



THE TIMES OF INDIA



INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR)

*APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

Maha govt upgrades security cover of SRK to Y-plus category, citing 'probable threats' to the actor. Mumbai intel says he received death threats from an 'underworld gang' following the success of 'Jawan' & 'Pathan'. P 10

California gov Gavin Newsom vetoes a bill recently passed to ban caste bias, saying a separate legislation is not needed as existing laws already prohibited ancestry discrimination. PG OPP

Avalanches struck high on slopes of Tibetan mountain Shishapangma as over 50 climbers were making a push for the summit, killing an American and Nepalese mountaineer. PG OPP

South Australia batter Jake Fraser-McGurk hits a 29-ball century against Tasmania to register the fastest hundred in one-day cricket, eclipsing South African great AB de Villiers' previous record of 31 balls. P 22

Woman, 2 kids found dead in Munirka

A 27-year-old woman and her two children, aged 4 and 2.5 years, were found dead inside a flat in southwest Delhi's Munirka village on Sunday. Police said there were sharp injuries on the wrists of the victims and they suspect it to be a case of murder-suicide. They said they did not find any suicide note. P 10

NC-Cong alliance wins Ladakh polls

The NC-Congress alliance swept the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil polls, winning 22 seats. BJP got just 2 out of the 26 seats for which direct elections were held. P 10

Drugs kingpin traced to Karachi

Haji Salim, the kingpin behind narcotics smuggling into India with suspected links with ISI, Dawood Ibrahim and Afghan drug lords, is sheltered in Karachi, Gujarat ATS sources claim. P 10

22 drown during Bihar bathing ritual

Seventeen women and five girls drowned across nine Bihar districts over the past 24 hours. Most died Saturday when hundreds gathered at rivers and ponds to mark a sacred ritual. P 10

9 more bodies take Sikkim toll to 82

Hope of finding survivors since Wednesday's flash flood in North Sikkim faded as nine more bodies washed ashore downstream of the Teesta on Sunday, taking the death toll to 82. P 22

Conflict toll tops 1,100, Israel OKs 'major strikes' on Hamas

Fight On In South, Hezbollah Fires From Lebanon

Israel's government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas for its attacks from Gaza Strip, portending greater fighting ahead as the toll from the conflict passed 1,100, with thousands wounded on both sides.

Israeli forces were still trying to crush the last Hamas fighters in several towns of southern Israel. At least 700 people have reportedly been killed in Israel — a toll it has not yet

Reuters



Smoke and flames billow after Israeli forces struck a high-rise tower in Gaza Strip. Over 425 targets were reportedly hit in the tiny enclave

► US to send military ships close to Israel, PAGE OPP

► Israeli tourists keen to return home, P 2 & 10

► May join a unity govt: 2 Israel oppn parties, PAGE OPP

reached in decades — and over 400 in Gaza as Israeli pounded 426 targets there. Authorities were still trying to determine how many civilians and soldiers were seized by Hamas and taken to Gaza. Civilians on

both sides were already paying a high price. An exchange of fire in north Israel with Lebanese group Hezbollah raised fears of the conflict spreading. In Alexandria, two Israeli tourists were killed. PAGE OPP

Woman killed after bus rams scooter in city

AFP



India fought back from a precarious 2/3 — the lowest score at which the 3rd wicket has fallen from which a team has gone on to win an ODI — to beat Australia by 6 wickets and begin their World Cup campaign with a victory. KL Rahul (pic, right) scored 97 n.o. & Virat Kohli 85. Earlier, Ravindra Jadeja took 3/28 as Aus tumbled from 110/2 to 199 all out | P 19

► Man dies as DTC bus hits multiple vehicles, P 8

her family in Sadiq Nagar and her husband had retired from MoD. An inquiry revealed the driver was speeding and failed to control the bus. Devi's husband said people tried to stop the vehicle, but it fled towards Gurgaon. P 5

Govt making efforts to get students back: Min

The Centre is making "huge efforts" to bring back stranded Indian students from Israel with PM Modi and his office closely monitoring the situation, MoS (MEA) Meenakshi Lekhi said. There are close to 18,000 Indians in Israel. Meanwhile, AI has cancelled its flights to Israel till Oct 14. P 10

Kerala woman injured in Hamas rocket attack

A woman hailing from Kerala's Kannur, who have been working as a care giver at Ashkelon in Israel, has been injured in a rocket attack by Hamas. Sheeba Anand, 40, was injured after a rocket hit the house where she was providing care to an elderly person. P 10

IN THE COURTS

► Bombay HC lifts a stay on the demolition of a shop in the compound of a Mumbai housing society, observing that people think regularisation of an illegal structure is a right | P 16

► Even as a family court accepts that a pre-nuptial pact is not legally enforceable in India, it says it can be considered to understand intention of parties | P 16

► Delhi HC quashes an FIR against singer Rahul Yadav, booked last year after an empty magazine was recovered from his luggage at IGI airport | P 6

► K'taka HC upholds acquittal of a village woman in a murder case, observing that 'last-seen theory' alone can't be the sole criterion for holding a suspect guilty of an offence | P 16

Deadliest Afghan quakes in 2 decades kill 2,445, injure 2k

Locals Dig Out Victims With Bare Hands, Shovels

Islamabad: Powerful earthquakes killed over 2,400 people in western Afghanistan, the Taliban administration said Sunday. It's one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit a densely populated area, near Afghanistan's fourth largest city, Herat. The US Geological Survey said the epicentre was about 40km northwest of Herat city. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

Janan Sayeq, spokesman for the ministry of disasters, was quoted by Reuters as saying the toll had risen to 2,445 dead, but he revised down the number of injured to "more than 2,000". Earlier, he had said 9,240 people were injured. He also said 1,320 houses had been damaged or destroyed.

On Sunday, men dug through rubble with their bare hands and shovels in despera-



People search for victims in Herat province's Zenda Jan district Sunday

te attempts to pull out the victims in Herat, clambering over rocks and debris. Survivors and victims were trapped under buildings that had crumbled to the ground, their faces grey with dust. AGENCIES

► Related report, PAGE OPP

Taking Boards twice a year optional: Pradhan

Manash.Gohain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said appearing for Class X and XII board exams twice a year won't be mandatory as the system is being introduced in a bid to reduce the stress on students

"caused by the fear of getting just one opportunity". In an interview to PTI, Pradhan also said the issue of 'dummy schools' cannot be ignored and the time has come to have a serious discussion about it. Several NEET and JEE aspirants enrol at such schools in their home states and move to Kota to attend coaching classes.

ON TWIN EXAMINATIONS

If any student feels he is prepared for and satisfied with the score in a set of exams, he can choose not to appear for the next

ON STUDENT SUICIDES

It is a very sensitive issue. No lives should be lost. They are our children. It's our collective responsibility to ensure they are stress free

— DHARMENDRA PRADHAN, UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

They do not go to full-time schools and directly appear for the board exams.

► Dummy school issue, P 22

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How these
muck trains are
making way for
a smooth
journey in
metro | P9

36.5°

MAXIMUM

23.1°

MINIMUM

Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 36°C and 24°C
SUNRISE 6.19AM (TUE) MOONRISE 2.13AM (TUE)
SUNSET 5.59PM (MON) MOONSET 3.21PM (MON)

164

DELHI AQI
ON SUNDAY
AGAINST 216 A
DAY EARLIER

Two int'l traffickers
wanted in Delhi nabbed
after year-long hunt | P4

Air improves to
'moderate'
category,
experts link it
to GRAP | P6



How A New Law Can Ring In Change At Delhi's Jails

Use Of Phones By Inmates Among Issues That Can Be Addressed

Sakshi.Chand@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Model Prisons Act, 2023, which replaced the old colonial laws in May, can solve a lot of problems that Tihar Jail is facing. These problems include overcrowding, use of mobile phones by inmates and drug abuse. According to prison officials, provisions under the Act could address many of these issues. There are around 20,000 inmates in the city jails, 88% of them under-trial prisoners.

One of the major problems, with repercussions for control of gang activities in the city, is the use of mobile phones in the prison. Gangsters and hardened criminals were discovered to be using mobile phones and the internet to make calls and continue with their nefarious activities. Despite repeated raids and seizures of phones and even the installation of phone jammers, the inmates continued to get access to phones.

Under the current laws, convicted inmates can be punished by the jail authorities whenever a mobile phone is recovered from them. However, no action can be taken against under-trial prisoners, who are considered to be in judicial custody. With a major proportion of the prisoners in Delhi being under trials, the jail authorities have a difficult time curbing illegal use of phones.

The Model Prisons Act can deter this activity in two ways. Under the new laws, any undertrial prisoner can be shifted from one state to another with the consent of the trial court. This can be used to intervene in the communications of the under trials. Apart from this, Section 4(l) provides for punishments for possessing or using mobile phones and other electronic communication devices that include a trial before a magistrate, conviction

FIXING PRISON WOES

Delhi's 3 prison complexes have 16 jails

Tihar 9
Rohini 1
Mandoli 6

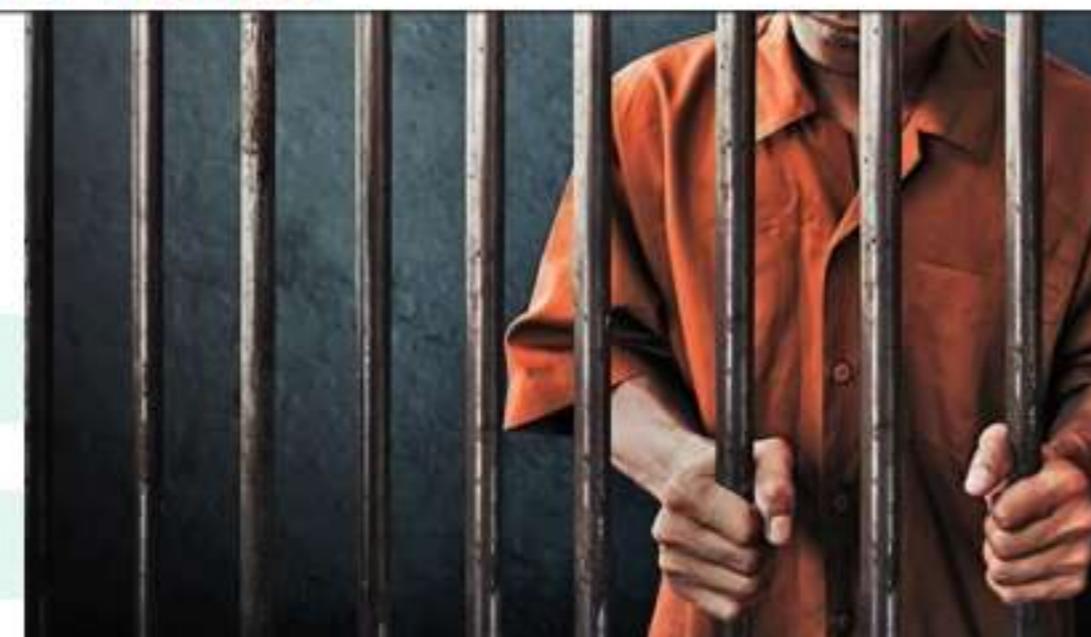
Overall sanctioned capacity | 10,026

Current strength | 20,717

**18,423 Undertrial
prisoner (88.9%)**

2,178 Convicts (10.5%)

*On average, 8-10 prisoners are added to system for offences where maximum punishment is up to seven years



About Tihar

Strength 14,232

How Model Prison Act, 2023, can help

► Use of technology, such as biometrics, CCTVs, scanning and detection devices, RFID, video-conference facilities, computerisation

► Advanced cellular jamming and detection system

► State/UT may use electronic monitoring technology on prisoners under temporary release or leave from prison

by making use of inmate tracking devices
► Act also allows transfer of undertrial prisoner from one state to another with the consent of trial court
► Prisoners to be classified according to their age, gender, length of sentence, safety and security requirements, physical and mental health needs, correctional

needs, etc
► Possession or use of mobile phones and other electronic communication devices or damaging govt property punishable with up to three years of jai, or fine of ₹ 25,000 or both
► Repeated prison offence punishable with 3 yrs over and above regular sentence

for up to three years or a fine of Rs 25,000 or both.

Neeraj Kumar, former DG, prison, told TOI, "The smuggling of mobiles and other items is rampant in jails as there was no legislation criminalising this. But the Model Act provides for enhanced punishment." Kumar said the new law was progressive and the use of tracking devices on prisoners on temporary release would assist jail officials in monitoring and following prisoners on parole.

Sunil Gupta, who worked at Tihar for two decades and is the former legal advisor and spoke-

sperson of the jail, feels certain features of the new Act, such as computerisation and integration with the Interoperable Criminal Justice system, need to be implemented widely. "This system will bring police, prosecution, court and judiciary on the same portal, making it easy for the prisoner or the judge to check details with regard to a criminal or a case," said Gupta.

Chapter VI, Section 18 of the Act provides for the use of technology in prisons for various objectives, among them for the biometrics access control system to track movement of in-

mates, development of interfaces for prison and prisoner management systems, cell phone jamming and mobile phone detection solutions.

Sudhir Yadav, former DG, prison, felt that employing technology was important in today's world and this could prevent a lot of violations in jail. "While the use of technology is the call of the day, one must also keep the human aspect in mind," said Yadav. "After all, jails are reformation centres too. The person developing useful technology must also consider things from the perspective of the inmates."

Another car that the accused had stolen was also recovered from Rajaouri Garden. TNN

Women's 10m air rifle shooting team: Ashi Chouksey, Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita Jindal | Men's lightweight double sculls rowing team: Arjun Lal Jat, Arvind Singh | Men's pair rowing team: Babu Lal Yadav, Lekh Ram | Men's eight rowing team: Neeraj, Naresh Kalwaniya, Neetesh Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, Ashish, DU Pande | Men's 10m air rifle shooting team: Rudranksh Patil, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Divyansh Singh Panwar | Men's four rowing team: Arvind Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, Ashish | Men's quadruple rowing team: Parminder Singh, Satnam Singh, Surjeet Singh, Sukhmeet Singh | Men's 25m rapid fire pistol shooting team: Vaibhav Singh, Arvind Singh, Anuj Bhambhani | Women's 20m rifle shooting team: Bhavneet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Sharan Verma, Jeemimai Rodrigues, Deepali Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Amritpal Kaur, Devika Vaidya, Pooja Vastrakar, Titas Sadhu, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Minnu Mani, Kanika Ahuja, Uma Chetry, Anusha Bareddy | Dressage equestrian team: Hriday Chheda, Anush Agarwalla, Divyakriti Singh, Sudipti Hajela | Women's 50m rifle 3 positions shooting team: Ashi Chouksey, Manini Kaushik, Sift Kaur Samra | Women's 25m pistol shooting team: Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan, Esha Singh | Men's skeet shooting team: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Gurjot Singh Khangura, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa | Men's 10m air pistol shooting team: Arjun Cheema, Sarabjeet Singh, Shiva Narwal | Women's 10m air pistol shooting team: Divya TS, Palak Chahal, Arvind Singh, Divyansh Singh, Palak Chahal, Aishwarya Kapur, Akhil Sheorar | Men's double tennis team: Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Mariyappan | Women's squash team: Nithana Chidambaram, Mahesh Bhupathi, Dipika Pallikal | 10m air trap shooting team: Sanjeev Kee, Abhay Singh, Rajiv Singh | Men's 10m air pistol team: Mahesh Bhupathi, Dipika Pallikal, Sumeet Sripal, Sumeet Sen, Chirag Zoravar Singh | Women's 10m air pistol team: Kavita Jagade, Meenal Patel, Meenal Sadanayak, Kasturi Raj, Sanjana Bathula | Women's 10m air pistol relay team: Divyansh Singh Rajendra, Siddhartha Kamble, Anand Kumar Velukumar, Subhash Venkatesan | Women's 10m air pistol table tennis team: Ayush Mukherjee, Sutirtha Mukherjee | Men's 10m air pistol team: Muhammed Ajmal, Vithya Pal, Divyansh Singh, Subha Venkatesan | Men's canoe double 1000m team: Arjun Singh, Sunil Singh Salam | Mixed team race walk team: Manju Rani, Ram Baboo | Mixed team compound archery team: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Ojas Pravin Deotale | Mixed team squash team: Ananya Mishra, Prachi Subha Venkatesan | Men's 4x400m relay athletics team: Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi, Rajesh Ramesh | Women's compound archery team: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami, Parneet Kaur | Mixed doubles squash team: Dipika Pallikal, Harinder Pal Sandhu | Men's compound archery team: Abhishek Verma, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Prathmesh Jawkar | Women's recurve team: Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur, Simranjeet Kaur | Women's regu sepaktakraw team: Khushbu, Maipak Devi Ayekam, Leirentoni Devi Elangbam, Priya Devi Elangbam, Chaoba Devi Oinam | Men's recurve archery team: Atanu Das, Tushar Shelke, Dhiraj Bommadevara | Men's bridge team: Raju Tolani, Ajay Prabhakar Khare, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Jaggy Shivedasani, Sandeep Thakral | Men's hockey team: PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Abhishek, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay | Women's kabaddi team: Akshima, Jyoti, Pooja, Priyanka, Pushpa, Sakshi Kumari, Ritu Negi, Nidhi Sharma, Sushma Sharma, Snehal Pradeep Shinde, Sonali and many more heroes.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here

WT.5652.2023

Israeli travellers in India look to rush back as war rages at home

Siddhvi.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Several Israelis who were in Delhi as travellers are eager to return home after seeing the news of Hamas' surprise attack on TV channels and social media.

Hamas fighters on Saturday rampaged through Israeli towns as the country suffered its bloodiest day in decades on Saturday, taking civilians and military personnel hostage. On Sunday, air strikes in Gaza reportedly killed hundreds on both sides.

The initial shock of the attack on Saturday seems to have transformed into an unwavering resolve among the Israelis here to return home and help their country.

Udi Adler, a 30-year-old Israeli traveller, woke up to news alerts on his phone on Saturday morning. On a holiday in India, Adler didn't think twice before booking a flight ticket. "All of us have a soldier in our country is under attack, and we must return," he said.

TOI spoke to a few travellers residing in the city's synagogues. They plan to either rejoin the reserve units or go back to friends and family.

Moshe, another traveller, said: "I'm not alone in feeling this way (about wanting to return home). It's a sentiment shared by Israelis across the board. This is a fight to protect our country."

Oz, a 40-year-old traveller, emphasised the urgency for his return. He works in a hospital



ADLER SAYS
Flight disruptions are causing significant challenges. It is quite chaotic due to the cancellations

tal and felt a compelling need to be with his family and friends directly affected by the conflict. "It's agonising to know that you have friends in immediate danger and you cannot be there to assist them."

David Coen, another Israeli, loaded his luggage onto a rickshaw on his way to the airport for a 5pm flight.

"Seeing the images of my homeland in turmoil, I've decided to cut short my two-week trip to return home by any means," he said.

A rabbi said the event had unfolded during the time of their festival. "We are all praying for the well-being of people back home," he said.

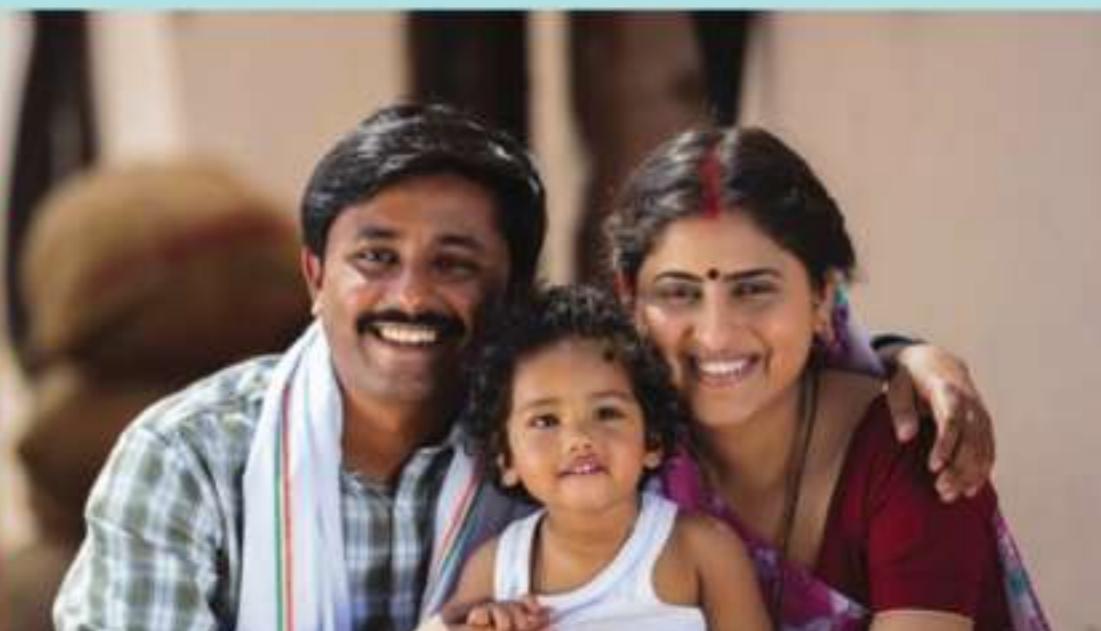
WHAT'S IN A NAME? PLENTY!



After Singapore's high commissioner Simon Wong took to X, formerly Twitter, to point out a spelling error on the signboard next to the country's mission, the error was promptly corrected by NDMC. In his post, Wong wrote: 'It is always good to spell check first'. He later thanked the civic body for fixing the error

Work can wait, our child's vaccination cannot!

We will get our children vaccinated immediately



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August

11-16
September

9-14
October

2023

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Directorate of Family Welfare, Delhi State Health Mission, Government of NCT of Delhi



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Woman, her 2 kids found dead inside Munirka village flat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 27-year-old woman and her two children, aged 4 and 2.5 years, were found dead inside a flat in south-west Delhi's Munirka village on Sunday.

Police said there were sharp injuries on the wrists of the victims and they suspect it to be a case of murder-suicide.

The woman, a native of Mo-

radabad, got married in 2017, and her husband is a constable in the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). "At the time of the incident, her husband had gone to Moradabad for some religious work," police said.

The neighbours went to check on the woman after she and her kids did not turn up to the common courtyard of the building in the morning as they often do. They knocked

on the door multiple times. When no one responded, they found something amiss and immediately made a PCR call at 10.30 am on Sunday.

A team from the local police station reached the spot. Finding the door locked, they informed the fire department, who broke it open using their tools.

"All three victims were lying on the floor in a pool of

blood," the officer said.

Police said they were taken to a hospital but were declared dead on arrival by doctors.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and crime teams were called in. They found a blade at the spot that could have been used to cut the wrists.

Police said they did not find any suicide note and are probing whether the woman

was depressed over domestic issues.

"We have not found anything scattered inside. We are probing other angles as well, but we suspect that the woman may have killed her children and committed suicide. We are waiting for the postmortem report," the officer added.

The sub-divisional magistrate will conduct the inquest proceedings, police said.

PWD to geo-tag all projects to prevent graft

New Delhi: To check misuse of funds and corruption, Public Works Department has made it mandatory for officers to geo-tag all ongoing projects and upload colour photographs from the ground on the online monitoring application.

The officials had already been directed to closely monitor the ongoing projects to avoid delays. The latest directions are based on an earlier order issued by Delhi's chief secretary on projects' proper monitoring.

In July, PWD minister Atishi had also directed the engineers involved with flyover projects to submit daily on-ground status reports on specifically launched 'Delhi E-monitoring' mobile application, which is monitored by the chief secretary and other senior officers.

