

WHAT CBI REPORTEDLY ASKED SISODIA



Q Did you call DANICS officer C Arvind to Arvind Kejriwal's residence and hand over 'draft GoM' report?



Q Was there any discussion in GoM meetings about giving wholesale business to private entities?



Q Was it discussed in these meetings that 12% margin will be fixed for private entities?



Q Where were the alleged 6% kickbacks (from the 12% margin) used? How much money was received as kickbacks in total?



Q What's your relationship with businessmen Amit Arora, Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey?



Q What discussions were held with excise commissioner and two other excise officials pertaining to framing of policy?



Q Did you use multiple phones, many of them in another person's name, during the commission of alleged crime?



Q Was approval of competent authority taken?



Sisodia at Rajghat

CBI sources say Sisodia remained evasive and didn't give proper replies to many of the questions paving the need for custodial interrogation

Arrest May Throw A Spanner In The Works

With Manish Sisodia Handling 18 Of 33 Govt Departments, Key Projects May Now Be Impacted

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New Delhi: Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's arrest in the alleged excise policy scam — though widely speculated by many, including chief minister Arvind Kejriwal — has come as a big jolt to the Aam Aadmi Party.

Handling 18 of the 33 government departments, Sisodia was not only literally carrying the entire government on his shoulders, but his able handling of the dispensation had also given the chief minister a leverage to focus on the expansion of the party beyond Delhi and Punjab.

In comparison to Sisodia, the other ministers in Kejriwal's cabinet — Kailash Gahlot, Gopal Rai, Imran Hussain and Raj Kumar Anand — were largely under-utilised. While Gahlot has been handling six portfolios, including transport and revenue, Anand has four; Rai three and Hussain two.

If Kejriwal never held any portfolio and managed to concentrate on party politics, it was because his deputy was carrying forward his government's programme of providing schools and hospitals, apart from looking after the finances, planning and other crucial sectors.

When former health minister Satyendar Jain was arrested in a money laundering case in May last year, Kejriwal could afford not to replace him with another minister because he had Sisodia. The CM assigned the entire work being done by Jain to his deputy. With Sisodia's arrest, would Kejriwal look for another minister to hand over his departments? Or would he replace him or Jain with a new face?

WHAT CBI'S FIR ALLEGES

► Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, excise commissioner Arvind Gopika Krishna, deputy commissioner Anand Tiwari and assistant commissioner Pankaj Bhattacharya were instrumental in recommending and taking decisions pertaining to excise policy for the year 2021-22 without approval of competent authority, and with an intention to extend undue favours to the licensees after tender.

► Liquor businessmen Amit Arora, Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey are close associates of Manish Sisodia and actively involved in managing and diverting undue pecuniary advantage collected from liquor licensees to accused public servants

FRESH FINDINGS BY CBI

► The profit margin for wholesalers was 5% in earlier policy and Group of Ministers' (GoM) draft. This was increased to 12% on south lobby's demand

► Reports of the expert committee on excise policy were completely changed by constituting a GoM in a calculated manner by concealing an earlier note from council of ministers in support of the expert committee

► A crucial file was missing

► 'South lobby' allegedly paid kickbacks

► A top excise official was pressured into toeing the line



Photo: Piyal Bhattacharya

MAJOR PROJECTS BEING HANDLED BY SISODIA

► Budget 2023-24

► Rozgaar Budget schemes

- Start-up policy, food truck

policy, redevelopment of iconic

markets, revamp of food hubs,

cloud kitchens, electronic city,

Dilli Bazaar portal, Rozgaar

2.0, green jobs through

solar policy, among others

► G20 preparations

► Construction of new school

buildings, Schools of Excellence,

teachers training abroad

► Construction of new

hospitals, e-health card

for every citizen, free

pathological tests for

senior citizens

► Redevelopment of

500km of roads as per

European standard

► New excise policy

Portfolios handled by Sisodia

Finance; planning; home; education; technical and higher education; health; public works; urban development; irrigation and flood control; water; power; vigilance; tourism; industries; labour; excise; art, culture and languages; services; and land and building

Answers to these questions would only be known in the next few days.

Sources said Gahlot had attended all the meetings called by Sisodia to discuss budget and other important projects since February 19 when the latter was first called by CBI for questioning. A senior party functionary added that when Kejriwal did not replace Jain — who has now been in judicial custody for almost nine months — in the Cabinet, removing Sisodia to bring in a new face was not likely.

"It is too early to comment on these things," said an AAP functionary. "We will move a bail application immediately. If Manish ji gets bail in the next few days, the question of giving his portfolios to somebody else would not arise," the functionary added.

However, if the deputy CM remains in jail for 7-8 months, as feared by both Sisodia himself and Kejriwal, the CM will have to engage in long-term planning.

The first and foremost challenge before the government now is who will present the budget for financial year 2023-24 in the assembly. Ever since AAP formed the government in 2015, Sisodia has been tasked with presenting the

party as well as the government had taken place between the CM and his deputy in the last few days.

"The duo had long meetings in the past few days, and I am sure they must have prepared a road map. But nobody else is privy to that information," said the second functionary.

The first and foremost challenge before the government now is who will present the budget for financial year 2023-24 in the assembly. Ever

since AAP formed the government in 2015, Sisodia has been tasked with presenting the

budget every year. Sources said he had held several meetings in the last one week and finalised the document.

If Manish ji does not get bail anytime soon, the chief minister will have to give the finance department to some other minister, so that the budget could be presented in time. It could even be him who takes charge of it," said the first functionary.

Sources said Kejriwal might have to cut down on his expansion spree and personally look after a few departments now.

Among key projects that

could be affected include the launch of various employment-oriented schemes announced by the AAP government last year, many of which are said to have reached the stage of implementation. Also projects like cleaning of the Yamuna, 24-hour water supply and piped network in every household, construction of new school buildings and schools of excellence, new hospitals, e-health card for citizens, free pathological tests for senior citizens and redevelopment of roads may also get impacted as Sisodia was directly monitoring these.

With eight G20-related events, including the main summit, scheduled to be held in the capital and the Public Works Department having been assigned the responsibility of improving roads, flyovers and footpaths, Sisodia's absence may be felt in a big way.

With a constant ongoing tussle with the lieutenant governor on a host of governance issues and division of power, which takes elected dispensation's time and energy, the AAP government is likely to miss the presence of the deputy CM even more.

Another area that may feel the jolt is AAP's expansion plan at a time when the Lok Sabha elections are just over a year away and Kejriwal is trying to build a third front by taking many other regional players on board. The year 2023 is crucial as several states are going to polls.

According to party functionaries, Kejriwal had planned visits to Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in the coming weeks. With Sisodia's absence, he may just get tied down in the Capital.

try. Therefore, he has been arrested. He will be produced before the court," the CBI added.

Agency sources said the probe had revealed that the profit margin for liquor wholesalers was 5% in earlier policy and the same was also the view of the GoM in their policy draft. "This margin was raised to 12% on the south lobby's demand," the source said, alleging 6% of this 12% was the kickback paid by the south lobby. While a crucial file pertaining to the excise policy was allegedly found missing or destroyed, CBI also found that a top excise official was allegedly pressured into "towing the line." "Further, reports of the expert panel on excise policy were completely changed by constituting a GoM in a calculated manner by concealing an earlier note from council of ministers in support of the expert panel," said another source. Sisodia was confronted with findings — which have also been corroborated in the probe by ED — that he and other accused "destroyed, used or changed" 170 phones to conceal evidence of "kickbacks" worth thousands of crores of rupees in the alleged scam. Sisodia was asked if he used four phones in other person's name.

He was questioned regarding the statement made by DANICS officer C Arvind, who was also the secretary to Sisodia, that the draft GoM report was given to him in March 2021 after Sisodia called him to the residence of CM Arvind Kejriwal. As per Arvind, Satyendar Jain was also present there.

Vigilance Unit

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Sisodia: Consider myself lucky for going to jail for my country

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Hundreds of supporters gathered outside deputy CM Manish Sisodia's residence on Mathura Road early on Sunday, shouting slogans of "Manish Sisodia zindabad, shiksha mantra zindabad".

"We are with you," they shouted, as Sisodia waved from an open-roof car. He then left for Rajghat, where scores of supporters and the entire top leadership of AAP had gathered.

While MP Sanjay Singh and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj went inside, along with Sisodia, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chaddha and mayor Shelly Oberoi remained outside with the supporters.

Later, Sisodia addressed the supporters outside Rajghat. He said the people of Delhi were his family and appealed to them to take care of his wife, currently unwell, while he was in jail.

"I have always worked hard with honesty... I have seen many ups and downs in life, my wife has supported me a lot, when I was in a TV channel, life was good... but I left every-



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Sanjay Singh during a protest by AAP

hing to work with Kejriwal ji in jhuggis... at that time, my wife helped me a lot," he said.

"Today, when they are sending me to jail, my son is in university and my wife will be alone at home... she remains very ill, nowadays. You will have to take care of her," he said, breaking down.

Sisodia said he would fully cooperate with the probe. "I have the love of lakhs of children and crores of countrymen with me. Even if I have to go to jail for a few months, I do not care. We are followers of Bhagat Singh. Bhagat Singh died for the country. If I have to go to jail over such false allegations, it is a small thing."

Urging the children of Delhi to keep on studying, he said, "I will stop eating if you don't study properly."

Sisodia accused the Centre of sending him to jail on false charges and said he had not done anything wrong.

In a letter to the people of Delhi, Sisodia said these were all false cases because AAP was growing fast in the country. "Today, Modiji is only afraid of Kejriwal ji and not of Rahul Gandhi or any other leader. That is the reason that they levy false cases on AAP leaders every day."

He said he would come out in seven-to-eight months. "I want to tell Kejriwal ji that you should not worry about me but keep working for the country. I consider myself lucky that I am going to jail for the country," he said.

Thereafter, Sisodia left for the CBI office amid heavy presence on the way to prevent the entry of AAP supporters.

Police said they received a call from Kumar's brother, who lived nearby, at 6 am. He informed the cops that Kumar's flat was locked from inside and no one was responding to the doorbell. "A team from the local police station was sent to the spot. They broke open the lock to enter the flat," an officer said.

Kumar's mother (75), who had fallen while trying to open the door, was lying on the floor. The cops found the bodies in the bedroom in a pool of blood. A knife was lying nearby. "Kumar, his wife, Sunita, and their two sons were rushed to hospital. While Kumar is critical, the other three were declared dead," the officer said.

Deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka) M Harsha

Man Kills Wife, 2 Kids; Battles For Life Slits Own Wrist Too; In Message On WhatsApp Group, Cites Financial Losses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 38-year-old man allegedly killed his wife and two sons, one of them an infant, and then tried to end his own life in Dwarka on Sunday.

The baby had completed three months on Saturday.

Police said the accused, Rajesh Kumar, was reeling under a financial crisis. The family lived in a rented ground-floor flat in Block A of Kashmire Gali, Vipin Garden, where he owned a general store in Som Bazar. Earlier, he used to run a company that was engaged in ISO certification-related work.

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FAMILY WIPE OUT

When | Early Sunday | Reason | Financial woes

Where | Kashmire Gali, Vipin Garden

Victims
1) Sunita (35)
2) 5-year-old son
3) 4-month-old son

Accused | Rajesh (38), he tried to end his own life after killing them



WHAT HAPPENED

► On Sunday morning, Rajesh sent a message to a WhatsApp group, claiming that he was cheated by his former employees and neighbours; he said he was going to do something about it

► One of his friends in the group informed his brother-in-law, who went to the house to find that Rajesh had stabbed his wife and children multiple times with a knife

► Rajesh, owner of a general store, earlier ran his own company
► His brother-in-law said Rajesh seemed happy and had never talked about any financial issues

Vardhan said Kumar stabbed his wife and then his children multiple times on the neck and other parts. "He then inflicted a deep injury on his wrist with the knife," he said. Investigation revealed that Kumar sent a WhatsApp message to his school friends' group between 4 am and 4.30 am on Sunday. In the WhatsApp message, Kumar mentioned that he had suffered a huge financial loss. "He claimed that his ISO certification business was affected after the Covid lockdown as his employees betrayed him and took all his customers from him. He also alleged that several people defrauded him of different amounts on the pretext of getting him a loan." The message was equivalent to nearly six pages, the officer said.

Alarmed, one of WhatsApp group members immediately contacted Kumar's brother. He rushed to Kumar's house. "His parents, both 75 years old, were sleeping in another room. His mother tried to open the door, but fell," the officer said.

Asked if the parents heard any noise from their son's bedroom, police said Kumar's father told me about his financial woes," he said.

In the morning, Akhilesh got a call from a friend that Kumar had killed his wife and kids. "I called his elder brother, who told me come to the house. I reached there and saw bodies in the bedroom." He said there were gloves and a knife on the spot and blood was splattered all over the room.

Kumar was a native of Bihar and was living in the rented accommodation for several years. Residents of Kashmire Gali were in shock after the incident. "He used to greet us and I never saw him tensed," said Mukesh Rajput, a resident.

Interior designer held for stalking, harassing women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 32-year-old interior designer has been apprehended for allegedly stalking and sexually harassing women on a social networking site.

The accused, identified as Pradeep Sharma, is a resident of Bhagwan Vihar in Uttam Nagar and is married, police said. He is a furniture designer and has worked with several big firms on various projects, they said.

Deputy commissioner of police (north) Sagar Singh Kalasi said an 18-year-old college-going girl had registered a complaint that she was being harassed by some unknown person on a social media platform. She alleged that the accused had some of her personal pictures and videos and was threatening to make them public. These files were allegedly available with her ex-boyfriend, who has denied sharing them with anyone, he said.

A case was registered, and a team led by SHO (cyber) Pawan Tomar began the investigation and obtained the details of the accused's social media account. "However, no mobile numbers

were provided by the accused at the time of registering the account. The email ID obtained was sent to the concerned company, but no details were made available," an officer said.

The pictures of the accused were obtained through technical analysis, and he was nabbed from his house in Uttam Nagar, they said.

"He has a strange obsession with young girls. Being very shy and introverted, he indulged in cyber stalking. He made various fake social media profiles, from which he contacted random boys, pretending to be a girl," the officer said.

By luring them, he allegedly used to obtain private videos or pictures of their girlfriends, along with their social media details. Following this, he would allegedly stalk these girls through fake profiles and threaten them by showing their private pictures and videos and seeking more such files.

On inspection of the mobile phone recovered from him, police found that he had obtained nude pictures and videos of more than 50 girls from their boyfriends using the same modus operandi.

17-yr-old kidnapped, thrashed; 3 arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy was allegedly kidnapped, held hostage, and thrashed in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area, police said on Sunday, adding three people, including a history sheeter, have been arrested in the case.

The accused have been identified as Arun (24), who has been involved in nine criminal cases; Kamal (34), named in three cases, and Anurag (23). One automatic pistol and a country-made pistol with four loaded live cartridges were recovered from their possession.

They targeted the juvenile for having an affair with the sister of their associate Vishal.

The complainant said that early on February 23, around five people kidnapped him when he was going back from Masoodpur Community Centre after attending a wedding, said deputy commissioner of police (southwest) Manoj C.

The boy was waiting to catch an autorickshaw when the accused reached there on motorcycles and beat him with sticks. Thereafter, they kidnapped him and took him to the Bhanwar Singh Camp in Vasant Vihar around 1.30 am.

"Four fire tenders were sent to the spot and around 10.50 pm, the fire was controlled," said DFS director Atul Garg.

The complainant informed the police with the help of the public. He was got admitted to the hospital. A team under inspector (special staff) Pawan Dahiya was formed and the three accused were arrested at DDA Park in RK Puram sector 12.

AN OFFICER SAYS
Kamal (accused) was a member of the Kishor gang. Later, he started working for the Akku gang in Vasant Vihar and Vasant Kunj area

"Kamal was a member of the Kishor gang. Later, he started working for the Akku gang in Vasant Vihar and Vasant Kunj area," an officer said.

On February 22, one of Kamal's associates told him about the boy having an affair with Vishal's sister. He wanted to teach him a lesson. As per their plan, they kidnapped the boy and thrashed him. "They were planning to commit another crime but before that, they were arrested," the DCP said.

Fire at golf club, no one injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A fire broke out at the Delhi Golf Club on Sunday, officials said, adding no one was injured in the incident. Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call about the incident at Dr Zakir Hussain Marg at 10.26

am. "Four fire tenders were sent to the spot and around 10.50 pm, the fire was controlled," said DFS director Atul Garg.

He said the fire was in furniture and office material.

Police suspect that a short circuit might have triggered the fire.

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Hotel staff, bouncers thrash groom and 10 others over DJ party; 9 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ghaziabad: Nine employees of a hotel in the Masuri area were arrested and the owner called for questioning for allegedly molesting, abusing and attacking a groom and his relatives with sticks during a pre-wedding ceremony at the hotel, police said on Sunday. The hotel owner's son, spotted attacking a person in a video of the incident, is absconding, police added.

The family had booked the Grand Iris Hotel in Govindpuri for the mehendi ceremony on Saturday evening and insisted the hotel staff to

play the disc jockey past midnight which allegedly led to a scuffle. In a police complaint, the family claimed the hotel staff molested a few women guests, including the groom's sister and also tore her saree. They claimed, at the behest of the hotel owner, the staff and bouncers attacked the family with sticks and confined them on the premises for two hours.

The groom, who is a lawyer, and his brother sustained grievous injuries and were admitted to the ICU for treatment. A 13-year-old boy, who was attending the party, also sustained injuries while he tried to extricate his

father while he was being bashed up by the hotel staff, the family claimed.

According to the complainant, 20 people attacked the family and locked them up inside the hotel for nearly two hours till the police reached the spot. During the melee, the staff allegedly also snatched a bag containing Rs3 lakh and a few valuables.

Deputy commissioner of police (rural) Ravi Kumar told TOI that an FIR was registered against the hotel owner and staffers under IPC sections 354 (molestation), 354A (sexual harassment), 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 379 (theft).

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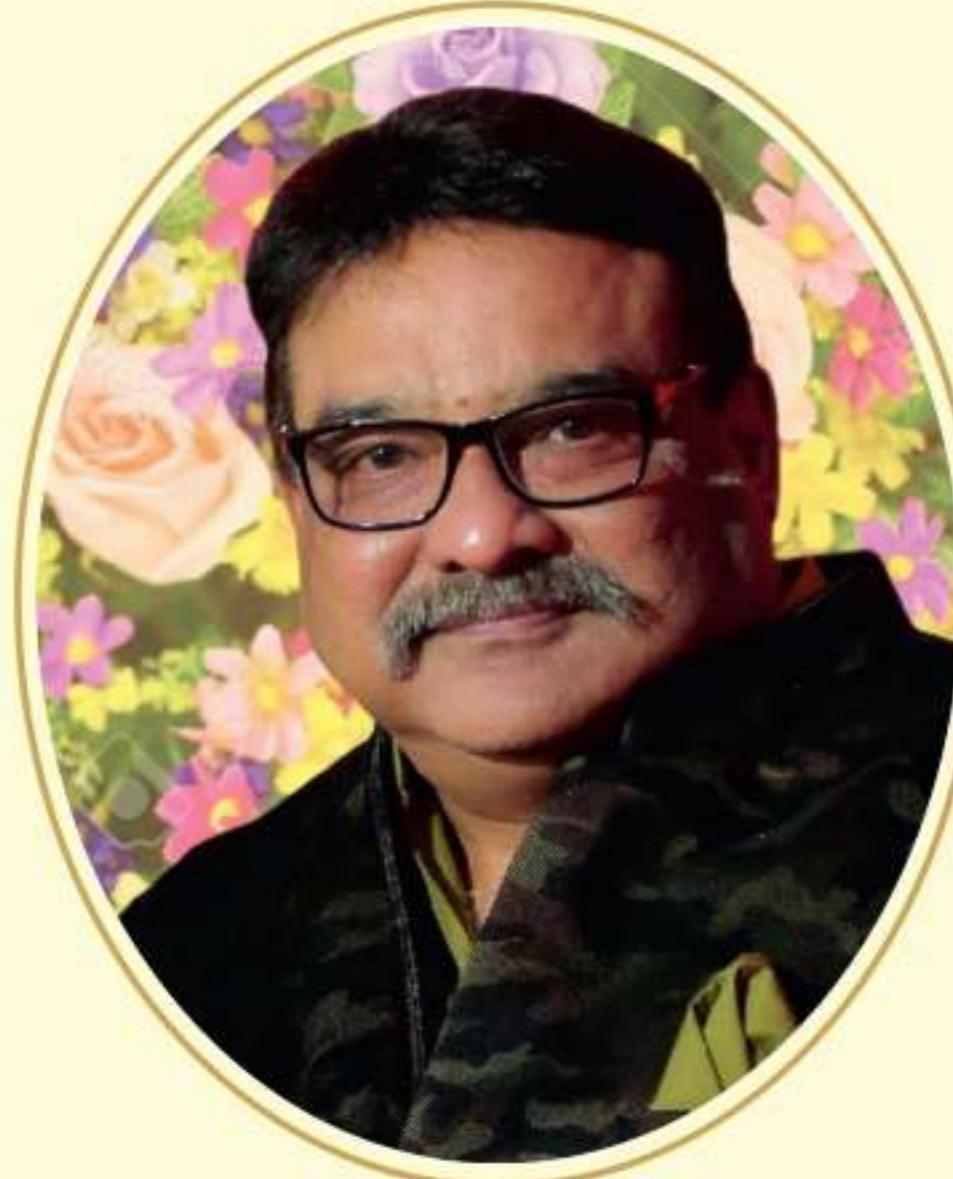
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Behind The Uniform

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



The uniform is an interesting device used by society to convert a person into a role. The uniform is worn as a second skin and serves to usurp one's original identity. One becomes a soldier, nurse, student, bus conductor, guard or peon by becoming less of what one originally was. Our primary identity becomes defined by the uniform we wear. In that sense the uniform magnifies and advertises to the world not who we are but who we have become. Interestingly, the uniformed often get addressed by their role—a Lt Colonel in the Army gets addressed by his title, as does a doctor, nurse or a priest. In our imagination a colonel is no longer the description of a job, but a summation of everything that a person represents. If fashion is nothing but our insides worn on the outside, the uniform is our outside worn exaggeratedly on the outside.

At a basic level, uniforms play the role of demarcation. A group is visibly identified to the rest of us on the basis of the role they are assigned to play. In a hospital, we instantly know who the nurse is and in a riot, the cop. Further, they carry with them an implicit acknowledgement of the responsibility reposed in their wearers. Uniforms represent commitment and order; they are a form of an undertaking that the wearer emits to all who see her. The uniformed is always on duty; the uniform is a sign of service.

The uniform usually attracts respect for it signifies that the wearer exercises some authority. However, this respect is calibrated on the basis of the profession that the uniform is used to signify. The military scores over the police and the police over the private guard; interestingly their uniforms reveal this on their own. The military uniform is a pampered spoilt pet on which as much spin is lavished as is polish, while the bus conductor wears a self-mocking version of the uniform that seems wrinkled with self-

doubt. The former bristles with the knowledge of its own importance while latter wilts under the weight of its own pretensions. Here, unlike in the case of the Army or the police, the uniform carries no vestige of power—it is instead an admission that one is being marked out as a provider of service, without any significant power.

In many such cases, the uniform is worn with deliberate slovenliness, which is as much a sign as its gleaming spit and polish counterpart. It becomes almost an act of ironic subversion; in wearing a shabby almost-uniform, the underclass shows its refusal to be billeted as being owned by the institutions they represent. It serves as a tetchy sign of independence—a flag of resistance that flies, even if at half-mast.

At a basic level, uniforms play the role of demarcation. A group is visibly identified to the rest of us on the basis of the role they are assigned to play

The uniform serves also to signify hierarchy. At a certain level, it equalizes all wearers; in fact the argument for school uniforms often comes from its ability to erase differences in status of its wearers. However, most uniforms carry within them an intricate system of hierarchy signalling. The military uniform is of course the best developed on this front with an elaborate system of bands and ribbons that connote seniority and the idea of work is embedded in the attire.

In this sense, the uniform becomes a form of legitimate plumage that we allow some special people to wear. The military is the foremost among these for these are the brave few who actually risk their lives for us. Shiny uniforms with colourful ribbons are our way of saying thank you to these people. We ignore the irony of 'decorating' the tough and brave with pretty signs of ornamentation for in the symbolic language we have agreed to conspire upon, this passes as legitimate masculine reward. The uniform is a minor but

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Temp continues to soar, air quality remains 'poor'

New Delhi: The mercury continues to remain on the higher side even as the maximum temperature on Sunday rose to 32.3 degrees Celsius, seven degrees above normal, at Safdarjung, city's base station. It was 1.5 degrees higher than Saturday.

According to IMD, the maximum temperature at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge and Aya-

nagar was 31.4, 32, 32.4 and 31.6 degrees Celsius, respectively. Noida saw the highest day temperature on Sunday at 32.4 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature settled at 12.9 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal and the relative humidity oscillated between 31% and 95%.

