filed an income tax return and does not have sufficient source of income to purchase the Dalibagh plot. The department concluded that Sahar is a dummy owner, or benamidar, of the property. The latest attachment comes after the department attached the first property in the case against Ansari in April. TNN

# India's sporting legacy is rich: Olympic museum head

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**M**eant to celebrate India's contribution to the Games, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) much-anticipated session in Mumbai next month will bring Switzerland-based **Yasmin Meichtry**, associate director of IOC's Olympic Museum, to India for the first time. The event comes 40 years since an IOC session was last held in India in Delhi and 30 years since the Olympic Museum's quirky building sprang up in the lake-side city of Lausanne, Switzerland. Meichtry marks both milestones in an email interview to TOI even as she gears up to visit the NCPA for an exhibition of Olympic films and photographs before the session

**Are you all set to fly down to India for the first time?**

■ This is my inaugural trip to your beautiful country, and I couldn't be more pleased for it to be for such a momentous occasion. India's cultural and sporting legacy is rich and diverse. I'm looking forward to discovering Mumbai, as well as Delhi, most particularly visiting prominent cultural organisations such as the NCPA for 'Olympics in Reel Life—A Festival of Films and Photographs'. A precursor to the IOC session, this festival—which NCPA will host in partnership with Film Heri-

stage Foundation from October 1 to 7—brings the rare opportunity to view world-class films and photographs selected from the rich heritage collections of the IOC.

### TOI INTERVIEW

children, particularly girls, in the state of Odisha.

**The films and photos belong to the Olympic Museum in Switzerland, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. How do you look back at its journey?**

■ The history of the Olympic Games stretches back to its ancient Greek roots, when odes lauding the athletic prowess of competitors were penned on papyrus. This legacy carried forward to the rebirth of the modern Olympic Games and the dream of French historian Pierre de Coubertin, who always envisioned art and sport as intricately intertwined. The very first Olympic Museum was born in his parent's basement in Paris. Several buildings later, and a country away in Switzerland, the museum that houses the world's largest and most complete collection of Olympic heritage was

inaugurated in 1993. We've been acquiring important artefacts, images, film, books and archival documents for over a hundred years now, and we like to think Coubertin would be proud of the stories we share.

**How has the museum evolved over three decades?**

■ A museum's work is never done. The Olympic Museum of today is so much more than a sports museum: we invite visitors to view Olympic artefacts and objects through the lens of sport, history, art, culture and society. We challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to consider how the Olympic movement can inspire change in their own lives. The social and cultural impact of the Games is widespread, and through the lens of Olympism, we can help build bridges across disciplines and borders.

**That establishes why we must preserve Olympic heritage. But surely, the job has its challenges?**

■ Responsibility for Olympic heritage is not something that we take lightly at the Olympic Museum and the IOC. To preserve the diverse history of so many athletes and sports across nations and Olympic editions, we are embarking on an ambitious digitisation project that will allow us to better share the stories and culture of the Games with the world.

OCT 2  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK  
LET'S LEARN SOMETHING NEW  
October 2 to 8

## Ways Of The Wild: Don't Trespass On Nature

Very often, we see a snake or a bird of prey has caught another smaller animal. Out of sheer sympathy and emotive reasons, we try to rescue the smaller animal from the predator. The snake is forced to regurgitate (throw up) the prey.

We feel we have achieved something very important. But soon the rescued animal

perishes. We are heartbroken as the animal we tried to save dies due to the snake's suffocative hold, or venom, or due to the sharp talons and beak of the bird of prey.

Meanwhile, the hungry snake or bird will also go and get another prey for itself. Thus, instead of one, two lives are lost—because we tried to save one!

Also, people were angry when forest officials did not rescue a weak and unwell tiger cub. If an animal is not capable of surviving, nature will not show mercy.

As humans, we must never interfere in nature's ways. We invariably go wrong.

(The writer, Anirudh Chaoji, is a wildlife expert)

## Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi takes over as Navy's deputy chief

New Delhi: Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi has taken over as the new deputy chief of the Navy, where he will steer the operations of the force amid China's expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its collusiveness with Pakistan in the maritime domain.

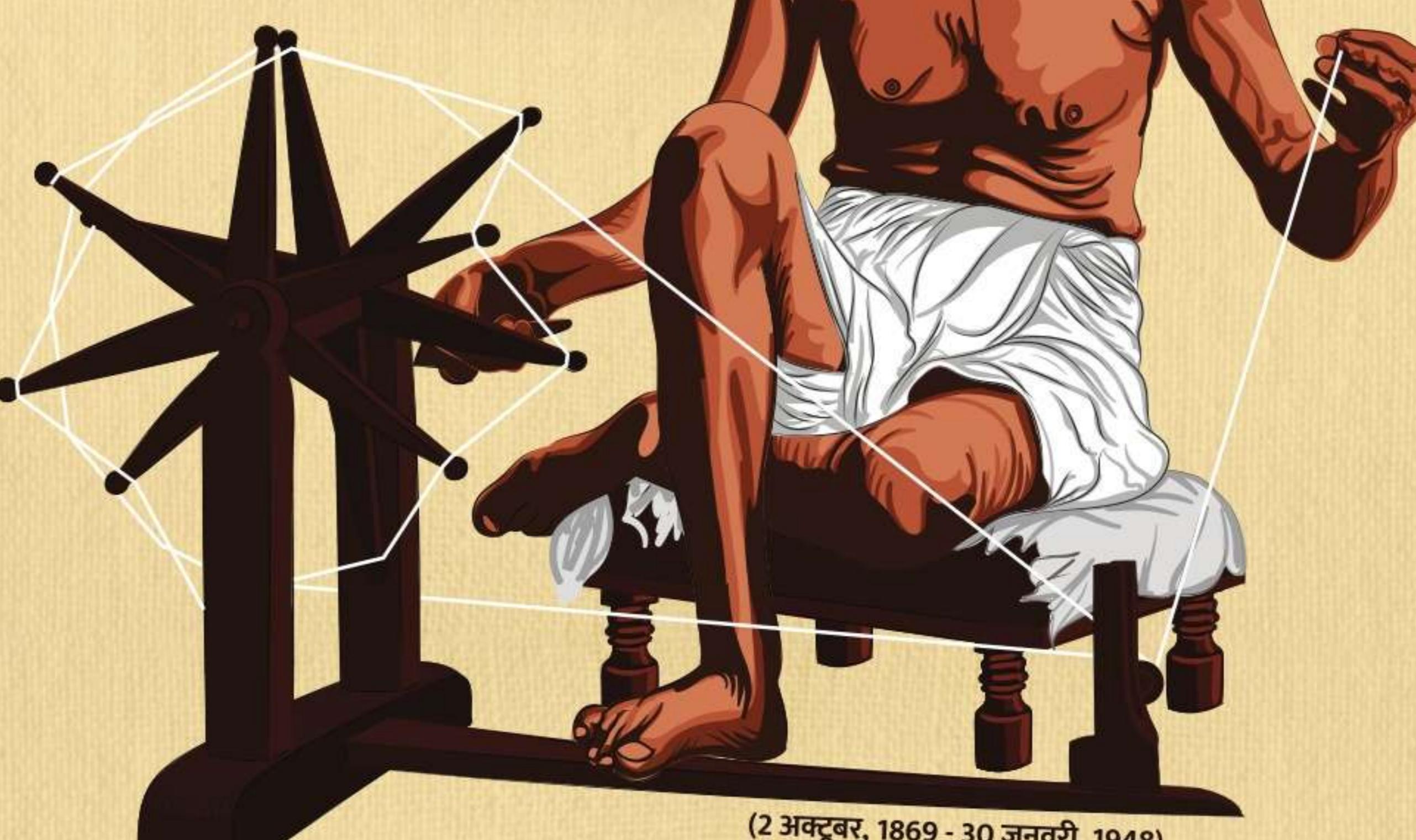
Commissioned into the Navy in July 1988, Vice Adm-

iral Sobi is a "navigation and direction specialist" and has commanded frontline warships like missile corvette INS Kora and guided-missile destroyer INS Kolkata and the Eastern Fleet. He was the director-general of Project Seabird, which deals with the expansion of the Karwar naval base, before assuming charge as the new deputy chief. TNN



स्वच्छता, भक्ति के बाद  
दूसरी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ है।

— महात्मा गांधी



गांधी  
जयंती  
2 अक्टूबर पर



राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी को  
कोटि-कोटि नमन

-योगी आदित्यनाथ, मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

I MARRIED AN ARCHAEOLOGIST BECAUSE THE OLDER I GROW, THE MORE HE APPRECIATES ME — AGATHA CHRISTIE



KATE WINSLET REJECTED 'HELENA RAVENCLAW' ROLE AS SHE DIDN'T WANT TO FOLLOW EVERY OTHER ACTOR IN UK BY BEING PART OF 'HARRY POTTER'

HARRY STYLES REPORTEDLY EARNED 100K A DAY LAST YEAR AFTER RELEASING HIS 3RD SOLO ALBUM 'HARRY'S HOUSE' & HIS WORLD TOUR

## Attackers set off bomb at Turkiye govt building

Bombers Dead; 2 Cops Hurt; Kurdish Militants Claim Attack



A bomb disposal expert inspects a car near the explosion site in Ankara

Ankara: Two attackers detonated a bomb in front of Turkish government buildings in Ankara on Sunday, leaving both of them dead and two police officers wounded, and a Kurdish militant group claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities called it the first terrorist attack in the capital in years. CCTV footage showed a vehicle pulling up to the interior ministry's main gate and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion, while the other remains on the street. The blast killed one of the attackers and authorities "neutralised" or killed the other, the interior minister said of the incident that rattled a central district that is home to ministerial buildings and nearby parliament.

In a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session hours later, President Tayyip Erdogan called the morning attack "the latest attempt" to inflict terror on Turks. "Those who threaten the peace and security of citizens have not achieved their goals and never will," he said.

The ANF News website, which is close to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, said a group called the 'Immortals Battalion' had carried out the attack, citing a PKK statement. The statement described the bombing as a 'suici-

de attack' planned to coincide with the opening of parliament and carried out by "a team of ours linked to our Immortals Battalion". The PKK is designated as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US and the EU. It launched an insurgency in southeast Turkey in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

The bomb on Ataturk Boulevard was the first in Ankara since 2016, when a series of deadly attacks gripped the country. Video afterward showed a Renault cargo vehicle parked there, windows shattered and doors open, amid debris and surrounded by soldiers, ambulances, fire trucks and armoured vehicles. A senior Turkish official said the attackers had hijacked the vehicle and killed its driver in

Kayseri, a city 260 km southeast of Ankara, before carrying out the attack. One of the injured officers suffered shrapnel injuries, he added. Police said they carried out controlled explosions for "suspicious packages in incidents" in other parts of Ankara. The incident comes almost a year after six people were killed and 81 wounded in an explosion in a busy pedestrian street in central Istanbul. Turkey blamed Kurdish militants for that.

Turkey's parliament is expected to consider ratifying Sweden's bid to join Nato in coming weeks, after Turkey had raised initial objections and delayed enlargement of the bloc. Turkey blocked Sweden's membership in the military alliance, accusing it of not doing enough to tackle groups like PKK from operating on its soil. REUTERS

## Pro-China winner transfers jailed Maldives' ex-prez to house arrest

**Male:** Jailed former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen was transferred from prison to house arrest on Sunday, fulfilling the campaign promise of his party candidate who won the presidential election runoff. Yameen is serving a prison term for bribery and money laundering during his presidency from 2013 to 2018. His transfer has been ordered by outgoing President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the request of President-elect Mohamed Muiz. Muiz will be taking oath on Nov 17.

The elections commission on Sunday released the formal results of Saturday's runoff, which showed 54.04% of the vote for Muiz with Solih receiving

Mohamed Muiz (L), Abdulla Yameen

45.96%. The first round took place earlier in September with none of the eight candidates securing more than 50%. The election was perceived a virtual referendum on which regional power — China or India. Muiz, considered pro-China, promised he would remove Indian troops from the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said were heavily in India's favour.

PM Narendra Modi congratulated Muiz on his election victory. "India remains committed to strengthening the time-tested India-Maldives bilateral relationship and enhancing our overall co-operation in the Indian Ocean region," he said on X. AP

## US speaker faces ouster threat for shutdown deal

McCarthy Had Turned To Democrats For Help Passing A Stopgap Spending Bill

Washington: Top US House Republican Kevin McCarthy could face an untimely end to his role as speaker after a hardline critic within his own party on Sunday called for a vote to oust him following the passage of a stopgap funding bill that drew more support from Democrats than Republicans.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted 335-91 to adopt a 45-day stopgap measure hours before funding for federal agencies was set to expire. The Democratic-led Senate later approved the same bill with bipartisan support and sent it to President Joe Biden to sign into law.

Hardline Republican Representative Matt Gaetz told CNN on Sunday he would file a "motion to vacate," a call for a



Hardline GOP Representative Matt Gaetz (L) said that McCarthy is still the speaker because Democrats bailed him out. McCarthy responded, "If I have to risk my job for standing up for the American public, I will do that."

vote to remove McCarthy as speaker. "If at this time next week Kevin McCarthy is still speaker of the House, it will be because Democrats bailed him out," Gaetz said. "I am relentless and I will continue to pursue this objective." McCarthy endured a brutal 15 rounds of voting in January before being elected as speaker. Shortly after the House passed a bill late on Saturday averting a partial

government shutdown, hardline Republican conservatives began targeting McCarthy's role as speaker, saying he had scored a victory for the "Uniparty" of Washington.

McCarthy decided to bring a vote on a measure that could win Democratic support, knowing full well that it could jeopardize his job. One of his advisers said the speaker believed some hardliners would try to

oust him under any circumstances. "Go ahead and try," McCarthy said in comments directed at his opponents on Saturday. "You know what? If I have to risk my job for standing up for the American public, I will do that."

