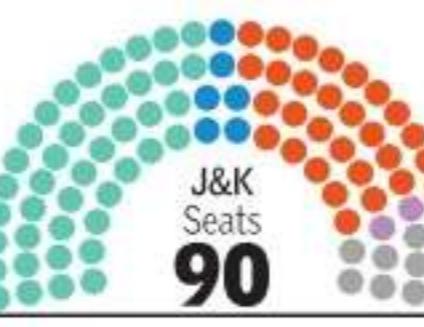




# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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PARTY	NC	Congress	BJP	PDP	Others
SEATS	42	6	29	3	10
LOSS/GAIN	+27	-6	+4	-25	+3
VOTE SHARE%	23.4 (+2.6)	12.0 (-6.0)	25.6 (+2.7)	8.9 (-13.8)	30.1 (+14.6)



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PARTY	BJP	CONGRESS	INLD	Others
SEATS	48	37	2	3
LOSS/GAIN	+8	+6	+1	-5
VOTE SHARE%	39.9 (+3.4)	39.1 (+11)	4.1 (+1.7)	16 (-16.1)



**HISTORY IN HARYANA, JAMHURIYAT IN J&K:** After two terms and Cong's strong showing in LS elections, pundits & pollsters had all but written off BJP in Haryana. But it's not just won an unprecedented hat-trick, it's done it with a bigger tally than ever before. In J&K, too, pollsters have been proven wrong as Omar Abdullah-led NC, with Congress as a much junior partner, has won a comfortable majority – powered by a near-sweep in the Valley – that even 5 LG-nominated MLAs cannot overturn

# BJP 1, NC-Cong 1, Pollsters 0

Swings Momentum Back  
In BJP's Favour Ahead  
Of Slew Of State Battles

## NUMBERS THAT TELL A STORY

1.2 lakh – Difference in votes polled by BJP and Cong across Haryana, just 0.8% of total votes polled

2.2% BJP's vote share in Kashmir region, compared to 45.2% in the Jammu region

237 Number of ST seats won by BJP in J&K and number of SC seats won by NC-Cong alliance

32 Margin of victory for BJP in Uchana Kalan, the lowest in either state in this round of elections

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

## THE BIG MESSAGES

► **Modi Is Back:** BJP's short-of-majority, 240-seat LS tally had started a narrative centred around the fading of Modi's political sheen. That story hits a pause as his party pulls off a shock victory in Haryana and makes a strong showing in Jammu. Modi's appeal was a factor in both Haryana and Jammu, even if he campaigned much less than usual. Possibly, these results will make him more confident about taking big policy calls

► **Rahul Has A Setback:** Congress's Haryana loss puts a big question mark on some of Rahul's key campaign themes – targeting BJP on jobs, farmers, Agnipath, Dalits, and caste census. Congress lost despite Haryana's youth unemployment, its status as a major cereal grower, and its large Dalit population. Add to this Rahul's failure to woo Jammu Hindus away from BJP. The momentum that he

had acquired post-Lok Sabha elections has received a big jolt

► **Non-Cong Oppn Stronger Again:** Poor Cong showing in these two states strengthens INDIA allies' bargaining power. There was never an easy accommodation on their part of Cong's claim to be the fulcrum of the alliance. If LS results made Congress look stronger, these results mean things can go back to pre-LS status. Already, some INDIA bloc parties have issued statements about the importance of being a team player. Congress should expect tougher negotiations in Maharashtra and Jharkhand seat-sharing talks

► **Hindus Can Be A Constituency:** Hindutva played a part in BJP's Haryana win, and Jammu's Hindu vote went big for BJP. Post-LS, the notion that the Hindu vote, crafted in 2014 and 2019, was fracturing had gained currency. These verdicts show the jury is still out

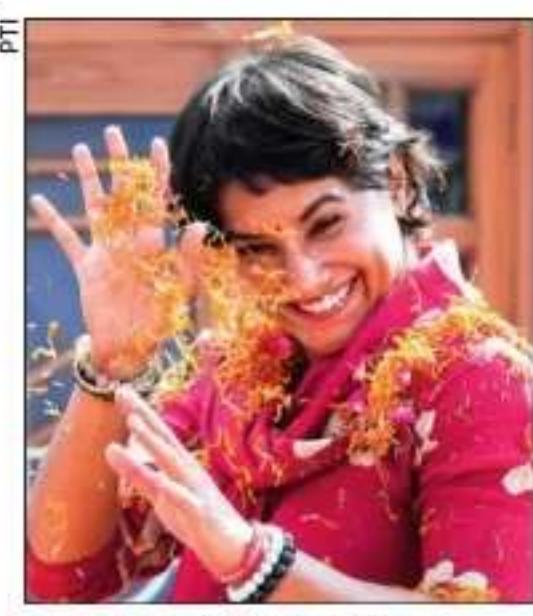


DANCE OF DEMOCRACY: NC supporters celebrate in Srinagar

► **Kisan Anger Losing Force:** Haryana's BJP victory wouldn't have been possible minus the support of a significant minority of Jats. So, it's fair to conclude that the farmer agitation has lost some political potency. It's now limited to Punjab farmers and spearheaded by some farm unions. They can still pose a problem. But GOI will be in a better position to tackle the next round of protests

Hoodannit? Haryana shocker leaves Cong searching for clues

Ajay.Sura@timesofindia.com



WIN-ESH: Olympian Vinesh Phogat, a leading face of the wrestlers' protest, won Jalandhar seat for Congress on her debut

## Both BJP & Cong gain in state's bipolar shift

These polls saw Haryana's politics become distinctly bipolar. Both BJP and Congress gained their vote shares and seats compared to 2019. Against a joint share of 64.6% and 71 seats then, they now have 79% of votes and 85 seats. tnn

## Dushyant finishes 5th as JJP implodes

A king maker in 2019, Dushyant Chautala's JJP came a cropper. Chautala himself finished fifth in Uchana Kalan with less than 5% votes and was among 65 party candidates who lost their deposit. P10

of an organised grassroots cadre, added to the dismal show. As many as 15 sitting Congress MLAs were defeated in the election.

► Continued on P6

ever return of three seats. Winning Independents outnumbered both Congress and PDP, with seven of them forming the third-largest bloc.

"Omar Abdullah will be the chief minister," NC president Farooq Abdullah said, terming the mandate proof that J&K never accepted the nullification of Article 370.

Omar said those who sought to write NC's obituary "perished" under the weight of the people's verdict.

► Continued on P6

Congress increased its vote share by 11% percentage points and its overall share of 39.09% was nearly equal to BJP's 39.89%. Yet, the results came as a rude shock for Congress, which had been in celebratory mood since exit polls predicted its return with a big majority. The party was outmanoeuvred by BJP's strategy of focusing on OBC voters and division in Dalit votes.

Congress had its own share of problems too — from overconfidence in its ranks and internal factionalism, particularly between former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and its Dalit face Kumari Selja, to making Hooda (and by default his son Deepender) responsible for all decisions in the state unit. Miscalculations in ticket distribution and lack

related to alleged corruption in HCA, implicating several individuals, including Congress MLA G Vinod.

The FIRs accused Azharuddin of financial mismanagement in purchase of cricket equipment, gym supplies, fire safety devices and other material for Uppal stadium. Authorities claimed contracts worth Rs 3.8 crore were awarded to a bidder, who failed to complete the work on time. The payments were made regardless as part of a broader criminal conspiracy, with an audit uncovering the misappropriation of HCA funds.

► Continued on P3

## Abdullahs come in from the cold after 10 years

Saleem.Pandit@timesofindia.com

Jammu | 43 seats

## HOW J & K VOTED

NC-Cong+	BJP	PDP	Others
8	29	0	6

Kashmir   47 seats			
NC-Cong+   BJP   PDP   Others			
41	0	3	3

Srinagar: Omar Abdullah's double bill headlined J&K's first election in a decade as voters in the Union territory delivered Tuesday a mandate that put the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance in line to form govt, albeit with a thumbs down to one half of the coalition and a fillip to BJP that saw it finish second with a higher tally than in 2014.

The combine's tally dispelled doubts about the gubernatorial nomination of five members with "full legislative powers and privileges" potentially influencing who forms the govt.

While Congress's kitty halved to six compared to 2014,

ired for the alliance to hit the magic figure of 49 (including one CPM seat) in the 95-strong assembly, which will have five nominees of the lieutenant governor. The figure is nearly three times the 15 seats NC won in the last election.

The combine's tally dispelled doubts about the gubernatorial nomination of five members with "full legislative powers and privileges" potentially influencing who forms the govt.

While Congress's kitty halved to six compared to 2014,

NC's success came at the expense of its old rival, PDP, as well as new challengers, mainly Engineer Rashid, who had crushed Omar in Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla. This also put paid to the widely discussed BJP

plan to appoint a Hindu from Jammu as CM of the Muslim-majority UT.

But BJP has a lot to cheer about its performance in Jammu, where it made a near-clean sweep of the Hindu seats despite 10 years of doubt-

le incumbency. The success was achieved at Congress's expense, as Omar underlined in his post-verdict remarks.

BJP's near-complete sweep in Jammu demonstrated the continued appeal of Modi and BJP's Hindutva-national-

isation. The success came at the expense of its old rival, PDP, as well as new challengers, mainly Engineer Rashid, who had crushed Omar in Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla. This also put paid to the widely discussed BJP

PM greets BJP workers at party HQ in Delhi Tuesday evening

its "cronies", accusing them of joining an international conspiracy to defame and destabilise the country and create social divisions, while following the 'politics of falsehoods'.

"Today, Haryana has given a befitting reply to every such conspiracy," he said.

Modi also launched a scathing attack on Congress and

Hyderabad: The stand-off between Telangana and the central govt over procurement of parboiled rice seems to have ended at least for the time being.

With demand rising in different states, Telangana is likely to supply 37 lakh metric tonnes of coarse raw rice and parboiled rice combined to FCI this season. The Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation expects over 20 LMT to be boiled rice, the highest quantity of this variety to be given to FCI by any state this season.

The Food Corporation of

gated a massive dharna in New Delhi in 2022, accusing the Centre of discriminating against Telangana. FCI has reduced the procurement quantities, stating its godowns were full with this variety. Additionally, parboiled rice-consuming states placed fewer orders during that period.

A senior FCI official told TOI that there was now demand for coarse rice from Maharashtra and Karnataka, and parboiled rice from West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, as the production of rice in these states was less than consumption.

► Continued on P5

State seeks two more CRPF camps for anti-Naxal ops

Sribala.Vadlapatla @timesofindia.com

In addition to the existing two camps on Telangana-Chhattisgarh border, state police have requested the Union home ministry to sanction two more CRPF camps at the inter-state border for anti-Maoist operations.

The proposed camps, if sanctioned by the Centre, will be established in Mulugu and Kothagudem districts. Presently, two camps are operational at Pusuguppa and Chinnapuram, reports Srinath Vadlapatla.

Recently, a grenade was hurled by Maoists at Pusuguppa CRPF camp, but no one was hurt in the incident. At present, Chhattisgarh has 257 CRPF camps.

FULL REPORT: P5

Heady mix? This Dasara, check your tipple before buying it at bargain price

Sribala.Vadlapatla @timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: This festive season is carefree while looking for bargain deals for a bottle of your favourite drink. Excise officials have cautioned that the 'Non-Duty Paid Liquor' (NDPL) bought at cheaper rates could be adulterated liquor in expensive bottles, caution excise officials

Sellers fill up cheap liquor in empty premium liquor bottles, making it hard to distinguish between the genuine product and its imitation

High liquor prices in Telangana a reason for liquor being smuggled into state from other parts of the country

is illegal and referred to as NDPL. Although such cases are common in the state, some exploit this situation by selling adulterated liquor claiming it to be genuine NDPL. This can result in serious health risks," an excise official said, adding that even purchasing NDPL is a crime.

► Related report P4

Godfather of AI who now warns of its risks shares physics Nobel

## A WIN FOR MACHINE LEARNING

► Geoffrey Hinton, who works at Univ of Toronto, helped develop a technique in 80s known as backpropagation that was instrumental in training machines how to 'learn'



► John Hopfield, professor emeritus at Princeton Univ., created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data



► Hinton's team used a neural network to win ImageNet computer vision competition in 2012. It spawned a flurry of copycats, giving birth to the rise of modern AI



► He quit his job at Google last year to be able to more easily speak about the dangers of the technology he had pioneered

► It's going to be wonderful in many respects. But we also have to worry about... possible bad consequences, particularly the threat of these things getting out of control



"It will be comparable with the Industrial Revolution," he said. "Instead of exceeding people in physical strength, it's going to exceed people in intellectual ability. We have no experience of what it's like to have things smarter than us." nyt

► Continued on P16

## Tribunal: Income earned in US taxable in India

Mumbai: The income tax appellate tribunal (ITAT) recently ruled that income earned in the US would be taxable for an individual residing in India, reports Lubna Kably. While the individual initially declared an income of Rs 9,570 for 2012-13, his taxable income surged to Rs 43.5 lakh after the US income was added.

Under tax laws, residents, including non-residents, for example, are not taxed in India on foreign income. However, in this case, the individual was a tax resident of both India and the US, requiring the application of the 'tie-breaker test' under the India-US tax treaty to determine which country he was a resi-

dent of vital interest, habitual abode, and nationality. Parizad Sirwalla, partner and head (global mobility services tax) at KPMG India, explained that a returning Indian, for instance, could be a tax resident of both India and the US



Women members of Miyapur's Cyberabad Bangali Association blow shankh and dance to mark the beginning of Durga Puja celebrations on Tuesday evening

## Women Safety, Call For Justice Echo At Durga Pandals

Amisha.Rajani  
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In the wake of the RG Kar incident, the Bengali community in Hyderabad has adapted women empowerment and safety, as their theme for this year's Durga Puja festivities. If some pandals are seeing women lead traditional rituals, others are using art to create awareness about the need for women's protection. As a tribute to the victim of the heinous crime, a few have also decided to keep their celebrations low-key.

### COMMUNITY CONNECT

#### IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

While women have always played a key part in the Durga Puja organised by the Hyderabad Bangalee Samity, who have been hosting puja for the past 83 years — the oldest in the city — this year they have taken centre stage. And that's also to symbolically reinstate their position in society, where women are often frontrunners. Mousami Chowdhuri, first woman president of the association, highlighted the all-women leadership team that's been set up, for the first time, to organise this event at NTR Gardens. Chowdhuri shared how the festival will see 50 women come together for the traditional dhunuchi dance, a devotional offering to the goddess. Joy Kumar Dutta, general secretary of the association shared how after RG Kar incident, it's imperative for all communities to rally for women's safety.

Calls for justice for the raped and murdered Kolkata doctor echo at several Durga Puja pandals across the city

To drive home a powerful message about the strength of women, the Cyberabad Bangali Association in Miyapur had about a 100 women members collectively blow the shankh (conch shell) to mark the onset of Durga Puja, on Tuesday evening. Dressed in colourful attire, they gathered around the Durga idol, united in their fight for women's rights. "The shankh dhwanis is performed to welcome the goddess on Panchami (fifth day of the festival), but this year it calls for justice for the RG Kar victim," said Swarnashree Saha Chatterjee, who led the women's group that gathered to welcome the goddess. The association has invited a team of women from West Bengal for the festival

#### SHOW OF STRENGTH, UNITY



this year, who will prepare bhog (prasadam) for devotees visiting the pandal in next few days. "It's our way of upholding notion of women's empowerment through tradition," said Subhro Mukherjee, general secretary of association.

#### TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Since Aug, a large group of members from the Utsav Cultural Association in Gachibowli — many of them IT professionals — have led rallies demanding justice for the RG Kar victim and better security for women in workplaces. To keep their fight going, members of this group have decided to stick to low-key festivities this year so that those in places of authority do not think that the people's movement across India has died out. "We will follow all traditions and rituals through the five-days of Durga Puja, but in the middle of it all, we

cannot forget what happened to one of our sisters in Kolkata. We initiated the protest, and we cannot abandon it until justice is achieved. The Goddess herself symbolises feminine power; making this the perfect time to raise our voice for justice. We will not find peace until that is achieved," said Sayantani Chatterjee, a member of association.

This year's Durga Puja is not just a tribute to RG Kar victim but to all women who have faced injustice in their lives, said Joy Kumar Dutta, general secretary of Hyderabad Bangalee Samity



#### USING ART TO DEPICT CHALLENGES

Mid the dhak-dhol (drums) and bhog, the walls of the pandal in Masab Tank, organised by the Bengalee Cultural Association, will ensure that every person walking in is educated about the gaps in women's safety — strongly reinforced post the RG Kar incident. "Through posters and paintings made by women, we have decided to draw the attention of people to what happened in the Kolkata hospital and how women in other workplaces are facing similar challenges. We have shown the many battles that a woman has to wage and how sticking together, as a community, is the only way to fight societal evils," said Sujata Pan, convenor of the cultural committee. "Durga Puja is more than just a religious festival for us; it's about honouring strength and wisdom of women," said Sanjay Bose from the association. He highlighted their 'Nari Shakti' team, which provides support to underprivileged families, reinforcing their commitment to women's empowerment.

## Dr Reddy's gets nod for cell therapy phase-2 trials

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Hyderabad: Dr Reddy's Laboratories' wholly-owned subsidiary, Aurigen Oncology Limited, has received approval from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for phase-2 trial for India's first novel autologous BCMA (B-cell maturation antigen) directed CAR-T (chimeric antigen receptor) cell therapy called Ribracabtagene autoleucel, code-named DRL-1801.

Ribracabtagene autoleucel utilised a humanised single-domain antibody as antigen binding domain and lentivirus as a vector. Dr Reddy's said DRL-1801 for clinical trials was manufactured at CAR-T GMP manufacturing unit at Aurigen Oncology in Bengaluru.

The phase-1 trial involved pre-treated with a median of 5.5 previous lines of treatment. Most of them had received transplants in past and experienced disease progression post-transplant. "All eight patients achieved clinical response, with five out of eight achieving stringent complete response," stated Dr Reddy's.

"We were thrilled with the data as the drug could be transformative for Indian patients with myeloma," Aurigen Oncology Ltd CEO Dr Murali Ramachandra said.

## BRS: Govt Lacks Clarity On Project ■ CPM: No Forceable Demolitions

### Jagadish dares Bhatti for debate on Musi



₹16,000 crore. He said the Congress govt had escalated the project cost.

Jagadish

claimed that demolitions in the last few months had dented Hyderabad's brand image while pointing out that encroachments on Musi riverbed and Hussain sagar pollution happened in United AP and not during BR斯 govt tenure.

He said then CM K Chandrasekhar Rao resolved fluorosis problem in Nalgonda by providing Krishna water. TNW

### CPM too opposes riverfront project

held at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram on Tuesday, CPM city secretary M Srinivas said a resolution was adopted to stand by the families living along the Musi river. "We will take up agitations against the demolitions if the govt fails to convince the project-affected families to voluntarily shift to 2-BHKs and accept compensation packages offered by the state.

Earlier, CPI state secretary and MLA Kunnamneni Sambasiva Rao visited areas abutting Musi and said no forcible demolitions should be taken up.

At a round table meeting

## Nagarjuna records statement against minister Surekha



Akkineni Nagarjuna and his family at the Nampally court complex on Tuesday after recording his statement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Popular actor Akkineni Nagarjuna recorded his statement at the special magistrates court complex in the ₹100 crore defamation case he has filed against Telangana environment and endowment minister Kon-Surekha.