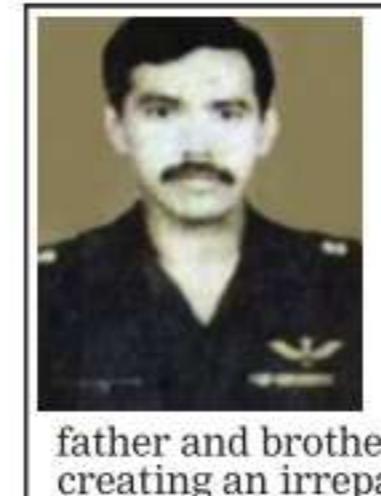
"No major change in the weather is ex-

pected for the next few days. However, the maximum temperature is likely to touch 33-34 degrees Celsius by March 1-2," a senior IMD official said.

City's air quality, meanwhile, remained in the upper-end of the 'poor' category. The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was 291 on Sunday as against 225 on Saturday. **TNN**

santosh365@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



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(27.02.1959 - 04.01.1997)

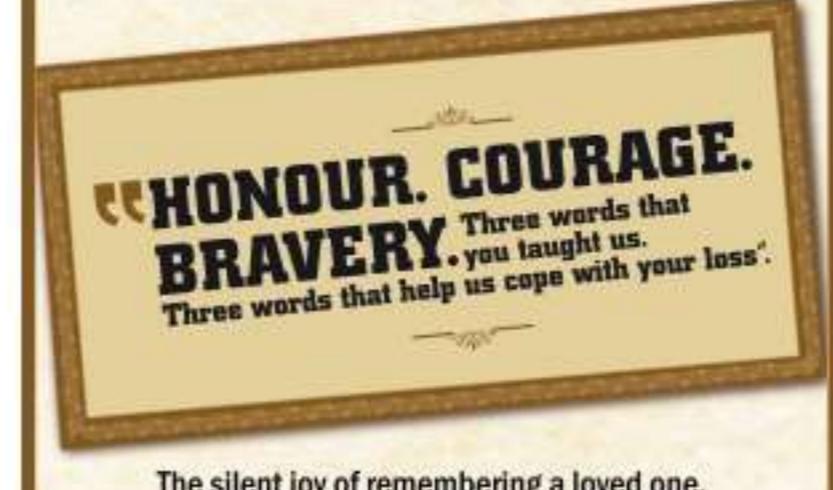
Today is your birthday. We remember you with fond memories as our ideal son, caring husband, affectionate father and brother, who left us prematurely creating an irreparable void in our family -Seal Family



Chander Mohini
It's been 17 years since you left us but you are always alive in our thoughts and hearts. We always remember you with gratitude and pride for your good values and kind heartedness. Remembred by Parvesh Seth, Jatin-Nitika, Shaguna-Gopi, Sheila, Srishti, Abheer, Diya



In the fond memory of Smt Kaushalya Lakhanpal
You were such an angel full of life. We miss you. Your children and grandchildren. Lakhanpal's



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3rd Anniversary
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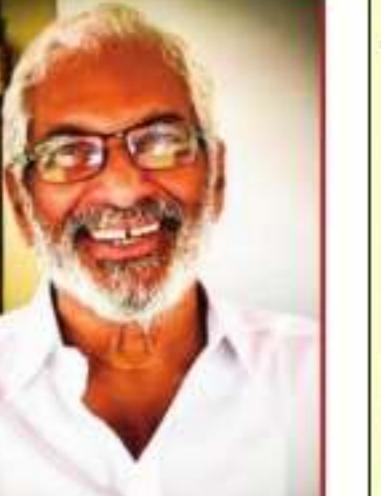
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measured
Deeply missed by Smt. Sunita Gupta (Wife)
Grandchildren & entire Gupta family
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REMEMBRANCES



We miss you...
Vice Admiral IJS Khurana (Retd)
& Family

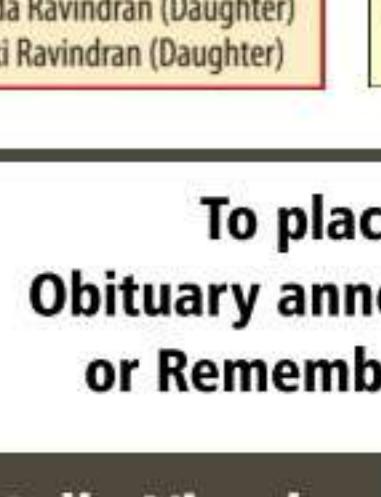
SAD DEMISE



A Prayer meeting to celebrate the life of our beloved
Capt. K. Ravindran
(11.03.43 - 15.02.23)

will be held at India International Centre, New Delhi Multi purpose hall, Kamla Devi Complex, 28th Feb 2023, 3.30 to 4.30 pm.
Remembered with all our love
Neethi Ravindran (Wife), Ayeda Ravindran (Daughter) Kuki Ravindran (Daughter)

TRIBUTES



Col Jagat Singh Manral (Retd) of The Corps of Engineers passed away on 15 Feb 2023
We deeply mourn his sad demise and pray to the Almighty to bestow peace on the departed soul and grant courage to his bereaved family.

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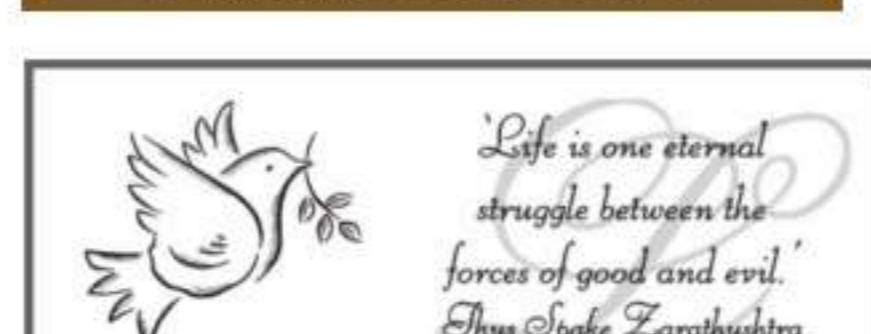
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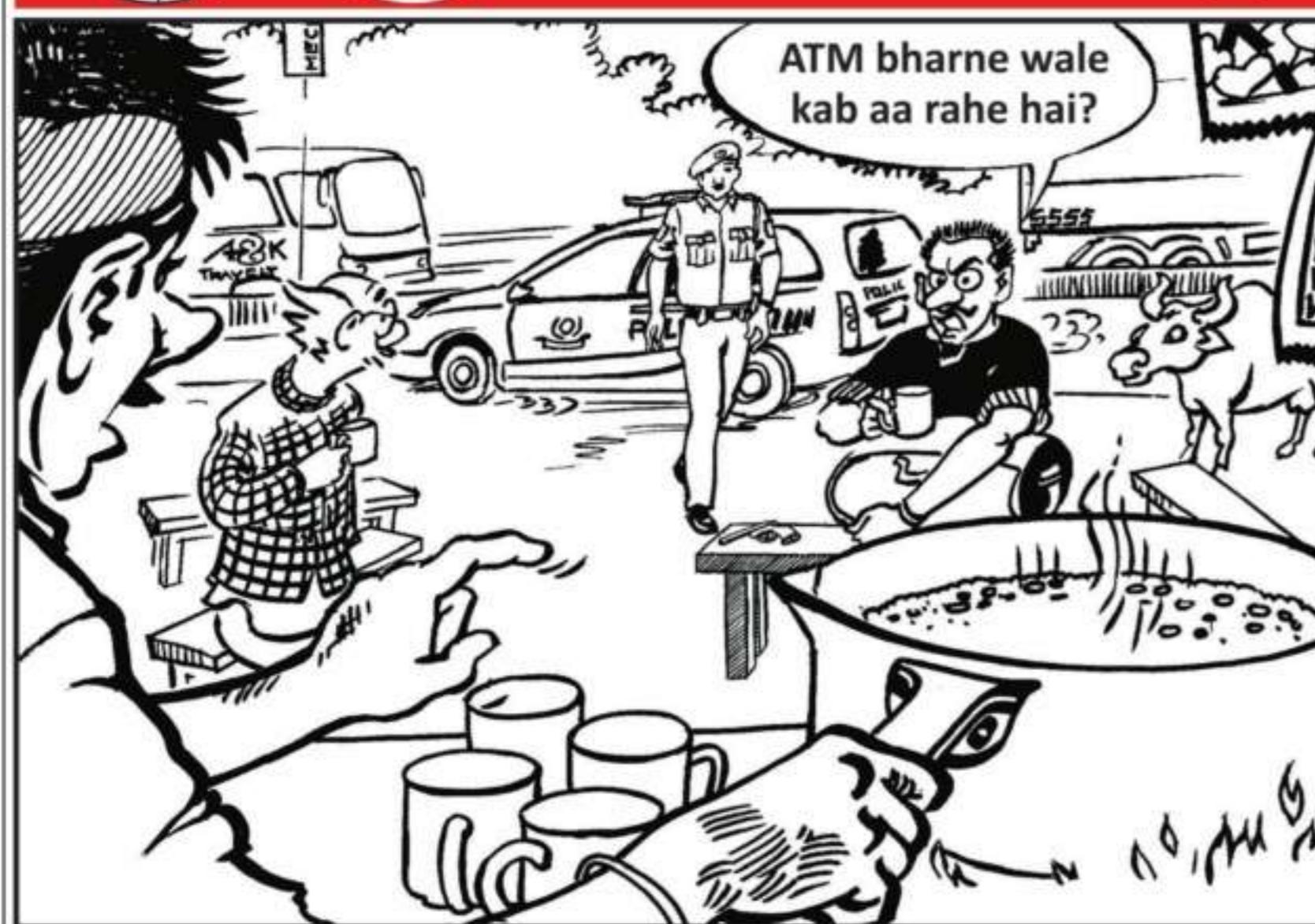
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DP/9504/2023

Uncertainty continues over next House meet

Bonjour, Bibliophiles! World Book Fair Returns

Constitution Of Standing Committee In Limbo

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

AN OFFICIAL SAYS
Though the elections for mayor and deputy mayor are completed, unless the six members are elected, the first House meeting may be considered incomplete

New Delhi: With Delhi High Court staying the re-election on Municipal Corporation of Delhi's six members of standing committee and fixing March 22 as the date for hearing the matter, there is no clarity yet on whether the mayor can call the next House meeting before that. All items in the agenda for the first House meeting are yet to be dealt with.

A senior MCD official, on the condition of anonymity, said that the agenda for the first meeting of the corporation (as approved by lieutenant governor), also included the election for six standing committee members. "Though the elections for mayor and deputy mayor are completed, unless the six members are elected, the first House meeting may be considered incomplete," said the official.

Officials, however, say that the expenditure part of the budget for financial year 2023-24 and 'schedule of posts' will need approval from the House/mayor by March end.

"As per the DMC Act, while the schedule of taxes need to be approved by the mid of February, the expenditure part in the budget for 2023-24 and schedule of posts (details of posts in various departments) have to be approved by March-end by the House. If the election for

Open dining policy earns MCD ₹5.4 crore in 3 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Three months after the implementation of the uniform policy for use of open spaces and terraces of licensed eating houses for service and dining purposes, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has claimed to have granted permission to 138 open spaces and 57 terraces for serving food.

The civic body has collected a revenue of Rs 5.4 crore so far out of this.

"Having the option of dining in the open and enjoying the scenic beauty of the surroundings is getting popular among visitors. It also promotes tourism," said an official.

Any person can take benefit of the policy, provided the applicant is a legal occupant of the open space or terrace, and has a no objection certificate (NOC) from the Delhi Fire Services.

"A fire NOC is required for the use of open spaces at ground level and if the total open area of the restaurant on upper floors is less than 90 sq metres. But it has to be ensured that open space dining areas do not block pedestrian ways or are not allowed in the refuge area left for fire rescue. No cooking or kitchen is allowed in the open space or terrace," said officials.

The MCD is charging an annual licence fee of Rs 200 per sq foot for use of open space or terrace or a part of the terrace area of the eating house. In the case of star hotels (4 stars and above) the annual licence fee will be Rs 500 per sq foot.

According to norms, the licensee shall ensure that persons using the open space or terrace do not cause disturbance for outsiders.

CBC 21315/12/0004/2223

Member Secretary

Dated: 27/02/2023

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With the 31st edition of World Book Fair returning after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, book lovers can't hide their enthusiasm. The theme pavilion, 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', was a huge draw, as was that of the guest country, France, designed by graphic novelist Simon Lamoure to resemble a bookstore with a cafe inside. The popularity of exam-related books was at its peak too, with bibliophile as young as six-year-olds browsing comics and books on Cyber Olympiad with rapt attention.

Make some room on your bookshelves. The extravaganza, which began on Saturday, will last another week. The major highlight of the fair, which has entered its 50th year, was a special lecture by Nobel Prize winner Annie Ernaux. The 82-year-old author said at the inauguration that India has pre-

served a fascinating artistic richness. Ernaux said: "Coming to India for the first time is a childhood dream come true, one instilled in me by a forgotten author, Francis de Croisset, and his 1930 book, Nous Avons Fait Un Beau Voyage (We Had a Good Travel), about his stay in India." She added: "India has preserved an artistic richness that has fascinated French authors since the 18th century – as French author Lamartine said, 'The key to everything is in India'."

This year's book fair has also prioritised inclusiveness for children. The Children's Pavilion has been designed with activities that focus on



promoting their literature and reading habits such as skits, dramas, street-plays, musical presentations, story-telling sessions, workshops and panel discussions.

With the exam season on, Sunday saw a huge number of

visitors at the stalls of publishers — for books, sample papers, question banks and even flashcards for last-minute preparations. "This is the best place to get hold of the latest question banks under one roof," said Anjali Meena, a

paned by their parents, have been inquiring about guides for exams, such as NEET or JEE, which these kids will probably take after six-to-eight years," said Prashant Jain, CEO, Oswaal Books.

Just selling books is a thing of the past for publishers, as they compete to give a 360-degree experience using technology. "There is a world beyond the physical pages now. Our books come with a code and the young readers can use these QR codes to get access to much more than what a physical book can provide. More online preparation material, solutions, mock-tests and teacher guidance are some of the new experiments that have yielded success for our books," said Swaati, editor-in-chief of an Agra-based publisher.

With France being the guest country, the book fair will showcase its culture, literature, heritage, and cuisine. France is being represented by the biggest delegation of house heads from 12 publishing houses and 16 authors across literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, children's books and graphic novels.



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A TIMES AUTO INITIATIVE

Chips on wheels: How technology is making cars safer, and responsible, on the roads

Pankaj Doval/TNN

New Delhi: We may still not be in the era of fully-autonomous when it comes to cars, but a host of new technologies that come strapped on vehicles are ensuring that your ride is safer, more secure, and lastly, intuitive.

With cars becoming more of a 'chips-on-wheels' phenomenon – and by this I mean the intelligent semiconductor chips – a lot of burden around safe driving is being shouldered by the plethora of technologies that come strapped on to the vehicles.

The good part: with mass commercialization, much of these have started to come across popular models that are being sold in the market and not just being confined to luxury brands such as Mercedes, Volvo, and Audi.

So, companies ranging from Mahindra & Mahindra, to Tata Motors, Honda, Volkswagen, MG, and Hyundai today offer features that ensure that your ride remains safe and easy, and you get alerts and notification around any possible chance of an accident.

Veejay Nakra, President of Automotive Division of M&M, says that vehicle safety is one of the key priorities in the various SUVs that the company offers in the market. "Integrating safety with innovation is not only inevitable but also essential as we move towards a future with connected cars that include advanced safety features. Safety as a core pillar of product development has helped us build a range of products that meet Global Safety Standards," Nakra says, giving the example of the company's new Scorpio-N model which

secured a 5-star rating under the new Global NCAP safety testing protocols.

The safety apparatus goes much beyond the airbags that have become a standard across new Indian cars. "The Scorpio-N became the first body-on-frame SUV in India to secure a full 5-star rating in new testing protocols by GNCAP, thanks to the comprehensive range of additional safety features including driver drowsiness detection, Roll Over Mitigation (ROM), Hill Descent Control, Hill Hold Control, Vehicle Dynamics Control, and ISOFIX/i-SIZE Compatibility. The newest

generation of stability control and personalized safety alerts are standard in all variants. Automatic headlamps with High Beam Assist dynamically adjust the illumination of dark areas on the road, without blinding oncoming traffic. Safety is further taken care of by tyre pressure monitoring systems, an additional reverse camera, a driver drowsiness detection system, and Stop and Go driving function as part of its adaptive cruise control."

Korean Hyundai is also focusing on developing smart mobility solutions that help deliver enhanced mobility ex-

periences. "At Hyundai, there has been a strong focus on developing and introducing robust safety technologies and features that offer customers a confident driving experience," says Tarun Garg, COO of the company's India business.

"Hyundai is the first manufacturer to offer 4-airbags as a standard along 6-airbags as optional fitment and over 30 advanced safety features such as ESC (electronic stability control), Vehicle Stability Management (VSM), Hill Assist Control (HAC), Automatic Headlamps and much more," Garg says.

The company's Ioniq5 electric also comes with strong passenger protection as it is structured using hot stamped parts that minimizes body deformation during collision and improved passenger protection. "Further, the model also offers customers level next safety with features like Electric Parking Brake (EPB), multi collision-avoidance brake (MCB) and over 60 safety features ensuring utmost customer safety," he adds.

MG is another company that focusses on passenger safety and has been loading up on technology. For exam-

ple, the company's Astor SUV comes strapped with 49 safety features and radar and camera systems. The company claims that the car is "designed to overcome any hurdles" on the road as it comes with autonomous level 2 features which add to the layer of protection by alerting drivers at the right time.

The Advanced Driver Assistance System on the Astor is a group of safety and convenience functions intended to improve comfort for drivers and road safety, and preventing or reducing the severity of potential accidents.

"ADAS can do all this by alert-

Fatalities involving Honda vehicles by 2050. We have been taking proactive approach to safety and employing various advanced safety technologies in the way our cars are built like ACE Body structure and application of host of active and passive safety features that have ensured high safety performance of Honda cars," says Kunal Behl, VP (Marketing and Sales) at Honda Cars India.

Honda has introduced its advanced driver assist system 'Honda Sensing' for the first time in India with the new hybrid City last year. "This system uses a high-performance front camera with a wide-angle, far-reaching detection system to scan the road ahead and alert the driver to minimize risk of accidents and in some cases intervene to mitigate collision or lessen its severity," Behl says.

On the luxury makers front, there is similar action. Volvo, which is famous for its safety apparatus, has been further upgrading it with new technology on its latest cars. "Our XC40 Recharge comes with safety features like 5 Star (Euro NCAP), 7 Airbags (Driver, Front Passenger, 2 Curtain, Driver Knee, Driver Side, Front Passenger Side), Forward Collision Warning, BLIS with Cross Traffic Alert, 360 camera; Automatic Emergency Braking; Seat Belt Warning; Child Lock; Anchor Points for Child Seat; Overspeed Warning; Speed Sensing Door Lock, anti-theft engine immobilizer; middle rear three-point seatbelt; flashing emergency brake light; lane departure warning; hill descent control; hill start assist, central-Locking which makes it one of the safest car of the world," the company says.



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MAHA SET FOR STORMY SESSION, FIRST SINCE SHINDE BLOC GOT SENA NAME & SYMBOL | 22



MANDAVIYA SAYS CENTRE, STATES TO JOIN HANDS TO REMOVE LOOPHOLES IN DRUG REGULATION | 12

Govt to leverage G20 presidency to boost India's int'l clout: EAM

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Spelling out the Narendra Modi-led government's intention to leverage G20 presidency to enhance India's global influence, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said Sunday that G20 meetings will no longer be a typical Delhi-centric government programme but will set the agenda for the emerging global order. The motto: make the world ready for India and India ready for the world.

"We have held the G20 presidency in the past too, but this time, we'll do it differently. It won't be a typical 'sarkari' Delhi programme, but will expose global influencers to our culture and society. There would be around 200 meetings throughout the year with 56 Indian cities playing host," he said at a meeting organised by Nationalist Thinkers Forum in Hyderabad.

Buttressing the need for the world to be ready for India, he said: "There's a big change in how the world views our resolve and freedom. I can cite the 26/11 attacks and Balakot surgical strikes to emphasise our handling of crises. The PM displayed boldness in deploying forces along the Chinese border even during the pandemic and also built infrastructure along the LAC."

He said India is steadfast in its resolve to buy fuel from outside sources.

Jaishankar said the Central government cushioned consumers as much as possible from fuel price hikes and taken measures to keep inflation down. "Today the world has learnt a lesson that security means not just physical and economic security, but also health and food security. So, we have to find a way to de-risk the global economy, the way we would de-risk a sector, the way we would de-risk a business. That is a major concern of G20 meetings," he said.

Russia praises 'constructive' role of India's G20 presidency

Blames West For Failure To Issue FM Meet Joint Communique

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



A damaged street in Ukraine. Russia didn't want any mention of Ukraine in the communique as it believes G20 should remain an economic forum

New Delhi: Following the G20 meeting of the finance ministers, which ended without a joint communique because of differences between G7 and Russia and China, Russia "noted" what it described as India's constructive role in the negotiations. In an official statement, the Russian foreign ministry said the Indian presidency strove for a fair consideration of interests and positions of all countries.

Russia said as a result of the "substantive dialogue" on topical financial issues, a wide range of demanded measures was agreed upon, designed to give an additional impetus to the global economy and financial markets.

"A significant contribution was made to these efforts by our country, BRICS partners and developing countries. We note the constructive role of the Indian Presidency, which strove for a fair consideration of interests and positions of all countries. The balanced approachs formulated in this context create a good foundation for responding to modern challenges in the area of global finance and related sectors, including support for economic growth and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals," said the Russian statement.

"Our opponents, primarily the United States, the EU and the G7, continue their paranoid attempts to isolate Russia and shift the blame for the provoked problems in the area of international security and the global economy onto it," it added, blaming the West for the failure to issue a joint communique.

The results of the meeting never received an agreed status and were released only as a statement by the chairman, and not as a joint work, said Moscow adding Russia and China expressed a "resolute protest" in this regard.

Russia didn't want any mention of Ukraine as it believes G20 should remain an economic forum and not intrude into the security sphere.

Cross-border funding behind bid to create unrest in Punjab: Mann

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

'Will kill you too': Beant's MP grandson claims threat call from Amritpal's 'aide'



Congress MP from Ludhiana Ravneet Singh Bittu on Sunday said that he had received a threat call from a man claiming to be an aide of Khalistan supporter **Amritpal Singh** of Waris Punjab De, reports **Payal Dhawan**. Bittu alleged that his PA Harjinder Singh Dhinda received the call. The caller was offended by Bittu speaking against Amritpal. Bittu said that the caller threatened to kill him in a blast, like his grandfather and former CM Beant Singh. On Saturday, Bittu had spoken out on his Facebook account against Amritpal and the Ajnala incident, which has triggered a row over the presence of the bir of Guru Granth Sahib at the protest.

and his supporters' alleged act of taking the Guru Granth Sahib inside the Ajnala police station on Thursday when he was called for questioning in a kidnapping case, Mann said those who took the Sikh holy there as a shield cannot be called heirs of Punjab. Amritpal's outfit is called Waris Punjab De.

The CM called it an unpardonable crime that must be condemned by all.

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Russia didn't want any mention of Ukraine as it believes G20 should remain an economic forum and not intrude into the security sphere.

PM to release ₹16,800cr aid to over 8cr farmers today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Under PM-Kisan, Rs 6,000 is annually released directly into each of the eligible landholder farmers' accounts in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday release the 13th instalment amount of more than Rs 16,800 crore to over eight crore beneficiary farmers under the income support scheme —PM-Kisan—at Belagavi, Karnataka.

Under the scheme, Rs 6,000 is annually released directly into each of the eligible landholder farmers' bank accounts in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000. Till now, over Rs 2.2 lakh crore has been disbursed to more than 11 crore landholder farmer families across the country since the launch of PM-Kisan in February, 2019.

The 11th and 12th instalment of funds during the current financial year were released in May and October last year. "The PM-Kisan scheme has already provided significant benefits to farmers across the country, and

The ministry claimed that the PM-Kisan's funds have spurred rural economic growth, eased credit constraints for farmers and boosted agricultural investments. "It has also increased farmers' risk-taking capacity, leading to more productive investments. According to IFPRI, PM-Kisan funds are helping recipients meet their agricultural needs and other expenses like education, medical care and marriage," it said.

All landholding farmer families in the country are eligible under the scheme, subject to certain exclusion criteria. The scheme has also benefited over three crore women beneficiaries who have collectively received over Rs 53,600 crore in funds in the past four years.

Mann govt in SC against guv over House session

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Chandigarh: There is no end in sight to the ongoing tussle between Punjab governor Banwari Lal Purohit and the governing AAP as the Bhagwant Mann-led government has moved the Supreme Court, challenging Purohit's move to seek legal advice on the CM's letter before giving approval for convening the budget session of the assembly in March.

The Punjab cabinet had on February 22 asked the governor to summon the budget session from March 3. On this, Purohit wrote to the CM that he would take a decision on summoning the assembly only after taking legal advice on the latter's reply to issues raised by him.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha said the issue will be heard by the apex court on Monday. tnn

solved," he said.

