



**ROHIT SHARMA BREAKS SEVERAL RECORDS IN WORLD CUP MATCH AGAINST AFGHANISTAN:**  
Indian skipper becomes the first batter to score 7 WC hundreds, going past Tendulkar; surpasses Chris Gayle as batter with most sixers in int'l cricket; breaks Kapil Dev's record (72 balls) for fastest ODI century for India in WC, getting to his ton off just 63 balls (12x4s, 4x6s); and scores his 31st ODI century to reach No. 3 on the all-time list, behind only Sachin (49) & Virat Kohli (47), P 9

Raj to vote Nov 25  
due to 'large-scale'  
weddings on 23rd

The Election Commission  
Wednesday changed the  
polling date for the Rajasthan  
polls to Nov 25 from Nov  
23 to avoid a clash with "large-  
scale" weddings planned  
on that date which marks De  
vuthani Ekadashi. All other  
timelines for the poll process  
remain unchanged. TNN

#### CABINET CALLS

- Cabinet approves cadre review & restructuring plan of IFS to increase cadre strength by 215 in the next 5 yrs | P 5
- Govt approves royalty rates for mining of 3 critical minerals – lithium, niobium and rare earth elements | P 5
- Cabinet OKs setting up of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' for tech-driven enabling mechanism | P 5

#### No breakthrough in fresh China talks

There was no breakthrough in the over three-year-old military confrontation between India and China in eastern Ladakh, especially in defusing the face-offs at Dapsang Plains and Demchok, in another round of top-level military talks. OTHER BOOK, P 4

#### Gaganyaan 1st test flight on Oct 21

Announcing the date for a crucial test in preparation for India's human spaceflight mission, space minister Jitendra Singh said ISRO will launch the 'Gaganyaan' test vehicle space flight on October 21. It will set the stage for the first unmanned 'Gaganyaan' mission. P 6

#### DOUBLE DELIGHT

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

#### OTHER BOOK TOP STORIES

- Jaishankar 'secretly' met Canadian EAM: Report
- A single mother who has handled 20k postmortems
- Will take 300 yrs to end child marriage at this rate: UN chief

## 2 carjackers run over cabbie, drag body for lkm near IGI

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The body of cabbie Bijender Shah being dragged on NH8 by carjackers

New Delhi: A 43-year-old taxi driver was killed after being run over and dragged for over a kilometre on the busy NH-8 in the Vasant Kunj area on Tuesday night by two carjackers from Meerut. Late on Wednesday night, the police claimed to have arrested the two men and recovered the vehicle, a Swift Dzire.

The stretch where the incident took place is close to Terminal 3 of IGI airport. Several vehicles were passing by during the incident. A video of the man being dragged by the cab — which belonged to the victim — surfaced on social media on Wednesday morning, leading to widespread outrage. It has been shot by the occupants of another vehicle

► Dumped on NH-8, P 2

## Cricket fever drives TV sales despite shraddh

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: If cricket is a religion in India, then the World Cup is its most joyous festival. The fervour and frenzy of cricket fans has more than offset the traditional reluctance to make purchases during the shraddh period. And with the blockbuster India-Pakistan match looming ever larger, sales, deliveries and installations of new TVs, especially large screens, are scaling new peaks.

Companies like Samsung, Xiaomi, Sony, LG and Panasonic have reported "unprecedented bumper sales during the shraddh period", and have been struggling to meet orders and "instant installation" demands.

Several companies and

online retailers had started "festive sales" earlier than scheduled this year to cash in on World Cup frenzy

► Cos like Samsung, Xiaomi, Sony, LG & Panasonic report "unprecedented bumper sales during the shraddh period"

► Companies are taking extra care to ensure TVs are installed as soon as they land at a consumer's home

► Large screen demand, P 7

## 2016 Pathankot attack handler killed outside mosque in Pak

### 3 Bike-Borne Men Shoot Shahid Latif & Bro In Sialkot

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New Delhi: Top Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terrorist Shahid Latif, the chief handler of the fidayeen squad that attacked the Pathankot airbase in 2016, was gunned down by three unidentified assailants while offering prayers at a mosque in Sialkot, Pakistan, early Wednesday.

Latif, 53, who was on India's 'most wanted' list and also a designated terrorist under UAPA, was shot point-blank along with his brother at dawn soon after he had offered prayers at the Noor Madina mosque by shooters who had come on a motorbike and mingled with worshippers.

Pakistan called the fatal attack on Latif, mirroring re-

### JAILED IN INDIA, SENT TO PAK IN 2010

- In Nov 1994, Shahid Latif was arrested, tried under UAPA & jailed for 16 years. Shared confinement with JeM founder Masood Azhar at Jammu's Kot Balwal prison
- After sentence was over, Latif released, repatriated to Pak in 2010
- Latif's release was sought during IC-814 hijacking in 1994. Govt refused
- In Jan 2016, he is believed to have guided four terrorists who attacked Pathankot airbase, killing seven personnel in a 3-day siege

erprints even to the recent Kornerng encounter in which two Army officers and a policeman were killed.

Security sources confirmed that besides the attack on the Pathankot airbase, Latif alias Bilal had either scripted or was involved in the planning of other terror attacks, including the Pulwama attack on a CRPF convoy in 2019. Investigators had traced his fin-

ger kills inside Pakistan of others on India's 'wanted' list, a terrorist act.

The killing of this known jihadi mimicked earlier shootings in Pakistan of terrorists.

Last month, unidentified gunmen had bumped off high-ranking Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Riyaz Ahmad alias Abu Qasim Kashmiri inside

► An act of terror, P 10

## Gaza goes dark as power plant shuts; Netanyahu forms wartime cabinet



### Operation Ajay launched to evacuate Indians from Israel, 1st flight likely today

In its first response to the Israel-Hamas war, the government Wednesday launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return from Israel of Indian nationals

#### Pregnant woman, IITian husband in bunker, P 6

Individuals who wish to return and set up a 24-hour control room to monitor the situation. Foreign minister S Jaishankar said spe-

cial charter flights and other arrangements were being made and that India remained fully committed to the safety of Indian citizens abroad. The first flight is expected to be operated Thursday. There are 18,000 Indian nationals in Israel and PM Modi raised the issue of their safety over the phone with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. P 6

### 4 killed, 60 hurt as 6 coaches of North East Express derail in Bihar

Buxar/Patna: At least four passengers died while 60-odd were injured, several of them critically, after six coaches of the Guwahati-bound North East Express from New Delhi derailed near Raghunathpur station in Bihar's Buxar district at 9.35pm on Wednesday, report Kamlesh & Kumod Verma.

The derailment, which comes just over four months after a crash involving three trains in Odisha's Balasore killed 296 people, sent one of the coaches tumbling onto a paddy field along the rail track. Rescue workers deployed at the accident site under Danapur division of East Central Railway (ECR) to look for anyone trapped under the derailed coaches initially faced difficulties in the dark, officials said.

A relief train with senior railway officials, doctors and other teams reached the site.

► Relief train at site, P 6

## Pro-life or pro-choice? Split in SC bench of 2 women judges

### 26-Week Fetus Lives Another Day, Matter Before CJL

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#### PETITIONER FIRM ON TERMINATION

The petitioner, who had urged SC to allow her to abort the 26-week fetus, remained firm before the court, saying she did not want to continue with the pregnancy because of her ill-health, inability to take care of her two kids — the younger being 1 year old — and her financial situation

► Which court can direct stoppage of the heart of a viable fetus? Justice Hima Kohli, while faulting AIIMS medical board for not giving out full facts about the status of the fetus in its report

Having regard to the concrete determination made by the petitioner, I find that her decision must be respected... The interest of the petitioner has to be given more preference — Justice B V Nagarathna

### Bombay HC lets challenged woman, a rape survivor, abort her 29-week pregnancy

Bombay HC allowed the termination of a 29-week pregnancy of a sexual assault survivor, aged 25, who is physically and intellectually challenged. The petition was filed through the woman's father and sought permission to end the pregnancy as she was a "victim of rape". A medical panel set up to examine the case stated that considering that petitioner suffers from cerebral palsy with 50% paraparesis and 50% mild intellectual disability, "continuation of pregnancy caused by alleged rape can lead to grave injury to her mental health". P 10

The woman, who had petitioned the SC to allow termination of her pregnancy as it was impermissible because of the 24-week rule under the MTP Act, remained firm before the bench that she did not want to continue with her pregnancy citing her own ill-health, inability to take care of her two children and the financial situation at her home.

#### ► Autonomy of choice, P 10

## HC rejects PIL seeking recognition of mosque as Krishna Janmabhoomi

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#### IN THE COURTS

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court dismissed on Wednesday a PIL seeking recognition of Mathura's Shahi Idgah Masjid as Krishna Janmabhoomi.

The petitioner, advocate Maheshwar, had cited ancient texts to claim that the site was the birthplace of the deity and that the existing structure wasn't a "proper mosque" conforming to Islamic jurisprudence as the land had been "forcibly acquired".

► Punjab & Haryana HC says summary court-martial culminating in punishment other than dismissal or less than a 3-month jail can be challenged in Armed Forces Tribunal, not the HC | P 6

► It's 'selective targeting', AAP's Raghu Chandra tells HC on eviction from bungalow | OTHER BOOK, P 3

Chief Justice Priti Patel, Justice Ashutosh Srivastava wasn't immediately available.

► PIL had sought, P 10

► Navlakha named, P 6

## CBI files FIR accusing NewsClick of FCRA violations

New Delhi: The CBI has filed an FIR against NewsClick, its directors and associates, alleging violations of the FCRA in connection with accusations that the online media outlet had received unexplained export remittances of Rs 29.5 crore from four foreign entities and unexplained foreign funds of Rs 9.6 crore by incorrectly characterising them as FDI.

The agency conducted searches at the company's office and the residence of its director on Wednesday, reports Rajsekhar Jha.

The FIR includes prominent names, such as Jason Fletcher, manager of Worldwide Media Holdings and NewsClick's editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha.

► Navlakha named, P 6

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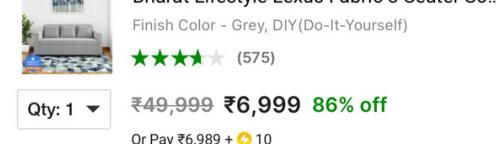
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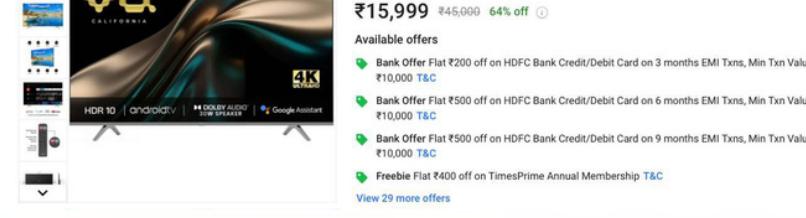
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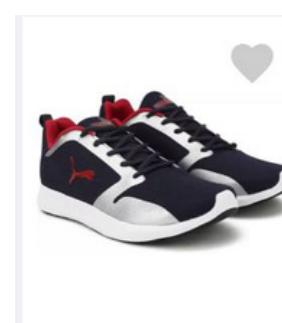
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trade fair this  
year | P3

193

DELHI AQI  
ON WEDNESDAY  
(MODERATE  
CATEGORY)

October so far  
hotter than  
usual due to  
clear skies in  
the absence of  
rain | Book 2, P2



# How Carjackers Crushed Family's Dreams

Cabbie Worked Over 12 Hours A Day To Educate 3 Daughters And 2 Sons

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New Delhi: Bijender Shah toiled for over 12 hours daily to be able to make enough money to educate his three daughters and two sons. He was alone in this mission, being the sole breadwinner in his family of seven. He was crushed when his mother, Lalita Devi, died in August. "But he realised he had his family to feed and controlled his emotions and returned to work," a family member testified.

Family man Shah had bought a car on loan in March. "After getting his purchase financed by a known person, Shah did multiple shifts in Delhi-NCR to be able to repay the loan in monthly instalments and have money for the family," Vinod Paswan, Shah's friend, told TOI. Friends revealed also that Shah drove for two cab aggregators to be able to have enough money for his familial obligations.

Shah's family has lived in a rented room in Surya Colony, Faridabad since 2019. On Wednesday, his son said, "My elder sister is a history honours student at Deshbandhu College and is also preparing for the civil services exams. My father aspired to see her as an IAS officer. He spent most of his money on our education. Our future is now looking dark."

The last time the family spoke to the taxi driver was around 7.30pm on Tuesday. The son said, "My father asked my mother what she was ma-

## TRAGEDY ON BUSY ROAD

WHERE  
National Highway-8,  
Vasant Kunj

WHEN  
Tuesday,  
11.20pm

VICTIM  
Bijender  
Shah

PROFESSION Cab driver

### Sequence of events

- ▶ A 43-year-old taxi driver is run over and dragged for over 1 km
- ▶ He dies after sustaining severe head injuries
- ▶ Cops probe whether the incident took place during a robbery or was an outcome of road rage. Finally, find it was a case of carjacking
- ▶ A video that was shot by occupants of another vehicle shows the man was stuck to the right side of the car and dragged
- ▶ The suspect who was



How a cabbie paid  
with his life for  
criminals looking  
for easy money



driving the car suddenly applied brakes owing to which the man's body got detached from the car

▶ Shah had called his wife at 7.30pm on Tuesday and told her that he was



picking his first passenger  
▶ His phone was switched off in Delhi Cantt

▶ Two people apprehended from Meerut and car seized from them

### FRIEND SAYS

After getting his purchase financed by a known person, Shah did multiple shifts in Delhi-NCR to be able to repay the loan in monthly instalments and have money for the family

Neighbour Harendra Prasad Tiwari said that Shah was very calm, patient and an industrious person. "The accident not only killed a person, but destroyed a family," Tiwari said, wondering who would now look after the family. "We demand strict action against whoever is responsible for his death," he added.

Shah's brother, Nagender Sharma, said the cabbie's earnings were based on the trips he made and that is why he worked extra hours. Shah came to Delhi in the 1990s to support his parents, who lived in Motihari, Bihar. Paswan revealed that Shah had to leave his studies at a very young age to earn for his family.

"We stayed at the railway station and rode cycle rickshaws in 1996," said Paswan. "The hardships that my friend faced since childhood spurred him to work hard." Shah later became an autorickshaw driver and then began driving a taxi in 2012.

## Cab driver dumped on NH-8 in pool of blood

►Continued from P1

The two men have been identified as Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Mehrab, who are residents of Meerut and have a criminal record (15 cases), cops said. They boarded the cab at Saket, posing as passengers, and attacked Shah near Delhi Cantonment.

He seems to have put up a stiff resistance, which eventually led to his death. The police had received a PCR call about the incident at 11.20 pm. The caller informed them that a body with injuries was lying near a service road of NH-8. When a team reached the spot, they found the victim's clothes were torn and there were serious injuries on his head and hands and a lot of blood. The victim's PAN card was found on the spot which helped the cops get in touch with his family.

The video shot by the occupants of another vehicle shows that the man was trapped at the gate of the driver's seat and was dragged. The two men who recorded the clip were heard saying that the man being dragged was a driver and that he was dead. They were continuously honking to alert the driver of the car, perhaps unaware that these were criminals. The car-jackers ended the chase by

suddenly applying the brakes because of which the body got detached from the car.