A massive crowd had gathered at the court complex even as the star walked into the court complex with his wife, Amala, and son, Tollywood actor Naga Chaitanya. His niece YSupriya too gave her statement before the court as a witness. The judge posted the case for a hearing on Oct 10.

Nagarjuna had filed the de-

famation case on Oct 3, a day after Surekha had alleged that BRS working president and former minister K T Rama Rao was responsible for Naga Chaitanya and his ex-wife, actor Samantha ending their marriage. She had also made other allegedly objectionable comments.

Nagarjuna told the court that the minister's allegedly false comments defamed him and his family's reputation was adversely affected. Following widespread criticism, Surekha had later given a clarification withdrawing her statement. The court will decide on taking cognizance of the case on Oct 10 before proceeding further.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Standard Glass Lining Technology Limited, which makes specialised engineering equipment for the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, has received final observation from the markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), for its initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO includes a fresh issue of shares of face value ₹10 each aggregating to ₹250 crore, and an offer for sale of up to 18.44 million equity shares by the promoters and other selling shareholders of the company.

The Telangana-based company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to

₹50 crore, and if successful, the size of the fresh issue would decrease.

The company plans to list its shares on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.

The company stated it intended to use around ₹10 crore from the proceeds of the fresh issue towards capital expen-

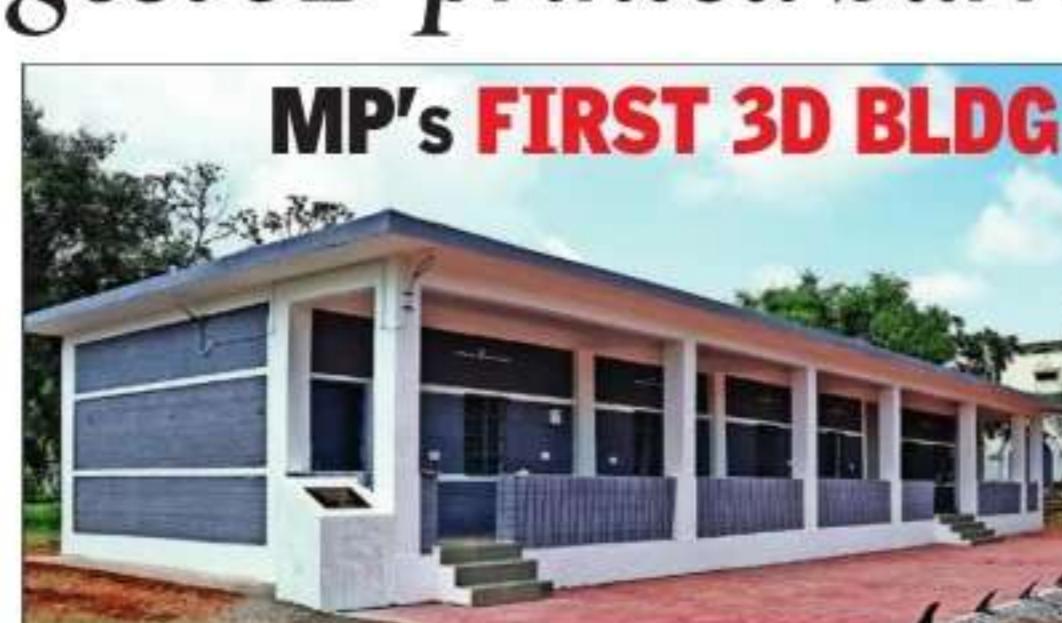
## T's Simpliforge Creations & IIT-H set up Army's largest 3D printed barracks in MP

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Hyderabad: Telangana-based Simpliforge Creations and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, teamed up with the Military Engineering Services (MES) to set up the Indian Army's largest and Madhya Pradesh's first 3D printed building at Morar Cantonment in Gwalior.

The building, which will house barracks with the capacity to accommodate 14 jawans, was built to demonstrate efficient housing solutions for troops in remote and challenging terrain.

Simpliforge Creations Co-Founder & CEO Dhruv Gandhi said while the foundation



work for the 11-11.5 ft tall structure, spread over around 2,500 sq ft, was done using conventional construction techniques, the 10-ft tall portion above the ground, excluding the be-

am, was all 3D printed in just a month's time.

The foundation work took about two weeks, including one week for construction and one week for curing. The slab and finishing work took a little over two weeks. The 3D printing work was done in a month," Gandhi said, pointing out that the structure cost about 20% more than conventional construction.

While the IIT-H team conducted the design analysis and vetted the structure, Simpliforge Creations prepared the design and did the construction for the project. The barrack was inaugurated by Major General KTG Krishnam, General Officer Commanding, Shahbaaz Division.

## T-based Standard Glass Lining gets Sebi approval to float IPO

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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The Telangana-based company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to

₹130 crore for the repayment or prepayment of borrowings by the company and its wholly-owned material subsidiary, S2 Engineering Industry Pvt Ltd.

From this, it planned to use ₹30 crore for investment in S2 Engineering towards capital expenditure for machinery and equipment, as well as ₹20 crore for strategic investments or acquisitions and general corporate purposes.

IIFL Securities Limited and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited were the book-running lead managers, and KFin Technologies Limited was the registrar of the offer.



PLANS TO RAISE ₹250 CRORE

## Man hammers sleeping wife to death in city

**Hyderabad:** A man bludgeoned his wife to death with a hammer in their Hyderkote house early Tuesday. Later, the accused went to Narsingi police station with his two children and confessed to his crime.

Police said 32-year-old S Krishnareni was sleeping when her husband Srinivas Sagar attacked her with a hammer on her head. The incident took place at around 3 am. After he told cops about the murder while surrendering before them, police rushed to his house where they found Krishnareni lying in a pool of blood. The victim had earlier filed a complaint against her husband and they were co-unseen.

"The woman died on the spot. The couple have been quarrelling with each other and a heavy argument ensued on Monday also," police said. The accused runs a function material supply shop. Police registered a murder case. TNN

## Six burglars from MP caught in city

**Hyderabad:** Six persons involved in 35 burglaries in various parts of the state have been arrested by Cyberabad police. All the accused hail from MP. The accused had been committing offences since 2020. The accused were identified as K Manohar, Pyar Singh, Debra Bawula, Kadak Singh, Thakur Eidiya and Kuman Eidiya. TNN

## 3 of family attempt suicide in hotel

**Hyderabad:** A couple and their son attempted to die by suicide in a hotel room in Secunderabad on Tuesday. B Narayana, his wife Padmavati, and their son Srujan are Nagole residents. In Feb, Srujan got married, but his wife separated from him due to differences. A week ago, Srujan's estranged wife lodged a police complaint against the family. Due to this, they attempted suicide. After the hotel staff found them unconscious, they rushed them to hospital. TNN

# ₹17k cr sewerage master plan to transform Hyd, peripheral areas

## Plan Has DPRs Of New Areas To Be Covered

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

**Hyderabad:** The state govt has chalked out an ambitious plan to revamp Hyderabad's sewerage system struggling to keep up with the rapid growth of the metropolis. Apart from renovating the existing infrastructure, the project envisages extending the sewer network to reach the outer ring road (ORR).

Accordingly, the govt's comprehensive sewerage master plan (CSMP) with a budget of Rs 17,212 crore involves construction of a sewer network spanning 4,378 km and encompasses all peripheral circles as well as a portion of the core city zones up to the ORR.

The proposed peripheral regions cover several GHMC circles including Uppal, Ka-

## NEW SEWER NETWORK TO REACH ORR

### PROJECT AREA

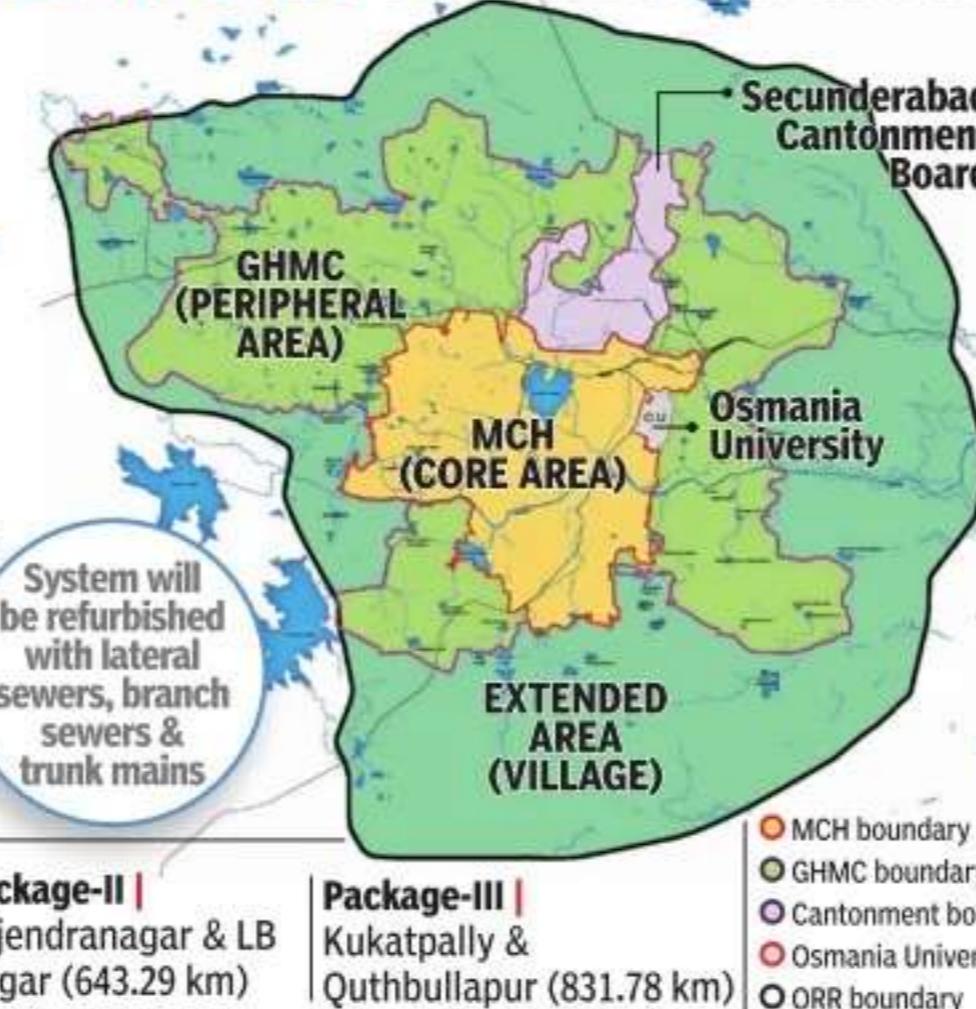
Core City | 173.83sq.km  
Peripheral Circles | 483.08 Sq.km  
ORR Villages | 695 Sqkm

### DETAILS OF PROJECT COST

- Lateral sewers: ₹5,300 cr
- Property connections: ₹2,810 cr
- Trunk sewers: ₹4,738 cr
- Proposed pumping stations: ₹68 cr
- 3rd-party inspections: ₹131 cr
- Price escalation: ₹787 cr
- Utility shifting: ₹131 cr
- Physical contingencies: ₹393 cr

### PACKAGE DETAILS

Package-I | Uppal, Kapra, Malkajgiri, Alwal & Serilingampally (756.85 km)



System will be refurbished with lateral sewers, branch sewers & trunk mains

MCH boundary

GHMC boundary

Cantonment board

Osmania University

ORR boundary

pra, Malkajgiri, Alwal, Serilingampally, Rajendranagar, LB Nagar, Kukatpally & Quthubullapur. These circles have been divided into three packages, covering a total distance of 2,231 km.

The sewerage network within the core area spans 424 km, while the rest has been distributed among various urban local bodies (ULBs) located within the ORR boundary. Officials said the ci-

ty lacks an adequate sewage collection system as the existing lateral sewers were installed by the erstwhile small municipalities. To prevent sewage from flowing through nalas, the en-

tire sewer system has to be refurbished with new lateral sewers, branch sewers and trunk mains, officials said.

The sewerage project, with a total allocated cost of Rs 12,848 crore, focusses on constructing a new sewage collection system in areas it is currently unavailable. Additionally, the existing network will be renovated, including repair and upgrade of pipes, pumping stations etc., which account for nearly 75% of the total project.

The CSMP has been planned by Mumbai-based firm Shah Technical Consultants, which specialises in infrastructure consulting with a focus on water and wastewater sectors. The master plan includes DPRs outlining the proposed sewer network for these areas. The firm had earlier prepared the master plan for water supply and sewerage for Chennai and for 104 towns in the Mumbai Metropolitan region.



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## ₹10 crore cyber con: Two delivery boys nabbed from B'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** The probe into the coming of a senior citizen to the tune of Rs 10 crore by cyber fraudsters led to the arrest of two delivery boys from Bengaluru on Tuesday.

TG Cyber Security Bureau (TGCCB) officials said that 23-year-old Vinay Kumar and 28-year-old Maruti were nabbed for providing their bank accounts, into which a portion of the victim's money was credited during the execution of the fraud.

plaint.

The caller himself gave the phone number. The victim, who was a senior citizen, fell into the trap and called the number.

The man who received the phone call accused the victim of being an accomplice of the illegal account holder, as this account was linked to a money laundering case. He was made to talk to a woman, who claimed to be IPS Officer Navjot Simi.

The traumatised victim was made to transfer all his money into different bank accounts as shared by the accused. It was after one month that he came to know he was conned by cyber fraudsters. Police suspected that a Chinese-promoted network was behind the cheating.



DON'T PANIC, GET HELP

Cyber crime awareness, Prevention helplines

► National Cybercrime Reporting Portal: 1930

► Website: www.cybercrime.gov.in

► TG Cyber Security Bureau: 8712672222

## Fake edu certificate racket busted, 2 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Cops raided a Xerox shop at Owaisi Nagar & seized 84 fake certificates. From each person, the accused took ₹10k to ₹15k

was contacting Iqbal to make the fake certificates, police said. From each person, the accused collected Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000. Police are verifying to whom the accused had sold the certificates so far.

Mohammed Iqbal owns the Xerox shop and suffered losses due to poor business. He met a friend, Shaik Ilyas Ahmed, and hatched a plot to prepare fake education certificates and sell them to needy persons in exchange for money.

Iqbal is skilled in using photoshop software and Ilyas, who worked as an agent,

## 4 cos accused of teaming up with HCA reps for fraudulent deals

► From P1

**B**esides Azharuddin, former HCA secretary R Vijay Anand and former treasurer Surender Agarwal were also named in the FIRs. The charges against these individuals include criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and criminal breach of trust.

The companies implicated in these deals — Body Drench India Pvt Ltd, Fire Safety Engineers Pvt Ltd, Sara Sports, and Excellent Enterprises — were accused of collaborating with HCA representatives in fraudulent transactions.

The complaint led to a forensic audit of HCA's finances for three years leading up to March 2023, which uncovered suspicious transactions involving third-party vendors that were deemed detrimental to the association. The report revealed a Rs 1.5 crore invoice for

### 'CASE IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED'

• Work order for gym equipment issued by HCA's CEO Suneel Kante, sources close to Azharuddin said

- Kante later alleged vendor overcharged & lodged FIRs against HCA office-bearers
- All relevant documents presented in court, which granted bail to accused
- This suggests case was frivolous & politically motivated, said the sources



gym equipment from Body Drench India Pvt Ltd, Fire Safety Engineers Pvt Ltd, Sara Sports and Excellent Enterprises led to a further Rs 43.1 lakh loss, with the company charging Rs 2,568 per seat, while another vendor offered the same seats for Rs 150 each. Sources close to Azharuddin told TOI that HCA's CEO Suneel Kante had alleged the vendor had overcharged for the gym equipment and lodged FIRs. All relevant documents were presented in court, which granted bail to the accused, which suggested the case was frivolous and politically motivated, the sources claimed.

Azharuddin has also been accused of favouring Sara Sports in procuring SG test cricket balls, which allegedly resulted in a loss of Rs 57.07 lakh to HCA. Inflated cost for stadium bucket seats from Excellent Enterprises led to a

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## Young India Skill varsity to offer four new courses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** The state govt decided to introduce four courses in the Young India Skill University from this academic year at the university's temporary campus in the Administrative Staff College of India premises in Gachibowli.

A notification was issued with details about the eligibility criteria for these courses and to seek admissions after Dasara.

University vice-chancellor V Subbarao said the four courses would be launched in the first phase this month, with demand for jobs in the fields of logistics, medical, health, and pharma. "We are in touch with various companies to introduce more courses soon," he said.

Redington, a leading global logistics solutions company, came forward to set up a logistics lab at the temporary campus of the university, investing about ₹7 crore.

The university planned to launch two short-term courses related to the field of logistics. These courses were conducted under the names of warehousing executive and key consignor executive. The Logistics Sector Skill Council provided support for the management of these courses.

The university introduced the FINE (finishing skills in nursing excellence) course this year to provide better employment opportunities to nurses. The course was conducted in association with Apollo Med-skills Limited.

The university also initiated an apprenticeship induction course with the help of Dr Reddy's Labs, with a duration of six months.

### Cops refund ₹21L to 2 in cyber con

**Hyderabad:** Cyber crime police on Tuesday refunded ₹21L to two different victims who lost money in cyber fraud. In one case, the victim lost money after being conned by someone impersonating a CBI Officer.

In another case, the victim was duped in an investment fraud, where he lost ₹13L. TNN

## T-Hub signs MoU for India's first energy transition startup

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**Hyderabad:** Energy transition-focused venture capital fund Transition VC on Tuesday inked a memorandum of understanding with the Telangana govt-led T-Hub and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) to set up India's first energy transition-focused startup accelerator. As part of the collaboration, a centre of excellence was also set up at T-Hub in Hyderabad.

The first cohort of the accelerator will support four to five startups with plans to expand support to around seven to eight startups in the subsequent cohorts.

Transition VC Co-Founder & Managing Partner Mohammed Shoaib Ali said India's startup ecosystem faced a

shortage of energy transition and deep-tech hardware startups, and the partnership aimed to create a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs by equipping them with the necessary technical and product development infrastructure.

"Building hardware products in deep-tech requires significant investment in R&D and prototyping, which is often a deterrent for many engineers," he said.

T-Hub CEO Mahankali Srinivas Rao said the three partners would provide startups with a platform to co-create impactful solutions.

The central govt's report

### 'FOR IMPACTFUL SOLUTIONS'

- Accelerator programme will focus on startup solutions across key energy transition areas
- This includes decarbonisation, electrification of transportation, long-duration energy storage, power electronics, Net Zero & new energies
- T-Hub, Transition VC & IEEE to collaborate for programme
- T-Hub will work as the innovation execution partner
- Transition VC will act as the funding and market access partner, IEEE to serve as a knowledge partner

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The central govt's report

"It's unusual to see so many requests from these districts in the past month. We're receiving 3-4 requests per day from each district, which adds to the demand in Hyderabad. In previous years, we received only 1-2 requests per month from these areas, usually for blood cancer or thalassemia cases," said Bandi Shravan Kumar from the Hyderabad blood donors' network. He noted that current requests are linked to cases

of unidentified fever accompanied by reduced platelet counts, in addition to dengue cases.

However, official figures from the state health department do not show any rise in dengue cases.

"In the last month, there has actually been a reduction in dengue cases. This increased demand may be driven by corporate hospitals recommending unnecessary platelet transfusions – Senior health official

Amrita.Didyla  
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### 'UNNECESSARY TRANSFUSIONS'



In the last month, there has actually been a reduction in dengue cases. This increased demand may be driven by corporate hospitals recommending unnecessary platelet transfusions – Senior health official

"In the last month, there has actually been a reduction in dengue cases. This increased demand may be driven by corporate hospitals recommending unnecessary platelet transfusions. In some cases, patients visit local practitioners and, after 4-5 days of persistent symptoms, are referred to private and corporate hospitals. These practitioners often receive a commission for referrals, leading to expensive treatments even when there is no immediate danger to life," a senior health official explained.