Last year, a reporting schedule had been formalized, under which PWD's former engineer-in-chief had set up a WhatsApp group, where the officers were supposed to post selfies from the inspection site visited, but not much of the earlier order was likely followed as new PWD minister has once again issued directions.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-NIT No.: 68 of 2023-24
E.E., NBBD, invites online e-Tender Vide e-NIT No.: 68 of 2023-24 of E.E., NBBD, District wise, setting up of e-Tender Notice Board, NBBD, Uttararkanya, Fulbari, Jalpaiguri, Pin: 734123 on any working days and in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wb.nbbd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department
ICA-T20866(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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e-NIT No.: 69 of 2023-24
E.E., NBBD, invites online e-Tender Vide e-NIT No.: 69 of 2023-24 of E.E., NBBD, District wise, setting up of e-Tender Notice Board, NBBD, Uttararkanya, Fulbari, Jalpaiguri, Pin: 734123 on any working days and in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wb.nbbd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department
ICA-T20872(1)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
Dated: 29-09-2023
Tender Id.: 2023_WBSPMO_565430_1
Authority of West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board, Agartala, has decided to extend the last date of bid submission on 16-10-2023 upto 12 Noon, simultaneously technical bid opening date has been rescheduled on 30-10-2023 at 12.00 noon for all tenders. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The detail information regarding e-NIT will be available on the https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board
ICA-T20859(1)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for Civil and related works for Construction of Model Ayush OPD building at Sonamukhi State Homoeopathic Dispensary in the district of Bankura (2nd call). Last date of submission of bid is 10.10.2023 upto 12 Noon. The tender documents can be downloaded from www.wbmcs.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in or after 09.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M. Clarification requests, if any, may be sent to Director, WBMSC & Senior Special Secretary to the Govt. of W.B. Health & Family Welfare Department
ICA-T20862(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans (South)-II Division, Bankura invites Tender vide T. N. O. N. No. 117/2023 dated 9.9. WBFO/WR/P(SI)/DFO/NetTO_2023-24 during 2023-24 for Survey and Growing Stock Enumeration under Birbhum Division of Birbhum District. Bid submission start date & time from 11.10.2023 at 01:00 PM. Bid submission end date & time 17.10.2023 at 01:00 PM. Technical Bid opening date & time 30.10.2023 at 03:00 PM. Financial Bid opening date & time to be notified. Interested experienced and resourceful contractors are requested to check the Website of Directorate of Forests, e-procurement portal, Government of West Bengal & District Portal, Bankura District, Bankura/ contact the office of the undersigned for details. These advertisements are also given www.wb.banglarajforest.in & www.wb.banglarajforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans (South)-II Division, Bankura
ICA-T20863(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Notice Inviting e-Tender
WBEBIDC/ET/COM23-24/00508 Dated: 04-10-2023
For Request for Proposal for Selection of Knowledge Partner for Animation Academy in the State of West Bengal.
Due date of Submission : 31.10.2023, 12.00 HRS.
Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webin.in
For details or contact 033 - 2339 2270 / 2339 2387
ICA-T20853(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Webel Bhawan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.
Notice Inviting e-Tender No. WBWIB/EE/PMA001/NIT-06e/23-24
Open tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Purulia Irrigation Division, & WB Directorate, Bhatbandh Irrigation Colony, P.O. & Dist. : Purulia on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for the works of WBWIB/EE/PMA001/NIT-06e/23-24.
1. Date of tender document download : 09.10.2023 at 17.00 hrs.
2. Last date of Documents Download & Bid Submission : 16.10.2023 at 13.00 hrs. All details, may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Purulia Irrigation Division.
ICA-T20867(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Health, Nadia
e-Tender Notice (2nd & 1st Call)
Infrastructure Strengthening (Civil) work of Sub Centre to be upgraded into Swasthya Bhawan, Sector-V, Nadia. Bid Submission Start Date : 31.10.2023, 12.00 HRS.
Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webin.in
For details or contact 033 - 2339 2270 / 2339 2387
ICA-T20871(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged NiT No. DHFWB/PRU/NIT-01 of 2023-24, dated 27-09-2023 related to schemes of Procurement of Vehicle Model TATA Winger DLX 1.3 AC BS6 for Blood Bank of Raghunathpur SDH, Purulia. The last date & time of online bid submission: 12.10.2023 at 5.30 P.M. visit wwww.wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webin.in
For details or contact 033 - 2339 2270 / 2339 2387
ICA-T20854(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged NiT No. CMOH/BW/PRU/NIT-17/01/2023-24 (4th CALL) vide Memo. No. 4510 Dated: 09.10.2023. The last date & time of "New construction of HWC at Krishak Bazaar, Dist. Birbhum, Vide eNIT No. BZRN/2023-24/00508 dated 29.09.2023".
Tender Id.: 2023_WBSPMB_580998_1. Estimated cost put to tender Rs. 14,02,257/- The last date for submission of Tender is on 27/10/2023 up to 5.30 PM. The detail information regarding the same may be available on the https://wbtenders.gov.in From 09/10/2023, 10 A.M. Sd/- M. S. Molia, Secretary, Birbhum Zilla RMC.
ICA-T20857(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged NiT No. CMOH/BW/PRU/NIT-17/01/2023-24 (4th CALL) vide Memo. No. 4510 Dated: 09.10.2023. The last date & time of "New construction of HWC at Laxminarayanpur, Chhatna Block under CMOH Office, Bankura. The last date & time of online bid submission: 20.10.2023 at 10:00 AM. Corrigendum if any will be published on www.wbtenders.gov.in visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA-T20870(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD, e-NIT
Online tender e-NIT 13(eof) 2023-24[ID: 2023_WRSD_585701_1 to 4 of 2023-24] has been invited by the Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No-II, Sundarban Development Board from the reliable bonafide resource contractors for the construction of B.R. Road & Concrete Road in Sagar, Namkhana, Kadwip & Pathrapratinipa Block of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Details may be had from the office of the EE/CED-II/SDB on working days during office hours or in website https://wbtenders.gov.in
Publishing date: 09.10.2023 at 18.00hrs. Bid submission start Dt. - 10.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt. - 03.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Civil Engineering Division No-II, Sundarban Development Board
ICA-T20853(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD, e-NIT
Online tender e-NIT 13(eof) 2023-24[ID: 2023_WRSD_585701_1 to 4 of 2023-24] has been invited by the Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No-II, Sundarban Development Board from the reliable bonafide resource contractors for the construction of B.R. Road & Concrete Road in Sagar, Namkhana, Kadwip & Pathrapratinipa Block of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Details may be had from the office of the EE/CED-II/SDB on working days during office hours or in website https://wbtenders.gov.in
Publishing date: 09.10.2023 at 18.00hrs. Bid submission start Dt. - 10.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt. - 03.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Civil Engineering Division No-II, Sundarban Development Board
ICA-T20875(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Name of the Work **Amount put to tender**

Office of the Chief Engineer(Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009. **EMD**

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/1087/2023-24 **Date: 07.10.2023**

Work of Construction of 2 Nos. of Service Station building at BTR GLR Premises and Mount Joy near Bharat Mata School, Bangalore.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/1088/2023-24 **Date: 07.10.2023**

Work of Construction of Compound wall at Banashankari and Construction of Service Station buildings at Banashankari and Koramangala, Bangalore.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/1089/2023-24 **Date: 07.10.2023**

Work of Construction of 3 Nos. of Officers Quarters at Sir M. V. Layout, 1st Block, Bangalore.

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on: 08.11.2023 upto 16:00 Hrs. Date of opening of Technical

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DIPR/CP/RA/1625/2023/2023

Human Traffickers In Net After 1-Yr Chase

'2 Foreigners Masterminded Global Gang'

END OF A MANHUNT

THE SUSPECTS

1. Aziza Tanrykulyeva (36), a Turkmenistan national

2. Sherget Afghan (25), an Afghan national

► Involved in cases of kidnapping, trafficking, cheating, attempted murder

► Declared an absconder by court, non-bailable warrants issued

► A video of accused woman mercilessly thrashing a trafficked person had gone viral on social media, following which the couple had absconded

► They remained in hiding in Goa; were tracked through technical surveillance and human intelligence



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

scale countrywide prostitution racket.

Deputy commissioner of police (east) Amrutha Gujuloth said Aziza had come to India from Lebap in Turkmenistan in December 2015 on a tourist visa with a validity of three months. However, she ne-

from Afghanistan on a medical attendant visa and had overstayed as well. The duo allegedly got in touch with girls who were staying in India illegally and began running a prostitution racket, police claimed.

The cops began a search for the couple after their in-

In February 2021, Aziza Tanrykulyeva came into contact with Sherget, who had come to India from Afghanistan on a medical attendant visa and had overstayed as well. The duo allegedly got in touch with girls who were staying in India illegally and began running a prostitution racket, police claimed

ver went back and started living in India illegally.

She then came into contact with a man named Sameer Sezai in January 2016 and began living with him in Jangpura. In June that year, she allegedly stabbed Sezai during a quarrel and was booked for attempted murder. She was arrested and released on bail after a few weeks.

In February 2021, she came into contact with Sherget, who had come to India and ran a large-scale prostitution racket.

They remained in hiding in Goa for some months before resuming their operations, police said.

According to Sharma, the accused allegedly trafficked women from CIS (commonwealth of independent states) countries into India and ran a large-

scale prostitution racket.

They were then produced before a court in Goa and their transit remand was obtained.

Atishi inspects roads, says far from ideal

New Delhi: Public Works Department minister Atishi has directed officials to take up beautification and encroachment removal exercises on roads and footpaths between Janakpuri East and Tilak Nagar metro stations. The minister recently inspected the roads and found them to be "far from ideal" and directed officials that immediate maintenance, beautification and drainage improvement works be taken up in the area. She directed that road crossings be improved and footpaths be made more user friendly, said officials.

During the inspection, Atishi found numerous encroachments on the footpaths. Lack of pruning of trees, enhancement of drainage systems and uniformity in greenery were also identified as immediate concerns.

She noted that there is significant room for improvement on these roads. "The Kejriwal government will not tolerate any negligence or compromise in its mission to make Delhi's roads world-class," said Atishi.

A case under Section 420 (cheating and dishonesty inducing delivery of property) of the IPC was registered on October 4 at a cyber police station.

The complainant, a resident of Sarita Vihar, told cops that she was doing her office work when she received a phone call from a person who claimed to be an executive from a courier company.

City's Fourth C&D Recycling Plant Takes Daily Capacity To 5k Tonnes

JAHANGIRPURI: CM Inaugurates 2,000-Tonne Facility Spread Over 7 Acres

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated a construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling plant in Jahangirpuri on Sunday that can recycle such waste into tiles, bricks and other products for reuse.

Spread over nearly 7 acres, this plant is one of the largest in the country and has the capacity to recycle 2,000 tonnes of such waste daily, the CM's office said.

Waste generated from construction and demolition will be brought to such plants from all over Delhi to be transformed into usable products. This way, Delhi will also reduce garbage generated from construction and demolition work, Kejriwal said.

After Sunday's opening, there are now four such

plants in Delhi — Jahangirpuri, Rani Kheda, Shastri Park and Bakkarwala — that can recycle 5,000 tonnes of debris daily.

An official said: "Waste will be collected from all over Delhi and brought here for processing and recycling into tiles, bricks and more for reuse. The waste looks unpleasant but will now be transformed into new items that will make Delhi beautiful."

"After the demolition of any building or construction site, debris is kept aside either on the road or vacant plots. This leads to piles of debris in unusual places within the national capital. We have an aim of making Delhi clean," he said. "As of now, we cannot say that Delhi is beautiful since there are piles of litter," he said.

Delhi produces 6,500 tonnes



Delhi produces 6,500 tonnes of construction waste every day

of construction waste every day. "We have a plan to construct a new C&D plant in Okhla with a recycling capacity of 1,000 tonnes, and the capacity of the 4 plants will be increased slightly. In a short time, all the waste within Delhi will be recycled and reused after pro-

cessing here," he said. The chief minister said: "Ever since the Aam Aadmi Party government came to power in MCD, we have been hearing positive things. A year ago, MCD was infamous for corruption. It was heard that all employees were on

strike for their salaries. Many employees were not paid for several months. It was a terrible situation."

The BJP hit back and said that it was shocking to see Kejriwal talk of honesty. "Only a man like Arvind Kejriwal can shamelessly claim to be running an honest government when three of his colleagues are in jail for corruption," Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said.

Kapoor said the erstwhile BJP mayor of North MCD had laid foundation for one of the plants.

Kejriwal inaugurated that C&D plant at Burari (the Jahangirpuri plant) and tried to take credit for it, when the truth is that all the planning for this plant was done prior to March 2022 and the budget was also allocated in 2021-22," he said.

RapidX trains zooming past homes at Siddhartha Extension? Seniors fret

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesgroup.com



A SENIOR CITIZEN SAYS

It was NCRTC itself that came up with the three options. So, why does it want to go for the only option that affects our homes?

line for a change in alignment to affect the 'larger public interest'. The line is merely to take a metro coach to a shed."

Gupta said the residents might have lost the battle in Delhi High Court, but they plan to approach the Supreme Court.

"NCRTC should go for the first option where there is no displacement," demanded Nalin Tripathi, another resident. "Due to the construction work, our Gate No. 6 is being dismantled and the main entrance to the colony is getting blocked."

Another resident, VK Agarwal, added, "While NCRTC argues that our houses do not fall directly in the line of the viaduct, it must remember we are senior citizens. The construction, the noise hurt us. And who will be held responsible for possible injuries?"

While NCRTC refused to comment on the issue, the high court noted that of the three alignment options for the viaduct, the one chosen would affect eight houses. However, an alignment bypassing the colony would cost an extra Rs 35 crore, making the option financially less viable.

Covid main culprit as cataract strikes people below 45 yrs

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An increasing number of patients with cataracts are younger than 45 years of age and a key reason for this is Covid, some eye care specialists in Delhi have said, while warning that it was no more true that the clouding of the lenses only happened at an advanced age.

The most commonly seen cause of cataract is senile cataract that occurs with advanced age.

Common causes of early onset of cataracts in people less than 45 years of age include poorly-controlled medical conditions such as hypertension, eczema and diabetes, chronic use of steroids, previous eye trauma, and family history of early onset of cataract, or overexposure to the sun's UV rays.

The chairman and medical director of the Centre for Sight Group of Eye Hospitals, Dr Mahipal S Sachdev, said that 15% of the total cataract surgeries conducted nowadays are on people less than 45 years of age and 25% on people in less than 50 years of age. "One of the major contributors of getting cataract at early age is Covid because lots of people had high doses of steroids, which is known to be causing cataract," he said.

He added that the second prevalent cause was high myopia which can increase the risk of cataract. Another reason is the increasing incidence of diabetes.

Dr Rohit Saxena, professor at Dr R P Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, said: "The world over, age-related cataract as a cause of visual problems is seen in persons over 60 years of age, but in India it has been observed at a much younger age. Among the causes of

early onset cataract are diabetes, trauma to the eye, eye inflammation, high myopia and prolonged use of steroids. Over exposure to UV rays is also one of the risk factors." He added that glare from oncoming headlights at night was a common early symptom too.

Dr Ikdela Lal, cornea and refractory surgery specialist at Delhi Eye Centre and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said: "Cataract is increasingly being diagnosed among the younger population. Modern lifestyles, food choices, sedentary lifestyles and lack of exercise are leading to earlier diabetes and this is the most significant factor for this shift. Since diabetes is becoming very common among younger people, it has also contributed to increase in cataract in the younger age groups."

He further said that there is safe and advanced surgery possible to cure cataracts. The most delicate and microscopic parts can be easily handled, he added.

According to WHO, the leading cause of vision impairment and blindness at a global level are refractive errors and cataracts. Indian government successfully conducted 83.4 lakh cataract surgeries in 2022-2023.

► Preventable blindness: PG

Hotel owner, staff thrashed after spat over parking crash

Avishek.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Noida: Five men were arrested on Sunday for allegedly thrashing a hotel owner and his staff in a case of road rage outside Diamond Plaza mall in Greater Noida west.

Police said the clash occurred at 10pm on September 27, when a Swift owned by one of the accused hit the car of Hemwant Chauhan that was parked outside Hotel Hibiscus.

"A heated argument broke out between the accused and some of the hotel's employees, including its manager, after they were told to drive carefully. The general manager called Chauhan, the hotel owner, to the parking lot and tried to pacify the accused. But they were attacked as well," said Anil Rajput, the SHO of Bisrak police station.

Told to leave the hotel premises, the accused returned with more people who were armed with sticks and rods, Chauhan alleged. "They threatened to kill me and my staff. They said they were locals and would not let 'outsiders' like me do business here," he said.

Part of the brawl was captured by CCTV cameras installed outside the hotel and the mall. Footage shows a group of men arguing with each other. In minutes, the tension escalates and they trade blows. Some of the men — presumably the hotel staff — try to flee but are caught by the others and beaten up. The five arrested men were identified as Ravindra Yadav, Devraj, Santram, Kaushendra and Deepak — all of them from Greater Noida.

How early rain, Yamuna flooding impacted life cycle of dragonflies

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesgroup.com

cause suitable habitats to shrink. "Higher water temperatures cause the larvae to develop more quickly and affect their availability throughout the monsoon due to their short life span. It has also been observed that the individuals that develop in warmer water tend to develop smaller wings compared to the body size. It impacts their ability to move around and predate

harmful pests, including mosquitoes," said the survey report. As dragonflies and damselflies are predators of mosquitoes and need stable oxygen levels and clean water, they are considered to be reliable bioindicators of the health of an ecosystem.

According to the survey conducted from October 5-7, Ditch Jewel, Scarlet Skimmer, Wandering Glider, Coromandel marsh dart and Pied paddy skimmer;

Scarlet skimmer, Wandering Glider, Coromandel marsh dart and Pied paddy skimmer were among the commonly sighted species. The lowest number of species (5) were reported at Tilpath Valley biodiversity park. Kalindi biodiversity park recorded eight species this year, down from 16 last year, but it recorded the highest number of individuals at 2,563.

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PUC eagle eye: Cams at pumps to track vehicles

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

OFFICIAL SAYS

We have seen that around 20% of people coming to these four petrol pumps do not have valid PUCs. So, we have decided that the number (of pumps) would be increased to 25

New Delhi: The transport department will soon track and penalise vehicles with no pollution under control (PUC) certificates by putting up cameras in 25 petrol pumps that will capture a vehicle's number plate that will be tallied with data for a valid certificate.

As a pilot project, the department has this tracking provision in four fuel stations, which it has decided to 25 after seeing violators' data that shows that around 15-20% of vehicles entering the four petrol pumps did not have a valid PUC.

A senior department official said: "We have seen that around 20% of people coming to these four petrol pumps do not have valid PUCs. So, we have decided that the number (of pumps) would be increased to 25."

"These 25 stations are spread across Delhi," he said. The department did not give the locations, fearing it could lead to people avoiding these pumps and loss of business for the owners. He said that the pump owners were taken into confidence and the project should go live in ten days.

The department is also working on generating e-challans so that the violators are straightaway sent the challans. Currently, the department does it manually. "A private agency that has technical expertise is helping us with the data which is cross-examined by the department," he said.

The four pumps that were part of the pilot run are near Yamuna Vihar, Model Town and near North Delhi.

Around 2,500 vehicles enter these four stations daily, out of which over 400 are found to not have valid PUCs, officials said.

Empty magazine in luggage: HC quashes FIR against singer

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Taking a lenient view, Delhi High Court has quashed an FIR against a Bollywood singer booked by police last year after an empty magazine was recovered from his luggage at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Justice Amit Sharma found merit in the explanation given by Rahul Yadav, also known as singer Fizilpuria, that his personal security officer (PSO) had mistakenly put the magazine in his luggage.

"The petitioner has adequately explained the presence of the empty magazine in his bag.

His PSO holds a valid arms license and there is no reason to doubt that the recovered magazine was found on account of a genuine mistake. The petitioner's PSO has also given an affidavit stating that the recovered magazine was placed in the petitioner's bag on account of a genuine mistake as the same was required to be safely stored in his bag. As per the status report as well, nothing has come on record to doubt the explanation given on behalf of the petitioner," Justice Sharma observed, after hearing advocate Naveen Raheja, representing the singer.

In his plea, Yadav said the FIR was registered under Section 25 of the Arms Act at IGI Airport police station following the empty magazine's discovery and sought its quashing.

The police told the court that on October 15 last year one empty magazine was recovered from Yadav's hand baggage at the airport and he was unable to produce any valid documentation or license regarding the ammunition.

During probe, his PSO's statement was recorded who said he holds a valid arms license number issued by the competent authority in Gurgaon and is valid till 2027.

Advocate Raheja submitted that no material has come on record to demonstrate that Yadav was in 'conscious possession' of the recovered magazine or that he committed the alleged offence intentionally, with pre-planning and meditation.

At present there are over 950 petrol pumps in Delhi that issue PUCs.

A senior official of the transport department said this was primarily because many people have the tendency to not pay challans and run their vehicles. "Most of these people use their vehicles locally and avoid being caught but with the technology being installed in petrol pumps, they will not be able to dodge the authorities," he said. "A valid PUC is not just about following rules but preventing pollution," he said.

The department issued challans to 49,065 vehicles, according to the outcome budget report of the Delhi government for 2022-2023.

Under Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, every motor vehicle, including those conforming to BS-I/II/III/IV and those plying on CNG/LPG, has to carry a valid PUC certificate after the expiry of one year from the date of registration.

However, the validity is one year for four-wheeler BS IV-compliant vehicles and three months for others.

At present, Rs 60 is paid for pollution tests of two-wheelers in Delhi, Rs 80 for petrol-powered four-wheelers and Rs 100 for diesel-powered four-wheelers. A GST of 18% is levied separately.

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A Generation Divide?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

Every generation has its own wisdom and rules for bringing up the next one. And the norms of child rearing have changed dramatically over a single generation. For one, the parent today is not just a placid noun but a harried verb. Parenting is a job—one that comes without a playbook and one that keeps an entire generation bewildered and uncertain.

The earlier mode of parenting did not involve too much conscious thought. Children grew up, as plants do. They were doted upon, to be sure, but they were also left to their own devices. What stood out was how comfortable society was with exposing them to a casual form of cruelty.

The nicknames we were given, apart from being excruciatingly embarrassing and unreasonably durable, were often quite vicious. One's flaw was picked up and mercilessly pointed out. So, if one wore glasses, one was (in Delhi) a *chashish* or a *chochha*. If one were overweight, then one was obviously *mota* or *mota*.

Likewise for the colour of one's skin, height, or any perceived shortcomings in speech or appearance—these instantly became what one became known by.

Nursery rhymes and common ditties had this breezy nonchalance about gory happenings. For instance, a common ditty of children of my time would be familiar with was "Motu seth/sadak pelet/gaadi aayi/phat gaya/peet/gaadi ka number 88/humne dekhia India Gate". Not the world's greatest poetry, but an earworm if there was one. Across regions, we saw the same pattern repeating. In Gujarat, for instance, we had one about a fat cat wearing a sari who goes for a swim and gets eaten up by a crocodile. In Bengal, I remember a poem about Indi Bindi Shindi, who lost their lives because they sang through their noses. In English, of course, we all know what happened to Jack and Jill and Humpty Dumpty. Even the harmless Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses is actually about people sneezing and dying during the Great Plague.

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HC sets up panel to inspect safety standards in schools

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has set up a panel to inspect safety standards in city schools to ensure that students are not subjected to any crime.

A bench of Chief Justice S C Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula, in a recent order, constituted a Child Safety Monitoring Committee (CSMC) to ensure steps outlined in a Delhi government 2017 circular in this regard are enforced and monitored, while hearing a case relating to a three-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted by a school cleaner in Panchsheel Enclave in August.

The CSMC headed by the Chairperson is assigned the job of inspecting the schools in Delhi in respect of minimum standards of school safety and other ancillary matters related to the issue. The CSMC is granted six months' time to submit a report in the matter. The time of the CSMC shall also be extendable in case the CSMC is not able to submit a report within six months," the bench noted, taking suo moto cognizance of a TOI report on the incident.

The bench acted on the suggestion of Delhi government's standing counsel Santosh Tripathi, after examining the government's reply in

HC BENCH SAYS

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response to the court initiated PIL.

The panel will be headed by a former legal services officer R M Sharma with Ranjana Prasad of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and advocate Maini Brar as

members, said the court, directing the chief secretary to provide all necessary facilities to the panel "in order to monitor and carry out inspections in various schools in respect of school safety and other matters".

Earlier, asserting its "zero tolerance policy" towards such incidents, Delhi government informed HC that an FIR was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in the incident.

In a status report, the SHO concerned had submitted that the accused was arrested on August 3 and

sent to judicial custody. Directorate of Education contended that it has issued various circulars and guidelines to schools regarding safety and security of students. DOE said the accused's services have been terminated and police verification of all school staff has been mandated.

The school was in violation of the safety guidelines and a show-cause notice has been issued, DOE said, adding that to ensure students' safety, CCTVs have been installed CCTVs in 651 schools, out of 728, but livestreaming has not been started till date as SOPs for this are yet to be finalised.

Youth found dead in abandoned bldg

New Delhi: The body of a 23-year-old man was found inside a dilapidated and abandoned building in west Delhi's Inderpuri on Saturday. Police received a PCR call about a foul smell emanating from an abandoned building. A team went there and found the body in the debris. The deceased was identified as Chandan. "It appears that a part of the building may have fallen down while the victim was inside. No PCR call regarding the collapse was made, and no missing report of the victim had been filed by his family," police said. TNN

How Metro Passes The Muck Down Under

Special Trains Run In Tunnelled Sections On Temporary Track To Transport Excavated Sludge

Priyangi.Agarwal

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It is not the passenger trains that are the first to run on the Delhi Metro's newly constructed underground tracks. Special 'muck trains' run in the tunnelled sections long before the actual trains. The battery-operated muck trains run on special tracks laid behind the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) and collect the excavated sludge.

A conveyor belt connected to the cutter head of TBMs transfers the wet earth to these trains. "If the sludge falls on the tracks, even the muck train can topple. During the tunnelling process, water and foam are released into the soil to loosen it and the muck then falls into the cart via the conveyor belt," said an official of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. These special trains play an important role during the construction of tunnels, the official added.

Each cart has a capacity to accommodate 17 cubic metres of muck. On average, the entire train ferries around 70 cubic metres of muck released during the formation of one ring by the TBM. "Though the muck trains operate 24 hours a day, they do not run continuously because the sludge is generated during the casting of every tunnel ring," explained an official.

