

Power demand breaks records in Aug & Sept

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: High temperatures in August and throughout most of September led to record-breaking power demand in the capital, data shows.

Delhi's State Level Despatch Centre (SLDC) revealed that the city's peak power in September this year exceeded the levels of 24 days in the corresponding period last year. In August, barring one day (Aug 27), Delhi's peak power demand exceeded last year's levels on all days of the month.

The city's peak power demand last month was registered on September 5, when it reached 6,993 megawatts, its highest ever for the month of September. The peak power demand in September 2022 was 6,687 MW.

The lowest power demand of 4,536 MW was registered on September 10, when the city witnessed an intense spell of rain. It was the only day in the month that power demand fell below the 5,000MW-mark. The data, however, revealed that there were nine days in September last year when peak demand fell below 5,000 MW, the minimum being 4,028 MW on September 25.

According to SLDC data, Delhi's peak power demand clocked this season's highest of 7,438 MW on August 22. Since 2012, Delhi's peak power demand has always clocked the season's highest either in June or July. It had never breached the 7,000MW-mark in

0 4
OCCASIONS THIS YEAR WHEN DEMAND EXCEEDED 7,000 MW

August. But this year, power demand exceeded 7,000 MW on four occasions.

"Arranging adequate power and strengthening the network are both critical. Consistent work on this front helped us meet Delhi's high power demand," said an official from BSES, the power distribution company that caters to east, south and west Delhi.

A company official said that the discom invested substantial resources in the last financial year and ramped up the network capacity by over 600 MVA, taking the total installed capacity to nearly 21,000 MVA.

"BSES has also installed new transformers and revamped around 700 distribution transformers and substations. We also laid over 1000 km of cables to strengthen the network," the official added.

This, he said, was done with extensive predictive checks to identify hotspots and to pre-determine potential faults and to take remedial measures.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said that power consumption this September in north Delhi was estimated at 1,110 million units, compared to 1,035 million units during the corresponding month last year.

"Demand remained high mainly due to unusually high apparent temperature levels this year. In the coming months, we expect demand to remain on the higher side due to the festival season," a TPDDL spokesperson said.

Delhi records second lowest avg AQI since 2018 in past 9 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi has recorded its second lowest average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 167 over the past six years for the period from January to September, as per data provided by the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and its adjoining areas (CAQM). The year 2020, during the lockdown, marked the cleanest period with an AQI of 144 for the same time period.

The average AQI for Delhi from January to September was 184 in 2022, 180 in 2021, 188 in 2019, and 193 in 2018, respectively. "Continuing with the trend of an overall improvement in air quality in NCR, the daily average air quality for Delhi for the period between January and September registered its second lowest AQI as compared to the corresponding period during the last six years," said CAQM.

Delhi also witnessed the second highest number of days (193) with daily average AQI below 200 during January-September this year as compared to the corresponding period for the past five years.

In previous years, the number of days with AQI below 201 during this period was 146 days in 2022, 174 days in 2021, 165 days in 2019, and 152 days in 2018. The highest number of such days was observed in 2020.

In 2023, there was a reduction in daily average PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations. The period during January-August in 2023 recorded daily average PM2.5 concentration of about 73 µg/m³ as against the range of 82-95 µg/m³ during the corresponding periods from 2017 to 2022, barring the Covid-affected year 2020.

Similarly, the daily average PM10 concentration in Delhi has been about 169 µg/m³, which is lower than the range of 183-215 µg/m³ during the corresponding periods from 2017 to 2022. This does not include 2020.

MISSION MILLETS

TIMES INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLET INITIATIVE

MILLET FESTIVALS

- ♦ In Madhya Pradesh, ragi is mixed with turmeric and put on the bride and groom's bodies during wedding rites.
- ♦ Millet seeds are also used to ward off 'bad spirits' in certain tribal communities; the Pahadi Korkua tribe of Chhattisgarh hangs millet stalks in their courtyards to ensure excellent hunts and a plentiful harvest.
- ♦ People in northern Andhra Pradesh are required to eat ragi pancakes before returning home after celebrating Diwali.
- ♦ Ragi is still prepared at the snake god's festival (Nagula Chavithi) in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ♦ In Gujarat, people consume kheech made from millets as a part of the Navratri fasting tradition.
- ♦ The tribal communities of Jharkhand and Odisha offer millets to deities during harvest festivals.



CELEBRATING MILLETS

Millets have a long history in India; they form an important element of the country's culinary heritage and are celebrated throughout the nation

Millets are small, seeded grasses with a long history in Indian traditions. Millets are probably the first cereal grains ingested by humans. They were domesticated as staple cereals over 10,000 years ago in China, followed by India. The ancient Yajurveda writings cite foxtail (priyangava),

barnyard millet (aanava), and black finger millet (shyaamaka) as some of the first signs of millets being consumed in India. Until about 50 years ago, most of the country consumed this traditional cuisine.



have resurfaced as a superfood.

Many millets have miraculously survived in India, despite having been lost to us for a long time. Ancient rituals and celebrations helped keep them alive in India's farms and kitchens. Our multiracial and heterogeneous societies valued millets and their diversity. These communities have grown millets and include them in their daily lives. Millet celebrations are being held across India today.

MILLET RECIPE

♦ Kangani Kheer (Foxtail millet kheer)

Serving: 1 Preparation time: 15 min

Ingredients	Amount
Foxtail millet	1/3rd cup
Milk	1 cup
Almonds	1/2 teaspoon
Raisins	1/2 teaspoon
Sugar	1 tablespoon
Ghee	1 teaspoon

METHOD:

- Wash kangani and cook it on low heat with 1 cup of milk.
- Once the milk begins to boil, add a pinch of cardamom powder and stir well.
- Add in the sugar and cook on low heat until the consistency thickens.
- Remove from heat and garnish with ghee, roasted almonds, and raisins.
- Once the kheer cools and further hardens, serve.

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QR CODE



If AQI Touches 201, GRAP Could Be Activated Today

Revised In July, Curbs on 4-Wheelers Now In Entire NCR

MAKING BREATHING EASIER

File photo

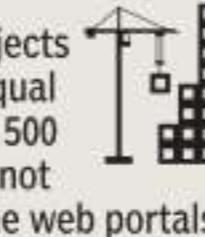
Major actions to be adopted in different stages of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

mining and associated activities in NCR

STAGE I

Delhi AQI 'poor', in the range of 201-300

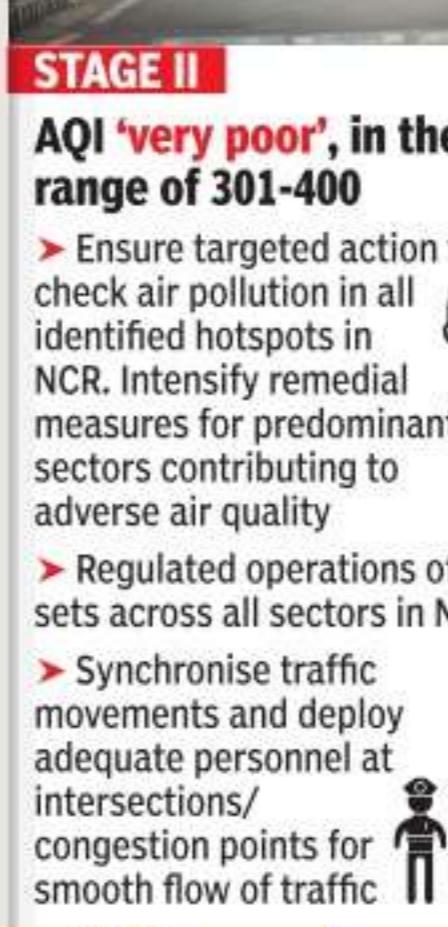
- Not to permit construction & demolition activities in projects with plot size equal to or more than 500 sqm, which are not registered on the web portals of the NCR states for remote monitoring of dust mitigation measures



STAGE II

AQI 'very poor', in the range of 301-400

- Carry out periodic mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads and ensure scientific disposal of dust
- Strictly enforce NGT/ Supreme Court's orders on overaged vehicles
- Ensure use of only approved fuels by NCR industries, including in brick kilns and hot mix plants, and enforce closure in case of violations
- Enforce court/tribunal orders on firecracker ban
- Enforce complete ban on coal/ firewood in tandoors in hotels, restaurants, open eateries



STAGE III

AQI 'severe', in the range of 401-450

- Enforce strict ban on C&D activities in NCR, except for liner public project, emergency projects and non-dust-generating activities
- All NCR state governments to curb plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light-motor four-wheelers in Delhi and in the districts of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar
- Synchronise traffic movements and deploy adequate personnel at intersections/congestion points for smooth flow of traffic
- Close down operations of stone crushers, all



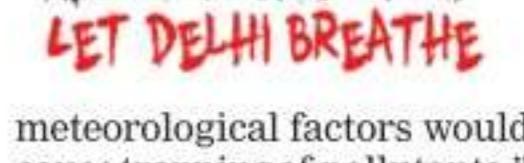
STAGE IV

AQI 'severe+', above 450

- Stop entry of truck traffic into Delhi, except for those carrying essential commodities/providing essential services and all LNG/CNG/electric trucks
- Do not permit light commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi, other than EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel ones, to enter Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities/providing essential services
- Ban plying of Delhi-registered diesel-operated medium and heavy goods vehicles (MGVs & HGVs) in Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities/providing essential services
- Ban C&D activities in linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, etc

beyond a certain threshold as per the dynamic model and meteorological forecast provided by India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

One of the major changes in GRAP this year is that NCR state governments will be imposing strict restrictions on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light-motor four-wheelers in Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar if AQI is forecast to turn 'severe' in stage III. Last year this restriction was only for Delhi.



meteorological factors would cause trapping of pollutants.

An official, who didn't wish to be named, said, "As the winter conditions will start setting in Delhi, the air quality will start deteriorating. Calm wind conditions, low temperatures and other

environmental factors would cause trapping of pollutants."

The revised GRAP contains targeted actions that need to be taken by the agencies responsible when AQI of Delhi goes beyond a certain threshold or is expected to go beyond a certain threshold as per the dynamic model and meteorological forecast provided by India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

GRAP has four stages — stage I when AQI is ranging between 201 and 300, stage II when AQI is 301-400, stage III when AQI is 401-450 and stage IV when AQI is 450-500.

DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
UNDER THE AEGIS OF
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
IN COORDINATION WITH
DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

FOR SETTLEMENT OF COMPOUNDABLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS OF ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES (Including Commercial Vehicles) ON SPOT CHALLANS AND NOTICES PENDING AT THE DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE PORTAL TILL 30.06.2023 AT THE COURT COMPLEXES OF DWARKA, KARKARDOMA, PATIALA HOUSE, ROHINI, ROUSE AVENUE, SAKET & TIS HAZARI.

Note: 1. In order to take up the maximum Challans/Notices in the Lok Adalat, it was decided that only Compoundable Traffic Challans/Notices pending on Delhi Traffic Police portal till 30.06.2023 will be taken up in this Lok Adalat.
2. Only 1000 Challans/ Notices shall be taken up for disposal by each Bench in all 170 Lok Adalat Benches. Total 1,70,000 Challans/Notices shall be disposed off on 08.10.2023 (Sunday), in all above Court Complexes.
3. All the notices/challans are to be downloaded from Delhi Traffic Police Website. It is mandatory to carry a print out of the Notices/Challans. There will not be any facility of print out in the Court Complexes.

To download and take print out of the Notices/Challans log on the Delhi Traffic Police Website
[https://traffic.delipolice.gov.in/notice/lokadalat](https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/notice/lokadalat)

THIS LINK WILL BE ACTIVATED FROM 04 OCTOBER, 2023 AT 10:00 AM, TILL THE LIMIT OF CHALLANS/NOTICES GET EXHAUSTED.

VISIT COURT MENTIONED IN YOUR CHALLANS/NOTICES AT PRESCRIBED TIME.
PLEASE CARRY PRINT OUT OF CHALLAN/NOTICE TO THE LOK ADALAT BENCH FOR DISPOSAL.

Note:- Step by step guide for downloading challan slip can be seen by scanning QR code No.1.
• Challans/Notices slips can be downloaded by litigants directly through the above mentioned link by scanning QR code No.2.

DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
Rouse Avenue District Court
3rd Floor, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,
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MAN**

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POWERING A GREENER TOMORROW

For 10th Year, Monsoon Decides To Leave City After Staying Extra Days

July Received Over 50% Of Rain This Season, August Ends Up Driest Of All

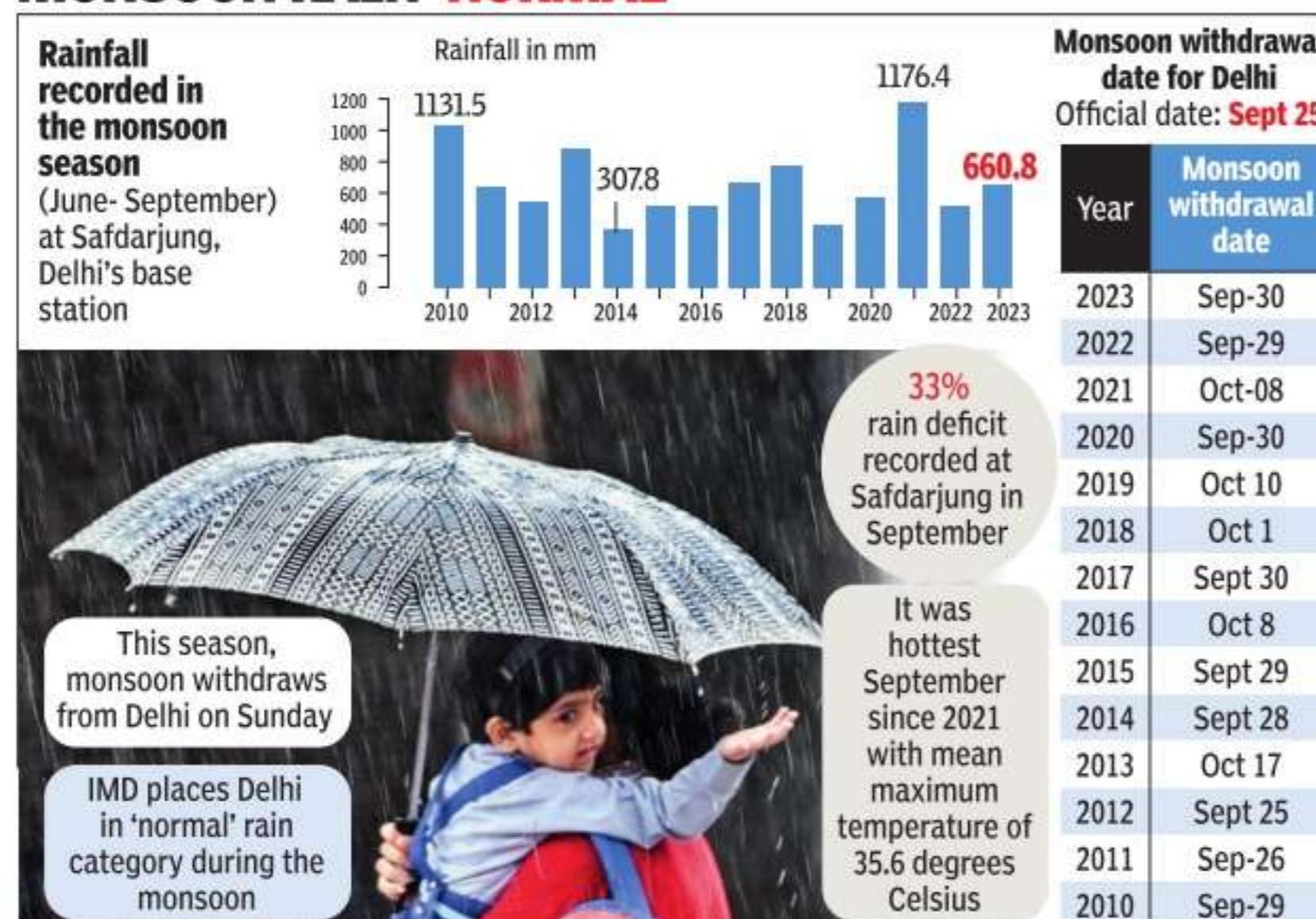
Priyangi Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The southwest monsoon retreated from Delhi on Saturday after a delay of five days from the normal withdrawal date of September 25. For a decade now, the rain-bearing winds have withdrawn from Delhi late, according to India Meteorological Department's data. Safdarjung, which is the city's base weather station, logged 660.8mm of rainfall in the monsoon season from June to September against the normal average of 640.4mm.

"The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from some parts of Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, entire Punjab and Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, some parts of west Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh and east Rajasthan and some more parts of west Rajasthan on Sunday," said IMD in its bulletin on Saturday.

IMD's data shows that of the total rainfall reported during the monsoon season, more than half the precipitation was recorded in July at 384.6mm with a monthly ex-

MONSOON RAIN 'NORMAL'



cess of 83%. June also had excess rain of 37% with Safdarjung logging 101.7mm rainfall against the normal of 74.1mm.

In contrast, August received 91.8mm of rainfall against the month's normal of

233.1mm, thus being the second driest in 14 years with a rain deficit of 61%.

September received 82.7mm rainfall, a deficit of 33%. It is the lowest rainfall recorded in September for the city was September 22, but it was revised to September 25 from 2021 onwards. The normal date of monsoon withdrawal was revised based on long period average data based on 1971-2019.

While the rains withdrew from the city after a delay of five days, the monsoon arrived early this year in Delhi on June 25, two days before its normal onset date.

IMD's forecast says that the day temperature is likely to hover at 35-36 degrees Celsius for the next seven days.

6 dry days from Oct to Dec: Excise dept

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The excise department of the Delhi government late on Friday notified six dry days from October to December when the sale of liquor will remain prohibited at the state-run retail stores in the capital.

According to the Delhi excise rules, liquor shops cannot sell alcoholic beverages on any dry day. However, the restriction does not apply to the sale of alcohol at duty-free shops or on serving liquor at hotels, clubs and restaurants.

Officials, however, said serving liquor will be completely prohibited even at hotels, clubs and restaurants on October 2.

Dry days are notified by

soon trough shifted from its normal position. On most days, it skirted Delhi and the city was unable to meet its normal precipitation mark," said a Met official.

However, the total rainfall logged in this monsoon season was higher than last year. Safdarjung recorded 516.9mm rainfall during the monsoon in 2022. However, 2021 was the wettest monsoon since 1964 as Safdarjung logged 1,176.4mm of rainfall.

Met department's data shows that the rains withdrew on September 25 in 2022 and October 8 in 2021. The earlier normal withdrawal date for monsoon for the city was September 22, but it was revised to September 25 from 2021 onwards. The normal date of monsoon withdrawal was revised based on long period average data based on 1971-2019.

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Changing Lives: Power of wellness & nutrition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

MATTERS OF THE HEART



Vineeta Singh
of SUGAR Cosmetics is into early rising, exercise & mindful eating



Mayank Kumar
of upGrad swears by regular exercise & a balanced diet

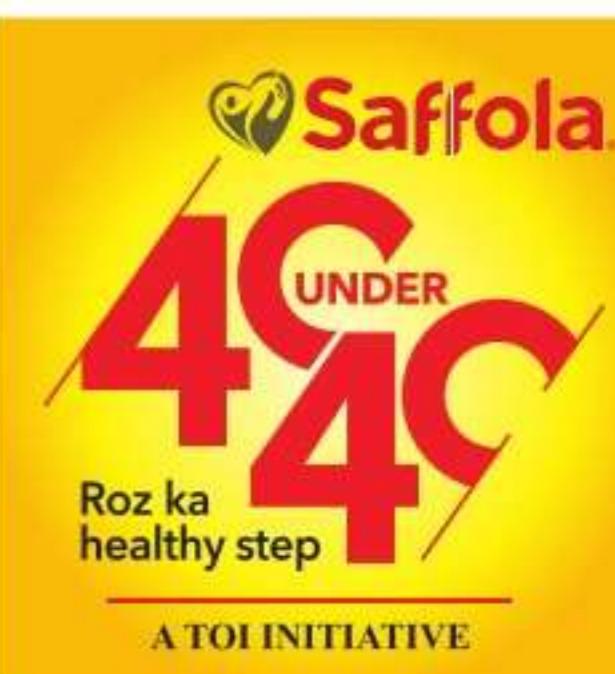
Only 33% don't skip meals

Only 25% have fruits every day

Only 33% exercise daily

Only 24% have high blood sugar

Only 60% do not have sound sleep



people currently lead, often characterised by insufficient sleep. Through the Saffola Roz ka healthy step, she conveyed a message advocating not only for well-being of one's heart but also for overall health.

Almost 22,000 Indians have embarked on a health journey with Saffola and The Times of India. They represent a new generation of individuals dedicated to becoming healthier in their 40s. The Saffola-TOI 40 under 40 initiative serves as a beacon of hope and guidance for those seeking to transform lives through better dietary choices.

With the Saffola-TOI 40 under 40 initiative, young achievers are rewriting the narrative, proving that a balanced diet is not a choice; it's a lifestyle that fuels success and shapes a brighter future.

Pledge for a Healthy Heart: I pledge to prioritise my health and well-being. I recognise that poor health can lead to a life filled with missed opportunities and regrets. I commit to taking 'Roz ka healthy step' today, so that I can enjoy a vibrant and active life in my 40s and beyond. On this World Heart Day, I pledge to live without regrets. Join me in this commitment by scanning the code to pledge here."

inspired him to prioritise healthy fats, fruits, daily exercise, and improved sleep.

Vikas Yadav, a comedian and content creator, overcame high blood sugar and poor sleep through the 'Roz Ka Healthy Step' campaign, embracing whole grains, fruits, exercise, and better sleep.

Nikita Gandhi Patni, a chef, recognised common challenges such as job-related stress and irregular eating habits. She used her culinary skills to promote a healthier lifestyle through her dishes without compromising on taste.

Somasree Bose Awasthi, chief marketing officer at MARICO Limited, emphasised that in celebration of World Heart Day, the Saffola-TOI 40 under 40 initiative represents a significant effort to inspire individuals to lead healthier lives. She expressed concerns about the prevalent unhealthy eating. Saffola's campaign

to be adulterated. The department late on Friday issued specific instructions to the safety officers to be vigilant.

The department said that these drives will now start across the city 15 days before the festivals such as Navratri,

Dussehra, Diwali, Christmas, Holi, Eid and Rakshabandhan.

The food safety officers will "pick up samples of va-

rious articles of food, anything that is consumed during the festive season apart from sweets, ghee, paneer, khoya and milk products for analysis," the order mentioned.

It further directed all officers to list 20 formal and 20 surveillance samples for the analysis and seize food articles and consumables that seem adulterated and unsafe. TNN

Govt to start checking food quality for festivals

New Delhi: Delhi government will carry out special enforcement drives two weeks before each big festival to ensure only quality eatables are available in the market.

The food and safety department of the government has asked the safety officers to regularly collect samples, analyse them and seize food articles, which are suspected

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI

(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

NOTICE

Special Drive cum Spot Round Admissions for Academic Year 2023-24 for Undergraduate & Postgraduate Programmes

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications for Special Drive/ Spot Round Admissions to various **Under Graduate (UG) & Postgraduate (PG)** programmes mentioned below for the academic year 2023-24 as some seats are still lying vacant in these programmes after exhausting the list of applicants.

2. All applicants who are willing to take admissions in below mentioned programmes and appeared for UG(CUET)-2023 & PG(CUET)-2023 may register on University UG & PG admission portal at https://aud.ac.in/admissions/ug_admissions/2023 & https://aud.ac.in/admissions/pg_admissions/2023 respectively.

Special Drive Cum Spot Round		Spot Admissions	
S.no.	List of UG Programmes	S.no.	List of PG Programmes
1	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Mathematics	1	MA Education (Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE))
		2	MA Urban Studies
2	Bachelor of Arts Sustainable Urbanism	3	M.Des (Social Design)
		4	MA Gender Studies
3	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Hindi	5	M.VOC (Tourism & Hospitality Management)
		6	MA Global Studies
4	Bachelor of Arts Social Sciences	7	MA Performance Studies
		8	MA Hindi
5	Bachelor of Arts Global Studies	9	MA Environment & Development
		10	MA Comparative Literature

3. Details of seat availability and other terms and conditions for Special Drive cum Spot Round Admission is available at University Website. The applicants are advised to registered for admission & pay application fee only for those programmes, where seats are available in respective category/region only. No claim for admission will be entertained where seats are not available.

4. For other details like eligibility criteria, fee, terms and conditions etc., applicants are advised to refer Admission Brochure 2023-24 uploaded on University Website.

5. In case, seats still remain vacant after exhausting the list of all CUET applicants in respective programmes/region, the vacant seats shall be filled from Non-CUET candidates for UG & PG programmes. Based on Merit as given below :

(a) For UG Programmes(Non- CUET) the merit will be calculated on the basis of the best four subjects of class XII and will not include any vocational subjects as listed by CBSE.

(b) For PG Programmes(Non- CUET), the merit will be calculated on the basis of percentage of marks scored in Bachelor's Degree.

All such interested applicants may apply separately on the Non-CUET admission portal for UG & PG programmes, whose candidature shall be considered only, if seats remain vacant after exhausting all CUET applicants in respective UG & PG programmes.

6. The availability of vacant seats is as on date & subject to change due to withdrawals in programmes other mentioned above, the details of which will be notified separately on University Website, if required.

Last Date to Apply :- 05th October 2023

Dated: 27th September 2023 www.aud.ac.in

Registrar
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police Kolkata for 'Erection of partition as per floor plan and construction of three nos toilet at Chandaneswar Police Station, at Community Hall at Chandaneswar, during the year 2023-2024'. The last date for submission of the e-tenders is 10/10/2023 up to 15.00 hours. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- for Commissioner of Police, Kolkata
ICA-T20330(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Tender ID: 2023_WBP_579053_1
Dated: 09/10/2023. Work Title: Hiring of Generator/Misc. Articles for the F.Y. 2023-2024. Bid Closing Date: 12.10.2023. For More Details Log on to: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Paschim Medinipur
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October 1, 2023
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New Born baby found trapped under the rubble being rescued following the Morocco earthquake.



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40-year-old woman doctor stabbed by 'patient' in clinic



After scanning the CCTV footage, police identified the accused

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

the clinic after inflicting knife wounds on the doctor."

New Delhi: A 40-year-old woman doctor was stabbed numerous times by an assailant in west Delhi's Tagore Garden on Saturday. Police later said that the woman's condition was stable and the man who made his way into the doctor's residence-cum-clinic by posing as a patient had been identified after scanning CCTV footage.

The doctor runs a clinic in Tagore Garden Extension and lives in the same building. According to the cops, the incident took place around 4.30pm on Saturday when the woman was at her clinic on the ground floor of the building. The staff

The staffers at the clinic too were present during the attack. The woman sustained numerous stab wounds in the attack and is currently under treatment, said police

fers at the clinic too were present at the time. The woman sustained numerous stab wounds in the attack and is currently under treatment, according to police.

A senior police officer said, "As narrated by eyewitnesses and the doctor, a man entered the building in the evening. He was armed with a knife. Before she could raise an alarm, he caught hold of her on the staircase and assaulted her. The woman tried to fight back and screamed, hearing which the other family members and the locals rushed to the spot. But before anyone could intervene, the attacker had escaped from

Poshan Maah, an effort to push nutritious food items

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi government on Saturday organised the closing ceremony of 'Poshan Maah', a month-long exercise promoting quality nutrition for women and children.

The event took place at Nirmal Chhaya Complex in Jail road area of west Delhi, with Delhi Women and Child Development minister Atishi as the chief guest.

During 'Poshan Maah', the anganwadi workers raised awareness among numerous families in Delhi, encouraging them to enhance their dietary habits by include nutritious whole grains in their meals.

At the closing ceremony, Atishi interacted with the anganwadi workers and lauded them for their relentless efforts to combat malnutrition amongst women and children.

Atishi said a significant section of the country was affected by malnutrition despite India being one of the top food-producing nations. She added that poverty and inequality were contributing factors.

"But a major reason is the lack of awareness about nutrition-related habits. A large population today consumes food that lacks essential nutrients. People are influenced by advertisements and include many food items in their diet that do not provide proper nutrition," the minister said, adding that people should change their eating habits to obtain essential nutrition.

Urging people to incorporate coarse grains

**HEALTHY PLATTER**

such as sorghum (jowar) and pearl millets (bajra) into their diets, she said the culture of consuming these grains always existed in India but lately processed foods replaced them leading to inadequate nutrition for people.

Atishi said research indicated that a child's mental development was most significant up to the age of five and it was essential that they received proper nutrition and care during this age.

During the event, the Anganwadi workers showcased various food items and delicacies based on coarse grains to demonstrate how it can be incorporated even in less economically privileged households for better nutrition.

Urging people to incorporate coarse grains

No funds crunch, govt redesigning scheme to resume free WiFi: Atishi

Siddhanta Mishra
@timesgroup.com

to discontinue the work from December 16 due to non-availability of funds.

After assessment of the requirement of internet facilities by the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, the state government launched the project in 2019, with PWD installing more than 11,000 WiFi hotspots across the city, especially areas in the 70 assembly constituencies known to have a heavy concentration of visitors and important government buildings.

Providing free WiFi was one of the 70 promises made by AAP ahead of the 2015 assembly polls. It earmarked Rs 100 crore for the project

The WiFi hotspots included 100 parks, markets and important government buildings in the city and 4,000 bus stops. The service was designed in a way that each user, identified through his mobile number, got 15GB free data every month at a speed of 200 mbps. Users within a radius of 50 metres of each hotspot could access free internet and each hotspot concurrently handled 150-200 users.

In the outcome budget of 2022, the state government mentioned that around 6.6

lakh people availed the free WiFi facility. Government officials said that more than 21 lakh mobile phone users had access to free internet through this service.

After being implemented during the pandemic years, the WiFi facility is now stalled, ostensibly because of a fund crunch. "PWD has recently started work to resume the scheme after instructions on the matter from the minister. The project is in the initial and planning stage," claimed a PWD source.

In December last year, the agency operating the scheme was informed by the office of PWD's executive engineer (electrical) that it should provide free access to citizens till December 15, a week after the announcement of municipal elections, before discontinuing the scheme from December 16.

A Lone Wolf Who Learned From Each Heist

His Backpack Had Everything He Could Need For 24 Hours During His Debut In Delhi: Cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lokesh Srivatsa treated every theft as a military mission. So, when he got ready to invade Umrao Singh Jewellers in south Delhi's Bhogal, his backpack had everything he would need for 24 hours—from chocolates and cashew nuts to crowbars and a portable gas cutter. And since every foray had taught him something, like getting caught in a case because of his fingerprints, he was donning gloves that day.

An inveterate thief in his home state of Chhattisgarh, Srivatsa was making his debut in Delhi. He selected the biggest shop in Bhogal after making sure that the buil-

ding didn't have other occupants on any of the floors.

"He never trusted anyone apart from his close associate, Shiva Chandravanshi," a senior police officer said of the master thief. Ironically, it was a namesake who blew his cover and caused his arrest this time. When asked for help in disposing of the Rs 25-crore loot, Chandravanshi contacted a friend named Lokesh Rao, who ended up tipping police about Srivatsa's location.

Once Chhattisgarh police learnt about Srivatsa's association with a 'big theft' in Delhi, they alerted Delhi Police, and their information corroborated the leads the national capital's cops had got from the technical analy-



An inveterate thief in his home state of Chhattisgarh, Srivatsa was making his debut in Delhi

sis of several mobile phone numbers.