During their inquiry, the police figured out that it was a case of carjacking and could imagine the scenario of the killers dragging the victim along when he resisted and refused to let go. The cabby was robbed at gunpoint as well.

"After studying the footage from CCTV cameras along the way, we found that the accused had taken the car to Meerut," said a source.

"Shah would usually leave home around 2 pm and return in the morning, between 3 am and 4 am," a family member said. They said Shah had called his wife at 7.30 pm and told her that he was picking up his first passenger. At 10.28 pm, his phone was switched off in the Delhi Canton area.

"His younger brother, Ranjit, who is in Bihar, received a call from police at 1.30 am asking him to come to hospital with the photograph of Shah," said Rakesh, Shah's brother. Ranjit informed Shah's wife and the family started calling Shah on his phone. After one-and-a-half hours, they went to the police station.

The incident is a grim reminder of a similar incident in Kanjhawala on New Year's Eve in which a woman was run over and dragged for several kilometres by a car.

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P20 summit: Traffic cops issue advisory

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Wednesday issued a traffic advisory ahead of the P20 summit scheduled to be held from October 12 to October 14 at India International Convention and Expo Centre in Dwarka. Traffic Police has made elaborate plans to minimize commuters' inconvenience as speakers and parliamentary representatives from over 25 countries will be participating in the event.

Senior officials said traffic movement will be regulated from 7am to 10pm on all the three days at Akbar Road, Sardar Patel Marg to Daula Kuan flyover, Mehra Nagar area near the airport, Palam flyover and Daulasir Chowk. Advising public to avoid designated roads and stretches, the advisory reads, "The commuters going to railway stations, hospitals and ISBT should leave with sufficient time at hand so as to accommodate possible delays on the route".

The people were advised to use public transport to help decongest roads and avoid any inconvenience. "Commuters are requested to cooperate with the police in making this P20 Summit a success," the document reads. TNN

## Court takes note of rape charge, summons Hussain

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ma-facie made out," the court said.

The court further stated that the statement of the prosecutrix under Section 164 CrPC was the "most clinching piece of evidence especially in cases of rape as there are seldom any

eye-witnesses to such heinous offences". It observed, "Whether the statement of the complainant is reliable or not can be found out only after the same is put to scrutiny before a court of trial."

It added, "Moreover, this court is of the view that the version of the complainant and her trustworthiness can be tested only during trial when she is cross-examined by the accused and so this court on the basis of material placed on record along with the cancellation report, especially the statement of the complainant/victim under Section 164 CrPC, wherein she has supported her allegation of rape and threats by accused Syed Shahnawaz Hussain and in exercise of powers u/s 190(1)(b) of CrPC, this court takes cognisance of the offences under sections 376/328/506 of the IPC."

The additional chief metropolitan magistrate, rejecting Delhi Police's cancellation report, said the court was not bound to accept the report submitted by the cops and could take cognisance of the matter and summon the accused. "Meaning thereby, that on the basis of same material on which the investigating agency has reached a conclusion that no offence has been committed, the court can apply its mind independently and conclude that the offence is prima facie made out," the court said.

The court took cognisance of the offences under the Indian Penal Code's sections 376 (rape), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc. with intent to commit an offence) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) when summing up Hussain.

## Batla House case: Verdict on death penalty today

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday is likely to deliver its verdict on confirmation of death penalty awarded to Indian Mujahideen terrorist Ariz Khan, tried in the 2008 Batla House encounter case, in which decorated Delhi Police inspector Mohan Chand Sharma lost his life.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Amit Sharma is slated to pronounce its verdict on the appeal filed by Khan, who was nabbed in 2018 and found guilty by a trial court in 2021.

The prosecution has maintained that killing an unarmed police officer was a "rarest of rare"

case which justified the death sentence. It has also cited Khan's social investigation report and psychological analysis report, to argue that he had "adequate intellectual and cognitive functioning" and his conduct in jail was "unsatisfactory".

Inspector Sharma of Delhi Police's Special Cell was killed during the encounter between cops and terrorists in south Delhi's Jamia Nagar on September 19, 2008. Two terrorists were also killed in the encounter which took place days after five synchronised bomb explosions rocked the national capital, killing 39 people. TNN

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### Public Notice

Under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015/Amendment Act, 2021 and Model Rules, 2016/Model Amendment Rules, 2022, online applications are invited for the following posts in Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards in the National Capital Territory of Delhi:-

1. Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee-04
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The applications shall be accepted w.e.f 12.10.2023 to 21.10.2023. After scrutiny of applications, the list of eligible shortlisted candidates shall be displayed on the website of the Department. The Applicants are advised to refer to the web portal <http://wcd.delhi.gov.in/> for detailed term of reference of the appointment & eligible criteria and refer to link <http://cams.wcddelhi.in/> given at Department's website/Notice Board on regular basis for any update in this regard while the process is on.

Note: No other mode of applications except online shall be entertained by the Department. The Department also reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of vacancies at any point of time.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here

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# Delhi Half Marathon Helps Women Hit Their Stride

From Surviving Cancer To Fighting Depression, Here Is How The Test Of Endurance Has Allowed Them To Find Their Feet

Sneha.Bhura@timesgroup.com

**B**ack in 2011, after she had her first child, Rainna Gupta took to the road to shed the extra kilos. Soon after though, the 41-year-old was diagnosed with oral cancer. Between juggling work, surgery and months of radiation therapy even as she was raising a newborn, Gupta never let go off running. "People used to wonder how I summoned the willpower to run. But that was my only way out of all the madness," says the Gurgaon resident who first took part in the Delhi Half Marathon in 2013. Now after ten years—with several podium finishes to her name—Gupta will be running in the 21st category with her 12-year-old son in the 5k category at the 18th edition of Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) on October 15. "Ask anyone and they will tell you I am always found running on the road, come hell or highwater."

It's been a long way since Kathrine Switzer became the first woman to officially run the hallowed Boston Marathon in 1967. Switzer was manhandled by her fellow male runners, with the press hollering: "What are you trying to prove?" and "When are you going to quit?" While this may sound like an anachronism in an age where women can stream to the finish line clad in a saree with sneakers, the history of women running marathons hasn't been smooth sailing.

However, events like the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, the first one was in 2005,



have spurred women in the national capital to hit the road while braving their own demons and bad AQI. "The Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon has been dedicated to establishing a fair, and equal platform for women. Through continuous efforts, we have prioritised increasing female participation. This commitment is evident in initiatives like reserved spots in diverse categories and the introduction of an all-women pacer squad guiding the open 10K participants," says Vivek Singh, joint managing director at Procam International, the organiser of the marathon.

Her colleagues call Asmita Handa 'Red Bull' since the 38-year-old, pilot with IndiGo Airlines and mum to a 13-year-old, is always full of energy. Be it stadiums, hotel treadmills, open roads or parks, Handa magically takes out time for running practice and speed workouts from her unpredictable days like a rabbit out of hat. In fact, she's always been a runner, Handa says, excelling in short-distance dash runs in her school days. "When my daughter was born after a C-section operation, it was running that helped me come out of postnatal depression and be back in the cockpit three months after delivery," says Handa. Yet the challenges of the aviation industry made running take a backseat. It wasn't until 2019 that Handa fought through lethargy and work duties to reclaim her love for running. She got herself a coach and began rebuilding her stamina. From a 5km run in the Delhi Half Marathon in 2019,

she transitioned to the 10km race category, and later went on to successfully complete other long-distance events like TCS 10k Bengaluru, and the rigorous Ladakh Marathon. At VDHM, Handa has appropriately tapped into her leadership qualities as a senior captain in the cockpit to become a pacer for the 10k category. She will set the pace for both amateur and professional runners so they can finish the race in 60 minutes. "As a runner, I have a happy

energy rotating around me. That's perfect for a pacer who leads," adds Handa.

Some 35,000 participants will be spread across five categories at VDHM—from 10k to half-marathon for elite and

amateur runners to champions with disability and the senior citizen run, apart from the Great Delhi Run for 4.5k. As of now, 8,000 women have registered with more expected to join.

For Jyoti Vyas, the importance of physical fitness hit home when her father, a temple priest in Gwalior, had a stroke in 2020. "I realised I must start working out, so my family learns to look after themselves," says the 33-year-old software engineer who joined a runners' group this year to amp up her game.

Joining a running group has also been a turning point for Sonali Bali, a psychiatrist practising in the Delhi-NCR for the last 20 years. The group

taught her discipline. She learnt how many days to run in a week, about the right shoes and clothes, hydration, nutrition, strength training and ways to improve pace. "I started my journey with barely being able to walk one or two kilometres. But in one and a half years, I have done a couple of half marathons, a six-hour stadium run and recently completed the Ladakh Full Marathon on September 23. Next year I want to do triathlons, the 72km Khardung La Challenge and many more," says Bali. At the VDHM this week, she has no plans to trump her personal best or win it like some competition. "In my career, I have achieved everything I set out to achieve. I was looking for something more. Something to keep me all pepped up in my midlife. This is not a competitive sport for me. I run for the sheer joy of running and completing the half-marathon. You shouldn't be competing with anyone else but with your own self," adds Bali.

Personal fitness, work-life balance, weight-loss, stress management, self-care, emotional healing or even finding one's community and making new friends are among the several reasons why urban women run. But what about rural women? "It is rural women who have gained the most out of the neo-liberal marathon economy," says Sohini Chattopadhyay, author of 'The Day I Became a Runner: A Women's History of India Through the Lens of Sport' which releases this month. "The women who do well at marathons are usually serious sportswomen from rural, usually impoverished backgrounds. The urban affluent demographic of runners, the ones we see in Anglophone advertisements and our Instagram echo-chambers, people like me in essence, we may be more visible and vocal as runners, but we typically have jobs or backgrounds that pay us well enough that we do not take running as seriously as we would if we were doing it for the money," says Chattopadhyay, who recalls the story of Lata Bhagwan Katre who started running marathons after the age of 60 to pay for her husband's medical treatment.

Kavita Rawat is coming to Delhi for the first time, thanks to VDHM. The 20-year-old runner from Kainur village in Pauri Garhwal district has never managed to get her pictures clicked in the few marathon events she has participated in, even the one in Rishikesh last year where she finished first and won a prize money of Rs12,000. "Wherever I go, I travel alone. So there's no one to take pictures. But my cousin brother will be there in Delhi this time," says Rawat whose parents are farmers. Rawat

aced several races in school, practising on the non-surfaced mountain roads of her village all alone. "There were jungles all around so the only thing I was scared of were the hidden animals," says Rawat.

Soon a coach from the Maharana Pratap Sports College in Dehradun spotted her, and she joined the college in June this year. She is practising hard for VDHM. "I am participating to win. There are some family problems, so this is important," says Rawat.

## Manesar in two-week judicial custody in murder attempt case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Monu Manesar being produced in a Gurgaon court on Wednesday

**Gurgaon:** Controversial cow vigilante Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar was produced before a Pataudi court on completion of his four-day police custody and sent to the district jail in Bhondsi for 14-day judicial custody on Wednesday.

Monu has been named in two other cases—one linked to hate speech after the July 31 riots in Nuh and the other, a double murder in Rajasthan's Bharatpur. He was brought to Haryana from Rajasthan on October 7 on a production remand in a third, in an attempt to murder case filed in Gurgaon's Pataudi this year. Pataudi resident Mubeen Khan had alleged on February 7 that his son Moheen (20) was shot at by Monu and his associates when a scuffle between two groups broke out in Babbarhah Mohallah the night before. Just a week later, Monu and his cow vigilante network active in south Haryana were accused of killing two men from Bharatpur—Nasir and Junaid—who burnt bodies were found in a charred SUV in Bhiwani on February 16.

Abstaining for months though he was active on social media, Monu was booked in August for a provocative social media video posted two days before right-wing outfits announced they would com-

## Ensure confidentiality of sexual offence survivor strictly maintained in filings: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court has issued directions to ensure that anonymity and confidentiality of the prosecutrix/survivor/victim of a sexual offence is strictly maintained in all filings.

The directions come following a judgment delivered by Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani in April. The directions issued on October 4 state that the registry must ensure that their particulars like name, address, photographs etc. do not get reflected in the cause list of the court in any manner.

"The name, parentage and address of family members of the prosecutrix/victim/survivor—through whom the prosecutrix/victim/survivor co-

uld be identified—must not be disclosed in the filings, including in the memo of parties, even if they are accused in the case, since this may indirectly lead to the identification of the prosecutrix/victim/survivor," the directions state.

The court held that there was no requirement in law to implead the victim/survivor of sexual offences as a party to any criminal proceedings instituted by the state or the accused.

The court had directed its registry to carefully scrutinise all filings related to sexual offences and ensure that the anonymity and confidentiality of the prosecutrix or victim is strictly maintained.

However, it has been added

**The directions issued on October 4 state that the registry must ensure that their particulars like name, address, photographs etc. do not get reflected in the cause list of the court in any manner**

that the directions are not intended to be exhaustive and the registry is expected, at the stage of scrutiny, to apply its mind to any peculiarities of a given case with the aim of scrupulously applying the Supreme Court's directions in the Nipun Saxena vs Union of India case.

The directions add that at the stage of scrutiny of the filings, if the registry finds that the identity credentials of such a person are disclosed in the memo of parties or anywhere else in the filings, such filings must be returned to the filing counsel to undertake requisite redactions.

"If the parties wish to cite in court any identifying particulars of the prosecutrix/victim/survivor, including photographs or social media communications etc., such party may bring the same to court in 'sealed cover', or file the same in 'sealed cover' or in a 'pass-code locked' electronic folder and share the pass-code only with the court master concerned," the directions add.

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tion. This complaint is, therefore, not to be entertained in the present case."

The Delhi Police's ASI had filed a second supplementary chargesheet in the FIR on September 25 wherein copy of Rinku's complaint was filed.

The court directed the concerned SHO to take Rinku's complaint back and register a separate case on it.

However, the court noted that the investigation was not done properly rather a final report of investigation was filed in haste, without carrying out complete probe.

Police, while filing the first chargesheet, mentioned that two complaints made by Poonam Johar and Rinku which were clubbed for investigation in the FIR in March 2020, on the ground that the place of occur-

rence of both incidents was nearby. Later, Rinku was not found despite making investigation from neighbours and nearby place.

The court noting that the investigating officer could not find anything at the time of filing first chargesheet to assume that the incident allegedly taken place with Rinku was caused by the accused persons who were being charged-sheeted through first chargesheet.

"There was no basis for the IO to club investigation report on the complaint of Rinku in the present case, which was based on the complaint of Mr. Narendra Kumar. It was so done under this FIR, on the basis of unfounded assumptions that same would have been caused by same set of accused persons," the court said.

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# Man Stabs, Robs 55-Yr-Old In Lodhi Colony; No Arrests Yet

Incident Comes Days After Hungarian National Was Targeted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Days after snatchers targeted a Hungarian national in Lodhi Colony, a 55-year-old man was stabbed and robbed of his belongings in the south Delhi's area during the early hours on Wednesday. No arrests have been made so far.

Police are trying to trace the suspect, senior officers said.

The injured man has been identified as Kikkar Singh, a resident of Kotla Mubarakpur who works as a driver. The incident took place when Singh was returning home from Jor Bagh where he works.