In a day, DMRC constructs around 10 rings. One ring of a tunnel is made with five segments and one key. It takes around 40 minutes to make one tunnel ring. In one tunnelling sec-

DEEP IMPACT

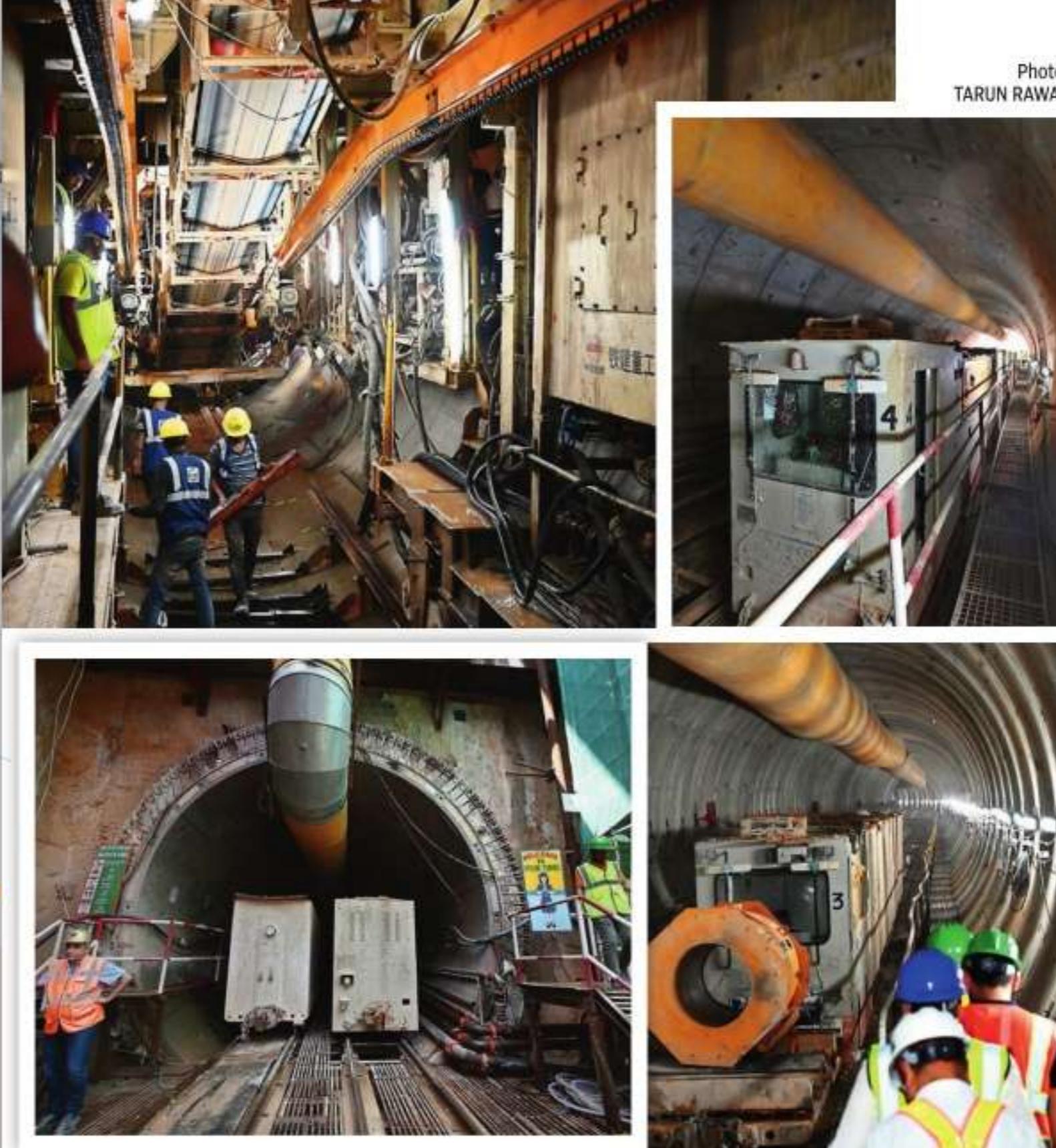
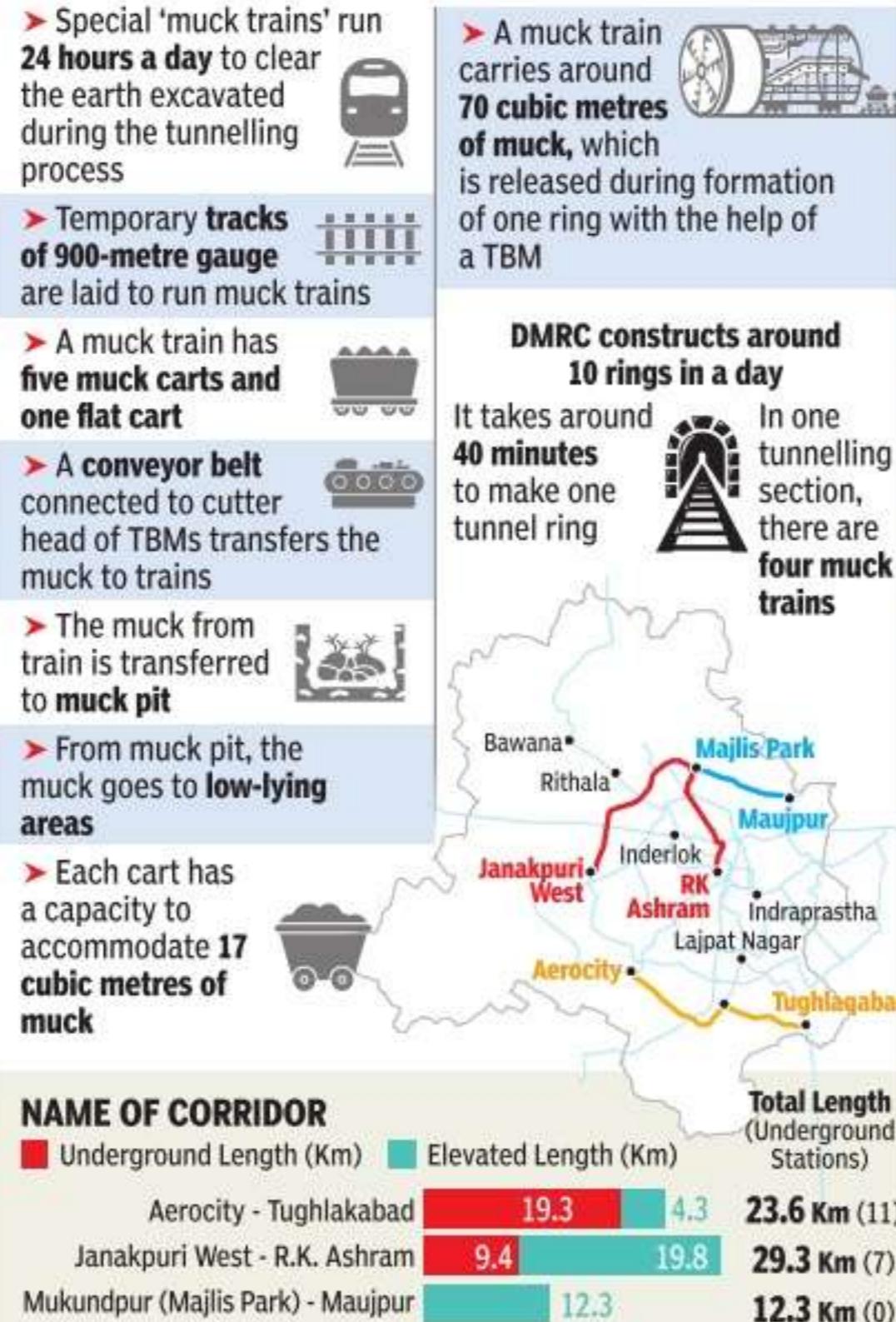


Photo: TARUN RAWAT

tion, there are four muck trains, including two for each tunnel on the up and down lines.

Run by trained loco operators, each muck train has five carts and one flat cart. Apart from carrying the sludge in the five carts, the flat cart is used to transport other mate-

rials, such as grease and pipes. After a train is filled with muck, it returns to the end of the tunnel at the construction site. With the help of an overhead gantry crane, the muck cart is lifted and its content transferred to the muck pit. "When the pit gets filled, it is

transported to low-lying areas. The muck from the construction site in Chhatarpur is being taken to Dera village in south-west Delhi," revealed a DMRC official.

DMRC is constructing around 28km of new underground corridors as part of the

Phase IV expansion of its network in which 65km of new lines are being laid for three different corridors. This includes 18 underground stations. The AeroCity-Tughlaqabad corridor will have a 19km underground section, while the Janakpuri West-RK Ash-

ram Marg section will have around 9km of underground tracks. The Majlis Park-Maupur segment will not have any underground section. Along with the rest of the corridors, the underground work is expected to be completed by 2025.

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Dated: 6th October, 2023

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project (MHSSP), H&FW Department, Government of Mizoram invites applications for the following Individual consultancy posts as advertised on 6th October 2023 at MHSSP website.

S/n	Name of post	No of posts	Place of posting	Remuneration per month
1	Project Officer	1	Aizawl, Mizoram	Rs. 85,000/-
2	Medical Officers for Mizoram State Health Care Society (MSHCS)	5	Aizawl, Mizoram	Rs. 80,000/-
3	Data Entry Operators		Details to be provided in MHSSP Website	

Qualified and interested candidates can submit their applications with soft copies of their bio-data, certificates and job experience electronically through Google Form (Link) only on or before 21st Oct, 2023 and download the Terms of Reference available at <https://www.mzhssp.in>. For any further updates, please visit <https://www.mzhssp.in> or contact @ Email: procurement@pmu.mzhssp.in / +91-7005298129.

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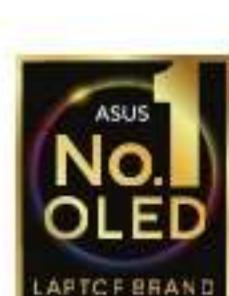
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CONG MP GOGOI PUSHES FOR CASTE CENSUS IN ASSAM ON LINES OF BIHAR & RAJASTHAN



Trudeau raises
Nijjar issue
during talks
with UAE prez

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau raised the issue of alleged Indian involvement in the killing of Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

India has strong ties with UAE and Trudeau's move is being seen as another attempt to apply pressure on India to join the probe into the killing even though Canada is yet to share with India any evidence about the alleged role of Indian agents.

Trudeau raised the issue in a phone conversation with the UAE president about the Hamas attack on Israel. "We also spoke about India and the importance of upholding — and respecting — the rule of law," he later said on X, formerly Twitter. Trudeau had raised the issue with UK PM Rishi Sunak emphasising on the same point about the significance of following international law. **TNN**

17 women, 5 girls drown in 9 Bihar dists during ritual

Patna: A total of 17 women and five teenage girls drowned over the past 24 hours across nine districts in Bihar, with most deaths occurring on Saturday when mothers gathered at rivers and ponds to take part in a sacred ritual known as Jivitputrika when mothers observe a 24-hour fast and pray for the well-being of their children, reports **Madan Kumar**.

A communiqué issued by the chief minister's office on Sunday revealed the death count and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of each victim.

The five teenage girls drowned in the Sone river near Bahiyara village of Bhojpur district. Four women met a similar fate in Jehanabad, three in Patna, three in Rohtas, two in Darbhanga, two in Nalanda, and one each in Kaimur, Madhepura, and Aurangabad.

NEET aspirant found hanging in his hostel in Raj's Sikar

Jaipur: An 18-year-old preparing for medical entrance NEET was found hanging in his private hostel in Rajasthan's Sikar Saturday, with initial probe pointing to suspected suicide.

Nitin Faujdar, a native of Nadbai town in the state's Bharatpur district, had enrolled in a coaching centre in Sikar this June to prepare for the exam.

The case adds to the scores of such student deaths this year in Rajasthan.

Police said Faujdar's roommate had gone to classes on Saturday but didn't see him there, leading him to believe he may have stayed back in the hostel.

"When the roommate returned, Faujdar didn't open the door despite many knocks. The roommate then peered through a window and found Faujdar hanging from a ceiling fan," said a police official. **TNN**

SRK's security raised to Y+ after death threats

Ahmed Ali@timesgroup.com

SECURITY COVER BREAK-UP



Actors With Govt Security Cover

Y+: Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan
Nov 2022 | Government upgrades security of Salman Khan to Y+ category following threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang

Oct 2023 | Shah Rukh's given Y+ security following intel that he has received death threats from an underworld gang

X: Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar and Anupam Kher

security cover which entitles three PSOs in 3 shifts 24x7.

Shah Rukh previously had only two police constables for his security.

On October 5, the state home department issued a

letter to senior police officers and departments, including the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), stating: "In view of the recent imminent and probable threat to actor Shah Rukh Khan, all unit commanders

Z+ Bulletproof car, 24 Personal Security Officers (PSOs) working in 3 shifts 24x7, 10 armed escorts in shifts 24x7, 10 armed guards at residence, 4 day watchers and 1 night watcher, 1 police inspector/sub-inspector, 6 friskers, 6 trained drivers 24x7

Z 6 PSOs in 3 shifts 24x7, 12 armed escorts in shifts 24x7, 10 armed guards at residence, 2 watchers, 3 trained drivers

Y+ 6 PSOs in 3 shifts 24x7, 5 armed guards at residence

Y 3 PSOs in 3 shifts 24x7, 5 armed guards at residence

X 3 PSOs in 3 shifts 24x7

are requested to provide Y+ with an escort scale of security on payment basis with immediate effect, till next high level committee recommendation and review committee decision, during his

Meth trail in India traced to man with D-gang ties in Pak

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kerala woman working as caregiver hurt in rocket attack

Kozhikode: A woman hailing from Payavoor in Kerala's Kannur, who has been working as a caregiver at Ashkelon in Israel for the last five years, has been injured in a rocket attack by Hamas militants. Sheeba Anand, 40, was injured after a rocket hit the house where she was providing care to an elderly person on Saturday afternoon.

"She was hurled out of the building in the impact of the attack and has sustained multiple injuries. She has undergone one surgery. She has been shifted to another hospital," Sheeba, sister of Sheeba, told **TOI**. She added that she has been told Sheeba requires one more surgery. Her condition is said to be stable.

Sheeba said after her family could not reach Sheeba, they enquired with her colleagues and came to know she was injured. Sheeba said she spoke to her sister on Sunday.

Meghalaya pilgrims cross over to Egypt from Israel
A group of 27 from Meghalaya, who had gone on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was stranded in Bethlehem, has crossed over to Egypt. The Meghalaya CM is in touch with the EAM to ensure their safe return. **TNN**

As sirens blare, we all rush to bomb shelters: Indian student
Vivek Narayanan @timesgroup.com

Chennai: The calm of Saturday morning was abruptly shattered by deafening wails of air raid sirens in Tel Aviv, signalling the impending missile strike by Hamas. Manoj Shanmugam Sundaram, a Tamil Nadu native and PhD student at a Tel Aviv university, and his friends swiftly sought refuge in a nearby bomb shelter, where they have remained since.

"I could hear gunshots and explosions initially... I have not stepped out and I have been cooking my food. Usually, a few minutes before the attack, the sirens go off, and everyone gets inside the bomb shelters," 28-year-old Manoj said over the phone.

Like Manoj, numerous students and workers from different parts of Tamil Nadu have taken refuge in bomb shelters throughout the city. Their worried parents are making frantic calls, concerned for their safety.

The conflict has also impacted tourists from Chennai. "A team of 96 tourists who are on a pilgrimage are stuck in Egypt as entry to Israel has been blocked. But they are safe and staying in a resort," said Joseph TT, director of Oasis Tours India Pvt Ltd, the tour organiser.

The searches come when the Trinamool is on a round-the-clock vigil outside Raj Bhavan after party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's Delhi visit to press for central funds for the state.

visit/engagements and stay in your jurisdiction to avoid any untoward incident." **TOI** has a copy of the letter.

A top police officer said the security upgrade for Shah Rukh has been done by the government as the officials of the review committee, which annually reviews the threat perception to celebrities and provides police protection accordingly, have been busy with monitoring the law-and-order situation during the festival season.

As per the Maharashtra government's revised police protection policy in 2017, security is provided to those private citizens who have a real threat to life. These private protectees, including celebrities, have to pay a fee in advance or deposit a bank guarantee for protection from Mumbai Police. Sources said till the review committee takes a call on Shah Rukh's protection, he will have to pay for the police security.

Twenty-six seats of the council went to polls on October 4. The administration nominates four members with voting rights to the 30-member council.



tani security agencies, and is sheltered in Karachi. He travels the world freely," said a Gujarat ATS officer probing the December 2022 case.

Based on intel inputs, a Coast Guard team had intercepted a Pakistani boat, Al Soheli, off the Gujarat coast on December 26. There were 10 people on board. A search yielded 40kg of heroin, six Italy-made pistols, 12 magazines and 120 cartridges. It transpired that Haji loaded the consignment from Gwadar port in Pakistan.

Digging deeper into the operations, Gujarat ATS found that drug smugglers were switching from heroin to synthetic drugs like methamphetamine.

"Making methamphetamine is cheaper and less risky than cultivating opium to produce heroin," an ATS officer said.

BJP likely to field Raman Singh from Rajnandgaon seat

Akhilesh Singh @timesgroup.com



New Delhi: Former Chhattisgarh chief minister and BJP national vice-president Raman Singh is likely to contest the assembly elections again as the party leadership is gearing up to announce another list of candidates for the state.

"Singh is a senior leader and the party leadership has conveyed its desire that he should contest the polls," a party source said.

Singh, the longest-serving CM of Chhattisgarh, who was in office for three consecutive terms from 2003 to 2018, is likely to be fielded from Rajnandgaon seat, where he is the incumbent MLA, party sources said.

Although BJP lost the assembly polls in 2018 when Singh was CM, sources said he was the face of the party for a long time and the saffron outfit was keen to utilise his experience and also appeal in a section of voters.

The latest central elec-

Cong MLA in MP finally joins BJP 2 yrs after saffron switch

Bhopal: Congress MLA Sachin Birla, who had crossed over to BJP in October 2021 but hadn't given up Congress membership, finally joined BJP on Sunday with the Madhya Pradesh election dates to be announced any day now.

"Whatever responsibility the party gives me, I will discharge it with full devotion," Birla, the MLA from Barwaha seat, said after joining BJP in the presence of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state BJP president VD Sharma.

Birla had switched to BJP in October 2021, just before the Khandwa Lok Sabha by-polls. He stood on the dais with Chouhan, who was welcomed into the party and even campaigned for its candidate Gyaneshwar Patil, who eventually won. Birla also actively took part in prominent BJP party programmes.

Opposition had appealed twice to speaker Girish Gaumtam to cancel Birla's membership in the House but to no avail. For two years, the party was in a political dilemma as Birla didn't quit. **TNN**

CBI searches homes of TMC minister, MLA & other netas

Rohit Khanna & Tamoghna Banerjee @timesgroup.com



Kolkata: CBI on Sunday unleashed multiple teams of investigators, escorted by central forces, on a host of Trinamool politicians, searching the homes of West Bengal urban development minister and Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim, and veteran politician and Kamarhati MLA Madan Mitra, apart from nearly a dozen former and present office-bearers of municipalities, in connection with the municipality recruitment scam probe.

The searches come when the Trinamool is on a round-the-clock vigil outside Raj Bhavan after party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's Delhi visit to press for central funds for the state.

bility. "We have been slapped with false cases during the Left Front regime, but never was I insulted so much," said Hakim after the officers left.

"Why so much harassment?

Am I a thief? Is it because I will not bow down before BJP?

I could not attend the shradh (40th-day mourning)

of my brother today."

He said he had given officers "every document they asked for, including identity proofs, property details and even a list of all jewellery in the house".

Mitra joked about the personal nature of questioning:

"They asked me if I had one or two wives. It is official, on record. I told them they can investigate that."

TMC, meanwhile, reacted saying the searches were part of a plan and a political shield to defend the BJP.

The CBI was at Hakim's Chetla house for nearly ten

hours. "We have been slapped with false cases during the Left Front regime, but never was I insulted so much," said Hakim after the officers left.

"Why so much harassment? Am I a thief? Is it because I will not bow down before BJP? I could not attend the shradh (40th-day mourning) of my brother today."

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Besides Hakim and Mitra, some of the prominent politicians searched were Dum Dum chairperson Harendra Singh, Barrackpore's former chairperson Tripti Majumdar, Krishnanagar's former chairperson Asim Sarha and Halisahar's ex-chairperson Anshuman Roy.

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Central Government's NITI Aayog Reports “40 Lakh People Rise Above Poverty Line in Chhattisgarh”

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Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

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45.16 lakh domestic consumers benefiting from 50% reduction in their electricity bills

35 kg of rice to every family each month Universal PDS Scheme ensuring food security for 99.9% of the population

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

NIT No- 54/G/1/Mis/Bpl.Z/2019(Year 2023) Bhopal, Date 06-10-2023
Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal https://mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lach)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2023_PWDRLB_315431_1	Sehore	Plan	Construction of Sehore Ring Road	1st Call	3289.16	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
2	2023_PWDRLB_315432_1	Sehore	Plan	Construction of 4 Lane Road from Sehore Bilquisganj Bhadhdha Road Length 22.50 Km.	1st call	8060.55	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only
				Total		11349.71	

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 23/10/2023 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.

G-21137/23

Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone)

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी।

P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh



Directorate, Urban Administration & Development, M.P., Bhopal

Palika Bhawan, Near 6 No. Bus Stop Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal - 462016

Website: www.murban.gov.in

क्रमांक / UAD/2023/16985 भोपाल, दिनांक : 04/10/2023

Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT)

Directorate of Urban Administration and Development (UADD), Bhopal invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the "Selection of System Integrator for State-Wide Implementation of Automated Building Plan Approval System (ABPAS 3.0)". The Bidders shall submit Bids on "Item rate Basis" for all of the following Project/Work(s):

S. No.	Work	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in(INR)	Cost of Bid Document in(INR)	Project Duration
1	Selection of System Integrator for State-Wide Implementation of Automated Building Plan Approval System (ABPAS 3.0)	₹ 20,00,000/-	₹ 50000.00 + (Processing fee Non-Refundable)	7 Year

- Detailed NIT & Bid Documents can be seen at the website https://mptenders.gov.in and can be downloaded from the same.
- The Bid Documents can be purchased only online from 21/10/2023 to 06/11/2023 on 17:30 Hrs.
- Any subsequent addendum/ corrigendum shall be published only at website https://mptenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Addi. Commissioner
G-21132/23 Directorate, Urban Administration and Development
कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी।

Superintending Engineer

Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

No. /96M(3)/E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2023-24 Dated

E-Procurement Inviting Tender Notice

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following tenders of Item wise rate bids online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from dt. 12.10.2023 to 21.10.2023 up to 12.00 PM, as per the prescribed SBD. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 21.10.2023 at 12:30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day respectively, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Work Completion	Tender document fee including GST	Contractors Category
1	In anticipation					
1	Widening & Strengthening of Delhi Kanpur road (ODR) (NH 91) Ch. 83.746 to 90.785	1800.00	30.00	12 Month	Tender Cost- Rs. 2300.00+G.S.T. Rs. 414.0=2714.00	A (Road Work)

- Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. No. 5 with including rainy season.
- The Tender Document fee & Bid Security must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
- All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
- Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
- Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>.
- Bidder has to upload required documents as per Government order No. 879(1) / 23-7-2020 P.W. Anubhag-7 Lucknow Dt. 25.08.2020 for "Prabari Application" in Chanakya Software by accessing hyperlink available on <http://roc.uppwd.gov.in> for Tendering Process.
- Contractor should have experience of executing work with hot mix plant. (Hemant Singh) Executive Engineer C.D. PWD Khurja

S.K. Gautam Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D. Bulandshahr

UPID-195436/07.10.2023 www.upgov.nic.in



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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION RAJOURI

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**e-NIT No. 102 of 2023-24 Dated 05.10.2023**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, invites e-tenders (in 2 covers) on item rate basis from Original pump manufacturers/memorandum of understanding with principal pump manufacturers/ their authorized dealers/ registered in DIC / reputed contractors (electromechanical works) of MES/CPWD/Water works corporations of different states for below mentioned work at Water Supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on Turnkey basis.

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover I consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover II consisting of Financial Bid, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Particular of the works	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit (in lakh)	Bid validity	Time of completion of work (Days)
1	Providing, installation, testing, commissioning of pumping machinery along with electro mechanical components at different locations of WSS SEIYA under JJM	137.50	1000.00 (Rs. One Thousand only)	1.00 lakh (Rs. One lakh only)	180 days	150 days

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

Tender inviting authority : Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.

CRITICAL DATES :

- Publish Date 06.10.2023
- Document Download/sale start date 06.10.2023
- Date of Pre-bid meeting 07.10.2023
- Bid submission start date 08.10.2023
- Bid submission end date 25.10.2023
- Date of Bid opening 26.10.2023

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

-sd/-

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division Rajouri.

Dated: 05.10.2023

DIP No:DIPK-J9274/23/07/10/2023

No. PHE/PMDR/4089-4100

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division Rajouri.

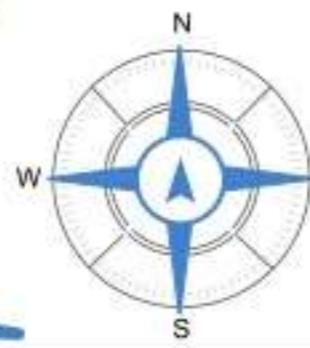
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Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag.

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Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag.



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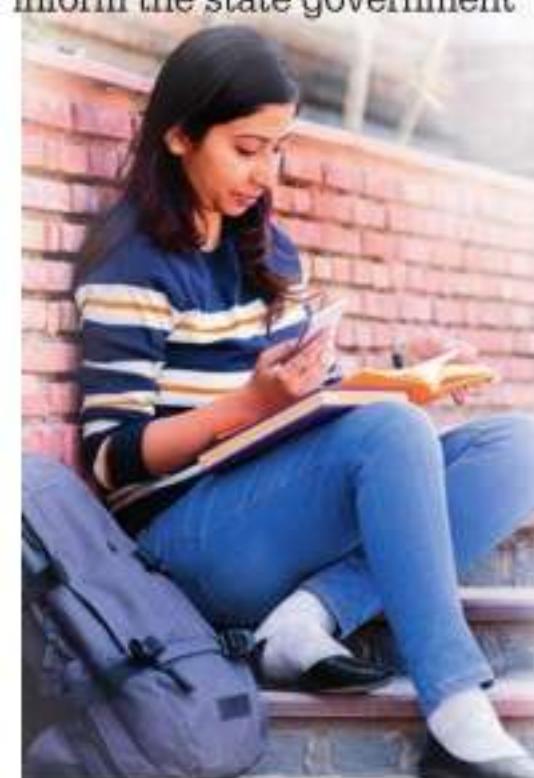
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Delhi has eight unrecognised institutes as per UGC 'fake' universities list

Priyadarshini.Gupta
@timesgroup.com

The University Grants Commission (UGC) recently released a list of 20 'fake' universities in India, with Delhi having the highest number with eight unrecognised institutes. The list also includes universities from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Despite the UGC bringing out the 'fake universities' list twice every year, several new institutes keep finding a name in the list. Manish Ratnakar Joshi, secretary, UGC, says, "We are constantly monitoring this issue. Based on the complaints, we first enquire about the institute in question and cross-check the details. We declare the institute fake only after we find out that the institute has non-genuine functions. We release the list of fake universities in the public domain to alert students of such institutes."