The cops confirmed on Saturday that Srivatsa had carried out a recce of Bhogal market twice in September. "He checked the buil-

dings housing jewellery shops and noted one, unlike most others, did not have establishments or tenants staying on other floors. This building had Umrao Singh Jewellers as an occupant," a police source said.

Srivatsa came to Delhi on September 9 and stayed in Jangpura. He then stayed in Chandni Chowk before going to Vrindavan on September 12. He returned on September 15 and stayed till September 17. He then went home but returned to Delhi on September 21 to gather details, like when the shop closed, how the guards functioned and how the adjacent buildings were placed.

"He entered the building on September 24, and kno-

POLICE SOURCE SAYS
He checked the buildings housing jewellery shops and noted one, unlike most others, did not have establishments or tenants staying on other floors. This building had Umrao Singh Jewellers as an occupant

In a CCTV footage, Srivatsa can be seen walking around the jewellery showroom, face covered by a white cloth. The cops say he was probably disconnecting the CCTV cameras at this time.

"He knew that the market was closed on Monday. But he still waited till 10.30am to ensure the shop wouldn't open before drilling a hole in the wall of the adjoining wall," the source revealed. Police said Srivatsa purchased a disc cutter from Shradhanand Marg for Rs 1,300 and a hammer in Chandni Chowk for Rs 100.

A court had remanded the thief for three days in the custody of Bilaspur police because of involvement in crime there.

Woman stabber nabbed in Gujarat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

POLICE SAY

She had injuries all over her body, including on the throat, face, back and stomach. She required more than 850 stitches in hospital

back and stomach. She required more than 850 stitches in hospital." She remained in hospital for two weeks and was confined to the bed for almost three months. Police said she couldn't speak for a month.

Ravindra Singh Yadav, special commissioner of police (Crime), disclosed that while the investigating team had scrutinised a voluminous bank of mobile data and zeroed in on a few suspicious phone numbers that were active in Gujarat. "We conducted a raid, and five months after the crime, we managed to catch the accused on Sharap village road in Gujarat," said Yadav.

Rinku had found a job in a factory there and used the phone numbers of his fellow workers to call relatives. During the interrogation, he told the cops he met the woman at the footwear company and fell in love with her. "They even had a child together, but he became suspicious that his partner was having an affair with another man. He couldn't bear this stigma and tried to kill her," an officer said.

The police officer said, "She had injuries on the throat, face,

Early detection, timely treatment key to save lives in heart ailment

New Delhi: Routine health checkups play a crucial role in detecting risk factors at an early stage, and timely diagnosis can protect the heart by taking preventive measures and making lifestyle changes. This was emphasised by experts at a conference here to mark the 17th World Heart Day.

On the occasion, doctors and experts from various hospitals in the city focused on the challenge of the growing incidence of heart diseases, a leading cause of mortality worldwide.

According to experts, lifestyle changes have emerged as an important theme, with experts emphasising the significance of balanced nutrition, regular exercise, stress management and giving up smoking. They also stressed the importance of routine health checkups, saying that they serve as early warning systems that allow for timely interventions that could be life-saving.

"Early detection allows for timely intervention, which could be crucial," said Dr R N Kalra, the keynote speaker. He and other experts discussed the role of contributory factors from stress and hypertension to excess consumption of alcohol and a sedentary lifestyle.

The participation of survivors and their kin was an important feature of the initiative to spread awareness about heart diseases. They shared their stories and shone light on the devastating impact of heart ailments on families.

The narratives, raw and honest, also illuminated the risk of a cavalier approach to personal health. TNN

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Last date for bid submission 30.11.2023 (17:00 hrs. IST)

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All other details including any date extensions, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum etc., will be uploaded on the website <https://tender.up.nic.in> and will not be published in newspaper. Bidders shall regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

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'Landfill Cleaning Better Since AAP Running MCD'

CM Inspects Waste Disposal At Bhalswa, To Check Rest Too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday claimed that the speed of disposing of legacy waste from the three landfill sites had increased ever since Aam Aadmi Party took over Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

On his visit to the Bhalswa landfill to assess the progress of clearing the legacy waste, Kejriwal said the civic bpdy had managed to clear 18 metric tonnes of garbage from the area till September against the target of 14MT. He added that nearly 2,000 tonnes solid waste was being dumped at Bhalswa every day and MCD was going to hire a new agency soon for its fast disposal.

Kejriwal claimed that at the current speed, MCD was expected to process 45 lakh metric tonnes of garbage from Bhalswa by May 15, 2024. The work of clearing the Bhalswa landfill had started



Kejriwal said that nearly 2,000 tonnes of solid waste were being dumped at Bhalswa daily and MCD would hire a new agency for its fast disposal

in November last year and the goal was to remove approximately 30 lakh MT within 18 months, he said.

Delhi government stated that the Bhalswa landfill had 60-65 metric tonnes of legacy waste. With the removal of 45 lakh MT garbage by May 15 next year, Kejriwal said, about

ut 35 acres of land will be freed, which will be used in various ways.

"After removing 45 lakh metric tonnes of garbage by May 15, 2024, a second agency will be hired to handle the remaining garbage. The process for this is nearly complete. Currently, there is no Standing

Committee at MCD and tenders cannot be issued without its recommendation. Efforts are being made to find a solution," the chief minister said.

Officials said the CM would visit the other landfills next week.

AAP was elected to MCD last December on the poll promise that it would flatten the three landfill sites at Okhla, Ghazipur and Bhalswa, which are also known as mountains of garbage, in a time-bound manner.

While reading out his budget speech in March this year, then Delhi government's finance minister Kailash Gahlot gave an ambitious deadline for clearing the Okhla dumpsite by December 2023,

Bhalswa by March 2024 and Ghazipur by December 2024. Nearly 163 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste was lying at the three landfill sites at that time, cumulatively covering about 200 acres of land.

Mountains of garbage rising again, BJP claims after Ghazipur site visit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Saturday alleged that the disposal of legacy waste at the Ghazipur landfill had come to a standstill in the past few months.

Delhi BJP president Vinod Rendra Sachdeva alleged that only 800,000 metric tonnes of municipal waste was being processed every day while 2,500 MT "wet, smelly garbage" was being dumped at the landfill resulting in a new mountain of trash rising there.

BJP also claimed that the tender for the disposal work being done at the Bhalswa landfill was floated by the special officer before November 2022 and Delhi Development Authority had provided the sites for dumping of mud generated there.

No reaction was available from Aam Aadmi Party.

While chief minister Arvind Kejriwal inspected the Bhalswa landfill on Saturday morning, a team of Delhi BJP



Sachdeva alleged that only 800,000 metric tonnes of waste were being processed daily while 2,500 MT of 'wet, smelly garbage' were being dumped

functionaries led by Sachdeva reached the Ghazipur landfill site. Sachdeva alleged that AAP had made big promises regarding garbage disposal at the Ghazipur landfill before the 2022 civic elections, but the work had almost come to a standstill after it came to power.

"Whatever height has de-

creased in the past few years was due to the tireless efforts of the then BJP administration in East Delhi Municipal Corporation and MP Gautam Gambhir," he claimed. From 140 lakh MT of legacy waste in July 2019, the quantum of garbage had reduced to 85 lakh MT in September 2022, he added. "In the past eight months of

AAP's rule, only 1.5 lakh MT of garbage had been disposed of. Today at Ghazipur, along with the old mountain of 83 lakh MT, a new mountain is now rising," Sachdeva alleged.

He said thousands of tonnes of soil being released from Bhalswa every day was being dumped at the DDA sites with the help of the central government. He added that plastic and chemicals were being purchased by cement makers UltraTech by virtue of an arrangement made by the central government.

The leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, alleged that due to AAP's failure to take any significant measure to fast-track the garbage disposal, the mountains of garbage were only growing. "Going by the promises made by AAP under Kejriwal's leadership, the mountains of garbage at the three landfills should have started flattening now," Bidhuri said.

Finish trial in 30-yr-old case in a year: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has asked a sessions court to expedite trial in a 30-year-old case and conclude it within a year.

The case stems from an FIR registered in 1993 for alleged cheating and other offences. It has already seen intervention from the high court in 2006 when it directed an expeditious trial.

The matter came to the HC again after the trial court dismissed a plea seeking a day-to-day hearing in the matter.

However, the state submitted that on

account of two revision petitions having been filed before the court, the trial could not proceed further until 2015.

"Be that as it may, the present petition is disposed of requesting the trial court to expedite the trial and conclude the same as expeditiously as possible, considering the fact that the FIR relates back to the year 1993, and way back in 2006 this court had directed the trial court to expedite the trial and conclude the same, if possible, within one year," the HC observed.

The petitioner's plea said the trial court erred in rejecting the request of the peti-

tions for a day-to-day hearing of the matter.

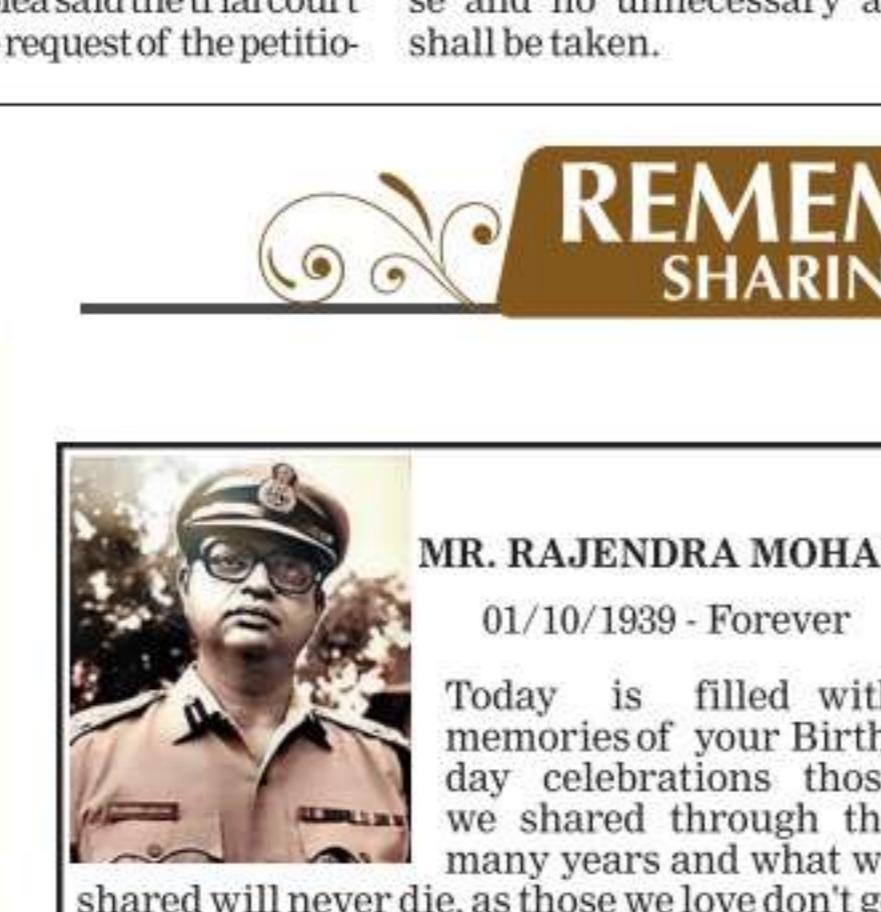
The plea submitted that the respondents have been delaying the completion of the cross-examination of the petitioner, which commenced in 2018 and is continuing till date. Further, it was also submitted that the petitioner is a senior citizen. The counsel also pointed out that one of the witnesses had died in the meantime.

The court made it clear that counsels on both sides would extend full cooperation towards the swift disposal of the case and no unnecessary adjournments shall be taken.

Today is filled with memories of your birthday celebrations those we shared through the many years and what we shared will never die, as those we love don't go away they walk beside us and are remembered everyday. Your wife Aruna Mohan

Today is filled with memories of your birthday celebrations those we shared through the many years and what we

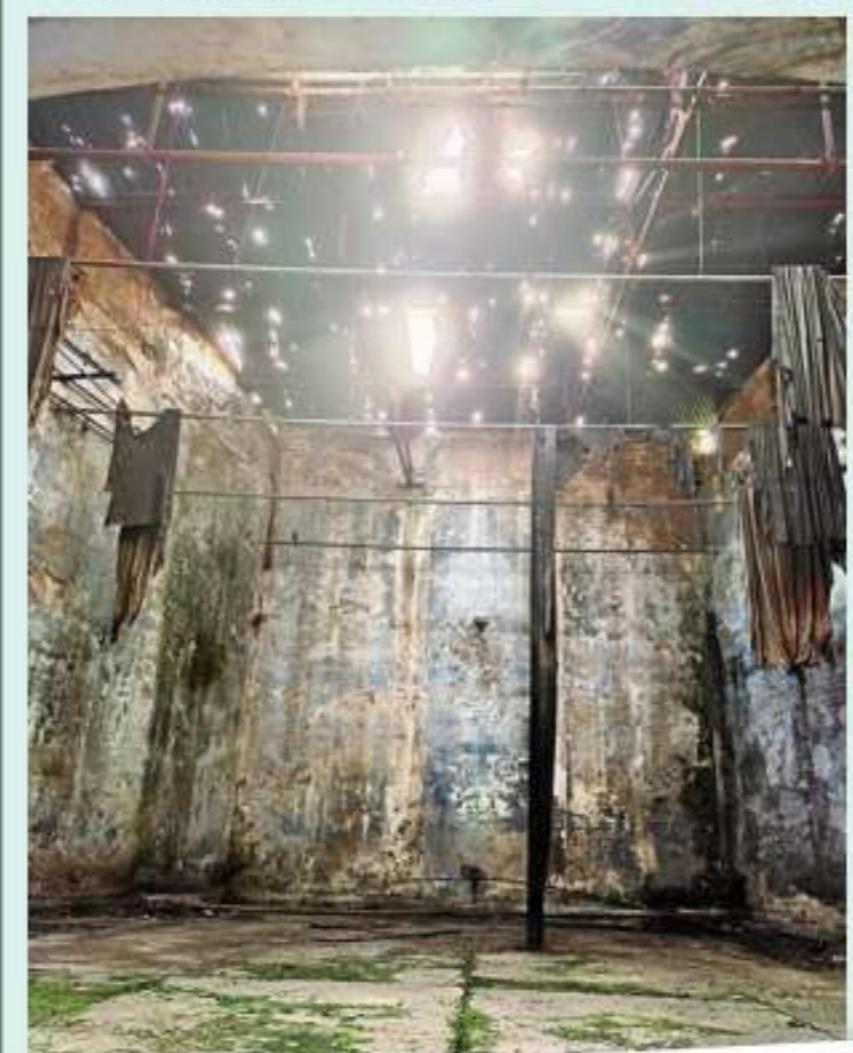
shared will never die, as those we love don't go away they walk beside us and are remembered everyday. Your wife Aruna Mohan



IN THE LIMELIGHT

► New Kirori Mal College Auditorium to be named The Frank Thakurdas Memorial Auditorium

► Designed and built in 1954 by professor Cyrus S H Jhabvala, a prominent architect at Delhi School of Planning and Architecture



FEATURES THAT WILL BE RETAINED

- Strong framework of brick and mortar
- Fan-shaped layout for improved sightlines and acoustics
- Shallow depth enhances sense of proximity between the audience and performers
- Seating capacity of 550 people and spacious balcony
- Stage with a lot of depth allowing for intricate set designs
- Ample space for performers to move along multiple axes
- Capacious wings give enough space for storage, and



movement of set elements, equipment and several performers at once

- Wide double door in one wing makes transfer of sets into the auditorium easy, a feature found only in professional performance venues
- Optimum elevation of the stage for better viewing experience and sound projection

Shradha.Chettri@timesgroup.com

PRINCIPAL SAYS

We have ₹5 crore in funds collected in the past. We have, therefore, divided the project into two phases. With the available funds, we will finish the civil work. For the second phase of the project, we will have to turn to our alumni again

our alumni again." Actor Amitabh Bachchan, an ex-student, had earlier donated ₹51 lakh for the project.

Though it will be a new space, the college has decided that the old aesthetics will remain. The institution wants its old students, many of them prominent members in the film industry, to return to the campus to relive their old days.

The Central Public Works Department has estimated costs at Rs 10 crore. Khattar said, "We have ₹5 crore in funds collected in the past. We have, therefore, divided the project into two phases. With the available ₹5 crore, we will finish the civil work. For the second phase of the project, we will have to turn to our

cessible to people with special needs.

"The fan-shaped layout of the auditorium ensured undisturbed sightlines and optimised the acoustics. The shallow depth also enhanced the sense of proximity between the audience and performers," pointed out a member of KMC's cultural council. "The stage had excellent depth, allowing for intricate and ambitious set designs. The performers too had ample space for movement along the multiple axes. The capacious wings ensured the storage and movement of set elements, technical equipment and several performers all at once. The provision of a wide double door in one wing thoughtfully allowed for the transference of sets into the auditorium, a feature found only in professional performance venues."

The new plans include kota stone/sandstone for the steps and risers. The flooring will use marble. Two green rooms and store rooms will be important spaces in the new auditorium. Special attention is being paid to lighting, sound and acoustic systems, projection system, wooden stage with internal storage, air conditioning, flexible seating and double-door entrances.

Govt orders probe into Azadpur Mandi fire

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

"The minister has directed officers concerned to investigate the incident and submit the report at the earliest," an official said.

A massive fire broke out at Azadpur Mandi on Friday. A call was received at 5.20 pm about the blaze and 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was brought under control by 6.30 pm.

The Delhi Fire Services said the fire broke out at Tomato Mandi in Azadpur and that there were no casualties. Videos circulating on social media showed plumes of smoke billowing out of the market, creating panic among the local people. pti

Govt okays project report for Chirag Dilli underpass

Siddhanta.Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi government has approved the preparation of a detailed project report on the construction of an underpass at Chirag Dilli. "A feasibility survey in June had found that the construction of an underpass at the Chirag Dilli intersection was feasible," said a PWD official on Wednesday.

The June study established that more than 10,000 passenger car units passed through the intersection in 24 hours, making the construction of an underpass preferable. The consultant had been given a month to complete the feasibility study and the report was then submitted to PWD, which accordingly prepared a proposal for the underpass and sent it to the government for approval of a larger study.

According to PWD officials, while traffic on Outer Ring Road, though slow, is largely smooth during the day, helped by a number of flyovers on the stretch, the north-south vehicular movement was, however, affected by the traffic signals. The morning and evening peak hours saw jams with long tailbacks. The design of the proposed underpass will now be drawn up along with details of all components, such as the main carriageway, footpath, service road and other elements. While an architect will be involved in this, a survey of the area will also be done alongside mapping of buildings, encroachments, trees, signage and other permanent structures. The study will also carry out a cost-benefit analysis.

Since an underground Delhi Metro track lies parallel to Outer Ring Road, PWD will also consider the depth of the tunnel and take clearance from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for the underpass.

Currently, there is a flyover at the traffic intersection, where there is a heavy vehicular rush leading to long waiting times for motorists. PWD is working on an Ashram-like solution to the problem with an underpass going below and across a flyover. The Chirag Dilli underpass will then offer a signal-free route to the motorists without their needing to stop at the red light. The Aurobindo Marg-Outer Ring Road intersection near IIT-Delhi and the August Kranti Marg-Outer Ring Road intersection too suffer a similarly heavy vehicular volume.

Man held for sexual assault of 12-yr-old

New Delhi: A 19-year-old man has been arrested from Khoda in UP for alleged sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar on Wednesday. The man has been identified as Ibran, a tailor who stays in Chilla village.

The girl's father informed police that his daughter had been sexually assaulted. The girl was already taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. After medical examination, the sexual assault was confirmed and a case of rape and under Poco Act was registered. The girl has been counselled and her condition is stable," said a police officer.

After police found that the accused was absconding, they questioned his friends and family members. His phone records were checked, and using technical surveillance, he was traced in Khoda. "A team was sent to the location and the man was arrested," police said. tnn

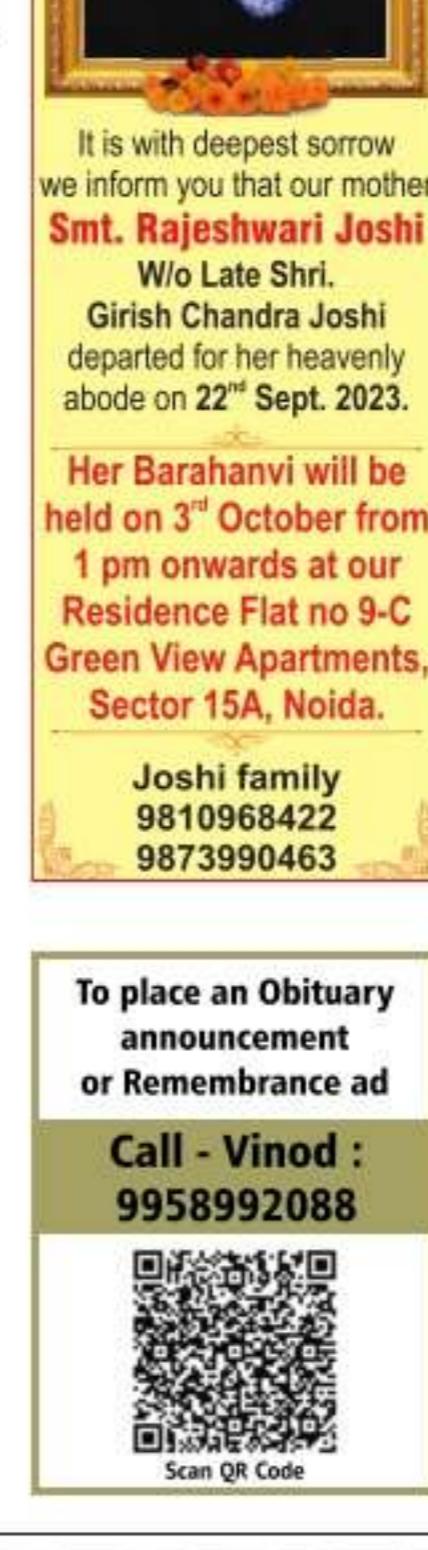
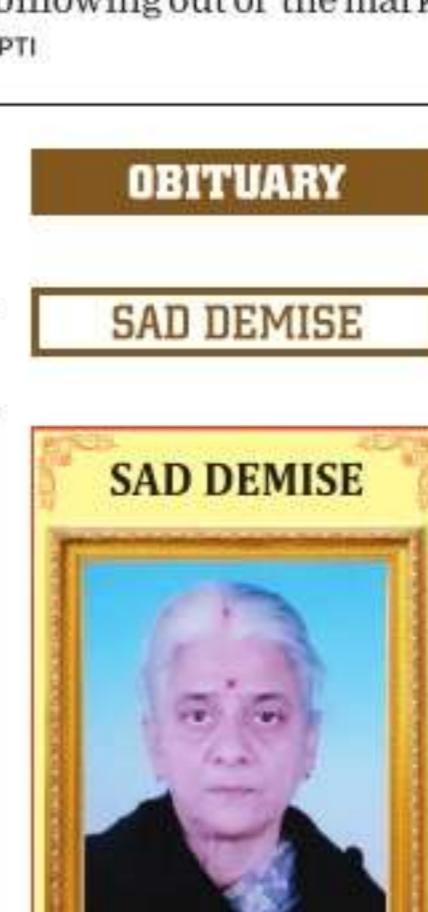
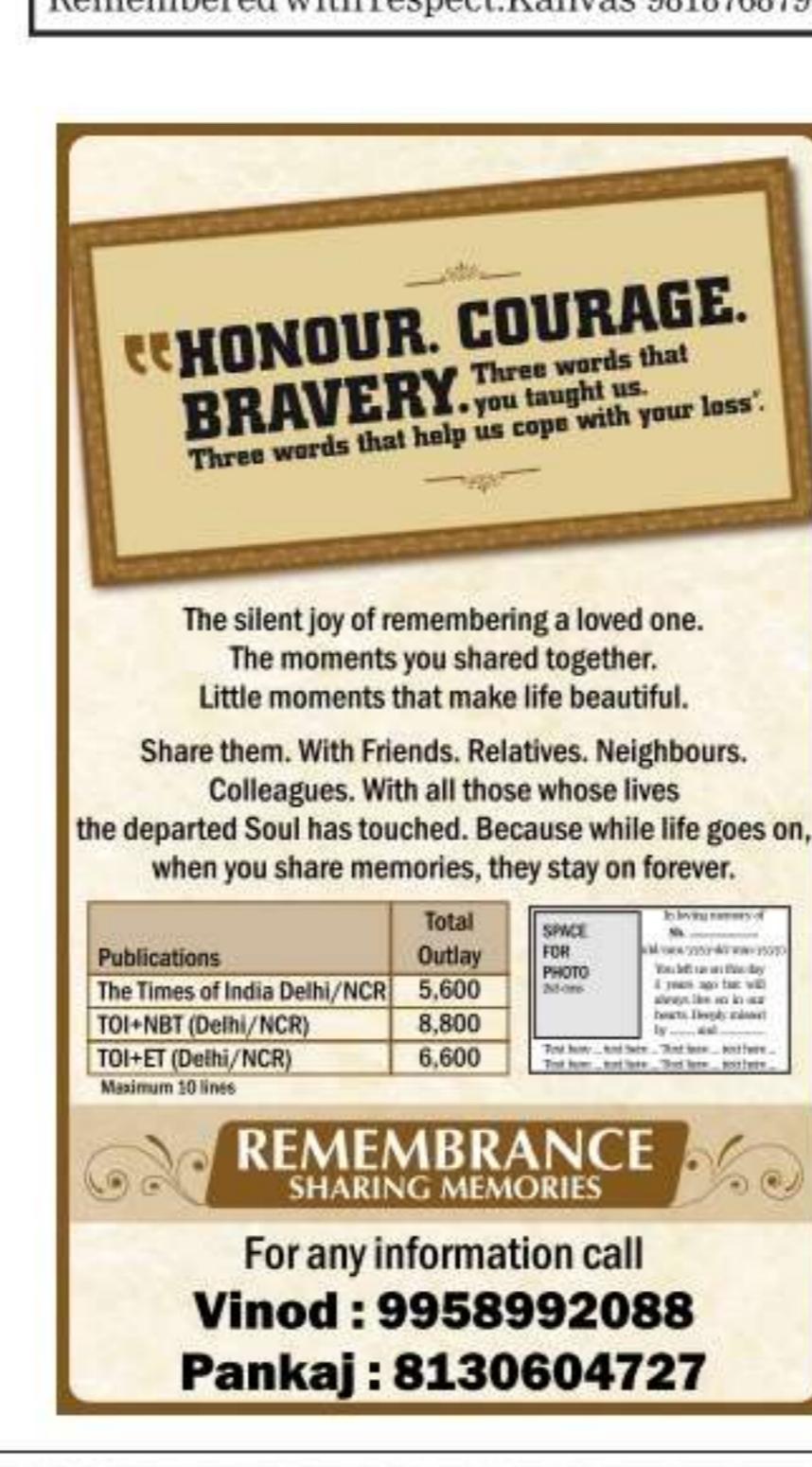
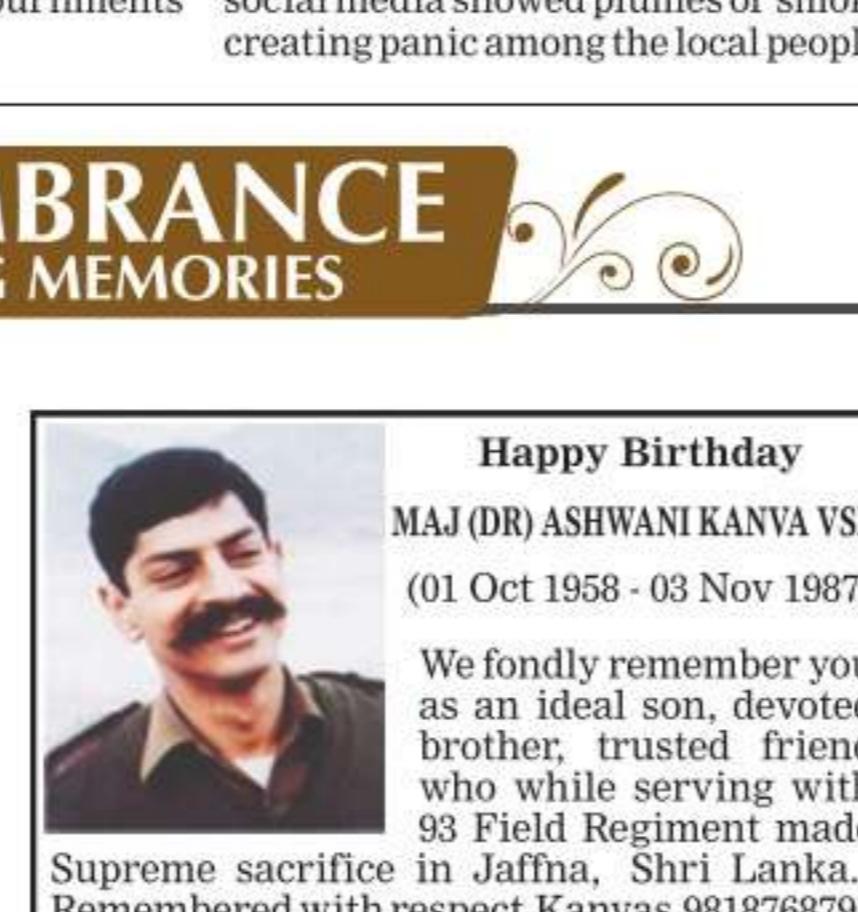
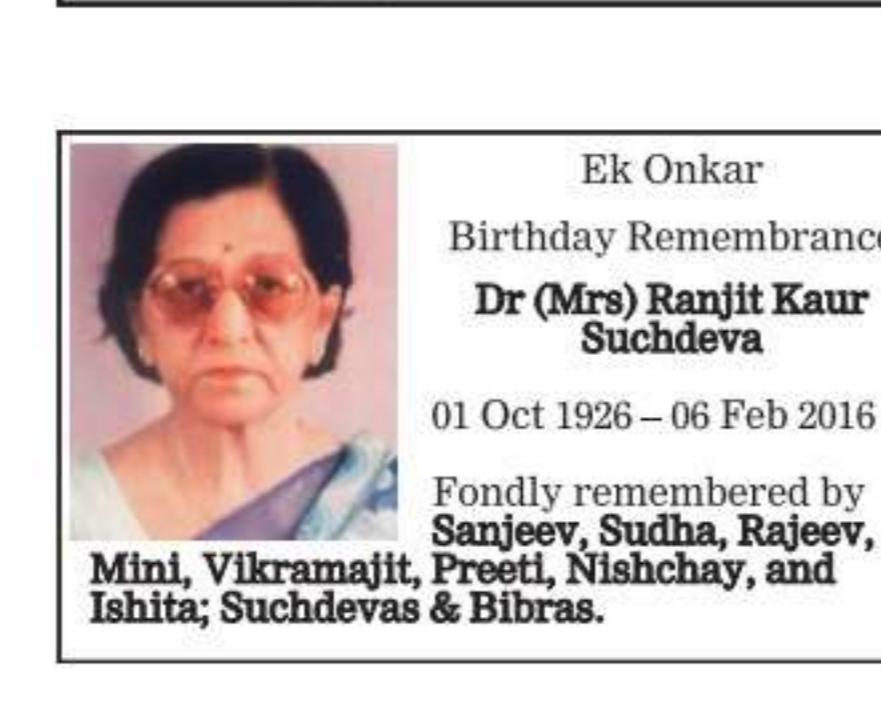
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POLITICAL COVER FOR FLEX-SLUM



Mauy Vihar Khadar is a politics hotbed. Not because it is a swing locality or the borough of a revered leader. In fact, it is a wretched river-bank locality that recently suffered two months of privations due to the flooding of the Yamuna. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and a string of political stalwarts have helped make life liveable at the small hamlet. The flex banners bearing political messages have all

helped create shelter for the residents. Resident Sabir Kumar smiled, "I bought a DU election flex for Rs 200 from a scrap dealer and used it to make my loo." As in the central hall of Parliament, Congress and BJP co-exist peacefully at the hut of Laxmi Devi. And the children's play arena has the Uttarakhand CM's flex but almost referencing modern life, it also has flex banners promoting Apple iPhones.