Meanwhile, platelet transfusions for dengue are

referred to private and corporate hospitals. These practitioners often receive a commission for referrals, leading to expensive treatments even when there is no immediate danger to life," a senior health official explained.

"Patients with a platelet count between 20,000 and 50,000 should be monitored, but transfusions are not typically required," the official added.

The numbers more than

necessary only when the platelet count falls below 20,000 (normal levels are around 1.5 lakh and above).

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"Patients with a platelet count

# T to form panel on SC sub-categorisation

**Retired Judge Of SC Or HC To Head Panel**

Koride Mahesh  
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**Hyderabad:** The Telangana govt will appoint a one-man judicial commission to study the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes. The cabinet sub-committee, headed by irrigation and civil supplies minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, decided to recommend to the state govt the constitution of a one-man judicial commission for sub-classification.

"It has been decided to recommend constitution of a one-man judicial commission led by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or high court to assess backwardness among different castes within the SCs. This process must be legally sound and withstand judicial scrutiny," Uttam said in the meeting held on Tuesday.

The Supreme Court on Aug 1 favoured the sub-categorisation of SCs and the Telangana govt also reacted that it would implement SC sub-categorisation.

The cabinet committee

## Andhra cop's mom killed by neighbour

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Vijayawada:** The 62-year-old mother of a police inspector was murdered by her neighbour in Madanapalle town of Annamayya district. The body of N Swarna Kumari, who was missing for the last few days, was found buried on the outskirts of the town. The accused, identified as Venkatesh was arrested on Monday.

According to police, Swarna Kumari, who lived alone, went missing on the morning of Sept 29 when she accompanied Venkatesh on his bike to visit a priest. Venkatesh murdered her and buried the body at a graveyard, said police.

The victim's disappearance came to light when she failed to return home and did not collect her pension on Oct 1. Locals informed her son, who is the circle inspector of Dharmaram One Town police station in Sri Satya Sai district. Unable to find her, he filed a complaint at Madanapalle police station. TNN

## Revanth back from Delhi

**Hyderabad:** Chief minister A Revanth Reddy returned to the city on Tuesday night after attending a meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in New Delhi on Monday.

There was talk that the CM might discuss cabinet expansion with the party high command, but sources said he did not meet AIAC leaders as they were busy with Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir assembly election results. TNN

## 'Demand for T's boiled rice up since past year'

► From P1

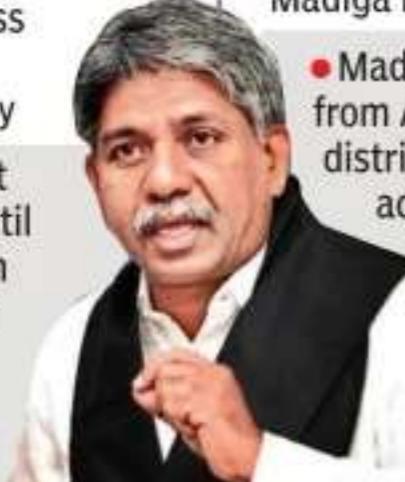
**D**e pending on demand from various states, we keep changing procurement targets from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Punjab, the three states from where most rice is taken and given to various states through the public distribution system," the FCI official said.

Sources told TOI that the present civil supplies corporation commissioner, DS Chouhan, had worked in FCI in the past. This helped in Telangana getting fresh orders of over 30 LMT of coarse variety and boiled variety rice from the FCI for even the last Rabi season.

"While the state govt expected 80 lakh metric tonnes of fi-

**CONG GOVT BETRAYED US: KRISHNA MADIGA**

- Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi calls for statewide protests on Wednesday
- Accuses Congress govt of betrayed Madiga community
- Stop recruitment of 11k teachers until sub-categorisation is done, demands MRPS founder Manda Krishna Madiga



- MRPS leader accuses CM Revanth of doing injustice to Madigas by denying tickets to Madiga leaders
- Madigas to take out rallies from Ambedkar statue to district collector offices across state with black flags
- Organisation to announce its action plan after Oct 15

**Manda Krishna Madiga | MRPS FOUNDER-PRESIDENT**

appointed by the Congress govt a couple of months ago had already held three meetings on sub-categorisation and resolved to use 2011 census data as the basis for sub-classification.

### State recruitment boards asked to submit data

During the meeting, the officials informed that the advocate general has already given the draft terms of reference for appointing the judicial commission. Various recruitment boards in the state, including TGPSC, TGLPRB, SCCL, and TGTransco have been directed to submit data on the sub-caste-wise employment of SCs. About 30% of the required data from the fi-

### Time-bound process needed for study

The study team, which visited Tamil Nadu on Sept 23 and 24, said Tamil Nadu provides 18% reservation for SCs

The CM assured that the govt would not fill the posts in the govt before the sub-categorisation. But within two months, teachers' recruitment letters are being given without sub-categorisation of SCs, which damages interests of Madigas

**Manda Krishna Madiga | MRPS FOUNDER-PRESIDENT**

in education and employment. There are 76 SC sub-castes in that state.

Cabinet sub-committee members Seethakka and Damodar Rajanarayana said there should be a time-bound process for the study, and the committee should visit some districts to interact with people and seek their opinions and suggestions.

Uttam said the committee would soon visit several districts to gather public feedback on SC sub-categorisation.

The analysis of the collected data may be assigned to reputable govt organisations like the Centre for Economic and Social Studies to ensure a thorough and impartial review.

## Panel for conducting voter enumeration, BC survey together

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**Hyderabad:** The cabinet sub-committee on Backward Classes (BCs) has decided to recommend to the Revanth Reddy cabinet to conduct BC socio-economic survey alongside the enumeration of BC voters on a war footing basis.

The sub-committee recommended the immediate commencement of both the BC socio-economic survey and voter enumeration to ensure completion within the stipulated deadlines. Both processes may be carried out simultaneously to meet the Dec 9 deadline set by the high court.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised the importance of conducting the socio-economic survey of BCs in line with resolutions passed by the assembly and cabinet. Additionally, the systematic enumeration of BC voters was necessary to ensure that the elections follow the legal

framework set by courts. He stressed that the data collected must be accurate to comply with the Supreme Court guidelines.

Senior officials attending the meeting advised that a dedicated commission be set up to establish political backwardness among BCs, which would help determine the appropriate percentage of reservations. Minister Ponnambalam Prabhakar suggested that the enumeration of BC voters and the socio-economic survey should be completed in a smooth manner.

The officials discussed the technical aspects of the survey, including proforma, legalities, and nodal agency responsibilities. It was decided that a detailed recommendation would be presented at the next cabinet meeting for final approval.

Minister D Sridhar Babu asked the officials to ensure that the socio-economic survey was free of errors.

## Grant two more CRPF camps, T urges MHA

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**Hyderabad:** In addition to the existing two camps on Telangana-Chhattisgarh border, state police have proposed to the Union ministry of home affairs to sanction two more CRPF camps at the inter-state border for carrying out anti-Maoist operations.

The proposed camps, if sanctioned by the Centre, will be established in Mulugu and Kothagudem districts. Presently, two camps are operational at Pusuguppa and Chinnapuram. Recently, a grenade was hurled by Maoist members at Pusuguppa CRPF camp, but no one was hurt in the incident.

At present, Chhattisgarh has 257 CRPF camps. CRPF jawans along with Chhattisgarh police have been relentless in their fight against Maoists. In Telangana, the elite anti-naxal commando force, Greyhounds, was raised two decades ago, which successfully demilitarised Maoists from Telangana more than 15 years ago.

If sources are to be believed, members of Telangana Maoist state committee are making attempts to revive their presence by occasionally entering the state and then retreating to Chhattisgarh. Bhadrak team, which is part of the state committee, is active and under police surveillance.



### FOCUS ON BASTAR

- South Bastar in Chhattisgarh to be focus area for authorities in next few months
- Centre aiming to eliminate Maoists by March 2026

operations against Maoists in the Bastar region.

"Telangana has been self-reliant in its fight against Maoists. District police units and Greyhounds work in tandem by following the standard operating procedures during the combing operations against Maoists in forest areas. Having a couple of more CRPF camps on the state borders will further strengthen the police resolve," official sources said.

If sources are to be believed, members of Telangana Maoist state committee are making attempts to revive their presence by occasionally entering the state and then retreating to Chhattisgarh. Bhadrak team, which is part of the state committee, is active and under police surveillance.

## NDDB to finish work on Raviryal plant in 4 wks

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ding Vijaya Dairy, took place on Monday and a decision has been taken that NDDB will complete the project by deploying more staff.

Earlier, the state govt found some loopholes in certain proposals mentioned in the detailed project report. "The meeting lasted for several hours, which is rare at the govt level. The authorities clearly stated what they want after completion of project," sources said.

## Haryana voters rejected Cong's 7Gs: KTR

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**Hyderabad:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao has said that despite Congress trying to mislead Haryana voters with seven guarantees, the voters rejected the grand old party in the assembly elections.

Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed condolences to Jyotsna's family and praised her tireless efforts in promoting the empowerment of women and girl students. The CM reached out to his Rajasthan counterpart, Bhajan Lal Sharma, and sought essential assistance for the injured lawyers. He also requested Sharma to provide all help to facilitate the safe return of the lawyers to Vijayawada.

Former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana also conveyed his condolences and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured lawyers.

### 'FAILURE OF GUARANTEE CARD'

- Cong lost Haryana poll despite attempts to mislead voters with seven guarantees, says KTR
- Claims 'guarantee card' worthless after elections
- KTR accuses Cong of deceiving people after gaining power with false promises
- People rejected Congress in Haryana and did not trust BJP in J&K, says Harish Rao

and the election results were proof of that. He hoped that people would eventually teach Congress a lesson for deceiving them after gaining power with false promises.

Reacting to Haryana and J&K assembly poll results, KTR stated that the people of Haryana have delivered a resounding slap in the form of this election result. He said that the entire country was witnessing the fraud committed by Congress govt in Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh in the implementation of their promises,

guarantees to expand their deficit has been glaringly exposed," he said.

KTR said that results in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi were unlikely to bring any hope for either national party in near future. If Congress does not implement the guarantees they promised, the party would face even bigger setbacks in the future, he added.

## Kishan hails party's win in Jammu region

**Hyderabad:** Union coal minister and BJP election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, G Kishan Reddy, called party's victory in the Jammu region historic.

"We have secured more seats and votes than before. It has been proven once again that the people of Jammu are with us. We have succeeded in achieving a Congress-free Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said under the guidance of the central leadership, state leaders of J&K worked hard at all levels. TNN



Jaipur for treatment. The group, consisting of about 75 lawyers, was on an educational tour to Rajasthan from Oct 2 to 9. The tour was nearing its conclusion when the incident took place.

Jyotsna was a prominent social activist and founder of 'Step Ahead for Equality', an organisation focused on addressing sexual harassment faced by women. She used to organise awareness programmes in colleges across Vijayawada and was a key participant in children's welfare events.

The group was split into

two buses, with the second bus being unaffected by the accident.

Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed condolences to Jyotsna's family and praised her tireless efforts in promoting the empowerment of women and girl students. The CM reached out to his Rajasthan counterpart, Bhajan Lal Sharma, and sought essential assistance for the injured lawyers. He also requested Sharma to provide all help to facilitate the safe return of the lawyers to Vijayawada.

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Calling for RFP

Life Insurance Council is seeking proposals from creative agencies to develop an impactful advertising campaign that aligns with its strategic objectives.

Interested agencies should have valid registration with minimum 5 years of providing creative services in India. For eligibility and additional details, please visit the website [www.lifeinscouncil.org](http://www.lifeinscouncil.org) and navigate to the RFP tab - RFP Creative Agency.

Please send Technical Bids in the prescribed format to [licouncil@lifeinscouncil.org](mailto:licouncil@lifeinscouncil.org) on or before 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 3:00 PM IST.

Commercial Bids to be submitted in the prescribed format in a sealed cover marked as RFP - Creative Agency to Secretary General, Life Insurance Council Office, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jeevan Seva Annex Bldg, S.V Road, Santacruz West, Mumbai 400054 on or before 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 3:00 PM IST.

For any clarifications, please send an email to [iac.admin@lifeinscouncil.org](mailto:iac.admin@lifeinscouncil.org) on or before 12<sup>th</sup> October, 12:00 PM IST.

Life Insurance Council reserves the right to accept / reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.

## Agri officers agree for crop survey

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Agriculture extension officers have agreed to take up a digital crop survey for the Union govt. After agriculture department principal secretary Raghunandan held a discussion with officer associations and promised that he would take up the concerns of the officers with the govt, they ag-

reed to take up a survey from Wednesday.

Higher officials told them to download the mobile application first for the survey to begin.

Though some states began crop surveys, Telangana did not begin as the extension officers complained of overburden as they were small in numbers to carry out such a survey.



## Mithun honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award



Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Mithun Chakraborty being congratulated by Sharmila Tagore during the 70th National Film Awards, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu honoured veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award on Tuesday, and recognised other winners of 70th National Film Awards, including acclaimed music composer AR Rahman and actors Rishabh Shetty, Nithya Menen, and Manasi Parekh at a ceremony.

National Film Awards were announced in Aug for the best works of 2022.

The President emphasised the significance of Indian cinema, describing it as the world's largest film industry that produces movies in various languages and regions. She noted its remarkable diversity within a friendly Centre.

However, BJP is not going to shy away from a fight should NC try to raise the ante over its pledge for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35-A. If anything, such an NC posture will work to BJP's advantage in the rest of the country.

Murmu pointed out that out of the 85 recipients, only 15 were women. "... I believe more efforts can be made towards women-led development in film industry. I believe films and social media are a great tool to bring a change in society," she said.

**ODISHA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)  
Regd. Off: Plot No. A/84 Kharavel Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha - 751001 Telephone: +0674-2534086, 2534269 Fax: 0674-  
2535934, Website: www.odishafdc.com E-mail ID: general@odishafdc.com

**GLOBAL E-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION SALE OF RED SANDERS WOOD (Pterocarpus Santalinus)**

Notification No-18717/OFDC-24021/01/2024-OOPER Dated 05.10.2024  
Odisha Forest Development Corporation Limited on behalf of Government of Odisha hereby notifies for sale of 771.0762 MT of Red Sanders Wood (RSW) stored in central godown at Pukurbandha, Berhampur, District-Gajapati, Odisha, PIN-760007, India, through global e-tender-cum-e-auction on 30.10.2024 in the portal of MSTC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise). The intending domestic and international bidders shall be required to register themselves with the MSTC Limited for participation in the sale process. The unsold RSW in the first cycle if any, would be put to subsequent sale on 13.11.2024 in second cycle and 27.11.2024 in third cycle as below.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Schedule as per Indian Standard Time
1)	Date of publication of terms & conditions along with lot etc.	14.10.2024
2)	Period of inspection of stocks at central godown	During 10.30 to 17.00 hours on each working day up to 29.10.2024.
3)	Time limit for submission of queries if any on Detail Tender Call Notice through e-mail only.	Up to 17.00 hours of 21.10.2024 (1) hotoimber@odishafdc.com & (2) general@odishafdc.com
4)	Pre-bid meeting (in Virtual mode only)	From 11.00 hours on 23.10.2024.
5)	Sale schedule of 1st, 2nd & 3rd cycle	On 30.10.2024, 13.11.2024 & 27.11.2024 respectively during 10.00 hours to 15.00 hours on each sale date.

The details of lot list, sale conditions and other related information can be seen in the web portal (1) www.odishafdc.com (2) www.mstccommerce.com and (3) www.mstcindia.co.in. Changes in schedule if any will be notified in these websites only. For any assistance/query in registration/auction related matters, M/S. MSTC Ltd., Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India may be contacted through e-mail bbsopn1@mstcindia.in or telephone / mobile number +91674 2590091 / +91 8801281004.

FOR & ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
Smt. Droupadi Murmu  
Managing Director

For further information, contact:  
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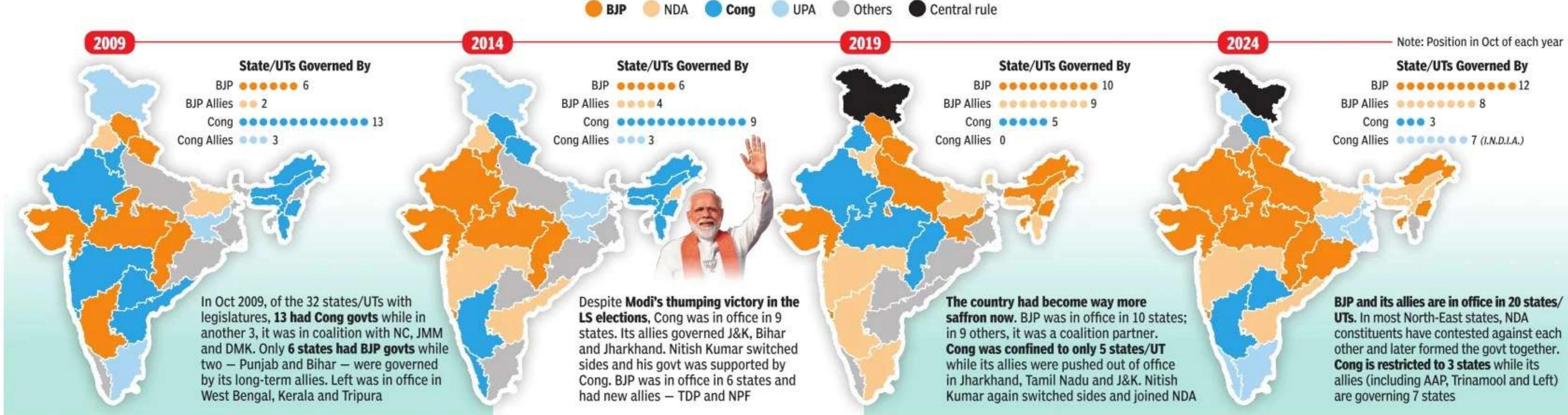
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## THIS IS HOW INDIA'S POLITICAL COLOURS HAVE CHANGED IN THE PAST 15 YEARS



## Behind The Numbers, Beyond The Headlines

Two states, two surprises, many stories. TOI analyses the verdicts in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir to find those small, local narratives that often have decisive impacts on Indian elections. Old scams and father-son arrogance in Haryana, old alliances and a daughter lost without her father in J&K — factors that didn't make big news produced the big shockers in these assembly polls

## MEMORIES OF HOODA RAJ

The decade-long (2004-2014) rule of state Congress boss was not known for probity, a long playing field for all castes, regional balance or justice or fair treatment of Dalits. Voters, it appeared, hadn't forgotten what poll pundits had — those allegedly shady land deals, legions of 'cash-for-jobs' stories, apparent favouritism towards Jats from Hooda's Rohtak-Jhajjar stronghold, highhanded treatment of lower castes in incidents like those in Mirzapur. That Congress high command virtually handed over the state party to him this time as well helped reinforce those memories — and led even a section of voters who had supported Congress in LS polls to vote against it this time.

## POST-LS SWAGGER-I

Congress's five Lok Sabha seats, which came on the back of a 15 percentage point rise in vote share, made it think the assembly election was its for the taking. Hubris often breeds complacency, and it was complacency that made the Congress high command agree to a Hooda-father-son play as its main strategy. Aside from upsetting non-Jats, the virtual handing over of the campaign to Hoodas sharpened party infighting.