"Singh told cops that he was intercepted at a lonely

**AN OFFICER SAYS**  
**Singh told cops that he was intercepted at a lonely stretch on the IIIrd Avenue Road by a young man who was armed with a knife**

stretch on the IIIrd Avenue Road by a young man who was armed with a knife. He asked him to hand over all the valuables. When Singh resisted, the man stabbed him, snatched his wallet and fled the spot," said a senior police officer.

The condition of the injured person is stable.

"We are checking CCTV footage from the area to find out the direction in which the man fled. We are also looking for any other person who could be involved in the crime. Profiles of all the suspects and active criminals in the area are being looked into. The spot was inspected by our teams and efforts to track the suspect are under way," the officer said.

On Sunday, a Hungarian woman was targeted when she was going from Humayun Tomb to the Hungarian embassy through Lodhi Road in an autorickshaw. "As soon as the autorickshaw reached near Dayal Singh College, two men came on a motorcycle from behind and tried

to snatch the bag. The woman objected, but they forcibly snatched the bag and fled the spot. The bag contained her mobile phone, Rs 12,000 cash and bank cards," police said earlier.

The victim was staying at the embassy with a lady visa counsellor. She came to India on July 18 on a tourist visa and will be returning on October 19.

Last month, two men on a bike dragged a 26-year-old woman off an e-rickshaw in Sultanpur while trying to snatch her mobile phone. In August, a 24-year-old woman teacher fell off an auto and got dragged for some distance after being targeted by snatchers in south Delhi's Saket.

## MP gang bust helps solve last yr's burglary

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With the arrest of three alleged members of a Madhya Pradesh-based gang in south Delhi, the police claimed to have solved a burglary at a Neb Sarai Jewellery showroom in March last year. Suspects Papu (25), Ajay (22) and Sanjay (34) are members of the "Pardi gang," police said.

According to police, after breaking the shutter of a jewellery shop last year, burglars had absconded with gold and silver ornaments. During investigation, 12 suspects were apprehended, while remaining 8 were de-

clared proclaimed offenders by Delhi police.

"On Monday, a tip-off was received by our team that members of the gang were seen roaming in Malviya Nagar area... A trap was laid near DDA jungle area of south Delhi and three people were arrested. Three country-made pistols and live cartridges along with equipment used for breaking into houses were found in their possession."

said a senior police official.

Explaining their modus operandi, Chandan Chowdhary, DCP (south), said, "The gang would masquerade as balloon and toy vendors during daylight hours, enabling

them to pinpoint potential targets, which they subsequently targeted under the veil of night. While selecting their targets they would strategically identify shops, showrooms, and residences that were either isolated, occupied by women or had security lacuna."

The gang would also discreetly survey jewellery showrooms with security vulnerabilities, such as the absence of guards; later they would strike at night to execute their heists. The official added that the investigation is ongoing regarding their involvement in other crimes and the offences committed by the syndicate since their arrival in Delhi.

## Atishi holds meeting on Chhath prep

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** To ensure a grand celebration of the Chhath festival in the capital, revenue minister Atishi on Wednesday held a high-level review meeting with all district magistrates. She urged them to begin the preparations in advance and ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the devotees and avoid any mismanagement at the last moment.

"Chhath Puja festival is associated with the faith of lakhs of people and the Arvind Kejriwal government is determined to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the devotees while worshipping. All the officials concerned have been directed to ensure that," the minister said in a statement.

The minister said that the district magistrates had been told to identify locations to build temporary Chhath ghats in their respective areas.

"Additionally, the officials should also start conducting meetings with local Chhath Puja committees and gathering their suggestions," she added.

The minister said more than 1,000 temporary ghats would be built across Delhi for the devotees to offer prayers.

The ghats will provide essential facilities such as clean water, tents, electricity, restrooms, security, medical services, power backup and CCTV cameras.

The Maithili-Bhojpuri academy will organise cultural programs at several ghats.

## Vigilance flags presence of ex-consultant in DJB meets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**The LG secretariat earlier flagged some alleged violations, including violation of reservation provisions, in the appointment of the private consultants**

Delhi government is yet to reply to the allegations in the letter.

Mishra said, "I am not a member of the said WhatsApp group and never was. I do not deal with DJB files in this office".

According to the vigilance department's letter, Srivastava, a private consultant, was appointed "illegally" and subsequently removed, but was still continuing as one of the WhatsApp group admins. "He is also giving instructions to senior DJB officers and he has been coordinating on behalf of the chief minister camp office... It is alleged that many complaints and source infor-

mation were received in the vigilance department of DJB about award of contracts to consultants known to Ankit Srivastav," it stated.

Srivastav is one of the 400 private consultants who were removed from various jobs in the government.

The LG secretariat earlier flagged some alleged violations, including violation of reservation provisions, in the appointment of the private consultants

The Delhi government had termed the contention about reservation "flawed" and stated that the fellowship programmes are not an appointment.

## Denying maternity benefits to woman staff inhuman: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Denial of maternity benefits to a female employee is inhuman and violates principles of social justice as well as her fundamental rights, Delhi High Court has said.

The court's remark came recently, while holding as arbitrary a decision of Delhi University (DU) to terminate the services of a contractual employee as she was on maternity leave.

"Maternity benefits cannot be denied to a female employee merely because the nature of such employment is contractual. Denial of the said benefits is inhuman and in violation of fundamental rights. Maternity rights are not something that is based on a statute but stands to be an integral part of the identity of a woman," justice Chandra Dhari Singh said.

"Denial of such rights is, in fact, standing in the way of a woman choosing to bring life into the world, thereby violating her fundamental right to life," the court said, adding since she was "illegally terminated", the authorities should reinstate her and pay an amount of Rs 50,000 as compensation.

The petitioner was posted as a female attendant at a DU hostel on an ad hoc basis in 2018. She told the court that although her maternity leave was approved by the authorities, she did not receive her salary during that period and upon rejoining, she was informed that her services were terminated.

The court noted that according to a DU notification, paid maternity leave of 26 weeks should be granted to women who are employed with it on a contractual or ad hoc basis.

## MCD invites tender for parking system based on RFID

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** To simplify the method of paying parking fees, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has invited tenders for installing RFID-based systems at 22 parking lots for online collection of fees.

Officials said the decision was taken after the successful implementation of the model at a parking lot in Dwarka Sector 14. "We had prepared a proposal to set up a FASTag-based parking system, and after getting the nod, we have initiated the tendering process. It will be a cashless and paperless transaction system and will help reduce time taken to park vehicles," said an official.

The 22 sites identified include Sapna Cinema in East of Kailash, Dwarka sectors 4, 12, 13, 14 metro stations, Sector 11-Pocket 4 and Pocket 1-Market, Munirka multi-level parking, Subhash Nagar multi-level parking, MCD plot at Ramdev Chowk and Rajendra Place parking under Cluster-I. The cluster will have space for 1,507 four-wheelers and 1,060 two-wheelers.

Cluster 2 includes community hall at Geeta Colony, Panchsheel Shopping Complex, CTC Sultanpur, District Centre Janakpuri, West Vinod Nagar metro station, Patparganj Road, Jagdamba Market in Sultanpur, vacant land at 36 Quarters in Dilshad Garden and Bench & Bar Club opposite Old Delhi Railway Station. It will have space for 1,794 four-wheelers and 427 two-wheelers.

The sites mostly have proper single entry and exit, and are gated. "The amount will be deducted on exiting the parking lot and credited to the account of the concessionaire," said an official. MCD can check this account.

According to the official, the system was introduced following users' complaints regarding delay in parking and overcharging.

## 'Delhi govt played no role in holding G20 summit'

**New Delhi:** New Delhi Municipal Council member and BJP leader Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Wednesday criticised chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi government for "not playing any role" in the preparations for organising G20 Summit in Lutyens' Delhi.

Chahal shared information obtained through RTI during a press conference. "The CM, who is an MLA from the New Delhi assembly constituency, has not made any contribution to the construction of the road or beautification of the NDMC area.

There was no meeting with the officials of NDMC and no inspection was conducted by him. In the RTI replies,

various departments have given a clear reply that the Delhi government did not spend any money in the NDMC area from the MLA fund," he claimed. No comment was received from the Delhi government in this regard. tnn

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender Ref. No: ITI\_HL-E-Tender/  
01/2023-24, Dated - 18.08.2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Tender Notice**  
Executive Engineer, Kolkata South-II Division, Housing Directorate, Inviting Sealed Tender for & on behalf of Governor of West Bengal, Ref: ENIT-11 of 2023-24 of E.E.KS-II-DIV, Tender ID: 2023\_HSD\_589322\_1\_5. Last Date of submission 30.10.2023 Up to 4.00 P.M. For Details please visit wbttenders.gov.in or contract in the Office of the Executive Engineer in any working day.

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project  
P.O. BkTPP, Dist. Birbhum, Pin - 731104  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/23-24/BkTPP/CC-783 Dated: 04.10.2023  
NIT No.: WBPDCL/BkTPP/NIT/E2691/23-24

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbttenders.gov.in> by General Manager - BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 Part bid system for "Procurement of Cast Iron Pipes related to forth Coming Unit-5 & Unit-3 Overhauling at BkTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.09.2023 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 18.10.2023 at 12:00 PM. Phone No.: 8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcil.in For details please visit: <https://wbttenders.gov.in> ICA-T21098(3)/2023

Notice Inviting e-Tender No. WEBEL / EOT / COM / 23-24 / 0056, Dated : 03-10-2023 For "Proposed extension of SNLRT office module at 6th floor in Moni Bhandar Building". Due date of Submission : 08.11.2023, 12.00 hrs. Interested parties may go through website <https://wbttenders.gov.in> and details of bid document may be obtained from <https://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal Agricultural Marketing Board ICA-T21063(3)/2023

**WBEIDC**  
Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.  
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**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**CORRIDGUM-NIT-597/2023, Dated - 15/09/2023**  
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for "Civil, Plumbing and Electrical Works for Construction of M/s AYUSH OPD Building at 6th Floor, BPHC, Ballygunge, BPHC in the district of Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal (2nd Call)". Details of the Corridgum-I can be downloaded from [www.wbttenders.gov.in](https://wbttenders.gov.in) and write to [cpc@wbmsc.gov.in](mailto:cpc@wbmsc.gov.in) Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Senior Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal ICA-T21067(3)/2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
City Centre, P.O. Dehob, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657 Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
No. 07(R)/HDA/EC/2022-24 (4th Call) Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE JUNCTION POINT OF GTHE ROAD TOWARDS CHLORIDE METALS LIMITED AND HPL LINER ROAD ON MANASATALA CANAL". Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 20,15,591/- (including GST and Labour Welfare Cess). Document download date: 13.10.2023 to 31.10.2023 up to 2:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 17.10.2023 at 10:00 a.m. Last date of online bidding: 18.10.2023 up to 03:30 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA : [www.hda.gov.in](http://www.hda.gov.in) E-Tender can be submitted through: [www.wbttenders.gov.in](https://wbttenders.gov.in) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA ICA-T21058(3)/2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police Kolkata for - 1) Essential repairing and painting of internal walls of flat no. 401, senior officers' flats at Block Guard Lines, Kolkata, during the year 2023-2024. 2) Repairing and renovation work at inside of constable barrack of West Port, P.S. during the year 2023-2024. 3) Thorough repairing and painting internal surface (Ground, 2nd, 3rd, 4th floors) of the building of Ballygunge Police Station at 38/1 Belista Road, Kolkata-700030, during the year 2023-2024. The last date for submission of the e-tenders is 30/10/2023 upto 2:30 p.m. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: [www.wbttenders.gov.in](https://wbttenders.gov.in) Sd/- General Manager, GCCTA ICA-T21057(3)/2023

**WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Regd. Office: Vidyan Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-II, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091  
**WBSEDL invites e-Tender as follows:**  
NIT No.: PM/RMM/Net/ELECT/2023-24/Dt.: 03.10.2023 by the Project Manager, RHP, Stage-II, WBSEDL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 3,17,88,080/-, for the work of "Dismantling of existing 11 KV, Siemens 500VA, VCB switchgear and shifting of the same to store along with design & engineering, manufacturing, inspection & testing, supply, installation, training and final commissioning of a new 11 KV, 1400A, 500V PCB switchgear per specification at Rammam Hydel Project, Stage-II, Lohramhat, Darjeeling-734201". For details, visit <https://wbttenders.gov.in> & [www.wbseidl.in](http://www.wbseidl.in) ICA-T21076(3)/2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING RE-E-TENDER**  
NIT No. HST/AT-84/2023-ARV/RT/252/2023; DATED 06-10-2023 Re E Tender for procurement of Rabies Vaccines for two years from the date of award of contract (AOC) is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website <https://wbttenders.gov.in> or [www.wbttenders.gov.in](http://www.wbttenders.gov.in) for further details. Bid submission start date (online) : 17-10-2023. Bid submission closing date (online) : 22-11-2023. Bid opening date (online) : 22-11-2023. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T21066(3)/2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
NIT No. HS/AT-84/2023-ARV/RT/252/2023; DATED 06-10-2023 E-Tender for procurement of Rabies Vaccines for two years from the date of award of contract (AOC) is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website <https://wbttenders.gov.in> or [www.wbttenders.gov.in](http://www.wbttenders.gov.in) for further details. Bid submission start date (online) : 17-10-2023. Bid submission closing date (online) : 22-11-2023. Bid opening date (online) : 22-11-2023. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T21072(3)/2023



# TIMES NATION

\* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

PUNJAB CM MANN SLAMS OPPosition AMID SYL ROW, SAYS ANCESTORS 'SOWED THORNS'

FINDING ANCIENT, HOME-GROWN KNOWLEDGE IS THE DUTY OF ACADEMIA, SAYS PREZ MURMU



## As India expands global footprint, govt creates 215 additional IFS posts

Exercise Echoes Revenue Service Cadre Restructuring Post-Liberalisation

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the cadre review and restructuring proposal of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) to increase the cadre strength by around 215 in the next five years, a

manpower as the government plans to open nine more Indian missions in the next few years and also to meet the growing need at current missions, sources said. The major cadre restructure comes 19 years after the last restructuring of the cadre.

The exercise is reminiscent of a similar restructuring of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) cadre post-liberalisation in the 1990s and the resultant expansion of the Indian economy.

Sources said the restructuring, which comes in the immediate wake of the successful conduct of G-20 summit, will result in increase in the strength of IFS officers at the entry level and also creation of more posts. "The demand was felt long back and the Cadre Review Committee had recommended the review of the cadre almost a year back. The last review



**EXPANDING CANVAS:** The restructuring comes amid the recent rise in India's influence and the desire to play big on the global stage. More hands will be needed to steer the country's diplomacy in view of the acceptance of India-led initiatives like the Global Biofuel Alliance, International Solar Alliance and others

and restructuring of the IFS was in 2004," said an official.

TOI has learnt that the Cabinet took into consideration several factors while giving the go-ahead, including the need of more hands to steer the country's diplomacy

in view of the acceptance of India-led initiative such as Global Biofuel Alliance, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and International Yoga Day among others.

Sources said the external

affairs ministry, in its proposal, had mentioned how the average number of visits of senior government functionaries to countries that have Indian missions has increased from around 9-10 a year in 2014 to nearly 35-40 in 2023. "So, the Indian missions need more specialised hands there and also at the headquarters in New Delhi," an official said.

Early this year, the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs had recommended to the government to ramp up the manpower of India's diplomatic service in line with the country's desire to play a key role on the global stage.