Text and Pictures: Anindya Chattopadhyay



'Be Realistic About Project Funds Call'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With several instances of faulty budgetary requirement leading to either shortage or non-utilisation of funds towards the end of a financial year, the finance department has asked all other departments to send their revised budget estimates for 2023-24 and proposals for the next financial year after a "realistic assessment".

Initiating the process of preparation of the revised estimates (RE) for the current fiscal and the budget estimates for 2024-25, the finance department has sought the information in the prescribed format by October 13. Officials added that pre-budget meetings would start with individual departments of Delhi government in the last week of October.

Though an annual feature, the exercise holds importance this year in the wake of the Lok Sabha elections in the next six months and the assembly polls in 2025. Sources said the government would now divert its focus and expenditure towards projects where vi-

sible progress could be made before the parliamentary elections next year.

In a detailed note to the departments, the finance department referred to the discrepancies made by them in making estimates in the past few years and how they had reappropriated funds but failed to utilise even the initial amount allocated during the budget.

Officials said huge variations between the original budget estimates and the actual expenditure incurred during the course of the year had led to an obvious conclusion that the departments were unable to

properly anticipate and project a realistic requirement of funds.

"The departments should formulate estimates based on realistic assessment of funds required so that situations like actual expenditure being less than original budget esti-

mates do not occur," the finance department stated in its budget circular. "Unrealistic assessment of funds is not conducive to a proper budgeting system and it invites adverse comments from audit," it added.

While the revised and budget estimates of a department include the projections of all subordinate offi-

ces under its administrative control, officials pointed out that there were cases of subordinate bodies and grantee institutions sending their estimates directly, leading to confusion. "The departments have been asked to issue clear instructions to all such subordinate offices under their administrative control," said an official.

The AAP government had presented a budget of Rs 75,800 crore for 2022-23 in March last year, which came down to Rs 72,500 crore in the revised estimates. This year it presented a budget of Rs 78,800 crore, keeping Rs 21,817 crore (28%) for capital spending and Rs 56,983 crore (72%) for revenue expenditure.

7 8.8 THOUSAND CRORE RUPEE BUDGET PROPOSED IN 2023-24

No. F. CI/DCI/Policy/471/2022/872

PUBLIC NOTICE

Redevelopment of Notified Industrial/ Godown Clusters in Non-Conforming areas of Delhi.

1. Government of NCT of Delhi has approved a scheme for preparing Re-development Plans of non-conforming Industrial Areas/ Godown Clusters as required in the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 existing MPD. The highlights of the scheme are as under-
 - i. Layout for Re-development plans shall be prepared and got approved from local body for notified Non-Conforming Industrial/ Godown Clusters of Delhi.
 - ii. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi shall provide subsidy of 90% for the fee/ charges for making payments to the consultants for preparation of the Redevelopment Plan.
 - iii. 10% of the fee/ charges shall be born by the registered associations / societies of non-conforming Industrial/ Godown clusters.
 - iv. The Redevelopment Plan needs to conform to the Master Plan and Regulations thereof and is to be prepared by expert agencies empanelled by DSIIIDC in this behalf.
 - v. Registered Associations/ Societies of non-conforming Industrial/ Godown Clusters who intend to get the Redevelopment Plan prepared can apply to DSIIIDC on the format available on Industries/ DSIIIDC official website alongwith requisites documents.
 2. It may be noted that in case of failure to redevelop the non-conforming clusters as per their respective regulations industrial units/ godowns existing in (non-conforming) industrial/ godown clusters need to be closed.
 3. For further details for the scheme etc. visit website of Industries Department/ DSIIIDC at [& dsiidc.org.in](https://industries.delhi.gov.in). Application for availing scheme can be submitted to the following:
- Sh. Gajender Sharma, Superintendent Engineer (Projects), DSIIIDC,
1st Floor, Room No. 106, Technical Centre Building Wazirpur Ind. Area,
Delhi- 110052, - Tel No. 27376729 (O), Mobile No. 9212440992
5. DDA is in the process of fixing revised timelines for redevelopment in order to enable the clusters the benefit of this scheme. Associations/Societies are advised to initiate timely action to avoid coercive action as per provisions of the applicable regulations in this regard.
6. Once, the Layout Plan is prepared, it will be required to be submitted by the respective society of the notified industrial/ godown clusters to MCD (Local body) for its approval
- For any clarification related to the scheme etc. applicants may call Dy. Commissioner (Policy) on cell No. 9868613877 on any working day between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0159/23-24

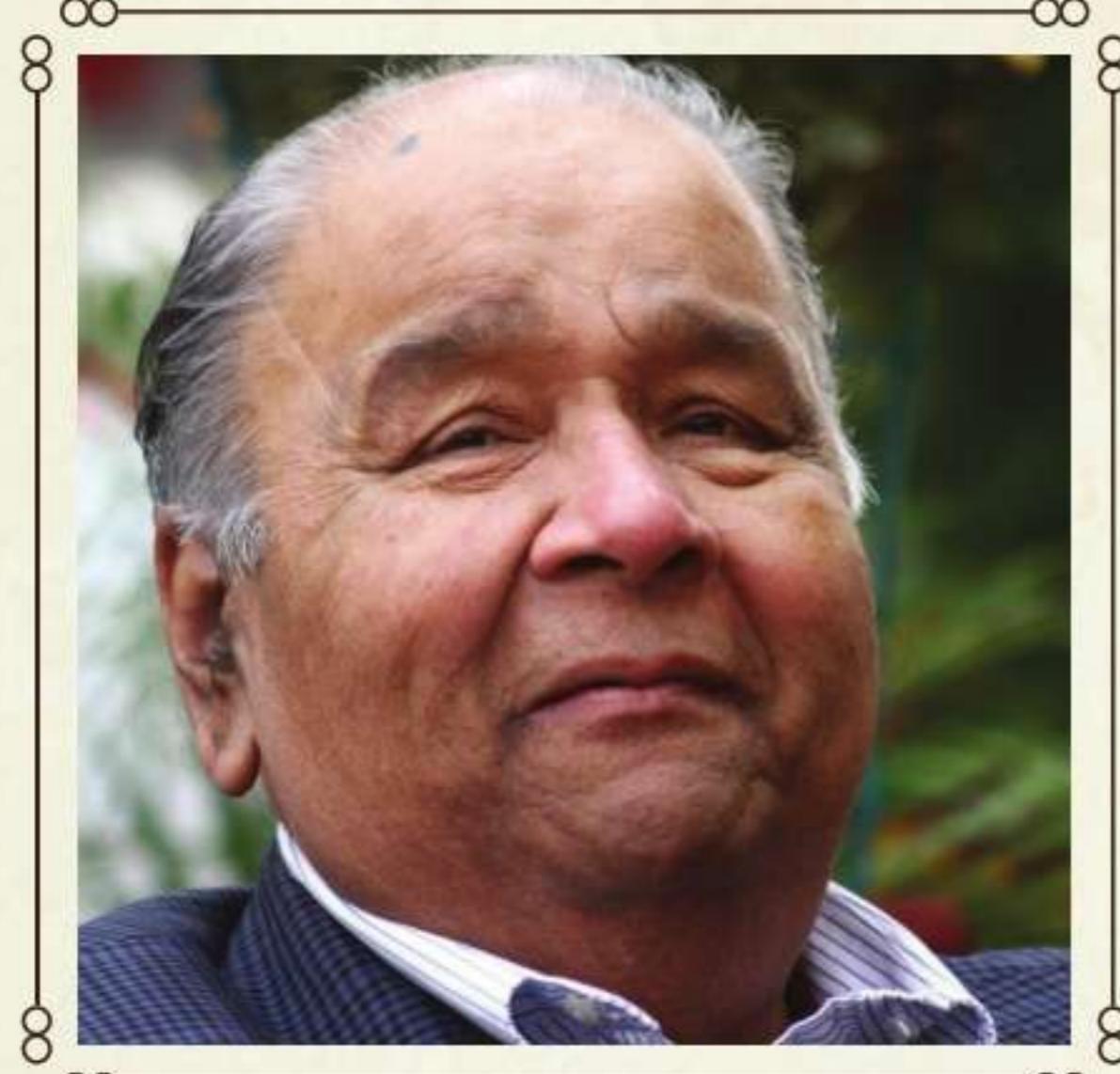
Dated: 27.09.2023

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— In reverence and respect —

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Priyanka, Pranay, Parthiv, Paroma, Ishani & Kaartikeya

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Indian Outbound Travel Boom: VFS Global Alerts Applicants About Visa Frauds

SCAMSTERS AND FRAUDULENT ENTITIES EXPLOIT TRAVEL SURGE, LURE INNOCENT TRAVELLERS INTO VISA SCAMS

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST

The meteoric surge in outbound travel from India has opened a gateway for not just globe-trotting Indians but also for a shadowy underbelly of scam artists. As more Indians give in to their wanderlust in what's termed as 'revenge travel', many find themselves at the mercy of fraudsters preying on the increased demand for visa appointments.

Given this context we spoke to a spokesperson from VFS Global, which is one of the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialists for governments and diplomatic missions, on ways to stay clear of scams such as selling appointment letters, issuing fake appointment letters, claiming to influence positive visa decision, etc.

HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO MITIGATE FRAUDS.

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Q2. Does VFS Global play any part in visa decision-making?

The decision on visa applications, the visa tenure, and timelines to process



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Q3. Does VFS Global associate with third-party entities for visa facilitation?

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Q6. Does VFS Global offer immigration and job services?

No, we do not provide immigration and job services. Applicants are advised to be cautious of scammers offering spurious job or immigration opportunities for money.

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Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

'Getting married? Have an honest chat about finances with your partner'

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI has launched *Talk it Out*, a series in which expert counsellors answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from clinical psychologist Anusuya Dutta

I am a 44-year-old man. I have been in a relationship for more than 11 years. My partner is forcing me to get married but I am afraid of taking that step due to meagre income and improper accommodation. Both of us have cracked competitive exams but are yet to get an appointment letter. I am unable to decide what to do. Please help.

— Anonymous

It seems like a very confusing situation to be in. It makes sense to consider financial struggles before getting married. It sounds to me like marriage is important to your partner, while financial safety is more important to you. I also wonder if financial concerns were not a barrier; would you want to get married? If you think you would, it would make sense to discuss your fears with your partner and how you feel it might impact your future together. It would also help to figure out what would make you feel safe enough to commit to marriage. On the other hand, if the answer is no, it could help to reevaluate the relationship and notice if there are other concerns that are stopping you as well. It would also make sense to honestly discuss what your future goals are with your partner; take stock of what it is for them and figure out what the common goals are.

I have been in a relationship for over eight years, and in November 2021, my partner decided to end our relationship. Since then, I have been struggling to cope with the loss and move on. The emotional toll has been immense. I find myself continuously reminiscing about our time together, often ending up in tears, and



yearning for her to return to my life. This has created a deep despair, and I find it challenging to function normally in my daily life. I recognise that I need to find a way to heal and move forward, but I am unsure of how to begin this process. Please help.

— Anonymous

People we love leaving us can be devastating. It was an eight-year-long relationship and it makes sense that you are grieving it. It is alright to take your time to make sense of it before moving forward. It can bring up a lot of anger and shame towards ourselves when we do things we cannot help and find hard to understand. I wonder if these feelings towards yourself are also weighing down on you and making it hard to function in your daily life. It could make sense to offer yourself some compassion and kindness, like taking things slow, reassuring yourself and spending time with people who make you feel loved. Some questions that keep one feeling stuck after a break-up could be wondering what we did wrong or how someone could leave us despite us doing everything right. It might help to remember that sometimes it does not work out between people because they have different goals, priorities and issues that are hard to resolve. That does not mean there is something wrong with the people involved. It just implies that they might not have been a good fit together. It is like trying to raise a cactus in a place where it always rains. Nothing is wrong with the plants and they just need different soil to thrive. I wonder how things have been for you in other areas of your life, for example with work, hobbies and friends. It could help to build other areas of your life as you figure it out. I would also recommend seeing a therapist if things keep getting hard or are getting in the way of your day-to-day life.

My mother is a housewife in her mid-40s. Most of the time she is very worried and scared. She expresses concern over

very small matters. In the past few months, the situation has been spiralling out of control. How can I help her overcome these feelings?

— Anonymous

Seeing someone you love be worried and scared over seemingly small matters can be difficult. Sometimes the things one worries about might seem inconsequential to others but be really significant to the person concerned. When near and dear ones dismiss said problems it

can cause more distress to the person who is worried. It might help to sit with her to understand how she has been feeling in general and if there is a theme to what she worries about. You have also mentioned that the situation has been spiralling out of control. Has anything changed at home that she could be adjusting to? It would make sense to see a therapist together to figure out deeper issues about what is going on. I also wonder how it impacts you to see your mother worried all the time. Sometimes when people in the family act a certain way it can impact the rest of the family. It could also help to check in with how you are feeling when you help your mother make sense of this.

I feel my husband is not interested in me. He is always flirting with coworkers. Recently, I found a chat on his WhatsApp which left me disturbed. I am financially dependent on him as I am not working. I need to overcome these negative emotions but I don't know how. Please help.

— Anonymous

It is painful to feel not wanted by a partner. However, please remember that what people do reflects on them and not on you. You mentioned that you want to overcome the negative emotions. Sometimes the so-called negative emotions like anger and sadness can be crucial to tell us how we are feeling and staying with them can help to get through. I would suggest spending some time taking care of yourself before you look for solutions. You mentioned being dependent on him. It could help to look for ways to rediscover yourself and your interests, look at new things you might want to do or go back to old hobbies. It also sounds to me like you are feeling disrespected by your partner. When you feel ready, it could help to have an honest conversation about how it makes you feel. Since you mention that this is a pattern and something that bothers you I would suggest considering couples therapy in the future.

Civic Bodies Ready For Swachhata Drive Today

MCD To Cover All Wards, NDMC Plans Events

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The civic bodies in the national capital are busy preparing for the Swachhata-hi-Sewa Pakhwada programmes to be held on Sunday.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has identified two locations in each ward where cleanliness drives will be held in collaboration with residents welfare and market traders associations. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)

and NDMC will organise events for one hour on Sunday morning along with residents welfare and market traders associations

from different government agencies, will participate in it. Nodal officers have been appointed for every ward. The drive will entail removal of municipal solid waste, construction debris cleaning on central verge and sidewalks, cleaning of parks, MCD buildings and establishments, municipal stores, etc.

"MCD has planned two dedicated cleanliness events in each of the 250 wards through shramdaan. This drive will be undertaken simultaneously at 500 locations for one hour at 10 in the morning and is expected to see huge public participation," said an official.

Local councillors, MLAs, MPs, RWAs, market and traders' associations, school and college students, general public, including dignitaries

vyug school, Mandir Marg. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), North division, which has been organising sanitation drives for the past two weeks, will also hold a culminating event on Sunday morning at two of its sites in Wazirabad. Under the campaign slogan, Ek Tareekh-Ek Ghanta-Ek Saath, regional commissioner Brijesh Kumar Mishra is monitoring and reviewing the progress and a nodal officer has been appointed for the campaign.

"The society residents will hold a special cleanliness drive in collaboration with MCD on Sunday and distribute cloth bags. We will also distribute biodegradable sanitary napkins to women sanitation workers," said Ruby Makija, general secretary at Navjivan Vihar Residents Welfare Association in south Delhi.

"We will clean not only the colony but also the neighbourhood area. Residents will then take a pledge to reduce, reuse and recycle waste," she added.

THE TIMES OF INDIA READERS POLL

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Find out the readers' verdict in tomorrow's TOI newspaper

In yesterday's TOI, we asked our readers if they expect Delhi winter to be cleaner this year.

Here is the readers' verdict



Motorcycle catches fire

New Delhi: A motorcycle caught fire under Ghazipur flyover in east Delhi on Saturday, officials said. According to the fire officials, they received information about the incident around 2 pm and one fire tender was rushed to the spot. The fire was doused by 2.30 pm and no injury was reported, they added. PTI

Trouble over event at banquet hall in N Delhi

New Delhi: Chaos erupted in Wazirabad after a group of people claiming to be activists arrived with locals outside a banquet hall, alleging that a religious conversion event was taking place there.

Police received a call at 9 pm on Friday.

Manoj Meena, additional DCP (North), said, "The situation was tense. There were around 50-60 persons inside the banquet hall and around 300-400 persons outside. The persons were asked to immediately disperse. Six people who were leading the mob were detained. They were released later."

While cops initially said it was a birthday party, they are now verifying the facts. No FIR has been registered yet.

Police said that a birthday party for a six-year-old child from the Christian community and the naming ceremony for a newborn were taking

place in the hall. "Locals as well as people who were celebrating also called us in panic," said a police official.

Police said they had not received any complaints yet. ACP Timarpur has been tasked with inquiring further into the matter. TN

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Mukherjee Nagar PG fire: Owner held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested owner of the building and paying guest (PG) accommodation operator in connection with the fire incident at a girl's PG, where 36 girls were rescued in Mukherjee Nagar on Wednesday.

The accused were identified as Kulbhushan and Amit.

Kulbhushan owns the building comprised of ground floor plus three above it. He had rented the property to Amit several years ago. "Both of them were questioned regarding the lapses that were found in the building. They were not able to give satisfactory replies," the police said.

A case has been filed and sections 336 (endangering life or personal safety of others), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others)

others) and 34 (common intent) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

Delhi police found the electric meter that sparked the blaze. They suspect that extra load on the meter led to the fire.

According to fire department, there were nearly 50 beds on three floors. Each bed was separated by a plywood or combustible panel. "Combustible materials acted as a catalyst and helped fire to spread in other places quickly," the officer said adding that there were no fire safety arrangements in place.

The fire official said carrying out rescue was tough for the fire department as the building only had one staircase for entry and exit and no fire safety equipment was present. The incident occurred barely 500 metres away from the coaching centre where a massive fire broke out in June this year.

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi:

After almost a decade of discussions on developing southwest Delhi's Baprola into an industrial pocket, the Delhi government has moved a proposal to change the use of nearly 55 acres of land and lieutenant governor VK SAXENA has approved it.

Giving his nod to mark 22.34 hectares (55.2 acres) of land at Baprola to develop industrial infrastructure under the Delhi Industrial Development, Operation and Maintenance (DIDOM) Act 2010, sources said that the LG expressed his serious concern over the "lackadaisical approach and inordinate delay" of nearly 10 years by the AAP government to issue the notification in this regard.

An industries department official said, "The LG mentioned in his note that timely issuance of a notification would have ensured non-polluting industrialisation, job creation and enhanced economic activity in the city." They added that the then Union ministry of urban development (now ministry of housing and urban affairs) cleared the land use in December 2013.

The Delhi government has proposed to develop an Electronic City in Baprola, with a focus on artificial intelligence and the design and manufacturing of electronics. It is preparing an electronic system design, manufacturing and refurbishment policy for the same. The government has estimated that it will be able to generate nearly 85,000 jobs in the Electronic City in five years.

No industrial infrastructure can be created unless the piece of land is clearly categorized for "industrial use". The sources said that while perusing the proposal, the LG observed that no "clear and cogent" justification was available on record for the delay in giving effect to the statutory provisions regarding issuing of the notification.

"The LG was dismayed that the objective of rapid and regulated industrial growth with a potential of creating thousands of employment opportunities was slowed down due to the lackadaisical approach of the department, adversely impacting the manufacturing sector," said an official, adding that proper industrial infrastructure deters the mushrooming of illegal units in commercial or residential areas that often cause mishaps and unregulated pollution.

Officials added that the draft notification submitted by the government proposing to notify 'Baprola Industrial Area' was not clear if it mentioned the same land parcel which was notified by the central government in 2013.

They said the LG had put a note of caution on the file that the notification had to comprise only that area which had been earmarked for industrial land use by the Centre and should be done at the earliest.

Fake ads circulated for Fasal Bima scheme, probe started

New Delhi: The crime branch of Delhi Police has started an investigation on a complaint of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) after they discovered that fake advertisements for filling up vacancies in the Fasal Bima scheme were published in papers and on their website.

"It is stated, based on the inputs of the concern section of this department that the society is fake and not authorised to issue any such advertisements. The details provided on the website are totally wrong and misleading," the FIR mentioned.

The IRDA, regulator for insurance business in India, clarified in their letter that the said society has not been granted any license to transact general insurance business. TNN

Man held for duping shopkeepers

New Delhi: A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping shopkeepers on the pretext of getting their rental charges on UPI transaction sandbox waived off, police said on Saturday. Police said the accused used to work in a bank three years ago, and has experience of installing QR code for UPI payments at

shops and private vendors.

The accused has been identified as Naeem, a resident of Bhopra in Uttar Pradesh, they said. Police said that they received three such complaints in which the victims lost money.

Three complaints were registered involving a fraud of Rs 35,000, 39,000 and 7,400 by Naeem respectively. TNN



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CONTENT WRITER / EDITOR: (M/F)

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Plan to change land use for Baprola electronic city receives LG's seal

suance of a notification would have ensured non-polluting industrialisation, job creation and enhanced economic activity in the city." They added that the then Union ministry of urban development (now ministry of housing and urban affairs) cleared the land use in December 2013.

The Delhi government has proposed to develop an Electronic City in Baprola, with a focus on artificial intelligence and the design and manufacturing of electronics. It is preparing an electronic system design, manufacturing and refurbishment policy for the same. The government has estimated that it will be able to generate nearly 85,000 jobs in the Electronic City in five years.

No industrial infrastructure can be created unless the piece of land is clearly categorized for "industrial use". The sources said that while perusing the proposal, the LG observed that no "clear and cogent" justification was available on record for the delay in giving effect to the statutory provisions regarding issuing of the notification.

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The LG was dismayed that the objective of rapid and regulated industrial growth with a potential of creating thousands of employmen

tment opportunities was slowed down due to the lackadaisical approach of the department, adversely impacting the manufacturing sector," said an official, adding that proper industrial infrastructure deters the mushrooming of illegal units in commercial or residential areas that often cause mishaps and unregulated pollution.

Officials added that the draft notification submitted by the government proposing to notify 'Baprola Industrial Area' was not clear if it mentioned the same land parcel which was notified by the central government in 2013.

They said the LG had put a note of caution on the file that the notification had to comprise only that area which had been earmarked for industrial land use by the Centre and should be done at the earliest.

Fake ads circulated for Fasal Bima scheme, probe started

New Delhi: The crime branch of Delhi Police has started an investigation on a complaint of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) after they discovered that fake advertisements for filling up vacancies in the Fasal Bima scheme were published in papers and on their website.

case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC.

"It is stated, based on the inputs of the concern section of this department that the society is fake and not authorised to issue any such advertisements. The details provided on the website are totally wrong and misleading," the FIR mentioned.

The IRDA, regulator for insurance business in India, clarified in their letter that the said society has not been granted any license to transact general insurance business. TNN

Man held for duping shopkeepers

New Delhi: A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping shopkeepers on the pretext of getting their rental charges on UPI transaction sandbox waived off, police said on Saturday. Police said the accused used to work in a bank three years ago, and has experience of installing QR code for UPI payments at

shops and private vendors.

The accused has been identified as Naeem, a resident of Bhopra in Uttar Pradesh, they said. Police said that they received three such complaints in which the victims lost money.

Three complaints were registered involving a fraud of

Rs 35,000, 39,000 and 7,400 by Naeem respectively. TNN

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MoD's new rules on disability pension spark political battle

Ex-Soldiers Protest Policy; Cong Attacks Govt, BJP Hits Back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The defence ministry's recent tightening of disability pension rules for military personnel has once again erupted into a controversy, with Congress alleging that BJP's "fake nationalism" was yet again visible and the government hitting back contending that the armed forces were on board for the move.

The 'Entitlement rules for casualty pensionary awards to the armed forces personnel-2023' were issued on September 21, under which a new provision for 'impairment relief' has been introduced to cover most lifestyle-related diseases, like hypertension and diabetes, largely delinking them from the disability element in the pension.

This comes after a CAG report in March had expressed concern that as many as 36%-40% of military officers who retire every year were getting disability pension, while only 15%-18% of the jawans were getting it,



As per defence ministry's new rules, a provision for 'impairment relief' has been introduced to cover most lifestyle-related diseases, like hypertension and diabetes, largely delinking them from the disability element in the pension

Border Roads Organisation gets new chief

Lt-General Raghu Srinivasan is the new chief of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), which is playing a critical role in bolstering infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control with China amid continuing military confrontation in eastern Ladakh.

Lt-Gen Srinivasan, who was the commandant of the College of Military Engineering at Pune in his last appointment, has participated in Operations Vijay, Rakshak and Parakram as well as served in border areas in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir during his career. In the last year alone, BRO has completed a record 193 projects at a cost of Rs 5,400 crore across eight border states and three Union Territories. TNN

as was then reported by TOI.

The All India Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association, however, has strongly protested against the new MoD policy, claiming that the new rules

place soldiers at a disadvantage when compared to civilian government employees.

Referring to this, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday slammed BJP by alleging that the Modi government was a "habitual offender" in working against the welfare of jawans, ex-service personnel and veterans.

The government, however, countered that the new policy was based on the recommendations made by a committee headed by a top military officer. "The recommendations of the committee have been implemented in letter and spirit," a MoD official said.

"Many soldiers do suffer injuries as well as undergo tremendous stress and strain while serving in high-altitude areas or other tough operations. But it is also a fact that the disability provision was being misused by some officers to claim much higher pensions, with many such cases being filed just before retirement. The new policy tightens the norms," he added.

India slams 'disgraceful incident' at gurdwara, UK says places of worship must be open to all

Naomi Canton

London: UK's minister for Indo-Pacific has said that the safety and security of foreign diplomats is of utmost importance, her comment coming after extremists prevented Indian high commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami from entering a gurdwara in Glasgow on Friday.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan posted on X that she was "concerned to see that the Indian high commissioner was stopped from meeting with the gurdwara committee at the gurdwara in Glasgow", adding, "The safety and security of foreign diplomats is of utmost importance and our places of worship in the UK must be open to all."

The Indian high commission in London issued a statement



A screenshot shows extremists preventing Indian high commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami from entering a gurdwara in Glasgow

ment that it had reported the "disgraceful incident" outside the Glasgow gurdwara when Sikh extremists tried to open the Indian high commissioner's car door (a major security breach) — preventing him from attending a function inside — to both the Foreign, Commonwealth & De-

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The Indian high commission said it urged UK authorities to take action against the culprits and revealed that it was only due to the quick reaction of one of the organisers of the event, who physically intervened at the car door, "that a

bigger incident was avoided". The organisers of the event included senior community leaders, ladies, committee members and a member of the Scottish Parliament.

The diplomatic mission confirmed that three people — all from outside Scotland — "deliberately disrupted" a planned interaction organised by the committee of the Glasgow gurdwara in Albert Drive, which was being held for the community, the high commissioner and the consul-general of India in Edinburgh, Bijay Selvaraj. "This interaction was to discuss community and consular issues," it said.

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Did Shivaji wield this 'wagh nakh'? Even museum unsure

Vaibhav.Purandare
@timesgroup.com

Is the 'wagh nakh' (tiger claws) in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, to be brought back to India for three years by the Maharashtra government, really the one with which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj killed Afzal Khan? The answer is: Can't verify, as the museum itself says.

The provenance of many things past can be tricky, but it is especially so in this case because it is impossible to trace the 'wagh nakh' that's in the V&A museum precisely back to the Chhatrapati's armoury, and eyewitness accounts suggest there were at least three other such 'tiger claws' in Satara for which similar claims were made well after an East India Company official had taken this particular weapon to England in the 1820s.

Claim and questions

The museum's statement, in its description of the item on its website, that it has "not been possible to verify whether the tiger claws are the ones used by Shivaji," can, in part, be explained by the way the 'wagh nakh' found its way into Britain.

According to the museum, the 'wagh nakh' "was given to James Grant Duff, who was resident of Satara, by the Prime Minister of the Peshwa of the Marathas" after the collapse of Peshwa rule in 1818. The word Peshwa means Prime Minister, so who is the 'PM of the Peshwa' the museum is referring to? It's not clear. Further, the museum states "it is possible" that Bajirao II, the last Peshwa, "surrendered this weapon to Grant Duff." And it wasn't Duff himself who handed over the weapon to the museum when he returned to England in 1823; his grandson, Adrian Grant Duff, did, late in the nineteenth century.

Historian Durand Balawade of Pune's Bharat Itihas Sansodhak Mandal, the biggest repository of Maratha

HISTORIANS DISPUTE MAHARASHTRA CLAIM

A couple of history researchers have said there is no evidence to indicate the wagh nakh which will be brought from the London museum on loan is the same one used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Afzal Khan

They said the weapon that's with the museum belongs to the family of Shivaji Maharaj and should be displayed for public viewing, but history must not be tweaked to feed public emotion and facts should be correctly presented

State minister Sudhir Mungantiwar told TOI the museum has confirmed the weapon was indeed used by Shivaji Maharaj

Indrajeet Sawant, a Kolhapur-based history researcher, in his book 'Shodh Bhavani Talwaricha' (The Search for the Bhavani Sword) published in 2006, said the weapon in the London's museum was gifted by Pratapsinh Maharaj, the fifth and last Chhatrapati, to James Grant Duff

Pic Credit: Wikipedia



They were friends and as a mark of respect, a wagh nakh similar to what Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had used to kill Afzal Khan was gifted to Duff. Two or three generations later, Duff's descendant gifted the weapon to the museum. Pratapsinh Maharaj made a similar gift to Mountstuart Elphinstone, a governor of Bombay. Till 1919, the Satara royal palace had two more wagh naks. Extensive research is needed to determine the weapon used by Shivaji Maharaj. Armouries of both Satara and Kolhapur will have to be searched — Indrajeet Sawant

Gajanand Mehandale, a history researcher from Pune, said the state government's claim was false

"How was it decided that the wagh nakh in London belonged to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj? It is sheer ignorance on the part of the government," Mehandale said, adding he will soon shed more light on the importance of the weapon in Shivaji Maharaj's life

Graphic Text: Abhijit Patil, Kolhapur

An early twentieth century painting by Sawlaram Haldankar of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj fighting the Bijapuri general Afzal Khan

Mantri's exchange offer: Two tigers if we can keep claws

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesgroup.com

At first, Victoria and Albert Museum said it would only give the wagh nakh for a year, but now they have agreed to give it for three years. We are trying to get the wagh nakh permanently

SUDHIR MUNGANTIWAR

Mumbai: Maharashtra cultural affairs minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on Saturday said that the state government has offered the United Kingdom a pair of tigers (waghachi jodi) in lieu of giving the wagh nakh (tiger claws) used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to Maharashtra permanently.