Delivering the 19th Sir Ganga Ram Oration on 'A Prescription for Justice: Quest for Fairness and Equity in Healthcare', Justice Chandrachud said, "Dehumanisation of health care has often resulted in violent confrontations between the citizens and hospitals,

with medical professionals being caught in the crossfire. This puts the lives of medical professionals at risk, and creates a hostile environment for them to work in. This violence ends up hampering the delivery of medical services, which can have serious consequences for patients."

He narrated the humble beginning of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital with a 50-bed facility in the 1950s to become a 600-bed hospital now with facilities for free treatment to poor patients and said the continuing inequalities in access to healthcare system dents the two cardinal principles governing equity and justice in healthcare. "We as a society need to counteract structural and policy constraints which prevent access to good-quality healthcare in order to achieve healthcare justice," the CJJ said.

He said doctors are often called upon as expert medical witnesses in criminal trials and spend a considerable time awaiting their turn in the crowded trial courts hampering their professional duties.

CJI: Dehumanisation of healthcare leads to patient-doctor conflicts

Hospital with a 50-bed facility in the 1950s to become a 600-bed hospital now with facilities for free treatment to poor patients and said the continuing inequalities in access to healthcare system dents the two cardinal principles governing equity and justice in healthcare. "We as a society need to counteract structural and policy constraints which prevent access to good-quality healthcare in order to achieve healthcare justice," the CJJ said.

He said doctors are often called upon as expert medical witnesses in criminal trials and spend a considerable time awaiting their turn in the crowded trial courts hampering their professional duties.

3 of family found dead; Kol cops suspect suicide pact due to finance woes

Kolkata: The bodies of a middle-aged couple and their young daughter were found from their south Kolkata flat early on Sunday by a team of cops, who were alerted by neighbours of a stench coming out of their residence. Prima facie it looks like a suicide pact, the police said, report **Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamangna Banerjee**. The cops suspect Burabazar businessman Bijoy Chatterjee (56), his wife Ranu (46), a homemaker, and their daughter Oindrila (21), a law student, killed themselves by hanging because of financial problems.

Alerted by neighbours, cops from the Regent Park police station forced their way into the flat to a macabre discovery: three bodies, hanging from ceiling fans, in three rooms. All doors and windows of the flat were shut from inside and neighbours told the cops that none of the three had been seen for at least two days.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM
No. PCMM/CLW/DKAE/E-Procurement/
CORRIGENDUM/23/02/2023 Dated : 21.02.2023. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The prospective/ likely bidders are requested to look up the website www.treps.gov.in for detailed instructions please. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. [05]. Tender notice no.: SL.No #034 of PCMM/CLW/Dkankuni/E-Procurement/23/2023 Dated:16/02/2023, Tender No.: #4231033. Tender Description: Tender Description is to be read as "(i) Pantograph Mounting Insulator & (ii) Roof Line Insulators both to CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/ACI-1/L and DRG NO. CLW/ES/SK-4/ACI-1/L or Later" instead of existing entry.

PR2/392 PCMM/CLW/DANKUNI

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Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D., Rampur

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

Ref.No. /E-Niveda-Rampur-22/23 Dated :- 02-2023
1. The Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Rampur on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the itemwise bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

S.L.	DIST-RICT	Name of Work	Estima-te cost (Rs. in Lac) (Ex.GST)	Bid (Rs. in Lac)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents Including GST (Rs.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Rampur	Shahbad (Shahpur) - Rampur - Bajpur Road (S-H-14) under District Rampur CD, PWD, Rampur- Ch. 0.00 to 30.100 PWD, Rampur - Ch. 48.754 to 76.246 Total Length- 57.592 Km. Widening and Strengthening.	14258.51	142.60	12 month	2354.00	Category 'A' (Road Work)
2.	Rampur	Widening and Strengthening of Bilaspur Rudrapur road from Dhanora to Papura, Godi, Gulapur, Mangatpur, Nanakpur road.	1607.22	32.20	12 month	2354.00	Category 'A' (Road Work)
3.	Rampur	Widening and Strengthening of Dhamora Rathoda to Chincholi Road.	2194.16	21.94	12 month	2354.00	Category 'A' (Road Work)

► Bids must be download online form 10:00 AM on date 04.03.2023 to 5:00 PM on dated 10.03.2023 and the technical bids will be opened online date 11.03.2023 at 12:30 PM in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on same date as and time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/30708-2-2018/42 IT/ 2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 on opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder will submit original documents personally in department/office, in the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with provisions of G.O.

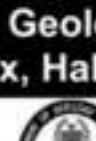
► All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://e-tender.up.nic.in>. The bidders have to login on Government Order No. 789(1)/23-27-2020 dt. 25-08-2020 & E-N.C./HOD's upwd Order No. 4859/4/MC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://e-tender.up.nic.in>.

(Er. Kumar Agarwal) Executive Engineer Pro. Div. PWD, Rampur (Er. Hemant Kumar Singh) Executive Engineer Cons. Div. PWD, Rampur (Er. R. Dohare) Superintending Engineer Rampur Cir., PWD, Rampur Ph. 0959-2351163 Email-pwdrampur@gmail.com

UPID-186537/24.02.2023 www.upgov.nic.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT
Office of the District Mineral Officer (Member Secretary, District Level e-Auction Committee), Geology & Mining Department
New DC Office Complex, Hall No. 8, 1st Floor, Kishtwar



On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the grant of Mining Lease of the Minor Mineral block for 15 years in respect of District Kishtwar as per Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016 (SRO-105 of 2016 and subsequent amendments up to date) shall be conducted on 20-03-2023 by District Auction Committee constituted under Rule 53 of SRO-105.

The e-auction document, terms and conditions, details of the earnest money along with site plan and other relevant details of the Minor Mineral Block can be downloaded against e-payment of Rs. 1000/- per block from the official website of the Geology and Mining Department i.e., <http://www.geologyminingeauction.com> by all the interested parties after creating an online user account with the help of DSC (Digital Signature Certificate Class-II). The detail of the Minor Mineral Block of the district and time line for e-Auction is as under :

S. No.	Description of the Block	Area (Hectare)	Co-ordinates of the Block	Minimum Reserved Bid
1	Kish-1 Quarry block at Kurya Village Feller, District Kishtwar Khasra No. 1/2013/1728 State Land	5.60	A=33°21'27.07" N : 75°43'44.39"E B=33°21'26.59" N : 75°43'13.87"E C=33°21'17.18" N : 75°43'48.73"E D=33°21'8.94" N : 75°43'52.59"E	Rs. 24,75,05

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UPI Banks apps & PSPs: Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Catholic Syrian Bank, Central Bank of India, DBS Digibank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, HSBC, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, IDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, IndusInd Bank, Karnataka Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, RBL Bank, South Indian Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, State Bank of India, TJSB Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Yes Bank, City Union Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Janta Sahakari Bank, Pune, Equitas Small Finance Bank, Airtel Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank, Paytm Payments Bank, Bandhan Bank, Jio Payments Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank, India Post Payments Bank, ESAF Small Finance Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Dombivli Nagri Sahakari Bank, NSDL Payments Bank, Cosmos Co-op Bank, SBM Bank, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, The Surat Peoples Co-op Bank, Jana Small Finance Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, CITI Retail

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A TIMES AUTO INITIATIVE

Steering India into an Era of Safe Mobility



By Vinay Raghunath

India is now one of the world's largest and fastest growing automotive markets with 17 million vehicles sold in 2021-22 alone, of which nearly 3 million were passenger vehicles. While it has taken multiple steps in transforming its automotive safety standards, India unfortunately also has a high number of road accidents. Nearly 400,000 road accidents were reported in 2021, claiming over 150,000 lives and causing injuries to more than 380,000 persons. There is a need to continue improving until the country's vehicle safety standards can match up to the best globally – not only for drivers and passengers, but also for pedestrians.

Safety has today become a key attribute that Indian automobile buyers look for. Consequently, it is also an extremely important aspect for automotive designers. In surveys, safety as a product attribute now ranks consistently high among customer needs along with overall price, fuel efficiency and product features.

ranks consistently high among customer needs along with overall price, fuel efficiency and product features.

In addition to the consumer driven need for change, the Indian government has also adopted a positive and heterogeneous approach to improve overall road safety. The Union Government and the Ministry of Road Transportation & Highways have taken steps to promote traffic awareness

(BNVSAP) by the Union Government should help change the market for vehicle safety dynamics by mandating both active and passive safety systems in new as well as existing vehicles.

In 2019, multiple passive safety features like driver side airbags, seat belt reminders and speed alerts became mandatory. Prior to this mandate, airbags were provided predominantly in high-end variants of cars and sometimes treated as an optional accessory. From an active safety systems perspective, anti-lock braking systems and rear park-

ing sensors have also become standard equipment since 2019, with electronic stability control will become mandatory from April 2023.

As we look ahead to the next stage of vehicle and road safety, the continuing evolution of automotive technology will ensure that consumers have access to greater safety benefits.

Haptic technologies (for example, piezoelectric actuators)

can be quite effective in multiple driving scenarios with haptic feedback helping trigger warnings to the driver without adding stress to the visual and auditory senses.

Driver assistance technologies can help warn the driver about the risk of an impending crash or can

be designed to take action to help avoid a potential crash. Connected cars are also adding a new safety net with advanced features like real-time location sharing/tracking, driver behaviour-tracking and emergency SOS calls in case of an accident/breakdown.

Some of these safety features will come at a cost and a combination of proactive regulations, availability/adoption of new technological solutions at scale and the ability of the automotive ecosystem to localize will help act as a catalyst in ensuring improvement in overall vehicle and road safety.

Ensuring that Indian vehicle safety standards are aligned with global standards will also support the export of locally produced cars while providing the needed scale to help optimize the cost of some of these features. Stakeholders across the value chain will need to find innovative ways to upgrade and deploy their offerings to provide fail-safe safety technologies for the protection of drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

— Vinay Raghunath,
Partner, Auto Sector
Leader, EY India.

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Need to remove loopholes in drug regulatory system: Mantri

New Delhi: Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said the states and the Centre needed to work together to remove loopholes in the drug regulatory system, reported **Durgesh Nandan Jha**.

This will ensure that pharmaceuticals manufactured in the country and consumed by domestic and international consumers are of the highest quality and adhere to standard global manufacturing protocols, he said.

He was addressing a two-day brainstorming conclave organised by health ministry in Hyderabad on 'Drugs: Quality Regulations & Enforcement'. The minister said it was of critical importance to ensure that the regulatory mechanisms of the country are of impeccable standards which are sustained over time and space.

"This is possible when the central ministries and state bodies work in a spirit of cooperative federalism, building on the strengths of one another and working jointly to remove loopholes in the regulatory systems," he added.

The conclave is being attended by health secretaries and drug regulators from various states/UTs and industry associations among others.

It comes in the backdrop of two recent incidents reported from Uzbekistan and Gambia where it was alleged medical products exported by two Indian firms to the two countries had certain contaminants which led to adverse reactions and death of some patients.

"The manthan at the end of these two days will provide rich knowledge to build strong, sturdy, resilient and people-friendly mechanisms," he said.

eSanjeevani now life-saving app for common man: PM

DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday termed e-Sanjeevani app, a free telemedicine service run by the Centre, a 'lifesaving app' for the common man.



In his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on radio, PM Narendra Modi interacted with a doctor based in Sikkim who has consulted with over 500 patients in the hill states using the eSanjeevani app

Fresh water discharge sparks Joshimath fears

Senior Officials Investigating Cause Of Flow, Says SDM

Gaurav.Talwar
@timesgroup.com



TRIGGERING PANIC: Heavy water discharge was reported on the Narsinh temple bypass road, below subsidence-hit Joshimath town's main market on Sunday morning, with muddy water seen spouting down the hillside

Dehradun: Heavy water discharge was reported on the Narsinh temple bypass road, below subsidence-hit Joshimath town's main market on Sunday morning, with muddy water seen spouting down the hillside.

Panic-stricken residents flock to the spot fearing the worst, since the last time such a discharge was noticed was on January 2, when an aquifer inside the Jaypee company colony in Marwari municipal ward had burst. The water outflow from the aquifer, which peaked at over 500 litre per minute (LPM), had continued for weeks, aggravating the land subsidence in the town and forcing over 250 families to leave their houses and move to shelter homes.

Meanwhile, district officials claimed that the water discharge may have been a Jal Sansthan pipe that had burst, adding that the matter is being investigated by the officials of the sansthan.

Speaking to TOI, Kum Joshi, SDM Joshimath,

Ayodhya admin set to take up today land use issue for mosque construction

Ayodhya: The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) is likely to discuss Monday the required change in land use from "agricultural" to "public facility" to an allotted plot so that a mosque can be built there, as mandated by the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid verdict.

The Ayodhya administration had given 5 acre in Dhannipur village of Sohawal tehsil, about 25km from Ayodhya town, keeping with the SC verdict.

The urban planning department has directed the Ayodhya administration to take necessary action in accordance with rules and after reviewing relevant documents. The changes brought to land use in Dhannipur, where the mosque is proposed to be built, has been pending with the ADA for the past four months. Special secretary, housing and urban planning, Sunil Kumar Singh, directed the ADA vice chairman through a letter to act on the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation's (IICF) map plan for the new mosque. The letter said action should be taken for the land use change.

The letter said the SC in its verdict had ordered the allotment of 5 acre to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board in the acquired area under the Ayodhya Act, 1993, or at any appropriate prominent place in Ayodhya for the construction of a mosque and other facilities.

"We have received instructions from the government...a decision will be taken subsequently," said ADA chairman and Ayodhya divisional commissioner Gaurav Dayal. After the allotment, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board formed a trust, the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, to build a mosque, a hospital, a research institute, a community kitchen and a library. TN

Worker can file suit at place of work, rather than at place of transfer: HC

Bengaluru: An employer cannot expect an employee to initiate legal proceedings at his or her place of work, just because he or she was transferred to that location, Karnataka HC ruled while granting relief to a medical representative who was given the pink slip, reports Vasanth Kumar.

The HC said if the employer's argument is to be accepted then it can trigger chaos, wherein, "an employer can, at his or her whim and fancy, transfer a worker to any place in the country and contend that it is at that place of transfer that a legal dispute has to be raised". Justice Suraj Govindaraj dismissed the argument of Jagsonpal Pharmaceuticals, saying petitioner A Vishwanath Shetty could have filed his petition in Udupi, Chennai, Bengaluru or New Delhi—places he was ordered to be transferred to before his dismissal.

The judge said labour court in Mangalore had authority to decide on this particular complaint. "The termination of service occurred in Shivamogga, since the notice of termination, issued in New Delhi, would have been complete only upon its receipt by the workman in Shivamogga," he said.

BSY: Don't agree with state BJP chief on '23 poll being Tipu vs Savarkar battle

Bengaluru: BJP strongman and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa has expressed disagreement over party state president Nalin Kumar Kanteel's narrative of the 2023 Karnataka elections as a Tipu-vs-Savarkar battle.

Yediyurappa made his stand known during an interview to NDTV when he was asked if he saw BJP's approach shifting from development to issues such as Tipu and Savarkar in its bid to woo voters. The BJP leader said: "I do not agree with him (Kanteel). But the more important thing is we must work very hard and Congress is also doing its best to fight BJP. But I have full confidence because of PM Modi and Amit Shah that we are going to get an absolute majority and form our government. We are not bothered by Congress or JD(S)."

Asked which narrative will work for BJP, Yediyurappa said the mantra for the polls is "work hard" and drive home the message about popular schemes delivered by BJP in the state. TN

India sends Mirages for 'Cobra Warrior' exercise in UK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Going full-throttle for multi-nation air combat wargames, India on Sunday dispatched Mirage-2000 fighters and other aircraft for the 'Cobra Warrior' exercise in the United Kingdom.

Five Mirage-2000 jets, two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic airlift planes and one IL-76 mid-air refuelling aircraft, along with 145 IAF personnel, flew from the Jamnagar air base for the exercise at Waddington in the UK.

The 'Cobra Warrior', scheduled from March 6 to 24, is a multilateral exercise in which air forces from the US, Finland, Sweden, South Africa and Singapore will be participating, alongside the Royal Air Force and IAF.

A communiqué signed by the university vice-chancellor Mahabir Singh Rawat and issued on February 22, said: "The university and principal of associated colleges had formed a research committee to inspect Joshimath and collect general information. It was just a research-oriented report and not a part of the government's report on the town."

Meanwhile, the state government is yet to make the final report by the National Disaster Management Authority public, which has findings by all eight scientific institutes mandated to ascertain the cause of land subsidence in Joshimath.

The IAF already has five indigenous Tejas fighters, two C-17s and 110 personnel deployed at the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE for the multi-national 'Desert Flag-VIII' exercise from February 27 to March 17, as was reported by TOI.

The Indian armed forces take part in a wide array of land, air and sea combat exercises every year to bolster military interoperability and defence diplomacy with friendly countries.

The IAF has three Mirage-2000 squadrons based at the Gwalior air base. Though inducted in the mid-1980s from France, the bulk of the Mirage-2000s have been upgraded under a major Rs 17,547 crore project, which includes 490 MICA missile systems for Rs 6,600 crore.

It was, incidentally, the

Mirage-2000s that were used to fire Israeli Spice-2000 precision-guided penetration bombs during the pre-dawn bombing of the JeM terror facility at Balakot in Pakistan on February 26 in 2019.



Cobra Warrior is a multilateral exercise in which air forces from the US, Finland, Sweden, South Africa and Singapore will be participating, alongside the Royal Air Force and IAF

BJP workers among 18 held over minister convoy attack: Eighteen people, including BJP workers, were arrested at Dinhata in Bengal's Coochbehar on Sunday, a day after junior Union home minister Nisith Pramanik's convoy was attacked, reports **Pinak Priya Bhattacharya & Rohit Khanna**. Police said fire arms, bullets and sharp weapons were seized from the area.

नई दिल्ली विश्व पुस्तक मेला
25 फरवरी - 05 मार्च 2023
प्रगति मैदान, नई दिल्ली | प्रातः 11 : 00 बजे से रात्रि 8 : 00 बजे तक

Events
International Events (Hall No.4)
• Panel Discussion and Autograph Session: Turkish Literature in India
Theme Pavilion (Hall No.5)
• Kannada Book Release India @75 series
• Prime Time Talk With Vikram Sampath, Historian
NEP Pavilion
• Nukkad Natak/Competition related to Indian Sign Language for deaf and hard of hearing learners by NIOS
Author's Corner
• Discussion of the Malayalam translation of the English version of global capital and peripheral labour authored by K. Raviraman.
लेखक मंड़ (हॉल नं. 2)
• गणेश नवरात्रा नामक पुस्तक पर चर्चा—रेखा फार्डेशन
Children Pavilion
• Illustration Workshop with Canato Jimo
• Inter-School Spell Bee Competition
Seminar Hall
• Symposium on Special and Inclusive Education-2023
Cultural Events
• Performance by Music & Drama Society from Daulat Ram College
हॉल नं. 2,3,4,5, हॉल नं. 4 (प्रथम तल) और एप्लीशिएट, प्रगति मैदान, नई दिल्ली

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वसंतोत्सव 2023

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PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)
Governor, Uttarakhand

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

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LtGenGurmit Lt Gen Gurmit Singh [Itgengurmitsingh](#) [LTGENERALGURMITSINGH](#)

Flower Show & Competition

Visitor's Time: 3rd March 2023, 1 PM to 6 PM | 4th & 5th March 2023, 9 AM to 6 PM

Name of Categories	Name of Sub Categories	Name of Categories	Name of Sub Categories
A. Cut flower competition (including commercial/hobbyist)(63 prizes)	E. Vegetables under Rooftop Gardening (9 Prizes)	E. Vegetables under Leafy Vegetables 3. Exotic Vegetables (Group of 3 pots of each variety as one entry)	
1. Traditional Areas (42 prizes)	F. Cacti & Succulents (03 Prizes)	1. Cadi and succulents (Group of 3 pots will be considered as one entry)	
2. Non Traditional Areas (18 prizes)	G. Bonsai (15 Prizes)	(1) 0-5 Years (2) 5-10 Years (3) 10-15 years (4) 15-20 Years (5) 20 Years & above	
3. Cut Flowers Competition for Specially abled persons (Any Cut Flower)(03 prizes)	H. Terrarium (03 Prizes)	1. Terrarium (one Terrarium as one entry)	
B. Potted plant arrangement (12 prizes)	I. Hanging pots (03 Prizes)	Arrangements of three pots as single entry	
(1) Private Nurseries	J. On the spot photography (03 Prizes)	Pictures of 6x8" size will be clicked at Raj Bhawan on First Day and photographs will be displayed/judgement on same day.	
a) Small upto 0.50 acre	K. Pots (09 Prizes)	(1) 8 Inch (2) 10 Inch (3) 12 Inch (3 pots as one entry)	
b) Large above 0.50 acre	L. Fresh Petal Rangoli (03 Prizes)	Creation & Rangoli by fresh petals (1x1 mt dimension)	
(2) Hobbyists	M. Flowers used for edible purpose (06 Prizes)	1. Flowers used for edible purpose. 2. Flowers used for bakery purpose.	
(3) Central & State Govt./Private Institution	N. Lawns (Individual & Institutions)* (09 Prizes)	1. Individuals 2. Institutional 3. Department of Prison	
C. Loose Flower Arrangement (12 prizes)	O. Honey (09 Prizes)	1. Apis Cerana Himalayan Honey 2. Wild Forest Honey 3. Monofloral Honey (500 gm bottle/Jar as one entry)	
D. Potted Plants other than flowers (06 prizes)	P. Painting competition for School children, specially abled children and street children /rag pickers (21 Prizes)	(1) Children of age between 5 to 10 years. (2) Children of age between 10 to 14 years. (3) Children of age between 14 to 18 years. (4) Visually Impaired (5) Mentally Impaired (6) Hearing & Speech Impaired (7) Street Children/Rag Pickers	

Postal Stamp Competition organized by Postal Department, Dehradun

- Participants should have their stalls and exhibits prepared by 6pm on 02nd March, 2023. No time extensions will be given.

- The inauguration of the Flower Show is scheduled at: 3rd March 2023, 11 AM. Visitor entry is from 1 PM – 6 PM on 3rd March 2023 | 4th & 5th March 2023, 9 AM – 6 PM.

- The panel of judges will be visiting from 1st March 2023 to 3rd March 2023 (for lawn category).

- The projects/programs/techniques implemented by various regions, central and state departments, universities and institutions, are exhibited in their respective stalls.

- Various NGOs and Self-Help Women Group will also have their products on display for sale.

- The Art Gallery, cultural events and photography exhibits are also on display as well as a dedicated food court for refreshments.

The invite is open to everyone at Raj Bhawan, Dehradun on the above mentioned days. Participation is free. Please collect your forms at:

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1. Office of the Chief Horticulture Officer, Vikas Bhawan, Survey Chowk, Dehradun 0135-271530 Mob. +91-92962728

2. Office of the Director-Horticulture/Director-Horticulture Mission Government Garden, Circuit House, Dehradun 0135-2759799 Mob. +91-90986890740981177

OR VISIT
<https://dohfp.uk.gov.in>
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Medico 'harassed' by senior dies days after suicide bid

Hyderabad: After a five-day battle for life, post-graduate medical student Dharawath Preethi died at the city's Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) at 9:10pm on Sunday. The 26-year-old had attempted suicide on February 22 due to alleged harassment by a course senior. Tensions ran high at NIMS after the news broke and police used force to disperse angry protesters and family members, who stopped the ambulance carrying the body to the mortuary for autopsy.

Calling it a cold-blooded murder, Preethi's father demanded answers from the administration. "We will not let go of the body, till we get answers," he said.

Later Sunday, NIMS stated that "despite efforts by a multi-specialty team of doctors, she could not be saved". TNN

With roof crumbling, discom staff in UP town work with helmets on

Sachin Sharma | TNN



The state power department employees are forced to wear helmets while working at the metre-testing lab inside the UPCL building

Shamli:

Over 40 employees

of the state power department, including engineers, clerks and contractual workers, are forced to wear helmets while working at the metre-testing lab inside the British-era building of UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPCL) in Baghpat's Baraut town. The reason is the dilapidated condition of the structure, where chunks of plaster keep falling from the roof at regular intervals.

"We have to wear helmets to protect ourselves as we don't know when the plaster from the ceiling would fall and hurt us. There have been incidents in the past when workers were injured. Although no

major accident has happened, it is too risky," said Vedpal Arya, who works as a computer operator.

The situation gets worse during the rainy season as cracks have appeared in the roof over the years and rainwater keeps dripping, the employees said, adding that despite repeated requests,

little has been done by the authorities concerned.

"The building has been in a poor condition since I joined this department seven years ago. A survey was conducted once by the officials but no repair work happened. The roof will collapse anytime. It's a tragedy waiting to happen," said

Gaurav Sharma, a contractual worker. After a video of the workers wearing helmets while working went viral on social media on Saturday, district magistrate (DM) of Baghpat, Rajkamal Yadav, took cognisance and said that a letter is being sent to the MD PVVNL, the west UP discom of UP Power Corporation Ltd, to address the matter on priority.

"This is a serious matter. It is dangerous to work in such old and decrepit buildings. An inquiry report has been sought from the superintendent engineer of the discom in this regard. We will also correspond with senior officials of the power corporation regarding shifting the office to a new building," the DM said.