The panel had taken note of how the IFS is "most short-staffed" as compared to many other countries. It has mentioned in its report that the 1,011 IFS officers accounted for only 22.5% of the foreign ministry's total strength of 4,888.

## EC shuffles senior officials in 5 election-bound states

Includes DMs, CPs And Secy-Level Officers

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Election Commission on Wednesday ordered the immediate transfer of nine district magistrates, 25 senior police officials including superintendents of police and police commissioners and four secretary-level officers across five poll-bound states, over their "lax performance". The sweeping action against 38 key officials

— 20 in Telangana, eight in Chhattisgarh, four each in MP and Rajasthan and two in Mizoram — was taken in the interest of fair and independent-free elections, sources in the poll panel told TOI.

Exhaustive reviews carried out by EC across the poll-going states, as per sources, found these officers to be complacent, if not complicit, in failure to arrest distribution of poll inducements like cash, liquor, drugs and other freebies.

EC has directed all the five states to send by Thursday 5 pm, names of the officers who can fill up the vacant posts.

The secretary or special secretary-level officers shunted out include Telangana's transport secretary; director, prohibition and excise; and

commercial tax commissioner. Special secretary, food and civil supplies department, Chhattisgarh, was also removed by EC. The Telangana government has been directed to appoint a separate principal secretary for the excise and commercial tax department "in view of the rigorous work required during the elections". The chief secretary had been holding additional charge of the department.

**Sources say reviews carried out by the EC found these officers complacent, if not complicit, in failing to arrest distribution of poll inducements, like cash and liquor**

Large-scale transfers in Telangana are linked to blatant misuse of money power in last year's Munugode bypoll.

Among the district magistrates or district election officers, four have been removed in Telangana, covering Ranga Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri and Nirmal districts; two in Ratlam and Khargone in

Madhya Pradesh; one in Alwar, Rajasthan; and two DEOs in Raigarh and Bilaspur districts of Chhattisgarh.

In Telangana, EC has focused on removing non-cadre administrative and police officers posted as districts in charge while officers from the civil services are given non-significant postings.

The 25 CPs/SPs/additional SPs transferred include 10 SPs and three commissioners of police from Warangal, Hyderabad and Nizamabad in Telangana; SPs of Jabalpur and Bhind in Madhya Pradesh; and SPs of Korba, Rajnandgaon & Durg in Chhattisgarh.

SPs of Champai and Saiha in Mizoram, both along the international border and prone to movement of drugs and arms, have been shunted out. After assessing the performance of officers in Rajasthan's districts along the liquor transit route of Punjab-Haryana-Rajasthan-Gujarat, EC has transferred the SPs of Hanumangarh, Churu, Bhawali and DEO of Alwar.

The poll panel has also asked the BSF and the Assam Rifles to keep a strict watch on the international borders in Mizoram and Rajasthan.

### WHERE THERE'S POLITICAL WILL, THERE'S...



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav scales the locked gates of Jai Prakash Narayan International Centre in Lucknow on Wednesday to pay tribute to Lok Nayak on his birth anniversary. Akhilesh, who has been visiting JPNIC since its construction started in 2013, when he was CM, slammed the BJP government for obstructing SP's tradition. The Lucknow Development Authority allegedly locked the gates on Tuesday and put up tin sheets along the fence to obstruct entry. On Wednesday, when Akhilesh reached the centre onboard his Lok Jagran Rath, he was stopped by officials

### Parents not at home, 4-yr-old falls from 4th floor, dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A 4-year-old girl died after falling off the fourth floor of a building in Virar on Tuesday morning. It is believed that the child, Darshini Salian, woke up just after her parents had stepped out of the house, and on not finding anyone home came to the window from where she keeled over. Despite their grief, the parents donated the girl's eyes.

Darshini lived with her parents in a rented flat in the newly constructed 19-storey apartment. Around 7.30 am, her mother, Mani, left home to drop the girl's father, Suresh, at Virar railway station, on her scooter. When the mother returned, she found a crowd gathered in the compound. Darshini was lying there in a pool of blood. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced 'brought dead'.

Cops said that the child's parents have claimed that the little girl might have woken up and, on not finding her parents, may have climbed onto the bed placed beside the window, slid open the glass and leaned out. "This is when the child possibly lost her balance and fell off," a police officer quoted the parents as saying.

### I-T sleuths search RJD MP's premises in Bihar

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**Patna:** Income Tax (I-T) department sleuths on Wednesday conducted search operations on many premises in Bihar's Katihar and Patna linked to RJD's Rajya Sabha member Ahmed Ashfaque Karim.

"The search operation started in the morning at Al Karim Educational Trust, which runs and manages the Al Karim University and the Katihar Medical College. Karim is the main trustee and founder chancellor of the Katihar-based university. The medical college is also located in Katihar," a senior Income Tax official associated with the searches told TOI.

"In addition to the university and the medical college, the trust also runs a school of paramedical and allied health sciences, and the School of Information

### Selfie hunter falls 350ft to death

Kolhapur: A 23-year-old woman taking a selfie near Needle Hole Point, a scenic spot in Mahabaleshwar, slipped and fell 350 feet to her death on Tuesday reports Abhijeet Patil.

The deceased, identified as Ankita Shiraskar, a of Pune, had come to the town on Monday with her husband Sunil Shiraskar, a railway loco pilot.

"The raiding team comprised tax officers from Bihar, Jharkhand and Delhi-NCR. Central paramilitary force personnel provided security cover to the search team," the official said.

TOI tried to repeatedly contact Karim over the phone for his version, but he could not be contacted despite multiple attempts.

Earlier in the morning, Patna Directorate of Investigation (I-T), started a search operation on different premises of the Millia Group of Purnia, which runs and manage the Millia Educational Trust, Purnia (established in 1983).

The Income Tax department had earlier searched the premises of Karim in connection with the land-for-jobs scam involving RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and his family members.

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# 76% of first-year students at IIT-B claim 'academic stress'

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Shaken by the suicide of a first-year student earlier this year, IIT-Bombay carried out a survey to gauge stress levels within its bright but rigorous academic environment. The results have now served to reinforce the views put forward by a high-level committee which had interviewed faculty members across various departments — an overwhelming number of freshers at the engineering school feel stressed, and they blame it on the competitive atmosphere on the campus.

It appears that 76% of the students polled acknowledged that they experienced stress and attributed it to academics; 14% claimed the reasons were non-academic in nature; and the remaining 10% said they felt no stress at all.

Closing the option to change branches; doing away with lectures late evening or on weekends; allowing students a second chance to clear a subject; updating parents on attendance; these are some steps proposed or undertaken in recent months by IIT-B in its efforts to recast itself as a more accommodating yet vig-

**COMPETITION CITED**

- The institute conducted a survey after a first-year student Darshan Solanki died by suicide early this year
- It was taken by 350 first-year students, or 25% of the total batch
- Excessive competition was cited as the top stress factor; others included difficulty in grasping course content, perceived lack of help from faculty, poor quality food and staying away from home

illant academic institution.

"The steps taken by IIT-Bombay for freshers this year, coupled with the flexibility offered in course selections, will definitely give them a breather," said a final-year student from the premier Powai institute, on how IIT-Bombay is reconditioning to ease academic stress in an otherwise highly competitive atmosphere.

A recent survey on the campus revealed that for most freshers, the top reason for stress is excessive competition. Other reasons ranged from difficulty in grasping course content to insufficient help from teaching assistants and instructors. Many even cited undue lab work, quality of

mess food, lack of interaction with seniors, and homesickness as factors. Only 28 students said the campus was not stressful. The survey was taken by 350 first-year students, comprising 25% of the total batch strength. The findings were published in the campus magazine, Insight, this week.

The survey results supplemented the findings of the Academic Stress Mitigation Committee (ASMC) formed in response to the preliminary report on the Darshan Solanki suicide case, which cited academic stress as a major concern. Among other things, the committee also recommended doing away with a policy enabling students to change branches after the first year.

ASMC co-convenor Kishore Chatterjee said the decision to stop branch changes was largely based on the committee's interaction with professors from different departments.

"There is a notional belief among students, based on multiple reasons, that certain branches are popular. A significant number aspire to change branches at the end of the first year, but fewer apply and eventually very few get it. But we realised there is no point in

putting our students again in a competitive atmosphere when they have already been through one to secure a seat in IIT," said Chatterjee.

The institute has never sent attendance records to parents. However, following the suicide incident, the committee found it would be better to keep parents of first-year students in the know.

While lectures or exams spill over to the weekends on rare occasions, the committee believed that first-year students need not go through that kind of rigour. It recommended that no academic activities will be scheduled on weekends or holidays. It also suggested that lectures should be conducted between 8.30am and 5pm only for first-year students, giving students time to participate in extracurriculars, self-study or relax.

A senior student from the campus said giving students an FF grade instead of a fail grade and allowing them a second chance to clear the course before the next semester is also a big relief for students. "Our batch had to repeat the entire course if we got a fail grade. Multiple courses pile up," said the student.

## Bharat-tagged, tech-driven youth scheme launched

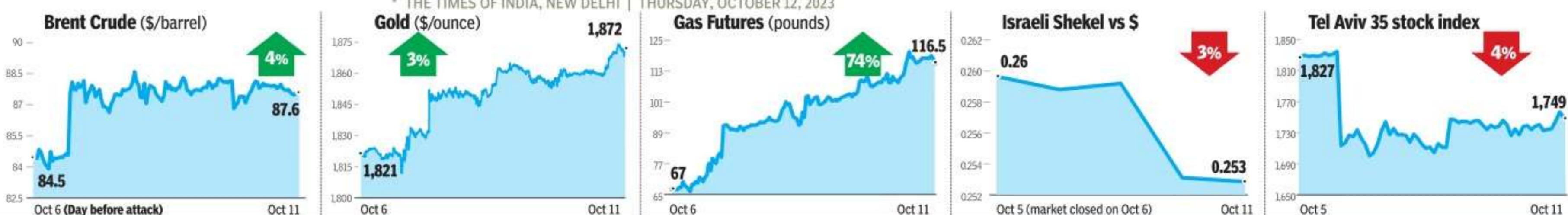
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the setting up of an autonomous body — Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) — that will act as an overarching technology-driven enabling mechanism to ensure youth-led development. This is perhaps the first government programme with the 'Bharat' tag.

Announcing the decision, Union minister Anurag Thakur said this will foster leadership skills in the youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years. In case of programme components specifically meant for adolescents, the

**Oil** dipped after a surge as the impact on crude flows from the Israel-Hamas conflict remained contained and Saudi Arabia pledged to help ensure market stability. **Gold**, seen as safe haven, jumped the most since May. Its prices dipped on Wednesday on dovish Fed commentary. Israel's **gas** field shutdown has threatened exports to Europe, leading to **surge in futures**. The **shekel** fell to a **7-year low**, while Monday was the **worst day for Israeli stocks** since Covid.

Source: Refinitiv, Bloomberg



## Jindal Power only player in fray for grounded GoAir

**Submits EoI | Airline Hasn't Operated Flights Since May**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Naveen Jindal's Jindal Power is learnt to have submitted an expression of interest (EoI) for GoAir (GoFirst) that stopped flying in May, say sources. Two foreign parties had also submitted EoIs but they did not qualify, making Jindal the sole player in the fray. NCLT-appointed GoAir resolution professional Shailendra Ajmera is examining the EoI.

Hirar-based Jindal Steel & Power is a non-scheduled operator permit holder (NSOP, charter operator). The DGCA website shows it has nine-seater Cessna 560XL aircraft.

Time is fast running out for the erstwhile Wadia Group airline, which suspended

### 2 FOREIGN ENTITIES DISQUALIFIED

- Two foreign parties had also submitted EoIs but they did not qualify, making **Jindal the sole player in the fray**
- Hirar-based Jindal Steel & Power is a **non-scheduled operator permit holder** (charter)
- Time is fast running out for the erstwhile Wadia airline as its **unpaid employees** get **restive**
- Also, the moratorium period that allowed GoAir to hold on to **45 leased aircraft** is soon going to be over

operations on May 2, 2023, as its unpaid-for-months employees are now getting increasingly restive due to a radio silence on the salary issue. Also, the moratorium period provided by India's bankruptcy law, that has allowed GoAir to hold on to 45 leased aircraft, engines and other assets like foreign bilaterals, is soon going to be over.

Over the past few

months, a large number of GoAir pilots have joined Air India Group and IndiGo. Now, it has about 150 pilots left (captains and first officers). If this time also nothing works out, then the remaining few could also leave. There are still about 3,000 direct employees. They are all very upset at being left high and dry when it comes to salary payment

even during this festive season. Nobody is bothered about them," said sources. GoAir has received claims worth \$2.9 billion from operational and financial creditors. Lessors have filed multiple cases to repossess their aircraft and engines. This July, DGCA had conditionally accepted GoAir's resumption plan by taking to the skies again with 15 aircraft to operate 114 daily flights, subject to getting funds to do so and cases pending with courts and the NCLT. This conditional nod was given after the regulator had conducted a special audit of GoAir facilities in Mumbai and Delhi.

In early September, the sexed had rallied for 11 consecutive sessions, hitting all-time highs on several of those despite volatile global markets. The Nifty, too, had hit the 20,000 mark for the first time before entering a corrective phase in the latter half of the month.

"Irrespective of global headwinds, Indian markets have shown resilience," said N S Venkatesh, CEO, Amfi. ("Domestic funds) have been strongly driving market growth. The MF industry crossing the 4-crore unique investors mark is a testament to Indian retail investors' participation in equity markets through the fund route. This is further demonstrated by the SIP contribution of Rs 16,042 crore in September 2023, which is the highest till date," he said.

In any given quarter, there will always be some amount of degrowth (in some contracts). But what's happening now is that we are not fully compensating for the degrowth

K Krishivasan | CEO & MD, TCS

**TCS to buy back shares worth ₹17k cr**

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**Mumbai:** TCS will buy back about Rs 17,000-crore worth of its own stock, a bullish sign amid a volatile macroeconomic environment. It will buy up to 4 crore shares, representing 1.1% of its equity capital, at Rs 4,150 apiece, it announced as part of its second quarter earnings.

The buyback price is at a premium of 15% to TCS's stock trading rate of Rs 3,610 on the BSE on Wednesday. However, it was below street expectations and lower than the company's 2022 buyback price of Rs 4,500 a share, said Mehta Equities' Prashanth Tapse. Street expected the buyback price to be Rs 4,300-4,500 apiece, he said. This will be TCS's fifth share buyback in six years. In 2022, it had repurchased Rs 18,000 crore worth of stock.

**Byju's lenders move to protect collateral assets**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Lenders of Byju's have appointed risk advisory firm Kroll to safeguard the charged assets of Great Learning and the troubled edtech firm's Singapore entity Byju's Pte (BPL). The move comes at a time when Byju's is looking to sell its subsidiaries — Great Learning and Epic — to raise money and repay the \$1.2-billion term loan it raised in 2021.

The startup is hoping to raise \$300 million-\$1 billion from the sale of the two assets. Charged assets are assets that are used as collateral to get a loan, enabling the lender to seize them in case the borrower defaults. Queries sent to Kroll did not elicit any response.

In a statement, Byju's said that it is working with TLB lenders and the management of Great Learning for a "potential divestment at optimal value."

