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Biz edu will soon
be brought
under AICTE

Undergraduate business education and computer application courses will soon be brought under the purview of the AICTE. Moreover, from this year, the country is expected to graduate 1.2 million engineers, and soon slated to overtake China. AICTE chief T G Sitharaman said, "We are going to take undergraduate education such as BBM and BBA all into the AICTE fold." **P 12**

**Noida student alleges
molestation, 5 booked**

Five boys studying in Class XI students of a frontline private school in Noida have been named in an FIR filed on a classmate's complaint for molesting and assaulting her last week. **P 9**

**RapidX Gurgaon
line along NH8 now**

The Gurgaon line of the proposed Delhi-Haryana RapidX corridor will run along the expressway (NH8) with stations at Cyber Hub, Rajiv Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk and Kherki Daula. **P 6**

**3 from HP killed as
truck falls in gorge**

Three people from Himachal were killed after their pick-up truck plunged into a 200-metre-deep gorge near Chakrata in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district on Saturday morning. **TNN**

It's official: India will bid to host 2036 Olympics, confirms PM

We're Eager To
Host 2029 Youth
Oly Too, Says Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A few days after India ended its campaign at the Asian Games with an unprecedented 107 medals, PM Narendra Modi on Saturday confirmed India would bid for the 2036 Olympic Games in its attempt to bring the world's biggest sporting extravaganza to the country.

Modi said India would bid to host the 2036 Olympics and leave "no stone unturned". "In-

“India will leave no stone unturned in organising the 2036 Olympics. This is an age-old dream of 140 crore Indians. We want to fulfil this dream with your support. We are also eager to host the 2029 Youth Olympics. I am sure India will get constant support from IOC (International Olympic Committee).

— PM Narendra Modi

Namaste... India is an inspiring place. The entire Olympic community in India can be proud of the Asian Games performance

— IOC president Thomas Bach

dians are very excited about hosting the Olympics Games. This is the age-old dream of 140 crore (1.4 billion) Indians, it is their aspiration," the PM said in an address to the opening ceremony of the 14th

session of International Olympic Committee here. "We want to realise this dream with your collaboration and support... I am confident that India will get the support of the IOC," he said, referring to the



Thousands of Palestinians flee N Gaza; Israeli military set to strike 'very soon'

Thousands of Palestinians struggled Saturday to flee from areas of Gaza targeted by the Israeli military while grappling with a growing water shortage, ahead of an expected land offensive a week after Hamas' bloody assault on Israel. Several with western passports lined up at the Egyptian border crossing of Rafah but there was no movement till evening.

As the deadline given by Israel for residents of north Gaza to leave by two routes passed in the



Palestinians with western passports wait outside the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, hoping to leave

ces. The spokesman said they would strike Gaza City "very soon". The Israeli military also said for the first time that it had found bodies of some hostages abducted by Hamas in Gaza.

Nearly half of Gaza's population of over 2 million is estimated displaced over the past week. **P 21**

tradition of sports in India dating back to the Indus Valley Civilisation (Rakhi Garhi inscriptions). He said "Indians are not just sports lovers, but we also live it and the country is also eager to host the Youth Olympics in 2029".

The PM said India has the infrastructure, logistics and necessary organisational capability to host global events. He gave the example of the G20 Summit and India's presidency during which events were organised in more than 60 cities of the country and said that it is proof of India's organising capacity in every sector.

► Expressed interest, P 17

LG asks Punjab, Haryana CMs to curb stubble burning

With incidents of stubble burning in neighbouring states on the rise, lieutenant governor VK SAXENA wrote to the CMs of Haryana and Punjab on Saturday and urged them to take remedial measures.

In his letters, the LG men-

► AQI worsens, relief likely with rain, P 2

tioned that cases of stubble burning between September 15 and October 11 this year in both Punjab and Haryana were higher than the corresponding period in 2022. **P 2**

IT'S EIGHT STRAIGHT!

INDIA BATTERS PAKISTAN IN BIGGEST WIN IN WC ENCOUNTERS

Rohit Sharma led from the front with a punishing 86 off 63 balls as India produced a perfect performance to flatten Pakistan. India thus extended its WC record against Pak to 8-0 while registering its biggest Cup win against the neighbour in terms of wickets (7) & balls to spare (117)

5 FACTORS THAT MADE IT INDIA'S DAY

1 Top Captaincy: When Pak was an ominous 155/2, Rohit's body language stayed positive. He shuffled his pack, mixing pace & spin. Bowling changes were spot on.

2 Outstanding Bowling: The bowling unit was the real hero. On a flat track, they bowled with discipline & guile to curb Pak to 191. Hunting in packs, the top 5 claimed 2 wickets each. Bumrah produced two dream balls. Siraj leaked runs but struck when India needed wickets most. So did Pandya. Kuldeep was sharp & smart. In nearly 43 overs, they bowled zero no-balls and 1 wide.

3 Attack The Best Defence:

Indian batters went on the offensive from the start.

The outcome was as good as

decided in the Powerplay. At the end of 15 overs, India had reached 111. Unlike Pak, the batters毫不犹豫地 took the aerial route. Pak didn't hit a single 6; India smashed 8.

4 The Rohit Show: After his blazing 131 off 84 balls against Af, Rohit seems unstoppable. On the big day in front of a mammoth crowd, he brought out his big game. His hooked six off Shaheen Shah Afridi was the shot of the match.

5 Batting Falls Like Pak Of Cards: The top 4 batters flattered to deceive. Abdullah Shafique, Imam Ul Haq, Babar Azam & Mohd Rizwan got in but failed to produce a long innings. The middle and lower order fell apart. Some failed to negotiate some outstanding deliveries, others perished to poor shot selection.

FULL COVERAGE: P 22-24



After decades,
India-Lanka ferry
service is back

PM Modi and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe launched ferry services between Nagapattinam port in TN and Kankeanthurai in Sri Lanka. While there was a time when ferry services were an important source of connectivity between the two countries, these were suspended in the 1980s for security reasons. "We are embarking on a new chapter in diplomatic & economic relations between India & Sri Lanka," Modi said. **P 14**

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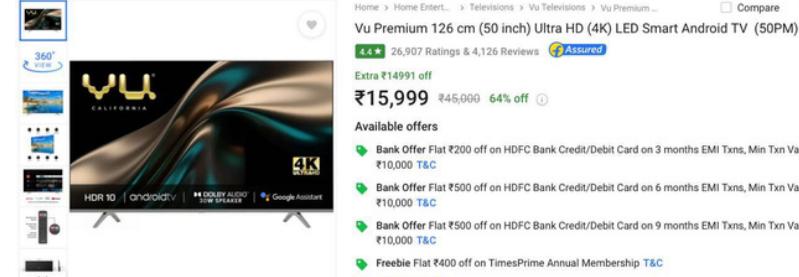
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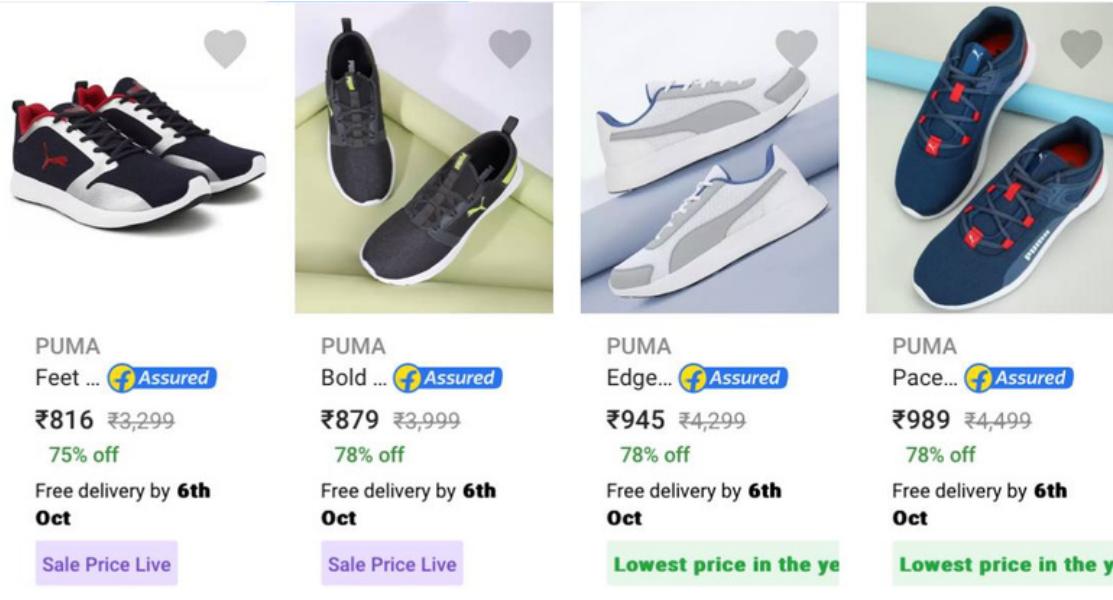


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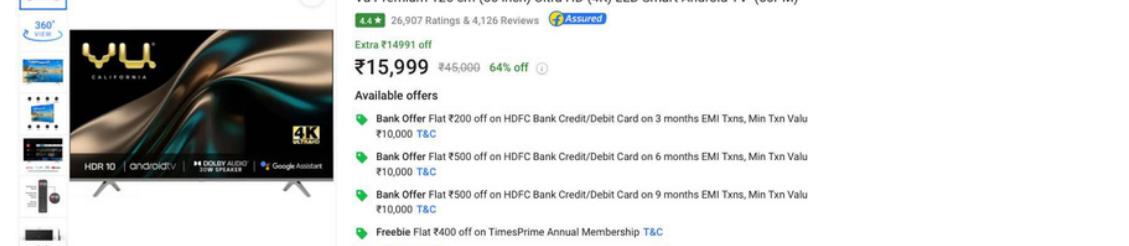
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SCAN ME

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Check Stubble Burning, LG Tells Haryana, Punjab CMs

'Galvanise All Resources To Save Delhi-NCR From Choking'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the incidents of stubble burning in the neighbouring states on a rise, lieutenant governor VK Saxena wrote to the chief ministers of Haryana and Punjab on Saturday and urged them to take remedial measures to check the practice.

In his letters, Saxena mentioned that the incidents of stubble burning recorded between September 15 and October 11 this year in both Haryana and Punjab were higher than the corresponding period in 2022 and urged them to "galvanise" all resources to defeat the deadly menace and help the residents of Delhi-NCR towns breathe easy.

The city's air quality remained in the 'poor' category for the third consecutive day with the Air Quality Index of 257 on Saturday.

In his letter to Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Saxena said it was "extremely worrisome" that the incidents of crop residue burning events in the border state between September 15 and October 11 this year reached 1063, which was 300 more than the figure in the corresponding period during 2022.

"Between October 24 and November 2, there had been an increase of 19 per cent in



Incidents of stubble burning recorded between September 15 and October 11 this year in both Haryana and Punjab were higher than the corresponding period in 2022, Saxena stated in the letter to the CMs

the incident of parali burning, in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year. You would also recall that, last year, of the five states that affect Delhi's air quality, Punjab had remained the only non-performing outlier," the LG said in his letter, adding that both Mann and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal had assured that the eventuality will not be repeated.

TOI could not get a response from the Delhi government.

In a separate communication to Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, the LG said his

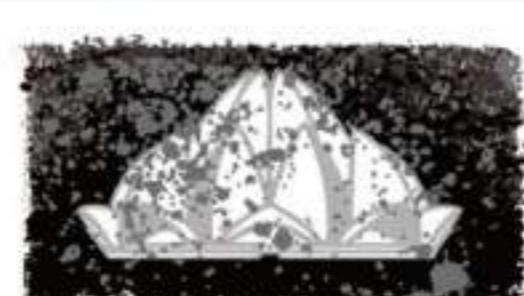
responding period during 2022," Saxena said.

Saxena further said he expected both the chief ministers to expedite remedial measures to prevent parali burning and save Delhi from choking in winters. "I am sure that you are seized of the matter and urge you to galvanise all available resources and make the farmers willing partners in defeating this deadly menace," he wrote to both Mann and Khattar.

Saxena said being the national capital, Delhi housed the Parliament, Supreme Court and all diplomatic missions representing the globe, besides its two crore inhabitants. "It hosts lakhs of visitors, tourists and envoys coming to India for summits and conferences, who are exposed to debilitating air pollution, for no fault of theirs. This inter alia also has a bearing on the nation's international image and standing," the LG said.

He added that Delhi was taking all steps to ensure that local causes of air pollution were fully addressed.

Delhi BJP president Sachdeva said the residents of the capital were grateful to the LG for writing letters to the chief ministers of Haryana and Punjab to curb farm residual burning.



state had done "exemplarily" last year by controlling stubble burning.

It is extremely worrisome that the incidents of crop residue burning events in Haryana during September 15 to October 11 this year have reached 340, which is 257 more than the figure of 83 in the cor-

A grid plan that can watch and check NCR pollution

Priyangi.Agarwal

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New Delhi: Scientists at CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) are working on a grid-based mitigation strategy to watch and check air pollution across the National Capital Region (NCR).

The entire NCR can be divided into small grids, akin to tiles, called Local Area Management Plan (LAMP). A network of stationary and mobile sensors can be used to monitor each area. Each tile or LAMP — unique to that area — will be spread over an area of 2x2 square kilometres.

Air pollution sources can be identified, their activity levels quantified along with daily pollutant emission loads. While NEERI has already done the exercise in Wazirpur, it is now working in the Siri Fort area and Badarpur (Haryana).

The approach is to treat air pollution at a local level, keeping in mind the diverse requirements of each area, instead of opting for a one-size-fits-all policy.

A research article, titled Development of Strategic Air Quality Improvement Framework for Urban Hotspots, published by CSIR-NEERI in a reputed peer-reviewed journal, used a grid of tiles in the Wazirpur area pollution hotspot for summer and winter (summer

and winter) to identify sources, road dust and industries were found to be the prominent emission sources emitting 53% and 28% as reflected in the PM2.5 concentrations. "Using developed framework (based on pollution reduction associated cost, social impact and ease

of enforcement), the prioritized control actions for better air quality in the study area were identified: dust cleaning by mechanized vacuum machine, operation of industries with full capacity during day time only, installation of cyclone dust collector in industrial stacks, and increase in stack height by 50%," said the study.

"It is inferred that heterogeneous trends at the local level necessitates strategic and a smart criteria-based air quality management plan for designing any control intervention. The developed framework can aid regulatory agencies or urban local bodies in managing air quality at the local level," said the study, whose authors are Prachi Goyal, Sunil Gupta and SK Goyal.

Speaking at the India Clean Air Summit (ICAS) 2023 in August, SK Goyal, the chief scientist and head (professor, AcSIR), CSIR-NEERI, Delhi Zonal Centre, said: "We will develop a grid-based mitigation strategy, termed 'Local Area Management Plan' (LAMP), for a hotspot, as a conceptual model for each season. The 'one size fits all' approach has rarely worked for air pollution mitigation. Hence, rather than similar actions across the city, LAMP will allow policymakers to have grid-wise mitigation and will make urban air pollution more manageable."

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In poor zone, city air quality worsens, relief likely with rain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The air quality in Delhi remained in the 'poor' category for the third consecutive day with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 257 on Saturday. As rain is likely in the city on Monday, the air quality may improve to the 'moderate' category.

Though the overall air quality of the city was in the poor category, five stations - Anand Vihar, Bawana, DTU, Mundka and NSIT Dwarka - were in the 'very poor' category with AQI crossing 300. Of these, Mundka was the most polluted area with an AQI of 396 in the higher-end of the very poor category.

VK Soni, head, environment and research centre, India Meteorological Department, said, "The air quality has been hovering in the poor category due to mostly calm winds during night time and low mixing height, which are favourable for accumulation of pollutants. As there is forecast for rain on Sunday night and Monday, it will help clear the pollution."

According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to remain in the lower-end of the poor category on Sunday, but it is likely to be in the moderate category on Monday and Tuesday.

According to Indian Agricultural Research Institute, which follows the standard protocol 2021 that was notified by the commission for air quality management in national capital region and adjoining areas, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh recorded 89, 41 and 18 paddy residue burning events, respectively, on Saturday. At present, farm fires are low, but experts said stubble burning counts will rise by October-end.

The forecast of India Meteorological Department says that there is a possibility of very light rain or thundershows on Sunday night. Light rain is likely on Monday while very light showers are predicted for Tuesday. "Under the influence of an active western disturbance, Delhi-NCR is likely to witness rain," said Kuldip Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, IMD.

On Saturday, the maximum temperature was 36.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. The minimum temperature was 21.1 degrees, one notch above normal. The relative humidity oscillated between 44% and 93%.

ASI sites to get gift shops to attract tourists

Anuja.Jaiswal
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KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

Some of the ASI protected monuments where souvenir shops have been proposed

New Delhi: In order to enhance interest and recognition of Indian culture and heritage among tourists visiting the protected monuments, including Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Purana Qila, Jantar Mantar, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to establish souvenir shops inside the premises of its 84 monuments across the nation.

According to officials, the souvenir shops intend to provide better experience to visitors, as authentic replicas of the monument will be available there. Sometimes, souvenir shops provide replicas with modifications in order to enhance their beauty, but these are not accurate, a senior ASI official said.

The official added that "this is an opportunity for the cultural and creative industries to work closely with the monument managements". Besides Delhi's monuments, souvenir shops have been proposed at several other places, including the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Elephanta Caves, Kanheri Caves, Tipu Sultan Palace, Bangalore | Dariya Daulat Bagh, Tipu Sultan Palace, Keshava temple

Jajma and Ellora caves.

Talking to **TOI**, ASI spokesperson TJ Alone said that their intent is to go beyond a simple gift shop which only sells magnets and souvenir

mugs. Instead, interested parties will be encouraged to imagine far more exciting offerings using technology and historic techniques that are regionally important and glo-

bally relevant. "Use of 3D printing for creating replicas, inclusion of 'one district one product' items, redeveloping and packaging games of ancient and medieval India could

expand the relevance of souvenirs," he said, adding that interested corporate firms are invited for this project.

He added that visitors' associations with the monuments would increase after the availability of such shops within the premises of monuments. "The souvenirs will help them recall their visit to the monuments," he added.

ASI director Vasant Swarnkar said that the policy for running souvenir shops at monuments of national importance was being deliberated upon for the past few months.

"Souvenir varieties will range from replicas of highlighted features of the site to artefacts of antiquarian value," he added.

Besides replicas, these souvenir shops can serve as a playground for creative ideas where craftspeople, artisans, corporate conglomerates, boutique manufacturers and startups can participate in manufacturing items that represent the culture of India.

This public amenity was formerly provided in the form of a publications counter. This now will evolve into a more multidimensional offering for the general public.

According to officials, the

monuments will be open to the public from 10 AM to 6 PM.

ASI director Vasant Swarnkar said that the policy for running souvenir shops at monuments of national importance was being deliberated upon for the past few months.

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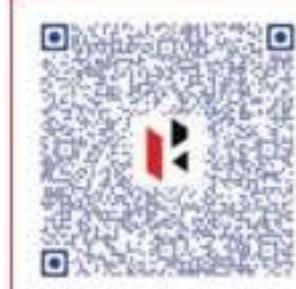


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Lack of funds hits maintenance on model Chandni Chowk stretch

Siddhanta Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Once the most ambitious road project undertaken by Delhi government, the Chandni Chowk stretch has turned into a huge problem within two years of its redevelopment. After Civil Defence volunteers suspended their vigilance duties there last month due to non-payment of salaries for five months, the private housekeeping and sanitation company has also withdrawn its services.

According to a letter written by the company to the Public Works Department, payment of Rs 5 crore is due to it and the service contract was also not renewed. "Please be intimated that in the absence of a formal order (to extend), it shall not be possible for us to continue the services from October 16. Kindly release the outstanding payment of Rs 5.5 crore at the earliest," says the letter addressed to the PWD on October 13.

A PWD officer admitted this and said the problem was due to paucity of funds.

Sanjay Bhargava, president, Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal, complained, "There is constant mo-



IN A BAD SHAPE

vement of motorised vehicles in the pedestrian zone even during the prohibited 9am-9pm period, which is a serious violation of police notification and Delhi High Court orders. These violations are causing heavy

congestion and are a serious impediment to the public at large," said Bhargava.

Over 124 Civil Defence volunteers deployed to enforce discipline at Chandni Chowk have not received salaries since March and are on protest because of which encroachments and unauthorised movement of vehicles on the stretch are on the rise.

The current state of affairs on the pedestrianised road is getting worse by the day, with the decorative guards on the central verge of the road broken at many spots and four wheelers and two wheelers openly flouting the ban on movement of motorised vehicles for 12 hours a day.

The jersey barriers to regulate the flow of vehicles are not functioning and the footpath is now stained with paan spits. The main road is heavily crowded with cycle rickshaws, hardly leaving any space for people to walk peacefully.

"The Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation has to take the lead in the management of the Chandni Chowk stretch. Cleanliness is the responsibility of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. PWD does not have enough funds to enforce the regulations here," said a PWD officer.

Running, business class

Several CEOs will run the Delhi half marathon today as fitness goals find a place in daily schedules alongside boardroom targets

Sharad Kohli | TNN

You don't compete with anyone; you compete with yourself. You do it at your own pace, at a pace you're happy with – and you get a high after achieving something. Of course, it's a wonderful sport." That's Vineet Agrawal, founder and CEO, T10 Sports, talking about the delights of running.

On Sunday, Agrawal will be among several CEOs and senior corporate executives who will be at the starting line of the 18th edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, an event that embodies how running has become the spine of a fitness awakening in Indian cities. The holistic approach to personal and organisational well-being that many business leaders have adopted is simply a reflection of this larger societal trend.

Running is, in a sense, Agrawal, the democratic way to good health. "This is the only sport that anyone can pursue. We all have run at some point in our lives and running is something that doesn't require any technical knowledge," he says.

Agrawal, incidentally, has been running for 13 years and has participated in upwards of 100 marathons, both half and full, including 10 Delhi half marathons. He's also an Ironman and ultramarathoner. "I ran a 50km before I ran a full marathon," he tells TOI.

Running has become a way for people to connect and interact not just socially but also professionally, believes Vijayraghavan Venugopal, CEO of nutrition brand Fast&Up, who has signed up for his second Delhi half marathon. "Also, running comes as a very easy and natural transition for people wanting to get into some form of fitness," he maintains.

"It takes a big push to start because I remember it was a big thing for me to run

Vineet Agrawal, founder and CEO, T10 Sports | Has participated in more than 100 marathons, including 10 Delhi half marathons

Vijayraghavan Venugopal, CEO of nutrition brand Fast&Up | Has signed up for his second Delhi half marathon



Rashmi Mohanty, CFO at SBI Cards | Her first Delhi half marathon was back in 2010



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Man held for raping daughter

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping his minor daughter aged 14 in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar on Friday night.

Police said they received a call about the incident around 10 pm. The accused raped his daughter when his wife was not present at home. The survivor told about the incident to her mother when

she returned. Subsequently, the statement of the survivor was recorded in the presence of her mother and a case under sections of rape and 6 Poco Act was registered at Mayur Vihar police station.

The accused has been arrested, he is a drug addict and unemployed. The family lived in a rented accommodation, cops said. Police are probing whether the minor was raped by her father earlier too.

Govt gets 6 wks on prisoners' conjugal rights

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi government has informed the high court that the Director General of Prisons has sent to the home department a proposal about the rights of prisoners to seek conjugal visits.

The proposal will now also be forwarded to the Union ministry of home affairs for issuing necessary instructions, the government told Delhi High Court in response to a plea arguing that conjugal visitation away from the prying eyes of prison officials is a "fundamental right."

It submitted that several countries allow such visits. The court then granted Delhi government six weeks to apprise it of the developments that follow its recommendation and listed the matter for further hearing on January 15 next year.

The court was hearing a petition by advocate Amit Sahni seeking directions to Delhi government and DG (Prisons) to make necessary arrangements in jails for conjugal visits by spouses of the inmates.

On the PIL, the court had earlier issued notice to the authorities concerned in May 2019.

The PIL says the court must set aside the state's prison rules that mandate the presence of a jail officer when a prisoner is meeting his or her spouse. It also urged the court to declare conjugal visits a "fundamental right" of a prisoner since despite most prisoners being in the "sexually active" age bracket they were denied conjugal visitation.

"Despite courts taking a progressive approach and various countries allowing conjugal visits considering it an important human right and also in the light of studies backing conjugal visits as factor to cut down crimes in jail and reform the inmates, the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018 are totally silent on the issue," the PIL said.

The plea said prisoners cannot be denied private meetings with a spouse on grounds of existing provisions of parole and furlough in the Indian penal system and added that these were anyway not available to undertrial inmates. It said conjugal visits not only ensure enforcement of the fundamental human rights of those incarcerated but also their spouses who suffer without having done any wrong.

It said various researches have shown conjugal visits reduce frequency of prison riots, sexual crimes and homosexual conduct while moving prisoners towards reformation and good behaviour.



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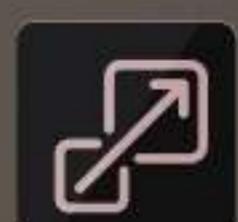
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3 men named in FIR for fraud in fire operator recruitment test

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch has registered an FIR in connection with fraud during the fire operator recruitment exam, after a deputy secretary-rank official filed a complaint, naming three people as suspects in the case.

According to the complainant, after scrutinizing the biometric reports that were taken during the computer-based test (CBT) and driving skill test for the post of fire operator, they learned about the fraud.

"They found the biometrics of three candidates that were taken during the CBT exam and driving skill tests were not matching," a police officer said.

During the inquiry, it was found that the photographs taken during the biometrics process were different from the photographs pasted on the main applications.

As the handwriting profile recorded for the CBT was not matching, the complainant suspected that impersonators were appearing for the exams in place of the original candidates.

"They indulged in unfair means, malpractices, and criminal activities like cheating, impersonation, forgery, and conspiracy during the exam," the complainant told police.

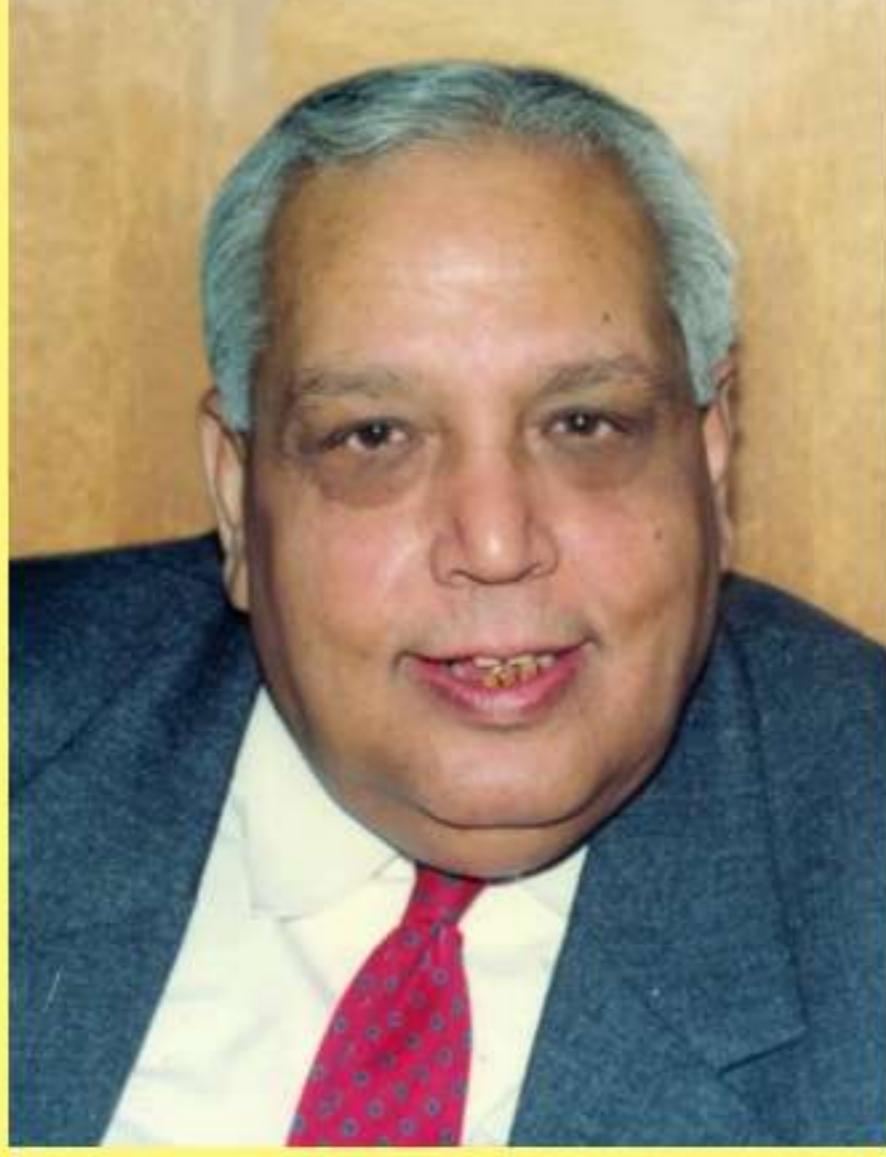
Cops suspect that fake candidates had appeared at three exam centres in place of the original ones. A case under sections 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (cheating and dishonesty inducing delivery of property), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the IPC has been registered.

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अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो, न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे॥

The soul is neither born, nor does it ever die; nor having once existed, does it ever cease to be. The soul is without birth, eternal, immortal, and ageless. It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.



