



USA's Ashton Eaton, who won the Olympics gold in decathlon twice, talks about his journey to the top and what it takes to become a champion in an interaction with TOI, P 28

Manipur govt bans circulation of photos, videos depicting violence and damage to properties to restore normalcy in the ethnic strife-torn state, says violators will be booked under the IPC and IT Act, P 20

Congress gen secy Priyanka Gandhi Vadra promises free education from Classes 1 to 12 and monthly allowance between ₹500 & ₹1,500 for students in poll-bound MP, P 14

IOC suspends Russian Olympic Committee for incorporating Ukrainian regions, but athletes can take part in events as independent participants, P 26

Quinton de Kock scores back-to-back tons as South Africa beat Australia by 134 runs in their 2nd WC match. Chasing 312 to win, the five-time champions were dismissed for 177 with 55 balls to spare, P 26

3 illegal miners dead, 10 missing after mine cave-in

At least three villagers died and 10 others were reported missing after an unguarded open-cast mine, which they had illegally entered, caved in at West Bengal's Raniganj. The mine at the Narayankuri colliery of Eastern Coalfield Limited is 300 feet deep and just 4 feet wide. TNN

33 kids injured in C'garh balloon blast

Thirty-three school kids and four workers were injured after a giant balloon being filled with nitrogen exploded inside a school in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur town on Thursday. TNN

B'luru dad kills 20-yr-old over affair

A 45-year-old man was arrested Thursday for killing his 20-year-old daughter, who was in love with a youth from a different community, in Bidalur village of Bengaluru Rural district. P 19

JU acting VC, profs sit on dharna

Jadavpur University's acting VC and several professors Thursday sat outside Aurobindo Bhavan to protest against "unjustified demands" and unruly behaviour of hostel boarders. P 12

Pilibhit hosp finally gets women docs

Five women doctors have been posted at Pilibhit district women's hospital, days after TOI reported rape survivors were staying away from tests as no female doctors were present. P 19

No water, power to Gaza till hostages freed, says Israel

Readies For 'Next Stage Of War': Ground Invasion

Israel said on Thursday there would be no pause in its siege of the Gaza Strip for aid or evacuations until all its hostages were freed even as US secretary of state Antony Blinken, who is in Tel Aviv, urged Israel to show restraint "even when it's difficult".

"No electrical switch will be lifted, no water hydrant will

► What's really dangerous about the war, EDIT PAGE



A child injured in Israeli airstrikes is carried to a Gaza hospital. Over 1,400 Palestinians have died and 7,000 wounded since Saturday. "Without electricity, Gaza hospitals risk turning into morgues," Red Cross warns

minister Israel Katz tweeted.

Israel has called up 360,000 reservists, many of whom are moving toward the border with Gaza. "We're preparing ourselves for the next stages of war," Lt Col Richard Hecht

of Israel Defence Forces said. "It could be from the air; it could be combined from the sea, air, and we're waiting to see what our political leadership decides about a potential ground war." Agencies

Track fault led to train derailment in Bihar: Report

An unspecified "fault in the track" caused 23 coaches of Guwahati-bound North East Express to derail at Raghunathpur in Bihar's Buxar district late Wednesday, the preliminary probe report says. Four people died while 60-odd passengers were injured in the accident.

The 15-page report holds the railway engineering department "responsible" for the fault. It quotes loco pilot Vipin Kumar Sinha as saying the train had passed Raghunathpur crossing when there was "immense vibration" and a jerk, causing the brake-pipe pressure to drop. P 19

REFLECTIONS IN RAREFIED AIR



PM Modi meditates facing the Adi Kailash mountain after offering prayers at Uttarakhand's Parvati Kund on Thursday. During his visit to Pithoragarh town near China and Nepal borders, he addressed a gathering of around 60,000 people, telling them that 'unlike previous governments, development of border areas is on my priority list' P 13

In nuanced stand, India slams Hamas, backs Palestine

The MEA Thursday iterated India's support for a "sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living... side by side at peace with Israel", while describing the Hamas assault on Israel as terrorism. New Delhi hasn't called for a ceasefire as it doesn't want to seem disapproving of Israel's retaliatory strikes given India

► Op Ajay: Flight with 230 Indians to return today, P 18

a's own experience with cross-border terrorism. However, it also doesn't want to endorse any action that might be seen as a collective punishment for the Palestinians, reports Sachin Parashar. P 18

HC: Rid Ridge of illegal structures, Isro observatory

Ordering the forest department to remove all encroachments and illegal structures from the Ridge, the Delhi HC Thursday gave two days to the Centre to finalise a site to relocate an observatory run by Isro so that green area could be reclaimed, reports Abhinav Garg. "It (the observatory) is not a strategic installation," the HC said, stating its permission hadn't been renewed. The department submitted a list of 63 structures in the Ridge, including government agencies, ashrams and trusts, a gurdwara and several private schools. P 5

► How he lay in wait, P 3

Amid Nijjar row, Canada Speaker to skip P20 Summit

Had Confirmed Her Presence At Meet Earlier

New Delhi: As the diplomatic row with Canada continues to simmer, Speaker of the Canadian Senate, Raymond Gagné, has pulled out of the Presiding Officers' Summit of Parliaments of G20 nations, reversing her decision to attend the event that got underway here on Thursday.

Gagné had earlier confirmed her presence at the Parliament-20 meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Those involved in organising the event were surprised by Gagné's U-turn, considering that Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, who has put the bilateral ties under stra

India pushes parity in diplomatic presence

Following reports that Canada has rejected India's call for downsizing its missions, the government said it will continue to work towards ensuring parity in diplomatic presence. Foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi rejected the Canadian position that India's demand for cutting staff strength was not compliant with the Vienna Convention. P 18

in by rushing out with yet-to-be-substantiated "credible allegations" of "India's potential link" to the killing of pro-Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, did come for the G20 Summit. TNN

► Lodged plaint, P 18

India drops to 111 on Hunger Index, Centre slams 'malafide intent'

New Delhi: The long-festering fight between the government and two international NGOs over the prevalence of hunger in the country erupted again on Thursday, with the women and child development ministry trashing the Global Hunger Index, which ranked India 111 out of 125 countries with a score of 28.7.

In a sharp response, the ministry asserted that the index "continues to be an erroneous measure of hunger with serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent". India was ranked 107 out of 121 last year with a score of 29.1.

As in several previous years, the two NGOs, Ireland's Concern World Wide and Germany's Welthungerlife, defended the ranking. TNN

► Child-wasting rate, P 20

76-yr-old hit by SUV in Noida condo, dies

Noida: You'd think roads within a condo are the safest of places, without the brash unpredictability of traffic beyond the perimeter. But on Wednesday, Krishna Narang (76), who was walking on a road inside her Sector 78 so

► 1,68L accident deaths in 2022 highest ever, P 12

ciety, was knocked down by an SUV, whose driver was allegedly talking on the phone.

She suffered grievous head injuries and died later at a hospital, report Aditya Bahl & Anjali Singh.

► Head injuries, P 7



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up drive
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How Stalker Lay In Wait For Woman

He Offered To Drop Her To Work, But She Refused To Talk And Slapped Him

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prachi Malik, the 23-year-old woman who was stabbed in Lado Sarai, was going for an interview workshop in Vishwas Nagar early Thursday morning and had booked a cab. She works as a recruiter for an international firm. The accused, Gaurav Pal, who works in a private firm, was waiting for her at the spot in his i10 car.

"On Wednesday, Pal had spoken to Prachi around 8am and she had told him that she was at work. She had also informed him that she used to leave her house around 6.30 am. She later blocked his number. So, he turned up at 5.30 am to meet her. Pal has claimed that the girl had been ignoring him for the past one month and the two had met for the last time 10-12 days ago," said DCP, South,

WHEN A 'NO' WASN'T ENOUGH

2023

JULY
Malviya Nagar An obsessed man calls his 22-year-old cousin to a park. When she refuses his marriage proposal, he smashes her head with a rod.

APRIL
Badarpur A 17-year-old girl is injured in a knife attack by a man after she refuses his marriage proposal.
MARCH
Nand Nagri A 16-year-old girl is shot by a minor for talking with another boy.
2022
Dabri A 42-year-old woman is shot near her house. The suspect dies by suicide.

Vishwas Nagar Woman is fired at by his stalker for 'avoiding' him

knife he had brought from home and kept in the pocket of his trousers.

The cops said that hearing Prachi's screams, people rushed to the spot even as the cab driver caught hold of Pal. The police were alerted around 6.20 am and the accused was later handed over to them. Pal is a resident of Ghaziabad.

A video of the incident shot after the crime shows the woman, with her face and head splattered with blood, crying and requesting people to take her to the hospital.

The police have claimed that the woman had made a PCR call on September 10 saying that Pal was harassing her. "We reached the spot and found that the matter was related to money that had been borrowed. The caller did not want any action that day," he added.

Chandan Chowdhary.

The girl's mother, Shakuntla Malik, said she was sleeping when her daughter left for a workshop after saying her prayers.

According to the DCP, Pal allegedly tried to speak to Prachi, offering to drop her

to work, but she refused to talk to him. It led to an altercation and she slapped him.

He tried to take away her phone but she shouted 'chor chor'. Prachi then boarded the cab and Pal followed, all the while arguing. He then allegedly stabbed her with a

knife he had brought from home and kept in the pocket of his trousers.

The cops said that hearing Prachi's screams, people rushed to the spot even as the cab driver caught hold of Pal. The police were alerted around 6.20 am and the accused was later handed over to them. Pal is a resident of Ghaziabad.

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The police have claimed that the woman had made a PCR call on September 10 saying that Pal was harassing her. "We reached the spot and found that the matter was related to money that had been borrowed. The caller did not want any action that day," he added.

Shakuntla claimed Pal had been harassing her in this manner for the last two years. He sometimes reached her office and troubled her, she said, and was once thrown out of that office.

Cops paid no heed to earlier complaint: Mother

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: 'Mummy, main mar gayi (I am dying)' Prachi Malik sobbed into the phone after calling her mother, Shakuntla, following an attack by her stalker Gaurav Pal. Shakuntla wasn't sure of what she had heard because only minutes earlier, her daughter had served her tea and left for work. Shakuntla ran to the spot where the cab was parked and found her daughter in a pool of blood.

This was not the first time Pal had attacked her. "On September 10, the youth came to our house in Lado Sarai and, in my absence, grabbed Prachi around her neck, leaving nail marks there that we showed to police," said Shakuntla. "Both of us had gone to the police station and complained against the stalker, but the cops paid no heed." She maintained that had the cops acted

OFFICE SENIOR SAYS
Pal had been trying to come close to her for some time, but she, being an industrious girl from a humble background, did not want to engage in these activities. He also came to our office and threatened us, asking us to fire Prachi

on their earlier complaint, Thursday's attack wouldn't have happened.

"Today, my daughter was attacked. Tomorrow, it could be any woman. I don't think women are safe in the city because many of them come home late at night in cabs and an incident of this sort can happen any time," the mother added.

The senior said the company had allowed Prachi to work from home for this reason, but she had to step out to go to a workshop as a project leader on

Thursday. "On Wednesday, Pal called me twice but I did not take his calls," she added.

Shakuntla said Pal and Prachi worked together earlier and sometimes had lunch together. "While eating, they used to share jokes. However, the boy started taking the friendship in a different perspective and demanded she be in a relationship with him," the mother said.

The 23-year-old victim worked as a recruiter for a firm and was on her way to a workshop when she was stabbed in a cab. Her senior in office revealed that Pal had been harassing Prachi for many months. "He had been trying to come close to her for some time, but she, being an industrious girl from a humble background, did not want to engage in these activities," the senior said.

Shakuntla claimed Pal had been harassing her in this manner for the last two years. He sometimes reached her office and troubled her, she said, and was once thrown out of that office.

Imposters loot ₹50 lakh from collection agents

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two cash collection agents of a private firm, who were carrying around Rs 50 lakh, were robbed in central Delhi after two men posing as traffic policemen stopped them for checking. While the imposters asked the employees to open the car's boot, two others came and fled with the bag containing cash.

The police received a complaint around 5pm on Wednesday that two employees of a private firm, after collecting payment from Kucha Ghasi Ram, were on way to their Shivaji Marg office when they were intercepted by two men on a motorcycle.

"The two men in traffic police uniform with wireless sets in their hands intercepted the car near Salimgarh flyover at Outer Ring road on the pretext of checking. The suspects then asked the agents to open the dickey of their SUV. As the boot opened two other persons came on a motorcycle and took the bag containing Rs50 lakh which they had collected from different shops," said a senior police official.

Investigating officials revealed that the accused men did not show any weapon and told the victims that checking was going on which is why they stopped the vehicle. As the victims sat in the car and opened the boot, the accused fled with the cash.

A case under section 419 (Punishment for cheating by personation), 382 (Theft after preparation) was registered at IP estate police station.

Man held for 'sexual assault'

New Delhi: A 15-year-old girl is alleged to have been sexually assaulted by her neighbour in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar on Wednesday. The accused has been arrested. The father of the survivor complained that their 30-year-old unmarried neighbour, a labourer, came to his room where his daughter was playing with other children, took her to his room and misbehaved. On hearing her screams, neighbours gathered and apprehended the man. Although the girl refused internal medical examination at a hospital and denied any sexual assault during counselling, a case under sections of rape and PoCo has been registered. TNN

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Public Notice

The below mentioned property mortgaged by the Company, M/s Rishabh Food Products Limited was put to sale through e-auction on 29.09.2023 on "As is where is whatever there is basis" by Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. The highest bid received in this e-auction is Rs. 5,69,00,000/- (Five crore sixty nine lakh only). The Corporation has received 10% of the bid amount i.e. Rs. 56,90,000/- (Fifty six lakh ninety thousand only), from the highest bidder.

Name of the defaulted company	Details of Assets	Name of the Director/ Promoter/ Guarantor/s
M/s Rishabh Food Products Limited having registered office at Top Floor, 8 - C/4, WEA Abdul Aziz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, 110005.	Land measuring 2.15-acre alongwith Building, Plant & Machinery located at Village Pala, Tehsil Nuh, Nuh.	Sh. Shyam Singh, Smt. Shashi Singh and Sh. Ravi Tandon Resident of Top Floor, 8 - C/4, WEA Abdul Aziz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, 110005.

Through this advertisement/notice, an opportunity is hereby given to the Director/Promoter/Guarantor/s of M/s Rishabh Food Products Limited to bring a better buyer, if any within 14 days of publication of this notice. The buyer to be introduced by the Director/Promoter/Guarantor/s of the company shall be required to deposit amount equitable to 10% of the highest bid i.e. Rs. 5,69,00,000/- on hsiidc.bidx.in and accordingly inter-se bidding shall be arranged by the Corporation between highest bidder of e-auction and the buyer introduced by the Director/Promoter/Guarantor/s of the Company to maximize the recovery of outstanding dues. The final bid will be subject to approval of Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

NB: 1. The above-mentioned assets of M/s Rishabh Food Products Limited (under liquidation) are in possession of Official Liquidator, Chandigarh. The Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court vide order dated 14.09.2001 in CP No. 105 of 2000 allowed the Corporation to sell the mortgaged land, building and hypothecated plant and machinery alongwith moveable property of the captioned Company.

2. The final acceptance of the bid shall be subject to approval of Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

For details, may refer to 'e-Auction Brochure' available on website of the Corporation at www.hsiidc.org.in / e-Auction portal <https://hsiidc.bidx.in> or may contact the Estate Manager, Gurugram (9312221195), E-mail: estate.gurugram@hsiidc.org.in or Ms. Sunita Badhran, DGM(F), HSIIDC, Panchkula (987883571).

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
Reg. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2590481-83,
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How 2 Men Waylaid Cabbie, Killed Him When He Resisted

CCTV Footage From Saket To Malviya Nagar Gave Cops First Clues

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Taxi driver Bijender Shah dropped some passengers in Saket and was idling when two men approached him. Asif and Mehraj hired the cab for Rs 500 for a trip to Indira Gandhi International Airport. The investigators probing the carjacking and murder on National Highway 8 on Tuesday night revealed after interrogating the two accused that when the car approached Shankar Vihar, one of the men asked Shah to take another route to the airport.

The cabbie got suspicious and asked the duo to get down from the car. However, the pair convinced him into believing they only wanted to take the shortest route to the airport. But as soon as they reached an isolated service lane, Mehraj, 34, who was sitting in the back seat, began strangling the cabby with a piece of cloth.

A police source said, "Asif, 24, who was sitting next to the victim, started pulling at the driver's seat belt. When he resisted, Asif pushed him



out of the door. However, Shah's hand was allegedly entangled in the seat belt and he was dragged by the car."

Another source said that realising the car was dragging Shah, the duo tried to dislodge him by hitting his body into a road divider. Only when they got rid of the seat belt was Shah freed. The criminals then fled to Meerut. A video of the incident later surfaced in which the cab driver can be seen being dragged by the vehicle.

Police got the first clue to the two 'criminals' identity

from CCTV footage of the stretch between Saket and Malviya Nagar. "We saw all three of them in the car. We mapped the route taken by the cab from CCTV footage and discovered that it had been driven towards Meerut," a source said. From the CCTV grabs of the two men, police started matching the faces with the records of criminals and were able to identify the pair.

Manoj C, DCP (Southwest), immediately formed a special investigation team comprising four inspectors. The DCP and the team rea-

ched Meerut and coordinated action with UP police. "In a joint operation, we nabbed the two accused from Meerut within 24 hours," the DCP said on Thursday. A case charging the men with murder has been registered.

The cops said the two men had carried out a reconnaissance of the area before committing the crime. "We are also probing whether they had stolen any other car recently," an officer said.

During interrogation, the thieves told police that they stole the car to sell it.

From murder attempt to robbery, duo steeped in life of crime since 2018: Cops

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: From attempted murder to robbery and snatching, Asif and Mehraj, the two men arrested for killing a taxi driver while stealing his cab on Tuesday night, were involved in crime since 2018. Police sources said Asif is involved in 10 cases, including attempt to murder, robbery and snatching cases, and Mehraj in seven of a similar sort.

Residents of Meerut and Noida, respectively, Asif and Mehraj committed crimes in Ghaziabad, Meerut and Delhi. According to police, they were involved in robberies at Delhi Cantonment and IGI Airport in 2019. Both men had also been booked under the Gangster Act.

"Asif started his criminal



Asif and Mehraj committed crimes in Ghaziabad, Meerut and Delhi. They were involved in robberies at Delhi Canton and IGI Airport in 2019. They had also been booked under the Gangster Act

activities in 2018 with theft in Ghaziabad, while Mehraj committed his first crime in 2019, an attempted murder," a police source said.

Investigators have claimed that the duo earlier posed as cab drivers to rob passengers. "One of them pretended to be a passenger and the other the driver. They picked up people from busy roads.

They took the victims to isolated places and robbed them of their cash and valuables. They then dumped the victims in deserted places after thrashing them," an investigator revealed.

The sources added that the two criminals once sold parts of the stolen cars after dismantling them, but abandoned this because they

didn't make much money. They then took to stealing cars in Delhi and selling them in other states. "There is a possibility that they stole as per the demands of the buyers," a police officer said.

Therefore, changing their modus operandi, the pair started posing as passengers to target cab drivers. "They had identified the spots where they could overpower the cabbies. They boarded the taxis, drove to the isolated spot, robbed the drivers and left with the vehicles," a source said.

The cops also felt Asif and Mehraj could be members of a gang that stole SUVs from Delhi and sold them to criminals at throwaway prices. "We are checking all recent cases of carjacking that haven't been solved yet," the officer said.

The survey will help us understand the underlying challenges and reasons for the slow increase in enrolment of children in anganwadi centres.

Govt to carry out survey to boost services at anganwadis

Drugs on demand: ₹40cr bust results in arrest of 3

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In one of the scenes in "The Wolf of Wall Street", the character played by Leonardo DiCaprio crashes his car while driving home under the influence of Methaqualone, aka Quaaludes. Now, the Delhi Police's special cell has seized the drug after a surveillance operation.

Special commissioner HGS Dhaliwal said his teams had seized around 6,000 grams of the drug increasingly popular in north India. The police arrested two women and a man. "One of the accused is Paul Joy, who is from Sierra Leone, while the other two – Peace and Stephen – are from Nigeria. Two fake passports with fake visa stickers and immigration stamps have also been recovered from them," Dhaliwal said.

Besides Methaqualone, the police seized 2 kg of heroin from them. The value of the seized contraband is Rs 40 crore, police said.

The special cell started an operation after a tip-off that two women from Africa were involved in drug trafficking



The special cell started an operation after a tip-off that two women from Africa were involved in drug trafficking

cal visas and overstayed, police said. The documents recovered from them were fake. "The arrested accused have divulged that these fake passports, visa stickers and immigration stamps were procured from their Delhi-based Nigerian associates. In view of their illegal stay in India, all have been booked for violation of the Foreigners Act and offences of cheating, impersonation, forgery, preparation and possession of forged documents under the IPC," the special CP added.

The accused have disclosed that they earlier dealt in heroin but started trafficking Metahqualone as it was in high demand in Delhi. Originally synthesised as a sedative, Metahqualone was widely used in the 1970s as a party drug. The drug shot to fame after DiCaprio's character was shown being addicted to it in "The Wolf of Wall Street".

Money stolen from Karol Bagh recovered nearly 900km away

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 35 lakh from a mobile phone store in central Delhi's Karol Bagh last week. Police said Rs 28 lakh of the stolen cash had been recovered.

The men have been identified as Dilip Kumar (31), a resident of Sirohi in Rajasthan, and as Rajnish (37), who is from Delhi's Ashok Vihar. Rajnish was earlier involved in a gambling case.

On October 5, Chaman De was, a mobile phone trader in Karol Bagh, reported to police that one of his employees, Dilip Kumar, who had been working for the past four months, was suspected to have stolen Rs 35 lakh from his office on October 3.

The anganwadi workers and supervisors will also be given special training to ensure strong foundational abilities in every child coming to their centre.



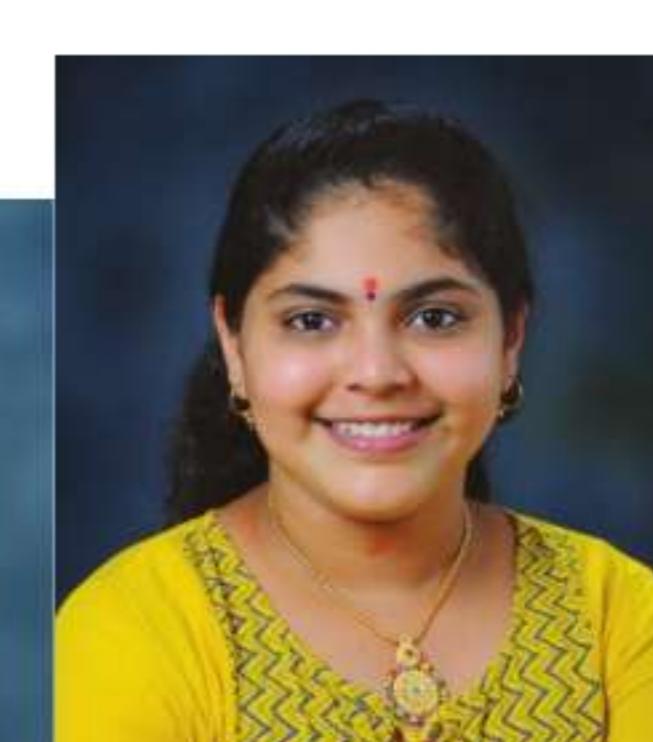
Police said Rs 28 lakh of the stolen cash had been recovered

spect and his family members were put under technical surveillance," said deputy commissioner of police (central) Sanjay Kumar Sain.

Kumar said that on October 3, he had noticed a huge amount in the office almirah and stole Rs 35 lakh. He then hired a taxi for Jaipur, and on the way bought an iPhone for himself and a Samsung phone for driver Rajnish. He also got a new SIM card and contacted his wife. He visited various places, and spent Rs 4 lakh. He alleged that Rajnish stole Rs 20 lakh, the DCP said. He was also arrested and Rs 17.5 lakh was found on him.

She preserves tradition with every movement.

He cooks up innovation in every bite.
They're among India's Unstoppable 21.



Tulasi Hegde, 14,
Yakshagana dance prodigy



Nihal Raj, 12,
culinary sensation

The jury have selected
Tulasi Hegde and Nihal Raj
as two of the 21 Unstoppable
Indian prodigies. Dive into
their fascinating stories
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#Unstoppable21

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South,
South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross,
Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No.: EEP(S)/E-Procure/11/2023-24 Date: 11.10.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) Two Cover System
The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Amount Put to tender (Rs in Lakh)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Construction of compound wall to balance portion of boundary to BBMP Abutries Sy. No. 140 & 141 KIADB Industrial area 2nd Stage Medamaranahalli Cross, Harohalli, Bengaluru.	250.00	3,75,000.00

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (South) **20.10.2023** at **3:00 p.m.** (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 10.11.2023** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bid opening date: **13.11.2023** at **4:30 p.m.** (5) Financial bid opening date: **16.11.2023** at **4:00 p.m.** or after Technical bid approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE(T&P)/SEE-2/EET12N/KCO-173/2023-24/5130-37 Date: 11.10.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites Bid on e-Procurement portal against the Enquiry No. **KPTCL/2023-24/SE0102** for Appointment of consultant for providing land audit and land inventory management services to selected parcels of lands belonging to KPTCL all over the state and facilitation services for aggregation of land from land owners with consent/ direct purchase for substations and lines for ownership by KPTCL and Right Of Way respectively.

The bids will be received through e-procurement portal. The details regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **12.10.2023** at **15:00 Hrs.** and the last date and time for receipt of bids in e-portal is **03.11.2023** at **15:00hrs.** Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electricity, Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, III Floor, Bengaluru - 560 009. Tel: 080-22274744.

Nod To Prosecutors For CBI Pocso Cases

LG Approves Proposal Submitted By Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday approved a proposal submitted by Delhi government's home department for appointment of four special public prosecutors for CBI to conduct trial of Pocso cases.

Officials said that a fortnight after the LG recalled the file invoking his power under Rule 19(5) of Transaction of Business of Government of NCT of Delhi Rules 1993, Delhi government submitted the proposal, which was stalled for over nine months.

They added that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier taken a stand that the LG did not have the power to grant sanction for the approval of special prosecutors in these cases.

The government has conceded that the opinion of the LG shall be required for the appointment of special public prosecutors for the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct trial

The LG's office said that the file on the issue had been moving from the minister-in-charge to the chief minister since January till Saxena recalled it on September 22

of cases under Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act in various special courts of the capital," said an official at the LG's secretariat.

No reaction was available from the AAP government.

The LG's office said that the file on the issue had been moving from the minister-in-charge to the chief minister since January till Saxena recalled it on September 22.

"On receiving communication from the LG's secretariat requisitioning the files in this regard, the Delhi home minister sought opinion from the law department. The law department said the matter needed to be processed expeditiously for obtaining the opinion of the LG for the notification to appoint the special public prosecutors," the official said.

The chief minister on October 6 endorsed that the file be submitted to the LG.

Officials said the LG had on September 22 also referred the matter to the Union ministry of home affairs for appointments of the prosecutors and its notification.

In December 2022, CBI had requested for the appointment of senior public prosecutors for trial of Pocso cases in various courts in Delhi. A reminder was sent in March this year.

Officials said the cases relating to Pocso Act were considered sensitive in nature, and as per law, the trial should be completed within one year from the date of the cognizance of offence.

"The delay in the appointment of prosecutors adversely affects the case of the investigating agency and may give undue benefits to the perpetrators of crime against innocent children," the official said.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and further efforts are underway to identify the men in the camera and nab them, the officer added.

Thieves target boutique, flee with clothing worth ₹25 lakh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Police are on the lookout for two men who targeted a high-end designer boutique and made away with clothes worth Rs 25 lakh in south Delhi's Chhattarpur on Wednesday night.

Police said that the two men broke open the entrance to enter the showroom, which is owned by designer Sonika Chhabra.

Mehruli police station received a call about the theft at 6 am on Thursday.

"Upon receiving the information, a team was rushed to the spot and CCTV footage were examined. The footage revealed that two masked men entered the showroom and fled with clothing items.

The incident is estimated to have taken place between 3.45 am and 4:30 am. The two suspects were observed leaving the premises carrying large bags with stolen clothing items," said Chandan Chowdhary, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and further efforts are underway to identify the men in the camera and nab them, the officer added.

Patients suffer after AIIMS computer system crashes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Hundreds of patients visiting AIIMS had to suffer long delays for registration in OPD and other departments for two consecutive days, as the hospital's computer server crashed on Wednesday. This is the second time in the last one year when the computer systems at the hospital went down. However, the services were restored by Thursday afternoon, claimed officials.

Though hospital administration claimed that this happened due to the maintenance work, sources said that the system crashed post a software update.

All patient services including OPD registration, sample collection, report generations, billing and admission were badly hit, leading to delays.

Patients who had come to AIIMS for seeking consultation with the doctors had to wait for hours as manual registration was being conducted by the staff. A woman patient said that she came from Ghaziabad to consult a doctor in medicine department as she had been facing acute stomach ache for long but her card had not been made even after one hour of waiting in the queue. Staff members told her that delay was due to manual handling as computers were not working.

Not only the new patients, old patients who had visited the institute for some diagnostic tests also had to suffer. Long queues were witnessed outside smart lab as bar code was not generated due to server issues. Similar situation was at the billing counters of the institute. Doctors said that the treatment process got delayed too, as lab report were not available online and patients had to collect print outs. Admission process was also delayed as number of vacant beds was not being shown online, said sources.

Most of the administrative processes relating to patient care had been undertaken manually since Wednesday morning.