The bill's failure ended Re-

publican hopes of moving a conservative measure and opened the door to the bipartisan measure that was backed by 209 House Democrats and 126 Republicans. Ninety Republicans opposed the stopgap. Hardliners complained that the measure, known as a continuing resolution, or CR, left in place policies favored by Democrats including Biden, Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. REUTERS

## 16 Pak 'beggars' on way to Saudi arrested in Multan

Lahore: Sixteen alleged Pakistani beggars disguised as pilgrims were offloaded from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight and arrested for trying to travel to the Gulf Kingdom to indulge in begging, according to a media report on Sunday.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) offloaded the beggars from the Saudi-bound flight in Multan in Punjab

### SEEKING ALMS

province two days back, the Dawn newspaper reported.

According to the FIA, the group, including a child, 11 women and four men, was travelling on Umrah visas. The Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken at any time of the year.

The FIA officials during the immigration process questioned the passengers who confessed they were going to

## Cipher case: Imran, Qureshi named 'principal accused'

Islamabad: Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi have been named "principal accused" in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets, a report said on Sunday. The FIA on Saturday filed a chargesheet in the special court established under the Official Secrets Act, declaring Khan and Qureshi "principal accused". Both are currently detained in jail on judicial remand. Khan was arrested in August after the case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March. Qureshi was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister. PTI

The move comes amid a nationwide civil rights movement, led mostly by South Asian Americans who come from caste-oppressed backgrounds, NBC reported on Friday.

"I'm proud of our city for once again, raising the bar on civil rights protections," Fresno city council vice-president Annalisa Perea was quoted as saying by NBC. "While we acknowledge that discrimination

## Fresno becomes second US city to ban caste bias

Washington: Fresno in California has become the second US city to ban caste discrimination, becoming the first US city to do so, followed by the state of California, where a bill was passed in September

In Feb, Seattle outlawed caste discrimination, becoming the first US city to do so, followed by the state of California, where a bill was passed in September

tion won't end overnight, our city took bold action by passing this anti-discrimination policy to strengthen civil rights protections against caste discrimination."

The caste equity leaders are in the third week of a hunger strike to push California governor Newsom to sign Senate Bill 403, which would add caste to the state's anti-discrimination policy.

They will continue the strike until the bill becomes law, which could be as late as October 14, the report said. PTI



Migrants stay in a makeshift shelter at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago

## In Slovakia elections, pro-Russia party wins vote but needs allies for coalition

Robert Fico Opposes Sanctions On Russia, Wants To Block Kyiv From Nato, Seeks EU & US To Force A Compromise On Ukraine



Fico has vowed to pull out Slovakia military support for Ukraine. 'People in Slovakia have bigger problems than Ukraine,' he said

Slovakia so far has been a staunch supporter of neighbouring Ukraine since Russia invaded last February, donating arms and opening the borders for refugees fleeing the war

Sunak: No plan to send military trainers to Ukraine



Russian ex-President Dmitry Medvedev on Sunday said any UK soldiers training Ukrainian troops in Ukraine would be legitimate targets for Russian forces

Manchester: British PM Rishi Sunak said Sunday there were no immediate plans to deploy military instructors to Ukraine, rowing back from reported comments by his defence minister that he wanted to begin training Ukrainian troops in the country. To date, Britain and its allies have avoided a formal military presence in Ukraine to reduce risk of a direct conflict with Russia. British defence minister Grant Shapps said in an interview with 'Sunday Telegraph' that he wanted to deploy military instructors to Ukraine, in addition to training Ukrainian armed forces in Britain or other Western countries. Hours after that interview was published, Sunak said there were no immediate plans for that. Russian ex-President Dmitry Medvedev on Sunday said any British soldiers training Ukrainians in Ukraine would be legitimate targets for Russian forces. AP

## Nightclub fire kills at least 13 in Spain's Murcia, search on for more victims

Madrid: At least 13 people have been killed in a fire in an adjoining nightclubs in Murcia in southeast Spain, emergency services said on Sunday, adding that rescuers were still searching for people unaccounted for after the blaze.

Outside the club, young people hugged, looking shocked as they waited for information after the fire that broke out in the early hours in Atalayas, on the outskirts of the city.

"I think we left 30 seconds to 1 minute before the alarms went off and all the lights went out (and) the screams saying there was a fire," one survivor, who was not identified, said. "Five family members and two friends are missing."

Diego Seral of Spain's National Police said the dead were found in the Fonda nightclub, one of three adjoining



Firefighters work outside the nightclub on fire in Murcia

clubs, which had sustained the majority of fire damage, including the collapse of its roof, he added. The collapse was making it difficult to locate victims, and it was difficult to pinpoint exactly where the fire started, he said.

The identification of the bodies would take time, he said. The emergency services gave the death toll, which has risen throughout the day, as 13. The cause of the blaze is being investigated. Earlier, Murcia's mayor Jose Ballesta had said seven bodies had been found in the same area of the first floor, where the fire broke out.

Theatre nightclub spokesman Maria Dolores Albelan said the fire originated in the neighbouring club, La Fonda, before spreading to the two adjoining clubs. Spanish media reported several birthday celebrations were taking place at the time. Ballesta declared three days of mourning for those who had died.

Footage released by Murcia's fire service showed firefighters working to control flames inside the club. REUTERS

## N Korea blames US for 'terrorist act' at Cuban embassy

Seoul: North Korea accused the United States on Sunday of letting a "terrorist" act against Cuba take place on US soil, saying a recent attack against the Cuban embassy in Washington was the result of "despicable anti-Cuban" US intentions. The US has neglected to ensure the safety of the Cuban mission and was only keen to put countries it dislikes, such as Cuba, on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, a spokesman of North Korea's foreign ministry said. Along with Cuba, North Korea, Syria and Iran are on the list. An assailant attacked the embassy on September 24 with two Molotov cocktails. No one was hurt and there was no significant damage.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the US strongly condemned the attack. Reuters

## AROUND THE WORLD



Torrential downpours that caused flash flooding in New York City on Friday reflect a 'new normal' due to the effects of climate change, New York governor Kathy Hochul warned, as the city began drying out after one of its wettest days ever. Almost 20 cm of rain fell in some parts of the most populous US city, enough to enable a seal lion at the Central Park Zoo to swim out of the confines of her pool enclosure.

## US school teacher sent on leave after officials find her page on porn site

A Missouri high school teacher says she has been placed on leave after officials discovered that she was performing on a pornography website to supplement her salary. Brianna Coppage, 28, who taught English at St. Clair High School, says her teaching days are probably over, but she acknowledged she knew the risks. Coppage was put on leave on Wednesday. Her access to school email and other software was suspended, she said. "It was kind of always like this cloud hanging over my head, like I never knew when I would be discovered," Coppage said. "Then, about two weeks ago, my husband and I were told that people were finding out

about it. So I knew this day was coming." Superintendent Kyle Kruse said that the district was "recently notified that an employee may have posted inappropriate media on one or more internet sites."

Emotional support alligator barred from stadium in US: A Phillies fan and his emotional support animal, an alligator named WallyGator, were denied entrance to watch Philadelphia host Pittsburgh. Social media posts showed the gator on a leash with a harness with his name on it outside the stadium Wednesday. WallyGator is a working emotional support alligator owned by Joie Heney of Jonestown, Pennsylvania. Citizens Bank Park's policy on support animals is posted on the Phillies' official website. It states, "Guide dogs, service animals, or service animals in training are welcome. All other animals are prohibited."

## Chicago keeping hundreds of migrants at airports while waiting on shelters

Chicago: Hidden behind a heavy black curtain in one of the nation's busiest airports is Chicago's unsettling response to a growing population of asylum-seekers arriving by plane. Hundreds of migrants, from babies to the elderly, live inside a shuttle bus centre at O'Hare International Airport's Terminal 1. They sleep on cardboard pads on the floor and share airport bathrooms. A private firm monitors their movements.

Like New York and other cities, Chicago has struggled to house asylum-seekers, slowly moving people out of temporary spaces and into shelters and, in the near future, tents. But Chicago's use of airports is unusual, having been rejected elsewhere, and highlights the city's haphazard response to the crisis. The practice also has raised concerns about safety and the treatment of people fleeing violence and poverty. "It was supposed to be a stop-and-go place," said Vianney Marzullo, one of the few volunteers at O'Hare. "It's very concerning. It is not just a safety matter, but a public health matter." Some migrants stay at O'Hare for weeks, then are moved to police stations or managed to get into the few shelters available. Within weeks, Chicago plans to roll out winterised tents, something New York has done. Up to 500 people have lived at O'Hare simultaneously in a space far smaller than a city block, shrouded by a curtain in fastened shut with staples. Their movements are monitored by a private company whose staff control who enters and exits the curtain.

The staffing company provides limited first aid. Chicago offers meals, but only at specific times and many foods are unfamiliar to the new arrivals. While migrants closer to Chicago's core have access to a strong network of volunteers, food and clothing donations at O'Hare are limited, due to airport security concerns. Most of the 14,000 immigrants who have arrived in Chicago during the last year have come from Texas.

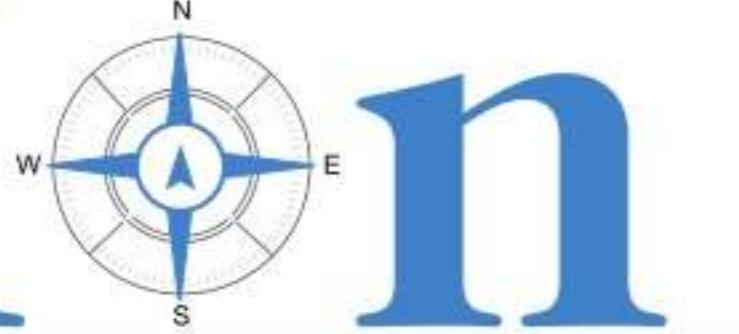
As more migrants arrived, the city's existing services were strained. Officials struggled to find longer-term housing solutions while saying the city needed more help from the state and federal governments. Many migrants are from Venezuela, where a political, social and economic crisis has pushed millions of people into poverty. At least 7.3 million have left, with many risking an often-harrowing route to the US. AP

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## CAT 2023 record registrations reflect rise in aspirants

The introduction of several industry-relevant programmes and the demand for upskilling have led to a sudden rush

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**T**he Common Admission Test (CAT 2023), to be held on November 26, 2023, has witnessed a striking 30% surge in registrations. As compared to last year, there has been an 11% rise with 2.55 lakh aspirants registering in 2022. This year, with approximately 3.30 lakh aspirants vying for MBA admissions in top colleges across the country, it has registered the highest number of applications since its inception in 1977. The efforts of the organising institute, and the entire CAT team, have had a positive impact on registrations. Initiatives such as media outreach, timely reminders to candidates, addition of more test cities, and the creation of a user-friendly application system have encouraged more individuals to apply for CAT, says Professor Sanjeev Singh, Decision Sciences Area, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow and CAT 2023 convener.

Talking about the record-high registrations, he says, "This year, with some of the big tech firms like Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, etc laying off employees, and startups having announced cuts across sectors, individuals prefer pursuing higher education in such an economic scenario. India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and that itself demonstrates a huge demand for MBAs to help graduates maintain competitive advantage in a dynamic world. IIM Nagpur director Bhimrao Metre tells *Education Times*.

"This rise may have been expected over time. That is why the new IIMs (like ours) were set up. In a country with much scope for growth, we need more people with the aptitude, skills, and empathy to handle managerial positions," says Advaita Rajendra, admissions chairperson, IIM Sirmaur.

Top management institutes, especially IIMs, have recently introduced a wide range of specialised management programmes in areas such as healthcare, AI, business analytics and blockchain, among others. The growing demand for

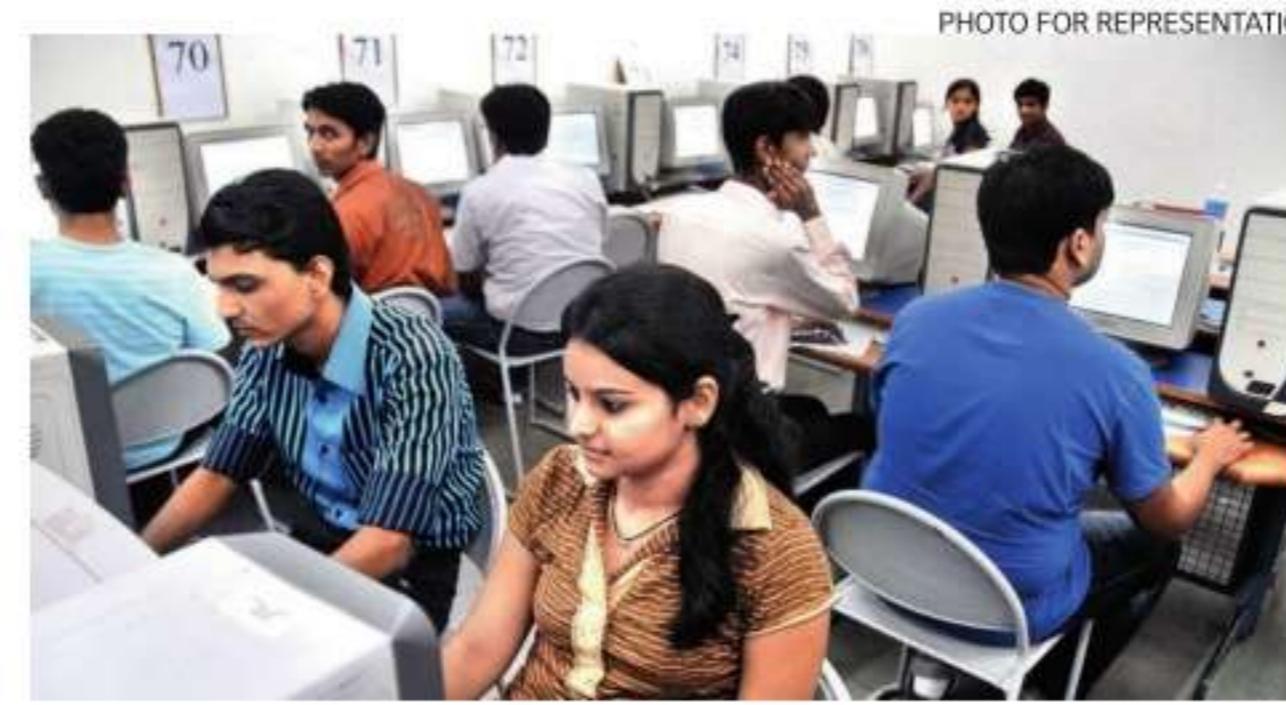


PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

these programmes has led to an increase in registrations, says Singh.