**Harsh Goenka's son Anant made VC of RPG group**

**Mumbai:** The diversified \$4.4-billion RPG Group has appointed Anant Goenka (42) as the vice-chairman. Anant, who is the son of chairman Harsh Goenka, will continue to serve as the vice-chairman of Ceat and Zensar Technologies. The company said the move strengthens the leadership at the group, ensuring stability and continuity in the long term.

"This era is defined by rapidly evolving technology and I believe Anant has the requisite skills to make a difference in the way we adapt to technologies, markets and consumers," Harsh Goenka said.

## TCS revenue growth slows to 2.8% over weak demand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** TCS's growth in the September quarter was weak, a reflection of pull-back in discretionary spending, slower deal ramp ups, and weakness in its mainstay business vertical and region — banking & financial services, and North America.

Revenue grew 2.8% in constant currency, compared to the corresponding period last year. Sequentially, revenue rose 4.8% on a year-on-year basis to \$7.2 billion. TCS CEO & MD K Krishivasan said the company displayed strong execution in the face of continued macro-economic uncertainty. "Clients want to invest in newer technology. Given the macro-economic uncertainty, there are also many requests for cost optimisation," he said. TCS

The company deferrals have led to total contract value not translating into revenue. "In any given quarter, there will always be some amount of degrowth (in some contracts). But what's happening now is that we are not fully compensating for the degrowth," he said.

Fumiyasu Fujimori, MD of Panasonic Marketing India, says the demand remains strong both in online and offline channels. "It's the World Cup phenomenon. Demand for our smart LEDs in the 55-inch category remains very high, and we have seen a 45% surge in sales."

Sony has a similar story to share. "The combination of festivities and cricket fever has sparked a positive trend... as we anticipate remarkable growth in the 55-inch plus premium segment. With the onset of cricket world cup, customers are gravitating towards larger screen sizes, with 75-inch and 85-inch screens becoming increasingly popular," says Sony India MD Sunil Nayyar.

Companies are taking extra care to ensure that TVs are installed no sooner than they land at a consumer's home. "People are excited and demand immediate installation, since World Cup is on. We have taken measures to ensure that installation happens on the same day," says Anuj Sharma, chief marketing officer at Xiaomi India. The company has seen sales jump to 3-4 times of what it sells in a "regular" month, and Shar-

ma also attributes this to high-resolution quality broadcast.

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### REPORT CARD

- TCS's Q2 revenue grew 2.8% y-o-y in constant currency
- Operating margin at 24.3%; an expansion of 0.3% y-o-y
- This is the third consecutive quarter of more than \$10 billion in order book. This includes two mega deals of JLR and BSNL
- TCS's headcount dropped by 6,333 in the September quarter and it fell by 7,186 compared to the year-ago period
- It has over 1 lakh genAI-ready workforce

In any given quarter, there will always be some amount of degrowth (in some contracts). But what's happening now is that we are not fully compensating for the degrowth

K Krishivasan | CEO & MD, TCS

won orders worth \$11.2 billion in the quarter, its third consecutive quarter of closing over \$10 billion in total contract value.

Krishivasan said some project deferrals have led to total contract value not translating into revenue. "In any given quarter, there will always be some amount of degrowth (in some contracts). But what's happening now is that we are not fully compensating for the degrowth," he said.

TCS's operating margin came in at 24.3%, up 0.3 percentage points year-on-year. Among geographies, the UK continued to outperform, with revenue growth of 10.7% year-on-year, while North America and Continental Europe grew by 0.1% and 1.3% respectively. BFSI degrew by 0.5% and consumer business grew 1%.

A key part of the strategy to get the World Bank ready to meet the challenges for "the next 30-40 years" is to have greater private sector linkages,

## Cos see strong demand for larger screen TVs

From P 1

With the Indian team emerging as a top contender, the excitement knows no bounds as we head into the India-Pakistan clash on Saturday," says Giriseesha Gopi, Business Head (Home Entertainment) at LG India. "We expect sales on Friday and Saturday to be as high as that on a Dhanteras, especially for the large-screen ones."

"Sales of our 55-inch and above TVs are higher by 2-2.5 times of what we sold in the similar Shradh period last year," Gopi says.

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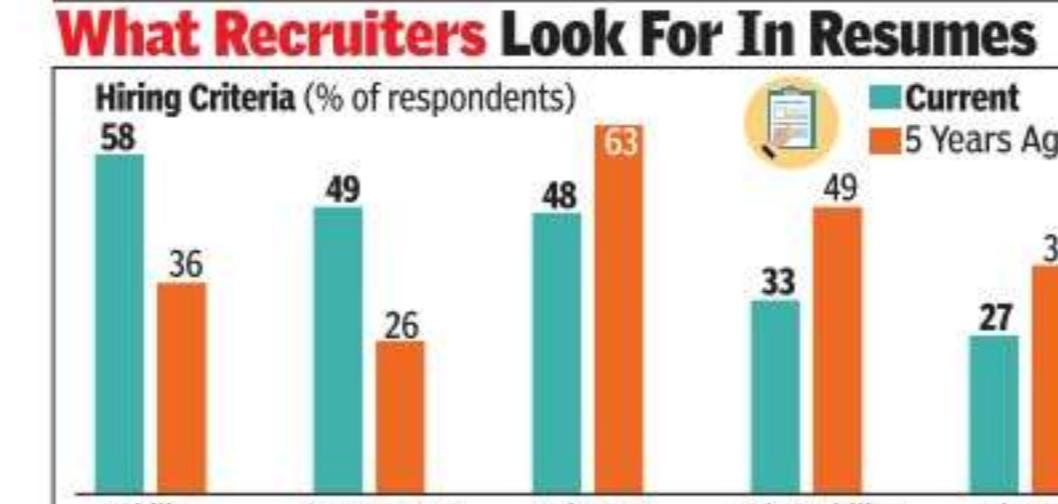
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## Embellished CV? Skill holds key

Namrata.Singh  
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### What Recruiters Look For In Resumes



The study says that while 56% of candidates claim to have skills they barely know, 85% of job seekers lie in their resumes — up 65% a decade ago.

S Pasupathi, COO, HirePro, told TOL, "In today's digital age of hyper-competition and ChatGPT, many tend to exaggerate their qualifications, creating a landscape hi-

half-truths that complicate the hiring process. Recruiters are aware of this on-ground reality but often persist with resume-centric processes due to organisational mandates or a lack of awareness of alternatives."

RPG's chief talent officer, Supratik Bhattacharyya, said for senior and leadership hi-

SIP flows hit ₹16k cr for 1st time despite global woes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Supported by a strong stock market in the first half of September, domestic retail investors continued to put money in equities through the mutual fund route, data released by industry trade body Amfi showed. As a result, the quantum of funds invested through systematic investment plans (SIPs) scaled a new peak to go past the Rs 16,000-crore level for the first time ever.

In early September, the sexed had rallied for 11 consecutive sessions, hitting all-time highs on several of those despite volatile global markets. The Nifty, too, had hit the 20,000 mark for the first time before entering a corrective phase in the latter half of the month.

"Irrespective of global headwinds, Indian markets have shown resilience," said N S Venkatesh, CEO, Amfi. ("Domestic funds) have been strongly driving market growth. The MF industry crossing the 4-crore unique investors mark is a testament to Indian retail investors' participation in equity markets through the fund route. This is further demonstrated by the SIP contribution of Rs 16,042 crore in September 2023, which is the highest till date," he said.

A key part of the strategy to get the World Bank ready to meet the challenges for "the next 30-40 years" is to have greater private sector linkages,

own thinking, which has not been accepted by G20... will go back to shareholders



## A thought for today

In retrospect, the resilience has been remarkable...economic activity has slowed, but not stalled

PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS

## Good, Do Better

For India, to be the fastest growing major economy isn't enough. Real change needs 8% growth

India retained its pole position among the world's major economies in IMF's latest forecast on economic growth rates. In 2023-24, India is forecast to grow at 6.3%, followed by China at 5%. While India's growth rate is expected to hold at the same level next year, China's rate will slow down to 4.2%. Another key takeaway from this round of IMF forecasts is that global growth outperformed the bleak expectations of March-April 2022. One of the reasons is that the Indian economy displayed a lot of resilience.

But the good news about the economy needs to be tempered by the growth rate dynamics between India and China. China's nominal GDP is \$17.7 trillion, about five times that of India. With a baseline at that level, China's contribution to the incremental addition to global GDP of \$104 trillion will still be more than India's at current growth rates. According to a recent report by Barclays, India needs to grow at 8% for some years in order to overtake China in terms of contribution to the global economy.

Pushing up the trend in growth from about 6.5% to 8% requires us to address structural challenges that are a drag on economic momentum. GOI's jobs data showed that since 2018-19, the last pre-pandemic year, and 2022-23, a part of the labour force has gone back to agriculture, the sector with the lowest productivity. In 2022-23, agriculture's share of the workforce was 45.8%, over three percentage points more than 2018-19. The change in composition was partly on account of a modest decline in the workforce engaged by the manufacturing sector. In 2022-23, only 11.4% of the workforce was in manufacturing. The consequence of these trends is that it limits the potential expansion of private consumption, the biggest segment of the economy.

Barclays has called for an increase in investment in traditional sectors such as mining and utilities because they trigger wider economic activities. This is a useful suggestion because most attention is on tech or capital-intensive manufacturing sectors. That skew has meant that over the last few years, construction has surpassed manufacturing in absorbing labour, which isn't good news. A structural transformation is the prerequisite to have a bigger impact on global growth than China and, thereby, narrow the economic gap with it. Shrinking this gap will be the basis for realising India's geopolitical ambitions.

## Grain Of Truth

Caste and freebies aren't as crucial to lives of farmers in poll-bound states as income stability

Far from the hustle of caste formulas and bustle of populist measures is an issue that has long decided election outcomes – farm incomes. In rural India, 70% depend primarily on farming; 85% of these are small and marginal farmers, mostly caught in a seemingly endless cycle of debt, poverty and poor quality of life. Given this, it's no surprise that the three states where the small farmers' incomes improved over the years are also the ones where CMs retain strong support bases among farmers – Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The first two are poll-bound. KCR and Bhupesh Baghel appear to have reasonably strong support. Telangana especially has grown, knocking Haryana off from second spot after Punjab, in paddy procurement – from 36.2 lakh tonnes in 2017-2018 to 88.4 lakh tonnes in 2022-2023. For Chhattisgarh too, procurement grew to 58.7 lakh tonnes in 2022-2023 from 32.6 lakh tonnes in 2017-2018.

KCR has a tough challenge in that Telangana's farmers rely almost entirely on groundwater for irrigation. Despite promises of reservoirs and canals, farmers continue to rely on borewells. But what his government did to get around this and what KCR will be banking on as he fights for a third term, is that not only did Telangana procure 81% of rice produced (2021-22), the share of small and marginal beneficiary farmers in the kharif cycle (2021-22) was 93% – highest among all states. The second highest share of small-marginal farmers benefitted was 84.5% in Odisha, and 83% in Chhattisgarh. Including larger numbers of small and marginal farmers within the MSP net in these three mid-sized states helped stabilise incomes in a sector that's largely distressed. Why don't parties pay a little more attention to this and a little less to caste surveys and freebies.

## Eggalitarian society

Only the hard boiled can be freed from the vegetarian yolk

Bachi Karkaria

 Tomorrow, October 13 is World Egg Day. It's when we 'impure' louts can bravely scramble the smug superiority of the 'Pure Veg'. They may think they are the dietary brahmins, but, *hai, hai!* 'twice-born' means they needed twice the number of eggs at conception. Strangely, both pro- and the anti-eaters cite the Vedic belief that Creation began with the appearance of the golden Cosmic Egg, *Hiranyagarbha*. (Not to be confused with the *ghoos* that lays the golden egg for politicians.) While *anda* eaters tout this as sacred sanction, the sanctimonious side cites it to argue that the earthly product too gives life. So, devouring it destroys the divine plan – almost like a mortal *t-anda-va*.

To eat or not to eat has become as complex as the chicken-and-egg conundrum. Even science and the Bible spar over which came first. Their opposite stands are as far apart as the world views of the sunny-side-up optimist and the hard-boiled cynic.

Health-faddists trample on the dietary legitimacy of the *baida/deem/mutta* with the finesse of a sumo wrestler 'walking on eggshells'. But this fragile little fellow has its equally stout defenders. Cardiologists had damned it, but a 2013 British study eggsonerated it of all charges related to heart disease. In fact, it found that an increased intake decreased your chances of haemorrhagic stroke. Would that mean cholesterol too?

You don't have to be an egghead to know that this is a square meal in an oval shape. Actually, being Parsi is enough. For us, no vegetable dish is complete without involving an '*eedu*'; neither is any auspicious entry into the family. The welcome ritual of bride, baby or even bike involves circling the newbie with a whole raw egg. Russi Mody's legendary 16-egg omelet is not the only reason why a shortage engulfs Parsi colonies in as much gloom as a non-Tata heading the empire. Ironically, our birth rates are in inverse proportion to our addiction to this very embodiment of fertility.

So, my dearies, only a dumb *oeuf* wouldn't understand the implications of getting laid.

\*\*\*

Alec Smart said: "Hamas tries, but it will never turn an Israel into a Wasreal."



erratica

## The Telangana Topsy-Turvy

Has KCR gone from being his party's primary draw to being a liability? Has Congress closed in on BRS or even inched ahead? Will BJP put up a strong enough fight to make this a triangular contest?

