



SUNDAY TIMES



OCTOBER 29, 2023 | CAPITAL | PAGES 56 | INCLUDING DELHI TIMES | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

OF INDIA



Australia captain Pat Cummins slams 37 off 14 balls, then takes 2/66 as the 5-time champs beat New Zealand by just 5 runs in the highest-aggregating World Cup game in history, with NZ scoring 383/9 in reply to Australia's 388, P13

Veteran keeper Matthew Wade named Oz captain for the 5-match T20I series against India, which will start immediately after the WC

A 4-wicket haul by Paul van Meekeren and a half-century by skipper Scott Edwards help Netherlands defeat Bangladesh by 87 runs, OTHER BK, P15

Hardik Pandya will miss the match against England today as Rohit Sharma's team looks to leapfrog SA & return to the top of the table with its 6th consecutive win, P12

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No mention of Hamas, India abstains from UN Gaza vote

120-14, Global Body Backs A Ceasefire

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New Delhi: After multiple failures to address the West Asia crisis in the Security Council, the UN adopted a resolution in the General Assembly, which called for immediate, durable and sustainable humanitarian truce, with backing from 120 countries. India abstained from voting on the resolution that didn't condemn the Oct 7 Hamas terror attacks on Israel.

TOI had reported on India's abstention in its late-night edition. Government sources said the final text did not reflect all elements of India's "steadfast" position, including that there can be no equivocation on terrorism.

While 45 countries abstained, 14 led by the US and Israel late Friday voted against the re-

UK, CANADA ALSO ABSTAIN

► UN General Assembly (UNGA) approves non-binding resolution seeking a 'humanitarian truce' in Gaza, leading to a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 120 VOTED FOR | 14 AGAINST | 45 ABSTAINED |
| Including China, France, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Qatar, Pak, Syria, Indonesia, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh | Including Israel, US, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary and 5 Pacific Island nations | Including India, UK, Germany, Canada, Japan, Ukraine and South Korea |

► A Canadian amendment backed by US, which would have unequivocally condemned the Oct 7 'terrorist attacks' by Hamas and demanded immediate release of hostages, rejected

Swap prisoners for hostages: Hamas

Hamas sought the release of all Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli hostages even as Israel expanded its ground operation in Gaza, with infantry and armoured vehicles backed by air and sea strikes. OTHER BOOK, P14

solution that was supported by many European nations, and all BRICS and Saarc partners of India. Canada had moved an amendment for an explicit con-

Row over Hamas leader's virtual talk

Former Hamas chief Khalid Meshaal virtually addressed a pro-Palestinian rally organised by a Jamaat-e-Islami Hind-aligned outfit in Kerala's Malappuram Friday, sparking a row. BJP called it 'glorification of terrorists'. P6

demnation of Hamas and release of hostages, but it couldn't muster the required support.

► 'Terror can't be justified', P9

Girl dragged from auto by snatchers falls, critical

A first-year BTech student was critically injured in Ghaziabad on Friday after she fell from a moving auto and hit her head on a road divider as two snatchers on a bike pulled her by the wrist while trying to steal her phone. Kirti Singh (20) sustained serious head injuries and doctors said on Saturday that the next 72 hours are critical for her. 'Five teams have been formed to nab the accused,' a cop said. P5

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32 killed in ArcelorMittal Kazakh coal mine blaze; govt to nationalise firm

14 Missing, Methane Blast Suspected

Almaty: At least 32 people have died and 14 remain missing in a coal mine fire in Kazakhstan on Saturday. Operator ArcelorMittal Temirtau, the local unit of Luxembourg-based steel giant ArcelorMittal, said 206 of 252 people at the Kostenko mine had been evacuated after what appeared to be a methane blast.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said ArcelorMittal "has turned out to be the worst in our history from the point of view of cooperation with the government". He ordered his cabinet to stop investment cooperation with the firm. The government confirmed it was working

► Mine op suspended, P9

Surat bizman kills 6 of family, hangs self

Manish Solanki (37), a Surat-based businessman, killed his six family members, including three kids, before hanging himself Saturday. A note recovered from the house suggested Solanki was struggling to get back money lent to some people and was reeling under the pain of betrayal. P6

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Today's bumper issue of TOI is organised in two sections, both equally packed with news and analysis. To get the full reading experience of today's edition, make sure you don't miss the other section

OTHER BOOK TOP STORIES

► Aspirants can expect a lighter load for JEE (Main) next year
► Kharif acreage up over 2022, but yield estimated lower
► Loan dues can't take away fundamental right: Delhi HC

Para-athletes make history with record 111-medal haul

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India's differently abled athletes made history on Saturday as they finished their campaign at the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou with a record haul of 111 medals, including 29 gold.

This was the country's biggest-ever medal tally in any major multisport event, surpassing the count of 107 won at the recently-held Asian Games in the same Chinese city. The only other instance when India crossed the 100-medal mark at a major multisport meet was the 101 medals won at the Delhi Commonwealth Games in 2010.

On the final day of competitions, India claimed 12 medals, including four gold. Se-

Mahua can depose Nov 2, won't get any further extension: Ethics panel

SHARED PARL ID'

► In interviews, TMC MP Mahua Moitra admits she shared her Parl ID with Hiranandani and that she took gifts like scarves from the businessman, but denies having taken cash
► Nishikant Dubey posts copy of the contract MPs sign that says sharing ID tantamounts to breach of nat'l security

sections of the media, acknowledged having shared her Parliament login ID with Hiranandani, a businessman who had filed an affidavit corroborating claims of the complainants, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey & advocate Jay Anant Dehdrai. TNN

► Admits taking gifts, P9

ED arrests 2 promoters, CA of pharma co

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested Vineet and Pranav Gupta, the two promoters of Chandigarh-based pharmaceutical company Parabolic Drugs, and their chartered accountant, S K Bansal, in an alleged Rs 1,600 crore bank fraud and money laundering case. The three accused have been remanded in five days' ED custody by a special PMLA court in Chandigarh.

The Guptas are also among the founders of Ashoka University, the books of which are being examined as part of the investigation against the promoters of Parabolic Drugs. The private university has denied any link to the Guptas' pharma company. TNN

► Guptas evasive, P7

Delivery agent gropes customer at G Noida flat

Noida: A 25-year-old man delivering groceries from an online store allegedly forced his way inside a flat at a housing society in Greater Noida West when the customer — a 19-year-old woman — opened the door to collect the order and sexually assaulted her, reports Avishek Kumar.

He fled after the woman freed herself from his clasp, ran to the balcony and shouted for help. It was around 5am and some morning walkers and guards heard her. They searched the compound for the delivery agent but did not find him.

The delivery man, Sumit Sharma, is a resident of Achheja village in Greater Noida. He has been with the online store for a year.

► Manages to flee, P5

Season's coldest night; AQI falls to 'very poor'

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NO RESPITE SOON

► Jahangirpuri was most polluted station with AQI in 'severe' category of 409
► On Oct 22, city air had turned 'very poor' for first time this season with AQI of 313. Measures under GRAP Stage II are already in place
► Air quality likely to be 'very poor' till Oct 31

jung. However, the night temperature is likely to remain at 16°C for the next two days.

Satellite data compiled by Indian Agricultural Research Institute shows that farm fires have started increasing in states of north-west India.

► Jahangirpuri 'severe', P2

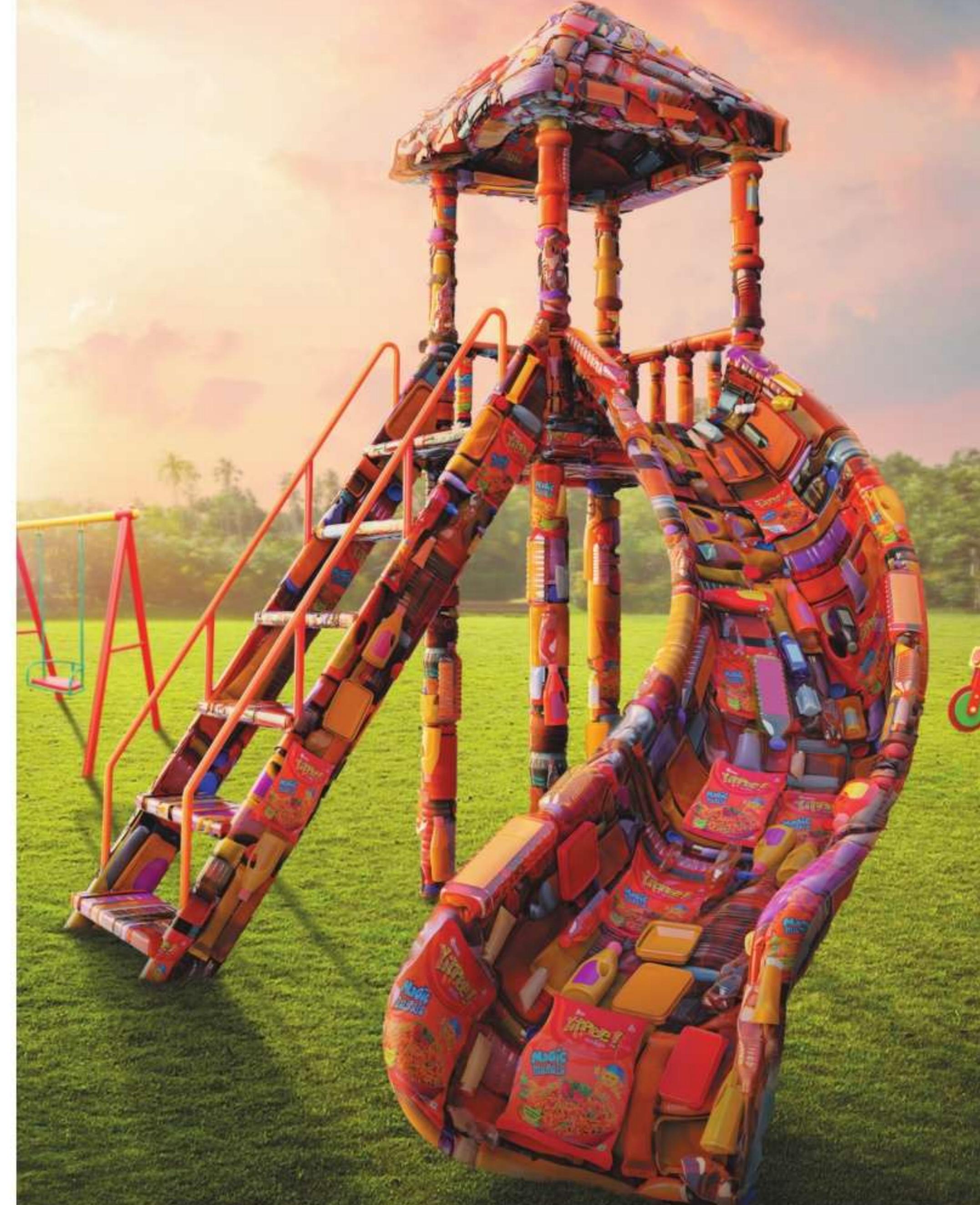
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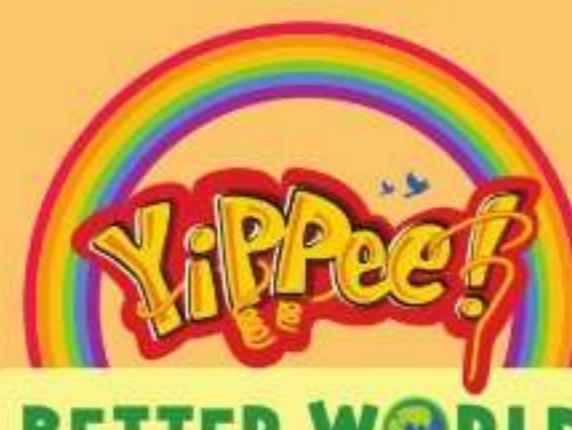
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Tiny Air Pollutants Put Young At Stroke Risk

Experts Advise Population-Based Approaches

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New Delhi: Pollution has increased the risk of stroke in the younger and relatively healthy population with air pollutants causing inflammation and damage to the inner lining of the arteries. Doctors are concerned about this trend and warn that the city's pollution puts not only the aged at risk but also those who are young and healthy.