'PARAKH to help tackle inequity of coaching'

Right from the menace of coaching which creates inequity among students to grade inflation in Board exams to assessment challenges, Amit Sevak, president and CEO of ETS speaks to TOI's Manash Gohain and explains the importance of the PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), India's first national assessment regulator. The government of India has recently entrusted ETS, which delivers global tests such as TOEFL, GRE, Praxis and TOEFL, to set up PARAKH. Excerpts from the interview:

■ What is ETS' role in PARAKH?

PARAKH will be an independent organisation affiliated to the education ministry and we are helping build it. It will be looking into three major areas—large scale assessment like the National Achievement Survey, school-based assessments and thirdly capacity building. First, we will help assess where things are currently, and then we will start to develop some norms and guidelines together.

■ What are the challenges in assessments?

There is a lot of diversity in how education is delivered in India and assessments help teachers understand where a student is now. What is the ability to read in your language of instruction and what is the level of maths and other numeracy skills that you have. Those foundational skills are not anywhere near what they need to be for a country as large as India. With 600 million people under the age of 30, it has such an opportunity to serve not only the human capital in India for supporting growth and candidacy for the world. To build foundational skills you need better assessments. We will not wait for one semester or one year, but instead will do them every week, or month, what we call in our education management in-

schools and raise the quality of outcomes in schools which will take the pressure off families.

■ Your opinion on competitive inflation of board exam marks?

Grade inflation is a global problem because the intention of many of these Boards is to give a differentiated competitive advantage for their students. But reality is often the opposite as they are giving the impression that they are ready when they may not be fully ready.

The answer lies in going beyond a single number or metric, and really looking at a broad portfolio of skills. We need to have a breakdown of the skill levels of individuals and then have that normalised by some kind of moderation.

■ Should undergraduate admissions be based on class XII marks?

We at ETS and the industry generally are now moving to a more holistic approach where we are looking at what we call the ABCs – affective skills, behavioural skills and cognitive skills. Most tests just look at cognitive skills which are reasoning and problem solving. But behavioural skill shows how you apply that knowledge to a real-world situation, and affective skill reveals how you really show up, manage emotions and collaborate.

Now, Tejas trains to have reclining seats

The railways has introduced the first reclining seats in Tejas trains on the lines of Vande Bharat trains. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted the photo of the seats on Saturday which went viral. Tejas Express is equipped with modern amenities like automatic sliding doors and sealed vestibule, automatic smoke and heat detection alarm, onboard infotainment, ergonomic seats, GPS based passenger information system and modular toilets. "The reclining seats will be an added facility for passengers," an official said. TNN

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

No.: 146-Med/San/GeM Tender/PRYJ/23

Dated: 24.02.2023

GeM Tender Notice

Chief Medical Superintendent, Central Hospital, North Central Railway, Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online GeM Bid (E-Tender) on web portal as detailed below:

Sl. No.	GeM Bid No. & Date	Name of work	Approx Cost (in Rs.)	Tender Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money EMD (in Rs.)
1.	GEM/2023/B/3179419 Dated: 23.02.2023	SANITATION WORK OF NORTH RAILWAY COLONY IN MIRZAPUR	6613513.89	0.00	132270/-

Date & Time of closing of Tender: 16.03.2023 At 09:00 hrs.

Completion Period: 02 Year 03 Month

Note: For full details and submission of tenders, please visit the website www.gem.gov.in

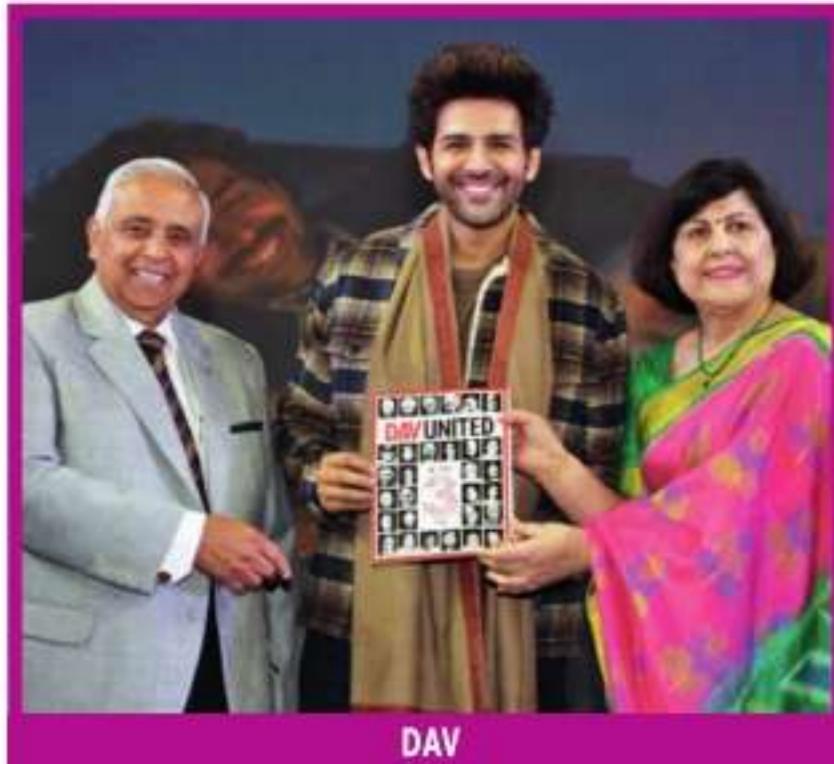
307/23 (P)

[North central railway](#) [CRONCR](#) [northcentralrailway](#) [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

School Buzz



DAV (the largest NGO in Education in India), celebrated its 4th annual DAV United Festival, to acknowledge the unity of more than 20 million DAVians (students, alumni, parents and teachers) spread across 21 states and 2 Union territories. Alongside art and culture, DAV United focused on making the event Zero Waste and Litter Free as part of the sustainable living drive of DAV. DAV United Festival came a long way since 2018 to celebrate unity among DAV students, parents, teachers and alumni and to promote talent. The event was graced by the presence of big names in film, art and culture, and the sports industry. The entire festival was conceived and executed under the guidance of Nisha Peshin, dean of DAV United Foundation and got exemplary and inspiring encouragement from the president of DAV CMC Punam Suri.



DAV

Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh conducted its first IB PYP exhibition for classes I and II to celebrate the journey of the young learners. It was an amazing experience for learners and parents. The exhibition was inaugurated by Alka Kapur, principal, of Modern Public School. The inquisitive Modernities of class I and II showcased their research work and inquiries



Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh

based on different aspects through astounding exhibits which promoted the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The exhibition was at par with International standards and was appreciated by all.

Maxfort School, Parwana Road, Pitampura hosted its 15th 'Theaterama' with great pomp and show. The entire stage came alive with the performances of the students of classes I-VIII. The spectacular event was graced by eminent personalities like Jai Madan, renowned astrologer and motivational speaker and Sushant Sinha, journalist and writer. The school principal ap-



plauded the efforts and hard work put in by the students and facilitators.

Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony, New Delhi celebrated its 70th alumni meet with immense pride to reconnect with the alumni and celebrate success. The grand event was possible due to the guidance and support of the chairman Inder Dev Gupta and principal Geeta Karunakaran. It was a stimulating and enjoyable evening with a plethora of activities like games, photo shoots and face-to-face interviews with some distinguished alumni.



Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony, New Delhi

TIMES NOW

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Despite slowdown international job offers rain in B-schools

Earlier, the offers were made by the international manufacturing companies, however, this year global Tourism and FMCG companies have made offers with higher CTC

Puniti.Pandey
@timesgroup.com

Despite the looming recession and the ongoing slowdown across the world, few IIMs have received quite impressive job offers in the recent placement season. Several reputed international companies made lucrative offers to the graduates.

In the recently held placement session at IIM Sirmaur, over hundred companies across sectors such as FMCG, BFSI, Manufacturing, Consulting, EdTech, HR, Tourism, E-Commerce and Logistics visited the campus for hiring students.

"The institute has recorded a significant increase in international placements this year. The increase is seen both in terms of package and diversity," says Prafulla Agnihotri, director, IIM Sirmaur. "Around 16 international offers were received in the current placement season in textile and retail with overseas operations, and some offers are from leading Travel and Tourism organisations. Earlier,



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

the offers were made by the manufacturing companies, however, this year companies in Tourism and FMCG sectors have made offers with higher CTC," he adds. The highest compensation offered so far is Rs 64 lakh.

At IIM Bangalore, the placements for the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and PGP-BA class of 2021-23 saw 606 offers. All 512 students who appeared for placements got lucrative offers. Academics at the institute noted that the students at the institute received offers from reputed com-

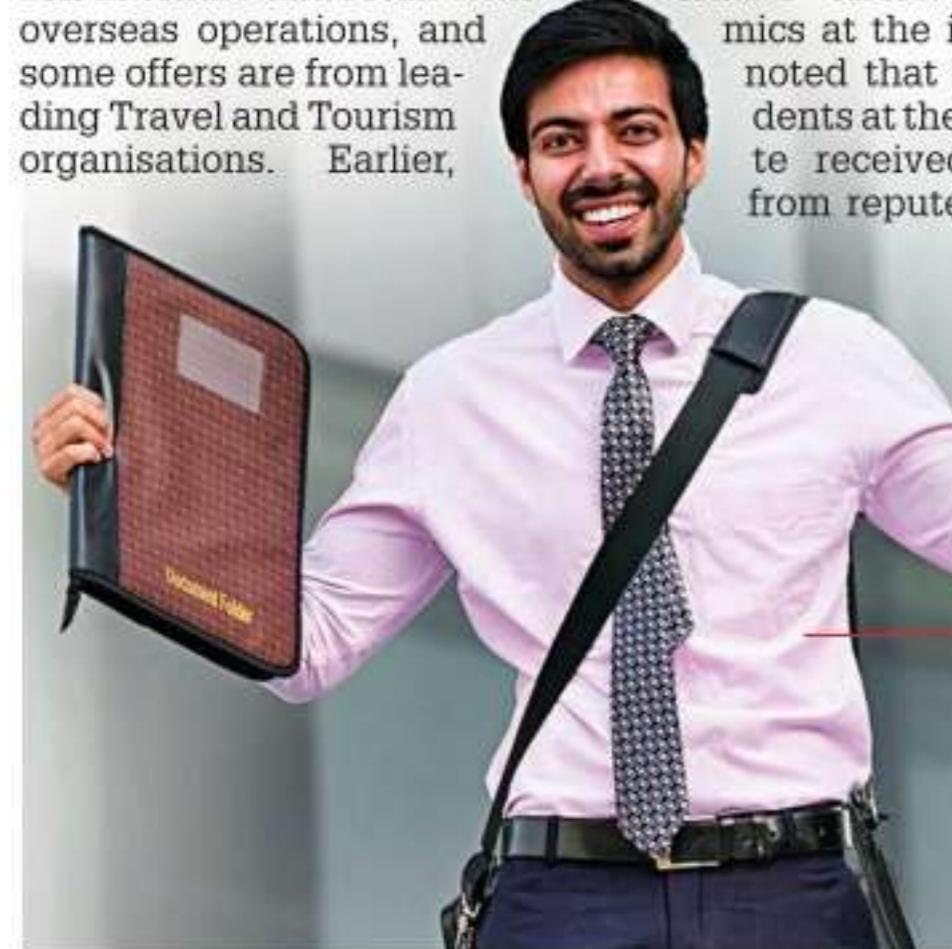
panies despite a slowdown in the market. The institute received international offers from overseas companies located in Europe, Dubai and Singapore with offers across Consulting, Finance and Business Strategy.

Kapil Kukreja, placement representative, IIM Bangalore, says, "Increase in offers across all sectors was a result of increase in job roles in Consulting and Product Management. Strategy Consulting continued to be the most sought-after role among the students, followed by General Management and Product Management."

Around 221 offers were made by Consulting companies such as Accenture, Boston Consulting Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Ernst & Young, Deloitte, among others. Nearly 85 offers were made from companies in the Information Technology and

Increase in offers across all sectors was a result of increase in job roles in Consulting and Product Management

While Logistics and Supply Chain continue to be a prominent sector, technology-based roles have taken centre stage this year," says Mohamed Raeef Rafick, associate director, Corporate Relations (Middle East Asia), SP Jain School of Global Management.



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EducationTIMES

GET UNTANGLED

NMC decides stipend during maternity leave for NEET PG students, wake-up call for private institutions

Astha.Hemant
@timesgroup.com

Postgraduate (PG) medical students should be given a stipend for an extended term of training while they are on maternity leave. The mandate was recently announced by the Post Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) under the National Medical Commission (NMC). Till now, most government institutes offered a stipend during maternity leave, the NMC mandate will compel the few private medical colleges that re-



The idea is to treat maternity leave as an on-duty period and not leave without pay

train from giving stipends during maternity leave to make the necessary changes.

Dr Sanjay Kumar, member secretary, state admission committee, Government of Haryana, says, "In most ca-

male residents their regular stipend, few private hospitals treat it as leave without pay, wherein the stipend is withheld." A senior official from Ministry of Health, on the condition of anonymity, says, "Female students account for close to 60% of NEET PG candidates. The NMC mandate might be addressing the few private institutions that still refrain from giving a stipend to their female students during their maternity leave, which may be causing them financial instability and anxiousness."

Implementation of Deshbhakti curriculum

In a move to ensure better implementation of the Deshbhakti curriculum in the government schools of Delhi, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia held a review meeting with the core-development team. The meeting was aimed at preparing a future blueprint for the curriculum. Highlighting the purpose of introducing the curriculum, Sisodia said that the course was launched to inculcate the spirit of patriotism among government school students. The government further plans for creating a new Teacher's manual for classes VI-XII and training teachers associated with the Deshbhakti curriculum.

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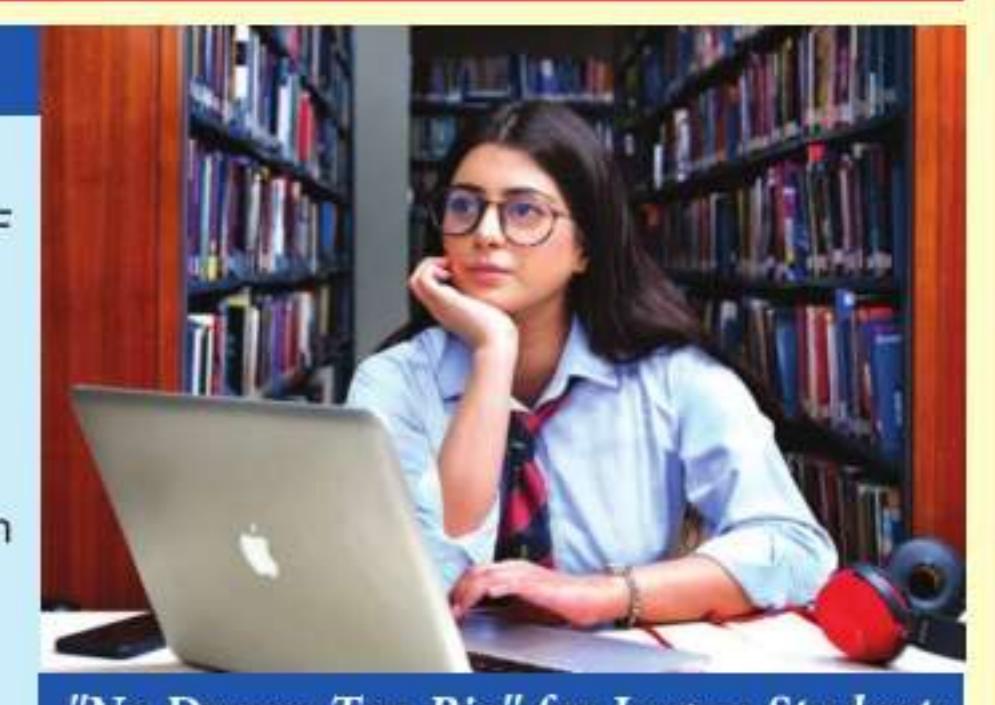
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THE SECRET TO A 100 YEARS LIES IN YOUR LUNCH

Experts Show Ways To Incorporate The Blue Zone Diet Of The World's Centenerians In India

Saranya.Chakrapani
@timesgroup.com

As winter opened markets to succulent roots—orange and black radishes and carrots, coloured cherry tomatoes, and dark leafy greens—chef Ashutosh Nerlekar of The Park, Chennai, spotted in this farm fresh winter produce, a potential fare that could give his guests a new meaning to life; possibly a much longer one.

Although tweaked slightly to the Indian context, his inspiration came from the culinary and lifestyle secrets of the world's Blue Zones—Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Icaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, California.

In 2003, after extensive traveling and research, National Geographic fellow and author from the United States, Dan Beuttner, found that the five aforementioned places were home to most number of people who lived up to a 100 years or more, and also aged happily while at it. The Blue Zone life,

he inferred, was a combination of traditional, locally grown food consumption, conscious living, physical activity, strong interpersonal relationships and spiritual leaning. He said these choices led to the least occurrence of cancer, diabetes, obesity and heart diseases in these populations.

"The Blue Zone diet became a talking point in India after Covid-19," says nutritionist Meenakshi Bajaj. "Because following the thumb rule of little or no processed foods and sugars, these diets are abundant in polyphenol (a group of bioactive substances)-rich vegetables, nuts, flax seeds, beans, and a variety of Sardinian red wine called Cannonau," she says.

In the menu of The Park's Blue Zone Gastronomy festival earlier this month were roasted hasselback beetroots in a salad with white and golden beets from Icaria; grilled black sea bass from Loma Linda served with fennel orange salad, charred asparagus and balsamic glaze; and a hearty minestrone from Sardinia with barley dumpling, lima

beans and tomato relish.

"This was a conceptualised menu for a promotional event. But incorporating the Blue Zone diet into your own, isn't just about sourcing food from across the world just because you can afford it, but being mindful of your carbon footprint, and consuming what's locally available. In our case, we supplemented many of the ingredients: the cheese arepas for the soft tortillas with our own indigenous mix, and black beans from local farmers in Pune," says chef Nerlekar.

Across the country, Blue Zone gastronomy has become a guide for restaurants, especially Mediterranean, to follow the same cooking philosophy.

When you understand it as a way of life, you also see that you can derive the same nutrients you get from the Blue Zones in Indian food. Sesame, coffee, rice, nuts (especially pea-



FOOD FOR LIFE: (Anti-clockwise from above) Chef Ashutosh Nerlekar sourced locally available ingredients to create a Blue Zone fare; his grilled black sea bass with fennel orange salad; nuts and leafy greens are Blue Zone gastronomy staples; fermented foods like millet idlis follow Blue Zone cooking principles

kootu, pacchadi, sambar and rasam, has all the micronutrients we need,

and is also complementary to our lifestyle. A Blue Zone diet isn't one you have with an aim to beef up, but rather stay fit and healthy," says Vijay, who some years ago, prescribed this to the people he trained as well.

"And finally, follow simple practices such as eating a smaller plate, having fewer varieties of each food, as against a buffet on the dining table, and winding up your last — ideally also your smallest meal — by early evening," says Meenakshi.

OKINAWA, JAPAN

> Plant-based food, negligible sugars and processed foods

> Diet staples include polyphenol-rich sweet potato, soya bean, turmeric, bitter gourd, fennel, mushrooms, seaweed

> Low risk of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, obesity

> Follow 'Hara Hachi Bun', the 2,500-year-old Confucian principle – eat only until your stomach is 80% full

> Live with a strong sense of purpose

ICARIA, GREECE

THE WORLD'S GUIDE TO LONGEVITY

ICARIA, GREECE

> Follows traditional Mediterranean diet of nuts, seeds, green plants, fresh fruits, vegetables, and bean varieties

> Take a nap in the afternoons

> Record low mortality rate among middle-aged people and very low rates of dementia

OGLIASTRA IN SARDINIA, ITALY

> Has the world's highest number of male centenarians | Locals follow a low-protein diet of durum wheat and plant-based foods | Consume a wine called 'Cannabon' – high in three kinds of polyphenol | > Pay a lot

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN LOMA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

> Follow a diet based on the Biblical book of Leviticus

> Whole plant foods such as legumes, fruits, nuts, grains and vegetables; negligible animal products | > Mostly vegan or pescatarian (fish as the only meat) | > Keep 24 hours a week for prayer

NICOCY PENINSULA, COSTA RICA

> Squash, corn and beans

> 15 minutes of sun exposure

> Regular, low-intensity physical activity, including daily chores

> Maintain and take time out for social networks

> Strong faith communities

Courtesy: Meenakshi Bajaj

country and misleading statements suggesting the contrary is unfortunate. In fact, from July-December 2022, onion exports have consistently been above the \$40 million mark every month, benefiting our Annadatas."

The statement issued by the commerce ministry also said, "Government has not restricted or prohibited the export of onion. The extant export policy of onions is 'free'. Only the export of onion seed is 'restricted' and that too is permitted under authorisation from Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)."

Army jawan, cop killed in Maoist attacks in C'garh

7 Securitymen Slain In Bastar Within A Week

Rashmi.Drolia@timesgroup.com

my Service Corps and his unit was posted in the northeast. He had donned the Olive Green in 2013-14 and got married last year. His cold-blooded murder by Maoists marks a grim first in Bastar; perhaps the country.

Brij B K Ponwar (retd), Director of the Jungle Warfare College, who trains police in guerrilla tactics, said, "Maoists often look for soft targets in desperation. In this case, it appears that they may have targeted an Armyman for a CRPF jawan or personnel of some other security force. Normally, Maoists don't strike Armymen. Also, it appears that somewhere the rules of warfare were flouted."

Meanwhile, on Sunday, a Chhattisgarh Armed Force head constable was killed in a Maoist IED blast in Nayapuram district.

A CAF squad was patrolling the Orchha forests when Sanjay Lakra stepped on an anti-personnel mine near Batum village, around 300km from Raipur, at 7am. It exploded, killing him on the spot. He was native of Jashpur district. The administration is preparing to send his body to his native place for the last rites.

No ban on exports of onions, says Centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre on Sunday said there is no ban or restriction on the export of onion. It said between April and December India exported onions worth \$523.8 million.

The government made this statement days after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule tweeted claiming that the Centre was trying to ban onion exports. Responding to her, Union commerce and food minister Piyush Goyal said, "There is no ban on onion exports from India to any

> MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023
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FOCUS

Engineering colleges in Tier II, III cities unlock growth through faculty upskilling

Upskilling will help faculty to train students in emerging technologies such as AI, ML that will drive Industry 4.0

Sonal.Srivastava@timesgroup.com

To boost employability and make engineering students future-ready, engineering colleges in tier II and III cities are focussing more on training faculty in emerging technologies. AICTE has several Faculty Development Schemes including AICTE-NITTT for upskilling, reskilling

AICTE has many Faculty Development Schemes including AICTE-NITTT for upskilling, reskilling

are encouraged to complete online courses on NPTEL and SWAYAM platforms. They are encouraged to participate in the AICTE-National Initiative For Technical Teachers Training (AICTE - NITTT), wherein training is being imparted to the inductee teachers in AICTE approved/recognised institutions. Training to the inductee teachers is being imparted in three phases. The first phase of the training programme for the inductee teachers shall be conducted in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) mode for eight modules on the SWAYAM platform through the NITTT portal www.nittt.ac.in followed by a one-month industrial internship (second phase) and then mentor-based training (third phase)."

With the Microsoft Upskilling Pro-

ject, sponsored by the AP govt, faculty of engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh are being upskilled in cloud computing, azure platform, AI, and ML.

Challenges in conducting FDP workshops

Engineering colleges in smaller cities face significant challenges to get trainers from the metro cities to conduct workshops. Hence, many engineering colleges are now forging tie-ups with EdTech for specific Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs).

"We are actively engaging with EdTech companies to fill this existing knowledge gap. Getting trainers from outside who know what is latest in technology sector hiring is a great asset in facilitating that process for both staff and students," says Malineni Perumallu, chairman, Malineni Lakshmaiah Women's Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh, adding that to create a top-class talent pool, college administrators should first be aware of the latest hiring trends in the tech industry. "Majority of the colleges today face a severe shortage in finding faculty and there is even a shorter pool of qualified candidates who can skill students in emerging tech," says Perumallu.

With the redesigning of the curriculum, and the introduction of industry-sponsored electives, the reskilling and upskilling of the faculty has become a necessity. "Upskilling teachers might seem like a natural first step, but there are multiple dimensions to it. We are also partnering with third-party EdTech companies who have the knowledge expertise on what is in demand in the tech industry and provide

us with the trainers who are here on campus in-person to train students along with a sound infrastructure," says Chandrasekhar Reddy, principal, Christu Jyothi Institute of Technology & Sciences, Telangana.

The Sona College of Technology, Salem, has linked faculty promotions to upskilling and reskilling. "Apart from the mandatory NPTEL training that the faculty members have to take every year, they have to also go through at least 40 hours of industry training every year," says A K Akilandeswari, dean, Academics and head, Department of Information Technology, Sona College of Technology.