Asim Ali



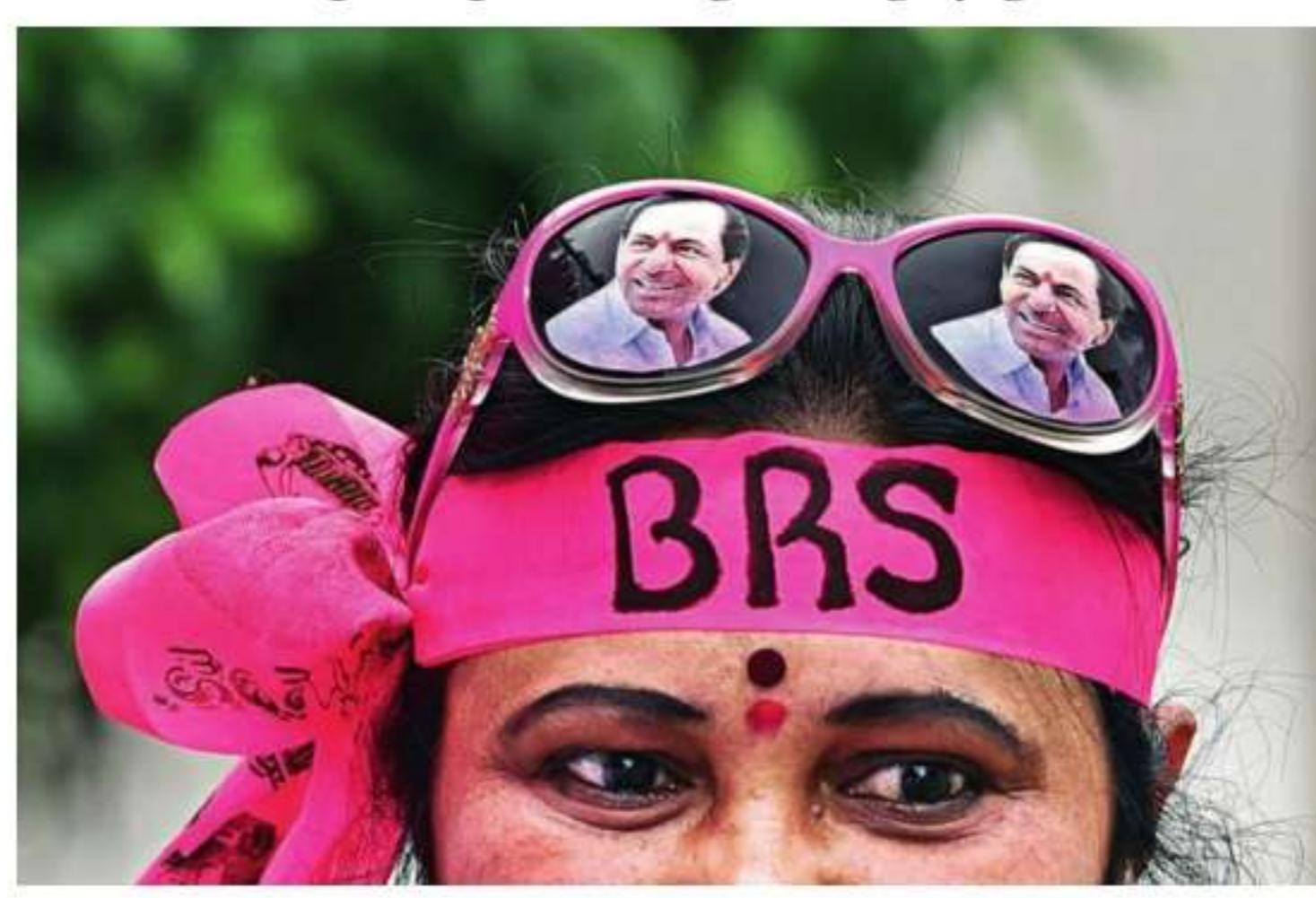
As the state of Telangana approaches the completion of its first decade, its politics has been making some dramatic turnarounds. Within the space of a year, Congress and BJP have switched places as the main competitor and distant third, respectively. The governing BRS, of KCR, which has long clung on to a dominant position, appears to be barely holding fort against a rapidly rising Congress.

Three months ago, the People Pulse survey had placed BRS much ahead of Congress. On Monday, however, the ABP-Cvoter survey showed Congress had closed the gap. It showed a Congress vote share of 39%, BRS 38% and BJP 16%. Roughly, Congress appears to have gained, and BRS lost, a remarkable 10% vote share compared to the 2018 elections.

The interesting question of the Telangana elections is not whether there is considerable anti-incumbency, as anti-incumbency has demonstrably shown up in key bypolls over the last two years. The interesting question is whether BRS can contain its losses and Congress mount a campaign transforming this latent anti-incumbency into an anti-BRS wave.

We can understand the political battlefield by analysing the present macro-level strategies of the two main political actors. BRS route to government lies through capitalising on its core strengths of leadership and social engineering. It seeks to hold on to the dominant elites through substantive political representation.

And to the subaltern sections through social engineering, via group-specific patronage distribution. This includes hike in reservation (6% to 10%) and distribution of compensatory 'podu' land for tribals; the Dalit Bandhu scheme, a financial grant of ₹10 lakh to eligible Dalit families; and an assistance of ₹1 lakh to certain backward castes and poor minorities. All of these welfare schemes are personally driven by, and identified with, the CM, and have come to life within the last year, renewing his broad popular appeal.



Congress's macro-strategy is more ideological. Its six guarantees are aimed at forging a programmatic-class-based alliance of the backward castes, tribals, Dalits and Muslims. These subaltern sections compose almost 90% of the population of the state (Dalits 16%, tribals 9%, Muslims 13%, OBCs 50%). The remaining 10% comprises dominant Reddy and Vellama castes, along with a sliver of upper castes. The subaltern sections had also powered the decisive final phase of the Telangana agitation (2009-2014), where demands of a new state were made largely on claims of rural economic precarity.

Then, the anti-elite sentiment was aimed at the privileged caste Andhra elite. Congress hopes to now harness a rising anti-elite sentiment focused on a new homegrown elite, comprising primarily dominant landed castes of Reddys and Vellamas, patronised under a dynastically structured BRS.

According to this counter-narrative, the ordinary people of the state have yet to receive the benefits promised by the Telangana agitation. Among the Congress guarantees is the Rythu Bharosa Scheme, a cash subsidy for farmers. The politically salient differentiator between the envisaged

Rythu Bandhu Scheme of BRS is that it includes the tenant farmers and landless workers not covered under the BRS scheme.

The announcement of the farmer guarantees by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, a Dalit from the neighbouring Hyderabad-Karnataka region, was an indication of the target demographic of rural backward classes and Dalits. Similarly, Congress state president Revanth Reddy recently caused a controversy alleging that government power subsidies disproportionately benefit landlord farmers. The strategy is clearly to portray Congress as the party of the underprivileged sections.

Having charted the different macro-level strategies, let us now try to understand them through the lens of leadership. In 2018, a CSDS survey asked the voters of Telangana their most important determinant of voting choice. 42% of respondents chose local candidate, 26% chose party, and only 20% chose the CM candidate.

● BRS depends on a much stronger ground-level management than its rivals. Hence, the early announcement of candidate list (Congress list hasn't been

announced). It has also repeated the 2018 policy of disproportionate allocation to dominant castes (such as Reddys and Vellamas) and repeating most of its sitting legislators. Despite criticism over low representation from backward classes, BRS hopes that the high spending capacity of its dominant caste based local machine will see it through. There is also relatively low incumbency against sitting legislators (only 27% people claim to be angry at incumbent MLAs, as per a Cvoter survey).

● The problem for BRS is that anger is increasingly focused on the CM. The same Cvoter survey indicated that 50.2% respondents were angry at Rao, the highest incumbency baggage of any CM in the five states going to polls. The charge of having instituted a dynastic, feudalistic regime, made by various opponents including the PM, appears to have stuck. Thus, from its primary strength, the dominating leadership of Rao threatens to become a liability.

● The third determinant of people's voting choice is, of course, the party. Here too BRS is facing problems owing to its lack of systematic organisation and the consequent paucity of genuine leaders. In contrast, Congress, much like in Karnataka, has strengthened the party following the battering it received in 2018, primarily by promoting leaders belonging to different subaltern groups. Its projected state leadership (and presumable CM aspirants) comes not only from its traditional Reddy faction but also includes Dalits and tribals, such as CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka and Maoist-turned-MLA D Seethaka.

● Finally, there are also quite a few X factors at play, not least the crucial role of the third party, BJP. It has been greatly damaged over the past few months based on the allegation that it had reached an understanding with BRS. A collapse in the BJP vote share now (composed of dominant castes and some backward castes) might further aid the momentum of Congress. So what BRS would hope for is that BJP fights well enough to make this a triangular contest, dividing the anti-incumbency vote. The battle for Hyderabad between BRS and Congress remains on a knife-edge.

The writer is a political researcher

## Will 2020s Be A Decade Of Disruption? Can India Profit From It?

First, Covid, then China's aggressive rise, then Ukraine war and now Middle East conflict...how Asia's third largest economy can use the churn to its benefit

Somnath Mukherjee



We are barely three years into the new decade – 2020s – and what a decade it's turning out to be! Once-in-200 years pandemic. Emergence of a new superpower after 30 years, with all attendant tensions, bared fangs and uncertainties that accompany such a rise. A pan-European war that has mass resonance in the West – after 75 years. And now, a potentially status quo changing conflict in the Middle East that can upset 50 years of halting but definite normalisation since the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

As Vladimir Lenin memorably said, "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen."

To be sure, in the age of a hyper-connected world and social media, it is easy to over-amplify the long-term impact of events. Not every conflict is a world war, not every terror attack is the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, not every mass protest is the Boston Tea Party. Even discounting for this truism, 2020s is turning out to be a disruptive time, playing out in fast motion.

There are some eerie similarities with the decade of the 1910s. The Spanish Influenza pandemic claimed 50 million lives. Europe sleep-walked into a war triggered by the 1914 assassination. The Russian Revolution in 1917 took out one of the leading monarchies of Europe, setting the stage for an experiment with communism that lasted seven decades.

A big part of the disruptive 2020s is the emergence of a new superpower, China. Rise of new powers is seldom an orderly affair. Ancient Greek historian Thucydides explained it best: "It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable." For many years, Athens, the emerging power, believed its rise to be benign. It gave rise to canons of civilisation that exist to this day – advent of democracy, high philosophy, spectacular architecture, mighty naval fleets. But

this rise threatened the incumbent Greek power, Sparta, culminating in the bloody Peloponnesian War.

Harvard University's Thucydides' Trap project, directed by Professor Graham Allison, analysed the last 500 years and found 16 cases in which a dominant state's position has been disrupted by the rise of a challenger. Twelve of them ended in (or were accompanied by) a war.



India's rise in such a world gets complicated. The post-WW2 template for Asia – sea lanes protected by US Navy, global free trade with skewed disproportionate access to American markets, American financial commons, a relatively stable rules-based order – has started fraying at the edges. The umbrella of global stability and relative peace is no longer available for an un hurried rise in prosperity graphs.

But just as volatile financial markets present the biggest opportunities for savvy investors to make money, uncertain geopolitics also offer opportunities that can be outsize for nation-states that play their cards well.

Consider the global Military Industrial Complex (MIC). Demands from just one theatre, Ukraine, have stretched Western MIC supply chains. In some product lines, even the vast US stockpiles are struggling to meet demands. With demands from new flashpoints (like Israel) and recapitalisation demands from several European countries, there will be opportunities for extra capacities. There are very few countries with a large labour force, existing MIC with experience in producing sophisticated equipment and a manufacturing ecosystem, and a non-adversarial relationship with the West. India is one of them. This is an opportunity arising out of uncertainty.

In the superpower sweepstakes, the US's issue isn't its own weight in the world. Taking GDP as a crude (but representative) measure of global influence, the US's own share has remained remarkably stable – at about 25% of global GDP since 1980. The USSR's share of world GDP never crossed 3%. But today, China has about 20% of global GDP. At the same time, America's core allies – Western Europe and Japan – have declined in terms of their share. Europe's share has gone down from 30% of global GDP to only about 15% today.

In short, the US is running out of allies who can pull their weight. India is the only major economy that still has space to grow (given its low per capita income) and aggregate heft to contribute materially, with natural congruence of interests with the West. In a few years, India's going to be the third largest economy in the world. It gives us enormous leverage to use market access, political support and investments to maximise payoffs for ourselves – both economic and political.

In the early 1900s, as the world was convulsed with disruptions, a sleepy but large country on the other side of the Atlantic played its cards masterfully to catapult itself, within two decades, as the greatest economic and geopolitical power the world has ever known – the US. India has a similar window of opportunity. It's for us to play well and win.

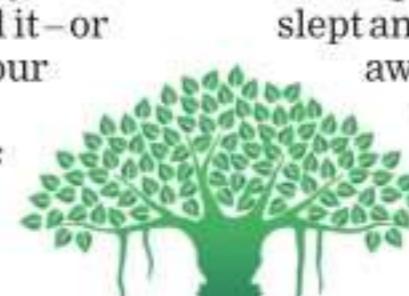
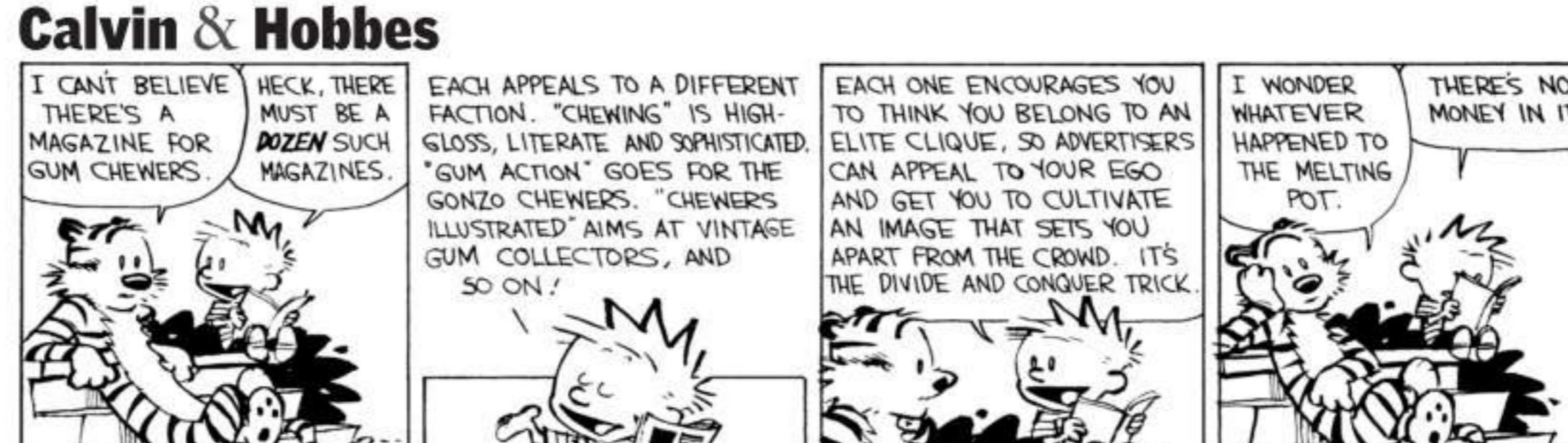
The writer is Chief Investment Officer, ASK Private Wealth. Views are personal

## Sacredspace



Amartya Sen

Calvin & Hobbes



THE SPEAKING TREE

but the likelihood of death, Frankl came to realise what he called "the responsibility of being". "It is the uniqueness of our existence...the irretrievability of everything with which we fill it – or leave unfilled – that gives our existence significance."

In 1946 Frankl wrote *Man's Search for Meaning*, based on his Auschwitz experience, which laid the foundation of the branch of psychiatry called logotherapy, the core of which is the existential premise: find a Why for which to live, and the How to do so will follow.

As a preview of this work, Frankl composed a series of lectures just 11 months after his emergence from Auschwitz, called *Yes to Life: In spite of Everything*.

In consonance with his contemporary, Erich Fromm, who cautioned against "the shared laziness" of both nihilistic pessimism and rose-tinted optimism, Frankl quoted a verse from Tagore: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was duty. I worked – and behold, duty was joy."

Life as a duty that must be borne? That sounds terribly dull and boring, a tedious chore that has to be performed. How can there be any joy in this 'duty-full' life? Frankl answers that by inverting the question 'What can I expect from life?' to 'What does life expect from me?' "It is not we who are permitted to ask the meaning of life – it is life that asks the questions...we are the ones who must answer...living itself means nothing

other than being questioned."

In Indic philosophy, this "moral obligation", this "duty to life", is called dharma. It is the 'Why', the meaning we invest in life: I live to raise and protect my family. I live to pursue a fulfilling career. I live to follow a path of scientific or spiritual discovery.