## POST-LS SWAGGER-II

Supremely confident of his comeback and eager to ensure that there were

enough of his loyalists among MLAs to guard against any trouble, Hooda got most sitting MLAs re-nominated, many of whom were unpopular at local levels. This was akin to a gift to BJP, which fielded many new faces.

## THE SELJA FACTOR

The marginalisation of Kumari Selja, at Hooda's insistence, unravelled the Jat-Jatav compact that had worked well for Congress in Lok Sabha elections. Despite the preponderance of Jatavs in the list for reserved candidates, doubts about Selja's status remained, especially as she publicly vented her grievances. The Gandhis, both in public and private, tried to bring her on board. But it never quite worked. Naturally, Modi and every BJP member highlighted this dissonance.

**JAWAN/KISAN/PEHALWAN - WHO?** This rhetorical three some proved effective for Congress in LS elections. But it failed in assembly polls. BJP's promises to retiring Agniveers blunted the jawan plank. Many Haryana farmers have more diversified income sources than their cereal-dependant Punjab cousins — that weakened the pitch for farmers. Yes, Vinesh Phogat, the poster girl of the pehalwan agitation, won. But her narrow majority shows that while many Jats voted for Congress, a not-insubstantial number went for BJP.

## 10-YEAR ITCH

A decade is a long time in the rest of India, but not in J&K. Back in 2014, National Conference's Valley rival People's Democratic Party allied with BJP to form a govt. That alliance cleared the way for Farooq and Omar Abdullah's party to become the most effective vehicle for the Valley's grievances, especially when Modi-led BJP abrogated Articles 370 and 35(A), and turned J&K to a Union territory. PDP spoke up, too. But the Abdullah's carried more credibility for Kashmiris. When 2024 elections happened, Omar's loud demands for status quo ante in Jammu and Kashmir convinced many voters he was the man to fight in their corner. That he had once been an ally of Vajpayee-led BJP didn't matter — in part because for the Muslim-dominant Valley, Modi-led BJP is seen as a different party altogether.

## ENGINE MISFIRE

Omar was humiliated by Engineer Rasheed in the Lok Sabha elections in the Baramulla seat. But that was when Engineer was behind bars. Being jailed gave him the kind of street cred that disappeared when he was released on bail to campaign for assembly polls. That loss of 'martyr' status helped spread a loud whisper campaign that Engineer was a BJP dummy tasked with dividing Muslim votes in Kashmir, so that BJP could install a Hindu CM in J&K. NC told this story again and again during campaigning, till it almost acquired the aura of truth. Also, fighting one Lok Sabha seat as a jailed 'hero' is one thing, fighting many seats in assembly elections as a free man, quite another. Engineer's Awami Ittehad Party didn't have the organisation to cash in on what support he had. With AIP hobbled, Omar's NC only had to contend with a weak PDP.

## A GURU &amp; A GUJJAR

Omar, front and centre in NC's campaign, had key help from two colleagues — MP and Shia cleric Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehti and Gujjar face Mian Altaf. Between them, they commanded enough influence to act as force multipliers in the Valley. And their popular appeal allowed Omar to concentrate on pockets where he was needed the most.

## ABDULLAH, ABDULLAH AND ABDULLAH

Three generations of Abdullahs, Sheikh, Farooq

## HARYANA: WHAT CAUSED THE AKHARA UPSET



## KHARCHI-PARCHI

Few outside Haryana could have made sense of the twin terms when Modi used them at one of his election meetings. But for large sections in Haryana it was a reminder of the cash-for-jobs scheme the state had become notorious for in the 10 years of Hooda CM-ship and the five years before that when Om Prakash Chautala was the CM. Govt recruitments under BJP were seen as an improvement. It was certainly not a

system where governing party MLAs were given 'targets' of finding paying candidates for govt jobs. Congress's campaign on unemployment had to contend with this problem.

## BJP'S 2014 PLAYBOOK, BACK IN 2024

The party stuck to Amit Shah's 2014 strategy of relying on 36 biradari or castes to counter Congress's strategy of relying on influential Jats, the largest community. Fears of Hooda hegemony

helped this BJP strategy. Many non-Jats set aside disaffection over economic issues and focused on countering a Jat wave. But a plain vanilla replay of this plan would have partially backfired for BJP, which does have some support among Jats who like Modi's brand of muscular Hindu nationalism. So, the party spread the message on Jat hegemony quietly, never making it a part of its campaign speeches. Clearly, the message was heard by non-Jats.

## MODI MATTERS

LS elections may have dimmed his political aura somewhat but in a state where cow 'protection' forces are a visible presence and 'strong' members play well, the PM, even with minimal campaigning, remains a brand to be reckoned with. At the margin, BJP benefitted from being Modi's party.

## SMART AND SAINI DECISION

When BJP replaced ML Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini, pundits' verdict was mixed. But results showed it was the smartest call BJP made in Haryana. The very fact Saini was neither a high profile nor as headline-hogging as Khattar helped the party. Saini's amiability was seen by many Haryana voters as a decided improvement on Khattar's periodic acerbic remarks. That same quality, as also the fact that Saini comes from the '36-biradari group', helped the CM when

he campaigned among a variety of non-Jat castes. There was a danger that Khattar's sacking would anger his fellow Punjabis. But his prime Union cabinet portfolios of power and urban development nixed any idea that he was being sidelined completely.

## SLICE AND DICE DALIT QUOTA

BJP in Haryana openly supported the demand that the SC verdict okaying sub-categorisation of Dalits' quota be made policy. The issue has strong resonance among large sections of Dalits, who have long held a grudge that Jatavs have been the largest beneficiary of quotas. Congress was hamstrung on this. It couldn't have supported such a policy for fear of annoying Jatavs, who got the largest share of Congress tickets for reserved seats.

## BETTER RESPONSE

BJP was perhaps a bit tone-deaf on the Agnipath scheme during LS polls. In assembly polls, the party course-corrected, promised jobs for recruits who would have to leave after a short service. It also made comforting noises on assured price support, closely mirroring MSP — the target being farmers. Not just in policy terms, BJP responded better to political challenges as well. Dropping sitting MLAs and heavyweights, including former state chief Ramvilas Sharma, worked out, as did prompt fire-fighting when dissidence surfaced.

## J&amp;K: CURRENTS THAT MOVED THE SHIKARAS



and Omar; built and nurtured NC's organisation. The party's enduring voter connect is also thanks to targeted patronage. NC has a presence in almost every corner of Kashmir and in large parts of Jammu. So, whenever voters favour NC, it has the cadre and grassroots party structures to take maximum advantage of it. That its Valley rivals were underwhelming magnified the impact even more.

## VETS FOR VOTES

The eternal conundrum for party function-

aries in Indian elections is whether to give tickets to seasoned old timers or usher in freshers. When an election happens after a decade, this dilemma becomes sharper. NC took the call to go with battle-tested candidates, each with brand recognition of his own and a loyal contingent of supporters, who remember the good times when NC was in power last. Results show that the strategy worked.

## CONG NOT KING BUT STILL USEFUL

Omar publicly griped about Con-

gress's lacklustre campaigning in Jammu, even lamenting that Congress' Rahul Gandhi should have campaigned more in the Hindu-dominated pockets of the region. His logic that this gave BJP an easier run in Jammu seems to have been borne out. But the alliance with Congress helped NC in another, important way — it convinced Valley voters that NC won't tie up with BJP post-poll. Any suspicion on that count could have cost NC in Kashmir.

## THE ONE BAIL BJP-LED CENTRE DIDN'T CHALLENGE

While central agencies routinely opposed bail for almost every jailed opposition politician, in Engineer Rashid's case, his bail order was not challenged. The official explanation was that since AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal was given bail before the Lok Sabha elections, a precedent had been set. Whatever the reason, the decision not to challenge bail cost BJP strategically and helped NC-Congress form govt comfortably.

## THE HINDU VOTE

BJP's strong showing in Jammu came in the face of Hindu voters' disaffection — typical everywhere after 10 years of incumbency — with the administration's development record as well as the waning appeal of Article 370 abrogation. That the party still did as well as it did in the region was thanks mainly to Hindus deciding that, all said and done, BJP remains the best bet to voice their concerns. It was a small but

nationally resonant demonstration of the political reality that when Hindu voters feel collectively apprehensive, they ride over material concerns and plump for BJP.

## BUT NOT A HINDU CM

BJP's strategic plan was to pick up support from small Valley outfits and cobble together a govt — with help from Lieutenant Governor's five nominated MLAs. BJP's promise of quotas for Paharis was also linked to this plan. But NC's sweep of the Valley put paid to that strategy.

## THE HINDU VOTE, THE OTHER SIDE

BJP was helped by Congress's failure to overcome its lack of appeal to Hindus, when the latter vote along community lines. Once a natural choice for Jammu voters, the party couldn't match up to BJP's rhetoric. This has bigger implications, especially if Congress's alliance partner, NC, ratchets up its restore Article 370 demand. BJP can potentially exploit this outside J&K.

## PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE

Underwhelming as its overall performance was, Congress made a smart choice in faithfully playing the junior partner to NC. That allowed Omar the kind of space he needed to maximise returns in Kashmir — and Congress's arrival BJP not being able to form the govt despite the latter's strong showing in Jammu region.

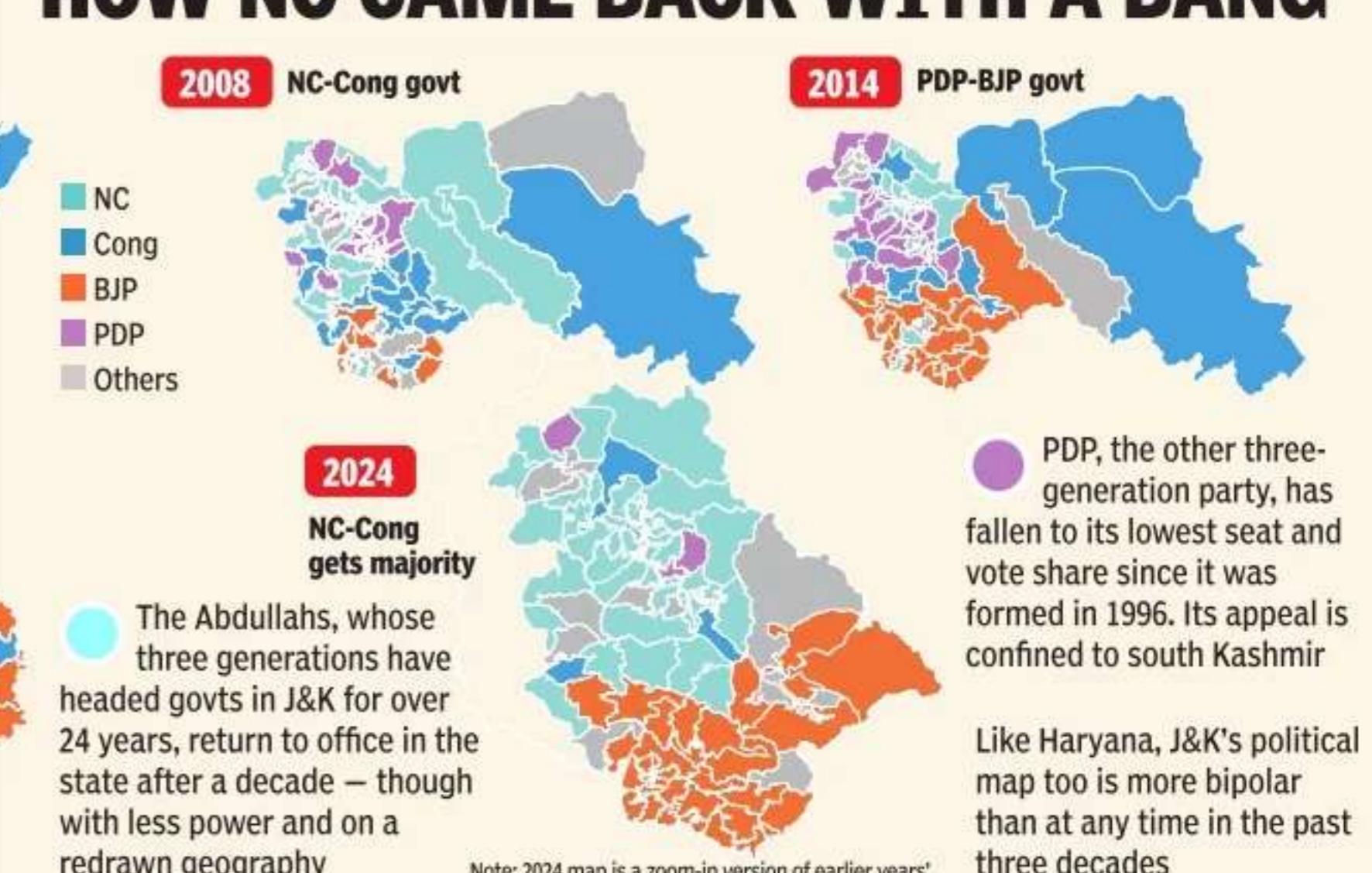
## HARYANA

## WHAT'S INCREDIBLE ABOUT THIS BJP HAT-TRICK?



## JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR

## HOW NC CAME BACK WITH A BANG



# 10 THINGS HARYANA

Haryana and Punjab spearheaded the green revolution in the country. Although Haryana is the country's largest exporter of basmati rice and a major producer of wheat, you are wrong if you think it's mostly an agricultural state. Here are some facts about the state

Source: RBI, NFHS-5, DES

Haryana was carved out of Punjab on Nov 1, 1966. And the reason was language. Haryanvis speak Hindi, not Punjabi

Haryana is among India's richest states. At Rs 296,685, the state's per capita income is significantly higher than the national average of Rs 194,879

According to the NFHS-5 survey, Haryana has one of the lowest sex ratios at birth, with 893 females per 1,000 males, compared with the national average of 929

1 of 3 Olympic medallists in India has roots in Haryana

Haryana shares its capital - Chandigarh - with its parent state Punjab. This was a temporary resolution then to avoid disputes, but even after close to 60 years, nothing has changed. It even shares its high court, which is in Chandigarh, with Punjab. But there have been repeated pleas to open a Gurgaon bench of the high court



Faridabad has the highest vehicle density - 377 per 1,000 people. This is much higher than the national average of 277 vehicles per 1,000

Haryana is the second-largest contributor of food grains to India's central pool and accounts for more than 60% of the country's basmati exports



Home to India's largest car manufacturers, 50% of tractors and 60% of motorcycles are made in Haryana's factories. Even 50% of the country's refrigerators are manufactured in the state

Haryana has the highest concentration of BPO workforce in the world in Gurgaon - 5% of the total global BPO workforce

Gurgaon ranks 17th among districts with the highest exports in the country. In FY 2023-24, exports from Gurgaon were pegged at Rs 52,450 crore

# How Congress Got Floored In Haryana Dangal

Infighting & Jat tilt crush Congress' 'kisan-jawan-pehelwan' poll pitch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Haryana poll result reflects that Congress's singular focus on employment, Agnivipath, development and law and order failed to take into account the persistence of Jat vs non-Jat politics in the state. While the party believed people's issues, with the added impetus of populist announcements, would sway voters beyond caste appeal, the result has belied its expectation.

After exit polls made Congress hopeful of a sweep in Haryana, the result day was marked by a dramatic turn of events as early trends soon got reversed. What appeared to be a close fight when counting started soon turned into a BJP show. It was nothing short of a shock defeat for Congress with its functionaries alleging a conspiracy and saying that "democracy had lost and the establishment had won" in Haryana.

The LS poll results in May, where Congress managed to win five of the 10 seats in the



DRUM BEATEN: Celebrations were cut short at AICC office in Delhi Tuesday

state, had shored up its organisation but also raised possibility of greater infighting as Bhupinder Singh Hooda emerged from the success as Congress' sole face. Insecurities among other functionaries pushed them into a sulk or led them to focus on their kin.

Hooda's failure to reach out to in-house rivals and accommodate them in campaign and strategy created a gulf which, in ultimate analysis, impacted the average Haryana voter. Kumari Selja's re-

ported sulk was the talk of the campaign, as was the claim to the CM's post by multiple netas. By all accounts, Hooda cornered the lion's share of candidates, pushing out the claims of other members.

But where the party also missed a trick is in how it designed its campaign. The overt focus on wrestlers' protest was seen to impress the Jat tilt of Congress, and the decision to field Olympian Vinesh Phogat may have been ill-timed. Additionally, the ab-

sence of big Yadav or Punjabi faces in the Congress team, that could have undercut BJP campaign on Jats vs non-Jat issue, also proved a major chink in the party's armour.

In the end, Congress's reliance on the 'jawan-kisan-pehelwan' plank failed to yield the desired results, with several Jat-dominated seats too going BJP way. The party's guarantees, which had found favour with voters in states like Karnataka and Telangana, did not seem to have any effect on Haryana's electorate.

Knives were out even as votes were being counted with Selja, the party's Dalit face, launching an attack on Hooda and saying that "it will not be business as usual". Calling for introspection, she took a dig at the leadership for putting all its eggs in the father-son duo's basket. "I am pained at the disappointment of party workers who have worked hard (sic)," she said. A Sonia Gandhi loyalist, Selja suggested that ticket distribution may have led to setback, in what was seen as a dig at the Hoodas.

The results of the latest state polls have provided Con-

## Hooda's moves end in anti-climax as state stalwart loses the plot again

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**Chandigarh:** After Congress staged a strong comeback, winning five of 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda had emerged as the man of the moment for his party. Now, his inability to secure a majority for Congress to return to office in Haryana after a 10-year hiatus is likely to have a major impact on his political career, especially as his detractors have already started criticising his leadership.

Given a free hand in ticket distribution and to lead the poll campaign, Hooda managed to get tickets for 72 of his loyalists but Congress fell short of the 46 seats needed to form govt.

In 2019, Hooda's supporters and aides had said that he had been given full control of ticket distribution he could have ensured Congress's return in Haryana. In that election, Congress fell just 15 seats short of forming govt; this time, it was nine seats from a comeback.

The results of the latest state polls have provided Con-



LAST GAMBIT? Bhupinder Singh Hooda managed tickets for 72 of his loyalists

gress's central leadership with a compelling reason to reassess and re-strategise. Hooda's critics within Congress have pointed to his centralisation of power in the state unit leadership as a key contributor to the setback. They argue that the departure of senior netas like Kiran Chaudhary & Kuldeep Bishnoi from the party in the recent past (they had accused Hooda of monopolising control) has now become a focal point for renewed criticism.

Interestingly, Congress'

leadership had picked Bhupinder Hooda as the party's new face in state politics by dislodging the stalwart Bhajan Lal in 2005. Hooda, then 57, had no administrative experience, was not an MLA in the state, and represented Rohtak Lok Sabha seat. He had become a star of Haryana politics in 1991 when he had defeated former deputy PM Devi Lal from Rohtak.

By choosing Hooda, a Jat, the party high command sent a clear message that it wanted to give Haryana's populace a

strong alternative to the Chautala family, whose stronghold lay in the rural belt and which led INLD, the most influential regional party in Haryana.

However, within months of taking the reins of the state, Hooda not only took control of the party's state unit but also became a mass leader, demolishing his opponents in Congress as well as opposition INLD. He sidelined the Bhajan Lal family and their politics and even forced the former Congress stalwart to form his own outfit, Haryana Janhit Congress, led by his son Kuldeep Bishnoi. However, he shattered Kuldeep's dreams when, after the 2009 assembly polls, he managed to convince five of Kuldeep's MLAs to defect and merge with Congress to give an otherwise Congress minority govt a majority.