All patient services, including OPD registration, sample collection, report generations, billing and admission, were badly hit, leading to delays

TIMES VIEW: This is not the first time that the computers have crashed in India's premier medical institute, though the reason seems to be different this time. Officials should have been better prepared with a manual back-up plan to avoid harassment of hapless patients.

ne, said sources.

Most of the administrative processes relating to patient care had been undertaken manually since Wednesday morning.

A senior doctor of AIIMS said that the administration should have the parallel server system to ensure smooth functioning of the institute. Though online facilities are good, it is risky if technical glitch arises. Manual system should be in place at least for patient related services. "If something happens then the entire system would collapse and the institute has already faced such situation earlier when its servers were hacked last year in November," said another doctor, claiming that the institute is overloaded for the server to bear

Sexual literacy prog held at six schools

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To make adolescents studying in Delhi government schools aware, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has started conducting workshops on sexual literacy.

Titled "-Aao Baat Karen-", the programme on sexual literacy was held in six schools of the northwest district on Thursday.

Topics like unwanted pregnancy and hormonal changes were covered during the workshops.

Ranjana Kumari, a member of DCPCR, said that it was important to strike up such conversations with students. "Neither parents nor teachers in schools openly talk about such topics. Even when the reproductive chapter is taught, there is no interactive session held for students to understand. When children are growing, boys and girls want to explore and so it becomes important to give them all the right knowledge," Kumari added.

The workshops started with an ice-breaking session with the resource person. "Once the students get comfortable, they share a lot of things. Many students share how they are teased because of their looks. We explain to them that everyone has different genes and there is nothing to be ashamed of. We also tell them the impact of bullying and how it scars people for life," said the DCPCR member.

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights is planning to select students from classes VIII, IX and XI as leaders, so that they can further take these conversations among other students.

TIMES VIEW: Sex education is important but often ignored in schools. It is good that the authorities are starting a conversation on the subject. Making young adults aware of sexual health is imperative today.

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Recall tender for DFS HQ construction, says PWD

Siddhanta.Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Public Works Department has asked Delhi Fire Services to recall the tender for construction of the DFS headquarters.

The current office of DFS is dilapidated and inadequate and a proposal for construction of a new headquarters was sent in 2012 to Delhi government but the work has been stuck.

The current office of DFS is dilapidated and inadequate and a proposal for construction of a new headquarters was sent in 2012 to Delhi government but the work has been stuck

in ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built.

MCD is also involved in the project as per the proposal the FAR has increased for which permission from the corporation is required, said PWD. As per the existing proposal the new building will have three levels of underground basement where most of the fire vehicles will be parked, currently these vehicles are parked above the ground around the main building of the DFS.

According to sources, the government has given the approval on the increased floor area ratio, as per the earlier suggestion of the DFS. Located in the heart of the city Connaught Place, the current DFS headquarter was constructed in 1967. By 2017 PWD made a detailed proposal but the project has been stuck since then.

The proposal is stuck in the planning stages due to an increase of ground coverage from 30% to 50% and increase in proposed built-up area to accommodate everything

on the lower ground floor.

There will be a control room, wireless workshop storeroom and media room. Then there will be a mezzanine floor between levels of a building, this will house a conference hall, gymnasium and other offices, the first floor will accommodate a hall and administration office, second floor will have a dining area, assembly area, a committee hall, another conference hall and a library.

During the sixth meeting of the high-level committee on the Yamuna, which was held in August, it was decided that 88% of the estimated sewage generation in the national capital must be treated. However, it stood at 84% treatment capacity in September.

Officials at Delhi government did not respond to the query on why the STPs were failing to meet the standards.

However, experts pointed out some flaws in the way the STPs are operated and loopholes like poor monitoring that leads to more pollution in the river.

In the STPs, there is a bypass system. When someone comes to inspect, that bypass system is closed and water flows through due process and is treated. But often private operators of these STPs open the bypass system and the sewage flows into the river without getting processed," said environmentalist Ramveer Tanwar, who has rejuvenated several ponds in NCR. "This is often done to save the cost of operations. Active monitoring is a must for all the STPs," he suggested.

3 parking facilities in Old Delhi to be operational in a month

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is likely to make the multilevel parking facility at Chandni Chowk fully operational in a month's time.

Officials said that they would take a week's time to issue completion certificate for the facility and all no objection certificates have already been submitted by the concessionaire. "Work has been completed at the site. After the completion certificate is issued, the facility will be made operational," said an official.

The facility is likely to be inaugurated by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, sources said.

The six-storey structure is being built at the former Gandhi Maidan and has six levels. Three of them are underground floors and out of them, one floor will be reserved for commercial activities. The parking lot will have capacity to ac-



The facility at Chandni Chowk is likely to be inaugurated by CM Arvind Kejriwal

commodate 2,338 vehicles. Once completed, the parking complex will provide major relief from congestion in areas like Chandni Chowk, Chawri Bazar, Kinari Bazaar, Khari Baoli, Nai Sadak, and Dara Kalan.

"The complex, developed on a public-private-partnership model, is equipped with modern facilities such as CCTV, lifts for passengers, and a firefighting system. As part of

the project agreement, the civic body will lease out the commercial portion of the Gandhi Maidan parking to the concessionaire, along with 25% car parking space adjoining the commercial section. The multilevel parking has been given a heritage look of Old Delhi," said the official.

The project, conceived in 2013 by the erstwhile north corporation, has been long delayed.

In August, mayor Shelly Oberoi also visited the area and directed the officials to expedite the work.

Meanwhile, to improve parking facilities in neighbouring areas, work is in progress at Qutab Road where at least 174 vehicles can be parked at a time. "This parking facility will also be made operational in a month's time," said the official.

Another project for constructing stack parking at Nigam Bodh Ghat is reaching completion with a total space for parking 95 vehicles. Two-third of the facility will be opened for the general public this month.

Allow passengers to carry max one liquor bottle: Govt to DMRC

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With a number of commuters continuing to carry two bottles of liquor from the neighbouring states to Delhi in the metro trains, Delhi government has asked Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to change its rule and restrict such passengers.

In a letter to DMRC on October 6, Delhi government asked the mass transit company to also inform the general public about the extant rules and the permissible limit of liquor to be carried by them while commuting in the metro trains.

As per the Delhi Excise Act, only one litre of liquor - rum, vodka and whisky - in a sealed bottle can be carried from the neighbouring states to the national capital. Since excise is a state subject, every state government has different rules in this re-

gard. While the government of Haryana also allows the commuters to bring only one litre of liquor from another state, Uttar Pradesh has kept the limit to one unsealed bottle.

Any person violating the rule can be imprisoned for up to three years and may have to cough up a fine of up to Rs 3 lakh in the capital.

In June this year, DMRC had permitted commuters to carry two sealed bottles of alcohol per person on its network. Earlier, carrying alcohol was banned in the metro in Delhi except on the Airport Express Line. Since there was constant demand from the commuters travelling by metro to be allowed to carry alcohol, the two-bottle norm was recommended by a committee comprising officers of DMRC and Central Industrial Security Force, the agency that looks after security at metro stations.

Officials, however, said due to the difference in prices of liquor in Delhi and Haryana, a lot of people carry liquor from Faridabad and Gurgaon to the capital.

"While we do have enforcement teams that keep an eye on state borders and often seize liquor being smuggled into Delhi from the neighbouring towns, it is practically not possible to check what people are bringing in the metro trains. This can only be checked by the security agencies at the metro stations," said an official.

Officials said a similar request to change the norm was made by the excise department to DMRC through a letter on August 3. DMRC confirmed that it had received a letter from the excise department and added that it was being examined keeping in view certain clarifications asked earlier as it runs operations in jurisdictions involving different states.

60% STPs in Delhi fail to meet quality parameters

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Over 60% of the sewage treatment plants (STP) in the national capital still fail to meet parameters like biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids despite a high-level committee having been mandated by NGT to ensure proper sewage treatment to revive the Yamuna.

The monthly analysis report by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for September shows that out of the 38 assessed STPs, one at Rithala was under rehabilitation while 23 failed water quality standard tests. For August, 34 STPs were assessed, of which 21 did not meet standards.

According to the latest report, the city generates an estimate of 792 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage, and there is an installed capacity to treat 667 MGD. However, of the total installed capacity, only 550 MGD is being treated while 242 MGD, which is about 30% of the total generated sewage, goes untreated.

According to the report, Delhi government has managed to increase the installed capacity of STPs by 35 MGD from 632 MGD in August to 667 MGD in September. However, the actual sewage treated saw an increase of only 3 MGD, from 245 MGD in September against 242 MGD in August.

During the sixth meeting of the high-level committee on the Yamuna, which was held in August, it was decided that 88% of the estimated sewage generation in the national capital must be treated. However, it stood at 84% treatment capacity in September.

Officials at Delhi government did not respond to the query on why the STPs were failing to meet the standards.

However, experts pointed out some flaws in the way the STPs are operated and loopholes like poor monitoring that leads to more pollution in the river.

In the STPs, there is a bypass system. When someone comes to inspect, that bypass system is closed and water flows through due process and is treated. But often private operators of these STPs open the bypass system and the sewage flows into the river without getting processed," said environmentalist Ramveer Tanwar, who has rejuvenated several ponds in NCR. "This is often done to save the cost of operations. Active monitoring is a must for all the STPs," he suggested.

Homecoming! As Puja Draws Near, Heart Of 'Little Bengal' Beats Faster

Mix Of Old Charm And Modernity At Chittaranjan Park Pandals, Focus On Eco-Friendliness

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India, old and new, is moving to Chittaranjan Park in south Delhi. From the swanky new Parliament House to the ancient charm of Bihar's Mundeshwari Temple, myriad icons of Indian life will be replicated at the Durga Puja pandals there. And amid all this, the organisers will keep in mind current imperatives like the need for ecofriendly celebrations.

The pandals in 'Little Bengal' have chosen themes that blend modernity, tradition and sustainability. "We initially considered a contemporary theme like the Chandrayaan moon mission, but eventually decided on the new Parliament House," said Amit Roy, president of the B Block Puja Samiti. "It will be nice to replicate our majestic legislative building after last year's theme of 'Amrit Kal Mahotsav'."

Seventy artists from West Bengal are working on interior details of the pandal. The outside wall will mimic the colour combination of Parliament House, and the 90ft x 80ft pandal, spread over two acres, has been scaled down to resemble the upper and lower Houses of Parliament. "The pandal will be fully ready and illuminated in a week," added Roy. "We will have a Durga idol adorned with Dhaker Shaaj. There will be a dance contest for children with autism, a Baul performance and an opportunity for folk artists to showcase their talents, with free dhakis from Medinipur."

The puja organisers at the Co-operative Ground in K Block have chosen Mundeshwari Mandir as the theme. The temple in Bihar is located in Ramgarh village, 608 feet up on the Mundeshwari hills. Lipi Chatterjee, treasurer of the



puja samiti, revealed, "The Mundeshwari temple is considered the oldest functional temple of the world with rituals performed here without a break since 108 AD."

Chatterjee said the ambitious plan of having the front of the pandal resemble the temple was challenging because of the space constraint. This is Cooperative Ground Durga Puja Samiti's 47th celebration. Other than the puja pandal itself, the cultural functions and

numerous stalls are what the visitors can look forward to. The Kali Mandir complex is getting decked up, the preparations having begun as early as August and more than 15 artists under Govind Nath, the head artisan, are tirelessly crafting Durga idols. Subir Datta, joint secretary, Kali Mandir Puja Samiti, shared, "We are marking the 50th golden jubilee of the temple this year; so it's quite special. We do not have any theme — we will celebrate Durga

Puja in the traditional style." Like these puja samitis, entire CR Park is abuzz with activity. Shops in Market No. 1 now stock puja items from Kolkata and puja booklets find prime space at the newsstands. The Pujo celebrations recall the world of erstwhile elite Bengali refugees (probashi Bangalis), who, separated from their native land, find some solace in the bangaliyan (spirit of Bengali culture, food and saris and

dhotos) at puja time. *Bangaliyan* is also about gastronomical passion and CR park has it all covered. The puja committees have organised competitions and fun-filled activities with attractive prizes, music, dance, poetry recitation, fashion events and plays to be performed by the locals. At the handloom exhibitions, the beautiful traditional weaves of dhakai, tant and tusar will be on display. For the foodies, the Ananda Mela —

2 petty criminals held, cops claim fidayeen attack foiled

New Delhi: Delhi Police may have just prevented a fidayeen attack by two petty criminals, or so they claim. They intercepted the two criminals near old police headquarters, and while one of them fired at the cops, the other took out a live hand grenade and tried to pull the pin but was overpowered.

The duo, one of them identified as Krishan, were arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell from Ring Road near Sarai Kal Khan on Wednesday night. An officer said the Special Cell team intercepted the two and asked them to surrender. "Krishan fired at the team but the officials were not injured. The other accused took out a hand grenade from his bag but before he could pull the safety pin, he was overpowered by our team," the officer added.

A hand grenade, a pistol and five live cartridges were seized from them and an investigation is underway, the officer further said. The duo claimed to be working for Canada-based gangster Arshdeep Singh alias Arsh Dala, who is wanted by National Investigation Agency and Punjab Police. TNN

Separate toilets for women at all construction sites a must

New Delhi: Delhi government has made it mandatory for construction companies to keep separate toilet facilities for female workers at all sites. So far, both male and female workers were using same toilet facilities at the sites. The step, said officials, will ensure better safety and security to all female workers at the sites. In a meeting with senior officers of the labour department and construction workers board, Delhi labour minister Raj Kumar Anand also took note of disparity in wages for similar work done by male and female workers. In a statement, the government said Anand instructed officials to rectify the disparities and ensure equal wages. TNN

BJP holds protest

New Delhi: BJP leaders held a demonstration near the Aam Aadmi Party office on Thursday, demanding chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation over alleged corruption in his government. Raising slogans and carrying placards, the protesters were moving towards the AAP office on DDU Marg, but were stopped by police at some distance. "We have been running an awareness campaign against the corrupt AAP government," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said. TNN

Auto driver chases 2 bike-borne snatchers, forces them to drop stolen phone and flee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The persistent chase by an auto-rickshaw driver, Guddu Kumar, compelled two snatchers to throw away a mobile phone they had taken from a TOI photographer sitting in Kumar's auto on Tuesday night.

On Tuesday night, photographer Tarun Rawat was on his way home in Mayur Vihar in an auto when two men on a bike snatched his mobile phone on Vikas Marg.

Without thinking twice, auto driver Guddu took a sharp left and started chasing them. Around 11.30pm, Rawat had boarded an auto from Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg.

He had booked the auto using an app.

"I spoke to a colleague and ended the call. The auto was moving on Vikas Marg and just before the left turn towards the Delhi Secretariat, two men on a bike came next to the auto, the pillion rider put his hand inside the auto and snatched my mobile phone and took a turn towards the Delhi Secretariat," Rawat said in his police complaint.

Guddu, quick to realise that the passenger's phone had been stolen, immediately took the left turn and started chasing the motorbike.

He drove so fast that at a point he was close to the bike.

The snatchers took a U-turn in front of the Delhi Secretariat and tried to make away. Guddu kept chasing them. Finally, the pillion rider threw the snatched mobile phone on the road and the duo fled.

The phone suffered some damage but was working. "I was trying to tell the auto driver not to chase them as it could have been dangerous but he was determined to catch hold of them. I was worried for our safety, as the criminals could have fired or done anything. After they threw my phone, Guddu dropped me home and left. I am grateful to the driver who showed courage and I got my phone back," Rawat said.

Mercury slips to lowest of season, AQI turns poor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

401 and 500 'severe'.

"Most of the winds are north-westerly and will remain so for the next few days with speeds of 10 to 12 kmph. A western disturbance is approaching, which will have its impact on the hills on October 14 and on Delhi and most of north-west India on October 16. This may cause light rain in Delhi on Monday. Till then, the maximum temperature will continue to rise. However, as the western disturbance passes, the temperature will begin to fall," explained Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, India Meteorological Department.

6 | 1
YR-OLD
RECORD
BROKEN
IN CITY

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday may hover around 36 and 17 degrees Celsius, respectively.

According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research, as of October 11, the share of PM2.5 from stubble burning in neighbouring states contributed to only 3% of the city's air pollution. On October 11, there were 26 incidents of stubble burning in Punjab.

According to the air quality early warning system, Delhi is likely to see poor air quality for the next six days.

Waste burning: DPCC identifies 164 spots in industrial areas

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

posal of other domestic waste or municipal solid waste released from these units. We found that some units discarded their waste in vacant plots at night. These dumpyards are also burnt in violation of rules and dumperd and burnt at night.

To prevent this, regular monitoring of these areas will be done by DPCC, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC).

Officials said that the capital has a total of 29,330 units in 23 approved industrial areas, as from where around 29,65 million litres per day (MLD) of effluent are generated. Around 11.36 tonnes per day (TPD) is the quantity of hazardous waste generated by these industries, including common effluent treatment plants (CETPs).

"The industrial waste goes to the treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) in the Bawana industrial area. But it was found that there was no proper mechanism for the disposal of the industries or units in these areas are dry and there are not many water polluting industries in these redevelopment areas," said DPCC in its monthly report.

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Krishnanagar Division, Social Sector, PWD, invites online e-tender for 01 (one) no. work of 1) Thorough Repair work of Ladies and Gents Bathroom inside and outside of Auditorium at Haringhat Farm, Mohanpur, Nadia. Estimate Amount: Rs. 4, 94, 625.00. Tender ID: 2023_WPBD/SS/EE/KNG-12(e)/2023-24. Bid Submission Start Date: 11/10/2023 11:00 AM. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 30/10/2023 upto 02:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in the website only. Details of NIT and tender Documents may be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, Kng.Divn., SS, PWDT.

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Fire incidents reported at factory in Peeragarhi & NCC office in RK Puram

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a factory in Peeragarhi on Thursday. The fire department said that they received a call at 4 am and sent 32 fire tenders to the spot. It took about three hours to control the blaze. The department said that no one was injured in the incident. Another fire broke out at the NCC office in RK Puram on Thursday. The fire was reported in the office of the director general in RK Puram's West Block around 4.10 pm. The fire department pressed 12 water tenders into service. No one was injured in the incident, it said. **TNN**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the NitE No. DHFWS/CW-24 of 2023-24 (2nd Call) related to "Providing Clerical Assistant and Cleaning Staff at UHWC/Polyclinic, Jalpaiguri, Maynaguri and Dhuburi Municipality, Jalpaiguri District. For details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- CMOH, Jalpaiguri. ICA-T211794(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
Executive Engineer, Kolkata South-II Division, Housing Directorate, inviting Sealed Tender for & on behalf of Governor of West Bengal, Ref: e-NIT-2 of 2023_HSD_590038_1 to _4. Last Date of submission 01.11.2023 Up to 4.00 P.M. For Details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in or in the Office of The Executive Engineer in any working day, S/D - Executive Engineer, Kolkata South-II Division, Housing Directorate ICA-T21214(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise under the control of the Department of FPI&H, Govt. of West Bengal)
TENDER NOTICE
1. 66 dt. 04.10.2023
Re-e-Tender is invited for Supply of seed kit-I containing the Red Amaranthas (Local Improved variety)-50gms per kit and Kit-II comprising the Palak (Ail Green) /Lima comprising 350gms. Per kit) to the different Blocks in the State of West Bengal. The intending Tenderers are to apply through www.wbtenders.gov.in. Details are also available in the Website : www.wbshabe.com & www.wbfpih.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBSF&HPCL, Benish Tower, Bidhannagar.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NitE No. HST-47-2023/RT-C236/2023/264
Dated-10.10.2023
Re E Tender for procurement of Some of Drugs Listed under "Table-A" for two years from the date of AOC is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> or www.wbtenders.gov.in for further details. Bid submission start date (online) : 24-11-2023, Bid submission closing date (online) : 24-11-2023, Bid opening date (online) : 24-11-2023, Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB. ICA-T211750(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING RE-E-TENDER
NitE No. HST-47-2023/RT-C236/2023/264
Dated-10.10.2023

Re E Tender for procurement of Some of Drugs Listed under "Table-A" for two years from the date of AOC is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> or www.wbtenders.gov.in for further details. Bid submission start date (online) : 24-11-2023, Bid submission closing date (online) : 24-11-2023, Bid opening date (online) : 24-11-2023, Sd/- Executive Engineer (E-M) ICA-T211799(2)/2023 Raiganj (A-M) Division

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid reference no. WBMSCL/NIT/EE(C)-04/01/2023, Dated - 09/10/2023 (Tender ID: 2023_WBMSCL_573295_1)
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for Civil Work for District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at Tamralipta Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Purba Medinipur. Last date of submission of bid (online) - 02/11/2023 up to 05.00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbmsc.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in or after 13/10/2023 at 10.00 A.M. Clarification requests, if any, may be call- 033-40340435. Sd/- Executive Engineer (E-M) ICA-T21208(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRIDGUM NOTICE
Bid reference no. WBMSCL/NIT/EE(C)-04/01/2023, Dated - 15/09/2023 (Tender ID: 2023_WBMSCL_573295_1)
The last date of Submission of Tender (online) for the work of Construction Work (Civil & Electrical) For Upgradation of State Homeopathic Dispensary As "Model Ayush OPD" at Natosh PHC Under Basulia RH in the District of Purba Medinipur has extended till 17.10.2023 up to 04.00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbmsc.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in. Clarification requests, if any, may be sent to info@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of W.B. ICA-T21159(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-Tender Notice
E-Tender is invited by the Additional District Magistrate (Infrastructure), South 24 Parganas, details of which is available from this office during office hours or also at www.wbtenders.gov.in

Tender Title & Ref no.: [SPG/MBN-81/2023],
Tender id. 2023_DMSP_589637_1
Name of the Work : Environmental pollution control Herbal Spray at toilets during Ganga Sagar Mela 2024 from 09.01.2024 to 18.01.2024.
Bid Submission end date & time : 30.10.2023 up to 2.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E-M) ICA-T21207(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

EE, PWD, Darjeeling Electrical Division invites e-tender for the work of "Renovation & Upgradation of Electrical system at Darjeeling Inspection Bungalow, PWD, Dist:- Darjeeling."

Estimated amount: Rs. Item Rate Tender. Rs. 10,25,616/- Earnest Money- Rs. 2,05,123.00, Tender Documents Sale /

Download Start Date & Time- 13.10.2023 at 4:00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time- 06.11.2023 upto 4:00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposals- 09.11.2023 at 11:00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial Proposals - to be notified after technical evaluation.

Corrigendum is any will be published in website only. All details can be obtained from the website : www.wbtenders.gov.in or Log in www.wbtenders.gov.in or contact Engineering Section of SIDA at (0353) 2512922, 2515647 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer. ICA-T21159(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-Tender Notice

E-Tender is invited by the Additional District Magistrate (Infrastructure), South 24 Parganas, details of which is available from this office during office hours or also at www.wbtenders.gov.in

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Sd/- Executive Engineer (E-M) ICA-T21207(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

EE, PWD, Darjeeling Electrical Division invites offline tender for the works:- 1) Amount Put to Tender Rs. 7,44,622.59.00

(Emergency Restoration Work). Last date of application for tender 16.10.2023 UP TO 11.30 A.M. Details information are available from this office of the undersigned and departmental website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- A.K. Ghosh, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Electrical Division, Midnapore, Khasjungle, P.O.-Abas, District-Paschim Medinipur.

ICA-T21273(4)/2023

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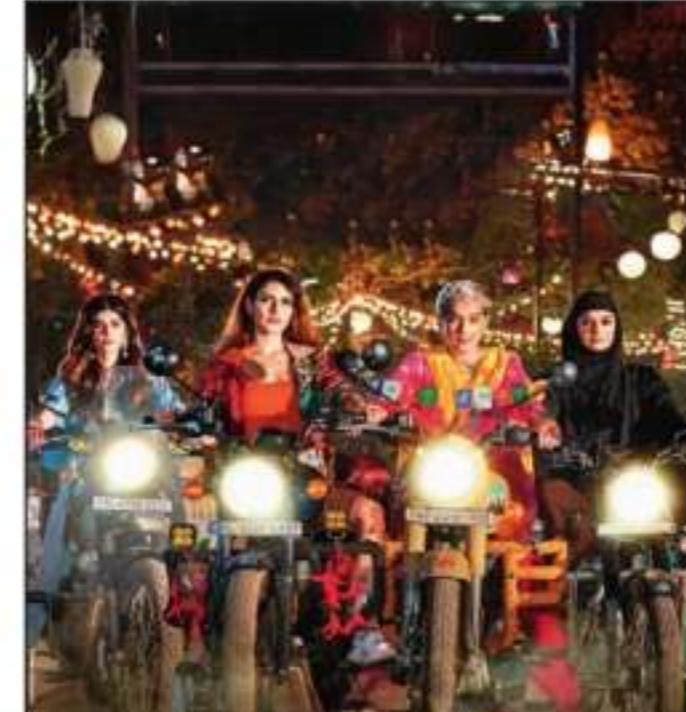
Download Start Date & Time- 13.10.2023 at 4:00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time- 06.11.2

This motorcycle adventure will take you to new heights

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Dhak Dhak (Adventure, Drama)

★★★
Cast: Ratna Pathak Shah, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Dia Mirza, Sanjana Sanghi
Direction: Tarun Dubeja
Duration: 2 hours 19 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)



accelerates the excitement once they are on the road. Cinematographer Sreecith Vijayan Damodar perfectly captures the mountains, whether a smooth ride on the picturesque roads or through the dramatic terrains, landslides, flooding and so on.

Like a true-blue journey, the film portrays characters who teach life lessons through simplicity, delivered through memorable dialogues. A truck driver encourages Manjari to look at problems objectively and says, "Apni problem mein tension lena aur doosre ki problem mein solution dena, yeh toh insaan ki fitrat hai. Is liye kabhi khudke padosi ban kar dekho."

Ratna Pathak Shah as a loving, shy, and cheeky Punjabi grandma, Fatima Sana Shaikh as a firebrand girl dealing with her demons, Dia Mirza as a *jugaadu* mechanic, and Sanjana Sanghi as the klutzy and overprotected simple girl are outstanding in their roles.

This is a wholesome fare that will make one want to giddy up and go on an adventure, whether on the road or following one's heart. The dramatic experience will be best enjoyed on the big screen.

— Dhaval Roy

■ When four ordinary women from Delhi and Mathura go on a motorcycle adventure to the world's highest drivable pass, Khardung La, they also embark on a journey of self-discovery and identity.

Is it about the destination or the journey? Here's a motorcycle adventure that proves there's more to a voyage than these; as on the road, so in life.

Director-writer Tarun Dubeja and co-writer Parijat Joshi kickstart the story on a routine note, introducing the viewer to its protagonists. Sky (Fatima Sana Shaikh) is a motorcycle reviewer and influencer trying to break her inadvertent scandalous social media image and create her own identity. Manpreet, aka Mahi (Ratna Pathak

Shah), is a grandma, and Uzma (Dia Mirza) is a homemaker unappreciated by their families. Mathura girl Manjari is set to marry a stranger of her mother's choice. The rest of the story is about their experiences, misadventures, and equations with each other as they take a transformative trip.

While narrated well, the film's first half occasionally sputters as it shows biases against female drivers or riders, the lack of safety for women, and how they are taken for granted. However, the narrative switches gears and

Guthlee Ladoo (Drama)

★★★
Cast: Sanjay Mishra, Dhanay Seth, Subrat Datta, Kalyanee Mulay, Heet Sharma
Direction: Ishrat R Khan
Duration: 1 hour 44 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ The movie follows a poor sweeper's son who desires to attend school but is restricted by the societal constraints of his caste. He forms an unspoken bond with a high-caste headmaster who's compassionate but powerless in the face of discrimination. Will they make the young boy's dream come true?

The story begins with Guthlee (Dhanay Seth) as a bright boy who stealthily attends school as he belongs to a lower caste. Throughout the movie, director-writer Ishrat R Khan and co-writers Sriniv as Abrol and Ganesh Pandit depict an oppressed class' struggles through him, his close friend, Ladoo (Heet Sharma), and their parents.

The more Guthlee tries to realise his dream, the reality and society's hypocrisy seem starker and stronger. However, the narrative sometimes seems to overexplain and presents the irony too many times. Anil Akki's cinematography is worth mentioning, especially in presenting the rural landscape and the segment's world, whether the surroundings or the unsafe and unsanitary conditions people work in.

The characterisation is intriguing, whether portraying the haves or the have-nots. As the headmaster torn between societal constraints and doing right by an oppressed section, Sanjay Mishra delivers a nuanced performance. Subrat Datta and Kalyanee Mulay, as Guthlee's parents, make the viewer relate to their characters. Kanchan Pagare (Ladoo's father) and Arif Shahdoli (an evil politician and the school's owner) also stand out. Dhanay Seth and Heet Sharma, as friends and two ends of the spectrum in the same world, are brilliant.

— Dhaval Roy

RATING SCALE

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

MCD ramps up its anti-pollution drive with over 500 teams

Vibha.Sharma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has directed all zonal offices on Thursday to intensify the enforcement drive against violations of various pollution norms.

To implement the winter action plan, MCD has constituted 511 surveillance teams and assigned 1,064 officers to check open burning, illegal construction and demolition waste dumping, C&D sites and dust on roads.

"The teams are checking the status mainly at vulnerable sites. Till Thursday, we focussed on spreading awareness. In the coming days, challans and other actions will be intensified," said an official.

MCD, which is responsible for sweeping roads belonging to Public Works Department (PWD), has provided 60 anti-smog guns to combat dust pollution at 13 hotspots. "We have also deployed 52 mechanical road sweepers for PWD roads. Their frequency and timings will be increased as per stages of Graded Response Action Plan," said the official.

HC upholds licence policy for photographers at monuments

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has upheld a policy of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) that mandates obtaining licences for photographers working at ASI-protected monuments.

The court said that this policy was established "in larger public interest" to regulate the quality and conduct of photographers for the benefit of visitors and tourists.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Mini Pushkar dismissed a plea filed by individuals who had worked as photographers at ASI-protected monuments since 2012.