### Education trends

Shifting education trends, such as greater emphasis on specific business-related programmes have contributed to historical increase in numbers. Dhruv Galgotia, CEO, Galgotias University, says, "There is a great demand in the corporate world for MBA graduates. All IIMs and several educational institutions

have picked up the new trends and revamped their MBA curriculum into a combination of modern business management courses embedded with technology/digital components. As a result, of the new skill sets offered by the business schools, CAT applicants have increased."

The number of B-schools using CAT scores for admitting students has increased their seats because of which the applicant pool has increased, adds Galgotia. Indian Institute

of Foreign Trade (IIFT) decided to accept CAT scores for admission, which has had a positive impact on the number of applications. On a greater number of test cities, with an increased number in exam centres, especially in tier-II cities, Singh says that there is a possibility that these factors have resulted in the highest-ever registration numbers. The wider testing options make the exam more accessible to a broader range of candidates, including those from smaller cities and towns, which can lead to increased registrations.

### Women applicants

CAT 2023 registrations have seen an increase in women applicants. Out of the total registered candidates, 1.17 lakh are women this year. "Over the years, there has been a shift in societal attitudes towards women pursuing careers in business and leadership roles. Management institutes have been proactive in promoting gender diversity through affirmative actions which has resulted in the highest-ever female applicants in CAT this year," says Singh.

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Last Date to fill Jamia Hamdard Form 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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For any queries related to Admission, Kindly contact 7042519957 or email id - [counselling@jamiahAMDARD.ac.in](mailto:counselling@jamiahAMDARD.ac.in)

**A thought for today**

Millets are not only nutritious but are also climate smart in the sense that they are more resilient to rainfall distribution

MS SWAMINATHAN

## Monsoon Message

Rainfall pattern swung sharply every month. India's farm policy has to adapt

**T**wo aspects of the southwest monsoon (June-September) stood out. After four years, we had a monsoon that was slightly below normal – cumulative rainfall of 82 cm was 94.4% of the long period average. Within that headline number, the sharp monthly swings in rainfall stood out. If it was 113% of LPA in July and September, it was just 64% in August. An effect of climate change is an increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events. IPCC had estimated that extreme daily precipitation events would intensify by 7% for every 1°C of global warming.

It calls for a shift in the most important aspect of India's agricultural policy. The cornerstone of it is the procurement system for rice and wheat, which secures supply for about 800 million people the PDS targets. A combination of both minimum support price and a subsequent guarantee of procurement is the foundation of regular supply. For farmers, it cuts down operational risks.

Consequently, the political economy of procurement has led states such as Telangana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh to make a concerted effort in recent years to procure rice.

A fallout of this trend is that the central plank of India's agricultural policy is out of sync with emerging climate risks. Rice is a water guzzling crop that's increasingly catered by tubewells. Not only does it add to water stress, it also holds back electricity reforms as free power to farms lowers cultivation costs. The way to break out of this logjam is to incentivise farmers to shift from paddy and wheat to millets. The UN declared 2023 as the year of millets on account of its nutritional and environmental benefits. Among cereals, millets not only need less water, they are also more climate resilient.

India is the world's largest producer of millets and GOI encourages its cultivation. The reality, however, is different. The area under millet cultivation has steadily declined over the last decade. In 2022-23, it was 23.2 million hectares, barely half of the area covered by rice. To reverse this trend, GOI needs to back intent with a tweaked policy that prioritises millet procurement. Farmers respond to both price and demand. Right now, MSP is not backed by adequate procurement. India's climate adaptation strategy needs to lower the economic risks of millet cultivation for farmers. And this is easily done.

## Not So Fast, Ottawa

India must make clear that it can't be business as usual as long as Canada panders to violent Khalistanis

**J**aishankar is spot on saying what is happening in Canada cannot be normalised and the intimidation, threats and violence against Indian diplomats need to be called out. No country, including Western democracies, would tolerate vandalism of their embassies and posters being put up exhorting violence against specific diplomats. Yet, these are precisely the things the Indian mission in Canada has had to put up with, despite repeated complaints to Canadian authorities.

Canada's Khalistan connection is not new, notwithstanding Justin Trudeau's recent allegation – there is yet not a shred of evidence – of the involvement of Indian agents in the killing of known Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. In fact, it was the previous UPA government that had denied a visa to Canadian politician and Trudeau ally Jagmeet Singh in 2013 over the latter's Khalistani connections. Note also that former Canadian PM Stephen Harper too had said that he did not see advocacy for a Sikh homeland in Punjab as a crime.

So Canada has a history of pandering to Khalistanis. The reality is extremist Sikhs in Canada have come to wield disproportionate influence over the Canadian political system because they are well organised, control important gurdwara finances, and can mobilise support for their favoured candidates.

This is why Khalistanis in Canada have been given a long rope for years. But New Delhi should stand firm and tell Ottawa that it can't be business as usual as long as these extremist elements are given a free rein. Trudeau says he still wants good ties with India. But that's like China saying it wants to mend fences with India despite encroaching on Indian territory. New Delhi must largely freeze out Ottawa and refuse to restart trade talks even if the latter offers.

## Translator's tale

There's many a slip twixt heart and head

Shinie Antony



When babies start talking their malapropisms are family lore. 'He calls umbrellas Laila!' we tell glassy-eyed guests, who will think of mackerels if they are Malayali, having registered only the 'aila'. Words travel in mysterious ways, dependent on a listener's attention span and speaker's pronunciation. Many have murdered Boney M and Abba on the college stage only to look vaguely startled when confronted with the actual lyrics in middle age.

For a long time, mankind scripted in their own tongue, with early translations done in clerical mode. Once translations began to tower over the original, translators became a posh set. Along with accolades and name on the cover came half the prize money. With 7,000 languages spoken in the world, transcreation went from time-pass to serious trade; the translation industry was up at \$56.18 billion in 2021.

Some of the clout translators enjoy today can be traced back to superstar American translator Edith Grossman, who recently passed away at 87.

According to Grossman, whom Gabriel García Márquez accused jokingly of 'two-timing' when she began to translate Miguel de Cervantes too from Spanish, translations were no immaculate conception or the wave of a magic wand.

The subtitling industry, meanwhile, elevated transcreations into an artform. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch has seen his surname go once as 'couple beer batch'. And a viral desi meme had 'behne do, mujhe behne do' translated as 'give sisters, give me your sisters' instead of the more boring but factual 'let me flow, let me flow'. Translation errors can cause losses. Ask HSBC, which had to change its tagline 'Assume Nothing' because it turned into 'Do Nothing' in other languages. When KFC went to China, 'Finger-Lickin' Good' became 'Eat Your Fingers Off', appreciated only by cannibals.

The Tower of Babel debacle is in our DNA; we've all played Chinese Whispers at school. A quote from the Bhagavad Gita in the recent film *Oppenheimer* – 'Now I am become Death' – turned every Indian into an armchair translator. From the lofty International Booker Prize to the humble Google Translate, translations occupy both the headlines and the footnotes. Now non-English writers start scouting for translators even before they sit down to write. When an old book in a remote corner is suddenly transformed into the latest international bestseller, a writer is 'discovered'. But what happens when a masterpiece in its original language goes unnoticed in its English avatar? The translator is hunted down and shot.

# Mahatma-Style Constitutionalism

The Constitution is much-debated these days. Here are two things to consider on Gandhi Jayanti. He thought that rights should be contingent on performance of duties. And that change begins with people rather than any policy document

**Arghya Sengupta**

**Gandhi in the Haystack**  
When the draft Constitution of India was being debated one final time in the constituent assembly in October and November 1949, Gandhians in the assembly were caught in a bind. The Mahatma was dead and one needed a magnifying glass to find constitutional provisions that could be termed Gandhian.

**Some, like G Durgabai, a remarkable freedom fighter who had been part of the salt satyagraha, creatively reinterpreted the document. She said duties on citizens were implicit in the text and that the directive principles, which included Gandhian ideas of prohibition and prevention of cow slaughter, should be seen as binding. Others like M Ananthasayam Ayyangar, later speaker of the Lok Sabha, recognised the difficulty of translating Gandhian ideas into the Constitution.**

While he would have preferred the village as the basic unit of government as the Mahatma had, he understood that India was not yet ready for it. The ambivalent mood was best captured by Shankarrao Deo, long-time associate of Gandhiji. While happy about the fact that India was adopting a new constitution, he admitted candidly that in drafting it – "we have not faithfully followed our Master."

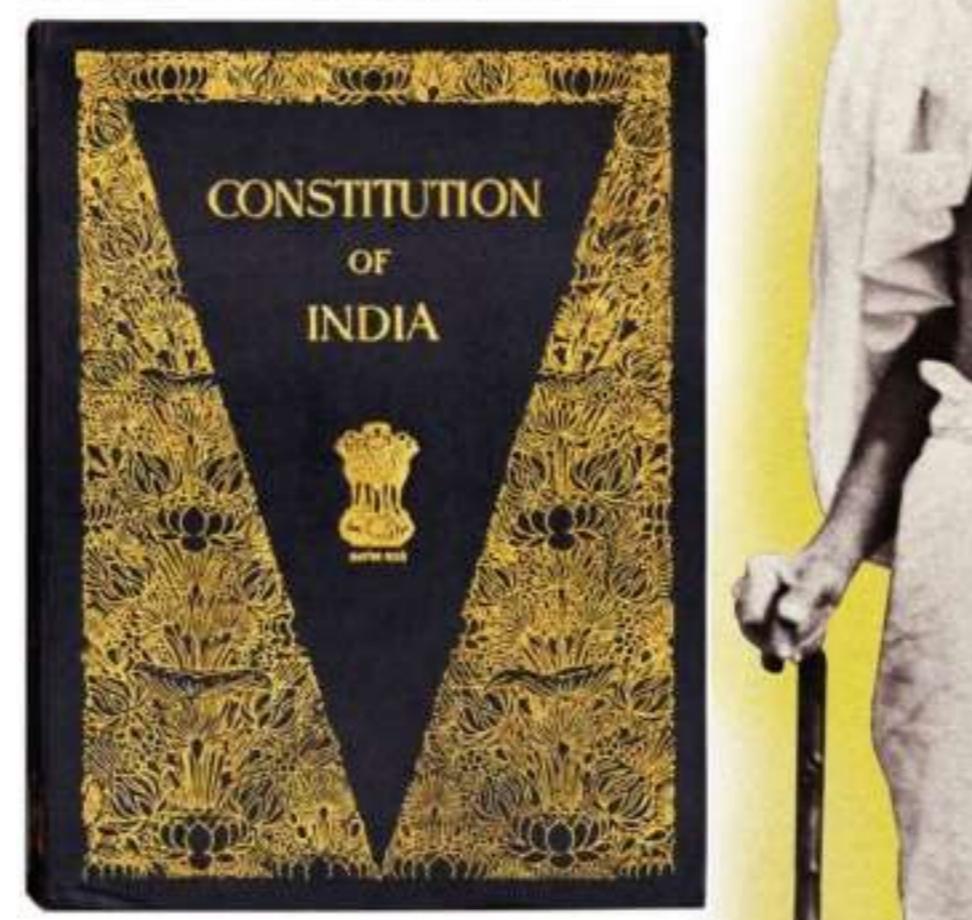
**Duties over Rights**  
A cardinal tenet of Gandhian political thought was the idea of duty. Individuals owed a duty of truth and non-violence to themselves and to each other. The state too had duties to act faithfully in the interest of citizens. Yet, the Constitution of India privileges rights over duties.

For the framers of the Constitution, a key modification to the Government of India Act, 1935, from which approximately 1/3rd of the text of the Constitution is derived, was the chapter on fundamental rights. This was a consistent demand of the freedom movement, right from the Declaration of Purna Swaraj in 1929, through the Karachi Resolution of Congress in 1931, several indigenous constitutional texts framed by Motilal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru and several others. Free Indians would now have rights that the state would be mandated to respect – to speech, travel, residence, trade and most fundamentally a right to life and personal liberty.

This was the upshot of the emerging understanding of universal human rights that inhered in every individual and would be available unconditionally to everyone. The Gandhian idea of duty, on the contrary, would make rights contingent on performance of duties. The right of a Kayastha to be treated equally as a Brahmin, would depend on whether the Kayastha first denounced untouchability

herself. This was squarely contrary to the fundamental rights framework the Constitution had adopted.

Gandhiji realised as much – for him the Constitution was a policy document "essentially a temporary expedient which one might alter as circumstances altered". A son could never fulfil his duty towards his parents, according to him, because a policy mandated him to do so. Similarly, just because policy documents like the Constitution outlawed untouchability would not mean that the practice would stop. People would have to change first and constitutions would follow.

**Delhi vs Village Republics**

But when first, Congress party, and then the framers of the Constitution established a strong constitutional state with a powerful Union government in New Delhi, Gandhi remained unusually quiet. This model repudiated each of his constitutional beliefs. While researching for my book *The Colonial Constitution*, a terrific and obscure document containing these beliefs came to light.