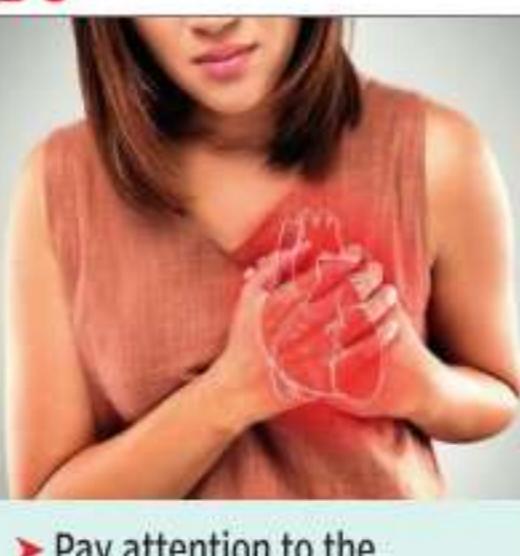
Stressing on the importance of awareness about the risk factors associated with stroke, many experts advocated population-based approaches to preventing the medical emergency on the eve of World Stroke Day on Sunday. Doctors said that there was a need for collaborative action and the government, healthcare community and NGOs must come together on a common platform and devise strategies to reduce risk factors and control the rate of stroke incidence.

Dr Praveen Gupta, principal director, neurology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, said, "With the current scenario, the situation is getting worse. Many patients in the age group of 40-50 years are suffering strokes. Nearly 20% of stroke patients are young and their numbers increase in the winter months between November and February." He added that the number of such patients has almost doubled in the last few years and studies suggest that major risk factors like air pollution and smoking are behind strokes both in the short term and long term.

Defining air pollution as

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- ▶ People who have heart disease, asthma or are taking immunosuppressive therapy should avoid exposure to pollutants 
- ▶ Use a mask in polluted places, avoid heavy traffic on roads 
- ▶ Reduce outside activities, including exercise, when air quality reaches moderate to dangerous levels 
- ▶ Pay attention to the possible polluting sources inside home and try to control indoor air pollution 
- ▶ Consider using air purifiers



an important risk factors for stroke. Dr Vinay Goyal, director, neurology, Medanta Medicity, said, "Industries, motor vehicles, agriculture and biofuels are the most common air pollution contributors. It has been well established that patients who live in the more polluted areas are more prone to strokes."

Earlier it was thought that air pollution increased the risk of stroke for the elderly and sick.

However, studies have found that even seemingly healthy young adults, who usually have less prevalence of neurological problems, are also at risk.

Even short-term exposure to air pollution may be linked to an increased risk of stroke, according to a meta-analysis published recently in the journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

In the study, short-term exposure was defined as occurring within five days of

the stroke. The study highlighted that people who had exposure to a higher concentration of various types of air pollution had an increased risk of stroke. Higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were linked with a 28% increased risk of stroke; higher ozone levels were linked with a 5% increase; carbon monoxide caused a 26% increase and sulphur dioxide influenced a 15% increase.

Dr Sumit Singh, director, neurology, Artemis Hospitals, said, "We are seeing an increase in the number of young patients getting strokes due to pollution. In a month, we get 3-4 stroke patients who are in their early 40s and we determine this is due to pollution." There are many studies that clearly indicate that pollution does lead to a higher susceptibility to strokes.

Met officials said the night temperature dipped due to clear skies and north-westerly winds which bring cold air from Himalayan region. IMD's data shows that the lowest minimum temperature was 14 degrees Celsius in October 2022 and 2021. The lowest night temperature in October 2020 was 12.5 degrees Celsius. The lowest minimum temperature in October is 9.4 degrees Celsius, which was recorded on October 31, 1937.

IMD has predicted that the minimum temperature is likely to rise to 16 degrees Celsius on Sunday and Monday. However, it may rise further to 17 degrees on Tuesday. The day temperature is likely to hover around 33-32 degrees Celsius for the next few days. TNN

It was the first time this season when minimum temperature was below 15 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung. However, the night temperature is likely to remain at 16 degrees Celsius for the next two days.

According to India Meteorological Department, Lodhi Road, Ayanagar and Mungeshpur in northwest Delhi recorded the minimum temperature at 14.6, 14.8 and 14.7 degrees Celsius, respectively.

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1984 Riots Case: LG's Nod For Appeal In SC

Govt To Challenge Acquittal Of 12 Accused

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: LG VK Saxena has given his go-ahead to the Delhi government to move the Supreme Court against a Delhi High Court judgment acquitting 12 murder accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots related case in which eight people were killed in west Delhi's Nangloi.

The proposal was moved by the home department of the Delhi government for filing of the special leave petition in the apex court for assailing the high court's August 9 judgment, which dismissed the appeal against the trial court verdict acquitting all the accused.

The high court had in its order said there was no explanation for inordinate delay of 27 years in filing the appeal against the trial court verdict of April 29, 1995 and grounds taken by the state were not justifiable.

Officials said the LG perused the file, which stated that the high court had not taken into consideration the merits of the case and instead dismissed the appeal of

state only on the ground of inordinate delay in filing the appeal. They added that the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in a similar matter relating to mass killing of Bangladeshi citizens in 1971 were relevant.

"Even the standing counsel in the Delhi high court in his September 14, 2023 has opined that the present case is fit to file SLP (criminal) before the Supreme Court as there is delay of only 27 days and not of 27 years as observed by the high court. The delay ought to be calculated from the date of report submitted by the SIT rather than being calculated from the trial court judgment dated April 29, 1995," said a Raj Niwas official.

In the case, 12 people are accused of rioting, looting and killing of Sikhs in the morning of November 1, 1984 at Nangloi's Amar Colony. The relatives of the deceased persons had appeared before the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission of Inquiry and submitted their affidavits on the basis of which an FIR under relevant sections had been registered in 1992.

Resident doc ends life at Jaipur hosp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: A 27-year-old woman resident doctor at the city's SMS Medical College allegedly took her own life on Friday and died during the treatment on Saturday.

SHO (Shastri Nagar) Kishore Singh identified the deceased as Sana Khan, a resident of New Delhi and a first-year master's student.

Police said, she was on duty at Kanwatiya Hospital on Friday evening when she injected herself with anaesthesia, causing her health to deteriorate.

"Prima facie evidence indicates that she used anaesthesia injections, but further investigation is ongoing," Singh said.

The hospital administration took swift action, and upon seeing her condition worsen, she was transferred to SMS Hospital. She was admitted to the ICU ward and received treatment. Unfortunately, early on Saturday morning, she passed away during the treatment.

The police stated that based on the initial investigation, her death appeared to be a suicide. Still, her taking such an extreme step could not be immediately ascertained.

Her body was handed over to the family after the post-mortem at the SMS hospital mortuary on Saturday.

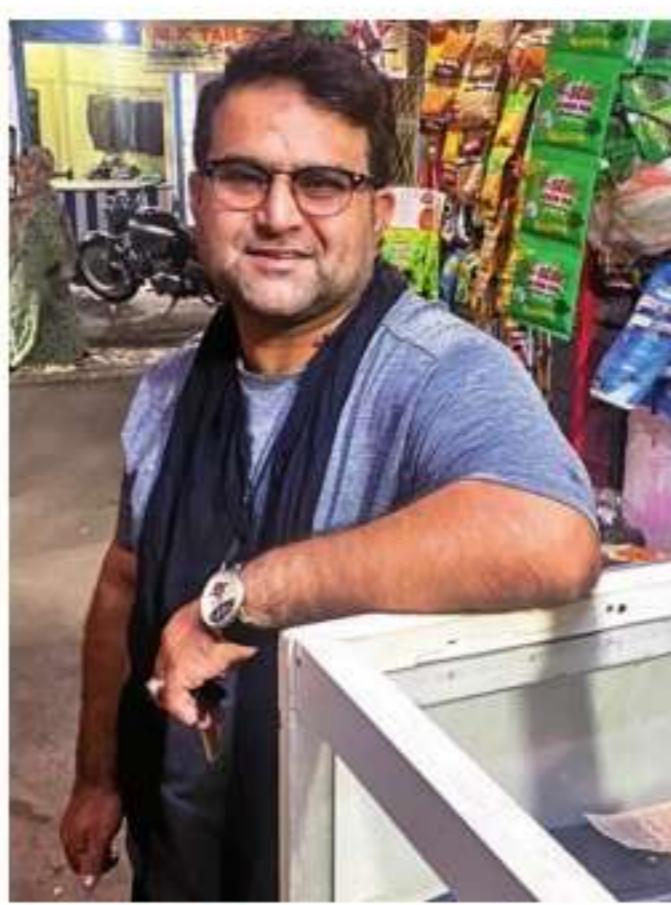
In Delhi's mini Kabuls, hearts beat for AFG and Rashid Khan

Team wins rekindle hope in Afghan refugees who live in the bylanes of Bhogal and Lajpat Nagar

Kritika.Sharma@timesgroup.com

For Afghans reeling under the Taliban regime and the isolation of international sanctions, occasions to celebrate are few and far between. But last week's victory over Pakistan, preceded by the win over England, in the cricket World Cup lifted spirits not just in that country, but in some corners of Delhi as well.

Two areas of south Delhi — Lajpat Nagar and Bhogal — are home to a sizable number of Afghan refugees who fled their country and are trying



BOWLED OVER: Anwar Joya and Kamaluddin are among the many Afghan refugees in Delhi pinning hopes on their cricket team's success

ISA KHAN, AFGHAN REFUGEE

When our team does well, it gives a lot of hope to our people. At least people are talking about Afghanistan for good reasons and achievements, not just because of the Taliban

to rebuild their lives here. Walk in the lanes here, and you can smell the aroma of qormas and naans, see men in salwar kameez and hear a smattering of Pashto. Now, they're all united in cheering for their team. And for a few hours, conflict recedes, and cricket takes over.

Isa Khan, who lives with his family in Bhogal, hasn't missed a match. Every time Afghanistan plays in the tournament, members of the community gather in front of a projector screen to watch.

"When our team does well, it gives a lot of hope to our people. At least people are talking about Afghanistan for good reasons and achievements, not just because of the Taliban," says Khan, who was one of the many who left when the Taliban swept into Kabul in 2021.

Musa Khan, a shopkeeper in Bhogal who has been living in India for the last eight years, bought tickets in black for the India-Afghanistan match that took place in Arun Jaitly stadium in Delhi earlier this month. He also went to Chennai to watch the match against Pakistan and hopes to watch all the team's matches inside the stadium rather than on TV.

Kamaluddin, who shifted to Delhi last month in search of a job, says fans know that their presence in the stands counts. "The players know that Afghan people are looking to them with hope, and it makes them also work harder for us and the country," he says.

They've already come a long way considering that it was not a sport that was even played in Afghanistan till a couple of decades ago. Afghanistan cricket was born in camps in Pakistan where Afghans fleeing the war against the Soviets in the 1980s had taken refuge. After the Taliban seized power, the exodus increased, and so did the number of young boys playing in dusty fields outside their shanties. When those refugees returned after the ouster of the Taliban in 2001, they carried the game back home. "What fundamentally distinguishes Afghanistan from cricket's new nations is their natural talent and self-belief," Tim Albone, author of 'Out of the Ashes', a book on the origins of Afghanistan cricket, told The New York Times when the team made it to the 2015 World Cup.

A lot of dreams hinge on this team. Anwar Joya, former employee at the Afghanistan embassy in Delhi who runs a grocery shop in Bhogal, says the team's World Cup performance will enthuse Afghan children who are still stuck in the country under Taliban occupation. "These players give us hope for a better future of the people of Afghanistan," he said.

In nearby Lajpat Nagar, the popular restaurant Mazaar expressed its support for the team by sending Afghan dishes to the hotel where the team was staying ahead of the match against India. Mujeeb Rehman, a customer at

Mazaar, said his dream was to meet his favorite cricketer Rashid Khan. Khan, the team's star bowler, is a hero not just for his game but his free-spirited personality — how he dances on the field and gestures to fans.

There's also his humanitarian side. His NGO, the Rashid Khan Foundation, has been helping earthquake victims across Afghanistan and has participated in other aid activities in the past as well. "He has done a lot for his people," says Rehman.

Raees Ahmadzai, assistant coach and one of the first ODI players from Afghanistan, has seen them go from underdog to giant killer. He said that despite having zero resources or encouragement from the government in initial days, what kept the players going was their passion for the game and love for their country. "Winning brings a smile to the faces of Afghan people and as coaches and players we know that. We have the confidence that we can beat any team," Ahmadzai told TOI over the phone.

Not just Afghanistan, India is also a part of the team's success journey. Shaheed Vijay Pathik stadium in Greater Noida used to be the home ground for the team from 2015 to 2020. The team's star players like Rashid Khan, Nabi Mujeeb, Mohammad Shehzad and the current captain Hashmatullah Shahid have all trained at the stadium.

For the last couple of years, the team has been training in Dubai and Sharjah, while also playing IPL tournaments. "All these things have helped get it to the level of international counterparts," Ahmadzai adds. The next Afghanistan match is on October 30 against Sri Lanka.

'CM didn't send proposal to end Civil Defence volunteers' services'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Transport minister Kailash Gahlot on Saturday alleged that obstacles were being created by various departments to remove marshals from the city's bus fleet and claimed that no proposal was sent by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to terminate the services of Civil Defence volunteers.