When asked if the UGC carried out any crackdown measures so far, he says, "We do not have any legal authority to take such measures. We inform the state government



No decline in enrolments, Delhi govt refutes RTI

Shuddhanta.Patra
@timesgroup.com

The number of students in Delhi government schools in the current academic year 2023-24 has decreased by more than 30,000 as compared to the previous session, according to an RTI reply. The number of students in government schools in the 2022-23 academic session was 17,89,385, while this academic year it decreased to 17,58,986, which is 30,399 less than the previous session. The response was received under the Right to Information (RTI) Act RTI from the Directorate of Education (DoE), Delhi.

Shailendra Sharma, principal advisor to Director Education, Government of Delhi, stated that the admission numbers mentioned in the RTI are 'interim' as the enrolment continues till December. "Last year's figure is the final enrolment number calculated in December 2022. This year's number is interim, which means it is the number as of date. Admissions

The teacher-student ratio in government schools is a concern, as a class of over 120 students is often managed by one teacher

are going on and will continue till the end of December 2023. So, a difference of 30,000, even at this interim stage, cannot be considered as a huge decline, considering that it is not even 2% of last year's enrolment. Based on interim numbers, policy perspectives cannot be drawn," said Sharma.

Aprajita Gautam, President, Delhi Parents Association (DPA) claimed that the number of students in Delhi government schools is decreasing every year because of its low-quality education. "Parents are shifting their children from government schools to low-budget private schools as the quality of education is better. The infrastructure in government schools has improved but it's still not at par with the private schools. The parents have complained that most government school teachers are unavailable and are not sincere," said Gautam.

The UGC publishes the list twice in a year to ensure students do not fall for such fraudulent institutes

authorities as they are empowered to act." The UGC has written to the state governments' department of higher education and principal secretaries, urging them to take appropriate action against the fake institutions in their respective states. "In 2017, there were eight fake institutes in Uttar Pradesh, however, after UGC informed the state government, they pulled down five of such unauthorised institutes," he adds.

UGC Act 1956

Only institutes created under the Central/State/Provincial Act, as defined in Section 23 of the UGC Act, can use the word 'university' in their name. In a letter to these 20 universities, the UGC conveyed that it figures in the list of 'fake universities' as they are not a 'university' within the meaning of Section 2(f) or Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, but engaged in the business of conferring degrees or 'using the word university with its name to defraud and cheat innocent students by awarding fake degrees'.

Delhi tops the list as there is a greater number of students here, says Joshi. "The prevalent cyber fraud in Delhi makes it a hub to dupe students into taking admissions to unrecognised institutes," adds Joshi. Students who graduate from unrecognised universities will not receive a recognised degree and may face difficulty in finding jobs.

Med students in Philippines demand one-time exemption from FMGL 2021

NMC advisory in March 2022 states that the BS course offered by the Philippines universities is not equivalent to MBBS in India

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesgroup.com

More than 200 parents gathered at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to protest against the NMC's March 2022 notification that disqualified Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) pursuing MBBS in the Philippines from practising medicine in India. The protesting parents have asked the government for a one-time exemption for students who went to the Philippines in 2020. The parents later staged a protest in front of the NMC office in Dwarka, New Delhi, where they did not receive any response from the officials.

The MD course in the Philippines is of 48 months duration while the MBBS in India takes more than 54 months

any foreign medical qualification/course not equivalent to the MBBS course in India, cannot be considered as eligible to practise Medicine in India.

A basic course

The BS course is the pre-medical course in the Philippines, after the completion of which the candidates have to appear in the NMAT to seek admission in the MD course (graduate/primary medical course being equivalent to MBBS). Most parents were assured by the authorities that the FMGL 2021 regulations would be applied prospectively, however, they were shocked to find out that the rules were being applied retrospectively and this would affect their sons/daughters - who went to study BS

in the Philippines before the FMGL regulations were announced. The NMC further says that the time frame of the MBBS in the Philippines is not the same as in India, which is one of the reasons why BS is not equivalent to the MBBS in India. "MBBS after class XII is of four and a half years duration in India, whereas BS in the Philippines is equivalent to class XI and XII, so there is no parity. Ideally, FMGL 2021 regulations should be applied prospectively and not retrospectively. However, BS is a basic course and most students do not even clear NEET when they opt to study in the Philippines," says a health ministry official on the condition of anonymity.

Lack of reciprocal agreement

The students who went to pursue BS in 2019-20 were left in the lurch after the NMC notification. The MD course in the Philippines is 48 months, while the MBBS in India takes more than 54 months. NMC demands a li-

cense to practise in the country from where they have pursued MBBS. The Philippines does not allow foreign students to write the licensing exam unless their home country has a reciprocal agreement with the Philippines. "India does not share a reciprocal agree-

ment, so students cannot write the licensing exam. Hence, their education will not be considered valid in India," says Anuj Goyal, co-founder, Get My University. Over 15,000 students will be affected by the NMC's March 2022 advisory. One of the parents at the

protest site, Krishna Yadav, Mumbai, whose daughter Kashish Krishna Yadav is pursuing MD from AMA School of Medicine, Philippines, says, "We want a one-time exemption for the students who went to study BS in the Philippines before 2021."



■ Parents of Indian medical students studying in the Philippines protesting at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi

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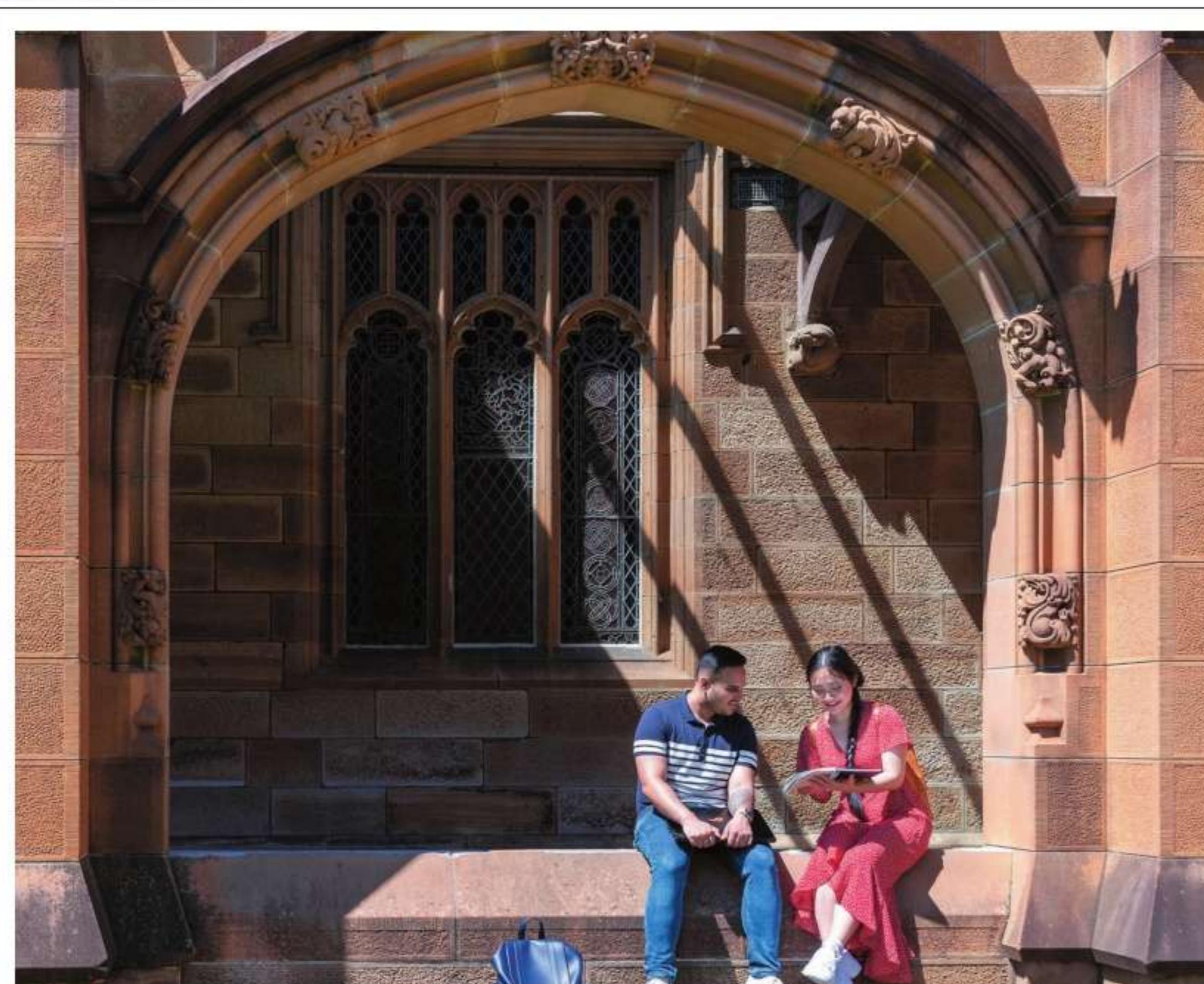
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Cong condemns Israel attack, also highlights Palestinian issue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Stopping well short of using the 'terror' word, Congress on Sunday condemned the "brutal attacks" on Israel, while asserting that the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people should be resolved through dialogue. The party said violence could not be the solution to any problem.

The opposition party's comment was in sharp contrast to the government's stand on Saturday, where PM Narendra Modi called the Hamas offensive "terrorist attacks in Israel".

Congress spokesman Jai-ram Ramesh said, "Congress condemns the brutal attacks



Israeli tanks amassed near the Lebanon border on Sunday

on the people of Israel. Congress has always believed that the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a life of self-respect, equality and dignity must be fulfilled only through a process of dialogue and negotiations, while ensuring the legitimate national security interests of the Israeli people. Violence of any type never provides a solution and must stop."

In June 2021, when a global controversy erupted over the Israeli forces' storming of the Al Aqsa compound, Congress had issued a statement expressing concern over "press reports indicating a perceptible shift in the Indian position between the Indian intervention in the UN Security Council on May 16 and our statement in the UN General Assembly on May 20". The party had said the initial statement was appropriate in noting that "intrusion by Israeli forces into the holy Al Aqsa mosque during Ramzan prayers ruptured the delicate peace in the region", but its omission in the UNGA was "incomprehensible".

Armed forces sealed ₹23.5k cr deals in last 1 yr amid LAC row

Emergency Procurements Include Missiles, Drones & Radars

Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com



Unlike the first three tranches that saw deals with Russia, Israel and France, the last procurements were only from domestic firms

New Delhi: The armed forces have inked contracts worth around Rs 23,500 crore under emergency capital procurements in just the past one year to plug critical operational gaps amid the continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which now is into its fourth year.

The emergency procurements (EPs) include a wide array of missiles and remotely-controlled weapons, loiter and precision-guided munitions, drones and counter-drone systems, satellite and other communication systems, surveillance equipment and radars, personal protection gear and all-terrain and high-mobility reconnaissance vehicles.

"The revenue EPs, which are also substantial, are separate. EPs followed a fast-track procedure. They are different from big capital acquisition cases that follow the normal long-winded procurement procedure," a defence establishment source said.

The armed forces have reason to be pleased. The Army alone chalked up over 70 capital acquisition deals worth nearly Rs 11,000 crore in the EP-4 tranche from September 2022 to September 2023. The IAF, in turn, inked 65 contracts worth over Rs 8,000 crore, while it was 35 cases worth Rs 4,500 crore for the Navy in this timeframe, sources said. Interestingly, unlike the first three tranches that also saw deals with countries like Russia, Israel and France, the last EP-4 was reserved for procurements only from domestic manufacturers.

Earlier, apart from domestic sources, the EPs ranged from the French 'Hammer' air-to-ground precision-guided munitions for the new Ra-

fale fighter jets, which are designed to destroy bunkers and hardened shelters at a range of 20 to 70-km, to Israeli 'Heron' Mark-2 unmanned aerial vehicles and 'Spike' anti-tank guided missiles.

The government had first delegated capital and revenue financial powers for a limited time to the Army, Navy and IAF for "emergency and critical contracts" to build ammunition stocks and spares in the aftermath of the Uri terror attack in September 2016, which had led to heightened tensions with Pakistan. Those emergency powers were later renewed after the multiple Chi-

nese intrusions into eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020.

Overall, the Army has inked 140 deals worth Rs 17,500 crore under the capital EP mechanism, which includes 68 deals worth Rs 6,500 crore in the first three tranches.

With the operational utili-

ty of drones and AI-enabled drone swarms being driven home by recent conflicts ranging from Armenia-Azerbaijan to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine one, the Army spent close to Rs 1,500 crore for 14 projects on drones and counter-drone systems in the first three EP tranches. Another Rs 2,000 crore was then spent on 10 more such projects in EP-4.

Other EP-4 projects for the Army included Rs 1,300 crores for weapon systems, Rs 1,500 crore for ISR (intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance), Rs 1,800 crore for communication and other equipment, Rs 1,300 crore for protective equipment and Rs 3,100 crore for about 25 projects on survivability and training.

"The EP initiative has been pivotal in addressing immediate operational requirements," another source said.

Zelensky aide dials Doval on peace summit in Ukraine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's top aide Andriy Yermak spoke to NSA Ajit Doval about the President's peace formula and the global peace summit that Ukraine wants to host later this year. He also briefed Doval about the current situation in Ukraine.

While there was no readout of the phone conversation by India, Ukraine said the two officials also "touched upon" the importance of intensifying contacts between the defence ministers of the two countries. Yermak is the chief of Zelensky's office. He said the call took place on the President's instructions.

"Andriy Yermak informed his interlocutor about the current security situation, including the recent ter-



Doval and Andriy Yermak 'touched upon' the importance of boosting contacts between the defence ministers of the two countries

rorist acts by Russia that resulted in the loss of a significant number of Ukrainian civilians," said Zelensky's office in a statement.

"The head of the Office of the President of Ukraine and the adviser to the Prime Minister of India agreed to continue the dialogue and coordinate positions on important international agenda items," said the statement.

Peace Formula and the organisation of the Global Peace Summit. He said that the Ukrainian side has already held nine thematic meetings at the ambassadorial level dedicated to specific points of the Peace Formula, and with each meeting, the circle of participants is expanding, including countries from the Global South," it added.

Zelensky, who wants to visit India, has on several occasions in the past sought support from PM Narendra Modi for his peace formula that he proposed at the G20 summit in Bali.

"The head of the Office of the President of Ukraine and the adviser to the Prime Minister also reported on the preparation for the upcoming third meeting of national security advisers, which will focus on the implementation of the Ukrainian

Rajnath to visit Italy, France this week to boost defence ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



In Paris, Rajnath Singh will co-chair the fifth annual India-France defence dialogue

Uttarkashi: A 4 km-long double-lane road is proposed to be built by the Army's Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to connect to the Gangotri national highway in Uttarakhand district, reports Abhyudaya Kotnala. Once completed, the road will help bypass a treacherous 21-km stretch of the highway at Sukki Top, which has steep inclines due to which vehicles on the route are often inconvenienced. The bypass will not only shorten the distance to Gangotri shrine — one of the Char Dhams — by at least 10 km but also ease the movement of military convoys towards the India-China border in Neling Valley, officials said.

BRO commander, Vivek Shrivastav, told TOI, "After a recent survey, a proposal for constructing the bypass route was finalised. We are preparing a detailed project report (DPR) now and the construction work is expected to start from next year. It will be part of the Char Dham all-weather road project."

two-nation tour and hold wide-ranging talks with his Italian counterpart Guido Crisutto. In Paris, Singh will co-chair the fifth annual India-France defence dialogue with his French counterpart Sebastian Lecornu.

"India and France recently celebrated 25 years of strategic partnership. Both countries enjoy a deep and wide-ranging bilateral defence relationship, including significant industrial cooperation," an official said. "In both Rome and Paris, Singh will also interact with the defence industry CEOs and senior representatives to discuss potential opportunities for industrial cooperation," he added.

IAF chief pushes for faster adoption of tech

Rajeev.Mani@timesgroup.com



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari unveils the new IAF ensign during the annual day parade in Prayagraj on Sunday

The IAF chief pushed for faster adoption of technology. "We must strive to be leaders in technology and innovation and invest in cutting-edge research, development and acquisition. Innovation must become part of our DNA, enabling us to adapt to emerging threats and challenges with ease. The force structure we develop must be future-ready," Chaudhari said.

This was the first IAF parade commanded by a woman, Group Capt Shaliza Dhama. Chaudhari underscored

its significance. "Our Air Force is recognised as a service that provides excellent opportunities to bond together as a community, with newer avenues for women empowerment," he said.

This was also the first IAF parade where an all-women

contingent, composed of the newly inducted Agniveer Vayu women, marched with their male counterparts.

In the context of readiness, the IAF chief flagged rapidly shifting realities. "There is a need to assess ourselves candidly and to address any inhibitions to change," Chaudhari said.

From multi-domain operations to hybrid warfare, there was a need to recognise that modern warfare transcends traditional boundaries. "The world is changing at a rapid pace and we must meet all new challenges coming our way. The Indian Air Force is not just a military force, it is a symbol of our nation's collective strength and determination," said Chaudhari, quoting a shloka (verse) from the Bhagwati Gita.

Educational TIMES

ADMISSION ALERTS

IISER Kolkata invites applications for International Postgraduate Merit Scholarship 2024. Eligibility: The academic programme must commence at the University of Sheffield in the autumn of 2024. Deadline: May 13, 2024. Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2jkjyavz>

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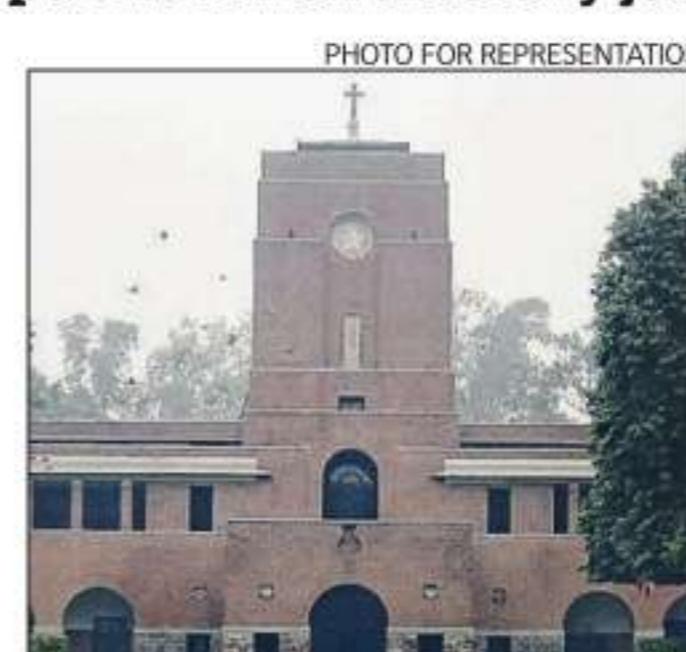
FOCUS

DU introduces MA in Hindu Studies along with Data Analytics, Commerce as minor

The curriculum has dual options which diversify job opportunities for students

Ayushi.Gupta1
@timesgroup.com

The University of Delhi (DU) in its centenary year has set up a Centre For Hindu Studies offering an MA in the subject in the academic year 2023, along with a few more new centres for studies. Registration for the course is on and the University has received applications from a wide range of graduates



from across the country. The programme aims to combine traditional knowledge of Hindu philosophy with contemporary subjects such as Computer Science, Data Analytics, Commerce, and Political Science as a minor. "The course has a major focus on theoretical curriculum, which will include the essence of Hindu dharma, Upanishads and Vedas. It will also include a mandatory paper on Western methods such as critical and analytical theory, papers on Ramayana and Mahabharata and a paper on English or Sanskrit language," says Malhotra. The curriculum has been designed in a manner that is open for students from varied fields so that students from any discipline can apply for the course.

Several new jobs are being created in the realm of religious studies, thus the pass-out students will have multiple opportunities.

"After finishing the course, students can take the National Eligibility Test (NET) to work as assistant professors or research fellows.

Being a Hindu life coach is yet another job that is gaining popularity.

Apart from this, students will be able to continue with their minor degree as a career option as offered by the university," says Malhotra.

University, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University have already been offering courses on Hindu Studies. India is relatively late in introducing the subject in educational institutes. India has a Hindu majority, but the subject is taught only in 20 universities so far, says Malhotra.

The course is in line with NEP 2020. Besides religious philosophy, the students will study contemporary subjects such as Computer Science, Data Analytics, Commerce, and Political Science as a minor. "The course has a major focus on theoretical curriculum, which will include the essence of Hindu dharma, Upanishads and Vedas. It will also include a mandatory paper on Western methods such as critical and analytical theory, papers on Ramayana and Mahabharata and a paper on English or Sanskrit language," says Malhotra. The curriculum has been designed in a manner that is open for students from varied fields so that students from any discipline can apply for the course.

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Education TIMES

BRAINSTRAIN

>> First three correct entries will win a 'pen drive.' Send in your entries only through e-mail with your Name, Address, Email, Tel no. and Profession to tariq.iqbali@timesgroup.com

Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error. The error will be in one part of the sentence. Identify and mark the letter of the erroneous part as your answer

1. (a) Yash Chopra, (b) which helmed iconic films, (c) breathed his last, (d) on October 21, 2012.
2. (a) Sanborn had designed, (b) the project, (c) before the Berlin wall, (d) has fallen.
3. (a) Only third, (b) of the apps, (c) on my phone, (d) are really useful.
4. (a) China is not, (b) as concerned about, (c) terrorism in the region, (d) So India is.

Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

5. Some prophets _____ doom believe that we _____ soon starve ourselves to death.
a) in, was b) at, have c) of, will have d) of, will
6. When I got _____ the train at Varanasi, I _____ welcomed by the local leader.
a) in, will be b) off, was c) at, is d) on, were

7. The police officer looked _____ at the man who made the claims that his wife was missing, when he claimed his wife was missing.
a) Askance b) Suspiciously c) Curiously d) Questioningly

Answer key for the last week's quiz: 1.(b), 2.(c), 3.(c), 4.(c), 5.(b), 6.(b), 7.(b), 8.(d)

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Close shave for 12 after bus falls 50ft into gorge

Twelve passengers of a minibus had a miraculous escape, with three of them sustaining minor injuries, when their vehicle veered off the Bhor-Mahad road on a sharp turn and fell 50ft into a gorge in the Varanasi Ghat section, about 80km from Pune in the early hours of Sunday, reports **Mihir Tankar**.

"The driver of the bus, 30-year-old Ajinkya Kolte, who came out of the bus immediately after the accident, was found dead about 4km away from the accident spot," said inspector Shankar Patil of Bhor police station.

The minibus, which had rolled down, halted a few metres away from the backwaters of Nira-Deoghar dam. All the passengers stuck inside were rescued by the local people. Patil said the accident came to light when the co-driver and one of the passengers wriggled out of the bus and climbed up to the road. They walked about a km to an eatery and informed the owner, who then alerted the locals and the police.

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

Tender Notice

NIT No- 52/G.1/Mis/Bpl.Z/2019(Year 2023) Bhopal Date 05-10-2023

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

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lakh)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2023_PWDRB_314674_1	Sehore (Division Budhni)	Plan	Construction of C.C. Road from Basantpur to Gadipur via Bhawat Road Length 5.30 Km.	1st Call	600.83	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
2	2023_PWDRB_314675_1	Harda	Plan	Construction of Junpani to Bhawardi road Length 6.00 Km.	4th Call	508.85	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only

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 17-10-2023 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.

G-21170/23 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone) कारोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी। P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh

Tender Notice No SMART/PIU MSWC/WORKS/63/2023-24

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Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project, Pune The Project Implementation Unit -MSWC of SMART Project invites online bids on <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for Construction of 1/3000 MT Capacity PEB Warehouse building with ancillaries At Belewadi, Taluka Kagal, Dist. Kolhapur. The Tendered cost of work is Rs.331.85 lakhs. The Request for Bid document is also available on the project website www.smart-mh.org. The last date for submission of online bids is 22/11/2023 up to 5.00 PM.

Chairman & Managing Director & Head PIU-MSWC, SMART Project Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation, 583/B, Market Yard, Gultekdi, Pune 411037. Phone No: 020-24206849, Email id - smart.nodal@mswc.in



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विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2019, 03/2019 एवं 04/2019, सहायक अभियन्ता (असैनिक/असैनिक/यांत्रिक) के उम्मीदवारों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक-27.09.2023 को प्रकाशित उक्त विज्ञापन से संबंधित संशोधित औपचारिक सूची के अनुसार दिनांक-16.10.2023 एवं 17.10.2023 को आयोग कार्यालय में दस्तावेज सत्यापन (Document verification) के लिए उपस्थित होना है। विस्तृत कार्यक्रम आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर प्रदर्शित है।

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER , CONSTRUCTION WING,
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E-32 JUDGE FARM HALDWANI, DISTT. NAINITAL(PIN 263139)

Letter No.: 2657/Niveda-Anubandh/Pithoragarh/83

Date : 06-10-2023

E-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Value without GST (Rs. In Lakh)	Period of Completion
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BUS TERMINAL AT ASKOTE, DISTRICT PITHORAGARH	Rs. 341.66	12 Months
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF BUS TERMINAL AT GANGOLIHAT, DISTRICT PITHORAGARH.	Rs. 209.91	12 Months
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL WORKS IN DISTRICT JAIL PITHORAGARH DISTRICT PITHORAGARH	Rs. 117.82	06 Months

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 09-10-2023 (10.00 hrs)

5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 23-10-2023 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 26-10-2023 (11.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani.