Mahendra K Jajodia

11th February, 1938 – 15th October, 2019

You are not truly gone, we keep you in our heart
You'll forever be alive, And we'll never have to part

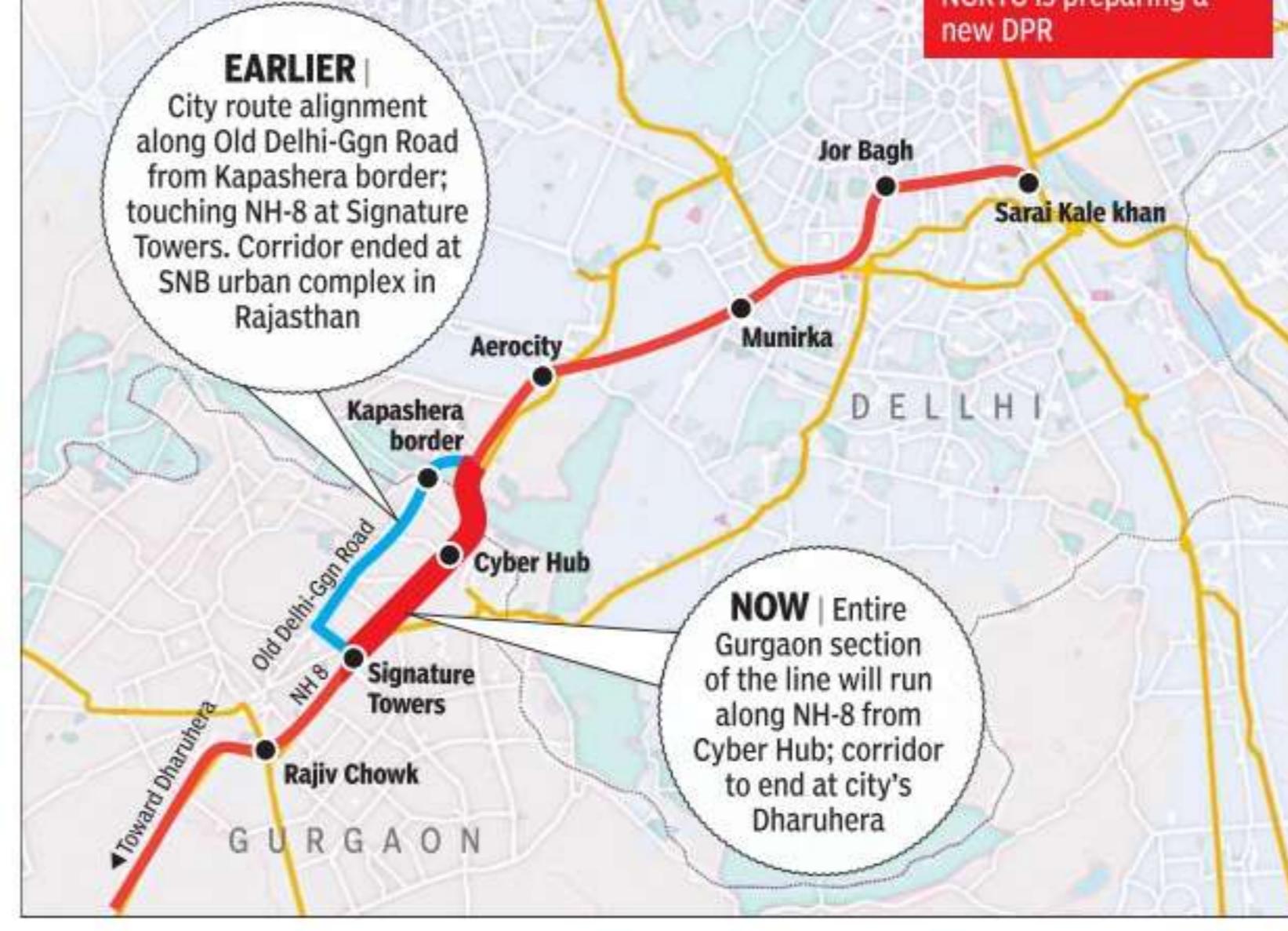
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Delhi-Haryana RapidX Line To Enter Gurgaon From Aerocity

Cyber Hub To Be First Station In NCR Town, To Run Along NH-8

CHANGE TO PUSH BACK TIMELINES

THE NEW ALIGNMENT



PROJECT STATUS
NCRRTC is preparing a new DPR

Earlier, the alignment of the corridor was via Old Delhi-Gurgaon road, meeting NH-8 only at Signature Towers. The revised alignment will see the RapidX corridor enter Gurgaon from Aerocity, with Cyber Hub as the first station of the city. This, however, will necessitate a new detailed project report (DPR), which will push back the project's timeline.

According to the new plan, the RapidX track will run along the Delhi-Jaipur side of the expressway from Aerocity to Cyber Hub. From Cyber Hub, it will shift to the other side of the expressway till Kherki Daula, where a three-level underground station will be built. The next three stations — Manesar, Pachgaon and Dharuhera — will be at the ground level. The track will terminate at Dharuhera, unlike the previous plan, in which the 107km-long corridor ended at the Shahjahanpur-Neemrana-Behror (SNB) urban complex in Rajasthan.

This will shorten the corridor to around 80km, of which 60km will be in Gurgaon and Rewari districts of Haryana. The Cyber Hub, Rajiv Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk and Kherki Daula stations will be underground.

The earlier alignment

was from Aerocity to Kapashera border and further to Atul Kataria Chowk via the Old Delhi-Gurgaon road. It was proposed to cross Signature Towers and Rajiv Chowk to reach Kherki Daula.

The Delhi portion of the corridor remains unchanged — it will start from Sarai Kale Khan, the junction where the Haryana line and the Delhi-Meerut RapidX corridor will meet, and reach Aerocity via Jor Bagh and Munirka.

The entire Delhi section will be underground. The corridor along the expressway, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had not agreed to this since it had some plans for expansion and additional work. NHAI has now agreed to allow the RapidX line along the expressway and has conveyed its consent to the NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC), so the changes have been made.

The corridor will cater to a large number of office-goers working in the Cyber City area," an official from the transport ministry said.

The earlier alignment

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The NCRTC, which is building the RapidX corridor, is

preparing the new DPR. It has already completed pre-construction work for the earlier alignment, including shifting utilities and clearing encroachment along the Old Delhi-Gurgaon road. Officials from the corporation didn't comment on the change in route.

In July this year, CM Manohar Lal Khattar blamed the Delhi government for delay in work on the Delhi-Gurgaon-SNB and Delhi-Sonipat routes.

Khattar alleged the Delhi government had been creating obstacles in these two routes and suggested that the Gurgaon route begin from Aerocity.

3 held with 45kg drugs

New Delhi: Three men were arrested with 45kg marijuana near Bhalswa Lake on Friday evening. The accused had concealed the drugs in a specially designed cavity under the rear seat of a car.

The accused were identified as Akhilesh Bhagat (29), Naresh Kumar (19), and Prakash Sharma (32). Special commissioner of police (crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said they got information that the contraband was being transported in a car from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi. "We got information that they would be coming near Bhalswa Lake to deliver the consignment. A trap was laid, and the accused were nabbed," he added.

During the interrogation of one of the accused, it was found that the rear seat of the car was foldable, and there was a cavity designed under the rear seat for hiding contraband. Bhagat had purchased a second-hand car and prepared a hidden cavity below the rear seat. TNN

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A Slight Dip In Foreign Student Count, But DU May Get More

30 More PhD Applications Yet To Be Verified, Says Official

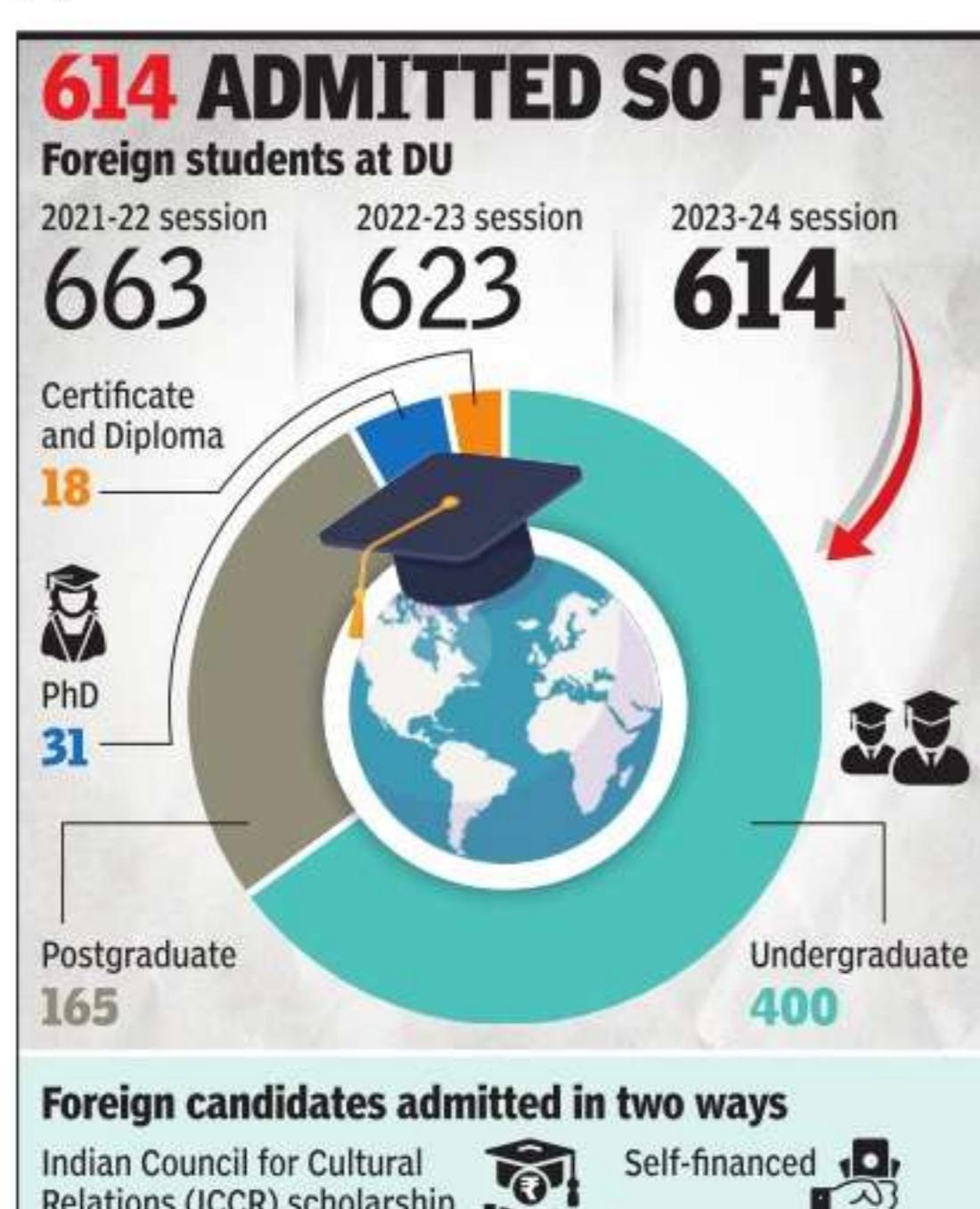
Shradha.Chettri
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: For the first time, one student each from Israel, Ecuador, Guatemala and Sweden has been admitted to Delhi University this year, according to details provided by the foreign students' registry office. However, the total number of overseas students admitted has seen a marginal decline from 623 in 2022-23 to 614 this year.

Amarjiva Lochan, joint dean of foreign students, DU, said on Saturday, "There are 30 more students who have applied for PhD admission. Their applications need to be scrutinised and if this is also cleared then the admission numbers will rise."

There are two ways foreign candidates are admitted to DU: Applicants processed through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and those self-financed or with scholarships other than of ICCR. Foreign nationals seeking admission in any course are exempted from the entrance test but their admission is based on the merit list.

Of the 614 admitted this year, 400 are in the undergraduate category. The colleges



popular among foreign students are Miranda House, Hansraj and Kirori Mal, with Jamia College registering fewer applications this year. "This time, we tried to popularise women's colleges such as Maitreyi College and Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women," said Lochan.

This time, youngsters

from Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet make up a large part of the foreign students. But compared with the past years, applicants from Bangladesh and Tibet are fewer this year. The university received around 10 applications from Afghanistan, after DU had received the largest number of applications from that country in 2021. "We have seen of late that many students from these three countries seek admission in private universities in Bengaluru that provide dual degrees," added Lochan.

Among the newer countries, Israel is a new one, with students from there being admitted to political science (Hons). A student from Ecuador has got the ICCR scholarship and is studying BA (Hons) in tabla. A student from Sweden is studying LLB at the Law Faculty.

Foreign students are very important for universities from the point of view of institutional rankings. The National Institute Ranking Framework has a parameter called Region Diversity, which considers the percentage of students from other states/countries in an institute. In 2021, DU's score was 13.71 out of 30. In 2022, it increased to 14.7 and in 2023 it was 16.89.

Seed racket: Woman held for cheating

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 40-year-old woman, who duped several people of crores of rupees on the pretext of selling them 'Akalite seeds', has been arrested from Mayur Vihar on Saturday.

Suspect Gayatri Deori, a native of Assam, ran a gang with her Nigerian husband Okeleke Franklin Vhbundum Zule and has been absconding for three years, the police said.

She, her husband, and other associates cheated many people, including a lieutenant general and a businessman, on the pretext of selling very expensive 'Akalite seeds'.

"Zule contacted businessman Sanjeev Menezes to buy 10,000 packets of 'Akalite seeds' at the rate of around Rs 3 lakh per packet. After that, Deori and Menezes negotiated to sell seeds at the rate of Rs 2.1 lakh per packet. Under their influence, the complainant gave them Rs. 44.3 lakh," deputy commissioner of police (special cell) Alok Kumar said.

Deori and her husband used the same modus operandi to cheat Lt. General Balbir Singh Sandhu of Rs 10.5 lakh. "Her husband was arrested in the case, but she was absconding in both cases. A reward of Rs. 20,000 was declared on her arrest," the DCP said, adding that a police team led by inspector Shiv Kumar arrested Deori.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
**REVISED NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION
FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on "as is where is and whatever there is basis". "SPLOCA" here by invites bids from the intending bidders along with a bid deposit as mentioned in the table below as Earnest Money for Immovable Properties to be paid through DD in favor of "Special Officer and Competent Authority (EMD)" or through RTGS/NEFT to the Account number 41506340119, IFSC Code: SBIN0040277 STATE BANK OF INDIA, VIDHANA SOUDHA Branch.

Short description of the Immovable Property

Sl. No.	Address of the property	Area (Dimension) & Boundaries	Title
1.	Site bearing No.41/1 Situated at Kadugondanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Arabic College Post., Bengaluru – 560045 Located in Old Ward No.94, New Ward No.30 having BBMP PID No. 94-43/41/1 (Near Aala Dreams Apartment) comprising of non working petrol bunk.	Land Area: 4800 sq.ft (Four thousand eight hundred square feet only) Bounded on East by: The factory of M/s. Bharath Products West by: Nagavara Main Road North by: Private Property South by: Private Property	Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 1087/2019 and MISC No. 51/2022

Reserve Price: Rs. 5,00,00,000/- (Rs. Five Crore only)

EMD : Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rs. Fifty Lakhs only)

Bid Increase Value: Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lakh only)

Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission: 20th October 2023 until 5 pm

Date of Inspection & time: 25th October 2023 11:00am to 05:00pm

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time : 26th October 2023 3 pm to 4 pm

Date & Time of E Auction : 30th October 2023 11 am to 1 pm.

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://www.bankeauctions.com>. The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvaraya Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 8217203930.

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam)
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Current agency may pick garbage for 6 more months

Vibha.Sharma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to extend the deadline for the existing concessionaire by at least six months as the last day for door-to-door collection of garbage in the central zone will get over by mid-November. MCD has 12 zones.

"Though we had given one extension to the existing concessionaire which will be getting over in November and as per the contractual norm, no further extension can be done, at present we have no other option. With no clarity on the formation of a standing committee anytime soon and no alternative arrangements available, this is the only option we have. Otherwise, sanitation services in all 25 wards under the central zone will suffer," an official said. Among the neighbourhoods are Jangpura, Greater Kailash and Lajpat Nagar.

The agency will work on same rates, terms and conditions and a decision in this regard will be taken after seeking the approval of the political wing, an official said.

The department has invited a fresh Rs 1,200-crore tender for 10 years or Rs 120 crore for one year for the central zone. The work includes lifting of silt and construction and demolition waste, but the financial sanction for the project has to be given by the standing committee.

"The mayor has no power to finalise the rate and agency for

any project beyond Rs 5 crore. Moreover, once the tender is finalised, it will take 4-5 months for the concessionaire to bring together its machinery and make other arrangements. That's why we planned to give an extension of at least six months," the official said.

Experts, however, believe that the civic body had already taken a long time in inviting tenders, despite the outgoing team of councillors specifying this to be among the prominent projects to be taken up as a higher priority to avoid delay in door-to-door collection of garbage.

In March 2022, the erstwhile south corporation's outgoing standing committee approved the proposal for initiating the tendering process to appoint a new contractor for the central zone during its meeting.

Under the new contract, besides collection and transportation of solid waste, the contractor will do mechanised street sweeping, collect horticultural waste, desilt waste and store domestic hazardous waste in a designated processing facility under the public-private partnership (PPP).

"Unlike conventional contracts, in which MCD was paying money on the basis of the amount of waste dumped at a landfill, in the updated contracts, the emphasis is on diverting a major quantity of the waste to the de-centralised processing units and lesser waste to the landfills," the official said.

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E-Tender Notice

1. Short Term E-Tender Notice No.: 03/CHD-I/ATPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the "Engagement of two dozers machine(BD-155 or equivalent) with operated and lub oil etc 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 12.10.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 94,05,000.00 only, Period: 06 Months, E.M.D cost: Rs. 1,88,100.00, Last date of Tender: 25.10.2023 at 18:00 Hrs.

2. E-Tender Notice No.: 02/AHD/DTPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the Work of "Transportation dry fly ash by road in closed bulkers from ash silos of DTPS, Anpara (U.P.) to abandoned pit no.3 of NCL gorbi mane (M.P.)." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 11.10.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 25,74,00,000.00 only, Period: 365 Days, E.M.D cost: Rs. 51,00,000.00, Last date of Tender: 15.11.2023 at 18:00 Hrs.

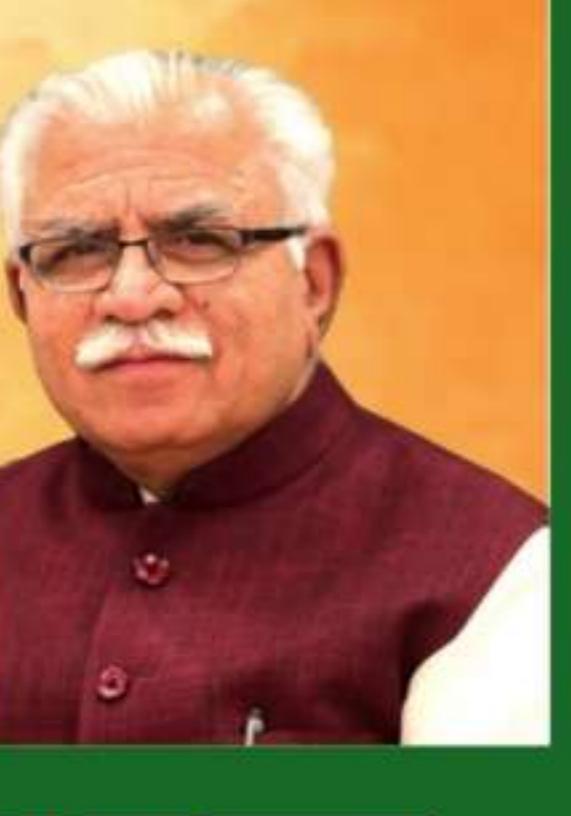
Total quality of work/supply, Tender specification and other term & condition is as per tender document available on the E-tender portal. Concerned Officer reserves the right to cancel the e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

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All hands on deck to bring goddess Durga to life

Shreya.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With seven days left for Durga Puja, every minute is precious for the murtikars (idol makers) who are flooded with *thakurer bayna* (booking of idols). While several murtikars from Kumartuli in West Bengal have been summoned to the capital to make the Durga idols, there are others, such as Govind Nath and Manik Pal, who call Chittaranjan Park in south Delhi their home.

Nath, head artisan at Kalibari, a CR park landmark, said, "I have lived in CR Park since childhood. From the time I was a child, I helped my father in the traditional family work of idol making, which my grandfather and great-grandfather too were engaged in." Nath accordingly turned a childhood interest into a livelihood.

According to Nath, the artisans earn between 10,000 and 50,000 to make each idol of Durga. The final touches are reserved for Mahalaya, an auspicious day around seven days before the pujas, falling this year on Saturday. On the day, Durga's eyes are painted in a ritual called *chokkhadaan* (literally 'gifting of the eyes').

The idol-making process begins with crafting a sturdy bamboo and straw frame called the kathamo that can sup-

port the weight of clay. Straw binds the structure together and forms the foundation for base layers. "Clay from Haryana or Uttar Pradesh is used for the final clay layers. The special clay for the face, imported from Kolkata's riverbank, adds a quality finishing touch," revealed Nath. The clay is put layer after layer, being left to dry in the sun each time.

The final touches are reserved for Mahalaya, an auspicious day around seven days before the pujas, falling this year on Saturday



An enchanting aura hangs over the narrow alleys near the cinema hall. The idols, some in half-finished glory, stand tall and arresting. In the chiaroscuro, Pal, who moved from Krishnanagar in West Bengal to Delhi in 1995, balances precariously on an elevated stool and reaches up to the towering Durga idol. His cup of *kadak* chai lies forgotten. With every stroke of his paintbrush, he casts a warm, yellow-tinted glow upon her countenance. Suddenly, Durga's face comes to life.

The craftsmanship demands tireless effort, for which the financial rewards are often meagre. Nath acknowledged the challenge, saying, "If you've accepted an order, you must deliver the idol on time, even if it means disrupting our daily routine."

Pal, equally renowned, is working on the figures of Durga, her consort Shiva, children Ganesh, Kartik, Lakshmi and Saraswati, and Mahishasura at the Chandralok Cinema Complex. This cinema hall, once known for screening low-budget and regional cinema, operated between the mid-'70s and the early 2000s, occasionally showing Bengali films on Sundays. Today, Chandralok has become a temporary home to artisans who breathe life into the idols of gods and goddesses that will make their way to the grand pandals in CR Park and other places.

While buckets of vibrant colours, bamboo stacks and dried clay strewn all around, the idol makers toil tirelessly. Instead of the usual chakra, lotus and sword in Durga's 10 hands, at the moment, there are shirts and pants of the craftsmen hanging from the arms of the unfinished idols. But this down-to-earth picture still does not diminish the spirituality of the place where art and devotion find expression in every pat of the wet clay, in every brushstroke.

Ramakrishna Mission to celebrate Durga Puja for first time in capital

Anindya Chattopadhyay



An elaborate pandal with marble platform has been built for the puja

Shreya.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

for 60 years.

The groundwork for the puja celebration began in September, following the necessary permissions granted by the Belur Math headquarters of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, collectively known as Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission (RKMRM), in August.

What makes this celebration even more special is the participation of six skilled dhakis from Bolpur, Kolkata. The bhog offerings are expected to be on a grand scale with devotees and visitors from all walks of life being invited to partake in the festivities.

Belur Math was established by Swami Vivekananda, one of the prominent disciples of the 19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna Paramahansa. This sprawling complex on the banks of the Hooghly River in West Bengal is not only a place of worship but also a centre for spiritual and humanitarian activities.

IIT-D launches online HR mgmt course

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has launched an online 'Executive Programme in Human Resource Management' in view of the changing landscape for professionals. The deadline to apply for the 8-month course is October 24 and it is set to commence from January 13, 2024.

Offered by Continuing Education Programme, it blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, enabling professionals to make data-driven decisions, optimise talent acquisition, nurture employee development, and align HR initiatives with organisational goals. TNN

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-791 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E2576/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SgTpP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Fabrication and Erection of Safety Platform at various location". Tender Document Download Start Date: 11.10.2023 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 30.10.2023 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Atanu Chowdhury, Senior Manager (Contract Cell). Mobile: 8336903740. E-mail: aichowdhury@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-803 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3283/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Repairing, Painting (outside) & Roof Treatment Works of 60 nos. D-Type Otrs. at STPS ("T"). Tender Document Download Start Date: 06.10.2023 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 31.10.2023 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta, Sr. Manager (Contract Cell). Contact No.: 8336903918. E-mail: kdupta@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-805 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3302/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of Electrical spares for upcoming Unit #6 ESP Overhauling job under AHP-E/M Dept., Santaldih T.P.S.", WBPDCL". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.10.2023 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 30.10.2023 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta. Mobile: 8336903918. E-mail: cc_stps@wbpdclo.co.in kdupta@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-802 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3282/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Repairing, Painting (outside) & Roof Treatment Works of 28 nos. C-Type Qtrs. at STPS ("T"). Tender Document Download Start Date: 06.10.2023 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 31.10.2023 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta, Sr. Manager (Contract Cell). Contact No.: 8336903918. E-mail: kdupta@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-804 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3294/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Extension of Fire Water Line Surrounding of Biomass Pellet Area with Material supply under F & S Dept. STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.10.2023 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 30.10.2023 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta. Mobile: 8336903918. E-mail: cc_stps@wbpdclo.co.in kdupta@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-805 Date: 10.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3302/23-24 Dated : 29.09.2023

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of Electrical spares for upcoming Unit #6 ESP Overhauling job under AHP-E/M Dept., Santaldih T.P.S.", WBPDCL". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.10.2023 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 30.10.2023 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta. Mobile: 8336903918. E-mail: cc_stps@wbpdclo.co.in kdupta@wbpdclo.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

The Addl. Director General of Police, West Bengal Police Telecommunication Department, Dhaka, invites e-NIT for "Fabrication of VHF Back Pack High Band & Low Band Sets with Li-Ife-POA Battery 12AH, 12Volt, with Battery charger, Antenna, Speaker out socket & Shoulder Case". The e-NIT will be uploaded after publication on the newspaper and will be valid upto 21 days from the date of uploading the e-NIT. For details, please see web portals <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbhealth.gov.in>.

ICA-T21402(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRI&DD, e-NIT

Executive Engineer (A-1), Berhampore, Murshidabad invites e-NIT for the work "Drilling, Development, Installation, pump house, Internal wiring with necessary supply of Conversion schemes from SOSW to LTDW at Lalbagh (A-1) Sub-Division under WRI&DD, Murshidabad Division of Ganga Sector 2023-24 programme vide e-NIT no. WRDDE/E(A-1)/B/WRI-12 of 2023-24 and Tender Id: 2023 WRDD 591989 1 to 2023 WRDD 591989 3. Amount paid to tender ranging from Rs.2205584.48 to Rs. 377969.52 respectively and Last date of online bid submission 10.11.2023 upto 12:00 PM. For details please visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-1), Berhampore-II(A-1) Division, Murshidabad

ICA-T21428(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Jaldapara Wildlife Division, Cooch Behar ABRIDGED e-TENDER NOTICE

WB DPL/C/40(e)/23-24 - Integrated Protection Tower at Lankapara Range under IPWL during 2023-24. Last Date of Submission of the bid is 27/10/2023. For all details and Online Tender submission visit at www.wbtenders.gov.in and <a href="http://www.wb

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Aditya Bahl &
Ayantika Pal | TN

Noida: Five boys studying in Class XI of a frontline private school in the city have been named in an FIR filed after a classmate complained that they molested and assaulted her last week.

The girl (16) told **TOI** on Saturday the five boys had made sexually explicit remarks and molested her in class on October 9, and made rape threats when she rebuffed them. On Friday, she alleged, one of the boys banged her head against the wall in the school's hall area, apparently upset that she had taken it up with the principal. "The boy also allegedly slapped her. She has said in her complaint that four of his friends joined him and assaulted her," a source at Sector 10 police station said.

The FIR against the five students, all minors, aged 16 or 17, was registered under sections 354A (sexual harassment), 352 (assault), 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC. "We are scanning CCTV footage. The allegations are being investigated," DCP Harish Chander said.

The school released a statement, saying it had initiated an internal inquiry into the girl's allegations. "The school is aware of the unfortunate incident on campus. The matter is being thorough-

ly investigated and addressed," it said.

Speaking to **TOI** about the October 9 incident, the girl said, "I was sitting in class doing my work when the boys came and sat behind me. They passed obscene comments and touched me inappropriately. I objected several times, but they didn't listen."

She said she wrote two emails on October 9 and 10, after which the boys were called to the principal's office and given a warning. But the harassment affected her deeply. In the October 9 email, she wrote one classmate had made the offensive remarks and the others "just laughed along".

The next day, in an email addressed to the school's director, she wrote that the boy had multiple times asked her to kiss him and made vulgar comments when she said no.

On Friday, after classes got over and the girl was on her way home, her arm, she said, brushed against the shoulder of one of the boys against whom she had complained. "He used a vulgar slang, shouted at me and beat me. He also banged my head against the wall," the teenager told **TOI** on Saturday. The girl's father accused the school authorities of inaction.

Sources in police said the boys called to the principal's office had apologised and there were also claims that Friday's incident was triggered by the girl raising her hand to slap the boy.

Fake ED team accuses victim of possessing hawala money

►Continued from P1

The suspects accused the victim of holding hawala money and conducted a search. They did not allow the family members to call anyone. After finding the money, they asked the family members to appear before them on Saturday for investigation and left," a senior police officer said.

When PCR cops arrived at the house, the victim told them that the

"ED team" had gone towards Miraon village. "The teams who were deployed in Dwarka were alerted and they started checks at different areas," the officer added.

Soon enough, the police control room (PCR) team encountered a car that was zooming past. They signalled the driver to stop, but he didn't pay heed. Two mobile patrolling vehicles led by assistant sub-inspector Digvijay and sub-inspector Suresh started chasing the car and

Police suspect two groups were at work — while one planned the move, the other executed it. So far, ₹1 crore has been recovered. Raids are going on to nab other suspects in the case, an officer said

managed to intercept the vehicle in Narela after a 2km pursuit.

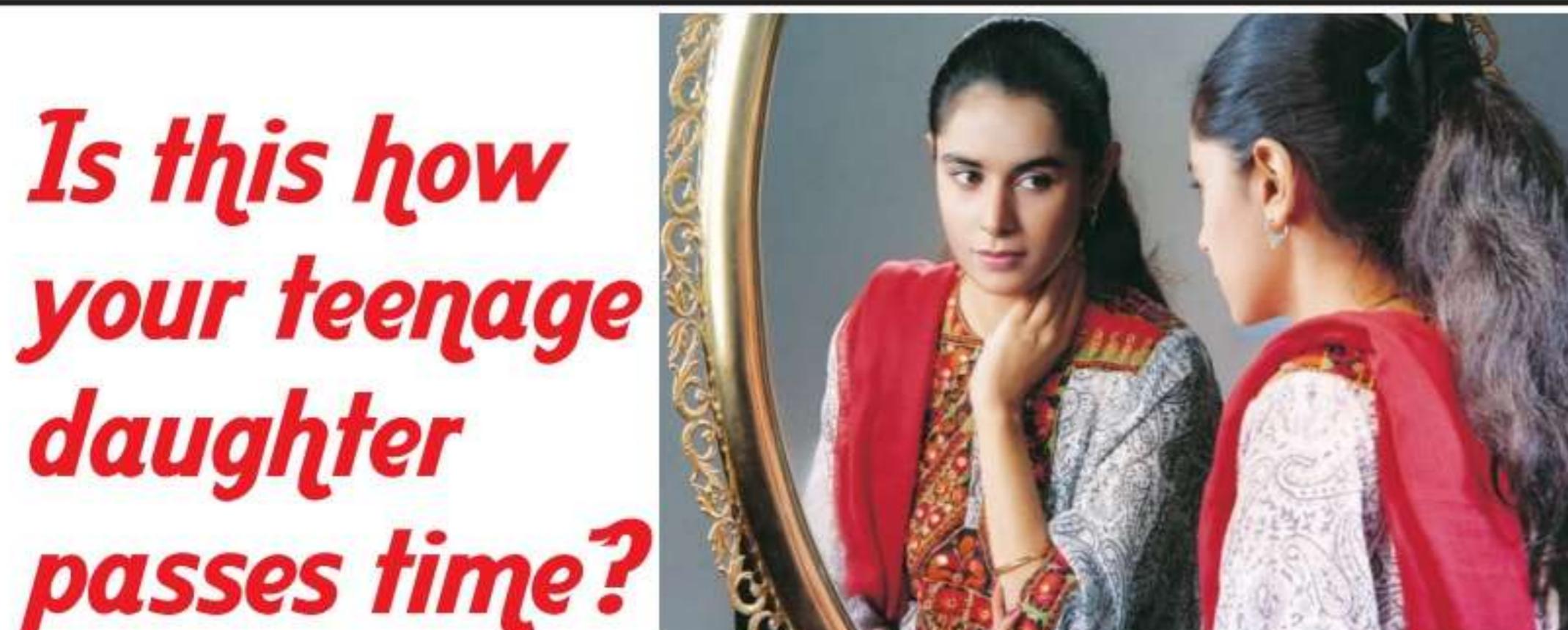
One of the suspects whipped out

a pistol and tried to fire, but he was overpowered by four PCR personnel. Police found Rs 70 lakh in the car. The accused was identified as Amit alias Vicky (37), a native of Sonipat. He was previously involved in two criminal cases in Bindapur, including murder. Deputy commissioner of police (PCR) Anand Misra said Amit was handed over to local police. Following the arrest, raids were conducted and three more suspects were arrested, said

DCP (Dwarka) M Harsha Vardhan. Police said the man who was "raided" had recently sold his plot in Dwarka to some residents of south Delhi. One person who knew the victim is suspected to have brought on the "ED raid". Police suspect two groups were at work — while one planned the move, the other executed it. So far, Rs 1 crore has been recovered. "Raids are going on to nab other suspects in the case," said Harsha Vardhan.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-TENDER NOTICE
Kangabati North Division, Purulia
Divisional Forest Officer
Abridge E-tender Notice
No. NIT-13/WBZA/DFOKND/2023-24
Kangabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractor vide E-Tender Notice No. NIT-13/WBZA/DFOKND/2023-24 for the year 2023-24 at Surulia Mini Zoo under Kangabati North Division. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 08-11-2023 up to 12:00 noon for viewing and participating in E-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangabati North Division & Ex-Officio Director, Surulia Mini Zoo, Purulia
ICA-T21401(2)/2023
ICA-T21399(3)/2023

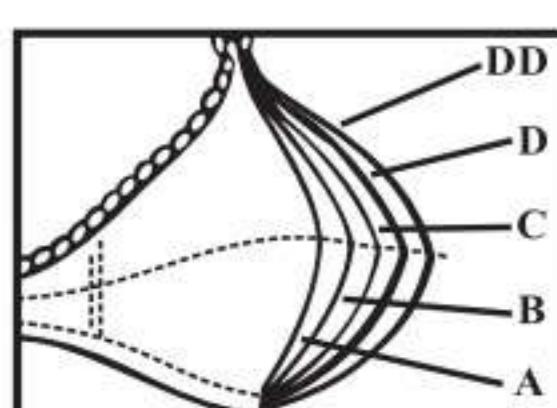
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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ICA-T21399(3)/2023



Mirror...the expression of teenager's first love, hours and hours in front of the mirror, trying out new hairstyles, latest designer wear and admiring new contours. What she needs is self-confidence. Any teenager is naturally over conscious of her physical development. But her mother knows about the natural process and also knows the right time when her daughter would need a bra. But will any bra suit her?