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University in Meerut is encouraging faculty to upskill through the NPTEL local chapter that provides certificate courses in emerging technologies by different IITs. "To sidestep the trainer shortage in tier II and III cities, we have adopted 'train the trainer' approach and made it mandatory for the faculty to undertake one emerging technology programme once in a year," says Manoj Kapil, dean and principal, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut.

Karan Tadepalli, founder and CEO, byteXL, that has worked with Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), says, "There is currently a 15-year gap between academia and industry. Apart from a few elite colleges, practical skilling is still widely considered an elective that supplements the existing engineering syllabus. There is a need for building awareness to make it mainstream and incorporate it as a requirement."

Implementing NEP 2020 is not a matter of choice, UTSAH is watching

Rajlakshmi.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

With the UGC developing a portal called UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) to track and support the implementation of NEP 2020 and its strategic initiatives across HEIs, questions are rife as to whether the HEIs have yielded tangible outcomes in the long run. Since the portal will gather information from HEIs focused on 10 major thrust areas that include Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education; Digital Empowerment and Online Education; Skill Development and Employability; Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Promotion of Indian Languages and Indian Knowledge Systems, to mention a few, academics have contrasting views. While some feel that a lot of groundwork needs to replace the empty rhetoric, others believe that the HEIs have done substantial work to fructify the initiatives.

The data collected on the UTSAH Portal will be helpful for policymaking within and outside the government. It will also help in visualising the data's various dimensions, identifying challenges and shortcomings and developing strategies to improve the quality of higher education in India," said M Jagadeesh Kumar, chairman, UGC, in a media note recently.

Lip service will not help
A senior academic on the condition of anonymity says without NEP 2020 reforms, it is difficult to implement it in its right spirit. "The 10 major thrust areas, actually relate to the quality mandate of the UGC. Rather, the UGC should revert to its original mandate to provide grants to HEIs to ensure quality improvement."

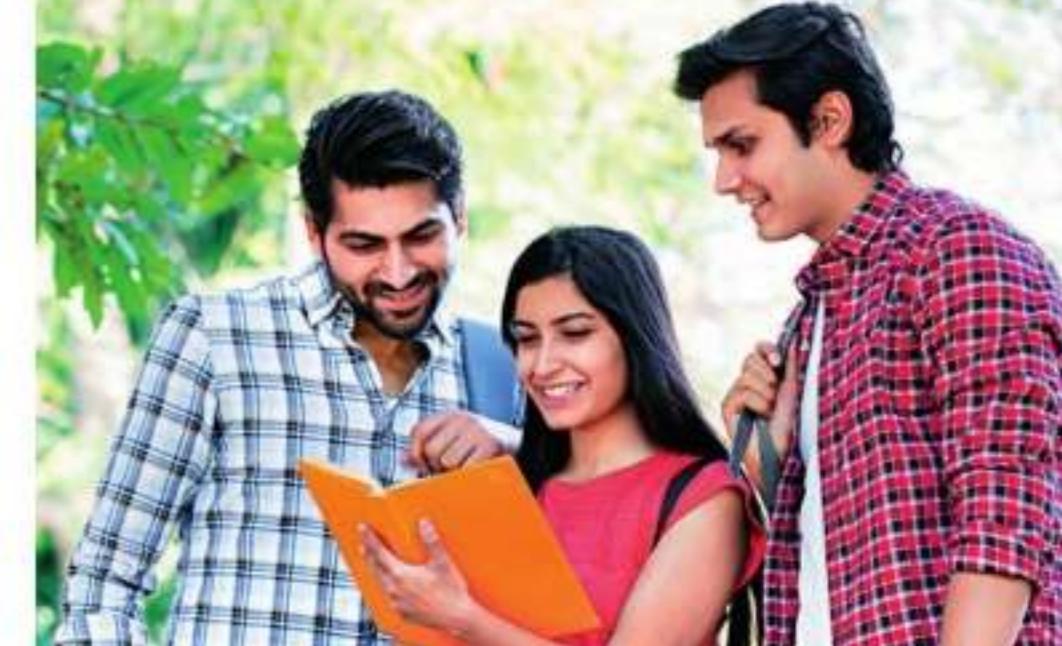
Progress report
BJ Rao, vice-chancellor, Uni-

options, and there is also a need to re-train faculty for multidisciplinary programmes, which is not an India-specific problem, Rao says.

Evolving status

NEP implementation is more of a journey and there is no upper limit to offering good quality education, says Jaskiran Arora, dean-School of Management, BML Munjal University. The majority of the HEIs have formalized the NEP Implementation task force and started to put together their Institutional Development Plan to offer multidisciplinary programmes. "Percolation, assimilation, immersion and then execution, require reflection. What we are looking at is not a stop gap arrangement but the relearning of something that we institutionalised only 2-3 years back. The regulations are evolving, and there aren't many successful case studies as yet; openness and preparedness of faculty is slowly brewing," she adds.

A lot will depend on how the UTSAH platform is intended to be used. "If it is meant to be like a letter box, where the updates on NEP implementation are expected to be posted, it will be counterproductive to the very spirit of NEP. The best usage of such portals is to conduct open houses where HEIs can discuss their progress and apprehensions," Arora says.



Data collected on UTSAH will help in policymaking within and outside the government

versity of Hyderabad, differs, adding that the quality of education as per NEP 2020 has not been compromised, at least in the central universities. "During the meeting with the UGC, all VCs of central universities had to present data-driven status of their progress; it was concluded that substantial progress has been made in the Entry-Exit and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Many HEIs have started interdisciplinary foundational courses, and there are those which earlier did not offer CBCS programmes but have now started FYUP for which admissions have been made." The state universities, however, have registered uneven progress, with Karnataka leading the implementation stakes. Providing further updates, Rao says that students who complete their semester in June 2023, will have their credits deposited in the Academic Bank of Credits. From July 2023 onwards, Multiple Entry-Exit options will give students an opportunity to apply to other universities through horizontal transfer methods. Challenges may lie in using technology to facilitate the Multiple Entry Exit

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TOM CRUISE SAYS HE WAS 'CRYING & GOT EMOTIONAL' AFTER REUNITING WITH VAL KILMER FOR 'TOP GUN: MAVERICK' SCENE

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

A CLOUDY DAY IS NO MATCH FOR A SUNNY DISPOSITION
— WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD



PARIS HILTON SAYS HARVEY WEINSTEIN FOLLOWED HER TO A BATHROOM WHEN SHE WAS 19 & SCARED HER: 'HE WAS HAMMERING ON THE DOOR'

59 dead as overcrowded migrant boat smashes into rocks off Italy

Some 200 People Had Been On The 66-Ft-Long Boat, Says Italian PM

Rome: At least 59 people died, including 12 children, when their overcrowded wooden boat smashed into rocky reefs and broke apart off southern Italy before dawn Sunday, authorities said. By Sunday afternoon the provisional toll stood at 59 but was expected to rise, junior interior minister Wanda Ferro told reporters.

Manuela Curra, a provincial government official, said 81 people survived, with 20 hospitalised including one person in intensive care, she said. Survivors reportedly indicated that dozens more could be missing.

There were also various estimates of how many people were aboard the boat when it collided with the reefs in violently rough seas. Some of the wreckage ended up on a stretch of beach along Calabria's Ionian Sea coast, where splintered pieces of bright blue wood littered the sand like matchsticks. Reporting from the village of Steccato di Cutro, state



The wreckage of the capsized boat washes ashore at a beach near Cutro, Italy

TV quoted survivors as saying the boat had set out five days earlier from Turkey with more than 200 passengers. Italian PM Giorgia Meloni said some 200 migrants had been crowded into a 66-foot-long boat. Italy's coast guard, which was coordinating the rescue, said about 120 migrants were believed to have been on board.

Earlier, the mayor of Cutro, Antonio Ceraso, told the SkyTG24 news channel that women and children were among the dead. He said the migrants' wooden boat had "disintegrated" amid stormy sea conditions, with parts of the wreckage strewn across some 300

metres of the coast. Italian news agency Adnkronos said the migrants caught up in the shipwreck came from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, while ANSA said they came from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

Italian authorities said a rescue operation involving a helicopter and police aircraft, and vessels from state firefighter squads, the coast guard and border police, was under way Sunday. Local fishermen also joined in the search for survivors. A pair of firefighter water rescuers struggled with wind gusts and waves several meters high crashing onto the beach as they brought a body ashore.

One survivor was taken into custody for questioning after survivors indicated he was a trafficker, Rai state TV said. Some of the survivors tried to keep warm, wrapped in blankets and quilts and were taken by bus to a temporary shelter. State TV said 22 survivors were taken to hospital for treatment. A coast guard motorboat rescued two men suffering from hypothermia and recovered the body of a boy in the rough seas, the agency said. Firefighter boats, including rescue divers, recovered 28 bodies, including three pulled by a strong current far away from the wreckage. Among the dead were an 8-year-old boy and a baby a few months old, according to Italian news reports.

Italy is one of the main landing points for migrants trying to enter Europe by sea, with many seeking to travel on to richer northern European nations. The so-called central Mediterranean route is known as one of the world's most dangerous. The United Nations Missing Migrants Project has registered more than 17,000 deaths and disappearances in the central Mediterranean since 2014. More than 220 have died or disappeared this year, it estimates. AGENCIES

Missing chairman cooperating with authorities in probe, says Chinese bank

Beijing: China Renaissance Holdings said in an exchange filing on Sunday that its missing chairman and star dealmaker Bao Fan was currently cooperating with relevant Chinese authorities conducting an investigation. This is the first time the mainland China-based boutique bank has given a reason for the disappearance of its founder—who was reported missing 10 days ago—though no details about the probe were shared.

"The board would like to reiterate the business and operations of the group are continuing normally," the bank said. Reuters previously reported, citing sources, that authorities took Bao away earlier this month to probe into a former colleague, Cong Lin, the firm's former president. Fan's disappearance is the latest in a series of cases of high-profile Chinese executives going missing with little explanation during a sweeping anti-corruption campaign spearheaded by President Xi Jinping. REUTERS

Israeli, Palestinian officials meet, vow to curb violence



Israeli soldiers take up positions at the scene of a shooting at the Hawara checkpoint, near the West Bank city of Nablus, on Sunday

Amman (Jordan): Israel committed to stop authorisation of settler outposts in the occupied West Bank for six months during a meeting on Sunday with Palestinian officials in Jordan when the sides pledged to de-escalate surging violence. This came even as a Palestinian gunman killed two Israelis in a shooting in the occupied West Bank.

In a statement at the end of a meeting in the city of Aqaba, Israel and Palestinian officials said they would work closely to prevent "further violence" and "reaffirmed the necessity of committing to de-escalation on the ground". Host nation Jordan, along with Egypt and US, considered "these understandings as major progress" the statement said.

The meeting brought together top Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs for the first time in many years, officials said. Israel and the Palestinian Authority "confirmed their joint commitment to work to end unilateral measures for three-six months", the statement said. "This includes an Israeli commitment to stop discussion of any new settlement units for four months and to stop authorisation of any outposts for six months," the statement said. The participants also agreed to meet again in Egypt in March. As the negotiators were meeting, a Palestinian gunman killed two Israeli brothers in West Bank. The army was looking for the attacker, and Israel's defence minister called for beefing up the military presence in the occupied West Bank. AGENCIES

Lab leak most likely caused pandemic: US energy dept

Washington: New intelligence has prompted the US energy department to conclude that an accidental laboratory leak in China most likely caused the coronavirus pandemic, though American spy agencies remain divided over the origins of the virus. American officials said on Sunday. The conclusion was a change from the department's earlier position that it was undecided on how the virus emerged.

Some officials briefed on the intelligence said that it was relatively weak and that the energy department's conclusion was made with "low confidence", suggesting its level of certainty was not high. While the department shared the information with other agencies, none of them changed their conclusions, officials said. Officials would not dis-

Blast at market in Pak's Balochistan kills 4, injures 14

Karachi: A blast caused by an improvised explosive device planted on a motorcycle killed at least four people and left 14 others injured inside a market in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Sunday, police said. The blast took place a day after two policemen were killed and another was injured in Balochistan's Khuzdar when an IED went off while police officers were patrolling the area.

The new intelligence and the shift in the department's view was first reported by the Wall Street Journal on Sunday. Jake Sullivan, the NSA, declined to confirm the intelligence. But he said President Biden had ordered that the national labs be brought into the effort to determine the origin of the outbreak. In addition to the energy department, the FBI has also concluded, with low confidence, that the virus first emerged accidentally from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a Chinese lab that worked on coronaviruses. NYT

'If elected, will cut every cent in aid for countries which hate US'

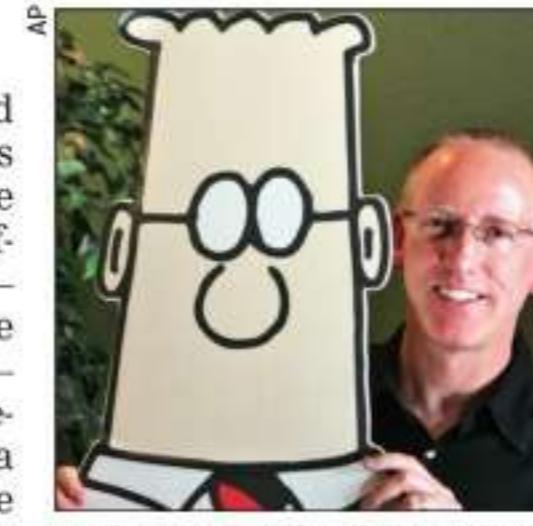
Washington: Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has vowed to cut every cent in foreign aid for countries which hate America, if voted to power. She mentioned Pakistan, China, Iraq and other countries, saying "strong America doesn't pay off the bad guys".

"A proud America doesn't waste our people's hard-earned money. And the only leaders who deserve our trust are those who stand up to our enemies," she wrote in an op-ed in New York Post. She said America has spent \$46 billion on foreign aid last year, which is given to countries like China, Pakistan, and Iraq. "They (American taxpayers) will be shocked to find that much of it goes to fund anti-American countries and causes," she said. Haley said the Biden administration resumed military aid to Pakistan, though it's home to at least a dozen terrorist outfits and its government is in hock to China. NYT

US officials have warned their Chinese counterparts behind closed doors about what those costs might be, Sullivan said, but did not elaborate. The US and its Nato allies have been scrambling to warn China against such a move in recent days, making public comments on their belief that

Dilbert creator, who introduced Asok the IIT-ian to US, is canned after a racist tirade

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN



Washington: They didn't find it funny. Scores of newspapers across the US are canning the famed 'Dilbert' comic strip after its creator Scott Adams—who introduced IIT into the American media discourse—went on a racist tirade this week, calling black Americans a "hate group" and urging white people to "get the hell away from" them. California-based Adams, who at one time talked up Indians and introduced Asok, an IIT graduate, into his comic, has gradually taken to extreme right-wing views. On Wednesday, he crossed an unspoken red line drawn by the liberal media by virtually calling for segregation, saying nearly half the black population in the US are not okay with whites.

Italy is one of the main landing points for migrants trying to enter Europe by sea, with many seeking to travel on to richer northern European nations. The so-called central Mediterranean route is known as one of the world's most dangerous. The United Nations Missing Migrants Project has registered more than 17,000 deaths and disappearances in the central Mediterranean since 2014. More than 220 have died or disappeared this year, it estimates. AGENCIES

the best advice I'd give to white people is to get the hell away from black people, just get the f**k away because there is no fixing this," he added.

Although Adams dialled down on his rant with a "clarification" about his remarks being "taken out of context", several papers across the country, including Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and the Gannett group which has more than 300 newspapers across the country, pulled 'Dilbert'. "In light of Scott Adams' recent statements promoting segregation, Washington Post has

ceased publication of the Dilbert comic strip," the paper said on Saturday. San Francisco Chronicle too had stopped publishing 'Dilbert' after jokes about reparations for slavery and inclusive workplaces.

Adams' embrace of the extremist right and its racist views has gradually tightened over the years, particularly after the rise of former US President Donald Trump in 2016—surprising for a commentator who introduced workplace diversity into his comic strip through Asok the IIT-ian in 1996 when it the institute was relatively unknown in the US. In a 2003 interview with this correspondent, Adams said he conceived Asok after an Indian engineer of the same name (and spelling) he knew during his days as a feehie with Pacific Bell in the late 1980s.

"I modelled a character after him for the 'Dilbert' strip because I wanted to add greater variety and bring an Indian to the mix to reflect the diversity of the American corporate world," he said. Asked why it had to be an Indian, Adams explained: "Well, it was impossible to add an African-American. When you are as white as I

am, you have to be careful. To make a comic strip character funny, you have to make him flawed, and that is a sensitive issue. I'm not sure other communities would have taken it well. Asok's flaw is that he is inexperienced, although he is smart and intelligent. It's a gamble that has paid off." Asked how he was familiar with IIT, he said he's known several IIT grads, but until he read Michael Lewis' 'The New New Thing', a book on Silicon Valley's entrepreneurial culture, he really did not have an idea how important they are to the US economy.

Over the years, Asok made sporadic appearances in 'Dilbert', spoofing a desi brainiac conveyed most famously in a strip where he re-heats his tea by holding a cup to his forehead and thinking about fire. In 2007, Adams "killed" Asok, with his pointy-haired boss announcing that he had died while on a test of a moon shuttle prototype. Although he was briefly reincarnated because he had put a sample of his DNA in a jar before he left, a secretary had used the jar to store candy, so he is re-born as a part human, part Snickers bar.

FEARS OF UKRAINE WAR TURNING INTO RUSSIA & CHINA VS WEST CONFLICT RISING

Any lethal aid to Russia would come at real costs, US warns China

Washington: China has not moved toward providing lethal aid that would help Russia in its invasion of Ukraine and the US has made clear behind closed doors that such a move would have serious consequences, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday. "Beijing will have to make its own decisions about how it proceeds, whether it provides military assistance, but if it goes down that road, it will come at real costs to China," Sullivan said in an interview with CNN's "State of the Union" programme. China has not moved forward in providing that aid, but neither has Beijing taken that option off the table, Sullivan said in a separate interview on ABC's "This Week" programme.

US officials have warned their Chinese counterparts behind closed doors about what those costs might be, Sullivan said, but did not elaborate. The US and its Nato allies have been scrambling to warn China against such a move in recent days, making public comments on their belief that

China has not moved forward in providing aid, but neither has it taken that option off the table, said White House NSA Jake Sullivan

China is mulling providing lethal equipment to Russia.

CIA director William Burns also weighed in regarding China on Sunday. "We're confident that the Chinese leadership is considering the provision of lethal equipment. We also don't see that a final decision has been made yet, and we don't see evidence of actual shipments of lethal equipment," Burns told the CBS programme "Face the Nation." Republican Representative Michael McCaul, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said on "This Week" that the US intelligence shows drones are among the lethal weapons China has considered sending to Russia. REUTERS

Nato taking part in conflict with arms supplies, says Putin

Moscow: Russian President Putin said in an interview broadcast Sunday that Russia has no choice but to take into account Nato's nuclear capabilities, in remarks justifying Russia's recent suspension of its participation in the New START treaty. As he has done repeatedly during the Ukraine war, Putin claimed that Russia faces an existential threat because, in his view, Nato members are seeking the country's "strategic defeat."

He said on Russian state TV that the suspension of New START stemmed from the need to "ensure security, strategic stability" for Russia. "When all the leading Nato countries have declared their main goal as inflicting a strategic defeat on us (...) how can we ignore their nuclear capabilities in these conditions?" Putin said.

He also accused Nato members of taking part in the Ukraine conflict by donating arms to the country and

Belarus prez, Russia's ally, to visit China

Alexander Lukashenko, the president of Belarus and a close ally of the Russian leader, will visit Beijing this week, China's foreign ministry said. Spokesperson Hua Chunying said Lukashenko is due to visit Thursday, but gave no details about his agenda. Belarus has strongly backed Moscow and allowed its territory to be used as a staging ground for the initial invasion of Ukraine a year ago. AP

said the West planned to break up Russia. "They are sending tens of billions of dollars in weapons to Ukraine. This really is participation," Putin said in the interview with the Rossiya 1-channel aired on Sunday. "This means that they are taking part, albeit indirectly, in the crimes being carried out by the Kyiv regime," Putin said. AGENCE

AROUND THE WORLD



In Colombo, the police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse opposition party activists who were protesting on Sunday against postponing of local elections after the government said it cannot finance them because of Sri Lanka's crippling economic crisis

Co-writer of the 'Top Gun' anthem Tom Whitlock passes away at 68

Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.

Even more successful was "Take My Breath Away," the ballad performed by the group Berlin. It topped the Billboard charts on September 13, 1986, and won the Academy Award for best original song.

That mystery orb on beach in Japan? It was just a buoy Not every unidentified spherical object is a spying device, people. Case in point: A giant metal ball that washed up on a Japanese beach. After the yellowish sphere drifted ashore in Hamamatsu, officials in hazmat suits cordoned off the area. After X-raying it, police said it was not an explosive. People speculated about it being a possible unidentified floating object, or perhaps an egg. There were also remarks about spy buoys. It was, of course, a nonspying buoy, experts said. "It's a normal buoy," Uwe Send, an oceanographer, said. He said such buoys were available for purchase online.

Their hair long & flowing, women in Iran flaunt their locks to defy hijab rules

A n engineer strode onstage at an event in Tehran, Iran, wearing tight pants and a stylish shirt, and clutching a microphone in one hand. Her long brown hair, tied in a ponytail, swung freely behind her, uncovered, in open defiance of Iran's strict hijab law.

"I am Zeinab Kazempour," she told the convention of Iran's professional association of engineers. She condemned the group for supporting the hijab rules, and then she marched offstage, removing a scarf from around her neck and tossing it to the floor under a giant

image of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The packed auditorium erupted in cheers, claps and whistles.

Women have resisted the law, uncovering their hair an inch or a strand at a time, since it went into effect two years after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. But since the death last year of Mahsa Amini, 22, while in the custody of Iran's morality police, women have been at the centre of a nationwide uprising, demanding an end not only to hijab requirements but to the Islamic Republic itself.

Women are suddenly

flaunting their hair: left long and flowing in the malls; tied in a bun on the streets; styled into bobs on public transportation; and pulled into ponytails at schools and on university campuses. Although these acts of defiance are rarer in more conservative areas, they are increasingly being seen in towns and cities.

Kimia, 23, a graduate student in the Kurdish city of Sanandaj, said many female students at her college did not cover their hair even in the presence of male professors. "Whether the government likes to admit it or not," she said, "the era of the forced hijab is over."

Officials say they are review-

ing the enforcement rules and plan to announce updated measures. One conservative lawmaker has said alternative enforcement methods are being considered, such as warning women by text message, denying them civic services or blocking their bank accounts.

Even many religious women who wear a hijab by choice have joined the campaign to repeal the law. A petition with thousands of names and photos of women is circulating on Instagram and Twitter with the message, "I wear the hijab, but I am against the compulsory hijab." NYT

After the election in 2021 of Ibrahim Raisi, the rules have been increasingly enforced, and with a strictness and brutality that have enraged Iranian women, many of whom were fined, beaten or arrested by the morality police after they were said to be in violation. But anger over the law boiled over in September, when Amini died in the custody of the morality police and as the street protests that broke out across Iran quickly morphed into broader calls for an end to being ruled by the country's clerics.

Officials say they are review-

ing the enforcement rules and plan to announce updated measures. One conservative lawmaker has said alternative enforcement methods are being considered, such as warning women by text message, denying them civic services or blocking their bank accounts.

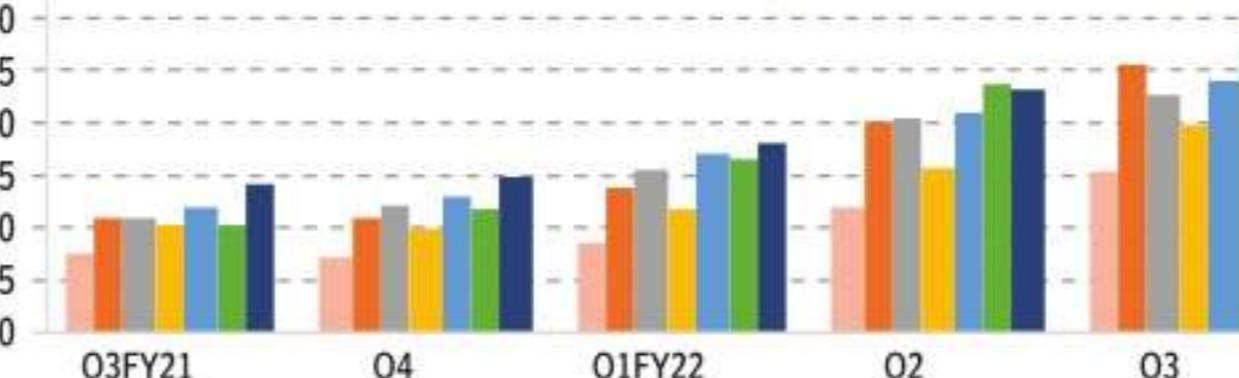
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Attrition over last 12 months (LTM) has moderated for tier-1 and -2 players. Managements observed that quarterly annualised attrition came down sharply (6% for Infosys & less than that for LTI/Mindtree). This, coupled with strong hiring done in the last two years, led to soft net additions in Q3. Management commentaries indicate attrition will continue to trend downwards over coming quarters, and will eventually settle in the ranges seen before Covid

Attrition (LTM %) has started moderating

TCS
Infosys
Wipro
HCL Tech
TechM
Persistent
Zensar

(In %)



Source: PhilipCapital India Research

Adani stocks with higher PE ratios see steeper fall

Adani Total Gas, With 844 PE, Which Links Stock's Price To Profit, Crashes 81%, While Adani Ports With 30 PE, Dives 27%

Aseem.Gujar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Adani Group stocks have been falling relentlessly since the damning report by Hindenburg Research was published on January 24. Over Rs 12 lakh crore in terms of market capitalisation of the Adani scrips has been wiped out, but not all group stocks have fallen in sync. This is where the valuation of individual stocks comes into play. The deep plunge has been possible due to sky-high valuations.