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 13-10-2023 (11.00 hrs)

Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Pithoragarh.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

GENERAL MANAGER

9 feared dead after rockfall hits SUV near India-Nepal border

Pithoragarh: Around nine people were feared to have been killed after boulders and debris fell on a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) at Lamari on Dharchula-Lipulekh road near the India-Nepal border in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district on Sunday afternoon, reports **Prem Punetha**.

"The vehicle, belonging to Harish Singh Nabiyal, a homestay owner, was carrying six passengers. It was travelling from Nabi village to Dharchula. On the way, it is believed to have picked up a few more passengers.

The accident site is located in a remote region where there are no mobile signals, which was posing a challenge for communication & rescue efforts

The exact number is yet to be ascertained, but the fatality figure could be around nine," Bhupendra Singh Mahar, district disaster management officer, Pithoragarh, said.

The accident site is located in a remote region where there are no mobile signals, which was posing a challenge for communication and rescue efforts. "As of now, no bodies have been recovered. We will continue our operations on Monday morning," Mahar said.

Sources said that since the boulders are extremely heavy, rescue teams might need to organise a controlled blast before they are able to recover bodies.

More than 50 people have died in incidents of landslides and boulder falls this year in Uttarakhand. Of these, over 10 deaths have been due to rockfall incidents, data collected by TOI till August, has revealed.

Isro fights 100 cyber hacking bids daily: Space agency chief

New Delhi: India's space agency Isro is facing more than 100 cyber-hacking attempts on a daily basis, disclosed its chairman S Somnath on Sunday, reports **Surendra Singh**.

Speaking to TOI, Somnath said, "It is not only Isro, but several other systems (of other organisations) that face hundreds of cyber (hacking) attempts. But such attempts have been stopped by our several protection measures — both hardware and software.

They are meant to protect any cyber attempt. A cyber attempt becomes an attack only when it is successful in penetrating the security system. But this has not happened. Isro has a robust security network to face such attempts. We have several firewalls and safety mechanisms. So, all these attempts are not allowed to breach beyond a point and stopped at the outer layer of our firewall itself."

The Isro chief told TOI that a satellite is launched in space with several sets of software and hardware with a designated life of 15 years. But after 15 years, many of them become vulnerable as the technology becomes dated. "It is not possible to upgrade the software of a satellite in space remotely. The hardware of old generation satellites is especially vulnerable. Future satellites can be made with the latest technology but they will also become dated after some years. So it is a continuous problem," Somnath said.

Unusually humid Sept sees 8% rise in power demand during H1

New Delhi: Power demand increased by about 8% in the first half of the financial year due to sustained uptick in economic activities and a surge in consumption caused by unusually high humidity in August and September.

Latest government data showed consumption rising to 847 billion units (BU) in the April-September period from 786 BU in the same period of 2022-23.

The upsurge in demand started in August as the high humidity levels expanded the use of cooling appliances by households and commercial establishments. They also said power consumption grew in August and September, mainly due to humid weather conditions and also perked up industrial activities ahead of the festive season.

The power ministry had estimated a peak demand of 229 GW during summer. But a comparatively cooler April-July period due to unseasonal rains kept consumption below expectation. Demand peaked at 241 gigawatts (GW) in September compared to 215.8 GW in the first half of 2022-23.

Untimely rains also impacted through the summer and monsoon seasons during the April-September period. Demand peaked at 224 GW in June before dropping to 209 GW in July. Consumption first peaked at 238 GW in August and went on to 240 GW in September.

The upsurge in demand prompted the ministry to invoke special powers to mandate all imported coal-fired power plants at full capacity. TNN

Prenup not valid in India but can indicate intent: Court

Agreement Shows Parties Were In Partnership, Not Relation: Judge

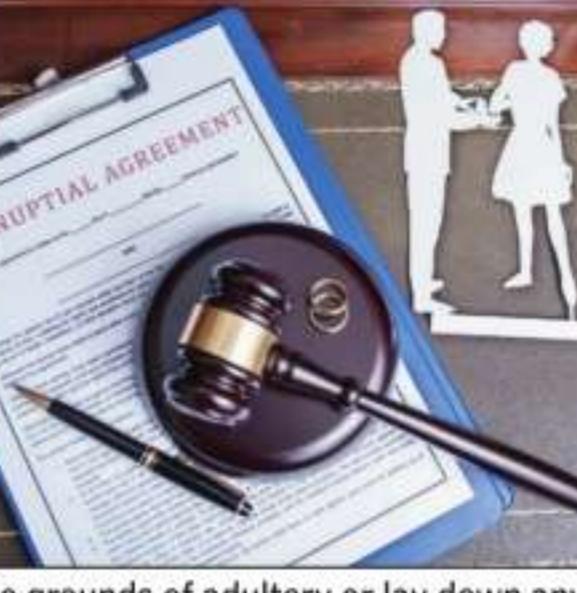
Rebecca Samerel
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PRENUPT NOT ENFORCEABLE IN INDIA

What happens in other countries

► A prenupt is a contract entered into prior to marriage and commonly includes provisions for division of property, guardianship rights and spousal support in the event of divorce or breakup of marriage

► The agreement could also include specific terms for forfeiture of assets as a result of divorce on



the grounds of adultery or lay down any conditions between the two adults

► It is valid in countries like USA, Netherlands and Belgium

He further said that they subsequently got in touch with each other again in 2012. Between 2012 and 2013, he lost his father and younger brother and became emotionally disturbed. The man said that the woman began to emotionally blackmail him to marry him by stating that primary reason for her mother's sickness was the fact that she was not getting married and, as a friend, he had to help her. The man said that despite his protests and emotional health, the woman's mother pressured him and they got married in July 2016. They separated in September that year.

Among the grounds citing cruelty, the man said that the woman repeatedly verbally attacked him and he found it difficult to keep up with her "vociferous sexual appetite" and this often led to fights between them. The man also cited the treatment the woman allegedly meted out to his mother and sister.

The woman denied the allegations and said that the man was his mother's and sister's puppet and acting at their behest.

Stopped in '64, India-SL ferry service restarts tomorrow

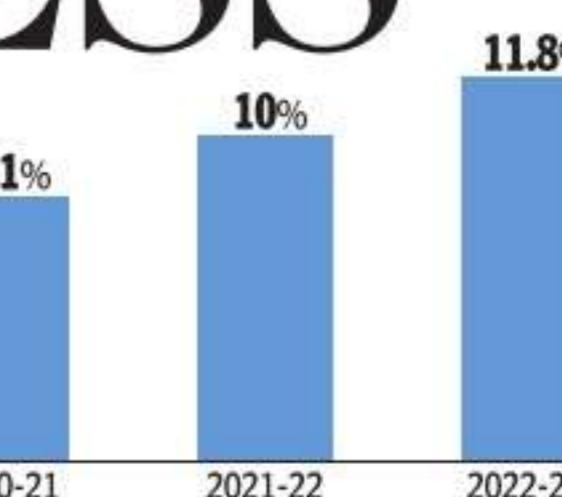
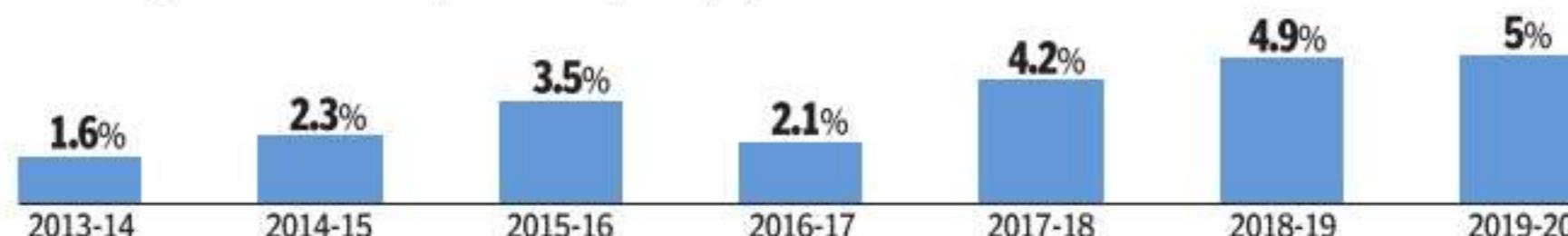
Trichy: More than a decade after India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement to revive passenger ferry service between the two countries, a high-speed passenger craft held a successful trial run from Nagapattinam port to Kankesanthurai and back on Sunday, reports **Vincent Arrockiaraj**. Regular service on the 111km stretch, which will be covered in three hours, will commence on Tuesday.

The vessel named 'Cheriyapani' is being operated by Shipping Corporation of India under the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways to facilitate a hassle-free passage and people-to-people contact between Sri Lanka and India. A one-way trip for those aged above nine years will cost Rs 7,500 (including GST) and half for children aged between three and nine.

The ethanol blending programme (EBP) is progressing with year-to-date blending levels at **11.8%** (highest ever). While the government has reiterated its target of **20% EBP by 2025**, concerns over sugarcane and sugar production, and an increase in grain prices are likely to push the target by a couple of years. Estimates say that sugar-based ethanol production capacity of 8.5bn litre, and grain-based capacity of 3.5bn litre is in place – sufficient to achieve **15%** blending over 2 years

Ethanol Blending Levels Over The Years

Average Ethanol Blending In Motor Spirits (%)



Source: Industry / JM Financial

GST Council likely to clarify premium on life insurance

Move Seen As A Relief For LIC Following ₹290Cr Demand

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The GST Council will soon provide clarity on input tax credit for life insurers, following a recent Rs 290-crore demand on Life Insurance Corporation — a move that is expected to come as a relief for the state-owned behemoth.

The complication on GST arises in case of traditional life policies or endowment plans, where GST is levied on only a portion of the plan. As a result, on the first-year premiums, GST is levied at 4.5%, while for subsequent years, it is levied at 2.25%.

That is because these policies have two components — an insurance component, which attracts GST, and a savings component, which is treated akin to deposits or investment in banks.

The issue relates to the

HOW GST IS LEVIED ON LIFE INSURANCE		
Term-assurance	ULIPs	
18% on premium	on premium, covers costs for premium payments & fund management charges	Single-premium annuities 1.8% of premium
Endowment plans	4.5% on 1st year premium	2.25% in subsequent years
		Source: Canara HSBC Life

input tax credit claimed on the portion of premium that is exempted from payment of GST. Since the premium itself is exempt, tax authorities believe the law does not allow companies to claim input tax credit.

"That is why a presumptive is taken," explained a tax consultant, adding that some of the tax officials believe that LIC should get lower credit that it has claimed and should actually reverse some of the claim.

So far, LIC — which has multiple registrations across the country — has received a notice from GST authorities and the fear is that others may join in making a demand in the months ahead. Besides, private players, too, could face similar action, prompting the government to take up the issue at the level of GST Council.

While LIC's stocks had responded negatively to the disclosure, tax experts said that it was an initial notice from the GST authorities in Bihar and the process of payment is expected to take time. The process of clarification, however, may take a few months.

In a stock exchange filing, the public sector player had said that the notice related to claims of Rs 167 crore, with a penalty of Rs 107 crore and a penalty of Rs 17-odd crore for "non-reversal of the input tax credit availed and utilised on the item non-leviable to GST on portion of the premium received by the corporation from the policy holder and the non-reversal of the input tax credit of the portion of the agents commission on the item non-leviable to GST on portion of the premium and the exempted policies".

Centre to discuss GST cess road map with states

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: While ruling out an extension of the goods and services tax (GST) compensation cess beyond March 2026, the Centre has accepted the demand from some states to discuss the road map for the cess after that.

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NO EXTENSION BEYOND MAR '26

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Government sources indicated that the cess will continue in some form but the plan will need to be worked out and implemented in the coming years. When asked about it, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that a discussion is planned in the GST Council but did not indicate a date.

Rel General gets ₹923cr GST notices

New Delhi: Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC), a subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has received show cause notices amounting to nearly Rs 923 crore from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence.

According to sources, the company has received four notices amounting to nearly Rs 923 crore from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence. According to sources, the company has received four notices amounting to nearly Rs 923 crore from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence.

These factors also triggered the sell-out of pharma biggie Ranbaxy by the Singh family in 2008. Ranbaxy's promoters, led by Malvinder Singh, decided to sell their entire family stake of nearly 35% to Japan's Daiichi Sankyo for Rs 10,000 crore — one of the largest deals in Indian pharma.

Now, the promoters of Cipla — India's third-largest drug firm — are planning to divest the family's stake, with the second generation not keen to continue running the business. Recently, Mumbai-based Glenmark Pharma announced a divestment of 75% in its subsidiary, Glenmark Life Sciences, to Ahmedabad-based deters-to-cement conglomerate Nirma for Rs 5,652 crore, and in another deal, US-based Viatris (earlier Mylan), is selling its active pharmaceutical ingredients and women's healthcare businesses in India for a combined value of \$1.2 billion.

As against this, a decade back, mainly foreign firms like Abbott, Daiichi Sankyo, Sanofi made headlines with sizeable buy-outs of domestic firms like Piramal Healthcare, Ranbaxy and Shantha Biotech, respectively.

Incidentally, some of

FM reviews reform progress of MDBs

Heads Of Several Global Agencies List Out Steps To Boost Lending, Revise Mandate

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In the run up to G20 FMs & central bank governors meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, FM Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a meeting with the heads of MDBs and co-conveners of the G20 independent expert group N K Singh (left) and Larry Summers (attended meet virtually)

climate goals through climate platforms to be announced before COP28, sources said.

As reported by TOI last week, the World Bank has sought permission from its board of governors for the reform plan, which will be taken up in Marrakech. The idea is to expand the mandate beyond poverty reduction and shared prosperity, and to also bring climate action and other global public goods on the agenda.

Several others have moved ahead, too. For instance, the African Development Bank has initiated steps towards balance sheet optimisation, hybrid capital and recycling special drawing rights.

The Asian Development Bank has also announced measures that are aimed at unlocking \$100 billion in new financing capacity over 10 years along with a bigger lending mandate. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is also pursuing reforms together with a capital increase.

All eyes on oil amid new geopolitical risk

Global financial markets already rattled by elevated interest rates now face a fresh dose of geopolitical uncertainty following Hamas's surprise attack on Israel.

According to a tax expert, the RGIC auditors will have to provide for this amount in its quarterly results ending September 30, as a contingent liability. RGIC is undergoing a debt resolution process through NCLT. The GST Authority's contention is that re-insurance commission forms part of the revenue recorded by the company in its books of accounts and thus it needs to pay GST on the same.

The company says the lead insurer has discharged its GST liability on the entire premium, therefore, there is no need for it to pay GST on the realisation of follower premium. But, the GST department is of the opinion that there is no provision in the GST Act where one registered person can collect and distribute tax on behalf of another, regardless of any co-insurance arrangement. AGENCIES

eyeing the reaction of the oil price as a guidepost, although crude traders aren't anticipating an outsized surge.

ISRAEL WAR

Sentiment toward stocks will likely be determined by whether conflict spreads to the rest of the Middle East region. Iran is both a major oil producer and supporter of Hamas. BLOOMBERG

US top export destination for Indian phones

New Delhi: India exported smartphones worth \$4.7 billion in April-July this fiscal, following a six-fold jump in shipments to the US, which emerged as the biggest destination for India-made devices, official data showed.

Smartphone exports to the US jumped to \$1.7 billion during the first four months of this fiscal against \$284.6 million a year ago, the data showed. The US accounted for one-third of the shipments in value terms, and was followed by the UAE (\$836 million), the Netherlands (\$379 million), the UK (\$336 million), Italy (\$246 million), and the Czech Republic (\$230 million).

India's export of smartphones in FY23 was nearly \$11 billion. During April-July FY24, exports doubled over the previous year. AGENCIES

Biz confidence index rises in Sept qtr: CII

New Delhi: Confederation of Indian Industry's business confidence index improved to 67.1 in the September quarter, reflecting robust macro fundamentals of India's economy despite global headwinds, CII said on Sunday. The index showed a reading of 66.1 in the previous quarter and 62.2 in the same quarter last year.

"The reading reaffirms the sustained positive momentum seen in a host of high frequency indicators such as GST collection, air & rail passenger traffic, PMIs, among others in the second quarter," CII said. AGENCIES

Pharma dealmaking recovers with PE push M&As Heat Up As Promoters Look To Exit

Rupali.Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Multinationals' drug portfolios are thinning. Consolidation is underway in the formulations business. Some Indian promoters are seeking an exit. These factors are heating up dealmaking activity in the domestic pharma sector.

Mergers and acquisitions in the pharma sector are expected to pick up as promoters of high leverage companies cash out amid rising compliance costs and pricing pressures in the domestic and the US market.

Indian strategic buyers are increasingly acquiring domestic assets, while private equity (PE) biggies like KKR, Carlyle, and Advent are getting aggressive and building platforms in both high-growth domestic formulations and API businesses — as in the case of recent deals such as JB Chemicals and Suven Pharma. The PE activity that started just before the pandemic will accelerate over the next few years, industry experts say.

Over the years, promoters have been cashing out in the wake of increasing price control, higher regulatory scrutiny in the US, and the disappearing lucrative Para IV opportunities leading to a tough business environment, said PwC India's global health industries advisory leader Sujay Shetty.

Incidentally, some of

CHANGING HANDS... Top Pharma M&A Deals Since 2010			
Target Co	Acquirer	Amount (\$ mn)	Deal Date
Ranbaxy	Sun Pharma	4,000	April 2014
Piramal Health*	Abbott Lab	3,800	May 2010
Viatris*	Biocon Biologics	3,300	Feb 2022
Strides Shasun*	Mylan Labs	1,434	Feb 2013
Gland Pharma	Fosun Pharma	1,085	July 2016
Gavis Pharma	Lupin	880	July 2015
Famy Care*	Mylan Labs	800	Feb 2015
Actavis UK*	Intas Pharma	767	Oct 2016
Suven Pharma	Advent	762	Dec 2022

*Indicates asset/ business sale; data as of Sept 21, 2023. Source: Venture Intelligence

'Indian minds to play big part in future of tech'

Akhil.George@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: India is no longer the back office of the world and in fact, the world now recognises that the future of technology will be shaped as much by Indian entrepreneurs and minds as the Americans, Japanese, Koreans, or Europeans, said Union minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar at the 2023 Economic Times Startup Awards held in Bengaluru on Saturday.

"Over the last 5-6 years, if there is a defining outcome of what we have done and what is now evident, it is that the confidence amongst the world's investors, consumers, companies, and enterprises about the capabilities that this generation of entrepreneurs bring to bear is unquestionable. I think that is the big leap that has happened. And it's not just about consumer tech or D2C (direct to consumer)... it spans the entire spectrum of what we refer to as a digital



To R: Vinod Kumar & Ezhil Subbian of String Bio; Afsar Ahmad & Govind Agarwal of Gameberry Labs; Madhusudan Gupta of FIA Global; Vikash Kumar, Raj Pandey & Mukesh Singh of Zopsmart; Satyan Gajwani of Times Internet; Union minister Piyush Goyal, minister of state Rajeev Chandrasekhar; Nitin Jain, Bhuvan Gupta, Vasanth Sridhar, Ashish Mohapatra & Ruchi Kalra of OfBusiness; Jishnu Bhattacharjee of Nexus Venture Partners, Rashi Narang of Heads Up For Tails; Anirudh Sharma, Tanveer Ahmed & Rahul Rawat of Dignitaria Research

THE WINNERS OF THE NIGHT

AWARD CATEGORY	AWARDEE
Startup of the Year	OfBusiness
Midas Touch	Jishnu Bhattacharjee, MD, Nexus Venture Partners
Bootstrap Champ	Gameberry Labs
Top Innovator	String Bio
Comeback Kid	ZopSmart co-founders Mukesh Singh, Raj Pandey, and Vikash Kumar
Best on Campus	Dignitaria Research & Technologies
Woman Ahead	Rashi Narang, Heads Up For Tails
Social Enterprise	FIA Global

Commenting on the slow-down in the inflow of investments into startups and businesses, Union minister for commerce and industries Piyush Goyal said he is not very concerned about the 'funding winter'. "There's always a reality check that is required after every few years and I look at

this as one of those periods where our startups will come of age... we'll see a little bit of churn." He added that his experience of running a business in his youth taught him that such macroeconomic headwinds have their own upsides as well. "My experience is whenever you have too much cash, you tend to make mistakes, you tend to blow it off. A little tight-fisted environment... is always going to be good for business. Such occasional roadblocks will only help our startup ecosystem mature."

Satyan Gajwani, vice chairman of Times Internet, said that while last year demonstrated that it is not always that easy to scale up, yet at the same time, he thinks it brought out the best of the Indian startup ecosystem. "Because leaders who were earlier pushed to grow, grow, grow and worry about profitability and sustainability later are now put in a position where they have to demonstrate the ability to build real, lasting, sustainable and responsible companies

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RAHUL, KOHLI PAINT CHENNAI BLUE

Bowlers Shine Too As India Kick Off WC In Style With 6-Wicket Romp Over Aussies

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Chennai: Going into the stadium, a little boy was heard telling his father: "Papa, I just want to see Kohli get runs." He couldn't be traced in the sea of humanity after the eight-hour drama and the six-wicket win, but he must have been over the moon. His hero hadn't let him down with an 85 that can well be on par with any of his 47 ODI centuries.

Forget the empty stands, the occasional damp squib. The Indian World Cup festival has well and truly started.

The joy, the colour, euphoria and the roller-coaster of emotions that make Indian cricket so special were all on display on a hot, humid Sunday at the Chepauk. And by the end of it, the thousands who were at the ground and millions who followed the Men in Blue on different platforms had their time's worth.

And what a way to do it! Being three down for two chasing 200 on a tricky track, Kohli, in the company of an ever-improving KL Rahul (97*), stitched together a partnership of 165 runs off 215 balls that showed the depth and quality of this Indian team. Not that it was without its moments of anxiety. With

the score reading 20-3, a mistimed pull off Kohli's bat lobbed up in the air and it was an absolute regulation catch for square leg fielder Mitchell Marsh. But the usually sure Aussie dropped the ball running in and it completely changed the mindset of not just the Indian master, but the entire stadium.

The belief, that had evaporated after a brilliant opening spell of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, suddenly seemed to be back. Kohli and Rahul went into that famous zone where it seemed that they would never get out as the 32,000 at the beautiful Chepauk chanted on, 'K-o-h-l-i! K-o-h-l-i!'!

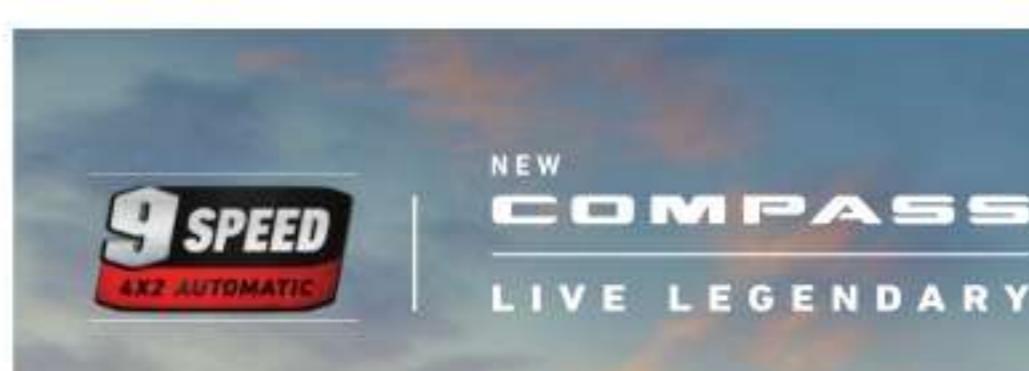
While a couple of classy flicks on the outside off Cameron Green helped Kohli ease the pressure on himself, Rahul's moment of the day was even more crucial in the context of the game.

On a pitch that had a lot in it for the spinners, Aussie hopes hinged on leggie Adam Zampa. But as he came in for his first in the 18th, Rahul played two exquisite late-cuts that made old-timers reminisce of an old master -- GR Viswanath. Rahul followed it up with a beautiful cover drive to the fence, and the Aussies were suddenly pain-



LR Shankar

MAESTRO AT WORK: Virat Kohli hits one to the fence during his 85-run knock



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fully aware that they had nowhere to go.

Runs kept flowing from the duo's bat like a tumbling brook but what made it such a pleasing occasion was the effortlessness attached to it. It seemed the two were on an evening stroll and Kohli's dis-

missal, 33 runs away from the target, hardly made a difference to the final outcome.

Before Kohli and Rahul took over for the main act, it was the bowlers who did the spadework. The pitch had enough help for the spinners, but it needs class and quality

to make the most of it. The Indian spin trio -- led by Ravindra Jadeja (3/28) and backed up by Kuldeep Yadav (2/42) and R Ashwin (1/34) were at times unplayable as the hosts took charge.

While Jadeja hit the right spots and let the pitch take over, Kuldeep was superb as the attacking option -- always looking to take wickets. His new-found ability to bowl a little faster through the air, courtesy, some modifications in the action, had the Aussies in a spin. Ashwin, on the other hand, didn't try to do anything flashy and did his job to perfection.

2/3 India's score of 2/3 is the lowest score at the fall of third wicket from which any team has gone on to win a match in men's ODIs.