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Hailed For Pandemic Service, Dues Bring Them On Road

After Long Wait, Civil Defence Volunteers Resort To Protest

A HAND-TO-MOUTH EXISTENCE



File photo

Photos: Sanjeev Rastogi

WHAT THEY SAY

SUNITA SHARMA
I lost my husband during the Covid pandemic. My children died when they were very young. This job is my only means of survival

PRIYANKA
My father is sick and can't go to his shop anymore. The family survives on the money I earn. But I haven't got my salary for five months now

ASHISH KUMAR
My mother has a breathing problem, which worsens in the winter. How will I pay for her medicines?

BABLU PASWAN
My wife gave birth last month. I don't know how I will bring up my daughter

KAILASH GAHLOT
We have been pressing for the release of salaries. But they (bureaucrats) are of the view that Civil Defence volunteers should not be engaged as bus marshals...

The first thing that needs to be done is to release their pending salaries

KAILASH GAHLOT
MINISTER

minister retorted. "Human presence can stop a crime while CCTV can only provide evidence for later needs."

Sources said that the officials contend that posting CDVs on buses as marshals contravenes the provisions of the Civil Defence Act. They say that CDVs are neither trained for this kind of security jobs nor are empowered by law to act in the event of a crime. The bureaucrats also continue to hold the view that with panic buttons installed on buses and public transport, the need for marshals has to be re-examined.

Ministers maintain that bus marshals are necessary for the safety and well-being of women in DTC buses. CDVs themselves have also been accused of being AAP volunteers. To this, Shivam Kumar asserted, "We are only doing a job entrusted to us. Employment by a government doesn't make us ruling party supporters. People get jobs from some government or the other."

On behalf of the political leaders, their counsel re-

WHO ARE CIVIL DEFENCE VOLUNTEERS

These volunteers work under the command of the district administration. They are governed by the Civil Defence Act, 1968, which has seen several amendments, with the latest one in 2010, when disaster management was added to their roles.

WHAT IS THEIR ROLE

Civil Defence Act, 1968, defines civil defence as any measure, not amounting to actual combat, that protects people, property and places in India from a hostile attack. It includes measures that deprive such an attack of its effect. Civil Defence volunteers are engaged in large numbers as marshals, apart from in other Delhi government departments such as DM's and SDM's offices, to assist with administrative work.

Ahbinav.Rajput
@timesgroup.com

baby's delivery last month," he revealed to TOI.

CDVs are men and women who work under the command of the district magistrates and are governed by the Civil Defence Act, 1968. There have been several amendments to the legislations, the latest in 2010 adding disaster management to the role of CDVs. The volunteers assist the local administration, assuming the role of frontline workers during disasters, as happened during the pandemic and the recent floods in Delhi.

The scheme for deploying them as bus marshals was introduced in 2015, the aim being to boost security for women in public buses. In 2019, Delhi government began deploying a bus marshal in every bus in the city. Of the total 15,000 Civil Defence volunteers, more than half are now engaged in bus duties.

Priyanka, a bus marshal, said, "I am funding my brother's education with my earnings. But I also have to take care of the house rent. My father has a problem with his legs and is unable to go to his shop." She is apprehensive that she will lose her job now at a financially trying time because some government officials have argued against their appointment as bus marshals.

Hamstrung by the non-payment of their salaries for five months, CDVs have held protests at the state secretariat, the residence of the lieutenant governor, Delhi Transport Corporation headquarters and revenue minister Kailash Gahlot's residence. In response, Gahlot had claimed, "We cleared the files and have ordered the payment of their salary dues. But the bureaucrats have objected that the CDVs role is for disaster management, not bus marshal."

Gahlot said the government wants the salary outstanding paid but the officials argue that buses had CCTV now and didn't need marshals.

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minister retorted. "Human presence can stop a crime while CCTV can only provide evidence for later needs."

Sources said that the officials contend that posting CDVs on buses as marshals contravenes the provisions of the Civil Defence Act. They say that CDVs are neither trained for this kind of security jobs nor are empowered by law to act in the event of a crime. The bureaucrats also continue to hold the view that with panic buttons installed on buses and public transport, the need for marshals has to be re-examined.

Ministers maintain that bus marshals are necessary for the safety and well-being of women in DTC buses. CDVs themselves have also been accused of being AAP volunteers. To this, Shivam Kumar asserted, "We are only doing a job entrusted to us. Employment by a government doesn't make us ruling party supporters. People get jobs from some government or the other."

On behalf of the political leaders, their counsel re-

quested the court to grant an exemption from appearance and to adjourn the hearing. Their advocate cited the peculiarity of their petitions before the Gujarat high court, where they have challenged the metropolitan court's order to issue summons to them after taking cognizance of

the defamation complaint filed by the Gujarat University. The HC has posted the hearing on the quashing petitions on November 3.

The metropolitan court adjourned the case with consent from advocate Amit Nair, representing the university.

GU sued Kejriwal and

Singh over their statements about PM Narendra Modi's decree. This happened after the Gujarat HC allowed GU's petition against the chief information commissioner's order under the RTI Act provisions and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal. TNN

Helicopter parenting can ruin bonds with kids. Give them space

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

istock

though we had a fight and he said he would stop, he is still continuing it. While I'm fed up with this behaviour and lifestyle, I want to end this marriage and live in peace as I feel I am not respected at all and taken for granted. What can I do?

— Anonymous

It seems that there are multiple issues in the marriage. Talk to your husband about all the issues. If you feel you are not respected and taken for granted, it's a sign you need to make a decision and move on. You seem to be bearing and putting up with a lot and that will take a toll on your mental health too. So please look after yourself. If you do not respect yourself, no one will. He must understand that in a marriage, both partners have equal responsibilities. In spite of you doing everything if you feel disrespected, it's a red flag.

Finances must be discussed openly. Please communicate openly and if he still does not pay heed, you need to take a stand for yourself

I met a woman at my school reunion whom I initially talked to casually, but developed a strong interest towards later. She communicates well with me, and I've become attached to her. If she doesn't talk to me, it upsets me greatly. It brings me immense joy, but if she were to leave, it would cause me significant pain. I find myself crying every minute when I think about her. Why do I get attached to women so quickly, and why does it give me strength and happiness? What's causing this intense emotional response, even when we're not in a relationship? Is there something wrong with me? Please help.

— Anonymous

It's not clear from the question whether you're a man or a woman. However, even if you're a woman and have feelings for the same sex, there is nothing wrong with you. It is normal and not a disorder. With the limited information provided, it is difficult to give a comprehensive response. However, I'd like to say that please do not get so dependent on anyone so quickly. It is an indication of some emotional issues within you. If you are experiencing loneliness, sadness along with other symptoms, please reach out to a counselor and work on your mental health first. Work on yourself, do things for yourself. Find happiness within you.

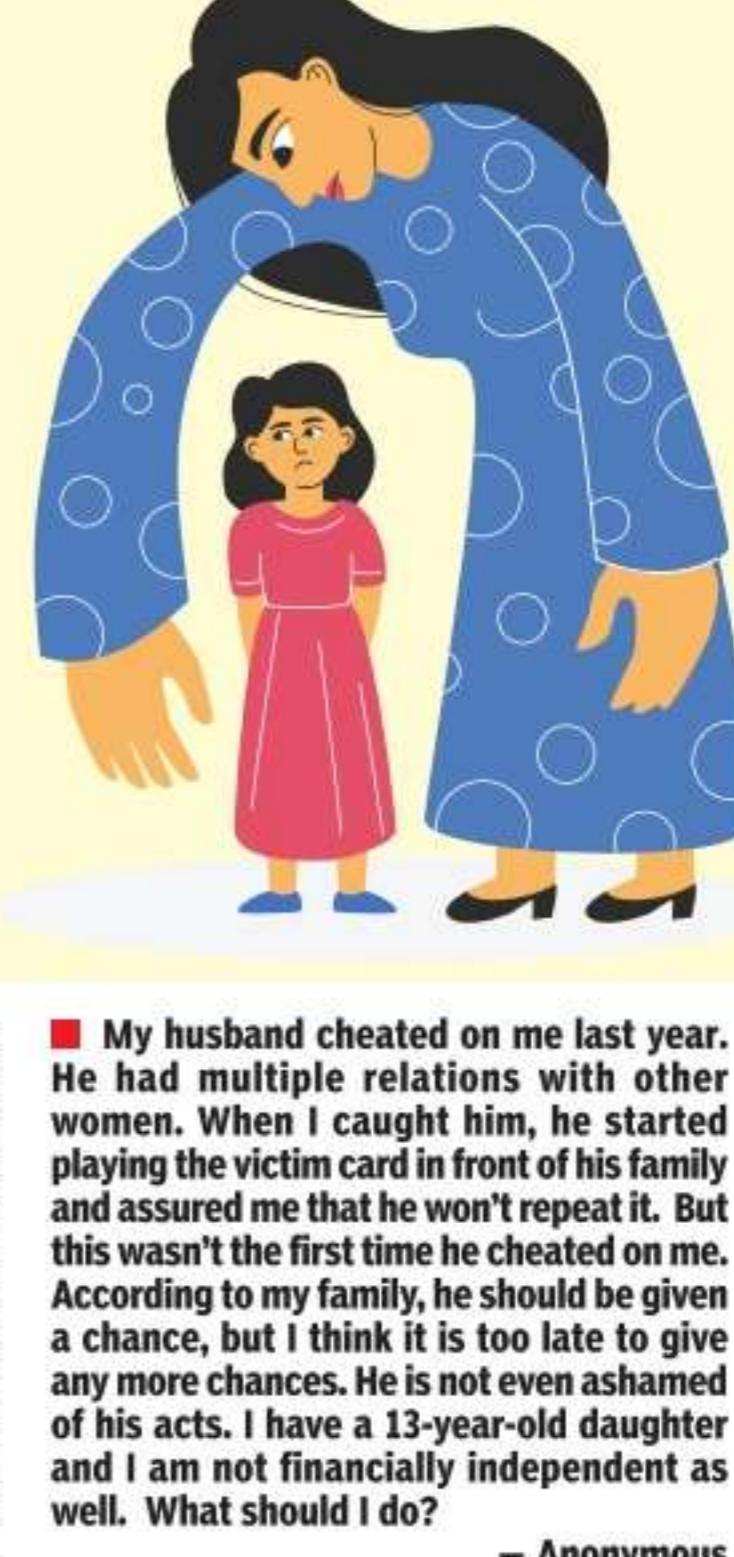
— Anonymous

TalkitOut

WANT SOME ADVICE?

Sharing can help your recovery so write to us at talkitout@timesgroup.com with your question, name and place. But if you wish to stay anonymous, do indicate that in your email.

You can also visit bit.ly/TalkitOut or scan this QR code to send in your concern.



Trial against Kejriwal, Singh in Gujarat adjourned to Nov 10

Ahmedabad: A metropolitan court on Saturday adjourned the proceedings in the criminal defamation case against Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP Sabha member Sanjay Singh till November 10.

On behalf of the political leaders, their counsel re-

quested the court to grant an exemption from appearance and to adjourn the hearing. Their advocate cited the peculiarity of their petitions before the Gujarat high court, where they have challenged the metropolitan court's order to issue summons to them after taking cognizance of

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NDMC ready to plant 2L tulip bulbs this winter

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is busy preparing for the upcoming winter and aims to start planting bulbs of exotic flowering plants from mid-November onwards. The initiative is part of NDMC's yearly exercise to beautify roundabouts, parks, gardens and intersections in Lutyens' Delhi.

To begin with, at least 2 lakh tulip bulbs will be procured by November and plantation will begin at prominent locations by the end of November or early December. Officials said their gardeners are busy preparing flower beds in parks.

"The tulip bulbs, in quarantine for 15 days after these are procured by mid-November, take another 15-20 days to break dormancy and sprout. This year, the tulip bulbs will grow into flowers of a variety of colours, ranging from white, yellow, red, pink, orange, purple and even in shades of yellow-red and white-red. We will also grow lilies in shades of yellow and white in the NDMC area," NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said.

"Despite many challenges posed in planting tulip bulbs, which necessitate a minimum chilling temperature of 5 degrees Celsius for at least 15 days to break dormancy, NDMC has been successfully planting tulips in its areas for five years," Upadhyay said.

NDMC is also breeding petunia, pansy, salvia, saneria, phlox etc. in its nurseries



Tulips at Lodhi Gardens in February this year

and these will be shifted to the parks and gardens in November. "We expect these flowering plants to start blooming from January-end and the beginning of February. Depending on the requirement, we will procure some seasonal plants from the market as well," an official said.

Tulip bulbs and other flowering plants will grace Central Park, NDMC headquarters, Windsor Place roundabout, Shanti Path, Talkatora Garden, Ashoka Road, India Gate, Race Course Road, Mandi House, Parliament roundabout and the vicinity of the Vice-President's Bungalow (Akbar Road and Maulana Azad Road), and 11 Murti, among other places.

"We will also cover Nehru Park and Sanjay Jheel with flowering plants. This will be in addition to the exotic plants and green cover carried on avenue roads," the official said.

Internship at DU

New Delhi: ABVP in collaboration with the Delhi University Students' Union has launched a media internship programme for DU students. The initiative aims to provide students with practical exposure in media and journalism. Those interested can contact abvp.deli-med@gmail.com. TNN

Gzb agencies told to deposit ₹22cr green compensation

Ghaziabad: The Supreme Court has directed the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation and Ghaziabad Development Authority to deposit Rs 20 crore and Rs 2 crore, respectively, in an escrow account for upgrading solid waste and sewage disposal facilities in the NCR city. The two-judge bench, comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti, directed the two agencies to make the deposits within a period of six weeks from October 9, when the order was passed.

The court passed the order on a petition filed by the Confederation of Trans-Hindustan RWA in 2018 over unscientific disposal of legacy waste from the Shakti Khand landfill site in Indirapuram, Kuldeep Saxena of the confederation said. Saxena said GMC and GDA have also been told to file the latest reports on the quality of water at the inlet and outlet treatment plants, the quantum of solid waste generated and the disposal in accordance with the norms. TNN

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

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Date: 14.10.2023

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of the following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/23-24/RB/PR/GP/1165	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DOUBLE POLE MCB (63 AMP) WITH BOX AND FOUR POLE MCCB (100 AMP) WITH BOX	9.60 Crore	9.60 Lakhs	04.11.2023 15:00 HRS	04.11.2023 15:15 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 110/-

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For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submit tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com.

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Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7255 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

Chief Engineer (A-E)

Executive Engineer (A-E)

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Head (Finance)

Head (HR & Admin)

Head (Legal)

Head (Marketing)

Head (Procurement)

Head (Quality)

Head (Supply Chain)

Head (Technical)

Head (Tender)

Head (Training)

Head (Vocational Training)

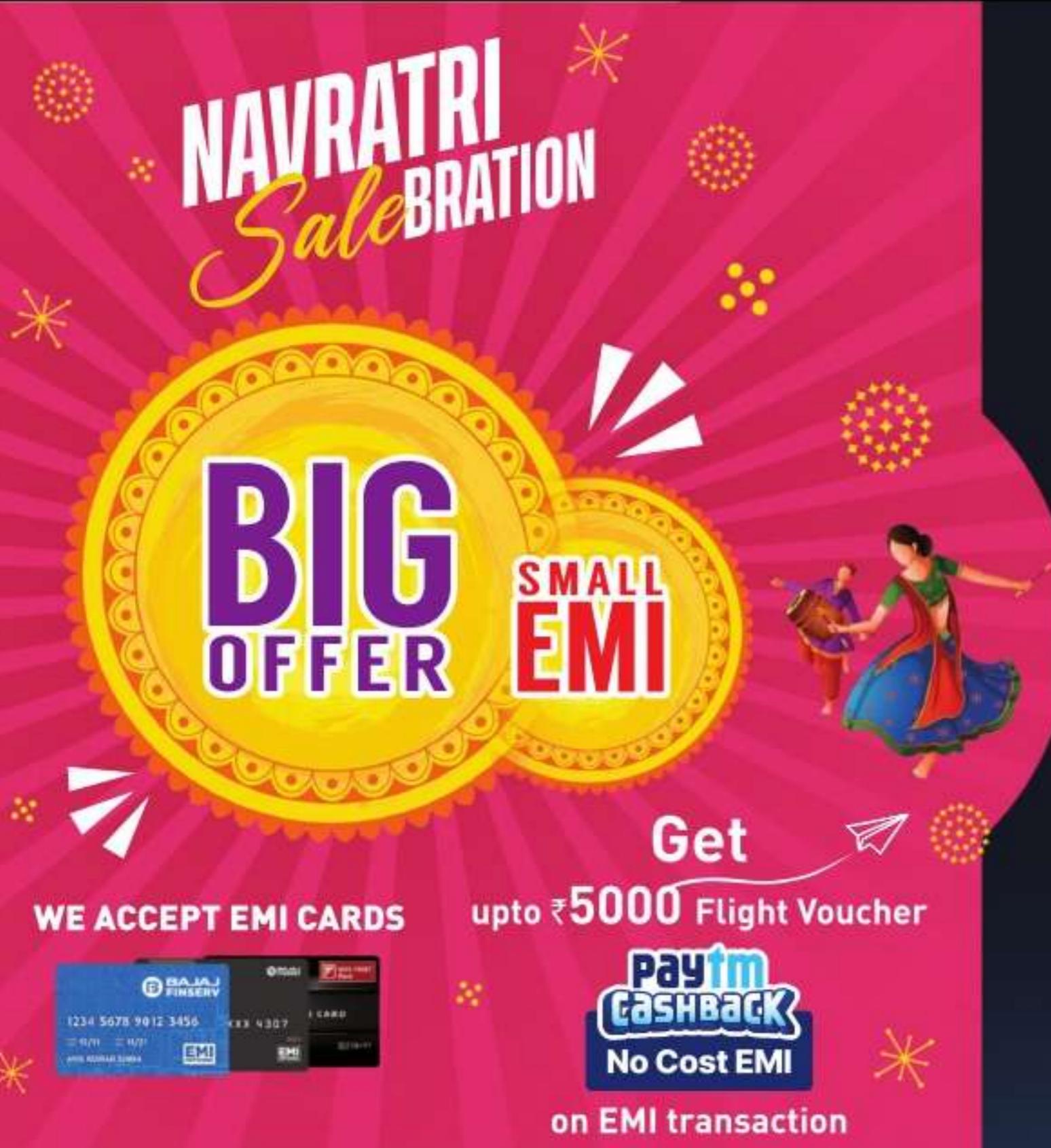
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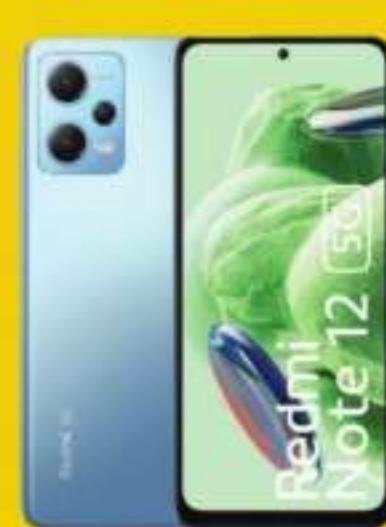
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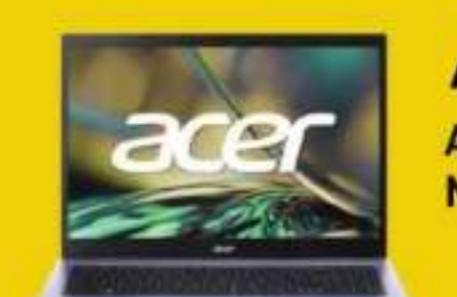
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EMI START FROM ₹1,833

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15



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Soon, UG biz, comp application courses to come under AICTE

1.2M Engineers To Graduate In '23, India Set To Overtake China

Hemali.Chhapia
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In a rejig of programmes, the undergraduate business education and computer application courses will soon be brought under the purview of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Moreover, from this year, the country is expected to graduate 1.2 million engineers, and soon slated to overtake China.

AICTE chairman T G Sitharaman who was addressing a gathering of business school deans from across the country spoke of the changes in the landscape of education, the speed and scale at which research and innovation was taking place and all of that, he said, would have a multiplier effect on the growth of the nation. He assured the audience that the country would become the third largest economy in the next three years; not five, if the same zeal and efforts were put in by all stakeholders.

"Indian education is in for



The speed and scale of research and innovation in India would have a multiplier effect on the nation's growth, AICTE chief Sitharaman said

a change. It is on the right course," said Sitharaman. "We are going to take undergraduate education such as BBM and BBA into the AICTE fold. This year's approval process will bring in undergraduate business schools and also computer applications into AICTE. It is in the approval process handbook this year which will be out next month," he said.

Currently, these programmes are under the purview of University Grants Commission and offered by colleges of several state universities too, apart from some B-schools. Sitharaman offered no clarity on whether these programmes would entirely come under the purview of AICTE or only B-schools offering these undergraduate courses would be governed by the council.

AICTE will do what is needed to make NEP successful, he added, stating that the vision document is an agenda for the Amrit Kaal. "We have 1.2 million engineers graduating from AICTE affiliated colleges this year onward. That is the largest in the world next to China. We are going to be number one beating China," said Sitharaman, who termed the Amrit Kaal as a "golden time for India engineers and science".

For school students, govt plans to roll out 'One Nation, One ID'

Sandhya.Nair@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: School students will soon have their own unique identification number, provided of course their parents give consent.

As part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Union ministry of education has planned to create 'One Nation, One Student ID' called Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) for every student from pre-primary to higher education. This is in addition to the 12-digit Aadhaar ID that every student has.

The APAAR ID, an Education Ecosystem Registry or edulocker is to be treated as a lifelong ID number and will track students' academic journey and achievements.

The ministry of education has directed all states and UTs to begin the process of creating APAAR IDs for students. 'APAAR and National Credit Framework will be the QR code for learners across India. Every skill they pick up will be credited here,' said T G Sitharaman, AICTE chairman.

The state school education department has asked educa-

APAAR REGISTRY OF ACADEMIC FEATS

- It will help track educational progress and achievements of students
- Students can digitally store all achievements, like exam results, learning outcomes, achievements in Olympiad, sports, skill training etc
- Students can use the credit score for their higher education or employment purpose in future
- Aadhaar number will be masked while sharing data with other government users
- Personal information, such as name, address, age, date of birth, gender and photograph, will be made



available to entities engaged in various educational activities, scholarships, educational institutions

➤ It will make transfer from one school to another easy

➤ It will help monitor students dropping out and mainstreaming them. New students entering the education system can also be tracked

be required, government has assured the data will stay confidential and will be shared only with government agencies, where required. Parents who give their consent can withdraw it any time. After the consent, it becomes the school's responsibility to upload the same on the central Unified District and Information System For Education Plus portal.

The third batch of 197 Indian nationals wanting to leave Israel amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict left for home on a special flight on Saturday.

Op Ajay: Third batch of Indians flies out of Israel

Jerusalem: The third batch of 197 Indian nationals wanting to leave Israel amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict left for home on a special flight on Saturday.

The special flights are part of 'Operation Ajay' launched on October 12 to facilitate the return of those Indian nationals who wish to return home following the brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants from Gaza on October 7.

"#OperationAjay" moves forward, 197 more passengers are coming back to India," Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar posted on X.

The Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv had announced two special flights from Ben Gurion airport on Saturday. The first flight left around 5.40pm local time, while the second flight is scheduled at 11pm local time and can carry 330 passengers.

The third batch of 197 Indian nationals left for home around 5.40pm local time.

"The Embassy has been working round the clock to facilitate all our citizens in Israel who wish to leave. We have reached out to students, caregivers, and business people. Some of them are actually working with us as volunteers," Ambassador Sanjeev Singla said.

The entire panchama was bogus as my client can be identified in police custody many hours prior to his alleged arrest. Eventually he was acquitted."

Lalla said for the evidence to be admissible, some procedural formalities are needed, but those are easy to fulfil.

In Kenjale's case, the CCTV footage, which was not part of the prosecution's evidence, was procured by the defence who had to then submit a plea to produce it as evidence.

In July 2022, despite NCB's opposition, the court allowed his plea to produce the CCTV footage from his building.

Kenjale had claimed that contrary to the panchama, NCB panchas were not in his flat

from 9.30pm to 11.30pm and he urged the court to take the

Rebecca.Samervel
@timesgroup.com

CCTV, call records help expose false accusations in drug cases

'CASES OF PERJURY RISING, MUST BE CHECKED'

2 cases in the city where technology helped the defence

Case 1 Aug 30, 2021 |

Acquitting 3 of charges of intending to sell around 13kg of ketamine in 2013, a special NDPS court initiated perjury proceedings against a witness, a police official, who was prime facie found to be depositing falsely

The prosecution: One accused, Ramshriomani Pandey (55), was held in Sakinaka with drugs

The defence: The accused was held in his Nalasopara home

➤ CCTV footage was produced to corroborate the accused's version

What the court said

It was clear the witness and the accused were seen in Nalasopara

"In recent times, there has been a tendency to make false statements before the court and therefore cases of perjury are increasing and unless action is taken... this tendency cannot be controlled or checked," it said



Case 2 Feb 18, 2023 |

Granting bail to Govandi's Sikandar Sayyed (40), held in 2021 with others for allegedly selling mephedrone (MD), ganja and codeine phosphate syrup from their homes, the court referred to CCTV footage

The chargesheet: Initially NCB officers visited another accused, Noor Alam, at 7.50pm from whom 10gm MD and 230gm of ganja were recovered. He said he got ganja from Sikandar. They visited Sikandar and son Rashid's home around 9.30pm

The defence: CCTV footage of the accused's home collected by the NCB officers was produced in court

What the court said

➤ From the footage it is seen that NCB officers went to Sikandar's home at about 7.34pm. The then zonal NCB director Sameer Wankhede and officer Sudhakar Shinde were seen in the CCTV footage in the house at 7.46pm, that is even prior to them visiting Noor Alam

"This creates serious doubt about the entire case of the prosecution..." it said



LAWYERS SPEAK

"In recent Supreme Court judgements, it was held that electronic evidence accompanied by 65B certificate is of sterling quality and is unimpeachable and courts can consider it at any stage. SC has also held that CDRs show the location of the officer or an accused at a different spot from where the panchama is being conducted and the details of the phone are mentioned in the panchama, then the courts also consider that as unimpeachable evidence — Advocate Tarq Sayed

"For defence lawyers it becomes easier to crack cases when the footage comes on record. This could also lead to officers being prosecuted for false implication — Advocate Ayaz Khan

the entire panchama was bogus as my client can be identified in police custody many hours prior to his alleged arrest. Eventually he was acquitted."

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In July 2022, despite NCB's opposition, the court allowed his plea to produce the CCTV footage from his building. Kenjale had claimed that contrary to the panchama, NCB panchas were not in his flat from 9.30pm to 11.30pm and he urged the court to take the

plea on record. Allowing the court clarified while procedural law does not prevent an accused from filing documents on record, it will not consider the footage at the preliminary stage of framing of charges. It, though, plays a role during bail hearings.

While the prosecution claimed the woman, Shabana Begum, was arrested from the city airport after suspicious articles were found in the false bottom of her trolley bag when it was scanned, the court said its X-ray image was not brought to court.

Khan said the prosecution has to be cautious in presenting their case when there are chances of such quality of evidence falsifying their claims.

"For defence lawyers it becomes easier to crack cases when the footage comes on record. This could also lead to officers being prosecuted for false implication," he added.

LeT module busted in Amritsar, 2 Kashmiri operatives held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Amritsar: Punjab Police along with central agencies on Saturday claimed to have busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module and arrested two Kashmiri operatives in Amritsar district. Two improvised explosive devices, two hand grenades, a pistol, two magazines, 24 cartridges, a timer switch, eight detonators and four batteries were seized from the duo, officials said. The operation in Amritsar's Kathu Nangal area was conducted

by the State Special Operation Cell, Amritsar Police, along with a central agency, based on intelligence inputs that LeT will use Punjab's border for smuggling arms and explosives into India.

The arrested operatives were identified as Uzair-ul-Haq of Rahpura Khudwani and Raj Mohammad Andleeb of Kherwan, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said, adding that the module was handled by one Firdaus Ahmed Bhat, also

from Kashmir. "Preliminary investigations suggest that Bhat had recruited the duo to attack strategic places and prominent personalities of Kashmir and Punjab. Bhat contacted his men via social media and guided them to Amritsar on Thursday to collect arms and take those to Kashmir," the DGP said.

The accused were booked under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act, Explosives Act and the IPC.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

SMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46235031-12-10-2023. The details are as under:

1 Name of the work:	3-Phase Traction Motor with Pinion as per Bombardier part no - 3EJD00001-1504, Make- Bombardeir
2 Approx. cost of work:	2,29,65304.00
3 Quantity	8 Nos.
4 Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender:	11.11.2023 (11:00 Hrs.)
5 Date & Time of opening of tender document:	11.11.2023 (11:00 Hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:	www.reps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.reps.gov.in. (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. No: 46235031 Dated: 12.10.2023

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The Department of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration has invited a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for Appointment of Consultant to conduct Feasibility Studies and Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Fisheries Sector of A&N Islands. The eligible firms/ Institutes may submit their proposal through GeM portal as per the Bid Number : GEM/2023/B/4013041 on or before 26.10.2023 by 15:00 hrs. Sd/- Assistant Director of Fisheries (HQ-I)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload of the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading 16.10.2023 / closing date & time 08.11.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1404 Dated : 13.10.2023

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NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Pvt sector help key for MDBs to boost healthcare, edu: FM

'Working Towards Advancement Of SDGs Is A Global Public Good'

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

Marrakech: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the private sector and philanthropies can play a crucial role in helping governments and multilateral development banks work towards improving healthcare and education, reducing poverty and undertaking climate action.