The Adani Total Gas stock has crashed nearly 81% since January 24, while Adani Ports has dived 27% in the same period — the fall is in sync with how overvalued they were. Adani Total Gas stock was trading at a multiple of 844 times its earnings on January 24, a number that not even the best disruptive technology company can boast of, while Adani Ports was at 30 times, according to price-to-earnings (PE) ratios sourced from Refinitiv database. Stocks that had relatively lower valuations have fallen less. ACC, which had a

HOW VALUATION HOLDS KEY

Stock	% fall since Jan 24	PE ratio on Jan 24	Current PE ratio
Adani Total Gas	-80.6	844	156
Adani Green Energy	-74.6	567	131
Adani Transmission	-74.2	351	73
Adani Enterprises	-61.8	316	72
Adani Power	-46.6	10	6
Adani Wilmar	-36.8	102	64
NDTV	-32.8	21	14
Ambuja Cements	-30.7	55	36
Adani Ports	-26.5	30	23
ACC	-26	54	50

> A co's price-to-earnings (PE) ratio is one of the indicators of how undervalued or overpriced a scrip is in relation to its profit

> The Hindenburg report had stated, 'Adani Group's 7 key listed cos had 85% downside purely due to their sky-high valuations'

PE ratio of 54, has fallen the least (26%) among the 10 Adani Group stocks, followed by Adani Ports (27%) and Ambuja Cements (31%).

A company's PE ratio is one of the indicators of how undervalued or overpriced a scrip is in relation to its profit. Technology and consumer brands, apart from other high-growth companies, usually command steeper valuations than infrastructure or state-owned companies. For instance, TCS has a PE ratio of 31, but Tata Steel has 5. Indraprastha Gas has a PE ratio of 18, while Mahanagar Gas has 13 — both these are in the same business as Adani Total Gas.

A stock price indicates the market's perception. But when there is a meteoric rise in a particular share, as was seen in the case of Adani scrips amid the pandemic, alarm bells start to ring. In May 2021, ET reported that CLSA had dropped coverage

on Adani Transmission with the foreign brokerage saying that the stock is driven by speculative interest, keeping valuation at a stratospheric 16 times premium to the sector. That month, Adani Transmission had a PE ratio of 114, which had more than doubled to 351 by January 24 this year. Currently, it is at 73. The May 2021 ET report was quoted by Hindenburg Research in its study.

In November 2022, V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, had alluded to 'stratospheric' valuations too. When contacted, a representative of Geojit Financial Services said the firm doesn't track Adani Group.

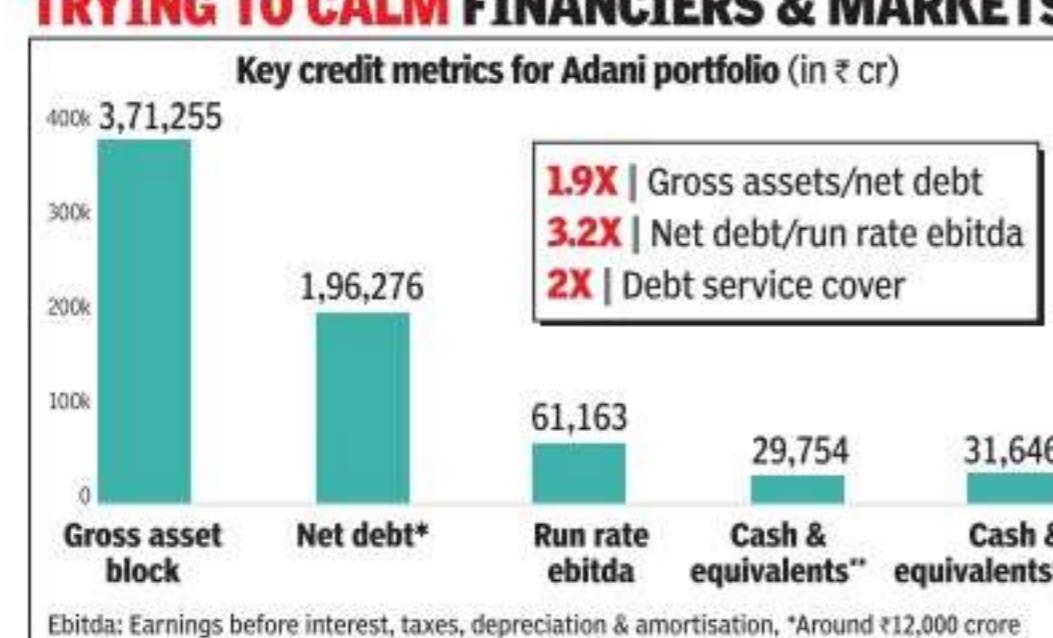
Interestingly, Adani companies may not be a steal deal even after the sell-off. Adani Total Gas, which is stuck in a rut of hitting lower circuits since the report, is still available at 156 times its earnings. "Stock-specific actions will continue in Adani Group," Kranthi Bathini, director (equity strategy) at Wealth-Mills Securities, said.

He added rising EMI payments increases the pressure on household budgets and dampens spending, and exports are struggling in the face of global factors. While noting that high interest rates make private capital investment more difficult, Varma said the government is in fiscal consolidation mode, thus reducing the support to the economy. "Because of all these factors, I fear growth may fall short of what we need to meet aspirations of our growing workforce given our demographic context and income level," he said. AGENCIES

Grp to assuage lenders with roadshows

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TRYING TO CALM FINANCIERS & MARKETS



ni executives talk about bringing in investors or holding back expansion, which will improve the group's credit metrics. "The advantage the

group has is its operations are largely in infrastructure, where they have assured cash flows for many years because of long-term concessions.

This enables the debt obligation to spread over a long period, increasing its serviceability," said a senior banker with a multinational bank.

At the same time, there are concerns about meeting capex costs, given the state of market sentiment. According to Adani Group, no large repayment is due this fiscal and the next big repayment falls due in mid-2024. Adani executives have told bankers that at a group level, value of assets stands at Rs 43.5 lakh crore according to an estimate by banks while lending.

Besides the tenure of debt, the other advantage is most it is in the form of bonds and maturities are spread out.

One of the points the group up seeks to highlight is debt should be viewed against each company's cash flow. It will point out there are enough cash balances and earnings in group companies to more than cover debt repayment obligations. The presentation has been shared with the RBI.

Investors are keenly watching to see whether the Adani

Group will shut its UAE branch, no Adani link

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Focus on Adani, LIC, eco data in crucial wk for mkt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda (BoB) has said that its Al Ain branch in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will close from March 22 this year. This is part of a commercial decision taken last year to rationalise the branch network.

To ensure smooth continuation of services, all accounts are being transferred to the bank's Abu Dhabi branch in the UAE. Customers who wish to close their accounts can do so before March 22.

The bank said customers have been visiting the branch to give further instructions with regard to their accounts in Al Ain branch. Images of queues at the bank's Al Ain branch have been shared on social media, attributing them to the bank's exposure to the Adani Group. The bank has termed the social media posts as "false and misleading".

Developments around the Adani controversy, value of LIC's portfolio of stocks from the group, and the trajectory of the life insurer's share price that's near its all-time low is sure to weigh on sentiment, market players said.

On Friday, Dalal Street reacted negatively to the news that LIC, which had an equity exposure of over Rs 30,000 crore to the group, is losing money because of the crash in Adani stocks. Adani Group insiders, however, privately said that LIC was still in profit since it had sold some of its

holdings before January 24.

Investors would also look for how foreign funds trade in India in the new week (see graphic).

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have slowed down their selling in February, CDSL data showed. However, according to V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, bond yields in the US continued to rise last week in anticipation of the US Fed

'With oil at \$80, IOC isn't expecting big swings'

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

Freezing pump rates amid soaring crude was tough but fair as they were insatiable prices. But softening oil prices have made things okay, IOC's chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya tells TOI..

Refineries are big consumption centres of hydrogen. Unless we, I mean OMCs (oil marketing companies), create demand, cost of green hydrogen will never come down. If we wait for hydrogen mobility, it will take long. So, right way is to start with the refineries

S M VAIDYA | IOC CHAIRMAN

What is your GH2 investment size?

I have made investment commitment of Rs 2 lakh crore up to 2046. GH2 investments will be its part. For Panipat, the investment will be Rs 2,000 crore. IndianOil, HPCL and BPCL have been praised as 'good corporate citizens' for not raising fuel prices when crude soared. Is it a sustain-

able business model? When oil prices were \$100-plus (per barrel), that time it looked really difficult. But being a government company, I think it was fair on our part also to rein in the prices that time because they were insane. Look how the Big Four (global oil majors) posted combined profit of \$200 billion because of the insane cracks (difference between crude and product prices). Those cracks cannot be compared to what we can get ever. So, if we are comparing with those cracks, then yes, it was difficult for us. But what is happening today is fine. I'm not saying we are out of the red but it's okay. Today, prices have softened to about \$80. With this pricing, we are not expecting a big volatility as I think the world has adjusted to the geo-

political situation. This is not unsustainable at this point of time. What I earn depends basically on the product price. The cracks have come down. If prices remain this way, I think that should be good for us and the country as well.

How did elevated oil prices impact your forex requirement and borrowings? Basically it impacted my borrowings. Earlier IndianOil had a debt/equity ratio of 1:1. Then the overall debt increased to Rs 1.4 lakh crore. Debt repayment schedule was affected. But since oil prices have softened, the borrowings have declined to Rs 1.2 lakh crore. With prices in the \$80s, requirement of additional loan is not there and we expect the situation to normalise by the end of this quarter.

**A thought for today**

Shed not recklessly the blood of another with thy sword, lest the sword on high fall upon thy neck

GURU GOBIND SINGH

Intel Tells The Tale

That Amritpal's dangerous influence has grown so much is a failure of state, central agencies

The storming of a police station near Amritsar by a radical Sikh outfit demanding the release of their associate from police custody, forcing his release by a court order soon after, is a study in intelligence failure at state and central levels. Amritpal Singh, whose militant followers clashed with police in Punjab's Ajnala town near Amritsar, is no stranger to central intelligence agencies, nor state police. But police said they did not reckon the attackers would use the Sikh holy book as a shield to break the barricade. No one apparently had an inkling they would brandish swords or near-hijack the thana, although their mobike rally rode a 60-km distance.

That the radicalised 29-year-old has long advocated the demand for Khalistan on Facebook – justifying the renewed desire as a counter to calls for Hindu rashtra – cannot have skipped scrutiny by security agencies. Yet, he preaches free. Vocal on social media since at least 2015, Amritpal made joint appearances on voice-based network Clubhouse with Deep Sidhu, who flirted with the Khalistan idea but died last year days before the Punjab election. Amritpal reportedly never met Sidhu but was seen as a worthy successor to his outfit, also triggering local rivalries. In his own telling, security agencies questioned Amritpal on his return to India from Dubai. That such openly hostile social media accounts should be allowed to run when the Centre is known to demand suspension of accounts for much milder 'dissent' – and this is way beyond dissent – begs a review.

The Khalistan bogey has repeatedly reared its head the last few years, particularly loud before elections, but has also been dismissed as fringe activity since the clashes would occur in the UK or Australia. Electioneering also saw politicians trade charges on Khalistan. Amritpal's swift takeover, upping the ante and successful siege last week is beyond social media swag. It bodes ill for Punjab, the border state in a fragile unsettled peace since the poor handling of sacrilege cases by the state. Plus, there's the drugs scourge. Now, radicals are bound to be fired up. Therefore, governments and intelligence agencies should act now. Of course, in Punjab anyone claiming to speak for Sikh identity, even if he's bad news as Amritpal is, has to be handled carefully. But careful handling is not the same as coddling. Intelligence agencies need to be intelligent.

2023 Leads To 2024

Results of nine assembly elections this year will influence alliance-building effort of Congress

Congress's plenary session in Raipur provided a clearer understanding of its likely approach to the 2024 Lok Sabha election. There's no longer any ambiguity about its approach to forming alliances, especially for 2024. Congress implicitly acknowledged BJP's pole position by observing a third front will benefit NDA. Anxiety about a third front should also be read as shorthand for ground realities in the political landscape.

Regional parties, particularly in south and east India, are often the dominant political force in states. To illustrate, in the 2019 LS election, all of Andhra Pradesh's 25 seats went to regional parties. Moreover, no political party will voluntarily cede space. Plus, alliances at the national level are sometimes formed after the election. Regional parties tend to be flexible when it comes to post-poll alignments as protecting their state's and party's interest takes precedence over political ideologies. Therefore, looking for ideological affinity may not yield much. Winnability is prioritised in Indian politics, witness BJP's willingness to embrace allies of all kinds.

Given this backdrop, alliance building will be influenced by nine assembly elections in 2023. In these nine elections, Congress and BJP go head-to-head in four states – Karnataka, Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh. The outcomes here will deeply influence Congress's bargaining power. Even "like-minded" political parties may not be accommodating if they feel Congress is not electorally competitive in states. Yes, Congress needs to be part of an alliance in 2024, where every partner knows it has to play to its strengths. But unless 2023 assembly elections show Congress as a party that can defeat BJP, such an alliance will not accept Congress in the pole position. All the manoeuvrings of non-Congress opposition leaders will disappear if Congress does well this year – and that's the big if.

More words, less shorts

Forget Egyptian, walk like a Goan and talk like one to blend in

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New settlers in Goa begin to slur within hours. The lurching speech is caused by waves of Portuguese and Konkani names that froth like an Indo-European raga, unmooring spelling from sound.

Indian travellers in Paris laud themselves for being the busters of ghost letters in euro-sucking brand names. They have not been haunted by Panaji's Latin quarter, Fontainhas.

If you pronounce that as Fountain-haas, you will be considered a tourist haas-been. Goans and those respectful enough to learn, negotiate syllables as they ebb into the throat, crash against the teeth, and eddy around the cheeks.

A colleague in Panaji, my new posting, laboured to teach me. "Break up the word," he said. "First enunciate 'Fontah', but without the 'h'. Then say 'iniyesh'. But don't leave a chasm between the sounds."

The pronunciation Everest suddenly seemed no more than a sporadically bumpy seat of an Amdavadi auto. "Oh I see! The last part evokes 'Hitesh', a common name in Gujarat," I said. "You will get it right eventually," he said. Goan politeness is ceremonially rich, built on the tradition of offering condolence to tourists on the death of good sense, which makes them enter shrines in sun hats and beach shorts.

Goans are also sympathetic when tourists demand directions to "Calangutty". Calangute ends with a thumping note rhyming with "put".

But Goans will show both the way and courtesy: "Hope you have a gutta today!"

I am an ex-Amdavadi stumbling on to Goan destinations: Caranzalem is Karazalay; Sanvordem is Sawarday; and Chicalim is Chicklay. But I am steadied by Panaji pavements.

Ahmedabad footpaths, when found, are French fries, but in Panaji they are as wide as full fish thaalis. Auto and cab fares in Panaji are set for the hats-and-shorts class. So local people stride to markets, friends' homes, and religious places. Most Ponjekars, therefore, are as lean as a word that has undergone liposuction.

When you walk around the Goa capital, you will notice resort-scale buildings bearing names such as Vivenda de Amar, Vivenda de Akbar and Vivenda de Anthony. In Portuguese, Vivenda means 'home'. So please don't saunter into one of these residences to inquire about the per-night rates and room service. You will be told to Fontainhas Off, amiably of course.

In Defence Of Politics

Parties would have us believe there's no space for morally committed political endeavour. But people's movements in today's India speak of the politics of justice, inclusiveness and equality

Hilal Ahmed



Congress politician Jairam Ramesh tried hard to present the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) as an 'apolitical' act. Introducing the new Congress move Hath Se Hath Jodo to mobilise voters, Ramesh made a categorical remark that unlike BJJ, this new initiative was entirely 'political'. This is not the first time Congress has made a distinction between moral claim and political acts. During the Delhi assembly election of 2015, the party published a poster captioned 'Rajnitiji nahi, kajniti'.

Congress is not the only political party that adheres to this binary of politics

The Constitution was appreciated as an end in itself while politics was seen as a necessary yet imperfect mode to run the system

and morality. BJJ is equally apprehensive about pure politics. Party brass often criticise the opposition for indulging in what they call vote-bank politics in order to make a claim for virtuous nationalistic resolve.

It is true politics is usually understood as a harmful, interest-oriented and selfish activity. But the unease of our political class with politics underlines a serious crisis of legitimacy. After all,



politicians are supposed to wholeheartedly indulge in politics as their core professional duty. The distinction between moral claims and political acts, in this sense, is problematic. Does it mean that politics is completely devoid of ethics?

Centrality of elections

This negative perception of politics is relatively recent. The Gandhi-led national movement introduced a deeply spiritual idea of politics. Gandhi himself defined politics as a kind of moral duty of a satyagrahi. This idealistic imagination of politics is reflected in the constituent assembly debates. That may be the reason why the Preamble of the Constitution envisages politics as a legitimate mechanism to achieve egalitarian social values such as justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Introduction of competitive electoral politics in the 1950s was the first major structural change that affected the established meanings of politics in two significant ways.

Although parties continued to celebrate politics as a moral ideological enterprise, *winnability* in elections emerged as a practical requirement for political survival. Parties began to use *ideology* to justify practical manoeuvring and war of positions.

Emergency regime of Indira Gandhi (1975-77) is a good example. Emergency was defended as a moral success to achieve

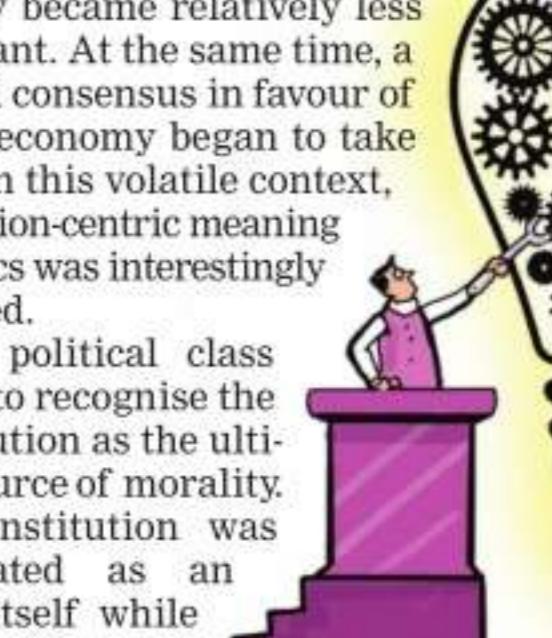
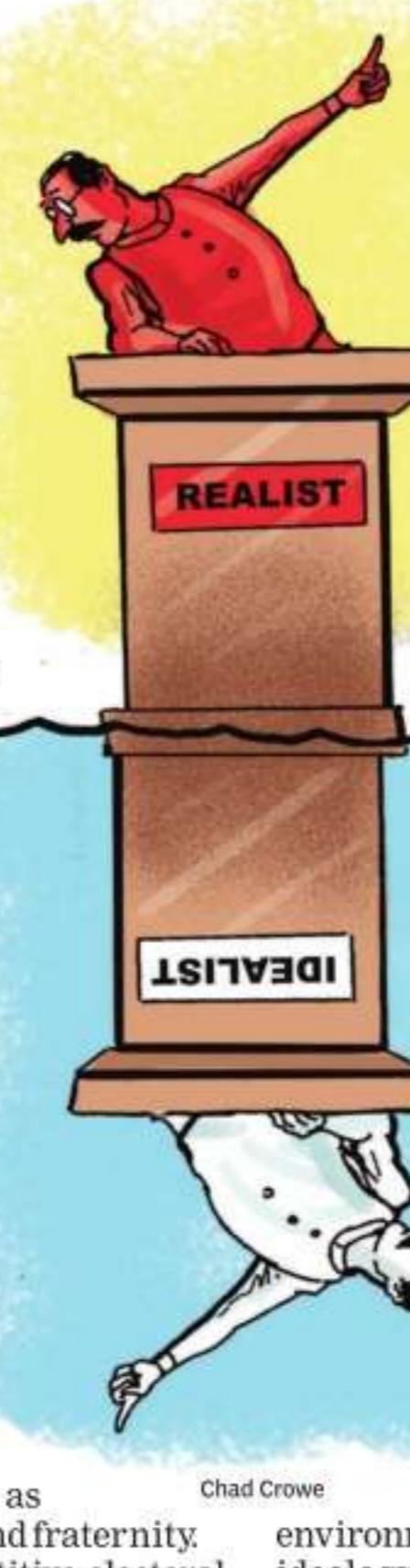
nation-building and progress; while the opposition was criticised, even refuted, for being involved in anti-national politics.

The centrality of elections also reconfigured the 'end and means' debate in politics. Gandhi's famous statement that purity of means is always needed to achieve desired end did not work in the domain of election. From ticket distribution basis caste/religion to booth capturing, elections eventually became the most visible expression of power politics.

Constitution as a morality

The 1990s was a watershed moment in this regard. Globalisation of Indian economy directly impacted popular representation of politics. The end of Cold War and the dismantling of the USSR created an environment in which political ideology became relatively less significant. At the same time, a political consensus in favour of market economy began to take shape. In this volatile context, the election-centric meaning of politics was interestingly redefined.

The political class started to recognise the Constitution as the ultimate source of morality. The Constitution was appreciated as an end in itself while



politics was seen as a necessary yet imperfect mode to run the system. The Constitution became an ideological document, a 'holy book', to legitimise the moral existence of the political class.

This moral adherence to the Constitution is however not seen as inspiration for new standards in public life or to regain ethical values in election-centric politics. Political parties, it seems, want us to believe that politics and the Constitution are two different entities: Constitution is *ideal*, while politics is *real*.

AAP, for instance, came into existence with a commitment to establish a new 'corruption-free' political culture. Its founders wrote a thoughtful party constitution to protect a few moral claims and principles. However, the success of the party in subsequent elections forced AAP establishment to give priority to political compulsions and requirements. At present, AAP does not defend itself as an idealist party; instead, it is very much interested in behaving like a political realist.

This wider acceptance of politics as an unprincipled, dubious, interest-oriented activity creates an impression that there is no space for a morally committed political endeavour. This is not true. People's movements in contemporary India represent a very different kind of politics. These movements raise the issues of caste, class, gender and communalism to make a case for a politics of justice, inclusiveness and equality.

This version of politics draws its inspirations from the Constitution itself. It reminds us that politics is not merely about electoral competitiveness; it is a realm of possibilities, an art to think of the unthinkable and a conviction to achieve what seems to be unachievable.

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Decoding The DNA Of Punjab's Constant Restiveness

Amritpal represents one of many versions of anti-establishment impulses, some positive, some destructive

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The clashes between supporters of radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh and the police in Amritsar last week have echoes of Punjab's bloody past. But what explains the anti-establishment streak in Punjabi society? Punjabis, especially Sikhs, value courage and spirit of resistance. It is this sentiment that drives their support to all causes and protests, which essentially at an organic level are a battle against governments and their policies.

Historical and religious roots

This reverence for resistance and courage to stand up to powerful governments have geographical, historical and religious roots. Pre-Partition Punjab was at the forefront of resistance to invaders, adventure-seekers and colonial powers from Alexander of Macedonia to the British. And this spirit of standing up to intruders was honed by the supreme sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus while facing off with the rulers at the time. As the saying goes, Punjab is never in sync with Delhi. This was encapsulated in the year-long farm struggle on the borders of Delhi, in which every strata of Punjabi society, regardless of their affiliation, supported the campaign against the now

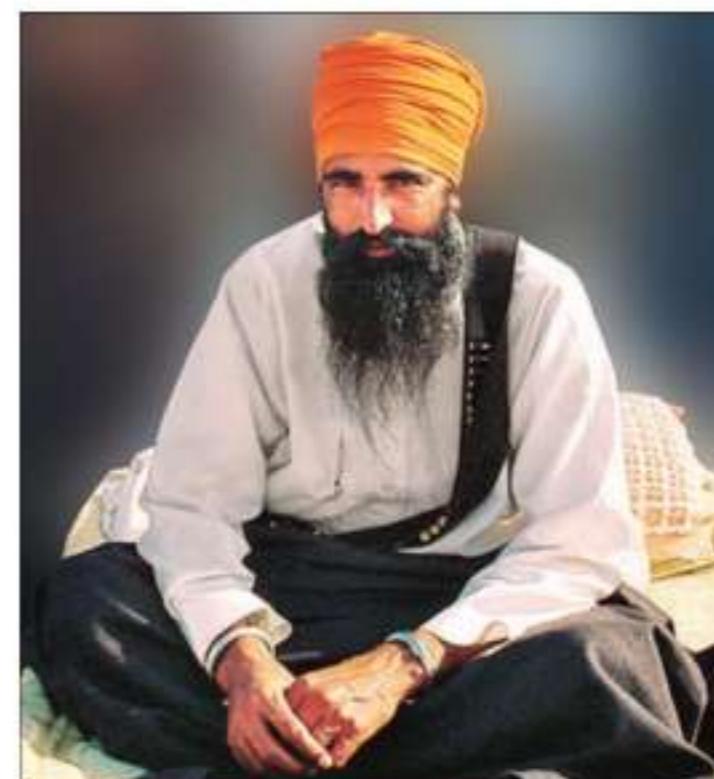
withdrawn three central laws with donations of funds, material and time.