In the tiny princely state of Aundh, on the outskirts of Poona, a remarkable Gandhian constitution had been written with the assistance of the American engineer-mystic Maurice Frydman. In the Aundh constitution, self-sufficient village communities were the basic units of governance headed by an elected gram panchayat. Power flowed upwards from the panchayat and not downward from

the Maharaja. Citizens had rights, the state had duties and the formal legal system of courts was abolished. Gandhi hailed the constitution of Aundh as a "noble example". But he equally realised that an experiment in a state with approximately 75,000 people could hardly serve as a replicable model for the whole of India.

That is why speaking in Srirampur a month after the experts committee of Congress had approved a resolution that set India off on the path of a large state, Gandhi not only endorsed the resolution but actively called for support since it would ensure "justice to all communities". When it came to the constitution, he was a realist. He realised that this resolution might find favour with the Muslim League and other parties, while a radically upended constitution based on village republics would not. A Gandhian constitution, for him, would come in its own time.

**Consensus and Compromise**

Remembering Gandhiji the constitutionalist today, on his 154th birth anniversary, reminds us how far we have to travel to even partially achieve his vision. While the universality of rights is widely acknowledged, the notion of fundamental duties remains a constitutional afterthought. Neither has serious work been done on the subject, nor do citizens or the state take the idea of duty seriously.

Village units received a major boost with the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India that set up panchayati raj institutions. But their promise remained stillborn with the refusal of the Union and state governments to divest power meaningfully. Today, on Gandhiji's birth anniversary, if we are to remain true to his memory, each of us should take a moment to think about our duties to others and how we can trust each other. It is on that constitutional foundation that India can prosper.

Sengupta is the author of *The Colonial Constitution*



## Maldives: India First Or Not, Unlikely India Out

New Delhi still has skin in the game in the Indian Ocean nation and must hang on despite the incoming regime's expected pro-China tilt

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PM Narendra Modi was the only head of government to attend President Ibrahim Solih's inauguration in Male in late 2018. The Indian government was then buoyed as much by the relief of having seen the back of Solih's predecessor Abdulla Yameen, as the hope of regaining some of the lost influence in the tropical paradise that sits atop some of the busiest commercial lanes in the Indian Ocean.

Modi's visit was quickly followed by the Indian announcement of an assistance package worth \$1.4 billion for the Maldives and the PM was back in Male next year – his first visit abroad after getting re-elected – to reaffirm India's commitment to development under Solih.

On his part, Solih restored his country's India First policy that Yameen, who is in jail for corruption now, also claimed to follow as president but only in theory. In reality, Yameen saddled his country with over a billion-dollar debt owed to China, signed an opaque FTA with Beijing, threatened to throw out Indian military facilities and personnel, and also invited China to build an observatory on a Maldivian island uncomfortably close to India. He later masterminded an India Out campaign that used, among other things, fake news to discredit India and its mission in Male.

Five years later, it's the return of the same Yameen-led forces, whose candidate Mohamed Muizzu trumped Solih in the presidential run-off Saturday, that must worry the government as it can and probably will lead to India losing its pre-eminent status in this strategically important country. However, as bad as things may seem now for India, there are some important points that merit consideration.

First, international relations are seldom a zero-sum game and India will do well to follow its own example in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. In Sri Lanka, the return of

Mahinda Rajapaksa, who threatened to turn the country into a Chinese outpost in his previous avatar as president, had little impact on the bilateral relationship. The economic crisis later led to the undoing of the Rajapaksas, while allowing India – with its \$4 billion emergency assistance – to reinforce its role as a first responder in the region, aligning with its Neighbourhood First policy.

And in Afghanistan, despite the initial gloom of the stunning comeback by Taliban, the government's aid diplomacy, particularly its ingenuity in despatching 50,000 tonnes of wheat to the drought-stricken country



via Pakistan, has served India well.

Second, just as China continued to have a finger in the pie during the Solih years, there's no reason to believe India won't be able to do the same with its vast investments and contributions to socio-economic development in the Maldives. The \$500-million Greater Male Connectivity Project, which will eclipse China's landmark Freedom Bridge on completion, promises to transform the local economy. But India is also currently implementing 38 other community development projects in the islands, while restoring mosques and building

roads, hospitals and even a cricket stadium. Muizzu, of course, has threatened to throw out foreign troops and military facilities, raising doubts about defence and security cooperation with India. But he will remember the role of the Indian Air Force and naval warships in averting the 2014 water crisis that the Maldives faced under Yameen, as also the helping hand during the tsunami 10 years earlier. Geography is supreme and India's role as a first responder and net security provider is unlikely to be diminished.

Third, Yameen's support to Muizzu is still thought to be tenuous and subject to how quickly the latter can deliver on his promise to secure an early release of the former president. Yameen, who couldn't himself contest because of his sentencing, backed Muizzu only at the eleventh hour and after his call for boycotting the polls found few takers. Yameen's overt acts of aggression against India as president were rare in the extreme and it's unlikely Muizzu, despite his anti-India rhetoric, will act as recklessly and immediately after taking office.

That should allow India some time to recalibrate its Maldives policy. Muizzu will also recall that Yameen's vitriolic anti-India stance as president only led to his shock defeat in 2018.

Fourth, India must find a way to meaningfully engage former president Mohamed Nasheed who remains a staunch India supporter, despite his mercurial nature. The failure to prevent a split in the ruling MDP, and allowing him to drift apart, seems to have cost India dear in the polls. With his 7% votes in the first round, Nasheed has shown he will remain a formidable force, in or out of MDP.

To sum up, while it may appear daunting to do business with a government that is certain to claim vindication of its India Out agenda in the polls, India must find a way to hang in there. India First or not, it holds enough levers of influence that will allow it to continue to have skin in the game.

**Sacredspace****Protocol For Gratitude**

We human people have protocols for gratitude... We say thank you. We understand that receiving a gift incurs a responsibility to give a gift in return. The next step in our cultural evolution, if we are to persist as a species, is to expand our protocols for gratitude to the living Earth.

Robin W Kimmerer

**Calvin & Hobbes**

## Gandhi's Chappals: Soles For Soul-Searching

Anup Taneja

The recent declaration at the G20 summit in New Delhi, which unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, highlights that ahimsa, the core of Gandhian idealism, has assumed even greater relevance today.

Elaborating on his spiritual ideology of truth and ahimsa, Gandhiji said, "Truth is my religion and ahimsa is the only way of its realisation." He declared that ahimsa is the greatest force at our disposal that has the power to mould the mind of even the most cruel man.

Gandhi believed that a humble man, who is humbler than the dust, alone can see the truth. The seeker after truth, said Gandhi, has to become a cipher: If you would swim on the

bosom of the ocean of truth, you must reduce yourself to a zero. Explaining the transition from the notion of truth to that of ahimsa, Gandhiji said, ahimsa and truth are so intertwined that they are practically impossible to disentangle and separate. They are like the two sides of a coin.

"Ahimsa is my God, and truth is my God. When I look for truth, ahimsa says, 'Find it out through me'.

When I look for ahimsa, truth says, 'Find it out through me'."

Thus, for Gandhi, ahimsa was not a part of political expediency but his religion, creed, and rule of life. He proposed it as a philosophy of life' that should permeate and influence all aspects of our living.

Faith in God, he said, is the basis of

ahimsa. Where there is love, there is peace, and where there is peace there is God or Truth. Love is the power that cleanses man from inside and thereby uplifts him. Love comprehends noble feelings such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, sympathy, and kindness. This implies that in love, one should not bear ill will towards others because ill will is the root of anger, revenge, and vengeance.

Gandhi further explained that love is a complex discipline, as one can easily hate it, but it requires supreme energy as well as strength to love. The task becomes still more complex when one is required to love a person who is ordinarily to be regarded as an opponent. It is for this reason, Gandhi says that ahimsa is

meant for the strong, and not for the weak. Ahimsa implies that there is no violence in thought, word, or deed and finally no loss of temper.

## Affordable Housing Finance Cos Have Good Run Despite Write-Offs

Affordable housing finance players scored well on three key parameters — **growth, asset quality and profitability** — during the past three years. While Bajaj Home Fin delivered 81%, HomeFirst, Aptus and Aavas gave 25-40% AUM CAGR between FY18-23 with a steady improvement in RoA. Despite catering to vulnerable segments, write-offs and delinquencies for these cos remained lower than other housing finance players.

Source: I-Sec research; company data

# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023



## Festive dhamaka: Govt expects strong demand

### Hopes Domestic Sales Will Boost Eco & Tax Receipts

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The government is expecting strong festive sales to add to domestic demand, which is holding up despite increase in interest rates and global headwinds.

From white goods to automobiles and real estate, most sectors have reported healthy sales in recent months and the September quarter has remained strong, helping the Centre and states collect taxes to finance expenditure,

#### WHY IS GOVT UPBEAT

- Sales of cars, FMCG, white goods, and real estates have been rising
- Rural demand is holding up, showing in farm equipment sales
- Strong capex is helping push demand for inputs like steel and cement

especially capital spending towards infrastructure.

At a time when exports have been impacted by the slowdown in several parts of the world, strong domestic demand is seen to be critical for the economy to grow at 6.5% this year. "A lot of people have done the groundwork by visiting car showrooms or checking out two-wheelers and many have already placed orders... some will do so now and take the delivery on a day of their choice," a senior government official said.

Finance ministry sources said that numbers up to the mid-point of the financial year suggested that the government is on course to meet the fiscal deficit target for the year, as revenues have held up and spending has remained on course.

### Marico CEO Gupta named ASCI chairman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Saugata Gupta, MD and CEO of Marico, has been appointed as the chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Partha Sinha, president, response, BCCL — publisher of the Times of India and the Economic Times — was elected vice chairman. Sudhanshu Vats, deputy managing director, Pidilite Industries, was appointed honorary treasurer.

"Leading ASCI at this juncture is a privilege. We are in the midst of an extraordinary opportunity to reimagine what responsible advertising means and how consumers need protection in the digital age. ASCI is at the very forefront of this effort as it collaboratively shapes the industry," Gupta said.

ASCI is the leading self-regulatory organisation in India and deals with communication guidelines in both offline and online advertising. It recently launched the 'ASCI Academy' to boost self-regulation during creative process.

### RPSG co gets GST notice

**Kolkata:** Guiltfree Industries, a food-focused FMCG firm under Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group, received a Rs 39 crore GST demand notice, the company said on Sunday.

The tax notice was given due to the alleged misclassification of products by the company. The company said it is preparing an appropriate response to address the concerns raised in the showcause-cum-demand notice. Guiltfree ventured into FMCG in 2017, focusing primarily on western snacks. AGENCIES

## Jindal Steel and Venezuela 'tie up' for iron-ore plant

**Venezuela's** government and Jindal Steel & Power have signed an agreement for the Indian company to run the country's largest iron-ore producing plant, marking the first entry in years by an international firm into the South American nation's closely held companies.

#### The agreement will allow Jindal Steel to run Venezuela's largest iron-ore producing plant

tions hit the country in 2019. Venezuela's mining and heavy industries are all state-owned.

Ferrominera has an annual installed capacity of 25,000 metric tons of iron ore and proven reserves for 4.2 million metric tons. The plants have been working below capacity due to years of mismanagement, lack of investment and a power crisis that hit the nation in 2009 and forced the company to cut production to save energy. BLOOMBERG

## Investments by PE-VC halve YoY in Sept qtr

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**Chennai:** Private Equity Venture Capital (PE-VC) funds invested \$6 billion across 139 deals in India during the quarter ended September 2023 — almost half of the preceding quarter and a 15% decline compared to the September 2022 quarter. The quarter ended June 2023 saw \$11.7 billion being invested by PE-VC firms across 202 deals, while around \$7 billion worth PE-VC investments were clocked in September 2022, as per data from research firm Venture Intelligence.

September alone clocked just 47 deals worth around \$1.7 billion. In an indication of the ongoing funding winter, deal activity saw a steep 57% fall in June-September as the same period last year saw 327 deals. With this, the PE-VC investment figures for the first nine months of 2023 stand at \$23.6 billion (across 542 deals) — 38% lower compared to the same period in 2022. The June-September period this year witnessed 16 mega deals.

## Rel Infra wins ₹405cr award against DVC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Reliance Infrastructure — part of the Reliance-Anil Ambani group — has won an arbitration award of at least Rs 405 crore with the Calcutta high court ruling in its favour in a dispute with West Bengal-based Damodar Valley Corp (DVC).

The total award is worth about Rs 1,354 crore, including release of a bank guarantee of Rs 354 crore by DVC, a public sector company. Earlier, DVC had released the bank guarantee and paid Rs 595 crore to the company.

More than 10 years ago, Rel Infra had won a contract to set up a thermal power project in Raghunathpur in WB for Rs 3,750 crore. The project went into several disputes and delays due to which DVC had sought damages from Rel Infra. However, Rel Infra

challenged this and an arbitration tribunal agreed with the company. After several rounds of court cases, Rel Infra is now set to receive the balance Rs 405 crore from DVC.

In a filing with BSE, Rel Infra said the HC, "except for certain issues, has upheld the majority of the award to the extent of Rs 1,354 crore, including interest till date and includes bank guarantees of Rs 354 crore which were returned by DVC to the company at the direction of the Arbitral Tribunal."

Rel Infra is undertaking a review of the judgment and will take appropriate steps, the company said in its statement.