Addressing an event organized by CII in the backdrop of the expert group report on reforming multilateral development banks, the FM said the flows from MDBs can help reduce risks of financing in developing countries and result in higher flows.

The independent expert group, co-chaired by Larry Summers and NK Singh, has recommended that private sector as well as foundations and sovereign wealth funds should be tapped to raise resources to meet the additional funding requirements for climate action and other global public goods as the mandate of agencies such as the World



The flows from MDBs can help reduce risks of financing in developing countries and result in higher flows, finance minister Sitharaman said

Ukraine issue stalls WB-IMF communique

The joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund development committee had to settle for a chair's summary as it could not issue a communique as Sweden and Finland blocked it on the issue of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, demanding "strong language". It settled for a chair's statement and noted that "most members" supported the language of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, as several countries "noted with deep concern the immense human suffering and the adverse impact of wars and conflicts around the world". TNN

Bank is being expanded beyond poverty reduction. The group, set up during India's presidency of G20, has also recommended the setting up of the Global Challenges Fund and increasing the role of entities such as International Finance Corporation to provide more resources, backed by guarantees from other entities that are part of the World Bank group.

The FM said that during India's presidency, sustainable finance has been extended to cover sustainable development goals, which now requires additional funding. Due to Covid, the financing gap for SDG is estimated to have widened from \$2.5 tril-

lion to around \$3.9 trillion, making its achievement by 2030 "difficult, and more challenging". This prompted India to seek new instruments to fund this gap, especially for developing countries and by using new and innovative instruments, which can be used to leverage private finance.

"Working towards the advancement of SDGs is a global public good. The financing requirements are immense which calls for a global collaborative effort across stakeholders. Efforts and concrete financing commitments of all — official governments, multilateral institutions, development finance institutions and most importantly private sector — is paramount, and these will have to complement each other for this shared global priority," Sitharaman said.

Singh, co-chair of the expert group, said the target for private sector participation has been stepped up significantly from around \$60 billion to \$240 billion. He said the recommendations have focused on ways to reduce the risk for private sector and the panel has suggested the use of guarantees and providing greater certainty to the private sector.

Birla lodges protest over EU Parl motion on India's 'internal issues'

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday lodged a strong protest with European parliament vice-president Nicola Beer over its resolution on India's "internal issues". Birla told the European parliament vice-president that every nation and parliament is sovereign and internal issues of countries should not be discussed by others.

In July, the European parliament had adopted a resolution calling on the Indian government to act "promptly" to halt the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities. India had dubbed the resolution "un-



Speaker Om Birla with European parliament vice-president Nicola Beer on the sidelines of the P20 Summit in Delhi on Saturday. He said sovereign issues of countries should not be discussed by others

acceptable" and "reflective of a colonial mindset".

Birla underlined India's

sovereignty and protested against bringing a proposal in the European parliament on India's internal issues," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement.

The Speaker invited the European parliament vice-president to witness the festival of democracy during India's general elections scheduled for next year.

Beer, meanwhile, congratulated Birla for a successful P20 Summit and emphasised on closer relations of the European parliament with India. She also informed that Europe is going through challenging times and sought India's cooperation. PTI

EAM to head for Vietnam, S'pore today

New Delhi: External affairs minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to Vietnam and Singapore from Sunday to shore up bilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

In the first leg, Jaishankar will visit Vietnam to review the progress in several areas and discuss ways to enhance cooperation. He will also co-chair the 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission meet with his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son.

In Singapore, he will meet the top leadership of the country, and also chair the regional conference of Indian heads of missions. PTI

Govt must focus on reforms to lower cost of doing biz: Ex-CEA

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

Marrakech: India's executive director to the International Monetary Fund Krishnamurthy Subramanian has said that the government needs to focus on pushing forward with land, labour, logistics and other reforms to lower the cost of doing business, while suggesting that state governments must be disincentivised from providing freebies.

"While people will not be averse to freebies, today's aspirational youth wants economic development and empowerment. What's happening in Karnataka suggests that things are not looking great from the perspective of capital investment. The example of Gujarat is some-

thing all states can learn from. Uttar Pradesh is also showing good progress. On the economic and political side, you need to make people understand that freebies will not be good for them in the long run and disincentivise freebies," the former chief economic adviser told TOI.

He said some of the steps announced during Covid, such as new labour codes, also need to be pursued, as he expected the Indian economy to maintain its growth momentum, driven by domestic demand.

"Last year, even the 7% projection was revised to 7.2% and when the final revisions come, growth is likely to be closer to 7.5%. The reason why growth rates are getting revised upwards is because our consumption and

IIP data are older and not reflecting some of the positive trends... Given the reforms that have been implemented, India will grow at high rates... The impact of many of the reforms that have been done during Covid and beyond, will be felt with lag," Subramanian said, adding that the Indian economy is expected to expand around 6.5% during the current fiscal year.

While there are concerns over the impact of the conflict in West Asia, the economist said that it is early to predict. "Unlike the Ukraine war where Russia and Ukraine were big suppliers of crude oil, wheat and sunflower oil, in the situation in West Asia right now, neither Palestine or Israel are exporters of basic things like crude oil or food. So supply side impact will be moderate," he said.

Pistol, ammo recovered from bag near cave in J&K's Poonch

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: Security forces on Saturday recovered a pistol and ammunition from a bag lying abandoned close to a natural cave in Mendhar of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

"Based on intelligence inputs, a joint search operation was launched by SOG Mendhar Army's 44RR-CIF(R) in the general forest area of Dhanglo under Gurais police station. During the search, security forces found a bag near a natural cave. It was opened which led to the recovery of a 9mm pistol with nine bullets, 159 AK rounds, a pouch, a pair of black trousers, and a pink waterproof suit," said an official source. "A case was filed and investigations are underway."

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Applications received thereafter shall not be entertained.

Date - 15th October, 2023 Chairman

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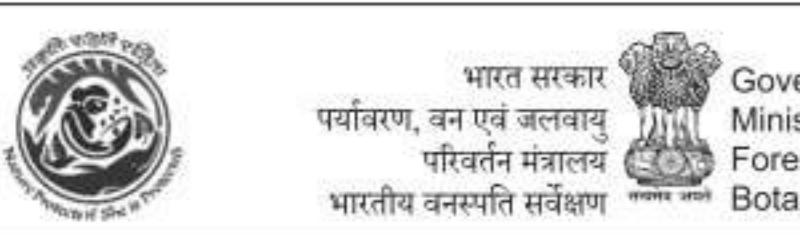
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4-year-old girl battles for life after fall from 5th floor flat in Maha: A four-year-old girl was injured after she accidentally fell from a fifth-floor window of her flat in Dombivli, reports **Pradeep Gupta**. A resident of the building, who went to save the girl while she was stuck, also suffered injuries to his hand.



"वनस्पति उद्यान कार्यक्रम को सहायता" के तहत विशेष सहायता के लिए प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करना/Call for Proposals for Financial Assistance under "Assistance to Botanic Garden programme"

भारतीय वनस्पति संवर्धन, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाया परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार स्थानिक और संकटप्राप्त (आरईटी) पारम् प्रजातियों के संरक्षण, संवर्धन और पुनर्वास के लिए अवसरनामात्मक सुविधाओं के विकास और सुदृढ़ीकरण के लिए वनस्पति उद्यान की सहायता हेतु एक बार विशेष सहायता के लिए प्रपत में प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित कर रहा। पात्राएं और आवेदकों के तरीके का विवरण वेबसाइट (https://moef.gov.in/) व (https://bsi.gov.in/) से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India invites proposals, in the prescribed proforma from eligible organizations maintaining Botanic Gardens for one-time financial assistance under the "Assistance to Botanic Garden Programme" for development and strengthening the infrastructural facilities, carrying out conservation, propagation and rehabilitation of selected, endemic and threatened (RET) plant species of the region.

The details of eligibility and mode of application can be obtained from the websites of MoEF&CC (<https://moef.gov.in/>) and BSI (<https://bsi.gov.in/>).

Last date of Project Proposal Submission: 15-11-2023

Nodal Officer & Scientist In-charge, Technical Section
Botanical Survey of India, Headquarters, Kolkata

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

RE-INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

The Hospital Engineer (Civil-II), PGIMER Chandigarh re-invites on behalf of the Directors PGIMER Chandigarh online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class in CPWD / Department of Posts / BSNL / Railways / M.E.S. / Chandigarh Administration / CHB / MC Chandigarh / State PWD's / HUDA / PUDA / State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil works OR Specialized Agency dealing in Fire Fighting Works on three bid system (Eligibility Bid, Technical Bid & Financial Bid) for the following work:

NIT No.: PGIE/Engg/H/Civil-II/2023/226, Name of work: Up gradation of Engineering Service for Fire Safety Compliance at Advanced Eye Centre at PGIMER, Chandigarh (Composite Tender) (SH: Fire Fighting, HVAC, BMC, Electrical, water & Fire Alarm system), Estimated Cost: Rs. 77.00 Lakhs, Last Date of Submission of Bid: 14.09.2023, Last date and time of submission of bid: Rs. 95.00 AM (IST), VAC: Rs. 36.14 Lakhs, Bid Amount: Rs. 164.29 Lakhs, Ernest Month: 15 - 16.09.2023, Period of Completion: Month, Last date and time of opening of bid: 02.11.2023 at 10:00 AM, Last date & time for submission of Original EMD: 03.11.2023 upto 4:00 PM, Date and time of opening of Eligibility Bid: 06.11.2023 at 3:00 PM, Date and time of opening of Technical Bid: To be declared later on, Date and time of opening of Financial Bid: To be declared later on. The pre-bid meeting will be held on 25.10.2023 at 3:00 PM in the committee room, A.E.C. PGIMER, Chandigarh. The original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of H.E. (Civil-II) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. The contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for participating in e-tendering process. (Helpdesk no. for registration- 0122-275862 & 9988447883)

Hospital Engineer (Civil-II)

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SPORTS)
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
SPORTS BRANCH, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
CHHATTRASAL STADIUM, MODEL TOWN, DELHI**

No. DE.41/Sports/2023/4426 Dated: 13/10/2023
E-Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work	Online Tender for Lodging of players and Officials for 67th National School Games-2023-24 to be held at Delhi
Tender ID	2023_DE_248682_1
Date of release of Tender through e-procurement platform	11.10.2023
Last date and time for receipt of Tender through E-procurement	25.10.2023 upto 12.00 Noon
Opening of Technical Bid	25.10.2023 at 12.30 PM
Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later

Entire details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
-sd-

(YOGESH PAL SINGH)

Deputy Director of Education (Sports Branch)

DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0185/23-24

Govt. of Maharashtra PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NAGBHID Website - www.mahapwd.gov.in		
E-Tender Notice No. 14/Open Tender/2023-2024		
Online percentage rate e-tenders in 'B-1' form are invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nagbhid (Ph.No.07179-240066) for the following works from contractors.		
Sr. No.	Name of Work	
Sr. No.	Estimated Cost (in Lakh)	
1	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Nagpur Nagbhid Sindewahi Mul Khedi Gondpuri Road (MSH-9) in Km 135/200 to 137/00 & Km. 139/500 to 141/00 Tal. Sindewahi. Dist. Chandrapur.	510.00
2	Construction of New Administration Building for Nagar Panchayat Saoli and Construction of Cement Concrete road and Cement Concrete Drain under Nagar Panchayat area at Saoli Taluka Saoli District Chandrapur	510.00
3	Construction of Major Bridge with Approach road in Km. 14/500 on Adyal Hattilendra Dudhwahi to SH-353D to Khed Kahali Khandala Nanohi Dighori Belgaon Kolari road (MDR-123) in Taluka Bramhapuri District Chandrapur	506.00
4	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Nagpur Nagbhid Sindewahi Mul Khedi Gondpuri Road (MSH-9) in Km 132/200 to 135/00 Tal. Sindewahi. Dist. Chandrapur	475.00
5	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Pulgana Deoli Hinganghat Khadsangi Chimir Neri Sindewahi Gangalwadi Armori Road (SH-322) in Km 172/00 to 182/00 Tal. Bramhapuri. Dist. Chandrapur	425.00
6	Beautification and Development to Survey Sheet Gat number 281 & 282 (S.T.B.T., Compound Wall,Drain) And Construction of Cement Concrete Road with C.C. cover Drain, Nagar Panchayat Area of Sindewahi Lonwahi Prabagh No.1,2,3,4,6,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 & 17,Tah Sindewahi, Distt-Chandrapur.	270.00
7	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Bothali Saoli Sirsi Haramba Vyahad Road (MDR-28) in Km 7/00 to 10/00 Tal. Saoli. Dist. Chandrapur.	130.00
8	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Bothali Saoli Sirsi Haramba Vyahad Road (MDR-28) in Km 30/00 to 33/00 Tal. Saoli. Dist. Chandrapur.	130.00
9	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Swargata Maregaon Gurjewahi Pwanpar Tekri Road (MDR-80) in Km 11/00 to 12/800 Tal. Sindewahi. Dist. Chandrapur.	127.00
10	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to SH-75 to Usarpur Chak Palebarsa Saykheda Gewra Buj to ODR-69 Barsagad Meha Buj to join SH-375 Road (MDR-118) in Km 3/00 to 5/500 Tal. Saoli. Dist. Chandrapur.	100.00
11	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Nifanda Magarmenda Palebarsa Samda Selka Ekara Road (MDR-30) in Km 10/00 to 12/000 Tal. Saoli. Dist. Chandrapur.	85.00
12	Improvement & Two Years Maintenance to Mendki Tekri Jawrabur Jugnala Betala Ladaj Road (MDR-78) in Km 12/500 to 13/400 Tal. Bramhapuri. Dist. Chandrapur.	85.00
Download & Preparation Period of Online Tender As Per Online Schedule		
Opening of Tender As Per Online Schedule		

Terms and Condition of Tender

- Above Tender Download & preparation as per online etender Schedule.
- Details tender papers can be seen at Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> As per e-payment Gateway system cost of tender form and E.M.D. should be submitted online.
- Tenderers should submit their bids online/electronically.
- To participate in e-tenders the contractors should register themselves for Class-II & III digital signature at the above website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for e-tenders.
- Above e-Tender Notice is available on Public Works Department website www.mahapwd.gov.in
- Online Schedule will be applicable and final.
- Address for Correspondence-Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Nagbhid

Outward No./446/C'put/Tender/2023 Dated 09-10-2023

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Nagbhid

Phone No. 07179-240066

E-mail - naghbid.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

DGIPR/2023-2024/4132

40 yrs on, India, Lanka restart ferry service

Important Milestone In Boosting Diplomatic & Economic Relations: Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: India and Sri Lanka resumed ferry services between Nagapattinam port in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling it an important milestone in bilateral relations.

While there was a time when ferry services were an important source of connectivity between the two countries—facilitating movement of people, trade and goods for centuries these were suspended in the 1980s for security reasons. Efforts to revive ferry services in 2011—between Tuticorin and Colombo—had to be abandoned because of the lack of commercial viability and longer travel time, according to the government. "We are embarking on a new chapter in the diplomatic and economic relations between India and Sri Lanka. The launch of a ferry service between Nagapat-

tinam and Kankesanthurai is an important milestone in strengthening our relations," said Modi, adding that the service will bring alive historical and cultural links between the two countries.

"Ferry services between India and Sri Lanka will enhance connectivity, promote trade and reinforce the longstanding bonds between our nations," he said.

Modi and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe had agreed to restart ferry services

during the latter's visit to India in July 2023. Modi recalled that they had jointly adopted a vision document for the economic partnership.

"Connectivity is the central theme of this partnership. It is for bringing our countries closer. It enhances trade, tourism and people-to-people ties. It creates opportunities for the youth of both countries," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, External Affairs Minister S Jaishan-

kar, who flagged off the ferry service, said the launch was an affirmation of the people-centric policies of the Modi government that have helped both those in Tamil Nadu and those in Sri Lanka's Northern Province.

"This commitment is also seen in support for housing projects, cultural centres and hospitals in Sri Lanka. In future, we are looking at grid connection, pipeline and economic corridor. And of course, support for all in Sri Lanka to live in equal dignity and equal rights," said the minister, adding that the ferry will directly facilitate cargo services and help particularly small businesses.

According to government officials, the ferry will enhance connectivity between southern India and northern part of Sri Lanka for travel and tourism.

"It will have a much shorter travel time of 3-4 hrs and lower fare compared to earlier ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo," said an official.

Modi writes new Garba song, set to share during Navratri

TIMES NEW NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday

said he had written a new Garba song over the last few days and will share it with the people during Navratri.

Modi also thanked Dhvani Bhanushali and Tanishk Bagchi and the team of Jjust Music for the musical rendition of another Garba song that he had penned years ago.

"Thank you Dhvani Bhanushali, Tanishk Bagchi and the team of Jjust Music for this lovely rendition of a Garba I had penned years ago! It does bring back many memories," Modi said on X. "I have not written for many years now but I did manage to write a new Garba over the last few days, which I will share during Navratri," he added.

Garba is a form of Gujrati dance that is usually performed during the nine-day Navratri festivities which begin on Sunday this year.

Modi's post came in response to Bhanushali, who shared the rendition on X. "Dear Narendra Modi Ji, Tanishk Bagchi panned by you and we wanted to make a song with a fresh rhythm, composition and flavour: Jjust Music helped us bring this song and video to life," she said.

'Team India all the way': PM, Shah hail WC win against Pak

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian men's cricket team for its excellent performance against Pakistan, as Rohit Sharma's team romped home with a seven-wicket victory in its third match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on Saturday. Union home minister Amit Shah appreciated the teamwork of the players and wished them success for the upcoming matches ahead.

"Team India all the way! A great win today in Ahmedabad, powered by all round excellence. Congratulations to the team and best wishes for the matches ahead," Modi wrote on X.

Shah said, "Tiranga flying high. A big round of applause for our cricket team for this stupendous victory. The team continues its winning streak against Pakistan in the ODI World Cup. You all have shown how much pride seamless teamwork with a common goal can achieve for our nation. My best wishes on your unrelenting march toward winning the World Cup 2023." TNN

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute Of Medical Sciences

Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014, U.P (INDIA)
EPBX No.: 0522-2494000/2495000/2668700/2668800/2668900, FAX: 0522-2668017/2668078

Recruitment Notice

Online applications are invited for the following group "B", "C" & "D" posts on Direct Recruitment Basis in Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow.

Website link [www.sgpims.org.in](http://www.sggpims.org.in) Online Portal: web link will be available in the last week of October, 2023 (Tentative)

Advertisement No. (To be mentioned in application form)	Name of Posts	Number of Vacant posts-Category
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NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st Corrigendum
The Tender Notice No. 570-Sig-PS-Tender-128 dated 05.10.2023 invited by Dy. CSTE/C/PS/NDLs may now find with the following corrigendum:

S.No.	Point
35	Description of the Schedule Item no. 35 has been corrected

All other terms and conditions in this tender will remain the same
No.: 570-Sig-PS-Tender-128 dated 13.10.2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3185/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) **Name**: Sunita, W/o: Ramu, R/o: 1100 Block-C Pocket-2, Rohini Resettlement Colony Siras Pur, Delhi. **Aged**: about 50 years has been missing from above address since May 2022. In this regard a DD No. 122-A, Dated 21.09.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:



Sunita

Complexion: Shallow, **Height**: 5' Feet, **Face**: Round, **Built**: Medium, **Wearing**: White Colour Suit & Salwar & Chappal In Feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform to the following at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi
DP/11350/WD/2023
Ph: 011-25101150, 9968560064

NORTHERN RAILWAY**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the undernoted work:

1. Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE for electrification of un-electrified sidings/diesel sheds at SSB station in connection with "Electrification of un-electrified sidings/diesel sheds over DLI Division in already electrified sections"
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 2,74,16,559/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,87,100/-
4. E-Tender Bid Submission Period	25.10.2023 (00.00 Hrs.) to 08.11.2023 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	08.11.2023(15.00 hrs.) E-Tender Open Date & Time : 08.11.2023(15.00 hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 30-TRD-NDLs-2023-24 Dated 13.10.2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3203/23

**शारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
सर्कुलर रोड, रॉची-834001****प्रेस विज्ञप्ति**

शारखण्ड राज्य के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों के सनातकोत्तर विमानों एवं अंगीभूत महाविद्यालयों में सहायक प्राचायपक के पद पर नियमित नियुक्ति (विज्ञान संस्था-04 / 2018) के संबंध में आवश्यक संकेत।

विज्ञान संस्था-04 / 2018 के अंतर्गत History विषय का एक साक्षात्कार जो दिनांक - 17.10.2023 एवं दिनांक - 18.10.2023 को नियांत्रित था, उसे अपरिहार्य कार्यग्राम खण्डित करते हुए दिनांक - 30.10.2023 एवं दिनांक - 31.10.2023 को पुनर्निर्धारित किया जाता है।

साक्षात्कार में बुलाए जाने वाले अन्यथियों की सूची एवं साक्षात्कार संबंधित नियम आयोग के वेबसाइट पर ऐसी ही प्रकारिति किया जायेगा।

80/-

PR 309141 Jharkhand Public Service Commission(23-24).D
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
आवश्यक लोक सेवा आयोग, रॉची

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Saroj Bala at 9890 Ahatha Thakur Dass Sarai Rohilla, Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110005 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case No. 517621/2016 U/s 138 NI Act. P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Saroj Bala cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Saroj Bala has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Saroj Bala of Case No. 517621/2016 U/s 138 NI Act. P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.11.2023

By Order
Bhujali

Metropolitan Magistrate-01(NI Act)
Room No. 201, CBA-II
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/11320/CD/2023 (Court Matter).

SOUTHERN RAILWAY**Salem Division**

Tender Notice No. SA-M-04-2023 dated 11.10.2023

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Divisional Office, Salem-636005 and for on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the under mentioned work as per tender notice given in e-tender portal our www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical Branch in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tender will be accepted. The cost of tender form and EMD need to be done through online payment only. Tenders received without valid EMD shall be rejected. Any other mode of submission of cost of tender form and EMD will not be accepted. All documents to support fulfillment of technical eligibility criteria and financial eligibility criteria and any other document required to be submitted should be scanned and uploaded along with the tender. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature Certificates for participating e-tendering.

Name of work: Tender for Provision of Attendant in lieu of Telephone Attendant cum Dak Khalasi/ Bunglow Lascar through Manpower outsourcing agency for a period of 36 months

Sl.No.	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Estimate Value	Rs.97,08,935/-
2	Earnest Money	Rs. 1,94,200/-
3	Cost of Tender Form	Rs.5,600/-
4	Tender Closing date and Time	02.11.2023 11:00 Hrs.
5	Web address	http://www.ireps.gov.in

Complete details of the above tender are given on the e-portal "www.ireps.gov.in". For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal "www.ireps.gov.in". The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction, deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "http://www.ireps.gov.in".

Follow us on : @twitter.com/GMSRailways

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Web: www.ircon.org, CIN : L42302WB1976010008171
e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e-Tender No.: IRCON/2057/KGB/Blast-Supply/Tender/2023/01 Date: 13.10.2023
e-Tender for and on behalf of EGCI, Darjeeling is invited from below meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Supply of machine-crushed stone track ballast of PAKUR range on Cessinal toe of embankment as per RDSS specifications for track ballast: IRS-GE-1 (JUNE-2016) issued by RDSS as amended further if any, from Pakur range quarries in Jharkhand (including) block sections of Nawada-Manpur section and Nawada (excluding)- Kachikh (excluding) block sections of Lakhisarai-Nawada section in connection with Kulu-Gaya rail line doubling project."

Estimated Cost of Work Rs. 19,05,32,500/- (including all taxes)
Last Date & Cost of e-Bid Submission 04.11.2023, 15.00 Hrs. (IST)
For further details, visit website : https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website CGPM/HKG, 1st Floor, Sone Bhawan, Daroga Prasad Rai Path, Patna- 800001

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Name**: Unknown, **S/o**: Unknown, **R/o**: Unknown, **Age**: about 40-45 years, **Height** : 5'3" **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Wearing**: Black colour T-shirt and Blue colour lower has been found dead at Water lodged field, R-Block, Rama Vihar, near peer baba road, Sec-22, Rohini, Delhi on 13.10.2023. In this regard a case vide DD No. 13A dated 13.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:- **SHO :**
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27581812, 27581223
8750870321, 9870127024

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead in between KM Pole No.2/16 and 3/1 Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi dated 14.10.2023. He was admitted in GTB Hospital Vide MLC No. BD/1371/09/23. During the treatment declared dead by doctor. In the regard **DD No. 3A** dated 14.10.2023 has been lodged in **P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi**. The dead body has been preserved for identification at GTB Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs.

The description of the dead body is given as under **Name**: Unkonwn, **S/o**: Unkonwn, **R/o**: Unkonwn, **Age**: about 35-40 years, **Height**: 5'6", **Face**: Long, **Injury Mark**: Head Amputated from body, **Wearing**: Blue colour Shirt and Grey colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23961522, 9868279369

DP/11644/Rly/2023

No. DRMC/Agra/Catg.e-auction/23 Date: 13.10.2023

E-AUCTION NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager- North Central Railway, Agra invites E-Auction for operation of 38 Catering Stalls at Platform of various Railway Stations over Agra Division for reserved and unreserved category (SMU & GMU) for a period of Five years.

Category:- Catering Stalls, Auction Catalogue No.:- Agra-Catg-23-16

NAME OF STATION	CATEGORY	STATION CODE	TOTAL NO. OF STALLS
Raja Ki Mandi	A	RKM	02
Kherli	D	KL	03
Mandawa Mahwa Road	D	MURD	05
Nadbai	D	NBI	05
Bhuteshwar	D	BTSR	05
Hodal	D	HDL	06
Fatehabad	E	FAB	01
Idgah	D	IDH	01
Kosikalan	D	KSV	04
Rundhi	E	RDE	02
Kitham	E	KXM	02
Shamshabad Town	E	SSDT	01
Ramgarh	E	RAH	01

Auction Starting Time:- Date 30.10.2023 Time 11.00 Hrs.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in) for more details. The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

1665/23(K)

@Northcentralrailway @North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Date : 13.10.2023

Place: New Delhi

Date : 13.10.2023

(TAPAN KISHORE SHARMA)

Drawing & Disbursing Officer,

Supreme Court of India

594 Sets, 1478950/-

111 Sets, 96 Sets

Set of Carlings (3 Types)

1165/23(K)

1665/23(K)

Elevating the standards of homestays in India

MakeMyTrip In Association With The Times of India Recently Announced The Winners Of India's Favourite Homestays Awards

From wooden cottages to heritage forts perched on cliffs, travellers are consciously seeking unforgettable travel experiences that provide a local flavour as well as a home away from home. It's no wonder then that India's homestay market registered phenomenal growth after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Numbers show that homestays have emerged as a viable option for travellers and entrepreneurs alike. In keeping with its commitment to enrich the homestay ecosystem in the country, MakeMyTrip, India's leading online travel company, successfully hosted the grand celebration of the second edition of India's Favourite Homestay Awards in association with The Times of India in Goa.

"We are excited about the prospects of the industry and the micro-entrepreneurs who are shaping it," said the founder and chairman of MakeMyTrip, Deep Kalra. "Like any hyper-growth category, it requires a dedicated platform for celebration, knowledge-sharing, and networking. We're pleased to spearhead this initiative, offering the essential support to elevate Indian homestays to greater heights of success."

A Night To Remember

The gala night was an opportunity to highlight the exemplary achievements and innovations that homestays are crafting across the nation as they provide travellers with a delectable offering.

Understandably, some of the biggest names in the homestay ecosystem, the hospitality industry, and the entertainment industry were in attendance. Chief guests Bollywood actor Karisma Kapoor, who was also a grand jurist, and actor Sobhita Dhulipala elevated the glamour



Winners of the India's Best Homestay Awards with the jury members and MakeMyTrip leadership at the gala night in Goa recently

quotient while also sharing what they look for in homestays when they travel.

In a candid moment, Kapoor shared her first experience staying in a Swiss chalet during the filming of the 1996 hit movie Jeet.

Event host Aparshakti Khurana's wit and infectious humour not only kept the audience in splits but also ensured that the nominees stayed in eager anticipation throughout the evening.

MakeMyTrip's India's Favourite Homestay Awards (IFHA) were held to recognise individuals and entrepreneurs who set exceptional standards by offering travellers worldwide an unforgettable stay and experience within their homes.

"IFHA serves as both a tribute and a catalyst for the growing homestay community, honouring their significant contributions to India's tourism and hospitality landscape," said Rajesh Magow, the co-founder and group chief executive officer of MakeMyTrip. "Recognising their untapped potential, we're committed to investing in and collaborating with hosts nationwide to elevate this category," he added.

The Awards

After the resounding success of Season I, TOI and MMT partnered yet again for Season II, which was launched in June 2023. A whopping 6,500+ entries from over 3,700 unique properties across 13 categories were received this year. The short-

listed entries were put up online for consumer voting from August 11 to 31.

Not just voting, but also an eminent jury panel, determined the winners in each category. The same shortlisted entries were then presented to the grand jury in September.

Fifteen winners were selected across categories, including but not limited to Villa of the Year; Unique Homestay of the Year; Villa of the

Year; Hidden Gem of the Year; Farmhouse of the Year; Heritage Homestay of the Year; and Consumer Favourite of the Year.

This year's nominations were judged by renowned experts in the hospitality space: veteran chef Hemant Oberoi, former executive chef of the Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai; Sudhya Sinha, prominent architect and founding partner of Spacematters; Dilip Puri, founder and CEO of the Indian School of Hospitality; Nisheet Srivastava, principal, IHM Kolkata; and acclaimed

actor Karisma Kapoor.

International consulting firm EY served as the "Process Advisors" for the Awards in Seasons I & II.

India's favourite Homestays Awards are a testimony to the spirit of travel and tourism through entrepreneurship, skill, service excellence, and innovative thinking.

The event saw top homestay owners from across the country and renowned chains like StayVista, amaStays & Trails, SaffronStays, and Lohono Stays participating. In addition, an engaging panel discussion on what homestays can do to make their properties more successful was held, where market insights were shared with the stakeholders.



MakeMyTrip founder Deep Kalra (left) and co-founder Rajesh Magow set the tone for the night with a deep dive into the homestay sector, using their personal experiences to illustrate the future of the market



(Left to Right) Deep Kalra, Hemant Oberoi, Dilip Puri, Rajesh Magow and Nisheet Srivastava. The jury had a hard time finalising the award winners of India's Best Homestay

India's Favourite Homestays Awards Season II Winners

CATEGORY	NAME OF THE PROPERTY
1 Eco-Friendly Homestay of the Year	Hostie Chinai Haveli
2 Heritage Homestay of The Year	Fort Barli - A 16th Century Castle
3 Luxury Homestay of the Year	Kahani Paradise
4 Apartment of the Year - Business City	BedChambers Modern Apartments
5 Apartment of the Year - Leisure City	ElSereno by Bluekite
6 Hostel of the Year	The Hosteller Kasol Riverside
7 Unique Homestay of the year	SaffronStays AsanJa Titaly, Murbad
8 Homestay with the most exquisite pool of the Year	Niyama by Staymaster
9 Jury Special Mention o f the Year	Lohono Stays Sacri Borod Hill 7, Goa
10 Consumer Favourite Homestay of the Year	Echor Palm Bliss, Kasol
11 Pet Friendly Homestay of The Year	Nandi Mist Meadows
12 Star Host of the Year	The Blue Door
13 Hidden Gem of the Year	Neelakurunji Plantation
14 Farmhouse of the Year	Abhay Manor - Ghanerao, Udaipur - amā Stays & Trails
15 Villa of the year	StayVista at Sunset on the Lake, Igatpuri

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- Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on <http://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/25>



THE SPEAKING TREE

BHUTAN'S GIFT

To experience the happiness quotient in action, you need to do more than sight-see and trek in Bhutan; you need to interact closely with the wonderful Bhutanese people, writes NARAYANI GANESH

What makes the Bhutanese people so kind, compassionate and caring, so peaceful and gentle? "Are you like this because you are Buddhist?" I ask the lady doctor on duty at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu, where I was admitted with a lung infection, shortness of breath and plummeting oxygen levels. "I don't know," she responds. "Isn't this the normal way of life? How else can one be," she counter-questions, with a puzzled smile on her lips.