This intrinsic knowledge that Sikhs are the only community who will stand by your side when dealing with police, courts and government is there among all the people in Punjab. Unique synergy between religion and politics, encapsulated in Guru Hargobind Singh's doctrine of 'Mir-Piri', also drives the resistance against any injustice, with causes ranging from the sudden demolition of houses in a Jalandhar locality to no justice in the 2015 cases of sacrilege and police firing.

Guru Gobind Singh's foundation of Khalsa Panth and his espousal of armed resistance even as his four sons – Sahibzadas Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh – were martyred constitute the basis of the belief among Sikhs in being ready for resistance and martyrdom.

From Bhagat Singh to Moose Wala

The British too found it difficult to handle the Sikhs. In the early 20th century, ICS officer Sir Malcolm Lyall Darling, who spent most of his career as a bureaucrat in Punjab during British Raj, described Punjabis as "hot headed and virile people" and the Sikhs as "having just the qualities that India needs – energy, enterprise, independence: too much independence, perhaps" in his book, 'At Freedom's Door'. Another



MANY FACES OF DEFiance: Bhindranwale; Sidhu Moose Wala (bottom)

unique aspect of the Sikh religious observance is the daily remembrance of Sikh struggles and history in the ardas in the gurdwaras. It is this that drives the community to remember and avenge the incidents of repression and denial of justice, as viewed by the community.

Even the folk songs in Punjabi glorify individuals who stand up to oppression and confront the ruling powers. It was this element that was present in murdered singer Sidhu Moose Wala's songs and made him beloved of young Punjabis. He has become a hero of the masses along with Bhagat Singh and Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

The Punjabi Suba movement raised after Partition by Master Tara Singh, the subsequent carving out of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh from Punjab, and Operation Bluestar and the subsequent

anti-Sikhs riots are issues where the Sikh community strongly feels that it was denied justice.

The overshadowing of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Akal Takht by the politics of Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) led by former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir made the community slowly lose its faith in the institutions that form the bedrock of the Sikh identity and religion.

Disenchantment with religious and political institutions

The irony that SAD was formed just over a century ago to help SGPC is not lost on the community. The stronghold of the Badals on the community has slipped to such an extent that it barely managed to win three seats in the 2022 assembly elections, thoroughly trounced by AAP to third place.

The disenchantment of the youth, especially those from rural and semi-urban areas, can be gauged from their overwhelming support for Amritpal Singh and his organisation Waris Punjab De. The motivating factors in his rise are the growing disenchantment with both political and religious organisations.

At the same time, the Punjabi youth, in general, see no future in farming, have no recourse to meaningful employment and dream of migrating to Canada, the UK or Australia, where the community is in sizable numbers and has gained political traction. The failure of the political and religious leadership can push Punjab to where it was over 40 years ago in 1978, understood as the genesis of militancy and rise of Bhindranwale.

Sacredspace

Right Knowledge

Arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being and are conducive to its exaltation. Knowledge is as wings to a man's life... The knowledge of such sciences, however, should be acquired as can profit the peoples of the earth, and not those which begin with words and end with words.

Baha'i Writings



The Young Man Who Went To Study Kama Shastra

Sudhamahi Regunathan

Jainas took great care to spice their sermons, to grab the listener's attention. For example, how interesting would it be to hear a monk tell you to be humble and always remember that you can learn more? Instead, what if the monk were to tell you the story of a young man who once set out to study Kama Shastra, also called Vaishika, the art of courtesans?

The young man set out from a village not so close to Pataliputra. After walking for an entire day, he sought to rest in a village on the way.

As he looked around for a place to stay, he saw a graceful woman walking out of her house. He asked her if she could help him find a shelter for the night.

The lady looked him up and down. "I

am going to Pataliputra to study Kama Shastra," he quickly added. She simply said, "Do not forget me after you finish your study. Do visit me on your way back."

The youth promised to do so. The woman showed him a place to rest and the next morning the young man proceeded towards Pataliputra. It took him several years to complete his course, and when he was done, the man wiser in his knowledge of women and the art of love making, set off on his journey back home. He knew everything, what that flutter of the eye meant, what the 'come hither' look was and much more.

He did not forget the lady who had met him in the village en route. The moment the woman saw him, her whole

body seemed to rise in exclamation. She made a beautiful room ready for him in her house and suggested he stay for a few days.

Should one begin to describe the room she got ready or the manner in which her maids served him? They brought hot water for his feet, scents for his pillow, incense for his room, garlands for his neck... As the young man looked at himself in his reflections, he thought, "I must be truly handsome and attractive... this lady has fallen in love just at the sight of me."

The thrill of that thought filled his



FORMER US OPEN CHAMP EMMA RADUCANU
WITHDRAWS FROM AUSTIN OPEN DUE TO ILLNESS

CRISTIANO RONALDO SCORES HIS 62ND
CAREER HAT-TRICK AGAINST DAMAC



NEXT PIT STOP IN HOME DOMINANCE

India's Record At Home Over The Past Decade Is Formidable, Their Domination Over Opponents Complete And Mastery Of Conditions Absolute. Can Indore Provide A Different Story?

Partha.Bhaduri
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Indore: The Holkar Stadium pitch is bald as a cue ball at the extremities, and on this day there are two rather odd-looking rectangular patches around the left-hand-er's off-stump at either end, as if two bar-code stamps have been abruptly yanked off at these places.

At one end a runny line of what can only be described as 'reddish-soil-pitch-matter' trails off from a good length area. There is some grass apparent through the middle, and on this sweltering Sunday afternoon, unexpected heat for this time of year, there is generous watering too.

The surface is being preened and polished for the big occasion, the third Test between India and Australia

starting from Wednesday. There is a veritable army of ground staff fussing and fretting over their latest creation. The pitch, after all, is a vital cog in India's Test machinations at home.

Just a few feet away, India coach Rahul Dravid adopts a no-interference policy. Instead his eyes are focused on the struggling KL Rahul, who has decided to have an extensive nets session. Eventually it is Suryakumar Yadav who saunters up for a brief chat with the 'pitch people'. In between, a 'bounce' test is also carried out with a red ball, though the attempt is abandoned midway.

To any watching Australian eyes, this is all hoo-hoo, intended to conjure up instant fear. It is becoming increasingly exasperating for



Pravin Barnale

visiting batsmen to read these pitches, the varying properties of the soil from one venue to another, the extent of turn and wear. This leads to the kind of crippling doubt and injudicious strokeplay that has blighted Australia's campaign so far in this series.

Even when these supposedly undercooked pitches have failed to serve up the expected diet of poisonous turn and toxic natural variation, they have controlled the narrative, sometimes even undermining the efforts of India's excellent attack. Visiting teams often tend to deride India's sublime bowling performances on these so-called 'doctored' wickets, but for reference, just see the turn of

events in the previous Test of this series at the Ferozeshah Kotla, where Australia imploded from a position of strength on the third morning. They played the pitch and not so much India's bowlers.

Such surfaces have been the focal point, along with the precise, penetrative and relentless attack, of India's complete domination and mastery of spin-friendly home conditions now stretching back a decade. The mastery of the bowlers has meant the top order has often had to sacrifice its hunger for big, easy home runs in the quest for victory.

Leading 2-0 in this four-game series heading into Indore, India have won 15 consecutive home series in a

21 Centuries scored by Indian batters since the start of 2018 on Indian soil. Visiting batters have scored just 5.

- The current winning streak of India at home commenced in Feb 2013, whitewashing Australia 4-0. Thereafter they won series against West Indies 2-0 (2) in 2013, South Africa 3-0 (4) in 2015, New Zealand 3-0 (3) in 2016, England 4-0 (5) in 2016, Bangladesh 1-0 (1) in 2017, Australia 2-1 (4) in 2017, Sri Lanka 1-0 (3) in 2017, Afghanistan 1-0 (1) in 2018, West Indies 2-0 (2) in 2018, South Africa 3-0 (3) in 2019, Bangladesh 2-0 (2) in 2019, England 3-1 (4) in 2021, New Zealand 1-0 (2) in 2021, Sri Lanka 2-0 (2) in 2022 and Australia (unassessable 2-0 lead) in 2023. Stats: Rajesh Kumar

streak stretching back to February 2013. Just how good have India been? The great Australian teams of the 90s won 10 series in succession between Nov 1994 to Jan 2001, and again 10 in succession the following decade between July 2004 and December 2008.

Among the top three teams at home since the start of 2018, India have an 88.89 win percentage, compared to Australia's 69.23% and New Zealand's 68.42%. Since the start of 2013, India have won 81.82% of their home games, or 36 out of 44 played. They have lost just two.

These are some serious numbers and it can be argued that at least at home, India have been one of Test cricket's greatest teams over the past decade. In 2019, India became the first team in Test history to notch up 4 successive wins by an innings. Of the 16 (out of 18) Tests India have won at home since 2018, they have won 2 inside 2 days, 9 inside 3 days, 4 in 4 days and only 1 in the full 5 days.

Does this mean Steve Smith and Co. cannot win in Indore, or even stretch the game the distance? Certainly not. After all, they did have their moments in Delhi. However, they are up against a formidable attack which knows how to intelligently exploit home conditions. It is quite a challenge the Aussies must now embrace.



A FAMILIAR SIGHT: Australia players celebrate with the trophy after winning the final on Sunday

No stopping Oz women

Beat Hosts SA In Final To Clinch Hat-Trick Of T20 WC Titles

Cape Town: The Australian women's team extended its enviable dominance in world cricket further by winning an unprecedented sixth T20 World Cup trophy with a comfortable 19-run win over a fighting South Africa in the summit clash here on Sunday.

With runs drying up, Wolvaardt went for a huge heave towards the onside off a Megan Schutt full delivery, only to miss it and be adjudged LBW. The batter, South Africa's last hope, went for a review but was unsuccessful as Australia all but sealed the fate of the match.

Left-arm orthodox spinner Jess Jonassen then accounted for Chloe Tryon (19) in the next over before Anneke Bosch was run out a ball later to dash South Africa's slim hopes.

Electing to bat, Australia lost Alyssa Healy (18) early, caught at covers by Nadine De Klerk off the bowling of Marizanne Kapp (2/35) in the fifth over. Then Ashleigh Gardner (29 off 21) joined hands with Mooney and the pair's 46 runs for the second wicket stabilised the innings before the former was brilliantly caught at long-off by South Africa skipper Sune Luus off the bowling of left-arm spinner

For the second time, Australia women have accomplished a hat-trick of titles in T20 World Cup - 2010, 2012-13 & 2013-14 and 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2022-23.

1 Beth Mooney has become the first player to register two fifties in the final of Women's T20 World Cup - 7 not out vs India at Melbourne on March 8, 2020 and 74 not out vs South Africa on Sunday.

230 Wolvaardt, with 230 runs at an average of 46.00, including three fifties, in six innings, has topped the run-aggregate in the just concluded T20 World Cup, becoming the first South African player (women or men, T20Is or ODIs) to become the leading scorer of a World Cup.

Chloe-Lesley Tryon. But Mooney went about her business in blistering fashion and dispatched the bad deliveries to the fence to keep the scoreboard ticking.

SCORES: Australia 156/6 (B Mooney 74*; Ismail 2-26, Kapp 2-35) beat South Africa 137/6 (L Wolvaardt 61) by 19 runs. PTI

TOP PERFORMERS FOR INDIA IN TESTS AT HOME SINCE THE START OF 2018

BOWLERS

Player	M	Wkts	Ave	5WI	10WM	SR
R Ashwin	18	106	16.31	5	0	38.5
R Jadeja	13	58	18.62	3	1	42.3
A Patel	8	40	13.87	5	1	36.5
U Yadav	9	40	15.92	2	1	29.1
Md Shami	10	36	16.13	1	0	32.7
I Sharma	10	24	21.41	1	0	44.7

BATTERS

Player	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	SR
R Sharma	13	1174	212	65.22	5	66.70
V Kohli	16	1002	254*	50.10	3	60.07
M Agarwal	9	898	243	29.07	4	57.67
R Jadeja	13	751	175*	62.58	2	60.41
C Pujara	16	651	86	31.06	0	48.72
R Pant	8	639	101	63.90	1	92.20

'Having a vice-captain in home series complicates selection'

New Delhi: Former India coach Ravi Shastri is against the idea of picking a vice-captain in a home series as he feels it complicates the selection of the best XI when the deputy team leader is not in form.

Shastri also hinted that Shubman Gill should replace KL Rahul in the remaining two Tests of the Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. "The team management know his (Rahul's) form, they know his mental state. They know how they should be watching someone like Gill," Shastri said on the ICC Review podcast.



"I always had the belief (to) never appoint a vice-captain for India. I would rather go by best XI, and if captain has to leave the field, you'd zero in on a player that can take over at the time, simply because you don't need to create complications."

Rahul, who was the designated vice-captain for the first two Tests of the Border Gavaskar Trophy, has re-

tained his place for the final two games but is no longer Rohit Sharma's deputy.

"If vice-captain doesn't perform, someone can take his place; at least the tag is not there. I'm being blunt and brutal, I never like vice-captain in home condition. Overseas, it's different."

"Here, you want prime form, you want someone like Gill, who's red hot. He will challenge. He has to bang that door down and get into the side. Now, he's not the vice-captain, it has to be team management's decision," said Shastri. PTI

Ian Chappell pans Oz batting strategy

New Delhi: Former Australia captain Ian Chappell says employing the sweep shot is not the only way to survive against spinners on the Indian pitches, where good footwork is a must for success.

"Sweeping regularly is not the answer to playing good spin bowling and anyone who says so is talking through his hat," Chappell wrote in his column for ESPNcricinfo.com.

"The odd player is very good at sweeping and should utilise the shot, but for the majority there are better ways. Any good spin bowler who makes the ball bounce is

likely to expose the dangers in sweeping constantly."

Australia prepared on special scaffold pitches in Sydney and chose not to play a single tour game in India for the grueling month-long series. "You don't discover how to play good spin bowling later in life on a scarified Australian pitch just prior to a vital tour of India."

"You have to learn good footwork – coming three paces out of your crease or retreating quickly onto the back foot – at a young age," he wrote.

He feels Australia erred in forming their batting strategy in the build up to the series. PTI



preat can say all she likes that it was so unlucky, but I mean at the end of the day she cruised back and probably could have been passed the crease, you know, an extra two metres if she genuinely put in the effort.

So we'll take it," Healy said in a video posted by ABC Sport on Sunday.

After the game a tearful Harmanpreet Kaur had said "can't feel unluckier than this."

But Healy feels otherwise.

"You could say you're unlucky all your life, but it's generally about effort and energy at that moment in time. And I know that's something we speak about in the field in particular is putting in that effort and putting in that energy," Healy said.

"That comes back to running between wickets as well. It's doing those little basics better than the opposition and that's how you win big tournaments. And I feel like we've been doing that quite well," added Healy. PTI

GALLERY

Five wickets fall in last over in Oz women's domestic league final!

Hobart: Five wickets fell in a final over for the ages as Tasmania pulled off an incredible victory over South Australia to claim the Women's National Cricket League (WNCL) title here. Tasmania won the summit clash by one run under the Duckworth-Lewis method. South Australia required four runs from the final six deliveries with five wickets in hand under a revised target in the 50-over day/night match at Blundstone Arena on Saturday night. But two run outs and three wickets -- all by pacer Sarah Coyte -- in the last over turned the match upside down.

Blasters end league stage with a hat-trick of defeats: Kerala Blasters slumped to their third consecutive defeat in the ISL as they went down by a solitary goal against Hyderabad FC in the final league match of the season at Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium, Kochi here on Sunday. Boria Herrera scored the winner in the 29th minute for the visitors. This is Blasters' fourth defeat in last five matches and they finished fifth in the points table.

RoundGlass Punjab take top spot following 8-0 win over Sudeva Delhi in I-League: RoundGlass Punjab FC were at their ruthless best here at Tari Devi Lal Stadium on Sunday, making mincemeat of wooden-spooners Sudeva Delhi and taking over the I-League top spot from Sreenidi Deccan with an 8-0 victory. They are now on 43 points after 19 matches.

AGENCIES

SIEM WINS BATTLE OF THE GERMANS

One-Stroke Hero Indian Open Victory Over Paul Ends Eight-Year Drought

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Gurugram: Stepping out in a floral beach boy shirt, Marcel Siem perhaps thought things would be easier if he added a fun vibe to the serious business.

He had talked about nervous nights, and the beers he had downed on Sunday evening did not numb him for the challenges of the DLF G&CC Black Knight course.

But there were no hiccups until the 13th hole, and the birdie cure on the 15th, made sure he had the coveted Hero Indian Open trophy in his hands. It was not an easy grind, though. With a 4-under round of 68, the 42-year-old from Dusseldorf won the German tussle with the 28-year-old Yannik Paul by a slender stroke, having come from a step behind. Joost Luiten, clad in Dutch orange, finished third, a further stroke behind.

There were 'ooh' moments when his second shot on the 18th was headed for the lake, but stuck on the rough. His 6-iron third shot wedge into the green narrowly cleared the lake to roll towards the pin to 25 feet.

And the tension was visible all over. Luiten missed his bigger eag-



Marcel Siem with his trophy

sniffed an opportunity on the 9th to step ahead of Paul. But he lost

Messi, Mbappe and Benzema in fray for FIFA award

Paris: Just like in the World Cup final, Paris Saint-Germain teammates Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe go up against one another for The Best FIFA Men's Player prize for 2022 on Monday with Ballon d'Or Karim Benzema the other contender.

The ceremony takes place in Paris, and Messi appears as the favourite to add another individual going to his collection after leading Argentina to glory over Mbappe's France in that epic encounter in Qatar.

Messi has won the Ballon d'Or seven times and claimed the FIFA award - inaugurated in 2016 following FIFA's split with Ballon d'Or organiser France Football - once in 2019. In the last two years Messi has made the podium as Robert Le-



MBAPPE



MESSI



BENZEMA

wandowski has won the title, but the 35-year-old's career-crowning World Cup triumph was the defining moment of 2022. The winner is decided by a jury comprised of the coach and captain of every men's national team and one journalist from each country, but fans can also vote.

Mbappe became the first player to score a World Cup final hat-trick since Geoff Hurst in 1966 as he

dragged France to a 3-3 draw after extra time -- despite two goals by Messi -- before they eventually succumbed in a shoot-out.

Mbappe, who turned 24 just after the final, was the tournament's top scorer with eight goals, one more than Messi, who claimed the Golden Ball for best player.

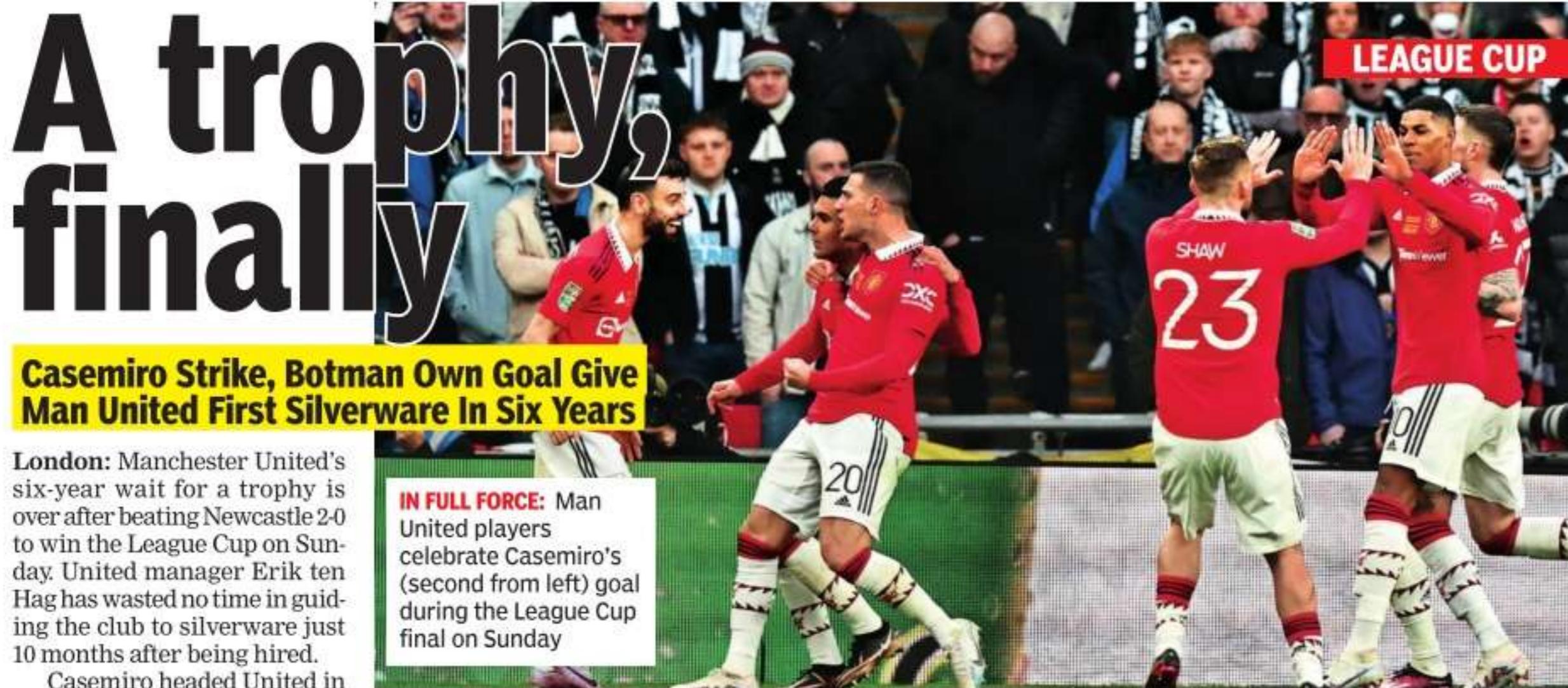
He was also comfortably PSG's most important player in the year

leading up to the World Cup, despite being joined there by Messi -- he was Ligue 1's leading scorer and France's player of the year.

However, their World Cup achievements overshadowed everything else. "Because Messi won the World Cup he has the biggest chance of winning, that's a fact," admitted Ruud Gullit, himself a former Ballon d'Or winner.

Dutchman Gullit was speaking in his role as a member of the Laureus Academy, which recently included Mbappe and Messi among the nominees for their own awards.

"But I have so much respect for Mbappe. For me he is on the same level. What he did in the final, to take that responsibility was unbelievable," he added. Benzema's chances of winning another individual honour were hit after he missed the World Cup due to injury. Exiled from the French team for five and a half years because of his involvement in a blackmail scandal over a sextape involving a former teammate, Benzema's Ballon d'Or win last October had completed his own career redemption. AFP



Casemiro Strike, Botman Own Goal Give Man United First Silverware In Six Years

London: Manchester United's six-year wait for a trophy is over after beating Newcastle 2-0 to win the League Cup on Sunday. United manager Erik ten Hag has wasted no time in guiding the club to silverware just 10 months after being hired.

Casemiro headed United in front in the 33rd minute of the final at Wembley Stadium and Sven Botman's own-goal made it 2-0 in the 39th.

It is United's first trophy since winning a League Cup and Europa League double under Jose Mourinho in 2017.

The victory keeps alive Ten Hag's four-pronged challenge this season, with his team in contention for the title and still competing in both the Europa League and FA Cup.

For Newcastle, the wait for a first major trophy since winning the FA Cup in 1955 goes on. The Saudi Arabian-backed club mounted a fightback in the second half, but could not find a breakthrough goal. "We have been searching for this moment, the fans the club are all together and finally we get our first trophy of the season but we want more and need more," said Bruno Fernandes. AGENCIES

POTTER CALLS FOR PATIENCE AFTER FRESH CHELSEA DEFEAT

London: Chelsea coach Graham Potter said he understood why fans were asking how much longer he would stay in the job after a latest loss on Sunday. Speaking after a 2-0 defeat at the home of arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur - the 13th time in 15 games in all competitions that Chelsea have failed to win - Potter said he was frustrated and disappointed by the latest setback. Oliver Skipp and Harry Kane scored to pile the misery on the Chelsea manager.

Haaland breaks scoring record

London: Erling Haaland has already taken one of Sergio Aguero's scoring records for Manchester City. With one of City's goals in a routine 4-1 win at Bournemouth on Saturday, Haaland made it 27 for the season in the English Premier League. Aguero had the previous highest total of 26 in 2014-15.

