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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Majhi-led Odisha govt to launch on Modi's b'day on Sept 17 a plan under which every woman will get ₹50k voucher that can be encashed in 2 yrs, P 13

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

HAPPINESS MAKES UP IN HEIGHT FOR WHAT IT LACKS IN LENGTH — ROBERT FROST

ELVIS' BLUE SUEDE SHOES SELL FOR $150K AT AUCTION; SINGER GAVE THEM TO A FRIEND THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS US ARMY INDUCTION IN '58

REPORTS OF KANYE WEST 'VISITING' MOSCOW SPARK SPECULATION OF A CONCERT AMID BOYCOTT BY WESTERN ARTISTES OVER UKRAINE WAR

'Far-right seen winning 34% of vote in round 1 of France polls'

Exit Polls: Macron's Alliance 3rd With 20.5%-23% Of Vote, Behind Left Bloc's 29%; Prez Urges Voters To Stop RN In Round 2; Le Pen Calls For An 'Absolute Majority'

Paris: Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) party emerged ahead in the first round of France's parliamentary elections on Sunday, exit polls showed, but the unpredictable final result will depend on days of horsetrading before next week's run-off.

The RN was seen winning around 34% of the vote, exit polls from Ipsos, Ifop, Opinion-Way and Elabe showed. That was ahead of leftist and centrist rivals, including Prez Emmanuel Macron's Together alliance, whose bloc was seen winning 20.5%-23%. The New Popular Front, a hastily assembled left-wing coalition, was projected to win around 29% of the vote, the exit polls showed.

Macron, who called the surprise elections just three weeks ago, urged voters to rally against the far right in the second round of balloting. Le Pen called on voters to give the National Rally an "absolute majority" at parliament. She said a National Rally majority would enable the far-right to form a new govt with party president Jordan Bardella as prime minister in order to work on France's "recovery". The 28-year-old Bardella has said he would oppose sending French troops to Ukraine — a possibility Macron hasn't ruled out — and refuse French deliveries of long-range missiles and other weaponry capable of striking targets within Russia.

The exit polls were in line with opinion polls ahead of the election, but provided little clarity on whether once next Sunday's second round is concluded the anti-immigrant, eurosceptic RN will be able to form a govt to "cohabit" with the pro-EU Macron. A week of political bargaining now lies ahead of the July 7 run-off. The final result will depend on how parties decide to join forces in each of France's 577 constituencies for the second round. In the past, France's centre-right and centre-left parties have teamed up to keep the RN from taking office, but that dynamic, called the "republican front" in France, is less certain than ever.

Participation in Sunday's vote was high, underlining how France's political crisis has energised the electorate. By 1500 GMT, turnout was nearly 60%, compared with 39.4% two years ago — the highest comparable turnout figures since the 1986 legislative vote.

A longtime pariah, the RN is now closer to come to office than it has ever been. Le Pen has sought to detoxify a party known for racism and antisemitism, a tactic that has worked amid voter anger at Macron. Many voters are frustrated about inflation and other economic concerns, as well as Macron's leadership, seen as arrogant and out-of-touch with their lives. Le Pen's anti-immigration party has tapped that discontent, notably via online platforms like TikTok.

The new left coalition, the New Popular Front, also poses a challenge to the pro-business Macron and his centrist alliance. It includes the French Socialists and Communists, the greens and the hard-left France Unbowed party and vows to reverse an unpopular pension reform law that raised the retirement age to 64, among other economic reforms. REUTERS & AP

Reuters

Emmanuel Macron takes a selfie with supporters in Paris on Sunday

'Make Europe Great Again': Orban forms new EU alliance with Austria's far-right & Czech's centrists

Hungary's nationalist PM Viktor Orban on Sunday announced the formation of a new EU parliamentary alliance with Austria's far-right party and the Czech centrist group of ex-premier Andrej Babis. Orban — whose country takes on the EU's rotating presidency on Monday — has long railed against the "Brussels elites", most recently accusing Brussels of fuelling the war in Ukraine. Hungary has vowed to use its EU presidency to push for its "vision of Europe" under the motto "Make Europe Great Again" — echoing the rallying cry of Orban ally former US president Donald Trump. "A new era begins here, and the first, perhaps decisive moment of this new era is the creation of a new European political faction that will change European politics," Orban told reporters in Vienna at a joint press conference with Austria's Freedom Party leader Herbert Kickl and Czech ANO party leader Babis. The new alliance, "Patriots for Europe", will need support from parties from at least four other countries to be recognised as a group in the EU parliament. REUTERS

Sunak rejects poll doomsayers, says Tory win in July 4 polls still possible

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak insisted the Conservatives can still win Thursday's UK election despite multiple polls pointing to a commanding victory by the opposition Labour Party. Speaking to BBC, he reiterated his defence of the Tories' 14-year governance, and said country is doing better now than when his party came into office in 2010.

When asked if he would still be PM after the vote, Sunak said, "Yes, I'm fighting very hard and I think people are waking up to the real danger of what a Labour govt means." Polls show Labour heading for a landslide victory and Keir Starmer on track to become PM, while support for Tories continued to fall to new lows. BLOOMBERG

Getty Images

PM Rishi Sunak, wife Akshata Murty visit BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in London on Saturday

Fast and furious: Russia using bikes to stir chaos in Ukraine

They first appeared as a cloud of dust on the horizon. A few seconds later, the motorcycles carrying Russian soldiers sped into view, zigzagging across a field, kicking up dust, attempting a noisy, dangerous run at a Ukrainian trench. "They moved fast, they spread out and they swerved," said Lt. Mykhailo Hubitsky, describing the Russian motorcycle assault he witnessed.

It's a type of attack that has been proliferating along the frontline this spring, adding a wild new element to the already violent, chaotic fighting.

Russian soldiers riding motorcycles, dirt bikes, quadricycles and dune buggies now account for about half of all attacks in some areas of the front, soldiers and commanders say, as Moscow's forces attempt to use speed to cross exposed open spaces where its lumbering armoured vehicles are easy targets. These non-conventional vehicles have been turning up with such frequency that some Ukrainian trenches now overlook junk yards of abandoned, blown up off-road vehicles, videos from reconnaissance drones show.

The new tactic is the latest Russian adaptation for a heavily mined, continually surveilled battlefield, as Moscow's forces work to achieve small tactical gains, often of just a few hundred yards. The Russians' farthest advance in the region is 15 miles from its starting point. "We are fighting a war over every metre," said Captain Yaroslav, an artillery commander with 80th air assault brigade.

With reconnaissance drones ubiquitous in the skies over the Donbas, the armoured vehicles of both armies are easy targets. The faster-moving motorcycles and buggies are harder to hit with artillery and they can swerve to avoid mines that armoured vehicle operators might not see. The use of cheap, disposable dirt bikes and buggies also helps conserve Russian armoured vehicles.

The drawback is that they provide no protection for Russian soldiers, who are exposed to a hail of machine gun fire as they approach the trenches. If they make it across a field, the riders cast aside their bikes, enter the Ukrainian trench and engage in close combat on foot. "How they find people willing to do this, I don't know," said Volodymyr, a Ukrainian sergeant. "Sometimes, none of them will make it, sometimes all of them." That hasn't deterred Russian commanders from continuing to employ the tactic. "All the tree lines," said Sapsan, a sergeant in the 47th Brigade, "are now full of these buggies and motorcycles." NYT

NYT

RISKY & WILD TACTIC: Russian soldiers riding motorcycles, dirt bikes, quadricycles and dune buggies now account for about half of all attacks in some areas of the front, Ukrainian soldiers and commanders say. The drawback is that they give no protection from rockets and machine gunfire

Video shows NY officer fatally shooting boy, 13, on ground. Police say he pointed a replica gun

New York: Video released late Saturday shows an officer in upstate New York fatally shooting a 13-year-old boy who had been tackled to the ground after he ran from police and pointed a replica handgun at them.

The teen was killed a little after 10pm (local time) Friday in Utica after officers in the city about 400km northwest of Manhattan stopped two youths in connection with an armed robbery investigation, police said.

The youths, both 13, matched the descriptions of the robbery suspects and were in the same area at around the same time the day after, police said. One was also walking in the road, a violation of state traffic law. The body camera video released by police captures an officer saying he needs to pat them down to ensure they don't have any weapons in their possession. Immediately one of the two, identified by police as as Nyah Mway, runs away.

Authorities froze frames of the video where a running Nyah Mway appears to point the gun at the pursuing officers. Police also edited the video to insert a red circle around the weapon to show it to viewers. The officers believed it was a handgun, police said, but it was later determined to be a replica of a Glock 17 Gen 5 handgun with a detachable magazine.

"During a ground struggle" with the teen, one of the officers fired a single shot that struck the boy in the chest, Utica police chief Mark Williams said.

The teen was given "immediate" first aid by the officers and taken to Wynn Hospital, where he died, the chief said.

The replica gun carried by the teen "is in all aspects a realistic appearing firearm with GLOCK markings, signatures, detachable magazine, and serial numbers," Lt Michael Curley, a police spokesperson, said via email. "However ultimately it fires only pellets or BB's."

A bystander video posted to Facebook shows one of the officers chasing after Nyah Mway and tackling him to the ground. It also shows the officer punching the teen as two other officers arrive. A gunshot rings out as the teen is on the ground and the officers quickly stand up.

The officer who fired his gun was identified as Patrick Husnay, a six-year veteran of the agency. Husnay and officers Bryce Patterson and Andrew Citriniti were placed on administrative leave with pay.

The police body camera video shows a chaotic scene.

Nyah Mway points the replica handgun at the officers while he runs from them. The officers scream "gun!" to each other as they run. Patterson then tackles and punches Nyah Mway, and as the two are wrestling on the ground, Husnay opens fire. Officers initially thought Nyah Mway may have shot himself, and Patterson says, "I don't know if he shot me." It is not clear whether he is referring to Nyah Mway or his fellow officer. Patterson was not struck. Bystanders scream at the police throughout the recordings, and at one point an officer yells back: "We're trying to save him right now!" The other youth was detained in the back of a police vehicle and was not involved in the shooting.

The police department released the body camera videos following a public outcry as the shooting roiled Utica, a city with a population of 65,000. It is home to more than 4,200 people from Myanmar, according to The Center, a nonprofit that helps to resettle the refugees.

Nyah Mway, who local media reports said was an 8th grader at Donovan Middle School, was identified as a refugee born in Myanmar and a member of the Karen ethnic minority.

The police department is conducting an internal investigation to see whether officers followed policies and training. AP

Via Reuters

The inconsolable mother of 13-yr-old Nyah Mway at city hall in Utica. The boy was identified as a refugee born in Myanmar and a member of the Karen ethnic minority community

Iran warns of 'obliterating war' if Israel starts offensive in Lebanon

Iran has threatened an "obliterating war" if Israel launches a full-scale attack in Lebanon, as diplomats work to prevent tensions between Israel and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, which is backed by Tehran, from escalating into an all-out conflict.

In a post on X, Iran's mission to the United Nations said "all options", including the involvement of Iran-backed armed groups across West Asia, "are on the table". Chief among those groups is Hezbollah, a powerful militia in Lebanon. At the same time, Iran dismissed warnings that Israel could invade Lebanon as "psychological warfare".

Enemies for decades, Israel and Hezbollah have frequently exchanged fire along Israel's northern border. Since Gaza war began last Oct, the cross-border strikes have intensified. Israeli officials have warned for months that Israel might invade Lebanon if Hezbollah did not pull its forces back from the border area. Hezbollah has also threatened to launch an incursion into Israel.