The group of 23 travellers — including myself — from Delhi, landed in Paro, drove to the capital city Thimphu and checked into a boutique hotel. The scenic route offered us a glimpse of the tall, green mountains, cypress trees, blue skies, white clouds, pristine glacial rivers, and pretty traditional homes and buildings and we were so looking forward to the eight-night nine-day holiday that would take us onward to Gangtey, Punakha, Paro, several trekking trails, and the famous Tiger's Nest Monastery...

Since I was rushed to hospital on reaching Thimphu, and my lung infection and breathlessness had to be treated with antibiotics, oxygen and saline infusions, I spent seven nights and eight days in the hospital, first in the emergency ward and later in a room. Several tests were done including ECGs, Echo, chest X-rays, ultrasound, blood tests and so on. When I asked for the bill, I found that I was

charged only a nominal room rent. Nothing else. The revelatory experience put me in close touch with the wonderful people of Bhutan and allowed me to experience their kindness and care. The local travel agent would deliver food to me daily, after asking what I would like to eat that day. The hotel gave me a heavy discount since I was unwell and could not enjoy my hotel room. The CEO herself came visiting to the hospital bearing fruits, juices and biscuits. Nurses, attendants, doctors, all were friendly, efficient and strict, empathetic and kind. In this positive atmosphere, it was impossible not to feel happy and cared for, even looking forward to the medical staff's frequent rounds and the routine of checking my vitals. This was experiential tourism, without a doubt!

The unexpected experience made me understand and experience the essence of Bhutan's philosophy and their Gross National Happiness economic policy. GNH was mooted by the current king's father, the fourth King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in 1972 when he declared, "Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product." He said sustainable development is the holistic approach

to progress, so equal importance should be given to non-monetary aspects of well-being — including living in sync with the natural environment, avoiding exploitation and respecting natural resources. When it was suggested to the king that Bhutan could go for extensive mining of minerals for export and become rich, the king is said to have asked, "And then what?" He opted instead for hydro-electric projects with some collaboration with India, that turned out to be a wise decision.

The website grossnationalhappiness.com says, "In creating the Gross National Happiness Index, Bhutan sought to create a measurement tool that would be useful for policymaking and create policy incentives for the government, NGOs and businesses of Bhutan to increase GNH. The GNH Index includes both traditional areas of socio-economic concern such as living standards, health and education and less traditional aspects of culture and psychological well-being. It is a holistic reflection of the general well-being of the Bhutanese population rather than a subjective psychological ranking of 'happiness' alone."

Another interesting aspect is that unlike in most cultures, the Bhutanese do not fear death; in fact, they see death as a chance to "reboot" to a new and perhaps better life as they believe in rebirth and karma. Hence, the Bhutanese style of life is infused with a spirit of acceptance and forgiveness, with compassion as the common thread that binds peoples together. ■

Festivals & polls ahead, curbs on sugar exports likely to stay

Centre To Also Keep Basmati MEP Untouched

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is likely to continue the restriction on export of sugar beyond October to ensure "comfortable supply levels" to meet domestic demand and keep prices under check during this festival season and 2024 election year.

It has also decided to keep the minimum export price (MEP) of basmati rice unchanged at \$1.200 per tonne "till further orders" to ensure adequate availability for domestic consumption. But this has come as a blow to basmati



A total of 6.2 million tonnes of sugar was exported by millers during the 2022-23 crop year

Regarding export of sugar, sources said the food ministry has conveyed the "decision" of the committee of ministers to the commerce ministry to put it under the 'restricted' category. A notification to this effect is likely to be issued soon.

"There's no plan to put a ban on sugar exports. The government will take decisions considering all aspects, particularly to protect our consumers and make this available at affordable price," said an official.

At present, sugar is under the 'restricted' category, meaning mills can apply for an export quota. So, the possibility of the government setting a limit and MEP for sugar are very high, sources said. This will be done considering the sugar production and estimated domestic consumption, includ-

ing its diversion for ethanol production, sources said.

Export check on sugar was imposed from June last year, with the setting of mill-wise quotas. A total of 6.2 million tonnes (MTs) of sugar was exported by millers during 2022-23 crop year.

Though the official output estimate is not yet out, sources said sugar production between October and September (2023-24 season) may be around 28 MTs, down from 30 MTs last year. The average retail price of sugar has increased from Rs 42.5 a kg to Rs 44 a kilo in last one year.

Meanwhile, the ministerial committee has approved exports of 1.34 MTs of non-basmati white rice to seven countries from Asia and Africa through National Cooperative Export Ltd (NCEL).

Registration now must for trekkers in Himachal

India has often expressed interest in hosting Oly

►Continued from P1



PM Modi with Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani and International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach during the inauguration of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai on Saturday

cent past, voiced the nation's interest in hosting the Summer Games.

In an exclusive interview to TOI last December, Union sports minister Anurag Thakur had revealed that the government would back an Indian Olympic Association (IOA) bid for the 2036 Olympics. While Modi did not disclose a potential host city, Thakur had mentioned Ahmedabad as a likely candidate. India is expected to pre-

sent a roadmap related to its Olympic bid during the three-day IOC session which gets underway on Sunday. The country is hosting the IOC session after 40 years, with the last session being held in New Delhi in 1983. "Your presence here today, dear Prime Minister, is a testimony to the growing importance of Olympic sport in your wonderful country," said IOA president Thomas Bach at Saturday's opening ceremony.

The viewing spot, near Nabhidhang, can be reached after a steep climb of 2km and is the only place in Uttarakhand which offers a majestic view of Mt Kailash in Tibet. The Old Lipu peak lies on the western side of the Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to the Tibetan plateau.

Large stretches of a new road and infrastructure in Pithoragarh region were spruced up for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Uttarakhand on Thursday.

What the PM's presence there did was to highlight a hitherto difficult-to-access pilgrimage.

Not surprisingly, tourism officials now say that the PM's trip has sparked interest in the area and since roads have been widened and improved to reach various spots that allow a breathtaking view of 'Kailash parvat', they are considering developing Old Lipu as well.

According to an estimate,

FOR A GLIMPSE OF SHIVA'S ABODE

Mansarovar yatra organised by MEA may lie suspended but pilgrims and tourists alike can go up to a point over 17k ft in Pithoragarh from where Mt Kailash can be seen – without entering China



Gaurav Talwar & Prem Punetha | TNN

Dehradun/Pithoragarh:

There is a point near the Tibetan border called 'Old Lipu', situated at an altitude of 17,500 feet, from where Mount Kailash can be seen without entering China. The abode of Lord Shiva has never been so tantalizingly close for the legions of his believers.

In June this year, a joint team led by officials from the tourism department visited the Old Lipu trek to check the feasibility of having an alternate route for pilgrims. A report was sent to the Union government in this regard.

District tourism officer, Pithoragarh, Kirti Arya, said, "To reach the base camp where there are tourist huts put up by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), one has to drive 110 km from Dharchula to Nabhidhang via Gunji. Then a 9km-drive will take you to the base camp, from where a 2km steep trek takes one to the peak situated

DIVINE DARSHAN

► 'Old Lipu', situated in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand at an altitude of 17,500 feet, from where Mt Kailash can be seen without entering China

► According to officials, 'Kailash Darshan' from the peak can be an alternative to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, which passes through the Tibet area. The yatra has been suspended since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic

► The aerial distance from Old Lipulekh pass to Mt Kailash is just 50km and the view is usually clear, the mountain looming just beyond. It's as if one can touch it.

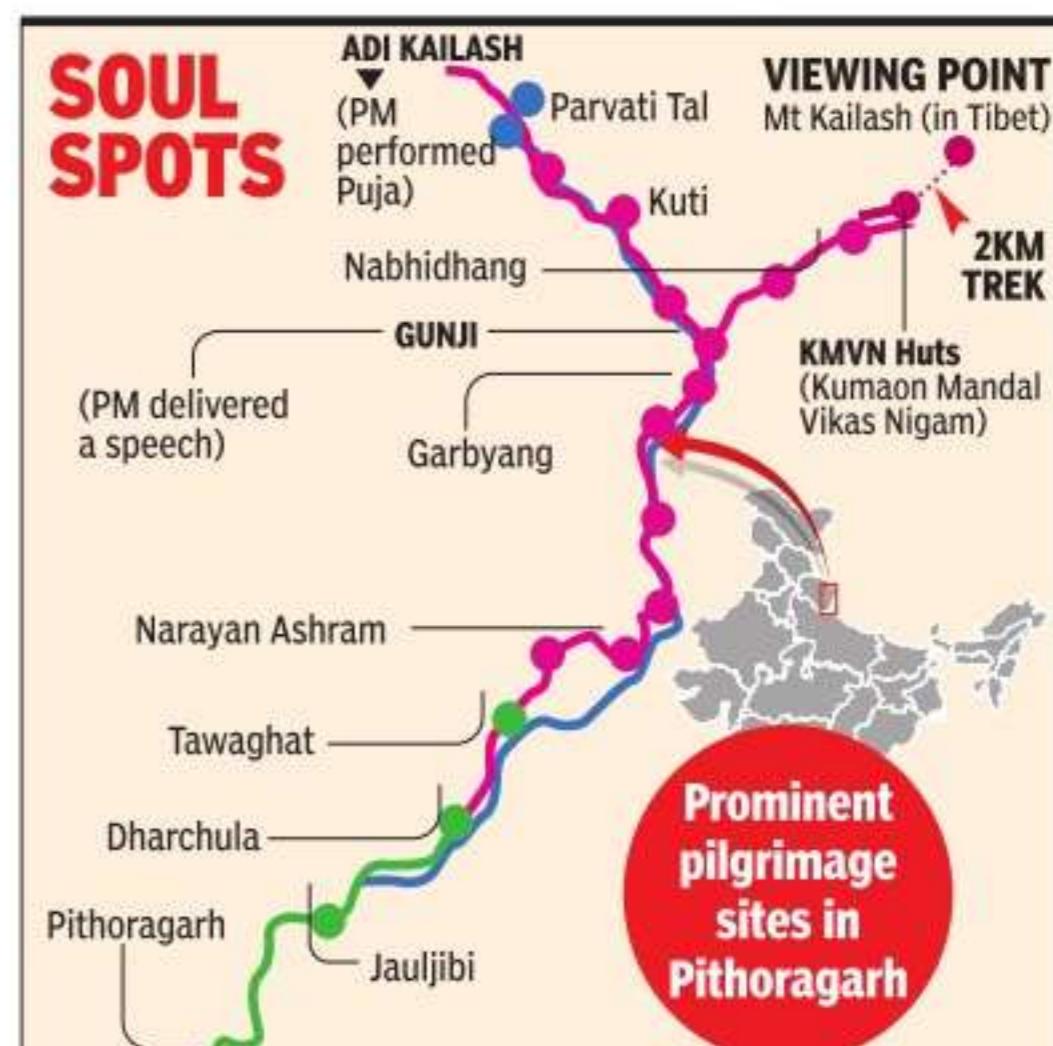
The Kailash Mansarovar yatra, organised by the ministry of external affairs (MEA), which passes via Pithoragarh, has been suspended since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, but there is considerable interest among pilgrims to have a 'darshan' of Mt Kailash. It is this that the new roads, the rest houses that are being planned, the eateries along the way will facilitate.

District tourism officer, Pithoragarh, Kirti Arya, said, "To reach the base camp where there are tourist huts put up by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), one has to drive 110 km from Dharchula to Nabhidhang via Gunji. Then a 9km-drive will take you to the base camp, from where a 2km steep trek takes one to the peak situated

► In 2020, BRO built an 80km road from Ghatiaghari to Lipulekh Pass on the Indo-China border, which earlier could only be traversed on foot. The road has made access to the region easier although there were widespread protests by Nepal which alleged that the road passed through territories which it has been claiming as its own

at an altitude of 17,500 feet. From there, Mt Kailash is clearly visible."

Villagers in Vyasa Valley, where the Mt Kailash viewing spot is situated, said, earlier too, the pilgrims who could not cross over to Mansarovar due to old age or health issues used to get 'darshan' of the sacred site from the Old Lipulekh peak. In fact, for many local villagers, Old Lipu is a sanctified pilgrimage spot that their ancestors, too, went to, for a glimpse of the peak.



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday announced a new initiative to ensure a secure trekking experience and reduce cases of trekkers going missing in remote areas, under which the forest department had been directed to designate and notify trekking routes across the state.

Sukhu said trekking routes would be meticulously planned taking into consideration local weather conditions and the availability of essential facilities, such as accommodation.

"These routes would be offered to trekkers as comprehensive packages through the Eco-Tourism Society, thus streamlining their trekking experience and bolstering their safety..." the CM said.

Under the initiative, trekkers will be required to register before embarking on their adventure trip. They will be provided tracking devices as a mandatory safety measure, as this will enable swift tracking in the event of an emergency, ensuring timely assistance. TNN

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Dy. CM, Maharashtra | CM, Maharashtra | Dy. CM, Maharashtra

The Ukraine war has been on for 19 months. Pundits have prophesied economic disaster for a sanctions-laden Russia many times. But TOI journalist Rema Nagarajan, who spent a week in Moscow late last month, found it was business as usual there. Museums, monuments, theatres, the opera, cafes and the metro were all running packed. She returned with many warm impressions

It was already autumn, but we were lucky to catch the 'Babushka (grandmother's) summer' as we landed in Moscow late last month. Instead of wet and breezy days we got sumptuous blue skies and sharp, bright sunshine. On the weekend, people were out to enjoy the last warm spell before the inevitable and long Russian winter.

Although the Ukraine border is barely 500km away from Moscow, restaurants, parks and historical monuments in the city were buzzing. Muscovites were attending the opera, theatre and concerts, and hanging out with friends and family as usual. Tickets to the Swan Lake ballet were sold out. Only the sight of a bunch of soldiers in the Moscow metro wearing battle fatigues and carrying huge backpacks reminded us that a war was raging not too far away.

Travel Like It's The '80s

Most tourists, from Red Square onwards, had come from other parts of Russia to see their capital. Western tourists were rare as a result of the Ukraine war's sanctions. The Chinese stood out among the foreigners, though not in huge numbers, and Indian students were discernible too. In fact, our Aeroflot flight to Moscow was mostly packed with them.

Did the war worry us? Not really. It's not as if Delhi had come to a standstill during the Kargil war of 1999. But the sanctions definitely made booking air tickets, hotels, etc, complicated. Russian airlines have taken off the flight aggregating sites and credit cards issued outside of Russia no longer work for the country's hotel and museum websites.

We had to depend on a travel agent, found through friends in Moscow, and the visa fee went through a Chinese payment platform as US-based Mastercard and Visa have suspended operations in Russia. We used cash—roubles—with each rupee roughly worth 0.86 rupee, and we were guarded about carrying cash the way we would in a Delhi market, although Moscow seemed very safe and our local friends said street crimes are rare.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are barred in Russia—the Russians don't care because they have their own networking sites—but thankfully Google still works, so we found our way around using Google Maps. It got tricky sometimes when Google forgot to give names in English, but it wasn't long before we had familiarised ourselves with the Russian alphabet and could guess names.

A Country For Children

Good weather meant the conditions were ideal for people-watching. There were pedestrians everywhere: large groups of schoolchildren shepherded by teachers to museums and other places of interest, mixed groups of young-

UNSANCTIONED FUN

1



Photos: Rema Nagarajan



2



4



Forget The Stereotypes
Russian women smile easily and

3

Sandeep Rai & Aanchal Bedi | TNN

Not far from the Wagah-Attari border near Amritsar, in a village in Pakistan's Lahore district, a gurdwara marks the spot Guru Nanak once used for prayer, sitting among pebbles and rocks with his companion Bhai Mardana. It was built in the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. But Sri Rori Sahib Gurdwara—'rori' is Punjabi for pebbles—no longer stands at the site as the important symbol of Sikh faith that it is. Visited the place now and all you'd find is the portion of a wall and signs of the decades of neglect that finally led to the structure coming down in torrential rain on July 10 this year.

Sri Rori Sahib is a symbol of the condition in which numerous other gurdwaras find themselves today in Pakistan. For while the gurdwaras at Nankana Sahib, Panja Sahib, and Kartarpur Sahib are well-known and thronged by people from around the world, the majority of the gurdwaras in the Pakistani countryside have long cried out for care and attention. Among these are scores of gurdwaras associated with the first six Sikh Gurus.

"At present, there are 345 gurdwaras standing in Pakistan, of which 135 are directly connected to the first six Gurus. But at present, only 22 are functional. The rest have been left to their own fate," said Lahore-based Noshaba Shehzad, an independent researcher.

Need For Ground Support

Sri Rori Sahib was not the only gurdwara to have crumbled in the monsoons. Gurdwara Dafta Sahib, in Dafta village of Kasur district, caved in on July 23. This was where the revered 17th century Sufi poet Baba Bulleh Shah is said to have taken refuge from Islamic fundamentalists. Bulleh Shah's compositions and sermons are well-loved and popular among people on both sides of the border.

And it is the people themselves who need to be made a central part of any efforts to save these gurdwaras, feel some experts.

"Spreading awareness about the secular narrative of Sikh traditions on which these monuments were built is imperative. A sense of belonging has to be nurtured in ground zero, the sooner the better. I strongly reject the idea of simply relying on the Sikh diaspora to pump in money for the restoration of these buildings without local support," says Dalvir Pannu, the US-based author of 'The Sikh Heritage – Beyond Borders'.

While the diaspora is not to be discounted, they do admit that there are limits to what they can achieve.

"I went to Pakistan in the late '90s and tried to identify the many gurdwaras there. We've been able to restore a few but it's a tough task in the face of local resistance and encroachment. Concerted efforts are needed from the Pakistan government and the international Sikh community to preserve our history," said Balbir Singh Nanuan, president of the Khalsa International Welfare Society in the UK.

Harpreet Singh Sachal, a real estate developer from Canada, echoes Nanuan. "Historic gurdwaras in the land where Sikhs

originated are getting destroyed one after the other either due to a lack of maintenance or encroachment. Since the majority of Sikhs moved out after Partition, the last 76 years have witnessed utter neglect of these marvels of architecture. The international Sikh community has carried out some restoration work but what is needed is a collective effort," he said.

Cradle Of Sikhism

The Pakistan government has an office for maintaining the estates and assets of those who left during the Partition, but it has not



MOSCOW MAGIC: 1. A Stalin tower, Moscow river 2. A vintage Lada 3. No Coke but Funky Monkey 4. A metro station's gallery 5. A Karl Marx monument 6. Starbucks has become Stars Coffee 7. An Uzbek food festival



6

7

are friendlier, especially the elderly women, many of whom are warm towards Indians. The stereotype of Russian women wearing heavy make-up and stilettos even to take out the garbage proved false as most were dressed sensibly and casually with minimal make-up, and shod in the most practical footwear, at least during the day. But the fashion of plumping up the lips with fillers seems to be all the rage in Moscow. We saw many poorly done jobs that left women looking stiff-lipped or ducky.

The men were mostly unsmiling and coldly polite, and Moscow cops scarcely grim, unfriendly and curt. Another stereotype—that of the fat Russian—fell as we saw very few obese adults and no overweight children or youngsters. But we were mostly in the well-off parts of the city. People over 40 years could be heavier, and some, especially the older men, seem to put on a lot of weight and have the typical ruddy look associated with excessive alcohol consumption. While the life expectancy for Russian women is 74.8 years, that for men is just 64.2.

A lot of Russians smoke, with the older lot mainly smoking cigarettes and youngsters almost exclusively vaping. Tabac or cigarette shops have a larger section for vaping products than cigarettes.

5

Sanctions, La-Di-Da, Lada

Talking of shops, the better known international chains, from Zara and Uniqlo to Cartier and Burberry, have exited Russia, but many others, especially Italian ones, have filled the vacuum. McDonald's has technically left but its outlets have been taken over and rebranded by the franchisee as Vkusno & Tochka (tasty and that's it). Starbucks has also become Stars Coffee, but Burger King and Domino's continue undisguised.

In our few days in Moscow, there were no visible signs of the sanctions biting, but our taxi driver said maintaining European cars was becoming difficult. As a consequence, Russians are shifting to Chinese cars and also ramping up the production of their own car brand, Lada.

Moscow's corner department stores are a copy of US stores, stuffed with processed and packaged foods. However, the food in even the small restaurants frequented by office workers and the bakeries dotting the city is excellent—lots of good quality meat, fresh crunchy salads, soups, pies, cakes and chocolates. With their love for good food and an incurable sweet tooth, it is a wonder that Muscovites appeared so trim. Then again, we did not see people constantly eating or snacking or drinking cola or coffee, as in the US.

Train, Walk, Train, Repeat

Moscow's excellent and affordable public transport also probably helps people stay fit. Using trains, buses, trams and the metro encourages them to move much more relative to car users. And the cold weather definitely makes them burn more calories just to keep warm.

In Moscow, electric kick scooters are popular with the youth who ride them on the well-laid pavements (no fancy sandstone or interlocking bricks, just smoothly laid tar or cement). You'll find friends, couples, kids, parent-and-kid units riding them all over, but pedestrians need to keep out of their way.

With 17 lines, the metro system that began in the Soviet era is huge and many of its 250-odd stations are tourist destinations in themselves. They are among the few places where you will see public art celebrating Russia's 1917 revolution. The stations have grand designs and are adorned with sculptures, mosaic and stained-glass work, and chandeliers. Even after 80 years, their original designs and lights are intact.

Jewel Eggs & Onion Domes

More than the metro stations, and the sculptures of Lenin and Marx in public places, the Putin government seems focused on the glory of tsarist Russia. Gleaming palaces with opulent ballrooms, dinner rooms and throne rooms chock-full of the most exquisite artefacts, like Faberge eggs, dinner sets in gold and silver, diamond-encrusted jewellery, silk dresses of the queens and the tsars, and so on. In Russia, you start off by wanting to click pictures of every colourful onion-domed church, but soon feel saturated.

minuscule population of Pakistani Sikhs. "Minorities in Pakistan are too small numerically to enjoy any kind of influence. The Sikh population here is just about 20,000," the GCU professor said. Kirpa Singh, an ETPB executive board member, agrees. "It is true that a little over 20 gurdwaras are functional in Pakistan. The reason is that the size of the Sikh population here is not enough to take care of the hundreds of gurdwaras scattered across the rural belt of Pakistan's Punjab. At present, the community is mainly concentrated around Peshawar, Lahore, and a few other places," he said.

Things are different wherever there is a presence of Sikhs, but maintaining the distant gurdwaras can be challenging. "Those who live in big cities have their business establishments and jobs there. It is not possible for them to migrate to remote villages to look after the shrines there. In the absence of Sikhs in such areas, it makes little sense to restore abandoned gurdwaras. Nonetheless, we do make efforts to not let such structures collapse and keep repairing them from time to time," Kirpa Singh added.

Solutions Near And Far

There are examples of gurdwaras being converted to schools, houses and places of worship. Built in 1937, Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha on Kashmire Road in Mansehra city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan currently houses a municipal library. In 2021, ETPB decided to take over possession and open it for the local Sikh community to offer prayers. Similarly, another gurdwara in Sargodha city is now the Government Ambala Muslim High School.

Finding new uses for these structures ensures that they receive suitable attention though Haroon Khalid, the Pakistani author of 'Walking with Nanak', does note that protecting their historical value becomes difficult in such cases.

"These instances should not be seen as Hindu spaces being occupied by Muslims. In the people's imagination, these places are still sacred. However, since the context has changed, they express their sacredness in a way or language known to them. The idea is to retain the sanctity of a particular place even if it means giving it a new identity. But the fallout is that the history linked to it might also be forgotten as it's not part of the discourse anymore," he says.

Over in India, Shriromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhami said they are "ready to contribute to this noble cause in whatever way the neighbouring country's government and their Sikh body may deem fit".

"Sikh shrines left behind in Pakistan represent the genesis of our faith that was propagated by Guru Nanak Dev and carried forward by successive Gurus. We strongly feel that the Pakistan government must focus on the restoration of at least those gurdwaras that have historical relevance. Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGCP) and ETPB should assign responsibility among local community members to ensure that the gurdwaras are well-maintained," he said.

INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

50 WINNERS
EVERY WEEK

1 Which well-known author's next work, 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder', is set to release in early 2024?

2 Don, Kasme Vaade, Desh Premee and Great Gambler are some of the films in which Amitabh Bachchan has appeared in a double role. Which is the only film in which he has a triple role?

3 In which European city would you come across the 'Bridge of Sighs,' on which prisoners would take their last look at the city before being led to their cells?

Scan this QR code or visit www.timespecialquiz.com to answer the above 3 contest questions

50 winners

every week win Barbeque Nation vouchers worth Rs 2000 each

1 A small, yellow version of what was brought by Spaniard Hernan Cortes to Europe from the Aztec empire in the 16th century? It was being cultivated all around Europe within the next hundred years.

3 Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Altunia, governor of Bathinda, and his wife were defeated and killed by Muizuddin Bahram in October 1240. What was the wife's name?

4 Only three countries have not officially adopted the metric system. Two of them are the US and Liberia. Which Asian country is the third?

5 Which 1997-born person broke the record of physician Lawrence Bragg by becoming the youngest to win a Nobel Prize?

6 Which Indian city has twice been represented by IPL franchises but does not currently have a team in the IPL?

7 What is presided by King Momo, starts on Sabado Gordo or Fat Saturday, ends on Shrove Tuesday, and is complemented by a local wine festival and a dance at Samba Square?

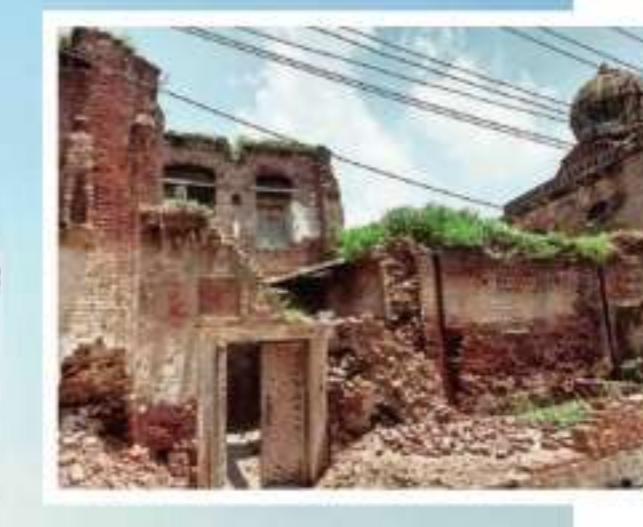
2 In 1973, Elton John sang 'Candle in the Wind', as a tribute to American actor Marilyn Monroe. In whose tribute did he perform a rewritten version of the song in 1997?

ANSWERS

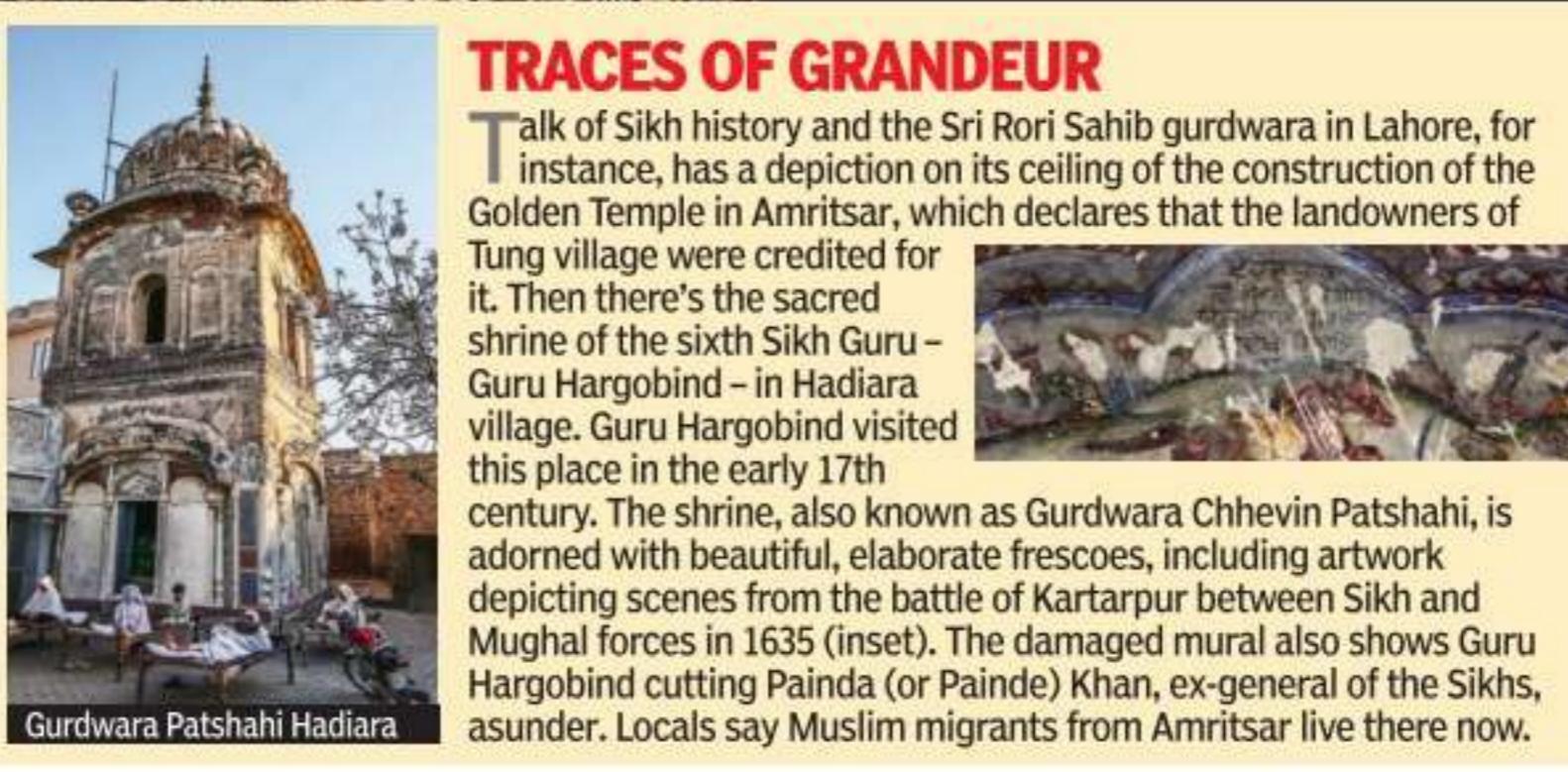
1 Tomato 2 Diana, Princess of Wales 3 Maurya Sutla, the Great 4 Ayammar Suprayogit 5 Malala Yousafzai 6 First woman to scale Mount Everest 7 The Caraval in Goa

Pakistan has 345 standing Sikh shrines, over 100 of them directly connected to the first six Gurus. But only 22 are functional, and two collapsed in rains this year

Where Guru Nanak once prayed, rubble heap tells a tragic tale



HERITAGE LOST: Sri Rori Sahib was not the only gurdwara to have crumbled, (inset) Gurdwara Dafta Sahib caved in on July 23. (Below) Artwork inside Gurdwara Patshahi Hadiara of the battle between Guru Hargobind and Painde Khan



TRACES OF GRANDEUR

Talk of Sikh history and the Sri Rori Sahib gurdwara in Lahore, for instance, has a depiction on its ceiling of the construction of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which declares that the landowners of Tung village were credited for it. Then there's the sacred shrine of the sixth Sikh Guru—Guru Hargobind—in Hadiara village. Guru Hargobind visited this place in the early 17th century. The shrine, also known as Gurdwara Chhevin Patshahi, is adorned with beautiful, elaborate frescoes, including artwork depicting scenes from the battle of Kartarpur between Sikh and Mughal forces in 1635 (inset). The damaged mural also shows Guru Hargobind cutting Painde (or Painde) Khan, ex-general of the Sikhs, asunder. Locals say Muslim migrants from Amritsar live there now.

isism originated are getting destroyed one after the other either due to a lack of maintenance or encroachment. Since the majority of Sikhs moved out after Partition, the last 76 years have witnessed utter neglect of these marvels of architecture. The international Sikh community has carried out some restoration work but what is needed is a collective effort," he said.