Hooda has also faced several CBI & ED cases and has been accused of extending benefits to the Gandhi family, to Robert Vadra's companies, and of providing plots to Associated Journals Ltd, publisher of "National Herald" newspaper.

## HITS & FLOPS

**Abhay Chautala** | 61 yrs  
SEAT: ELLENABAD | PARTY: INLD  
Lost to Bharat Singh Beniwal (Cong) by 15,000 votes

**Anil Vij** | 71  
SEAT: AMBALA CANTT | PARTY: BJP  
Defeated Chitra Sarwara (Ind) by 7,277 votes

**Savitri Jindal** | 75  
SEAT: HISAR | PARTY: IND  
Defeated Ram Niwas Rana (Cong) by 18,941 votes

**Aditya Surjewala** | 25  
SEAT: KAITHAL | PARTY: CONG  
Defeated Leela Ram (BJP) by 8,124 votes

**Dushyant Chautala** | 36  
SEAT: UCHANA KALAN | PARTY: JJP  
Lost to Devender Chatar Bhuj Attri (BJP) by 41,018 votes

**Capt. Abhimanyu** | 56  
SEAT: NARNAUND | PARTY: BJP  
Lost to Jassi Petwar (Cong) by 12,578 votes

**Arti Singh Rao** | 45  
SEAT: ATELI | PARTY: BJP  
Defeated Attar Lal (BSP) by 3,085 votes

**Vinesh Phogat** | 30  
SEAT: JULANA | PARTY: CONG  
Defeated Yogesh Kumar (BJP) by 6,015 votes

**Udai Bhan** | 68  
SEAT: HODAL | PARTY: CONG  
Lost to Harinder Singh (BJP) by 2,595 votes

## Dy CM to near-oblivion for Dushyant, 4 other 'Lal' dynasts make it to House

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**Chandigarh:** In the previous BJP-led govt in Haryana, Dushyant Chautala was deputy CM, a post he retained until six months ago when his party, Janayak Janata Party or JJP, severed ties with the BJP. A majority of his MLAs left him soon thereafter, but the state polls were his big hope for a comeback. As the results rolled out on Tuesday, it became clear that this grandson of ex-CM Om Prakash Chautala and great-grandson of deputy PM Devi Lal had lost even his deposit from the Uchana Kalan seat. Worse, the JJP has not won a single seat, and its vote share has dropped from 15% to less than 1%.

Some consolation for dynastic democracy, though, is that the state's three influential families of former CMs—Devi Lal, Bansi Lal, and Bhajan Lal—have managed to secure berths in the assembly. One member from each of the Bansi Lal and Bhajan Lal families and two members from Devi Lal's family have made it to the legislature.

Former CM Bhajan Lal's son Chander Mohan (Panch-

### IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

#### Bhajan Lal Family

Candidate	Relationship	Party	Constituency	Result
Chander Mohan	Son	Congress	Panchkula	Won
Bhavya Bishnoi	grandson	BJP	Adampur	Lost
Dura Ram	Nephew	BJP	Fatehabad	Lost



#### Bansi Lal Family

Candidate	Relationship	Party	Constituency	Result
Shruti Chaudhary	Granddaughter	BJP	Tosham	Won
Anirudh Chaudhary	Grandson	Congress	Tosham	Lost
Somvir Singh	Son-in-law	Congress	Badhara	Lost



#### Devi Lal Family

Candidate	Relationship	Party	Constituency	Result
Abhay Chautala	Grandson	INLD	Ellenabadi	Lost
Ranjit Singh	Son	Independent	Rania	Lost
Dushyant Chautala	Great-grandson	JJP	Uchana	Lost
Digvijay Chautala	Great-grandson	JJP	Dabwali	Lost
Sunaina Chautala	Granddaughter-in-law	INLD	Fatehabad	Lost
Aditya Devi Lal	Grandson	INLD	Dabwali	Won
Arjun Chautala	Great-Grandson	INLD	Rania	Won
Kunal Singh	Maternal great-grandson	INLD	Tohana	Lost



kula), former deputy PM Devi Lal's grandson Aditya Devi Lal (Dabwali), great-grandson Arjun Chautala (Rania) and former CM Bansi Lal's granddaughter Shruti Chaudhary (Tosham) emerged victorious.

The Bhajan Lal family for more

however, suffered a major setback as Bhavya Bishnoi, grandson of Bhajan Lal and Kuldeep Bishnoi's son, lost his traditional Adampur seat this time. Adampur had been represented by the Bhajan Lal family for more

than five decades from 1968.

As many as 14 members of famous Lal families were in the fray this time. These included three members each from the families of Bansi Lal and Bhajan Lal and eight members of Devi Lal's family.

## BJP sweeps Gurgaon 4-0 with 49% vote share

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**Gurgaon:** Waterlogging to waste, the city's festering civic problems did not show up in the assembly poll results Tuesday with the BJP improving its tally from 3-1 in 2019 to a whitewash this time in the four assembly seats that are part of Gurgaon district.

In doing so, BJP not only wrested Badshapur, the largest constituency in Haryana, it also bagged 49% of the district's vote share, eight percentage points more than what it polled in 2019 elections.

Congress managed to increase its vote share from just 8.5% in 2019 to 26.7% this time, but couldn't make a dent. Its Gurgaon candidate, in fact, finished third, behind a BJP rebel who contested as independent.

In Badshapur—where the lack of civic infrastructure pinched the most—BJP heavyweight Rao Narbir Singh managed 1.4 lakh votes. He trumped Congress rival Vardhan Yadav by 60,705 votes.

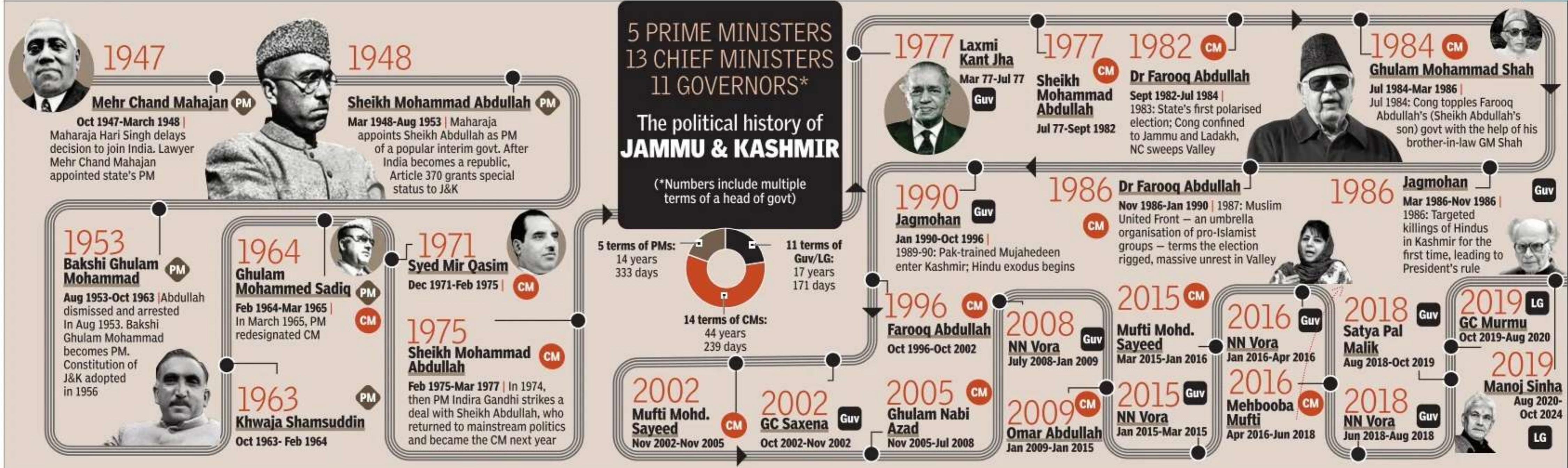
For Congress, the contest was very different from that in the LS polls merely four months ago, when it wrested five of 10 seats from BJP. In Gurgaon assembly seat, Congress was pushed to the third place. Mukesh Sharma of BJP received 1.2 lakh votes, defeating Independent candidate and party rebel Naveen Goel by 68,045 votes. Congress's Mohit Grover managed 46,947 votes.

In Gurgaon, too, Congress doubled its vote share. According to political analysts, both BJP and Congress would have had higher numbers were it not for Goel, who secured 54,570 votes. In the run-up to the polls, Goel was a major cause for concern for BJP, which feared a considerable dent to its vote share from him.

In Pataudi, Bimla Chaudhary of BJP received 98,519 votes and trounced her nearest rival—Congress's Pearl Choudhary—by 46,530 votes.

In Soh

## DANCE of DEMOCRACY | DECODING J&amp;K VERDICT



## Faith & Politics: NC's Double-Engine Spiritual Drive Unified Muslim Votes

Two Cleric  
MPs Shaped  
Mood In Omar  
Outfit's Favour

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Srinagar: Some call it religious appeal. Some call it "Peer-Mureedi". Whatever it may be, the presence of two spiritual guides of different Muslim sects in National Conference's campaign consolidated the mood for the Omar Abdullah outfit and put it beyond the fight that PDP, newbies and independents could put up.

Lok Sabha MP Mian Altaf Ahmad of Anantnag-Rajouri and Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdvi of Srinagar are respected clerics, who were inseparable from Omar's travels across J&K in the cut-throat campaign that lasted over a month.

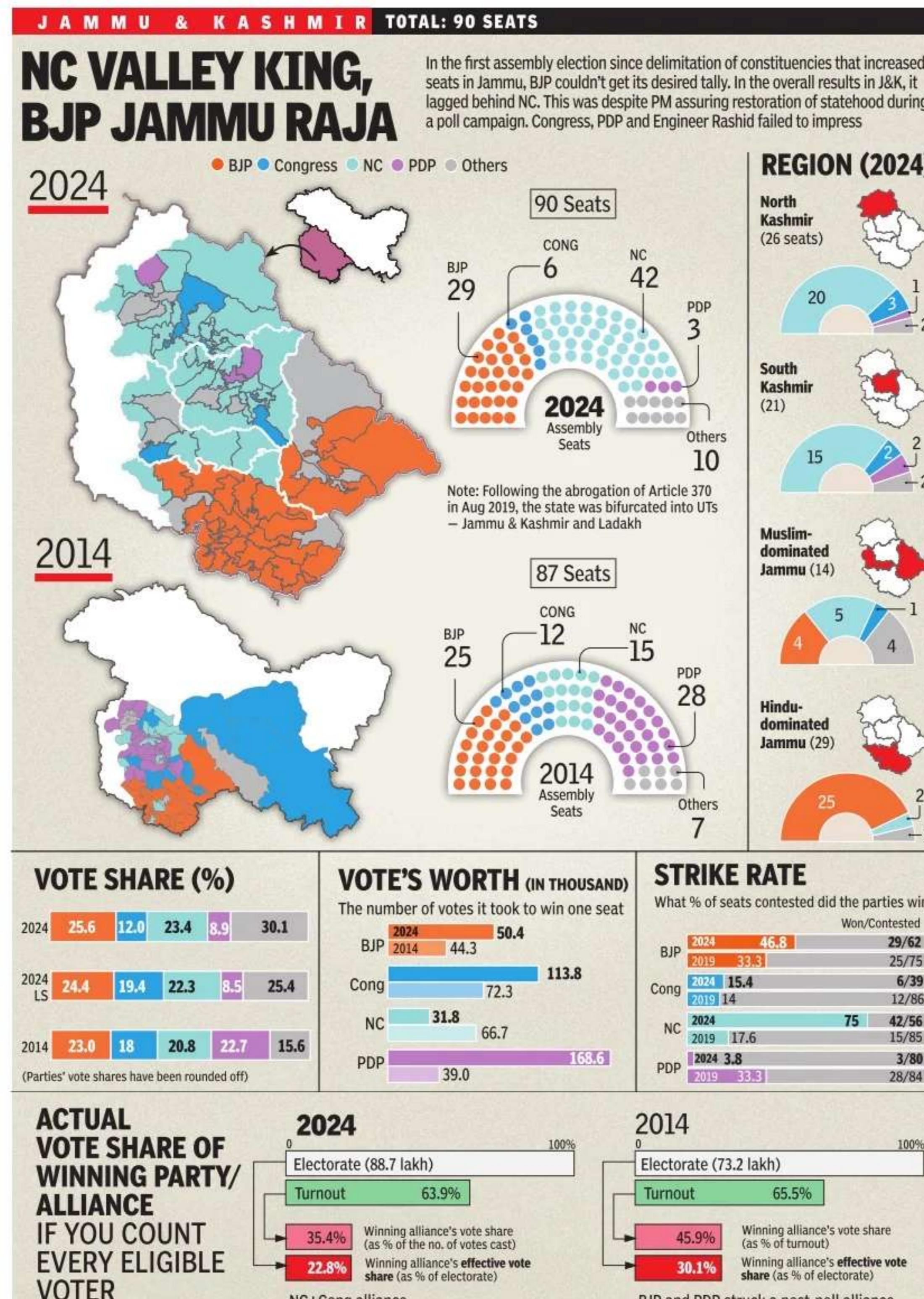
The Mian family represents the revered spiritual seat of Gujjar-Bakarwali communities across J&K. While the community has a presence in parts of Kashmir, they are in good numbers in Jammu region as well. Interestingly, Mian Altaf's son Mehar Ali debuted from his erstwhile assembly seat of Kangan, which impeded the MP's movement in the party's campaigning. He addressed many rallies in Poonch and other regions of Jammu by video call, while apologising for being hobbled by his son's contest.

Aga Ruhullah is a young and respected cleric of Shia sect which has a good presence in Srinagar-Budgam pockets, both of which have been swept by NC. In fact, Budgam that Omar chose as his second seat after Ganderbal this time was Aga's earlier assembly turf.

Observers point out that beyond being representatives of individual sects, the two are also respected by the vast swathe of the Kashmiri community as also by Jammu Muslims. It works twofold — in taking the political campaign to individual groups, as also appealing to the larger religious umbrella.

The strong mandate for NC is also reflective of the magic woven by the two MPs, whose families have had political roles besides their religious duties for decades.

The Mian family has represented Kangan in Kashmir since 1951, going back to the MP's grandfather. In 2024 LS



## Quantum of solace for BJP: Defeated but best show yet

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### Jammu saffron story: J&K chief loses, 29 winners include 29-year-old PhD

New Delhi: BJP's dreams of forming its first govt in J&K remains unfulfilled but it emerged the second largest party by winning 29 constituencies in the maiden assembly polls post nullification of Article 370, improving on its all-time high of 25 seats recorded in 2014 elections.

The party had expected a better performance against the mainstream parties in the Valley and form the govt with their support, but the NC-Congress combine swept the polls, gaining a clear mandate.

However, there is a sense of satisfaction among the BJP brass over a substantial rise in poll percentage across the region as they consider it as an endorsement of the Modi govt's decisions.

"BJP has delivered its best performance so far. We have won 29 seats, and it is satisfying that we fought this election solely on the issue of development," said Union minister Jitendra Singh, MP from Udhampur.

BJP suffered a setback with its Union Territory president Ravinder Raina losing from Nowshera constituency at the hands of National Conference. Also, the party failed to win any seat in Kashmir

hari passed away on Oct 2.

Besides the two former ministers, four ex-legislators, including Raina, lost to their rivals.

However, 12 former legislators, including seven ministers, successfully contested the elections and mostly retained their seats. The rest of the party winners are new faces, including a former police officer, a university professor and an ex-bureaucrat took retirement recently to contest the elections.

## No Mufti in House, yet PDP may live to fight another day

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party drew a blank in Haryana but sprung a surprise in Jammu and Kashmir where its candidate Mehraj Malik won from Doda assembly constituency.

This takes AAP's presence in legislatures to five states. Besides being the ruling party in Delhi and Punjab, AAP has five MLAs in Gujarat and two in Goa. Congratulating Malik over video call, Kejriwal accepted his invitation to participate in an event at Doda on Oct 10.

Malik, a district development council (DDC) member, polled 23,228 votes against BJP's Gajay Singh Rana's 18,690 votes in Doda.

"You fought the election very well. Congratulations to the entire party for having an MLA in the fifth state," Kejriwal posted on X. AAP contested seven of the 90 seats in J&K. After news of Malik's win, celebrations erupted at AAP headquarters in Delhi.

And try to make a comeback. It will have to hold on to its MLAs who've proved fickle in the past. The fact is that PDP, in its 24th year of existence, faces a real existential threat.

Putting up a brave front, Mehbooba said, "These ups and downs are part of a party's political journey. But PDP has a vision and an agenda, and that will help us go forward with hope."

It leaves BJP with a decent contingent, but limited to Jammu, playing opposition. While the ruling combine would be hoping for early restoration of statehood and some sort of special status, the overwhelming alliance in its favour would challenge the Centre to restore powers of state govt that have been delegated to the LG.

## Writing on the wall for separatists, no one wins in divisive politics

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Srinagar: Former militants, separatists, and members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and their relatives ran as independents or on party tickets but none won. Many lost their security deposits.

All 10 former members of Jamaat were defeated, including the outfit's former general secretary Sayar Reshi, who lost to CPM's Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami in Kulgam. In neighbouring Pulwama, Jamaat-supported Talat Majid Alie lost to PDP's Waheed Para.

Ale attributing his loss to a lack of support for Jamaat, and said: "This is the start of the process. We had limited time for campaigning, but I believe we can make a differ-

ence in the future."

Former militants and separatists banded together to form a political group named Tahreek-e-Awam to contest the elections and fielded independents in Pulwama, Kulgam, Zainapora, and Devsar in south Kashmir; and Beerwah, Langate, Bandipora, Bararamulla, Sopore, and Rafiabad in the north. In Sopore, Ajaz Ahmad Guru, brother

of Afzal Guru — hanged in 2013 for his role in the 2001 Parliament attack — lost.

Separatist cleric Sarjan Ahmad Wagay lost to NC's

Omar Abdullah in Ganderbal, and barely managed to save his deposit in Beerwah.

Initially, 15 candidates tied to Jamaat had entered the fray, but five of them backed out. This marked a notable shift towards mainstream political participation, moving away from the separatist boycotts that have dominated polls during three decades of militancy.

Another prominent former separatist Zaffar Habib Dar linked to Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, ran as a candidate for J&K Apni Party in Srinagar's Central Shalteng but lost to J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra. He

sees participation in the democratic process as the key to resolving issues in an altered political scenario since abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the region into Union territories — J&K and Ladakh.

"We can solve problems only through the electoral process. Everyone should cast their vote," Dar said.

JKLF ex-commander Mohammad Farooq Khan, also known as Saifullah, ran on a Samajwadi Party ticket from Habbakadal constituency and lost to Shamin Firdous of NC. Khan was among the first militants in 1989 to cross over to PoK for arms training. He regretted his decision.

"That time everyone picked up the gun. We were misguided by Pakistan agents in Kashmir," Khan said.

People have defeated Jamaat's polarisation of voters, Tarigami said, adding: "This is how they were exposed... It's a loss for their demagogic policies, their double-faced and deceptive politics."

## Five in a row for CPM's Tarigami from Kulgam

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Kulgam: CPI(M) veteran Mohammad Youssuf Tarigami has secured his fifth consecutive victory in Kulgam constituency, defeating Jamaat-e-Islami candidate Sayar Reshi.