Mungantiwar said that the wagh nakh has been given to Maharashtra for three years, but the government wants to try and get it permanently. Mungantiwar will visit the UK next week and sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with London's Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum where it is on display on October 3.

"First they (V&A Museum) said they would only give the wagh nakh for one year but now they have agreed to give it for three years. We are trying to get the wagh nakh permanently. We have told them that if they want, we can give them a pair of tigers (waghachi jodi), male and female in lieu of giving us the wagh nakh permanently. We told them, but give us our wagh nakh, now the issue will be resolved through dialogue," Mungantiwar said.

"We will visit all the museums in the United Kingdom, and see which other items we can get back. We will sign the memorandum of understanding with the Victoria and Albert Museum for the wagh nakh. We have got all the approvals. We will try to get the wagh nakh permanently," Mungantiwar said.

The famed wagh nakh (a dagger resembling tiger

documents and artefacts, disputes this version. According to him, Bajirao II was banished to Bithoor near Kanpur in 1818 and the British East India Company installed Pratapsinh as Chhatrapati at Satara. Grant Duff was appointed as the Raja's political agent and served in this role from 1818 to early 1823. Duff eventually wrote a 3-volume history of the Marathas. The 'wagh nakh' was in the sanctum sanctorum of the Satara raja's family, and it was he who gave it to Grant Duff, Balkawade said. "The object must have been sacred for it to be kept in the 'dev ghar,'" he noted.

What happened to the arsenals and the artefacts?

At the best of times, the origin of historical objects can be hard to find; things can get tougher if there's decades of warfare involved. No contemporary catalogue of Chhatrapati Shivaji's arsenal at the time of his death in 1680 is available. Aurangzeb descended on the Deccan the

next year (1681) in order to try and conquer it, and a big clash broke out between the Marathas and the Mughals. It lasted over 25 years, ending with Aurangzeb's death in 1707. As Shivaji's capital Raigad was among the places seized early by the Mughals, a majority of Maratha documents and artefacts there got destroyed or burnt. The

TIMES Special

Chhatrapati's family members, fighting the Mughals, carried several of the belongings, but the trail for a number of objects got eventually lost in the armed conflict. Until Grant Duff was handed the 'wagh nakh' in Satara. Thus, it isn't certain how the 'wagh nakh' travelled for 160 years from 1659, the year in which the Maratha hero thrust it into the side of Bijapur general Afzal Khan. Yet, even the inexact journey would have been okay were it not for other assertions made soon af-

ter Duff got hold of the relic.

A governor's wife speaks

Lucius Cary was governor of Bombay between 1848 and 1853. He's better known as Lord Falkland, after whom a road in the city is named. With his wife, the Viscountess Falkland, he travelled to Satara. In her account of her travels published in 1857, the Viscountess mentioned their meeting with the raja and 'ranees' of Satara. The 'ranees,' she stated, showed her "several varieties of 'wagnuks', and even the very one which Shivaji stuck into Afzal Khan's side." This was two decades after Grant Duff had taken the "gifted" weapon to England. So, which one was the genuine article? Also, the mention of "several varieties of wagnuks" suggests the Marathas had made many of them, complicating the picture.

Grant Duff's son's account

A little over a decade after Falkland's Satara visit, Grant Duff's son Mountstuart

made a claim of his own. Mountstuart was an MP in the British Parliament and served as Under-Secretary of State for India between 1868 and 1874. When he went to Satara, he was shown Shivaji's sword "Bhowanee" and "the two wagnuks which her illustrious owner used on a critical occasion." Mountstuart wrote that according to his father's history of the Marathas, Shivaji had used one 'wagh nakh', but "Bhowanee's guardians say he used two, which is improbable." Mountstuart was right. Shivaji's contemporary chronicler Sabhasad writes he held the 'wagh nakh' in his left hand and a 'bichwa' (dagger) in his right when he retaliated against Afzal Khan. Mountstuart further wrote, "Of the two, one is a facsimile of that in my possession; but the other is smaller and more manageable, with only three claws—a very sweetening of its kind." Mountstuart here mentioned the 'wagh nakh' in his possession (which his son Adrian later gave the V&A muse-

um) but did not dispute the claim made for the other wagh naks in Satara. So whose claim was correct — Adrian's or that of the Satara guardians?

Likely candidate?

At any rate, the Satara posessions seem to have not been brought into the spotlight after that. Nor have any counter-claims been made, in the wake of the state government's announcement about bringing back the 'wagh nakh', that the real article is in India. There's no definitive answer, and certainly the most likely candidate at present to fit the bill — in the absence of any other contender — is the one in the London museum.

But the story of the legendary tiger claws indicates how historical objects, like history itself, can have their own mysteries, their set of imponderables and their own unanswered and possibly unanswerable questions. Unless new evidence comes to light in future and upends existing theories.

O-1171

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

Letter No: 30497 Dated: 30.09.2023

Email i.d.: crew_bbsr@yahoo.com

Notice inviting request for proposal from consultant

(RFP- Online - CE (Buildings & Bridges)- 07/ 2023-24 dt. 29.09.2023)

1. Name of the work : Construction of H.L. Bridge over Lura at 5th Km on Belar- Nuagaon-Teragaon-Mahakalapara in the District of Kendrapara under BSY.

2. Total No. of works : 01 (One) no

3. Period of completion : 30 (Thirty) Calendar Months

4. Other details : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of bridge works	Availability of tender online for bidding
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	RFP – Online – CE-Buildings & Bridges- 06 (Bridge / 2023-24	01 (One) No	05.10.2023 From at 10.00 A.M. Up to 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-

Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges)
Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-25123/11/026/23-24

SANT SHIROMANI RAVIDAS GLOBAL SKILLS PARK



संत शिरोमणि रवीदास लॉबोरा स्किल्स पार्क भोपाल - 462023 (मध्यप्रदेश)

Ph: +91-755-4132216 | Web: www.globalskillspark.mp.gov.in |

email: mpsdp.dsdp@gmail.com, globalskillspark@mp.gov.in

ONLINE APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR PARTNERSHIP IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT WITH GLOBAL SKILLS PARK

Government of Madhya Pradesh is setting up Global Skills Park (GSP) at Bhopal under the "Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project" with the financial support of Asian Development Bank. The project aims to equip the youth of Madhya Pradesh with mid to advance - level skills of international level to meet the emerging demands in the priority manufacturing and services sectors.

Core training programmes of GSP will be delivered through Centre for Occupational Skills Acquisition (COSA) 1 and 2. COSA-1 will offer long term training programmes of 6-12 months duration while COSA-2 will offer industry led short training programmes for their customised training requirements or for market needs for which GSP shall provide necessary training infrastructure on case to case basis and as detailed in the scheme available on GSP website www.globalskillspark.mp.gov.in.

Online applications in the prescribed format are invited from potential public sector organisations - PSUs and Government Organisations (both central and state); Academic institutions such as Universities, Autonomous institutes, Institutes of Eminence; and Government (both central and state) owned Training institutes/Advanced Training Institutes/Centre of Excellence/Tool rooms for partnership with Global Skills Park to run Skill Development programmes to be housed in COSA-2. This is a rolling advertisement and 15th of every month shall be the date for assessing the proposals.

Sd/-

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी। | G-20622/23 Chief Executive officer

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

Tender Notice

NIT No- 06/CRF/C.E.(Bridge Zone) 2023-24 Date 27.09.2023

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the mentioned system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	State	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In Lakh)	Tender Document & Other Document Submission	(EMD Fee) All
1	2023_312550_1	Jabalpur	Bridge Work	Construction of ROB in Lieu of Level Crossing No. 331 in Railway KM 10192-3 of Jabalpur-Katni Section on NH-30 Gopalpur Agaria to Pratappur Road in District Jabalpur, in the state of Madhya Pradesh, on EPC Mode	First	4324.04	Online Only	8
				Total		4324.04		

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 10/11/2023 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी। | MP, PWD Bridge Construction Zone Bhopal

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सिंचाई कार्य मण्डल स्लद्वयाग						
इं-निविदा सूचना संख्या-05/अधीक्षण-05/2023-24 दिनांक: 30.09.2023						
<p>महामहिम राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सिंचाई कार्य मण्डल, रुद्रप्रयाग द्वारा निम्न कार्य के निर्माण हेतु मद आधारित दोगे पर</p>						

Government of Kerala Published Tenders from 25-09-2023 to 27-09-2023	
Stationery Department	
Tender ID: 2023_STY_606522_1 * Controller of Stationery * Supply of Photocopying paper A4 size (21 x 29.7 cm) * Closing Date: 21-Oct-2023 * PAC: Rs.25702880	
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details. R.O. No.: 25-27/Sep/2023/PRD/(N)11	

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग
वृत्त चिठ्ठीौड़ा
No. 1019 Date 26-9-2023

Notice Inviting Bid No 05/2022-23

Bids For Construction of Minority Boys Hostal (50 Badded) at Chittorgarh Distt. Chittorgarh Procurement are Invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM of 03.10.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eprocrajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppps.raj.nic.in>) of the state website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.210.48 Lacs
UBN : PWD 2324WSOB15149 Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Chittorgarh
DIPR/C/14700/2023 E-mail: piu_chittor@rediffmail.com

कार्यालय नगर परिषद टोंक
क्रमांक :- नं.प.टोंक/ निर्माण / 2023-24/ 9083 दिनांक :- 21.09.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना :- 28/2022-23 (NIB No. DLB2324A6762)
नगर परिषद टोंक में होने वाली निर्माण / विकास कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक बोलीवालों को से दिनांक 02.10.2023 तक साथ 6.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। अन्य विवरण व शर्त www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। UBN No. - DLB2223WSOB23840 आयुक्त समाप्ति नगर परिषद, टोंक नगर परिषद, टोंक

HC holds builder guilty of contempt, says he must serve 3 months' jail, but stays sentence Also Says Contempt Must Be Purged By Paying ₹4 Crore

Swati Deshpande@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Bombay HC on Friday held Pravin Satra of Darshan Developers guilty of contempt of court for willfully flouting his assurances to court and sentenced him to three months in a civil prison. In the case of flats booked almost 20 years ago, the builder had nine years ago undertaken, in consent terms filed before the HC, to deliver possession, within nine months, of two flats to a buyer couple who had petitioned the court.

The HC noted that mere puni-

shment is not enough and contempt must be purged. Justice Manish Pitale also directed the builder to pay the buyer, Achyut Godbole, 73, an IIT Bombay alumnus, software company honcho and author of books in Marathi, Rs 4 crore within six weeks to purge the contempt.

The builder's lawyer pleaded for a stay to enable an appeal. The HC stayed only the sentencing order by six weeks, not the purging.

In 2004, Godbole, author of over 50 books with his wife, booked two flats in a project in Vile Parle (East). The construction stands ready till the fifth floor, he

said. The snag was height permissions and a nod from the civil aviation ministry, as the builder contended. In March 2019, the HC noted that occupancy certificate was admittedly held up only for want of property card. In 2014, Godbole petitioned HC with a plea to appoint an arbitrator. The builder undertook, in October 2014 to hand over delivery in nine months. But with no possession given even in December 2017, the buyer filed a contempt petition over non-compliance by the builder.

After indulging the builder's plea for more time, but then noting his "blatant contumacious conduct," Justice Pitale held him guilty for flouting repeatedly and with impunity the undertakings

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(An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)

Recruitment Notice No. THS-C/RN/16/2023

S. No.	Name of the post	Number of Positions	Emoluments up to (Consolidated) per month based on experience and qualification
1.	Chief – Clinical Portfolio Management	01	₹2,11,200/-
2.	Head, Clinical Science (equivalent to Principal Scientist I-Medical)	01	₹1,65,000/-

For more details, please visit our website : www.thsti.res.in

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Tel No. 0177-2621426/2624751/2625339 Fax : 0177-2624278
e-mail : sidc-hp@nic.in Visit us at : www.hpsidc.org

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

Managing Director on behalf of Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd Shimla (HPSIDC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the eligible consultant/ Organization /firms/companies duly registered/empowered with the Central/Any State Government departments/ PSUs/ CPWD for the preparation of detailed project report, tender document and other services as mentioned in the scope of E.O.I. document (shall be available w.e.f. 05.10.2023 in the website (www.hptenders.gov.in) for the work Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of 2 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Industrial Area Pandoga, Distt. Una, HP (Greenfield) under MIUS.

The interested consulting parties/firms having adequate experience of such highly specialized job and having their own in-house expertise capacity and resources including availability of highly specialized and experienced personnel, are required to submit their E.O.I. along with full information about their relevant activities supported by documentary proof describing their expert staff and other information of the organization, detail of relevant experience along with certificate/documentary evidence. Any other relevant information can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, HPSIDC Ltd. Mehaptur Distt. Una (HP). Interested agencies/consulting firms have to submit their E.O.I. proposal with non refundable cost of application as Rs. 5,000/- (Without GST) through only online mode in favour of HPSIDC Ltd. Shimla. Further details can be viewed on above website.

If considered necessary, only short listed bidders fulfilling the eligibility and qualification criteria will be invited for making power point presentation. The Managing Director HPSIDC Ltd. Shimla reserves the right to reject any or all the responses received, or withdrawn from the tendering at any stage at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.

The last date for submission of E.O.I. is 16.10.2023 till 05:00 PM and opening on 17.10.2023 at 11:00 AM.

Executive Engineer
behalf of Managing Director
HPSIDC Ltd Shimla.

Advt. No. 0681/30.09.2023

GUJARAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Office of The Regional Manager-2, Plot No:-SM-39/1,
Shiyawada chokdi, GIDC Industrial Estate , Sanand-II
Ahmedabad-382170.
Email: rmahd2@gidcgujarat.org, Website: www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in

Corrigendum

In reference to our newspaper advertisement published on dated 09/09/2023 for the E-auction of a Commercial plot for (5-star hotel) at Sanand -2 Industrial Estate, please the following amendments are made:

- The date for submission for document submission and payment of EMD is extended upto 10th October 2023.
- The date for technical scrutiny and declaration of eligible bidder is extends to 16th October 2023.
- The date of E-Auction is extended to 19th October 2023.
- The revised payment terms is mentioned on <https://gidc.gujarat.gov.in/Pages/Contents/e-auction>

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. For further details, please visit our Regional office.

Sd/-
Regional Manager-2
GIDC Ahmedabad

File No.11-20011/1/2023-COMP-DGS dated 29.09.2023

E-Procurement Notice

Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai invites e-tender for selection of System Integrator for e-Samudra (e-Governance) solution and IT transformation of Directorate General of Shipping. The bidding process will be conducted as per the terms and conditions laid down in this bid document.

Dates with regard to this invitation of the bids are given below:

1	Name of the Work	Selection of System Integrator for e-Samudra (e-Governance) solution and IT transformation of Directorate General of Shipping
2	Tender Notice No	2023 DGS_773925_4
3	Tender Fee/EMD	INR 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only), in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by a Nationalized / Scheduled Bank and drawn in favour of "Directorate General of Shipping" payable and encashable at Mumbai, valid for a period of 180 days from the date of submission of bid.
4	Date of availability of RFP on CPP.portal	29-09-2023, 16:00 Hrs (Friday)
5	Last date and time for submission of queries for clarifications	18-10-2023 by 16:00 Hrs (Wednesday)
6	Date of pre-bid meeting	20-10-2023, 11:00 Hrs (Friday)
7	Date for uploading pre-bid clarifications	10-11-2023, 16:00 Hrs (Friday)
8	Last date and time for uploading bid	01-12-2023, 16:00 Hrs (Friday)
9	Opening of Technical Bids	04-12-2023, 11:00 Hrs (Monday)
10	Opening of Financial Bids	To be communicated later
11	Availability of Bid Document	The tender is available and downloadable on the e-Tendering Website: www.eprocure.gov.in . All Subsequent changes to the Bidding document shall be published on the above-mentioned website.
12	Address for Communication	Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India, 9th Floor, Beta Building, i-Think Techno campus, Kanjur Marg (East), Mumbai - 400042 Contact Person: 1. DR. Sudhir S Kohakade, Dy. Director General of Shipping (e-governance) Supra Supervisory Custodian Email ID: sudhir.kohakade@gov.in 2. Shri Kunal Vaval, Senior Consultant, EY, Bid Process Management Email ID: kunal.vaval@in.ev.com

Bidders may also submit the pre-bid queries through email latest by 16:00 Hrs of the last day of submission of queries i.e. 18.10.2023. Pre-bid queries beyond aforesaid time and date shall not be entertained under any circumstances. The DGS reserve the right to amend or withdraw any of the Terms and Conditions in the bid document or to cancel/reject all the tenders received without giving notice or assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
PL Muthu,
Executive Officer Primary Custodian
Directorate General of Shipping
Email ID: muthu.pi@gov.in

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Executive Officer Primary Custodian
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With trial taking too long, HC gives double-murder accused bail

'Indefinite Incarceration Pending Trial Violation Of Fundamental Rights'

Mumbai: A person cannot be incarcerated for an indefinite period of time pending trial as it is violative of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India, the Bombay high court said while granting bail to a man, accused in a double murder case.

A single bench of Justice Bharti Dangre on September 26 granted bail to Akash Satish Chandalia, arrested in September 2015 by the Lonavala police in PUNE district on the charges of double murder and conspiracy. The court, in its order, said a balancing act has to be struck between the gravity and seriousness of the charges, which the accused is facing, and the long time taken for conclusion of trial.

"The seriousness of an offence and its heinous nature may be one aspect, which deserves a consideration while exercising the discretion to release an accused on bail, but at the same time, the factor of long incarceration of an accused as undertrial

After this long period of trial, if the accused is acquitted, how shall the system compensate him, the court asked while giving him bail

Getty Images/Stockphoto

prisoner also deserve its due weightage," the court said.

"Pending the trial, a person cannot be kept in custody for an indefinite period of time and it clearly violates the fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution, and time and again has been considered to be a justiciable ground to exercise the discretion to release an accused", it added.

"A balancing act, therefore,

will have to be struck between the gravity and seriousness of the charges, which the applicant has to face and the long time consumed for conclusion of the trial, as the question of great significance, which all the stakeholders in the system must ponder is, after this long period of trial, if the accused is acquitted, how shall the system compensate him," the order said.

Justice Dangre noted that deprivation of personal liberty, without ensuring speedy trial was not in consonance with Article 21 of the Constitution.

"Access to justice and speedy trial has been well-recognised as a hallmark of liberty guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution and when a timely trial is not possi-

ble, the accused cannot be made to suffer further incarceration," the court said. "If an accused has already undergone a significant period of the proposed sentence then the court would ordinarily be obliged to enlarge him on bail, keeping aside the seriousness of the accusations faced by him", it said.

Chandalia's advocate Sana Raees Khan argued that he was incarcerated for almost eight years and the trial is yet to conclude. "Incarceration for an indefinite period will amount to pre-trial conviction and deprivation of personal liberty without ensuring speedy trial is not in consonance with Article 21 of the Constitution and the same is violative of his fundamental right," Khan submitted to the court.

The bench noted that Chandalia faces a charge under IPC section 302(murder) and the manner in which the alleged offence has taken place is undisputedly serious in nature. PTI

Review order, K'taka urges Cauvery panel, may move SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

HC picks name for baby as parents fight over what it should be

Kochi: Kerala High Court

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government filed on Saturday a review petition before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) against the panel's order to release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu daily till October 15. It also sought permission to build a balancing reservoir across Cauvery river at Medekadu, near Kanakapura, in Ramanagara district.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah said that the state government will move the Supreme Court, if required, after reviewing CWMA's decision on the review petition. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said the state government has appealed to the CWMA to arrive at a "new formula" amidst the current rain deficit. Due to insufficient rainfall between June and August, the state is facing a severe water shortage, he pointed out.

On Friday, Siddaramaiah held a meeting with retired judges of the Supreme Court and former advocates general to seek their suggestions and opinions before announcing that the state would file a review petition before the CWMA and the SC.

He also pointed out the dire situation the state was facing due to insufficient rainfall and said that the inability to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu should not be seen as contempt of court or lead to the dismissal of the government.

The CM said the government was seriously considering the suggestion of legal experts to establish an expert advisory committee dedicated to monitoring the state's irrigation projects and collecting data on water availability. This committee's role would be to provide continuous advice to the government and the legal team regarding inter-state water disputes such as the Cauvery issue, Siddaramaiah said.

The CWMA had recently endorsed the directive of its assisting body, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), which had recommended that Karnataka release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu daily until October 15. A statewide bandh was observed on Friday to oppose the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

ginher education, the school authorities insisted on a name for her, and refused to accept the birth certificate which carried no name.

Then started the trouble when the petitioner mother attempted to register a name for the child -namely, 'Punya Nair', but the registrar insisted on the presence of both parents before him to register the name.

But with the estranged parents failed to arrive at a consensus on the issue, as the father wanted to name the child 'Padma Nair'.

The court, after looking into all aspects, pointed out that the name suggested by the mother, with whom the child was residing at present, had to be given due importance, but added that the name of the father had to be incorporated too since the paternity was undisputed.

Based on this, it arrived at the name of 'Punya Balagangadhara Nair' or 'Punya B. Nair' and ruled: "In order to set at rest the disputes between the parties on the name, the child is directed to be given the name 'Punya', and the name of the father 'Balagangadhara' also be added along with the name Nair," the court ruled.

No letter from Ajit to guv on strength of his group: RTI reply

Navi Mumbai: The state governor's office, in an RTI reply, on Thursday has revealed that Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar had not submitted any letter on the numerical strength of his group or an affidavit to the governor's office before taking oath, reports Umesh K Parida.

Activist Janak Keshariya sought the information to know the strength of Ajit Pawar's supporters in the state legislature. He had sought the information to find out if any letter of support had been furnished by Ajit Pawar.

Keshariya had also sought details of any criteria or notification, which has to be submitted to the governor before the oath-taking ceremony. To which, the RTI reply states that procedure is done as per Article 164 of the Constitution.

The public information officer, Vikram Nikam, had replied that the governor does not have to take the approval of the Central government before the oath-ceremony.

Keshariya said, "There was an amendment to Article 164 of the Constitution of India limiting the number in the council of ministers, among others. However, there is no provision for a letter of strength or affidavit to become a minister."

Ajay.Sura@timesgroup.com

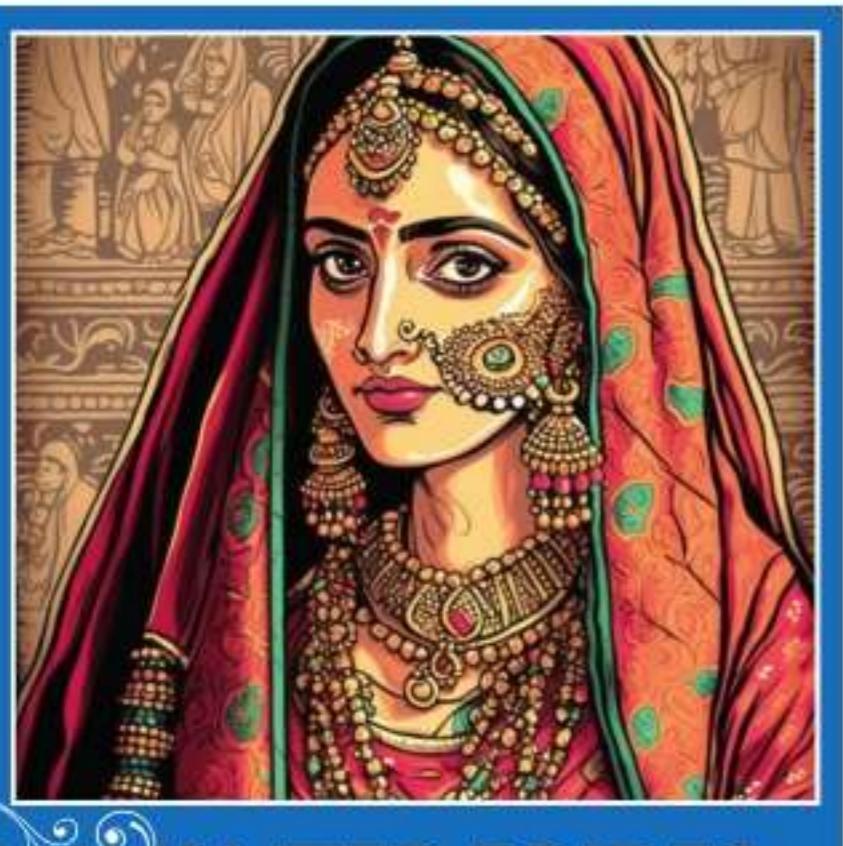
Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana high court has held that a trial court decision to acquit an accused person is generally based on the presumption of innocence, and the appellate court should not interfere with the acquittal order when "the view taken by the trial court is not unreasonable or perverse".

The appellate court can reverse the order of acquittal if the view taken by the trial court is palpably erroneous, could not have been taken by the court of competent jurisdiction and is taken against well-settled canons of criminal jurisprudence. Merely because the appellate court, on re-appreciation and re-evaluation of the evidence, is inclined to take a different view, interference with the judgment of acquittal is not justified," a division bench comprising justices Anupinder Singh Grewal and Lalit

Batra said. The bench made the observations while upholding the acquittal of two persons, Hem Raj and Hemraj, in a drug case. The Punjab government had challenged the order passed by a special court in Ludhiana acquittal on November 23, 2

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No Dowry, rich fmly #9685785503

Email: msp1@gmail.com

SM4 Bansal Boy, 30/5'/34

LPA, B.Tech IIT, MBA IIM

Indore, CFA Wrkg as AVP @

MNC, Upper Middle Class Rptd

Fmly. Ph.9736810567

SM4 B.tech 1st year

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'GPS jamming quite routine on long-haul flights, spoofing isn't instantly apparent'

► Continued from P 1

The three airlines and the DGCA did not respond to a query sent by TOI. The culprit is GPS signal spoofing, defined as "the surreptitious replacement of a true satellite signal with a manipulated satellite signal that can cause a GPS receiver to output an erroneous position and time". The definition comes from the US Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, which develops technical guidance for government regulatory authorities. This form of GPS signal interference has been

TIMES Special

around for over a decade, but this was the first time civilian passenger flights have been targeted to such a degree.

Per the Ops Group, which runs a flight data intelligence crowdsourcing website, most of the recent GPS spoofing happened in airway UM688 in Iran's airspace. In response, last Wednesday, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a memo to airlines titled 'Iraq/Azerbaijan - GPS jamming and spoofing poses safety risk'. Potential spoofing activities reported by various civil air operators in Iraq and Azerbaijan pose

'IF YOU MISS A MOMENT, YOU MAY LOSE NAVIGATION'

In the last two weeks, 20 reports of GPS spoofing on aircraft such as Boeing 777, 747 and 737, and others like Embraer 190, 600, Falcon 8X, Challenger 650 and Global Express have come in from airspace in and around Iran. This type of GPS spoofing on civilian aircraft has not been witnessed before, says airspace monitor OPSGROUP

WHAT OCCURRED

- In each instance, the aircraft's navigation system was quickly infected by false GPS signals. In most cases, the IRS (inertial reference system; a self-sustaining navigation system that can compute an aircraft's position without help from GPS signals) became unusable

• Inputs from other ground-based navigation aids such as VOR/DME* failed, the UTC** clock failed, and the pilot was forced to request vectors from ATC* to navigate. A pilot said the key issue appeared to be the way the IRS uses GPS updates to update its position during flight

*A radio beacon that combines a 'VHF omnidirectional range' (VOR: a ground-based station that transmits short-range radio signals to aircraft for navigation) with a distance-measuring equipment (DME)

** Coordinated Universal Time, aka Universal Time Coordinated, or UTC

*Air traffic control

I have been on this aircraft for 13 years. I tried everything I know, but nothing helped. Two IRSs, which are updated from GPS, lost position...The main point is to disable GPS inputs at the very beginning of spoofing. If you miss a moment, you will lose navigation capability!

—AN EMBRAER 190 TECHNICAL PILOT

US AVIATION MEMO

The US FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) has issued a memo to airlines stating that potential spoofing activities reported in Iraq and Azerbaijan pose flight risk to civil aviation operations in the Baghdad and Baku flight information regions

RADAR

SPOOFER

VULNERABLE SYSTEMS

U.S.'s GPS and other countries' satellite navigation systems such as Glonass, Galileo and BeiDou used by civilians aren't encrypted and are vulnerable to spoofing attacks. Earlier it was believed that aircraft navigation systems are robust enough to withstand such attacks

ATS

flight risk to civil aviation operations in the Baghdad and Baku flight information regions (FIR), the US civil aviation regulator warned. "We don't fly airway UM688, but we do overfly the Iranian airspace. We haven't experienced spoofing, but on a flight last week, we experienced GPS jamming," said a senior commander of an Indian carrier, requesting anonymity.

GPS jamming is not as insidious as spoofing, and airlines and pilots know how to cope with it. For one, the flick-

ering readings instantly reveal that GPS signals are being jammed. "GPS jamming is quite routine on long-haul flights. We encounter it when entering Russia from the North Pole or near the Estonian border, in areas around Simferopol, in (Crimea). There are numerous checklists to handle jamming. We rely on the aircraft's navigation system that doesn't take inputs from GPS," he said.

Spoofing, on the other hand, isn't immediately apparent. The aircraft's GPS receiver doesn't know that it is read-

ing false GPS signals, the aircraft's flight management system accepts the fake GPS signs and the aircraft is redirected to go off its intended course.

Capt Amit Singh, an air safety expert, said, "In most commercial jets, the aircraft navigation system will show that the aircraft's inertial reference system (IRS) position and GPS position disagree. The pilots should disable GPS inputs.

If they failed to do and continue to go off their route, ATC will alert them." How dangerous is this? "UM688 is a busy route.

and two independent GPS receivers, which calculate the aircraft's position.

But as IRS is prone to errors. In many modern airliner jets, IRS and GPS inputs are used to compute a 'GPIRS' position'. When fake GPS signals are received by the aircraft, a wrong GPIRS position is computed.

"The aircraft system will show a disagreement between IRS and GPS signal and if at this point crew do not disable the GPS signals, the aircraft will be steered off its flight path," said Capt Singh.

Army, IAF to buy 156 more 'Prachand' light combat choppers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Aeronautics Ltd.

New Delhi: The Army and IAF have finalised a plan to order 156 more indigenous 'Prachand' light combat helicopters, which are capable of offensive operations in high-altitude areas like Siachen Glacier and eastern Ladakh, from defence PSU Hindustan

Alam, a source said.

The proposal will first re-

quire acceptance of necessity from the Defence Acquisitions Council chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh.

The order will be placed after commercial negotiations and the final nod from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), an official said.

The 5.8-tonne Prachand, the first light combat chopper

to be manufactured indige-

nously, is armed with 20mm

turret guns, 70mm rocket sys-

tems and air-to-air missiles.

The Prachand, which has

45% indigenous content by

value at present, is touted as

the only attack helicopter in

its weight class in the world

which can land and take-off at

an altitude of 5,000-metre or

16,400-feet with a considerable

load of weapons and fuel.

It also has "enhanced sur-

vivability" through light-

weight armour panels against

7.62mm and 12.7mm rounds,

self-sealing fuel tanks, dam-

age-tolerant main rotor

blades, bullet-proof wind-

shields and a low frontal radar

cross-section, an official said.