Cradle Of Sikhism

The Pakistan government has an office for maintaining the estates and assets of those who left during the Partition, but it has not

been very effective at preserving the gurdwaras in the country.

"Lahore is the cradle of Sikh history, but we've not been able to preserve it. The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) lacks teeth and only gets active during festivals. Its rights are also limited, so there is little scope for taking up the task of restoring historically relevant properties, including the gurdwaras lying in a dilapidated condition," said Dr Kalyan Singh, the first Sikh professor in Pakistan since 1947. He teaches at the Government College University (GCU), Lahore.

"A part of the problem has to do with the gurdwaras in the country.

Changing Ramlilas: Look who's now stepping into Ram and Ravan's shoes

Traditional Ramlila was performed only by men but not only have women moved centerstage now, even the female characters show more shades

Shruti.Sonal@timesgroup.com

As 25-year-old Rutuparna Das prepares to go on stage for rehearsals, she puts final touches to her makeup. Then, she pauses and takes a long look at herself in the mirror. Getting into the shoes of Sita for one of Delhi's most popular Ramlilas is no easy job after all.

"As Sita, I make it a point to walk and talk very confidently. For a long time, male audiences in Ramlilas have wanted to see a very shy, *sehni hui* (scared) Sita. But I think she was very opinionated, full of courage, and steadfast in her decision-making – right from deciding to accompany her husband into the forest, to going back into the earth at the end," says Das, who



IN FOCUS: Rutuparna Das (right) plays a strong Sita, while Pratibha Singh (below) learnt to shoot arrows for her Lord Ram portrayal

"The girl who played Sita last year is portraying Ram this time!" he points out. The performance itself, he adds, is true to the original text.

QUESTION OF PURITY

Such Ramlilas, however, even today are only a handful in number. In large parts, women characters and actors are at the margins. Dr Anita Singh, a professor of performative studies and gender at the Banaras Hindu University, says that this has been largely a result of women being considered 'impure' to take part in the Ramlila. "It was believed that boys between the ages of eight and thirteen whose voices had not yet changed and with no facial hair were the only ones who should embody Ram, his brothers, Bharat, Lakshman and Shatrughna, and Sita," points out the professor.

In her paper titled 'Staging the Ramlila in Rammagar', she elaborates, "When I asked why a girl might not play Sita, I was told by the Hanuman impersonator that any female on stage would be considered by villagers to be sexually compromised."

They also said that any girl who portrayed Sita would never find a husband because the action in Ramlila is considered real, including the wedding rites for Sita and Ram. Thus, no one will marry a girl who has already been married.

Questions of purity are at the centre of the performance even today, and not just in Rammagar where the Ramlila tradition is over 200 years old. Male actors too are expected to practise celibacy, stay off alcohol and meat, while taking part in the performances.

Nagpal of Jado se Judo recalls the struggles in convincing people to give donations. "Nobody believed in us. We had difficulty in getting costumes too, as most of them were designed for men. Some local religious leaders also said that women

cannot perform it," she says.

Pratibha Singh, the 43-year-old who plays the titular character in the play, says preparing for the role wasn't easy either. "I had to learn how to stand, walk, and talk like a man. I struggled the most while learning how to handle weapons and bows and arrows," the mother of two says.

While pushing for change, some rules are still in place. "We have been given clear instructions that menstruating women cannot perform. During rehearsals, if a woman gets her period, she takes leave for a couple of days. For the main performance, we are encouraged to take pills to postpone or preponer our menstrual cycles," the actor says.

GRADUAL SHIFTS

Ramlilas, which are deeply embedded in local communities, are tougher to experiment with than works of literature or experimental plays, says BHU's Singh. As a result, they cannot be as "subversive" as retellings, such as Mallika Sarabhai's dance-drama 'Sita's Daughter' or Kannada actress and social activist Snehalatha Reddy's 1974 play 'Sita'.

In 'Sita's Daughter', for instance, Sarabhai reinterprets the Ramayana to raise her voice against oppression, and tells the stories of women who question the world and refuse to submit to the tests and trials of weak and doubtful men. Reddy's revisionist 'Sita' is shocked when Ram rejects her after the Lanka war. At one point, she exclaims, "History has never recorded the whole truth. They will gloss over my suffering and camouflage their sins with my submissiveness and devotion...I reject you! I reject you as husband, as lover – and I reject you above all as the father of my unborn children!"

While such acts of subversion are unlikely to feature in Ramlilas any time soon, women actors and directors are focusing on making their presence felt on the stage. "We must go forward, and not backwards," says Shobha Deepak Singh. In the backdrop, two girls put on their costumes, and get ready to play Luv and Kush, the sons of Ram and Sita.



SHOBHA DEEPAK SINGH,
DIRECTOR OF SHRIRAM
BHARATIYA KALA KENDRA

We celebrate Sita as a symbol of strength while rejecting the idea of women being subjected to purity tests. Ahilya shifts the focus from her victimhood to her resilience and agency

is performing at the 67th edition of the Ramlila at Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra which begins today.

To prepare for the role, apart from Valmiki's Ramayana, the actor adds that she read a number of contemporary retellings of Sita's story, including 'The Forest of Enchantments' by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

It's part of an effort to make the epic and its women characters more accessible to changing times, says Shobha Deepak Singh, director of the Kendra and the play. "In our Ramlila, we celebrate Sita as a symbol of strength and resilience while

LIGHTS, CAMERA, REWIND: Why old classics are new stars of cinema

Reruns began as a way to lure audiences back into theatres after the pandemic, but have now taken a life of their own

Shruti.Sonal@timesgroup.com

Twenty-two-year-old sociology graduate and theatre artist Darshana Choudhary had grown up listening to old Hindi songs, courtesy of her parents. One of the albums that played the most in her house was 'Guide', which had gems such as 'Tere mere sapne ab ek rang hain' and 'Aaj phir jeene ki tamanna hai'. However, despite her fascination with the album, Choudhary had never watched the 1965 film. So, when it was announced that the film would be screened across multiple theatres in India to commemorate Dev Anand's 100th birth anniversary, along with 'CID', 'Jewel Thief' and 'Johnny Mera Naam', she booked tickets instantly. "I realised that such movies require the audience to surrender to them. I couldn't do that on YouTube," says Choudhary.

Like her, many young and old moviegoers across the country are filling up theatres to catch a rerun of films first released years ago. Like Dev Anand, similar screenings in PVRs and single screens have been held by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) to commemorate iconic films of superstar Amitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar. To celebrate his 45 years in Bollywood,



director Vidhu Vinod Chopra's best films hit the big screen on Friday.

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, archivist and founder of FHF, is leading this initiative. "My dream was to make classics accessible to the public, and not just restrict them to film festivals. Most of these films are available on OTT platforms but I always felt that the films made with so much effort are our heritage, and deserve to be screened on the big screen," says Dungarpur.

Ahead of Big B's 80th birthday last year, Singh reached out to PVR, producers, and the actor himself, to figure out a way to screen films such as 'Deewar', 'Don', and 'Mili'. Most of the responses were skeptical, he says, including that of Bachchan, who very politely asked why people would pay to see such old films in the theatre again? However,

FHF's persistence paid off and some exhibitors agreed to screen the films across three days in October. The event was a huge success, with most shows sold out. It was followed by similar screenings to pay tribute to Dilip Kumar in December last year, and then Dev Anand this September. The ticket prices ranged from Rs 100-150, and the posters were redesigned to appeal to the young and old.

The trend began last year when theatres were struggling to bring back audiences after the pandemic, but has now taken a life of its own. "For Mr Bachchan's films, we had screenings in 17 cities. For Dilip Kumar, it increased to 27 cities, and for Dev saab, we were able to reach 30 cities and 58 cinemas!" says Singh, with pride.

From big production houses

such as Yash Raj Films bringing back their biggest romantic hits for Valentine's Week this year to small-budget films with a cult following, there's room for multiple genres and stories today. Among the upcoming releases is Kamal Hassan's 1987 silent black comedy 'Pushpak'.

Director and writer Pawan Kumar's landmark Kannada film 'Lucia' was re-released in September, ten years after its initial run at the box office. This small-budget debut venture has been lauded by fans and critics for its alternate style of filmmaking. However, the director never thought that he'd see people buying tickets for it again. "Even at a time when shows of a big film like 'Jawan' were running fullhouse, people agreed to give a few screens to us. I took my daughter to see the film; she was not even born when it

was first released," Kumar says.

It's the coming together of commerce, nostalgia, and heritage. Above all, it's an excellent way to reach two generations, says Veeruti Duggal, film studies professor at Delhi's Ambedkar University. "For the generation that has seen the films and stars on screen, rewatching them with their family holds value and nostalgia. Then, there's a generation that has only watched them on television or on YouTube, and has been curious to see them on the big screen," she says.

Film producers and multiplexes are also waking up to the commercial value of classic films, like music labels did decades ago. "When the trend of remixing old songs or creating new renditions became popular, music labels such as HMV and T-Series remastered old tracks, and re-released them online, via cassettes, and vinyls," she says.

For PVR Pictures' chief executive Kamal Gianchandani, the trend is a sign of the value that the moviegoing experience holds even today. "It's a big validation of theatres because all these films are freely available on so many platforms, and yet people choose to buy tickets. It also makes business sense because on a long-term basis, this is helping us get new customers. And as for those ones who already come to the cinema, this is helping us increase their frequency," he says.

Beyond the commerce, Dungarpur says the films are also helping drive conversations around the importance of preserving film heritage. More and more youngsters are attending workshops to know more about the process, and flocking to see screenings of rare prints of black and white films such as Kamal Amrohi's Mahal (1949).

Choudhary says that a crucial part of the experience of watching old movies in a theatre is a sense of community. "We are together to celebrate a film that we love."

mates, I found that along with not taking rejections personally, it helped if you planned an activity that was repetitive by nature. You could join a book club or even a cult with weekly meetings if wearing white bedsheet with cut-out eye holes appealed to you, as long as it provided multiple opportunities for engagement. Having the same courses meant that I saw my Uni group regularly, and with others, I fixed slots for walking together in the park once a week or seeing new exhibits.

After the first six months, my daughter had cards with scribbled hearts where she was referred to as 'My best friend' by two of her classmates, and I had made a few good friends, but I had to concede that making friends as an adult is similar to being asked to play scrabble with only consonants. You have to make an effort till you get into the rhythm (which is a vowel-free word in case you do need to play this version). Meanwhile, though my friendship with Finn had been based on us behaving like we were starring in an episode of 'Murders in the Building', and he was perhaps disappointed that I had chosen the safety of my pinky over a story, we continued our coffee meetings even after I moved out of the building. I still remain committed to pursuing worthy friendships. After all, there is no point in having a stand-up act with the best lines in town if you have a row of empty seats facing you.

Dhotis for dogs and sarees for cats: Pet wear takes pawsh desi turn

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It was the photo that did the trick. When Mumbai-based Christina Kapoor saw a Boxer kitted out in a traditional pink and red Nauvari (the Maharashtrian nine-yard saree) on Instagram, she decided to get a similar outfit customized for Priyanka — her 11-year-old Persian cat — for Ganpati celebrations. Kapoor had a pink and gold saree planned for the occasion, so she got a matching one made by Kitty and the Woof Gang, a Delhi-based pet products company. "The pre-stitched saree was an easy velcro ensemble which strapped right on. She sat next to Ganpati and posed for pictures," says the 35-year-old development professional, who plans to get a lehenga for her this Diwali.

While canine couture is not new in the West — think chihuahua in gowns studded with Swarovski crys-



tal or poodles in double-breasted Boss suits in fashion weeks — the trend of togging pets in festive wear

is just catching on in India. Everything from dhoti kurta, shewari-

is, anarkalis, mirrorwork chaniya cholis for Navratri, and Kasavu bow ties for Onam is available.

Ankita Saini, founder of That Dog in Tuxedo which started occasion-wear for pets as early as

2015, says customers get outfits made through Holi to Halloween. "For weddings, most of our customers buy outfits for each ceremony like haldi, mehndi, engagement and the main wedding," Saini says. Pets are also playing a bigger role in weddings. For instance, a Puvale couple had their five dogs carry their rings and garlands.

"In fact, what I realized in the last one year is that the demand for Indian festive wear is no longer restricted to a season but comes through the

year from parents who want their beloved pets to be as much a part of their celebrations as they themselves, be it dressing up for Durga puja or Rakhi," says

Tanvi Thakur, who launched Kitty and the Woof Gang in 2017, says the women artisans who were tailoring initially thought they were making baby clothes. But now their repertoire includes stitched shewaris for guinea pigs, as well as clothes for rabbits and goats.

Thakur says she uses quality material with a soft lining, with sizing available from the smallest of small to 5XL. "My clothes are always adjustable because every animal is different. It's important they don't get hurt around their armpits if the clothes are too tight," adds Thakur, whose brand tagline reads: 'Every pet has a passion for fashion'.

Like the global market — pet apparel was valued at \$5.7 billion in 2021 — dog owners account for a majority of sales in India too. Festive or casual, felines dislike any kind of clothing in general. That's the reason why Preeti Sood, founder of Poochmate, restricts cat clothing to collars. For dogs, her festival collection comprises shewaris, bandanas and bowties in breathable

material with a soft lining, with sizing available from the smallest of small to 5XL. "My clothes are always adjustable because every animal is different. It's important they don't get hurt around their armpits if the clothes are too tight," adds Thakur, whose brand tagline reads: 'Every pet has a passion for fashion'.

Chanderi and cotton-based brocade. She also uses softer fabrics like voile and mul mul. Anything more is a bit too much. The products are shipped across India and abroad with instructions like 'use only for a couple of hours' or 'keep the dog under

'watch', especially in places like humid Mumbai. "I am an extremely devoted pet parent myself. I have a Labrador who's going to turn 14, a Cocker Spaniel who is 12 and a nine-year-old Golden Retriever. We have to be a little more sensitive to their needs. Irrespective of how much we love our dogs, eventually it's an animal and you cannot just make your dog uncomfortable for the sake of taking some pictures," says Sood, who specializes in making sustainable bedding for pets.

Jahanvi Bhalla, a 23-year-old marketing professional from Gurgaon, says that as a pet parent, she can gauge the discomfort of her pets. Her two Shih Tzus, Coco and Butter, share some 20-30 outfits for every occasion, including kurtas, shirts and lehengas. Once a brand gave her an expensive lehenga with a can-can, no lining and a heavy upper. "Even if it's a Rs 4,500 lehenga, I won't put my dog through it," says Bhalla.

Adult friendships are so hard, yaar. Pinky swear!

On my second day at university in London, I sat alone at my desk, eating leftover orange peel. The astringent flavour with bits of stringy white fibre could have been a metaphor for my mental state after I had waited for one of my fellow students, even the one who seemed to have toothpaste all over his scarf, to suggest having lunch together during our break.

Moving to an alien city, easing into a new job, or, in my case, returning to university is logically challenging, but no one warns you about how difficult it is to make new friends as an adult.

This realization was further forced on me when, after a week of walking along university corridors to the soundtrack of my solitary footsteps, I asked my daughter how she was adjusting to her new school. With a wide grin, she said she spent all her breaks with a bunch of girls playing tag. I was also informed that tag is a great game, especially when you have a gassy stomach, as you can run far and fast, and that she had received this information from one of her new friends. When it comes to friendships, children seem to boisterously dive in and splash away, but we hold onto the pool ladder, submerging ourselves one step at a time while constantly checking the temperature.

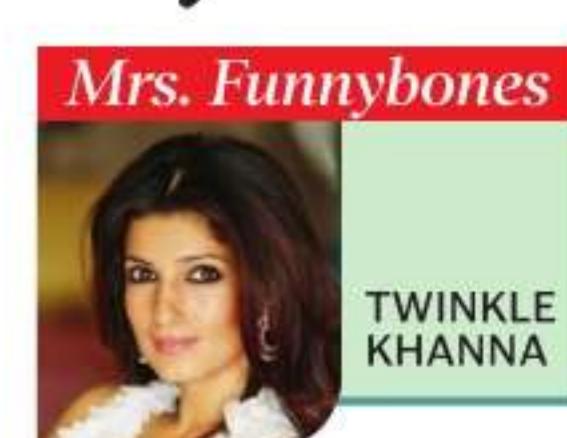
Thrilled at her great start while dismayed at my own, I decided that I would need some proven strategies if I wanted to be on the winning side of this friendship game. There was enough research to show that unlike children, we carry the weight of our past bad experiences when encountering new people. As we get older, this baggage is so large that if it were tangible, we would have to check it in at the oversize bag drop. There is also the prevalent belief that friendships should form organically.

Psychologist Marisa Franco, who has written a book on friendship, suggests that people must actively pursue friends. Though this sounds more like you are trying to catch a fugitive rather than make a friend, it is further corroborated by a study published in the Journal of Personal and Social Relationships which states that people who rely on chance to form friendships tend to be lonelier.

While I had been staying away from making the first move because it made me feel like Betaal trying to clamber onto the backs of varied Vikrams, this information was reassuring, and I began my pursuit of warm friendships, putting aside the real Betaal who had been sitting on my back all this time, the fear of rejection.

I began by chatting with my Irish neighbour while collecting our mail from the foyer table. One of the first things Finn said was, "Oh, you are from India! I have also recently moved from Dublin, and you know what, during this period, Boris Johnson got toppled, the Queen died, and now my old friends are asking what I will do to King Charles next." Amused by his joke about the uneasiness between the British and the Irish, I suggested the adult, sedentary version of tag, coffee.

After multiple coffees and weeks later, when a man from the upstairs flat made a ruckus loud enough for us to peer out from our doorways, Finn asked me, "Do you know who that is? He was engaged to a famous actress; she was in that Princess Bride movie. He pulled off



Mrs. Funnybones

TWINKLE KHANNA

a big scam and went to prison for a few years."

Let's not overlook long history of Red imperialism

SWAMINOMICS



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Touring Uzbekistan last week, I visited its State Museum of History. It had a graphic account of the fight against Russian colonialism, the attempt of the Soviet Union to wipe out Uzbek culture and history, and the country's triumphant gaining of independence in 1991. Uzbekistan now celebrates Independence Day as enthusiastically as India does. I was told that the situation was similar in other Central Asian countries that gained freedom from the Soviet Union.

Mos Indians think of the Soviet Union as a single political entity. The Uzbek museum makes it clear that the longest-lasting imperialist in the 20th century was the Soviet Union, which colonised several nations in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. It ruled with an iron fist even as western powers like Britain decolonised.

Yet in common parlance the words 'imperialism' and 'colonialism' are used to describe western colonialism only. It comes as an enlightening jolt to see Uzbek museums speak of Russian colonialism. Indeed, Tashkent has a memorial and entire museum dedicated to 'victims of repression'. There are similar museums in other cities.

The museums portray Uzbekistan through the ages as a wealthy Silk Route region, with some of the most advanced centres of learning in the world at Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. The emperor Timur, (Timur Lang in Indian textbooks), is lionised as the greatest Uzbek. Statues of Timur cover all Uzbek cities. Babur, a descendant of Timur, founded the Mughal Empire in India, but is not highlighted in local history.

After Timur, the region was contested by many Khans (rulers). In 1717, Russia's Peter the Great attempted to invade, but was bloodily repulsed. Russia continued with more attempts and succeeded in the late 19th century. The Khans became Russian puppets. Several local uprisings were crushed by the Tsars.

Then the communists came to power in Moscow, and killed or exiled the Khans. Central Asia was called part of the USSR. The Soviets portrayed Timur and other fabled Uzbeks as medieval exploiters to be shunned. They demolished or closed mosques and madrassas, aiming to erase traditional Uzbek culture and replace it with atheism and "socialist realism." They crushed the Basmachi revolt, an Islamic movement, between 1917 and 1922, massacring and burning entire villages.

The 1930s brought Stalinist purges. Islam, which had been tolerated despite the Basmachi revolt, was deemed totally unacceptable. Imams were killed or exiled. Haj travel and Islamic prayer were banned.



ECHO FROM PAST: Uzbekistan's museums show effects of Soviet colonisation. Putin is speaking a familiar language

Mosques and madrassas were converted to warehouses and social clubs. Museum exhibits portray the mass killings, the ruined villages and gulags (large prisons used to jail dissenters, including writers, artists and intellectuals, and use them as slave labour).

Amu Darya and Syr Darya were two great rivers flowing from the Hindu Kush mountains into the Aral Sea, an enormous inland lake. The rivers were diverted by the Soviets to grow irrigated cotton with forced labour. This created a great environmental disaster. The Aral Sea dried up, killing all marine life and ending the livelihoods of fishermen who used to catch and export over 40,000 tonnes of fish per year. Rusting fishing ships lie abandoned in the sands, a grisly tourist attraction. The museum complains that Uzbekistan was forced to become a commodity producer, with all its cotton sent for processing into textiles to Russia at a great profit. This sounds uncannily like Indian criticisms of British colonialism.

Doubtless there is some exaggeration in the museum's denunciation of Soviet rule, which also yielded economic development. Still, it comes as a shock to see the USSR portrayed as the Russian empire, colonising Central Asia.

Apart from this internal empire, the Soviets also had an external empire. In World War 2, the USSR overran East European countries from Estonia to Czechoslovakia. These countries were called 'People's Republics', but the only people who mattered were Soviet overlords. Attempts by the local communist parties to assert themselves — Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 — were crushed by Soviet tanks.

For Vladimir Putin, the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 was the biggest disaster in history. He remains an unreconstructed colonialist, dying to recreate the Red Empire. He views ethnic Russian enclaves abroad as his territory. He has used military might to establish autonomous Russian-majority enclaves in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. And in 2021, he declared there was no such thing as a separate Ukrainian nation, that it was historically and culturally part of Russia, and so he was invading to integrate. Unexpectedly strong Ukrainian resistance was proof enough that it was a former colony determined to resist re-colonisation.

I am astounded that so many Indians regard this re-colonisation as entirely justified. Would they tolerate a British repossession of India? Or French repossession of Puducherry? No, there is a double standard here. Western colonialism is condemned while Russian colonialism is winked at. ■

Through Abed Salama, I wanted to make you feel viscerally what it is to live in Gaza

Jerusalem-based journalist and former director of think tank International Crisis Group **Nathan Thrall** uses a family's search for their son to delve into the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict in his new book 'A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy.' He speaks to **Himanshi Dhawan** about the human tragedy unfolding in West Asia

■ Through the story of a father's frantic search for his son after a school bus crash, you've captured the realities of life under occupation. Why did you choose this particular story?

I deliberately chose something seemingly ordinary, because it was important for me to bring attention to the daily lives of Israelis and Palestinians, and the system that they are both living under. A system in which there are seven million Palestinians and seven million Israeli Jews all living under Israeli control, where the vast majority of Palestinians don't have basic civil rights. When the issue is reported, there is a tendency to attend to it only when there is great violence as we see now in Gaza. The instinct is to call for a restoration of calm as it existed before the eruption of violence. I wanted to draw attention to the system that exists prior to that violence to show the root causes driving all of these eruptions of violence. The only way to do that was to choose something that could not be exceptionalised. If you chose an attack or war, there would be all kinds of micro questions about what particularly led to this outbreak at this time, and that's not really the most important question. The most important question: What is denying millions of people their freedom? What can we do to change the system to stop this horrific bloodshed?

■ You've shown the delayed Israeli response to a bus full of burning kindergarteners but you don't blame them for it. Why?

The mission of this book

is to put you in the shoes of these people, and to make you feel viscerally what it is to actually live in this place, and through their stories and their family histories to tell the entire story of Israel-Palestine. And what comes through in the story of the accident, as in so many stories in Israel-Palestine, is that there is a system in place that is cruel, and that system is entirely delivered as a result of policy decisions. Israel has set a policy goal of minimising the number of Jews and maximising the number of Palestinians and with that in mind, a 26-ft tall concrete wall has been erected and those on the other side live in gross neglect. I do not blame the individuals who are trapped within the system, both Jews and Palestinians, because the system is created in such a way. The accident embodies that neglect and puts it into the steepest way on the worst day of these people's lives. Suddenly, the very foreseeable consequences of that neglect became the difference between life and death for some of these children.

■ Are you concerned by the adverse reaction the book may draw from Jews?

Some felt that the book was so prescient because it talks of the dehumanisation that both peoples have experienced, and the scars of the violence and brutality they have endured. I tell the story of young Israelis who celebrate in online posts the deaths of innocent kindergarteners on this school bus, and how an Israeli liberal TV news anchor was so horrified by the celebrations that he created

Photo Courtesy: Judy Heilman

a TV feature about it in order to hold up a mirror to his own society. So, on one hand, there are the deep scars of dehumanisation for both Palestinians and Israelis that unfortunately is resonating so much with the events that we are seeing now. On the other, there are members of right-wing pro-Israel groups who did not want to see this book published in the first place and are using the fact of the attack on October 7 to attempt to quash any nuanced discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. They would like to create an environment that makes it impossible for anyone to say anything other than that we condemn the October 7 attack. The attack must be condemned. But we must also condemn the collective punishment of millions of people in Gaza, being deprived of food, water and electricity and a grossly unjust system that exists today.

■ How will this week's events shape equations in the Middle East?

We are at the very beginning of this war, and we are undoubtedly going to see a great deal more violence. I think the Israel-Saudi peace talks is one of the things that has made Palestinians feel that their situation is utterly desperate and that they have been totally abandoned. What they had thought were their natural, close and long-standing allies—the Arab states—have one by one abandoned them to pursue their self-interest of having a closer relationship with Israel and the US. And that desperation among Palestinians is very dangerous, and is one of the factors underlying all of the violence that we see now. But I don't see any reason why this war would prevent normalisation of Israeli-Saudi ties.

■ Do you think there can be a return to status quo?

Anytime there is an eruption of violence, there are calls to return to the status quo. The message of this book is that the status quo is unacceptable. Its aim was to look at that status quo and to force us to live, breathe and smell what the people that lived that status quo experience go through, and to see that it's a catastrophe. We are doomed to continue to see this horrible bloodshed if we do not turn our attention toward the moral catastrophe of the status quo.

50 shades of America: From dynamic Silicon Valley to crime-ridden San Francisco

POLITICALLY INCORRECT



SHOBHA DE

It's become an international sport to figure out who hates America the most. Even former treasury secretary Larry Summers recently admitted that it's getting "lonely" for the US, as many developing countries are choosing to "fragment" with Beijing. Not India, of course. Our love-hate for America is peaking after a feverish courtship. President Joe Biden is India's latest BFF. "India-US ties will go to the moon... maybe beyond," external affairs minister S Jaishankar said recently.

Despite this warming up to America, some desis are stepping back a little and rethinking the American Dream. Ten years ago, it was like a one-sided affair; with young Indians yearning to go to the land

of limitless opportunities, with zero plans of coming back. Something quite the opposite seems to be happening with several second-generation Indian immigrants looking homewards. "Better future back home," they say. "Better life for our children. Back to our cultural roots." Who would have thought that could ever happen? Pyaar-yaar khatam!

What is it that's making the world think differently about a country that had successfully positioned itself as the unchallenged leader of the world? When did America's global domination diminish or is it mere wishful thinking from haters-baiters? A few decades ago, challenging America's supremacy seemed unthinkable. Now even most Americans don't believe the US is the greatest country in the world. In a Wall Street Journal/NORC poll, 50% conceded that America is only "one of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others" and 27% indicated "there are other countries better than the US."

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How perceptions have changed. Of course, nobody is writing off America just yet — that would be a gigantic and very expensive mistake. But for the first time in decades, political watchers are talking about a multipolar world (code for one that is not dominated by America). The conflict in Ukraine has only expedited this conversation. The Hamas assault has given Russians another excuse to attack what it calls "US hegemony". And it wasn't just Israeli intelligence that was blindsided by the attack, what about the CIA?

It's not just geopolitics that is a concern. There is an ongoing effort by many countries to move away from the dollar as the premier currency for global trade. There are fears of a recession. Rodeo Drive

— which has some of the swankiest stores in Los Angeles — is deserted. Stories of frequent muggings, armed robberies, and knifings are coming from laid-back San Francisco, as visitors are warned to hang on to their handbags and not wear flashy watches

or jewellery. Pictures of homeless people in SFO begin on the streets are regularly posted — could it really be this dire a situation in America's tech hub?

As someone who was going back after a gap of seven years, I was prepared for anything, after being prepped by well-meaning friends who had warned me to not make eye contact, smile or converse with strangers. "Wear a cheap plastic, throwaway watch and pretend to be poor. They'll leave you alone as another broke third world immigrant. Don't share information. Avoid going out at night. Dress inconspicuously. Blend in or else you'll be a soft target". Suddenly, I was bombarded with horror stories and personal accounts of being robbed at gunpoint. The decline is very visible, someone commented. America is not what it used to be. But the prices of everything are still sky high. Hotels are fully booked up. Airline tickets, steep to start with, have gone through the roof. Why was I even going in that case? To find out for myself if any of this was true. Yes,

Americans have always lived highly insular lives. The average American is least interested in what's going on in the world. Despite that, America remains the most resilient, innovative, dynamic and gung-ho country in the world. Reinvention comes instinctively to the American people. A robust entrepreneurial spirit keeps the economy afloat even through turbulent times. Self-belief runs strong and old-fashioned patriotism invariably wins the day.

Well...now I am here in Silicon Valley, a confluence of brains, money, and power. I am meeting some of the world's most successful Indians — it feels like an IIT reunion! It's tech talk all the way. And their favourite 'F-word' is Funding! The mood is buoyant and upbeat as the super-rich roll up in Teslas, dressed in the Valley uniform of shorts and flip flops. Trump is their guy, and they confidently declare he will win. Techies for Trump. It seems like some desis in America have already picked their winner in Elections 2024. No guesses needed. ■

Men's ODI cricket is in crisis, and WC format is not helping

BY INVITATION



EASHAN GHOSH

In 1977, historian Ken McIntyre made a controversial claim. He suggested that the first Europeans to discover Australia weren't the Dutch but may, instead, have been the Portuguese. I imagine Virat Kohli was innocent of McIntyre's theory when he kvetched about his team's elimination from the ODI World Cup in 2019. Nevertheless, his complaint directly implicated McIntyre.

You see, back in 1931, McIntyre had, in a past life, devised an elimination formula for sports tournaments. Instead of simple knockouts, McIntyre rewarded higher placed teams in the preliminary stage with two spots at qualifying for the grand final.