The photographers were concerned that they were not covered by clause 2.7 of the amended policy because they did not hold licenses.

The policy, titled "The Policy for Archaeological Survey of India Photographers to perform within Centrally Protected Monuments", was notified by ASI on May 24, 2017. ians

Punjabi Bagh flyover gets a new deadline, it's now January 2024

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Punjabi Bagh flyover completion deadline has been shifted to January next year, Public Works Department minister Atishi said on Thursday.

Atishi inspected the Moti Nagar flyover construction site where most of the work has been completed with only the installation of a 50-metre steel girder over the intersection near Bharat Darshan Park remaining, said officials.

During inspection, officials informed the minister that most of the work on Punjabi Bagh flyover is also done, and currently girders (slabs) are being installed. However, the pace of work has slowed down due to the shifting of a powerline.

While reprimanding the officials, Atishi gave them an ultimatum to complete the construction work by January as any cost as these flyovers are important to decongest traffic on Ring Road.

"No further delay in their construction will be tolerated now. She instructed the officials to expedite the remaining work by increasing the number of laborers and machines on the site. She asked the officials to submit the weekly progress report to her" said Atishi.

The corridor between Punjabi Bagh and Raja Garden flyovers is a part of Ring Road which experiences a heavy traffic load, leading to congestion issues.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EXPENSE (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	HARYANA STATE FEDERATION OF COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD.	50 KG A-TYPE JUTE BAGS	CLOSING DATE : 26.10.2023	12.60 CRORES	haryanasugared.org.in haryanasugared@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 21850

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For Booking Please Contact

Amit Ghosh : 9811790649

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Ads.timesgroup.com

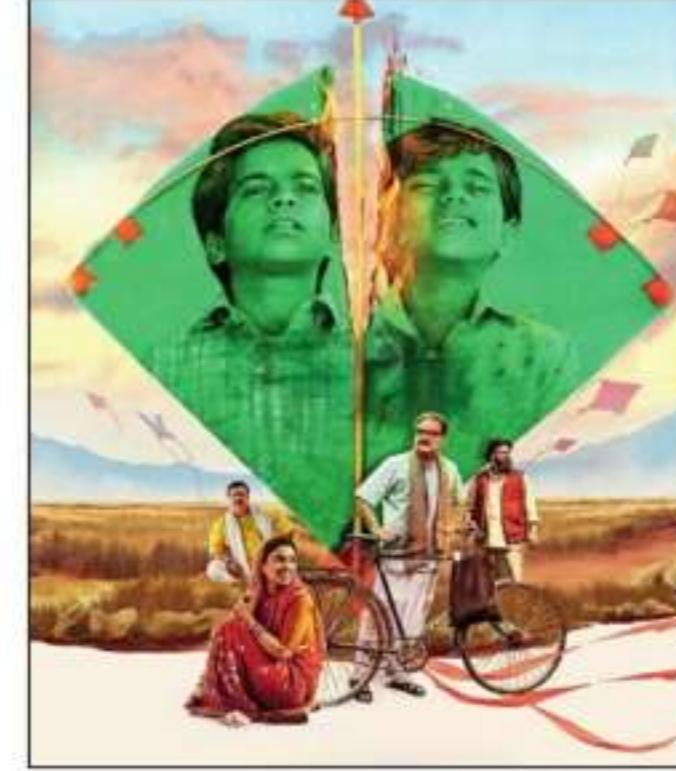
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN TO LOG IN

An immersive tale of faith and lost innocence

Ab Toh Sab Bhagwan Bharose

(Drama) **★★★**

Cast: Satendra Soni, Sparsh Suman, Vinay Pathak, Shrikant Verma, Manu Rishi Chaddha
Direction: Shiladitya Bora
Duration: 1 hour 36 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)



■ Two impressionable kids find their ideas of religion and faith questioned. Their experiences with different characters and the country's changing socio-political scenario cause an event leading to their loss of childhood and more.

The film's opening scene gives one a glimpse of how deep (or shallow) Bhola (Satendra Soni) and Shambhu's (Sparsh Suman) understanding of Hindu mythology is, as the former is convinced Naga-Lok is just about 40 feet below Earth's surface. Contradicting ideologies and the changing socio-political landscape constantly challenge their faith and fuel their journey through childhood.

Director Shiladitya Bora and writer Sudhakar Nilmani 'Eklavya' set the story in North India's unknown village

in 1989 where characters such as the village priest and teacher, Panditji (Shrikant Verma), dismiss anyone going against dogmatic ideologies as *asur* (demon), including the atheist (Manu Rishi Chaddha) and people of another religion in the neighbouring village. Bhola's conditioning makes him believe the elders' ethos as the gospel truth, and the story leads to an event resulting in lost innocence and childhood.

Bora and director of photography,

Surjodeep Ghosh, create a rich rural tapestry that looks exquisite and peaceful, but the undercurrents of unrest soon become palpable.

The movie also comes up with aces as far as performances go. Satendra Soni shines as the confused and misled young boy and exhibits his acting chops whenever his faith is questioned. Sparsh Suman and Vinay Pathak, as his gentle grandfather Nanababu, are great. But the surprise package is Masumeh Makhiya as Bhola's mother, Radha. While Shrikant Verma does well as the prejudiced priest, Manu Rishi Chaddha deserves mention for essaying an atheist who succinctly talks about the *asur* within us that wreaks havoc when it gets insecure.

The film is thought-provoking without being preachy. What truly stands out is the strong message it delivers without letting go of the compelling story and narrative. Catch this one for its immersive experience!

— Dhaval Roy

To review any movie and check show timings visit etimes.in

Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (Animation, Adventure)

★★★

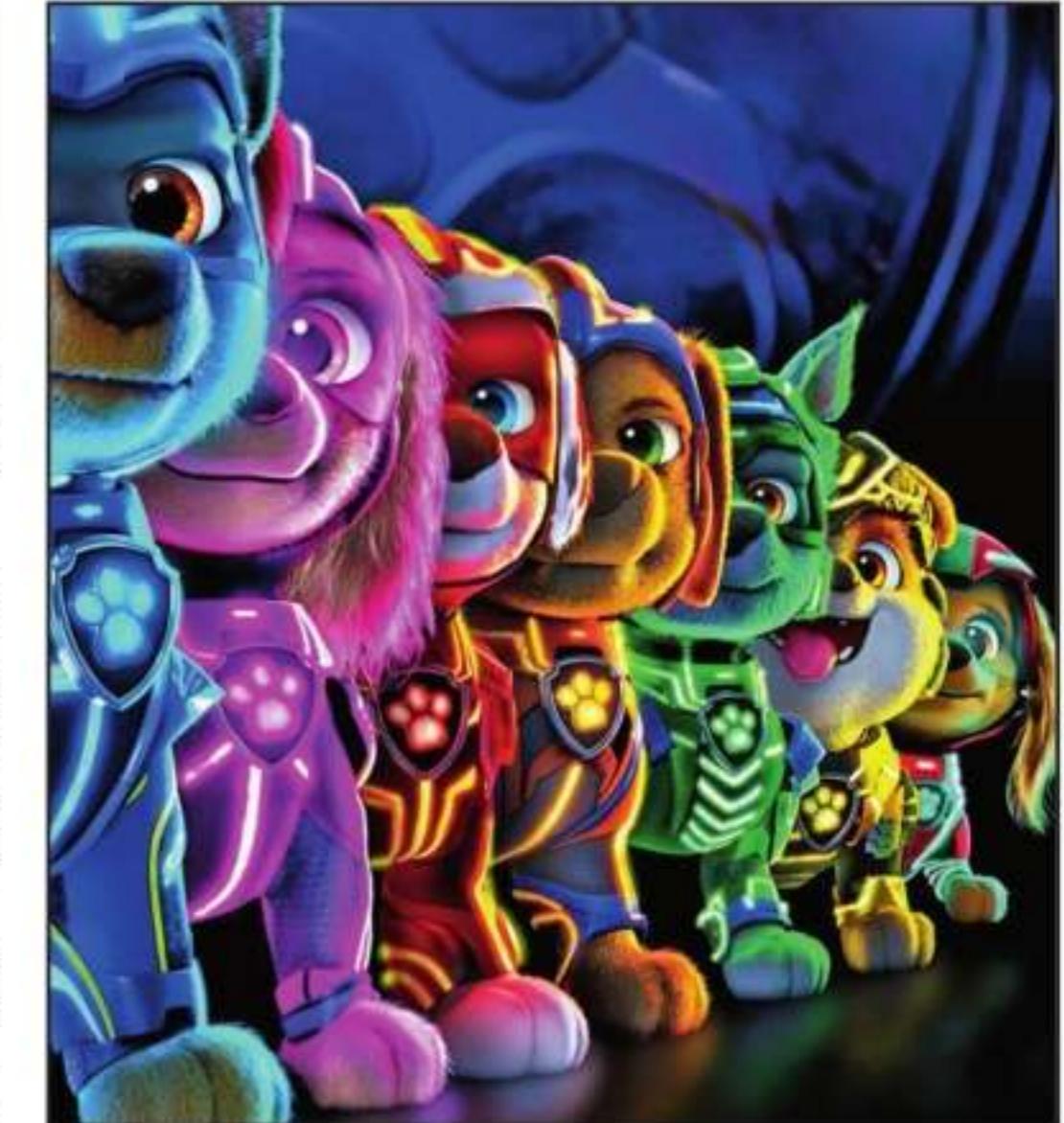
Cast: McKenna Grace, Taraji P Henson, Marsai Martin, Christian Convery, Ron Pardo
Direction: Cal Brunker
Duration: 1 hour 35 minutes
Language: English (UA)

■ The PAW Patrol pups gain superpowers from a meteor shower in Adventure City. But the team must save the city when the villain and a mad scientist steal their powers. Will they succeed?

The sequel to *The Paw Patrol Movie* (2021), which is the big-screen adaptation of the popular television series *Paw Patrol*, follows Ryder (Finn Lee-Epp) and his dog squad as they take on a mad scientist Victoria Vance (Taraji P Henson) when she invents a gadget to harness a meteor to gain superpowers, aided by a villain, Humdinger (Ron Pardo). However, the pups are exposed to the meteor's crystals, which give them superpowers. What follows is the cute little pups' derring-do to save Adventure City.

The movie is purely about adventure, portrayed through great production and animation, especially in the chase and fight sequences. The pooch world and the events are a visually stunning riot of colours. Director Cal Brunker (also the co-writer) and writers Bob Barlen and Shane Morris serve a formulaic story that hinges on teamwork and self-confidence. Still, the narrative does not give into the temptation of delivering a profound message or an emotional story that most animation outings do.

The movie is meant for little children and stays true to that from beginning to end. The doggies are furry and adorable and their superpowers (turning into a fireball, super-strength and lightning-fast speed, etc.) will appeal to young audiences. Three fluffy Junior Patrollers and the chase between the mutts and Humdinger's kittens add to the cuteness.



The voice cast, including McKenna Grace, Taraji P Henson, Marsai Martin, Christian Convery, and Ron Pardo, along with guests Kim Kardashian as a self-obsessed poodle Delores, Serena Williams as a yoga instructor, pulls off its parts with finesse.

Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie is top-notch in cuteness, fun, animation, and production. It may not appeal to an older audience but young kids will paw-sitively have a hearty outing.

— Dhaval Roy

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer JSV Division Hamirpur invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering Process:-

S. No.:- 1 Name of work:- Construction of Source Strengthening of various WSS under JSV Sub-Division Nadaun and Dhanera (Phase 1st & 2nd) including (i) C/O LWSS Rajnou, Dhanera Dib Ponker, Behrad, Janshoo, Manjra and LWSS Sukriah (4 Nos Phase), ii) C/O Amblesher Bhabrina, iii) C/O Nounghi Bhumpal in Tehsil Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH- C/O Percolation well along with control panel room, C/O Pump Houses at Janglu, C/O RCC U/G Main storage Tanks, C/O RCC OHSR, C/O Anchor Block for Rising main/ Gravity Mains, C/O RCC flood protection wall, C/O Boundary wall & Panel Fencing around the pump Houses, C/O Approach road to pump House, C/O Boundary wall & panel Fencing around the Storage tanks, C/O wire crates along the P well, C/O Khad & Nallah crossing, P/L Rising mains, P/F of Pumping Machinery, P/L Gravity mains & Miscellaneous work etc. including defect liability period of six months to be reckoned from successful testing & commissioning of Scheme (Job No. 3) **Estimated Cost. :- 45,37,34,223/- Earnest Money. :- 45,69,842/- Cost of Tender :- 2500/- Time :- 9 Months.**

Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering **20.10.2023 up to 11.00 AM**. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
JS Division Hamirpur.

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

Registered Office: Corporate Office, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

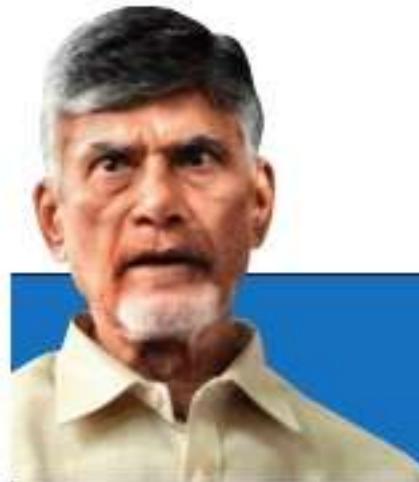
NOTIFICATION

No. KPTCL/B117/14278/2020-21 Date: 11.10.2023

- Petition filed under Section 62 & 64 of Electricity Act, 2003 read with CERC (Sharing of Inter State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020, for claiming of Yearly Transmission Charges for 9 Nos. of 220 KV lines for FY-2021, owned by KPTCL certified as carrying Inter-State Power by SRPC.
- The beneficiaries of the Transmission System are:
 - Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (TSTRANSCO) and
 - Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (MAHATRANSCO).

Yearly Transmission Tariff for FY 2020-2021 Block

<table



NAIDU'S SON LOKESH MEETS AMIT SHAH, SPARKS BUZZ OVER POSSIBLE BJP-TDP ALLIANCE | 14



RAJNATH IN PARIS, SAYS INDIA AND FRANCE TO ENHANCE DEFENCE & INDUSTRIAL TIES | 18

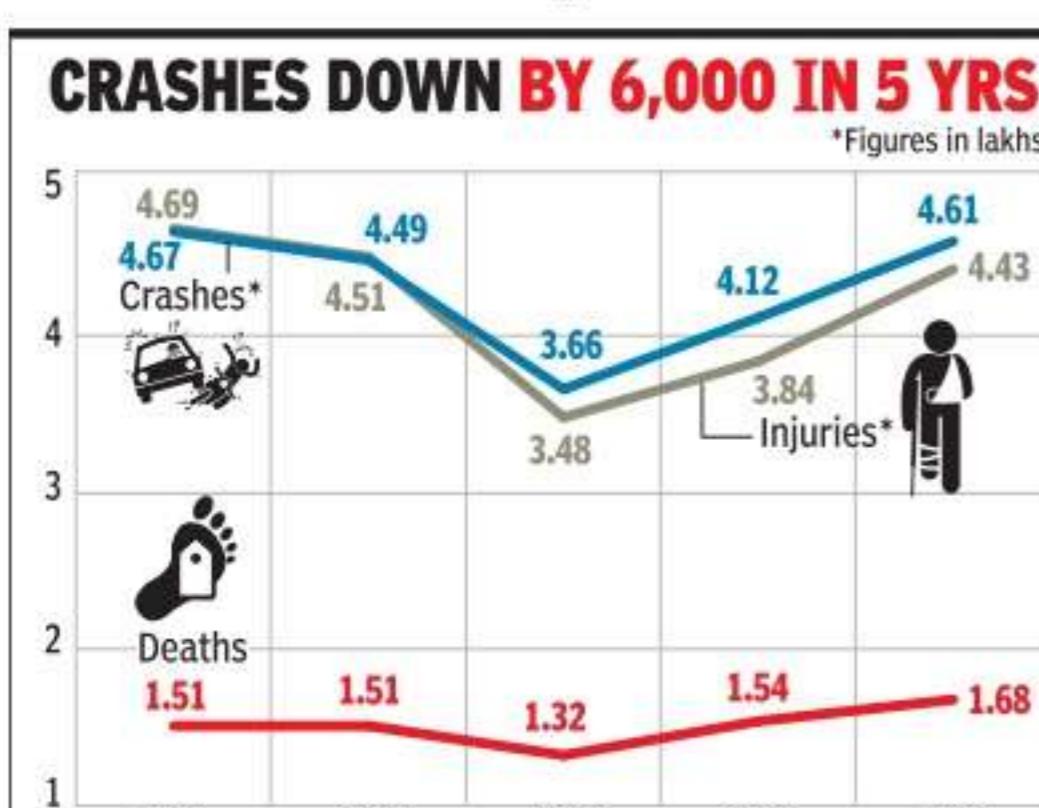
Record 1.68L road accident deaths in 2022; 1 every 3 min

Nearly 9% Jump In Fatalities As Compared To '21

Dipak.Dash
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The number of people killed in road crashes in India touched an all time high in 2022 with fatalities crossing 1.68 lakh, which translates to 462 deaths per day or one every three minutes, TOI has learnt.

The road transport and highways ministry which publishes the data on road crashes, fatalities and injuries annually after collating them from all states and UTs is yet to make it public. Sources said the jump in road fatalities is a cause of concern considering that In-



dia has also set the target to halve the deaths by 2030.

A comparison of the data shows that in 2022, the country saw a jump of nearly 9% in terms of fatalities as compared to 2021 and an increase of around 11.5% more than

the deaths in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. "Losing one life every three minutes is a big concern. In the past few years we have built or expanded wider roads and we have more high-speeding vehicles. But such a high

number of fatalities is unacceptable," a source said.

While all these years, the focus of public discourse and policy attention has been on the fatalities in road crashes, the increasing number of people left injured is also emerging as a major cause of concern. In 2022, the number of persons injured in crashes stood at 4.43 lakh compared to 3.84 lakh in 2021, a jump of nearly 15%.

"We will be able to curb the number of road deaths and injuries only when we have proper diagnosis of the problem, fix accountability of people and entities who are responsible for different tasks. That's how countries in Europe have been successful in bringing down the fatalities," said Rohit Baluja, a road safety expert and member at the UN Road Safety Collaboration.

India, Russia in talks for Modi-Putin meet this yr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Woman kills self in front of train, husband crushed too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi: Fed up with the drinking habit of her husband, a woman jumped before a train and was killed near Panchkroshi railway crossing in Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district on Wednesday. The husband was also crushed to death while trying to save her.

Probe revealed that Govind Sonekar, a fruit vendor, was a drunkard and used to have frequent fights with his wife, Khushbu, over this

In another incident, a street vendor from Rohtas in Bihar was crushed to death by a train near Chandra railway crossing in the district on Wednesday night. Jitan Prasad (45) was living in Varanasi to earn his livelihood.

Initial investigation revealed that Govind Sonekar (30), a fruit vendor, was a drunkard and used to have frequent fights with his wife, Khushbu Sonekar (28), over this.

The couple got married in 2018 and had three children.

On Wednesday night, Govind was consuming liquor near his house. When Khushbu tried to stop him, a

fight started between them again and in a fit of rage, she rushed towards the railway track near to kill herself. Her husband Govind went after her and tried to drag her away from the track when they were run over by a train.

The woman had a screenshot of a downloaded photo he'd sent her: "I was crying by then. My neighbours took my phone, and scolded the driver. He immediately deleted the messages and disconnected the call after my neighbours warned him that they have screenshots of all the messages," she added.

The woman asked how the driver could access her number after she cancelled the trip.

Cops have requested details of the driver from the aggregator. A case has been registered under IPC section 354A for sexual harassment and the IT Act.

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COMPLETE COVERAGE.
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B'luru woman cancels ride, flooded with obscene photos

Chaitanya.Swamy
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Police are looking for a taxi driver following a 32-year-old Bengaluru woman's complaint that he had flooded her WhatsApp number with obscene photos and videos because she cancelled a trip from her daughter's school to her home after booking it through a ride-sharing app.

"I booked the cab as my daughter was not ready to walk. Three minutes after booking it, my baby started crying. On noticing an auto, I cancelled the cab for which I was charged Rs 60," said the mother of a six-year-old girl and a nine-month-old infant.

Following the cancellation, her troubles began. The driver, identified as Dinesh, repeatedly called her, demanding she take the cab as he had driven 5km already and insisting that he was near her location. The woman apologised to him. "I asked him to hurry as my baby was crying. I waited for another two minutes, but didn't find the cab on the route, so I took an autorickshaw," she said.

Despite her explanations and apologies, the driver's relentless calls and messages continued. This prompted the woman, a resident of an apartment in Basapura in the Electronics City neighbourhood of Bengaluru, to file a complaint with police on October 9.

The woman had a screenshot of a downloaded photo he'd sent her: "I was crying by then. My neighbours took my phone, and scolded the driver. He immediately deleted the messages and disconnected the call after my neighbours warned him that they have screenshots of all the messages," she added.

The woman asked how the driver could access her number after she cancelled the trip.

Cops have requested details of the driver from the aggregator. A case has been registered under IPC section 354A for sexual harassment and the IT Act.

ARMY DEACTIVATES MINES FROM 1962 WAR



CLEANUP ACT: The Army has deactivated 175 landmines, left behind from the 1962 India-China war, along the Line of Actual Control in three areas of Leh district. The demining operation was carried out at the request of the local communities. Leh deputy commissioner Santosh Sukhadale expressed gratitude on behalf of the villagers of Phobrang, Yerquo, and Lukung to the Fire and Fury Corps for the 'swift action' which not only mitigated latent dangers but also reinforced the robust civil-military relationship

Officials, teachers of a univ on dharna against students

Unusual Scenes At Kolkata's Jadavpur University

Dipawali.Mitra
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Jadavpur University on Thursday witnessed an unusual scene. Instead of students venting their grievances or raising campus issues, it was the acting vice-chancellor, registrar, other officials and several professors, who sat outside Aurobindo Bhavan to protest against the "unjustified demands of a section of hostel boarders" and their abusive and unruly behaviour when executive council meeting was underway on Wednesday.

The VC and administrative officials' demonstration was withdrawn around 7pm following requests from teachers, non-teaching staff and other officials, who promised to cooperate with them.

Among the agitating boarders were residents of A2 Block of Main Hostel, whose names have been recommended for punishment by the university's internal panel probing the death of a first-year student in August. The student's death and consequent focus on ragging on the campus and at hostels had prompted JU authorities

CAMPUS PROTEST

to exclude hostel representatives from hostel interview panel as many had pointed at irregularities in berth allotment and questioned the participation of senior students in the process. But boarders opposed this exclusion, calling it "undemocratic". They demanded that representatives from 15 hostel blocks be includ-

UJVNL LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharan Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No.U440101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No.1001 Tender Notice Date: 12/10/2023

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP), UJVNL Ltd., Gupkashi, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 06/EE(E&M-SHP)/KG-I/2023-24: Leakage arresting work of MIV of UNIT-II & Supply of misc. items at Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2 MW+15% COL) located in Tehsil Ukhimath, District-Rudraprayag.

Estimated cost: ₹ 659300/- GST extra.

Date of availability of bid document on website: 13.10.2023, 17:00 hrs.

Last date for submission of tender : 08.11.2023 up to 11:00 hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Niigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



TATA POWER

(Corporate Contract Department)

Sahar Receiving Station, Near Hotel Leela, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059, Maharashtra, India

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Tata Power Company Limited invites Expression of Interest from Interested parties for Sale of Trombay Unit #6 500 MW

Site Inspection: Available for eligible bidders

Interested bidder can download the Brochure from URL: <https://www.tatapower.com/tender/tenderlist.aspx/> or are requested to contact:

83369 39918, 8336 25959 | shyama.dikshit@mjunction.in



BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TDN/06/2023-24

Dated: 09-10-2023

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under JMM Head of grants for the year 2022-23 under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained & Submitted on or before 18-10-2023 upto 4.00 PM. For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

e-Tendering for Tableaux for Republic Day Parade-2024

e-Tender/ Rates: Designs are invited for preparing Tableaux for the State of Gujarat to be presented on the occasion of Republic Day Parade on 26th January, 2024 at New Delhi. Decision of the Director of Information, Gandhinagar will be final for the Tableaux Designs.

Pre-Bid meeting for Tableaux: On Date 19/10/2023, 15.30 hours at below mentioned address.

e-Tender Download & Upload from (n)-procure web-site <http://tender.procure.com/> & <http://statetenders.gujarat.gov.in>

Last Date, Time, and place to Submit physical tender with all documents only in person (By Courier or by Post not accepted) Date - 12/10/2023 to 04/11/2023 on all working days. Time 11.00 to 17.00 hours, at Address - Registry Branch, Office of Director of Information, Block No. 19/G.F., Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar - 382010

Tender Fee Non-refundable (in form of D.D./ Pay Order : Any One) Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen thousand only)

Tender E.M.D. (in form of D.D./ Pay Order B.G. Any One) Rs.3,45,000/- (Rupees Three lakh Forty five thousand only)

Contact for more details regarding above tender. Address- Deputy Director of Information, (Film Production Branch), Office of the Director of Information, Block No.19/G.F., Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar- 382010

Contact No. 079-23254159 Email-deputydirectorfilm@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

INF/1570/23-24

FORM G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ROLTA INDIA LIMITED

OPERATING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

- Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/ CIN/ LLP No. CIN: L74999MH1989PLC052384
- Address of the registered office Rolta Tower-A, Tech Park, 22nd Street MIDC-Marol, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra, India
- URL of website <http://www.rolta.com/>
- Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Installed capacity of main products/ services IT & IT Enabled Services
- Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year Revenue from operations: INR 7.53 Crores in Financial Year 2021-2022; INR 28.81 Crores in Financial Year 2020-2021
- Number of employees/ workers Active Employees: 15
- Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL : <http://www.rolta.com/investors/annual-reports/>
- Eligibility for resolution applicants For process related documents: <http://www.rolta.com/cip-process/> (Document Title: Detailed Invitation for Expression of Interest)
- Last date for receipt of expression of interest 28.10.2023, Saturday
- Date of issue of provisional list of claimants 31.10.2023, Tuesday
- Last date for submission of objections to provisional list 05.11.2023, Sunday
- Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants 07.11.2023, Tuesday
- Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants 31.10.2023, Tuesday
- Last date for submission of resolution plans 30.11.2023, Thursday (The timelines given in all of the above is subject to Hon'ble NCLT allowing the application seeking extension of 60 days in the CIRP of the Corporate Debtor)
- Process email id to submit EDI roltaindia.cirp@gmail.com

Sd/-
Dr. CS Ady Mantri Binani (Resolution Professional (RIP))
Registration No.: IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00086/2017-18/10227
Registered Address: Second Floor, Nicco House, 2 Hare Street Kolkata 700001, West Bengal
For Rolta India Limited

Dr. CS Ady Mantri Binani (Resolution Professional (RIP))
Registration No.: IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00086/2017-18/

SC preps for scheduling Constitution bench hearings

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday prepared the ground for scheduling the hearing of 10 batches of petitions — 177 cases for nine-judge benches and 73 for seven-judge benches — by asking the parties to prepare compilations of submissions, documents, and case laws to be cited during proceedings to adjudicate important constitutional questions, which included State's competence to sub-distribute SC quota among more backward Dalit communities.

A seven-judge bench led by CJI D Y Chandrachud requested attorney general R Venkataraman's assistance in the sub-distribution of SC quota among most backward communities within the category. It was necessitated after the Punjab government approached the SC following the high court striking down its decision to allot 50% of the SC quota to Valmikis and Mazhab-Sikhs.

In the case involving the contentious issue — whether Aligarh Muslim University is a minority institution, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan informed the court about the flip flop of the union government, which earlier supported its minority status but in 2016 took a U-turn. The SC enlisted the AG's assistance in this matter too.

Another matter before a nine-judge bench involving determination of jurisdiction of states and Centre over framing of regulations related to industrial alcohol, the SC also issued notice to the AG as the constitutional question involved a clash of administrative powers of the Centre and the states. It also issued notices to all the states.

The AG was also requested by the court to assist in the matter relating to drawing up the contours of the powers of the speaker in a 2003 case filed by journalist N Ravi, who was ordered to be arrested by the Tamil Nadu speaker. TN additional advocate general Amit Anand Tiwari told the court that he would represent the speaker in the case. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal will argue on behalf of Ravi. TNN

Tej committed domestic violence: Court

A family court in Patna has held that Tej Pratap, elder son of RJD chief Lalit Prasad, committed domestic violence against wife Aishwarya Rai and issued a protection order for her, reports Dev Kumar Pandey. In a recent directive, the principal judge of Patna family court, while allowing a petition by Aishwarya for protection under the provisions of Domestic Violence Act, also directed Tej to provide "same level of alternative accommodation" to his wife within a month.

He must also bear expenses of electricity, water supply and other amenities which she uses to avail as a "shared household" in her matrimonial home 10, Circular Road, the residential bungalow allotted to Rabi Devi. The court recorded that Tej, through his actions of prohibiting his wife to have an access to his house, has prima facie committed domestic violence.

Centre for Aromatic Plants (CAP)
Industrial Estate, Selaqui-248011, Dehradun,
Telefax- 0135-2698305;
Email: cap.dun@gmail.com, Web: www.capuk.in

Advertisement No.: 06/LAB/2023-24 Dated 12.10.2023

Walk-In-Interview will be conducted for purely project based temporary post of 01-Project Scientist-I and 02-Project Associate-II in the project of Efficient Functioning of Laboratories. Interested candidates may appear for Walk-In-Interview on 04.11.2023 at 11:00 AM. For detailed information kindly visit the institute's website www.capuk.in.

Director

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune

Post Doctoral Positions

The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR) at Pune, India, invites applications for Post Doctoral Positions.