"The question life asks us, and in answering which we can realise its meaning...changes from person to person...To ask about 'the meaning of life' (is like)...asking a world chess champion, 'And now, Master, please tell me: which move do you think is best?'" On the ever-changing chessboard of life no one, no guru, no god person, can tell us what our move, best or otherwise, should be. If I elect to let someone else choose my 'Why', that choice itself

FACE-OFF

AUS

SA

VS

TV TIME  
2 PM  
STAR SPORTS

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

# WORLD CUP

"WE MATCH QUITE SIMILARLY AS IN WE HAVE GOT SOME FAST BOWLERS AND BATTERS THAT TAKE THE GAME ON. IT'S A CLASH OF TWO VERY SIMILAR TEAMS."

— Pat Cummins | AUSTRALIA SKIPPER



Skipper Rohit Sharma's 84-Ball 131 Vs Afghans Helps India Chase Down 273 in 35 Overs To Boost NRR

## HITMAN HAS A BASH!

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: There is something very cold-blooded about Rohit Sharma when he goes about destroying opposition attacks.

The lazy gait around the crease before taking strike or the casual walk down the pitch to chat with the non-striker are often misleading. But when he unfurls one of his front-foot pulls deep into the stand in front of square, you know the beast in him has awakened, just like it did on Wednesday evening.

The match against Afghanistan was always going to be about enhancing the net run rate in a long tournament. Rohit led from the front. In 25.4 overs of awe-inspiring strokeplay, Rohit scored 131 off 84 balls to complete the objective. India won by eight wickets with 15 overs to spare in a chase of 273.

Afghanistan were unlikely to pose a serious threat but it was time to make a statement. Rohit brought up his hundred off 63 balls to show he was always one step ahead of the bowlers. Hence, the consummate ease and disdain in his batting. When he dispatched Naveen-ul-Haq for the third of his five sixes, he surpassed Chris Gayle's record of hitting the most number of sixes in international cricket across formats. Yet, his road to this feat is in sharp contrast to Gayle's brutality at the bat.

Rohit's onslaught allowed an unsure Ishan Kishan to carefully get into some kind of form with his 47 off 47. The only rash shot of

**272/8**

Afghanistan have recorded their highest total vs India in ODIs, eclipsing the 252/8 in the tied game at Dubai on September 25, 2018. The said total is their second highest in the World Cup behind the 288 vs West Indies at Leeds on July 4, 2019.

the innings — a wild slog sweep, cost him his wicket to Rashid Khan. The first wicket stand of 156 in 18.4 overs had all but killed the game in front of an unusually intimidating Delhi crowd that sang 'Vande Mataram' in unison at the first drinks break of the chase.

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi had said on match eve that his team had better players of spin, since his team had the better set of spinners. Shahidi led from the front, almost consumed by the challenge he had set. In an innings of 80 off 88, that saw sizeable partnership of 121 for the fourth wicket with Azmatullah Omarzai (62 off 69), he tried to ensure that his team didn't lose any wicket to Indian spinners, only to be eventually dismissed by Kuldeep Yadav. That was the only Afghan wicket to fall to a spinner, even as India's pacers, led by Jasprit Bumrah's immaculate spell of 4/39, made sure the game never got away from India.

As much as it was about ensuring a massive win on a flat deck,



the process relied heavily on not getting ahead of themselves. Virat Kohli used all his experience and didn't get sucked into the temptation to get into a verbal duel with Naveen. With a gentle pat on Naveen's back, calling truce for the feud during the IPL, Kohli strolled to an unbeaten 55 off 56 balls to finish off the game.

Leading up to this World Cup campaign, Rohit had frequently harped on how ODI cricket has moved on and how there was greater emphasis on higher strike rates. He walked the talk on Wednesday. Now it's over to the big one against Pakistan in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

HOW THEY STAND								
Pos	T	P	W	L	N/R	NRR	Pts	
1	NZ	2	2	0	0	+1.958	4	
2	Ind	2	2	0	0	+1.500	4	
3	Pak	2	2	0	0	+0.927	4	
4	SA	1	1	0	0	+2.040	2	
5	Eng	2	1	1	0	+0.553	2	
6	B'desh	2	1	1	0	-0.653	2	
7	Aus	1	0	1	0	-0.883	0	
8	SL	2	0	2	0	-1.161	0	
9	Ned	2	0	2	0	-1.800	0	
10	Afg	2	0	2	0	-1.097	0	

**131**

Rohit's knock is the highest by an Indian batter in successful chases in the World Cup, obliterating the 127 not out by Tendulkar vs Kenya at Cuttack on Feb 18, 1996.

**63**

Balls taken by Rohit to race to his hundred - the quickest by an Indian batter in the World Cup. Having reached 1,000 runs in 19 innings, he holds a record for the joint-quickest to 1000 runs in the WC.

**4/39**

Jasprit Bumrah has produced his best bowling performance in the World Cup, bettering the 4/55 vs Bangladesh at Birmingham on July 2, 2019.

## THE TOP SIX-HITTERS IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET (BREAK-UP OF SIXES)

Batter	Inns	Sixes	Tests	ODIs	T20Is
Rohit Sharma	473	556	77	297	182
Chris Gayle	551	553	98	331	124
Shahid Afridi	508	476	52	351	73
Brendon McCullum	474	398	107	200	91
Martin Guptill	402	383	23	187	173
MS Dhoni	526	359	78	229	52

### SCOREBOARD

**Afghanistan:** R Gurbaz c Thakur b Pandya 21, I Zadran c Rahul b Bumrah 22, R Shah lbw b Thakur 16, H Shahidi lbw b Kuldeep 80, A Omarzai b Pandya 62, M Nabi lbw b Bumrah 19, N Zadran c Kohli b Bumrah 2, R Khan c Yadav b Bumrah 16, Mj Rahaman not out 10, N Ull Haq not out 9; Extras: (b2, lb3, w8, nb2) 15; Total: (8 wkt) 272; FoW: 1-32, 2-63, 3-63, 4-184, 5-225, 6-229, 7-235, 8-261; Bowling: Bumrah 10-0-39-4, Siraj 9-0-76-0, Pandya 7-0-43-2, Thakur 6-0-31-1, Kuldeep 10-0-40-1, Jadeja 8-0-38-0.

**India:** R Sharma b Rashid 131, I Kishan c Ibrahim b Rashid 47, V Kohli not out 55, S Iyer not out 25; Extras: (b1, lbw, w10) 15; Total: (2 wkt, 35 overs) 273; FoW: 1-156, 2-205; Bowling: Farooqi 6-0-50-0, Mujeeb 8-0-64-0, Naveen 5-0-31-0, Omarzai 4-0-34-0, Nabi 4-0-32-0, Rashid 8-0-57-2.

**RESULT:** India won by 8 wkt  
**MOM:** Rohit Sharma

## GILL TO JOIN TEAM IN AHMEDABAD BUT REMAINS DOUBTFUL FOR PAKISTAN GAME

New Delhi: Recovering from a bout of dengue fever, India opener Shubman Gill was scheduled to reach Ahmedabad on Wednesday but still remains a doubtful starter for the marquee World Cup clash against Pakistan on Saturday.

"Gill is doing absolutely fine and is set to leave Chennai for Ahmedabad today. It is still not clear whether Gill will have a light training session at Motera on Thursday," a BCCI source said on condition of anonymity.

"His recovery has been fine but can't really be sure if he can play against Pakistan," he added.

Gill has already missed the first two World Cup games - opener against Australia in Chennai and Wednesday's game against Afghanistan.

Gill's platelet count had dropped to 70,000 last week and had to be admitted to a Chennai hospital for routine medical tests and was discharged after 24 hours. PTI

## 'Smart' Bumrah makes back-up seamers' job easier

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Jasprit Bumrah emulated Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford's 'temple-point' celebration after dismissing Ibrahim Zadran. While Rashford's celebration is supposed to be a statement on mental health, Bumrah was suggestive of the way he outsmarts batters.

Yuzvendra Chahal, when he was at the peak of his powers in 2018, had told TOI that much of his and Kuldeep's success must be attributed to potency of Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar up front with the new ball. Wednesday was another example.

The dipping slower balls, the searing yorkers and the lethal bouncers often hog the analysis. Yet, Bumrah's ability to read the pitch quickly and find his length is rare. Ironically, the Test-match length is his most potent weapon. Those variations did come into play, but only in the latter stages of Afghanistan's innings.

Following his spell and Siraj's wayward show, backup seamers



JASPRIT BUMRAH IN ODIS								
	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI	5WI	SR	ER
Overall	80	135	23.77	6/19	6	2	30.7	4.64
World Cup	11	24	18.54	4/39	2	0	26.0	4.27

### CURRENT PACERS WITH BEST ECONOMY RATE (MIN 100 WICKETS)

	M	Wkts	Ave	ER
Angelo Matthews	219	120	33.05	4.63
<b>Jasprit Bumrah</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>23.77</b>	<b>4.64</b>
Josh Hazlewood	75	119	26.06	4.69
Trent Boult	106	198	23.85	4.93
Safyaan Sharif	77	100	30.14	4.98

— Stats: Rajesh Kumar

### BUMRAH SPEAKS

"I am a very detached person. I stick to my process. Just because I got four wickets today, doesn't mean I have to be very happy about it. Results don't matter to me. Whenever I turn up for a match, I try to read the conditions and find the correct length. Today there was seam movement but we saw whenever we pitched it up, it became easier for the batters."

— on his gameplan

"I am just very happy that I will get to meet my mother. I have played one Test match in Ahmedabad and the atmosphere was electrifying. I am sure a lot of people will turn up for the game."

— on India's game vs Pakistan



**REAL DEAL:** Pakistan arrive in Ahmedabad amidst heavy security on Wednesday

## RIZWAN DEDICATES WIN TO 'BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GAZA'

New Delhi: Pakistan batsman Mohammad Rizwan on Wednesday dedicated his team's victory against Sri Lanka to "our brothers and sisters in Gaza", potentially putting him at odds with support for Israel expressed by the government of India.

"This was for our brothers and sisters in Gaza. Happy to contribute in the win," Rizwan, 31, said on X.

"Credits to the whole team and especially Abdullah Shafique and Hassan Ali for making it easier," added the batsman, who has 1.6 million followers on the social media platform. His post had garnered 5.7 million views by Wednesday.

India's government has joined ranks with western nations to condemn the attacks launched by Gaza militants, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the country stands "in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour".

The ICC has previously ruled against players making political statements although away from the field of play, they are free to use their own media platforms. In 2014, ICC banned England all-rounder Moeen Ali from wearing wristbands saying "Save Gaza" and "Free Palestine".



**MAGIC POTION:** Mohd Rizwan is helped up by Pak physio Cliffe Deacon, after the batsman suffered cramps during his epic unbeaten 131 against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Rizwan praised Deacon for his healing methods.

management's decision a few years back was that I would bat at different positions. Then in T20, (chief selector) Misbah-ul-Haq asked me to open. Now the management gave me

# 'RUNNING MAKES ME FEEL SUPER STRONG'

**Kidney Donor Sushma Singh Confident Of Completing The 10k Run**

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** For Delhi-based entrepreneur and distance runner Sushma Singh, the act of running is therapeutic. She likes to challenge herself every time she puts on her running shoes.

Sushma participated in the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) last year in the 10k category. It was after a gap of more than 20 years that Sushma returned to the track.

"I started running 2-3 kms, and then steadily increased my distance during practice sessions last year. Actually, running makes me feel super strong and I am able to handle all my life problems quite easily," Sushma told TOI.

"It felt so good when I ran the 10k, and finished under 60 minutes. I was on cloud nine. That day, last year, I decided I will continue my distance running and go for more," she added.

2023, however, brought manifold challenges in Sushma's life. Earlier this year, she donated a kidney to her husband. It was next to impossible for her to get back to running the way she wanted. "From July 4 till Sept 3, I was in the recovery period. The doctor said to me that I can only go for walking. No other strenuous physical activity should be done, no weight training, no running, and no jogging at all," said Sushma.

But the 40-year-old was determined to run, and slowly but surely she found her way back to the track. "The thought that she won't be able to run again didn't come to my mind even for a single second," said Sushma, with a sense of resoluteness in her voice.

"Post my recovery, I started running again... practicing again. I will definitely not stop at 5 km! This year, I have registered for the 10k run at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon

once again and I am positive that I will be able to complete the race," she added.

While Sushma is delighted to be running again, leading her 'cheer squad' will be her 11-year-old daughter.

"We (Sushma and her

daughter) were watching the Asian Games and Harmilan Bains (silver winner in 800m and 1,500m) was running with the India flag. That was a striking visual. My daughter told me that she wanted to see me run like that. She has this unshakable belief that I would be able to achieve it. That was an emotional moment for me. I told her I would make her and India proud," said Sushma. "Tell her that running is one of the easiest ways to stay healthy. And it is also a liberating feeling."

(Sushma and her daughter) were watching the Asian Games and Harmilan Bains (silver medal winner in 800m and 1,500m) was running with the India flag. That was a striking visual. My daughter immediately told me that she wanted to see me run like that. She has this unshakable belief that I would be able to achieve it." -Sushma Singh



SUSHMA SINGH

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(Sushma and her daughter) were watching the Asian Games and Harmilan Bains (silver medal winner in 800m and 1,500m) was running with the India flag. That was a striking visual. My daughter immediately told me that she wanted to see me run like that. She has this unshakable belief that I would be able to achieve it." -Sushma Singh

**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: \$268,000**

Top overall finishers (\$)

Position	Men	Women
1st	27,000	27,000
2nd	20,000	20,000
3rd	13,000	13,000
4th	8,000	8,000
5th	6,000	6,000
6th	5,000	5,000
7th	4,000	4,000
8th	3,000	3,000
9th	2,000	2,000
10th	1,000	1,000

## TOP INDIAN FINISHERS

(For Indian citizens residing in India, in INR)

Pos	Men	Women
1st	4,00,000	4,00,000
2nd	3,00,000	3,00,000
3rd	2,00,000	2,00,000
4th	1,00,000	1,00,000
5th	75,000	75,000
6th	60,000	60,000
7th	50,000	50,000
8th	40,000	40,000
9th	40,000	40,000
10th	40,000	40,000

### Overall event record jackpot

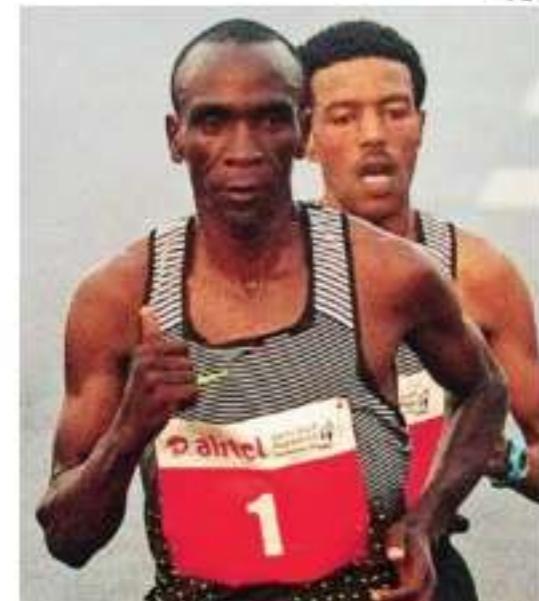
\$12,000 (for overall elite men and women winner)

### Winner amongst Indian elite marathoners

INR 100,000 (for overall elite men and women winner)

## Global stars & their tryst with Delhi run

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com



Eliud Kipchoge at the Delhi Half Marathon in 2016

**New Delhi:** The much-anticipated annual Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) is around the corner. This year will be the 18th edition of the race which began in 2005. Since then, every year (except 2021) elite athletes (both international and Indian), professional long-distance runners (men and women), and running enthusiasts from all walks of life participate in the celebration of running.