When Kohli spoke up about India not getting a second crack at the 2019 World Cup despite finishing first in preliminary play, he was, in reality, invoking McIntyre's formula, familiar to him through the IPL. Kohli was slated for it. He sounded like a captain making excuses after losing a semifinal. Even so, as a rare example of a prominent voice in the sport openly critiquing tournament design, he also had a point.

The men's ODI World Cup 2023, which rose to a crescendo with India versus Pakistan yesterday, reprises the 2019 format. All told, just ten participating teams will play 45 preliminary matches to find four semifinalists. The semifinal winners will play the final. Kohli's objection, of course, survives. But there is also a case to say that, of the vectors typically used to judge tournament design — inclusiveness, competitiveness, and relevance — none are adequately prioritised.

This format rests on two poor assumptions.

One is that fewer teams equals better competition. The claim here is that, since #1 is considerably better than #10, a World Cup doesn't also need, say, #1 versus #14. However, this misunderstands that the skill gaps in men's cricket broadly appear in tiers: there are elite teams, mid-tier teams, and then the rest. Within each tier, though, the competition is fierce. Ideally, a World Cup should include #14 and design the tournament such that #14 play more teams around their ranking, not exclude them because they're not on the same level as #1. Ironically, the Netherlands, ranked 14, are at this World Cup. They won their place at the expense of the West Indies, Zimbabwe, Scotland, and Ireland, all ranked above them. Wouldn't these teams at least be similarly competitive at this World Cup?

There is another, more cynical assumption. It is that a lengthy preliminary stage is necessary to allow popular teams space to overcome surprise results and lock in lucrative matches. This, too, is unconvinced. For one, it vastly overestimates how much runoff area popular teams actually need. Moreover, this wiggle room can be factored into the tournament design itself. Smaller groups, a shorter group stage, and then matching winners in playoffs and losers in eliminators, McIntyre-style, comfortably cools these concerns.



REHAUL NEEDED: Kohli did have a point when he criticised tournament design in 2019

If anything, an elongated, everyone-plays-everyone stage arguably makes the tournament worse. It virtually guarantees dead rubbers. It also guarantees matches where one team cares about the result but the other doesn't. Even if these matches should theoretically be competitive, they're unlikely to be interesting.

The tournament design debate feels particularly urgent. This is a pivotal time in cricket history; a time when, though this ODI World Cup is still cricket's most prestigious trophy, the ODI format itself is deeply embattled. MCC president Mark Nicholas raised eyebrows recently by proposing that men's ODIs be made exclusive to World Cups. He sees it as a concession to the "almost supernatural" power of T20 cricket.

Nicholas is right. The franchise model that has taken over men's cricket operates on a slick template.

INBOX

Other sports need sponsorships too

Apropos of the column "Cricket should not..." (ATM, Oct 8), the rich haul of medals in the just concluded Asian Games is bound to spur youth to look beyond cricket. Sponsors too are expected to give these disciplines the support they require. While cricket will continue to rule the roost, it shouldn't surprise anybody if other sports also find their place under the sun soon.

— Manu Pant, Haldwani

Constitution's spirit

This refers to the column "Calling the constitution..." (ATM, Oct 8). While it is true that the basic framework of the constitution was derived from the Govt of India Act, 1935, it is erroneous to suggest that it imbibed the spirit of the said Act by giving enforcement agencies powers which legalised preventive detention of a citizen. The critique is antithesis of the preamble of our constitution which guaranteed freedom of thought, action, movement etc.

— Ravi Mathur, Noida

Backache issue

With reference to the column "To the millions..." (ATM, Oct 8), the author's analysis can be misleading for a common reader. There are many causes of back pain and the pain radiating to legs. So are the different indicators for prescribing different medicines. It should be left to the doctor's wisdom to decide which medication should be prescribed for which condition. If you don't get relief, you can take a second or third medical opinion, but it is harmful to self-medicate.

— Dr Rajiv Gugnani, Faridabad

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BIG MOOD

RAHUL VERMA

Rahul Gandhi's war cry 'Jiski jittu sankhya bhari, uski uni bhagidari' (Bigger the number in population, bigger the share in politics and

A million people displaced overnight as Israel sets exit deadline for Gazans

Next Stage Is Coming, Israel PM Tells Infantrymen At Border

Hundreds of thousands of panicked Gazans fleeing south in response to Israeli warnings struggled to find food and shelter on Saturday in an intensifying humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations saying that nearly half the population had been displaced and water supplies were dwindling.

Two days after the Israeli military first called for more than 1 million people to leave the northern part of the blockaded territory, anticipation was building that Israeli troops massed near the Gaza border were gearing up for a ground invasion. Israel said Saturday it would allow Palestinians to move south on two of the Gaza Strip's main roads between 10 am and 4 pm, "without any harm," an announcement that some Palestinians took as a deadline.

The highways heading south were packed with vehicles piled high with blankets and mattresses. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced in just 12 hours, the UN agency that aids Palestinians said Saturday afternoon, as it warned that access to water supplies in Gaza was now "a matter of life and death."

Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu visited Israeli infantrymen outside the Gaza Strip on Saturday, his office said in a statement, and an accompanying video showed him telling them: "You ready for the next stage? The next stage is coming." He did not elaborate in the video, which showed the infantrymen nodding in response to his question.

Israel's defense minister has imposed a "complete siege" of Gaza in response to the Hamas attack last Saturday that killed more than 1,300 people, saying it would prevent electricity, food, water and fuel from entering the territory, which has already been under a 16-year blockade imposed by



NO ROOM FOR PEACE: Internally displaced Palestinians rest as they take refuge in a United Nations school, in the Rafah refugee camp, in the southern part of Gaza Strip on Saturday as fighting between Israel and Hamas militants continues for the eighth consecutive day in the Gaza Strip enclave

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Israel and backed by Egypt. Thousands of Palestinians have gathered in the south of the Gaza Strip, laying out beds on the streets after UN-run schools filled up following Israel's warning to evacuate the north of the impoverished enclave. In Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, thousands of uprooted people gathered in the yard and in hallways, searching for food, water and a place to sleep, said AFP. "The situation is catastrophic," said Jumaa Nasser, who travelled from Beit Lahia in northern Gaza with his wife, mother

and seven children. "We've had no food or sleep. We don't know what to do. I've given my fate up to God. Death and life are in the hands of God."

Hamas, which controls Gaza, has rejected the evacuation order, saying they are "steadfast on our land and in our homes and our cities... no displacement, no deportation". Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas expressed on Friday, during a meeting with US State Secretary Antony Blinken, his "total rejection" of the displacement of Gaza's inhabitants. NYT, AFP & REUTERS

Palestinians haunted by 'Nakba' while bracing for the offensive

Gaza: When Israel told residents of Gaza to leave their homes in the densely populated Palestinian enclave ahead of an expected ground offensive, Fawzia Shaheen, 90, recalled a dark chapter that is seared into the consciousness of Palestinians.

The idea of leaving or being driven out of land on which they want to forge a state carries echoes of the "Nakba", or "catastrophe", when many Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during the 1948 war that accompanied Israel's creation. "Whatever happens we will not be displaced," said Shaheen, sitting at home with her grandchildren facing relentless Israeli bombardment and shortages of bread, drinking water and power outages. "I remembered



the time when we were displaced the first time and what is happening to us now. It is all the fault of America and the countries who made normalization with the Jews (Israel)," said Shaheen.

Shaheen was originally displaced from Al-Majdal and ended up in impoverished Gaza, now one of the most densely populated places in the world. She witnessed the

1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 wars and the conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Some 700,000 Palestinians, half the Arab population of what was British-ruled Palestine, were dispossessed and displaced, many spilling into neighbouring Arab states where they or many of their descendants remain. Many still live in refugee camps. REUTERS

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1948, 195

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Captain Rohit's Dominating 86 Complements Fine Show By Bowlers As Hosts Win By 7 Wickets To Continue Unbeaten World Cup Run Vs Pakistan

INDIA'S FINEST!

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: March 2020. As India and the world got ready to go into lockdown, the International Cricket Council (ICC) decided to conduct a poll on Twitter, now X. "Which batsman past or present has the best pull shot in your opinion," the poll read. The options provided were Ricky Ponting, Vivian Richards, Herschelle Gibbs and Virat Kohli.

Apart from numerous responses from the fans, there was a reply from none other than Rohit Sharma. Seeing his name left out, Rohit Sharma posted: "Someone's missing here. Not easy to work from home, I guess." He was of course, referring to himself.

If there is a shot that the Indian captain and opener owns and romances, it is the pull shot. Blessed

with the ability to pick up length quickly, he gets into positions early to hit even the fastest bowlers deep into the stands.

In a dominating display of chasing down a score of 192 against Pakistan in a high-stakes World Cup encounter, Rohit decided to troll the ICC again. This time, with bat in hand.

The pull shot off Shaheen Shah Afridi in the bowler's fourth over landed miles over deep square leg. The pull essayed against Haris Rauf in the 15th over was even better; as the ball was pacier and was pitched just short of a length. He rocked back and pulled it over square leg.

But the pull is not the only shot that Rohit thrilled the crowd here with. The sliced cover drive and the lofted shot while stepping out, both off Rauf that went for sixes over point and long on respectively, were equally stunning for their execution.

Over the past year, the Indian skipper has made a commitment to himself to play an aggressive brand of cricket, especially against the new ball, to make an early statement. On Saturday, the first ball he faced from Afridi, a full inswinging delivery pitched on middle stump, was flicked to fine leg for four.

It sent a message that India were not going to plod and ponder their way to the 192-run target. They were going to go full blast. Rohit made several other statements too on a pitch that was not ideal for strokeplay. The dance down the track off Mohammad Nawaz to deposit him over long on. The swat off a Shadab Khan full



MOST SIXES IN ODI CAREER

6s	Batsman	For	Matches	Innings
351	Shahid Afridi	Pak/Asia/ICC	398	369
331	Chris Gayle	WI/ICC	301	294
303	Rohit Sharma	India	254	246
270	Sanath Jayasuriya	SL/Asia	445	433
229	MS Dhoni	India/Asia	350	297

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

6s Batsman For Matches Innings

351 Shahid Afridi Pak/Asia/ICC 398 369

331 Chris Gayle WI/ICC 301 294

303 Rohit Sharma India 254 246

270 Sanath Jayasuriya SL/Asia 445 433

229 MS Dhoni India/Asia 350 297

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6s Batsman For Matches Innings

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331 Chris Gayle WI/ICC 301 294

303 Rohit Sharma India 254 246

270 Sanath Jayasuriya SL/Asia 445 433

229 MS Dhoni India/Asia 350 297

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Team India all the way!
A great win today in Ahmedabad, powered by all-round excellence. Congratulations to the team and best wishes for the matches ahead."

—Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, India

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan: A Shafique lbw b Siraj 20, Iman-ul-Haq c Rahil b Pandya 36, B Azam b Siraj 50, M Rizwan b Bumrah 49, S Shakeel lbw b Kuldeep 6, I Ahmed b Kuldeep 4, S Khan b Bumrah 2, M Nawaz c Bumrah b Pandya 4, H Ali c Gill b Jadeja 12, S Afridi not out 2, H Rauf lbw b Jadeja 2; Extras (b1, lb2, w1): 4; Total (42.5 Ov; RR: 4.45); 191; FoW: 1-41, 2-73, 3-155, 4-162, 5-166, 6-168, 7-171, 8-187, 9-187, 10-191; **Bowling:** Bumrah 7-19-2, Siraj 8-0-50-2, Pandya 6-0-34-2, Kuldeep 10-0-35-2, Jadeja 9.5-0-38-2, Thakur 2-0-12-0; **India:** R Sharma c Ittikhar b Afridi 86, S Gill c Shadab b Afridi 16, V Kohli c Nawaz c Hasan 16, S Iyer not out 53, KL Rahul not out 19; Extras (b1, lb2, w1): 2; Total (30.3 Ov; RR: 6.29); 192; FoW: 1-23, 2-79, 3-156; **Bowling:** Afridi 6-0-36-2, Hasan 6-0-43-1, Nawaz 8.3-0-47-0, Haris 6-0-43-0, Shadab 4-0-31-0; **RESULT:** India won by 7 wickets (with 117 balls remaining)

Player of the Match: Jasprit Bumrah



248 Mohammad Rizwan's run-aggregate at an average of 124.00, including a hundred and a fifty in three innings, making him the leading run-getter in the ongoing World Cup.

36/8

Pakistan went from 155/2 to 191 all out, their worst collapse after being two-down with a 100-plus score in the World Cup.

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If Kuldeep doesn't get you, Bumrah will!

Siraj, Jadeja Too Get Among The Wickets As Team India Bares Bowling Fangs In Key Game Against Pakistan

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: In the late 1980s and mid-1990s, when Pakistan cricket ruled the world in limited-overs cricket, their opponents just could not relax in the middle. The pace and variety that the men in green had in their team often triggered a stunning collapse in opposition ranks from a position of strength, especially in contests against India.

Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, the list goes on...

How the tables have turned. The current Indian team is now blessed with similar variety, if not better. Every bowler presents a different challenge to the batter and can provide a breakthrough when nothing seems to be happening off the pitch.

In the high-stakes match at a nearly-packed Narendra Modi Stadium, the Indian bowling attack came to the party to trigger a spectacular collapse to reduce Pakistan from 155/2 in 29.3 overs to 191 all out in only 42.5 overs.

Credit also goes to Rohit Sharma's captaincy. He did not panic when Mohammed Siraj overpitched and strayed down the leg side, conceding 20 runs in his first two overs to Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique. Rohit just had a quiet

word with the bowler, asking him if he was better off dragging his length back a bit. Siraj then realized that with no swing in the air or movement off the pitch, the best thing to do on a slow, black-soil pitch was to bowl cross-seam on length.

He did that to dismiss Abdullah Shafiq first and then Babar Azam. The beauty about both those dismissals were they came when the batters were set, especially Babar, who scored his first half-ton against India.

Mohammad Rizwan, the buccaneering Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman, had practised sweeps and reverse sweeps extensively over two training sessions to throw the Indian spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav off. He attempted to sweep Jadeja early on and missed and survived a close leg-before call.

That perhaps unnerved him as he hardly used the sweep to Kuldeep after that. It allowed the chinaman bowler to settle down and bowl better to the other batters. His double-wicket over, the 33rd of the innings where he dismissed Saud Shakeel leg-before and Iftikhar Ahmed got Pakistan five down. Shaik was beaten by length as Kul-



8
Wickets lost by
Pakistan for 36 runs in
13 overs – between
the 30th and the
43rd overs.

deep got the ball to skid while Iftikhar was foiled by an attempted wrong one that bounced on the batter, making him glove his sweep on to the stumps.

Smelling blood, Rohit brought back Jasprit Bumrah. The Indian attack had looked vulnerable when Bumrah was out of the team for almost a year. Now, it has suddenly rediscovered its fangs. Few bowlers read pitches and situations as well as Bumrah does.



157 Wickets taken by Kuldeep Yadav at 25.55 apiece in 93 matches to become the leading left-arm wrist-spinner in ODIs, bettering the 156 wickets (ave 26.84) in 123 matches by Australia's Brad Hogg.



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2.71 Jasprit Bumrah's impressive economy rate while claiming two wickets for 19 runs off seven overs on Saturday – his second best in the World Cup behind the 1.50 (6-1-9-2) registered by him against West Indies in Manchester on June 27, 2019.



JADEJA'S UNIQUE CENTURY OF WICKETS

With Haris Rauf's dismissal on Saturday, Ravindra Jadeja became the sixth Indian bowler to complete 100 wickets or more in ODIs on Indian soil. Jadeja is the first left-arm bowler to accomplish the feat. The next best tally by an Indian left-arm bowler in ODIs at home is Zaheer Khan's 94 wickets at 30.21 in 65 matches.

Indian bowlers with 100 wickets or more in ODIs at home

Bowler	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4W	SR	ER	M to 100
Anil Kumble	90	126	28.93	6/12	3	39.0	4.45	66
Harbhajan Singh	95	110	35.48	5/31	3	47.7	4.45	87
Ajit Agarkar	69	109	27.38	5/44	6	31.0	5.28	63
Javagal Srinath	80	103	30.51	5/24	2	39.9	4.58	75
Kapil Dev	85	100	27.15	4/31	1	40.6	4.00	82
Ravindra Jadeja	71	100	30.99	4/32	3	38.1	4.87	71

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

a false shot. Mohammad Nawaz obliged by holing out to Bumrah.

Ravindra Jadeja might have gone wicketless in his first seven overs for 29, but he was responsible for the slow choke in the middle.

Give him a pitch that stops just a bit, and he becomes deadly as he can bowl at one spot. He bowled beautifully in tandem with Kuldeep, stringing dots after dots. His reward came when he got to polish off the tail.

17.84

Bumrah's World Cup average while taking 26 wickets in 12 matches – the fourth best (25 wickets minimum) behind Mitchell Starc (15.57), Mohammed Shami (15.70) and Shane Bond (17.26).

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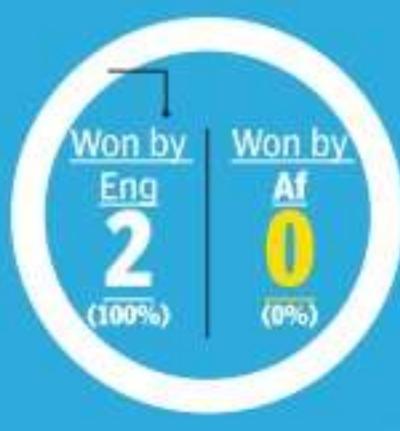
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OCTOBER 15, 2023

WORLD CUP

"I HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH PLAYERS, BUT IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW WE GO OUT AND PLAN. A LOT OF SENIOR AFGHAN PLAYERS HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THEM TOO."
—Jonathan Trott | AFGHANISTAN COACH

ENGLAND EYE NET RUN RATE BOOSTER



DRILL THRILL: England enjoy a spot of football during training in New Delhi on Saturday

Piyal Bhattacharjee

It Appears An Easy Tie But England Will Be Wary of 'Banana Skin' Afghanistan

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Jos Buttler couldn't have asked for more. Tailor-made conditions for England's batters, inviting them to go the whole hog. The England captain would ideally want the much-vaunted English batting lineup to show its true colours at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here against a faltering Afghanistan side.

After all, the deck in Delhi has been ideal for stroke-making. The first match saw South Africa rattle up 428-5 against Sri Lanka, and the Lankans responded with 326. South Africa's total was the highest-ever in a 50-over World Cup; the game also recorded the fastest century in World Cup history — a 49-baller by Aiden Markram.

The second game had India chase down a challenging 272-3 posted by Af-

ghanistan in just 35 overs, with Rohit Sharma blasting an 84-ball 135.

It's evident the pitches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium are nothing short of nightmarish for the bowlers. The Delhi venue has the worst bowling average (51.32) in the World Cup so far. That means wickets are hard to come by, as the batters make merry.

England would not only look for the two points, but also give a booster dose to the net run-rate (NRR). At the business end of the tournament, in all likelihood, there is going to be a scramble for a spot in the semifinals and a superior NRR would be the differentiating factor.

Buttler and his teammates would love to go back to the 2019 edition and play out England's match against Afghanistan from their memory banks. A little stimulus to spring them into full throttle.

England smashed their way to 397-6 in Manchester, registering their highest-ever World Cup total. They won the game by 150 runs. A performance on similar lines would be needed in Delhi on Sunday.

One player that the English team is

eagerly waiting to get into match action is Ben Stokes, but it's still not clear whether the talismanic allrounder is available for selection or not.

Senior batter Joe Root was largely non-committal on Stokes' availability yesterday. "Bency (Stokes) is getting better day by day. He had a long bat in training and seems to be improving. So, all good signs," Root said.

"You all know, we as a team, with Ben in it, are going to be much stronger. But he's got to be fully fit to play. We'll see whether it's tomorrow (against Afghanistan) or next game or further down the line."

All the NRR talks aside, Root didn't

2 Both teams have played twice against each other – both times at the World Cup. England (101/1 off 18.5 overs) defeated Afghanistan (111/6 off 9 wickets (D/L method) at Sydney on March 13, 2015. In the second, England (397-6) registered their highest WC total in beating Afghanistan (247/8) by 150 runs at Manchester on June 18, 2019.

want to play down a "banana skin" team like Afghanistan – even though the Afghans lost their first two games to Bangladesh and India.

"Every team in this tournament poses different threats, you just got to be adaptable to combat that. They (Afghanistan) obviously have got some world-class players. From my point of view, we need to keep getting better," Root said. "This is another opportunity for us to keep building the momentum and progression towards the business end of the tournament. We need to make sure that we are there where we need to be at the backend of the tournament."

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott, an Englishman, will need to plot the downfall of his former team if the Afghans intend to upset England's applecart. "We make sure (in the backroom) that each game we are going into, we have that belief that we will be able to win. I certainly believe that our boys can win," Trott said.

"We'll have an opportunity tomorrow to put pressure on England and we've got to make sure we do that," he added.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

land Cricket announced that an X-ray confirmed an "undisplaced fracture" to Williamson's left thumb. Although the 33-year-old will remain with the World Cup squad, it will be a miracle if he plays again. The team has won three matches in a row and current form suggests that they can be a possible contender for the title. But Williamson's injury at such a crucial juncture may queer the pitch.

Williamson's roaring return to the campaign, though, was short-lived as the injury jinx struck him again, forcing the stalwart to be ruled out for the remaining of the World Cup league matches, if not for the entire tournament.

After steering his team into safe confines with a knock of 78 not out, Williamson injured his thumb while running towards the non-striker's end as a throw from mid-off hit his left thumb in the 38th over. Williamson braved the pain and tried to bat on but decided soon after to retire hurt.

"Firstly, we're all feeling for Kane to have this occur after all his hard work to return from

his knee injury. While it's disappointing news, the initial diagnosis has given us some optimism he can still feature later in the pool play following a period of rest and rehabilitation," said Stead.

On Friday, it was Williamson's partnership with right-hander Daryl Mitchell that set up New Zealand's win.

While he was all excited to have his captain back, the 32-year-old will now have to shoulder the extra responsibility of being the senior player in the middle-order. It will no longer be about only attack, Mitchell, who scored 89 not out off 67 balls on Friday, will have to anchor the ship as well.

"There's obviously a job for me to do within this team, and it involves being a part of the partnership and communicating with each other. We were trying to put the pressure back on the opposition," said the all-rounder.

New Zealand next play Afghanistan in Chennai on Wednesday.

SHANAKA RULED OUT OF WC, KARUNARATNE DRAFTED IN

New Delhi: Dealing a big jolt to Sri Lanka's floundering campaign, their captain Dasun Shanaka on Saturday was ruled out of the World Cup with a right thigh muscle injury. Shanaka suffered the injury during their match against Pakistan on October 10, and he would take at least three weeks to recover, the ICC stated in a release. The ICC Event Technical Committee has approved Chamika Karunaratne as Shanaka's replacement. PTI

HOW THEY STAND

Pos	T	P	W	L	N/R	NRR	Pts
1	Ind	3	3	0	0	+1.821	6
2	NZ	3	3	0	0	+1.604	6
3	SA	2	2	0	0	+2.360	4
4	Pak	3	2	1	0	-0.137	4
5	Eng	2	1	1	0	+0.553	2
6	B'desh	3	1	2	0	-0.699	2
7	SL	2	0	2	0	-1.161	0
8	Ned	2	0	2	0	-1.800	0
9	Aus	2	0	2	0	-1.846	0
10	Af	2	0	2	0	-1.907	0

Perfect chance for Eng to play Stokes

CHIKKA'S CORNER KRIS SRIKKANTH

To me, the result of England's clash against Afghanistan in New Delhi on Sunday is a foregone conclusion.

I really can't see Afghanistan mounting a serious challenge against one of the strong contenders for the title unless there is plenty of help for their spinners, and on the basis of what we have seen at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, we can safely rule that possibility out.

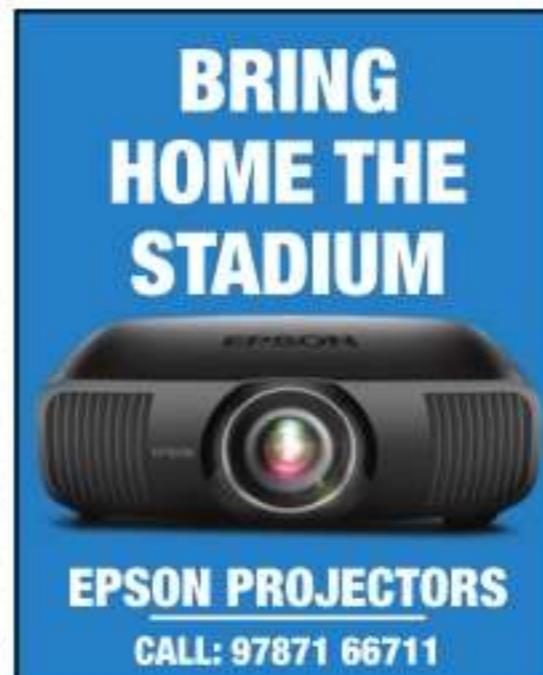
This relatively low-profile encounter is the perfect setting for England to bring Ben Stokes out of cold storage and ease him into the fray. Stokes is recovering from a hip injury and so his World Cup campaign has been put on hold, but he is a very important in England's jigsaw.

For him to come out of ODI retirement after more than one year to help England defend the title won

four years back was a massive shot in the arm for the team and in the home series against New Zealand last month, he reiterated how explosive and destructive he can be in the 50-over game.

Stokes is capable of batting in multiple gears, but he is playing as a batter alone. England must get their bowling combination right, therefore. If they must play Reece Topley regularly. A left-arm seamer as tall as he is can make life awkward for batters and he could prove to be the X-factor.

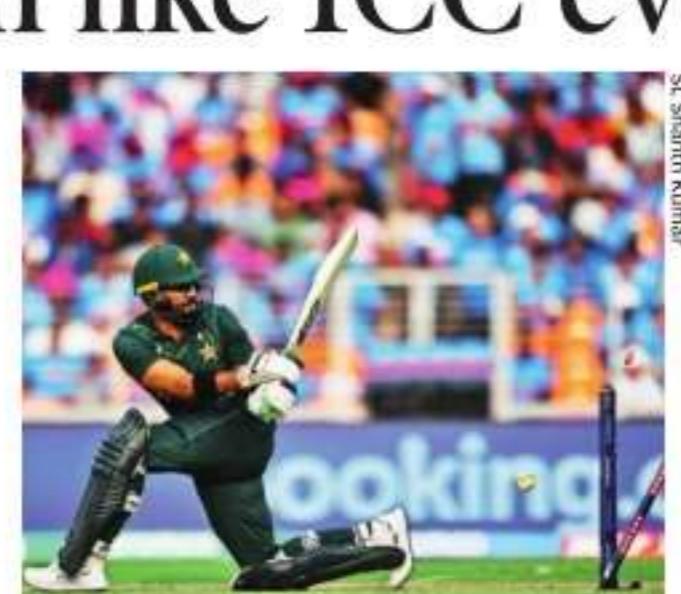
Australia's heavy loss at the hands of South Africa on Thursday must have lifted the spirits of the other contenders for the semi-final slots, among them England.



The latter themselves were signed to a big loss by New Zealand in the tournament opener and with the net run rate certain to be a factor for qualification to the knockouts, this is a wonderful opportunity for England to win big and send themselves back into the fray.

The terrific batting strip in Delhi should be right down their alley, given England's aggressive approach. It was disappointing to see Rashid Khan being introduced only in the 15th over of India's chase. I would like to see the leg-spinner being entrusted with greater responsibility going forward because he of all Afghan bowlers is the one most likely to weave a miracle. TM

CLEANED UP: Iftikhar Ahmed was bowled by Kuldeep Yadav



Arthur felt that Pakistan were "timid" on the night. "I just think we were a little timid tonight with our approach. I would like us to take the game on a little bit more. It's a massive occasion as we know. I think we just went into our shells a little bit. To go for 155 for two, to 191 all out is just not on. Yes, credit to India, they bowled really well but I thought our performance was just a little timid," Arthur analyzed.

Asked if perhaps it would've helped if skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan could've taken on the Indian spinners a bit more to increase the scoring rate, Arthur said, "Look, they're classy performers. They've done it day in and day out for Pakistan over an extended period of time. So, I'm not going to sit here and castigate them for that. As I said, I thought we were a little timid. We could've taken on the Indian spinners just a little bit more."

He stressed that having won two games out of three so far, Pakistan weren't hitting the panic stations yet, in terms of dropping certain players. "It's too soon. I mean, we are 2 from 3 (in terms of wins). So, we're certainly not panicking yet. We'll go back and analyze this game to the nth degree. We'll have conversations about how we want to go forward.

Australia is our next game. We'll look at conditions, and we'll make selection decisions based on our strategy and conditions for the next game," he explained.

love to be here and I am sure Indian cricket fans would love our supporters here as well. It was certainly unusual in that way, no familiar music for us today. So it did not feel like a World Cup game, honestly. We didn't expect anything else. We love the occasion and we are disappointed that we did not do justice to the occasion or justice to our many fans at home and globally," Bradburn said.

However, for someone who has coached international teams throughout his career, the South African was full of praise for the Indian team, while hoping to meet them in the final, despite the hammering on Saturday night! "This Indian team looks good. I think they're very well led by Rahul (Dravid) and Rohit (Sharma). They've got all bases covered. I'm looking forward to meeting them in the final again," he quipped.

Pakistan's head coach Grant Bradburn too echoed his disappointment at the non-arrival of Pakistan's fans so far, saying that Saturday's outing "didn't feel like a World Cup game." "Naturally that was going to be the case. We are really sad that our supporters aren't here, they would

MATCH DIARY

Not a distraction

As the planned musical programme began just a few metres away from the practice nets, Pakistan players seemed to have no distractions as they carried on with the warmups. Mohammad Rizwan walked past the practice nets to the main pitch and visualized playing his favourite pull shot. The Indian team soon sauntered in for their warm-ups as soon as Shantanu Mahadevan finished crooning Sabse Aage Honege Hindustani which got the crowds in the stands jumping around. There was no live telecast of the pre-match musical show.

Chance to showcase true power of sports: PCB boss on match

At the venue to witness the big-ticket match on Saturday, PCB Chairman Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf stated, "The match between India and Pakistan is the moment we've all been waiting for. It is a chance to showcase the true power of sports in bringing nations together. The whole nation is behind the Pakistan cricket team."

Kohli forgets to wear correct jersey, leaves field to change kit

Virat Kohli began the match with a false stroke as he walked out wearing the previous India jersey, which had the three white stripes. After being alerted about this discrepancy, he promptly left the field, and returned after wearing the official India jersey for the 2023 edition, with the colour stripes on the shoulder.