No storybook ending in sight for Liverpool, admits Klopp: Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said there is no Hollywood ending to his side's struggles after a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace on Saturday. A point edges Liverpool up to seventh in the Premier League.

REAL SNATCH DERBY DRAW AS YOUNG ALVARO STRIKES

Madrid: Real Madrid's young striker Alvaro Rodriguez salvaged a late 1-1 draw for the champions in a tense derby clash against 10-man Atletico Madrid on Saturday in La Liga.

New Valencia coach Ruben Baraja earned his first win with an impressive 1-0 triumph against Real Sociedad at Mestalla, to help the team move provisionally one point clear of the drop zone.

Real Madrid's draw reduces league leaders Barcelona's advantage on Los Blancos to seven points, but gives the Catalans the chance to expand the gap to 10 on Sunday when they travel to Almeria. Jose Gimenez had Atletico in front in the second half shortly after team-mate Angel Correa had been sent off for elbowing Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger. However 18-year-old Rodriguez headed Madrid level on only his second league appearance for the club. The striker made a strong impact in a cameo against Osasuna last weekend, setting up a goal, and made an even more important contribution against Atletico. AP



DEFENDING CHAMPION VERMA IS OUSTED; SRIKANTH ENTERS SEMIS

Tushar.Dutt@timesgroup.com

Pune: Sourabh Verma's, 30, dream of lifting his fourth badminton National title came crashing when he lost to Mithun Manjunath, 28, in a gruelling quarterfinal match (21-15, 19-21, 19-21) in the 84th National Badminton championships at Shiv Chhatrapati sports complex in Mhargunge-Balewadi on Sunday. In another quarterfinal, second seed Kidambi Srikanth lived to fight another day after winning a three-game match against Gulshan Kumar Kartikey 21-10, 18-21, 21-16.

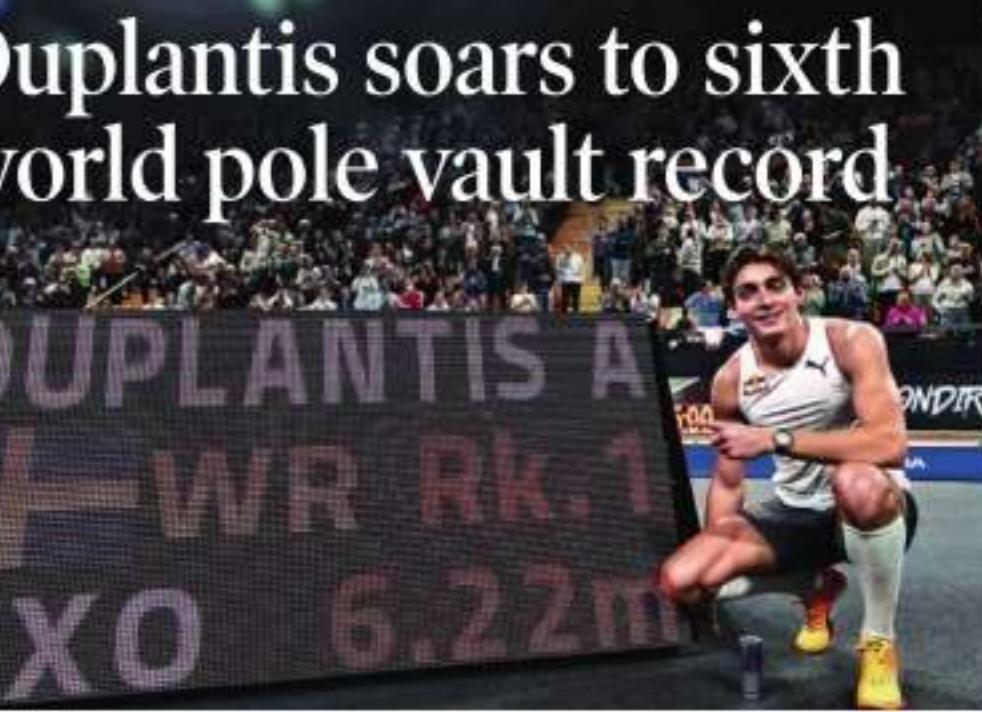
In the women's quarterfinals, Aakashi Kashyap came back from a game down to beat Devika Sihag 19-21, 21-13, 21-13, while third seed Adita Rao beat Ira Sharma 21-16, 21-15 to set up a semifinal match against Aakashi.

India's top mixed doubles pair Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto had to withdraw from the nationals after Ishaan suffered a freak injury during their quarterfinal match against Hemangendra Babu T-Kanika Kanwal on Sunday. The Ishaan-Tanisha duo were leading 21-14, 12-13 when Ishaan landed on his right leg in an attempt to hit a shot from the back line. The landing was poor and Ishaan twisted his knee and fell on the court in pain.

MAN SINGH, JYOTI GAWATE WIN TITLES, QUALIFY FOR ASIAD

New Delhi: Man Singh ran his personal best to clinch the men's title in an extremely competitive race while Jyoti Gawate defended the gold she won last time in the New Delhi Marathon here on Sunday.

The 33-year-old Singh clocked 2:14:13s to shave off more than two-and-a-half minutes from his earlier personal best of 2:16:58 recorded during the Mumbai Marathon last month where he had finished second among Indian runners. Singh pocketed the winner's cheque of Rs 1,50,000. Belliappa AB



Clermont-Ferrand: Armand Duplantis of Sweden set a new world pole vault record of 6.22 metres at an indoor meeting in France on Saturday, describing it as "almost an out-of-body experience".

Olympic champion Duplantis improved his own record of 6.21m that he set in winning the world title outdoors in Oregon last year.

Competing at the All-Star Perche meeting in Clermont-Ferrand, central France organised by 2012 Olympic pole vault champion Renaud Lavillenie, Duplantis cleared the new record at his third attempt to the delight of the 4,000-strong crowd.

Duplantis, 23, said: "When you have moments like this, when the energy is so high, and you're going down there for the record, it feels like levitating, it feels like my body

never even touched the ground the whole jump."

"There's something about it that just feels overwhelming right now, and I really think it's because Renaud means so much to me, he's meant so much to me since I first started, he's been my biggest inspiration, biggest idol."

"He really motivated me, made me believe that I could break the world record. So for me to break the world record here, his hometown, his competition that he hosts..."

US-born Duplantis entered the competition at 5.71m, clearing that height at his first attempt.

He passed at 5.81m and managed 5.91m on his second try before winning the competition by clearing 6.01m on his first attempt having the bar raised to the record height. AFP

BUBKA TO DUPLANTIS: The progression	
6.00m: Sergey Bubka (USSR), July 13, 1985 at Paris	6.19m: Armand Duplantis (SWE), March 7, 2022 at Belgrade - indoors
6.05m: Sergey Bubka (USSR), June 9, 1988 at Bratislava	6.20m: Armand Duplantis (SWE) March 20, 2022 at Belgrade - indoors
6.10m: Sergey Bubka (USSR), August 5, 1991 at Malmo	6.21m: Armand Duplantis (SWE) July 24, 2022 at Eugene - outdoors
6.14m: Sergey Bubka (UKR), July 31, 1994 at Estrelles	6.22m: Armand Duplantis (SWE), February 25, 2023 at Clermont-Ferrand - indoors
6.16m: Renaud Lavillenie (FRA), February 15, 2014 at Donetsk - indoors	Note: Since 2000, the distinction between a world record set outdoors and indoors was removed.
6.17m: Armand Duplantis (SWE), February 8, 2020 at Torun - indoors	
6.18m: Armand Duplantis (SWE), February 15, 2020 at Glasgow - indoors	

Maha gears up for stormy session, 1st since EC move

2 suspects in Moose Wala murder killed in jail clash

Tarn Taran Violence 'Between Groups Tied To Dons Bishnoi, Jaggu'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Mandeep Singh, alias Toofan, was alleged to be one of the standby shooters during the May 29 killing of Moose Wala (in pic) in Mansa and owed allegiance to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria group

Amritpal Singh

Amritpal Singh, alias Toofan,

was arrested in connection with

singer Sidhu Moose Wala's

murder last year were on

Sunday beaten to death during

a clash at Goindwal jail in

Punjab's Tarn Taran.

Other than the slain duo of

Mandeep Singh, alias Toofan,

and Amritpal Singh,

who were reportedly

involved in the killing,

the two men were

arrested in connection with

singer Sidhu Moose Wala's

murder last year were on

Sunday beaten to death during

a clash at Goindwal jail in

Punjab's Tarn Taran.

Preliminary investigations indicated that Sun-

day's prison clash occurred between groups owing allegiance to gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, SSP Chohan said. Toofan was allegedly to be one of the standby shooters during Moose Wala's May 29 killing in Punjab's Mansa district and

owed allegiance to the Bhagwanpuria group, sources said. Mohna and Keshav allegedly provided logistics support to the assassins.

During Sunday's jail fight, sources said sharp-edged weapons, rods and even utensils were used. All three were lodged in an isolated zone of the high-security prison and had been allowed out of their cells for a while in line with jail rules around 3pm when the clash occurred, the SSP said.

Sources said the inmates first faced off over some issue and the situation soon took an ugly turn.

The FIR registered in this case by Rajasthan Police names Monu Manesar among suspects. Junaid and Nasir's families have alleged they were abducted near the Haryana-Rajasthan border by cow vigilantes, who suspected them of smuggling cattle, thrashed and later set on fire to destroy evidence.

A separate inquiry is also on into the role of cops in Nuh, who the families have alleged knew about the abduction but did nothing.

On February 22, Congress MLAs Mamman Khan (Firozepur Jhirka) and Mohammad Ilyas (Punahana) said in the Haryana assembly that Waris's "killing" was being passed off as an accidental death.

In response, deputy CM Chautala announced that Rewari police will probe the incident, and it will be supervised by additional DGP (Rewari south range) M Ravi Kiran.

Nuh SP Varun Singla told TOI the probe led by the Rewari ADGP has begun. Kiran could not be reached for comment.

Waris died at a hospital after Santro he was driving crashed into a van in Khora Kalan on January 28. His family said he was chased and beaten up by gau rakshaks led by Monu Manesar. But no FIR was filed.

After Waris, the deaths of Junaid and Nasir triggered protests that saw hundreds come out into the streets and block the Delhi-Alwar road in Firozepur Jhirka on Friday. Cops subsequently booked 500 people.

Anticipating more protests, the Haryana government on Sunday invoked provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act and Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules to snap internet and most SMS services in Nuh till Tuesday.

The idea of having a Burhan Wani-type leader in flesh and blood, styled after Bhindranwale, is an obvious progression in the series of attempts by forces across the border to keep the Khalistan pot boiling, said a senior officer of the security establishment.

At the time that Pakistan-based ISI elements "spotted" him, he was subsequently "groomed" to make utterances that would touch a chord with the radically-inclined Sikhs, both in India and abroad. An officer said he has the backing of Avtar Singh Khanda, a UK-based radical leader associated with Khalistan TV, and that the latter used his alleged connections with radical Sikh outfits, who were in turn in touch with the ISI, to prop him as a "pro-Khalistan icon".

While Sikh referendum

Monu Manesar named by Raj cops in Waris killing case FIR

► Continued from P 1

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* Source: Business Standard, 22 November 2022

'We need to leverage existing financial institutions better'

Achim Steiner, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, is in India as the UN secretary general's representative for the G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors and key government ministers. In an interview with TOI's Sidhartha, he underlines the need to focus on debt restructuring of the poor and developing countries and also supporting energy transition in poor and developing countries. Excerpts from the interview:



TOI INTERVIEW

UNDP released a report which identified 52 countries facing acute debt stress. What is the solution to address this problem?

■ When you use the term debt distress, it means they are one step away from default. For the UN and UNDP that has very significant implications because millions are at risk. These countries make up 4.5% of world GDP but 40% of world's poor live in these countries. For many countries this debt is not part of bad policies but disaster to disaster happening — first we had the Covid crisis, then cost of living crisis, energy crisis and now with inflation, an increase in interest rates. Around 25 developing countries are paying one-fifth of government revenue just to service their debt, not repay it. Therefore, there is a call by the UN secretary general that we need a far more ambitious sustainable development goal stimulus plan that deals with the financial and economic and debt issues, while also investing in the future of development.

How do you address the problem?

■ There are three elements recommended by the secretary general — inject more liquidity, reschedule and restructure debt and enable developing countries to access longer term debt at lower cost. Since

many countries are in the yellow or red zone, they are paying a premium that is no longer affordable. Countries that go to the capital markets would have to pay 10-12%, which is not affordable. We need to leverage existing financial institutions better and also work on rescheduling debt as majority of it is held by private creditors. They need to be

brought to the table as well.

Do you see a solution by the time G20 leaders meet in September?

■ The G20 this year is in a unique moment — to address the short-term crisis and also undertake the longer-term reforms. The reform of the World Bank is a key item on the agenda. These are geopolitically very stressful times, we can still find common ground to advance on these reform proposals that are long overdue and without which we will probably witness the situation get worse.

Climate finance is another key concern, which is seen as a legacy issue. How do you see it with a developing country lens?

■ With frustration. The challenge of addressing climate change is not a northern issue that is not central to the future of the South. Second, the transition towards cleaner energy system is no longer one that is so costly that it is the luxury of the rich to afford it, but the poor cannot access it. In Africa, investing in renewable energy infrastructure is a short cut to gaining access to electricity. I look at India's extraordinary programme of investing in 480,000 mega watt by 2030. The greatest difficulty is that in a country like India, the markets and effective reg-

ulatory environment allow for much of the capital to be mobilised through the private sector. For least developed countries, the commitment by the international community to co-invest and co-finance is simply not commensurate to what is promised and needed. What we will see this year is a growing debate on finance. There is a setback as the cost

“The G20 this year is in a unique moment – to address the short-term crisis and also undertake the longer-term reforms. The reform of the World Bank is a key item on the agenda”

of capital has gone up due to increase in interest rates. Since you going to borrow less, you will invest less in energy transition. Second, for many governments, especially the poor, it's difficult to get private sector investment. In 2022, investment in renewable energy infrastructure was around \$380 billion, and only \$13 billion found its way into Africa, where 600-700 million don't have access to electricity. If we don't address climate finance and development finance we are not addressing the issue transition adequately.

Jharkhand court gives death to 3 for gang rape, murder of minor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dumka: The third additional district and session judge-cum-Pocso court in Jharkhand's Deoghar on Saturday awarded capital punishment to three accused in connection with the 2020 gang rape and murder of a minor girl. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 75,000 on each convict, which is to be paid to the family of the deceased.

In the FIR lodged on April 10, 2020, the victim's father said his daughter was in Class 10. "She had gone out on a bicycle on the evening of April 8 for some housework but never returned," the FIR said.

All attempts made by the family members to trace her remained futile. Later, the girl's

The crime committed is rarest of the rare, the court said. The trial of a juvenile accused is still underway

body was found from a forest along the Bhagwanpur-Ghoramara road in Mohanpur police station area two days after she went missing, on April 10.

There were multiple injury marks on her body and face, which were caused by indiscriminate stabbing to conceal her identity. The autopsy report suggested that she was gangraped before being murdered.

Four accused, including a juvenile, were arrested. Trial of the juvenile is still underway at the juvenile justice court. The three other accused, who got the death sentence, were identified as Vishnu Yadav, Rital Yadav and Bhawesh Yadav. A total of 18 witnesses were produced by the prosecution in the fast-track Pocso court.

"The crime committed is the rarest of the rare instance," judge Garima Mishra said while delivering her judgement through video-conferencing.

Call detail records to locate a person mere speculation: HC

Saibal.Sen@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court has said an investigating officer's opinion on people's location based on call detail records(CDR) "is mere speculation of a lay person".

A division bench said on Wednesday that an investigating officer "by no stretch of imagination can be treated to be an expert" to explain the range and other operational factors of the cell towers and opine on people's location.

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All attempts made by the family members to trace her remained futile. Later, the girl's

An investigating officer 'by no stretch of imagination can be treated to be an expert' to explain the range and other operational factors of cell towers & opine on people's location, the Calcutta HC said

ere the accused and the victim "were last seen together".

The HC said, "Cell tower and cell sector information are coded in the CDRs as cell ID. Cell ID in the CDRs denotes a unique number used to identify a BTS (base transceiver stations, or cell towers), or a sector of a BTS from which the mobile phone receives or sends signals. It contains a code and not recognisable geographic coordinates." The HC said, "Service providers maintain records containing the geographical location and orientation of all cell towers that is BTS in their network. To interpret the cell IDs and identify the actual geographic coordinates of the cell tower, examination of a competent person from the end of the service provider is necessary to identify precise geographical coordinates of the tower."

Nadia, with injury marks and tattered garments. Cops zeroed in on a mason, engaged by the victim's family for work in their home, with whom the victim reportedly fled. A Serampore trial court in 2017 convicted the mason for rape, murder and destruction of evidence and sentenced him to a life behind bars. He appealed to the HC.

In this case, the cops primarily used the CDRs and SDRs (subscriber detail records) to trace the location wh-

ere the accused and the victim "were last seen together".

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The accused was then acquitted by the HC.

Report in 6 weeks steps taken to end manual scavenging: SC

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Anguished by continuance of the abhorrent practice of manual scavenging and horrific sewer deaths despite decades-old laws and directions of the Supreme Court and the 'Swachh Bharat Mission', the SC has sought state-wise data on demolition of dry latrines.

A bench of Justices S R Bhat and Dipankar Datta asked the Union government to place on record within six weeks steps taken pursuant to the SC's 2014 judgment directing a series of measures to be implemented by the Centre and the states to identify and rehabilitate manual

scavengers as per the two laws — Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, and the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

On a PIL filed by Dr Balram Singh, the bench also issued notices to the secretary of Union ministry of social justice & empowerment, and chairpersons of National Commission for Safai Karamchari (NCSK), National Commission for Scheduled Castes, and, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. It posted the matter for further hearing on April 12.

The SC also asked the Centre to examine feasibility of developing "internet based solutions for real time tracking of sewage deaths".

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National Winners!

Sanjana Pramod Shetty,
JB Vaccha High School,
Mumbai

Arshia Choudhary,
Ryan International
School, Jaipur

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Chandigarh

Ayush Bhagat,
Rishi Aurobindo
Memorial Academy,
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Meet the talented
'CLASSMATE ALL ROUNDERS'
of India

fortune
soya chunks

adani
wilmar
For a healthy growing nation

Celebrating the Pro of Protein

#HappyNationalProteinDay

A meal with soya chunks delivers powerful nutrients, enriched with high protein, approx. 15x more than cow's milk*, that fulfills the daily needs of your family. This National Protein Day, it's time to up your protein game with Fortune Soya Chunks.

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PROTEIN THAN MILK***

3.32%
protein*



52%
protein*

99%
fat-free

Available on



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I doubted if my books would fetch me enough money

French author Annie Ernaux, winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize for literature, is visiting India. She spoke to Jaya Bhattacharji Rose on a wide range of subjects, including her life and craft and how she developed her trademark style of "flat writing". Excerpts from the interview:

When you began writing, your characteristic style of flat writing, this mundane detail of life, was not in vogue in literature. How did you develop it? ■ Initially, I did not start writing with this style. In my first three books, the style of writing was the one that depicts a certain violence. Later, when I started a book about my father, who was from the working class and had a small grocery café, I realised that the violent style of writing did not correspond to writing his life. And then I wanted to shift to something that would just describe the facts. This is what you all call 'flat writing', a term I later started using myself. And so, it all comes from the subject I'm talking about.

Your writing often tackles the economics of existence and how it was an integral part not only of your family's daily conversations but also for you. Later, as your writing career flourished, did the financial independence that it afforded define or transform your craft in any manner? ■ I don't think so. In writing, what defines me is memory; memories of childhood, of adolescence and all these important phases that constitute important elements in an individual's life. And all this in a world that is economically and culturally dominated by another class.

So, the fact of having financial ease did not really shape or influence my writings. That's one of the reasons I continued to teach, because I doubted

TOI INTERVIEW



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if my books would fetch me enough money. It was not really a means of earning money but an aspiration — to write what I felt and to write the way I conceived writing in my mind.

For me, the real source of liberty is language and culture. The fundamental source of liberty is to have a culture that allows you to judge and evaluate your own position in the world. And this is one of the first and foremost wealths I can think of.

However, for the generation of my parents it means something else; the power to live, to be able to eat, to be able to clothe your body and fulfil your basic needs... My father was somebody who didn't read a lot. He read only the newspaper. And he would say, 'All this reading is good, but I don't need this to live.'

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Meghalaya and Nagaland vote today in test for BJP before '24

Saffron Party Hopes To Form Govts In Both States On Its Own Strength

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Meghalaya and Nagaland vote on Monday to elect new assemblies in a test for BJP's popularity before the 2024 general elections, particularly in the two northeastern states where it had formed its maiden governments with regional parties five years ago.

Monday's vote will cap a high-pitched campaign led by PM Narendra Modi for BJP that saw his roadshows, rallies and rhetoric set to the tune of international classics like Queen's "We're the Champions" in the two music-mad states. He promised peace, development and economic growth.

BJP may hope to corner enough seats to form governments in Meghalaya and Nagaland — both tribal states where most people are Christian — comfortably on its own strength, like it did in Assam, Manipur and Tripura. The BJP-led NDA has been in the governments of all the eight states in the northeast.

Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leads a coalition government in



Polling officials with EVMs head towards their respective polling stations for the Meghalaya assembly polls, in Ri Bhoi on Sunday

the 60-member assembly. In 2018, Congress won 21 seats, NPP 20, BJP 2, and the rest went to regional parties and independents. But about 20 MLAs had switched sides.

The two states with over 34 lakh voters will also decide the fate of Congress and, particularly in Meghalaya, it is going to be an acid test for newcomer TMC.

The spotlight is on women candidates. In both states, women voters outnumber men, but are far behind in terms of women candidates and legislators. Among the 552 candidates spread over 118 constituencies in the two states, women's representation is just 7%.

Nagaland has never elected a woman legislator and this time, four candidates — NDPP's Hekhani Jakhalu and Salhoutouuo, Congress's Rosy Thompson and BJP's Kashi Sema — stand out.

In matrilineal Meghalaya, there are 36 women candidates this time. In 2018, three women among 32 got elected, four in 2013 and one in 2008.

The two states offer Congress an opportunity to find its lost hold, particularly in Meghalaya, where it finished as the single largest party in 2018 but faltered before a post-poll alliance stitched between six parties, including BJP, which had one just two seats.

Meghalaya voters have newcomer TMC as an additional choice this time. Election has been adjourned in Sohiong seat in the state after the death of one of the candidates.

Votes of both states will be counted on March 2 along with Tripura, which voted on February 16.

Illegal construction not limited to one part of Corbett: SC panel

Shivani.Azad@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: The central empowered committee (CEC) set up by the Supreme Court, in its supplementary report submitted earlier this month, said that illegal buildings may not be limited to the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve of Corbett, as pointed out in its first report, but may be spread across "other core critical tiger habitats of Corbett—Dhikala, Khinnanauli, Gairal and Dhanigarhi Gate in particular".

In its report, a copy of which is with TOI, the panel said the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) should examine reports of the other illegal buildings in the tiger reserve.

The report stated: "Many other buildings have been constructed without requisite statutory, administrative or financial approvals in the core critical area of the national park which is extremely disturbing."

The CEC submitted its first report on January 24 and the supplementary was



THREAT TO RESERVE FOREST: The central empowered committee submitted its first report on January 24 and the supplementary was submitted on February 7, in which its member Mahendra Vyas, a naturalist, is cited holding the forest department and Corbett authorities responsible for 'mass corruption in the reserve'

submitted on February 7, in which CEC member Mahendra Vyas, a naturalist who works in the fields of wildlife, forest and environmental policies and laws, is cited holding the forest department and Corbett authorities responsible for "mass corruption in the reserve".

The CEC member, in the report, said, "It is hard to believe that illegalities that have taken place in Corbett were without the knowledge of senior officers posted there or at the headquarter in Dehradun..."

The member pointed out that authorities should have taken "swift action" following the complaint on illegal tree felling some time in mid-2021, "but it was not done until 19.9.2021 when a news item on the front page of The Times of India about the felling of thousands of trees, was published".

On February 13, the SC accepted the report and has now sought a response from MoEFCC, NTCA and the Uttarakhand government.

Man, grandson killed as truck hits scooter, drags it for 2km

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesgroup.com

Kanpur: A 70-year-old man and his six-year-old grandson died after their scooter got stuck in a dumper truck and was dragged for nearly 2km in Mahoba district of UP on Saturday.

A video of the accident gone viral in which sparks emanating from the two-wheeler can be seen. Some people riding two-wheelers parallel to the truck are also seen asking the driver to stop. But he keeps driving. The driver has been arrested and the truck seized.

Police said retired teacher Udit Narayan Chansuria and his grandson Satvik were going to the market on the two-wheeler when they were hit by the speeding truck. While Udit fell and died on the spot, Satvik and the scooter got stuck in the truck and dragged for nearly 2km.

"A few residents even hurled bricks and stones at the truck after which the driver stopped the vehicle. The boy had died by then," an eyewitness said.