AFP

Locals walk past houses destroyed in Israeli fire in Lebanese village of Aita al-Shaab near Israel's border

US, Europe warn Hezbollah to ease strikes on Israel

US and European officials are delivering warnings to Hezbollah, which is far stronger than Hamas but seen as overconfident, about taking on the military might of Israel. They are warning the group should not count on the US or anyone else being able to hold off Israel if it decides to launch an offensive into Lebanon.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths used the word "apocalyptic" to describe a war that could result. Hezbollah holds an estimated arsenal of some 150,000 rockets and missiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel. Israel, meanwhile, has pledged to unleash Gaza-like scenes of devastation on Lebanon. NYT & REUTERS

Bibi vows to fight on amid report of tweaks in truce plan

Israel is committed to fighting Hamas until the militant group is eliminated and all the other goals of the war are achieved, PM Netanyahu said Sunday. He spoke after an Axios report said that the Biden govt has circulated amended language for some elements of its proposed deal on hostage releases and a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Citing sources, Axios said the US is working with Qatari and Egyptian mediators to make changes to what would up for discussion in the first stage of a proposed three-stage peace deal, in a bid to get both Israel and Hamas on board. Israel's goals continue to include freeing the remaining hostages in Gaza and ensuring the area never constitutes a threat to Israel again, Netanyahu said at a weekly cabinet meeting. BLOOMBERG

Biden's poor show at prez debate raises alarm in Israel

Israelis expressed growing concern on Sunday that US Prez Biden's shaky debate performance could spur on the country's foes at what many view as a critical time for American leadership in the region. Israeli commentators from across the political spectrum warned that Iran and its proxies could try to exploit Biden's apparent weakness as Israel fights Hamas in Gaza and weighs the prospect of an all-out conflict with the Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Several of Israel's newspapers featured the debate on their front pages. Analysts for Israel Hayom, a right-wing free paper, and the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper differed sharply in tone but both raised the specter of enemies of Israel and the US testing the administration's resolve. "Will Hezbollah and Iran assess that Biden is too busy now to back Israel in case all-out war breaks out in Lebanon" Amos Harel, Haaretz's analyst, wrote. During the debate, Trump accused Biden of not wanting Israel to "finish the job" in Gaza — calling him weak and using the word "Palestinian" as an insult. Biden offered little in the way of a response.

Yediot Ahronot, a mainstream Hebrew daily, described Biden's performance as a "catastrophe." "Weakness is not a characteristic that an American prez can broadcast," it said. NYT

NYT

Prez Joe Biden with wife Jill greet supporters at a campaign event in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Friday

Jill Biden's dress makes a post-debate statement

As Prez Joe Biden attempted to address some of the concerns about his age and energy on Friday, his wife Jill, a political spouse who often seems to choose clothes that recede into the background, took her place by his side in a navy-blue crepe dress plastered with one word over and over again: "Vote". Given the many post-debate reactions focused on viewers' anxious feelings, it could not have been a coincidence.

This is the third time in the past four years that the first lady has worn a garment with a message written on it. In 2020, before the last presidential election, she wore a pair of knee-high boots that also read "vote." And in 2021, at the first G7 meeting in Britain after the prez took office, she wore a jacket with the word "love" on the back. The choice was widely interpreted as a riposte to the jacket Melania Trump notoriously wore during her husband's administration with the words "I Really Don't Care, Do U?" scrawled on the back.

FASHION SPEAKS

Now, the matchup is back, and so are words on clothing. It is, perhaps, only to be expected. Jill Biden is an English teacher. She knows exactly how much succinct language matters — even if it is on a dress. NYT

Top Dems rule out replacing Biden

Washington: Top Democrats Sunday ruled out the possibility of replacing Prez Biden as the Democratic nominee after a feeble debate performance.

A post-debate CBS poll showed a 10-point jump in the number of Democrats who believe Biden shouldn't be running for prez, to 46% from 36% in Feb.

"Bad debates happen," said Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock, who is seen as one of the possible replacements for Biden. House of Representatives Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said: "I believe a setback is nothing more than a setup for a comeback." Another top House Democrat, James Clyburn, agreed: "He should demonstrate it going forward his capacity to lead the country." REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD

AP

4 DEAD IN STORMS IN SWITZERLAND AND ITALY: Storms in Switzerland and northern Italy caused extensive flooding and landslides, leaving at least four people dead, authorities said on Sunday. The bodies of three people were recovered following a landslide in the Fontana area of the Maggia valley in the Italian-speaking Ticino canton (state) on the southern side of the Alps. Storms and heavy rain pounded southern and western Switzerland on Saturday and overnight. Camping sites along the Maggia river were evacuated, and part of the small Visletto road bridge collapsed (above). One person was missing in the nearby Lavizzara valley

Scientists trying to give robots a fleshy face and a smile

Engineers in Japan are trying to get robots to imitate that particularly human expression — the smile. They have created a face mask from human skin cells and attached it to robots with a novel technique that conceals the binding and is flexible enough to turn down into a grimace or up into a squishy smile. The effect is something between Hannibal Lecter's terrifying mask and the Claymation figure Gumby. But scientists say the prototypes pave the way for more sophisticated robots, with an outward layer both elastic and durable enough to protect the machine while making it appear more human. Beyond expressiveness, the "skin equivalent", as the researchers call it, which is made from living skin cells in a lab, can scar and burn and also self-heal, according to the study. "Human-like faces and expressions improve communication and empathy, making robots more effective in healthcare, service and companionship roles," Shoji Takeuchi, lead researcher, said.

Kim Jong-un latest move for cult status: Face pins

North Korean officials wore pins with a portrait of Kim Jong Un in public for the first time, the latest step in the development of a cult of personality about the leader. In April, the music video for a propaganda song praising Kim as a "friendly father" and a "great leader" was aired on the state-controlled Korean Central Television.

Iran election shows declining voter support amid calls for change

Of 61M Eligible Voters, Only 40% Cast Ballots, Marking A Record Low Turnout

Tehran: The first round of Iran's presidential election revealed shrinking support for both reformists and conservatives even though some voters are pushing for change by backing the sole reformist candidate, analysts say. Masoud Pezeshkian, the reformist contender, and ultraconservative Saeed Jalili led the polls held on Friday to replace the late ultraconservative president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last month. In the official results announced Saturday, Pezeshkian led with 10.4 million votes (42.4%), followed by Jalili at 9.4 million (38.6%). A third conservative candidate, Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf, the current speaker of parliament and former mayor of Tehran, was a distant third at 3.3 million (13.8%).

Friday's vote, marked by a historically low turnout, "clearly shows that both reformists' and conservatives' bases have considerably shrunk," said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group think tank.

In the lead-up to the election, Iran's main reformist coalition supported Pezeshkian, with endorsements by former presidents Mohammad Khatami and Hassan Rouhani, a moderate. "The reformists brought out the big guns and tried their best to mobilise their base," Vaez said on social media platform X, but "it was simply insufficient".

Likewise, the conservatives failed to garner sufficient votes "despite the tremendous resources they deployed", he added. Vaez pointed out that the combined votes of Jalili and Ghalibaf totalled 12.8 million. That figure was well below Raisi's 18 million votes in the 2021 election.

Of the 61 million eligible voters, only about 40% cast ballots, marking a record low turnout in the Islamic Republic where some people have lost faith in the process. More than one million ballots were spoiled.

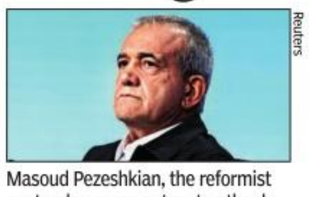
For Vaez, the decline in turnout, from around 49% in 2021, was "a real embarrassment for the leadership" in Iran, where ultimate political power lies with the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Political commentator Mohammad Reza Manafi said Pezeshkian's lead reflected a push for "fundamental changes" regarding the economy and relations with the rest of the world. However, those favouring Pezeshkian "do not expect a miracle or a quick solution but hope he can gradually prevent conditions from worsening," he added.

Iran has been reeling from the economic impact of international sanctions, which have contributed to soaring inflation, high unemployment and a record low for the Iranian rial against the US dollar.

Pezeshkian, an outspoken heart surgeon who has represented the northwestern city of Tabriz in parliament since 2008, came out on top thanks to his "clean record without any accusations of financial corruption," said Manafi. The reformist has urged "constructive relations" with Washington and European capitals to "get Iran out of its isolation". In contrast, Jalili is widely recognised for his uncompromising anti-West stance. He is a ex-nuclear negotiator and currently a representative of Khamenei on the Supreme National Security Council, Iran's highest security body. AFP

Reuters



Masoud Pezeshkian, the reformist contender, came out on top thanks to his 'clean record without any accusations of financial corruption'. Official figures showed Pezeshkian leading with 10.4m votes (42.4%)

AFP

For conservatives, the combined votes of Saeed Jalili and speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who came in third, totalled 12.8m. That figure was well below Raisi's nearly 18m votes in the 2021 election

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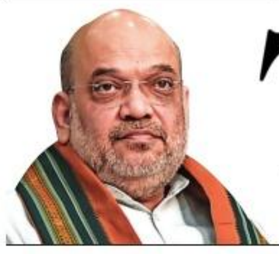

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Amit Shah appeals to people associated with coop bodies to open their accounts in District Coop Banks to help coop sector become viable, P 13

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A potential reshuffle is among steps Congress brass is considering to address a factional feud between Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah & his deputy Shivakumar, P 13

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In history's footsteps: Why the Nalanda story still fascinates us

Centuries after its decline, the ancient university lives on in the works of poets, historians, fantasy writers and filmmakers

Shruti.Sonal@timesgroup.com

Born in the Nalanda district of Bihar, poet-diplomat Abhay K has made several visits to the ruins of the Nalanda Mahavihara over the years. Guides regaled him with stories about the world's first residential university that attracted nearly 10,000 students from all over the world, and how the fire that engulfed its gargantuan library burnt for over six months. Over time, his interest took the shape of a full-fledged research project. "I started getting curious about how, why and when Nalanda became a seat of learning and who were the key people responsible for establishing it. Who taught and studied there. What contributions did they make to disciplines like philosophy and science? What led to its decline?" says Abhay, whose forthcoming book 'Nalanda' is based on his research. It weaves together historical facts with a narrative flair to transport readers to the prehistoric city of Rajgir, where the university existed between the early 5th and 13th centuries.

Abhay K's poem 'The Rise of Nalanda' celebrates the revival of the university

Forlorn under the red earth buried for centuries I rise today like a phoenix, eight hundred years later from ashes of my burnt books.

I open my arms today to embrace you whoever you are, from wherever you are come, walk into my enlightened fold as once Buddha and Mahavira did seeking shelter in my groves.

I remember Hiuen Tsang and Faxian — the seekers from the East, I hear footsteps of Aryabhata and Charaka in my ancient compound today you too come; come as I rise again.