— Nitin Naik & Gaurav Gupta

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CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- 1 Climbed like a fish (6)
- 4 Distracted wanderer approached (4,4)
- 9 Creature found wild in Manila (6)
- 10 Celebrated gent seen to take the initiative (5,3)
- 12 His wife went to Paris causing strife (8)
- 13 A VIP too (2,4)
- 15 Wrote the first letter off from memory (4)
- 16 Our musical composition is marvellous (10)
- 19 Do they stop cars in record time? (4,6)
- 20 Fixed forms of worship (4)
- 23 Property gets one thousand short of estimate (6)
- 25 Hesitated to have the key changed (8)
- 27 The problem of race (8)
- 28 Give an account of prices to the general public (6)
- 29 Surprised to find the first was first (8)
- 30 A horse that's better in the long run (6)

Down

- 1 Speak in broken English? (7)
- 2 A right rotten seat puts one off (9)
- 3 Supply with power? (6)
- 5 Pity for a girl badly hurt? (4)
- 6 Finds a solution when the factory is on strike (5,3)
- 7 Oriental to run in an away match (5)
- 8 Gentleman burglar held to raise money for charity (7)
- 11 US claim settlement in Oklahoma, say (7)
- 14 Sort of thinking of belonging to the side (7)
- 17 Dressed to go in for dinner? (4-5)
- 18 Not easy to grasp by sailors on land (8)
- 19 One's mad to mix spirits (7)
- 21 All he makes goes on horses (7)
- 22 The way of a townsman (6)
- 24 Ascot written about by Puccini (5)
- 26 Bring to nothing (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across

- 1 A French brandy (6)
- 4 Foreshadowed (8)
- 9 Room manoeuvre (6)
- 10 Easily alarmed (8)
- 12 Locate precisely (8)
- 13 Black sea port (6)
- 15 A semiprecious agate (4)
- 16 Foamy river in rapids (5,5)
- 19 Misleading distraction (3,7)
- 20 Boring person (4)
- 23 Cease resistance (6)
- 25 Remaining (8)
- 27 English poet 1812-89 (8)
- 28 Glib (6)
- 29 Outside (8)
- 30 Unorthodox belief (6)

Down

- 1 Kind of West Indian music (7)
- 2 Jealous (5-4)
- 3 South American river (6)
- 6 Decisive confrontation (8)
- 8 Total loss of hope (7)
- 11 Briefly (2,5)
- 14

Kenyan, Ethiopian runners look to extend dominance

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It's that time of the year when thousands of running enthusiasts try their best to outdo each other in the national Capital. The Delhi Half Marathon, now known as Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM), is in its 18th edition and getting bigger and better with each passing year.

The event, which began in 2005, will once again see participants from all walks of life. There are various categories — Open 10k, Elite Half Marathon (Gold Label race), Open Half Marathon, Senior Citizens Run, Champions with Disability Run and the Great Delhi Run — that constitute the overall event.

But the blue chip event of VDHM is the \$268,000 prize money World Athletics Gold Label Road Race and like previous editions elite long-distance runners from the world — majorly from Kenya and Ethiopia — and India are going to compete for podium finishes.

Interestingly, all elite male runners participating in the Gold Label race are either from Ethiopia or Kenya (eight each). In the women's section, seven elite runners are from Ethiopia, two are from Kenya and three from Uganda.

Kenya's Daniel Ebenyo is the favourite to win among the elite men. He has already proved his mettle with a silver medal at the World Half

Marathon Championships in Riga, Latvia, at the beginning of this month. He also won silver in the 10,000m event at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games last year.

"I know that it is a very fast course. That's why I am excited to run on it," Ebenyo said on the eve of the race.

As a kid, Ebenyo used to run about 24 km a day to cover the distance to school and back home. "I started running at the age of 12. I used to see some people's running

pictures in magazines and that inspired me to start running," he said.

The defending champion among elite men, Ethiopia's Chala Regasa, is once again participating and will challenge Ebenyo for the title.

"India loves me and I love India. I always win when I come to India. I am in good shape. I have the experience and I think I know what it takes to go faster," Regasa, who has a personal best time of 59:09 seconds, said.

Regasa also revealed that he trains with legendary Ethiopian long-distance runner Kenenisa Bekele three times a week. "He motivates me to keep improving," Regasa said.

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SHANKER, PRISHA WIN NATIONAL TENNIS TITLES

New Delhi: Manipur's Shanker Heisnam, the No. 16 seed defeated seventh seed Thirumurugan V of Tamil Nadu 6-1 6-2 to win the boys singles U-16 title of the 28th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship. Maharashtra's Prisha Shinde won the girls singles U-14 title, beating 6th seed Anandita Upadhyay 6-1 6-2. Rishitha Basireddy of Telangana won the girls U-16 title beating Aishi Bisht of Delhi 6-4 6-3. Top seed Hruthik Katakam of Telangana won the boys U-14 title.

Indian sub-junior hockey teams prevail in the Netherlands: The Indian men's and women's sub-junior (U17) hockey teams began their maiden international tour with victories against the Senior EDE teams in the Netherlands. The women's team defeated the Senior EDE side 3-2, while the men's side thrashed their Dutch counterparts 8-0.

Rublev to meet Hurkacz in Shanghai Masters final: Andrey Rublev beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (9/7), 6-3 in a gripping Shanghai Masters semi-final and will play big-serving Pole Hubert Hurkacz for the title. Hurkacz blasted his way into the final with a ruthless 6-3, 6-4 win over Sebastian Korda of the United States. AGENCE

Sindhu loses in semifinals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PV Sindhu faltered in the semifinals of the Arctic Open Super-500 Tournament in Vantaa, Finland, on Saturday. The eighth-seeded Indian lost to fifth seed Wang Zhi Yi of China 12-21, 21-11, 7-21 in the 63-minute clash.

Struggling to get back to her best, Sindhu competed in the event which was skipped by other top shuttlers. This is the first loss for Sindhu against Wang Zhi in three meetings. After losing the first game, Sindhu played well to win the second and push the contest into the decider. But the former World champion struggled to win points in the third. After leading 3-2, Sindhu looked clueless as Wang Zhi collected points in clumps. At the mandatory change of courts, the Chinese world No.11 was leading 11-5. Thereafter, she won 10 of the next 12 points.

Sindhu is yet to win a BWF title this year and this is her fourth semifinal.

Stars guide powerhouses to Euro 2024

Paris: Kylian Mbappe and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship with a perfect record in qualifying, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany. The three European powerhouses all needed a win to qualify for the tournament and their star strikers made sure they got them.

Mbappe's two goals — including a long-range strike for the second — helped secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B. Mbappe's 41st international goal drew him level with France great Michel Platini. He doubled the lead in the 53rd minute.

Greece beat Ireland 2-0 to move up to second with 12



RESULTS

Results: Group B: Netherlands 1 (Hartman 84) lost to France 2 (Mbappe 7, 53); Republic of Ireland 0 lost to Greece 2 (Giakourakis 20, Masouras 45+4). **Group F:** Austria 2 (Laimer 73, Sabitzer 84+pen) lost to Belgium 3 (Lukebakio 12, 55, Lukaku 58); Estonia 0 lost to Azerbaijan 2 (Bayramov 9, Sheydaev 45+4+pen). **Group J:** Iceland 1 (Oskarsdottir 23) drew with Luxembourg 1 (Rodrigues 46); Portugal 3 (Ramos 18, Ronaldo 29+pen, 72) bt Slovakia 2 (Hancko 69, Lobotka 80). Liechtenstein 0 lost to Bosnia and Herzegovina 2.

points. The Dutch remain on nine in third, a game in hand.

Ronaldo's record at 125

Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances and led Portugal to a 3-2

win over Slovakia. Ronaldo converted from the penalty spot in the 29th minute. He scored again off a low cross from Bruno Fernandes that found him at the far post. It was his seventh goal in six qualifying games. AP

Lukaku on target

Romelu Lukaku scored again and Dodi Lukebakio added two more for Belgium, who had to hang on with 10 men to beat Austria 3-2 in Vienna and secure advancement from Group F. AP

Neeraj has powerful influence in helping us grow athletics: Coe

India yet to make formal bid for hosting 2027 World Athletics Championships

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Mumbai: World Athletics (WA) president Sebastian Coe has hailed India's Olympic and world javelin champion Neeraj Chopra as one among a group of current stars pushing the sport of track and field to an even stronger position than it was in during the Usain Bolt era.

"I'm hugely excited by Neeraj," Coe, who is in the city for the 141st IOC Session which begins on Sunday, told TOI here on Saturday. "First of all, he's not just a strong influence in Indian athletics, he has a powerful influence in helping us grow our sport internationally."

Coe, a double Olympic 1500 metre gold medallist himself, described the charismatic Bolt's towering track legacy as "Muhammad Ali-esque" but spoke glowingly about

the sport's current leading lights. "Of course, Usain Bolt was a huge figure, remains a huge figure in our sport, but I'm more optimistic now about the athletes that are coming through and are powerful faces of our sport — Mondo Duplantis (pole vault), Sydney McLaughlin (hurdles and 400m), Faith Kipyegon (1500m, 5000m and mile), Jakob Ingebrigtsen (1500m, 5000m) and of course Neeraj. This is hugely important."

Athletics Federation of India Adilne Sumariwalla confirmed plans to make a bid to stage the 2027 World Athletics Championships. "We have not made a formal bid but we are discussing that internally and in the next couple of days we will finalise that," said Sumariwalla, also a vice-president of World Athletics. Coe, whose grandfather was Indian, said, "I want to see India stage as many of our events as possible. This is important for us. This is a very important market."

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A murder, buried hatchets & foes-turned-allies in Gohad

Arya Was Accused In Ranveer Dad's Killing. Now They're On Same Team

Ramendra Singh &
Amarjeet Singh | TNN

Bhopal: A policeman hangs up his boots and dons the neta cap after the murder of his MLA father. He contests against the man accused of killing his dad, defeats him, but then switches to his rival's party, where both of them join hands and campaign for each other happily apparently.

This may seem over-the-top for even an OTT series but this dramatic script is playing out in a dusty political arena called Gohad in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district.

The players are BJP leaders Ranveer Jatav – formerly of Congress and a Jyotiraditya Scindia man – and Lal Singh Arya, a former minister, who has been given the ticket to Gohad constituency by the saffron camp.

Arya was accused in the murder of Ranveer's father, Makhanlal Jatav, who was shot dead in April 2009 while campaigning for the then Congress candidate for Bhind Lok Sabha seat. Arya was acquitted in February 2020. Both of them told TOI that they had put the past behind them and are working together for BJP.

Arya is a three-time MLA from Gohad (1998, 2003 and 2013) while Ranveer won the



Ranveer Jatav (left). Lal Singh Arya (right) was acquitted in February 2020

seat twice (2009 bypoll and 2018). In 2008, Makhanlal defeated Arya in Gohad by only around 1,500 votes in a hotly-contested assembly election.

Less than a year later, he was murdered.

In the 2009 bypoll, Ranveer defeated Arya by over 22,500 votes. He moved court with a plea to make Arya an accused in the murder case of his father, alleging that Arya and four others got Makhanlal killed in Chiranta village at 8pm on April 13, 2009.

In 2017, when Arya was a minister, the court accepted Jatav's plea and ordered six bailable warrants and finally an arrest warrant against Arya before he surrendered.

In the 2013 assembly polls, Congress chose to field former BSP leader Mevaram Ja-

tao, who lost to Arya.

In 2018, Ranveer was given the Congress ticket for Gohad seat and again took on Arya. The murder case was still on then, and featured in Ranveer's campaign.

He alleged that it was Arya who had his father killed. Ranveer won by almost 24,000 votes.

Barely 15 months later, would come a twist in the tale. Jyotiraditya Scindia rebelled, quit Congress in March 2020 and switched to BJP, taking along his loyalists, Ranveer among them. The Kamal Nath-led Congress government fell.

Ranveer and Arya, die-hard rivals, were suddenly in the same camp. Barely a month before this, on February 8, 2020, the special MP/

'Graft in Cong DNA': BJP after ₹42cr I-T seizure from K'taka contractor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Saturday alleged that corruption is part of Congress' DNA as it linked the party with a contractor whose premises the Income Tax department allegedly recovered Rs 42 crore in cash during search operations in Bengaluru.

Addressing a press conference, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "We must remember the name of a person, Ambikapathy, the contractor who, on behalf of Congress, had written to the PM in July-August last year labelling the erstwhile BJP government in Karnataka as 40 per cent commission government."

"A whopping Rs 42 crore has been recovered from the house of Ambikapathy," Chandrasekhar said and added, "It is clear that this (letter to PM) was a massive



BATTLEGROUNDS
TELANGANA

Just 21 of 40L aspirants got jobs in MP, says Cong, slams 18-yr 'BJP misrule'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Stating that only 21 out of the 40 lakh youths registered in the employment exchange were given jobs in Madhya Pradesh last year, Congress on Saturday said the 18-year rule of BJP has ruined the younger generation in the state with scams and a free run given to the "education mafia".

Congress spokesperson Shobha Oza said there are over two crore youths in MP, and lack of employment is a serious crisis. If voted to power, Congress will work to undo the problem created by the BJP rule, she said.

Oza said the hold of the education mafia in the state can be gauged from the fact that the massive Vyapam scam has been followed by nursing recruitment scam, police constable recruitment scam, teacher recruitment scam and patwari recruitment scam.

Cong hits out at BRS over girl's suicide

Congress on Saturday pounced on the suicide by a 23-year-old female job aspirant in Telangana to call it the result of massive youth unemployment caused by the "malgovernance" of the BRS government. From Mallikarjun Kharge to the Gandhis, tweeted on it and promised to redress the situation if the party was voted to power. TNN

"All the government jobs were lost to scams," the Congress leader claimed, adding, "In 2022, about 40 lakh children and youth were registered in the Employment Exchange and it is shameful that out of them, the government was able to provide jobs to only 21 people."

She said there have not been any nursing jobs through examinations in the last three years.

Warrant against C'garh Cong neta bro in excise case

Raipur: A special PMLA court has issued an arrest warrant against businessman Anwar Dhebar, the brother of Congress leader and Raipur mayor Ajiaz Dhebar, and two others, who are out on bail in connection with the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh.

Earlier, accused Debar, Nitesh Purohit, and Trilok Singh Dhillon had submitted an application before the special PMLA court in Raipur that they have moved Supreme Court for bail and they should be permitted to wait till the apex court judgment expected on October 19. TNN



No disability pension for BP issue triggered by obesity: AFT

Chandigarh: The Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) has made it clear that a soldier with obesity-caused diabetes and hypertension is not entitled to disability pension as there is no connection between such health problems and military service, reports Ajay Sura.

The tribunal passed the order after examining the Body Mass Index (BMI) of an Indian Air Force (IAF) soldier when he was released (discharged) in 2018 on medical grounds after 23 years of service and correlating it with the WHO's weight/BMI parameters.

Disability pension is higher than normal pension received by soldiers on superannuation.

Sergeant Saji Kumar Damodaran had sought disability pension for his hypertension and diabetes. He had contended that he had no such diseases when he joined the IAF in 1995 but was afflicted later because of "service conditions" and, hence, these should be treated as "attributable to, or aggravated by, military service".

The Centre's counsel, however, pointed out that Damodaran was 47.61% overweight over his ideal BMI-linked benchmark of 63kg at the time of discharge, or "release medical board (RMB)". His hypertension and diabetes were primarily due to his obesity.

The tribunal noted the findings and declined to grant the disability pension. "In so far as disabilities for diabetes and primary hypertension are concerned, a perusal of the weight record chart of Damodaran from January 10, 2017, to January 16, 2018, along with his BMI, is well above the normal limit," the tribunal said in its order.

Judiciary, executive, legislature are equal, says Maha Speaker

Chaitanya Marpakkwar

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Mumbai: Observing that the Supreme Court had not given any order that a decision on disqualification of Shiv Sena MLAs should be taken in two months, Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar said on Saturday that the Constitution has given equal place to the judiciary, legislature and executive and no one has any superintendence over the other. He said that as assembly speaker, it is his primary responsibility to maintain the sovereignty of the legislature.

"The sovereignty of the legislature will not be allowed to be or will not be compromised. I will act to uphold the sovereignty of the legislature with due respect to the court order," Narwekar said.



Narwekar said no order has been given that a decision on Sena MLAs' disqualification should be made within 2 months

He said he would take a decision on making a revised schedule for hearing the disqualification petitions in the Sena MLAs' case after taking proper legal advice.

The SC on Friday came down heavily on the Maharashtra speaker for the delay in reaching a decision on the disqualification pleas.

"No order has been given

that a decision be made within two months after preparation of the schedule. The SC order is available online. The issue of giving notices is mentioned in it. Nowhere has it been said the results should be given in two months or in a few days," Narwekar said.

He further said that since the judiciary, the legislature and the executive had equal place under the Constitution, "it is the duty of everyone to respect the court or the institutions created by the Constitution. A person who believes in parliamentary democracy will respect these institutions created by the Constitution."

Stating that he didn't listen to "who says when the results should be given," he noted, "I take note of what is written in the SC order: I am seeking legal advice regarding the action to be taken."

Advait Kolarkar has participated in at least 19 solo and group art shows in leading art galleries all over the world. The TOI #Unstoppable21 jury has picked the boy from Maharashtra as one of the Unstoppable 21 Indians under 21 years

Only nine, he shows signs of a million-dollar talent

Anjali.Jhangiani
@timesgroup.com

Children his age are engrossed in cartoons and cricket, but Advait Kolarkar has already made his mark on the global art scene. Recently, one of his paintings sold for \$16,800 – the highest that his artwork has been valued at so far – and the total value of his art sold till now amounts to over \$300,000.

Called a child prodigy, 9-year-old Advait, who has no formal training, has participated in at least 19 solo and group art shows in leading art galleries all over the world. "I'm an abstract painter; my style is a lot like Jackson Pollock's. But I also like to draw animals and fantasy creatures like dragons, and dinosaurs," he says.

His favourite colour to paint with is black. "If we mix up all the colours together, the result is black. When I was younger, I used to play with paints more than anything else. If anyone asked me what I wanted, my answer was always 'paints'. Now that I am growing up, I have other interests too. I like playing football with my friends outside, and playing with my toy dinosaurs and Lego blocks, and reading," he says.



EMERGING MAESTRO: Advait has no formal training. Recently, one of his paintings sold for \$16,800 – the highest that his artwork has been valued at so far

reading," he says.

He is also writing a book: "I love horror stories so I am writing a book in this genre.

The child genius is home-schooled, but he also deep dives into research subjects. Currently, he is trying to learn all about Cubism, the early-20th-century avant-garde art movement headlined by Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Salvador Dalí and other greats.

Advait's mother Shruti says she had a strong feeling that he was going to be artistic even before he was born. Her hunch proved right when, at eight months, he started painting, and at the age of two he had his first solo art exhibition at Art2Day gallery in Pune.

#Unstoppable21
Beginning August 15 this year, TOI began a hunt to identify and celebrate 21 of India's young prodigies, under 21. To know more about those selected by a jury of eminent personalities and making their mark in the world, visit www.unstoppable21.in

"When he was a baby, it was like he knew how to paint already without anybody teaching him. We encouraged his interests, and by the time he was eight months old, he made his first painting. We did not send him for any art classes or hire a tutor for the subject because we wanted his own style to flourish, we were afraid that he might pick up the teacher's style or have some obstruction to the flow of his own originality," says Shruti, a digital artist.

She adds that Advait's paintings debuted abroad with a solo show in Canada when he was just four years old. "All the paintings were kept on display for two months, but they were sold out within four days. Last June-July, his works were displayed at galleries in Laguna Beach, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, Key West and Fort Lauderdale in the US. He was again invited to have solo exhibitions in four premium art galleries across the US between January and March this year."

Notorious tiger poacher Chikka nabbed from Belagavi hideout

Bengaluru: Wildlife poacher Chikkalas Krishna Patle Pawar of Madhya Pradesh, who was hiding on the outskirts of Belagavi in Karnataka, has landed in custody, reports Nirjan Kaggere.

Forest officials picked up Chikka from a tent on Gokak Road a couple of days ago as part of a sandalwood theft case registered at Khanapur taluk in Belagavi in July 2023. Sandalwood pieces and weapons

were recovered from the tent. While raiding the hideout, Belagavi officials were not aware of Chikka's past cases. Chikka, wanted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), is said to have killed tigers and sloth bears around Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amaravati district of Maharashtra. In fact, NTCA had alerted all the tiger states in the country about his poaching network.

have killed tigers and sloth bears around Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amaravati district of Maharashtra. In fact, NTCA had alerted all the tiger states in the country about his poaching network.

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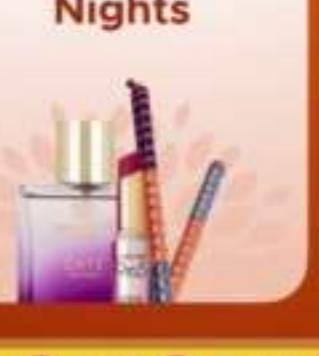
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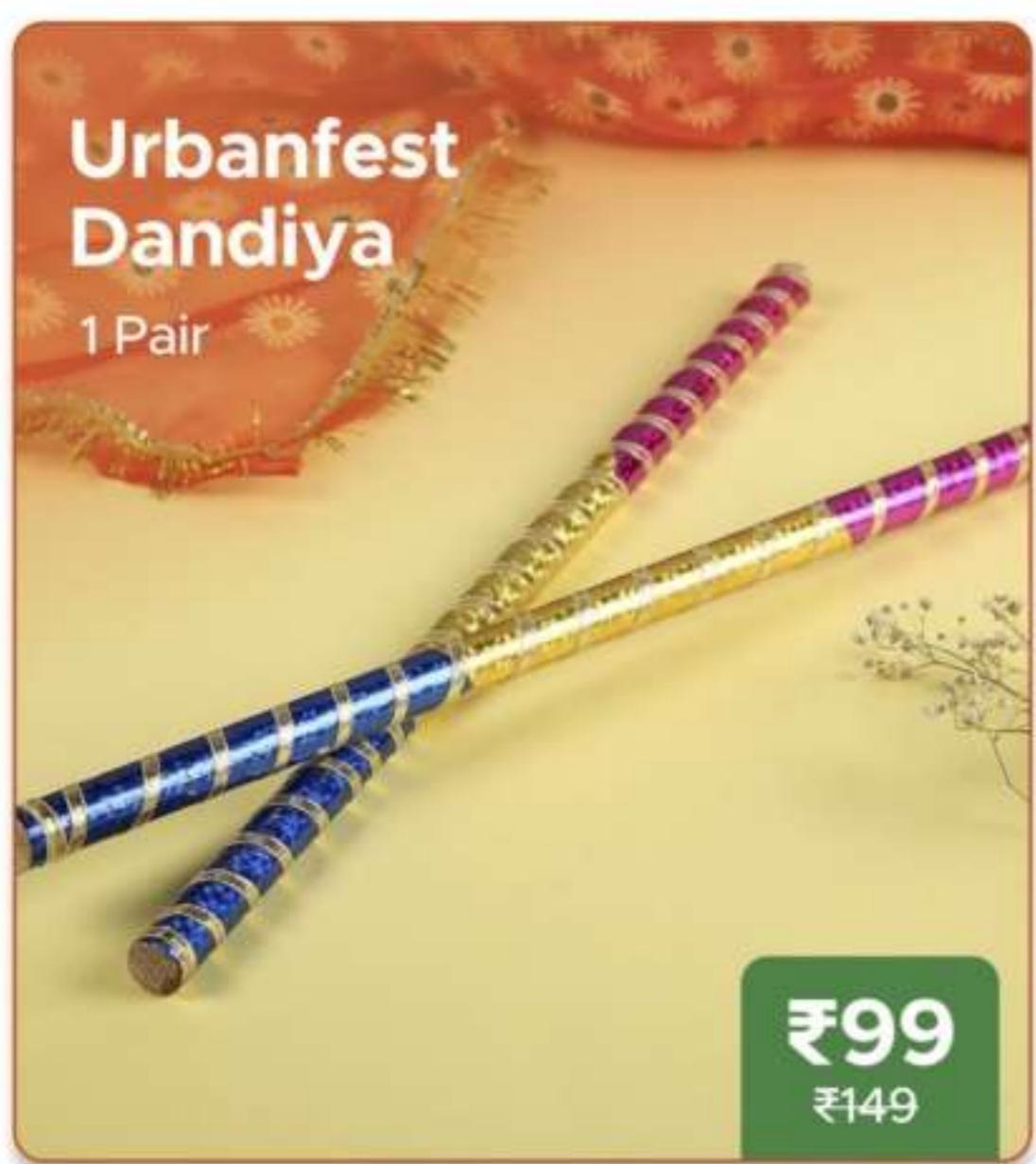


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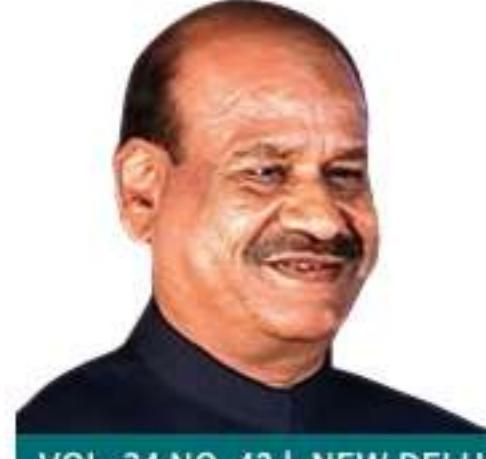
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INVITATION PRICE ₹7.00 OR ₹12.50 (₹10.50 IN FARIDABAD EDITION) WITH SUNDAY NAVBHARAT TIMES

The Louvre Museum in Paris and Versailles Palace evacuated visitors and staff after receiving bomb threats, P 21

VOL. 34 NO. 42 | NEW DELHI

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that works
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★★★★★ 4.8

World's highest rated mobile banking app*



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★★★★★

One of the best digital platforms in India. It is so user friendly and simple to use. Digital banking can't get better than this.

- Jumsheed

★★★★★

Recent update, app layouts, ease of access, biller auto fetch and auto pay options are inbuilt with simplicity. I could say that the Axis app is one of the best banking apps we have in the recent era of Digital India.

- D S

★★★★★

Its user-friendly interface and seamless navigation make banking a breeze. The app's security features like the fingerprint authentication, provide peace of mind. Additionally, the range of services offered, from fund transfers to bill payments, simplifies financial management. Overall, a top-notch banking app!

- Rishabh

★★★★★

Have been using the app since a year. Aside from some issues initially when I first opened my account, my experience has been really good. They rarely have server issues, app works smoothly and has an intuitive interface. I can easily get to things I use most often with 1-2 clicks max.

- Chaitanya

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Presenting

open by Axis Bank

The world's highest rated mobile banking app*, crafted around the only person that matters: You. From personal banking to wealth management, safety lockers to safety deposits, insurance to investments, cards to loans, payments to money transfers, and a single-view of all your personal finances, you will find that the very best of digital banking is now 'open'.



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Open a Savings Account

AXIS MOBILE is now 'open' by Axis Bank

 **AXIS BANK**

★★★★★
The best banking app experience in my view. UI is friendly, easy to view statements, super easy to open or close an FD/RD account!
- Vaishali

★★★★★
Does a lot of my day-to-day transactions quickly and accurately. This is my updated review. Still works great after more than a year of continuous usage. Have used it in India and abroad! It is conveniently linked and gives an integrated, comprehensive picture of all balances, transactions, and activities across credit cards, debit cards, loans, accounts and even forex cards. Keep up the great work!
- A Google user

★★★★★
Great app! All banking services at your fingertips. Avail your services anytime from anywhere through the Axis mobile app!
- Ronit

★★★★★
Very reliable and fast app. Many new features for safe transactions added. I have been using this app for about 5 to 10 years. App is updated from time to time for more features and security.
- Anil

★★★★★
Super easy to use. Even a senior citizen like me who was so apprehensive of doing any bank transactions online is now using it so effectively.
- Jean

★★★★★
Easy to use navigation. Very user friendly. No technical glitches. App never gets stuck. UI is intuitive!
- Amit

★★★★★
Haven't come across any banking app that is this convenient. Everything I want to do is at my fingertips, to the extent that I rarely need to visit the bank.
- Vrushin

★★★★★
It was always a pleasant experience! One of the best bank apps! Again and again I feel the same experience! Keep it up!! 😊
- Gopal



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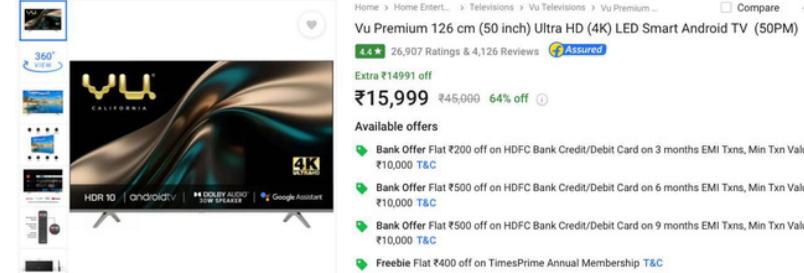
Bharat Lifestyle Lexus Fabric 3 Seater So... Finish Color - Grey, DIY(Do-It-Yourself)

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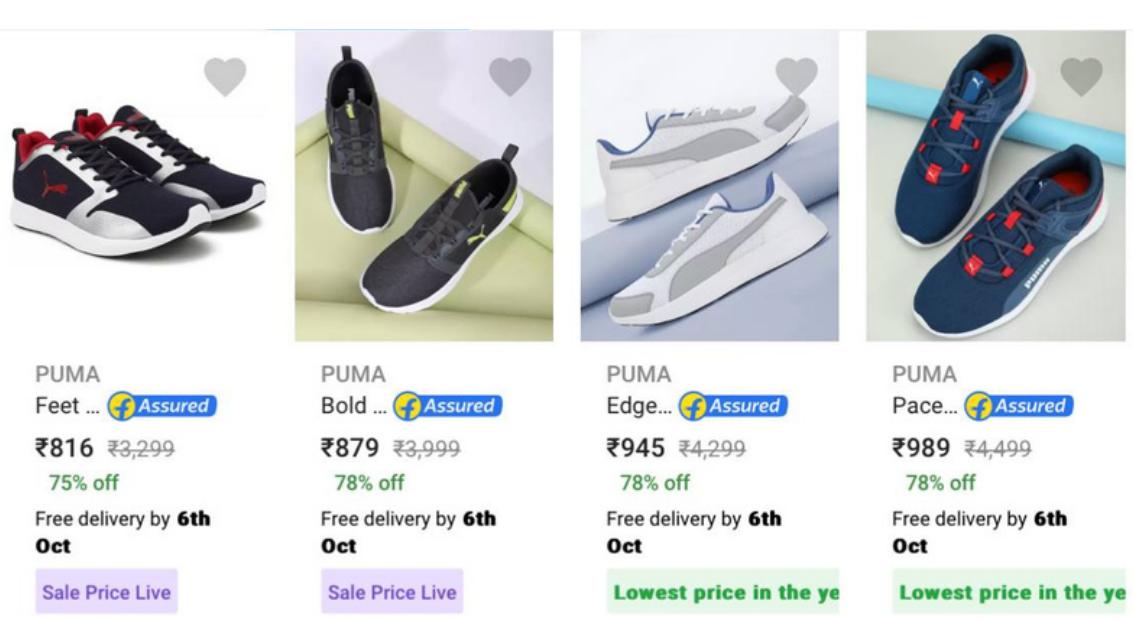


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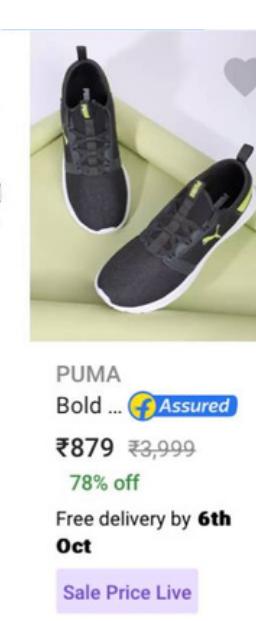
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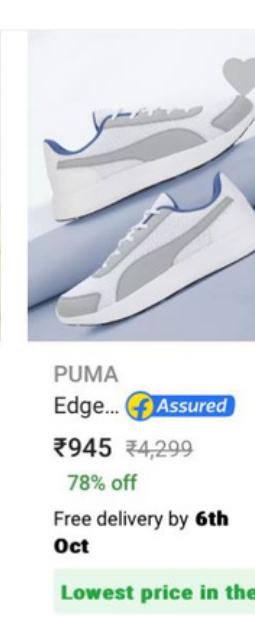
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