Tarigami has represented the constituency since 1996, winning the 2002, 2008, 2014 and 2024 elections. He received 33,390 votes, while Reshi, an independent candidate supported by the banned politico-religious organisation Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), got 25,639 votes.

People have defeated Jamaat's polarisation of voters, Tarigami said, adding: "This is how they were exposed... It's a loss for their demagogic policies, their double-faced and deceptive politics."

## Big win for INDIA bloc fails to hide failure of Cong in Jammu

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Srinagar: The resounding mandate for the INDIA bloc in J&K failed to hide the tame failure of Congress to live up to its pre-poll expectation of taking on BJP in its Hindu stronghold of Jammu. Congress won a lone seat in Jammu region, and that too via a minority candidate in the reserved Rajouri constituency. This is the worst performance of Congress in the region.

Though Congress won five seats in Kashmir, it was expected to boost the alliance in Jammu, with better ground presence and appeal. Given the polarised nature of J&K after 2014, NC has taken a back seat while expecting Congress to fill the vacuum with Hindu voters and the

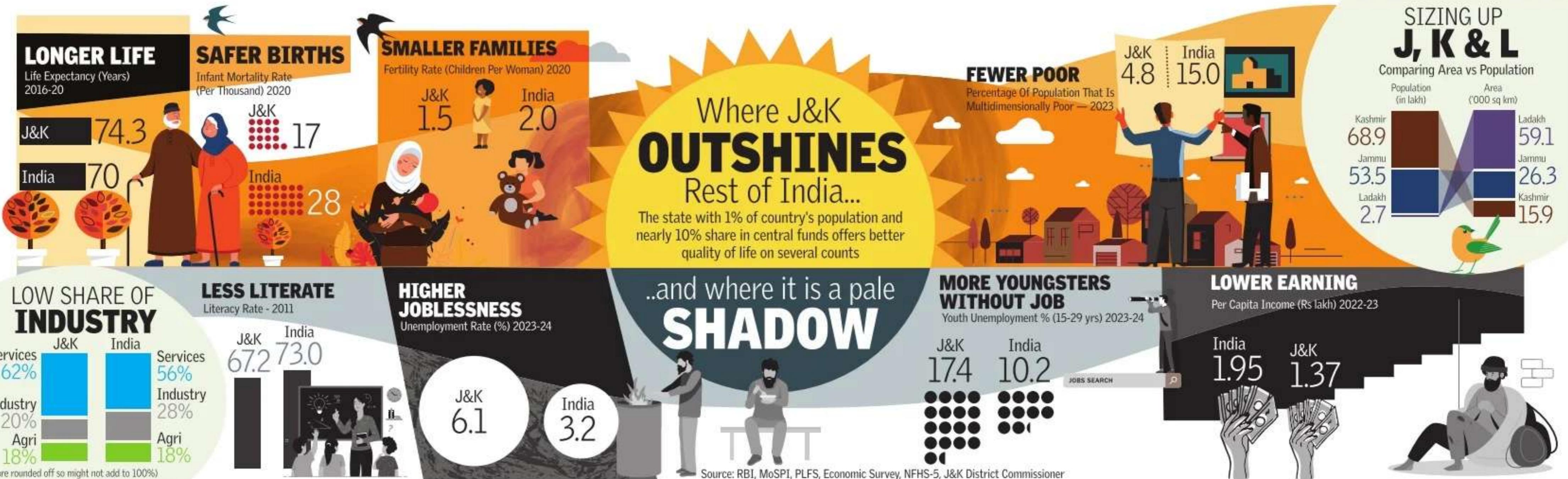


THE WINNING HAND

middle class. The Lok Sabha trends showed an improvement in Congress's standing as its Lok Sabha candidates sharply cut the margins of victory of BJP nominees in Jammu and Udhampur seats. With Congress performing better nationally than was forecast in the 2024 LS contest, the party came to believe it was on a comeback trail, and Jammu became its target. In the alliance with NC, Congress got — seats to contest in Jammu. But the hopes fell by the wayside. Ally

and NC chief Omar Abdullah had sounded the warning during the campaign by publicly stating that Congress was not focusing on Jammu where it was expected to do the heavy lifting and thereby given the lion's share of seats. "It does not matter what Congress does in Kashmir, what matters is how Congress fares in Jammu," Abdullah had remarked bitterly, slamming the ally for wrongly focusing on Kashmir.

Congress' working presidents Ramzan Bhalla and Tariq Chand, former MP Lal Singh, former state president Vikar Rasool Wani among others failed to win, though some of them lost by smaller margins. BJP gained directly from the Congress failure and boosted its tally to 29, the number of segments it led in the Lok Sabha polls.



## J&K Headed For Winter Of Discontent? It Will Depend On Lt Gov's Playbook

Pre-Poll Change In Law Enhancing LG's Powers Opens Doors To A Delhi-Like Conflict

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**New Delhi:** Perhaps the first indication that the Centre was ready for assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir came when it amended the Transaction of Business of the Govt of Union Territory of J&K on July 12, 2024, to make it mandatory for all decisions relating to postings and transfers of secretary-level officers, appointment of law officers, grant or refusal of prosecution sanction and prison-related matters, to be put up to the lieutenant governor (LG) for approval, through the chief secretary.

The amendments — which the Centre had said it was authorised to notify as per provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 — enhance LG's powers by making his approval necessary for postings and transfers of secretaries of all J&K administrative departments and cadre-post officers.

While this is a significant power as the LG can decide the heads of various J&K departments, a source said the transfers and post-



HIMALAYAN OBSTACLES

ings of the subordinate staff, which total nearly five lakh, will continue to be in the hands of the J&K govt.

The J&K LG will, prima facie, have the same powers as the Delhi LG, in that he shall have the final word on matters relating to J&K police, including its various wings like CID, and SIA as well as the J&K anti-corruption bureau (ACB). Over and above these powers, all files on matters relating to pris-

ons, directorate of prosecution and forensic science laboratories, as well as appointment of law officers, will need to be routed to LG through the chief secretary or the chief minister.

The LG also enjoys the sole discretion to appoint the five nominated MLAs in the J&K assembly.

Police matters, law and order as well as control of the security grid will remain exclusively with LG, who will

continue to head the Unified Headquarters. This means that the LG will be chairing all the counter-terror strategy meetings and sessions with heads of Army, central paramilitary forces, central and state intelligence agencies, and J&K police.

This leaves no scope for the incoming elected dispensation to interfere with or tone down the security offensive, which has been focused on pro-active engagements with

terrorists, choking terror financing through investigations and actions by the NIA and SIA and dismantling the terror ecosystem by denying benefits like passports and govt jobs to local underground workers (OGWs) and terror supporters/sympathisers.

Any opposition by the J&K govt to tough terror actions against locals could make it prone to attacks by BJP. Congress, as the national player in the J&K coalition, may particularly find it tricky to ward off such attacks as it strikes a balance between regional interests of NC, its major partner, and maintaining its nationalistic credentials.

What observers are not ruling out is the recurrent strain in working ties between the LG and J&K dispensation — a common occurrence in Delhi that follows the same model of governance — over what the latter may project as law and order and counter-terror 'slip ups', besides the transfer and postings of preferred bureaucrats. But eventually, both sides may learn to live and govern with disagreements from time to time.

## LS loss now history, Omar is Kashmir's comeback king

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**Srinagar:** For someone who doubted he would contest an assembly election in J&K again, morning showed the day for Omar Abdullah as he awaited a make-or-break verdict on his political career.

"Counting day 7K done. Last time around it didn't end well for me personally. InshaAllah this time around it will be better," he posted on X at 9.24am, accompanied by a selfie of him in a white polo against a sylvan backdrop.

By 11.48am, gone was the tentativeness of a politician who suffered defeat in the race for the Baramulla LS seat just over four months ago. "If you pay for exit polls or waste time discussing them you deserve all the jokes/memes/ridicule. There was a reason I called them a waste of time a few days ago," he wrote.

On social media, where Omar often extols the stress-busting virtues of exercising and running in between his bite-sized ruminations on politics and life in J&K.

He will additionally have a govt to run now, with the baton of chief ministership handed back to him in a dramatic comeback, 15 years after he became the erstwhile state's youngest CM.

At 54, this UK-born, Sanawar-schooled former ITC and Oberoi Group employee and ex-CM remains a curious mix of 'Lion of Kashmir' lineage, free-spirited personal beliefs, and political complexity.

Being Sheikh Abdullah's grandson and Farooq's first-born has meant Omar has had to do some heavy lifting beyond the gym, nothing perhaps heavier than the weight of expectations.



**WEIGHT OF INHERITANCE:** Being Sheikh Abdullah's grandson and Farooq's first-born has meant Omar has had to do some heavy lifting, nothing perhaps heavier than the burden of expectations

Omar's political journey began in 1998 when he was elected to the Lok Sabha from his family pocket borough of Srinagar at 28. He would retain the seat in the next two elections and become external affairs minister in the erstwhile Atal Bihar Vajpeyi-led NDA govt in 2001.

The MEA stint lasted 17 months, ending in Dec 2002 when Omar resigned and plunged into preparations for the assembly polls in J&K. He had taken over from his father as National Conference president in June of that year, retaining the post until 2009.

The 2002 polls saw NC lose over half the 57 assembly seats it had won in 1996. Omar contested and lost the Ganderbal seat to PDP candidate Qazi Mohd Afzal.

He was re-elected to Lok Sabha from Srinagar in 2004, only to return to state politics four years later. In the 2008 assembly polls, Omar led NC to a tally of 28 seats with Congress as the party's ally. He was sworn in as J&K's eighth CM — he was 38 then — in Jan 2009.

Omar would remain at the helm until 2015, a period marked by a constant struggle to stem unrest while taking a stand against the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

Another blip was a whiff of controversy within months of his taking over the chief ministership. In July 2009, an unsubstantiated allegation by the opposition PDP linking Omar to a 2006 sex scandal led him to step down. The then governor didn't accept the resignation.

His last stint as an MLA and leader of the opposition ended in 2018 when the assembly was dissolved.

What makes the NC vice president's political comeback even more remarkable is that it comes within months of his defeat in Baramulla at the hands of his then jailed rival Sheikh Abdul Rashid, aka Engineer Rashid.

"I am a Kashmiri by heart, an Indian by choice, and a politician by profession," Omar was once quoted as saying. The remark encapsulates the tightrope he has often had to walk in his political career.

## Queen's Gambit fails, Mehbooba tastes defeat

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**P**olitics often reminds of games played in school, like plucking the petals of a flower: "they love me, they love me not". The metaphor might be subtle, but it's surprisingly effective and haunting considering what's to come for PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

PDP suffered its worst defeat in J&K's long-awaited assembly elections, securing just three seats. A stunning tailspin from 16 in 2002, 21 in 2008, and 28 in 2014. "We will play the role of a constructive opposition. The issues of the people do not end with an election," she said, conceding defeat and bidding her supporters to lose heart.

Mehbooba never envisioned herself as a politician. The eldest of four children born to former Union home minister and two-time J&K CM Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, she cherished the idea of a quiet life. But by the 1990s, she found herself stepping into politics at the behest of her father. She became the reluctant representative of the family name, a role she never truly sought but one she would soon come to embody.

Her journey from the periphery to the heart of Kashmiri politics was shaped by conviction. Recently, that same conviction caused her to step back. She would not, she declared, contest any assembly elections until J&K's statehood — lost with the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 — was restored. She stood resolute, unmoved by her party's appeals.

Instead, she chose to pass the mantle to the next generation, nominating her daughter Iltija Mufti to contest Srigufwara-Bijbehara in Anantnag. It was here, in 1967, that her father first tasted victory as a Congress candidate. It was here, in 1996, that Mehbooba won her first election.

It was Iltija's turn to continue a political legacy deeply rooted in the very soil of Bijbehara, her father Javid Iqbal Shah's home-land as well. Iltija lost.

## 4 months on, he fails to Engineer another victory

Saleem.Pandit@timesofindia.com

**E**lections have a way of getting in the way of expectations. Abdul Rashid Sheikh, aka Engineer Rashid, was in Tihar Jail when he pulled off — in absentia — a giant-killing act in Baramulla LS constituency that few could have imagined, much less anticipate.

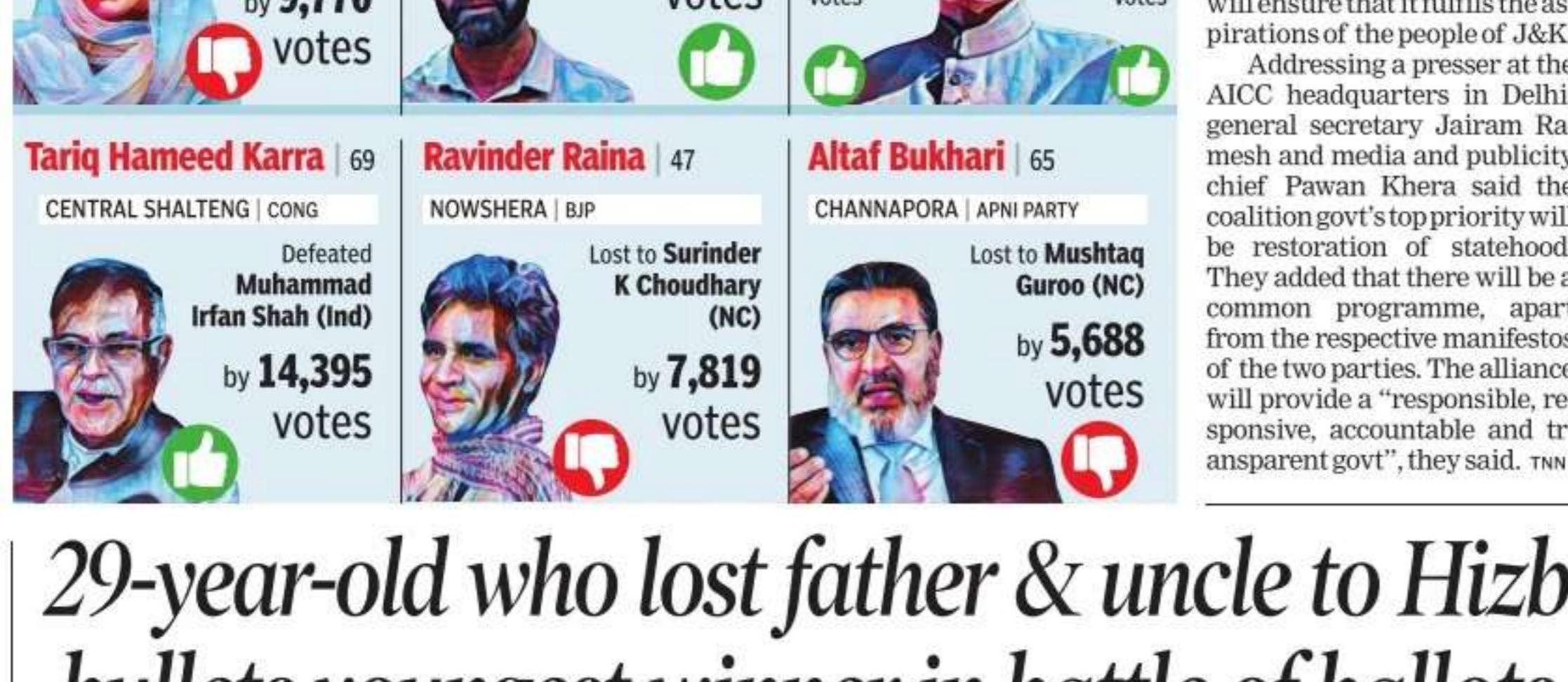
The buzz was that Rashid's fellow contestants, Omar Abdullah of National Conference and Sajad Ganj Lone of People's Conference, would find it hard to live down the chastening defeat by over two lakh votes each at the hands of a rival incarcerated in a terrorist funding case.

Barely four months later, Omar is on his way to becoming CM for the second time. Lone has retained his Handwara seat, and Rashid has been left contemplating what is it about electoral sentiment that can change faster than the seasons.

Ligate, where Rashid fielded his brother Khurshed Ahmad Sheikh, was the lone bright spot for his fledgling Awami Ittehad Party among the 34 contests it was part of in J&K's first assembly election as a Union territory. "Power is not a permanent thing... The world is watching us," Rashid said.

The context of the remark was different — he was speaking about "letting the people of J&K live and enjoy their rights" — but this might well have been the electorate's voice in Rashid's ear by the end of the day. Much of the voters' disenchantment with Rashid's outfit, which is still to be recognised by EC, was possibly influenced by how his rivals ran their campaign. His release on bail from Sept 11 to Oct 2, coinciding with the three-phase election, led Omar to brand him a "BJP proxy".

Soon after Tuesday's verdict, Rashid attributed the defeat of all but one of his 34 candidates to Omar and Sajad Lone ganging up to defeat them. "Can Omar tell us now who is BJP's B team?" he said.



## 29-year-old who lost father & uncle to Hizb bullets youngest winner in battle of ballots

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN



This victory is not just mine. It belongs to the people of Kishtwar, said Shagun Parihar

Shagun's candidacy is poignant, rooted in personal tragedy. Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists gunned down her father and BJP functionary Ajit Parihar and her uncle Amil Parihar near their home before the panchayat elections on Nov 1, 2018.

In a heartfelt speech Tuesday, she emphasised the heavy toll years of conflict have taken on her community. "We have lost a large num-

ber of our soldiers. I have lost my father, and some have lost their brothers and sons. My first effort will be to ensure that every child here has the shadow of a father over his head, that there is peace and prosperity in the area. My efforts will be to bring happiness to every home. Initially focused on her

academic pursuits — she is currently pursuing a PhD — Shagun had no intentions of joining politics. Yet, her family legacy, combined with a sense of duty to her community, led her to step into the political arena.

Shagun is one of just three women to have won in these elections. But her victory was no easy feat. She triumphed over Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo, a former minister and a prominent figure from NC and Firdous Ahmed Tak from PDP. In a tightly contested race, she secured 29,053 votes, defeating Kichloo by a slim margin of just 521 votes.

During the campaign, PM Modi acknowledged the gravity of Shagun's personal history. Referring to her slain father and uncle, he said: "She is not just our candidate; she is the living example of BJP's resolve to finish off terrorism."

As Shagun begins her new role, her focus remains clear: the safety, security, and prosperity of her community. "This victory is not just mine. It belongs to the people of Kishtwar," she said.

population and a smaller Hindu community, the district has long been a stronghold for NC, which had won the seat five times. BJP had first claimed the constituency in 2014, when Sunil Sharma won, but this latest win by Shagun has a deeper resonance for the people of Kishtwar.

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## 1.5% hit Nota in J&K, 0.4% in Hry

More voters in J&K used the Nota button against those in Haryana, EC data shows.

In Haryana, out of over 2 crore electors, 67.9% had exercised their franchise. Out of these, 0.4% used the none of the above (Nota) option on the voting machine. In J&K, 63.9% of the total electorate voted. Out of these, 1.5% opted for Nota.