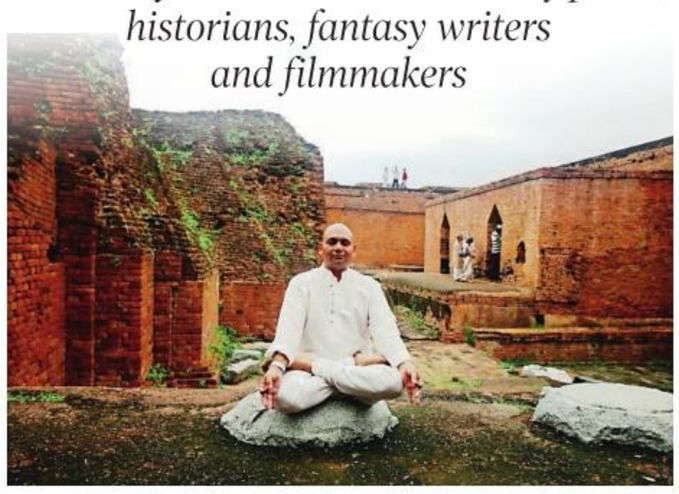
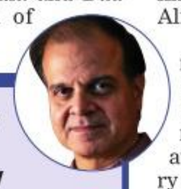


Photo: Benoy Behl

CAMPUS REWIND: Abhay K (left) paid many a visit to the ruins to research for his book; Benoy Behl has chronicled the site's sculptures

Though the revival of the university was first proposed by former president APJ Abdul Kalam way back in March 2006, it's only now that a new campus has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi. Beyond the controversies and politics, there's one thing that hasn't flagged — interest in its legacy, which has been kept alive through the pages of fiction and non-fiction books, TV documentaries and AI-generated videos that recreate it, amassing thousands of views.

What intrigued veteran filmmaker and art historian Benoy Behl, who first visited Nalanda back in 1976, is how it laid the foundation for modern academic rigour and study. "There was a formalised way of writing a thesis which followed the format of a discursive argument. Scholars had to write points in support of their thesis and against it. Then, there were sub-points under each of the arguments," says Behl, who chronicled his study of the sculptures that remain at the site as part of his broader documentaries for Doordarshan, as well as his books, 'Art of India' and 'Buddhism: The Path of Compassion'.



NAMIT ARORA, HISTORIAN

Nalanda was truly amazing... and worth taking pride in. But there's also a deep unease about what happened to it

Interestingly, one of the most big-budget projects on Nalanda was the 2016 film, 'Xuanzang' (after the famed 7th century traveller Hiuen Tsang). The first Indo-Chinese joint production became China's official entry for the best foreign language film at the 89th Oscars, and included several scenes of the Buddhist traveller's accounts of his time at Nalanda, with dialogues in Sanskrit. Legendary filmmaker Wong Kar-wai was its executive producer and its Indian crew included actors like Sonu Sood, Neha Sharma and Ali Fazal.

What is it about Nalanda's story that has led it to occupy so much space in the public imagination, centuries after its demise? Historian Namit Arora, author of 'Indians: A Brief History of a Civilisation', says there are two reasons. "One is that it was truly an amazing thing. The fact that India had this centre of learning where students came from all over the world to study a diversity of subjects is something worth taking pride in," Arora says. It also attracts attention for the wrong reasons. "There's a deep unease about what happened to it. Who's to blame? One group is made the villain, which makes for very captivating but false stories," he adds.

The aura of mystery makes it ripe for fiction, too. Delhi-based historical fiction writer Shivani Singh's murder mystery novel 'Nalanda' follows the journey of Siddhartha, a young Buddhist monk studying at Nalanda, who is roped in to investigate a murder on campus. "I was fascinated with its sense of mystique, its grandeur and its dramatic destruction," Singh says.

For Singh, part of the appeal was the lack of primary empirical evidence of what happened to Nalanda, which allowed her to give free rein to her imagination. Apart from the ruins at the site, which include a few sculptures, its story has been pieced together largely through the travel accounts of Buddhist monks who studied there, and later, western scholars.

Arora's book, on the other hand, deals with questions around Nalanda's demise, including the theory of its destruction at the hands of Bakhtiyar Khilji in circa 12th century. He is of the school of thought that Nalanda was too large to be completely destroyed in one attack.

Debates and theories aside, attempts to examine Nalanda's legacy are picking up steam. Before the museum at the site was closed for renovation in March, it attracted a steady stream of scholars. Birendra Kumar, additional in-charge of the Nalanda Museum, says that about 300 to 500 researchers used to visit every day from India and abroad. While most of them were interested in its Buddhist heritage and the archaeological remains, there has been a new interest in studying it as a role model for universities today, especially when it comes to blending formal education with the study of spirituality and religion, adds Kumar.

In order to revive Nalanda, it's important to understand what it stood for, says Behl. "It was where the building blocks of logic and understanding were laid — the kind that did not exist anywhere else in the world."

What's in a name? Forget Shakespeare, just ask a Bengali

Rohan Banerjee

Over a hundred years ago, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote: To those human beings who are of any concern to me I wish suffering, desolation, sickness, ill-treatment, indignities — I wish that they should not remain unfamiliar with profound self-contempt, the torture of self-mistrust, the wretchedness of the vanquished...

Nietzsche's ideas have influenced many people around the world. But few have embraced this dictum with as much gusto as a Bengali parent bestowing a nickname upon their child.

No Bengali can escape this blight. It is our fate, our destiny. Within days of our birth, the nickname — or daak naam, to use the Bengali term — is yoked to our identity. Even our biggest movie stars cannot escape it.

The only rule of daak naams is that there are no rules. Insofar as naming conventions go, it is the Wild Wild West (Bengal). Daak naams spit in the face of dictionaries and laugh at lexicons. They have no discernible logic and no intrinsic meaning. Some theories claim they are the result of a bout of insanity that afflicts new parents. Can the name Tublu, for instance, ever spring from a rational mind? Or perhaps there is devilry at play. What else would explain a pair of college professors christening their twins, Kochi and Buchi?

For obvious reasons, the daak naam does not make its way to the official documents certifying our existence. That dreary world is left to our 'proper name' (bhalo naam). The daak naam prefers the freedom of the oral tradition. It revels in being spoken, often changing its form to accommodate a surfeit of vowels. (As you would have noticed from the above examples, no decent daak naam can have less than two vowels; the best have three or more.)

In our early years, it holds us in a stranglehold. Parents, relatives, neighbours — it is on everyone's lips. Lacking the faculties to register a protest, we gurgle and giggle, thus encouraging its continued usage. It is not for me to speculate how years of being called Bogola can damage the formative mind of an infant.

As we grow older, our sense of self is cleaved in two. When we venture outside, we are trained to slip out of the daak naam — leaving it at the threshold of our home — and step into our 'proper name'. Initially, we do not give this metamorphosis much thought. It's a bit like speaking one language at home and another at school — each identity comfortable in its assigned place.

Then, one day, everything changes. The setting may vary — a classroom, a friend's birthday party, the schoolyard — but the scene usually follows a familiar script. A daak naam inadvertently stumbles into this genteel gathering and is immediately pounced upon. The child, to whom the daak naam is attached, tries to deny it but it is too late. Blood is in the water and the kids have smelt it.

"Your parents call you Puchki?"

"What does Poltu even mean?"

"Beguni! Beguni! Beguni!"

(The precise sobriquet does not matter — all daak naams are fatal.)

Your ears ringing with their taunts, you learn an important lesson. You must guard your daak naam with your life. You take pains to ensure your relatives never refer to you as Jhontu in front of your fiancée. You spend the rest of your life pretending your daak naam does not exist, hoping you have nullified its threat; but deep in your heart, you know you can never be rid of it. It hangs around your neck, like a decaying albatross. Its stench still clings to you — perceptible, in particular, to the keen noses of nosy Bengalis in your social circle. They sniff you out and befriend you. They bide their time until they have gained your trust — waiting for years, if necessary — and then eventually, they propose a trade: your daak naam, for theirs.

To prudent souls, this offer is an instant red flag. In Bengali relationships, the daak naam is a Rubicon one does not cross. There is a shared understanding of past trauma that neither party wishes to relive. (You once saw your best friend instinctively respond when someone shouted Bhutai, only to look away the next instant, his face ashen. The two of you never talk about it.) And, more importantly, no self-respecting Bengali ever volunteers to reveal their daak naam. The only ones who would even contemplate such a brazen act are the meagre few with nothing to lose — those who got away with Raja, Bunty, Pinky, and suchlike. They dangle the promised knowledge of their worthless names as bait, to fish for more valuable treasures. Those who fall prey to their wiles are compromised forever.

You may be a business tycoon, but you will never know peace if you're always wondering when that one colleague will waltz into your corner office, point at you, and say, 'Listen up, everybody! His name is Panchu!' You may win many awards but every time you go up on that stage, you will hold your breath and scan the crowd for that one friend who may suddenly stand up and shout, 'Congratulations, Dugdugi! We're so proud of you!'

Uday Deb

The only rule of daak naams is that there are no rules. As naming conventions go, it is the Wild Wild West (Bengal). They have no intrinsic meaning... Some theories claim they are the result of a bout of insanity that afflicts new parents. Can the name Tublu, for instance, ever spring from a rational mind?

No matter who you are or what you do, you will always be looking over your shoulder, wary of that one individual who can tell the world you're a Laltu.

To my fellow Bengalis, let this be a reminder. Daak naams are a deadly serious matter. Handle them with care. To everyone else, I hope you now understand what the Bengalis in your life, if any, have to deal with. Handle them with care.

P.S.: You are probably curious about my daak naam. Since you read this column, I would be happy to share it with you. It is....

Homing in: The startuppers who want to transform their own backyards

Ketaki.Desai@timesgroup.com

Things were going well for Hitesh Dharmdasani. After finishing a masters in cybersecurity in the US, he'd been working at a startup in San Francisco. That company did an IPO, leaving Dharmdasani with a handsome sum in his bank account. This is back in 2015 — a period he describes as a "post-recession boom" in the US startup ecosystem. So, his plan to move back to India, and that too, his hometown of Belagavi, Karnataka, struck others as, politely speaking, sort of stupid. But he's been running his cybersecurity startup out of the small town for many years now, and has even created an organisation called Belagavi Technology Companies Association (BeTCA) to bring together the small but budding startup ecosystem of Belagavi.

Like him, many entrepreneurs are looking beyond the charms (and problems) of big cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai or Gurgaon and homing in on their own backyards. This is also why Tier 2 and 3 cities are seeing so much startup action. A 2024 report by Primus Partners found that 90% of startups in 2023 were started in Tier 2 and 3 cities. These startups creating 150 lakh jobs last year.

Anugraha Ganesan and Dinesh Baluraj moved back from the Netherlands to Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu's rice bowl, to launch their drone startup Yali Aerospace in 2022. "People didn't take our work seriously based on location. We met hundreds of venture capitalists. Some ignored us, some treated us poorly. A few asked us to move to Bengaluru or hand over the technology. I was getting good pay abroad, so I was not here to make quick money," Baluraj told TOI. Their patience paid off — this year, Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu invested an undisclosed amount in their startup.

The pandemic played a big role as many entrepreneurs returned to their hometowns during lockdown, and found that remote working let them function just as efficiently. It changed mindsets too. As Dharmdasani puts it, "Before that, people believed that if you don't move to a bigger city for greener pastures, you're not living the good life."

Others, of course, were far ahead of this change. Rohith Bhat moved back to Udupi a year after starting his company Robosoft out of Mumbai. "In the first two years, I was building software and delivering it to American clients like Apple. This was all happening over the internet, so I saw no reason to stay in Mumbai. Everyone told me I was cray, but luckily things worked out," he says. He sold Robosoft to a Japanese firm for $100m. He now runs a gaming company called 99Games. "If I could do it in the '90s, why would someone think they can't do it now?"

Bhat acknowledges that it's not all roses. "It takes convincing to persuade middle management, in particular, to move to smaller places. My pitch to them has been that it's a great lifestyle decision. If they're still able to do cutting-edge work and have a better quality of life, they are happy."