M. P. वेरारात्सिंग एड लॉजिस्टिक्स कॉर्पोरेशन

प्रधान कार्यालय : अंग्रेजी कामालेकर, लखनऊ, उत्तर प्रदेश, भारत 23

फोन नं. : 0755-2600148, 2800524, ईमेल नं. : 0755-2600384

वेबसाइट : www.mpwarehousing.mp.gov.in, ईमेल : ho@mpwle.co.in

Ref. No. : 3625

Bhopal, Dated : 29.09.2023

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER (NIT)

STUDY, DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, EXECUTION, MIGRATION & MAINTENANCE OF END-TO-END DIGITAL INTEGRATION FOR THE CENTRALIZED COMMAND & CONTROL SYSTEM

"INTEGRATED FOOD, WAREHOUSE & LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IFWMLS)"

Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation (MPWLC) invites Bids from qualified and experienced companies for the selection of System Integrator for Integrated Food, Warehouse & Logistics Management System (IFWMLS) for the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection (MPWLC, MPSCSC, Food Directorate) Govt. of M.P. Bidders qualifying as per the criteria defined in the RFP are encouraged to participate in the selection process.

Interested bidders should submit their Bids online only in response to this NIT latest by 17.00 hrs. on 27.10.2023 through www.mptenders.gov.in website. The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from websites www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpwarehousing.mp.gov.in.

M.P. Madhyam/112317/2023

MANAGING DIRECTOR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Soniya @ Naina @ China D/o Kishori, R/o 1649, Transit Camp Anand Parbat Delhi, Also At - Camp Anand Parbat Delhi. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 03/2018, U/s 379/411 IPC P.S.Moti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Soniya @ Naina @ China cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Soniya @ Naina @ China has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Soniya @ Naina @ China of Case FIR No. 03/2018, U/s 379/411 IPC P.S.Moti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.11.2023

By Order

Ms. Sagun

Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No.-268
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/10970/WD/2023(Court Matter).

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

E-Tender No. 100/2023-24 to 105/2023-24

Sr. E-Tender No. Name of work Tender Value (₹) EMD (₹)

01 100/2023-24 Bhavnagar Division: Certification of land plans, superimposition with survey numbers and recasting missing land plan against the sanctioned work of Bhavnagar Division -Certification of land plans, superimposition with survey numbers and recasting missing land plan of Bhavnagar Division. Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

02 101/2023-24 Development of sport complex in Railway colony. Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

03 102/2023-24 Zonal Contract (2023-24) for Zone -R No. 10 under ADEN-Junagadh. Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

04 103/2023-24 Jetalpar-Somnath section relaxation of speed restriction on curve no. 39 Km: 115/0 -115/3-4 between Shapur - Lushala. Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

05 104/2023-24 Bhavnagar Division: Providing 09 units Type IV quarter on replacement account of ADEN-Junagadh. Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

06 105/2023-24 ADEN-Junagadh sub division: Deep screening of P & C under jurisdiction of SSE (P/Way) Junagadh and Veraval Bidding Start Date: 04-10-2023 & Closing: 18-10-2023

The NIT has been uploaded on Railway Website : www.reps.gov.in on 26-09-2023

BVR-000

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SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Vipin, S/o: Suresh, R/o: Sunil Ka Makhan, Behind Chhabra Medical Store, Palla, Delhi, Age: 10 Years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Id Mark: The head is shaved (without hair) and there is an old burn mark on the calf of the right foot, Wearing: Black Colour Pant and Green Colour Half Shirt, has been missing since 22.09.2023 from his House. In this regard FIR No. 657/2023, Dated: 23.09.2023, U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S.: Alipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing boy. Please inform to the

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-Mail ID: cib@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/10915/ON/2023

SHO

P.S.: Alipur, Delhi

Ph.: 8447356820,

9868910715, 7065036325

BVR-000

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Lightning kills 2 of a family in Uttarakhand

Dehradun: Two persons from a family died when lightning struck the common courtyard of their houses in Sarpaani village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand on Friday night, reports **Kautilya Singh.**

Hema Devi, 33, and her brother-in-law, Jai Prakash, 29, were rushed to the nearby Community Health Centre where doctors declared them dead.

Lightning struck while Hema and Jai were sleeping in the common courtyard of adjoining houses in Taulri Tok, inhabited by members of the scheduled caste community.

On hearing the sound, locals rushed to the scene and found the two victims in critical condition. While the family has 12 members, at the time of the incident, only Hema and Jai were at home.

Hema and Jai were engaged in farming, tending to fields owned by their family.

31 yrs on, 9 get life term for killing 16 Dalits in Raj

Spl Court For SC/ST Cases Acquits 41

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Alwar: Thirty-one years after the Kumher massacre in Rajasthan's Bharatpur — wherein 16 Dalits were killed and over 44 injured on June 6, 1992 — a special court for SC/ST cases awarded life imprisonment to nine convicts on Saturday while acquitting 41 others in the case.

The convicts sentenced to life in jail include Lakho, Prem Singh, Man Singh, Rajveer, Pritam, Paras Jain, Chetan, Shiv Singh, and Gopal.

A dispute between two communities (Jatavs and

3 guilty of bid to 'convert' star shooter

The special CBI court convicted three people, including former registrar of Jharkhand high court Mustaque Ahmad, for trying to 'convert' national-level shooter Tara Shahdeo and committing various atrocities against her, reports **Sanjay Sahay.** Sentencing in the case has been fixed for October 5. The other two convicts are Rakib-ul-Hasan alias Ranjit Kohli and his mother Kaushar Rani.

Speaking to reporters, Tara said, "I had full faith in the judiciary. I have got justice after a wait of nine years. Those who harmed me have been convicted. I thank all those who cooperated with me."

Jats) in Kumher area had allegedly led to the killings. The investigation was handed over to the CBI, which filed a chargesheet against 83 accused after recording statements of 283 people.

During the prolonged trial, 32 accused died while one remained on the run and is still untraceable. Considered the worst Dalit carnage

in the state, the 'Kumher Kaand' haunts the Jatavs (an Scheduled Caste community) to this day. Besides the loss of life and injuries, the massacre caused extensive damage to property, cattle, and stored grains. It is believed that the death toll and magnitude of destruction were far higher than stated in official records.

SAD neta, kin held for duping farmers of ₹40cr

Jalandhar: The Punjab vigilance bureau, on Saturday, arrested former Markfed chairman and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Jarnail Singh Wahid, his wife Rupinder Kaur Wahid and his son Sandeep Singh from their Phagwara residence for defrauding 600 cane-growers of over Rs 40 crore.

Jarnail Singh Wahid is the managing director of Wahid Sandhar Sugar Mills Limited, Phagwara, while his wife and son are the directors. His son is also the director of Sugar Mill Plaza Private Limited, Phagwara. The vigilance bureau said that Wahid Sandhar Sugar Mills deceived over 600 farmers by failing to make a total payment of Rs 40.71 crore.

The development comes at a time when farmers have already launched an agitation on September 27 to get their cane dues for previous years and have shut the mill dues. **TNN**

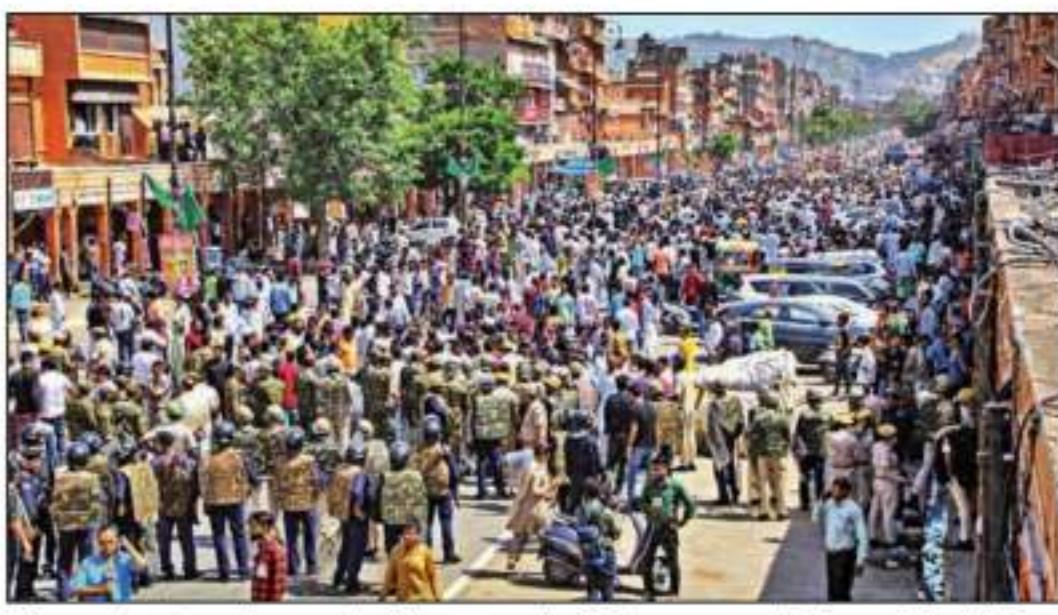
Death of 18-yr-old in 'road rage' attack sparks tension in Jaipur

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Tension flared in the Walled City of Jaipur on Saturday following the death of a youth from the minority community after he was assaulted the previous night by a mob over a "road rage mis-understanding" while happening to pass through a spot where two bikes had collided.

Iqbal Raza, 18, was struck with a "rod-like weapon", collapsed and was rushed to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. The police said the primary probe suggests the victim was not involved in the accident between the two motorcyclists.

According to the FIR lodged by Iqbal's 16-year-old brother, he and his brother (the victim) were travelling on a scooter from their grandmother's house to their own house when they



The protesters demanded the arrest of the accused, financial aid for the victim's family and a government job for one of his kin

were attacked around 10:30pm in the Subash Nagar area by "10 to 15 people".

Jaipur police commissioner Biju George Joseph hinted at "some kind of misunderstanding, similar to what occurs in road rage-like situations". Fifteen suspects have been detained so far and CCTV footage is being examined before they are formally arrested, an officer said.

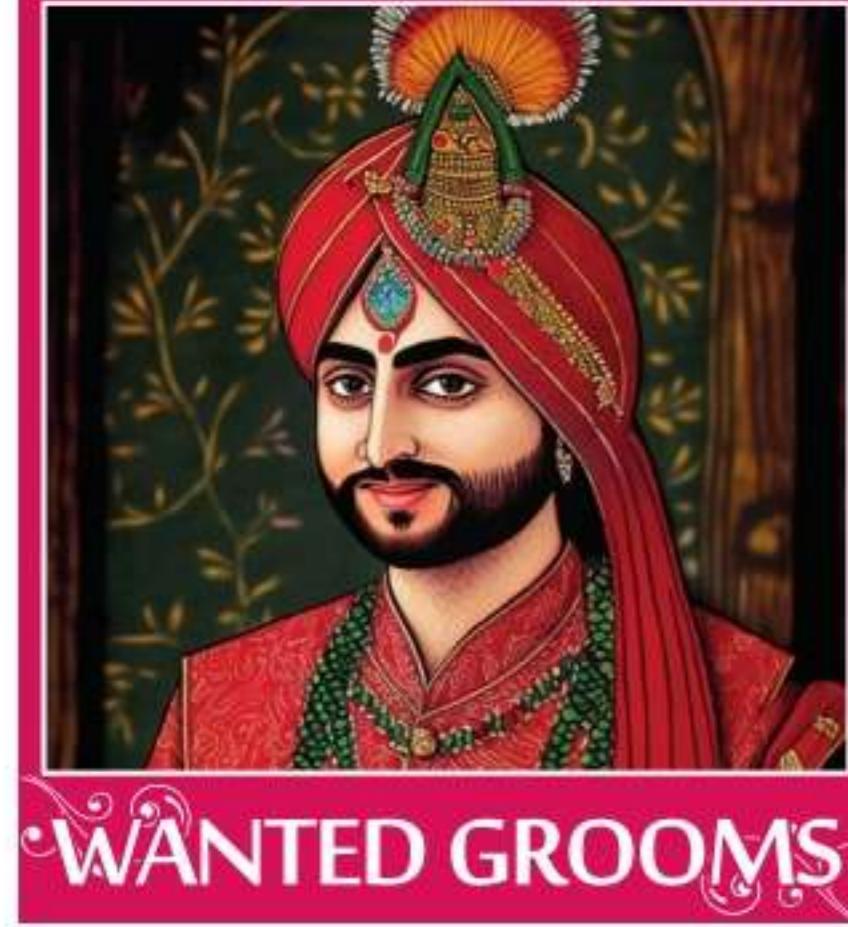
By Saturday morning, a large crowd gathered from nearby minority-dominated areas, prompting police to beef up deployments. The protesters demanded the arrest of the accused, financial aid for Iqbal's family and a government job for one of his kin.

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SMA Bengali Brhmn b/ful fair slim girl BTch,MS 92 born Delhi 57" Wkg Germany seeks well settld boy Wkg Germany /nearby. W/app ph 9610403928

SHRIVASTAV fair girl 85/53" B.Tech wrkg IT NNC, Mangal, garchi, B.Sc. Pmt. Prf. B.E./MBA Box 9339104741 Email: akrs10@rediffmail.com

SAXENA girl, Jan 1994- 5'1" Working in MNC Mum-bai. Preferre to Mumbai-Pune Working Boy, Cast No-bar. Mob./Watsap- 9963929991

POWM4 Punjabi NM Khatri Girl (D e b o o n) , 5' 5 " / 1 9 9 2 , B.Sc.B.Ed.MBA, works in pvt sector bank,seeks alliance, 9810810729

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POWM4 fair girl

Sharmila Ganesh Ram
& Richa Pinto | TNN

In 1899, portrait photographer 'Save Dada' a.k.a. Harischandra Sakharam Bhataudkar lugged his freshly imported Riley motion picture camera to Malabar Hill, one of Bombay's highest points, to shoot a wrestling match. This was 14 years before filmmaker Dadasaheb Phalke shot India's first full-length silent feature film, 'Raja Harishchandra'. Bhataudkar recorded not only the bout between Pundalik Dada and Krishna Nihavi inside the 'Hanging Gardens' but also the antics of one of the many monkeys that populated the hill in the 19th century.

"Unfortunately, none of these documents exists anymore," says film historian Amrit Gangar, but the gardens' legacy as a Mumbai icon is secure.

The gardens – one of Mumbai's few green lungs – rest atop a reservoir that was built on Malabar Hill in the 1880s. They are famous for their animal-shaped hedges and frequented by locals and tourists alike. But don't confuse them with the Kamala Nehru Park opposite that houses the shoe-shaped 'Boot House'.

Curtain Coming Down
The ageing reservoir, which was last rebuilt in the 1930s, is now in need of expansion. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) proposed reconstruction plan involves the relocation of 389

trees, and the gardens will of course become out of bounds while the work is on. But Mumbai residents, including celebs like film star Juhu Chawla, are opposing this plan. They have started a conservation campaign for the gardens and their trees.

The gardens combine beauty with utility, says conservation architect Vikas Dilawari: "It's a clever integration of technology to store water at the highest point, and recreation."

How Hill Became A Home

In the 1700s, Malabar Hill was a forest inhabited by hyenas and tigers. Its name is a nod to pirates from the Malabar coast who planned the plunder of trade ships from this vantage. That's why the British later built a lookout tower on it.

Bungalows of the rich sprouted on the hill only after the Great Fire of 1803 devoured homes inside Bombay's fort walls. Epidemics and the demolition of these walls in the 1860s led the city's elites – including the English, Parsis and Hindus – to seek refuge on the hill.

Soon after it became home to the British governor of Bombay, Malabar Hill grew a rash of palaces built by maharajas. With its nippy air, vast outhouses and servant quarters, 19th-century Malabar Hill had the vibe of present-day Mahabaleshwar.

Water Project Takes Shape

Then, the British commissioned a series of tunnels from the northern lakes like Vaitarna, linking up with Tulsi lake on the then Salsette is-

DEEP ROOTS: The gardens rest atop a reservoir that was built on Malabar Hill in the 1880s. They are famous for their animal-shaped hedges. The Kamala Nehru Park opposite houses the shoe-shaped 'Boot House'

land, to provide high-pressure water supply to Bombay. This spawned the Malabar Hill reservoir, one of the city's first artificial reservoirs built with arch-type masonry and

a wooden roof, by the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, known at the time as Littlewood Pallonji Co.

To protect the reservoir, a part of the Pherozeshah Mehta Garden –

A HILL THAT BLOOMS WITH SONGS

Gardens at Malabar Hill have hosted countless song picturisations. It was either the Hanging Gardens, a terraced patch 'hanging' on the roof of an underground reservoir built into the hill, or Kamala Nehru Park with a giant shoe as its main attraction. Old-timers may also recall the balcony overlooking Marine Drive and an open-air cafe. The cafe is long gone, the Boot House is shut, and access to the Hanging Gardens will soon be curbed once the reservoir is closed for repairs. The only surviving relic now is the viewing balcony.

Yeh naye naye preet hai (Film: *Pocket Maari*, 1956): The dulcet Madan Mohan composition begins on a yacht sailing on the Arabian Sea. With the second stanza, the location shifts to the Hanging Gardens. As Dev Anand gets into his loose-limb act and Geeta Bali compliments the flowers around, you get a vantage view of the Bombay highrises of the 1950s

Na na karte pyar tumhi se (Film: *Jab Jab Phool Khile*, 1965): Shashi Kapoor

and Nanda (pictured) dance with hysterical abandon to one of the bounciest compositions of its time in the environment-friendly surroundings

Jaadugar tera naina (Film: *Man Mandir*, 1971): The unusual celluloid pair of Sanjeev Kumar and Waheeda Rehman share a Romeo-Juliet moment as she stands on top of the iconic Boot House and he serenades her in the park

Chhupa chhupi khela aao (Film: *Dream Girl*, 1977): Hema Malini and a bunch of kids play hide-and-seek in this playful track that was entirely lensed in the old garden. Asrani coddles an infant all along

Nazar ke saamne, jigar ke paas (Film: *Aashiqui*, 1990): They are sitting in the garden cafe that overlooks the sea and the city. She wants to tell him what she has been reading. He is more interested in feeding her cola. He gives her directions. She types 'I love you', a hundred times over. The song, which earned a Filmfare award for lyricist Sameer, plays in the background.

— Avijit Ghosh

South Mumbai needs more water, so the famous gardens, the setting for many Bollywood songs, will have to close while the underlying reservoir is enlarged. Hopefully, they'll have a sequel

named after one of the founders of the Indian National Congress who was also municipal commissioner in 1873 – was first laid with a wooden roof around the year 1887. Later, the entire garden was dug out, and its roof concretised and relaid in the late 1930s, say BMC officials.

And A Garden Is Born

The garden is better known as Hanging Gardens because of its elevation. "What really amazed me as a child was the fact that the entire garden was actually 'hanging' on top of the water reservoir that supplied water to most of the area that you could see from the hill," says Bharat Gothoskar, founder of Khaiki Heritage Foundation and Khaki Tours whose 40 guides, known as 'ambassadors of Mumbai', lead tourists to the Hanging Gardens not only for a great view of the city but also to explain the ecology of the

'Laawaris' were shot here. Then, one Friday in the monsoon of 1999, a BMC squad cracked the signboards, tables and menus of the 50-year-old cafe onto the pavement. Its lease had expired and, in its place, the hydraulics department proposed to build a reservoir control tower.

Nature, Faith & People

"In a city that's fast falling prey to environmental degradation, to live amidst, and have access to this haven is a blessing," says Pervin Sanghvi, a Malabar Hill resident who calls Hanging Gardens her second home. "It's where I've discovered my love of the natural world," she says.

Sanghvi has enjoyed picnics on its lawns and played with the animals in the park she calls "oasis of verdure". It recently offered her refuge from "the grimness of life" during the pandemic. "Monkeys, peafowls, mongooses, Indian grey hornbills, owls – in the midst of a concrete jungle, abundant wildlife flourishes here. It is where the birds sing in chorus, and the peacock's cry is the conductor of the orchestra. It is common to see a common mormon feasting on the lantana camara and children playing joyfully amid the hedges carved in the shapes of different animals," says Sanghvi.

Amid the hedges is a "circular Hanumanji", points out Indrani Malkani of V-CAN, a local citizens' action group. She has seen many visitors "circumambulate the Hanumanji and do a little pranam... What a lovely mix of nature, faith and humans." She recalls the slope adjoining the western part of the Hanging Gardens – where the new reservoir is proposed to be built – was "a bootlegger's haven at night" 25 years ago. "There was also a stream of water flowing out nearby where women from Simla Nagar slum would wash their clothes," she says.

Perhaps this slum is what Suketu Mehta referred to as one of the "hidden villages of Malabar Hill". In a passage narrating a story of a domestic help travelling all the way to Andheri, Suketu is taking a walk with MP Jayawantiben Mehta near the Hanging Gardens when a Gujarati woman comes out of her shanty and points to a pipe in front. "The reservoir is right there" – the Malabar Hill reservoir, which supplies water to all of South Bombay – and I have no water. I have left my job of 22 years because there is no water. The job begins at 7.30 in Andheri, and I have to leave at 6." She needs to be home to fill the buckets when the water tanker arrives. Jayawantiben promises to do what she can. "And will you get my daughter admission?" the woman asks.



Point, the clusters of very tall, at times very thin, buildings, the ex tant Gothic towers and turrets and antiquarian domes, and, across all of this, the sea, which extends beyond the Gateway of India'.

green belt which spans the 300-year-old Doongerwadi, the forest on the slope, and Raj Bhavan.

"These gardens are a critical part of most of the one-day tours of Mumbai," says Gothoskar, for whom the hedges shaped like animals and birds, the floral clock, the bandstand and the walkways designed to look like the initials PMG – Pherozeshah Mehta Gardens – were among the great attractions of childhood.

Part Of Mumbai Life

"On Sundays we go to Hanging Gardens with the children," wrote Suketu Mehta in his book, 'Maximum City'. "I like seeing my children among the visitors from the suburbs." He observed the grandmothers "who put food in the picnic baskets", the chil-

There's a multi-million dollar market for hemp fibre, Khanna adds. "If legalised, cannabis will overtake the state's apple industry in terms of revenue."

Illegal Trade Will Be Hit'

Over the years, Malana village in Kullu district has become synonymous with quality charas sold as 'Malana cream' – illegally, of course. Prices will fall if cannabis cultivation is legalised, but village panchayat Raju Ram is all for it. "Even if the money is less, the people of Malana will shift to legal cannabis farming. Nobody wants to live in constant fear of the law. And if the government buys the crop, most of the people here would opt for it."

Maheshwar Thakur also says legal cannabis will hurt the illicit charas trade. "A poor man is forced to grow cannabis or sell charas. Given an option, he will grow legal hemp. Although legal cannabis won't be that lucrative, it will impact the illegal trade as fear of the law will divert people towards legal cultivation."

'Mafia Will Exploit Loopholes'

Others, like former director general of police (DGP) ID Bhandari, are less sanguine about legalising cannabis cultivation in the state. "Cannabis should be legalised but we as a society are not ready for such a move," he says, adding that it will only "help the charas mafia" which will exploit the loopholes in the new rules.

"Charas smuggling is such a lucrative trade that legalisation would never be able to make a dent in it," Bhandari says, adding that monitoring regulating legalised cannabis will be a law enforcement nightmare.

Around 4,000kg of charas has been seized in the state in the past decade, but former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer OP Sharma says, "Hundreds of tonnes of charas is smuggled out annually from six Himachal districts. How much do the police seize? Three hundred kilos in a year! The police have utterly failed to curb smuggling and turned Himachal into a mini-Afghanistan."

Sharma says lifting the ban on cannabis cultivation will increase police's manpower requirement for monitoring, so it would be best to start with a pilot project in a place like Malana. "If the villagers switch over to legal cannabis, then maybe you can replicate it elsewhere."

HERE'S SOMETHING TO TAKE ABOUT

CANNABIS BY OTHER NAMES

Bhang, charas, ganja, hashish, marijuana, hash, pot, grass, weed, hemp

Banned For 4 Decades

1985 | Cannabis cultivation criminalised in India, illegal cultivation boom

2010 | First step towards legalising cannabis as new natural fibre policy advocates hemp fibre production

2017 | PIL in Himachal high court seeks directions to make industrial and medical cannabis cultivation legal in state

July 2018 | Uttarakhand first state to legalise cannabis cultivation

Nov 2018 | Then CM Jai Ram Thakur says Himachal considering legalising cannabis cultivation

Nov 2019 | Madhya Pradesh legalises cannabis cultivation

Apr 6, 2023 | Himachal assembly forms panel to explore legalisation. CM Sukhvinder Sukhu also tells the assembly the government is considering legalising cannabis cultivation.

MEDICAL USE GROWING

► In India, cultivation of industrial and medical cannabis is legal in Uttarakhand, while controlled cultivation is allowed in some districts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu

► Globally, around 50 countries have legalised cannabis for medical use. Uruguay was the first country to legalise the production, distribution and consumption of recreational cannabis in 2013, and Thailand the first Asian country to do so in 2022. Recreational use of cannabis is also allowed in Canada, Georgia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico and South Africa. In the US, 23 states have allowed recreational use of cannabis

PROPOSED CANNABIS PROTOCOL IN HIMACHAL

► Agricultural universities will conduct research on medical cannabis

► State government will grant licences to eligible farmers/corporate institutions to grow cannabis

► Government will also provide cannabis seeds to farmers

► Seeds for industrial hemp will have less than 0.3% THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the primary psychoactive substance in cannabis), making the plant useless for drug users

► No THC limit for medical cannabis, but licensee must set up a lab approved by NABL

► Government will inspect cannabis fields from time to time. Cultivation outside the designated area will be punishable

► Licence will be nixed if medical cannabis is sold commercially or consumed

Himachal eyes pot of gold under grass

The cannabis plant and its many products, such as hemp ropes and fabric, were part of hill life before a ban was enforced in the 1980s. Now, as the world wakes up to cannabis' benefits, the state could legalise its cultivation soon



GREENFIELD PROJECT: Cannabis plants grow near a house in Kasol in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district. Locals say legalisation of cannabis would hurt the illegal charas trade while boosting government revenue and the state's rural economy

streams, successive governments have been wary of making cannabis legal. Their biggest fear is that the drug mafia could misuse the new law.

But Maheshwar Singh Thakur, 'raja' of Kullu and a former BJP MP, says the fear of misuse can't be an excuse to avoid a step which is in public interest. "Even shoe polish gives some people a high. So, will you ban that too?"

Thakur, who is also a member of the committee on cannabis legalisation, says legal cannabis will eradicate the drug mafia. "It will be like any other crop, say maize or wheat. The government will provide seeds to the farmers and ensure the crop is

of the plant's fibre. The state government should at least make it legal for extracting fibre."

So, why hasn't cannabis cultivation been legalised?

Khanna, who has drafted Himachal's proposed policy, blames red tape. "Legalisation has been delayed because politicians spoke about it but never made a policy, and bureaucrats created hurdles instead of clearing the way as they failed to realise the benefits of legal cannabis."

WET DHOTIS, SATIN SHIRTS AND PUJOR BHOG

My great-great-grandfather is one of the figures that most families probably have (or need to invent), whose impractical ways lost us our one chance of being really rich. My favourite from the many stories my grandfather told us about him is the one where he was bathing in the local pond when someone brought news that his step-brother's family just had a son. He was about to head over there in his wet dhoti (this was before Speedo) when the messenger reminded him that he hadn't got his reward. He apparently hesitated for a few seconds, then just took off the dhoti and went off to congratulate the lucky family. In the buff.

I often think of this story from the point of view of the recipient. Was he happy with the wet and probably much-used dhoti? Would he have preferred to wait and get some money, say? Or was he delighted by the flourish of that gesture, or slightly embarrassed by it, or both?

Occasions like Durga puja are special because we can offer a gift that does not demand reciprocation. For instance, the thali of mishti that you offer Ma Durga. By taking the blessed mishti back and distributing it to your loved ones, you offer her the only gift you can, the acknowledgment of her grace and presence in your life

This gets to the heart of the economics of gift-giving: why do we take the trouble to give gifts? Why not just send the equivalent amount by UP? Tagore, perceptive as always, framed this issue beautifully in a poem that we read as kids. It was puja season, as it will be soon, and two brothers were pestering their mom to see their puja clothes. When she does, one gets very upset — he was expecting something nicer — but



TASTING ECONOMICS

as she explains, they just didn't have the money. The other, perhaps in reaction, says he loves the gift. The upset child runs off to the local magistrate's house, which was being readied for the pujo. People were milling around, some no doubt were making themselves useful, others, I suspect, in the quite reasonable expectation that this being Bengal, there would be some *mishti* (sweets) soon. In my imagination, someone comes around with a large *thali* of chanbaras, dark and glistening with ghee and syrup.

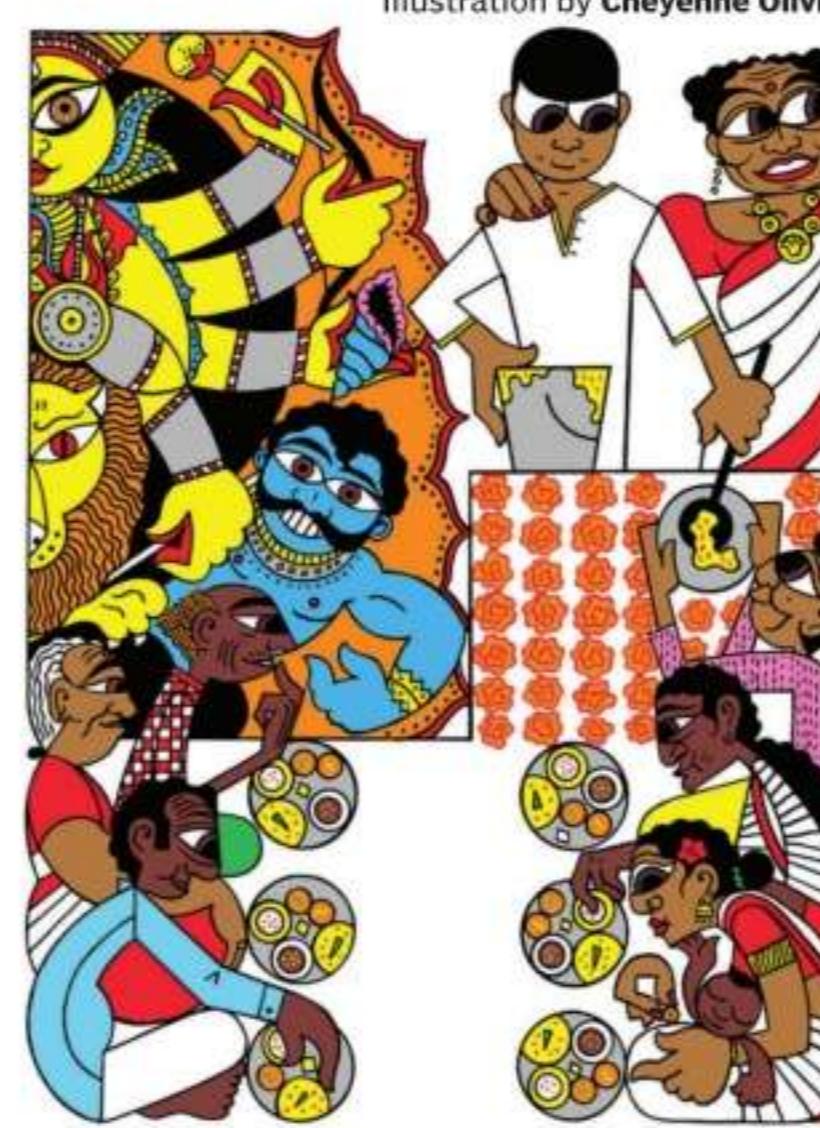
The boy in the poem looks so crestfallen that amidst all this merrymaking and mélée he still gets noticed. The host very graciously gifts him the satin shirt that he wanted. But when he proudly comes home wearing it, his mother disdains it.