## Motherhood: M&M unveils flexi policy

Namrata.Singh@timesgroup.com

#### AUTO MAJOR'S 5-YR CAREER & CARE PLAN

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Pre-Childbirth (1 Year)</b>   | <b>Maternity (1 Year)</b>   |
| > Support in IVF treatment with 75% reimbursement of cost incurred (allowed twice, with upper limit at Rs 2.25 lakh) | > Maternity leave up to 26 weeks, also applicable to adoption and surrogacy |
| > Reimbursement up to Rs 600 per day across levels in the last trimester   | > Maternity expense reimbursements of up to Rs 1.25 lakh                    |
- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Post-maternity (3 Years)</b> | <b>'Baby care allowance' of Rs 5k p.m. for all women employees with children up to 2 years of age</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|

**What's unique about the programme is the 3-year post-childbirth support at work, which includes 6 months of flexible work and 24-month hybrid work option from the base location, if the nature of work/role permits, and with approval of the manager. For critical work-related overnight domestic travel, women employees can travel with their child (up to 2 years of age)**

**what's unique about the programme is the 3-year post-childbirth support at work, which includes 6 months of flexible work and 24-month hybrid work option from the base location, if the nature of work/role permits, and with approval of the manager. For critical work-related overnight domestic travel, women employees can travel with their child (up to 2 years of age)**

along with a caregiver.

Women's representation at M&M is 8%, which is currently in line with the automobile sector. Asha Kharga, EVP, chief customer & brand officer, Mahindra Group, said the intent behind the 5-year programme is to attract female talent.

In the manufacturing sector, data from 'Avtar & Seiram' 100 best companies for women in India shows that phase-back post maternity leave (including work flexibility) is provided by seven of 11 companies. While the average duration is 2.4 months, the maximum that any company in manufacturing offers is three months. In comparison, M&M's new policy is the best so far.

Sandayra Rajesh, founder-president, Avtar Group, said: "Flexibility is the oxygen of women's careers. And in the case of returning mot-

ers, it makes all the difference between a woman who decides to stay employed and one who decides to quit. M&M's post-maternity hybrid work model is a game changer and one that can contribute to the reframing of manufacturing as a woman-friendly industry."

Given that a majority of women cut short their careers post-childbirth, several companies have designed their policies around offering flexibility to retain women employees. Tata Sons was among the first to frame policies around various life stages of women. In addition to 18 months of half-pay half working day post-maternity support, Tata Sons offers flexibility to women to choose their working hours. Those who complete five years in service can take a year's leave for various care-giving responsibilities.

## Centre seeks capacity for 1k IBC cases

### IBBI Lines Up Consultation For Stepping Up Resolutions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

#### PERFORMANCE CARD

180 Resolutions cleared last year

300 No. of resolutions expected this year

₹51,000 crore Direct recovery clocked last year

₹3L Cr Accounts settled due to a change in debtor-customer relationship since IBC happened

ged all stakeholders to focus on improving the processes, pointing to delays.

He said that just the admission of cases was taking 600 days. While a 14-day deadline may not be easily implementable, Govil suggested that cases should be admitted within two-three months and even the resolution work should be speeded up.

"We are steadily improving the pace of resolutions... 180 cases last year, this year; 300. Is that sufficient? Would that be able to unclog the pipeline? We did some studies. Around 5,000 new cases are filed every year; although it depends on the economic climate and how successful we are in resolving these new cases," he said, adding that there needs to be a capacity to deal with 1,000 cases annually, budgeting for withdrawals and other action.

TOI

## Meeting Your Financial Goals With Mutual Funds

IN THE CLASSROOM

Instead of randomly choosing mutual funds based on past returns or themes, wealth managers suggest using mutual fund schemes effectively to meet your goals



#### What Is Goal-Based Investing?

Every investor has some life goals that need to be reached. These goals could be immediate in the **short term** or 1-2 years down the line or **long-term** like retirement or children's education, which are, typically, **more than five years away**. Investing and building a corpus in the period that is available to reach these goals is called goal-based investing.

For example, if you want to plan a **foreign holiday** in 2025, which is 18 months away, it is a short-term goal. If you wish to **plan for higher education for your child**, who is three years old now, you have **15 years**, and it is considered a long-term goal. If your age is 35 years and you **plan to retire** when you are 60, you have **25 years**, which is again a long-term goal.

#### 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](http://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 / compliant, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at <https://scores.gov.in>.

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

#### How To Start Planning For These Goals...

At the outset, **identify your goals** for which you need to start investing. Once done, find the cost of the goal today. Add a reasonable amount of **inflation** to that, which will give you an idea of the cost of the goal in the year you wish to accomplish that. Decide the asset class yourself or use a financial adviser to arrive at a decision and then **work backwards** and calculate the amount you could save through **SIPs**, lump sum, or a combination of both to reach the goal.

**How Mutual Funds Help In Meeting Goals...**

Mutual funds have schemes across asset classes and time frames in which one can invest and hence help investors reach their goals. For example, if you plan for a foreign holiday 18 months from now, which will cost you ₹5 lakh, you could use a **combination of debt funds and equity savings funds** to reach that goal. Since it is a near-term goal and the time is less than three years, investment advisers typically suggest a very small allocation in an equity savings fund.

You can do your math and decide whether you want to opt for a lump sum investment or want to stagger it. Do also **factor in the tax implications**. Similarly, you could use a combination of equity mutual fund schemes for your child's higher education, which is more than a decade away. If your child is aged three years and needs ₹50,000 every month for 15 years. At a 12% return, you could accumulate ₹23.8 lakh.

- PRASHANT MAHESH

# ADITI'S 'BOGEY' DERAILS

TIMES IN HANGZHOU

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"Gold lost". It took Aditi Ashok just two words to sum up her Asian Games campaign – supremely dominant over four rounds, nearly 72 holes -- and the emotions that came with losing it.

Those words were for immediate public consumption as she wrestled in her mind over what went wrong in the women's individual golf final round, where a gold medal was very much in her grasp until she frittered away her lead to Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol after a double bogey on the 16th hole, an ill-fated approach which plopped into the water.

Aditi, who enjoyed a massive seven-shot lead going into the final round, struggled to repeat the heroics of her first three rounds where she even had a brilliant 11-under in Round 3, but on Sunday, hit four bogeys and the said double on the 16th to essentially watch the gold sail out of her hands. A five-over par for the final round to follow up the previous round's 11-under par was never going to cut it.

Aditi would display startling clarity of thought when breaking down her bizarre finish, making you wonder why had this clarity deserted her when she needed it the most, on the course during the final few holes. "The way your mind works is when you are behind, you are always thinking of the good stuff you can do to catch up," she would say.

"But when you are leading, I don't know if it's good or not, but the mind looks at what can go wrong."

That's just what happened. But also, that's not all what happened. "I just played badly too. It definitely wasn't easy knowing that I have to play good or bad to win the tournament. At the 16th hole, I felt I was in it," she'd explain.

"It was just one or two shots in the lead, but that one shot threw me out of it. When you hit the water, there's no way of coming back from it. That was definitely where it unravelled. I wish I



could have won a gold but maybe in a week or two this silver will feel better," the 25-year-old added.

At Hangzhou's West Lake International Golf Course, Aditi carded 17-under 271 (67-66-61-77), Yubol won gold medal with a 19-under 269 (67-65-69-68), while South Korea's Hyunjoo Yoo won bronze with 16-under 272 (68-73-66-65).

The two other Indian women in fray, Pranavi Urs finished 13th with four-under 284 while Avani Prashanth was tied 18th with three-over 291. India couldn't win a medal in the women's team competition as the trio's combined score of 22-under 554 placed them fourth behind Thailand, South Korea and China.

In men's, India's campaign on a disappointing note after Anirban Lahiri (14-under 274) finished tied 12th and was the best-ranked Indian in the individual event. Khalin Joshi (seven-under 281) was placed tied 27 followed by SSP Chawrasia (six-under 282) at 29th. Shubhankar Sharma (two-under 286) came 32nd. In the men's team event, India finished seventh with a total of 830.

Was creating history after becoming the first Indian woman golfer to win a medal at the Asian Games and seventh overall (three gold and three silver in men's previously) some consolation for a golfer who started the final round with a seven-stroke advantage but then saw it all sink with two holes left to play?

Hard to tell. What we safely know, though, is this: "It was definitely a gold lost for me. I was leading by seven. Seven makes it worse, I guess. Definitely anybody would see it as a loss and it was my tournament to lose and I basically did that."

Credit to her (Yubol) as well and she played great. She shot four-under in these conditions which is pretty good. She had the chance to catch up from the back and she played a good round. She forced me to play well and I didn't so that's definitely a gold lost," said a disappointed Aditi.

It was déjà vu for the Bangalore-based golfer, who had kept India



**IT HURTS:** Golfer Aditi Ashok reflects on what might have been on the podium on Sunday

awake at 4 am two years ago as she chased Olympics glory in Tokyo, only to agonisingly miss out on a podium finish after finishing fourth. Back then too, Aditi had a sensational third round and was primed for at least a bronze when her final round birdie putt went inches wide on the 18th green.

"I was thinking of winning and that was

the goal from the first day. I was building a good tournament for myself. Yesterday was a great day for me. Today was just bad. I don't think my mindset coming into today affected the outcome. Maybe, it was just what I shot ... a 11-under or five-over which I don't think I have done all season. I guess it just had to happen today," she added ruefully.

## Parveen seals Olympic berth, assures India of boxing medal

### Nikhat Bows Out In Semis

**Hangzhou:** World Champion bronze medallist boxer Parveen Hooda assured India of a medal and also grabbed a Paris Olympic quota by moving into the 57kg semifinals, but Nikhat Zareen bowed out in the semifinals at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Parveen, who won the bronze medal in the 63kg at the 2022 World Boxing Championships, moved past Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova by unanimous verdict in the semifinals at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

However, Zareen, competing in the women's 50kg category, had to settle for bronze after losing to Rakast Chutha-



**IRON FISTS:** India's Parveen Hooda acknowledges the crowd after winning the 54-57kg boxing quarterfinal against Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova

mat of Thailand. The Thai girl won 2-1 on split decision in the semifinal contest. Zareen had

won the first round, but her rival emerged the victor in the two following rounds. AGENCIES

won the first round, but her rival emerged the victor in the two following rounds. AGENCIES

## Tears galore as South Korea whitewash hosts China for 'precious' badminton gold

**Hangzhou:** South Korea's badminton squad raced onto the court and some players were in tears after steamrolling hosts China 3-0 to win Asian Games women's team gold Sunday for the first time in nearly 30 years.

World number one An Se-young got the party started in Hangzhou in rampant fashion when she defeated Chen Yufei 21-12, 21-13 in double-quick time.

Next, Lee So-hee and Baek



**A SPECIAL WIN:** South Korean women's badminton team

Hana beat Jia Yifan and Chen Qingchen 21-18, 21-14 in the doubles, before Kim Ga-eun sealed the deal with a hard-fought 23-21, 21-17 victory over

He Bingjiao.

That sparked wild celebrations from the South Korean players on the sidelines, who sprinted onto the court. At least two were in tears.

South Korea's coach Kim Hak-kyun called the gold "precious" and said they were already targeting more success at next summer's Paris Olympics.

"This is thanks to the determination, mindset, mentality and unity of our players," said Kim. AFP



Divya TS won two silver medals in the 10m air pistol event in mixed and women's category

said with a chuckle.

Once she began to put her mind to training, there was no looking back as Divya became the 65th National champion in 10m air pistol last year. A National Games bronze medal followed and strengthened her belief that she could perform in tough conditions.

"I'm learning every day. I'm preparing well for the upcoming competitions and my goal is to give my best in every game. Consistency matters a lot in this sport and I'm getting back on track with my qualification mark. Paris Olympics qualification will definitely happen if I perform well in my qualification matches," Divya added.

"Even though I'm 27, I'm the most inexperienced shooter in the Indian team but I'm learning this sport better day by day," the talented shooter said.

## After Asiad success, Divya targets Paris glory

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**Hangzhou:** Karnataka shooter Divya TS is returning home from the Asian Games with two silver medals and plenty of memories. On Saturday, Divya helped India win another silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Divya and Sarabjot Singh duo lost 12-14 to China in the gold medal match. On Friday, the team comprising Divya, Palak and Esha Singh came second in the 10m air pistol women's team event with 1,731 points, five points better than the hosts.

"It was a great experience at my first Asian games and I'm going back with lots of memories and lessons," Divya told TOI here.

Looking back, Divya said she was planning to take the UPSC

exams after graduating in Law. "I used to shoot just for fun during my free time and then I gave it a serious try last year, and here I am," the 27-year-old said.

"I started training with Manjunath Patagar sir as a hobby shooter and I remember when he asked me in 2019, what my future plans were; I had told him I would give the UPSC exams a shot, and I hadn't touched my weapon during lockdown. It was exactly a week before the 2021 Nationals that I held him to the 10m air pistol last year. A National Games bronze medal followed and strengthened her belief that she could perform in tough conditions.

"I'm learning every day. I'm preparing well for the upcoming competitions and my goal is to give my best in every game. Consistency matters a lot in this sport and I'm getting back on track with my qualification mark. Paris Olympics qualification will definitely happen if I perform well in my qualification matches," Divya added.

"Even though I'm 27, I'm the most inexperienced shooter in the Indian team but I'm learning this sport better day by day," the talented shooter said.

"My basic coach Patagar motivated me to continue shooting. My family has backed me in

## A Good Walk Spoiled As Golfer Lets Seven-Shot Lead Slip On Error-Strewn Final Day, Takes The Silver Medal

**WHEN I GOT FOURTH IN TOKYO (OLYMPIC GAMES) I WASN'T INCONSISTENT LIKE TODAY. THERE, IT WAS JUST FOUR GOOD ROUNDS AND SOMEBODY ELSE WAS A FEW SHOTS BETTER. TODAY I KIND OF THREW IT AWAY. I PLAYED FIVE OVER. YOU SEE MY PREVIOUS THREE ROUNDS AND THEY WERE NOTHING LIKE TODAY."**

—Aditi Ashok

After missing out on Gold

### HOW THEY FINISHED

(after 72 holes)

**MEN:** 261: TAICHI KHO (HK, 62, 60, 70, 69); 262: SUNGJAE IM (KOR, 66, 65, 66, 65); 264: CHIEN-YAO HUNG (TPE, 65, 63, 67, 69); 274: ANIRBAN LAHIRI (IND, 65, 65, 74, 68, T-12); 281: KHALIN JOSHI (70, 69, 69, 73, T-27); 282: SSP CHAWRASIA (IND, 67, 72, 68, 75, 29TH); 286: SHUBHANKAR SHARMA (IND, 68, 69, 76, 73, 32ND).