HOMECOMING: Dinesh Baluraj and Anugraha Ganesan run Yali Aerospace from Thanjavur

HITESH DHARMDASANI, BELAGAVI ENTREPRENEUR

Before Covid, people believed that if you don't move to a bigger city for greener pastures, you're not living the good life

Amey Kadle, founder of Ajinkya Technologies and member of Belagavi-based BeTCA, says that while finding talent is not that hard, retaining it can be challenging. "We're able to offer salaries at par with Bengaluru organisations. But there are issues with retention. With young men, when it comes to having an arranged marriage, they want to move away because it's hard to find a match. Parents don't want their daughter to marry a boy in Belagavi. We actually just started a small Bengaluru office for this reason," he says. Plus, for people in relationships, it can be hard for both parties to find employment they're happy with in a small town.

Another potential hurdle is funding, founders say. While things have changed in recent years — Bhat had been laughed out of the room when he was raising funds in 2013, and was told that no one funds companies in small towns — there are still challenges when it comes to courting venture capitalists. For one, some investors like to keep a close eye on the startups they invest in, so the distance may prove to be a hurdle. Sajith Pai of Blume Ventures says while he wouldn't turn a startup away for funding because they're from a small town, he does see it as a constraint. "I've only seen a few high-quality startups in Tier 2 and 3 cities because investing and talent are challenges. If it's very early on and you want to bring a small group of people together, it makes sense. But long-term, it makes sense to be in Bengaluru or in Delhi if you're a consumer brand." There's a reason, he says, that small-town startups often move to a big town to scale up.

Jivraj Singh Sachar, host of the Indian Silicon Valley podcast and investor, sees not being in a startup hub like Bengaluru to be a double-edged sword: "While peer talent and conversations are available in startup hubs, you could argue that they become deafening or counterproductive." But, at the same time, he cannot deny that there is something about the energy — the ambition in the air of a city like Bengaluru — that does have intangible benefits. "It makes you believe in something bigger than yourself," he says. However, he has seen more startups coming out of small towns like Jaipur and Surat, for instance. Small-town success stories, he feels, will inspire more entrepreneurs.

This lack of ecosystem and community is exactly what BeTCA is trying to change. Dharmdasani says they are now connected with at least 50 companies running out of Belagavi; many of them are funded and doing well. For those who ask 'why Belagavi?', Ajit Patel, founder of electric vehicle startup Rivot Motors, has an answer: "When TVS started, someone must have asked them 'why Hosur?'. Today, Hosur has a supply chain which has led other companies to go there. I want to be TVS — to create opportunities for future generations to be here."

Even in Bihar, where the ecosystem is still in a fledgling stage, entrepreneurs with an emotional connection to the state are trying to give it a fillip. Himalay Verma's return to Bihar to start SKILL Foods, a food and agriculture startup aimed at generating employment, has been quite a journey — from a chance meeting with Ratan Tata at Verma's alma mater Cornell University that led to a job, to his wife's role as breadwinner while he worked out his startup logistics. Now, he's on the Bihar Industries Association where they're currently selecting the best business plan submitted by about 150 budding entrepreneurs. "I've taken sessions with young people at BIA and many of them have amazing ideas — one is making an app for barber appointments, while others are making soap out of flaxseeds. Over the last 15 years, I've seen many people move back and launch homegrown startups," he says.

SOCKS TO SKULL EMOJIS, the new ways to tell your age

No longer must one rely on birth dates or wrinkles (hello, botox!) to figure out how old a person is. The things you wear, say, and how you text define the generation you belong to

Emily Ratajkowski in a baggy pair of jeans

How tight are your jeans

The baggy vs skinny fit debate is one that shows no signs of getting over – more so now that voluminous cargo/parachute pants have become super popular. But if you're still in a monogamous relationship with slim fits and jeggings, a Gen Z-er can spot you a mile away. They like big, billowing teamed with a crop top and maybe an oversized shirt to layer

Short socks, huh!

Even your socks — yes, socks — can define your generation. Gen Z would not be caught dead in ankle-length or invisible socks that they consider to be "too short", according to a NYT piece. One Gen Z-er interviewed in the story says the only person he knows who wears ankle socks is his dad, in case you want to feel old. The kids would rather wear crew socks that go up to their calves. This has even become a point of generational quibbling on social media, with millennials saying things like "You will pry these ankle socks off my cold, dead feet."

Partial to middle part

Even the way you part your hair reveals something about your generational alliance. A middle part is the way to go for Gen Z, unlike the side part or side fringe that has come to be associated with millennials. Lately, though, there is photographic evidence that the reign of the middle part may finally be over. Actors from Emily Blunt and Penélope Cruz to Jennifer Lawrence have been flaunting their side parts again

Celebs like Rihanna are rocking side parts again

Full stop to periods

For millennials, punctuation in texts is a sign of proper etiquette — the digital equivalent of saying 'please' and 'thank you'. However, Gen Z views a period at the end of a sentence like a digital slap. They prefer lowercase letters and minimal punctuation, creating an approachable, casual vibe. It's as if every sentence ends with an implied shrug and apology

LOL, you're old

Alongside proper punctuation, some emojis and internet acronyms have become cringe-worthy. Unlike millennials, who popularised LOL, BRB, and OMG, Gen Z has evolved a new internet language with phrases like stan, rizz, drip, cap, and 'it's the _ for me', dominating their conversations. Normal emojis don't always mean what millennials think they do. For example, the **skull emoji** does not signify death but rather dying of laughter — it's the new laughing emoji. Similarly, the **standing person emoji** has become a meme response equivalent to the millennial 'umm, ok?'

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

JADEJA (35) FOLLOWS ROHIT & KOHLI INTO T20I RETIREMENT, SAYS 'WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE MY BEST FOR MY COUNTRY IN OTHER FORMATS' 21

India Triumphed In A Topsy-Turvy Affair. 'SKY' Held On To An Impossible Catch. Bumrah Was Magical. Hardik Redeemed Himself. Legends Like Kohli & Rohit Signed Off With The Elusive T20 WC Trophy. It All Paid Off Because The Planning Began Long, Long Back

The World Wasn't Won In A Day

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Bridgetown: A beautiful Barbados evening was setting in as the Indian team trooped out of the dressing room. Three hours had gone by since those magical moments had fashioned Indian cricket's redemption song at Kensington Oval. As a group, for one last time, they walked to the centre wicket — every member of the team, including the support staff — and savoured the moment of history together.

This group has won a lot, but they have endured the most painful defeats that you can think of. The World Test Championship mace was within touching distance but Australia snatched it away at the Oval. The ODI World Cup was a win away but Travis Head decided to have the day of his life in Ahmedabad on Nov 19, 2023. And it was very close to an encore of disappointment on Saturday as well before Heinrich Klaasen's edge off Hardik Pandya started the South African choke. And when Suryakumar Yadav latched on to David Miller's skier off the first ball of the 20th over to complete the greatest catch in Indian cricket history since Kapil Dev's catch to dismiss Viv Richards in the 1983 World Cup final, the Cup was well and truly India's.

But this World Cup was not won in a day. Outgoing coach Rahul Dravid, after numerous requests to come for a chat, revealed how the planning had started long back. "It was way back in Sept 2021 that ideas started forming. We worked on it over the years, and here we are, on this beautiful Barbados afternoon," Dravid said.

FULL COVERAGE: P 1, 20, 21
▶EDIT PAGE: That Catch, This Match/Their Gift...
▶Template decided, P 20

Photo: BCCI/X

Player of the match Kohli & player of the tournament Bumrah with Rohit

THE MAGNIFICENT 7

Fighters, heroes, champions, Rohit Sharma and his team gave India one of its most joyous cricketing moments on Saturday night. The T20 WC triumph was a team effort but overall, seven men stood taller than the rest

1 ROHIT SHARMA He was in woeful batting form in IPL & stripped of MI captaincy. But cometh the hour, cometh the man! As in ODI WC, Rohit again put the team before himself. He played with abandon and flow; his strike rate was a staggering 157 and he scored 257 runs, highest in the squad. More importantly, as commentators said, he exuded craft and calm in captaincy executing dressing room plans to perfection. His ebullience at the top will be as missed as his captaincy

Do You Know? His 24 fours and 15 sixes were the highest in the team

Rohit Sharma celebrates while his daughter looks on at Kensington Oval in Barbados

2 SURYAKUMAR YADAV In 1999, South Africa had dropped the World Cup. Thanks to Yadav, India didn't. His once-in-a-generation catch in the deep was as memorable as Kapil Dev's backward sprint and grab of Vivian Richards'. 'SKY' had the pressure of living up to his rank as world's no. 1 T20 batter. His knocks against USA and England were vital to the team's cause. And his destructive intervention served India well against Australia (31 off 16) and Afghanistan (53 off 28)

Do You Know?: He scored 60% of his runs in fours and sixes

3 HARDIK PANDYA He rewrote his life story at the World Cup. A foot injury had forced Pandya to quit 2023 ODI WC midway. His MI transfer and captaincy became a huge controversy; his IPL form the subject of cruel digs. But the 30-year-old all-rounder underlined why he is irreplaceable. He scored runs at an electrifying pace (strike rate: 151) this WC and mixed his pace to claim 11 wickets while breaking partnerships and providing vital breakthroughs

Top Moment: His 3/20 included the game changing wickets of Klaasen and Miller in the final

4 AXAR PATEL His aggressive batting and sharp left-arm spin provided India's most serendipitous moments in the championship. He knifed through England's top and middle order (3/23), helped India regain momentum with the bat (47 off 31, 4 sixes) in the final and against Pakistan. He arrived as a utility player, left as a premium all-rounder

Top Moment: His breathtaking catch of Oz captain Mitchell Marsh swung the game India's way

5 KULDEEP YADAV: The thrashing in the final aside, the joyful 'chinaman' with curly hair delighted India cricket lovers with his subtle guile and craft from Super 8 onwards. Was at his best breaking England's back in the semis

Top Moment: The delivery that bowled England's Harry Brook around the legs can be watched on a loop

6 JASPRIT BUMRAH He played eight games and was unplayable in each of them. Every batter handled him like expensive glass, with utmost care, and yet all were bamboozled by his video game-like craft. Bumrah is the world's best paceman, and by a mile. Nobody has his deception, movement, variation, a lethal cocktail that earned him 15 wickets at 8.2 runs apiece for an astonishing economy rate of 4.2. He was The Man of this WC. His ER is the best ever in a T20 WC by a bowler to deliver at least 20 overs

Top Moment: Too many. But most notably the wickets of Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan), Phil Salt (England), Reeza Hendricks and Marco Jansen (SA). All bowled

7 ARSHDEEP SINGH The 25-year-old Chandigarh born claimed the second pacer's spot exploiting the sharp movement and bounce of USA's uneven pitches and proved to be an admirable foil to Bumrah. His 17 wickets, which made him the tournament's joint-highest wicket taker with Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi, is also the joint-highest of any T20 WC

Top Moment: Dismissals of the dangerous Tim David and Mathew Wade (Australia) in one over

THEY ALSO SERVED WITH MERIT Keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Shivam Dube also had their moments. Pant's 42 off 31 against Pakistan on a treacherous pitch was invaluable. Squad members Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal and Yashasvi Jaiswal didn't get a game

COACH: RAHUL DRAVID got the best out of his wards, finishing his tenure on a high note

BEST FOR LAST

VIRAT KOHLI: Before the final, his scores were: 1, 4, 0, 24, 37, 0, 9. Balance and focus are his forte. But Kohli, who scored runs by the bagful at IPL 2024, seemed to lose both at the WC. It turned out he had reserved his best for the final. His 76 off 59 balls against SA was more than his total in 7 earlier innings: 75. India will miss his class and reassuring presence in the game's shortest version