More details can be found at <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/opportunities/post-doctoral-fellowships>. The last date for receiving applications is November 30, 2023.

SHRI VISHWAKARMA SKILL UNIVERSITY
(State University enacted under the
Government of Haryana Act 25, 2016)

Advt. No. SVSU/2023/Estdt./FS-Teaching-Cont./012
The Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Duhola, Palwal invites application from the eligible candidates for the position of PGT/VT. The Application form and all supporting document to be sent on "The Assistant Registrar, Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, CSA Campus, Duhola, Palwal-121102". Last date for sending application is 20/10/2023.

Terms & conditions along with prescribed qualifications, eligibility criteria etc. are available on the University website www.svsr.ac.in and www.svskillschool.ac.in.

Issued through:DPR,Haryana/Advt.No. 21833/12/10/2023

Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Where service is a way of life

NOTICE

Bank is upgrading its Core Banking Systems. Digital Banking Services including ATM will be impacted during the period 13.10.2023 (22.00 Hrs) to 16.10.2023 (06.00 Hrs). Please plan your banking needs accordingly.

Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Past govts feared enemy, ignored border areas: PM

We Built 4,200km Of Border Roads, 250 Bridges, 22 Tunnels In 9 Yrs'

Kautilya.Singh
@timesgroup.com



Dehradun: PM Narendra Modi while addressing a public gathering on Thursday of nearly 60,000 people in the Himalayan town of Pithoragarh, which has borders with China and Nepal, said that "unlike previous governments, development of border areas was on his priority list." "In the past nine years, we've constructed 4,200-km roads along the borders, made 250 new bridges and 22 tunnels; soon trains will be reaching the border areas," he said.

The PM added: "You must be wondering what wrong you have done that villages are getting deserted. You have not done wrong but are suffering due to the wrong policies and decisions of previous governments. They had a strange logic that if they develop border areas, our enemies may penetrate inside the country using these routes. Governments earlier called such areas the last village,

we call them the first village. With the change in vision, we are confident of reverse migration. New India neither fears anything, nor does it induce fear in others."

Interestingly, Modi dropped his usual "bhayon aur behno" (brothers and sisters) phrase to use "parijan" (family members) while addressing the gathering.

Referring to the recent G-20 summit in Delhi, the PM said, "Even in the tough and challenging times across the globe, the voice of Bharat is getting appreciated on the

global stage. There was a time when there was a feeling of depression in the entire country and we visited temples and prayed that the country would soon come out of the situation. People wanted freedom from scams worth crores and voted us to power with full majority. Now, the world is appreciating us," he said.

The PM claimed that "over 13.5 crore Indians have come out of poverty in the last five years." "This includes people who live in hilly and remote regions. The government's all-inclusive approach helped people living in far-flung areas. The world is amazed. These 13.5 crore people are an example that India can uproot the nation's poverty on its own," he said. He further said, "Large-scale investment is being done in education, mobile towers, electricity poles, health system and water supply in these pockets."

The PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects in Uttarakhand worth about Rs 4,200 crore.

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He added that "the country is heading towards new heights of development". "Poori duniya mein Bharat ka danka baj raha hai (India is being appreciated on the

international stage). There was a time when there was a feeling of depression in the entire country and we visited temples and prayed that the country would soon come out of the situation. People wanted freedom from scams worth crores and voted us to power with full majority. Now, the world is appreciating us," he said.

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G20
2023 INDIA75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

PHASE 4.0 LAUNCHES

ON 14 OCTOBER 2023

Strong Women Strong Nation

**UTTAR PRADESH'S MISSION SHAKTI IS ENABLING
STRONG WOMEN FOR A PROGRESSIVE BHARAT**

Her passion is her armour. Her spirit is her ornament. Her mind is her trident. Her strength is her crowning glory. This Navratri, UP government, through Mission Shakti 4.0, salutes her courage, empowers her voice, and celebrates the miracle of womanhood.



“ Mission Shakti campaign conducted for the safety, respect and self-reliance of women and girls has had a positive impact on society.”

Yogi Adityanath,
Chief Minister

“ God has chosen me for the noble task of giving rights to women. Nari Shakti Adhiniyam is going to give new energy to the women power of our country, which, in itself, will be a guarantee for our bright future.”

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**
on Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam



VOICE OF CHANGE

- Launched in 2020, 'Mission Shakti' has become the voice of change in Uttar Pradesh for women empowerment and women-centric issues like self-reliance, security, nutrition, employment and overall welfare
- Mission Shakti 4.0 begins on October 14 with a vehicle rally to raise awareness about government schemes for women
- The campaign aims to empower women and girls and make them self-reliant

FEARLESS & FREE

- Women PAC battalion established at Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Badaun
- 1,323 convicts sentenced to life imprisonment and 4,611 convicts sentenced to jail term for crimes against women

- Ranks first in the country for crimes against women and under POCSO Act
- Establishment of women help desks at 1,535 police stations, 10,417 women police beats formed
- Rani Laxmi Bai Bal Evum Mahila Samman Kosh established to support female victims of violent crimes and 7,105 women/young girls compensated
- Under the Lucknow Safe City Project, 100 Pink Booths/Pink Outposts and 1090 Analytic Centre operational at Lucknow
- One Stop Centre established in all districts of the state for female victims of violence. Assistance provided to more than 1.49 lakh women
- 99.55% complaints received through Women Helpline 1090 resolved
- 5.62 lakh women/girls helped through Women Helpline 181



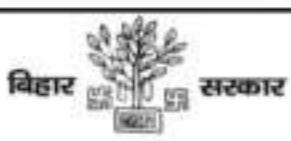
- 218 fast track courts, 81 magistrate level courts and 81 higher session courts established for timely justice to women

SELF-RELIANT

- Free education for girls till graduation
- So far, the state has given government jobs to 1.50 lakh women
- More than 1 crore women connected through 10 lakh Self Help Groups
- 20,740 women beat police officers recruited in Police Department
- 2.35 lakh members of Self Help Groups given loans worth Rs 2,353 crore for becoming self-reliant
- 58,000 women appointed as Banking Correspondent Sakhi
- More than 2 lakh women beneficiaries under the PM SVANidhi Yojana
- Property rights in revenue court for grand-daughters (daughter of son), niece (daughter of real brother and sister)
- 1.90 crore girls made aware through 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' mission
- Under the Pension Scheme for Destitute Women, widows are provided with Rs 1000 as pension, per month. 31.50 lakh destitute women receiving pension
- 4,500 Pink toilets constructed in urban areas

HAPPY AND EMPOWERED

- 1.75 crore families benefitted under PM Ujjwala Yojana
- 55.20 lakh houses constructed under the PM Awas Yojana in UP. Many of these houses allotted to women
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Swamitva Yojana (Gharuna), 60 lakh beneficiaries/women provided with ownership certificates
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, 54.44 lakh mother and child receiving financial help of Rs 6,000
- More than 16.24 lakh girls benefitted from Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. Grant amount being increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000
- 2.61 crore toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission, benefitting 10 crore people
- Under the National Nutrition Mission, with the help of statewide Aanganwadis, 1.77 crore beneficiaries have been provided with fortified wheat, dal, chana, dal and fortified cooking oil
- Assistance of Rs 5 lakh to eligible families under Ayushman Scheme and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana. So far, more than 9 crore people have benefitted in UP, mostly women
- Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana, till date more than 3.10 lakh couples married



Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited,

3rd floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura,
Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna 800014,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, +91612 2283288
Mo. No.: 8544402312, 9971559020

(Notice Inviting E-Bids)

Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.

Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2023-24/ME-326

(Only through E-Tender on website:-<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Sl. No.	Equipment Name
1	X-Ray machine Dental	2	LED light cure unit
3	Horizontal Autoclave with UV light		

Tender Schedule

Re-Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2023-24/ME-326
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	17 th Oct 2023 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna (Bihar)
Last date and time of submission of online bids	08 th November 2023 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.	09 th November 2023 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	09 th November 2023 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Tender Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk – mjunction services limited RJ complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajpura, Ashiana road, P.S –Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No. -18005726571, Email-ID: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in can be approached.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL, Patna

PR. No. 010145 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।



Government of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) for

Satellite and AI-based real-time mapping and monitoring of selected wetlands (Dal-Nigeen Lake & Manasbal Lake) of Jammu and Kashmir

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tender is invited to seek services of private companies / registered academic institutions in accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Satellite and AI-based real-time mapping and monitoring of selected wetlands (Dal-Nigeen Lake & Manasbal Lake) referred as wetlands hereinafter of Srinagar and Baderwah districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Govt of J&K.

The RFP document containing full details of the assignment and technical requirements, along with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the official website of the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Government (<http://www.jkdears.com>) or the e-tendering portal at <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. The tenders shall be submitted online on J&K e-Procurement portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> up to the closing date and time as indicated in the tender document.

The following is the abstract of the RFP document:

S. No.	Particular	Detail
1	Title of the work	Satellite, AI and Sensor based based real-time monitoring of selected wetlands (Dal-Nigeen Lake & Manasbal Lake) of Jammu and Kashmir
2	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) as per RFP document	Rs. 1,00,000/- (One lac only) in the form of a Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) pledged to Accounts Officer, Dept. of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing payable at Jammu
3	Estimated Cost of supply of equipment, its installation, operationalization and online / onsite maintenance for 3 years	Rs. 26.00 lacs
4	Total approximate area of the Dal-Nigeen Lake and Manasbal Lakes as per Brief Documents	2782 Ha
5	Publishing Date	10.10.2023 at 1700 Hrs
6	Document Download start date	10.10.2023 from 1730 Hrs.
7	Last date to receive requests for clarification of tender (The tenderer may email such requests at mail id: dkjktenders@gmail.com)	14.10.2023 up to 1300 Hrs.
8	Pre-bid consultation	18.10.2023 at 1400 Hrs.
9	Bid submission end date	30.10.2023 at 1800 Hrs.
10	Deadline for Earnest Money Hardcopy	31.10.2023 up to 1600 Hrs.
11	Bid opening and evaluation date	02.11.2023 at 1100 Hrs.
12	Declaration of successful bidder	To be notified latter
13	Eligibility of tenderer	Refer to the para in the document.
14	Tender language	English
15	Tender cost	Nil
16	Project Period	Operationalization of the entire system on or before 15 th March, 2024.
17	Tender validity	120 days
18	Position of funds	Sanctioned and released
		a) If financial details are provided in a technical bid. b) If the tenderer quotes a financial bid of more than 20% over and above the estimated cost of the project c) If the tenderer does not fulfil the eligibility criteria underlined in the RFP d) If the tenderer fails to submit copy of PAN card/ GST registration certificate as applicable. e) If bid submitted is without copy of ITR for last three years. f) Conditional bids are liable to be rejected. g) If the information provided by the bidder is found to be incorrect/misleading at any stage/ time during the tendering process. h) Any effort on the part of the bidder to influence the bid evaluation. i) Bids received by the DEERS after the last date and time prescribed for receipt j) Bids without signature of the authorized person k) Incomplete bids
20	Currency	INR
21	Type of Bid/ Offer	Lump sum offer including all taxes and services
22	Maintenance support	One year online for Dashboard and 3 year onsite support for equipment from the date of successful operationalization of the application.
23	Manuals	User, training and technical manuals to be delivered with the Application in hard and soft form along with the complete source code.
24	Performance Security/ Security Deposit	Successful bidder to execute a surety bond for 10% of the total contract value at the time of acceptance of the work order with validity of 60 days after expiry of all contractual liabilities.
25	Contact Person of the Tender Inviting Authority	Humayun Rashid, Scientist (H), Dept. of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Govt., SDA Colony, Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any bid or the tendering process at any point of time without assigning any reasons thereof.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 13.10.2023

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of 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/23-24/1	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 2CX25 SC MM-LSZH	11.10 Crore	11.10 Lakhs	02.11.2023 15:00 HRS	02.11.2023 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/23-24/2	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4C CABLES-LSZH	5.28 Crore	5.28 Lakhs	02.11.2023 15:00 HRS	02.11.2023 15:30 HRS
RB/PR/FH/1162					
RB/PR/FH/1163					

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 e-mail on BPL.Eaution@relianceead.a.com

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

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate identification No: U40109DL2001PLC111627 Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bsseedelhi.com

NAME OF SR. BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH/	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1 HAFED	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE PRIVATE BIDDER/ FIRMS FOR PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF REFINED SUNFLOWER OIL PACKING AND ALL OTHER OPERATIONS ETC. AGAINST USE OF SUNFLOWER SEED FOR ONE YEAR. THE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON HTTPS://ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN AND WWW.HAFED.GOV.IN	11.10.2023 26.10.2023	5 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	0172958912 hafed@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 21485

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

BJP in T'gana fray to stop Cong from bagging all anti-incumbency votes

Mohua.Chatterjee
@timesgroup.com



New Delhi: What typically seems a bipolar contest between the ruling BRS, led by CM K Chandrashekhar Rao, and its main contender Congress, the Telangana assembly polls might just get spiced up with BJP deciding to enter the fray with gusto after a lull in the saffron party's enthusiasm following its defeat in Karnataka last May.

The saffron outfit is working on fielding candidates for most of the 119 assembly seats in the state, where it still has a slight presence, to make it a three-

way contest on November 30.

BJP's entry would help split the anti-incumbency votes against BRS, contesting to return to office for a third consecutive term, and dent the chances of Congress, which would have relished a direct fight.

In fact, with limited boots on the ground, BJP may find it difficult to get candidates in many seats. Hence the plan, according to insiders, is also to support strong "Independents" in constituencies where it doesn't have its own.

With Congress picking up most of the seats even as its prospects are low in majority of them. The idea is to play the spoiler to ensure Congress does not garner the entire chunk of anti-incumbency votes against BRS, party strategists said.

With minority votes deciding the outcome of many seats in Telangana, BJP is also trying to ensure that Muslim voters do not shift to Congress from BRS, following a perception of proximity of KCR's party with BJP.

To wipe off this perception, PM Modi announced BJP's distance from BRS by hitting out at KCR last week.



BJP has distanced itself from KCR to ensure Muslim votes do not shift from BRS to Congress

e-Tender Notice No.07 /2023-2024 (3rd CALL)

Executive Engineer, Kolhapur Elect. Div. Kolhapur Tarabai Park, PWD Campus, Kolhapur. Invites Bids From Electrical Contractor in Whow Class Mentioned in B-1 (Percentage rate) Tender Format Bids Documents can be Downloaded From Website www.mahatenders.gov.in. Executive Engineer Reserve all Rights to Accept or reject Bids Conditional Bids will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Apt. Amount
1	Estimate No: 122077 of 2022-23 Providing E.I., Sound System, Holography, Air conditioning Works & 25 kwp Solar PV System Works at LT Padmabhushan Krantiveer Naganthanna Naikwadi Smarak at Walwa, Tal. Walwa, Dist. Sangli	2,20,76,779/-

TIME TABLE

Publish Bid Date	Dt. 13.10.2023 @10.00 AM
Tender Submission Period	Dt. 13.10.2023 @10.00 AM TO 23.10.2023 @18.00 PM
Pre-bid Meeting place & date, time	Dt. 18.10.2023 @ 12.30 PM
Tender Opening	Dt. 23.10.2023 @ 12:30 PM at Superintending Engineer (Elect.), Pune Regional Electrical Circle, P.W.D. Pune Govt. Milk Scheme Compound, Date Bungalow Khadaki, Pune-411003 Email: - elepune se@mahapwd.gov.in, Phone No.: - 020-25816010
sd/- Executive Engineer, Kolhapur Electrical Division, P.W.D. Kolhapur	

DGIPR 2023-2024/4125



CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN YOGA AND NATUROPATHY

Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India
61-65, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110 058
Website: www.ccrny.gov.in
Ph: 011-285204329, 30, 31, 32, 28522002, Fax: 011-28520435

Notice for Walk-in-Interview

Walk-in-Interview is going to be held for filling up of the following positions purely on contractual basis on a fixed remuneration in the Central Research Institute in Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN), Jhajjar, Haryana and Nagamangala, Karnataka, under Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, an autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India:-

Sl. No.	Position Name	No. of Positions			Total
		CRIYN, Jhajjar (Haryana)	CRIYN, Nagamangala (Karnataka)	CCRYN HQ	
1.	Research Officer (Yoga & Naturopathy)	03	03	02*	08
2.	Research Officer (Neurophysiology)	01	01	-	02
3.	Research Officer (Life Sciences)	01	01	-	02
4.	Research Officer (Clinical Psychology)	01	01	-	02
5.	Medical Officer (Allopathy)	01	01	-	02
6.	Statistical Assistant	01	01	-	02
7.	Assistant/Assistant Section Officer	01	01	-	02
8.	Junior Hindi Translator	01	01	-	02
9.	Office Superintendent	01	01	-	02
10.	Accountant	01	01	01	03
Total		12	12	03	27

For essential eligibility criteria and other general terms and conditions, please visit website www.naturopathyday.in.

The eligible and interested persons may attend the Walk-in-Interview with duly filled application form as per the format available on the website www.naturopathyday.in. The details regarding the eligibility criteria and prescribed proforma of the application form can be downloaded from website: www.naturopathyday.in.

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the Council's website.

(Dr. Raghavendra Rao M.)
Director, CCRYN

PROFORMA-1 GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORK DIVISION, YAVATMAL

E-mail: yavatmal.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. 23 Year 2023-2024

Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department through Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Yavatmal, inviting online E-Tender in B-1 Form from Register Contractor in appropriate Class with Maharashtra Public Works Department. Download Tender Document from Government Website Website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Conditional Tender is not accepted.

E-Tender Work No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)
1	Development Works at Mahila samaj Pangri Tq & Dist. Yavatmal	148.00

Note:- Bidder has to refer online Schedule Published on e-tendering details of PWD of Government of Maharashtra <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

1 <http://mahatenders.gov.in> Maharashtra before down loading tender documents and to participate in e-tendering.

2 Post Qualification Criteria is applicable

3 Bid Capacity - Bidders shall upload QR based Bid Capacity Certificate downloaded on or before two days of submission form Portal <https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/> If this bid capacity Certificate is not uploaded then tender shall be treated as non-responsive.

4 Bidders shall fill the relevant information of key persons and Technical Staff available with him in the formats and fields specified on <https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/> Portal. Out of the total key persons and Technical staff available with bidder shall upload the staff he desires to deploy for this work. This statement shall be downloaded from portal <https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/> Bidder shall upload this QR based statement downloaded on or before two days of submission. If this certificate is not uploaded then tender shall be treated as non responsive.

5 For any other queries regarding online enrollment on the above mentioned website and digital certificate, please contact to 0120-4001 002, 0120-4200 462, 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 7887.

6 Other details can be seen in the bidding document. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there of

7 The Electronic tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on separate Sub Portal with URL <http://mahatenders.gov.in> as part of the Electronic Tendering System of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

No. 6012/T.C./Dt. 11/10/2023

Office of the Executive Engineer

Public Works Division, Yavatmal,

DGIPR/2023-2024/4141

Sd/-
(D.V.Mukade)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Yavatmal

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

Kharge claims GST on Ganga jal, CBIC says no

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday criticised the Modi government for imposing an 18% GST on 'Ganga Jal' and termed the move "the height of loot and hypocrisy", triggering a denial from CBIC, which said the Ganges water was exempt since it is used as 'puja samagri' (items used during worship).

With Congress picking up pace in the state, BJP is more concerned about the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as it would prefer a "compliant BRS" rather than main rival Congress to gain.

With minority votes deciding the outcome of many seats in Telangana, BJP is also trying to ensure that Muslim voters do not shift to Congress from BRS, following a perception of proximity of KCR's party with BJP.

To wipe off this perception, PM Modi announced BJP's distance from BRS by hitting out at KCR last week.

"Private heli-

Chopper charter rates double as Raj campaign picks up pace

clared. Once that is done, they will also look to book choppers for campaigning," Nathawat said.

According to officials of aviation companies, those who have booked choppers so far are mostly leaders likely to contest from a particular seat. The other category is of those who hold key posts in parties and have to crisscross the state at short notice.

Jaipur airport officials confirmed the chopper rush and pointed to a surge in chartered flights since September. The figure went up from 398 in July to 445 in August and 945 in September. Sources estimated the October tally at 1,500-2,000.

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S Ranjitha, S Ramya and Krishnaveni will be the first women in the country to be trained as priests under a government initiative, while 11 more have joined the next batch. For TN chief minister MK Stalin, it's a key move to position himself as a reformist leader

BREAKING THE SPIRITUAL CEILING

Mayilvaganan.V@timesgroup.com

September has been the most eventful for the DMK government this year, politically and ideologically. Celebrated as the Dravidian month by DMK, it saw the announcement that three women have completed the government's training programme for priesthood by professional archakas and would soon be appointed in temples, a first in history.

BJP welcomed it and there was no opposition from Hindu outfits, except from orthodox vedic scholars. The move has also thrown open a livelihood opportunity for women, while breaking the gender barrier. "This is a new era of inclusivity and equality," tweeted chief minister MK Stalin.

All three women say there was no opposition from their families, though some in their villages had questioned their choice. At the vedic school too, they received overwhelming support from the faculty and male classmates. "Without their support, we couldn't have completed the course," says S Ranjitha, a visual communication graduate from Tiruvarur.

Ranjitha worked in a mobile manufacturing unit in Chennai for six months and later at a Tirupur garment unit, before getting to know about the archaka training. Her family was into agriculture and struggling. "They were initially hesitant since it was a residential course," she says. S Ramya, a post-graduate in mathematics from Melanthan village near Tittakudi in Cuddalore district, saw the advertisement and asked her parents, who readily agreed. She had grown up watching her grandfather perform poojas in the village Mariamman temple; and was more than ready to take up priesthood.

Krishnaveni, also from Melathanur, was the daughter of the village temple priest, Sivaprakasham. She had no reluctance in joining the course, though she was a maths graduate. "I



NO MORE A MAN'S WORLD: S Remya, S Ranjitha and Krishnaveni (left); The current batch of students at the government-run archika training school at Srirangam (above)

am a spiritual person," she says.

Women priests are not new to Tamil Nadu. There are several temples in the rural hinterland with deities like Goddess Amman and Karupananswamy, where women perform the poojas. Binnyakkal of Usilampatti, for instance, has even endured a long legal fight to win her right to perform pooja in the temple where her late father was the priest. One of her relatives wanted to take over but Binnyakkal, in her 60s, fought until the Madras high court ruled in her favour. "There is no law or scheme that prohibits women from performing poojas

in temples," said Justice K Chandru in his order: Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore has women priests, as does the Adi Parasakti Temple in Melmaruvathur. Pune-based Jnana Prabodhini and Shankar Seva Samiti have been training women to conduct rituals and to officiate ceremonies for about a decade, all of whom work in various temples today.

However, all these are privately owned temples, while TN's is a government initiative. It aims at appointing women priests under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, governed by 'agamas,' a compilation of codes or scriptures on running a temple.

For ages, gender discrimination had kept the sanctum sanctorum out of bounds for women, though it is

mostly women who maintain the pooja rooms in households. One of the primary issues put forth against women priesthood is menstruation and its notions of 'impurity'. A dikshitar from Chidambaram, who does not wish to be named, says it's not about gender discrimination but division of labour. "How will they perform poojas when they are menstruating? In Chidambaram, even male dikshitar stay away from temple duties when women in their household are menstruating," he says.

But women's rights activists say such arguments do not hold good. "Menstruation is a biological process. The notion of impurity is nothing but a product of patriarchy," says N Kalaiarasi, a Shaivite scholar who runs a temple maintained entirely by women in Chennai.

"It has taken centuries for women to reach this stage. Citing agamas is just another effort to stop the women's progress," says All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) state

general secretary R Radhika.

What Stalin has done now is an offshoot of what his father M Karunanidhi began in 1971, in his first term as chief minister. The then fledgling DMK government amended the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act to abolish the hereditary appointment of priests, opening up opportunities for any individual, irrespective of caste, to become a priest. But the law was challenged in the court which ruled that non-hereditary appointments should conform to Hindu practices.

When Karunanidhi became chief minister in 2006, he brought another legislation to enable anyone with requisite training and qualification to become a priest. The government started archaka training schools and began training people from all communities for priesthood. About 200-odd people completed the training, but this was also challenged in court, where the case is still pending.

The school was closed in 2008 following a court stay on their appointment, and was reopened only in 2022, at Srirangam. The government has opened five more Vaishanavite schools in Chennai and four of the Shaivite tradition at Palani, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchendur and Madurai. Each admits 30 pupils every year, but only the Srirangam one has women. The syllabus for the one-year training has been designed taking into account the requirement for performing poojas at temples as well as other ceremonies. There is a paper in astrology too.

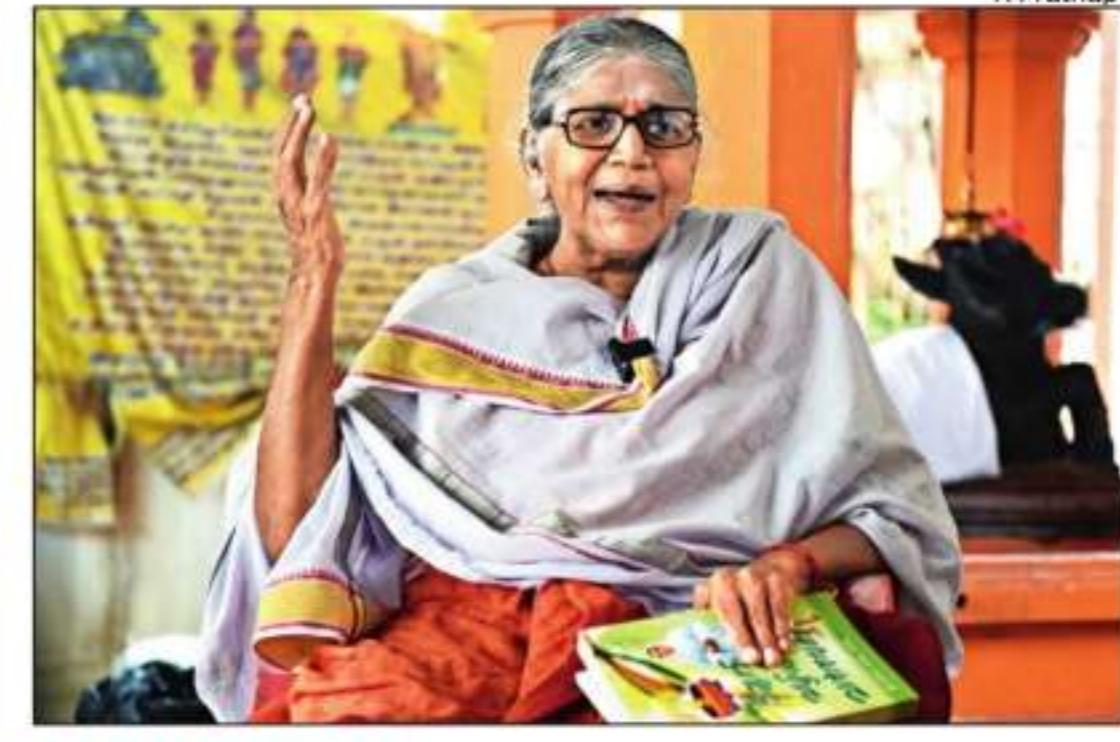
Ramya, Krishnaveni and Ranjitha were the only women in a class of 30. But this year, 11 women have joined the course. "We have not felt any difference between male and female students in their spiritual bent of mind or the abilities to perform the rituals," says P R Krishna, headmaster of the Archakar Payirchi Palli in Srirangam, adding that he hopes more women enrol in the school in the future.

For Stalin, training women priests is a key move to positioning himself as a reformist leader while sending across a message that his government is women friendly.

The three women will be given additional training in temples before they are appointed as priests, says HR and CE minister P K Sekar Babu.

Meanwhile, Ranjitha says, "I can't wait to enter the sanctum sanctorum. All that we need now is the support of the people."

The Shaivite priest who walked ahead of her time



GOD'S OWN PRIESTESS: N Kalaiarasi has been running an all-women Shiva temple by herself for the past eight years at Avadi

Yazhiniyan@timesgroup.com

cality started coming forward to do the poojas in the temple. G Lakshmi, 55, originally from Dharmapuri but settled in Avadi with her son, is one such. "Out of love for Lord Shiva and the faith I had in him, I closely watched Kalaiarasi amma performing the pooja and in her absence started doing them in the temple," she says. No official training has been imparted to them. Kalaiarasi would explain to them how to read the spiritual texts and the songs to be recited in the temples.

"I had wanted to run an all-women Shiva temple for years, but it materialised only in 2015," says Kalaiarasi. Initially, there was no proper structure for the temple and the Shiva linga was made of rice, which she calls 'suyambulingam' (that which originated on its own).

Only after Covid could a proper temple be constructed which was named 'Tamil Saiva Peruman Thirukovil'. The specialty of the temple is that women from the locality enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and perform poojas for Lord Shiva, unheard of in the state.

Kalaiarasi, who is now 79, is unable to frequent the temple due to her age and spends her days reading spiritual books at her home. She visits the temple only on occasions like Mahashivaratri. She also performs Tamil weddings in the temple by reciting songs from Thevaram and Thiruvavasagam, without any rituals.

Fault in track led to derailment: Initial probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Raghunathpur/Lucknow: An unspecified "fault in the track" caused 23 coaches of Guwahati-bound North East Express to derail in Bihar's Buxar district late Wednesday, leading to four deaths and injuries to 60-odd passengers, the preliminary probe reports. It holds the railway engineering department "responsible" for the fault.

It quotes loco pilot Vipin Kumar Sinha as saying the train had just gone past Ragh-

unathpur crossing at 128kmph when there was "immense vibration", accompanied by "a heavy jerk" and the engine's brake-pipe pressure dropping suddenly. "Before assistant loco-pilot Rajesh Kumar and I could understand anything, the train derailed," he said.