There are various categories – Open 10k, Elite Half Marathon, Open Half Marathon, Senior Citizens Run, Champions with Disability Run and the Great Delhi Run – that constitute the overall event.

It is an AIMS-certified course (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races) and is listed as a Gold Label Road Race by World Athletics. The course is considered as one of the fastest half marathon routes, and that's exactly

also a World championships gold medallist.

Kipchoge had come to Delhi in 2016, barely three months after taking the Olympic marathon title in Rio de Janeiro. There was fanfare all over the national Capital. He returned home after winning the half marathon, clocking 59.44.

Kipchoge was effusive in his praise for the route and the fans who had gathered along the course just to catch a glimpse of the athletics legend.

"The running conditions were good. My training was good and that's why I was able to win the race. But the main motivating factor for me was the crowd that had gathered along the route and kept cheering for us," Kipchoge had said.

Last year, Kipchoge expressed his desire to "run on Indian soil once again". "Six years ago, I ran the Delhi Half Marathon. I remember Delhi as one of the fastest half marathons. I'll come back to India

in the future," he had said.

Besides Kipchoge, other Kenyan long-distance runners who have participated in the Delhi Half Marathon are: Edwin Kipyego, Geoffrey Mutai, Philip Rugut, Francis Kibwott (all men); Mary Keitany, Lineth Chepkurui, Lucy Wangui, Florence Kiplagat and Cynthia Limo (all women).

Among Ethiopian long-distance running stars, who have graced the Delhi Half Marathon, are: Deriba Merga, Atsedu Tsegay, Andamlak Beihu, Amedwork Walelegn, Chala Regasa (all men); Tsehay Gemechu, Worknesh Degefa, Irine Cheptai and Yalemzerf Yehualaw (all women).

The course records – both men and women – are held by the Ethiopians. The men's record is in the name of Amde-work Walelegn, who won the title in 2020 with a timing of 58:53. The current women's record also is from the 2020 edition, when Yalemzerf Yehualaw won (1:04:46).

## RESULTS: (Men's 10000m) 1.

Dinesh (Mah, 29:10:11); 2. Mohan Saini (SSCB, 29:10:82); 3. Sandeep Singh (SSCB, 29:11:21). ( Pole vault) 1. Dev Meena (MP, 5.05m); 2. Shekar Pandey (UP, 4.95); 3. Tanuj Kumar (Har, 4.85). (Women's 10000m) 1. Seema (HP, 33:26:9); 2. Kavita Yadav (Rlys, 33:35:57); 3. Phoolan Pal (UP, 34:55:13) (Hammer throw): 1. Anmol Kaur (Pun, 60.19m); 2. Tanya Chaudhary (UP, 59.04); 3. Sarita R Singh (Rlys, 58.42).

included Mallick, behind around the 60m mark and won with a gap of 4.5 metres".

## DINESH, SEEMA BAG GOLD MEDAL IN 10,000M

After Manikanta stole the limelight and just before rain disrupted the proceedings, the men's and women's 10,000m races saw Maharashtra's Dinesh and Himachal Pradesh's Seema bag the gold.

Coach KC Saintison, who guided him to dip below the 10.2 second mark in the final as he is now warmed up after two races," he added.

Coach KC Saintison, who guided him to dip below the 10.2 second mark in the final as he is now warmed up after two races," he added.

Police Sports Control Board's Anmol Kaur took the gold in women's hammer throw with a best of 60.19m

major champions Phil Mickelson, Brooks Koepka and Cameron Smith, said the OWGR's decision means the organisation can no longer deliver on its objective to rank the best players in the world. "Professional golf is now without a true or global scoring and ranking system," LIV Golf said in a statement. "There is no benefit for fans or players from the lack of trust or clarity as long as the best player performances are not recognized."

Dawson said the Board Committee felt LIV Golf's tournament format - 54-hole, no-cut events for 48 players - was an issue but added that it was one that was capable of being managed through an "appropriate mathematical formula." REUTERS

**Nadda, Tanzania prez vow to push party-to-party interactions**



BJP president JP Nadda greets Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan during a meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday called on the President of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is also the president of the governing party of Tanzania Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Nadda apprised the visiting delegation about BJP's vision and organisational structure. He also discussed the party's social inclusion initiatives for the upliftment of poor, women and marginalised sections of the society. He also explained the role of information technology used by the party to connect with the wider population. Both leaders have resolved to continue such party-to-party dialogue in the future too.

**A senior delegation from CCM, Tanzania's governing party, had visited India in January on the invitation of BJP under the 'KNOW BJP' initiative**

It is to be noted that a senior delegation from CCM visited India in the month of January on the invitation of BJP under the 'KNOW BJP' initiative. Hassan has served as President of Tanzania since 2021. She is the first woman to serve as President of the country. She was accompanied by several leaders of CCM. Vijay Chauthaiwale, in-charge, foreign affairs department, BJP was also present in the meeting.

## Nagarathna bats for 'woman's autonomy of choice' on MTP

### Which Court Can Direct Stoppage Of Heart Of Viable Fetus: Kohli

►Continued from P1

**E**merging from the interplay of varied emotions of four women — two judges, the ASG and the pregnant woman — Justice Kohli said her judicial conscience would not permit her to allow stoppage of the heart of a viable and healthy fetus. "Which court can direct stoppage of heart of a viable fetus?" she asked but faulted the AIIMS medical board for not giving out full facts about the status of the fetus in its report, thus leaving it for the court to decide the issue purely based on the married woman's autonomy of choice.

But Justice Nagarathna, who will take over as the first woman CJI in 2027, remained firm on respecting the woman's autonomy of choice. "Having regard to the concrete determination made by the petitioner, I find that her decision must be respected," she said before

faulting Bhati for approaching CJI D Y Chandrachud on Tuesday with an oral request for recall of Monday's order

"This is not a case where the question of a viable baby being born or unborn is to be really considered when the interest of the petitioner has to be given more preference.

The socio-economic condition in which the petitioner is placed, the fact that she has already had two children, the second child being only one year old, and the fact that she

is facing a medical termination of pregnancy of 29 weeks," the judges said. They allowed MTP at Chhatrapati Pramtlatai Raje Hospital, Kolhapur, or any other government hospital. Told by advocate Ansari that the petitioner would prefer to undergo the procedure in the Kolhapur hospital, the judges noted that "the same is to be carried out expeditiously".

The medical panel's report stated that considering that petitioner suffers from cerebral palsy with 50% paraparesis and 50% mild intellectual disability, "continuation of pregnancy caused by alleged rape can lead to grave injury to her mental health".

Also, "due to her intellectual disability she will not be able to take care of her newborn". Thus, the panel recommended MTP. It said that continuation of pregnancy "may pose high risk to the health of the victim and will require operative intervention".

"Considering the medical report, we deem it appropriate to permit the petitioner, who is victim of sexual assault". They directed a report be submitted on October 13 regarding "condition of the petitioner as well as the child born".

With to examine the woman and submit its report to the court on October 9.

has reiterated that her mental health condition and medicines she is taking do not allow her to continue with the pregnancy."

Sticking to the earlier decision to allow termination of pregnancy, Justice Nagarathna said, "I find that her decision must be respected by the court. The court is not here to substitute its decision for the decision of the petitioner".

Given the difference of opinion between the two, the Justice Kohli-led bench asked the registry to place the matter before the CJI for constituting an appropriate bench to decide the woman's plea.

Both on Monday and Wednesday, Bhati repeatedly suggested to the court if the woman carried on with her pregnancy for another eight to nine weeks, the baby born to her would be taken care of by the government and would be put up for adoption through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).

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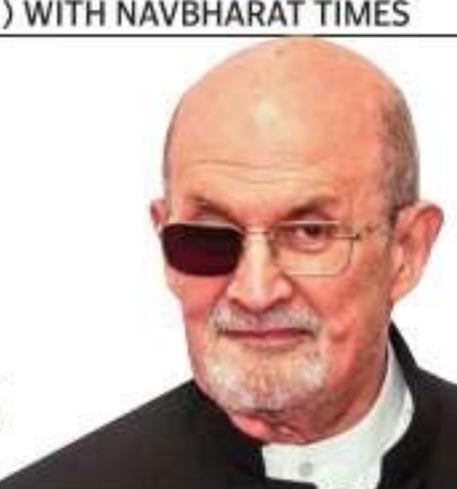
Author Salman Rushdie  
has a memoir coming  
out about the knife  
attack that left him  
blind in his right eye &  
with a damaged left  
hand, OTHER BOOK, P11



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Australian journalist Cheng Lei, who had been held in China on nat'l security charges for over 3 yrs, returns home after being freed, OTHER BK, P 11



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Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

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- Up-gradation of State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Dehradun
- Treatment for the prevention of landslides in Balyanala, Nainital district

#### Expansion of education, health and sports facilities

- Construction of Hostels and Computer Labs in 20 Model Degree Colleges
- 100 bedded Sub District Hospital in Someshwar, Almora
- Construction of 50 bedded Hospital block in Champawat
- Velo-drome construction work in Rudrapur
- Construction of Astro-turf hockey ground in Sports Stadium, Haldwani

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- Development of infrastructure facilities in Jageshwar Dham, Haat Kalika and Naina Devi Temple under Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

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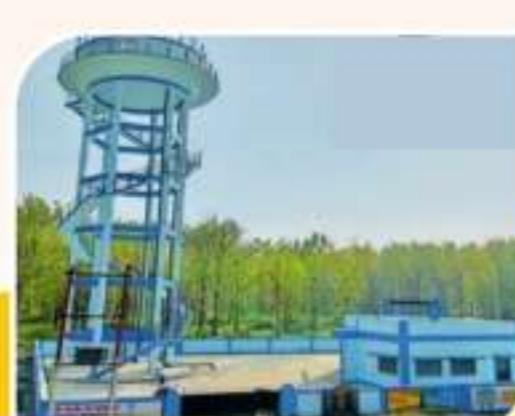
**Kalpana Saini**

**Naresh Bansal**

**Rekha Verma**

12 October, 2023 (Thursday)  
Time : 2:30 PM onwards

Venue : Shri Surendra Singh Valdia  
Sports Stadium, Pithoragarh



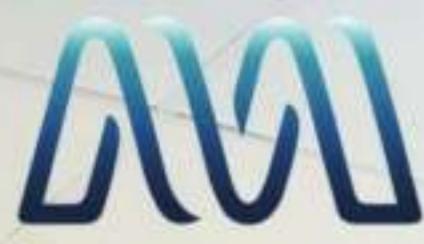
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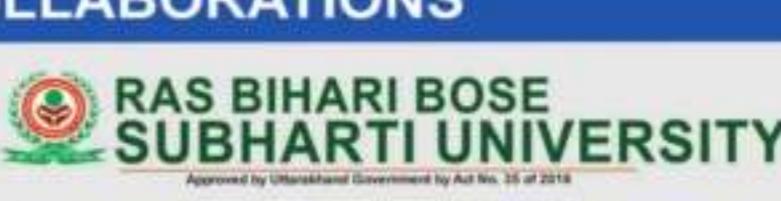
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**9639010567**  
SUBHARTIPURAM, NH-58,  
DELHI-HARIDWAR BYPASS ROAD, MEERUT, U.P., INDIA

## Admission in Ph.D. Programme

(A University established by Act no. 29/2008 of U.P. Govt. and empowered by UGC to grant degrees vide letter no. F-9-37/2008 (CPP-1) dated 6-2-2009)

E-mail: research@subharti.org, Website: www.subharti.org

Applications are invited for admission under regular mode as per UGC/Apex bodies (Minimum Standard & Procedures for award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 & SVSU Ph.D. Regulations, 2022

Entrance Test for Ph.D. programs will be conducted online/offline on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### Disciplines

##### MEDICAL

- Medical Anatomy • Medical Biochemistry
- Medical Microbiology • Medical Physiology
- Medical Orthopaedics • Community Medicine
- Forensic Medicine
- [Community Health Nursing, Obs. & Gynae Nursing, Paediatrics Nursing, Psychiatry Nursing, Surgical Nursing (Under The Faculty of Medicine)],
- General Surgery • Pathology • Paediatrics (Neonatology)
- Pharmacology • Radio-Diagnosis • Molecular Medicine
- Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
- Anesthesiology and Critical Care • Medical Imaging Tech. (MIT)
- Medical Laboratory Tech. (MLT) • Physiotherapy

##### DENTAL SCIENCE

- Pediatric & Preventive Dentistry • Periodontology
- Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
- Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Microbiology
- Oral Medicine & Radiology • Oral Implantology
- Esthetic Dentistry • Forensic Odontology

##### PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

- Journalism and Mass Comm. • Home Science
- Political Science • Commerce • History • Sociology
- Economics • Library and Info. Science
- Languages - English, Hindi • Buddhist Studies
- Swami Vivekanand Chair

#### Eligibility

As per  
UGC/ Regulatory Councils Norms

Note:- Relaxation of 5% marks in eligibility criteria for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer). Differently-abled categories candidates will be given.

#### Duration

Minimum three (03) Years

##### SCIENCE

- Microbiology • Biochemistry
- Biotechnology • Physics • Chemistry
- Mathematics • Zoology • Botany
- Computer Application/Computer Science
- Environmental Sciences • Agriculture

##### ENGINEERING

- Computer Science & Engg.
- Environmental Engg. • Mechanical Engg.
- Electronics & Comm. Engg.
- Electrical & Electronics Engg.

##### FINE ARTS & FASHION DESIGN

- Fine Arts • Performing Arts
- Fashion & Textile Designing

##### EDUCATION

- Education • Physical Education

##### LAW

- Dr.B.R.Amdebkar Chair

##### MANAGEMENT | HOTEL MANAGEMENT

Details of Discipline wise vacancies are available on website www.subharti.org

Prescribed application form is available at the Registrar's office or may be downloaded from the University website: [www.subharti.org/phd-registration](http://www.subharti.org/phd-registration)  
Duly filled application form (in hard copy) should reach Assistant Registrar's office along with required documents and non-refundable DD worth Rs. 1500/- (including test fee) in favour of 'Swami Vivekanand Subharti University' payable at Meerut, **latest by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. The applicants may apply online and may pay online through above link. Brochure available on University website.

Tentative Date:- Entrance Test for Ph.D. programs will be conducted online/offline on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 only.

Applications of non-eligible candidates & incomplete application forms will not be considered. Login details for Entrance Test will be issued only to eligible candidates & sent through email only.

Only qualified candidates of Entrance Test will be called for an Interview. Merit list will be declared after Interview. The date and time of Interview will be notified separately. The applicants who have qualified UGC-JRF/CSIR/NET/SLET/GATE are required to indicate accordingly in the application form for exemption from the written part of the Ph.D. Entrance Test.

Contact Person:- Assistant Registrar (Academics), Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Subhartipuram, N.H.-58, Delhi Haridwar Bypass Road, Meerut, Pin- 250005. Ph.: 0121-6678000 (2720), 9639010245.

Test Pattern:- The Entrance Test shall consist of three part: (a) 50 multiple choice questions General Aptitude.

(b) 50 multiple choice questions Subject Specific. (c) Subjective research oriented.

Resident scholars may apply for JRF as per University Norms.

Registrar



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