Do You Know?: Kohli has 16 MoMs in T20I, a world record. Eight of them at WC, again highest for anyone

Text: **Avijit.Ghosh**@timesgroup.com

THE NIGHT INDIA PARTIED TILL DAWN

We, the people, needed this. The tears of joy rolling from overwhelmed eyes of cricketers, the seesaw of emotions better than any OTT drama, the beautiful noise of festivities rising from the streets — we needed them all. In a season harangued by unrelenting summer heat and unending examination scandals, good news has often been a rumour. But late Saturday night, for a few hours and more, the nation forgot its woes and toils. Everyone became a happier and elevated version of oneself. The T20 triumph in Barbados by captain Rohit Sharma and his resolute men united India in a song that soared above class hierarchies and cut across regions and differences. The World Cup was the balm we badly needed to rejuvenate our tired selves & souls

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Marine Le Pen-led far right National Rally has won the first round of legislative elections in France with President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance lagging at third spot behind the left, projections say, **P 24**

Prez Biden looks to recapture his mojo and reassures donors at a fundraiser that he is fully up to the challenge of beating Trump. Meanwhile, Biden's recent shaky debate performance raises alarm in Israel, **P 24**

A video in US shows an officer in upstate New York fatally shooting a 13-year-old boy who had been tackled to the ground after he ran from police and pointed a replica handgun at them, **P 24**

Bellingham's stoppage-time bicycle kick & a Kane header early in extra-time save England from an embarrassing exit from Euro 2024 and help team **beat Slovakia 2-1** to reach quarter-finals, **P18**

TMC man assaults woman & friend in public, arrested

Police on Sunday registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation after a video of a man brutally thrashing a woman and her male friend over an extra-marital relationship in Bengal's North Dinajpur went viral on Sunday. The accused, a TMC functionary, has been arrested. **P 10**

Cong seeks law to beat 50% quota cap

Congress has demanded Parliament pass a law to amend the Constitution to enable reservation for SC, ST and OBCs beyond the SC-mandated 50% cap. It urged that the bill be brought in Parliament's next session. **P 12**

Bridges fall in Bihar, J'khand & Manipur

The girder of an under-construction bridge in Jharkhand's Giridih collapsed Saturday due to rain. While two bridges collapsed in 2 days in Bihar, another in Manipur's Imphal West district collapsed Sunday. **P 13**

Sarpanch of Ajit's NCP shot in Beed

The sarpanch of Maralwadi village in Maharashtra's Beed district, from the Ajit Pawar-led NCP camp, was shot dead Saturday by his rivals over a financial dispute. Police have booked five people. **P 13**

Do not miss Education Times, a 4-page pullout with today's issue

This May-June was city's hottest in at least 74 yrs

Avg Max Temp 0.5°C More Than Previous Highest

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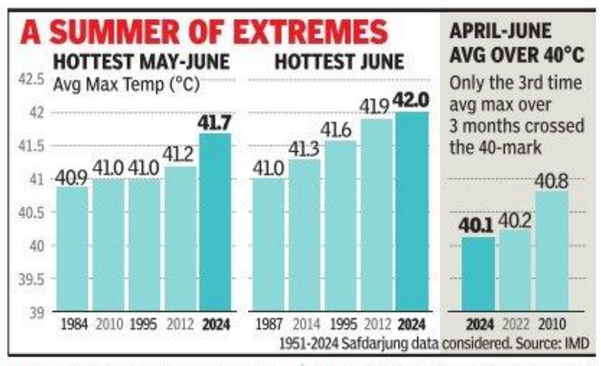

New Delhi: The capital this year suffered its most torrid peak summer months of May and June in at least 74 years. Both the month of June and the May-June period this year were the hottest in terms of maximum temperatures in records at Safdarjung station since 1951, which were analysed by **TOI**.

The average maximum temperature in June was nearly 42°C (41.95), surpassing the previous highest of 41.9°C recorded in 2012. This was only the eighth time since 1951 that the mean maximum temperature in June had stayed above 41°C.

And, in line with projections that global warming was causing more extreme weather, three of the four highest June temperatures were seen in the last 13 years.

▶ **Unbearable, P 3**

▶ **Two-day power outage in Delhi zoo, P 3**

▶ **Rain deaths: City govt to give ₹10L each to kin, P 3**

Friday's cloudburst: 100mm rain in just 1 hr

Safdarjung recceived nearly 100mm of rain in 1 hour from 5am to 6am on Friday morning, 25% more than the entire month's quota due to a deadly interaction of multiple weather systems. **P 3**

With three new criminal laws, a new regime comes into effect

The criminal justice system is set for a major overhaul with the three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — coming into force on Monday, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act, **reports Bharti Jain.** Starting Monday, all FIRs will be registered under the provisions of BNS. But cases filed before July 1 will continue to be tried under the earlier laws until final disposal.

BNS has 358 sections, down from 511 in IPC. As many as 21 new crimes have been added in BNS compared to IPC, duration of imprisonment extended in 41 crimes, fines increased in 82 crimes & minimum punishment introduced in 25 crimes. **P 10**

For Team India, cricket board announces ₹125 crore bonanza

'Silenced Critics With Stellar Performance'

Gaurav.Gupta
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Rohit Sharma playfully walks to collect the T20 World Cup trophy from BCCI secretary Jay Shah at Kensington Oval on Saturday

Mumbai: In times when cricketers make news for making money when they are sold for huge sums in the IPL auction, Team India's victorious cricketers have just broken the bank after winning the T20 World Cup.

In a move which reflects why BCCI is a financial superpower in the cricketing world and calls the shots in the game, board secretary Jay Shah on Sunday announced prize money of Rs 125 crore for Team India.

"The team has showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and support staff for this outstanding achievement!" Shah posted on X.

"Under the exceptional leadership of Rohit Sharma, this team has shown remarkable resolve and resilience, becoming the first team in the history of the ICC T20 World Cup to win the tournament unbeaten. They have faced and silenced their critics with stellar performances time and again," Shah added.

▶ **Player may get ₹5cr, P 21**

Indians' forex spends grow 29x in a decade

The rise in forex spends by Indians has far outpaced the growth in remittance of foreign exchange workers into India over the decade. Money spent abroad has gone up nearly 29 times from $1.1bn in FY14 to $31.7bn in FY24. The amount sent home by foreign workers has gone up 71% from $70bn to $120bn over the same period. India is the highest recipient of foreign remittances, getting twice the amount received by Mexico at $66bn. Money flowing into India rose at a CAGR of 5.5% in the last decade. Only Mexico (10%) grew at a faster decadal CAGR than India. **P 17**

CBI arrests Godhra edu trust chief for NEET malpractices

Vadodara: The chairman of a reputable private school in Gujarat's Godhra was arrested Sunday in the NEET-UG malpractice case being investigated by CBI, making him the sixth suspect to be taken into custody in the state and the fourth person linked to an educational institute after the school's principal, a teacher and an academic consultant.

Dixit Patel, who heads the Jay Jalaram Education Trust, stands accused of seeking Rs 10 lakh each from willing medical aspirants in return for helping them clear NEET-UG through unfair means. Jay Jalaram School was one of the designated NEET-UG centres in Panchmahal for the May 5 test, just as Oasis School in Hazaribag, whose principal and vice-principal are in CBI custody. TNN

▶ **Team drove 86km, P 11**

CBI lens on Hazaribag coaching centre head

The director of a prominent coaching centre in Hazaribag and a teacher at the institute are on CBI's radar as the focus of the agency's probe into the NEET-UG leak shifts from the three arrested suspects to their collaborators and conduits spread across multiple locations, officials said Sunday. **P 11**

PM hails people for reiterating faith in statute

In his first 'Mann Ki Baat' after returning to office, PM Modi Sunday hailed people "for having reiterated their faith in our Constitution and democratic systems". He said, "The 2024 elections were the biggest in the world. I congratulate Election Commission and everyone involved."

Wishing Indian athletes headed to Paris Olympics this month, Modi said, "The country is hoping our players perform well… win medals and also win hearts." **P 10**

1st time: Army, Navy chiefs from same school and class

Bhopal: In a first in India's military history, the Army and Navy chiefs are from the same state, school and batch. In fact, they used to share the same bench in the classroom.

▶ **Navy chief starts 4-day B'desh visit today, P 12**
▶ **Yogi's trusted officer is new UP chief secy, P 10**
▶ **Sujata Saunik is first woman CS of Maha, P 10**

Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi (59), who took charge Sunday, and Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi are alumni of Sainik School Rewa in MP. Their story is like one of brothers beyond blood. They have been friends since Class 5 and went through the gruelling regimen at NDA together.

Army chief Gen U Dwivedi (L) & Navy chief Admiral D K Tripathi

The Rewa school has produced over 700 military officers, including at least 25 of General rank, two of whom are now four-star Service chiefs, **reports Amarjeet Singh.**

▶ **'Totally focused', P 12**

2nd Navy officer held for human smuggling racket

Mumbai police crime branch probing human smuggling to South Korea has arrested a second naval officer and suspected kingpin of the racket, Sub-Lt Braham Jyoti (29), along with a woman, Simran Teji, 26, who ran a firm through which she would allegedly send people abroad using forged documents, **reports Ahmed Ali.** The racket came to light following a complaint against a Navy officer from South Korea's Mumbai consulate. Police said many of the applicants travelled to S Korea, destroyed their papers & have sought asylum. **P 15**

Name: Sushmita Sen
Age: 1 year, 4 months

My parents gave me the gift of life on the 19th of November, 1975. But, on the 27th of February, 2023, I was born again. This time, thanks to my doctors.
I had almost lost my life to a massive heart attack. But, because of the timely treatment and care I received from my doctors, I got a second chance at life.
Today, on **National Doctors' Day**, I'm proud to join **Sun Pharma** in dedicating my **#SecondBirthDate** to my doctors as a small token of my gratitude.

#SecondBirthDate
27.02.2023

A **National Doctors' Day** initiative by Sun Pharma

Scan the QR code to see Sushmita's **#SecondBirthDate** story. Send your Second Birth Certificate as a token of gratitude to the doctors who gave you or a loved one a second chance at life. Visit **www.secondbirthdate.com** to know more.

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Fall Guys: Trees Losing Out To Infra Push

How Despite HC's Ban On Cutting Greens, Permissions Continue To Be Granted In Name Of 'Crucial Projects'

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court recently reprimanded Delhi Development Authority for the unauthorised felling of 1,100 trees despite the ban on chopping down of trees imposed by Delhi High Court in Aug 2023. The forest department, however, continues to receive permission to bring down trees for "crucial projects", some of which are granted through gazette notification after special permission is granted.

While illegal felling also continues, **TOI** tried to understand the process of obtaining permission for clearing areas of trees. It also discovered that there is no data after 2021 on the number of trees felled in recent years and that some construction projects have faced hindrances due to denial of felling permission.

TIMES *Special*

As per the information provided by the forest department, the authority to grant permission for tree felling lies with the designated tree officer. However, at present, this permission has been suspended for private users and only projects designated as "crucial" by the govt are being granted the necessary clearances to proceed with tree felling.

"We are not giving permissions to individuals, though they form only a negligible proportion of permit seekers," said a forest official. "However, for infrastructure projects, the stipulated agencies are being allowed to obtain the permission from the high court." The officials added that the volume of applications for permission seeking transplantation and/or felling have reduced substantially in recent times.

According to an expert, there is a need to review the existing laws on protection of trees. Independent legal and policy researcher Kanchi Kohli said, "A socio-ecological understanding of trees is crucial for equitable urban governance and climate planning. A transparent monitoring and disclosure of tree cover loss and addition can assure citizens of govt's recognition of the importance of trees in mitigating air pollution, heat and other urban crises."