Re-reading *Pujar Shaj* now, I don't think Tagore wanted us to be upset that the boy begged for it. Begging, after all, has a different status in Hindu culture than say in Protestant countries — sanyasis are meant to live by begging — there is no shame in it. It was rather the fact that the boy ignored what it meant to the giver — that, as his mother says in the poem, he didn't think of what his father had to do to afford even those cheap clothes in this year when the crops had failed, whereas for the rich man, it really meant nothing.

There is a 1993 piece, famous in our small world of economists, called 'The Deadweight Loss of Christmas' by Joel Waldfogel, then a young professor at Yale. He asked his students to tell him the market price of the gifts they got for Christmas, and the value they put on them and concluded that just at Christmas between \$4 and \$13 billion dollars was "wasted" because the recipients did not like the gifts they were given.

What Professor Waldfogel did not ask is what those who didn't like their gifts would have thought if their grandparents had handed them cash? Would they wonder why it was different this year; if their visible lack of enthusiasm about last year's (entirely unsuitable) sweater had something to do with it? Would it bother them?

In Waldfogel's data, grandparents were, in fact, more likely to give cash (or gift cards). Partly maybe it was harder for them to go shopping, but undoubtedly some of it was a recognition of past failures. On the other hand, none of the significant others in his data give cash gifts.



This is telling — some grandparents may have given up on trying, but a lover cannot afford to.

We give gifts to signal that we care, that we thought of the person, of what she would like and the way her face would light up when she realises that someone had thought hard about her preferences. Economists recognise that sending the right signal is important, say when you want a job or have something to sell. But when we think of how we build and maintain our social connections, our instinct is to think about personal likes and dislikes, rather than as a central strategic element of our economic lives, as it would be for an anthropologist. Hence, the focus is on the happiness from possessing the gifted object, rather than on what the act of gifting does to our relationship. Which is how Christmas becomes a dead loss.

As the great French anthropologist Marcel Mauss reminded us in his wonderful essay on 'The Gift', we are always exchanging gifts, be it just an unexpected smile or a kind word or two. Visiting friends or family in my youth, there was always a moment for the question: "ektu mishti mukh kore jabi na baba (won't you sweeten your mouth before you go?)". It could be something very little, a *batasha*, a small lump of

sugar really, or a *rewdi*, an eye-ball sized lump of sesame seeds held together by sugar, but we knew better than to say no. The social account, as Mauss explains it, needs to stay open — there needs to be the easy possibility of another round of exchange in the future. Maybe the next time you will bring her a letter that went to the wrong flat, and she will invite you to sit for a few minutes and (mostly) lie about how school is going. Then the *mishti*, which you accept with a smile, hiding well the fact that you are a *mishti* snob who only likes the soft and less-sugary kind, but perhaps also noting that inflation was probably eating into her pension and that she seemed very lonely.

The point of the everyday gift is to make the more essential exchanges possible: maybe today the misdelivered letter was actually important; the easy mutual connection, the fact that you would not think twice about coming over unasked, makes that transaction so much easier. This is why the quotidian gift needs to be small, just a token, just a reiteration of your connection and one that allows easy reciprocation (a few minutes of chit-chat, a *mishti* in recompense), so effortless that people mostly notice only when it's not honoured, when that last-moment *mishti* is turned down without an elaborate excuse (my stomach really hurts, the next time I'll have two).

Occasions like Durga puja (or Christmas or Eid) are special because we are allowed to break the everyday rules of gifting and offer something potentially exciting for the receiver (and therefore offering the giver a chance to express himself). For that reason, it does not demand reciprocation: your rich grandpa might buy you that suit that you need for the next job interview, while you might just make him a beautiful card with a picture of your mum with him.

In a way that is also how it works with *prasad*, the thali of *mishti* that you offer Ma Durga and take back blessed. She, after all, is all-powerful — there is nothing that she needs or lacks. By taking the *mishti* back and distributing them to your loved ones, you offer her the only gift you can, the acknowledgement of her grace and presence in your life. And maybe that is also why the bhog, the meal shared with the whole community, matters to her. Perhaps looking down it pleases her to see that despite all our differences (which probably make her sad), for these four or five days we, her children, manage to act as a family. That some of the more affluent among us take the burden of supplying

RECIPE FOR SHEERA

I remember loving Durga pujo bhog, though it's been years since I had some. The one thing I don't love is what Bengalis call *sujir halwa*, often dessert for one of the lesser meals. The Maharashtrian equivalent, *sheera*, is richer, fatter and better. It's my Marathi mother's gift to our home cooking. Here it is, a gift for the readers.

Soak 25 strands (1/10 of a gm) of saffron and 1/3 cup of raisins in warm water (separately) and leave for 30 minutes. Mix 1.25 cups of water with 1.25 cups of milk and 1/2 cup sugar and a pinch salt and bring to a simmer. While this is happening, fry 1 cup suji in a heavy kadhai in 1/2 cup ghee at medium-low, till the suji is fragrant and is just beginning to turn red. Add the milk mixture, the saffron with its water and raisins without the soaking water to the fried suji and stir until the liquid is fully absorbed. Lower heat as far as possible, cover and cook, stirring occasionally to prevent it sticking. When you see the ghee seeping out from the edges (about 20 minutes at very low heat), take it off the heat, sprinkle cardamom powder and garnish with cashews freshly fried in ghee before serving.

a heavy kadhai in 1/2 cup ghee at medium-low,

till the suji is fragrant and is just beginning to turn red. Add the milk mixture, the saffron with its water and raisins without the soaking water to the fried suji and stir until the liquid is fully absorbed. Lower heat as far as possible, cover and cook, stirring occasionally to prevent it sticking. When you see the ghee seeping out from the edges (about 20 minutes at very low heat), take it off the heat, sprinkle cardamom powder and garnish with cashews freshly fried in ghee before serving.

banana leaves full of *khichuri* (*khichdi*), *beguni* (batter-fried eggplant), *chorchori* (sweet potatoes, spinach, eggplant, drumsticks, and other seasonal vegetables, cooked in their mutual juices into a spicy paste), *tomato chutney* (you guessed, fresh chutney made from tomatoes), and much else. That for these few days, those who never cross paths will sit together and be served perhaps by those who are more used to being served than serving. That, as we surreptitiously glance at the person across the aisle, perhaps we notice in them the markers of our shared humanity.

This is part of a monthly column by Nobel-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee illustrated by Cheyenne Olivier.

Why sanitary pad waste is a bloody big problem

Though some startups offer innovative solutions like turning used pads into paper, most end up in landfills where waste pickers have to manually sort through them

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There's a sense of freedom that kicks in for menstruators once that dreaded time of the month is over — a skip in your step knowing that the next one is as far away as it can be. But once the period is over and done with, its legacy lives on in the form of waste. Since the sanitary pads made by the big players all contain plastic and, therefore, cannot degrade naturally, do we ever stop to think about what happens to them once we toss them in our bins?

It's likely to end up in a landfill where waste pickers like Delhi-based Manwari Begum have to sort through it with their hands. "People don't even wrap the pad properly; they just throw it like that with their dry waste. We have to separate it to make a living. No one thinks about the person who is picking their waste — we are also human beings," she says, noting that many waste pickers are from marginalised backgrounds and castes.

There is no denying that sanitary napkins have been a boon for many Indian women, liberating them from the monthly ritual of washing and drying their menstrual cloth. Some didn't even have access to clean cloth and used dirty rags or newspapers instead. Even now, only an estimated 121 million Indian women use sanitary napkins, according to NFHS 2015-16 figures. This is 36% of women who menstruate. But even that is generating 12.3 billion napkins — that is 1.13.000 tons of waste — every year, according to a recent study.

NOT ENOUGH INCINERATORS

The reason the waste ends up in landfills is that there are not enough incinerators — only a few schools, airports and malls have them. Tanuja Mahajan, director of international programs at The Pad Project, the US-based non-profit behind the Oscar-winning documentary 'Period. End of Sentence', says, "(In the Solid Waste Management (SWM) rules of 2016, a solution was proposed that sanitary waste should be collected and transported to biomedical waste incinerators, but there are only a few hundred of those in the country.)"

Small-scale incinerators have their own problems, points out



SANITARY NAPKINS AND TAMPONS

- Contain super absorbent polymers (SAP) and plastics
- One-time use and take about 500 years to decompose

MENSTRUAL CUPS

- Made of medical grade silicone
- Can be used for 5 to 10 years

REUSABLE SANITARY PADS

- Made of cloth or hemp
- Reusable for 1 to 2 years

BIODEGRADABLE SANITARY NAPKINS

- Made of natural ingredients like organic cotton, banana fibre with corn starch, etc
- One-time use

in rural India though SWM rules urge people to avoid this due to the associated health and environmental concerns. The other practice seen across the country is flushing used sanitary napkins which can cause drains to clog.

When it comes to solutions to this problem, there is no one simple answer. A multi-pronged strategy is required with efforts from a variety of stakeholders. There is a need to invest in technology to find solutions, says Bharati Chaturvedi, founder and director of Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group which works with waste pickers. "Producers of menstrual products should be pushed to find ways to create biodegradable products," she says.

PAD TO PAPER

One technological innovation in this space is from Pune-based startup PadCare Labs. It has created a patented technology to recycle used sanitary pads into plastic and wood pulp. They have tied up with over 550 corporates to collect and recycle their sanitary waste, says founding member Aasawari Kame. "The pulp from the waste is used to make paper products and can have applications in the textile and chemical industries," she says. They create everything from diaries and calendars to paper blocks out of recycled sanitary napkins. The non-recyclable plastic from sanitary napkins has also been harvested by them to the extent possible — they use some of it to make paper blocks, and the rest in the production of their own bins. Recently, they have expanded to housing societies and community-based projects, including a recent one in Mahabaleshwar and an upcoming one in Darjeeling. Housing societies are where they want to focus on most

pads for longer than they wish or ought to. "It's uncomfortable and you may feel itchy, or even get an infection." Open burning is another common method

UPCYCLED PADS: Menstrual products are being recycled into products such as notebooks and paver blocks (above) by PadCare Labs

There are also greener and reusable alternatives like cloth pads, menstrual cups, discs and period panties. But this has its own issues — how many have the privacy, let alone the water supply, to wash these products? Besides, the obsession with virginity makes many mothers reluctant to allow use of cups and tampons. Plus, at a fundamental level, the question is whether the onus of this large-scale problem should be on individual menstruators at all.

That is why the focus on producers investing in R&D is something that comes up over and over.

Chaturvedi says, "We need extended producer responsibility. You're not putting in any resources to make it easy to dispose of. They are meant to give a biodegradable bag with it, but these standards are not being enforced." Manwari Begum agrees. "Agar aap bech rahe ho, toh khata karne bhi aapki zimmedari hai (if you're selling them, getting rid of them is also your responsibility)," she says, suggesting an arrangement where waste pickers are paid extra to transport pads to disposal facilities run by the manufacturers themselves.

Illustration by Cheyenne Olivier

FROM LUCKY UTERUS TO MOTHER EMERITUS

Mrs. Funnybones



TWINKLE KHANNA

in the rear-view mirror. I decided to tap into someone who has had almost 50 years of experience in the business — my mother.

Over dinner, eating the parwal that she had insisted on heating up onto my plate, I said, "Mom, my job is to take a bullet for my child. Why do you think I spent all those years practising by giving your grandson a nerf gun and standing within range? And now I have no say in anything he does! When I give him advice, he says I am nagging!"

"But you do the same thing," she said, "every time I tell you about your hair; or try to fix it just before we are stepping onto the red carpet, you push my hand away and say you can do it yourself, so why are you complaining now? And weren't you the one who once told me that unsolicited advice is just interference. Good, that you are getting a taste of your own medicine."

In a stilted British accent, he stated he could give me my daughter's information but not my son's. 'He is not a minor so he would have to give you access to this information. We can't compromise his privacy.'

I

he Indian mother in me was immediately offended. Does this white man not know that there is no such thing as privacy within our households? We tell people it's called a joint family to make it sound palatable. Technically it should be called a conjoined family — with one head, a dozen chattering mouths and multiple limbs, all stitched up together.

I

protested. "But he is my son! All his organs that come under your policy have been created by me, But the agent stuck to his stance.

W

hen I messaged my son for access to his account, I received a curt reply, 'Mom, I have used only four visits in the entire year, and you know that because you insisted on coming with me for all of them! While I am happy to answer all your questions, I am not giving you my password. I am 21, not 12; I can handle my own things.'

H

as he has been pushing back for a while, but this year, the boundaries seem to have grown from chalk lines on the ground to looming electric fences.

T

hat evening, my diary had a mauldin entry: 'A mother is like a pack of cold cuts with an expiry date stamped across it. After that period, you are simply forgotten at the back of the fridge till someday you rot and have to be discarded'.

S

itting around scrolling through the news, I noted that the inspiration behind the entire Succession series, Rupert Murdoch, had finally retired and handed over the company to his son. He still retains an honorary title of 'chairman emeritus'.

P

erhaps I should also retire from this motherhood business and just keep an honorary title. 'Mother emeritus' does have a nice ring to it,' I told my husband, expecting sympathy.

I

nstead, he said, 'What are you moaning about the empty nest when our daughter is still here, and you seem to always be busy working anyway? And what does this emeritus-demuritus mean, can't you just use normal words instead of being a maha pakau all the time?'

I

It was no point telling him that it didn't matter that I have a company to run, a book to finish, columns to write, and a younger child's hair to detangle, mothering my eldest had been such a big part of my life that now that he didn't need me, I felt completely useless.

R

emember that neural rewiring we discussed at the beginning? Those pathways were clearly having an existential crisis.

W

hile there are hundreds of books on how to deal with babies, toddlers and teenagers, there are very few resources on how to continue being a mother when your child has left his childhood

As We See It

TALKING POINT

1 WHEN TEMPLE DOORS OPEN FOR FEMALE PUJARIS

When the DMK came to power in Tamil Nadu, it had promised to open up religious leadership to all castes, and to women. Now, three young women have completed their training and are set to serve as assistant priests in temples run by the state's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department. Much depends on this experiment, and it is a test for the openness of the religious tradition and the egalitarianism of its adherents.

2 PRAY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Across religions, there has been a struggle for women to be ordained as clerics, their right to lead prayer. Some denominations of Judaism and Protestant Christianity have women as rabbis and priests, there is a small number of female Muslim clerics in countries like Indonesia, China, Morocco and Egypt, even India, leading not just female congregations, but mixed ones. The Vatican introduced altar girls in 1994, Pope Francis let women in as acolytes and lectors, but the resistance remains stubborn. Sikh and Hindu women are fighting for their space in religious affairs, especially in the diaspora. Feminist theology has flowered alongside feminism, as women recuperate their roles within text and tradition, and engage with orthodoxies.



4 A FAIRER FAITH

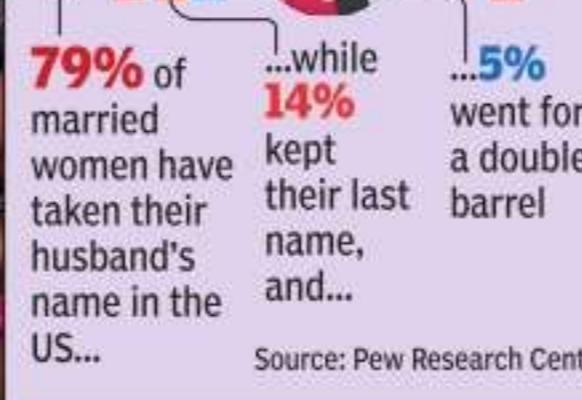
Those who support the move point out that women did lead spiritual arguments and conduct religious functions in ancient India, until these practices were erased by the codification of Hindu customs. Women have been active and ardent participants in all faith communities. Many have been hugely influential too, exerting spiritual authority in defiant, surprising ways by breaching social convention. Figures like St Teresa have shaken the Roman Catholic with her abandonment to her faith. Some women have shed their clothes to manifest a truth larger than any social strictures, like the mystics Akka Mahadevi and Lal Ded, who renounced palaces and possessions in their devotional love. But even women who are not cut from such remarkable cloth have the right to express their faith and guide their religious communities. Tamil Nadu's new female archakars might make a remarkable sight now, but hopefully, their presence will open up the priesthood to all believers, making for a fairer future.

3 BREAKING CONVENTIONS

In Hinduism, there is no central authority to allow or disallow women, but the force of convention and hereditary priesthood keeps women away. Many organisations such as the Shankar Deva Samiti and Jnana Prabodhini in Pune have trained women priests to officiate weddings and perform rituals. Though the ceremonies take place in private homes and not in temples, the organisations have found that there is a rising demand for women pujaris. Last year, women helmed four Durga Pujas in Kolkatta and their presence pulled in quite a crowd as they took pains to explain the rituals. In Karnataka, women serve as priests in temples run by private trusts and entities and the government is considering a similar step in state-run temples.

Hello and welcome to TOI's monthly roundup on gender, politics and culture. In a world where men still run most of the gigs and hog the mics, here's where we say it like we see it

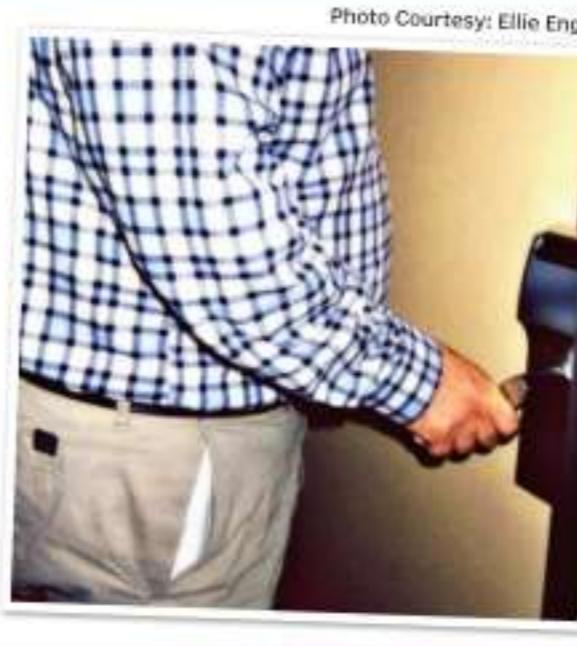
STATS STACK



SEEN AND HEARD

A SEX WORKER DOCUMENTS HER WORKING LIFE

London-based photographer Ellie English's work is a fascinating glimpse into the realities of sex work. She documents her clients in her beautifully intimate photographs. Her photo series entitled 'Does Monday work?' features anonymised pictures of her male clients, and very rarely of her own self, bringing to light all that sex work can be and turning the gaze that often accompanies it around



AN ODE TO MOTHERS, RECREATED

Anujith Sindhu Vinay Lal, a class 10 student, made a painting dedicated to all that mothers do. The painting was used as the cover image for Kerala's gender budget and won him an award. But after losing the original copy for the painting that is an ode to his own late mother, he was devastated. But now, he is making another version of it to gift to Richard Claire, a Red Cross activist from Canada



TWO READS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

Inside Somalia's first all-female newsroom

Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a reporter, so the idea of an all-female newsroom is even more precarious. But Fathi Mohamed Ahmed, chief editor of Bilan, is not scared. Her team, all women, produces news and features on some of the most taboo subjects in the country, including the drug epidemic among women and period shame. A Reuters report offers a glance into the unique newsroom



A negroni in a manly glass, please

Masculinity can be located anywhere — even in a cocktail glass. Apparently, men want to drink cocktails but they want the glass it comes in to be manly enough for them, an unwittingly hilarious NYT piece reports. From asking the bartender to pour it into the kind of glass Don Draper would sip neat whiskey out of to expressing disdain at flowery garnishes in their drinks, some men are very particular about glassware. The quest for masculinity, it turns out, can be even more fragile than a wine glass



Pramila Dandavate, pioneer of Women's Reservation Bill

Women We Owe



Dandavate suggested the Women's Reservation Bill in 1996

of the momentum towards a culture of militarism and consumerism."

► When the Bill came up for discussion, there were many opponents including a Shiv Sena MP who said parties were free to field as many candidates as they liked without the need for a special Bill and a member of the Muslim League who felt that reservations for minorities were more important. Since its passing would raise the number of women in the Lok Sabha from 36 to 181, men felt 'threatened' as 145 male MPs would have to give up their constituencies, stated Pramila alleging efforts to sabotage the Bill. "Why is it that all political parties are not giving more tickets to women unless they are some celebrities," asked Pramila at the time when family duties and lack of money power required to contest elections were among the reasons that kept women out of the race.

► Over two decades before the Bill would be passed, she died of a massive heart attack at age 73.

Curated by Ketaki Desai, with inputs from Sharmila Ganeshan Ram

TIMES NATION

THE SPEAKING TREE

GITA FOR EXCELLENCE

Excellence is not a privilege of a few. It is accessible to everyone. All it takes is a vision beyond your personal desires and a commitment to a higher goal, writes JAYA ROW

Do you want to excel in life? Or are you content with mediocrity? If you have the drive to achieve perfection, the Bhagwad Gita has the formula for success. Not everyone has a high IQ or is hugely talented. But every single person can be highly motivated. The focus must shift from external conquests to internal victory. Then, you discover the power of the mind. Conquer the mind, and you will conquer the world.

Excellence requires a serene mind. When the mind is calm, the intellect is sharp and actions brilliant. When the mind is agitated, you cannot access your own knowledge, thinking gets deviated and actions flawed.

We all suffer from mental agitation. What disturbs the mind? Thoughts of self. A singer sings the wrong note when thoughts of self come in the way. A job aspirant flounders at the interview when he's obsessed with getting the job. A chef makes mistakes when he wants to impress his guests.

Excellence is not the exclusive privilege of a select few. Everyone is privy to it — from the most talented to the least endowed. All it takes is a vision beyond your personal desires, and a commitment to a higher goal. Desire is the greatest obstruction that stands between you and success. Break free from desire and you sail into the realm of perfection.

The law of life is that you get what you deserve, not what you desire. So set aside desire and focus



on deserving. Work to gain merit. Hone your skills. Strive to be better at your job. Shift from grabbing to serving, from profiteering to offering. The forces of nature will bow down to you.

Do you feel deprived or blessed? Are you working to get a few things you do not have? Then you are unenthusiastic. You merely go through the motions of your job. This leads to failure and frustration.

Or are you aware of the abundance you have been gifted with? Then you become grateful. You want to give, contribute, and add value to people. You become creative, inspired, and successful. Abundance is a state of mind unconnected with material assets. You may have nothing and feel blessed. The richest man may feel deprived.

Identify your passion, talent, gift,

Fix a higher ideal in that field. Work in a spirit of service and sacrifice for the larger goal. Selfish action leads to mediocrity. All successful people worked for a nobler cause. Don Bradman did not play cricket for selfish ends. Ustad Bismillah Khan was dedicated to music. Einstein only thought of physics.

When your attention shifts from the world to the Beyond, you perform selfless action. You work neither for a selfish end nor an unselfish goal. You know your talent is a God-given gift. You offer it as thanksgiving to God. Then, perfection flows from you effortlessly. Athlete Eric Lidell, nicknamed the Flying Scotsman, was unbeatable and set Olympic records. He would say: "God made me to run, and I will run for God." With this motto he won Olympic Golds.

However talented you may be, you cannot achieve success by yourself. You need to build strong teams. Feel one with your team members. View them as partners, not opponents. Collaborators, not competitors.

When you gain success, do not get carried away with it. Remember, it is transient and temporary. It will go some day. Enjoy the fruit of your labour, but do not depend on it. Build inner reserves that will stand by you in times of calamity. When things go, as they must, you will not be shattered or heartbroken. As Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "For him in vain the envious seasons roll, who bears eternal summer in his soul."

Jaya Row is giving talks on the Bhagwad Gita, Chapter 2, October 4-7, 6.30-8pm daily at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. WhatsApp 9820138429 for details.

Important to call out what is happening in Canada: EAM

►Continued from P1

We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side, Jaishankar said.

"We have had smoke bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you consider this normal? If this had happened to any other country, how would they react? It is important to call out what is happening there," he said.

When asked about Trudeau's allegations, he said India has already pointed out to Canada that this is not the government of India's policy.

"But if they are prepared to share with us specifics and anything relevant, we are also open to looking at it. So in that



External affairs minister S Jaishankar with US defence secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington on Saturday. They held talks on deepening defence ties. He also met US commerce secretary Gina Raimondo

sense, that's where the matter stands," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said one of the problems is that no incident is isolated and the totality as there is a context for everything.

"There are multiple problems out there. So, I guess in the case of individual incidents, the governments concerned will have to talk to each other and see how they sort of happen it forward," he said.

"But there is a larger issue. And I think it's important that

the larger issue should be flagged. The larger issue is this permissiveness that I have spoken about," he said.

He also asserted that it was not acceptable to make threats and intimidate diplomats in the name of freedom of speech.

"We don't need to learn from other people what freedom of speech is about. But we can tell people this. We don't think freedom of speech extends to incitement, to vio-

lence. That to us is a misuse of freedom," he emphasised.

Jaishankar said he always asks people one question — how would they react if they were in his place.

"If it was your diplomats, your embassies, your people, what would be your reaction?" he asked.

Jaishankar said the entire debate should not focus only on issue one and not on issue two and the bigger picture, which has been going on for some time and which is a very serious picture.

"After all, I was thinking back, when was the last time that any of our missions was intimidated to a point where it could not continue with its normal function? I will have to think back. And if someone says this could happen in a G7 country, in a Commonwealth country, it gives you a lot to think about," he said.

On September 21, India suspended visa services for Canadian citizens in view of "security threats" faced by the Indian high commission and consulates in Canada.

Denied train, TMC takes protesters to Delhi on 50 buses for two rallies

Tamaghna Banerjee & Basabdatta Sarkar | TNN

Kolkata: Denied a special train a day before their journey, hundreds of Trinamool supporters and MGNREGS job card holders left here on 50 long-distance buses for Delhi to participate in two protest rallies. Party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee addressed supporters via Facebook Live, assuring peaceful demonstrations in the national capital despite multiple attempts to thwart them.

Hailing the "people's protest", Banerjee said if any supporter was assaulted (on their way to Delhi), a reply

would be given by the "people's court".

The buses are to travel via Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and are likely to take two-and-a-half days to cover the distance. This, however, means that only MPs, ministers and Banerjee flying or

travelling by train, will make it to Rajghat on Gandhi Jayanti. "There is little we can do about it now. But if there is no trouble en route, the protesters are likely to attend the major protest rally on October 3," said a TMC MP.

"Our people have become victims of BJP's vendetta politics. However, it will be your biggest mistake if you consid-

Gold chain recovered from buffalo's belly after surgery

Nagpur: A gold chain weighing 3.35 tolas entered a buffalo's belly in Sarsi village of Washim district after it accidentally landed on a plate of soybean shells that the animal was eating. The chain was recovered after a meticulous surgical procedure on Friday, reports Chaitanya Deshpande.

"It's regular to conduct surgery on desi cows who consume plastic, metal, coins, and many hazardous things in urban areas. However, this was a unique case in which we recovered gold worth Rs 2.5 lakh," said Dr Koundinya, who conducted the surgery along with his team.

China-backed candidate elected Maldives president

Muizzu Gains Unassailable Lead Over Pro-India Prez Solih

Sachin.Parashar
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India suffered a setback on Saturday in neighbouring Maldives as a candidate backed by China, Mohamed Muizzu, seemed set to take over as the new president. While the counting continued till late Saturday night, Muizzu had established an unassailable lead over pro-India President Ibrahim Solih in the run-off, leading the public service broadcaster to call the election in his favour.

The face-off between Muizzu and Solih followed the September 9 polls in which no candidate could get 50 per cent plus 1 vote required to be elected president.

Muizzu, mayor of Male, was backed by former president Abdulla Yameen, widely acknowledged as a China lackey in the Indian Ocean country and the chief architect of the 'Indian Out' campaign that seemed to have fired up



Supporters of People's National Congress party and pro-China frontrunner Mohamed Muizzu celebrate in Male on Saturday night

the opposition. Yameen is currently in jail on corruption charges but Muizzu has promised to expedite his release.

The outcome of the Saturday run-off was a certainty to many as Solih trailed Muizzu by 7 per cent votes in the first round on September 9. With Muizzu cornering 46 per cent of the votes then, against Solih's 39 per cent, he only needed an additional 4 percent to win the run-off. The failure to check corruption, a lackadaisical approach to infrastructure projects and his differences with former president Mohamed Nasheed, who broke away from the ruling MDP to form his own party, seem to have caused Solih's undoing.

Last minute efforts for a Solih-Nasheed patch-up didn't work out as Nasheed decided to back neither candidate in the run-off.

Muizzu had accused Solih of undermining the Maldives' independence and sovereignty

by seeking India's endorsement for every decision he took. Soon after Solih took oath in 2018, India had announced assistance worth \$ 1.4 billion for the Maldives and is currently implementing scores of community and development projects, including the flagship Greater Male connectivity project.

Muizzu has said that his government won't block work on projects that are in the interest of the people, but the defence and security partnership that had been consolidated in the past few years is likely to come under strain. As president, Yameen had asked India to remove its navy choppers and personnel from the Maldives and Muizzu has threatened to do the same.

India's defence cooperation with the Maldives includes joint exercises, maritime domain awareness, gifting of hardware to Maldives and also infrastructure development. India is also helping the Maldives with a Coastal Radar System (CRS) and construction of new defence ministry headquarters.

US Navy to test SEALs for illicit drug use

For generations, the Navy SEALs have attracted top athletes who compete for slots on elite teams and take on harrowing missions, but never did the Navy regularly test the force for illicit steroids and other drugs that could boost performance. Now that is about to change. Naval Special Warfare, which oversees the SEALs, announced Friday that it would begin random testing for performance-enhancing drugs, or PEDs, starting in November. It is the first time that any U.S. military special operations group has tried to regularly screen all of its members for doping. The move comes more than a year after the death of a sailor in the SEALs' grueling selection course revealed the use of steroids and other banned substances among SEAL candidates. nyt

Musk slams migrants rescue ops by Germany

Berlin: Billionaire Elon Musk on Saturday waded into German politics at a time of a heated debate on immigration across Europe, saying Berlin-funded migrant rescue operations in the Mediterranean could be seen as an "invasion" of Italy. Musk, who was born in South Africa, has Canadian nationality and lives in the United States, shared a post calling for a victory of the far-right party AfD a week before regional elections in two major German states. As the German foreign ministry hit back, he intensified his criticisms, saying that "if a government in a democracy goes against the will of the people, it should be voted out." Berlin is locked in a row with Italy in the NGO sea operations. nyt

Last-gasp measure to avoid US govt shutdown passes key vote

Washington: Last-gasp moves to prevent a US government shutdown took a dramatic step forward Saturday as Democrats overwhelmingly backed an eleventh-hour Republican measure to keep federal funding going for 45 days, albeit with a freeze on aid to Ukraine.

The stopgap proposal adopted by the House of Representatives with a vote of 335-91 was pitched by Speaker Kevin McCarthy just hours before a midnight shutdown deadline that would have seen millions of federal employees and military personnel sent home or required to work without pay.