**TEAM:** 788 (GOLD): KOREA: 813 (SILVER): THAILAND: 814 (BRONZE): HONG KONG: 830: INDIA (200, 205, 211, 214, 7TH).

**WOMEN:** 269: ARPICHAYA YUBOL (THAI, 67, 65, 69, 68); 271: ADITI ASHOK (IND, 67, 66, 67, 77); 272: HYUNJO YO (KOR, 68, 73, 66, 65); 284: PRANAVI URS (IND, 71, 68, 70, 75, 13TH); 291: AVANI PRASHANTH (IND, 72, 69, 74, 76, T-18).

**TEAM:** 542 (GOLD): THAILAND: 548 (SILVER): KOREA: 552 (BRONZE): CHINA (134, 133, 139, 146); 554 (4TH): INDIA (138, 134, 131, 151).

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

## Caddies not par for the course for India

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Caddies aren't just the equipment carriers to golfers. They also act as eyes and ears for golfers, providing them strategic advice about the course, reading the greens and obstacles and the conditions while the golfers concentrate on their game. Basically, they are the trusted advisors and motivators to the golfers on the course.

**TENSE TIMES:** Indian golfers were not too happy with local caddies accompanying them

**HAVING SOMEONE YOU CAN LEAN ON TO DOES HELP. GOLF IS ALL ABOUT RHYTHM AND THAT GETS DISTRACTED WHEN YOU ARE TOLD YOUR CADDIE IS NOT ALLOWED ON THE COURSE. IN ROUND 3, HE HAD A DOUBLE BOGEY ON THE 17TH. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING FROM THE OUTSIDE. HAD I BEEN THERE, I WOULD HAVE HAD A QUICK CHAT WITH HIM. THAT'S ALL THEY NEED OUT THERE."**

—Tim Giuliano, Anirban Lahiri's caddie

and that gets distracted when you are told your caddie is not allowed on the course. In Round 3, he had a double bogey on the 17th. I couldn't have done anything from the outside. Had I been there, I would have had a quick chat with him. That's all they need out there," Giuliano said.

Siddaraju Ganganna, Avani Prashanth's caddie, said, "We feel so helpless. We know we can go out there and motivate them, but we are not allowed to. She is only 17 and is still an amateur. I have been caddying for her for the past two years. I think not having a known face around you for someone so young in a competition of this scale does have its repercussions," he added.

When Avani and Aditi were asked about it, both rued the absence of their regular caddies. "Each golfer shares a strong bond with his/her caddie and having them around does help," Avani said.

Aditi nodded. "You can lean on caddies if you know them, that's the big plus during any competition."

## Obiena all praise for legendary Petrov after podium sweep



**LEAP OF FAITH:** Philippines' Ernest John Obiena (gold) is flanked by China's Huang Bokai (left, silver) and Saudi Arabia's Hussain Al Hizam (bronze) during the victory ceremony for the men's pole vault event. All three athletes trained under fabled pole vault coach Vitaly Petrov in Formia, Italy at the World Pole Vault Centre

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**Hangzhou:** It was payback time for the students of legendary pole vault coach Vitaly Petrov as they ran to him in the stands and celebrated after winning the gold, silver and bronze medals in the Asian Games at the Olympic Stadium here.

Leading the charge was Philippines world No. 2 EJ Obiena, who set a new Games record of 5.90m, erasing Japanese Seito Yamamoto's 5.70m set in 2018. China's Bokai Huang took the silver clearing 5.65m followed by Saudi Arabia's Hussain Al Hizam, who came up with his season's best of 5.65m.

"Our group is the podium you saw on Saturday. Three guys training together and competing against one another. That's me, Bokai and Hussain. They are coming from one coach, that's the common factor," Obiena, the new Asian Games champion, told TOI here.

The three medalists train with Petrov, the former coach of athletics legend Sergey Bubka, at the World Pole Vault Centre in Formia, Italy. He is also the former coach of women's world record holder Yelena Isinbayeva.

Asked about Petrov's impact on his career, Obiena said he was lucky to train under Petrov. "I don't think he made a difference in my career. He is the difference. He is the secret weapon of my team. I'm lucky to be able to train with such a

meticulous, focus-driven and motivated coach. With the experience he has, all I need is to follow his steps. It makes my life so much simpler to have a coach such as Petrov — arguably the best-ever pole vault coach," said Obiena, who won the World Championships silver medal behind Sweden's Armand Duplantis in Budapest.

Recapping his journey to Europe, the Filipino said: "It all began in 2013 with Bubka's trip to the Philippines. I was there just to meet him, but I got more than just a signed T-shirt. So, he said, 'If you are able to jump five metres, you will be able to train at an Olympic centre in Italy,' and that's how I met my coach and started training with him in 2014."

Obiena was happy the way the season panned out for him and is now keen to work harder to scale greater heights. "My season has been good, and we are satisfied with what we have achieved. But we do believe that there are certain things that we need to work on for the coming season," he said.

And topping the list is the mouth-watering duel with Duplantis in Paris. "He (Duplantis) is arguably the best at the moment. He is one of a kind, definitely. But he is still human and I'm focusing on getting better and closing that gap as much as I can. God willing I'll be able to close the gap and knock on his doors. Paris is the goal and I have less than a year for that. But I do know what I'm capable of doing," he said.



# 19th ASIAN GAMES

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023



I THINK MAYBE CHEN WAS NERVOUS. IT'S THE RESULT OF ANALYSING MY OPPONENT AND TRAINING HARD, BUT IT WAS NOT AN EASY MATCH TO WIN."

— AN SE-YOUNG, WORLD NO. 1, AFTER SHE BEAT CHEN YUFEI TO HELP SOUTH KOREA TO BADMINTON GOLD

# New India change old sporting headlines



## Super Sunday: Golden Toor And Sable Lead Stellar Show As India Win 9 Medals In All 8 Track-&Field Finals

**TIMES IN HANGZHOU**  
Biju.BabuCyriac@timesgroup.com

**S**hot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his gold medal, reserving his best for the last while Avinash Sable faced no challenge to bag the men's 3000m steeplechase gold with a new Asian Games record as the country's top stars turned up in style in what was a Super Sunday for Indian athletics. The Indians won medals in all the nine finals held at the Hangzhou Olympic stadium.

Sreesankar (men's long jump), Harmilan Bains (women's 1500m), Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m) and Jyothi Yarraj (100m hurdles) were the silver winners. The bronze medal winners were 2018 gold medallist Jinson Johnson (men's 1500m), Nandini Agasara (women's heptathlon) and Seema Punia (women's discus throw).

The day's action opened with a fascinating contest in shot put as

Asia's heavyweights went all out for the gold. Toor, who fouled his first two attempts, stormed into the medal bracket with a throw of 19.51m on his third attempt. The Asian and Asian Games record holder then took the lead with his fourth attempt which landed at 20.06m. But Saudi Arabia's Mohamed Tolo responded in style, snatching the lead as the iron ball landed at 20.18m. But the Indian champion had the last laugh as he touched 20.36m with his last throw even as Tolo managed only 19.83m.

It was a final that went to the wire, but Toor said he never had any doubt. "I was confident of winning the gold and I was under no pressure. I had told my wife that I will get the gold," Toor said.

Sable's cruise to gold was similar to one of the dominating shows by F1 champion Max Verstappen. Leading by almost 20 metres at the bell, the Army man faced little resistance from the rest of the field as he smashed the Games record of 8:22.79. Sable's new mark is 8:19.50. Second-placed Japan's R Aoki finished four seconds later with the

bronze winner further three seconds off the pace. "I took it easy after I saw my lead on the big screen. I knew I would get the Games record but didn't want to push myself to go after my PB mark," he added.

### Heartbreak for Sreesankar

It was so near yet so far for India's Sreesankar in men's long jump as he almost dethroned defending champion Jianan Wang. In the end it was a mere

three centimeters that separated the top-2. The Olympian opened with a foul but got back in contention with his third jump as he touched down at 8.01m. The fourth was the biggest at 8.19m that narrowly missed the 8.22 which Wang managed on his first attempt. The men's and women's 1500m produced silver medal winners for India with Saorj timing 3:38.94 and Harmilan Bains pushing world champion Winfred Yavi to clock 4:12.74s.

### RESULTS

• Men: 1500m: 1. M Algarni (Qat, 3:38.36s SB); 2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (Ind, 3:38.94); 3. Jinson Johnson (Ind, 3:39.74); 3000m Steeplechase: Avinash Sable (Ind, 8:19.50 GR Old: H Keyhani, 8:22.79); 2. Akori R (Jpn, 8:23.75); 3. Sunada S (Jpn, 8:26.47); Shot put: 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Ind, 20.36m); 2. Mohamed Tolo (KSA, 20.18 SB); 3. Yang Liu (Chn, 19.97 SB)... 8. Sahib Singh (Ind, 18.62); Long jump: 1. J Wang (Chn, 8.22); 2. Sreesankar

(Ind, 8.19); 3. Yuha Shl (Chn, 8.10). 8. Jeswin Aldrin (Ind, 7.76)

• Women: 100mH: 1. Y Lin (Chn, 12.74s PB); 2. Jyothi Yarraj (Ind, 12.91); 3. Y Tanaka (13.04); 1500m: 1. WM Yavi (Bri, 4:11.65); 2. Harmilan Bains (Ind, 4:12.74); 3. MH Yota (Bri, 4:15.97). 9. Deeksha (Ind, 4:27.77); Discus throw: 1. B Feng (Chn, 67.93m GR Old: YF Li 66.18); 2. Z Jiang (Chn, 61.04m PB); 3. Seema Punia (Ind, 58.62 SB); Heptathlon: 1. N Zheng (Chn, 6149 points SB); 2. E Voronina (Uzb, 6056); 3. Nandini A (Ind, 5712); 4. Swapna Barman (Ind, 5708).

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"It was deemed as a reflex action and that's why Jyothi didn't face any action. Had she been in Lane 8 and the same thing happened she would have been disqualified too. There were no official protests from either India or China," an organising committee told TOI.

— Biju Babu Cyriac

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bronze winner further three seconds off the pace. "I took it easy after I saw my lead on the big screen. I knew I would get the Games record but didn't want to push myself to go after my PB mark," he added.

### Heartbreak for Sreesankar

It was so near yet so far for India's Sreesankar in men's long jump as he almost dethroned defending champion Jianan Wang. In the end it was a mere

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# ONE-DAY CRICKET'S PARADIGM SHIFT

Evolving Dynamics Of The Game, Rule Changes, Rise Of Power Hitters And Limitations On Field Placements Have Diminished The Role Of Part-time Bowlers

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

**N**ovember 24, 1993: The Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The 1993 Hero Cup semifinal is on the line with South Africa needing only six runs to win with two wickets in hand and a powerful striker like Brian McMillan is at the crease. 20-year-old Sachin Tendulkar goes to skipper Mohammad Azharuddin and asks for the ball. Six deliveries of liquorice allsorts later, India score a heart-stopping two-run win.

That despite Manoj Prabhakar, Javagal Srinath and Kapil Dev having two overs left, each, in their quota of ten.

Cut to Colombo, September 25, 2002: South Africa need 21 off the final six balls to beat India and advance to the final of the Champions Trophy. Zaheer Khan has bowled nine brilliant overs for 27 runs. Yet, skipper Sourav Ganguly summons Virender Sehwag, who bowls India to a 10-run win, despite the batters being Jacques Kallis and Lance Klusener.

Can we see similar scenes in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup? No. Unless the wicket is a low, slow turner, forget the last over; captains will be loathe to use them even in the middle overs.

Glenn Maxwell's 4-40 vs India at Rajkot last week, seems like an aberration. Of course, he had the cushion of bowling to a team that was under scoreboard pressure of chasing 352 on a pitch that had begun to slow down.

The advent of power hitters, a new ball from each end and the law that states only four fielders can be placed outside the thirty-yard circle from overs 11 to 40, means there is a vast area of the ground that is unprotected and waiting to be targeted. Essentially, it handicaps the bowler as the fielding captain can protect only the off-side or leg-side boundary for 30 overs.

Indian off-spinner R Ashwin, who has made a comeback to the Indian ODI side feels the new rules were brought in to curtail India's dominance.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin says, "India were dominating ODI cricket. One of the main reasons for that was we did not have five fielders inside the circle rule and the two new balls rule. I somewhere feel India's dominance with spin was choking world cricket."

"(Ravindra) Jadeja and I were the two spinners at that time. Yuvraj (Singh) and Yusuf (Pathan) used to chip in with some overs. With four fielders inside the circle, it was very difficult to get away in the middle overs. But then they implemented the two



Shahid Afridi, Imran Tahir, Rashid Khan, Yasir Shah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav (in pix), Amit Mishra, Ish Sodhi have had six-wicket hauls or more after 2013, with the new rules in place. Kuldeep in fact has had two hat-tricks too

## PERFORMANCE OF PART-TIME BOWLERS AMONG CURRENT PLAYERS (SINCE JAN 2013)

Bowler	M	Overs	Wkts	Ave	Best	SR	ER
Joe Root	162	262.5	26	58.46	3/52	60.6	5.78
Glenn Maxwell	125	530.4	64	45.87	4/40	49.7	5.53
Dasun Shanaka	67	161.0	27	34.11	5/43	35.7	5.72
Dhananjaya de Silva	42	330.0	46	33.86	4/13	43.0	4.72
Aidan Markram	55	119.2	16	43.81	2/18	44.7	5.87
Moeen Ali	132	955.2	106	47.76	4/46	54.0	5.29
Mahmudullah	136	282.5	30	51.60	2/36	56.5	5.47
Paul Stirling	118	250.4	23	54.34	6/55	65.3	4.98
Roston Chase	42	242.5	27	43.85	3/30	53.9	4.87
Kane Williamson	128	204.1	32	34.09	4/22	38.2	5.34
Travis Head	58	154.3	16	56.12	2/22	57.9	5.81
Kieron Pollard	55	126.2	17	46.41	2/32	44.5	6.24

-Rajesh Kumar

new balls rule and the five fielders inside the circle rule. Once they did that, the 240-250 games disappeared," he added.