Kohli said it was necessary to review the laws on urban tree protection for their current relevance with an increasing demand for clearance of urban areas of trees for both linear and area-based infrastructure.

According to green activist Bhavreen Kandhari, while the absence of data makes it difficult for people to pursue legal options to protect the city's green cover, any data can be meaningful only in its proper context. She pointed out that both public and private agencies often had a poor assessment of the number of trees that needed to be felled for a project.

"In 2016, NBCC decided to chop down 16,500 trees for developing the general pool residential accommodation in the city," said Kandhari. "When it was dragged to court on the issue, it reassessed the needs at just 6,000. You can imagine the casual approach from this. There is an absolute absence of green engineering. Also, every year the state govt brags about having increased the city's green cover but there is a big disparity in different areas of the capital."

Activist Verhaen Khanna noted that people advocating pruning of trees seemed to have little connection with nature. "Heatwaves have become increasingly intense in summers and reduction of tree canopies exacerbates the problem," said Khanna. "In areas such as New Friends Colony, haphazard pruning has left trees unbalanced and weakened. Such trees can only recover with time. Rather than resorting to the negative step of pruning, we should focus on positive actions to ensure healthy life for our trees."

Illegal felling of trees: Panel issues notices to officials

Times News Network

New Delhi: A three-member fact-finding committee of Delhi ministers has issued notices to senior officials of DDA, forest department and Delhi Police over the felling of 1,100 trees in the Ridge area, allegedly without permission.

The committee of ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Imran Hussain was formed on Saturday and will submit its report to the forest minister.

The committee has directed the principal secretary (environment and forests), DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA, along with the commissioner (housing), DDA, deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi) and the station house officer (SHO) of the area and other senior officials, to be present at a meeting on July 1.

The committee will submit a factual report to Supreme Court by July 11.

"As the next date of hearing in this matter is 12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," the communication from Bharadwaj read.

The court had earlier directed Delhi govt and civic agencies to call a meeting and discuss comprehensive measures to enhance the city's green cover. A vacation bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said it expected the forest department and the tree authority to keep a vigil on the activity of illegal felling.

Following the hearing, urban development minister Bharadwaj accused DDA of lying in court. He claimed that it was clear in DDA's records that lieutenant governor VK Saxena went to Satbari forest on Feb 3 along with a DDA chief engineer and gave verbal instructions to cut 1,100 trees. This is written in emails of DDA officials, which establish the matter, he said.

Focus on Hathnikund-Okhla Barrage stretch for floodplain demarcation

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee has presented its findings to National Green Tribunal regarding the demarcation of floodplain in Delhi to prevent future flooding incidents. The report was submitted in response to an earlier NGT directive, which was based on a Times of India article titled, "Why Flooding Has Forced DDA's Master Plan Rethink", published in Aug 2023.

Earlier in March, an NGT bench, headed by chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, asked Delhi govt to submit a report on the demarcation of Yamuna floodplain based on floods that occurred once in 100 years, to identify a larger and more accurate area compared with govt's previous practice of using data of floods that could occur once in 25 years. The bench had then pointed out that this will place on record the river's deepest flow into the land. It also asked govt to submit the standard operating procedure followed by NGT-constituted joint committee to do the demarcations.

In a submission by DPCC, a high-level committee was convened in May to address this matter. During the meeting, National Mission for Clean Ganga, a member of the committee, disclosed that ministry of jal shakti had established a separate committee to conduct a comprehensive joint flood management study of Yamuna. DPCC, in a report dated June 26, said "a meeting of the high-level committee (HLC) was held on 07.05.2024 under the chairmanship of chief secretary, govt of NCT of Delhi… executive director, National Mission for Clean Ganga, one of the members of HLC, informed the committee that ministry of jal shakti had constituted a committee for a joint flood management study of the river Yamuna for its reach between Hathnikund and Okhla Barrage in which principal secretary, irrigation & flood control department (I&FCD) is a member from GNCTD."

DPCC added that the report would focus on the cause of the event and measures for better ground preparedness in case of such events (floods) in the future. "Further, I&FCD informed that for this exercise, the department has engaged the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, for determining the area and outer limit of 1:100 years floodplain based upon flood frequency analysis and water level stimulation. It was informed that the outcome is awaited. I&FCD was directed to expedite the exercise. Accordingly, it was further decided that demarcation of the floodplain with flood frequency once in 100 years will be taken up once I&FCD completes the abovementioned exercise. However, the floodplain once in 25 years basis shall be completed," stated DPCC.

The report further stated regarding the SOP for demarcation of the floodplain that I&FCD had identified the flood of 2011 as 1 in 25 frequency event.

252% increase in prosecution over lane violations from previous year

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Traffic Police has reported a staggering 252% increase in prosecutions for lane discipline violations in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

The statistics reveal that between Jan and June 2024, traffic cops booked 2,577 people for driving in the incorrect lane, a significant increase from the 732 challans issued in 2023.

IGI Airport (572), Mayur Vihar (344), Madhu Vihar (339), Kamla Market (215) and Civil Lines (195) have emerged as the top five hotspots for lane violations. Narela reported 194 violations, occupying the sixth spot. Kotwali (178), Timarpur (164), Kapashera (86) and Kalyanpuri (59) occupied the bottom four spots on the top ten list.

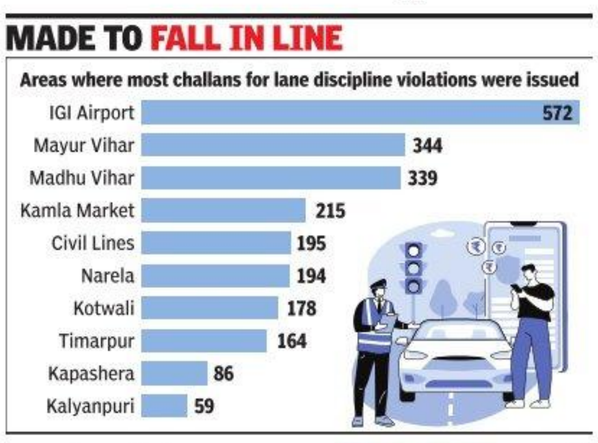
Special commissioner HGS Dhaliwal said: "To enhance road safety and reduce traffic congestion, stricter measures have been implemented to ensure motorists adhere to proper lane driving. The unit has intensified surveillance and enforcement activities across the city, deploying additional personnel to monitor traffic flow and identify offenders."

"By identifying areas with the most frequent traffic violations, this study facilitates targeted enforcement efforts to enhance road safety and ensure compliance with traffic regulations," special CP K Jagadesan said.

Traffic police said it was partnering with various stakeholders, including civic authorities and educational institutions, to raise awareness about the importance of adhering to lane discipline.

Unsafe lane changes are a common traffic violation typically occurring on roads with two or more lanes in the same direction, marked by clear dividing lines. For a traffic cop to issue a challan, they will typically witness a driver switching lanes without taking proper precautions. This often involves swerving into another lane without signalling.

The dangers of constantly switching lanes far outweigh any perceived benefits. "Frequent lane changes are a recipe for disaster. Drivers weaving in and out of traffic have less time to react to unexpected situations in neighbouring lanes. A study found that drivers who frequently change lanes are twice as likely to be involved in accidents compared to those who maintain their lanes," said a senior traffic cop.



'All I am left with is tears': Woman whose husband's body was found at underpass faces uncertain future

Ridhima.Gupta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Behind a large mountain of garbage, in the narrow lanes of Jaitpur Extension in Badarpur, lives 55-year-old Vineeta, who is now grappling with the devastating loss of her husband, Digvijay Kumar Chaudhary (61).

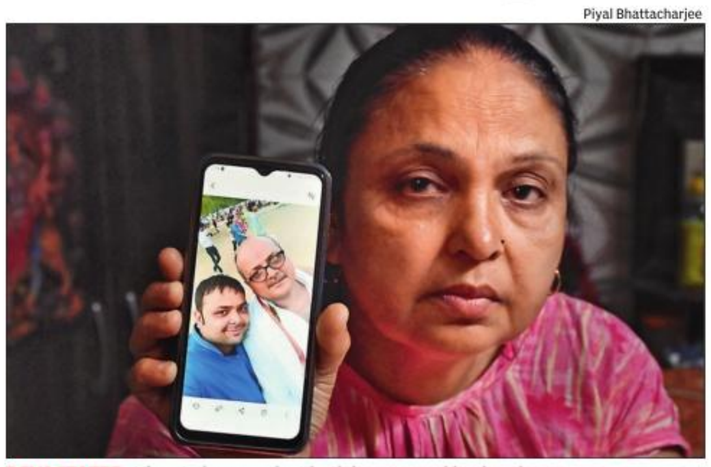
His lifeless body was found near an underpass in Okhla on Saturday after heavy rain in the city.

In her house in Gali number 2, Vineeta, surrounded by relatives, was breaking down intermittently. "Ab rone ke alawa mere paas bacha hi kya hai," she said. She has already endured the heartbreaking loss of her only son to Covid.

Several decades ago, Digvijay, a native of Bihar, had moved to Delhi to earn enough to feed his family and raise three children — two daughters and a son. He did odd jobs. A few years ago, the younger daughter passed away because of an illness. In 2021, the couple lost their only son. The elder daughter is married and lives away from the couple.

The couple lived on their own, supporting each other, said Vineeta. "After my son passed away, the financial strain on us was immense, which is why he (Digvijay) again had to start working. About a year and a half ago, he got a security guard's job, into which he put his heart and soul. Probably because of that, he lost his life."

Piyal Bhattacharjee



DEVASTATED: Vineeta has now lost both her son and husband

For a 12-hour-plus shift, all seven days a week, he used to earn around Rs 15,000. "I used to tell him, if the shift is 12 hours, why do you work more? He would say, 'I am a security guard supervisor. I should be taking care of other things as well'," Vineeta said.

Outside stood a black-and-red scooty that Digvijay used to ride to work. The family said that on Friday, around 4am, when it was pouring, Digvijay spoke to the night shift guard who told him that there was waterlogging in the basement of the company's building.

"I heard him on the phone asking the other guard to turn on the motor to pump the water out, to which the person on the other side said it would be difficult for him to do so. Then he (Digvijay) told me that he had to go to look into the matter. He left around 5am," Vineeta recounted.

She said Digvijay usually checked on her a couple of hours into work. That day, when he did not call by noon, she called on his cellphone. To her surprise, a police officer took the call.

"I am wondering if I had not called up, or if his phone had stopped working, would I have not even found out what happened to my husband. There was no communication by police, even though he was carrying all his identity proof with him," Vineeta said, showing the Aadhar and company ID, which all looked a bit damp.

VINEETA SAYS

After our son passed away, my husband had to again start working because of our financial condition. One-and-a-half years ago, he got a job as a security guard. He put his heart and soul in it and probably paid with his life for it

The circumstances surrounding the demise remain unclear. "We don't know if he was electrocuted, or he drowned or was hit by a vehicle. We are told we will get a postmortem report in a week," a family member said.

TOI spoke to the company where Digvijay worked — Trutuff Facility Management Pvt Ltd. Until Sunday, it had not contacted the family. "As per our contract, the company is not liable for any injury or mishap. But we will have a meeting and look into it on humanitarian grounds," an official said.

Heavy Rain Alert In City For 3 Days

Weekend Prediction Off The Mark Despite High Humidity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The weather in the city remained humid and cloudy on Sunday, despite the meteorological department's prediction of light to moderate rain. No rain was recorded until late Sunday evening.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has, however, issued an orange alert for heavy rain for the next three days — Monday to Wednesday.