Saturday's agreement could end up costing McCarthy

his job, as the hardliners had threatened to remove him as speaker if a stopgap measure they opposed was passed with Democrat support.

Pitching his last-gasp proposal, McCarthy had appealed to both Republicans and Democrats to "put your partisanship away" and dismissed the threat to his job. "If somebody wants to remove (me) because I want to be the adult in the room, go ahead and try," he said.

The proposed plan would keep the government funded at current levels without the hardline-backed spending cuts that Democrats had vowed as a non-starter. nyt

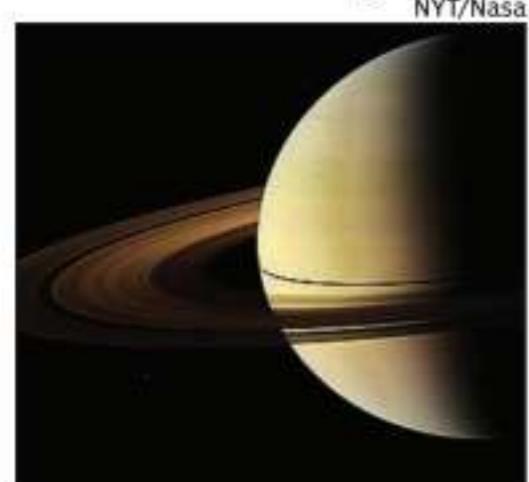
NORWEGIAN REINDEER MIGRATE FOR WINTER



A herd of reindeer swims across Jokkfjord, enroute their winter pastures in Northern Norway, on September 14. The reindeer — bred by the indigenous Sami herders of northern Europe — are semi-nomadic and travel across vast expanses as they move between winter and summer grazing grounds. To make their journey home, the reindeer bypass two glaciers before arriving at the foot of the Jokkfjord glacier, the only one in Europe which drains into the ocean. The Sami follow them on quad bikes, on foot, or by boat. When they reach obstacles such as a steep wall or crossing a fjord, the reindeer stop and wait for a signal from the herders. A Sami herder in a small motorboat in the middle of the fjord rings a bell to show them the way to the opposite bank. When they are ready to swim, the reindeer form themselves into a single file, preparing to dive in. Hundreds of the animals then launch into the water, grunting as they head for the other shore. Once they reach land again, they are on the final leg of their journey to Kautokeino, where they will spend the winter. nyt

Saturn may've got the rings in recent crash of two moons

Robin George Andrews



An image of the planet Saturn and its rings, made by NASA Cassini spacecraft in 2009

Try to imagine Saturn without its signature rings. Now picture two large icy moons shifting closer together little by little until — boom. Chaos. What was solid is now fluid. Diamantine shards scatter into the darkness. Many icy fragments tumble close to Saturn, remain there and dance around the gas giant in unison, ultimately forging the heavy-weight body's exquisite discs.

This spectacular scene comes from an attempt to answer one of the greatest mysteries of the solar system: Where did Saturn's rings come from, and when did they form? A study, published this week in *The Astrophysical Journal*, leans into the notion that they are not billions of years old, but were crafted in the recent astronomical past — perhaps by the collision of two modestly sized frost-flecked moons only a few million years ago. nyt

"I'm sure it would have

been great to see if the dinosaurs had had a good enough telescope," said Jacob Kegerreis, a research scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, and one of the study's authors. Kegerreis and his colleagues tested the younger-rings hypothesis using Britain's Distributed Research Using Advanced Computing facility. This supercomputing system allowed the researchers to repeatedly re-create this cataclysm with greater detail along with its immediate aftermath, finding that this origin story is plausible.

The team's simulations may aid scientists in studying not only the genesis of Saturn's rings, but of all worlds. With its myriad satellites, Saturn "can be considered a mini-solar system," said Scott Sheppard, an astronomer at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, who was not involved with the new study. "Saturn is a perfect laboratory to understand how planets and moons form."

At 4.5 billion years old, Saturn is almost as senior as the sun. Its rings were thought to be similarly ancient until the Cassini space

S'pore jails crypto fund co-founder

Singapore: One of the co-founders of collapsed cryptocurrency hedge fund Three Arrows Capital has been apprehended in Singapore and jailed for four months.

The Singapore-based company filed for bankruptcy last year when its fortunes suffered a sharp decline after a massive sell-off of assets it had bet on as prices nosedived in crypto markets. Su Zhu

was detained at Singapore's Changi airport while trying to leave the city-state. Three Arrows' liquidator Teneo said in a statement late Friday.

His arrest came after Teneo said it obtained a committal order this week against Zhu for failing to comply with its probe into the company's failure. His co-founder Kyle Davies was also committed to four months in prison but "his whereabouts remain unknown at this point in time", it said. nyt

"I'm sure it would have

Ukraine shoots down 30 'Shahed' drones made by Iran, sent by Russia



LONG HAUL: A Ukrainian serviceman checks the engines of a military Mi-8 helicopter at an undisclosed location in Eastern Ukraine, on Friday

May annex more Ukrainian regions: Medvedev

Moscow: Russia's former leader Dmitry Medvedev suggested Saturday that Moscow may annex more regions of Ukraine, as he marked one year since the Kremlin claimed four Ukrainian territories as its own. Moscow held elections in the four regions this month, but does not fully control any of them and is currently battling a Ukrainian counteroffensive. "The special military operation will continue until the complete destruction of the Nazi regime in Kyiv," said Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chair of Russia's Security Council. "Victory will be ours. And there will be more new regions within Russia," he said. afp

FIA: Imran, Qureshi guilty in cipher case

Islamabad: Pakistan's top investigation agency on Saturday declared former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi guilty in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets, popularly known as the cipher case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) submitted the chargesheet against Khan, the chairman of the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and his deputy Qureshi, both currently detained in jail on judicial remand, to a special court established under the Official Secrets Act, the Pakistan Observer website reported.

Khan, 70, was arrested last month after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March. nyt

Pope Francis creates 21 new cardinals

Vatican City: Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals at a ritual-filled ceremony on Saturday, including key figures at the Vatican and in the field who will help enact his reforms and cement his legacy. On a crisp sunny morning filled with cheers from St Peter's Square, Francis further expanded his influence on the College of Cardinals who will help him govern and one day elect his successor: with Saturday's additions, nearly three-quarters of the voting-age "princes of the church" owe their red hats to the Argentine Jesuit. At the start of the service, Francis said their variety and geographic diversity would serve the church like musicians in an orchestra, where sometimes they play solos, sometimes as an ensemble. nyt

Superconductor at room temperature claim: Most authors seek retraction

A team of 11 scientists reported in March in the journal Nature that they had discovered a room-temperature superconductor. Eight of those scientists have now asked Nature to retract their paper. That pits them against the man who led the research: Ranga P. Dias, professor of mechanical engineering and physics at the University of Rochester in New York. In the past few years, Dias has made several extraordinary scientific claims, but he has also been embroiled in a series of allegations of scientific misconduct.

The retraction request will add to the scrutiny of Dias and Ulnearly Materials, a company that Dias founded to turn the superconductivity discoveries into commercial products. Ulnearly Materials has raised \$16.5 million so far.

It also raises questions about how editors at Nature, one of the most prestigious journals in the scientific world, vet submissions and decide which are worthy of pub-

lication. Nature had already published and retracted a previous paper from Dias' group describing a different purported superconductor.

Superconductors are materials that can conduct electricity without any electrical resistance, and one that works in everyday conditions could have a range of revolutionary use cases. Superconductors discovered to date require ultracold temperatures.

In the Nature paper, Dias and his co-authors described how lutetium hydride — a material made of lutetium, a silver-white metal, and hydrogen — gained new electronic properties when a tiny bit of nitrogen was added. When squeezed to a pressure of 145,000 pounds per square inch, the material not only changed colour, from blue to red, but also turned into a superconductor, effortlessly carrying electricity at temperatures as warm as 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the scientists said in the Nature paper. nyt

AROUND THE WORLD



VERTICAL LIMIT: Suspended from a crane 50 metres above a building site, Swiss artist Alain Roche plays a grand piano during a dress rehearsal at the FAB (Festival International des Arts de Bordeaux Métropole) event in Bordeaux, France, on Friday

Whale strikes boat off Aus, one dead

A man was killed and another injured after a whale struck a boat off the coast of eastern Australia on Saturday. The two were thrown off the boat when it was hit about 6am local time in the waters off La Perouse, 14km southeast of Sydney. People on a second boat raised the alarm. The 53-year-old skipper is in a stable condition. The other man, 61, died at the scene.

Video provides first clear views of lost WWII aircraft carriers: Footage from deep in the Pacific has given the first detailed look at three World War II aircraft carriers that sank in the pivotal Battle of Midway and could help solve mysteries about the days-long barrage that marked a shift in control of the Pacific theatre from Japanese to US forces. Remote submersibles operating 4.8km below the surface conducted extensive surveys of Akagi and the Kaga, two of the four Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carriers destroyed during the June 1942 battle, as well as of the US Yorktown.

A huge fire erupted at an oil pipeline in the western Ukrainian region of Ivano-Frankivsk on Saturday, injuring nine people, authorities said. The blaze caused an oil spill spanning 100 square metres before it was extinguished.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday he wants to turn Ukraine's defence industry into a "large military hub" by partnering with Western weapons manufacturers.

At the first International Defence Industries Forum in Kyiv, Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said African countries are interested not only in buying weapons from Kyiv but are also ready to manufacture them. "Africa was one of the largest markets for Ukrainian military products before the outbreak of war," Kuleba said on Friday. Officials from over 30 countries and 250 defence firms gathered at the forum, which was held as Ukraine seeks to bolster its arms industry. reuters

New York fails climate change stress-test on its drainage infra



WAYS OF WATER: Special Operations Unit rescue personnel use a raft in the New York City suburb of Mamaroneck, on Friday

The rush-hour downpour Friday overwhelmed the 7,400 miles of pipes that carry stormwater and sewage under the city's hard surfaces to treatment plants or into the nearest rivers and bays. The runoff backed up into the streets, causing flooding that swamped cars and seeped into basements and subway stations.

Climate change is very likely stoking more ominous and lengthy downpours because as the atmosphere heats up, it can hold more moisture, said Andrew J. Kruczakiewicz, a senior researcher at Columbia Climate School. "We're in this new territory where we're seeing higher intensity rainfalls like this," said Daniel Zarrilli, adviser to Columbia University on the institution's climate and sustainability practices.

A 2021 report from the city called "The New Normal" estimated that "recalibrating New York sewers for storms like Ida" would take decades and cost \$100 billion. The city has been working with federal officials to create some places for the excess water to go. nyt

placed, over half of them Azerbaijanis. Aliyev's father, then President Heydar Aliyev, was forced to agree to a ceasefire that cemented Armenia's victory. Ilham, who had succeeded Heydar on his death in 2003, signed an oil deal with a BP-led consortium a year later that gave Azerbaijan funds to start building a modern army.

Two senior officials and a source who has worked with Aliyev underscored that the decision to take back the breakaway region took shape over months as diplomatic realities shifted. His actions have loosened Russia's decades-long grip on the strategically important South Caucasus region which is crisscrossed with oil and gas pipelines, lies between the Black and Caspian seas, and borders Iran, Turkey and Russia. reuters

Karabakh slipped from Azerbaijan's grasp in the chaos that followed the Soviet Union's breakup. In a 1988-1994 war, around 30,000 people were killed and over 1 million dis-



19th ASIAN GAMES

TIMES SPORT

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
OCTOBER 1, 2023

"THERE WAS A WHOLE TRAINING PROCESS FOR THE COMPETITION. MY STRATEGY WAS TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE PACK, ESPECIALLY IN THE RUNNING. THE FIRST PART WAS TOUGH. IN THE SECOND I FELT A POSITIVE TREND IN THE RUNNING. I PUT EVERYTHING INTO IT."

— YUKO TAKAHASHI, AFTER BECOMING THE FIRST TO WIN CONSECUTIVE GOLD MEDALS IN THE WOMEN'S TRIATHLON

A GLASS CAGE, TWO NATIONS, ONE WINNER

TIMES IN HANGZHOU

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The tensions hadn't really hit home when India's Mahesh Mangaonkar argued with the referee over points he thought were contentious in the opening set, Pakistan's Muhammad Asim Khan continued blocking of Saurav Ghosal's path during drop shots or when a frowning Noor Zaman glared at Abhay Singh after a collision left the former sprawled. These were just the former splinters of an earlier skirmish.

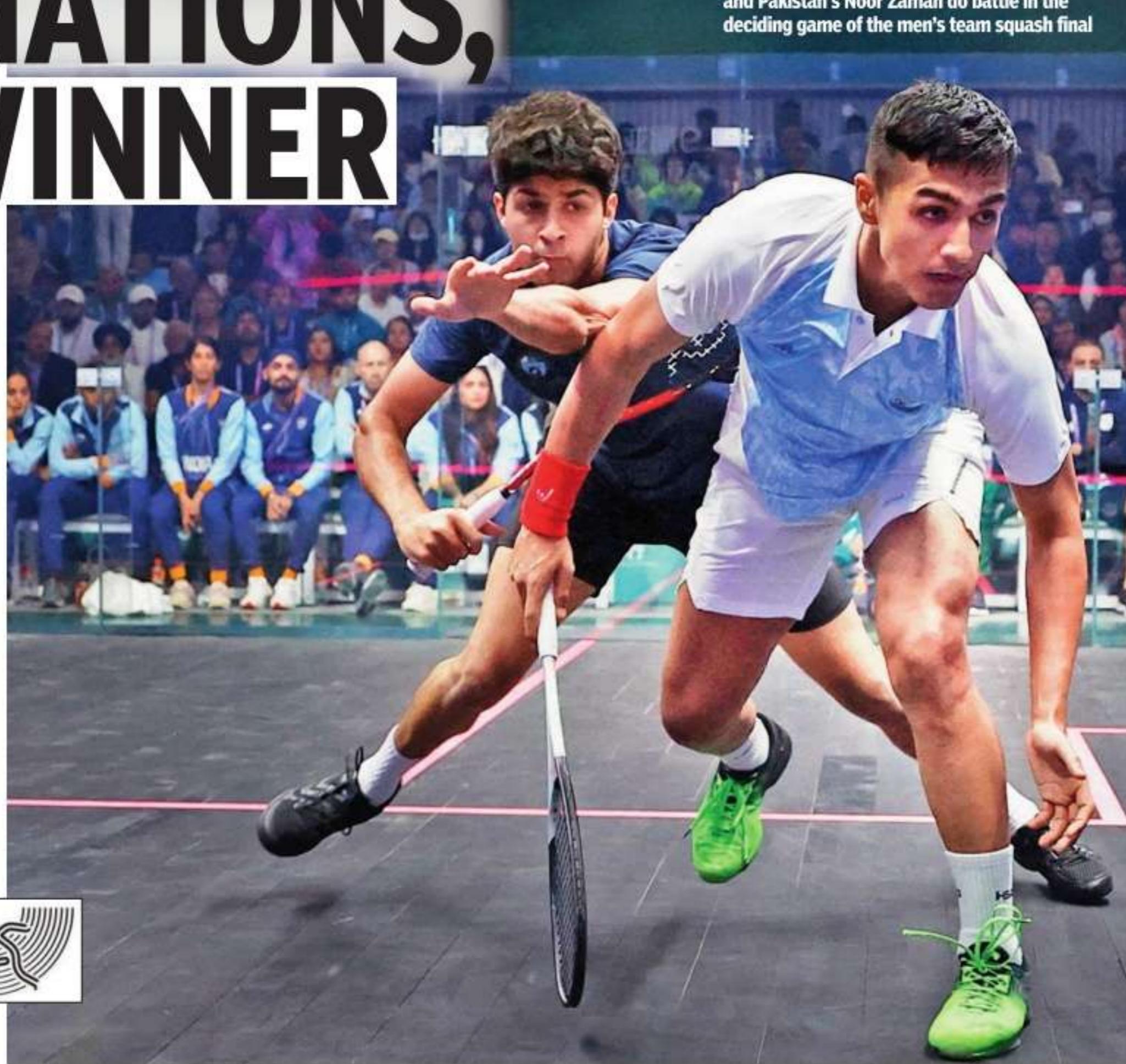
The seeds, high-yield variety, for a grudge match had been sown three days ago when India had lost an ill-tempered group stage encounter 1-2 to Pakistan. Much before the two teams faced off in the men's team squash final on Saturday, there was a war of words between players of either side already buzzing on social media. And, in Abhay's own words, those were not friendly banter but jibes targeting the nationalities. It was India v Pakistan after all, an India v Pakistan of old, the ones we once relished, the sulphur of the gunpowder that you could smell in the air even before the first salvo was fired.

So, it was natural for players from both sides to turn up for Saturday's summit clash charged up emotionally. In the end, it was the Indian trio of Mahesh, Saurav and Abhay who kept their frayed nerves in check, didn't allow the ambient drama overwhelm them completely, even slip in the thrill of revenge avenged, to prevail over Pakistan 2-1 in an edge-of-the-seat thriller and claim a sensational Asian Games gold.

This was the country's second-ever gold in squash at the Asian Games—the previous one was also won by the men's team comprising Saurav, Mahesh and Harinder Pal Sandhu at Incheon 2014.

In the final, it all boiled down to the deciding set between Chennai-boy Abhay and Islamabad-born Zaman after Mangaonkar went down to Nasir Iqbal 0-3 (8-11, 3-11, 2-11) in just 13 minutes before Saurav brought India back into contention with a 3-0 (11-11, 11-1, 11-3) drubbing of Asim Khan.

With the two teams locked at one-all, it was left to Abhay and Zaman to fight out the biggest sporting battle of their lives, an Asiad gold and history at stake. Kicking off the enticing duel, it was Abhay who earned the first bragging rights by pocketing the opening game



11-7 in a hard-fought fashion before losing the next two 9-11, 8-11.

Trailing, hopes hanging by a thread, it invited a long pep-talk between Abhay, senior pro Saurav and squash team's foreign coach Christopher Walker between the third and fourth games to fire Abhay up. It also so helped that a new racket ball was introduced after the one in play became soft and spongy.

Abhay, despite being under great pressure, pocketed the fourth game after trailing 6-2 to level the scores.

In the decider, both hit some amazing cross-court shots and tantalizing drops and engaged each other in long rallies to enthrall a local partisan crowd that favoured Pakistan, with the little—but loud—cheer for Abhay coming from the Indian bench.

If a squash final mirrored the region's geopolitical equations, this was it. The Chinese spectators waved Pakistan's flags and cheered every point earned. There, inside the glass cage, Abhay and Zaman breathed down each other's necks for a good part, before the latter pulled away with a two-point lead to be just one shot away from landing Pakistan its first gold in 25 years.

But Abhay being Abhay, would have none of it. He made a sensational comeback to not only save two gold medal match points and make it 10-all but showed nerves of steel under immense pressure to clinch the most important 11th point with a drop shot that settled the tie in India's favour.

"I didn't play badly today. Neither did he. We really went at each other," Abhay would say later.

The promising Zaman, hailing from pedigree—grandfather Qamar was a legend of the game in the 1970's, even winning the British Open in 1975—could not take it and broke down after the 46-minute marathon.

"The only thing I was thinking at 10-8 was how did I get here, because at one-all and 7-4 up, I thought I had the upper hand. And I let that slip..." Abhay would reflect upon a familiar malaise.

"It's something that's not going too well. I take lead in the middle of the game and then I let it slip, happening over and over. Today, I got away with it. At 10-8 down, in your head you have lost. It's tough for me to explain. I was sort of 'will play one point at a time' but had the confidence in me."

The pressure off, Abhay was talking as if on autopilot, but he remembered to make an announcement for frequent flier Saurav. "There was a fair amount of noise three nights ago and I am pretty sure I won't hear anything now. There was a lot of talk from the other team... some on social media. I am looking forward to some from my side. There was no banter; there were proper one-sided jabs. I would like to credit Saurav here. He has been to six Asian Games and has been on my case night after night. I am an excited 25-year-old, I go on social media after matches. Saurav just told me to shut the noise, which is what I did," he admitted.

Things were once not going well for Abhay. The game was good as given up two years ago. "Two points away from repaying everything that my parents and coaches have done for me, I couldn't have let the opportunity slip," he said.

Saurav said, "I told all of them last night 'win or loss is not in our control—what we can control is the effort we put in and how hard we dig in.' Abhay was digging in as much as he could. Had we lost we would not have regretted any of the effort."

Pix: PTI, Reuters



A WALL SCALED: Harinder Pal Sandhu (2nd left) leads the Indian celebrations after Abhay beats Noor Zaman



OVERWHELMED: Pakistan's Noor Zaman breaks down after his narrow loss to Abhay



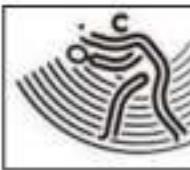
THE SPOILS: India's Saurav Ghosal (left), Abhay Singh, Mahesh Mangaonkar and Harinder Pal Sandhu with their gold medals

Mukherjee girls shock Chinese world champs

Friends First, Partners Later Sutirtha & Ahyika Combine For Rare Medal

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When they trained as kids in the tiny town of Naihati, some 44km away from Kolkata, Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ahyika Mukherjee's mothers would wait outside the table tennis hall. On Saturday, all of India symbolically joined the Mukherjee matriarchs, waiting, their nails chewed, outside the hall in Hangzhou as their daughters went on to shock world champion Chinese pair Chen Meng and Wang Yidi and enter the women's doubles semifinals.



The achievement is all the more significant and historic because India have never won a medal in the women's doubles event at the Asian Games.

Sutirtha and Ahyika are friends first, TT partners later. And that bonding has come in handy at the Asian Games. In the quarterfinals, Sutirtha and Ahyika just rolled past the World No. 2 Chinese duo 11-5, 11-5, 11-9, winning the games in just eight, eight and nine minutes respectively.

In singles, Manika Batra lost her quarterfinal match against China's Yidi Wang by 2-4 while Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar failed to make semifinals of the men's doubles as they lost 3-2 against the Republic of Korea's Woojin Jang and Jonghoon Lim.

In the Mukherjees versus China saga, the Indians never allowed their superior opponents to settle down.



MORE POWER! Sutirtha (left) and Ahyika Mukherjee celebrate a point against China's Chen Meng and Wang Yidi in the women's doubles quarterfinal

The Chinese duo was expected to roll over their opponents, and it happened precisely the opposite. The trend followed in the second game too, as the Chinese committed several unforced

errors, particularly on the forehand.

The home side players mounted a brief fightback, winning the third game. But the Indians regrouped quickly to assert themselves in the fourth.

The epic winning moment came when Meng sprayed her forehead into the net.

The Mukherjee girls started their journey in 2004 when Sutirtha was six and Ahyika five. Even at that young age, they showed the ability to beat senior players. "In Naihati, TT was the only indoor game my mother could get me enrolled to," Sutirtha once said. In no time, the Mukherjees became family friends too. In spite of being great rivals on the domestic circuit, the duo always enjoyed each other's company while travelling for tournaments. However, after playing together for around two decades, it was only last year that they decided to form a doubles pair.

(With inputs from Agencies)

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ARCHERY: 6.30am — Recurve men and compound women's qualifications; **1.50pm** — Compound men and recurve women's qualifications

ATHLETICS: 7.10am — Women's 200m heat — Jyothi Yarraji; **8.06am** — Men's 200m heat — Amlan Borgohain; **4.30pm** — Men's shot put final — Sahib Singh, Tajinderpal Singh Toor; **4.40pm** — Men's long jump final — Jeswin Johnson, Sreesankar; **4.45pm** — Men's 3000m steeplechase — Avinash Sable; **5.35pm** — Women's discus throw final — Seema Punia; **5.50pm** — Women's 1500m final — Harmilan Bains, Deeksha; **6pm** — Men's

1500m final — Jinson Johnson, Ajay Kumar Saroj

BADMINTON: 2.30pm — Men's team gold medal match — India vs China

BOXING: 11.45am — Women's 54-57kg quarters — Parveen vs Sitara Turdibekova (Uzb); **12.30pm** — Women's 57-60kg — Jaime vs Ungyoong Won (Prk); **4.30pm** — Women's 45-50kg semis — Nikhat Zareen vs Chuthamat Raksat (Tha)

BRIDGE: 6.30am — Men's and mixed team round robin matches; **11am** — Women's team round robin matches

CANOE SPRINT: 7am — Women's canoe single 200m heat — Megha Pradeep;

7.20am — Women's Kayak single 500m heat — Soniya Devi; **12.30pm onwards** — Semifinals

CHESS: 12.30pm — Men's and women's team R3

EQUESTRIAN: 5.30am — Eventing cross country team and individual — Vikas Kumar, Apurva Dabholkar, Ashish Limaye

GOLF: 4am — Men's individual and team R4; **5am** — Women's individual and team R4

HOCKEY: 1.30pm — Women's pool match — India vs Korea

KURASH: 7am onwards — Men's 81kg R16 — Aditya Dhopakar vs Hassan Rasool (Afg); **11am onwards** — Semis and Final

ROLLER SKATING: 6.30am — Women's Speed skating 1000m sprint heats — Karthika Jagadeeswaran, Sanjana Bathula; **6.40am** — Men's speed skating

1000 sprint heats — Vikram Ingale, Aryanpal Ghuman; **8.10am onwards** — Finals

SHOOTING: 6.30am — Trap-50 men's qualifications — Kynan Chema, Zaravar Sandhu, Prithviraj Tondaiman; **6.30am** — Trap-50 women's qualifications — Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak, Rajeshwari Kumari; **12.30pm** — Trap women's final; **1.30pm** — Trap men's final

SQUASH: 8.30am — Mixed doubles pool match — India vs Korea 2; **10am** — Mixed doubles pool match — India vs Philippines 2; **1.30pm** — Mixed doubles pool match — India vs Pakistan 2; **3pm** — Mixed doubles pool match — India 1 vs Pakistan 1; **1.30pm** — Men's singles R32 — Mahesh Mangaonkar vs Jonathan Reyes (Phi)

WRCA: 10am — Women's 1000m race

Starting where it ends: Mixed doubles gold for Rutuja, Bops

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F or Rohan Bopanna, it is most probably his last medal at the Asian Games, and for Rutuja Bhosale, probably her first of many.

And the duo gave it a golden hue by winning the mixed doubles event, overcoming Chinese Taipei's Tsung-Hao Huang and En-Shuo Liang 2-6, 6-3, 10-4 on the centre court at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports centre on Saturday.

It turned out to be a match of two contrasting halves for the second seeded Indian pair.

Rutuja, being the less experienced of the two, was the target of the Taiwan team in the first set. Then, from midway through the second set, she started to find her targets.

That made the difference between gold and silver.

With the stocky Liang serving at 3-4 30-40, 27-year-old Rutuja gave India the vital break with a devastating forehand service return down the tramlines. Huang, scintillating throughout the match, moved to the wrong side at the net and was helpless as the fuzzy, yellow sphere whizzed past on his forehand side. Rutuja began to gain confidence and step into the volleys for easy putaways.

She would still miss a big one after her legendary partner had set her up nicely, but it would not deter her.

Come championship point, Rutuja, who had been broken in the first set, slammed a perfect ace down the T to seal the gold.

"Rohan said to me, 'give me your best serve'. Whatever we were discussing throughout the competition, it was about hitting the targets and setting it up. So Rohan said I should hit my target now," the Pune girl told TOI after the match.

Rutuja and Ankita were also forced to play three events after the government refused to clear the selection of national champion Vaidehi Chaudhary and Sahaja Yamalapalli, thus reducing the women's squad to four instead of the eligible six.

The whole match we were nervous and tight. I was a bit more than him, and missed a lot of volleys which Rohan was setting me up," she said. "The ball was playing heavy, too.

"Then we decided to change sides, me and Rohan, in the second set because (until then) I was starting the serve. So I began to play on the left side.

"And I made that back-



hand return on the girl's (Li-ang's) serve. That helped a lot, I started moving my legs and started enjoying what I was doing."

For Bopanna, who failed to defend his doubles crown, the mixed gold would make some compensation. At 43, as he keeps rewriting record books on the game's biggest stage, he will cherish every medal, irrespective of the colour, he wins for the country.

Rutuja shared the sentiment. "More than the gold, getting it for the country is what matters to me," she said.

"Everyone is eyeing a medal and the whole nation is watching. For a tennis player, this may not be the only event as we have other tournaments.

"Personally, I never thought Rohan (who paired with Ankita Raina in the last edition in Indonesia) would choose me as his partner. I have watched him play on TV, and exchanged texts here and there. But to be playing with him is itself a huge thing for me."

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INDIA PAK A PUNCH

World No. 3 Side Record Their Biggest Victory Over Arch-Rivals With A 10-2 Win in Pool Game

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Pakistan's slide in hockey has watered down their rivalry with India. The intensity with which the teams play against each other remains but the gap is too glaring. Be it fitness, mental strength or tactics, India are way above their rivals. This was on show again when Harmanpreet Singh and his men walloped Pakistan 10-2, the biggest margin of victory between the two countries, in an Asian Games pool match on Saturday.

At the Asian Champions Trophy last month, India had blanked Pakistan 4-0 and on the day the latter showed signs of improvement as a team, but came nowhere close to threatening India's reputation of being the favourites. Also, Pakistan's lack of exposure and experience were conspicuous.

The first quarter was pacy with Pakistan making a few forays into the Indian circle and even earning a penalty corner, but they ran into goalkeeper Kishan Pathak, who ensured there were no cracks in the wall.

India's rampage was led by Harmanpreet who accounted for four goals, while Varun Kumar struck a brace. One promising aspect for India at the

Games has been the frontline combination of rookie Abhishek and the experienced Mandeep Singh. Their collective effort earned India their first goal in the eighth minute, when a speedy baseline move from Abhishek and the resultant pass was slotted home by Mandeep.

Pakistan skipper Umar Bhutta made some early circle penetrations but

YOU CAN'T COMPARE THIS PAKISTAN TEAM WITH ANY OF THEIR FORMER TEAMS. THEY LOOKED LIKE COLLEGE BOYS. PAKISTAN HOCKEY HAS GONE DOWN TOTALLY."

—Joaquim Carvalho | Ex-International player

found little support from his teammates.

At the other end, the Pakistan defence was under severe pressure and committed elementary errors resulting in two penalty strokes which were converted by Harmanpreet (11 & 17). At half-time, India had raced to a 4-0 lead.

The margin could have swelled if not for Lalit Upadhyay, who missed some regulation shots at the goal.

India looked well in control at 6-0 after the break when Sufiyan Mohammed pulled one back for Pakistan with a powerful drag-flick in the 38th minute. In the dying moments of the third quarter, Abdul Rana converted another penalty corner for Pakistan. Having let complacency creep into their backline, India pulled themselves together in the final quarter to maintain their supremacy.

RESULT: India 10 (Mandeep Singh 8, Harmanpreet Singh 11, 17, 33, 34; Sumit 30, Varun Kumar 41, 54; Shamsheer Singh 46, Lalit Upadhyay 49) bt Pakistan 2 (Muhammad Khan 38, Abdul Rana 45).



STICKS CLICKING: India skipper Harmanpreet Singh (centre) scored four goals against Pakistan

INDIA'S 3X3 RUN ENDS IN QUARTERS

Indian cagers' maiden run in the shorter format of basketball came to an end in the quarterfinals on Saturday, reports Amit Sampath. The 55th ranked India's U-23 women's team outplayed world No. 27 Malaysia 16-6 and confirmed their maiden quarterfinal berth to script history—no other Indian team has ever entered the last eight stage of the games. But later in the evening, India failed to defend well as 46th ranked Chinese Taipei won the quarterfinal 21-10 with over 2.28 minutes remaining for the regulation time to end. The men's campaign ended in the pre-quarterfinal after they lost to Iran 17-19.