Addressing a press conference, Gahlot claimed that it was the revenue department of the Delhi government that suggested that Civil Defence volunteers had been engaged in non-disaster work.

The LG's secretariat, however, claimed the truth was different. "It was the CM who proposed termination of services of Civil Defence volunteers with effect from November 1, 2023 and it was the LG who directed that employment of the volunteers as home guards be explored," said an official from the LG's secretariat.

"It was the LG who flagged loss of livelihood and urged the chief minister to look at it," the official added.



KAILASH GAHLOT SAYS
AAP government stands by all bus marshals. It will be endeavour that the same bus marshals be deployed as home guards so that they don't lose jobs

(home)," he added.

Gahlot holds the charge of both transport and home departments.

The minister said he had issued directions many times in the past to release the dues of the Civil Defence volunteers, who were deployed as bus marshals but, alleged, there were attempts to stop the work being done by the government.

Gahlot added that since the government deployed marshals in buses in 2019 it has been receiving reports of exemplary work done by them. "What bus marshals can do, CCTV cameras and panic buttons can't do," the minister asserted.

Gahlot said Kejriwal had sent three proposals to the secretary

lieutenant governor. "One, pending salaries of bus marshals should be released immediately. If departments have objections on the deployment of Civil Defence volunteers, engage them as home guards. Till then, the same bus marshals should continue," the minister said.

Raj Niwas officials claimed: "The LG had raised serious livelihood concerns if the services of Civil Defence volunteers were terminated as it was proposed at para 766 in the file sent by the chief minister."

There are nearly 7,000 buses in Delhi and Gahlot said about 14,000 bus marshals were required.

Meanwhile, a Delhi BJP functionaries' delegation met the Civil Defence volunteers, who were sitting on an agitation near Delhi Secretariat demanding their salaries pending since April this year.

Delhi BJP president Viresh Sachdeva said it was "regrettable" that those providing security to commuters as marshals in the city buses were forced to sit on a protest.

30-year-old bank officer dies at metro

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man, who worked as an officer at a bank, died after getting hit by a metro train at Udhay Bhawan metro station on Friday. The deceased was identified as Divanshu Chopra, who was posted at a bank in Punjab.

"A PCR call was received that a person has met with an accident at the metro track. The victim was shifted to the hospital, where he was declared dead," an officer said.

Police found the victim's bag, and on checking his articles, they found an identity card, which suggested that he worked at a bank. Police said they suspect that the victim jumped in front of the train. "We are scanning the CCTV footage to get the sequence of events," police said.

Woman killed over affair in SE Delhi, accused held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old woman was shot dead allegedly by a property dealer in southeast Delhi's Jaitpur on Friday. Police have arrested the suspect, Rocky (31) who claimed that the victim had an illicit affair with his elder brother who he did not like.

The victim's brother informed the police at 9.10pm on Friday that a man, with his face covered, opened fire on his sister at Ekta Vihar in Jaitpur Extension Part 1. "There was a call from the hospital about a woman being declared dead," a police officer said.

The deceased's brother stated that when his sister was entering home, a man "shot multiple rounds. Hearing the noise, I came out of the house and tried to chase the assailant,

absconding. His elder brother Krishan Pradhan, a property dealer, joined the investigation. It was found that the woman and Pradhan had an illicit relationship which was disliked by Rocky," the DCP said.

There were regular quarrels in Pradhan's family over the matter as he was already married with four children, the DCP said, adding that Rocky was arrested from Bilaspur area which falls under Jaitpur. Cops are probing another person's role in the case.

"The woman had done a beauty parlour course and used to work in Pradhan's office in Basantpur Village. She left the job seven or eight months ago due to objections raised by Rocky. The victim was unmarried, and her father works as a driver in a private company," the officer added.

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Modi speaks to Egypt president El-Sisi on crisis in Gaza Strip

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after India refused to back a resolution for Gaza ceasefire at the UN, PM Narendra Modi dialled Egypt President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to discuss the Gaza situation.

According to an Egyptian readout, the leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip and the gravity of the continuation of the current escalation, given its formidable impact on the lives of civilians and the threat it poses to the security of the entire region".

El-Sisi said Egypt is pursuing its endeavours to coordinate regional & international efforts to push toward reaching a ceasefire and warned of the "grievous humanitarian and security repercussions of any offensive on the Gaza Strip".

"He underscored the need for unified international action to find a solution at the diplomatic level, that stipulates reinforcing immediate humanitarian truce that protects lives of civilians & allows instantaneous delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Strip," said a spokesperson for the president.

Oppn attacks govt's Gaza stand, India won't back terror, says BJP

BJP Slams Oppn For Attending Rally Addressed By Hamas Neta

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress and Left parties attacked the Modi government over its decision to abstain from voting on UN resolution on Gaza, drawing a sharp riposte from BJP which stressed that the resolution was silent on Hamas' brutality and India could "never be on the side of terrorism", while also calling the opponents out over their participation in a rally allegedly addressed by a leader of Hamas.

Objecting to India's stand over the resolution, Congress' Priyanka Gandhi said an 'eye-for-an-eye' makes the whole world go blind, and added that India was founded on the principles of non-violence and truth which represent the "moral courage of India that guided its actions as a member of the international commun-



Amid an Israeli ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, family members and friends of hostages held by Hamas hold a demonstration in Tel Aviv on Saturday, even as opposition parties in India claimed that an 'eye-for-an-eye' would make the world blind

ty". "To refuse to take a stand and watch in silence as every law of humanity is pulverised and food, water, medical supplies, communication and power is cut off as people in Palestine are being annihilated goes against everything our country has stood for," she said.

BJP hit back with senior party leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi saying in a series of posts on X: "Those who are 'ashamed and shocked', must realise that India will NEVER be on the side of terrorism."

India abstained from voting, saying the resolution didn't mention the terror strike

by Hamas on Israel on October 7, stoking the latest conflict.

Asserting that India's position on the Palestine issue is steadfast and consistent, the BJP leader said that those who choose to side with terror do so at their own peril.

BJP took the battle to the rival terrain by attacking Congress and Left over their participation in rally organised by the youth wing of Jamiat-i-Islami in Kerala, which was allegedly addressed by Hamas leader Khaled Mashal. Describing Hamas as a terror outfit, BJP general secretary Dushyant Gautam said Congress

and Left parties were guilty of "anti-national conduct".

BJP spokesperson Anil Baluni said, "Congress is driven by the policy of appeasement and its views on Gaza reflect that it can go to any extent for vote-bank".

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said, "I've never seen such confusion in India's position on the Israel-Palestine issue. When PM Modi issued a statement, he spoke of extending total support to Israel. When reactions to this statement started to be seen around the world & within India, foreign minister issued a statement in support of Palestine... Thousands of people are dying in Gaza. India has never supported such violence."

Calling Israel's attacks on Gaza as "genocidal", Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja expressed shock over India's abstention and called for an immediate ceasefire. They alleged that India's foreign policy was being shaped by being a subordinate ally of US imperialism and the Modi government's actions for consolidating the US-Israel-India nexus".

Congress announced a sit-in on Monday to show solidarity with the people of war-torn region.

Hamas leader addressed rally against Hinduism, Zionism

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Former Hamas chief Khaled Meshal virtually addressed a rally in support of Palestinians organised by a Jamaat-e-Islami Hind-aligned outfit in Kerala's Malappuram on Friday, sparking a row as BJP termed it an "alarming glorification of terrorists" and asked how the Left-governed state allowed it.

The organisers of the rally — Solidarity Youth Movement (SYM) — dismissed the controversy, asserting in a press note that Hamas is a "resistance movement" and Meshal a "freedom fighter".



NO END TO CONFLICT? Israeli military fires shells towards Gaza Strip

Meshal's pre-recorded video address in Arabic was beamed on a screen at the Youth Resistance Rally, which had the tagline "Uproot Bulldozer Hindutva and Apartheid Zionism". The organisers had announced that another Ha-

mas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, would also virtually address the rally, but he did not.

State BJP president K Surendran termed the instance "alarming". "Where is (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan's police? Under the guise of 'Save Palestine' they are glorifying Hamas, a terrorist organisation and its leaders as 'warriors'. This is unacceptable," Surendran wrote on X while sharing a photo of Meshal's virtual address.

The organisers justified Meshal's virtual presence at the event. "Palestinian Legislative Council is an influential movement in Gaza and the West Bank. The party won 74 of 132 seats in the last election. There is nothing unusual about the leader of such an organisation speaking at a Palestinian solidarity event in Malappuram," SYM state president CT Shuhaim said in a statement.

Hamas is not an active or banned organisation in India. So, the presence of a Hamas leader in the event is not against law... Sangh parivar has been conspiring to label those standing with Palestine as terrorists by spreading false propaganda. By doing so, it is trying to suppress public protests against India's support to Israel," Shuhaim said.

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Dear Mummy,
Six years seem like a lifetime.
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devotional presence.
Loved & remembered by all as the
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GAYTRI & RAJESH KHANNA
& all Grand Children

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USHA JOSHI**
LEFT FOR HER
HEAVENLY ABODE
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Amitabh, Tania, Anu

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Lt Gen AK Suri,
Director General & Colonel Commandant Army Aviation Corps
And Members of Army Aviation Officers Association

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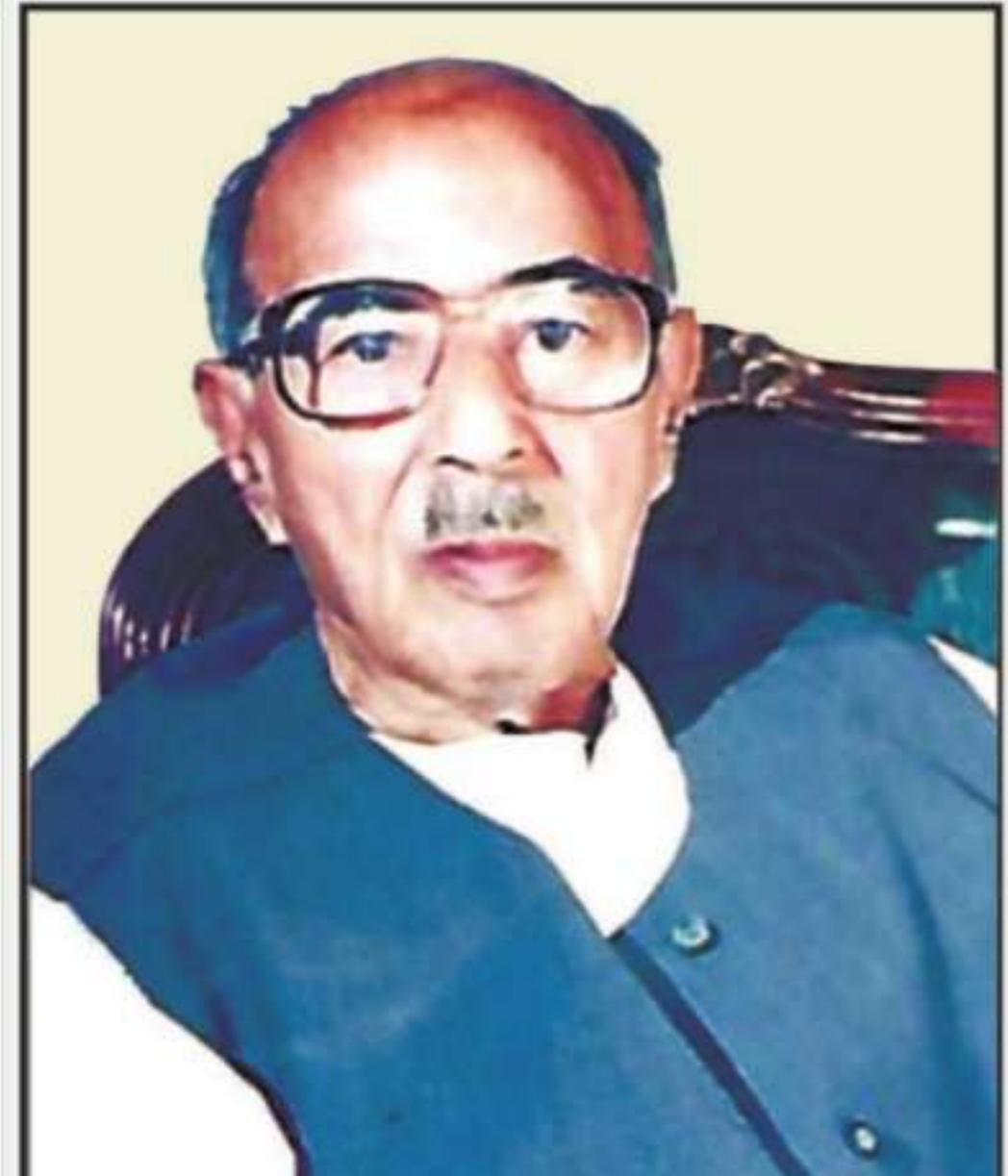
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You will forever remain in our hearts.