On Sunday, the humidity oscillated between 60% and 97% throughout the day, with bright sunshine in a few places, making it uncomfortable to be outdoors for too long. The IMD expects the humidity to remain high throughout the week.

97% MAXIMUM HUMIDITY RECORDED IN CITY ON SUNDAY

Experts said, the monsoon trough line remained away, towards the south of the city.

"The monsoon is towards the south of Delhi and is expected to move northwards on Monday. It will pass over Delhi and thus there are chances of good rain over the city on Monday and Tuesday. It will thereafter pass over towards the Himalayan foothills," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate change and meteorology, Skymet.

Meanwhile, the city's base station, Safdarjung, recorded a maximum temperature of 37.1 degrees Celsius, the season's normal, against 35.6 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 27 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, against 28 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

June recorded extreme heat and extreme rain events. The average monthly minimum temperature was 29.8 degrees Celsius, which is 1.9 degrees Celsius higher than the long-period average for June at 27.7 degrees Celsius. This figure is the highest for the month since 2012 (30.6 degrees Celsius).

Despite normal or below normal temperatures, high humidity levels also kept the feel-like temperature or heat index high. The heat index on Sunday was marked at 51 degrees Celsius.

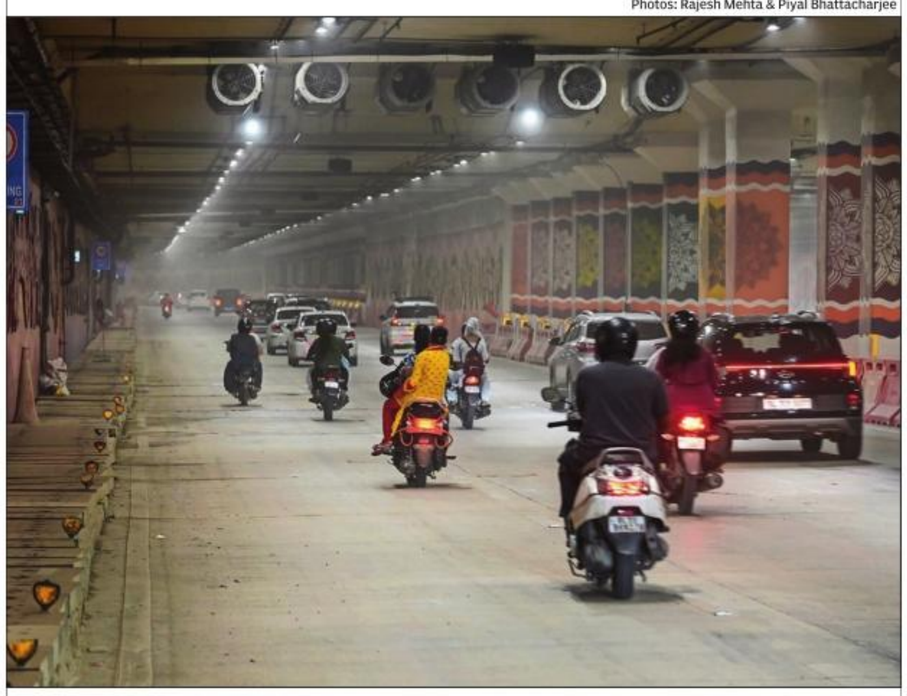
The net monthly rainfall for June was 243.4 mm (228% excess rainfall), the highest since 1936 for the month. Of this, 228.1 mm was recorded on Friday, the day monsoon arrived in the city.

In June 1936, the city recorded 415.8 mm of rainfall. In June 1933, the city recorded 399 mm of rainfall.

Meanwhile, the IMD had forecast heavy rain for the city with gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph. On Monday, the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to drop and hover around 33 and 26 degrees Celsius, respectively.

TALE OF TWO UNDERPASSES

Photos: Rajesh Mehta & Piyal Bhattacharjee



While Pragati Maidan tunnel (top) reopened on Sunday after being closed due to the unprecedented rain on Friday, Sarita Vihar underpass continued to battle waterlogging, posing difficulties to motorists

RAIN DEATHS: Govt Announces ₹10L For Kin

Dual problem: Atishi visits Minto Bridge, water plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Water and Public Works Department (PWD) minister Atishi visited the Chandrawal water treatment plant and the Minto Bridge pump house on Sunday after the recent heavy rain.

Since Friday's heavy rain, a section of the Chandrawal water pump has suffered damage, leading to a reduction in drinking water production in several parts of central and north Delhi. The Minto Bridge underpass was once again heavily flooded, and the area was closed to traffic.

Delhi govt also announced that it will provide Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the families of those who drowned due to heavy rain in the city. Minister Atishi said it has been reported that there were "several deaths" from drowning on June 28. "It is hereby directed that the families of all those who lost their lives shall be provided a compensation of Rs 10 lakh," she said in an order.

During her visit to Chandrawal, the minister directed officials that all departments concerned, including Delhi Jal Board and the urban development department, should do a joint inspection of the plant and prepare a plan on that basis so that such problems do not arise in any plant in the future.

This is, however, not the first time that the water plant has faced the same problem.

Later in the day, accompanied by senior officials, Atishi visited the Minto Road pump house of PWD and instructed officials to further increase the capacity of the pump house and use new technologies to prevent waterlogging.

Piyal Bhattacharjee

With Chandrawal plant flooded due to heavy rain on Friday morning, water supply to large parts of central Delhi has been severely affected. Residents of Motiakhan came out on the roads to protest on Sunday

GOVT SAYS

Due to heavy rain, the pumps deployed at the Minto Bridge underpass took time to drain out the water. There was a problem of waterlogging here for a few hours

Govt said that on normal days during monsoon, Delhi receives 20-25 mm of rainfall. But this year, 228 mm of rainfall happened in just 24 hours, which is 25& of the total rainfall during monsoon in Delhi.

In such a situation, due to this unexpected rain, the problem of waterlogging in the underpass has come to the fore.

In 2022, the PWD built an additional drainage line here, and even automatic pumps were deployed along with an emergency alarm system, due to which there was no waterlogging in 2022, but these measures failed recently. "Due to heavy rain, the pumps deployed at the Minto Bridge underpass took time to drain out the water. There was a problem of waterlogging here for a few hours," said the govt. Even last year, during floods, the same problem occurred at this plant, and water supply was affected for several days.

Areas including Karol Bagh, Jhandewalan, and Paharganj have been severely affected. Residents of DDA Colony Rani Jhansi Complex and Motiakhan came out on the roads to protest as water pipelines have been dry for the last three days, residents said. "It is very difficult for us to manage household chores without water. Schools are going to open tomorrow, and things will get worse if the water supply does not resume. Thousands of people are living without DJB water supply, as a few tankers cannot meet the water demand of these areas," said Tapasi Mohanty, a resident of Motiakhan.

The Pragati Maidan tunnel, which was flooded due to heavy rains, was opened for traffic on the evening of Sunday, said PWD officials.

Rain causes outage in Delhi zoo, power restored after 2 days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Zoo has restored power after grappling with a two-day outage.

Zoo officials said the power had failed on Friday after excessive water from flooded city areas made its way into the zoo, breaking a wall and damaging the transformer. This had impacted the animal enclosures, offices, and staff quarters.

"Due to unprecedented rain, added by the breakage of the boundary wall from the Sundernagar side, water rushed to the substation area, and transformer circuits got heavy moisture and malfunctioned," said a senior official from the zoo.

To maintain essential operations, the zoo was relying on two diesel generator sets, which were running alternately. Officials said the emergency measures were put in place to ensure the well-being of the animals and the smooth functioning of critical systems within the zoo. According to sources, the Delhi Zoo had two generator sets, and two more were procured on rent.

Until Sunday evening, water was being pumped out using floating pumps, etc, and staff were ensuring that electric circuits and other devices were moisture-free.

File photo

SOME RESPITE

"The electricity was being supplied from alternative DG sets. Experts were working to fix the issue, and by Sunday evening the transformer began working again," said the official.

The city saw extremely heavy rainfall on Friday — recording 228.1 mm of rainfall, a record for the month in 80 years. There was loss of life and property, and several services were briefly interrupted.

Delhi Zoo, also known as the National Zoological Park (NZP), was inaugurated in 1959 and currently houses over 97 different animal species. This includes white tigers, Royal Bengal tigers, rhinoceroses, and hippopotamuses, among others.

100mm rain in 1 hour on Fri, 25% more than entire June's quota

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New Delhi: Safdarjung received 25% more rain in one hour on Friday morning than it normally gets in the entire month of June as a deadly interaction of multiple weather systems led to a cloudburst over areas in central Delhi.

While Friday's convergence of multiple systems was localised over a very small region, this was the third instance in less than two years when extreme rain in the city was caused by an interaction of two or more weather systems. Worryingly, experts and climate models suggest these types of events are likely to increase in frequency and intensity with climate change.

"Between 5am to 6am, Safdarjung recorded nearly 100mm of rain. It was a cloudburst phenomenon with the maximum rain concentrated around the Safdarjung station," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told **TOI**.

The normal rainfall for the month of June at Safdarjung is 80.6mm. In a single hour, the month's normal was exceeded by 25%. The day's rainfall, at 228.5mm, was nearly four times the June normal.

So, what caused such extreme rainfall, the highest single-day spell at Safdarjung since 1996 and the highest in June since 1936? "At that time, two circulations, one over Haryana and another over south Rajasthan-Gujarat, were bringing some moisture from the Arabian Sea. At the same time, there was a low-pressure system over Bay of Bengal near the Odisha coast that was energising the southwest monsoon and pushing these winds towards northwest India. The circulations in the north also attracted the monsoon towards the region, leading to its swift movement towards Delhi-NCR," Mohapatra said.

He said the final piece in the mix was a high-pressure system in the upper layers of atmosphere over Delhi that caused convergence of winds in the lower layers, leading to perfect conditions for intense thunderstorms. "It was a multiple-scale interaction which caused extreme rainfall over a very narrow region. In technical terms, it was a mesoscale convection system," the IMD chief said.

While Friday's conditions differed significantly from previous instances, it was nonetheless the third multi-system convergence causing heavy rain in the capital in less than two years. The previous instances were in July last year and Oct 2022.

These weather interactions have become a prime cause of extreme rainfall in north India in recent years, including the catastrophic Kedarnath deluge of 2013. And climate change could be adding to their destructive potential. "We can be fairly certain that these interactions, when they do happen, will be increasingly linked with extreme rainfall and flooding," said meteorologist Kieran Hunt from the UK's University of Reading, who has been researching on two-system interactions over India.

HOW RAINS TURN INTO DELUGE

Increasingly, extreme rainfall in north India is being caused by confluence of two or more weather phenomenon

What is multisystem interaction?

When two or more weather systems combine to produce a mega downpour. Most common example is a western disturbance (WD, coming from west) interacting with eastward moving winds, such as monsoon or low-pressure system from Bay of Bengal

What caused Friday's cloudburst?