Rajesh Kumar was critically injured in the accident while Sinha was relatively unscathed. The duo had taken charge of the WAP-7 locomotive at the time of the accident.

The railways ministry has announced ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

tive engine at 8.27pm, just over an hour before the 9.51pm derailment. A breathalyser test confirmed neither was under the influence of intoxicants.

The report mentions the gatemen at the level crossing observed sparks and heard a heavy noise after around 10 coaches went past him.

The railways ministry has

announced ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

Man kills daughter over interfaith affair, held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old man was arrested on Thursday after he killed his 20-year-old daughter, who was in love with a youth from a different community, in Bidar village of Devanahalli taluk in Karnataka's Bengaluru Rural district.

Manjunath, who belonged to a scheduled caste, was arrested based on his wife Munira-

makka's complaint, and admitted to have murdered their daughter, Kavana, who was working with an e-commerce company. He had also married off his youngest daughter Preethi against her will, before she turned a major.

Police said Manjunath, who worked at a chicken stall, hit Kavana on the head thrice with a wooden stick used for making ragi balls, before slitting her throat early Thurs-

day. Muniramakka, who was asleep, woke up a few hours later and found Kavana lying in a pool of blood. Shocked by the sight, she fell unconscious.

Later, she lodged a police complaint against her husband.

Kavana, the second among four siblings, was in a relationship with a scheduled tribe youth, Manoj. Her family members told police she was engaged to one Mukunda, but refused to marry him. Her

parents then got Preethi married to Mukunda, although she was only 17 at that time.

Sources said Preethi was in love with a youth before being married. On Wednesday, she called up the child helpline and complained that her parents had forcibly married her off and were torturing her to live with Mukunda.

Manjunath, angered by these developments, blamed Kavana for the trouble.

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
L.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
POST GRADUATE DENTAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGDAC)-2023
for MDS in Govt./ Private Dental colleges of Bihar

Advt. No.- BCECEB(PGDAC)-2023/12 Dated : 12.10.2023 bceceboard.bihar.gov.in

Notice for Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling

Fresh Online Registration and submission of Application form are invited from such qualified, eligible & interested NEET(MDS)-2023 candidates for appearing in the Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling of Post Graduate Dental Admission Counselling (PGDAC)-2023, who are not admitted in any Dental Colleges of India, on the vacant seats of Government / Private Dental Colleges of Bihar.

2. Stray Vacancy Round Counselling will be conducted Online.

3. The candidates who fall under below mentioned conditions are not eligible to participate in Stray Vacancy Round Counselling of PGDAC-2023 based on NEET(MDS)-2023:

(a) Admitted on MDS seat through PGDAC-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 Counselling.

(b) Admitted through AIQ on the basis of NEET(MDS)-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 / Round-3 Counselling.

(c) Admitted through NEET(MDS)-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 / Round-3 / Stray Vacancy Round Counselling conducted by Other States.

(d) Allotted through AIQ on the basis of NEET(MDS)-2023 Stray Vacancy Round Counselling.

If any candidate duly submits fresh Online Application form by providing wrong information, their Security Deposit amount paid for participating in Stray Vacancy Round Counselling will be forfeited and will become not eligible for Stray Vacancy Round Counselling as Data will be scrutinized before preparation / publication of Merit List.

4. The online Registration and submission of Application Form will start from 13.10.2023 and close on 15.10.2023 (10.00 P.M.).

5. Eligibility criteria for counselling, Fee payment procedure, instructions and other details are available in the prospectus of PGDAC-2023 and the related detailed Advertisement No. BCECEB(PGDAC)-2023/11 Dated 12.10.2023 which can be downloaded from the Board's website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in.

Controller of Examination

CAD-2418

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice File No.: IDCO/HO-P&C-O-3967/04/2023/V-1 32365 Dated: 10.10.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work: STC of LED Street lights in Embankment road from Sandhakuda Basti (0/000Km to 0/650Km) and (2/100Km to 4/500Km) at Paradeep.

Estimated Cost put to tender: Rs. 3,33,46,660.00

Period of completion: 03(Three) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for Bidding
1	2	From 17:00 hours of dt.18.10.2023 To 17:00 hours of dt.07.11.2023
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Identification No:- P&C/EST/E-132/2023-24	

Further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal www.Tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.

Chief General Manager (P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
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संख्या: 1949/XXV-25/2023 देहरादून दिनांक 12 अक्टूबर, 2023

-ई-निविदा सूचना:-

उत्तराखण्ड अधिकारिता-2017 (समय-समय पर यथासंशोधित) में निहित प्राविधिकों के अनुसरण में GST पंजीकृत अनुभवी प्रतिष्ठित कार्यालयों से द्वि-निविदा प्राप्तालय के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

S. No.	Particulars	e-Tender for printing of various booklets, compendiums, manuals and leaflets etc. for the upcoming general elections to the Lok Sabha.	e-Tender for supply of stationery material, computer stationery, consumables etc. for daily operations of the office of Chief Electoral Officer, Uttarakhand	e-Tender for laser printing and supply of Electoral Roll, BLO Register, Alphabetical Roll, Voter Information Slip of all 70 Legislative Assembly constituencies of Uttarakhand state.
01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 1000.00 inclusive of all Taxes	Rs. 500.00 inclusive of all Taxes	Rs. 1000.00 inclusive of all Taxes
02.	Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security	Rs. 85,000.00	Rs. 45,000.00	Rs. 3,00,000.00
03.	Date of Publication on www.uktenders.gov.in and newspaper	13 th October, 2023 from 1100 Hrs.	13 th October, 2023 from 1100 Hrs.	13 th October, 2023 from 1100 Hrs.
04.	Date and time for Pre-Bid meeting	19 th October, 2023 from 1100 Hrs.	20 th October, 2023 from 1100 Hrs.	20 th October, 2023 from 1530 Hrs.
05.	Bid Submission Start date in www.uktenders.gov.in	25 th October, 2023 from 1300 Hrs.	25 th October, 2023 from 1300 Hrs.	25<sup

Manipur bars circulation of videos & photos of violence

Order Follows Viral Video Of Tribal Man Ablaze In Trench On May 4

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Videos or any online material purportedly depicting the horrors of the ethnic violence in Manipur — from a mob parading two women naked to a man set on fire and left to die — will be traced to the source and the strictest action taken against the offenders, the NBiren Singh government said on Thursday after even a mobile internet ban failed to stem the tide.

The order comes within days of a purported video of a tribal man ablaze in a trench on May 4 going viral despite a mobile internet ban, re-opening wounds in a state that has barely had a respite from violence over the past five months.

Another video surfaced on Wednesday, showing two young men being shot at point-blank range and then being buried in a pit by a group of people at an unknown location.

The government advised



A joint team of Assam Rifles, BSF and Manipur police recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including a 9mm carbine, a tear gas gun, and an improvised mortar in Churachandpur on Thursday.

people receiving any such provocative and hurtful videos and images, including those showing the destruction of properties, to immediately report these to the "nearest superintendent of police," irrespective of jurisdiction.

The state government views very seriously, and with utmost sensitivity the reported spread of videos and pic-

tures/images depicting violent activities like causing/infllicting harm/injury to body and/or damage, to public/private property etc. through various social media platforms," the order states.

"Those found violating the order and misusing technology to incite violence and hatred will be booked and prosecuted under the law

without any exception."

The first of the incendiary videos appeared online in July, purportedly showing dozens of men parading and assaulting two unclothed women, one of whom was allegedly gang-raped after her brother and father were killed. The shock and outrage that followed — 75 days after the crime — plunged Manipur into a fresh spiral of unrest.

Although there hasn't been any flare-up in the past few weeks, the law-and-order situation remains fluid. On Wednesday, a suspected hand grenade was found in front of the gate to the residence of a member of an organisation called Youth of Manipur.

Gunfights between unidentified groups and security personnel were reported in Sangal village and Sabung-hok Khunou under Yain-gangpokpi police station of Imphal East district.

(With inputs from N Benson Singh in Imphal)

Pilibhit hospital gets 5 women docs after rape survivors' ordeal

Filmfare Roundtable: Guj CM flags state's potential

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pilibhit: The Uttar Pradesh medical administration has taken action following a TOI report on September 30 on how rape survivors were staying away from medical tests due to absence of female doctors at Pilibhit district women's hospital, reports Keshav Agarwal.

Since June 1 this year, at least 70 of 79 rape survivors who visited the hospital refused to be medically examined by male gynaecologists.

TIMES IMPACT

Now, apart from posting of three new female doctors, including a general surgeon, by the state medical administration, Pilibhit chief medical officer Alok Kumar attached two female doctors from the district's community health centres in Bisalpur and Barkhera. Kumar said, "Newly posted female medical officers are Dr Ruchika Agarwal, Dr Vaishali, Dr Amit Gautam, Dr Ujma Khan and Dr Manisha Chaurasia." Nodal principal of the under-construction Autonomous State Medical College, Dr Sanjeev Saxena, added, "Dr Ruchika Agarwal is expected to join the hospital within 2-3 days."

After protests, U'khand rolls back 'mini-bar at home' move

Dehradun: Following widespread criticism and protests, especially by women's groups, the Uttarakhand government decided to roll back the clause in the new excise policy which allows licence holders to keep mini-bars at home. The order was issued by excise commissioner Harish Chandra Sengar on Wednesday evening and addressed to district excise officers. It stated, "The rule number 13/11 of the Uttarakhand Excise Policy 2023 (personal home bar) has been deferred until further orders."

As per the recently released new provision, anyone filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the past five years could apply for the licence at the district magistrate office at an annual fee of Rs 12,000. TNN

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

SC TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST ELECTORAL BOND





TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

UNITED WE STAND,
DIVIDED WE FALL
—AESOP

CHER DENIES CLAIM SHE HIRED MEN TO KIDNAP SON, BUT SAYS WATCHING HIS STRUGGLES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PAINFUL

TAYLOR SWIFT CALLS BEYONCE 'GUIDING LIGHT' AFTER HER SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT 'ERAS TOUR' MOVIE PREMIERE

Israel Preps For Gaza Ground Assault

Military Official Says Awaiting Orders; Tanks And Many Of 360k Reservists Moving Toward Border

As Israel's extensive bombing of Gaza continues, the Israeli military is preparing to launch a multipronged invasion of the territory, if one is approved by the political leadership of the country's newly formed unity government.

A spokesman for Israel Defence Forces (IDF), Lt Col Richard Hecht, said Thursday that the government had made no decision yet about whether to launch a ground war, but said the military is planning for one. Israel has called up 3,60,000 reservists, many of whom are moving toward the border with Gaza, from which Hamas, the group that controls Gaza, launched its deadly incursion. Military tanks too are being amassed on the border.

A ground offensive in Gaza, where the population is densely packed into a sliver of land only 40km long, would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides in brutal house-to-house fighting. Palestinians fleeing Israeli airstrikes could be seen running through the streets, carrying their belongings and looking for a safe place. Tens of thousands have crowded into UN-run schools. Lives formed outside bakeries and grocery stores during the few hours they dared open, as people tried to stock on food before shelves are emptied. Gaza's only power station has run out of fuel and



A ground offensive in Gaza, where the population is densely packed into a sliver of land, would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides in brutal house-to-house fighting.

power stores during the few hours they dared open, as people tried to stock on food before shelves are emptied. Gaza's only power station has run out of fuel and

Blinken lands in Israel, assures Bibi of support: 'US not going anywhere'

Tel Aviv: US secretary of state Antony Blinken on Thursday reassured Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu of Washington's support, during a trip to West Asia that aims to prevent the conflict with Palestinian Hamas militants from spreading. Blinken has embarked on a multi-country tour as Israel unleashes the most powerful bombing campaign in the 75-



WE HAVE YOUR BACK

year history of its conflict with the Palestinians, vowing to annihilate Hamas — which rules the Gaza Strip — in retribution for the militants' attacks.

Washington's top diplomat will also try to help secure the release of hostages kidnapped by Hamas, some thought to be Americans, and advance talks with Israelis and Egyptians on providing a safe passage for Gaza civilians out of the enclave before a possible Israeli g

round invasion. Blinken's trip also aims to send a deterrence message to Iran, which backs Hamas, to not get involved. An hour after landing in Tel Aviv, Blinken shook hands with Netanyahu and told the PM: "We're here, we're not going anywhere," footage from Netanyahu's office showed. Later speaking at a press briefing, Blinken said the Israeli government showed him photos and videos of Hamas atrocities, including of a baby riddled with bullets, soldiers beheaded and young people burned alive in their cars or hideaways. "It's simply depravity in the worst imaginable way. It almost defies comprehension," he said.

Blinken said Hamas had no regard for the rule of law or "any basic standard of human decency" and instead target civilians "in the most inhumane ways possible". The atrocities depicted in the images he had seen "harkens back to ISIS," Blinken said. After Israel, Blinken will head to Jordan to meet with King Abdullah and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. He is likely to continue onto other Arab countries, US officials say, without specifying which. REUTERS

In Gaza, a desperate search for loved ones under rubble



An injured child at a hospital in Gaza City following Israeli airstrikes

Rescuers lifted a cement block and pulled the lifeless body of a Palestinian from the rubble of a residential building destroyed by Israeli air strikes on the besieged Gaza Strip. "Why? We did nothing," cried a weeping young man as his relative was wrapped in a shroud and carried away on a stretcher as fighting triggered by Hamas's deadly attack on Israel raged for a sixth day.

The Hamas-ruled enclave has been under heavy bombardment since Saturday when the group's fighters crossed into Israel and killed more than 1,200 civilians, soldiers and foreigners. Retaliatory Israeli shelling and air strikes on Gaza have killed more than 1,300 people, most of them civilians, ac-

cording to Palestinian officials.

On the opposite side of Shati, Gaza's largest refugee camp, another cry let out: "Come! He's still alive." Rescuers rushed to remove the debris around a har-

ding rising from the rubble, even-

tually managing to free the trapped man. The Gaza Strip, which has endured multiple brutal wars with Israel, is under "total siege" after Israel cut off access to water, electricity and fuel. Day and night, there

has been no let up in the thundering of explosions and buzzing of drones in the densely populated enclave, which is home to 2.4 million people — half of them children. Militants in Gaza have kept up their rocket attacks into Israel, which has massed troops along the border in what appears to be a preparation for a ground invasion.

AFP journalists witnessed Israeli warplanes carrying out dozens of strikes on Shati within the span of half an hour on Thursday morning. A four-year-old child cried as his father scrambled to pull him from under the rubble. "Daddy, where is my mom and my siblings?" the boy screamed, covered in dust and bleeding from multiple wounds on his tiny body. AFP

AP

**A thought for today**

No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother

MARGARET SANGER

Pro-Choice, Pro-Women

A split SC verdict reflects a wider judicial-medical confusion about abortion rights. This must change

In its split verdict on the petition for termination of a 26-week pregnancy, a Supreme Court bench has voiced two opposite ideas of rights in such matters. Justice BV Nagarathna granted permission because "the interest of the petitioner must be given more preference". Justice Hima Kohli refused permission out of concern for the "viable fetus". CJI DY Chandrachud, heading a different bench, also pointed to the rights of the unborn child. These two profoundly different perspectives mirror a confusion that extends to the lower courts. Separately, it is also widespread across the medical fraternity, on whom women are even more dependent for abortion than courts.

Is this confusion at all justified by the history of the abortion law in India? No. From abortion being legalised by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 to gestational limits for pregnancies that may be aborted being raised by the MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021, the whole chain of reforms has been girded by an understanding of women's rights and bodily autonomy.

Despite its many progressive changes, activists have identified several ways in which the law still needs improving. For example, the narrowly sketched categories for abortion in the 20-24 weeks range need widening. And the requirement of medical boards to decide on cases beyond 24 weeks is dark humour for large parts of the country, where even one doctor is hard to find. But even today, it should be crystal clear to both medical and judicial practitioners that "her" decision must be respected. The only competing consideration is "her" health. In the current case GOI intervening to say that the medical board found the fetus had a viable chance of being born, is what really undermined the petitioner, and split Justices Nagarathna and Kohli. Previously they had jointly ruled for "the right of a woman over her body".

This petition was filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, whereby every citizen of India can ask the apex court to protect her fundamental rights. It is impossible to estimate how many other women face the same impasse as the petitioner, but without the resources to come to court. At least when women can do so, courts should rule swiftly, plainly, evenly. A larger SC bench should speak up for women's rights clearly, and strongly restrain attempts, however apparently well-intentioned, to restrict these.

Administrators

All services need more officers, not just IFS.
So do local govts. And recruit more specialists

With economic heft comes greater global engagement – hence the increase in the cadre strength of the Indian Foreign Service. A parliamentary panel's recommendation in the run-up to this decision observed that IFS is short-staffed compared to foreign services of many other countries. The long-awaited enhancement in IFS cadre strength should trigger another look at the nature of Indian bureaucracy, a term that encompasses all public employment. The first point to note is that the popular view of a bloated government is incorrect.

Political scientist Devesh Kapur's research shows India's bureaucratic strength peaked in 1986 with 19,000 officials per million. That figure has trended downwards since and in the 1990s, government employment was about 2% of the population, below the Asian average of 2.6%. The bureaucracy, in a cross-country comparison, is not big enough. Kapur observed the bureaucracy delivers on episodic events like conducting elections, which have a clear exit date. But when it comes to daily events such as provision of civic amenities, the result is deeply unsatisfactory. The division of bureaucracy between three levels of government, Centre, states and local, is a likely reason.

In India, local governments distantly trail states and GOI in bureaucratic strength. It's the opposite in China and the US, where local governments are where most bureaucrats are placed. That clearly hasn't impaired American or Chinese state capacity. Separately, governments here also need to revisit the bureaucracy's recruitment process. Are most recruits fit for the job demands in a highly complex world? Is there enough specialisation? Modern states have evolved from directly running factories to regulating economic activity. Be it IFS that grapples with FTAs or other services that must contend with complex policy conundrums, bureaucracy needs more recruitment and more domain expertise.

Source for the ghoos

The more things are banned, the more they remain the same, thanks to chai-pani

Jug Suraiya



The powers that be in Gurgaon where I live have decided that all diesel-operated generator sets have been banned as of October 1 this year as they are a major source of pollution.

Curbing pollution is an admirable objective. But the embargo on gensets begs a basic question: why are there so many of them in the first place? And the reason is that despite repeated assurances that Gurgaon will be a zero-outage zone, power cuts remain as much a part of daily life as potholed roads, piles of garbage, and endless traffic jams.

As the powers-that-be – or, in this case, the powerless-that-be – are unable to supply the electricity needed for the multitude of multi-storeyed apartment blocks, malls, offices, hotels, factories, hospitals, schools, and what-haven't you that have sprung up in Gurgaon like a rampant unplanned forest of concrete, back-up gensets have become almost as basic an essential as the act of breathing, pollution be damned.

So how are all these apartments, and malls, and offices, and factories, and hospitals, and schools, and what-haven't yous, going to operate in the interim between disposing of their banned diesel gensets and acquiring non-polluting permitted gensets, which is going to take several months, not to mention the enormous capital expense involved in buying and installing new back-up systems?

And the answer lies in chai-pani, which has got nothing to do with either tea or water. According to the laws of law-making every ban has an equal and opposite recompense known, among other things, as chai-pani.

This applies not only to Gurgaon, or to bans on gensets. It applies through the length and breadth of the country, and to all manner of bans and proscriptions, from the prohibition on the sale and consumption of alcohol, to the burning of crop stubble, to traffic violations, to gambling, to the use of firecrackers, to extra-legal foreign exchange dealings.

Impose a ban and you automatically engender an immediate payout response, which is what the so-called 'parallel economy' thrives on. For the simple reason that the system ensures that it gets more bang for its buck. Or more ban for its buck.

GLOF's Sikkim Shocker

Much before the flooding, local & green groups had flagged risks. But mitigation strategies weren't a priority in project planning. GOI must get the message from the mountains

Chandra Bhushan



The year 2023 has witnessed significant upheavals in the Himalayas. The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Sikkim that swept away humans, houses, bridges and a dam was the latest in a series of unsettling reports throughout the year. First came the sinking of Joshimath but it was soon overshadowed by devastating losses in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh during the monsoon season; unprecedented rainfall and widespread landslides caused significant loss of life and property, particularly in Himachal.

But these are only the first days of climate change. As global warming accelerates, we will see an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. In the Himalayas, this will translate to cloudbursts and accelerated glacial melt. These will lead to more landslides and avalanches, while glacial lakes will grow in both size and number.

Paired with the region's elevated seismic risk, we see a perfect storm brewing in the Himalayas. The failure to consider this interplay of geological, hydrological, and meteorological hazards in the scramble to construct hydropower projects resulted in the tragedy in Sikkim.

As the complete picture of how this tragedy unfolded emerges, we know the following:

- Around midnight of October 3-4, the South Lhonak Lake's embankment broke, creating a GLOF. This lake has tripled in size in the last three decades due to rapid melting of Lhonak glaciers, in turn due to global warming.

- An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude occurred in western Nepal at 14:51 hrs on October 3, which was felt even in Delhi. Scientists are investigating whether this earthquake could have led to a landslide/avalanche or weakened the lake's embankment, starting a GLOF.

- Sikkim also received high rainfall from October 2 through to October 5. As per ICIMOD, on the night of October 3, there was heavy rainfall near the lake.



This, too, could have caused the GLOF.

- About 50km downstream of South Lhonak Lake is the Teesta III dam at Chungthang. This massive rock-filled dam is Sikkim's biggest hydel project. According to Teesta III chairman, on October 3, at 23:58 hrs, operators were informed by Indo-Tibetan Border Police about the GLOF. By 00:10 hours on October 4, a swell of water flooded the dam's reservoir lake and washed away most of the dam before they could open the sluice gates.

- The dam's spillway was not designed to accommodate high flow due to GLOF, and there was no functional early warning system for GLOF at South Lhonak Lake.

- The dam break led to massive flooding downstream, destroying roads, bridges, water and power lines, inundating towns and districts. Around 50 have died, and scores are missing. The economic losses will be thousands of crores.

- The destroyed dam itself cost about ₹14,000 crore. This dam was also hit by the 2011 earthquake, which destroyed a large part of the construction and claimed the lives of 40 workers.

For objective decision-making, project assessment must be conducted by independent bodies. For the Himalayas, we need an agency staffed with independent experts from Himalayan states and UTs

● We now know that none of the early warning sensors installed for the critical glacial lakes in Sikkim in 2013, 2016 and even last month survived long enough to forewarn residents downstream.

- This, even though GLOF was identified as a significant risk to Teesta III. Back in 2005, the carrying capacity study of Teesta basin – based on which the environment ministry cleared Teesta III – had noted that the region was "quite susceptible to disastrous hazards due to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods".

Multiple hazards thus were recognised for Teesta III, but risks were neither adequately assessed nor a mitigation

strategy designed. This is how this high-risk project received clearance from multiple regulating agencies despite opposition from the local community and environmental groups. At the time, even clearance conditions did not mandate an early warning system or modifications in the dam's design, to account for the possibility of a GLOF.

This problem is not unique to Teesta III. Big infrastructure projects in the Himalayas are neither vetted through a stringent risk assessment process nor designed to mitigate multiple risks and eventualities. As climate change continues, extreme events will become ever more common. The only way to prepare for these is by factoring in all risks at the project design stage and creating institutions that can make independent decisions based on risk assessments.

In this context, we must urgently re-evaluate the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Environment Clearance procedures. The existing EIA/EC framework has repeatedly shown inadequacies in handling high-risk projects. EIA reports often overlook comprehensive risk evaluations, and impacts of climate change are rarely factored in. Moreover, impact assessments are absent of advanced methodologies and technologies.

The existing EC approach must be equipped to address the challenges and unpredictability of the climate crisis, especially in the Himalayas. Additionally, for objectivity in the decision-making process, it is equally essential to establish independent bodies to conduct such assessments to inform decisions. For the Himalayas, we need a Trans-Himalayan Environmental Assessment and Management Agency staffed with experts from Himalayan states and UTs.

In the Himalayas 87 hydroelectric projects are operational, 30 are under construction with more on the horizon. The task is twofold: ensure these mega projects don't exacerbate environmental problems, and then, safeguard valuable assets against multiple threats. This is the challenge that demands balance.

The writer is CEO of the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST)

What's Really Dangerous About The Israel-Hamas War

The gradual erosion of Israeli secular identity and a radical Islamist outfit fronting the Palestinian cause have wider, nastier implications far beyond the Middle East

Aydin Sezer



We have been discussing the Israel-Palestine issue as a historical process for nearly a hundred years, first as the Arab-Israeli conflict, then as the Israeli-Palestinian struggle, and now as the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Despite numerous UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the chance of a better life for the Palestinian people eroded as a result of Israel's gradual expansion of occupied territories. That created the Palestinian resistance, the Intifada and finally the reality of Hamas in Gaza today.

With the recent round of violence, the conflict has evolved into one in which both sides target civilians, particularly women and children, without regard for military norms or morality. Where does this put Hamas and Israel? According to some governments, Hamas is a radical, religious, resistance group defending the Palestinian cause. But others such as the US and EU designate it as a terrorist organisation. Predictably, there is debate about Israel's conduct as well.

To understand the latest round of conflict, it is important to analyse the political process in Israel today.

- First, protests against Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial reform showed that Israel has become deeply polarised. Could the Hamas strikes turn into an opportunity for Netanyahu? While this subject is being debated, the targeting of Netanyahu as being responsible for the strikes, particularly by the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, demonstrates that the current Hamas attack will not bring about Israeli unity and solidarity. In fact, the voices of those in Israel who blame Netanyahu for recent events are becoming more audible.

Netanyahu understandably wants to turn the Hamas attack into an opportunity. Since the start of this round of

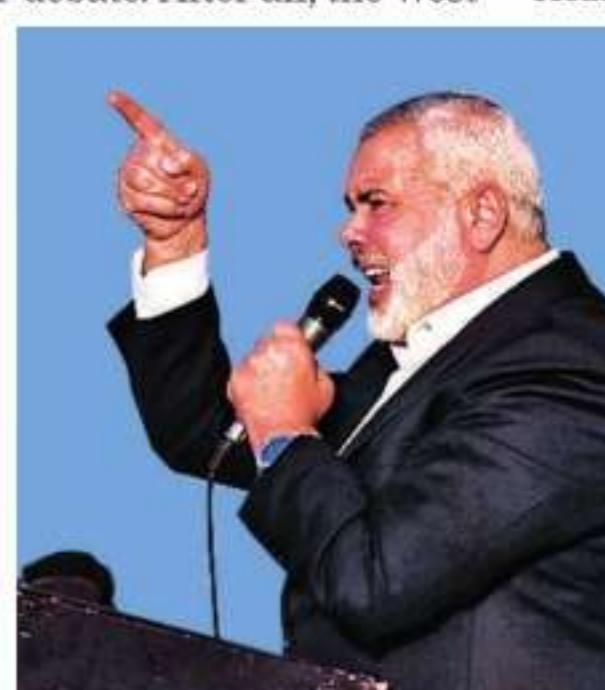
conflict, the US and EU have provided him with unrestricted political and military assistance, with Washington even dispatching warships to the region.

- Second, the failure of Israel's security apparatus, which did not anticipate Hamas's assault, must be explained. Such an attack could not have been carried out without external assistance. So, what was Mossad doing? Can we simply dismiss this as a failure of intelligence? Conspiracy theories are gaining ground.

- Third, the extent to which Hamas represents Palestine is also a matter of debate. After all, the West



LAND OR RELIGION? Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu (L), Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh (R)



Bank is home to a Palestinian state. Many countries recognise it. It is also represented in many countries through diplomatic institutions. The rise of Hamas, making Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas powerless, is likely to result in developments that will damage the Palestinian resistance. It was always secular and democratic. The fact that a radical, armed, Islamist organisation like Hamas is now leading the Palestinian conflict means that no solution is achievable.

Plus, we are on the verge of a peace process between

Israel and Saudi Arabia, in continuation of the Abraham Accords. There is also talk about the India-EU transport corridor that was proposed at the G20 summit in New Delhi – the Saudi Arabia-Israel link in this corridor was noteworthy. But now one wonders if this Middle East peace process will come to an end.

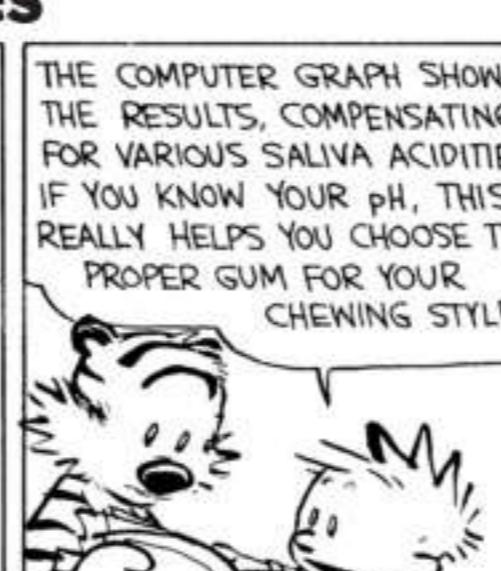
Iran-backed Hezbollah could get involved in the conflict. Such a situation would almost certainly spark a regional crisis involving Lebanon, Syria, and maybe Iran. Israel has long been attacking Iranian and Hezbollah infrastructure in Syria. Hezbollah in Lebanon has announced that if Israel conducts a ground offensive in Gaza, it will attack. It's also well known that Israel considers Iran the No. 1 threat due to its nuclear programme.

This is why today's war may spread to the whole region. This is also why the US is reportedly dispatching a second aircraft carrier to the area, both as a deterrent and as a power capable of intervening if necessary.