Deeply remembered by:

Prabha & Vijay Uppal

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You left us eight years ago and we miss you every minute. You were an embodiment of amazing courage, infinite compassion and boundless generosity. You taught us to strive for perfection and encouraged us to chase our dreams. You left us too soon but we know that in the end it is not the years in your life that count but the life in your years. Your ideals continue to guide us.

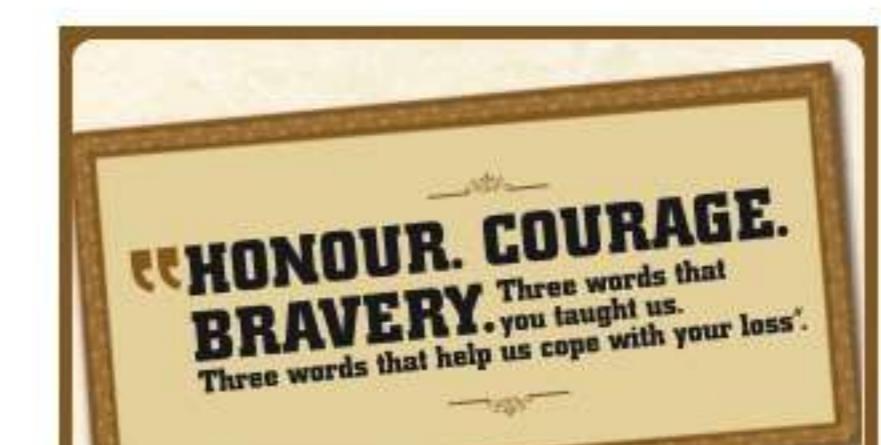
Deeply missed by: Vandana Jena (wife), Prakrit & Jennifer (son & daughter-in-law), Ankit & Isha (son & daughter-in-law), Alexander, Isabelle, Sophie (grandchildren)

Capt. Arjun Sardana

(04.12.1973 - 29.10.2004)



Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday. No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there. VP Sardana & Family, Grovers and Nagpals. # 9899704838



The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments that you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful. Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

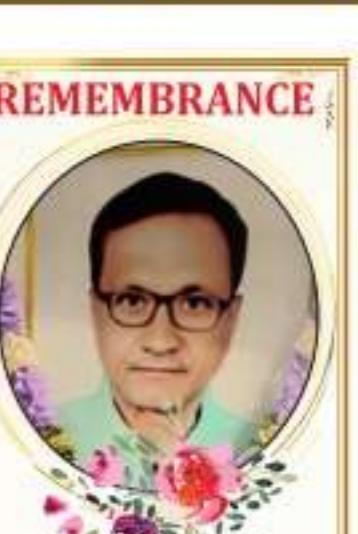
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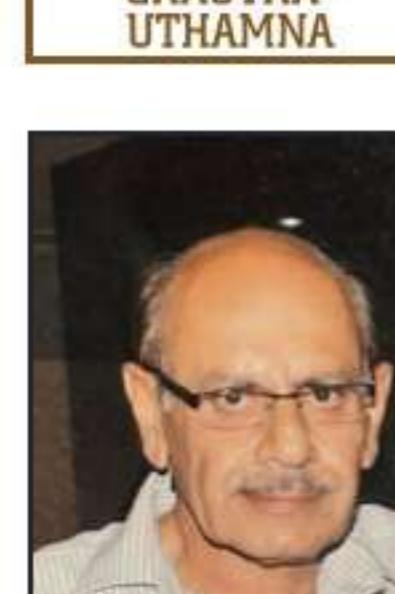
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SHRI ANIL SETH

You will always be part of us in our hearts and our prayers, we will miss you and fondly remember you in every moment of our life.

Fondly remembered by

Mona Seth (Mother)
Anju Seth (Wife)
Sahil and Siddhant Seth (Sons)
Ayesha Seth (Sister)
Anisha and Debashish Ghoshal (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Saina, Anya and Anavi (Nieces)

Chautha will be held on
30th October 2023
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Gurdwara,
Greater Kailash - I, New
Delhi - 110048 from 4-5pm

WB mantri daughter says ₹3.4cr earned from tuitions Agencies Claim Proof Of ₹95Cr Laundered

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



West Bengal minister Jyoti Priyadarshini Mallick has been remanded in the custody of ED till November 5

Rahman, according to ED sources, has been actively involved in the PDS distribution and owns several rice mills. Bakirub is also involved in Bangla film distribution and he and his associates are being probed for alleged trafficking of women. Other associates of the minister under investigation are Kali Das Saha who owns godowns and Mahendra Agarwal, an alleged broker.

At least four rice/flour mills have been identified for "direct" involvement in the PDS scam while seven others are being investigated for their "indirect" involvement. The agency is probing Saha and his web of companies. He is under investigation for allegedly using his godowns to hoard foodgrains meant for PDS supply.

Mallick was arrested on Friday and has been remanded in ED custody till November 5. The agency had told the court about the involvement of the minister and his family members with the shell companies that had allegedly received money from one of the accused in the PDS scam case.

Trinamool Congress had termed the arrest of the state minister as the Centre's "vendetta politics" and misuse of the central agency to disrupt the functioning of the state government.

Officially, Mum won't have Premier Padmini cabs from tomorrow

Mumbai:

For decades, a picture of Mumbai was incomplete without the city's Premier Padmini black-and-yellow taxis. These cabs were being overtaken by newer models and app-based services in the last few years—and, finally, the last one will be driven off the roads, officially, on Monday.

A transport department official said the last Premier Padmini was registered as a black-and-yellow taxi on October 29, 2003. The age limit for cabs in the city is 20 years.

"Yeh Mumbai ki shaan hai aur hamari jaan hai (it is the pride of Mumbai and life of mine)," said Prabhadevi resident Abdul Karim Karsekar, who owns the last registered Premier Padmini taxi of Mumbai (MH-01-JA-2556).

The 'kaali-peeli' reaching the end of the road, just weeks after the last iconic diesel-powered double-decker bus was phased out, has left transport enthusiasts heavy-hearted. Some want that at least one Premier Padmini be preserved on the road or in a museum.

In the 1970s, the model was rebranded as Premier President and subsequently as Premier Padmini.

Its production stopped in 2001, but a few that had remained unregistered got their taxi permits in 2003, he said, adding that the last one will be scrapped.



THE LAST ONE

A few years ago, the Mumbai Taximen's Union had petitioned the government to preserve at least one kaali-peeli, but without any success.

Its general secretary AL Quadros recalled that the Premier Padmini's journey as a taxi started in 1964 with the Fiat-1100 Delight, a powerful 1200-cc car that was small compared to "big taxis" like the Plymouth, Landmaster, Dodge, and Fiat 1100, which locals called 'dukkar Fiat'.

In the 1970s, the model was rebranded as Premier President and subsequently as Premier Padmini.

Its production stopped in 2001, but a few that had remained unregistered got their taxi permits in 2003, he said, adding that the last one will be scrapped.

Cops found that six persons died apparently due to consuming some poisonous substance, while one was found hanging. "A man, his wife, his parents, the couple's six-year-old son and two daughters aged 10 and 13 were found dead at their residence in Surdeshwar Apartment in Surat this afternoon. We are trying to ascertain the exact cause of their death," DCP (Zone-5) R P Barot said.

While the man — Manish Solanki (37) who worked as a contractor — was found hanging, the bodies of six members of his family, including three children, were found lying on the bed and the floor of the house. The six family members appeared to have died after consuming a poisonous substance, the official said.

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Raise jail term for food adulteration: Panel

Seeks Minimum Term Of 6 Mths, Fine Of ₹25,000

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com



The panel is said to have asked for the maximum jail sentence to be made the minimum sentence. The fine is proposed to be in addition to the jail term.

for the maximum jail sentence to be made the minimum sentence. The fine is proposed to be in addition to the jail term.

Not only is the fine sought to be doubled for sale of noxious food items and raised five-fold for adulteration but the enhanced fines proposed by the panel shall be the minimum amount to be fined.

In its draft report on the BNS Bill circulated to all MPs ahead of its adoption, the committee is believed to have impressed upon the need to make the penal provisions

against adulteration of food and drink as also sale of food or drink items that are unfit to consume, more stringent, citing the serious health problems that can result from the consumption of adulterated or sale of noxious food or drinks, and which may affect the public at large.

During deliberations, a near unanimous view emerged that consumption of noxious and adulterated food leads to adverse health consequences and can be fatal.

Domain experts also submitted before the panel that most of the cases under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 are acquitted because of procedural lapses in sample collection, etc.

Though the parliamentary standing committee had met on Friday to consider and adopt the reports on BNS, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Bill and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, the adoption of the reports was deferred on account of protests raised by MPs from opposition parties. The government is keen to introduce the three bills in Parliament in the winter session.

Expansion of Adani Group ports threat to security: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress Saturday cited reports on the Adani Group's growing share in port operations to sharpen its allegations of crony capitalism against the government, adding that this also posed a "potential threat to national security".

Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said the party had asked in the 100 posers it had put to the government in the party's 'Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun' series, how Adani became the largest ports operator "without engaging in any competitive bidding and with the help of government raids on owners of private ports — who miraculously decided to sell their assets thereafter to Adani".

"By brazenly handing control of a critical strategic sector to his close friend — one who faces serious accusations of criminality — the PM has made himself and India a global laughing stock," Ramesh said. He reiterated the party's call for a JPC to look into "the Adani MegaScam".

Customer deposits increased by 44% year on year (YoY), rising from Rs 1,14,004 crore as of September 30, 2022, to Rs 1,64,726 crore as of September 30, 2023, while loans

Amid reports of infighting in K'taka Cong, Sidda claims 'Op Lotus' is on

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Siddaramaiah (right) attended a dinner party hosted by the state home minister, where Shivakumar was absent, triggering further speculations of infighting within the Congress unit in Karnataka.

—

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar

—

mar

expressed concerns about a larger gambit, saying: "A big conspiracy is being hatched, but it will not bear fruit." Shivakumar too had alleged before that a team with in BJP was actively working

to destabilise the state government. He had claimed Congress legislators had informed him and the CM about who was in touch with them and the offers being made.

This comes amid speculation of infighting within the Congress unit in Karnataka, which gained traction following Siddaramaiah's attendance at a dinner party hosted on Friday by state home minister G Parameshwara, where Shivakumar was absent.

The dinner was organised on the same day when Mandya MLA Ravikumar Gowda claimed Shivakumar would become the CM after two-and-a-half years. Party insiders suggested the dinner aimed to pacify PWD minister Satish Jarkiholi, who has expressed

dissatisfaction with Shivakumar's increasing involvement in Belagavi politics. Satish and social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa attended the party. Satish reportedly plans to travel to Dubai with around 20 like-minded legislators to send a message to party leaders, although a previous trip to Myuru was cancelled after the intervention of the Congress high command.

Parameshwara denied any political discussion at the dinner, while Satish acknowledged: "There is no dissidence. We discussed various issues, but there's nothing special about it."

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said "INC MLAs are die-hard loyalists and will not be lured."

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Marathas chief beneficiary of EWS quota in Maharashtra

Mumbai: Even as the Maratha quota demand rages, data shows that the community is the biggest beneficiary of the quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in Maharashtra government jobs and educational institutions, reports Priyanka Kakodkar.

The 10% EWS quota was introduced by the Centre in 2019 for all sections that did not benefit from other quotas like SC, ST and OBC reservation and had an annual family income below Rs 8 lakh. In 2021, when the apex court struck down the Maratha quota, the state government allowed Marathas to avail of the EWS quota.

Data on admissions to educational institutions under the EWS quota in the state through its Common Entrance Test (CET) in 2022 showed that the largest share of candidates or 78.6% were from the Maratha community. Of the total 20,117 admissions, an estimated 15,807 were from the Maratha community and only 4,310 were from other communities. The data was presented to the state's cabinet sub-committee on Maratha reservations.

In 2023, as many as 76.7% of admissions under the EWS quota through the CET were from the Maratha community. Of the 11,302 admis-

| EWS QUOTA ADMISSIONS THROUGH CET | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Year | Total admissions | Maratha entrants | Entrants from other communities |
| 2022 | 20,117 | 15,807 (78.6%) | 4,310 (21.4 %) |
| 2023 | 11,302 | 8,664 (76.7%) | 2,638 (23.3%) |

sions, 8,664 were from the Maratha community and only 2,638 were from other communities.

Similarly, in the state government jobs filled through the EWS till between 2019 and 2022, 84.3% of the openings went to candidates from the Maratha community, the data shows. Of the 650 jobs filled through the MPSC through the EWS quota between 2019 and 2022, as many as 548 were from the Maratha community. Only 102 were from other communities.

However, leaders of the community said that the EWS quota puts Marathas in competition with other minority communities for the quota which is why they want a separate quota.