SCOREBOARD

Australia: D Warner c & b Kuldeep 41, M Marsh c Kohli b Umrah 0, S Smith b Jadeja 46, M Labuschagne c Rahil b Jadeja 27, G Maxwell b Jadeja 0, C Green c Pandya b Ashwin 8, P Cummins c Iyer b Umrah 15, M Stark c Iyer b Siraj 28, A Zampa c Kohli b Pandya 6, J Hazlewood 1 not out; **Extras:** (lb 6, w 6) 12; **Total:** (In 49.3 overs; RR: 4.02)

199; **FoW:** 1-5, 2-74, 3-110,

4-119, 5-119, 6-140, 7-140,

8-165, 9-189, 10-199; **Bowling:**

Umrah 10-0-35-2, Siraj 6.3-1-

26-1, Hardik 3-0-28-1, Ashwin 10-1-34-1, Kuldeep 10-0-42-2,

Jadeja 10-2-28-3.

India: R Sharma lbw

Hazlewood 0, I Kishan c

Green b Stark 0, V Kohli c

Labuschagne b Hazlewood

85, S Iyer c Warner b

Hazlewood 0, KL Rahul 97

not out, H Pandya 11 not out; **Extras:** (b 1, lb 1, nb 1, w 5) 8; **Total:** (In 41.2 overs; RR: 4.86) 201-4; **FoW:** 1-2,

2-2, 3-2, 4-16; **Bowling:**

Starc 8-0-31-1, Hazlewood

9-1-38-3, Cummins 6.2-0-

33-0, Maxwell 8-0-33-0,

Green 2-0-11-0, Zampa 8-0-

53-0.

Result: India win by 6 wkts

MoM: KL Rahul

NUMBERS GAME

1 Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer have provided the first instance of three Indian batters out of the top four registering ducks in an ODI innings. In the history of WC, it has happened for the fifth time - twice by Pakistan, once each by B'desh, SL, India.

4 Warner (1033 runs @ 60.76, 4 hundreds and 3 fifties) is the fourth Australian batter to manage 1,000-plus runs in the WC, joining Ricky Ponting (1743), Adam Gilchrist (1085) & Mark Waugh.

3-28 Ravindra Jadeja, not only produced his best bowling performance in the World Cup, but also his best vs Australia in ODIs. His previous best in the WC was 2 for 23 vs UAE at Perth on February 28, 2015.

11 Number of times, including five times this year, Ravindra Jadeja has dismissed Steve Smith in 37 matches in international cricket. Only one bowler has captured his wicket more times -- Stuart Broad, 14 wickets in 44 matches.

-Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'Will be great to bowl on such pitches in WC'

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Chennai: It was a beauty that cleaned up Steve Smith, and Ravindra Jadeja feels it was the moment that helped India take charge of the contest.

"It was the turning point. For the new batter, it was not easy to rotate the strike on this pitch. Once they were reduced to 119-5 from 110-2, we were in charge," Jadeja said at the end of the game.

Jadeja felt the wicket was like "a Test match pitch". "It will be great to have pitches like this in the tournament, but we know that it's not going to happen. There was a lot of help in it, and if we keep getting such pitches we can stick to the same combination," Jadeja said.

The allrounder conceded there was a bit of panic in the dressing-room once they were reduced to 2-3. "That happens, but we knew Kohli and Rahul have the experience to deal with the situation," he said.

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HOW JADEJA'S 'HOME ADVANTAGE' HIT THE RIGHT SPOT

Southpaw's Potency Was Enhanced Due To His Familiarity Of Chennai Wicket As Chennai Super Kings Mainstay

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Chennai: Talk of big-match players for India in any of cricket's formats and one name that invariably figures high up on the list is that of Ravindra Jadeja. Be it an IPL final where he hit 10 off the last two balls to win the title for Chennai Super Kings or like on Sunday, deliver with the ball in the first match of the World Cup against a mighty Australia, Jadeja is always the man for the occasion.

His 3-28 on a spin-friendly Chepauk track that halted Australia on their tracks was a perfect combination of all the qualities that make Jadeja such a potent weapon.

"I play for CSK and I know how to take wickets here. The moment I saw the pitch I knew I had to take a minimum of two or three wickets," Jadeja said, exuding the simplicity that is so part of parcel of his game.

Employed by skipper Rohit Sharma only in the 20th over, the southpaw knew that he didn't have to do too much. All that was needed from him to get the job done was to hit the

right spot.

"In an age when there's so much talk about mystery spin, the beauty of Jadeja is his simplicity. You know what is coming from him, yet you can't deal with him, time and time again," former Australia captain Aaron Finch said in the commentary.

Jadeja knew that if he keeps hitting the right spot, the pitch will take care of the rest. "Even I do not know which ball will turn on a pitch like this and which one won't. So my job was to keep varying the pace which I was able to do," Jadeja said.

The left-arm had to wait for his fourth over to get the wicket of Steve Smith, but by the end of the World Cup, it might well be in contention for the 'ball of the tournament' award.

From the same spot where it didn't spin much in the earlier delivery, this one turned 5.4 degrees to take the off-ball. Incidentally, it was the 11th time Jadeja has dismissed Smith -- not exactly a mean feat if you consider the highs that the Aussie has achieved in his career.

With some bounce on offer as well, it didn't take too long for Jade-



BIG SCALP: Ravindra Jadeja celebrates with teammates dismissing Steve Smith in Chennai on Sunday

ja to remove another good batter of spin Marnus Labuschagne, caught behind trying to sweep. Left-hander Alex Carey too couldn't figure how

much the ball would turn and was leg-before missing Jadeja's wicket-to-wicket line.

With Kuldeep and Ashwin provid-

ing quality support, Jadeja bossed the Aussie batters and if the pitches continue to help him, the Saurashtra man is in for a great World Cup.

In serious breach, pitch invader sidles up to Kohli

Chennai: Notorious social media influencer and serial pitch invader Daniel Jarvis aka Jarvo was apprehended by the security authorities at the MA Chidambaram Stadium after he entered the ground wearing India blues before the start of their World Cup match against Australia here on Sunday.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) banned Jarvo from attending further matches in the tournament. But the question remains how did he get access to the VIP area and could breach multiple security layers to enter Field of Play (FOP).

Jarvo stunned the crowd of around 30,000 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium when he appeared wearing a blue India team shirt with "Jarvo 69" written on the back.

It must have left ICC as well as BCCI embarrassed as Jarvo, wearing the India jersey, coolly entered the venue just as the Indian team were lining up for the march past, trying to move closer to team's biggest star, Virat Kohli.

Initially startled, the Indian team's security officer quickly grasped the man and escorted him outside the ven-



Officials stop a pitch invader near Virat Kohli in Chennai on Sunday

ue even as Kohli wasn't one bit amused, and appeared to speak with him before he was escorted away.

"The individual concerned has been banned from attending any further games at the event and the matter is in the hands of the Indian authorities," ICC spokesperson stated when asked about the breach.

ICC said they will consider "if additional security measures are required to prevent it happening again".

This is the fourth time the Englishman, considered as a nuisance across all venues in the UK, has managed to breach security in a match involving India. Jarvo had been banned

from English grounds after he repeatedly showed loopholes in England's security system by entering the playing arena at his will during the 2021 series against India.

Someone known for his notoriety, he has often been picked up by security and then left as no one has taken it as a serious matter. "The safety and security of everyone involved in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 is our priority. We will work with the venue to understand what happened and consider if any additional security measures are required to prevent it happening again," the ICC spokesperson read. AGENCIES

'VIRAT SAID THAT I SHOULD PLAY LIKE TEST CRICKET FOR A BIT'

“There weren't a lot of conversations with Kohli. I had just taken a shower and was hoping to put my feet up for half an hour after the fielding innings, but I had to come in. Virat said that I should play like Test cricket for a bit. Happy to play this for the team. There was a bit of help for the fast bowlers early on. Towards the end, the dew played a bit of a part for them. It was still two-paced. It wasn't a great wicket to bat on, neither was it too difficult. I think it was a good cricket wicket."

—KL Rahul | AFTER INDIA'S WIN AGAINST AUSTRALIA ON SUNDAY

Dharamsala outfield rated average by ICC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Under scrutiny for the quality of its outfield for the match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala has been marked average by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday.

On Saturday, Afghan coach Jonathan Trott had raised concerns about the outfield that seemed dangerous for players. The outfield was repaired last month after it was heavily infested by fungus.

"The process for assessing the condition of the pitch and outfield lies with the match officials under the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process and the outfield at Dharamsala was rated as average after the Afghanistan-Bangladesh match," an ICC spokesperson said while adding: "Additionally, the ICC independent pitch consultant has taken a look at the outfield today and is comfortable with the conditions as is Javagal Srinath, the match referee for the next game."

TOI has learnt that a team from BCCI has also reached Dharamsala to monitor the developments. The groundstaff in Dharamsala have watered the outfield twice since the completion of the match on Saturday evening.

SA in attack mode in middle overs with both bat and ball

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New Delhi: "I think there's a lot of passion in this team to give our absolute all at this World Cup. Let's see how far it can get us. We're known to start pretty slowly, be it in a series or maybe world events, so we put a lot of emphasis on today's game," was Aiden Markram's reaction to his team having emotional outbursts in their facile win against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

This South African team brought the tournament alive with their emphatic cricket and declared that they mean business over the next 45 days. "The way batters are playing nowadays, you wouldn't be surprised if that record is broken in this competition itself," Markram said of his record of scoring the fastest hundred in World Cup history.

This bunch realizes that ODI cricket no longer offers breathing space. With pitches usually flat for batting, setting up a game is no more a grind. Constructing an ODI innings has become close to being an extension of T20s. The difference between a 'finisher' and



“It is not about trying to get yourself in. It's more about having your blueprint for boundary options and have a right intent. For us, the key is to look for boundaries no matter what is the stage."

—Rassie van der Dussen

an 'anchor' has blurred over the years. "I think when you get off to really good starts like that, it's on the next guy to maintain that intensity if not increase it. We might have luck now and then the pitch might be really tough and then you certainly won't be playing T20 cricket" necessarily on a wicket that's tough," Markram explained.

Rassie van der Dussen, too, was quite bullish about how his team wasn't going to sit back in the middle order. "It is not about trying to get yourself in. It's more about having your blueprint for boundary options and have a right intent. For us, the key is to look for boundaries no matter what is the stage," was Rassie's curt response to a

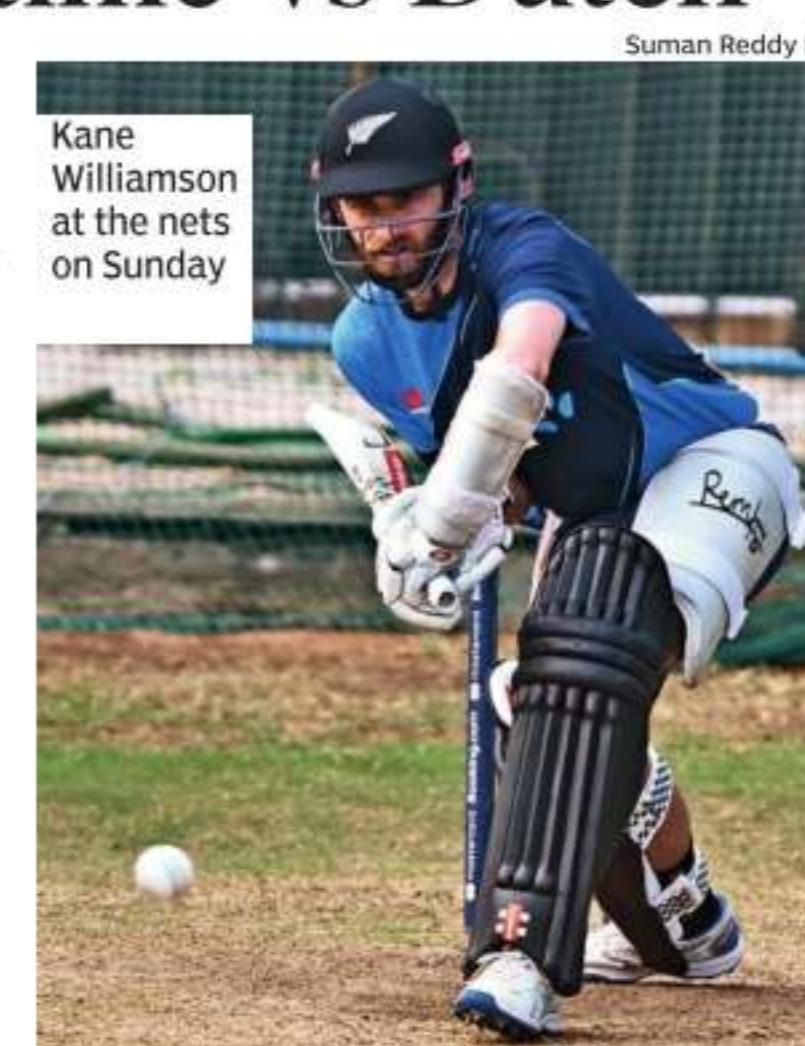
query about planning the middle-overs in an ODI.

It's not just the batting. The South African bowling is also all about attacking when the opposition batters are on a roll. Young fast bowler Gerald Coetzee spoke about looking to minimize the damage but it came with a rider: "It's not about bowling restrictive lines. It's always looking to take wickets. Wickets will win you games. Sometimes you may go for a few extra runs but you have to look for wickets at all times."

This South African team has signaled that they have come in with intent and they are going to show the way ODI cricket is going to be played during the World Cup

After strong start, NZ hoping to have easy time vs Dutch

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Hyderabad: New Zealand got off to a flying start in the World Cup as they annihilated England by nine wickets in the opening game in Ahmedabad. For the Kiwis, who had lost the final last time by a whisker to England, it was sweet revenge. While the experts may not have them in their list of semifinalists, they are up and running in contention for a last four berth. Next up for New Zealand are qualifiers Netherlands, who gave a decent account of themselves in the 81-run loss to Pakistan at this ground on Friday. The contest on Monday at the RGIC stadium is another Goliath vs David contest with the Kiwis towering above their rivals.

Wellington boys – Devon Conway and Rashiya Ravindra – made history in their 273-run unbeaten second wicket partnership against England. The duo danced their way into the record books as two WC debutants from the same team scored centuries in the same game for the first time. Conway is the 16th batter to achieve the feat in World Cup and the fourth Kiwi after Glenn Turner, Nathan Astle and Scott Styris. His unbeaten 152 was the fourth highest score by a World Cup debutant. It was also the highest score by a batter in a successful chase in Cup history. Rashiya became the 17th and fifth Kiwi to achieve thefeat.

Rashiya's knock gives the Kiwi management a good headache as the southpaw was included in the playing XI because regular skipper Kane Williamson and Lockie Ferguson were not fit for the opener. Though Williamson will miss Monday's game, Ferguson and Tim Southee are in contention for a spot. It remains to be seen what kind of a balance the management strikes.

In Southee's absence, the bowlers did well with Matt Henry leading from the front. Mitchell Santner was at his usual best and part-time spinner Glenn Phillips chipped in with two wickets.

Netherlands could find New Zealand a

Difficult to see Netherlands pose problems for NZ



New Zealand's dominating win over England in the first game of the World Cup would have forced the other teams in the competition to take pause and view the Kiwis in a whole different light.

Defending champions England went into the match as strong favourites, but the ease with which New Zealand won was impressive. As much as the victory itself, the fact that New

up against the strong sides.

That's what Devon Conway and Rashiya Ravindra showed against England. Conway has been a very successful performer in the IPL but Rashiya was a revelation. His father has named him after Ravi Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar, and the young man played strokes that both these superstar would have been proud of. There were also shades of Ravindra Jadeja to his batting; like his Indian counterpart, Rashiya also bowls left-arm spin and sports the No. 8 jersey. When a batter can combine the skills of a Dravid, a Tendulkar and a Jadeja, you know that you are on an excellent thing.

Given his Indian roots, it was no surprise that Rashiya batted in a very un-Kiwi-like manner. He can be both silent in timing and belt powerful aerial strokes and I must say I totally enjoyed how effortlessly he cleared the boundaries and made England's at-

tack look so toothless. England pride themselves on 'Bazball' but they got a taste of their own medicine.

New Zealand have made an early statement. The Dutch will, for the large part, try to stay in touch with their high-flying opponents but I will be shocked if this game doesn't result in another two points for the admirable men from New Zealand.com



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Hyderabad: New Zealand are not taking anything for granted against the Netherlands at the RGIC Stadium on Monday.

"They've beaten a few good opponents to qualify for the tournament. They have a lot of professional cricketers. They know their roles. They bond well as a team. They're going to be a tough team to beat in this competition," said New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips here on Sunday.

"We approach every game the same way. Every team is strong in their own right. We have to put our best foot forward, so not taking any team lightly," he said.

On Conway and Rashiya, he said:

"They were brilliant. A 270-odd run part-

a lot of cricket with him. He plays a very aggressive brand of one-day cricket. He plays that square drive incredibly well, which is an asset. The way he combined with Dev (Conway), they struck at 120, 130 was phenomenal to watch," he said.

On the Indian players, he said: "Virat Kohli is key to India. How every team combats will change depending on different grounds. But then you've got Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah. Everybody's going to be looking at them and going

how can we restrict them. They have the home advantage, which does come with pressure as well. They've got a lot of experience and a lot of young talent as well. Shubman Gill has been phenomenal. There's a lot to watch out for," he added.

Virat key for India, Gill phenomenal: Phillips

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nership is phenomenal, especially for two guys in their first World Cup. From a team perspective, it's nice to know that those two are in serious form. It's a good feeling in the camp at the moment."

Was he surprised by Rashiya's batting? "I wasn't surprised at all. I've played

CURTAINS DOWN AS INDIA LOOK UP

Goodbye Hangzhou: Happy Ending To Successful Asian Games; Torch Is Handed Over To Next Host Nagoya-Aichi



TIMES IN HANGZHOU

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The Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium was filled one last time to bid farewell to athletes and then was closed just like other venues after the flame was extinguished as the Asian Games came to a close on Sunday evening after delivering two weeks of memorable sporting action.

Hosts China finished with a record 201 gold medals for an overall tally of 383 while India had a historic outing and ended its campaign with a total of 107 medals that included 28 gold.

While winter has started setting in Hangzhou – a city famous for its tea and silk – and the golden autumn season provided a perfect moment for everyone – from sports persons, coaches, event organisers, volunteers and journalists covering the Games – to weave unforgettable memories and friendships.

It's now Japan's time to take over as host for the 2026 Asian Games after Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) acting president, Raja Randhir Singh handed over the torch to Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Hideaki Omura, during the closing ceremony. As per protocol, the first Asian Torch and Flag, along with the OCA Flag, has to be handed over to the next hosts.

"Hangzhou, you have been

the perfect host. China, thank you for your devotion, energy and smiles. The Asian Games were an unprecedented success. The Asian Games Flame will soon be extinguished but the spirit of the Asian Games closed! We will meet again in three years' time in Japan," said Singh, as he declared the Hangzhou Games closed. China's Premier Li Qiang attended the closing ceremony as chief guest.

But before the flame was doused, entertainers enthralled the crowd with some captivating performances, showcasing the Chinese culture, heritage and tradition. The ceremony, beginning with the "Digital Torchbearer" amazed the world, and at the closing, it made a stunning appearance again with a new identity. It was made up of hundreds of millions of stars and was once again transformed into a sky full of stars, spreading to Hangzhou and flying to Asia.

Earlier, after the record-breaking performance in Hangzhou, Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) president PT Usha said: "If our country's athletes, coaches and national federations work hard, I feel we can win double digit medals in the Paris Olympics. I think we should bid for the 2036 Olympics. I am sure India will win more medals in the Paris Olympics than in Tokyo, and then, with the medals to show, we can host the Olympics."



WHAT A SHOW! (Clockwise from left) Sreejesh waves the Indian flag; Performers put on a magnificent show; Japan's women soars in artistic swimming, an event played on the final day; It gets colourful in the middle; Olympic Council of Asia acting president Randhir Singh during the handing-over ceremony; The Indian contingent makes merry

"Hangzhou, you have been



AISHWARY TOMAR



NEERAJ CHOPRA AND KISHORE JENA

INDIA AT ASIAN GAMES

	G	S	B	T
Shooting	7	9	6	22
Athletics	6	14	9	29
Archery	5	2	2	9
Squash	2	1	2	5
Cricket	2	0	0	2
Kabaddi	2	0	0	2
Badminton	1	1	1	3
Tennis	1	1	0	2
Equestrian	1	0	1	2
Field Hockey	1	0	1	2
Rowing	0	2	3	5
Chess	0	2	0	2
Wrestling	0	1	5	6
Boxing	0	1	4	5
Sailing	0	1	2	3
Bridge	0	1	0	1
Golf	0	1	0	1
Wushu	0	1	0	1
Roller Sports	0	0	2	2
Canoeing	0	0	1	1
Sepaktakraw	0	0	1	1
Table tennis	0	0	1	1
Total	28	38	41	107



JYOTHI

MEDALS BY GENDER				
Gender	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Male	15	19	18	52
Female	9	17	20	46
Mixed/Open	4	2	3	9
Total	28	38	41	107

MULTIPLE INDIAN MEDALLISTS				
Name	Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Jyothi Surekha	Archery	3	0	0
Ojas Deotale	Archery	3	0	0
Aishwary Tomar	Shooting	2	1	1
Harinder Sandhu	Squash	2	0	0
Esha Singh	Shooting	1	3	0
Abhishek Verma	Archery	1	1	0
Avinash Sable	Athletics	1	1	0
Sift Kaur Samra	Shooting	1	1	0
Saurav Ghosal	Squash	1	1	0
Vithya Ramraj	Athletics	0	2	1

MOST SUCCESSFUL DAYS FOR INDIA				
Day	Date	Gold	Silver	Bronze
8	Oct. 1*	3	7	5
14	Oct. 7**	6	4	2

* Most number of medals in a day

** Most gold medals in a day

—Compiled by Hindol Basu



TAIWAN, JAPAN, CHINA WIN LAST GOLD MEDALS

Hangzhou: China, Taiwan and Japan won the last gold medals of the Hangzhou Asian Games on Sunday in artistic swimming and karate.

The very last one went to Taiwan's Gu Shiau-shuang, 26, who defended the women's 50 kg kumite title. In the men's team kata karate, Japan edged Macau and in artistic swimming China won gold in the team free routine.

The biggest disappointment in archery at the Asian Games came in the men's section where two-time Olympian Atanu Das and rising Army archer Dhiraj Bommaidvara were both eliminated in the shoot-offs in their respective quarterfinals. The duo also had a spirited qualifications round, making the cut as fourth (Das) and sixth seeds (Dhiraj).

Fresh from shocking double Olympic gold medallist Kim Woojin at the World Cup Final, 21-year-old Dhiraj misfired his arrows twice in two sets to squander his lead and go down to lower-ranked Ifat Abdullin of Kazakhstan.

Das, on the other hand, rallied to



I don't want to give any excuses for losing the individual event. But I promise to get back stronger. I believe in the process. We have two more chances to qualify for the Paris Olympics. And we're going to do it. Let's keep working hard individually and as a team. —Atanu Das

We are gradually improving. The performance will certainly boost our morale. This team has the perfect coordination, we show faith in each other and we promise to return stronger. —Dhiraj Bommaidvara

snatch a 5-3 lead against his Chinese rival Qi Xiangshuo but failed to seal it in the final set and ended his campaign in the shoot-off where the Indian lost out by millions of metres after both shot in the 10-ring.

Basking in the glory of compound archers, India's high-performance coach Sanjeeda Singh said it's time to rejoice: "Our overall world ranking is improving and based on that we will qualify for the Olympics. Still, we will try to qualify from the Asian Championship and the Final Olympic Qualification tournament."

Kartik, Sanjivani to lead India's charge at VDHM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

marathoners Kalidas Hirave and Durga Bahadur will also vie for a place on the podium in the Indian Elite Men's category.

In the women's category, Sanjivani recorded a timing of 77:53 in the last edition of VDHM and also won the TSK 25K 2022. Moreover, Jadav clinched the bronze medal in the 5000m event at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships and triumphed in the 10,000m event at the National Federation Cup in 2022.

Kartik recorded his personal best (1:04:00) at the VDHM last year. He was also the runner-up at the TCS World 10K 2022, Bengaluru with a timing of 30:06. Kartik became the first Indian to win a medal in the 10,000m event at the Asian Games on Sunday.

Speaking about running in Delhi once again, Kartik said, "It's always exciting to be a part of the VDHM. The atmosphere is absolutely electric and brings out the best in me. I am feeling very confident after my performance at the Asian Games and hopefully, I will be able to win this year in Delhi."

The race, which carries \$268,000 as prize money, will see tens of thousands of amateurs join the world's best elites on one of the fastest courses in the world.

The Indian elite winners in the men's and women's categories will take home Rs 400,000 each.

The VDHM will be telecast live on Sony Sports 1, on October 15 from 6:30 am to 10:30 am.

Kiptum sets world record to win Chicago Marathon

Chicago: Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum shattered the men's world record to win Sunday's Chicago Marathon in two hours and 35 seconds while Dutch runner Sifan Hassan won in the second-fastest women's time in history.

Kiptum crushed the old world record of 2:01:09 set by Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge in winning the 2022 Berlin Marathon. "I feel so happy," Kiptum said. "I wasn't prepared. I knew I was coming for a course record but fortunately a world record."

It was Kiptum's third victory in as many starts over the 26.2-mile distance. He won on his debut last December at Valencia and then in the London Marathon last April. "I'm very happy," Kiptum said. "A world record was not in my mind to day. I knew one day one time I'd be a world-record holder."

Hassan won in 2:13:44, shattering the old course record of 2:14:04 by Kenyan Brigid Kosgei in 2019. The 30-year-old Ethiopian-born runner's time trounced only the women's world record of 2:15:53 set by Ethiopian Tigist Assefa at last month's Berlin Marathon. "I ran so great. I'm so happy," Hassan said.