According to trends, not more than 2% of the voters have opted for Nota, indicating continued reluctance of electors in choosing the option. Introduced in 2013, the Nota option on EVMs has its own symbol — a ballot paper with a black cross across it. PTI



Mehbooba Mufti

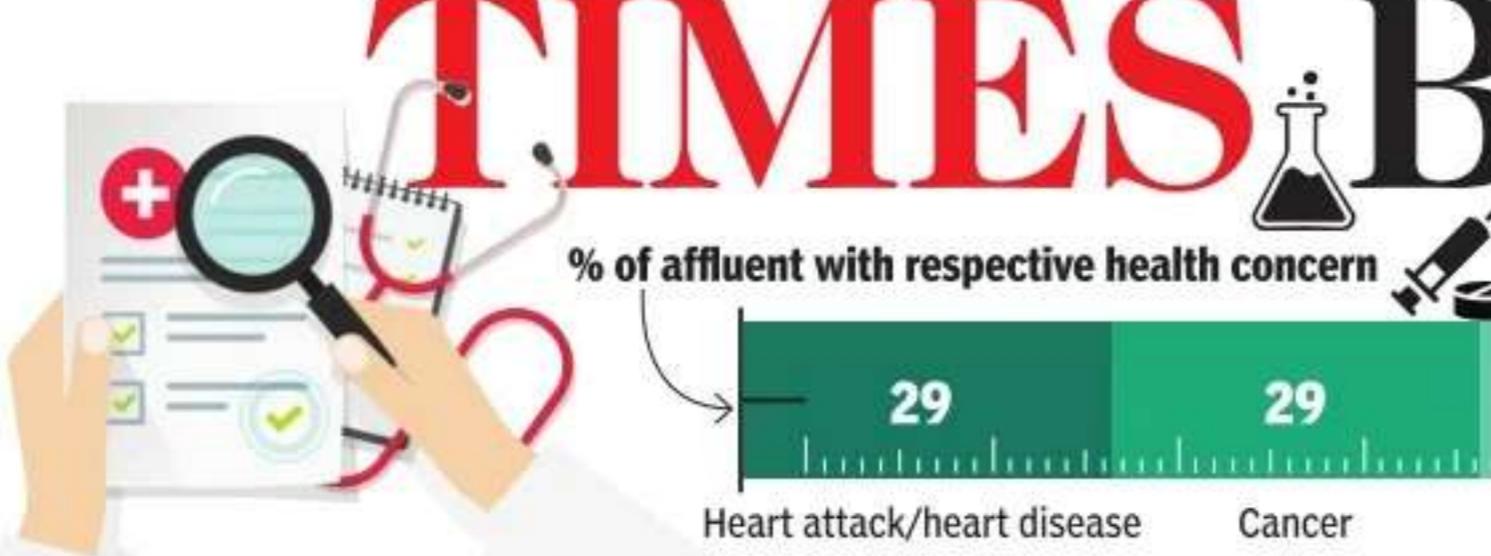
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Nearly 1 in 4 affluent individuals feels insufficiently protected against healthcare costs, according to HSBC Quality of Life Report 2024



THE TIMES OF INDIA, HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024



% of affluent who do not have adequate healthcare protection	
Gen Z (Age 25-27)	22
Millennials (Age 28-43)	22
Gen X (Age 44-59)	25
Baby Boomers (Age 60-69)	23
Total	23

## HDFC to sell edu arm stake to Nadar grp co

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank will sell its stake in HDFC Education and Development Services to Vama Sundari Investments (Delhi), a core investment company affiliated with the Shiv Nadar group, for Rs 192 crore. HDFC Edu operates three schools in Pune, Bengaluru, and Gurugram. Following the reverse merger of HDFC with the bank, HDFC Edu became a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank. An RBI directive has mandated that HDFC Bank divest its stake in HDFC Edu before June 30, 2025. TNN

### crazy bosses



### Hyundai eyes \$3.3bn in India's biggest IPO

**H**yundai is seeking to raise as much as \$3.3 billion through an IPO of its Indian unit, sources said, kicking off the country's biggest-ever listing. Hyundai set the price range at Rs 1,865 to Rs 1,960 per share — valuing the company at \$19 billion. BLOOMBERG

### Oil prices fall \$3 a barrel on war pause

**Houston:** Brent and US crude futures fell \$3 a barrel on Tuesday due to a pause in the Israel-Iran conflict and growing confidence a massive hurricane would miss major oil production areas in the northern Gulf of Mexico. REUTERS

### Frammer AI raises \$2mn from Lumikai

**New Delhi:** Frammer AI, founded a little over a year ago by former management team of NDTV, has announced a \$2 million seed round investment from Lumikai. "With advanced AI and proprietary training, the start-up provides an all-in-one platform," it said. TNN

### EPS 1st in 10 yrs to get RBI nod to set up ATMs

**Mumbai:** Electronic Payment and Services has become the fifth company to receive a licence to operate white-label ATMs in India, the first such approval in a decade. The company plans to deploy 9,000 WLA nationwide within three years under brand name EPS Bancs. TNN

### figure it out Nearly 50%

cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources is what India is aiming to achieve by 2030



Source: Niti Aayog

Pankaj.Doval@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A year after its \$1-billion investment proposal was rejected by govt, BYD on Tuesday said it will depend on an "import-only strategy" and refrain from setting up a car factory in India under the new EV policy.

While sources insist that BYD is in talks with some Indian corporate houses to forge an alliance like MG's parent SAIC did with JSW Group, the company refuses to confirm any such development.

BYD currently imports three models from China and is looking to sell 3,500 units this year; a 40% increase over the 2,500 it sold last year; Rajeev Chauhan, Indian arm's head of electric passenger vehi-

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purpose vehicle eMAX 7, pri-

marily

## Indian regulators have brought greater transparency, says FM

**There Is Need To Delve Into Facts Before Making 'Caesar's Wife Has To Be Above Suspicion' Comments On Sebi Chief: Sitharaman**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said there is a need to delve into facts before attacking the Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch on grounds that Caesar's wife should be above suspicion.

"There's just no way in which all of us can sit around here and talk about this Caesar's wife business saying 'No... regulators have to be above board' and keep throwing things without looking at the facts. I strongly recommend that facts be taken on board before discussing anything with the regulators," Sitharaman said in response to a question on allegations against Buch during a fireside chat at a banking event hosted by the Financial Express.

Buch has been facing the heat after US short-seller Hindenburg Research released a string of allegations against her beginning Aug

**On food inflation's inclusion in policy decisions** | I wouldn't yet take any position about whether food should be in there or not... However, the WPI basket probably has certain items which probably will have to be in CPI, and the CPI also has some items in the basket which probably don't have contemporary value

**On freebies** | We should have a debate of what constitutes the freebie... We don't want them, but you cannot, in that name, deny the poor the help that they need to get for some more time until they come out of poverty

—Nirmala Sitharaman FINANCE MINISTER

10. These were picked up by the Congress party, which dug into her tax filings to show that she continued to earn an active income even after being appointed at Sebi. Sitharaman went on to say that Indian regulators' functioning has brought greater transparency to the system, and now, even their global peers look up to them. She said this was true of the markets, banking, and insurance sectors, but specified that the

statement was not in response to the query on Buch.

Responding to a question on whether food inflation should be factored in for monetary policy decisions, Sitharaman said, "I think there's a lot of debate required on this, and I wouldn't yet take any position about whether food should be in there or not." However, she added that the consumer and wholesale price indices required a review as "the WPI basket

probably has certain items which probably will have to be in CPI, and the CPI also has some items in the basket which probably don't have a contemporary value."

On the issue of state governments announcing giveaways for voters, Sitharaman said she is not in favour of "freebies which cannot be sustained in your normal welfare kitty." She emphasised the need to differentiate between unsustainable freebies and legitimate welfare measures, adding that money spent on supporting the poor, providing education, healthcare etc, should not be seen as "freebies" even if they have been inefficient in the past. The focus should be on making these welfare measures more efficient and transparent.

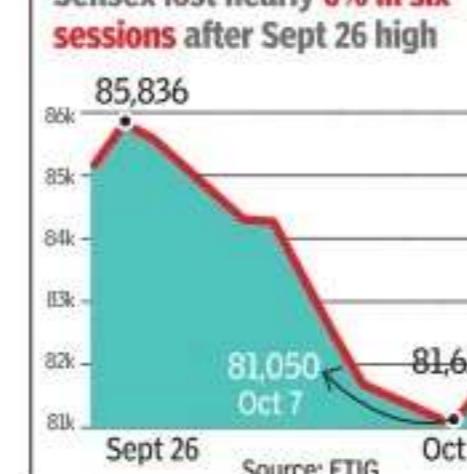
Sitharaman also flagged the issue of high committed expenditure in some states, reaching over 50-60% of their budgets.

## Sensex breaks 6-day losing streak on domestic buying

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### EYES ON RBI RATE CALL

Sensex lost nearly 6% in six sessions after Sept 26 high



Source: ETNG

The market to remain cautious optimistic with the onset of the Q2 FY25 earnings season. Globally, FOMC meeting minutes would also be released on Wednesday.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index jumped 1.9% and the smallcap index soared 2.4%. Sector-wise, the services sector (3.3%), capital goods (2.8%), industrials (2.8%), power (2.4%) and telecommunication (2.4%) also gained.

Metals was the only index to decline, due to profit booking and expectations of disappointing Q2 earnings owing to weak metal prices.

Total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increased by Rs 7.5 lakh crore to Rs 459.5 lakh crore.

"A good state election result for the ruling party, contrary to exit polls, has brought some optimism to the domestic market. Regarding RBI's policy outcome... although no cut is expected, a plausible change in stance to neutral is anticipated. Investors are likely to focus on the upcoming Q2 results, where earnings are expected to improve marginally on a quarter-on-quarter basis," Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

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New Delhi: Beverage and snack giant PepsiCo reported a double-digit revenue growth in India and other emerging markets for the third quarter, despite subdued overall growth globally. The company posted an overall revenue increase of 1.3%, a decline from 8.8% in the same quarter last year, as "inflationary pressures continue to impact budgets and spending patterns."

"There are pockets of strength in international, Southeast Asia and India are markets that are growing nicely," Ramon Laguarta, chairman and CEO, PepsiCo said during the Q3 2024 Earnings call. For the third quarter developing and emerging markets such as India, Egypt, Turkey, Poland, and Vietnam each delivered double-digit organic revenue growth, a company statement said.

Year-to-date, we held or gained savory snack share in China, Brazil, India, Australia, South Africa, and Pakistan and for beverages, we held or gained share in the UK, Australia, South Korea, India, Thailand, Poland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam, it added.

Convenient foods unit volume declined 3%, primarily reflecting double-digit declines in the Middle East and Pakistan, partially offset by slight growth in South Africa and high-single digit growth in India.

Beverage unit volume declined 2%, mainly reflecting a mid-single-digit decline in the Middle East, a double-digit decline in Nigeria and a low-single-digit decline in Pakistan, partially offset by high-single digit growth in India.

The company lowered guidance for the year. "Given the subdued performance, we now expect to deliver a low-single-digit increase in organic revenue in 2024 (previously approximately 4% organic revenue growth)," it added.

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"We remain rooted in our purpose to bring innovation at scale, and with impact

We will continue to push on innovation agenda, with most of the innovative assets and see which are the most relevant ones from that pipeline to be launched here

We've always had tiered pricing in India, and we'll continue to pursue appropriate pricing models, which are relevant locally

— BHUSHAN AKSHIKAR

| MANAGING DIRECTOR, GSK PHARMA

bally, we have rejigged and contemporised our portfolio here, and growth is now led by innovation. Also, newer therapies are firing up sales. For instance, we did not have spe-

here. It will be our endeavour to fast-track some of these assets in India. GSK has already obtained marketing authorisation for oncology assets, including Zejula and Jemperli

for maintenance treatment of ovarian cancer and the second line treatment of endometrial cancer, respectively."

Elaborating on the pricing strategy, he said, "we've always had tiered pricing in India, and we'll continue to pursue appropriate pricing models, which are relevant locally. If you look at our current portfolio, whether it is general medicines, where we operate with a commoditised

category like paracetamol, and yet we have a brand like Calpol, in the same price band. So, we offer the same quality standards that we do globally at the price which is mandated by the authorities."

"Paracetamol is part of the National List of Essential Medicines and price control"

for maintenance treatment of ovarian cancer and the second line treatment of endometrial cancer, respectively."

The realignment comes amid a global shift where innovation-driven companies are thinning conventional portfolios of generics in a bid to ascend higher on the value chain and focus on high-value therapeutics. As the country's second-largest drug MNC with nearly 30 crore prescriptions annually, GSK Pharma plans to enter the oncology market with the launch of two major high-value therapies, expanding beyond its legacy offerings in general medicine, its managing director, Bhushan Akshikar, told TOI.

Additionally, the Rs 3,500 crore company will widen its preventive portfolio by introducing more adult vaccines, shifting the focus from traditional infant immunisation to comprehensive preventive healthcare for all ages.

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ciality drugs — a monoclonal antibody like Nucala — in this country. We launched it about four-to-five years ago, and today between Nucala, Trelegy (both respiratory therapy) and Shingrix (herpes zoster vaccine introduced last year), we had substantial sales of over Rs 110 crore during the year," he said.

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"These are testing times," Jun said in his statement, adding that the leadership took full responsibility for Samsung's plight. "We have caused concerns about our technical competitiveness, with some talking about the crisis facing Samsung." That underperformance is particularly painful given its longstanding market leadership and the boom in spending on AI hardware, which has buoyed Hynix as well as Micron Technology. BLOOMBERG

Pankaj.Doval@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A year after its \$1-billion investment proposal was rejected by govt, BYD on Tuesday said it will depend on an "import-only strategy" and refrain from setting up a car factory in India under the new EV policy.

While sources insist that BYD is in talks with some Indian corporate houses to forge an alliance like MG's parent SAIC did with JSW Group, the company refuses to confirm any such development.

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cle business, said after the world's largest electric car

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marily

BYD will depend on an "import-only strategy" and won't set up a factory

BYD aims to sell 3,500 units this year, 40% increase over 2,500 last year

We did study (the new EV policy) internally. But, there are a lot of strings which are not clear in that and a lot of things on which we would not be able to fulfil those commitments or those requirements. So, we are very clear internally that we will not go for it

## TikTok sued by 13 US states & DC for 'harming younger users'

TikTok faces new lawsuits filed by 13 US states and the District of Columbia Tuesday accusing the social media platform of harming and failing to protect young people. The states accuse TikTok of using intentionally addictive software designed to keep children watching as long and often as possible and misrepresenting its content moderation effectiveness.

The lawsuits filed separately in New York, California, the District of Columbia and 11 other states, expand Chinese-owned TikTok's legal fight with US regulators, and seek new financial penalties against the firm. "TikTok cultivates social media addiction to boost corporate profits," California attorney general Rob Bonta said. "TikTok intentionally targets children because they know kids do not yet have the defences or capacity to create healthy boundaries around addictive content."

Washington DC's lawsuit accused TikTok of facilitating sexual exploitation of underage users, saying its live streaming and virtual currency "operate like a virtual strip club with no age restrictions". TikTok has said it strongly disagrees with allegations it fails to protect children, saying "in fact, we offer robust safeguards for teens & parents". The Justice department sued TikTok in Aug for allegedly failing to protect kids' privacy. REUTERS

## Fresh case against Imran over protests

Jailed ex-PM Imran Khan was booked Tuesday in a new case linked to the death of a constable during protests by his PTI party in Islamabad last week, reports **Omer Farooq Khan**.

Ali Amin Gandapur, PTI's CM of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, was also named in the case along with several party workers. Fourteen cases so far been filed over PTI's Oct 4 protests.

Police said the constable, who was about to retire, was tortured by the protesters at the behest of PTI brass. However, the constable's son has claimed his father was an asthma patient and died due to excessive tear-gas shelling.

# Bibi: Israel has taken out Nasrallah's 'successors'

## Says Lebanon Will Face Destruction Like Gaza If Not Freed Of Hezbollah

**Beirut:** Israeli forces have taken out the would-be successors of late Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday, without naming them. "We've degraded Hezbollah's capabilities. We took out thousands of terrorists, including Nasrallah himself and Nasrallah's replacement, and the replacement of the replacement," he said in a pre-recorded video message.

"Today, Hezbollah is weaker than it has been for many years," Netanyahu said in the video directed at the people of Lebanon. He warned them that they could face "destruction and suffering" like the Palestinians in war-battered Gaza if they don't "free" the country from Hezbollah.

Earlier, Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant said Hasmim Saifiyyed, the man expected to replace the slain Nasrallah, had probably been "eliminated". It was not immediately clear whom Netanyahu meant by the "replacement".

## More Israel Troops In Lebanon

Israel's military said Tuesday it had deployed a fourth army division into southwest Lebanon, signalling an expanding ground offensive against Hezbollah. The military said it had sent the 146th Division into Lebanon, the first reserve division to have been deployed over the border. The statement didn't specify how many soldiers were now inside Lebanon, but



Smoke rises in Beirut's southern suburbs after an air strike on Tuesday

## Hezbollah No. 2 backs Lebanon ceasefire bid

In a 30-minute televised speech, Hezbollah's deputy chief **Naim Qassem** said he supported attempts to secure a truce, and for the first time did not mention the end of war in Gaza as a pre-condition to halting combat on the Lebanon-Israel border.

Qassem said Hezbollah supported attempts by speaker of parliament Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally, to secure

a halt to fighting. Speaking from an undisclosed location, Qassem said the conflict with Israel was a war about who crises first, and Hezbollah would not be the first to cry. The group's capabilities were intact despite "painful blows" from Israel. "Dozens of cities are within range of the resistance's missiles. We assure you that our capabilities are fine," said Qassem. REUTERS

thousands of soldiers were likely on Lebanese soil. The military announced Oct. 1 that troops had entered Lebanon, initially with commando units that were then followed by armoured units and infantry units.

## Hezbollah Logistics Boss Killed

Overnight, Israel again bombed Beirut's southern suburbs where Hezbollah is headquartered and said it had killed a figure responsible for the heavily armed Iranian proxy militia's budgeting and logistics. Suhail Hussein Hussein — the latest in a string of assassinations of some of Hezbollah's top officials. In northern Israel not far from the Lebanon border, warning sirens sounded regularly throughout

Tuesday as authorities said Hezbollah fired almost 200 rockets into Israel. Targets again included Haifa, the northern port city where there were multiple reports of damage to buildings from missile debris. Israel's military said it had struck Hezbollah launchers.

## Iran Warns Israel Not To Attack

On Oct. 1, Iran, sponsor of both Hezbollah and Hamas, fired missiles at Israel. On Tuesday, Iran warned Israel not to follow through on threats of retaliation. Its foreign minister said any attack on Iran's infrastructure would be avenged.

The West is seeking a diplomatic solution, fearing the conflict could roil the wider oil-producing West Asia. REUTERS

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## Hinton was among trio to win Turing Award in 2019

►Continued from P1

While Hinton expressed his concerns, he shared that the advanced technology would bring much better health care.

Hinton, born just outside London, has mostly lived and worked in the US and Canada since the late 1970s. Hinton began researching neural networks as a graduate student at the University of Edinburgh

in the early 1970s, a time when few researchers believed in the idea. In 2019 — together with Yoshua Bengio and Yann LeCun — he received the Turing Award, often called the "Nobel Prize of computing".

Hopfield, a Chicago native,

is known for seminal discoveries in computer science, biology and physics. In the 1980s,

his work focused on how the processes of the brain can inform how machines save and

reproduce patterns. In 1982, Hopfield developed a model of neural networks to describe how the brain recalls memories, known today as the Hopfield network. This enabled the ability for machines to "store" memories using artificial neural networks. Hinton told the committee by telephone Tuesday that he was "flabbergasted" by the news of receiving the award. "I had no idea this would happen." NYT

—

in reply to Pakistan's mammoth 556 that was booted by a fiery century from Agha Salman.

The tourists lost stand-in skipper Ollie Pope for a second-ball duck before Zale Crawley and Joe Root steadied the innings with 64 and 32 respectively at stumps.