Guptas were evasive in 3 rounds of interrogation, says ED, justifies arrest

►Continued from P1

The university had in a statement on Friday clarified that the Guptas were among the 200 donors of Ashoka University when it was founded and their donations were treated as purely philanthropic acts.

Searches on the premises of Guptas and the university began on Friday and are still continuing, with the agency trying to collect more evidence of money laundering. The searches were carried out in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh and a few places in Haryana.

According to the remand note submitted by the agency before the special PMLA court in Chandigarh on Saturday, the ED has justified the arrest of Guptas by claiming they were evasive despite having been interrogated thrice with regard to the transactions under the scanner. The agency pointed out that it had recorded their statements twice last year and again for the third time in March this year.

Vietnamese national held with liquor in Bihar's Bodh Gaya

Gaya: Security personnel at Mahabodhi Mahavihara at Bodh Gaya in dry Bihar arrested a Vietnam national after he was found carrying three liquor bottles on Friday evening, reports Alok Kumar.

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World should not buy into justification of terror: India

India's Vote Was More In Tandem With Its Quad Partners

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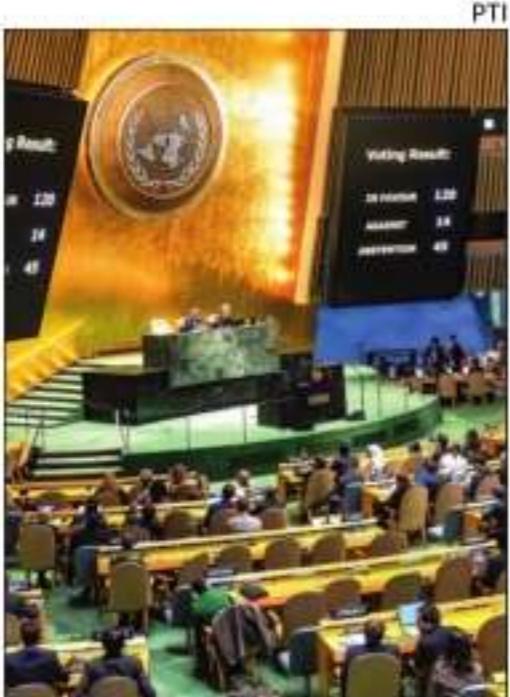
New Delhi: Explaining its abstention from voting on a resolution in the UNGA for a humanitarian truce in Gaza, India reiterated its strong condemnation of terrorism, saying it's a malignancy and knows no borders, nationality or race. "The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts. Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism," it said.

The resolution did not condemn the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israel.

While India voted in favour of an amendment moved by Canada that explicitly condemned Hamas, it did not name Hamas in its explanation of vote in which it said that the terror attacks in Israel on October 7 were shocking and deserved condemnation, while calling for immediate and unconditional release of hostages. Although non-binding, resolutions passed by the General Assembly are seen as an indication of the global mood.

Looking to balance its position, the government reiterated its concern over the "astounding" loss of civilian lives, including those of women and children, saying the escalation of hostilities in the region will only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and that it's necessary for "all parties to display the utmost responsibility".

India was among the few major countries like Japan, Germany and UK that didn't back the resolution meant to facilitate distribution of humanitarian assistance in Ga-



Justifying its decision to abstain, India urged the parties in its explanation of vote to "de-escalate, eschew violence and work towards creating conditions for early resumption of direct peace negotiations".

"Casualties in the ongoing conflict in Gaza are a telling, serious and continuing concern. Civilians, especially women and children, are paying with their lives. This humanitarian crisis needs to be addressed. We welcome the international community's de-escalation efforts and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. India too has contributed to this effort," it said, while reiterating support for the

two-state solution.

In a carefully worded statement, and remarks that could be applied to both sides, the government also denounced violence, especially when it happens on a scale and intensity that's an affront to basic human values. "Violence as a means to achieve political objectives damages indiscriminately, and does not pave the way for any durable solutions," it said.

With the resolution not naming Hamas or condemning its terror attack on Israel, the US had accused its Arab allies of empowering Hamas by tabling the same. The resolution had been proposed by Jordan in the General Assembly after four attempts to arrive at a consensus on the Gaza situation in the Security Council failed.

Significantly, India's vote was more in tandem with its Quad partners than those in other major multilateral forums it has longstanding engagements with. India's vote was at variance with all its SCO and BIMSTEC partners, apart from those of BRICS and SAARC. In Quad, while the US voted against the resolution, Japan and Australia abstained like India.

Looking to balance its position, the government reiterated its concern over the

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Government of India
Ministry of Defence Department of Defence Production CORRIGENDUM

Applications for the post of Director (Submarine & Heavy Engineering), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, a schedule 'A' CPSE.

In partial modification of Qualification Criteria in para III of Job Description for the post of Director (Submarine & Heavy Engineering), MDL, issued vide Advertisement No. 21/2023 dated 13.10.2023 the additional disciplines in "Electrical/ Electronics/ Production Engineering" have been added in Qualification. The Qualification thus stands modified as under:-

| Existing | Amended |
|--|--|
| Applicant should be a Mechanical or Naval Architecture or Marine Engineering graduate from a recognized University/ Institution with good academic record. | Applicant should be an Engineering graduate in Mechanical / Marine/ Naval Architecture/ Electrical /Electronics / Production Engineering discipline with good academic record from a recognized University/ Institution. |
| Applicants holding MBA/ Post Graduate Diploma in management will have an added advantage. | Applicants holding MBA/ Post Graduate Diploma in management will have an added advantage. |

Further the last date for submission of application also stands extended to 30th November, 2023 instead of 13th November, 2023
Other contents/ terms and conditions of the job description for the post, circulated on 13.10.2023, will remain unchanged.

(Veena Kalra)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Advt. No.:HRI/02/2023

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) invites applications for the post of

DIRECTOR

Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

(A grant-in-aid Autonomous Institution under DAE)

Last date for receipt of applications is 30.11.2023

For details, please visit:

1. www.dae.gov.in or www.hri.res.in >> Advertisements or
2. Department of Personnel and Training's Website <http://dopt.gov.in/> >> Notifications >> Vacancy Circular >> Issued by other Min/Dept

Latest in a string of deaths at ArcelorMittal Temirtau sites

► Continued from P1

The company said it had suspended operation of coal mines for 24 hours for gas protection checks.

"ArcelorMittal can also confirm, as communicated earlier today by the government of Kazakhstan, that the two parties have been in discussions concerning the future of ArcelorMittal Temirtau and recently signed a preliminary agreement for a transaction that will transfer ownership to the Republic of Kazakhstan," the miner said.

In another twist in the case, TMC, which had kept quiet on the matter against their vocal MP, appeared to be coming out in her support by dismissing the parliamentary probe as "politically motivated", according to news reports.

While admitting that she shared her Lok Sabha ID with Hiranandani, Moitra also accepted that she had taken gifts like scarves from the businessman, but denied having taken cash.

Dubey, however, said Moitra's denial that she took cash from Hiranandani does not take away from the seriousness of the case against her. He posted a copy of the contract MPs sign with the National Informatics Centre, which lays down that sharing login ID with others is forbidden



Mahua says accepted gifts from Hiranandani, denies taking cash

► Continued from P1

JP MP Nishikant Dubey and advocate Jay Anant Dehdrai had accused TMC MP Mahua Moitra of asking questions targeting the Adani Group at the instance of its business rival Hiranandani and, in return, getting favours from the latter.

In another twist in the case, TMC, which had kept quiet on the matter against their vocal MP, appeared to be coming out in her support by dismissing the parliamentary probe as "politically motivated", according to news reports.

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her if she had committed irregularity.

If the parliamentary committee has summoned someone, then they should go and make their point. Even if she does not accept her mistakes, then too, the truth cannot be hidden," he said.

In the latest letter, the committee has said the request for any further extension for her appearance date will not be entertained. "Honorable chairman has directed the undersigned to convey to you that keeping in view the seriousness of the matter, having implications on the dignity of Parliament as well as its members, any further request for extension of date for appearing before the committee or re-scheduling the sitting of the committee for any reason whatsoever would not be entertained."

Union minister Anurag Thakur was also critical of Mahua for skipping the hearing of the ethics committee and asserted that denials and absence would not help

Mitti Ko Naman Veeron Ko Vandan MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Amrit Kalash Yatra and Amrit Mahotsav Closing Ceremony

30th & 31st October, 2023
Kartavyapath, India Gate, Delhi



"The Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is going to further strengthen our sense of unity and integrity. I am confident that under this Amrit Vatika will be created from the soil collected from across the country, which will realise the vision of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Meri Maati Mera Desh has become a mass movement

- More than 2 Lakh events organised nationwide
- 4 Crore selfies uploaded on yuva.gov.in
- Participation from more than 7,000 Blocks
- 2,33,000 Shilaphalakam erected
- 23 Crore 60 Lakh tree plantation drives
- 2 Lakh 63 Thousand Amrit Vatikas created
- Amrit Vatika will be constructed on Kartavyapath with the sacred soil brought in 8500 Amrit Kalash from across the country



Inauguration of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)

31st October 2023 | 4:00 pm | Kartavyapath, India Gate, Delhi

'Mera Yuva Bharat' is an autonomous body that will serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development.

Chief Guest

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

Event highlights

Amrit Mahotsav Memorial creation on Kartavyapath | Creation of Amrit Vatika Light & Sound Show | Cultural Extravaganza | Amrit Awards Ceremony

All are invited!

Watch the live telecast on DD News

Fire at Kullu Dussehra ground, deities' tents charred

Around 13 tents of local deities, along with some temporary shops, were gutted in a major fire that broke out early Saturday at Dhalpur ground during the ongoing international Dussehra festival of Kullu. The blaze occurred around 2am and the administration immediately launched an operation to control the flames. No casualties took place even as some cops sustained injuries while rescuing people. In the history of Kullu Dussehra, this is the first time that such an accident occurred. TNN


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 (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
 Taramani, Chennai - 600 113

Advt. No. 10/2023-24

| Name of the Post | No. of Post | Reservation | | | | | PwD |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pay Level - 14 (Rs.144200 - 211800) | (s) | SC | ST | OBC | EWS | UR | UR |
| Based on Direct Recruitment | 02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1* |
| Professor of Mechanical Engineering | 02 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Computer Science & Engineering | 02 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Education | 02 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Electrical Engineering | 01 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Educational Media and Technology | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Educational Management and Applied Science | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Rural and Entrepreneurship Development | 03 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Curriculum Development, Planning and Coordination | 01 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1 |

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*Note: Reservation for PwD – Visual Impairment

Note: Candidate shall apply for the post of Professor through Direct Recruitment / On Deputation basis/ / Professor of Practice

The selection of Professor on Deputation Basis/ Professor of Practice shall be from the following domain: (a) Computer Science (AI) (b) Drone / Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; (c) Electronics Engineering; (d) Mechanical Engineering; (e) Media / VR / AR; and (f) Electrical Engineering

Professor on Deputation: The scale of Professor level – Level 14 will be paid to the faculty on deputation.

Professor of Practice: Full-time engagement: Consolidated amount, mutually agreed between the institution and expert. Gross salary ranges from Rs.2,50,000/- to 3,00,000/- per month.

DIRECTOR

Doc suspended for slapping patient in trauma centre: A doctor at Indore's MY hospital was suspended on Saturday for slapping an injured patient at the trauma centre. A preliminary probe has revealed that the doctor was upset because the patient and his family had not disclosed that he had a contagious disease. TNN

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162

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may also contact the following officials to

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2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-

2535631. Office Address: Office of the

PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan.

Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75233837. Brief

Description of Item: (I) Set of Stainless

Steel Hardware Items for WAG-9HC to

CLW Drg/Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/040

Alt-14. [Each set is a loco set consisting of

74 items as per set details attached].

[Warranty Period]: 72 Months after the

date of delivery. (ii) Stainless Steel

Hardware Items for ELAUA/DKAE as per

Drg/Specn. No: CLW/MS/3/040 Alt-14.

[Each set is a loco set consisting of 23 items

per set details attached]. [Warranty

Period]: 72 Months after the date of

delivery. Quantity: (I) 41.900 Set. (II)

96.00 Set. Earnest Money Deposit

(Rupees): ₹348400. Tender Closing

Date & Time (IST): 01/12/2023 at 11:00

AM.

PR/215 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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Dispute resolution portal for cross-border online biz complaints

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

FRAUD FIGHT**WHY THE NEED TO ADDRESS CROSS-BORDER CONSUMERS' GRIEVANCES**

Globally cross-border e-commerce shipments increased from 15% (2015) to 22% (2022)

Proportion of total e-commerce in India is 26%

International online frauds increased from 15,000 (2015) to 61,000 (2020)

2/3rd of global population are internet users

tries on how to deal with cross-jurisdictional issues and technology. India has taken the initiative after learning from its experience of resolving consumer complaints lodged through the national consumer helpline (NCH).