The debate over a 'unipolar world order' against a 'multipolar world order' that began with the Russia-Ukraine war, becomes sharper now. The distinguishing feature of the Israel-Hamas conflict is that it's not just political, but also religious in nature. Parallel to the growing threat of radical Islam, there are concerns about Israel's progressive loss of its secular identity. Note that the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Iran have held a phone conversation, emphasising unity. Even Russia's Vladimir Putin, in a meeting with the Iraqi PM, said every Muslim holds the injustice around the Palestinian issue very close to his heart. Putin's emphasis on Muslims is a message not only to Muslims in Russia but to the entire Muslim world.

Without question, the new Middle East conflict will engender global power play potentially far more destabilising than the Russia-Ukraine conflict. What started in Israel and Gaza will spread far beyond those territories.

The writer is a Turkish political analyst and former diplomat

Calvin & Hobbes

Swami Sukhabodhananda

A mother was hurt and shocked to hear her son telling lies. So, she took the boy aside and told him about the perils of telling lies. "When you tell a lie, a demon with red eyes and a horn on his head will drag you from your bed in the middle of the night and punish you badly. Then, I am sure you will never lie," she continued.

"No Mother, from now on, I will never lie," assured the son and then he added, "More than me, you are a bigger liar."

Mistake on the part of one in lying cannot be corrected by another by committing the same mistake.

Why do people lie? What do they achieve by telling lies? Can't you see that the effort needed to protect one from being caught as a liar causes more

tension and that lying causes unnecessary strain of remembering one's lies? You land up filling the mind with unnecessary thoughts, worries, hurts, and lies. This restricts the space available for any creative act.

People tend to work on increasing their knowledge. In the East, there is a distinction between knowledge and Being. The emphasis is on increasing one's Being. Both knowledge and Being are required. But with the transformation of knowledge into Being, knowledge will not be limited to information. So, both knowledge and Being should be firmly on the transformation track.

Anyone can understand that there are different levels of knowledge, but

only few can understand that there are different levels of Being. Being is your presence – a good, pure, inspiring, and transparent essence. One should not confuse existence with Being. The stone exists, the plant exists, a man exists, but they exist quite differently. It is here the idea of Being comes in. For example, the Being of a plant, stone, animal, man, or the divine are all at different levels.

Being is an evolving essence, an evolving presence. If a person gets hurt because someone makes an unpleasant statement, it only shows the level of one's Being. But if one can forgive the person who has caused the hurt, it shows that the level of one's 'Being' is at a higher level.

If you are selfish, it shows that your Being is at one level. But if you were to serve others with love and goodness, it shows another level of Being. It is not a matter of judgment but a matter of clarity leading to an opportunity for growth.

To grow up is one thing and to grow old is yet another thing. Growing up involves adding life to your years. Growing old involves adding years to your life.

So, are you working on your Being? Let's resolve right now to make a beginning to transform and support the process of transformation in our daily lives.

To celebrate Navaratri Utsav and a live session with Swamiji, October 15-23, and a live session with him on October 24, via Zoom,

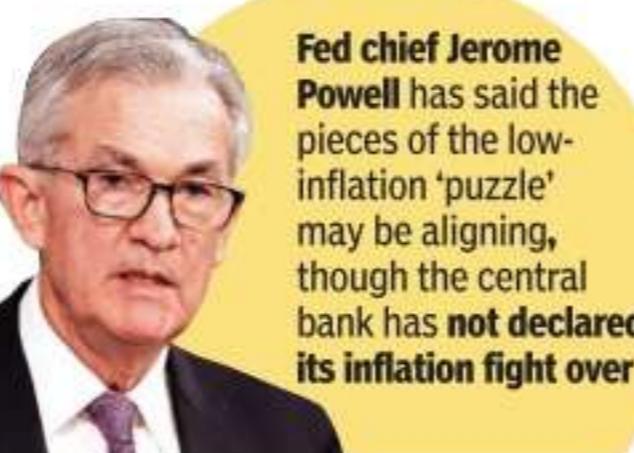
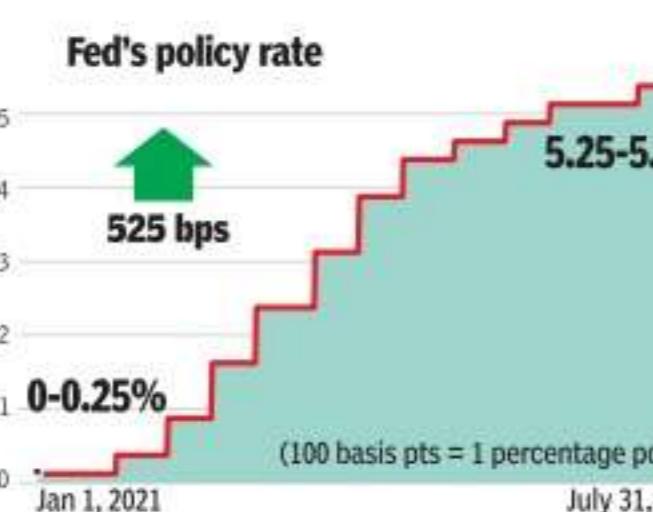
Fed To Keep Rate Hike Door Open As Inflation Persists

The Federal Reserve held its rate steady in Sept. Data since then will influence whether the US central bank continues with the pause in its Oct 31-Nov 1 meet. The latest signs of persistent inflation suggest the Fed will keep the door open to another hike this year, even as central bankers emphasise patience. Treasury yields rose after the latest price report, as traders saw roughly 50-50 chances of a hike by year's end.

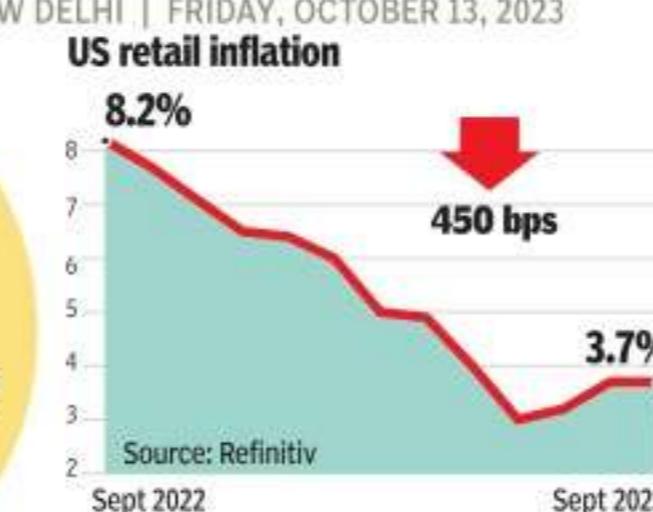
Source: Reuters, Bloomberg

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023



Fed chief Jerome Powell has said the pieces of the low-inflation 'puzzle' may be aligning, though the central bank has not declared its inflation fight over.



Here is a guide to some of the numbers shaping the interest rate debate

Inflation

Sept: 3.7% | Target: 2%

Retail inflation was unchanged from August. The 'core' rate, which excludes food & energy, and is important to the Fed, slowed to 4.1% last month from 4.3% in August.

Inflation Expectations

1-year ahead rate: 3.2%

(near 40-year average) Consumers' estimates of inflation over the next 12 months fell notably in September. The decline will be comforting to the Fed.

Labour Market

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

Job growth in September blew past expectations in a confounding turn for Fed officials who thought the market had started to cool.

Retail inflation at 3-mth low, IIP growth hits 14-mth high

RBI Expected To Continue With Pause On Interest Rates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Retail inflation eased to a three-month low in September as food prices moderated, bringing much-needed relief from surging price pressures, while industrial output growth rose to a 14-month high in August led by a robust manufacturing sector.

Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday showed retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose an annual 5% in September, slower than the 6.8% in August and below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance band of 6%. The food price index slowed to 6.6% from nearly 10% in the previous month. Rural inflation was at 5.3% while urban was lower at 4.7%. Moderate inflation in prices was largely led by an easing of vegetable and cooking gas prices.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has already taken preemptive measures to restrain food inflation, which is likely to subside price pressures in

DOUBLE DELIGHT



the market soon.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said the September retail inflation data was in line with the central bank's internal assessment and said the sharp spike in the past was a temporary phenomenon.

which undertook certain measures (to cool down prices). Effective coordination, RBI communication on interest rates and on inflation, have all worked together. It is entirely in line with our projections. Q2: 6.4. The internal number for September is also 5%, Das told reporters in Marrakech.

Economists said the RBI is expected to continue with its pause on interest rates and the rate-easing cycle may commence only in the second quarter of fiscal year 2025 but cautioned that the Israel-Hamas conflict and its impact on oil prices need to be watched.

Separate data released by the NSO showed the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose 10.3% in August, led by an all-round strong performance by manufacturing, mining, and electricity sectors. The data showed the capital goods sector, a key gauge of investment activity, grew by 12.6% in August compared to 4.3% in August 2022. The infrastructure and construction sector rose 14.9% in August.

GoAir EoI: Jindal Power 'not very serious'

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Naveen Jindal-led Jindal Power is "not very serious" about the expression of interest (EoI) submitted for the grounded-since-May GoAir (GoFirst), dimming its chances of returning to the skies. Sources say the power company has submitted the EoI to estimate the valuation of GoAir and is right now focused on expanding its thermal and renewable energy generation business. Jindal Power did not comment on GoAir.

HOPES FOR REVIVAL FADE

Airlines from holding on to leased planes is applicable retrospectively (which will cover Go) or prospectively.

People close to the development say the last date to send an EoI for GoAir was September 28. "Only one EoI from Jindal Power, was received

ved. Their due diligence of the airline will start now and then Jindal Power is required to submit its bids within a minimum period of 30 days from next weekend, so the minimum period is before the end of November. That bid will be examined by the committee of creditors and they will take a call whether the same is acceptable to them," they said.

There is no provision in the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code that prevents a qualified party from submitting bids even if it is the sole EoI for a belly up company. Comments were sought from Go-

Air's EY-backed resolution professional Shailendra Ajmera and awaited till the time of going to press. Guwahati-based Jettwings Airways said it has also submitted an EoI for GoAir.

Sources say Jindal Power is not "very serious" about running a scheduled airline and is growing in thermal and renewable energy generation space. "The EoI was essentially sent for getting an idea about the valuation and there are no serious plans per se," said sources. Jindal Power did not comment on this issue.

Having started in 2016 as a direct mutual fund distribution platform, Groww is among the youngest broking firms in India. The company entered stock broking in 2020 amid the pandemic. Groww, which offers lending products and UPI payments, recently entered the asset management business after acquiring Indiabulls AMC in May.

Groww founder and CEO Lalit Keshre said, "We are grateful to all our customers who trusted a young company. Our focus will always be to provide

world," said R P Singhania, chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries and also pro-chancellor, JKLU.

Highlighting that product managers are integral to the digital transformation, vice chairman and MD, JK Paper, and pro-chancellor, JKLU, H P Singhania, said, "The programme will meet the huge demand for full stack product managers who will have the capacity to innovate." Admission to the MBA programme will be open to young candidates who have a STEM background with 2 to 4 years of full-time work experience.

"The new programme will ensure learners are equipped with cutting-edge skills that will empower them to navigate seamlessly in a tech-driven

HSB offers MBA in product mgmt



Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business is set up under the aegis of Jaipur's JK Lakshmiपत्र University (JKLU).

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Infosys, HCL Tech cut FY24 revenue forecast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Infosys and HCL Tech have both cut revenue forecasts for the 2023-24 financial year, underscoring the continuing softness in discretionary spends by clients, and the volatile macroeconomic environment. The headwinds in the banking and financial services verticals are particularly strong.

Announcing its financial results for the quarter ended September on Thursday, Infosys said it now expects its revenue to grow between 1% and 2.5% in FY24. Three months ago, it had guided for growth between 1% and 3.5%, and at the beginning of

the financial year, it had guided for 4-7%. Clearly, client demand has sharply slowed.

The weak forecast pushed the share price down over 6% on the NYSE. The company announced its results after the local stock markets closed on Thursday. The company's worst growth in the past 15 years so far has been during the

great financial crisis, when growth fell to 3%.

Infosys CEO & MD Salil Parekh said, "We are seeing that the discretionary and large transformation programmes have reduced significantly, and decision-making continues to be slow. Keeping these in mind, we've given guidance for the full year."

INFY TO SKIP CAMPUS HIRING			
Sept Qtr Results	Y-o-Y growth	Margin	Hiring
TCS	2.8%	24.3%	-6,333
Infosys	2.5%	21.2%	-7,530
HCL	3.4%	18.5%	-2,299

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66L users: Growww goes past Zerodha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Top 4 Brokers Hold 60% Share

No. of active users (in lakh)	
Growww	66.3
Zerodha	64.8
Angel	48.6
Upstox	21.9
ICICI Sec	19.1
HDFC Sec	10

E-scooter makers refund 'overcharged' amt to buyers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four electric two-wheeler manufacturers have either refunded or deposited the amount they had "overcharged" buyers of their scooters.

These companies had been ordered by the heavy industries ministry to refund the amount to buyers for chargers.

According to data available with the ministry, against the refund amount of Rs 312 crore, Rs 183 crore has been refunded by the companies while Rs 129 crore has been deposited with the government.

Ather Energy has deposited close to Rs 100 crore, while refunding around Rs 58 crore. Similarly, Ola Electric has refunded Rs 115 crore directly to buyers with Rs 21 crore deposited. Two others — TVS and Hero MotoCorp — have also made progress, sources said.

you with the best experience. And lastly, there is a long way to go: we will strive to build a sustainable business, and we are just getting started."

Growww follows the no-fee model where there are no charges for onboarding. The surge in the number of users of the new-age firms has led to the top four — Growww, Zerodha, Angel One and Upstox — controlling over 60% of the users.

Chinese cos out of telco sector event

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: China may be the biggest supplier to the Indian electronics ecosystem, but top companies from the neighbouring nation will be absent from the India Mobile Congress (IMC). The country's premier telecom event, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, begins from October 27.

The seventh edition of IMC will see bigwigs from the domestic telecom industry such as Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal, and Kumar Mangalam Birla of Vodafone Idea, apart from senior officials

from TCS, Ramakrishna P. CEO of IMC, said.

There will also be top executives from global companies such as Ericsson, Nokia, Intel, Qualcomm, and MediaTek at the three-day event.

Chinese companies such as Vivo, Oppo, Xiaomi and RealMe — all of which have been facing inquiries from tax authorities and the enforcement directorate — will not be participating at IMC.

Also absent would be Huawei and ZTE, and many other key suppliers to the telecom industry, sources said, adding that it was a "conscious call" to keep them away in line with the "government's thinking" on the matter.

Local consumption to drive growth: FM Sitharaman Suggests World Bank Capital Increase To Support Its Bigger Mandate

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

Marrakech: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said domestic consumption and investment will drive India's growth, but cautioned against possible inflationary pressures due to global and regional uncertainties, which will require the government and the Reserve Bank of India to constantly remain vigilant.

RBI had conducted a special scrutiny from a KYC/AML (anti-money laundering) perspective. The scrutiny brought out several areas of non-compliance.

Economists said the RBI is expected to continue with its pause on interest rates and the rate-easing cycle may commence only


Expression of Interest for Design, Development, Implementation & Maintenance of Web-Based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-D), created by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, invites EOI for Design, Development, Implementation & Maintenance of Web-based Enterprise Resource Planning(ERP) System. Detailed EOI Document is available on the web-site of the Institute at <https://www.iiitd.ac.in/tenders>. The last date of submission of EOI is 3rd Nov 2023 and time 3:00 pm


E-Auction Notice

Letter No. DRMC/C/AGRA/Parcel/E-AUCTION Dated: 10.10.2023 On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per categories given as under:-

Category	Auction Catalogue No.	Asset Details
Parcel	AGRA- LEASING-26	1. 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 22532

E-Auction Start Date and Time: Date:- 26.10.2023, Time: 11:00

E-Auction End Date and Time: Date:- 26.10.2023, Time: 11:30

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 1643/23 (ADM)

[North central railways](#) [@CPRONCR](#) [@northcentralrailway](#) [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)


COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)

Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 06/2023

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of Director CSIR- National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML), Jamshedpur in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1, 82,200/-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 06/2023 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/nominations may be sent alongwith complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email on email ID drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001. The last date of the receipt of applications is 15/11/2023. CBC 36202/12/0014/2324



E-Tendering Notice: DYCE/GS/AGC/2023-17 dated 10.10.2023

E - TENDERING NOTICE

Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through online mode only (E-Tendering) for the following work. The details of the tender are as under:

S. N.	Description of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security
1	DYCE-GS-AGC-2023-24 Upgradation and improvement of goods shed at Yamuna Bridge and Kuberpur Stations of Agra Division in North Central Railway.	Rs. 28.95 cr.	Rs. 1597500.00/-
2	DYCE-GS-AGC-2023-25 Upgradation and improvement of goods shed at Dholpur Station of Agra Division in North Central Railway.	Rs. 9.64 cr.	Rs. 631800.00/-

Completion Period:- For every - 15 months. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website "www.ireps.gov.in". Tender can be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 11.00 hrs on 02.11.2023.

1641/23 (D)

[North central railways](#) [@CPRONCR](#) [@northcentralrailway](#) [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

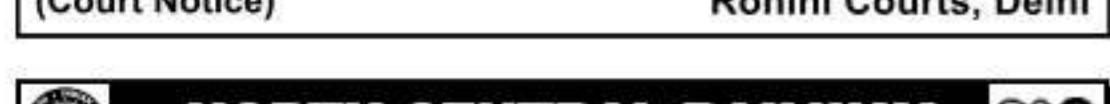
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Rinku Madan** S/o Amar Singh R/o CD-103C, Pitampura, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 503/23 Dated 05.08.2023 U/s 420/406 IPC** registered at P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Rinku Madan** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Rinku Madan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rinku Madan** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.11.2023.

By Order

Mrs. Vasundhra Chhayanwari
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, (North West)
Room No. 101, First Floor,
(Court Notice)



Tender Notice No. : EL-C-PRYJ-23-24-EPC-02 Dt. 05/10/2023

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Const/N.C.Rly/ Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders (Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode under single stage two Packet system) on prescribed form for the following work up to 11.00 hrs. on 07/12/2023. The details of the tender are as under:-

Last date of request for bid document : 07.12.2023

Opening of technical bid: 14.12.2023 after 16:00 hrs.

Tender No.: EL-C-PRYJ-23-24-EPC-02

Name of work : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132/2x5 KV Traktion Sub-station along with SP/SSPs on existing Howrah-Mumbai Route in connection with Up-gradation work of Electric Traction System from 1x25 KV to 2x25 KV Traktion System for Chheoki - Manikup section of NCR to meet 3000 MT loading target.

Advertised value of work (In Rs.): ₹ 139,54,36,041.00

Earnest money (In Rs.): ₹ 69,77,200.00 Period of completion: 540 days

Note:- 1. The complete information along with RFP& tender document/agreement of above EPC Mode E-Tenders is available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 11.00 hrs of last date of request for bid document. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website alongwith Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

1645/23(DG)

[North central railways](#) [@CPRONCR](#) [@northcentralrailway](#) [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)


TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)

AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

Sr. No.

APPOINTMENT OF A LLP/FIRM OF THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (FULFILLING THE CRITERIA AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS) FOR UNDERTAKING THE FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS:

(A) CONSOLIDATION AND PREPARATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF HEAD OFFICES, TEN DISTRICT OFFICES, MORE THAN 120 WAREHOUSES AND VARIOUS MANDIS INCLUDING INLAND CONTAINER DEPOT (ICD), REWARD (SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME) AS PER TENDER DOCUMENTS.

(B) FILING OF STATUTORY GST RETURNS (CENTRALIZED AT HEAD OFFICES).

FILING AND PLEADING THE CASE OF GST WITH THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS, ETC AS PER TENDER DOCUMENTS.

HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

APPOINTMENT OF A LLP/FIRM OF THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (FULFILLING THE CRITERIA AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS) FOR CONDUCTING THE INTERNAL AUDIT OF THE STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDES GENERAL ACCOUNTS.

WHEAT, PADDY, BARA, SUNFLOWER, MOONG, GRAM (COMMODITY) ETC. PROCUREMENT ACCOUNTS AND CONSTRUCTION WORK. THE LLP/FIRM OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (FULFILLING THE CRITERIA AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS) HAVE TO CONDUCT THE AUDIT OF DISTRICT OFFICES INCLUDING ALL WAREHOUSE CENTERS, HEAD OFFICE AND ICD REWARD, FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2022-23 AND 2023-24 (AS PER TENDER DOCUMENT).

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LIVE ON
YOUTUBE
ON
FRIDAYLEVEL UP WITH
TIMES TECHIES

Friday, 13 Oct,
3pm to 3.30pm
Event page link:
<https://bit.ly/techieslevelup8>



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Maharan Veerabahu,
CO-FOUNDER AND VICE
PRESIDENT, E-CON SYSTEMSDilip Kumar
PRODUCT MANAGER,
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POLL RESPONSE

Old languages help to
understand programming logic

In our issue last Friday, we asked readers the question:
Are traditional programming languages relevant in the AI era?
Here are the results and a few of the many comments
we received.

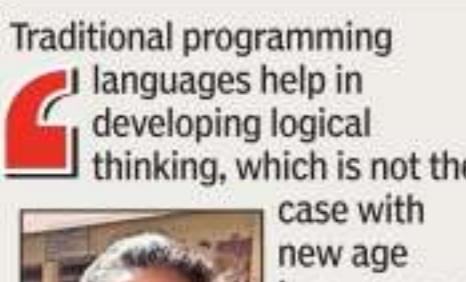


I Though prompt engineering is growing, Java and C are basic and essential in understanding programming logic. If someone is efficient in Java and C, they can use the prompts more efficiently and get the most out of AI. Here are more reasons why one should know the traditional programming languages:

- C and C++ are low level languages, so they have better performance
- Many legacy systems still run on these old languages
- The foundation of Android development is Kotlin which is based on Java
- For understanding memory management and low-level details

Soumya Kishore Ghosh | MTECH
STUDENT AT IEST SHIBPUR, KOLKATA
(ANSWERED YES)

I Knowledge of traditional programming languages is essential as it lays the foundation for writing and altering programming code and eventually making it AI

Avinash
Gaikwad
GLOBAL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER,
MUMBAI
(ANSWERED YES)Veena A
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DR AMBEDKAR
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BANGALORE
(ANSWERED YES)Manvi Gautam
MCA STUDENT, NEW
DELHI (ANSWERED NO)

KEEPING BRILLIANT MINDS OCCUPIED

In a small state like Goa, when you need to occupy brilliant young minds, it is difficult. So what did we do? We went and built a team with other like minded kids to keep them occupied with purpose.

Sairesh Gandhi | FATHER OF
SAI PRANAV, AND ONE OF THE
MENTORS FOR THE TEAM

Sandeep.Moudgal@timesgroup.com

While most children aged 13 would be playing online games or debating who would be a better batsman for Team India, Viraj Marathe and Venkatesh Dempo have been busy coding and participating in hackathons.

Apruva Katkar is barely two years older than them, and has been participating in various Olympiads, receiving top scores. Sai Pranav Gandhi, also only slightly older, has been participating in coding and robotics competitions in India and abroad, and has spoken on robotics on the TEDx platform.

The India team comprising these four kids, and Atharv Sakhalkar, a first-year diploma mechanical engineer, stood 8th among 191 participating countries in the just concluded First Global Challenge, an Olympics-style robotics competition held in Singapore. First Global is a non-profit focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education for youth around the world. And the title sponsor for the event this year was Lam Research, the US company that designs and builds products for semiconductor manufacturing. The competition is organised for kids between the ages of 14 and 18 years to enable them to showcase their talent in STEM.

The group of children from India belong to Team Legogoa, a parents-led community club in Goa that has been pursuing robotics for the past six years and which has won multiple national and international awards. "We were

Traditionally, it is people in the bigger cities of India who get involved in fields like robotics. Our team is from a small state that lacks STEM awareness, and also facilities such as robotics labs and coaching centres. We would like to ensure that our participation (in the First Global Challenge) would make us the torchbearers for smaller regions in the country to pursue competitive robotics. We have planned outreach activities to inspire small town students.

Atharv Sakhalkar | FIRST-YEAR DIPLOMA MECHANICAL
ENGINEER, AND PART OF THE TEAM THAT REPRESENTED INDIA

chosen after a tough selection process, competing against experienced and veteran teams from other parts of the country. We would have been the youngest team," says Atharv.

In India, the selection is done by STEM Education Trust (SET), a partner of First Global. This year, the challenge was to throw a tennis ball the farthest. Atharv says their team built a contraption that flung a tennis ball 27 metres, using the concepts of projectile motion. This was followed by four rounds of interviews.

Overcoming funding challenge

But selection was only the first challenge they needed to overcome. The next big challenge was to find the funds required to participate in the global challenge in Singapore. They needed Rs 15-20 lakh. That's when their encouraging parents stepped in. They started a crowd-funding campaign, they approached the state chief minister, Pramod Sawant, for funds. Fortunately, by this time, the local media had highlighted their achievements. So, money poured in. The state education department agreed to pay the registration fees of \$10,000. The state IT minister, Rohan Khautne, pledged an amount of Rs 5 lakh. The crowdfunding campaign on the Ketto platform brought in over Rs 2 lakh.

Sairesh Gandhi, father of Sai Pranav, is one of the mentors for the team. He says one of the reasons they decided to form a team was that in a small state like Goa, it is difficult to keep brilliant young minds occupied. "So what did we do? We

went and built a team with other like minded kids to keep them occupied with purpose," he says.

During the finals in Singapore, the team and the accompanying parents were visibly stressed. But there was equally visible excitement at the final outcome.

First Global and Lam Research believe that by making science and technology as exciting as any other sport, they can inspire the world's two billion youth to pursue STEM fields and be the leaders who collectively solve the planet's most pressing problems.

"First Global is democratising innovation. Everyone has an opportunity to perform and win at an event like this. Innovation can come from anywhere, and First Global is giving an opportunity to those who have creative and innovative ideas," says Richard Gottschos, executive vice president and strategic advisor to the CEO at Lam Research. Lam Research has an agreement with First Global to sponsor the event for three years.

The First Global Challenge has been widely recognised in the US as having furthered the strength of students using mathematics and technology towards solving real world problems. First Global says as high as 91% of the 6,670 children who have participated in the event over the last five offline events said they learnt beneficial skills through the competition, and 83% said they were now 'more interested' in pursuing STEM courses.

(Sandeep was in Singapore at the invitation of Lam Research)

AROUND THE WORLD THIS WEEK

OpenAI to release 'big update'

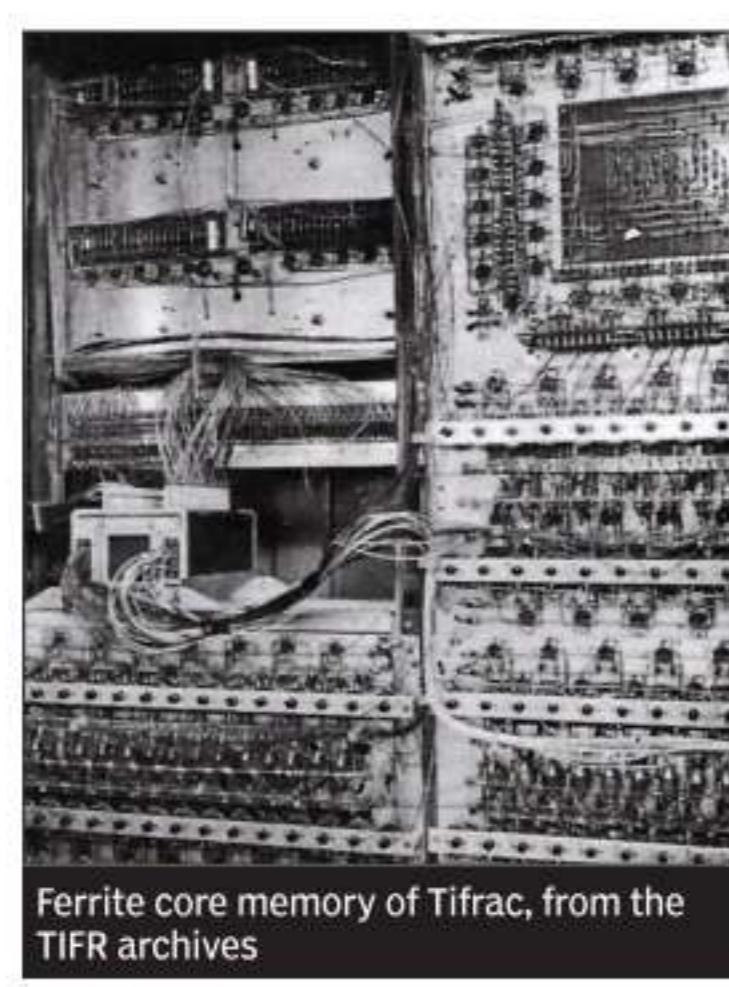
According to recent media reports, Sam Altman-led OpenAI is gearing up to release significant updates for developers next month, with the aim of making it more affordable and efficient to create software applications using its artificial intelligence models. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, is actively seeking to attract more companies to leverage its technology. These forthcoming updates encompass the integration of memory storage into its developer tools, potentially reducing application development costs by a significant factor, up to 20 times. This addresses a pressing concern for partners who have been grappling with escalating expenses when employing OpenAI's potent models to build sustainable businesses based on AI software. Furthermore, the company intends to introduce new tools, including vision capabilities, which will empower developers to construct applications capable of analyzing and describing images. These capabilities have wide-ranging potential applications across various domains, from entertainment to medicine. These anticipated enhancements are scheduled for launch at OpenAI's inaugural developer conference in San Francisco on November 6, according to reports. The primary goal is to encourage companies to harness OpenAI's technology for creating AI-driven chatbots and autonomous agents capable of executing tasks independently, without human intervention, as reported.