It was another tough day for bowlers as an unbeaten 104 from Salman and 82 by Saud Shakeel swelled Pakistan's total, which was set up by Shan Masood's 151 and Abdullah Shafiq's 102 on Monday. Pope, standing for injured skipper Ben Stokes, was smartly caught by a leaping Aamer Jamal who plucked an uppish pull shot off pacer Naseem Shah with one hand at

mid-wicket.

He had been drafted in to open the batting after Ben Duckett injured his left thumb taking a catch at the end of the Pakistan innings.

England need another 261 to avoid a follow-on — a task eminently achievable on a pitch offering no help to bowlers.

Salman built on the good work of Shakeel and

sixes in his 119-ball knock — surviving a catch by Chris Woakes when the third umpire declared the fielder's foot went beyond the rope.

"It's always satisfying to hit a century and contribute to the team's total," said Salman, who hoped the pitch would take spin in the next three days.

Salman added an invaluable 57 runs for the seventh wicket with Shakeel, who was caught smartly by Root at slip off Basir for 82. Shakeel hit eight fours.

Leach was the most successful England bowler with 3-160, while Gus Atkinson finished with 2-99. Woakes, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Root took one wicket apiece.

**Brief scores:** Pakistan 556 (Agha Salman 104, Saud Shakeel 82; Jack Leach 3/160) vs England 96/1 (Zak Crawley 64\*, Joe Root 32\*). AFP

Stirling leads Ireland to ODI win over SA

Ireland captain Paul Stirling led from the front with a dashing 88 as his side completed their ODI series against South Africa with a convincing 69-run win in the final match in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Chasing 285 to win, South Africa slipped to 126-6 with only a fine 91 from Jason Smith keeping them in the game. But Smith was unable to prevent the Irish from claiming only their second ODI win over the Proteas.

Graham Hume, who was born in Johannesburg and played for South Africa Under-19s, was the pick of the Irish bowlers with 3-29 while Ulster-born Craig Young finished with 3-40. South Africa took the ODI series 2-1 with the two sides sharing the preceding T20 series 1-1.

Stirling set the tone for Ireland's 284-9 after he won the toss and decided to bat. That was in contrast to the first two matches when Ireland chased, failing to survive past 32 overs as they made 132 and 169 in reply to big South African scores. On Monday, Stirling and Andy Balbirnie put on 101 for the first wicket before Balbirnie fell to Lizaad Williams for a steady.

**Brief scores:** Ireland 284/9 in 50 overs (Paul Stirling 88, Harry Tector 60; Lizaad Williams 4/56) bt South Africa 215 in 46.1 overs (Jason Smith 91; Graham Hume 3/29, Craig Young 3/40). AFP

Djokovic toys with Cobolli, enters last 16

**N**ovak Djokovic (pic) powered through to the last 16 of the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday, steamrolling Italian Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 6-2 in just over an hour. The four-time Shanghai champion completely dominated 30th-ranked Cobolli, breaking him in the second and sixth games of the first set. "I can't complain about anything in the game, I was able to play aggressively," Djokovic said.

"I'm glad to be progressing through a tournament that has meant a lot to me in my career." Fans waved Serbian flags and screamed in delight when the former world No. 1 wrote part of his name in Chinese characters on a camera lens at the end of the match.

**T**he American knocked Sinner out of the tournament at the same stage last year. Sinner's chief rival Carlos Alcaraz, who beat him in the China Open final last week, will face veteran Gael Monfils. The 38-year-old Frenchman defeated his younger and higher-ranked compatriot Ugo Humbert 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-1. Stefanos Tsitsipas recovered from a lapse in concentration in the second set to beat France's Alexandre Muller 6-3, 7-5. AFP

## Trump was secretly in touch with Putin after leaving office, claims new book

Former US Prez Donald Trump has secretly spoken with Russian Prez Vladimir Putin of Russia as many as seven times since leaving office, even as he was pressuring Republicans to block military aid to Ukraine to fight Russian invaders, according to a new book by the journalist Bob Woodward. The book, titled "War" and scheduled to be published next week, describes a scene in early 2024 at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's estate in Florida, when the former president ordered an aide out of his office so he could conduct a phone call with Putin.

The unidentified aide said the two may have spoken a half-dozen other times as well since Trump left the White House.

**The book also reports** that Trump, while still in office early during Covid pandemic in 2020, secretly sent Putin what were then rare tests for the virus for the Russian's personal use.

Putin, who has been described as particularly concerned about being infected at the time, urged Trump to not publicly reveal the gesture because it could damage the US prez politically. "I don't want you to tell anybody because people will get mad at you, not me," Putin reportedly told him.

The disclosures raise new questions about Trump's ties with Putin just weeks before an election that will determine whether he will reclaim White House. Trump praised Putin as a "genius" when he initiated Ukraine invasion in 2022 and has criticised US aid. NYT

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## Trump: Kamala allowing 'bad genes' into America

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Taunted by Donald Trump for avoiding one-on-one interviews, Kamala Harris is coming out with guns blazing across the media spectrum, including a CBS 60 Minutes sit-down broadcast on Sunday, where she tried to disarm the gun lobby by revealing she owns a Glock handgun.

Harris has previously disclosed, most notably in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, that she owns a gun ("If someone breaks into my house, they gettin' shot," she said, laughing).

But she opened up a little more to 60 Minutes, saying she has had a Glock "for quite some time". Asked why, she said, "Look... my background is in law enforcement... so there you go."

Australian manufacturer Glock makes one of US' best-selling handguns. Widely used by police, Glocks have also attained cult status from appearance in films and hip-hop culture.

60 Minutes: "Have you ever fired it?" Kamala Harris: "Yes (laughs). At a shooting range. Of course I have!"

Harris opening up on gun ownership, along with similar disclosures by her running mate Tim Walz, who has revealed he is a small game hunter, is ostensibly aimed at countering the gun lobby in US with the implicit argument that they are not entirely opposed to

protecting the constitutional right to bear arms, despite the epidemic of gun violence including school shootings, is an article of faith for the MAGA base, to the extent of condoning even the ownership of military-grade weapons. They believe any gun control laws proposed by Democrats will be the first step in stripping them of all weapons. Harris' 60 Min-

utes

face-off

is among a raft of sit-downs she has lined up over the next week after she was pilloried by Trump, who continues to insult her, calling her a "dumb", "low IQ" individual afraid to face media scrutiny.

In fact, CBS said it was

Trump who bailed out of the 60

Minutes interview, even as his

liberal critics

were

coming

to

the

Second

Amendment's Right

to Bear Arms, subject to adequate checks and balances.

Not that it has convinced

the

National

Rifle

Association

(NRA), the pro-gun lobbying group which some liberals, including the city council in San Francisco, Harris' home turf, has designated a domestic terrorist organisation. The NRA accused her of using her gun as a "political prop on the campaign trail to try and mask her range".

Protecting the constitu-

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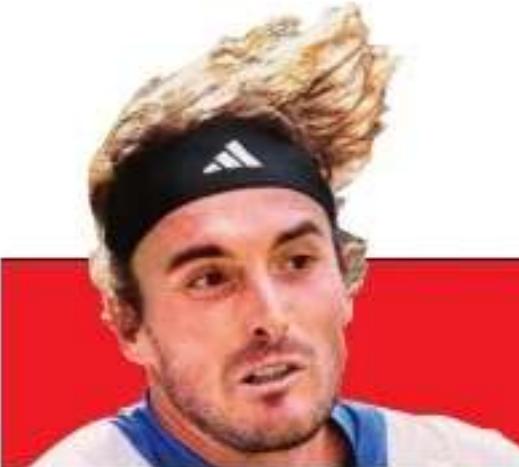
faith

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the

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base



# TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

SHANGHAI MASTERS: TSITSIPAS SETS UP CLASH WITH MEDVEDEV IN ROUND OF 16

HARMAPREET CLIMBS TO 12TH PLACE IN ICC WOMEN'S T20 BATTING RANKINGS



## Time for another audition

With Eye On 2026 T20 WC, SKY's New-Look Team India Will Look To Seal Series Vs Bangladesh Today

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It's a rarity for an India captain to turn up for an optional training session on the eve of an international game. Suryakumar Yadav did so on Tuesday afternoon, ahead of the second T20I against Bangladesh at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. His happy-go-lucky reputation precedes him but it is now evident Surya is emerging as a capable leader since being appointed T20I captain in July.

Surya himself went through an intense batting session for over half an hour. He then sat with Abhishek Sharma and Jitesh Sharma next to the nets and had a lengthy chat about international cricket and the importance of not being predictable. Sources said the gist of the talk was that to survive at this level, one has to keep evolving and trying new things to stay ahead of the opposition.

It appears Suryakumar is now warming up to the direction the T20I team must take. The presence of many fresh faces means there's a definite path laid out. This team has been specifically picked



FUN TIME! India's younger crop of players share a light moment during the nets in Delhi on Tuesday

keeping the T20 World Cup in 2026 in mind. Head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar too were involved in lengthy chats with the likes of Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana and Sanju Samson.

The preparation for India's title defence has already begun. Speed sensation Mayank Yadav, for example, has been told to focus more on T20s than the longer formats. Selectors have identified him as a potential trump card for the next T20 World Cup. This series, followed by the four T20Is in South Africa next month, will be a sort of audition.

The plan is to create format-specific player pools, say

those in the know. For the shortest format, it's about investing in players who are doing well in the IPL. The endeavour is to rid the players of confusion. There will be more players who are not seen as all-format prospects.

Surya is now a statesman in T20 cricket and he has been given the clear mandate of building this team for the next T20 World Cup. This Bangladesh team may well be lacking in T20 abilities, but the Indian team management is looking for markers to judge its own players.

Going by the emphatic win in the first T20I, there are going to be more players pushing the seniors in times to come.

### MAHMUDULLAH ANNOUNCES T20I RETIREMENT

New Delhi: Just 12 days after Shakib Al Hasan announced plans to quit the game, Bangladesh's veteran allrounder Mahmudullah too has said he is ready to retire from T20Is after the end of the series in India. "It was pre-decided. Before coming here, I had a chat with my family, coach and captain here. I spoke to the selectors too. I've conveyed my decision to the board president as well," the 38-year-old said on Tuesday. He said that he will be

### FACE-OFF

IND VS BAN

TV TIME: 7PM

SPORTS18

JIOCINEMA



PTI

HEAD TO HEAD

IND BAN

14 1

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IND W W W W W

BAN L L L L W

VENUE: DELHI

WEATHER

32°C

ODDS

IND BAN

2/10 2/1

month and the ICC Champions Trophy to be played in Feb, it's time Arshdeep proved he isn't a one-format bowler. "I want to do my best in all the formats wherever I get the opportunity," he said. "My life mantra is to enjoy the present. Today is my rest day, so I will enjoy my rest today. We'll see what happens tomorrow. The T20 World Cup is also two years away. There's no point worrying about these things. Let others take the tension. I just need to enjoy myself."

Last month, Arshdeep played the entire Duleep Trophy tournament, marking his return to the first-class scene.

"Playing in different formats teaches a player a lot. Red-ball cricket teaches you patience. In T20s, you have to only think about what a batter might do," Arshdeep said.

Up until now, Arshdeep was under the watchful eyes of former India bowling coach Paras Mhambre, who had worked on him since his U-19 days. Now, his road to becoming an all-format bowler will be charted by new bowling coach Morne Morkel. "It's just been two days with him (Morkel). I haven't spoken to him much, but we are starting to become friends. Let's see what the future holds," Arshdeep said with a smile.

With India looking for an extra pacer for the five-Test tour in Australia starting next

Arshdeep looks to grow as an effective all-format bowler

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a short span of time, Arshdeep Singh has made a meaningful impact on the T20 stage. His consistency over the last two years has meant he is now leading the Indian attack in this T20I series against Bangladesh.

"The aim is to improve as a unit and as a team," Arshdeep said in response to a query on how he interacts with the young pacers coming into the team.

However, Arshdeep, who will soon turn 26, is not very comfortable with being branded a T20 specialist. "I can't help it that we played so much T20 cricket in the last two years. I don't know how these two years have gone by. I just try to enjoy and stay in the present, enjoy the highs and lows. That is my focus," he said on Tuesday.

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Harvansh gives up Canadian dream to shine for India colts

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Chennai: In 2017, when Arshdeep Singh decided to move to Canada to join his family, he gave his son Harvansh Singh Pangalia a choice — relocate with him and build a career in Canadian cricket or stay back in India to chase his dream. Without hesitation, Harvansh chose to remain in India, driven by passion to represent the country at

### 2ND YOUTH TEST

the highest level.

Today, that bold decision seems rewarded as Harvansh, representing the Indian U-19 side, scored a century (117, 143b; 7x4, 6x6) in the second Youth Test against Australia U-19 here on Tuesday. His century powered India's innings to a strong 492 before Australia skipper Oliver Peake (62 batting, 113b; 8x4, 1x6) showed his skills to revive the team after an early jolt and finish the day at 142-3.

Upon reaching the milestone, Harvansh couldn't hold back his excitement. He let out a huge roar and turned to his father in the stands and offered him a bow — a gesture to the sacrifices they had made together. Then the 17-year-old wicketkeeper-batter went on to do a thigh-five.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India U-19 492 (Nitya J Pandya 94, KP Karthikeya 71, Soham Patwardhan 61, Nikhil Kumar 61, Harvansh Singh Pangalia 117). Australia U-19 142-3 (Oliver Peake 62\*)

1 Bangladesh's only win vs India in T20Is came in Delhi, on Nov 3, 2019.

53 Runs needed by Litton Das (1947 at 22.90 in 88 innings) to become the 3rd Bangladeshi cricketer after Shakib Al Hasan (2551) & Mahmudullah (2395) to score 2000-plus runs in T20Is.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar



## India women look to up NRR

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The Indian women's team's T20 World Cup campaign has not got off to an ideal start, and they have only themselves to blame. Among the pre-tournament favourites, Harmanpreet Kaur and Co's performance has been below par. Heading into their third match, coach Amol Muzumdar and his support team will be working overtime to correct course.

India endured a mixed start, losing the opener to New Zealand by 58 runs and then managing to get past Pakistan with an unconvincing six-wicket win, which put them in a spot of bother. On Wednesday, they will take on Group A's bottom-placed Sri Lanka looking to shore up their net run rate (-1.217).

The side's biggest concern

has been the poor show of the batting unit. The explosive openers have failed to make an impact so far. Shafali Verma has struggled against spin, scoring just two against New Zealand and labouring to 32 against Pakistan. Similarly, Smriti Mandhana has had a disappointing start, with scores of 12 and 7 respectively. The team's Powerplay scores of 43/3 against New Zealand and 25/1 against Pakistan have been dismal as well.

Although Smriti's record against Sri Lanka is not particularly impressive, with only 379 runs from 19 innings, including two half-centuries, she must provide the team with a solid start in this crucial league match. The bowlers too are yet to come into their own.

India boast a dominant 19/5 record against Sri Lanka

## Dominant Oz record big win over NZ

Sharjah: Australia's batters provided their experienced bowling unit with sufficient runs to defend on a slow wicket and register a comprehensive 60-run win over New Zealand in the Women's T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Opener Beth Mooney top-scored with a 32-ball 40 as Australia posted a challenging 148/8. Ellyse Perry chipped in with a 24-ball 30, after Alyssa Healy contributed 26 in 20 deliveries. In reply, New Zealand were all out for 88 in 19.2 overs.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Australia 148/8 (Beth Mooney 40; Amelia Kerr 4/26) vs New Zealand 88 in 19.2 overs (Amelia Kerr 29; Meggan Schutt 3/3, Annabel Sutherland 3/21). PTI

## Jaiswal has the ability to fire in Australia: Lara

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Mumbai: Yashasvi Jaiswal's incredible rise as a Test batter has stirred excitement in the cricket fraternity, with both West Indies batting legend Brian Lara and former Australia allrounder Shane Watson being confident that the young opener will perform well during India's tour to Australia next month.

Jaiswal has 1217 runs in just 11 Tests at an impressive average of 64.05, including three hundreds and seven fifties. This year alone, he has scored 929 runs in eight Tests at an average of 80.64, 712 of them in the five-Test series against England in February-March. However, questions remain whether he can replicate this success in Australia during the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. The pace and bounce of Australian pitches and the hosts' top-quality pace attack will be a true test.

Lara, who scored heavily in Australia himself, including a majestic 277 in Sydney during the 1991-92 series, says Jaiswal has the technique to succeed in any condition. "He's got the ability to play in all conditions. I saw him

in the Caribbean (where Jaiswal made his Test debut). Australian pitches are slightly different but with his strength, he can play well anywhere. I expect him to do well," said Lara.

In August, former Australia opener Matthew Hayden suggested Jaiswal would need to adjust his game to the pace and bounce of Aussie wickets. However, Lara feels the key adjustment is mental rather than technical. "The adjustment is upstairs. It's about backing your talent in all conditions. The IPL has exposed Indian players to international competition, and that experience helps. I don't think Jaiswal needs to make major technical changes, it's more about the mental aspect," Lara said during the launch of the International Masters League on Tuesday.

Backing Lara's comments, Watson said, "Top-order batters like Jaiswal score runs quickly, but he doesn't make mistakes. If he brings that aggression to Australia, he can keep the pressure on the Aussie bowlers and make an impact."

## Sindhu packed off; Malvika, Aakarshi win

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P V Sindhu's return to the circuit ended on a forgetful note after she suffered a first round loss to Michelle Li of Canada 16-21, 10-21 at the Arctic Open BWF Super-500 tournament in Vantaa, Finland.

However, Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap advanced to the second round. Sindhu struggled to keep pace against world No.32 Li. World No.16 Sindhu enjoys a 10-3 win-loss record against Li but the Canadian was too good for Sindhu on Tuesday.

She took complete control at the halfway stage of both the games, leading 11-4 in the first and 11-2 in the second. World No.37 Malvika downed world No. 23 Sung Shu Yun of China 21-19, 24-22. Malvika will next face former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, who defeated top seed Wang Zhi Yi of China 18-21, 21-15, 21-21.

Up 20-17 in the second, Malvika faced stiff resistance from Sung. The Taipei shuttler saved three match



BRIAN LARA

points and even led 22-21 before Malvika scored three big points to clinch the match. Aakarshi drubbed Yvonne Li of Germany 21-19, 21-14. Trailing 7-11 in the second game, Aakarshi won six straight points to move to 13-11. She will face second seed Edan Yue of China on Thursday.

Kiran George made it to the men's singles main draw with a 21-16, 13-21, 21-19 victory against Lucas Claeboeuf of France.

Kidambi Srikanth pulled out at the last minute. Sathish Kumar Karunakaran lost to Arnaud Merkle of France 21-6, 21-13 in the qualifiers.

### ACTION TODAY

**CHESS:** Global League, Rd8; 5.30 pm onwards (Jiocinema);  
**CRICKET:** Women's T20 WC, Sco vs SA, 3.30 pm; Ind vs SL, 7.30 pm (Star Sports); Ind vs BD, 2nd T20, 7 pm (Jiocinema);  
**TENNIS:** ATP 1000, Shanghai Masters, 10 am and 4 pm (Sony Sports)

## Boxing teams' participation in Asian meet looks difficult

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New Delhi: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P T Usha strongly refuted allegations that a faulty sponsorship deal with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) resulted in a loss of Rs 24 crore to the sports body. A Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report released on Sep 12 suggested that the RIL was extended "undue favours" by the national Olympic body which led to financial debt due to wrong arrangement of funds. "The issue stems from a flaw in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document issued in July 2022 by the previous IOA management, under which the naming rights for establishing a Na-

tional Olympic Committee (NOC) House