Teresa Moreira, head of consumer and competition at UNCTAD, congratulated the consumer affairs department for taking the initiative and offered help for the framing of the online platform.

Sources said India will develop a pilot among few countries on how to deal with cross-jurisdictional issues and technology. India has taken the initiative after learning from its experience of resolving consumer complaints lodged through the national consumer helpline (NCH). The NCH has a convergence model, which is an out-of-court dispute resolution mechanism.

Officials said the framework to resolve issues will bring consumers and companies from across the globe on to one platform to avoid legal disputes, which is more time-taking.

Amid capex boom, govt eyes umbrella infra projects body

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com



The PMO wants to ensure that infra projects have maximum impact on the economy and quality of life

New Delhi: As the government continues its thrust on infrastructure development and manifold hike in investment, the Centre has started working on setting up a single agency for infrastructure planning, monitoring and their evaluation.

The PMO is working on this plan with an aim to ensure that infrastructure projects have maximum impact on the economy, job creation, ease of living and quality of life, sources said. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been asked to come up with an initial framework.

The development comes at a time when the Centre has increased the allocation of capital expenditure to Rs 10 lakh crore for the current financial year, as compared to Rs 2.6 lakh crore in 2017-18. Officials said the trend of high allocation for capital expenditure is likely to continue.

"Since resources are limited, it's important to have integrated planning and monitoring of all projects by one agency. But the

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Advt. No. 10/2023-24

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| Professor of Computer Science & Engineering | 02 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Education | 02 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Electrical Engineering | 01 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Educational Media and Technology | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Educational Management and Applied Science | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Rural and Entrepreneurship Development | 03 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering | 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor of Curriculum Development, Planning and Coordination | 01 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1 |

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Lehenga with veil, garba to Latin beat: The big fat blended wedding is here

Instead of two separate ceremonies, cross-cultural couples are increasingly embracing nuptials that are a mashup of two traditions

Ketaki.Desai@timesgroup.com

Therapist Vanessa DeLappe was on a night out when a friend bumped into someone she knew. "Are you okay with a different religion," the friend asked her out of nowhere. DeLappe was confused, but less so when Nayan Patel came over. They spent the night talking, closing out the bar they were at. Less than a year into dating, she visited his family in India. And in 2022, they had a beautiful wedding that combined and celebrated Patel's Indian and DeLappe's Mexican heritage through food, music and blending religious ceremonies together. Suffice it to say, she was okay with a different religion.

As multicultural weddings become more common, ceremonies are getting a bit of a revamp. While some couples still opt for the 'one for you and one for me' model where there are different ceremonies to honour the two cultures, more and more young people are interested in finding respectful ways of combining them.

Elizabeth Priya Kumar is a New York-based wedding planner who specialises in south Asian and multicultural weddings. One of her first weddings was of a Gujarati man and a bride who was half Japanese and half Colombian. "In one day, she changed from a lehenga to a white wedding dress to a kimono. That day, I realised I could do anything," she laughs. At a recent wedding at Lake Como in Italy, food was



GLOBAL KNOTS: Meher wore a fusion lehenga for her nikah-shaadi while Vanessa and Nayan (left) Indo-Latin ceremony had a fusion menu as well as music

used to bring the couple's cultures together — butter chicken burrata was served to the guests of the 'pucca Punjabi' groom and Italian bride. At an upcoming wedding in Mexico, a 'Bollywood bodega' will riff on the archetypical New York City bodega (convenience store) with shelves piled with Parle G and Limca.

She says that talking to families about what is important to them is tantamount. "Often, the non-Indian side is very enamoured by Indian weddings and how elaborate they are. Some-

times they don't even want to add anything from their side," she says. In most cases, though, there is a desire to blend religions and cultures together. Kumar is getting married soon herself — to a Trinidadian guy in the cannabis industry (every Indian parent's dream, she jokes).

For Meher Mumtaz Kachwala, her wedding to Neil Bhatt was an attempt to blend Hindu and Muslim rituals. "When I started dating Neil, one of the first things we talked about was religion. We both felt that we should be free to do whatever we want as long as we are not imposing things on the other or making each other feel left out," says Kachwala, whose parents are a non-Indian couple as well.

They had both a nikah and shaadi, but tried to showcase the similarities in the rituals. They played the same song during both bidaais, they had a female imam who allowed Kachwala's dad to pray for them, while Bhatt's dad did the same during the Hindu shaadi. Plus, they had very similar looking booklets explaining the rituals to their guests. "It was even surprising to me how similar the ceremonies actually are. Both of them start with prayer and end with bidding goodbye," she adds. Their shared love of old Hindi film songs was also a recurring theme over the course of the wedding.

Physician Avni Patel's spiritual connection to Lauren Rios, a therapist and social worker, began the night they met at a Boston bar: "I asked Lo if she wanted to talk outside because it was so loud, and we talked for hours on end — about our thoughts on love, the universe being one of many universes and how small we are, the meaning and purpose of dreaming, black holes, you name it. And we haven't stopped talking since," Avni says. "So, instead of having a particular religion be the core of our wedding we chose to make our day about our spiritual connection."

While they did have a mehendi and a tying of the knot ritual during the ceremony, food and clothes were used to showcase their cultures. "Our dessert table was catered by Something Meetha which did a stellar job with their modern mixed takes of Indo-western desserts. The mango panna cotta and ras malai tres leches were a hit," she says. The bride changed from western attire to lehenga for the reception.

Their parents exchanged dance partners with each other, while Avni's mum sang 'Tera mujhse hai pehle ka naata koi' for the couple.

Jersey City-based wedding planner Sneha Diwan says a family meeting at the beginning of the planning process is a must. "If there's anything that's non-negotiable for the families, we try our best to incorporate that. Also, a lot depends on who is paying for the wedding," she says. Indian parents tend to have opinions (shocker!) on food, rituals and insist on inviting random uncles you met when you were three. This family meeting also helps the non-Indian side understand the rituals, and ask any questions they may have.

DeLappe, whose wedding Diwan both planned and even officiated, thinks of a moment from that day frequently — their families were on the dance floor and her in-laws were performing garba to a Latin song by Selena. "To see my family members engaging with each other's cultures

Food is also used to bring the couple's cultures together. For instance, serving butter chicken burrata to the guests of the pucca Punjabi groom and Italian bride

in this way was beautiful," she says. While her mother-in-law was supportive of their blended wedding, there was a certain degree of nervousness. "Later, my mother-in-law said to me, 'I didn't understand it then, but I do now.' They had a baarat but also a Mexican wedding procession and their guests munched on fusion dishes like chaat and churros and paneer taquitos.

DeLappe gets emotional when she talks about the beauty of people from different cultures getting together. "I didn't just get a husband but a whole family out of this. That's such a big part of multicultural families," says the therapist, while noting that while both families are different, her mother-in-law calls her boisterous mom her 'party friend' now. Diwan adds, "To be able to create something like that is so special."



Alpana Sharma runs a support group for parents whose kids have SMA

Why parents of children with rare genetic diseases have turned activists

Desperate parents are banding together to file PILs, appeal to pharma companies and governments to get access to affordable treatment

Himanshi.Dhawan@timesgroup.com

Parenting is tough for most people but for those whose children have rare genetic and often life-threatening diseases, it is extra hard and lonely. They have to navigate hospitals, pore over medical and lab reports, and worry about how they're going to pay for treatment, that is if the drug is even available in India.

Necessity has turned many of them into activists who knock on court-room doors, plead with governments and pharma companies and join forces to give each other support. Like Bengaluru-based Prasanna Shirol, who quit his marketing job to turn to advocacy for rare diseases, or fashion merchandiser Shikha Methramani, who runs a support group for parents of children diagnosed with a genetic disease called Prader-Willi Syndrome.

One such group of desperate parents reached the Supreme Court earlier this month seeking relief for their children who are afflicted by muscular dystrophy. Highlighting the lack of diagnostic facilities and cost of treatment (Rs 2-3 crore a year), the parents have sought a government-backed national programme for muscular dystrophy that would make genetic testing mandatory and reduce costs.

THEIR LIFE'S WORK
Shirol's daughter Nidhi was born in 1999, but it was only eight years later that doctors managed to diagnose her with Pompe disease. "Within the first few months, we understood something was wrong. She was very weak and thin and would have frequent bouts of pneumonia. Doctors later told us that it was incurable," he recalls.

Shirol and his wife spent years researching Nidhi's condition in medical journals and carrying reports from one medical specialist to another. He refused promotions at



PERSISTENT PARENTS: Prasanna Shirol's daughter Nidhi suffers from Pompe disease, which inspired him to start an advocacy organisation

work to prioritise Nidhi's care and used advocacy to get her accepted in a clinical trial. "I used my savings, took out loans, and borrowed from friends for her treatment. In the process, I realised that is extremely hard to do this alone," he says. He first started a parent support group and then in 2014, he established the Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) that has worked on sensitising the government on rare diseases, approaching courts and pharma companies for price control on exorbitant drugs.

Mumbai resident Alpana Sharma too recognised the power of a collective. Nine months after her son Aarav's birth in 2012, he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). "Our world was shattered. My pillow would be drenched with tears every night as I sat up thinking about the future. It was a very dark period. I kept thinking 'why me? why my child,'" says the former professor of business management and communications.

SMA is an extremely rare degenerative genetically inherited neuromuscular disease that affects children and adults. It results in weakness and wasting muscles that worsen with age. On the insistence of her family that has many doctors, she

attended an SMA conference in the US. "The room was filled with people who had SMA but were doctors and lawyers. I finally saw hope," she says. She also saw how an SMA support group helped people find the right doctors and treatments. "I came back to India in 2014 and started a Facebook page. Five families joined me. Today, there are 1,200 members connected to the support group CureSMA Foundation of India," she says.

BATTLING STIGMA
Treatment and management of these rare diseases is a challenge but so is the stigma associated with them. Many well-meaning relatives and neighbours have offered unsolicited advice like "try for another child" to opinions like the child is "pichle janam ka paap" (a curse from a previous birth) to prayers and totems from babas and fakirs.

NOT SO RARE
India defines rare disease as a health condition that affects a small number of people. Low prevalence also means lack of awareness among medical practitioners, low testing and high cost of treatment, that is often not even available in India. Ironically, rare diseases are not that rare as collectively they impact 6-8% of the

population. One in 20 Indians or an estimated 7 crore people are affected by them, and even more worryingly there is a 40% chance of error in diagnosis during the first doctor visit, according to government data.

FIRST HURDLE IS DIAGNOSIS

Genetic testing is not mandatory or even available in many parts of the country nor is prenatal screening prioritised. Businessman Vikas Bhatia, 53, has faced the consequences of this. Between 1998-2010, he had three sons, all born with a metabolic disorder called Pyruvate Carboxylase Deficiency. All three died in infancy. Despite this triple tragedy, the Jaipur-based Bhatia and his wife decided to work towards creating awareness as they realised how important early treatment is in stopping the spread of the disease and saving the child. He started the Metabolic Errors and Rare Diseases Organisation of India (MERD India). Over the years, its awareness campaigns have helped diagnose over 100 children. "We act as a bridge between doctors and patients," he says. Bhatia has also been actively campaigning for mandatory genetic testing and prenatal screening.

Some diseases are even harder to detect than others. Like Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) where children only show symptoms of weakness. It is a genetic disorder that can cause life-threatening obesity, basically a patient can eat themselves to death. Methramani says, "This is a challenging disorder because children with PWS don't look like special children. It is not a visible disability, but it is very hard to control. The child is trying to control addiction like alcohol and drugs, except food is easily available everywhere. There is no cure but there are ways to manage the disease with growth hormone therapy, diet management, and exercise."

EXPENSIVE DRUGS
Even when there are drugs, they can be prohibitively expensive or not available in India. For instance, there are only three drugs that have

proven to be lifesaving and life-altering treatments for SMA. Of these, one injection can cost as much as Rs 16.5 crore. The only drug available in India costs Rs 72 lakh a year for the first two years, and then Rs 56 lakh for subsequent years. It took months of advocacy by CureSMA Foundation of India to get approval for sale of the drug in India.

The group has also succeeded in convincing the Kerala government to set up a medical board and put in place a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide free treatment to children impacted by SMA in the state. Under the scheme, about 40 children are receiving drugs, surgery and prenatal screening.

In 2014, with the advocacy of several parent groups including ORDI, the Delhi high court asked the state government to provide free treatment to a rickshaw-puller's son who was suffering from Gaucher's disease. In 2016, ORDI helped parents whose children are affected by Lysosomal Storage Disorder move court for free treatment from the Karnataka government.

A landmark moment for these organisations was when the government brought in a policy for rare diseases — operational since 2021 — which recognises the burden of treatment costs and makes provisions for government grants and crowdsourcing of funds.