Ashwin himself was entrusted by skipper MS Dhoni to defend 14 runs in the final over of the 2013 Champions Trophy at a cold and blustery Edgbaston, a test he came out passing with flying col-

ours as India won by five runs in a 20-over shoot-out.

Unless you are a mystery spinner or a wrist spinner, batters will line you up.

What's common between Shahid Afridi, Imran Tahir, Rashid Khan, Yasir Shah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Amit Mishra, Ish Sodhi?

## STOKES WILL SHOW HIS WORTH IN KNOCKOUT GAMES, SAYS BROAD

**New Delhi:** Veteran England fast-bowler Stuart Broad has backed talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes to show his true worth when the knockout matches happen in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, happening from October 5 to November 19 in India.

"From an England perspective, Stokes will show his true worth in the knockout

games. Because when the World Cup comes to a head, you want him in the middle order. His ability to cope with pressure is one of the main reasons he has been picked. It isn't a quality that's inherent."

"You learn it from experience and Stokes learned from his lowest moment, in the final of 2016's Twenty20 World Cup. Since getting hit for four sixes by Carlos Brathwaite, look at how he's coped with pressure scenarios. Since then, England have won a couple of World Cups, and some Ashes Tests because of him," wrote Broad in his column for Daily

Mail on Sunday.

He also sees fast-bowling all-rounders Chris Woakes and Sam Curran as vital figures with the ball in England's defence of the trophy starting from October 5 in Ahmedabad against New Zealand, in a re-match of the 2019 final.

"So, this time, if England are going to come out on top, it'll be because the bowlers that have performed and I see Chris Woakes and Sam Curran as vital in this regard. I don't know that the selectors will risk playing Mark Wood in every game,

preserving his pace for when they need it the most, whereas I'd imagine Woakes and Curran will be panned in at No. 8 and No. 9, playing every game."

Broad also noted that young batter Harry Brook was included at the last minute in Jason Roy's place due to his overall ability instead of his skills in just 50-over format. "Harry Brook can bat anywhere from one to six... Although Brook wasn't in the initial squad they picked, he was on the plane in most people's minds. It was the right call to get him in," IANS

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Suddenly, you have gone from four fielders inside the ring to five fielders inside the ring. I think that has drastically changed the ability of part-time bowler to be able to bowl in the middle phase. In that kind of situation, you could lose a lot of part-time bowlers and not only us, but a lot of teams also did that. If you will notice, the number of part-time bowlers have gone down in other teams as well. It's not only the Indian team. Partly, it is because of two new balls as well. It is becoming more and more difficult for the part-time bowlers to bowl."

-Rahul Dravid

All the above-mentioned bowlers have had six-wicket hauls or more after 2013, with the new rules in place. Kuldeep in fact has had two hat-tricks too

Strangely though, stats reveal that certain top-order batters, who have bowled finger-spin, have done well. May be knowing exactly what batters are thinking, helps their case.

Among part-timers who have bowled 100 or more overs since 2013, when the rules first came into existence, only Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Hafeez and Moeen Ali have bowled more than 500 overs and have played 100-plus ODIs. It means captains have trusted them for their dual skills.

While none of them has a five-for, all three have four-fors and have bowled at a decent economy rate. Maxwell has gone at 5.43 while Hafeez's 4.41 borders on slay. Moeen's 5.29 too is acceptable in the modern game. In the T20 era, where batters don't mind taking a chance once or twice every over and with heavy dew expected in the winter months in certain venues, expecting part-timers to do the job for you consistently, like Yuvraj Singh did in 2011, is asking for too much.

May be that is why you see teams like Australia and Pakistan load up with high quality pace. If people like Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf are on song, captains need not worry about part-timers.

Perhaps a lesson there for India, who tend to leave out Mohammed Shami as playing Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj together supposedly lengthens the tail.

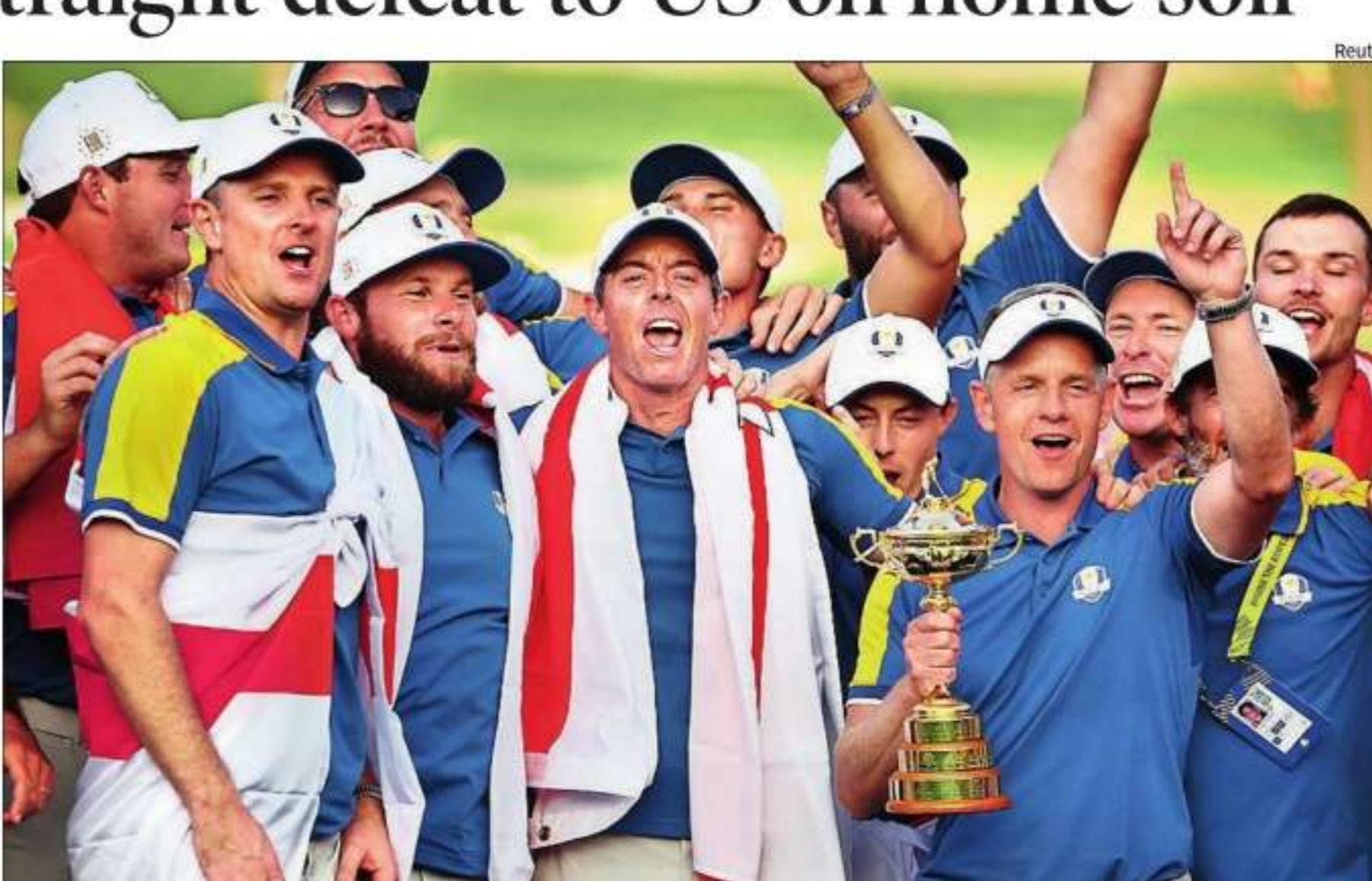
## GALLERY

### Alcaraz, Sabalenka make progress at China Open

**Beijing:** Carlos Alcaraz breezed into the China Open men's quarterfinals with a routine 6-2, 6-2 victory over Italy's Lorenzo Musetti on Sunday. The world number two will face Casper Ruud in the next round after the world number nine came back to beat Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (9-7). Women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka earlier sailed into the second round of the women's draw with an impulsive 6-1, 6-2 defeat of American Sofia Kenin.

**Chikka finishes second:** Two bogeys in the home stretch proved expensive as S. Chikkarappa missed out on a title yet again at the Mercuries Masters golf in Chinese Taipei on Sunday. Chikka, the co-leader after three rounds slipped with a 2-over 74 and finished runner-up yet again and stays in search of his first trophy on Asian Tour.

**Asiad official suffers leg fracture after being hit by hammer:** An athletics official suffered a broken leg at the Asiad in Hangzhou after being hit by a hammer hurled by Kuwait's Ali Zankawi. The man was sitting on a chair outside the throwing circle when Zankawi aborted his attempt as his hammer hit the protective netting. But rather than stopping, the metal ball that weighs over 7kg (15 pounds) slammed into the official's right leg. Pictures showed the man in agony as Zankawi rushed to help. He was stretchered out of the arena. AGENCIES



ELATED: Europe captain Luke Donald celebrates alongside Rory McIlroy, Tyrrell Hatton, Justin Rose and other teammates

were," said McIlroy, who was in tears at the last Ryder Cup. "We wanted to come to Rome and redeem ourselves. I just knew I needed to put in a better performance for my team this week."

The celebration was on, just like it always is on European soil, with one exception. The first Ryder Cup in Italy brought its share of chaos as fans raced toward the edge of the 18th green to watch the final match that only decided a result for the record book: Europe 16 1/2, United States 11 1/2.

The Americans were coming off a record 19-9 win over Europe two years ago at Whistling Straits, confident this would be time they ended 30 years of losing away from home. Make it 34. They won't get another chance until 2027 in Ireland.

"We were so disappointed after Whistling Straits. We all

were," said McIlroy, who was in tears at the last Ryder Cup. "We wanted to come to Rome and redeem ourselves. I just knew I needed to put in a better performance for my team this week."

Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, and others were celebrating. They were all wearing blue shirts and white caps, and some had towels around their necks. They appeared to be on a golf course.

The Americans still lead the overall series in the Ryder Cup dating to 1927. But since Europe joined the party in 1979—the modern era—Europe now has a 12-9-1 advantage. AP

# Murali picks India as favourites to win WC

Manuja.Veerappa@timesgroup.com

unity as the key ingredient for a team's success. He cited Sri Lanka's success in 1996 as an example.

"To win a World Cup, a team must be united. That unity in the 1996 Sri Lankan team came because of my incident (no ball) for chucking controversy in the Melbourne Test in 1995. Everybody put their differences aside and were united. That was the factor for the success."

For a team which won the Cup in 2006 and finished runners-up in 2007 and 2011 to battling through the qualifiers for this edition of the World Cup, Lankan cricket's freefall has been alarming.

"For me as a player who has played for the country for two decades, it is sad and frustrating. But we haven't developed great players. When Arjuna (Ratnatunga) was playing, he developed players like Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene and myself. After 2015, the side declined because we did not have enough players of calibre. You need 5-6 of them in a team. The team has been ok for the past few years with a few bits and pieces players coming through. But the consistency is not there," explained the 51-year-old.



MURALITHARAN

been consistent. We look forward to the tournament and hope to do well."

Shadab picked Indian skipper Rohit Sharma and Kuldeep Yadav as the best batter and bowler, respectively. "I like Rohit Sharma a lot. In the world, there is no batter like him. Once he gets set, it is very difficult to get him out. He is very dangerous as he can play strokes all round the wicket and for a bowler it is a nightmare," Shadab said.

"As I am a leg-spinner, I like Kuldeep Yadav a lot. He is a great leg spinner and is in sublime form. Bowling in such conditions is not easy especially for a spinner but he has done well," he added.

## Pak team bowled over by hospitality

The Pakistan team has been bowled over by the hospitality extended to them ever since they landed here on Wednesday night. "Stay here has been great. The kind of welcome we got at the airport and the hotel, where several fans had turned up, was fabulous," said Shadab. "We are enjoying the hospitality in this city. It is a fabulous experience. Food is very good and delicious. We are afraid that we will put on a lot of weight by the time the tournament is over. Hopefully, we get the same kind of treatment in Ahmedabad," Shadab said.

"A night out in Hyderabad! Got to taste city's delicacies. They have some fascinating food to serve. The dish in picture 2 is a sweet made of apricot and in 3 is a kheer made of onion. Yes, onion. Delicious stuff," posted media manager Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi on X (formerly Twitter).

# Refs admit 'significant human error' after Tottenham victory

**London:** On Saturday, Tottenham Hotspur snatched a controversial 2-1 win against 9-man Liverpool as Joel Matip's last-gasp own-goal ended Reds' resistance. The visiting Liverpool side also had a goal disallowed that the referees' body admitted should have stood. Adding to their woes, Liverpool had Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota sent off. Jones was dismissed in the first half before Luis Diaz's goal for Liverpool was incorrectly dis-

## SHORT PASSES

allowed for offside by VAR. Referees' body PGMO later admitted "a significant human error".

**Bellingham delivers as Madrid punish Girona:** Inspired by Jude Bellingham, Real Madrid showed both steel and class to beat high-flying Girona 3-0 on Saturday and move back on top of La Liga. Real Sociedad, meanwhile, thrashed Athletic Bilbao by the same scoreline to win the Basque derby later on and rise to fourth.