The first Indian digital computer

N Dayasindhu

Computer and semiconductor manufacturing is witnessing a renaissance in India today. We are all justifiably proud, and anxious that India should get it right this time. We need to rebuild a legacy that began in the late 1950s. Yes, India had designed and built a world-class digital computer for scientific computation, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - Automatic Calculator (Tifrac), between the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Tifrac was a vacuum tube based digital computer. It had a memory of 2048 words of 40 bits each. It could add in 45 microseconds for the IBM 701, a comparable scientific computer



Draft of a Report on the EDVAC.' Narasimhan and PVS Rao, who joined TIFR immediately after his MSc in physics, were the architects of the digital computer project. None in the Tifrac team had prior experience of building a computer.

Tifrac was entirely an indigenous operation. The architects implemented an innovative modular design. The CPU and memory were plug-in units. If a fault was traced to a particular plug-in unit, the engineering team would pull it out, insert a new one to keep Tifrac running, and service the faulty plug-in unit in the Tifrac workshop.

The innovative adder circuits designed by Rao and PK Basu were a trend-setter. They resulted in short cycle times for addition, multiplication, and division. Tifrac's cathode ray tube display was among the first such in the world. This was in an era when computer output was mainly through electromechanical teletype writers that were not capable of displaying graphical output.

Though the ferrite cores used in Tifrac were imported from the UK, the memory system was built in-house. The team designed the special plexiglass frames. Hair-thin enamelled wires were threaded through sub-millimetre magnetic ring cores numbering 80,000. Each core had four wires threaded through them. The ferrite core memory was a combination of robust design, engineering skills, and dexterity of the threading team.

When TIFR was in discussions to buy a CDC (Control Data Corporation) 3600 computer in the mid-1960s, the CDC engineers were impressed specifically with two aspects of Tifrac - the cathode ray display and the indigenous fabrication of the ferrite core memory. In fact, CDC was so im-

pressed with the ferrite memory operation that they made a proposal in 1965 for setting up a core stringing operation in India. It proposed a 50:50 venture with an Indian partner with CDC absorbing all the production of core memory from this operation. For some reason this proposal, and another one by Bhabha on setting up an Indian semiconductor manufacturing facility, did not take off in that era. There was only one Tifrac built. We had to wait till the late 1960s for TDC-12, India's first indigenous commercially manufactured computer made by the Electronics Corporation of India. The TDC-12 traced its origins in the computer group at TIFR and the electronics group in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Barc).

Tifrac was used to perform data analysis of the air shower experiments of the cosmic ray physics group at TIFR, and other scientific experiments. It was also used to train the cadre of young scientists being drafted into India's atomic energy programme, as also the nascent space programme.

A young space engineer recalled that before going to NASA's Wallops Rocket Station, Goddard Space Flight Centre in the US, he was posted to the Atomic Energy Establishment (now called Barc) at Trombay. The first assignment given to him was to work with the Tifrac team. This young engineer was none other than Abdul Kalam.

N Dayasindhu is a cofounder of iithaasa Research and Digital

G The best tribute to our pioneers is to make up for the lost decades, and refocus on our efforts to design and build world-class indigenous computing hardware.



N Dayasindhu is a cofounder of iithaasa Research and Digital

At the First Global Challenge, an Olympics-style robotics competition, held in Singapore this week, the India team stood 8th among 191 participating countries

Superb performance by YOUNG GOA TEAM



(L-R): Sairesh Gandhi (mentor), Viraj Marathe, Sai Pranav Gandhi, Atharv Sakhalkar, Apurva Katkar, Venkatesh Dempo, and Suneel (mentor)

THE CHALLENGE

This year's First Global Challenge focused on the role of hydrogen in the planet's renewable energy and reduced carbon future. It called on teams to reimagine the future of energy and create more sustainable ways to power our planet. Teams had to navigate their robots in a simulated game to produce hydrogen and use it to store, transport, and convert energy.

there is performance and security concerns," he says.

How to be a polyglot

If learning multiple programming languages seems daunting, fear not, says Kripalani. The best way to deal with it, he says, is to identify one core programming language and get an in-depth understanding of how it works, because all programming paradigms follow a similar structure. "I won't say it's the same thing, but still the logic and algorithms almost remain the same."

Konanur says being a polyglot coder is not that conceptually different from being an athlete talented in different sports.

"If you are good in one sport, how long does it take to really get good in an alternative sport? Because remember, the basics of your agility, of your own physique, of your stamina,

are strong. If you want to be an expert in Python, start with core Python, and then start learning the Python frameworks. If you want to get into the data part of Python, then start learning NumPy and all those frameworks. Do the same thing for different programming languages that are trending - like Java, React, Angular.

Lakhan Kripalani | SR BUSINESS UNIT HEAD - AWS, CLOUDTHAT

Earlier, it used to be all about you and your code. But now other behavioural aspects are just as important. Because what cannot be disrupted is the human angle. Gen AI can disrupt a lot of other stuff. So, competencies like negotiation skills, collaboration, working in teams, sharing information, solving a need, having that mission, and having that zing, that is becoming the need of the hour.

Vinay Konanur | VICE PRESIDENT - EMERGING TECHNOLOGY, UNEXT

those are the foundation."

He says coders should take a step back from just programming and instead cultivate an engineering mindset.

"Sometimes you get so close to the trees you miss the forest. So, take a step back and at a higher level understand the design, understand the different programming techniques. There is something called test driven development, behaviour driven development, understand these. Take advantage of code quality tools, performance tools, auto-complete tools. Understand the engineering principles of DevOps, agile development."

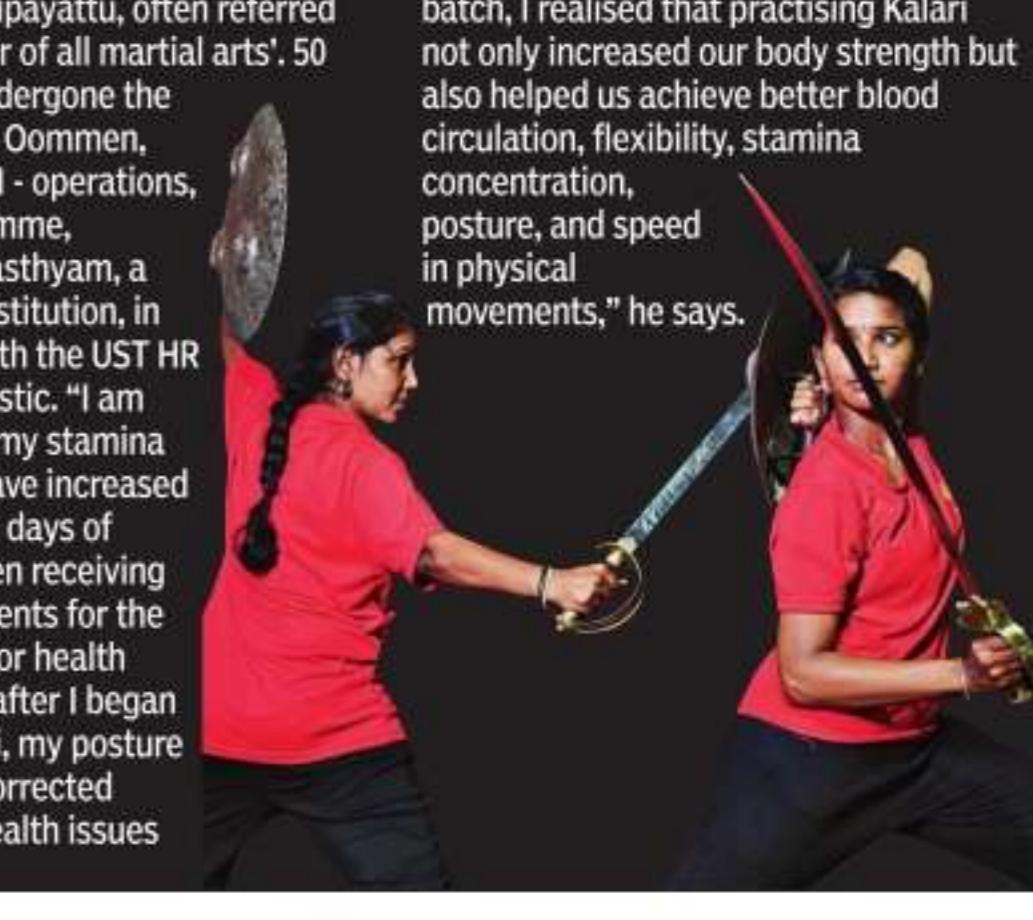
Konanur says techies have a habit of jumping straight into a language like Python or Java. "But it has to be one level more foundational, so that no matter what comes in tomorrow, your basics are so right, that you can catch up."



WHY UST TECHIES LOVE KALARIPAYATTU

Over 120 employees of digital transformation solutions company UST in its massive Thiruvananthapuram campus are enrolled in a programme for training in the computer group at TIFR and the electronics group in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Barc).

Vinod Kumar, developer II - software engineering, says he used to go to the gym earlier. "Once I joined the Kalaripayattu batch, I realised that practising Kalaripayattu not only increased our body strength but also helped us achieve better blood circulation, flexibility, stamina concentration, posture, and speed in physical movements," he says.



SA humble mighty Aussies

De Kock's Ton, Bowlers' Accuracy Guides Proteas To A 134-Run Victory Over Five-Time Champions

Fazal Khan | TNN

Lucknow: The Kangaroos continue to hop on a hot tin roof. After a six-wicket loss against India in their inaugural match of the World Cup in Chennai, the five-time champions lost again on Thursday, this time against South Africa at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium by 134 runs. With their second humongous victory, the Proteas have jumped to the top of the table; Aussies, with an equal number of defeats, are ninth—just above minnows Afghanistan. This is the first time after 1992 that Australia have lost their first two matches in the World Cup. The fact that Australian fielders dropped five catches hardly helped their cause.

After posting a handsome 311/7, thanks to the second successive century by Quinton de Kock (109) in this World Cup on a pitch that

used to be a batters' nightmare but behaved well on Thursday. Then, South African bowlers ran riot and at one point of time Australia were reeling at 70 for 6. Captain Pat Cummins (22) and fellow pacer Mitchell Starc (27) tried to give a semblance of respectability to the team's score through a late resistance, but that was too little, too late. Their innings could last for just 40.5 overs with Kagiso Rabada emerging as the most successful bowler (3-38).

After posting the highest-ever total in the World Cup in their first game against Sri Lanka in New Delhi a few days ago, South Africa continued their excellent form when they notched up the highest total in an ODI at the Ekana stadium. Besides de Kock, Aiden Markram (56) also played a useful hand. Markram, who was dropped on one by Cummins off his own bowling, clobbered seven fours and a six.

The back-to-back maximums off Josh Hazlewood over fine leg and the majestic six over midwicket for his hundred were the highlights of de Kock's innings. The wicketkeeper-batter eventually fell to a freak dismissal as the ball deflected from the back of his willow into his chest and onto the stumps. Glenn Maxwell (2/34) was the most successful bowler for Australia while others managed to get some wickets towards the end of the innings.

Put in to bat by Australia, the Proteas set Australia a challenging task. In the face of intense pressure from a big target, the Australian top order floundered. From there on, all they could do was to extend the fight as long as possible. In hindsight, Australian captain Pat Cummins made the mistake of asking South Africa to bat first on a pitch that turned out quite good for batters.

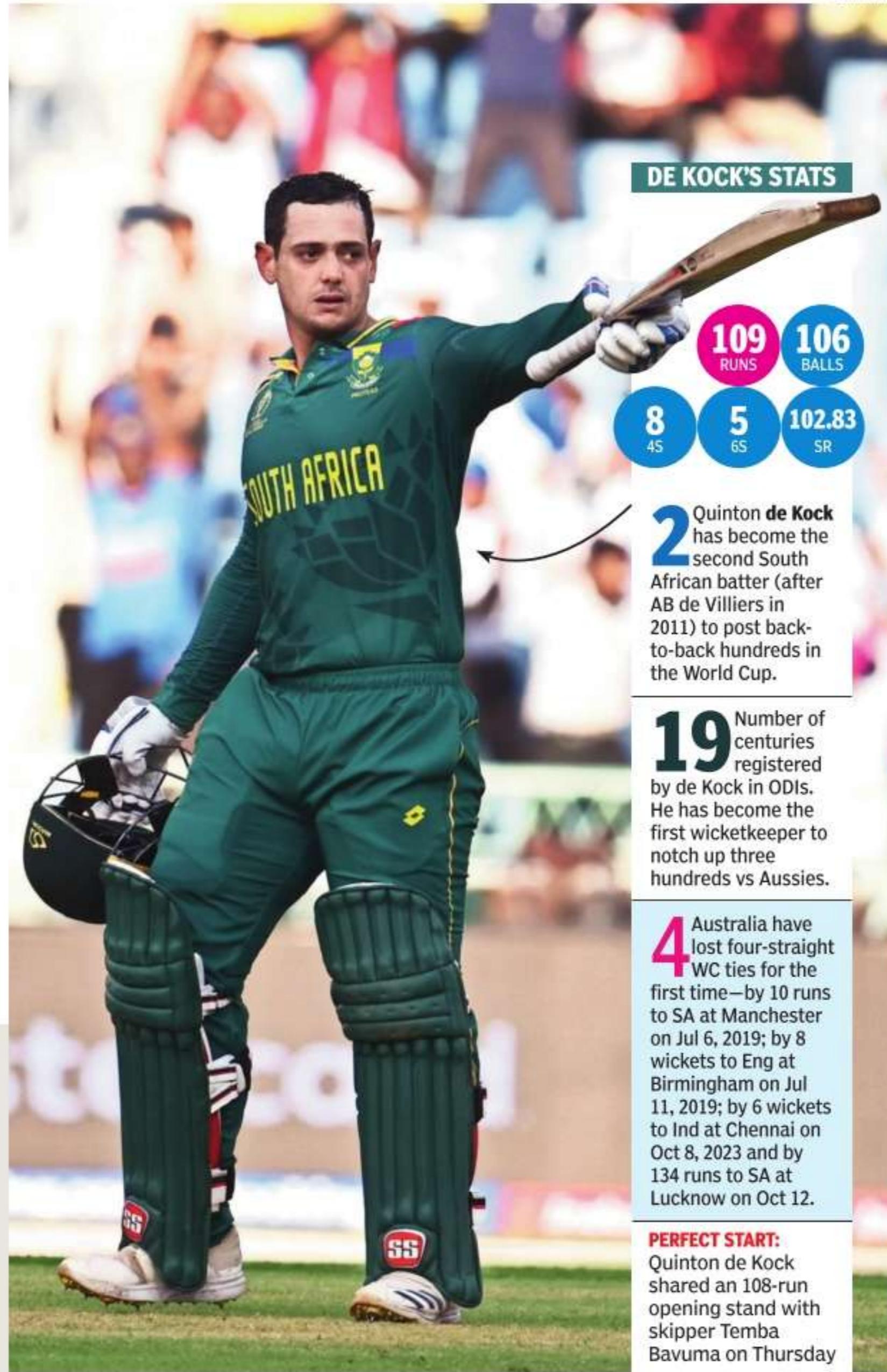
HOW THEY STAND

Pos	T	P	W	L	N/R	NR	Pts
1	SA	2	2	0	0	+2.360	4
2	NZ	2	2	0	0	+1.958	4
3	Ind	2	2	0	0	+1.500	4
4	Pak	2	2	0	0	+0.927	4
5	Eng	2	1	1	0	+0.553	2
6	B'desh	2	1	1	0	-0.653	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	-1.097	0

SCOREBOARD

South Africa: Quinton de Kock b Maxwell 109, Temba Bavuma c Warner b Maxwell 35, Rassie van der Dussen c (sub) (Abbott) b Zampa 26, Aiden Markram c Hazlewood b Cummings 56, Heinrich Klaasen c Inglis b Hazlewood 29, David Miller b Starc 17, Marc Jansen c Warner b Starc 26, Kagiso Rabada not out 0, Keshav Maharaj not out 0; **Extras:** (b4, lb2, w7) 13; **Total:** (7 wickets, 50 overs) 311; **Fall of wickets:**

Australia: Mitchell Starc c de Kock b Jansen 27, Pat Cummins c Miller b Shamsi 22, Adam Zampa not out 11, Josh Hazlewood c Rabada b Shamsi 2; **Extras:** (lb4, nb2, w11) 17; **Total** (all out, in 40.5 overs) 177; **Fall of wickets:** 2-27, 3-50, 4-56, 5-65, 6-70, 7-139, 8-143, 9-175; **Bowling:** Lungi Ngidi 8-2-18, Marco Jansen 7-54-2, Kagiso Rabada 8-1-33-3, Keshav Maharaj 10-0-30-2, Tabraiz Shamsi 7.5-0-38-2; **RESULT:** SA won by 134 runs **MoM:** Quinton de Kock



Sunil Kumar

DE KOCK'S STATS

109	RUNS
106	BALLS
8	4S
5	6S
102.83	SR

2 Quinton de Kock has become the second South African batter (after AB de Villiers in 2011) to post back-to-back hundreds in the World Cup.

19 Number of centuries registered by de Kock in ODIs. He has become the first wicketkeeper to notch up three hundreds vs Aussies.

4 Australia have lost four straight WC ties for the first time—by 10 runs to SA at Manchester on Jul 6, 2019; by 8 wickets to Eng at Birmingham on Jul 11, 2019; by 6 wickets to Ind at Chennai on Oct 8, 2023 and by 134 runs to SA at Lucknow on Oct 12.

PERFECT START: Quinton de Kock shared an 108-run opening stand with skipper Temba Bavuma on Thursday

Onus on Shakib to keep Bangla afloat

Neha.Surana@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Shakib Al Hasan has encountered many turbulences before flying high. The Bangladesh skipper, who had said that he is set to bring down the curtains on his international ride after the 2025 Champions Trophy, will be keen on making this ODI World Cup a memorable one.

Shakib is currently the No. 1 ODI allrounder but it hasn't been easy for him. From being suspended for two years in 2019 to leading his team in a global event like the World Cup, the highs and lows have been remarkable.

The 36-year-old, who reluctantly accepted to replace Tamim Iqbal as the skipper for the Asia Cup and the World Cup, said in an interview earlier that he will step down right after their campaign in India.

"Given the current reality, I am captain only till the World Cup. I don't want to be the captain. I don't think my captaincy is adding value at this stage of my career," Shakib had said.

Just a week before the

World Cup, Shakib, who has flirted with controversy quite often, found himself in another chaotic situation. Shakib and Tamim were involved in a rift after the latter was left out of the World Cup squad.

Bangladesh vice-captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said the team has put the fight behind and that the new skipper Shakib has eased well into the captaincy role. "I think the captain is doing well. He is bowling really well. All that (the rift) is a thing of the past. I think we are just looking forward to the rest of the World Cup and hope to do well here," said Shanto.

In the first match, Shakib picked up three wickets to power Bangladesh to a six-wicket win over Afghanistan. Even in the game against England, when all the other bowlers went for runs, his 1/2 was the only bright spot.

Same can't be said about his batting. His scores of 14 and 1 are not enough for a No. 4 batter and if Bangladesh's hope of staying relevant in the World Cup, Shakib has to deliver with the bat.

HASAN ALI IS NOT THE BEST NEW BALL OPTION, FEELS AAQIB JAVED

Ahmedabad: Hasan Ali is not the most potent new ball option in the absence of Naseem Shah and Pakistan has erred in not grooming a quality fast bowler for desperate times, feels former pacer **Aaqib Javed**.

Aaqib, who is currently a fast-bowling coach with PSL side Lahore Qalandars, has played a pivotal role in the emergence of Haris Rauf as a quality white ball operator.

"If you look at the new ball pairing, they haven't groomed anyone in the last

12 months. The selectors didn't know if not Naseem, who could be the third new ball bowling option. They didn't try anyone during the Asia Cup," Aaqib said.

"Hasan Ali, if you look at his record, has never been outstanding with the new ball. So, on days, if Shaheen gets stuck, there could be problems," Aaqib assessed.

Aaqib believes in straight talk and feels that with Naseem ruled out, only Afridi has that aura to scare the daylights out of batters. PTI

KANE BOOST FOR BLACK CAPS

Captain Adds Teeth To NZ Batting That Faces A Spin Test Against Bangladesh

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Chennai: When Kane Williamson suffered a nasty knee injury in the Indian Premier League 2023 opener in Ahmedabad in March, playing in the World Cup looked a far cry.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead was a worried man, stressing that the unexpected setback threw a spanner in their works in the lead-up to the blue-riband event. Stead feared the worst but did not give up hope on the timely return of Williamson, who, according to him, is a "three-in-one" package in the Black Caps

set-up—player, leader, and person.

In a matter of months, agony miraculously turned into ecstasy as the 33-year-old took baby yet significant steps that were good enough for him to force his way into the World Cup travelling party. Williamson's road to recovery has been near-perfect, which is why he finds himself on the brink of making a competitive comeback, a little over six months after the horrific injury.

Providing a shot in the arm for New Zealand, Williamson will lead the Kiwis for the rest of the tournament, beginning with a round-robin clash against Bang-

ladesh at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday. "Initially, it (making it to the World Cup) was not really considered. I have made some good progress. I was excited when I was named in the squad. It feels great to be here," Williamson said on Thursday.

To equip himself to the demands of tournament play, the batting ace had a hit in the two practice matches and has been sweating it out at the nets. "The rehabilitation was a series of many small steps. The warm-up games were enjoyable. Before and during those games, the focus was on returning to playing fitness," Williamson added.

Williamson's availability will serve as a big boost for New Zealand, who will have to showcase another side of their game on a

Chennai pitch that aid spinners. In their first two matches, the Black Caps feasted on the batting-friendly conditions which were presented to them in Ahmedabad and Hyderabad, posting comprehensive victories over defending champions England and the Netherlands respectively. With the Chepauk surface traditionally assisting the slower bowlers and Bangladesh being a side packed with spinners, New Zealand could be in for a big "challenge".

New Zealand boast of quality resources who can tackle the three-pronged Bangladeshi spin attack, which includes skipper and left-arm pacer Shakib Al Hasan. As for Bangladesh, they will look to get the winning feeling back, after going down to England in Dharamsala.

ICC ODI RANKINGS

NZ 6 | **B'DESH** 7

VENUE Chidambaram Stadium

PITCH

New Zealand batters will have their task cut out on a Chepauk pitch that will get slower as the game progresses.

WEATHER

The temperature will be around 30 degrees but over 70% humidity will make it worse.

NUMBERS GAME

ODDS: NZ 5/10, B'DESH 5/4

WICKETS: 2

Wickets New Zealand's left-arm pacer Trent Boult needs to complete 20 dismissals in ODIs. Currently, he has 198 scalps in 106 matches.

5 New Zealand have won all the five World Cup fixtures between the two teams—one each in 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015 and 2019.

9 New Zealand have won all nine ODIs against Bangladesh between February 13, 2019 and September 26, 2023.



Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Mani wins 100m gold; Tejas sets hurdles mark

Services Sprinter Misses Record But Tops On Debut

Biju.BabuCyriac @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: HH Manikanta raced to the gold medal in the men's 100m final at the 62nd National Open Athletics Championships here on Thursday but couldn't improve on the 10.23s he clocked in Wednesday's semifinals to better the national record.

Running in Lane 3, the Services athlete from Udupi was off to a moderate start but soon zoomed ahead of his rivals. He was in control after around 30 metres and steadily increased his lead till the finish line as he won by a big margin in 10.42s. The Inter-Services champion finished way ahead of teammate Nikhil Patil who came second in 10.69s. Railways inter-state meet champion Siva Kumar B was third in 10.7. "I was hoping to better yesterday's time but I'm happy with my performance," a beaming Manikanta told TOI after receiving the gold medal on debut.

"My next target is the National Games," added the 21-year-old who is aiming to improve his time to meet the Paris Olympics qualification mark of 10 seconds.

Tamil Nadu state champion Giridharan Ravikumar emerged fastest among women, clocking 11.36s for the 100m gold. Karnataka's Sneha SS (11.42s) was second and Punjab's Kamaljeet Kaur (11.52s) third.

RESULTS: Men: 100m: 1. Manikanta HH (SSCB, 10.42s); 2. Nikhil Patil (SSCB, 10.69s); 3. Siva B (Rlys, 10.7); 110mH: 1. Tejas Shirshe (Rlys, 13.67 MR. Old); Siddhanth Thingala (13.77, 2011); 2. Madhvendra Shekhatwala (Raj, 13.89); 3. Manav R (TN, 14.11); Discus throw: 1. Nirbhay Singh (Har, 55.21m); 2. Gagandeep Singh (SSCB, 55.14); 3. Prabhjot Singh (Pol, 54.88); Decathlon: 1. Yaman Deep Sharma (Rlys, 7078 points); 2. Rohit Roman (SSCB, 6965); 3. Jagtar Singh (Raj, 6888).

Women: 100m: 1. Giridharan Ravikumar (TN, 11.36s); 2. Sneha SS (Kar, 11.42); 3. Kamaljeet Kaur (Pun, 11.52); 100mH: 1. Pragyan Prasart Sahu (Odi, 13.46); 2. Sapna Kumari (Bih, 13.47); Long jump: 1. Bhavani Yadav Bhagat (AP, 6.22m); 2. Priya Rathore (Raj, 6.12); 3. Kusuma Radava (AP, 6.08); Shot put: 1. Abha Khatua (Mah, 16.32); 2. Manpreet Kaur (Pol, 15.96); 3. Srishuti Vij (Del, 15.78).

Injury worries for India ahead of opener vs Malaysia

Marcus.Mergulhao @timesgroup.com

Igor Stimac is confident his side can brave the odds and win the Merdeka Cup for the first time but may not risk some of his players with the crucial World Cup 2026 qualifiers coming up next month.

MERDEKA CUP

The national football team coach has travelled to Kuala Lumpur with a full-strength side. A couple of training sessions, though, threw up concerns over the fitness of several players, ahead of the semifinal against hosts Malaysia at the

Bukit Jalil Stadium on Friday. According to sources, Anwar Ali, Brandon Fernandes, Manvir Singh and Subhashish Bose are all doubtful for the opener.

There are also concerns over captain Sunil Chhetri and Anirudh Thapa, though a final call will be taken only on the morning of the match.

Anwar, a first-choice central defender alongside Sandesh Jhingan, will now make way for Mehtab Singh. Nikhil Poojary and Akash Mishra on either flank will complete the four-man defensive line-up.

Should Stimac choose to protect Chhetri, Linton Colaco could take his place as the lone striker with Lallianzua-

la Chhangte, Sahal Abdul Samad and Mahesh Singh adding to the firepower upfront.

"It is very important that we do not risk any injuries as we have two very important World Cup qualifiers coming up in November," Stimac told reporters on Thursday. "Being in Pot 2 of the draw for the qualifiers, we have a very good chance to make it to Round 3 for the first time, and that is very important to us."

FACE-OFF
NZ
VS
B'DESH
TV TIME
2 PM
STAR SPORTS



TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

WORLD CUP

"ADJUSTING TO SURFACES IN INDIA IS HUGE CHALLENGE FOR ALL TEAMS. YOU GO FROM VENUE TO VENUE AND THEY DO VARY A LOT. WE HAVE SEEN IN CHENNAI THAT THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF SPIN."
—Kane Williamson | New Zealand skipper

LAST DANCE OF THE TITANS, AGAINST THE TITANS?

Rohit Sharma And Virat Kohli Had Faced Pakistan For The First Time In Their Careers During An ICC Event. Saturday's Game Could Be Their Last Against The Same Opponent In An ICC Event

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

aren't great either, as his average of 17 in six games suggests.

But as his numbers over the last year show, Rohit has been keener to take risks in the powerplay, to allow batters like Kohli to bat at their pace, in a format that the India No.3 almost owns. It's an acknowledgement by the skipper himself that the modern white-ball game has no scope for accumulators. It's the England template after all.

Conversely, the renewed solidity of Kohli 2.0, post the pandemic-induced slump, and post the mental health break, has allowed Rohit to be more adventurous.

There were unconfirmed reports of a rift between the two amidst a power struggle over white-ball captaincy. While they may or may not be true, it does appear now that the two elder statesmen have forged new bonds as was witnessed in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

Rohit kept going to Virat for suggestions over field placing and bowling changes, often allowing his former captain to make the moves.

Kohli's sweaty and passionate hug to his skipper when Rohit sharply pounced Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka off Ravindra Jadeja in a low-scoring thriller on a turner in Colombo in the Asia Cup Super-Four clash also said a lot. The devil of indifference that one occasionally saw in him after unceremoniously being axed as ODI skipper had suddenly been anaesthetized.

The swearing, roaring champion was back.

As Pakistan await at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday, India will need Kohli's roar and runs and Rohit's adventure one more time. Both were castled by Shaheen Shah Afridi in Pallekele in the league stage of the Asia Cup. In the Super Four clash of the same event at the Premadasa, India hit back, Rohit and Gill and then Kohli and KL Rahul, aggressively tackled the talented left-arm seamer.

Round Three, Ahmedabad promises a lot. Whatever happens should be cherished. Rohit is 36, Kohli will be 35 next month and it is very likely that the two Indian superstars may not square up against the Green Shirts in an ICC event again.

His returns in the T20 World Cup

Gill trains for an hour, may play Pak match

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: India's surging World Cup campaign could soon receive a big boost ahead of the highly-anticipated clash against Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday.

The team's gun opener Shubman Gill, who has been suffering from dengue, causing him to miss the two World Cup games against Australia in Chennai and Afghanistan in New Delhi on Wednesday, joined the team here, and started training in Ahmedabad on Thursday, raising hopes that he could make his ODI World Cup debut in 48 hours' time. "He batted in the nets for an hour — from 11.30pm. He sprinted around, and looked comfortable," a top BCCI official told TOI. Gill's speedy recovery and subsequent training session is welcome news for India as the 24-year-old has been in top form lately. ODIs, in fact, are a format in which he's currently excelling the most, having scored 1917 runs in 35 matches at a phenomenal average of 66.10, with six hundreds and nine fifties.