But there are more setbacks than successes. CureSMA Foundation tried to get GST exemption for a drug available in the Indian market, but the plea was rejected by the Supreme Court. Yet these parents refuse to give up.

Birdwatching for the urban optimist

Even dense crowded cities like Mumbai can surprise you with their avian diversity

Rehana Munir

While Mumbai's air has been dramatically distressing this October, the month personally began with a fabulous omen: a Eurasian hoopoe — straight out of Salman Rushdie's 'Haroun and the Sea of Stories' — settled on one of the looping cables in the skyscape outside my window.



swadeshi protests and snobbish nawabs — Ali's ornithological labour makes for fascinating reading, not least because he did it scientifically, not sentimentally. For a man who made his mark in the global naturalist community, it was heart-warming to read about his local roots. His childhood in Girgaum and later years in Pali Hill — and all the time spent in his wife's beachside cottage at Kihim (near Alibaug), where he did his pioneering research on the baya weaverbird.

LIFE IN THE MARGINS

It was similarly a treat to watch the ponderous 'All That Breathes', the Oscar-nominated documentary about two sensitive brothers from North Delhi, Saad and Nadeem, and an endearing sidekick, Salik, who, despite their modest means and precarious social identities, care for the kites that routinely fall from the pollution-choked skies around them. The marginalised in human society caring for vulnerable animals — the metaphor is moving and largely communicated through soulful visuals and philosophical dialogue.

From David Attenborough to Shaunak Sen — this documentary's director — it is impossible now to talk about nature without addressing ecological disaster. But hope, like greed and idiocy, is a deeply human commodity. The end credits of Sen's film — a slow pan of kites perched on branches — are imprinted in my bird-addled brain. Extinction is not top of mind; evolution is.

PINK IS THE NEW BLACK

Enthusiasts like myself are excited about the flamingo season coming up in Mumbai. It's when lesser and greater flamingos fly in largely from Gujarat and Rajasthan to feast on



Eurasian hoopoes are usually spotted in the Himalayas, so a sighting in Mumbai classifies as a magic-real thrill

blue-algae rich waters in Thane Creek and Sewri Bay. Ironically, it is industrial pollution that makes the waters here rich in flamingo food. Sadly, construction activities in the area — like the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link — pose a serious threat to this migration in the future. For now, it's a pleasure to take a boat ride at the Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Centre in Alibaug, where the birds fly parallel to your boat — gliding ballerinas in very stiff tutus.

I became predictably obsessed with the four hatchlings who flaunted an inter-species, inter-galactic appearance bonsai versions of the 'Stranger Things' monsters. What happened next is a hard lesson for soft-hearted naturalists: nature can be brutal. One morning, there was carnage. The kites that rule the airspace around my building had found the nest, and the jungle crow parents had to hastily relocate.

Despite the city's construction mania, oriental magpie robins still whistle their Disney tunes. ('Merlin' is a great app for identifying birdsong.) Drongos, with their forked tails and glistening bodies, behave like fish who want to be gymnasts. Golden orioles streak across the sky like flying taxis. And coppersmith barbets bask in the glory of their "official bird" status, which should by rights go to the crow, Mumbai's spirit animal.

Every so often, these feathered ambassadors of hope — residents of the planet for millions of years before us — come right up to our windows with literal and metaphorical offerings. How lucky are we?

Rehana Munir is a Mumbai-based novelist and columnist

A DAY In The Life Of

Kritika.Sharma
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Breathing in the crisp mountain air, enjoying a garam chai as your nose goes pink in the cold, walking under majestic cedar trees...what's not to love about the mountains, right? But that's for tourists. All that Pradeep Sangwan, founder of non-profit Healing Himalayas, sees is the mountain garbage that he and his team have to clean up after the visitors have left.

On a Sunday morning in Shimla, this reporter accompanied Sangwan and around 50 volunteers, mostly students from local colleges, as they took up the task of cleaning one of the busiest tourist stretches in the hill town. "The idea behind this drive is not just to clean up, but to educate

**Pradeep Sangwan,
who cleans up
the hills, one
trek at a time**

people so that they change their mindsets," he tells volunteers before they head out at 10 am on a pleasant October day. Wearing gloves and carrying a gunny sack, the volunteers get to work. The idea is to rid a 6-km stretch of snack packets, bottles, spoons etc. Ironically during the drive, many tourists stop by and compliment the group for their efforts. "If tourists cleaned up after themselves, we won't need to do this," Sangwan points out.

At the end of the three-hour drive, the group has collected 90 bags of garbage, most of which is non-recyclable waste. The bags are loaded into a truck and sent to a local facility where the waste will be converted into fuel for the cement plant. After the clean-up, Sangwan meets with local officials to discuss waste management followed by

lunch with the team. It's 3 pm but Sangwan's day is not done just yet. He moves on to attend a meeting to schedule another cleaning drive later in the month.

GREEN GANG: Volunteers join Pradeep Sangwan (middle) on the clean-up drives



Winter is a busy time for the team, as tourist inflow goes up after the monsoon lull. Next up is a 21-day clean-up drive in the Parvati Valley. "Our job does not end with collecting. The real challenge is waste management," says Sangwan. Back when there were no recycling facilities, locals would simply burn the waste. To solve this problem, Sangwan's team has established material recycling facilities (MRFs) in five locations in Himachal Pradesh — Narkanda in Shimla, Tabo in Spiti, Pangi and Rakcham in Kinnaur district and Mansari in Manali. These MRFs, which collect 4.5 tons of waste a day altogether, also generate employment for the local community and the revenue generated through these units is used to pay salaries of the locals employed.

Sangwan and his team are greatly motivated by this. So far, his organisation has trekked over 10,000 kilometers and cleaned over 700 tons of waste, but there is no stopping just yet, as they have more mountains to climb and clean.

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE



Anindya Chattopadhyay

Pitch comes in focus as India take on England

Partha.Bhaduri@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: Can the pitch here introduce an element of uncertainty in India's dominant run? Captain Rohit Sharma, coach Rahul Dravid, ace finger spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and bowling coach Paras Mhambre spent quite a bit of time with the curator and ground staff on Saturday.

At one point, the captain didn't look too happy with the state of things and pointed out certain areas of the pitch, even bending down and feeling some areas with

his hands as local staff looked on. Shubman Gill too carried out his own inspection later. Ground staff subsequently were seen working on things till well past the team had finished its nets.

Earlier this year in January, after a low-scoring T20I game against New Zealand, Hardik Pandya had termed the Lucknow surface "a shocker of a pitch". The square has been relaid since then, and India will be hoping the red-soil surface, on which two World Cup games have already been placed, doesn't act up or have in-

consistent bounce.

This is the same pitch on which South Africa scored 311/7 batting first against Australia on October 12, so there are runs in it, though the Aussie batters couldn't get going later on.

The lack of Hardik Pandya means India have to drop either Mohammed Shami — who took a fifer in the previous game against New Zealand in Dharamshala — or Mohammed Siraj to accommodate an extra spinner on this supposedly slow surface. Ashwin was the only bowler on view in the bowling nets, but it was a short stint.

While teams like England chop and change incessantly to break a rut and dig an even bigger hole for themselves, India seem complete — they can walk into this game with three seamers if they wanted,

or three spinners if they wanted, or a batter less if they really wanted to test themselves, and either way seem dominant.

The captain has shown he is willing to retain a winning combination, but it seems anyone from the bench is strong enough to just walk into this side.

Asked to explain why this Indian seemed to have an extra edge to it, and why it looked different to sides from the past, the unflappable KL Rahul said, "As an outsider if I have to view the team, I think it's just how we've been really aggressive. Our preparations have been really, really good and very particular, very spot-on, at least from the time I've come back into the team (he injured himself during the IPL) since the Asia Cup."

"The players have got enough

chances and enough time in their particular role. It goes down to preparation. We've prepared really well. So that's where the confidence is coming from."

England, meanwhile, are the opposite. A glorious white-ball era is threatening to come to a miserable end, and now it's all about picking up the pieces.

Assistant coach Marcus Trescothick, while vehemently denying that England had de-prioritized the ODI format, didn't mince his words when he said, "(Slow wickets) have always been a challenge for us. (The game) will be good preparation for some of the boys who will be back in January for the Test series. We haven't got the runs. We haven't got the backing. We're all feeling the heat and stuff."

DOMINANCE OF THE BAT

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The ongoing ODI World Cup in India has seen a deluge of runs, with teams posting totals in excess of 350 with frequent regularity. Already, more than 1,300 fours and 350 sixes have been hit in the tournament. There have been centuries galore, the fastest century record at a 50-over World Cup has been broken twice in the tournament, the highest team total record (in ODI World Cups) has also been set, and teams have been going hell for leather right from the start. So what are the reasons behind such dominance? *TOI* takes a look...

Placid, paata pitches on offer

The primary reason are the pitches that have been served up. The Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi has seen runs score at breakneck pace in the ongoing World Cup. The highest team total record (428/5) was posted at the Kotla by South Africa against Sri Lanka. Aiden Markram scored



MAKING MERRY:

Rachin Ravindra on way to his second ton of the WC as New Zealand all but chased Australia's 388 in Dharamshala on Saturday

the fastest century (off 49 balls) in World Cup history in the same match, before Glenn Maxwell broke the record (40 balls) against Netherlands on the same ground. There is no semblance of turn, swing or seam, as the hapless bowlers have no place to hide. Bangalore's Chinnaswamy Stadium, a small ground, has also seen the bat holding sway.

Then there are centres like Chennai's Chidambaram Stadium, which tradition-

ally help spinners, or Dharamshala's HPCA Stadium, where the fast bowlers get appreciable movement. Other than the India-Australia match in Chennai, where the tweakers ruled, the wickets on offer at Chidambaram have not maintained their customary nature. Same is the case with the HPCA Stadium, where Australia and New Zealand posted the highest match aggregate (771/19) in a World Cup game. Something for the bowlers in the wicket

A COMPARATIVE STUDY: WORLD CUP 2011 (WHEN IT WAS HOSTED IN INDIA), 2019 & 2023

| 2011 | Mt | Runs | HS | Ave | SR | 100 | 50 | Fours | Sixes | 300-plus |
|----------------|----|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|----------|
| Batting first | 49 | 11237 | 175 | 27.60 | 80.88 | 18 | 59 | 1028 | 141 | 13 |
| Batting second | 49 | 8749 | 158 | 27.00 | 75.41 | 6 | 44 | 874 | 117 | 4 |
| Total | 49 | 19986 | 175 | 27.34 | 78.39 | 24 | 103 | 1902 | 258 | 17 |
| 2019 | Mt | Runs | HS | Ave | SR | 100 | 50 | Fours | Sixes | 300-plus |
| Batting first | 45 | 11357 | 166 | 32.26 | 89.99 | 16 | 65 | 1015 | 209 | 19 |
| Batting second | 45 | 9884 | 124* | 30.79 | 86.12 | 15 | 49 | 967 | 148 | 8 |
| Total | 45 | 21241 | 166 | 31.56 | 88.15 | 31 | 114 | 1982 | 357 | 27 |
| 2023 | Mt | Runs | HS | Ave | SR | 100 | 50 | Fours | Sixes | 300-plus |
| Batting first | 28 | 7706 | 174 | 31.97 | 95.13 | 15 | 40 | 720 | 226 | 10 |
| Batting second | 28 | 6016 | 152* | 33.50 | 91.58 | 8 | 34 | 596 | 145 | 4 |
| Total | 28 | 13722 | 174 | 32.62 | 93.65 | 23 | 74 | 1313 | 371 | 14 |

(Bangladesh's innings vs Netherlands on Saturday not included)

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Novelty in stroke-making

In the game between Australia and Netherlands, Glenn Maxwell reverse hooked a slower delivery on the sixth stump outside off from Bas de Leede 20 rows back into the stands at Kotla. It was an outrageous shot, but not something that a Maxwell or a David Warner, who reverse flicked a 152kmph delivery from Haris Rauf into the stands, have not done before. Batters are now inventing, innovating, adding strokes to their repertoire, and then reproducing them during high-octane matches. It's something cricketers of the generation gone by wouldn't even have dreamt of. It's daredevilry of a different level altogether that keeps the scoreboard ticking at a fast clip.

Lack of skillful death bowlers

World cricket, in general, is seeing a dearth of skillful death bowlers. Besides India's Jasprit Bumrah, there is hardly anyone who has the ability to bowl six consecutive accurate yorkers in an over. Other than his mastery over the yorker, Few bowlers can claim to have the skills to stop the run flow in the final overs on good batting tracks. Jofra Archer has those skills, but he isn't playing the World Cup. Kagiso Rabada seems to have lost control over the yorker. Mitchell Starc has a potent yorker but then there are times when consistency deserts him.