"I ran an amazing time. I never thought I'd run 2:13. It's amazing. It's unbelievable," AFN.

3rd title is the best: Verstappen

Doha: Max Verstappen crowned a season of domination by securing his third Formula One world championship on Saturday and said it was the best yet.

The Red Bull driver won his first in highly controversial circumstances after a battle with Lewis Hamilton went down to the wire in 2021, the second with 15 wins in 22 races and the third with six grands prix to spare.

"This one is the best one," he told reporters after finishing second in a 19-lap sprint race in Qatar as his sole title rival and team mate Sergio Perez crashed out after 11 laps.

"The first one was the most emotional one, because that's when your dreams are fulfilled in F1."

"But this one has definitely been my best year for consecutive wins and stuff like that, the car itself has been probably in the best shape as well. So for me, this one is probably the one I'm the most proud of in a way, because of the consistency."

Verstappen won a record 10 races in a row from Miami in May to Singapore last month and has taken 13 victories from 16 grands prix. Until Singapore, when he was fifth, he had been second in the two races he had not won.

Asked how many more championships he could win, Verstappen said it depended on the package but he definitely had "quite a few years in me to be able to operate at my best."

"We'll see how long that is, to be honest," he added. "I think it's more about how long I want to be here. That's difficult."

The Dutch 26-year-old said it was a



HAIL THE WINNER: Verstappen is greeted by a guard of honour in Lusail City on Saturday

very proud moment for him, his family and the entire team.

GUNNERS RATTLE CITY

SUBSTITUTE MARTINELLI FIRES ARSENAL TO LATE WIN OVER EPL CHAMPIONS; LIVERPOOL HELD

London: Substitute Gabriel Martinelli fired a last-gasp winner to hand Arsenal a 1-0 victory over Manchester City on Sunday, a result that moves Mikel Arteta's side level on points with North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur at the top of the Premier League. City had the better of the chances in the first half, with Arsenal's Declan Rice clearing off the line early on to keep the champions at bay, as the hosts failed to register a shot on target in the opening period.

Arsenal upped the tempo after the break but still lacked that killer instinct in attack, with City still creating the better openings even if their Premier League top scorer Erling Haaland was kept quiet all afternoon.

The game appeared to be edging towards a stalemate before Martinelli struck four minutes from time, with a deflection off City defender Nathan Ake taking the ball past keeper Ederson.

The goal sparked wild celebrations at the Emirates, as Arsenal moved above City into second place on 20 points, two above the champions, and trailing Spurs only on goals scored.

Brighton & Hove Albion captain Lewis Dunk scored with a deft

volley to cancel out Mohamed Salah's brace for Liverpool as the Seagulls came from behind to grab a 2-2 draw on Sunday.

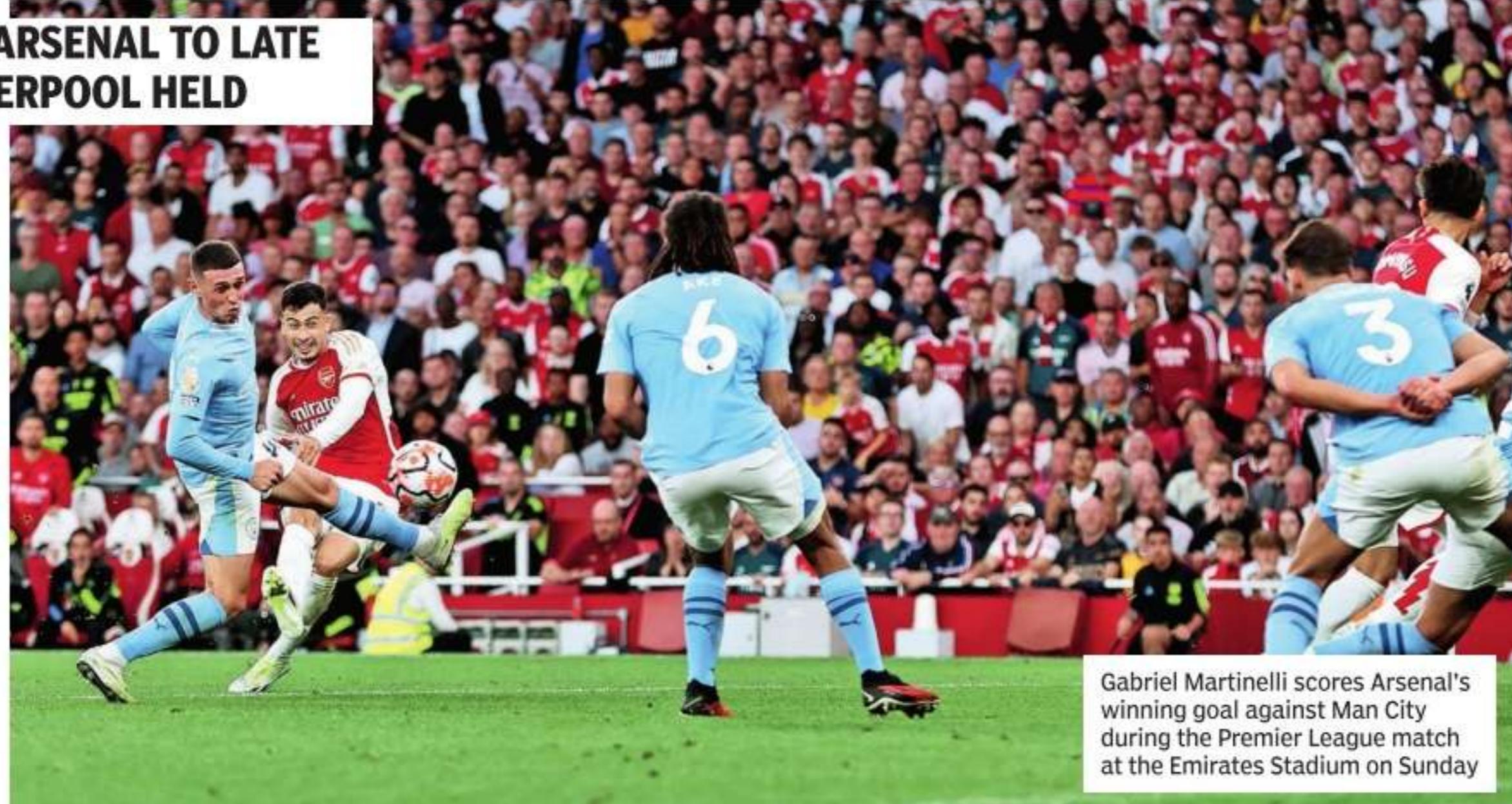
The home side took the lead in the 20th minute when Simon Adingra picked the pocket of former Brighton midfielder Mac Allister and fired home, but Salah levelled in the 40th minute, ending a flowing move with a trademark left-foot finish.

The Egyptian gave his side the lead from the penalty spot in first-half stoppage time after Dominik Szoboszlai was pulled down by Pascal Gross, and Salah struck his shot to the left of keeper Bart Verbruggen. Substitute Ryan Gravenberch, who came on for Harvey Elliott at half-time, missed a golden chance to put Liverpool two up in the 54th minute when his close-range effort from Szoboszlai's pass cannoned back off the crossbar. Brighton forced an equaliser in the 78th minute when Andy Robertson decided against trying to clear Solli March's free kick, allowing defender Dunk to volley home.

Isak double in vain as Newcastle held by West Ham

London: West Ham United held Newcastle United to a 2-2 draw when Mohammed Kudus scored an 89th-minute equaliser to deny the visitors three points after Alexander Isak's quick-fire double.

West Ham took an early lead when Emerson found Tomas Soucek for a simple tap-in into an empty net. After a poor first half from Newcastle, Isak turned things around for the visitors in the second when he scored twice, first bundling home from a set piece before turning in a pinpoint cross from Kieran Trippier. But second-half substitute Mohammed Kudus got the London Stadium roaring again when he fired home the equaliser. AGENCE



Gabriel Martinelli scores Arsenal's winning goal against Man City during the Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday

MESSI'S MIAMI MISS MLS PLAYOFFS

Fort Lauderdale: Lionel Messi's first season in Major League Soccer will end without a trip to the playoffs following Inter Miami's 1-0 loss to FC Cincinnati on Saturday night.

Messi entered in the 55th minute and went scoreless for the fourth straight league game since getting a goal in the 89th minute of his MLS debut. The defeat eliminated Miami from contention with two games remaining. He had missed five of the team's six previous games in all competitions because of a leg injury.

"As far as the injury is concerned, he is fine," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said in Spanish. "Obviously, because he has not played recently, there was a lack of rhythm. That is why he played (35) minutes."



Cincinnati, in first place in the Eastern Conference, won the game on Alvaro Barreal's goal in the 78th minute. Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender stopped Yuya Kubo's shot and Barreal retrieved the deflection and converted with his left foot from 8 yards. Messi had another free kick during stoppage time but his equalizing attempt sailed wide left. AP

DC United, coach Rooney part ways

Washington: DC United and head coach Wayne Rooney have mutually agreed to part ways, the Major League Soccer (MLS) club announced on Saturday. The 37-year-old former England and Manchester United forward played for DC United between 2018-19 before taking charge of the Washington side in July 2022.

DC United missed the MLS Cup playoffs for the fourth consecutive year despite a 2-0 win earlier on Saturday in their season finale against New York City FC, finishing with 40 points. Following the match, the former manager of Derby County said he had "done everything" to get DC United into the playoffs, adding: "it's the right time" to move on. "We have spoken with Wayne and agreed it is best for us to part ways at this time," DC United's chief executive officer and co-chairman, Jason Levien, said.

Freiburg keeper Noah Atubolu tipped a shot by Leon Goretzka onto the crossbar in the 83rd but was beaten two minutes later when Coman's deflected shot made it 3-0.

Coman brace leads Bayern to victory

Munich: Bayern Munich winger Kingsley Coman scored once in each half to lead the champions to a 3-0 win over visiting Freiburg on Sunday as they bounced back from last week's draw with RB Leipzig.

Goals from Coman and Leroy Sane in the first half put Bayern in the driving seat and France international Coman scored again after the interval.

Bayern are third on 17 points, two behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen, who earlier beat Cologne 3-0.

Coman opened his account with a sensational goal in the 12th minute after picking up the ball and charging down the right wing.

The 27-year-old, almost at the sideline, looked set for a deep cross but instead floated the ball in off the far post from 25 metres out.

Sane quickly doubled their lead in the 25th and had another effort ruled out after a VAR review.

With Freiburg posing no



Kingsley Coman

threat at all, Bayern took their foot off the gas after the break but Coman should have scored again in the 78th minute but chose to lay the ball off for Mathys Tel who was offside. Tel had replaced Bayern's top scorer Harry Kane in the 72nd minute.

Freiburg keeper Noah Atubolu tipped a shot by Leon Goretzka onto the crossbar in the 83rd but was beaten two minutes later when Coman's deflected shot made it 3-0.

The 21-year-old was eventually dismissed by off-spinner Beau Webster in the 12th



over. Fraser-McGurk reached his half-century in 18 balls, the quickest by an Australian in the 50-over format.

Aussie hits fastest-ever ton in a one-day match

Adelaide: South Australia batter Jake Fraser-McGurk smashed a 29-ball century against Tasmania at the Marsh Cup on Sunday to register the fastest hundred in one-day cricket, eclipsing South Africa great AB de Villiers' previous record of 31 balls.

Replaying to Tasmania's mammoth 435-9, South Australia were dismissed for 398 at the Karen Rolton Oval in Adelaide, but it turned out to be a memorable outing for Fraser-McGurk, who hammered 125 runs from 38 deliveries, which included 10 fours and 13 sixes.

The 21-year-old was eventually dismissed by off-spinner Beau Webster in the 12th

Biles wins floor gold for her 23rd World Gymnastics title

Antwerp: US superstar Simone Biles won a record-extending 23rd world title on Sunday with gold in the floor final after also winning on the balance beam on the last day of the World Gymnastics Championships.

Despite putting a foot out of the mat, the legendary Biles' technically difficult floor performance achieved 14.633 points, with Brazilians Rebeca Andrade (14.500) and Flavia Saraiva (13.966) completing the podium.

Returning after a two-year break, the four-time Olympic champion finished the competition in Antwerp, where she won her first world title a decade ago, with five medals including four golds, to bring her tally to 30 medals at world championships.

The 26-year-old won gold in the team and all-around events during the week, and sealed the beam title for a fourth time with a dazzling routine which earned her 14.800 points. AFP

TIMES NATION

THE SPEAKING TREE

RAINBOW IN THE SKY

A welcome sight of a beautiful rainbow inspires JAYANT B DAVE to ponder on the mystery of creation and our role in it

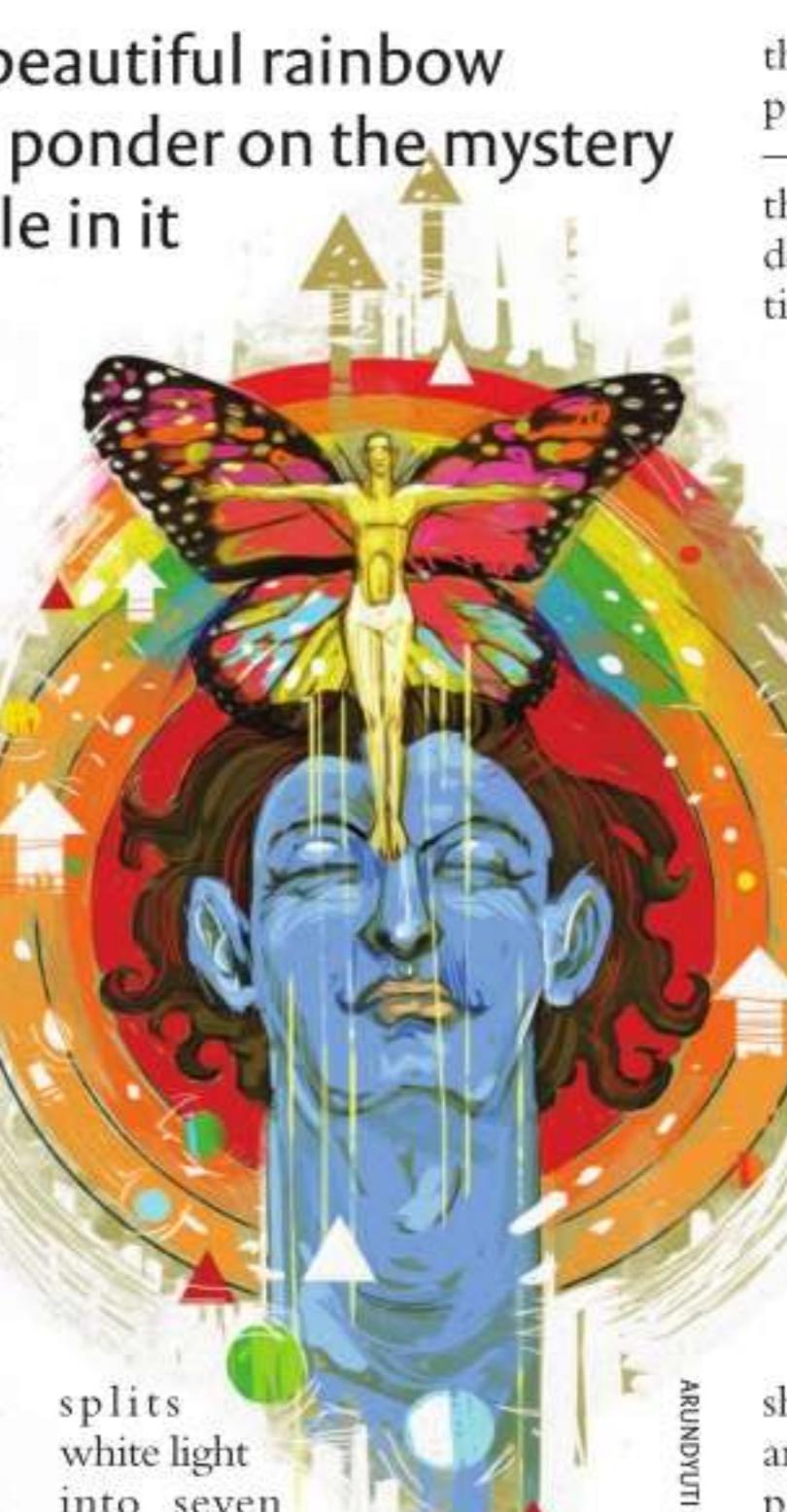
A few days ago, I happened to see a magnificent rainbow after a brief spell of rain. It lasted for quite some time and then disappeared into the vastness of the sky. This gave me a hint of how the phenomenal world comes into being and merges back into its substratum Supreme Reality called Brahman, Ishwar. The Vedas say that Brahman wished that 'I am one, let me become many', as its divine sport. Hence, the cycles of creation, sustenance, and dissolution keep repeating.

The world of our perception is twofold; one is Ishwar Srishti, created by the Almighty, in association with its supreme, imponderable, primal power — Maya Shakti.

The other is Jiva Srishti, which is created by body-bound soul called Jiva, as perceived in dreams and our inner self in waking state also. The individual has free will to entertain his own thought processes and determine his own course of life.

The Ishwar Srishti is bountiful and elevating and Jiva Srishti can limit or expand our persona, depending on how well we employ the God-gifted body-mind-intellect apparatus, which is a part of Ishwar Srishti.

The rainbow is an optical phenomenon that occurs in the sky under certain meteorological conditions and is caused by three principles of physics — refraction of light, total internal reflection, and dispersion of light in water droplets. Likewise, the phenomenal world also comes into being by the concurrence of three factors. One, the maya shakti of Ishwar is akin to the dispersion of light by a prism that



splits white light into seven colours with different shades. Likewise, one and non-dual Brahman appears in a multitude of combinations of names and forms due to tamas, rajas, and sattva gunas, akin to red, yellow, and blue basic colours, while retaining its Sat-Chit-Anand swarup. One also finds double or supernumerary rainbows on the inside of vasanas, strong tendencies, in the primary arc. This is akin to Jiva Srishti.

Two, the vast inherent samskara lead to the emergence of continuous instincts, due to stimulation by external stimuli — prarabdha karma, fate — and appear as thoughts, will, emotions. This is akin to total internal reflection where the beam of light reflects back into any transparent medium when the angle of incidence exceeds the critical angle. This is how the radiation from a lamp inside the water body also reflects back into

the water. Three, the gross and impure objective and subjective mind — manna and buddhi — deviates the thought and emotions from their desirable path. This is akin to refraction of light where a ray of light bends when it passes from one transparent medium to another transparent medium.

The rainbow is caused by sunlight and, therefore, appears in the section of the sky directly opposite the Sun. Like the Sun, Brahman is self-existent and self-revealing. Whereas Jagat, world, is not different from Brahman, radiation in this case is in the rainbow but assumes names and forms, VIBGYOR, colours in this case. Once names and forms are subsumed, the jagat resolves into its nameless, formless substratum.

The goal of our precious life should be to play our part joyfully and diligently, and at the same time, prepare for the ultimate merger with our divine abode. This would mean relishing the rainbow and its ultimate abidance in its origin. What should we do to coalesce seven colours into pristinely white colour, analogous to one and non-dual Brahman?

One, diminish the influence of maya, ignorance, through spiritual practices; reduce the samskaras and vasanas, strong tendencies, in the subconscious mind; and purify the mind and intellect by letting go of attachment and aversion.

This would result in the gradual replacement of vishayakara vritti, worldly thoughts, with elevating Brahmakara vritti, spiritual instincts. All these means to inner transformation are interconnected and are achieved by a judicious blend of spiritual practices like japa, pranayam, puja, and meditation appropriate to each subject. ■

The writer is president, Divine Life Society, Vadodara

9 more bodies of Sikkim flood victims wash ashore, toll 82

'Four Bodies Retrieved From Bangladesh'

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Siliguri: Hope of finding survivors among the 142 people reported missing since Wednesday's monster flash flood in north Sikkim fast faded as nine more bodies washed ashore downstream of the Teesta on Sunday, taking the casualty count to 82.

Officials said 49 of the confirmed victims of the flood that cut a swath through the Teesta basin were found in Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts of Bengal and a few in Bangladesh.

Nine of the bodies retrieved so far are of Army personnel, 23 of whom went missing from a temporary camp at Burdang on the night of the catastrophe triggered by a glacial lake outburst flood, or GLOF, in South Lhonak Lake. Only one among

the missing soldiers has been found alive so far. Jalpaiguri SP Khandabahale Umesh Ganpat said 39 bodies had been found in the district, 10 of which had been identified and handed over to the authorities. Six of these were of soldiers, he told reporters.

Cooch Behar SP Dytuman Bhattacharya said four bodies were retrieved from Bangladesh. Former footballer Bhai-chung Bhutia, a native of Sikkim, launched on Sunday a campaign for relief and rehabilitation of people displaced by the flash flood. The drive, "Play for Teesta", is in collaboration with an NGO.

Bhai-chung appealed to sportspersons across the world to join the cause. "We also request the government of India to restore road connectivity through NH10 as it is the lifeline of the state," he said in Siliguri.

Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, who was at Teesta Bazaar on Sunday, called for stricter environment management. "It is high time for us to think of ways and means of protecting the environment," he said.



A temporary bamboo bridge being constructed at Chungthang on Sunday days after flash floods hit Sikkim on Wednesday

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In a country where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself counsels the students on how to remain stress-free during exams in his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', such an examination reform is necessary. He tells students not to be scared of exams but to defeat them, 'pariksha ki pariksha lo' (take the exam's exam),

said Pradhan.

Exams reforms have been attempted earlier through the continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) introduced by the CBSE in 2009 but was revoked in 2017. The

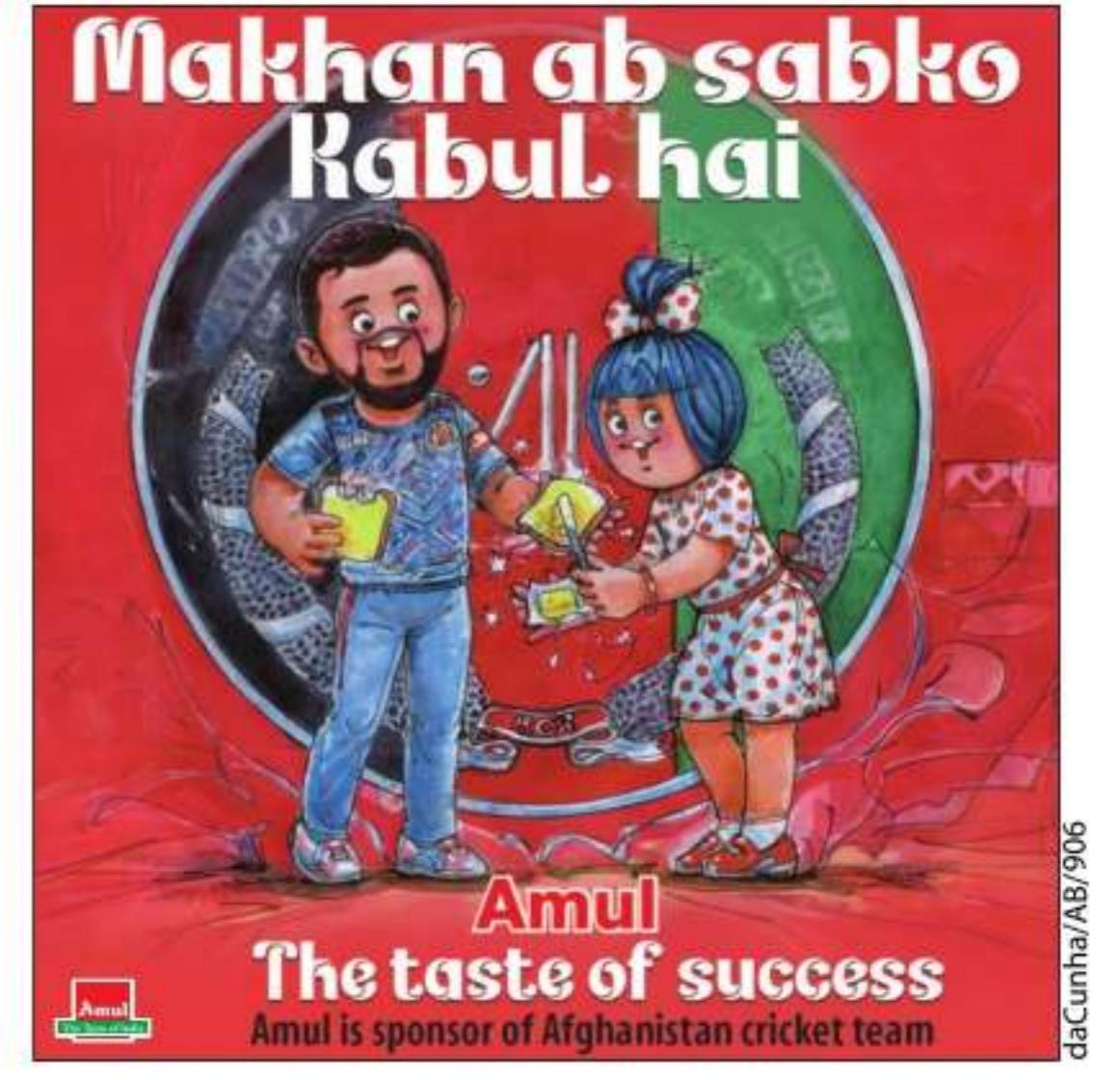
students often get stressed thinking they lost a year; their chance is gone or that they could have performed better... the stress caused by the fear of single opportunity will be reduced. If any student feels that he is completely prepared and is satisfied with the score in one set of exams, he can choose not to appear for the next exams. Nothing will be mandatory."