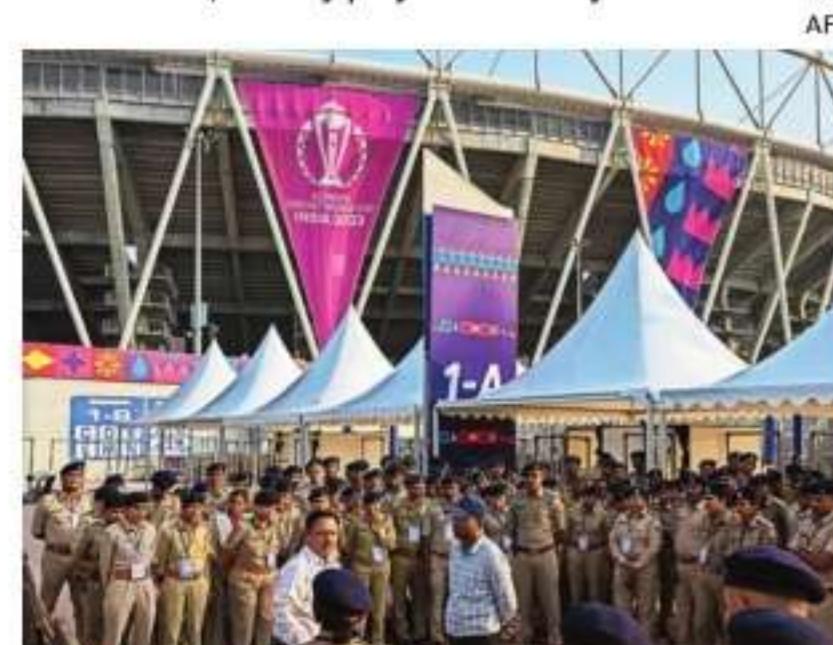
'GILL'S BODY RECOVERS FASTER THAN MOST OTHER PLAYERS'

New Delhi: The Indian team is tempted to play Shubman Gill in the match against Pakistan on Saturday with the opener having recovered from dengue that he contracted in Chennai last week. Sources told TOI that Gill's strong foundation helps him recover faster from illness and he has much greater endurance. "Even if there is 25% chance, he may play on Saturday. It is

believed that the team's trainer would need one full session with Gill to make him more or less ready for the game," a source said.

"Gill's endurance is 70% fitness is far greater than a lot who are at 100%. When players go down with an illness, they need a fair bit of time to go from negative to positive for endurance and strength. Gill's work ethic over the years and a naturally athletic base helps him go from neutral to the higher positives really quickly. His quick recovery from dengue is a testimony of his ability to bounce back," the source added.

—Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com



RING AFTER RING: Security personnel await briefing outside the stadium on Thursday



CYNOSURE: Virat Kohli arrives with the Indian team in Ahmedabad on Thursday



ADAAB, SIRS! Shahid Afridi greets the groundsmen while inspecting the pitch on Thursday



THE DRILL: Policemen receive instructions at the India-Pakistan venue on Thursday

You can't keep bowling at same pace on flat pitches: Shardul

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India's big discussion has moved on from having a stable No. 4 to finding the right No. 8 in the batting order. And it has now fuelled the debate on Shardul Thakur versus R Ashwin. India's World Cup selection was largely based on who can add depth to the batting. But things could be quite different now.

If he turns out on Saturday, Gill will

be playing his maiden ODI at a venue

which holds special memories for him.

It was here that he scored his maiden T20I hundred (126*) against New Zealand in February, a Test hundred (128) against Australia in March. He has also scored two IPL hundreds here — 129 versus Mumbai in Qualifier 2 this year and 101 versus Hyderabad.

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Before going into Saturday's game against Pakistan,



Shardul Thakur celebrates a wicket against Afghanistan

India will have to find answers to two questions: Is the surface too flat for Ashwin to play on? Will Pakistan be comfortable facing a wicket-taking, experienced bowler like Ashwin irrespective of the conditions?

The answer to the second question could start an argument between analysts. The reason lies in Shardul's words post the thumping win against Afghanistan in Delhi on Wednesday. "On flat pitches, you have to make sure you put a lot of pressure on the opposition after a partnership is broken.

Yogesh Chawda

You have to look for wickets," Shardul said while explaining his way of dealing with middle overs. "The way ODI cricket has been played in the last seven years with just four fielders outside the 30-yard circle, you are bound to see a big partnership scoring at a rate of six or seven runs per over. So, I look to mix it up with slower ones, yorkers and bouncers. You can't keep bowling at the same pace on flat pitches," he mentioned.

When captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid sit down to decide the playing XI, they may be tempted to look at the wicket-taking abilities of their sixth bowler; particularly when the Pakistan middle order has found its mojo in their last game. They have to decide if Shardul's lusty hits with the bat are more useful than Ashwin's guile and reputation with the ball. Shardul is unlikely to bowl more than six-seven overs with three seamers already in the XI. The Motera pitch may give an answer.

SL. Shanth Kumar

India will have to find answers to two questions: Is the surface too flat for Ashwin to play on? Will Pakistan be comfortable facing a wicket-taking, experienced bowler like Ashwin irrespective of the conditions?

SL. Shanth Kumar

'Stay plus check-up' in Ahmedabad hospitals

As Tensions Rise, City Offers Unique Hospitality To Fans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: T-Shirts - check! Face tattoos - check! Match Caps - Check! Bugles and trumpets - check! As the blockbuster contest between India and Pakistan is just two days away, cricket fever has begun gripping Ahmedabad. With the tickets being 'arranged', and purchased at exorbitant prices, Indian fans are all set to cheer the loudest for Team India.

Pakistan and India teams arrived in Ahmedabad on Wednesday and Thursday respectively and received a grand welcome at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International airport. As the city gears up to host its first match against Pakistan in 18 years, it has a fortified look, with the security establishment leaving no stone unturned to ensure the match takes place without any hiccup.

Meanwhile, cricket enthusiasts

RAIN THREAT LOOMS OVER MARQUEE TIE

Ahmedabad: Rain might play spoilsport during the match between India and Pakistan here on October 14 with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting light showers in the city and north Gujarat. According to the latest weather update shared by the IMD, light rains may occur at "isolated places" in north Gujarat districts, and Ahmedabad on October 14 and 15. PTI

from across the country and abroad have begun checking into the city.

A fan told TOI, "I have been waiting eagerly to watch this match. I managed to book my ticket early, and I'm waiting to see Virat in action."

A majority of the hotels in the city are fully sold out. Sponsors and fans have paid exorbitant prices to book their stay and flight tickets. "Guests have begun checking in for the match from Thursday itself. Some have arrived from abroad while others from different cities. The industry in Ahmedabad has greatly benefitted," said an Ahmedabad-based hotelier.

A unique sidelight of the big match is the stay-cum-health check-up package offered by city hospitals. Neeraj Lal, the COO of Apollo Hospital which is close to the stadium, said that they have got more than 20 inquiries so far. "The package includes meals and a stay for two persons. Majority of the inquiries are from the NRIs based in the UK and Kenya. The patients are likely to arrive on Friday ahead of the match," he said. Several other city-based hospitals had also fielded inquiries for one-day packages.

'Rio gold more of a mental journey than London triumph'

Team TOI

Oh wow! A 100m National record?? Do world champion all-round athletes, all-time legends still have that inner athlete, that first-timer, residing in them? Think about it, the answer may not be as simple as the question appears. Because, scanning the Times of India sports pages less than 10 hours after landing in India from Portland, Oregon and a short run with kids at India Gate, Ashton Eaton spied that little piece of athletics wonder on our pages. In an instant all the travel fatigue vanished, the tired mind and eyes suddenly all sharp and sparkle, as he leaned further into the page. All the introductory chatter was shut out as the de-

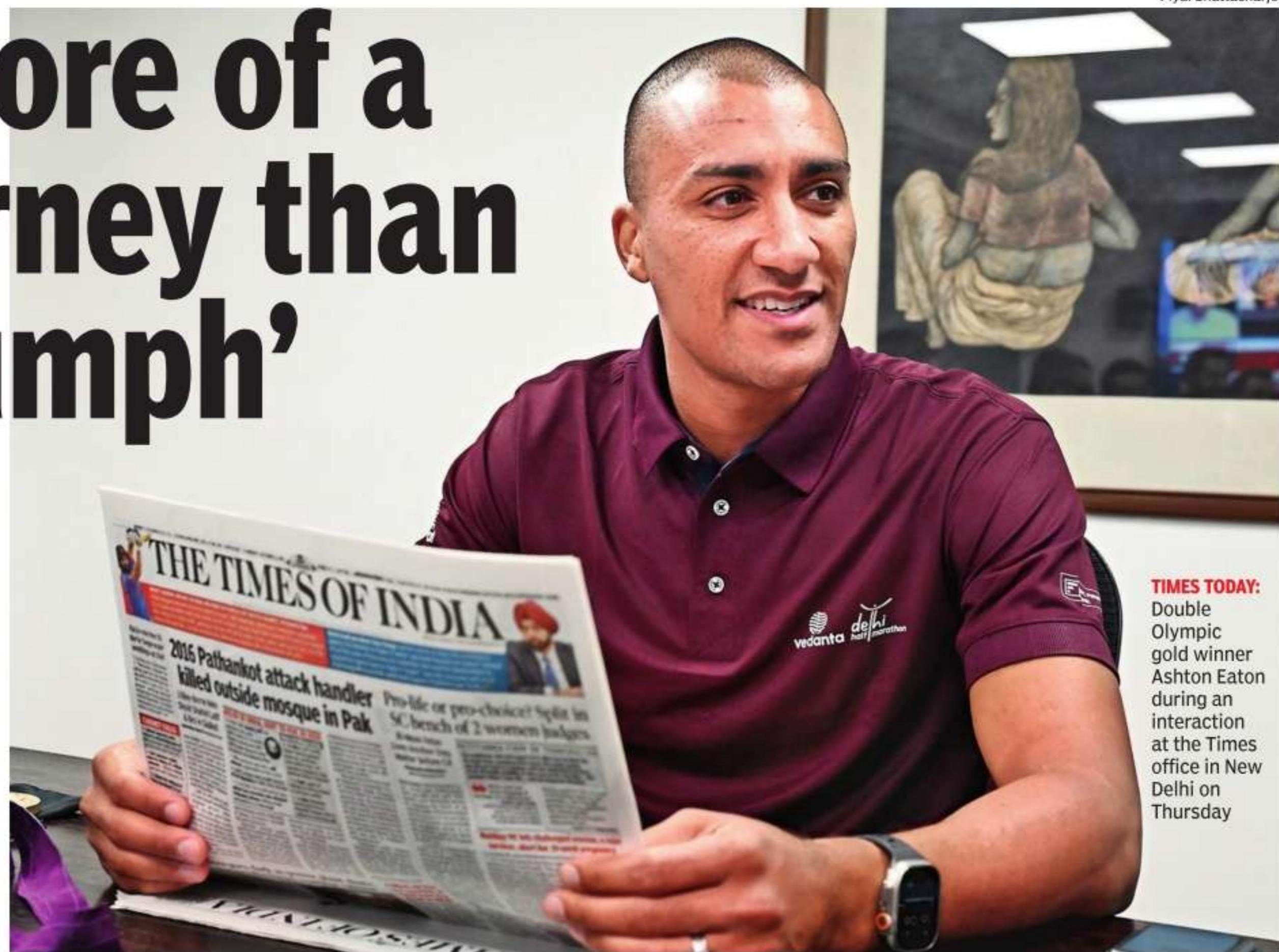
what he plans to do with his kind of platform." Read on.....

How did you choose decathlon?

I didn't choose. When I was young, I did a lot of sports. And my thing was I just liked being athletic. And then you know, in the States, you go to school you do just sports. And then you have two options. You can go to university, or you can go start working. I wanted to go to university, but it's very expensive. Some of my coaches in high school thought I could get a scholarship if I did this track and field event called decathlon. At the time, I was just like a sprinter and a long jumper. And I thought the idea of a scholarship sounded good. So, I said, 'Yeah, that sounds great. Let's go get a scholarship.' But I didn't have any idea what decathlon was. I was a senior in high school. And by that time, you're supposed to kind of be choosing where you want to go to college. The coaches told me what the events were in the decathlon. They called the college coaches and said, 'Hey, we have an athlete that we think would be a good decathlete, you should give him a scholarship.' And they asked whether I could do pole vault, whether I could throw the javelin? How were my high jump and hurdle numbers? My coaches would say well, he doesn't do any of those things yet. But he could be very good, you should see. Since I'm from Oregon, one of the Oregon coaches came and saw me do a long jump. And they liked what they saw. And they said, 'We'll give him a little scholarship. And we'll train him as a decathlete.' That's how my journey took off.

What constitutes the making of a good decathlete?

Basically, you need a strong foundation in various sports, and somebody who's versatile. When I was young, I did a lot of sports. And what you get from that is a person who can pick up new motions quickly, but then also be able to connect certain motions so that you're more efficient. For example, the motion of throwing a javelin, like right at the very end, it's actually very similar to high jump. One must have a background in different sports and body motions, and then some-



Piyal Bhattacharjee

TIMES TODAY:
Double
Olympic
gold winner
Ashton Eaton
during an
interaction
at the Times
office in New
Delhi on
Thursday

medal. It's like can you do this again? If you want to be successful in doing that, again, then motivation has to be intrinsic. The first time it was like, yeah, it's about getting a medal and scoring a lot of points and whatever. After that, you have to figure out, why am I doing sport? What's the point? **So, what is the point?**

For me, it was to be something beyond sport. I'm trying to figure out what my body is capable of doing. I was trying to discover my potential. **Do you think data architecture is helping athletes nowadays?**

As: There's a lot of data to be captured that I think could really enhance how people train and how they progress. But we don't do it very well. Ten years ago, I used video, which was very helpful. In American football, for example, they're tracking players during training with devices and seeing how far they run in the catapult systems. In basketball, they do the same thing. They track athletes too much. If an athlete agrees, they'll track how they sleep too. They'll track their nutrition. They collect data on everything. I think there's so much more we could do. And then we just don't do it. Honestly, I think many of the track coaches who are good are quite old. They've been in the sport a very long time. And they trust their intuition way more.

You have a black belt in taekwondo.
Have you ever thought of going down that lane?

You know, taekwondo is probably one of the most beneficial sports I ever did. The help was more mental than physical. From the first day you start, they make you do things that you don't think you can do. Because they know that if you can overcome these challenges... I was seven years old and on the first day of training, they said you need to do 100 push-ups, else we are not going to teach you. They just wanted you to try. Finally, I got to the point where I could do 100 push-ups and then I would start doing lessons. But they were like, asking you to do 100 push-ups is the easy thing we're going to ask you to do. We ran barefoot on rocks, got hit with sticks. But it was cool. Because once I got to the decathlon, I was unknowingly prepared. My coach would say, do this, do that. And I'd be like, no problem. You know, because I've already gone through that. Taekwondo training puts your body into very specific positions. It improves your body control.

Do you think that universities should also produce athletes like they produce tech professionals, doctors, engineers?

For me, that's the best template. It allows competition that drives people. Universities provide the highest level of competition at that age. ●

Double Olympic gold medalist Ashton Eaton is the brand ambassador of Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon

body who can make connections to improve their motions. One must have speed and power. Traditionally, decathletes were very big people. Not that fast. But I would say it's way more important to be fast, because 70% of the events are running and jumping.

Do track athletes make better decathletes?

I think it depends on the field athlete. If the field athlete is a long jumper, or triple jumper, or pole vaulter, I think they can make a good decathlete. Traditional decathletes like Daley Thompson were big guys. And slower. But I would say right around 2008, the idea changed. In the US, there was Brian Clay who was faster. He was very good at jumping and still good at throwing. And he was kind of like the first fast guy that scored really high. And then Trey Hardee. And then it was me. The reason is because 70% of the events are running – 100m, long jump, high jump, hurdles, 400m. The interesting bit about decathlon is you compete for two days. In a major championship each day is about 13 hours, you start at 9am for the 100m and you end at 10pm. So, in the whole competition you're probably competing for 26 hours. Actual physical performance is about four minutes, probably six minutes. So, you want to be a fast,

powerful person who can convert energy quickly.

Among the two days, which was your favourite day?

I like them both for different reasons. But I think Day One is the most exciting you know – 100m, 400m, long jump. It's just like a lot of powerful, fast stuff. Plus, it was my best day.

Which event did you find most difficult to master?

The older I got I really started appreciating all of them. Because they were all you know, different, challenging in their own way. When I was young, I hated shot put.

Our own Tejaswin Shankar won a decathlon silver in the Asian Games with 7666 points.

Yeah, but I mean it's his first one, right? My first try in decathlon got me 6900 points. My advice to him would be, try it again.

Your role model from track and field...

The athlete who impressed me most was Edwin Moses. Probably the one with the best record ever. He was just so smooth. He's built for it. He remained undefeated for 10 years. I mean, that's a lot of dominance. It's crazy.

What process did you follow to peak at the right time?

Honestly, a lot of that is driven by the coach. They're the ones who put a

THE ASHTON FILE

Height: 6'1". **Age:** 35

Hometown: Bend, Oregon

Education: University of Oregon (Psychology)

Wife: Brianne Theisen-Eaton, Oly bronze medalist in heptathlon (2016)

Olympic heights:

Rio 2016: Decathlon gold

London 2012: Decathlon gold

World Championship (including indoor):

Medals: 6 (5 gold, 1 silver)

Gold – 2012 (heptathlon), 2013 (decathlon), 2014 (heptathlon), 2015 (decathlon), 2016 (heptathlon); **Silver** medal – 2011 (decathlon)

● Has a black belt in taekwondo.

X profile: Learning mechanical engineering. Interested in contributing to human performance, energy, space.

plan together. But what we do is we work backwards. Let's say the Olympics are in August. Well, two months before the Olympic trials. So, we want to be on our way to kind of scoring well, being in peak physical condition, but not exactly there yet. A year before the Olympics, we use major competitions to help us dictate where we should be. In the Olympic year, there's always an indoor World Championships. It's in January. We go to indoor World Championships, try to win but see where we are. And that will help us understand, like, are we ahead of where we thought, which means you may need to slow down your training. It's not like we know perfectly what to do. The key is where athletes and coaches do really well is make adjustments. We do all the hard work the year before the Olympic Games, the year of the World Championships. And at the Olympics everything is lighter and faster.

What was more challenging for you, winning the 2012 Olympic gold medal or defending it in 2016?

Defending it in Rio de Janeiro definitely. And the challenge was more mental. It's way harder to defend a title than to be an underdog. Because there's more at stake to lose, more expectation from yourself. There's no way to avoid it. I think the satisfaction is not in winning or getting the

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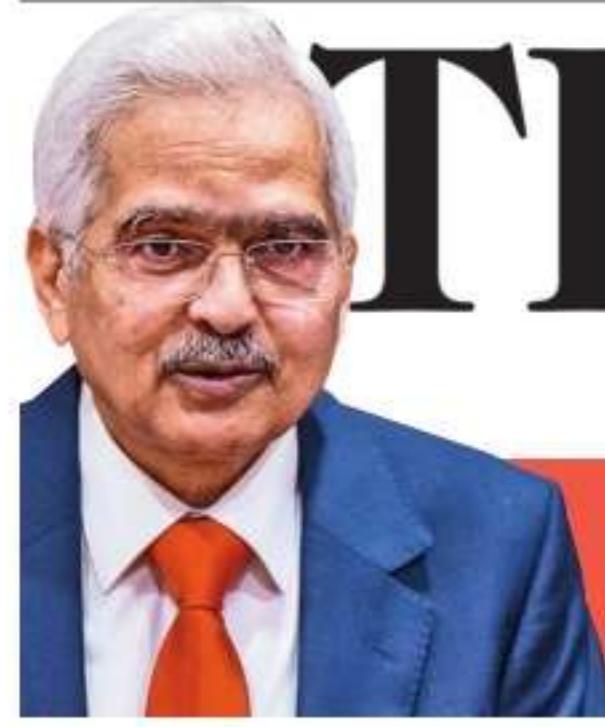
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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR)

AT IMF EVENT, RBI GUV BACKS INTERVENING IN MKTS TO CHECK VOLATILITY, URGES IMF TO NOT TAG NATIONS AS 'CURRENCY MANIPULATORS' **23**

Inflation at 3-mth low; 14-mth high in output growth

Retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5% in September as food prices moderated, bringing much-needed relief from surging price pressures, while industrial output growth rose to a 14-month high of 10.3% in August, led by a robust manufacturing sector.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has already taken pre-emptive measures to restrain food inflation, which are likely to ease price pressures in the market soon. **P23**

Ayodhya mosque to be named after Prophet

The mosque to be built as a replacement for Babri Masjid will be named after Prophet Muhammed and his father Abdullah, a group representing the All India Rabbta-e-Masjid (network of mosques) and Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation said at a Mumbai event, where the first brick for the proposed shrine was gifted. **P13**

T'gana officer protests shunt order by EC

Telangana IAS officer T K Sreedevi tweeted her discontent on being shunted out of her new posting by the EC, alongside 20 other senior officers, in a sudden move after assembly elections were announced. There were also murmurs of protest over the EC order transferring Hyderabad police commissioner CV Anand. **P14**

SC on plea to abort: We can't kill child in womb

Asks If Woman Can Be Coaxed To Carry To Term

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

We also need to balance the rights of the unborn child even though autonomy of women must trump... we have to be aware that whatever we are going to order would affect the rights of the unborn child... In your case it is just not a fetus but a living child which if delivered prematurely would have serious deformities. **Can you not wait for a few more weeks**, having waited for 26 weeks — **CJI DY Chandrachud**

New Delhi: "Our conscience militates against putting the child in the womb to death under judicial orders," said the Supreme Court Thursday as it continued to grapple with the "pro-life versus pro-choice" dilemma arising out of the case of a viable and healthy fetus, over 26 weeks old, being carried by a married woman who is determined to terminate the pregnancy.

Death penalty of Batla convict commuted to life

New Delhi: Noting that convicted terrorist in the Batla House encounter, Ariz Khan, is "not incapable of reformation" and the shootout "was neither pre-planned nor pre-meditated", the Delhi high court Thursday commuted his death sentence to a life term, reports Abhinav Garg.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Amit Sharma observed that while the country had lost a decorated police officer, Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, in the encounter, the case didn't fall in the "rarest of rare" category to merit capital punishment.

► 'Apt for convict', P 10

In judge appts, 'silence is approval'

The SC collegium invoked the "silence is approval" clause in the Memorandum of Procedure to recommend the appointment of three HC judges. The clause says if state authorities do not respond within six weeks of the HC chief justice's proposal, the Union minister of law should presume they have nothing to add and proceed. **INSIDE FLAP**

the child in the womb to death under judicial orders. If the baby is delivered prematurely, doctors say it may have serious deformities. If she carries on with the pregnancy for a few more weeks, the child will be healthier and would have better chances of finding adoptive parents as in India an overwhelming majority pre-

fer to adopt a healthy child."

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati came to the rescue of the court by volunteering to try to persuade the woman to continue with the pregnancy for a few more weeks. The next hearing is on Friday.

► 'Need to balance', P 20

Now, 5-year work permits for green card applicants

US authorities have decided to extend the validity of certain types of work permits (employment authorisation documents) to five years, a move aimed at reducing persistent backlog in processing of applications, reports Lubna Kabby. The move is expected to benefit those whose green card application is in the final phase, a process that can still take up to a few years.

The announcement was welcomed by US employers and a significant number people from India holding H-1B visas who are on track for a green card. **P21**

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Sleeper Vande Bharat will challenge planes next year

The New Trains Have Been Designed For Comfort And Safety And Will Run At Up To 200Kmph When The Tracks Are Upgraded

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

Early next year, you might be able to travel long distance in India in a world-class train. As the fifth anniversary of Vande Bharat's launch nears, Indian Railways is gearing up to introduce a sleeper version (see photos) of the modern train that has made intercity travel palatable with its creature comforts. The sleeper train will be the fastest in India with a maximum speed of 200kmph.

Railway ministry officials said the design and interiors of Vande Bharat trains have been regularly improved since the inaugural run between Delhi and Varanasi in February 2019. Currently, 34 pairs of these fully air-conditioned trains with chair car and executive class seating are operational across the country.

Vande Bharat trains with sleeper facilities have the potential to replace Rajdhani Express trains, and they will bring down travel time once the track infrastructure has been upgraded. Already, the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes are being improved for trains to run at 160kmph.

823 Berths Per Train
New Vande Bharat trains are now being rolled out faster as they have only 8 cars instead of 16 in each train or rake, to meet the high demand across the country and ensure good occupancy. Six or seven new trains are now made every month. "Barring a couple of routes, the occupancy rate is around 100% or more even though their fare is more than that of other express trains," a railway ministry official said.

The sleeper version of Vande Bharat will have 16 cars, with at least one car for AC1 and the others for AC2 and AC3. The first version will have 857 berths, of which 823 will be for passengers and the rest for staff. Every coach will have three toilets instead of four, and a mini pantry.

Attention To Detail
While unveiling the first look of the sleeper train's interior, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw pointed out that its cabin ladders have been designed to ensure that passengers don't hit the ceiling while climbing up. "The sleeper berth has been designed in such a way that it gives more comfort. Even the ladder for the upper berth has been designed so that a passenger finds it easy to occupy it (the berth)."

A railway ministry official said the sleeper version will

have better suspension and cabin lighting. "We will make more improvements based on passenger feedback. We will also float a tender for manufacturing these trains with aluminium bodies that will have a maximum design speed of 220kmph." The successful bidder will manufacture 100 such trains, per the tender document.

Aam Aadmi's Train In Future
Vande Bharat trains will be railways' mainstay for passenger transport. Their number is likely to touch 500 in the next three years, and the government is targeting 4,500 trains by 2047, says the draft report prepared by the government's infrastructure group.

While more bullet trains might be introduced after the completion of the Mum-

COVERING 33 ROUTES ACROSS 24 STATES

62 lakh km
Distance covered by Vande Bharat trains till Sept 22. That's like going around the Earth 154 times

1.2 crore
Total passengers carried

90%
Average occupancy*



MORE VANDE VERSIONS COMING

Vande Metro | Equipped with air conditioning and automatic doors, these 12-car trains will be a part of the mainline electric multiple unit (MEMU) trains, and the prototype could be rolled out in December this year. Each car of the **Vande Metro** can accommodate 300 passengers and the train has a design speed of 130kmph. These trains can be deployed on inter-city routes covering 200-300 km.

Vande General | A non-AC version of the train will also be introduced for the economy-class long-route passengers. This Vande train will have 22 cars without automatic doors.

Elevated Tracks On Cards

Although the Vande trains are being designed to run at up to 220kmph, they are forced to run at 20th-century speeds of 100-110kmph as the tracks have not been upgraded. One way to increase train speed would be to build elevated tracks for them, especially between major state capitals. The draft Vision-2047 prepared by the infrastructure ministries has proposed building 20,000km of elevated railway track by 2047.

The big question, though, is about these train's viability as they face competition from the cheaper mail and express trains as well as the rapidly improving national highway network. However, railway officials are confident the demand for them will remain strong as these trains cater to a different clientele and have a long waiting list at present.

TIMES Special

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SC invokes 'silence is approval' clause to name 3 judge picks

Rarely Used Provision Presumes No Govt Objection

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud has recommended to the Union government appointment of 13 judicial officers and five advocates as judges of various high courts, three of whom were made invoking a rarely used "silence is approval" clause in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

Para 14 of the MoP for appointment of HC judges provides that if comments of the state constitutional authorities are not received within six weeks from the date of receipt of the proposal from the HC chief justice, it should be presumed by the Union minister of law and justice that the governor and chief minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

The collegium of CJI, Justices Sanjay K Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna invoked MoP to recommend appointments of judicial officers Biswajit Palit and Sabyasachi D Purkayasha as judges of the Tripura HC and Vinay Kanaiyalal Vyas as judge of Gujarat HC.

Interestingly, the collegium recommended appoint-



The SC recommended 18 judge candidates, including retired district judge Shalinder Kaur and district judge Ravinder Dudeja, at present registrar general of Delhi HC, as judges of the Delhi high court

Nawab's interim bail extended by 3 months

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended the interim medical bail granted to NCP leader Nawab Malik by another three months. He was granted bail for two months on August 11. A bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Dipankar Datta extended the relief after Malik's lawyer pleaded that his one kidney has failed. The ED also did not oppose Malik's plea. The ED arrested the former minister last year in a laundering case registered over the Goawala compound property in Kurla, allegedly linked to Dawood Ibrahim. TNN

ment of retired district judge Shalinder Kaur and district judge Ravinder Dudeja, at present registrar general of Delhi HC, as judges of the Delhi HC. A year ago, it was Dudeja who had issued a notification transferring Kaur from Dwaraka court to Shahdara court.

The five judicial officers recommended for appointment as judges of Kerala HC are M B Snehalata, Johnson John, G Girish, C Pratheepkumar and P Krishna Kumar. For the Bombay HC, the collegium recommended appointment of three judicial officers Abhay J Mantri, Shyam C Chandak and Neeraj P Dhotre.

While advocate Ravinda

Kumar Agrawal's name has been recommended for appointment as judge of the Chhattisgarh HC, names of four advocates — Harinath Nunapally, Kirnamayee Mandava, Sugamathi Jagadam and Nyapathi Vijay — have been recommended for appointment as judges of Andhra Pradesh HC.

More than four and half years after Justice M V Murralidaran was transferred from Madras HC to Manipur HC, the SC collegium recommended his transfer to Calcutta HC, rejecting his request for either continuance at Manipur HC or transfer to his parent HC, since he is due for retirement in April 2024.

Bano in her submission said that the state granted them relief without considering the nature of the offence and they do not deserve any leniency as they are not at all remorseful of their deeds. TNN