Madrid lead with 21 points from eight games, a point ahead of Barcelona, who are in turn a point ahead of Girona. Later, Real Sociedad climbed

**Martinez hits four in Inter rout:** Lautaro Martinez scored all four goals as Inter Milan thrashed Salernitana 4-0 to stay on top in Serie A, while AC Milan kept pace with their city rivals after overcoming Lazio. Inter rebounded from their first loss of the season against Sassuolo. AGENCIES

**Sudharshan guides RoI to 298/8**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Until Friday, Sai Sudharshan was battling for Surrey against Hampshire in Southampton

# THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

MODI CONGRATULATES MOHAMED MUIZZU FOR BEING ELECTED MALDIVIAN PREZ; EX-PREZ YAMEEN SHIFTED TO HOUSE ARREST FROM PRISON ON MUIZZU PLEA, **I3 & I8**

The advertisement features a large building of SRM Institute of Science & Technology in the background. The text "SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)" is at the top. Below it, the text "Welcomes you to the CONVOCATION 2023" is prominently displayed. A circular portrait of Prof. Ricardo Leon Borquez is labeled "CHIEF GUEST". Another circular portrait of Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar is labeled "will preside over the convocation". A third circular portrait of Dr. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha is labeled "Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) will be conferred on". The date "03 October 2023 - 11 a.m." and the venue "Dr. TP Ganesan Auditorium, SRMIST, Kattankulathur" are mentioned. A QR code is provided for more information.

## Govt hopes festive sales will add to domestic demand

The government is expecting strong festival sales to add to domestic demand, which is holding up despite increase in interest rates and global headwinds, reports Sidhartha. From white goods to automobiles and real estate, most sectors have reported healthy sales in recent months and the September quarter has remained strong,

### ► GST collections rise 10% to ₹1.62 lakh cr in Sept, P21

helping the Centre and states collect taxes to finance expenditure, especially capital spending towards infrastructure. At a time when exports have been impacted by the slowdown in several parts of the world, strong domestic demand is seen to be critical for the economy to grow at 6.5% this year: **P21**

## Ahead of Diwali, auto sales post a record high

Car and SUV sales hit an all-time monthly high in September on festive fervour and continued surge in demand as companies such as Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, M&M and Toyota heavily stocked up their dealerships ahead of the Navratras and the Diwali period, reports Pankaj Doval. The industry now looks set to hit the milestone of over 4 million units for the full calendar year, surpassing the 3.8 million units it had achieved last year. However, the two-wheeler industry, which has failed to replicate the success of four-wheeler industry, continued to see lukewarm growth, though companies such as Hero Moto and Royal Enfield hope demand will start picking up as the weeks pass by. **P21**



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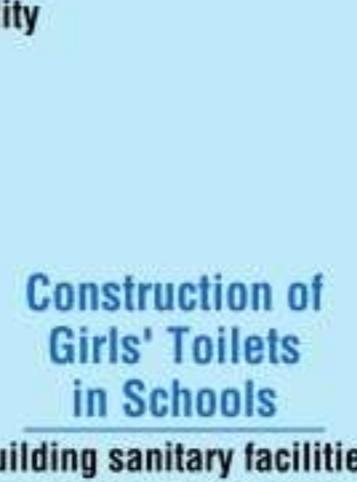
### Adoption of Girl Child for Education

Striving for gender equality in the society

### Sports

Fostering sports by launching Women's Hockey Team

Providing financial support through the "Ab Naari Ki Baari" initiative



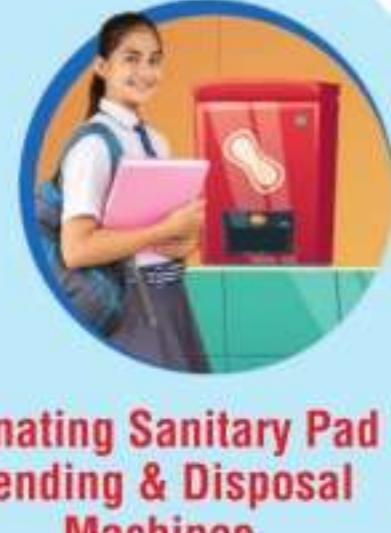
### CSR initiatives by Union Bank of India

### Construction of Girls' Toilets in Schools

Building sanitary facilities to promote hygiene among girl students

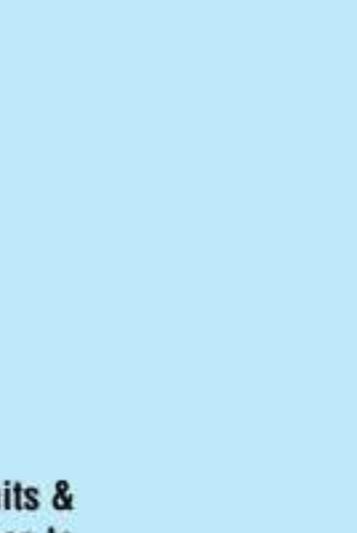
### Donating Sanitary Pad Vending & Disposal Machines

Promoting girls' health and hygiene



### Healthcare

Developing healthcare units & hospitals to improve access to quality medical services



# Modi launches projects worth ₹13,500cr in poll-bound T'gana

Slams Family-Run Parties, Says People Want Graft-Free Govt

Sribala.Vadlapatla  
@timesgroup.com

**Hyderabad:** PM Narendra Modi on Sunday launched BJP's campaign in Telangana, asserting the state was looking for change and wanted the party to come to office.

"You have been supporting BJP (at the Centre) for the last four years in a big way. Now people want change (in the state). Change for a transparent, corruption-free government that will not make false promises and an administration that delivers at the ground level," Modi told a large rally in Mahabubnagar. The assembly polls are due this year-end.

Earlier, the PM launched and inaugurated multiple developmental projects worth more than Rs 13,500 crore in Telangana. In two politically significant decisions ahead of the assembly polls, he announced a National Turmeric Board and a Central Tribal University in the state.

Modi began the speech in



PM Modi at a rally at Mahabubnagar in Telangana on Sunday. He said the state was looking for a change and wanted BJP to come to office

Telugu and addressed the people as his family (Naa Kutumba Sabhyulara) and continued to address them in the same way right through his speech.

Highlighting the commitment of BJP to Telangana, Modi said, "We don't have a government in Telangana. Despite that we did everything to help the farmers. We restarted the Ramagundam fertiliser plant, which was closed for years."

Modi lashed out at the govt

erning BRS, AIMIM and Congress as "family-run political parties — of the family, by the family and for the family".

"The two parties (BRS and AIMIM) run the show like a private company. President, chief executive officer, director, senior manager, manager, treasurer etc., everyone is from the family. They appoint a few outsiders as support staff and give posts to those close to them," he said.

The PM accused the gove

rning BRS of "looting people in the name of schemes". "They promised farm loan waiver, but didn't implement it and as a result farmers are killing themselves," he said, also pooh-poohing BRS's claims on having booted irrigation.

In an indirect jibe at six guarantees announced by Congress ahead of the polls, Modi sought to contrast that by asserting that "he was the guarantee to the people of Telangana and women".

Modi's speech brimmed with agriculture — a key poll plank in Telangana. The PM said the previous governments at the Centre spent only Rs 3,400 crore for paddy procurements until 2014 in Telangana, but his government spent Rs 24,000 crore in just one year.

Describing himself as the brother of Telangana women, the PM said: "Women here know they have a brother sitting in Delhi who will always work for their benefit. They began voting for BJP and that brother brought reservation for them in legislatures."

## 2 docs, one of them an IAS officer, save baby on flight

Kritika Tiwary | TNN

**Ranchi:** IAS officer Nitin Mandan Kulkarni, a qualified medical professional, and another doctor helped save the life of a six-month-old baby who was suffering from breathing issues on board a Ranchi-Delhi flight on Saturday.

As the IndiGo flight soared to an altitude of 30,000ft, the air crew made an emergency announcement, seeking medical assistance from any doctor on board. Kulkarni, who's currently serving as principal secretary to the Jharkhand governor, and Md Firoze from Ranchi Sadar Hospital responded promptly to save the child.

Kulkarni immediately began administering CPR. "I did what anyone in my position would have done. It's a responsibility we all share as members of a society," he said.

"This incident shows how important it is for everyone, irrespective of what profession he or she is in, to undergo CPR training," Kulkarni added.

The baby's family is from Hazaribagh, and they were on their way to Delhi for the infant's treatment. After the flight landed in Delhi, a medical team took the baby under their care and provided oxygen support.

## Principal, 1 more held for beating up Class X boy

**Varanasi:** The principal and vice-principal of a private school in Sehda area of UP's Azamgarh district were arrested on Saturday for allegedly beating up a 15-year-old class 10 student.

The student's father lodged an FIR against Shri Durgaji Inter College principal Krishna Kumar Yadav and vice-principal Ajit Kumar Yadav at on September 29. The student's father alleged that Krishna and Ajit abused his son and even beat him up when he joined back school after recovering from an illness on September 27.

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## GPS 'misguides' 2 young docs to death

The Duo Were Out To Celebrate B'day Of One Of Them In Kochi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kochi:** It was dark, raining heavily and an unfamiliar road. To navigate better, Dr Advaith, who was at the wheel of the Honda Civic past Saturday midnight, turned on GPS. Soon they came to a waterlogged stretch of road and as the map pointed straight ahead, the car waded into the water.

Except that it was not the road but a river, and the car started sinking. Dr Advaith (29) died and so did his colleague Dr Ajmal Asif (29). Three others in the Civic managed to exit

tricate themselves and were rescued. The incident occurred at 12:30am on Sunday in Gothuruth area of Kerala's Ernakulam district. Dr Advaith had turned 29 on Saturday and the five of them were returning to Kodungallur from Kochi where they had gone for some birthday shopping.

According to police and Ashok Ravi, senior manager of Kodungallur CRAFT Hospital where the doctors worked, Dr Gaziq Thabees, one of the survivors, revealed that the accident occurred after GPS rerouted them. "Yes



Advaith (left) and Ajmal Asif

roads are not necessarily safer. "Also, one should always remember to select the mode of travel on the map. A four-wheeler can't go the way a bike goes," an expert said.

Dr Ajmal was a native of Thrissur district and Dr Advaith was from Kollam. Those who survived are Jismon and Tamarina, besides Dr Thabees, who works in the cardiology department of CRAFT Hospital. Jismon is a nurse in the hospital and Tamarina is an MBBS student in Palakkad. All three have been admitted to a Kochi hospital. Dr Advaith's mortal remains were shifted to Kalamassery Medical College and Dr Ajmal's body was moved to Thrissur Medical College for autopsy.

During monsoons, the GPS algorithm guides drivers to roads with less traffic but experts say less busy

## EDITOR'S PICK

**How bomb throwing in Red zones can better lives**

Forest tribals in J'khand districts hit by left-wing extremism hurl seed balls into jungles to help afforestation



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**Lohardaga:** 'Bomb'-throwing tribals in Maoist hotspots aren't anyone's idea of forest conservationists. But that's exactly what they are in Lohardaga, Gumla, West Singhbhum, Godda and Dumka — Jharkhand districts where forest cover is dwindling and left-wing extremism is flourishing.

The bombs in question are designed to engender life, not endanger it. What's a seed ball — a mud ball packed with seeds — in cultivators' parlance is called seed bombs by these tribal villagers, a humorous reference to bomb-throwing Maoists.

Living as they do bang next to forests, the villagers know better than most experts why denuded green covers are a threat. As brown patches spread in the jungles, animals lose their habitat and for sheer survival they search for food in human settlements.

Villages in all these districts had to stop cultivating food crops. But unlike the reflex human response of targeting the animals, the tribals in these Jharkhand districts chose to attack the root of the problem. Their response was afforestation.

However, the usual methods — planting saplings — didn't work in forests. The survival rate was poor and forest interiors were for the most part inaccessible. Cost was also a factor. That's when, says, Saroj Kujur, secretary Kisan Mahila Mandal in Lohardaga, the tribals, with help from local NGOs, came up with the idea of seed balls, aka, seed bombs. Till date, around 1.2 lakh seed bombs have been made and used.

As divisional forest officer Gulam, Belal Anwar, says, seed balls are a smart idea on two counts. First, it engages entire villages in the process, giving them a sense of belongingness to the forest. Second, it ensures better germination of naturally occurring seeds."

**A guide to bomb-making:** Seed balls used in these villages are roughly the size of grenades and are meant to be hurled deep into forests. But just packing seeds in mud won't do. There's a science to it. First, pick the right seeds. "We pick seeds of useful fruit and timber trees... mango, jackfruit, jamun, imli, sakhuwa, kend and Karanj," said Sonamani, head of a women's group in Lohardaga.

Second, pick the right ingredients for the packing. These include anthill soil, cow-

dung, neem leaves and husk. Plus, seeds are dried and treated with cow urine before they are packed in mud balls. "Cow urine and neem protects the seeds from insects and white ants, the husk helps retain moisture, and the cow dung acts as a nutrient for the seeds," explains Md Fahad, the village coordinator of Pradan, an NGO.

**First dance, then throw bombs:** As with many tribal practices, there's infectious joyfulness in the way the villagers approach afforestation. Seeds are collected and seed bombs are made in the summer months. With the first showers, a day is picked for bomb throwing.

The day begins with worshipping the hills, trees, and rivers. Then seed balls, thousands of them, are carried in baskets by women, and the men are armed with lathis and sharp-edged weapons — basic protection while venturing into forests. Everyone sings and dances. A few seed balls are sown in the periphery of the forest. Most are hurled deep inside.

**The success rate:** DFO Lohardaga, Arbind Kumar, says seed balls are particularly effective when they land on steep hill slopes and in valleys. Forests adjoining two villages in these districts were monitored to test the seed bombs' impact.

In Bartoli, Gumla, 6,030 out of 35,000 seed balls planted in July had germinated. In Chhotchorgain, Lohardaga, the rate was 7,970 out of 12,260. These are very encouraging results, forest officials say. Further monitoring will happen two or three years later, to check how many germinated seeds survived to become saplings.

Meantime, bombs will be thrown at the onset of every monsoon by villagers who want nothing but a quiet life.