Pradhan, who is also the skill development minister, said that he has received positive feedback from students on the matter.

Exams reforms have been attempted earlier through the continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) introduced by the CBSE in 2009 but was revoked in 2017. The

minister said that time has come to have a serious discussion on the issue of "dummy schools". "The issue cannot be ignored. Although the number of such students is not very high as compared to the total number of students.. the time has come to have serious discussions and deliberations on the subject," he said. Asked why the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) hasn't met in the last three years, Pradhan said: CABE is being reconstituted.

On the decision of states like Karnataka and West Bengal to not implement the National Education Policy (NEP), Pradhan said, "Their objections are not academic but political."



Getty Images

EPL

PTI

AP

Zelensky's top aide
Andriy Yermak speaks
to NSA Doval about
Prez's peace formula
& the global peace
summit that Ukraine
wants to host, P 14

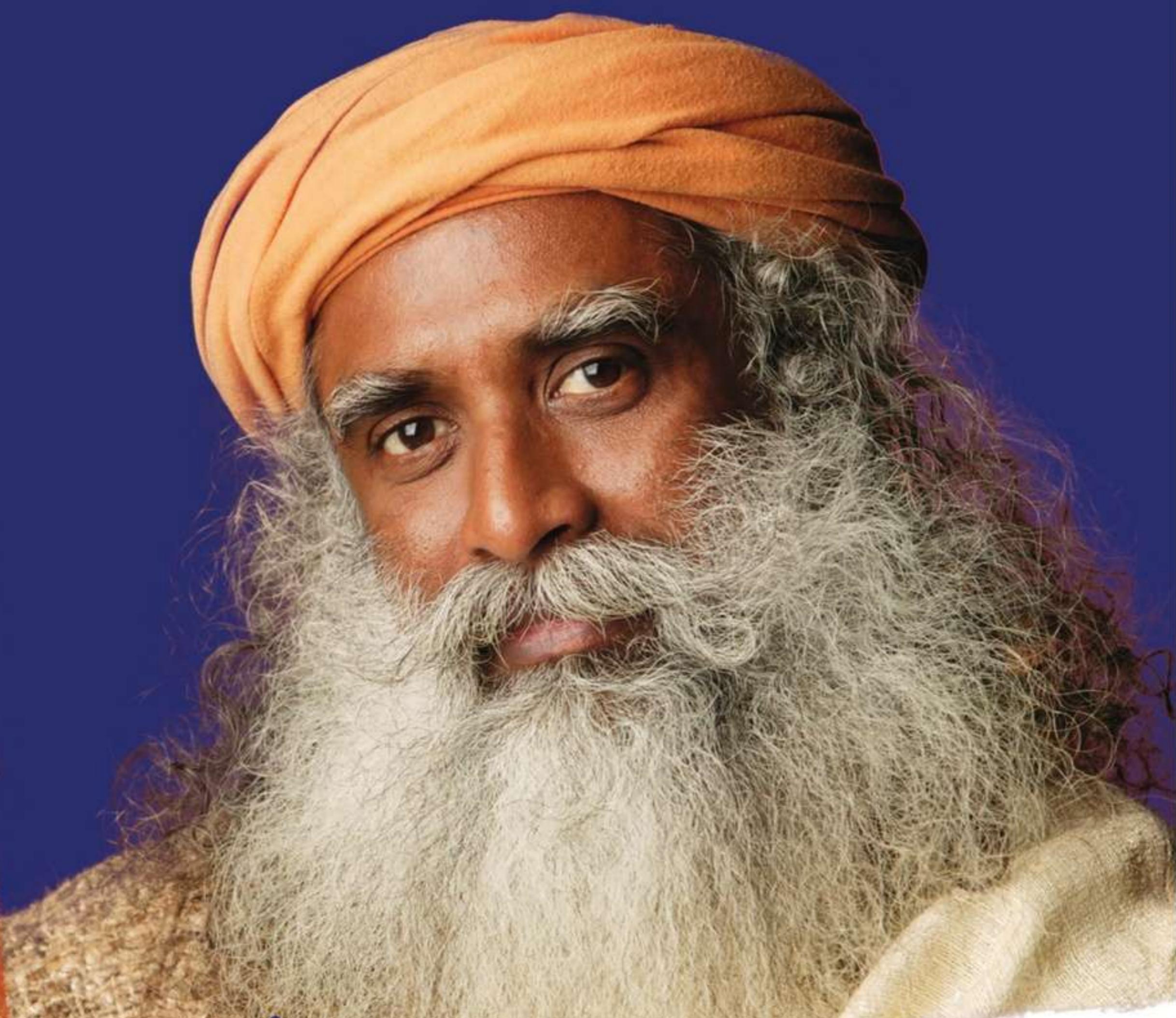
THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



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with
SADHGURU
Inner Engineering
PROGRAM



An immersive online experience

“Sleep quality and
duration improved with
Inner Engineering.”

RESEARCHER FROM
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

“Seven steps with Sadhguru
increases **endocannabinoids** in the
brain by **70%**, creating a natural
state of bliss.”

“97% of immune system
related genes were
activated with Inner
Engineering practices.”

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

“50% reduction in stress
levels of corporate
employees who did
the program.”

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Center for a Conscious Planet
BIDMC, Harvard Medical School

Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
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Space Courtesy:

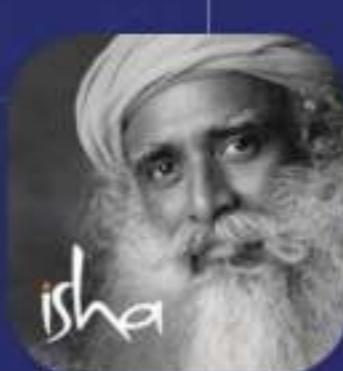
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This World Mental Health Day, take charge of your life. Offered at a reduced fee.

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TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE with Sadhguru's Online Program

Improved Sleep Quality

A study found that regular practice of Shambavi Mahamudra Kriya improved sleep quality within just 6 weeks. Participants experienced more restful sleep, reduced sleep medication requirements, and were able to fall asleep quicker.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

Sadhguru's Program Improves Energy Levels, Joy and Productivity - Research

In a study by Rutgers University, employees of a US-based Fortune 500 company experienced a significant increase in energy, joy, alertness and productivity after going through Inner Engineering.



Former World No. 1 Tennis Player: Thank You, Sadhguru!

"Sadhguru's Inner Engineering program has been an eye-opening process for me! In the beginning, I always thought that I didn't know how to meditate and it's very difficult. But now, doing my meditation every day has become my medicine. I can notice the difference in how I feel and how clearly I think. It's really transforming me."

Victoria Azarenka

From Battlefield to Bliss

"I have lost 28 close friends to suicide since we came home from the war. They called my diagnosis incurable PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder) but they never heard about Inner Engineering. The program solved what six years of anti-depressant medication post-war couldn't. I am 95% less angry and aggressive than before. It has been the only thing that has truly helped me so far."

Captain Thady Holmes
Military Veteran

Let Loose Your Body's Natural Anti-depressant

Researchers affiliated with Harvard Medical School discovered that Sadhguru's Inner Engineering program affects one's inner chemistry.

According to Dr. Bala Subramaniam (Director, Center for a Conscious Planet, BIDMC, Harvard Medical School), the Yogic practice taught as part of the program stimulates the production of Anandamide – a natural chemical which is produced by the brain when one experiences a deep sense of joy. This establishes a chemistry of joy, leading to a significant improvement in one's mental health.

ISRO Scientist: Exploring Inner and Outer Space

"After the program, I could feel many changes within myself. Though my work at ISRO keeps me busy, I regularly do my practices, which keeps me stable and far from worries."

I believe that turning inward is the best way to gain in-depth experiential knowledge about everything – even space."

Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel
Project Director,
Chandrayaan-3

Unlock Your Inner Genius: Deepak Chopra on the Power of Inner Engineering

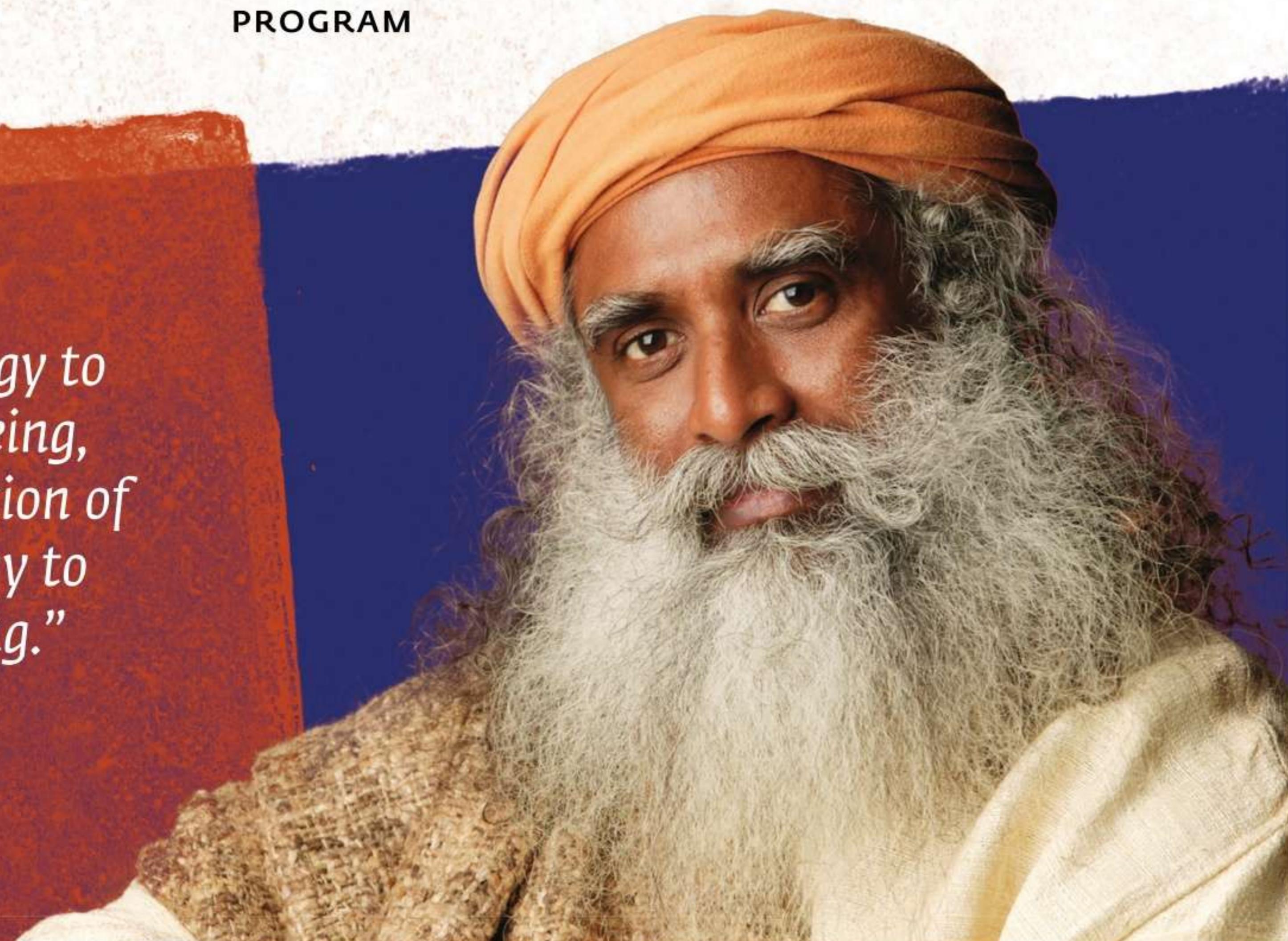
"Inner Engineering is fascinating. If you are ready, it is a tool to help awaken your own inner intelligence, the ultimate and supreme genius that mirrors the wisdom of the cosmos."

Deepak Chopra
Author and Founder
of Chopra Global

In 7 Steps Transform Your Life with SADHGURU inner Engineering PROGRAM

"As there is a technology to create external wellbeing, there is a whole dimension of science and technology to create inner wellbeing."

Sadhguru

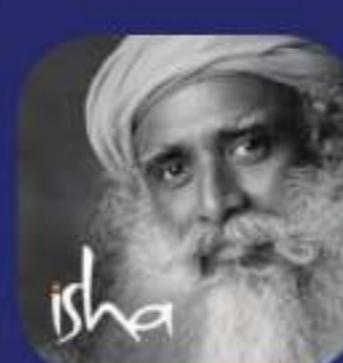


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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Former Chhattisgarh CM and BJP vice-prez Raman Singh is likely to contest state polls as the party is set to announce another list of candidates, P 10



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Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme Free Health Insurance of Rs. 25 LAKH to every resident of the State



I was suffering from kidney disease. Expensive treatment like kidney transplant could be possible due to the Chiranjeevi Scheme and my life was saved.

Kaushalya

Mahatma Gandhi Minimum Guaranteed Income Scheme Social Security Pension of minimum Rs.1000 per month and increase by 15% per annum 125 days employment in the Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme, 125 days employment in MGNREGS



I have got a big help by getting pension in form of Rs. 1000. I want the State Government to continue working in this manner.

Lala Ram Kumawat

Old Pension Scheme(OPS)

Old Pension Scheme (OPS) has been implemented for the personnel appointed on and after January 1, 2004



I am retired and I feel very happy with the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme. I thank the Rajasthan Government for starting this scheme, as it will now be able to lead a good life.

Rajkumari Jain

Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School

Quality education through English medium schools in the State



Now I am able to speak in English in public due to Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School and my confidence has also increased. My parents and I are very happy with this.

Saloni



Indira Rasoi

Nutritious and Quality food for Rs.8 in rural and urban areas



I used to have lunch and dinner at Indira Rasoi during my coaching days. Quality food was served here. Students like me and needy are benefitted with this scheme.

Chetna

Annapurna Food Packet Scheme

FREE RATION

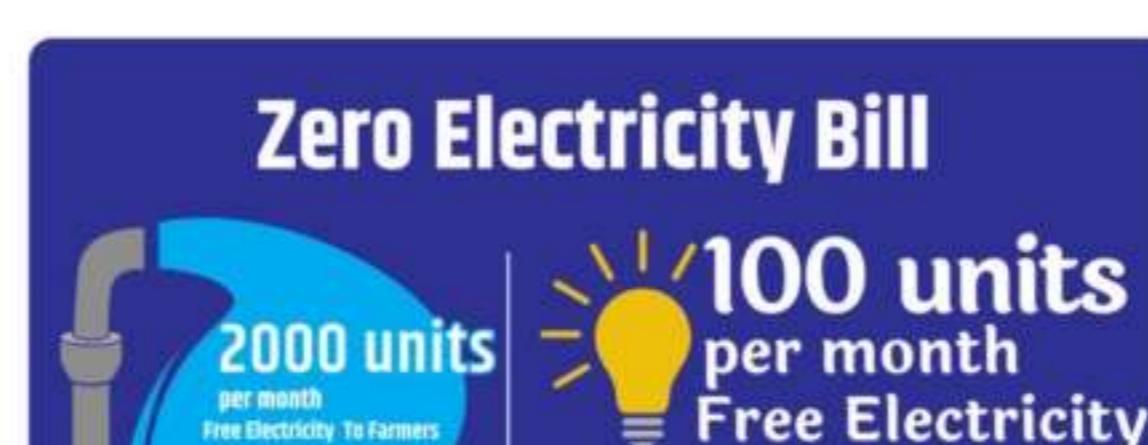
The Rajasthan Government in these days of rising inflation is giving free ration kit, which is helping me a lot in running my family. Now I am able to fulfill my children's needs properly.

Indra Devi



Now getting gas cylinder for Rs 500 has proved beneficial. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has started a very good scheme. This has benefitted the poor.

Sarju Devi



The State Government is giving 2000 units free electricity per month for farming, as a result the electricity bill has become zero. I thank the State Government for this from the bottom of my heart.

Teja Ram

“I wish the public welfare schemes of Rajasthan are implemented across the country”

Ashok Gehlot
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Seva hi Karm
Seva hi Dharm





TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

FREEDOM LIES IN BEING BOLD — ROBERT FROST

HOURS AFTER RELEASING NEW ALBUM, RAPPER DRAKE ANNOUNCES HE IS TAKING A BREAK: 'NEED TO FOCUS ON HEALTH FIRST AND FOREMOST'

WITH 'AUTUMN VARIATIONS', ED SHEERAN SCORES 7TH STRAIGHT #1 ALBUM IN UK SINCE '11 DEBUT: 'MEANS MORE THAN ANY AWARD'

Israel-Palestine 'War' Spills Beyond Conflict Zone

Israel Exchanges Fire With Lebanon's Hezbollah

Beirut: Israel and Lebanon's powerful armed group Hezbollah exchanged artillery and rocket fire on Sunday following the deadliest attack in years by Palestinian gunmen on Israel.

On Saturday, a multi-pronged attack by Palestinian gunmen on Israeli towns followed by Israel's retaliation left hundreds of people dead on both sides. PM Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "long and difficult war" ahead, saying in a statement that Israeli forces were moving into an "offensive phase, which will continue with neither limitations nor respite until the objectives are achieved."

The scale of the attack prompted fears that a wider conflict could break out between Israel and other factions opposed to it in the region, including Lebanon's Hezbollah, an armed party backed by Iran that has previously clashed with Israel.

Hezbollah on Sunday said it had launched guided rockets and artillery onto three posts in the Shebaa Farms "in solidarity" with the Palestinian people. "Our history, our guns and our rockets are with you," said Hezbollah official Hashem Safiedine. The Israeli military was on high alert throughout Sunday and said it fired artillery into an area of Lebanon where cross-border fire was launched.

The Lebanese army said shells and rockets had been launched from southern Lebanon onto "occupied Lebanese territory", without saying who was responsible, and that returning Israeli fire had left several people wounded. The statement said army units had deployed along the southern border. Israel has held Shebaa Farms, 39sq-km patch of land, since 1967. Both Syria and Lebanon claim the Shebaa Farms are Lebanese.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah

ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK

The militant attacks across Israel on Saturday made for one of the most violent and deadly days of fighting in decades



HOW IT STARTED

Oct 7, 6.35am | First sirens warn of incoming rockets in central & southern Israel; Hamas hits Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

7.40am | Israel confirms Hamas fighters entry; authorities ask residents of southern Israeli towns to hide in their homes

8.15am | Sirens go off in Jerusalem, which is rare because of the Iron Dome defence system

HOSTAGES TAKEN

8.23am | Hamas takes hostages in southern Israel, fires rockets

Israel declares a state of alert for war, effectively calling up reservists

10.46am | Israeli fighter jets strike first targets in Gaza; army spokesman later says 426 target struck

NETANYAHU DECLARATES WAR

11.35am | PM Benjamin Netanyahu gives first statement, tell Israelis they are at war

12.21pm | Israeli military sends troops to southern regions to reclaim towns taken by Hamas militants

US BACKS ISRAEL

6.08pm | President Biden speaks with Netanyahu, says US backing is 'rock solid and unwavering'

10.16pm | Netanyahu addresses the nation, vowing to turn where Hamas operates into 'cities of ruins'

Overnight, sirens continue to warn of rockets across Israel. Israeli jets strike targets throughout Gaza

2.19am | Israel claims to have destroyed all sites used to launch the attacks

Iran backs Palestinian 'right to self-defence'

President Ebrahim Raisi said on Sunday that Iran supports the Palestinians' "right to self-defence" and warned Israel must be held accountable for endangering the region, a day after Hamas attacked Israel. He urged Muslim governments to "support the Palestinian nation" while praising "resistance" efforts by Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as in countries including Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. Raisi had spoken earlier with leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, official media said. Iran does not recognise Israel and has made support for the Palestinian cause a centrepiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The bitter rivals have engaged in a shadow war for years, with Iran accusing Israel of sabotage attacks and assassinations targeting its nuclear programme. AFP

Arab League chief heads to Moscow

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit headed to Moscow for talks with Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov on the situation in Gaza. After Hamas' attack, Russia expressed grave concern, calling on both Palestinian and Israeli sides to cease violence and blamed the West for blocking mediations. Moscow said a proper negotiation was necessary to provide for the creation of a Palestinian state within the borders of 1967 with a capital in East Jerusalem. AFP

fighting. But if destruction in Gaza escalates, it may feel pressure to intervene. REUTERS & AP

with Israel, Hezbollah has stayed on the sidelines amid previous outbreaks of Israeli-Hamas

RAINING FIRE



In show of force, US to send carrier strike group closer to Israel

Washington: US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel after the surprise attack by Hamas.

The USS Gerald R Ford and its approximately 5,000 sailors and deck of warplanes will be accompanied by cruisers and destroyers in a show of force that is meant to be ready to respond to anything, from possibly interdicting additional weapons from reaching Hamas and conducting surveillance.

The large deployment, which also includes a host of ships and warplanes, underscores the concern that the US has in trying to deter the conflict from growing. The Israeli government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas.

Along with the Ford, the US is sending the cruiser USS Normandy, destroyers USS Thomas Hudner, USS Rumage, USS Carney, and USS Roosevelt and the US is augmenting Air Force F-35, F-15, F-16, and A-10 fighter aircraft squadrons in the region. "The US maintains ready forces globally to further reinforce this deterrence posture if required," Austin said.

In addition, the Biden administration "will be rapidly providing the Israel defence Forces with additional equipment and resources, including munitions. The first security assistance will begin moving today and arriving in the coming days," Austin said. AP

Disrupting Saudi-Israel ties may've motivated Hamas attack: Blinken

Washington: US defence secretary Antony Blinken said part of the motivation for Hamas' latest attack on Israel could have been disrupting a potential normalisation of Israel-Saudi Arabia ties. Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli towns as the country suffered its bloodiest day in decades on Saturday and subsequently battered Palestinians with air strikes in Gaza on Sunday, with hundreds killed on both sides and spiralling violence threatening a major new West Asia war. "It wouldn't be a surprise that part of the motivation may have been to disrupt efforts to bring Saudi Arabia and Israel together, along with other countries that may

be interested in normalising relations with Israel," he told CNN. He labelled the attack on Israel as a "terrorist attack by a terrorist organisation". He added there was not yet any evidence seen by the US of Iran being behind the attack in Israel but he noted the long-standing ties between Iran and Hamas.

Blinken added the US has also taken note of reports of several Americans killed and missing in Israel and Washington is looking to verify the details and figures. Preliminary reports indicate that at least four American citizens were killed and an additional seven were missing and unaccounted for, according to a US official. REUTERS

Republicans slam Biden for Iran deal

Republicans seized on the Hamas attack on Israel on Saturday to try to lay blame on President Biden, drawing a connection between the surprise assault and a recent hostage release deal between the US and Iran, a longtime backer of the group. Former President Trump, who has frequently presented himself as a unflinching ally of Israel, said the attacks had occurred because "we are perceived as being weak... with a really weak leader." In exchange for the release of five Americans held in Tehran, the Biden administration agreed to free up \$6 bn in frozen Iranian oil revenue funds for humanitarian purposes. NYT

Attack spotlights Israel's intel failure

Tel Aviv: Hamas' attack on Saturday took Israeli intelligence officials by surprise, particularly the methods the militants used to enter and leave Israel, to repel a ground invasion by Hamas. In the Hamas attack, these two safeguards failed.

Israel has always prided itself on its intelligence agencies — Shin Bet, the domestic unit, and especially on Mossad, the official said, did not pick up on the elaborate preparations that were most likely needed for the 250 Hamas militants tasked to lead the assault, and target military bases, cities and kibbutzim.

Many questioned why Israel was blindsided. "There were likely indications of the buildup of munitions and the preparation of the assault force, and there was cyber activity prior to the attack," Mick Mulroy, an ex-CIA officer, said. NYT

by the ultra-right governing coalition of PM Netanyahu, according to four defence officials.

Still, while Israeli intelligence collected some indications that Hamas was planning a major operation, they were far from forming a clear picture, one of the officials added. Israel, the official said, did not pick up on the elaborate preparations that were most likely needed for the 250 Hamas militants tasked to lead the assault, and target military bases, cities and kibbutzim.

Many questioned why Israel was blindsided. "There were likely indications of the buildup of munitions and the preparation of the assault force, and there was cyber activity prior to the attack," Mick Mulroy, an ex-CIA officer, said. NYT

Hundreds missing from music fest near Gaza Strip

10 Nepalese killed

Ten citizens of Nepal were among those killed in the Hamas assault on Israel, the country's embassy in Tel Aviv said in a statement. Foreign minister N P Saad said 17 Nepalese students were studying at Kibbutz Alumim in southern Israel, one of the flashpoints of the Hamas assault. AFP

cial media, lists began to circulate naming attendees who were still missing Saturday evening. One list had over 500 names of people reported missing, along with the contact information of family members.

The outdoor music festival was held near Urim, a kibbutz near the Gaza Strip. Israeli news media reported that some young Israelis were hiding for hours, some in their cars, at the site of the festival, and that dozens were still being evacuated by Israeli security forces to nearby towns and hospitals. Videos circulating on social media showed attendees running, yelling and escaping in cars. On so-

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On WhatsApp group dedicated to residents of southern Israel, people shared messages claiming they were at the festival when the chaos broke out. "People were shot in their cars as they tried to drive away," read one message from a young man who said he was at the festival. "A lot of people just started running. It was crazy. Nobody knows where their friends are."

Lapid, whose Yesh Atid party commands 24 seats, has said he would willing to join a government led by Netanyahu if he ditched hard-line partners like Itamar Ben-Gvir; the ultra-nationalist national security minister. In a statement, Gantz — whose National Unity party has 12 seats in parliament — said he would consider forming an emergency government with Netanyahu that would "fo-

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