Performance reflects hard work of our athletes: Thakur

►Continued from P 1

India had started taking part in Para-Asia in 2010 and won 14 medals. The tally increased to 33 in 2014 and 72 in 2018. India had sent its largest-ever para-contingent this year to Hangzhou, comprising 303 athletes (191 male and 112 female). Out of the 111 medals won, female athletes won 40 medals, which is 36% of the overall count. India had sent 190 athletes to the 2018 Para-Asia.

Sports minister Anurag Thakur hailed the performance and said the government would continue to support the para athletes. "This performance reflects the hard

work of our athletes and the introduction of the right policies in sports. Be it the Khelo India scheme at the grassroots levels or the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for elite athletes, the support extended through these schemes is indeed showing results now.

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president, Deepa Malik, said in a video message from Hangzhou that the country's unprecedented medal show has given hope that the para-athletes will shine with more podium finishes at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. "We have made history, our para-athletes have made the country proud. We will win more medals at the Paris Paralympics than in Tokyo," she said.

What was good to watch was that there were no signs of nerves like on Friday and coach Janneke Schopman was more than happy with what she got to see in the first

Dominant India rout Malaysia 5-0 in ACT

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Ranchi: India put up a brilliant display of attacking hockey on Friday as they thrashed Malaysia 5-0 in front of a 10,000-plus crowd at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Hockey Stadium here on Saturday. If local girl Sangita Kumari was the star of the show on Friday, it was Vandana Kataria who stole the limelight against Malaysia, scoring two goals and earning an assist.

What was good to watch was that there were no signs of nerves like on Friday and coach Janneke Schopman was more than happy with what she got to see in the first

thirty minutes. Although the goals dried up in the second half, India never relented and it was mostly due to goalkeeper Nur Zainal's heroics that the scoreline didn't look more lopsided.

There is one area of concern though and that is penalty corners. They won a total of nine but could score from only two.

Meanwhile, Japan made it two wins in two matches as they beat South Korea 4-0. It was a much better performance by Jude Menezes-coached side compared to their showing against Malaysia on Friday. Later in the day, China got back to winning ways as they earned an easy 6-0 win over Thailand.

Inani wins chess gold at Para Asiad

Three From Guj Bag Medals In A Single Day

Parth.Shastri
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Ashvin (left), Darpan Inani (centre) and Soundarya Pradhan

in the VI-BI category. Indian women chess players also won the bronze medal where Himanshi Rathi was part of the team.

Inani's family was ecstatic after the news on Saturday. "Darpan has won many laurels in his personal capacity and while representing India. But winning a gold at the Asian Para Games is a dream come true. We have

prepared a grand welcome for him when he's back in the city," his father Satish Inani said. Paritosh Dave, inclusive chess coordinator at the Blind People's Association (BPA), said Darpan is a chartered accountant by profession while Ashvin deals in stock market.

"They have busy lives and livelihoods to take care of. But they devoted time and energy to raise the bar for blind chess in Gujarat and India. It is the hard work of nearly 15 years that today we have about 50 players with international rankings. I am sure the success of our team will inspire many," he said.

Himanshi won her second medal in the team event after her individual bronze medal in chess.



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HEADSTART WINS A THRILLER FOR OZ

Opener's Century On WC Debut Trumps Rachin's Ton As Australia Win High-Scoring Showdown Vs NZ

Dharamsala: Travis Head's dominating hundred and game awareness in crunch moments helped Australia negate a marvellous century by Rachin Ravindra to register a thrilling five-run victory over New Zealand in their World Cup match here on Saturday.

The destruction by Head (109 off 67 balls) and his opening partner David Warner (81 off 65 balls) during their 175-run alliance up front gelled well with some late-order biffing as Aussies overcame a middle-order meltdown to post 388, after they were put in to bat. This was Head's World Cup debut.

Ravindra made a sparkling 116 off 89 balls and James Neesham hit a powerful 39-ball 58 but the Kiwis could only manage 383 to suffer their second successive defeat in the tournament.

The cumulative score of 771 posted by the two teams is highest aggregate score in a World Cup game surpassing 754 collectively notched up by South Africa (428) and Sri Lanka (326) in New Delhi on October 7, in this very event.

With this win, Australia have eight points from six matches, same as New Zealand, and they are firmly entrenched at No. 4 at this point.

But that position did not come without its a few scares. Ravindra gave them the biggest of them all with an innings that belied his tender age of 23.

The left-hander does not have a big frame, but what he does have is good timing that allows him to send the ball miles into the stands when required.

The Wellington lad, who was dropped on 100 by Glenn Maxwell off his own bowling, also pieced together good stands with fellow opener Devon Conway (61), 96 with Darryl Mitchell (54) for the third wicket and 54 with Tom Latham (21) for the fourth wicket.

Ravindra reached his hundred off 77 balls with a fine six off Maxwell over deep mid-wicket. It was his second hundred in this WC after the one in the tournament opener against England at Ahmedabad.

He also joined Kane Williamson, Martin Guptill and Glenn Turner as the only Kiwi batters to have scored two hundreds in the World Cup. But all that ended when Ravindra gave a catch to Maxwell at deep off Cummins.

Neesham did try his best to take Black Caps home



BACK IN BUSINESS: Travis Head (left) celebrates his hundred with Mitch Marsh on his return from injury on Saturday

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with a breezy fifty but some limb-forgetting fielding by the Aussies on a dodgy HPCA stadium outfield in the last few overs denied Kiwis a remarkable win.

Australia, especially Marsh and Labuschagne, were quite

exceptional in that phase and they even had to field with five fielders inside the ring in the final over for slow over rate.

But they summoned every ounce of experience and athleticism to emerge on the right side of the result.

Earlier, Head, who replaced Cameron Green in the playing 11, and Warner garnered 175 runs in a mere 19.1 overs.

Head was over-aggressive in his partnership with Warner, taking on New Zealand bowlers with disdain, and it was tough to imagine that this was actually his first match of the tournament.

The left-hander replaced Mitchell Marsh, who came in at No. 3, at the pole position and never really made Australia feel the absence of the big-hitting 'Bison'. PTI

**771
59**

Match aggregate - Australia 388 & NZ 383/9 - is a World Cup record, eclipsing the 754 between SA and SL at Delhi on Oct 7, 2023

Balls taken by Head to score his ton, the fourth fastest in ODIs for Australia - the three quickest being Glenn Maxwell (40 balls) vs Netherlands in Delhi on Oct 25, 2023; Maxwell (51 balls) vs Sri Lanka at Sydney on March 8, 2015 & James Faulkner (57 balls) vs India at Bengaluru on Nov 2, 2013.

1 Rachin Ravindra became the first batter to register two hundreds and two fifties in this World Cup. His aggregate of 406 (ave 81.20) is the third highest behind De Kock (431) and David Warner (413).

-- Rajesh Kumar

To bat with Warner is a beautiful space up the order: Head

Dharamsala: Australian opener Travis Head Saturday said aggression was the key element in his opening stand with David Warner and hoped their association would keep flourishing.

"It's a beautiful place to bat at the top of the order, two blokes out. I think we sum it up really well. There's times where we can't go as aggressive, there's obviously been periods that we have," said Head during the post-match press conference.

"We've been pretty aggressive I think in the partnership with David and I. I've said it for a few months and I think Davey's the same. If the runs are going to be presented, we're going to try and take them. It was nice to set a platform and get 390. I think we take that every day. So, yeah, awesome start," he added.

Ravindra hails beauty of cricket: New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra hailed the "beauty of cricket" on Saturday despite a heartbreaking defeat. "It's disappointing when it gets that close and you're chasing such a big total and to come out a little bit short. But I think that's the beauty of cricket. You get the highs and lows of it," said Ravindra. AGENCIES

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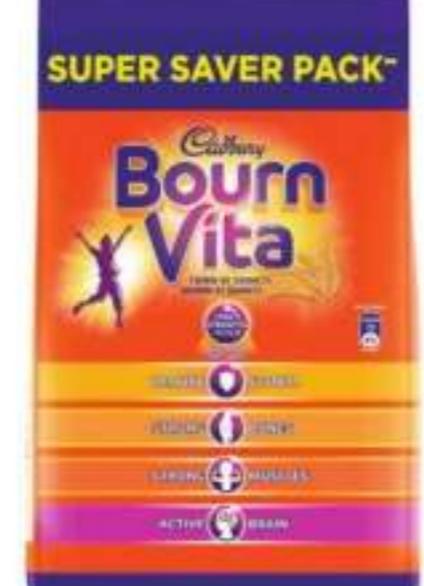


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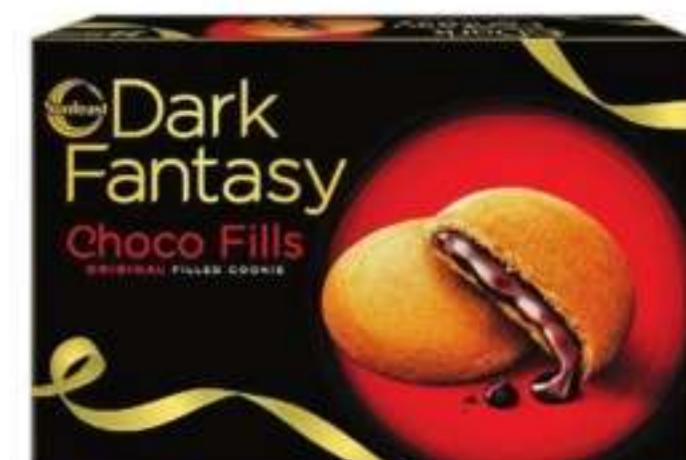


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AGRA : Sadar Bazaar : Modi Enterprises - 9897963336 • Sanjay Palace : Modi Enterprises - 9897961850 • **DEHRADUN** : Astley Hall, Near PNB Bank : Virendra & Co. Interiors - 9837079001 • Rajpur Road : Nirmal Dhara Furnishing - 9837086650 • **FARIDABAD** : Hudda Market Sector 9 : Bombay Interior Decorators - 9810442866 • **GAZIABAD** : Ambedkar Road : Floor Furnishing & Carpet - 9911200824 • **GREATER NOIDA** : Near Grand Venice Mall : Maa Shakumbhari Handloom - 8826997931 • **GURUGRAM** : Golf Course Road : MO Designs Private Limited - 9910532532 • Jagmohan Complex : Anand Foam Traders - 9999466084 • MG Road : MO Designs Private Limited - 9999359310 • Sohna Road : Deco India - 9911521444 • Sushant Lok : MO Designs Private Limited - 9910532532 • **HISAR** : Loha Mandi Road : Shri Krishna Enterprises - 9729477079 • **HARIDWAR** : New Market, Gurudwara Road : Gopal Jee Jute House - 9557744922 • **MEERUT** : Abu Lane : AFG Lifestyle Private Limited - 9997070643 • **MORADABAD** : Madhubani Commercial Complex : Ashis Foams and Furnishing - 9997079690 • **MUZAFFARNAGAR** : Cort Road : Neha Foam Emporium - 9837778283 • **NEW DELHI** : 100 Feet Road : Pret Fab - 9953563235 • Aurobindo Marg : Colors Furnishings Studio - 9958062424 • Aya Nagar : Dwinda - 9810756545 • Chandni Chowk : Award Furnishing - 9999497999 • Dwarka : Agroha Home Furnishings - 9999976868 • Kirti Nagar : Nirmal Handloom House - 9810393010 • Lajpat Nagar : Nirmal Handloom House - 9810393010 • Sita Fabrics - 9650488042 • MG Road : Casa Aaurum - 9810031176 • Nirmal Handloom House - 9810393010 • Mandi Road : Furnish India - 9810083009 • Phase - II ; T-7 Decorex Products India Private - 9810785422 • Rani Bagh : Ram Handloom Emporium Pvt. Ltd. - 9999066777 • Saket : Fdecor Furnishing - 9810483123 • Saraswati Vihar : Surprise Furnishings - 9871144333 • Shakti Nagar : Aar Decor - 9810833844 • Shalimar Bagh : Harrisons Furnishing - 9999455403 • Shiv Nagar : Swastik International - 9899980889 • Sultanpur : Kapaas Home Furnishing - 931297730 • Tri Nagar : Ram Furnishing - 8826524951 • **NOIDA** : 63 G - 108 Sector : Drapes and Spreads - 9810105345 • Sector 104 : Decor India - 9582313504 • **PANIPAT** : GT Road : Mansarovar Furnishing - 9896400169 • Prince Home Decor - 9896400874 • **REWARI** : Dharuhera : Floor & Furnishing India Pvt. Ltd. - 981211126 • **RISHIKESH** : Dehradun Road : Furnishing Gallery - 9760445446 • **SAHARANPUR** : Mission Compound : K-Store - 9927127043 • **SIRSA** : Suratgarh Chowk : Gopika Furnishing - 9416647586 • **YAMUNANAGAR** : Model Colony : Super Link Traders - 9416394634