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Army men Karthik, Gulveer bring double joy in 10,000m

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Hangzhou: Army athletes Karthik Kumar and Gulveer ensured that the tricolour flew on two flag posts at the victory ceremony by recording their personal best times on Asia's biggest stage, winning the silver and bronze medal in men's 10,000m final at the Olympic Stadium here on Saturday.

Gulveer set off like a pacer leading by about 30 metres from the top bunch before he slowed down and merged with the group. Karthik, meanwhile, went steady in the gruelling 25-lap race and made full use of his zipping kick that saw him zoom to the finish line in the last 200 metres.

While Karthik clocked his personal best time of 28:15.38 to claim the silver behind Bahrain's Birhanu Balew who ran away with the gold in 28:13.62, Gulveer, who lost nearly two seconds looking over his shoulder, also did his personal best win the



MEDALS LOCKED: India's Karthik Kumar (L) won the 10,000m silver while Gulveer Singh took the bronze on Saturday

bronze in 28:17.21.

Both are from Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune with Karthik in 9 Jat Regiment and Gulveer in 23 Grenadiers. "I'm very happy to win a silver for India. It's after such a long time that we are winning the silver and bronze in the 10,000m," Karthik said.

The duo joined the National camp last November a few months after being selected by the Reliance

Foundation. After the Asian Championships in Bangkok, the two went to Colorado, USA for training under Scott Simmons. Back home they were guided by national coach Surender Singh while it was Army coach Younis Khan who helped in their early career, training them for nearly 4.5 years.

"We were expecting at least one medal and now it's double joy," coach Surender said. Younis was equally elated and said he was sure of Karthik winning a medal. "We were not hoping to win a gold but I was sure that we would win a silver," he told TOI.

Obiena sets a new mark
World No. 2 EJ Obiena of Philippines set a new Games record, flying above 5.90m to set a new Asian Games pole vault record. He then went for 6.02m thrice but failed. The Chinese fans again had plenty to cheer as the hosts emerged fastest in the men's and women's 100m sprints. Zhenye Xie won the men's gold in 9.97s while Manqi Ge took the women's honours by clocking 11.23s.

Singles players help India set up final with China

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Indian men made history by entering the final of the team event for the first time in the Asian Games.

Thomas Cup champions India downed South Korea 3-2 to set up a summit clash with China on Sunday. The hosts downed Japan 3-1 in the other semi-final.

HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth won their matches on Saturday to put India in the final. The two doubles teams suffered losses, however. PV Sindhu was the last Indian to reach the final in Jakarta in 2018.

Prannoy made a splendid comeback to beat Jeon Hyek Jin 18-21, 21-16, 21-19. Ranked 40 runs behind the world No. 7 Indian, Jeon gave a good account of himself in the first game. Though Prannoy won the second game, he lost momentum in the third. He started with a 5-1 lead before Jeon made it 11-6. Prannoy caught up with his rival at 16-16 before winning the first point for India.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag disappointed in their 13-21, 24-26 defeat to world champions Seong Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyuk. Despite the strong fight, the Indians made too many errors in the second game.

In-form Sen was dominant in his 21-7, 21-9 win over Lee Yung Yu.



DECISIVE PUSH: K Srikanth beat Cho Geunyeop 12-21, 21-16, 21-14 to give India 3-2 win over South Korea on Saturday

The makeshift doubles combination of Kim Won Ho and NA Sung Seung made it 2-2 for Korea when they defeated MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila 21-16, 21-11.

All eyes were on Srikanth in the decider. The former world No. 1 was made to work hard by world No. 163 Cho Geunyeop in the first game, which he lost 12-21. He won the second 21-16 and struggled in the final game. But up 11-9 at the break, he used his experience to win points near the net and sealed a brilliant victory for India.

Chief coach Pullela Gopichand was full of praise for Lakshya. "Lakshya played brilliantly while Prannoy and Srikanth worked hard. It's a memorable day for Indian badminton," Gopichand said. "We need to win at least two singles and a doubles match," Gopichand said of the final against China.

South Korea women will face China in the gold medal match.

Taiwanese sisters win doubles gold

Hangzhou: Taiwanese sisters Chan Yung-jan and Chan Hao-ching took women's doubles tennis gold on Saturday and are now looking ahead to next year's Olympics in Paris.

Chan Yung-jan told reporters after beating Lee Yih-suan and Liang En-shuo, also Taiwanese, in the final that even though she's the older one at 34, 30-year-old Chan Hao-ching is "like the big sister".

"But I need to make her calm down a little bit," she added.

She said their different personalities complement each other on the court. "We're so different—she is very brave and goes in with her instincts a lot," she said. "And me, I need to



Chan Hao-ching (left) and Chan Yung-jan

watch her back and make sure that she can do whatever she wants and that makes us a very good combination."

The sisters won 6-4, 6-3. With five Asiad gold medals now under her belt, Chan Yung-jan said she wants to add an Olympic gold to her collection next year. AP

Aditi, with 7-stroke lead, has gold in her sights

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A ce golfer Aditi Ashok shot a sizzling bogey-free 11-under 61 in the third round to move into gold medal position in the Asian Games women's golf at the West Lake International Golf Course in Hangzhou on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Bengaluru took her three-day tally to a stunning 22-under 194 for a whopping seven-shot lead going into the final day. Aditi, who missed an Olympic medal by a whisker in Tokyo, powered the team too to the top of the leaderboard.

Armed with a red-hot putter, Aditi hit the ground running, holing a 45-footer for a birdie on the second. She sank a 20-footer for another birdie on the fourth. After further birdies on the fifth and eighth holes, the Indian ace soared to an eagle two on the par-4 ninth hole. She held her 9-iron second shot from 122 yards.

Aditi didn't take her foot off the pedal after the turn, picking up shots on the 12th (20-footer), 15th, 17th and the 18th (20-footer) for her 61. She bettered her previous best of 10-under that she shot during the Ladies European Tour Q-School in 2016. "I holed a lot of long putts today," Aditi



LEADERBOARD (after 54 holes)

MEN: 192: Taichi Kho (HK, 62, 60, 70); 195: Chien-Yao Hung (Tpe, 65, 63, 67); 196: Yubin Jang (Kor, 61, 67, 68); 206: Anirban Lahiri (Ind, 65, 67, 74, T-17); 207: Tzu-Tzu Wang (Tpe, 67, 68, 72); 208: Khalin Joshi (Ind, 70, 69, 69, T-24); 213: Shubhangkar Sharma (Ind, 68, 69, 76, T-34).
Team: 590: Korea; 604: Thailand;

Women: 194: Aditi Ashok (Ind, 67, 66, 61); 201: Arpichaya Yubol (Tha, 65, 67, 69); 202: Xiuy Lin (Chn, 67, 67, 68); 205: Saki Baba (Jpn, 67, 72, 68); 209: Pranavi Urs (Ind, 71, 68, 70, 11th); 215: Avani Prashanth (Ind, 72, 69, 74, T-19).
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Thailand; 605: Hong Kong; 616: India (200, 205, 211, 8th).

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WOMEN: 194: Aditi Ashok (Ind, 67, 66, 61); 201: Arpichaya Yubol (Tha, 65, 67, 69); 202: Xiuy Lin (Chn, 67, 67, 68); 205: Saki Baba (Jpn, 67, 72, 68); 209: Pranavi Urs (Ind, 71, 68, 70, 11th); 215: Avani Prashanth (Ind, 72, 69, 74, T-19).
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WHY THE ODI NEEDS THIS WORLD CUP

The 50-Over Format Is No More A Cosy Fit In Cricket's Lucrative T20 Ecosystem. Come World Cup Time, However, The One-Day Game Can Again Be King. At Least For A Few Days. At Least For One More Edition...

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When the World Cup rolls around, it'll be bigger than Ben Hur again."

This was the astute Adam Zampa in October last year, talking to ABC Sport about the relevance — or lack thereof — of ODI cricket. Of course, Zampa went on to express a lot of misgivings about where the 50-over format was currently at, specifically going on to add, "There's about 10 overs in the middle that needs to be scrapped."

Be that as it may, we've reached that 'Ben Hur' moment for ODIs now, at least for the next two months, with a home World Cup complete with the delightful prospect of a couple of India-Pakistan matches. Perhaps these games will bring with them the joyful ebbs and flows of a format which originally awoke a cricketing colossus in 1983.

No doubt the clamour for a long-due World Cup trophy in India's cabinet will also reach a crescendo if the hosts start off with a couple of good wins. For the moment, administrators can give their taxed brain cells a breather over what to do with the sport's 'nothing-special' middle child. After all, our cricket-loving population is more than willing to gloss over fundamental questions come World Cup festival time.

It is, however, only momentary respite. For cricket's power brokers, ODIs are now a chronic headache outside the World Cup environment. Over time, the notion that the middle overs were getting boring meant the 50-over format was altered beyond recognition with countless tweaks, setting limitations for captains and bowlers and taking reverse swing and old-ball trickery out of the equation with new balls at either end.

ODIs now largely resemble an extended mix of a T20 ditty, demanding higher and higher batting strikes and desperate bowling variations to cope with coma-inducing hitting sprees. Field restrictions have meant the captain's hands are tied.

The average batting strike rate in each World Cup went up from 54.52 in 1979 to 78.39 in 2011 — the last time India



won at home, also the time the T20 spirit started seeping in — to 88.97 in 2015 and 88.15 in England in 2019.

The tournament grew from an overall 2 centuries in 1979 to 38 hundreds in 48 matches in 2015. Between the 2015 and 2019 World Cups, before the Covid lull set in, there were 53 scores of 350-plus, including 5 scores above 400. From the 2019 WC to now, even with months lost to the pandemic, there have been 25 scores of 350-plus, with 4 of them above 400.

The format's natural moments of quiet and consolidation are now derided by impatient fans more used to gorging on a T20 diet. The ODI finds itself being gradually elbowed out by lengthier IPL window, mushrooming private T20 leagues and a bursting international calendar. Many top cricketers are willing to give the format the short shrift by forgoing central contracts and devoting themselves to T20 subsistence. The now-abandoned ODI WC Super League had its flaws and wasn't well received either. There is a notion that the best days of the ODI may have come and gone.

MISMATCH: ODIs VS T20s PLAYED BY INDIA (2022-23)

Total ODIs involving India	30*
Total T20s involving India players	95
(Total T20s: 21 T20s + 74 IPL games)	

MOST ODIs BY COUNTRY IN LAST ONE YEAR*

Country	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Winning %
India	30	18	9	-	3	60.00
Sri Lanka	25	15	9	-	1	60.00
New Zealand	23	9	11	-	3	39.13

(* From 28-9-2022 to 27-9-2023) — Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Administrators have tried responding with defiance. Over the past year, India's cricketers have played a total of 95 T20s — IPL and internationals included — and 30 ODIs. These are the most ODIs for any team in this period, while Australia have played the least (14). For India, the corresponding figures stood at 68 T20s and 27 ODIs in the year leading up to the 2011 WC.

Worryingly, close games have been few and far between. Of the 326 ODIs played in the two years leading up to this WC, only 17 have seen victory margins of less than 10 runs, and only 18 games have been won by less than 3

wickets. Cricket's dystopian future was evident after the completion of the T20 World Cup in Australia last year, when champions England had to stay back to play a meaningless 3-ODI bilateral series.

Clearly, something had to give. In July, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) recommended limiting bilateral ODIs after the 2027 World Cup to "improve quality and create space in the calendar". The MCC said "the suggestion is that a scarcity of ODI cricket will increase the quality". No doubt the "space" created will be filled by more franchise T20s, with the

IPL's deep-pocket owners now out shopping for new teams in overseas leagues.

Cricket has a new, lucrative ecosystem outside ODIs now. The format may not long remain relevant outside the World Cup cycle. If Tests are already a novelty, ODIs may become a rarity. They are simply eating into T20 time.

The nature of games in this edition may well decide the future of bilateral ODIs, if not the 50-over World Cup itself. A generous public response will reprise the good old times and for a while, wipe away the tears from cricket's forlorn middle child.

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WHAT ODI STALWARTS SAY ABOUT ODIs NOW

“Test cricket is like art movies and T20 is commercial cinema. ODIs are presently in no-man's land.” - Ravi Shastri

“When you have two new balls, you have eliminated reverse swing. In the 40th over, it's just the 20th over with that ball. The ball only starts reversing when it is around 30 overs old. The game is becoming too predictable. From the 15th to the 40th over, it's losing momentum. It's getting boring.” - Sachin Tendulkar

“The 50-over format is under pressure the most. There will be more T20 played than bilateral ODIs. ODIs are going to become, at some stage, confined to just World Cups.” - Eoin Morgan

“It's almost like the long, boring format. There's no importance given to it at the moment.” - Moeen Ali

“We're not cars. You can't just fill us up and we'll go out there and be ready to be fuelled up again.” - Ben Stokes

“They are doing it just for the sake of doing it. After the first 10 overs, it's just 'okay, just go run a ball, get a boundary, four fielders in, and you get to 200, 220 in 40 overs' and then have a go in the last 10 overs. Another 100. It's kind of run-of-the-mill.” - Wasim Akram

My last World Cup, need to be in a good space, says Ashwin

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Guwahati: Pleasantly surprised to get a last-minute callup to the squad, Ravichandran Ashwin said on Saturday that this could well be his last World Cup.

Asked if he thought, even a few months back, that he would be playing in this home World Cup, the veteran off-spinner said to the official broadcaster, "I would have said that you were joking. Honestly I did not think I would be here. Circumstances have made sure I am here today, the team management has shown trust."

About trying any new variations he has developed, the offie said, "All you can do is turn the ball both ways, and I think I can do it. Dealing with pressure is paramount in these tournaments and it will dictate how the tournament goes. Being in a good space, enjoying this tournament will keep me in good stead. This could be my last World Cup for India, so enjoying the tournament is of utmost importance."

Rain washes out warm-up tie

India's game against England was called off without a ball being bowled after hours of torrential rain — coupled with thunderstorm and lightning — here on Saturday.

JANS



Starc's trick sends Dutchmen flying

Prasanth.Menon@timesgroup.com

Thiruvananthapuram: After two days of relentless rain here, it was an exaggerated version of T20 that was played between Australia and the Netherlands in the warm-up fixture at the Greenfield stadium on Saturday. The tireless work of the groundsmen almost enabled a 23-overs-a-side contest, but more rain towards the end of the Netherlands innings meant that the match was officially declared a 'no-result' encounter.

AUS VS NED The completion of 20 overs would have constituted a game, but the Dutch were only in the 15th over.

Mitchell Starc and Steve Smith, though, made the most of the opportunity. While Smith's well-crafted half-century (42 balls; 4x4, 3x6) helped Australia post 166/7 in 23 overs, it was Starc's hat-trick that exposed the gulf in class between the two teams. The Netherlands were reduced to 12/3 and never recovered from their horrendous start and were struggling at 84/6 in 14.2 overs when the rain forced players back to the pavilion and the game was abandoned. Starc finished with figures of 3/18 from three overs.

GALLERY

Vani Kapoor tied-29th, Amandeep misses cut

Deauville (France): Vani Kapoor fought back well on the back nine to return an even-par 71 in the second round and be placed tied-29th at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France here. Vani, who has been having a modest season on the Ladies European Tour, made the cut comfortably with one more round to go. Amandeep Drai (71-76), the other Indian in the fray, missed the cut, which fell at 2-over. Vani opened with a bogey, which was compensated for by a birdie on the second.

India finish 7th: India beat Thailand 3-1 to finish seventh in the mixed team events of the Badminton World Junior Championships in Spokane, USA. India's Samarver and Radhika Sharma defeated Tanakorn Meechai and Fungfa Korphammadit 11-21, 21-19, 21-18 in mixed doubles to make a positive start. In boys' singles, Tushar Suver lost against Nachakorn Pusri 19-21, 11-21 as Thailand was back level 1-1. In girls' singles, Tara Shah beat Tonrug Sae-heng 21-15, 24-26, 21-12 and then Divyam Arora and Mayank Rana beat Songpon Sae-ma and Phurinath Saikamma 21-18, 21-19 in boys' doubles to seal the win.

Vaidehi, Prajwal headline Fenesta Open: Defending champion Vaidehi Chaudhari and talented youngster SD Prajwal Dev from Karnataka will be the players to watch out for during the 28th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship, scheduled to start from Monday. Vaidehi has had an impressive 2023, having already won two ITF titles this year including her maiden trophy at Gwalior in January. The performance has also seen Vaidehi rise to No. 5 ranking in India, and she would be keen to add a third title to her kitty at the DLTA Complex.

India hammer Pak to clinch SAFF U-19 title: After a wait-and-see approach for the first 45 minutes, the Indian team decided to crack the whip in the second session and emerged the SAFF Men's U-19 champions with a resounding 3-0 triumph over Pakistan at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu on Saturday. It was India's eighth youth title in the SAFF championships, a clear testimony of their regional supremacy. Pakistan were reduced to 10 men towards the end when Ali Zafar was sent off. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Irani Trophy, Saurashtra vs Rest of India, 9.30 am (Jio Cinema); Aus Women vs WI Women, 1st T20, 6.30 am (Star Sports); South Africa Women vs New Zealand Women, 3rd ODI, 1 pm (FanCode); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, Kerala Blasters vs Jamshedpur FC, 8 pm (Jio Cinema, Sports18); EPL, Nottingham Forest vs Brentford, 6.30 pm (Star Sports); La Liga, 12.30 am Monday (Jio Cinema); **MULTI-SPORT:** Asian Games, 5.30 am (Sony)

RYDER CUP

Jabeur wins fifth WTA title at a canter in Ningbo final

Shanghai: Jabeur won the fifth WTA title of her career with an emphatic victory over surprise-package Diana Shnaider in the final of the Ningbo Open in China on Saturday. The seventh-ranked Tunisian demolished the unseeded Shnaider 6-2, 6-1 for her first hardcourt title. Top seed Jabeur took a last-minute wildcard into the tournament and it took her all the way to the final.

Pegula, Kudermetova advance to Pan Pacific Open final

Pacific Open final: World number four Jessica Pegula and Russia's Veronika Kudermetova advanced to the final of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. Pegula of the United States beat Greek star Maria Sakkari, ranked sixth in the world, 6-2, 6-3. In the final, she will face the 19th-ranked Kudermetova, who beat the American in Madrid this year. Kudermetova had a tough semifinal, needing three hours and 25 minutes to defeat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-6 (8/6), 6-7(2/7), 6-3.

Medvedev beats De Minaur to reach China Open quarters

World: Number three Daniil Medvedev progressed to the quarterfinals of the China Open with a hard-fought win over Australia's Alex De Minaur in Beijing on Saturday. The Russian navigated an awkward first set before eventually triumphing 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 and will face either compatriot Andrey Rublev or Ugo Humbert of France in the next round. Medvedev led 5-2 in the first set. AGENCIES

Europe lead by 5 but US finally show fight

Rome: Europe are tantalisingly close to another home Ryder Cup victory after ending Saturday five points ahead of the United States here. On the day, US earned a glimmer of hope by taking the fourballs 3-1 in a high-octane finale as the sun set on the 18th hole. Patrick Cantlay ended a controversial personal day by birdying the last three holes, win-

ON TOP: Justin Rose and Robert MacIntyre of Team Europe celebrate after their win Getty Images

ning the last two, to snatch win the final fourball and flip the session in America's favour. However, after another scorching Rome day, Europe still led 10-1/2 and need four points from Sunday's 12 singles to regain the trophy and continue their incredible 30-year unbeaten home run in the biennial competition. They began the day as they finished on Friday in control. Inspired by a Ryder Cup record 9&7 victory for Viktor Hovland and Ludvig Aberg, Europe took the morning foursomes 3-1 using the same four pairings who swept a 4-0 success on Friday.

All attention then turned to the two tight remaining matches, with fans packing round to watch the

United slump to 4th season defeat at home

Manchester: Manchester United slumped to their fourth defeat of the Premier League season as an early Joachim Anderson strike earned Crystal Palace a 1-0 win at Old Trafford. Having tasted defeat in their previous home league match, against Brighton and Hove Albion, the below-par hosts again found themselves behind in the 25th minute as Anderson arrowed into the top corner.

Meanwhile, Hwang Heechan scored the winner as Wolverhampton Wanderers ended champions Manchester City's perfect start to the Premier League season with a 3-0 win at the Etihad Stadium.

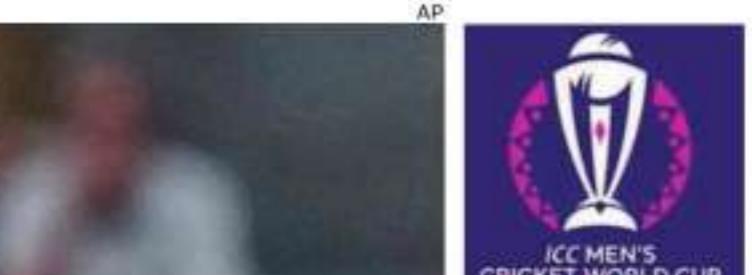
In another match, Arsenal maintained their unbeaten streak to the season with a 4-0 win away at struggling Burnley. Kai Havertz opened his account for the North London club while Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and Ben White also scored.

Two goals from set pieces gave Luton Town their first ever Premier League victory as they beat Everton 2-1 at the 76th minute. AGENCIES

ON TOP: Justin Rose and Robert MacIntyre of Team Europe celebrate after their win Getty Images

to have any hope of a miracle comeback they would have to make inroads in the afternoon. They made a good start as Sam Burns and Collin Morikawa brought Hovland and Aberg down to earth with a 4&3 win, before the impressive Max Homa and Brian Harman beat Tommy Fleetwood and Nicolai Hojgaard 2&1 to close the gap to five.

All attention then turned to the two tight remaining matches, with fans packing round to watch the



Seminar halls and discussion rooms in new 'mental gyms'

Malathy Iyer@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Mental hospitals, most of them a relic of the British Raj in terms of architecture and medical practices, are in for a makeover in Maharashtra.

The idea is to shed the image of a "pagal khana", create spaces where patients can walk in without fear of stigmatization and provide such medical therapy that any hospital stay, if needed, would be on par with the western average of six to seven days.

"We want to build institutes for mental health on the lines of NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) in Bengaluru. We don't want them to be thought of as mental hospitals, but as mental gyms," said Dr Swapnil Lele, additional director (mental health) in the state health department. "No one would like to go to a hospital, but most like going to gyms to feel better about themselves. We want to extend the same logic to mental health," he said.

TIMES Special

■ Thane hospital makeover

For starters, the Thane Mental Hospital will be upgraded into a NIMHANS-like entity, boasting of 3,000 beds instead of 1,500 at present. The existing hospital, built by the British in 1901, will be demolished and reconstructed in two phases over the next three years. "Alongside, we want to create spaces where people with, say, anxiety disorder or those who suf-

Historically, mental hospitals in India have served as a dumping ground by relatives of mentally ill patients. The idea now is to create spaces where patients can walk in without fear of stigmatisation

fer panic attacks can walk in to participate in laughter clubs, yoga or meditation sessions," he said.

Students from nearby medical colleges will be brought, on a rotation basis, to study patients and attend academic sessions.

Seminar halls and discussion rooms would thus, for the first time, feature in mental hospitals. Apart from a day-care centre for patients with dementia and half-way homes, MRI machines needed for diagnoses will also be set up.

TOO MANY PATIENTS, FEW PSYCHIATRISTS



MENTAL HEALTH BURDEN

- In 2017, India had 197.3 mn persons (14.3% of population) with mental disorders
- India has roughly 9,000 psychiatrists, too few
- In Maharashtra, mental health hospitals treated 7.6 lakh outdoor patients and 1.5 lakh admitted patients between 2017 and 2021

WHAT AILS MENTAL HOSPITALS

- A National Human Rights Commission survey of 37 govt mental hospitals across the country in 1996 said, "It was as if time had stood still"
- Two reviews between 1998 and 2008 found 40% of surveyed hospitals still had jail-like structures they had since inception, 57% had high walls and patients were called 'inmates'



More hospitals, more beds

than 1% of them need hospitalisation over a year," he added.

The makeover would take a minimum of six years. "We are also drafting a state mental health policy that will be in sync with the best western practices," he said.

Do we need more mental hospitals?

Historically, mental hospitals have served as a dumping ground by relatives of mentally ill patients. In March 2022, city psychiatrist Dr Harish Shetty moved Bombay high court on the plight of patients still in mental hospitals though they are not seriously ill. The case is still ongoing, and over 500 such patients have since been reunited with their families. Dr Lele, however, said that due to availability of effective medicines, patients will be discharged within a week.

A public hospital doctor who didn't want to be named said most mental hospitals in the state are not full. "Over 85% of the patients in the state who need hospitalisation go to the private sector," said the doctor.

However, Dr Shetty feared that new hospitals will only perpetuate the old practice of letting patients languish for life. "The need is to upgrade existing district hospitals with beds meant for mentally ill patients needing acute care. There could be separate beds for those needing intermediate care and some for those needing long-term care," he said.

"We are in the midst of a mental health epidemic and the state has to start a public health-style campaign to tackle it," he said. The tendency to set up new hospitals with fancy gizmos will prove costly, with mental health being the only casualty, he added.

At present, Maharashtra has three mental hospitals in Thane, Pune (2,540 beds) and Nagpur (940 beds). The fourth one in Ratnagiri (365 beds) was recently taken over by the department of medical education to start a medical college. "A 365-bed hospital is coming up in Kolhapur in lieu of the Ratnagiri hospital, and a new hospital with another 365 beds will come up in Jalna," said Dr Lele. The statewide bed strength will thus climb from roughly 5,500 to 8,000.

While some psychiatrists believe huge mental hospitals are "white elephants" that are not relevant in modern psychiatry, Dr Lele said experts had worked out that 8,000 beds are needed for the state's population of 12 crore.

"Roughly, 10% of the population has some mental illness at any given time and less

than 1% of them need hospitalisation over a year," he added.

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with mental health being the only casualty, he added.

Assam, Meghalaya mull 'neutral' CRPF on border

Guwahati: Assam and Meghalaya on Saturday decided to pull back state police forces deployed along the interstate boundary where disputes are yet to be resolved, and request the "neutral" CRPF to deploy its personnel, in a bid to prevent border skirmishes, even as both the governments approved the redrawn boundary in one of the areas where the row has been settled, reports Prabin Kalita.

The two states also decided to hand over the probe into Mukroh violence in November 2022, in which six people were killed, to CBI in place of the ongoing judicial inquiry. The decisions were taken at a meeting between Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart, Conrad K Sangma, in Guwahati. The two CMs discussed the recent clashes and law and order situations at

two areas of differences, Psiar-Khanduli and Block I and II. The border dispute existed between the two states in 12 areas for over half-a-century, since Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972.

In March 2022, the two CMs signed an MoU in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, resolving the disputes in six areas along the 884.9 km long border — Tarabari, Gizang, Ha-

him, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pillangkata and Ratacherra.

The differences are yet to be resolved in the remaining six areas — Langpih (Lumpi), Borduar, Nongwah-Mawtamer (Garbhanga), Deshomreah, Block-I and Block-II, and Psiar-Khanduli. "... After a long-drawn exercise, we are on the verge of finalising the actual border pillars and boundary line in the first six resolved areas," Sangma said.

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In the misty mountains of Munnar.**

**In the breakrooms of youngsters and their start-up stints.
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And the conversations of the wise English teacher staff.**

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And the bottom drawer of the postman.**

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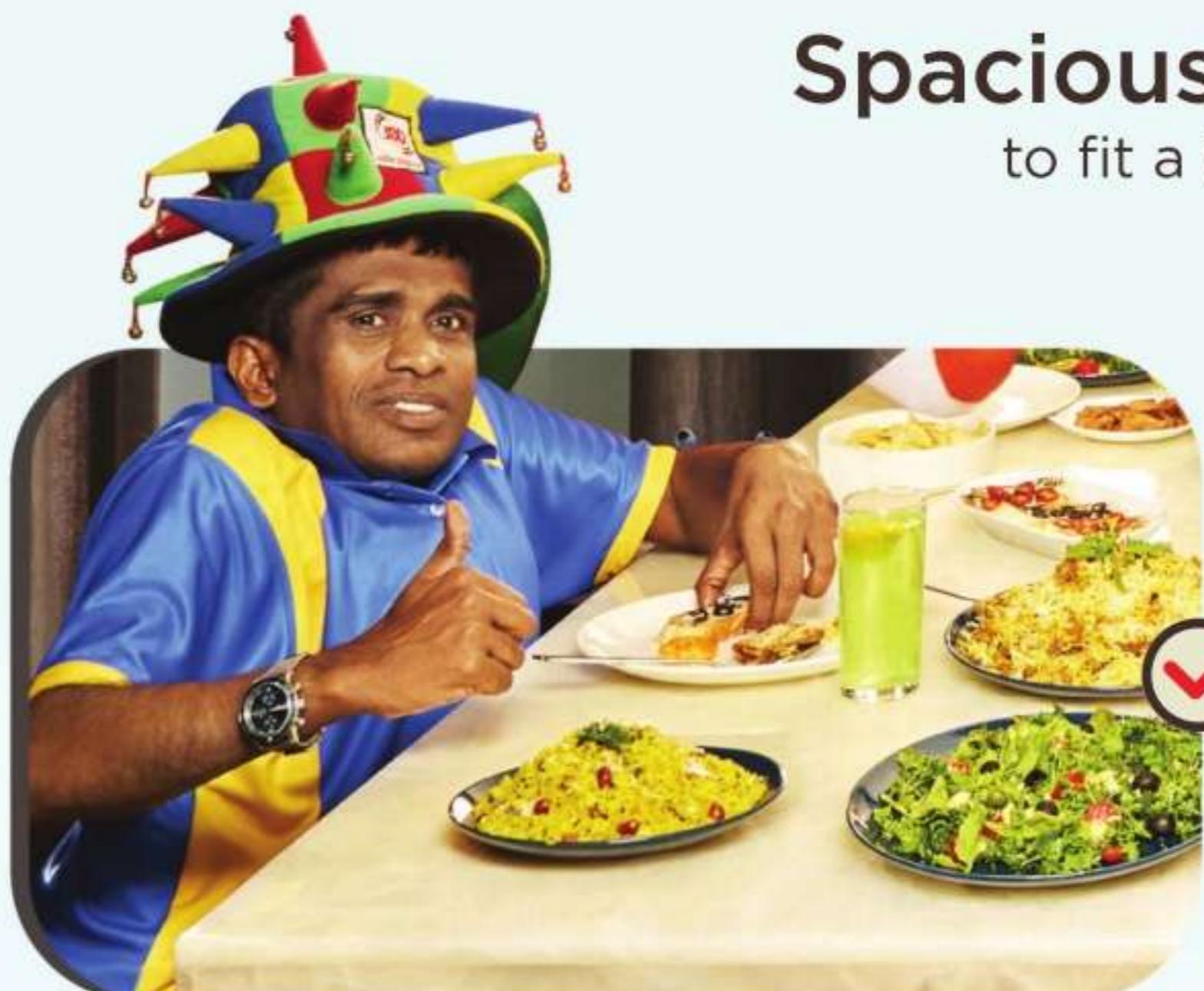
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