Two air circulations (One over Haryana, another over Raj-Guj) attracted monsoon winds (lying far east) towards Delhi. Plus, divergence of winds in higher atmosphere over Delhi complimented convergence in lower atmosphere, creating perfect conditions for intense thunderstorms. Very localised event, impacting mostly central Delhi

Photo: Tarun Rawat

Recent examples

1. **July 2023** | WD-monsoon interaction caused 100mm+ rainfall in Delhi for two consecutive days. Caused havoc in HP, U'khand
2. **Oct 2022** | 74mm+ rain in Delhi in a day, intense showers in hills
3. **June 2013** | WD-monsoon convergence wreaked havoc at Kedarnath, other places in U'khand

Unbearable! This May was seventh hottest since 1951

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New Delhi: While several heat records were surpassed in Delhi in June, what made this summer that much more unbearable was the extremely long spell of high heat. The average maximum temperature this year in the May-June period, corresponding with peak summer in the city, was as much as 0.5 degree C higher than the previous hottest corresponding period recorded in 2012. This year's average maximum was 41.7 degrees C as compared with 41.2 degrees C in 2012.

To put these temperatures in perspective, the mean maximum temperature in May-June has touched (or crossed) the 41-degree mark only four times in the last 74 years at Safdarjung. The other two years being 1995 and 2010.

May 2024 itself was the seventh hottest since 1951 with an average maximum of 41.4 degrees C. This was the first time during the analysed period that the average maximum in both May and June was above 41 degrees C. The period saw a 40-day spell of consecutive 40-degrees-plus daily temperatures, an unprecedented event. There were as many as nine heatwave days at Safdarjung in June and five in May, another number that hasn't been surpassed in recent times.

The extreme heat in the last two months meant that the entire summer in the capital — April-May-June — was the third hottest on record since 1951. The three-month average this year was 40.1 degrees C, surpassed only by 2010 (40.8) and 2022 (40.2).

There were as many as nine heatwave days at Safdarjung in June and five in May, another number that hasn't been surpassed in recent times

These are the only years when the April-June mean maximum has crossed 40 degrees.

Heat wasn't the only type of extreme weather suffered by Delhiites this season. The torrential rain on Friday morning (June 28) was a 28-year high for a single day and highest in 88 years for the month of June.

At least 187 people in Delhi have lost their lives to extreme weather this season, with **TOI** recording a minimum of 176 heat-related deaths.

How Lifting Weights Can Be A Boost For Your Later Years

Can Help Preserve Muscle Strength, Mobility, Says Study

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Lifting heavy weights on a regular basis — about three times per week — when nearing retirement age can significantly maintain the strength in your legs well into your later years, according to research recently published in the journal BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine.

The study, conducted on a group of healthy older adults in the 64-75 age bracket, concluded that "one year of heavy resistance training may induce long-lasting beneficial effects by preserving muscle function" in this population. Additionally, improvements in leg strength were observed even with reduced lean mass. The response to resistance training is affected by neural adaptations.

Doctors across the city said the study highlights the importance of heavy resistance training in preserving leg strength, which is crucial for mobility and independence in older adults.

"Heavy resistance training is particularly beneficial for older adults as it helps maintain muscle mass, bone density and mobility. It doesn't necessarily mean lifting extremely heavy, but rather using weights that challenge the individual's strength and muscle function," said Dr Yash Gulati, senior consultant, orthopaedics, joint replacement and spine surgery, Apollo Hospital.

Dr Jayant Arora, senior director, orthopaedics, Fortis Gurgaon, said as individuals age, they experience a condition known as sarcopenia — a decline in muscle mass, particularly in the lower limbs. This significantly impacts their mobility, alters their gait and walking speed and consequently elevates the risk of falls. Emphasising the importance of preserving muscle strength as people age, Dr Arora said implementing strategies to mitigate the effects of sarcopenia can contribute to improved physical function and quality of life in older adults.

According to Dr Gulati, "The primary benefit of heavy resistance training in maintaining leg strength is that it stimulates muscle growth and strengthens the bones. By stressing the muscles and bones, the body responds by increasing protein network formation and depositing additional minerals, resulting in stronger and more resilient leg muscles and bones."

Emphasising the importance of tailoring heavy resistance training to a person's specific characteristics, including body weight, strength level and overall fitness, Dr Rahul Kumar, senior consultant at Joint Replacement and Sports Injury Centre, Paras Health, Gurgaon, said, "The amount of weight used should be enough to fatigue the muscles within 6-12 repetitions while maintaining proper form."

For those new to such training, Dr Kumar advised starting with lighter weights and progressively increasing the load as strength and confidence improve. He also stressed the significance of seeking guidance from a fitness professional to determine suitable weights and ensure proper technique, which is essential for preventing injuries and achieving the best possible results.

Before starting any new exercise programme, it is crucial to consider one's health status too. According to Dr Biplab Das, director and senior consultant, neurology, Narayana Hospital, "Individuals with severe osteoporosis, uncontrolled hypertension, certain cardiovascular conditions or joint problems should exercise caution."

For those with pre-existing medical conditions, it is highly recommended to undergo a thorough assessment prior to engaging in heavy resistance training or any other form of exercise. This evaluation helps determine the most appropriate and safe exercise plan tailored to individual needs and limitations.

Dr Hitesh Bhandari, orthopaedics consultant, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, pointed out that men generally possess more muscle mass and strength, enabling them to lift heavier weights at the beginning of their training. However, he said, "Women can achieve similar relative strength gains with resistance training. Despite the potential difference in the absolute weights used by men and women, the fundamental principles of resistance training remain the same for both genders."

KEEP IT CHALLENGING BUT MANAGEABLE

- **Heavy resistance training (HRT) refers to exercising against significant resistance such as lifting heavy weights** or using resistance machines that challenge muscles and bones
- HRT should be **tailored according to an individual's body weight,** strength and physical condition
- **Amount of weight should be challenging but manageable,** avoiding extremes that could lead to injury
- **HRT enhances muscle hypertrophy and strength** by stimulating muscle fibers through intense, focused effort

iStock

- **People with certain medical conditions,** such as heart disease, uncontrolled hypertension or major joint issues, should avoid heavy resistance training
- **Those with recent surgeries, severe osteoporosis or other musculoskeletal** problems should also be cautious
- While some people with prior experience in resistance training may manage on their own, it is **recommended to work with a certified trainer,** especially at the beginning

Delhi Metro targets opening of 3 Phase-IV priority corridors by 2026

KRISHNA PARK STN TO OPEN THIS YR

- An underground section from Janakpuri West to Krishna Park Extension will be opened for operations by August this year
- Krishna Park is the only station in this 2km section to open this year
- Delhi Metro currently has 392.4km of DMRC network with 288 stations

❷ Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg
Extn of Line 8
Magenta Line
(Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden)
Length **29.3** KM
Number of stations **22**
Target date | **2026**

THREE CORRIDORS OF PHASE-IV

❶ Majlis Park-Maujpur
Extn of Line 7
Pink Line
(Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar)
Length **12.3** KM
Number of stations **8**
Target date | **2025**

❸ Aerocity-Tughlakabad
New line 10
Golden line
Length **23.6** KM
Number of stations **15**
Target date | **2026**

Total length of Phase-IV corridors **65.2** KM
Total number of stations **45**

Times News Network

New Delhi: To open all three priority corridors by 2026, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is progressing rapidly with its Phase-IV expansion work. At present, over 50% progress has already been achieved on these corridors comprising 65 kilometres of new lines.

On the Majlis Park–Maujpur section, about 80% of civil work has already been completed. Tunnelling works are in progress on various stretches of the Aerocity–Tughlakabad (Golden Line) and the Janakpuri West–Ramakrishna Ashram Marg (Magenta Line) corridors.

Despite the adverse situation due to Covid and delay in various permissions, Phase-IV section from Janakpuri West to Krishna Park Extension is almost complete and is likely to be opened by this Aug.

"The Majlis Park–Maujpur corridor is also likely to be opened during the next year. The rest of the sections of the priority corridors are expected to be opened in a phased manner by 2026. However, certain permissions for tree cutting and acquisition of land pockets at isolated locations are still awaiting approval," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC.

Though work on the Phase-IV of expansion started in Dec 2019, immediately after the finalization of tenders, progress of work was significantly impacted for almost three years from 2020 onwards due to the Covid pandemic and delays in getting tree-cutting permissions. "DMRC has been working continuously on the Phase-IV project practically since the last one and a half-two years only, which gives the organisation just about four years' time to complete the entire work by the year 2026," said Dayal.

Out of Phase-IV's 65 kilometres, 28 kilometres will be underground, and the rest will be elevated. Of the total 45 stations in these three corridors. 11 new interchange stations will also come up as part of this new expansion. The upcoming interchange stations are Janakpuri West, Peeragarhi, Pitampura, Haiderpur Badli Mor, Majlis Park, Azadpur, Pulbangash, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, Delhi Aerocity, Chhatarpur and Tughlakabad.

"The project is being monitored at various levels on a day-to-day basis. Site visits are also taken up at the highest level to expedite the work. Tree cutting permissions are being pursued at appropriate levels," said Dayal.

Two more corridors under Phase 4, Inderlok–Indraprastha and Saket G Block–Lajpat Nagar have also received approval recently. DMRC at present is processing for statutory clearances including land acquisition from the concerned authorities. Forest and tree cutting permissions are also being taken up at the appropriate levels. Further processes regarding the planning and tendering for civil works are in progress.

Technical study of T1 likely to be completed in a month: Official

New Delhi: The detailed technical study of the Delhi airport's now shut Terminal 1 (T1) is expected to be completed in a month and depending on the findings, the decision will be taken on recommencing operations at the terminal, a govt official told PTI said on Sunday.

All flights from T1 have been shifted to Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, and all of them were being operated, officials said.

On June 28, a canopy at the old departure forecourt of T1 partially collapsed amid heavy rains resulting in the death of a person and causing injuries to at least six people. Following the incident, the civil aviation ministry said structural engineers from IIT Delhi have been asked to immediately assess the partial collapse of the canopy.

The official said the technical study of T1 is expected to take about a month. After the findings come in, a decision will be taken about recommencing operations at T1, the official added.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), operated by a GMR Group-led consortium DIAL has three terminals — T1, T2 and T3 — and handles around 1,400 flight movements daily.

T1 was used for domestic flight operations by IndiGo and SpiceJet.

From T1, officials said, 72 flights of IndiGo have been shifted to T2 and T3, and 17 flights to T3, adding that all the flights are operational.

"All SpiceJet flights to/from Delhi from 1st till 7th Jul'24 will operate from Terminal 3, Delhi Airport. Necessary information has been communicated to all the passengers on their registered contact details (SMS/Email)," the airline said in a post on X. PTI

Waste-to-charcoal plants in Gurgaon and Fbd soon

Times News Network

Chandigarh: Aiming to rid itself of pollution arising out of landfills, Haryana will soon get waste-to-charcoal plants — also known as green coal plants — in the National Capital Region areas, officials said on Sunday.

An MoU will be signed between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL) and the Haryana govt.

After setting up the plants in Gurgaon-Manesar and Faridabad areas, this initiative will be expanded to other cities in Haryana. NVVNL officers will soon visit a few sites for establishing green coal plants.

The project will give relief to Haryana from the controversies over the pollution caused by landfills in Gurgaon and Faridabad. The issues are under the scanner of National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had even given deadlines to state in addition to slapping penalties.

Union power, urban development and housing minister Manohar Lal Khattar, during a meeting with officials from the concerned departments in the Union govt and the state on Friday evening, instructed that the municipal corporation, in collaboration with NVVNL, should set up a green coal plant at Bandhwari or alternative sites around Gurgaon and Manesar.

He stated that this plant should be capable of consuming around 1,200 tonnes of solid waste daily.

Similarly, the Faridabad civic body, he said, should start the process with NVVNL to set up a plant with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day on the available land in Mothuka village.

Establishing waste-to-green coal plants in Gurgaon-Manesar and Faridabad will not only provide a permanent solution to the waste problem but also increase energy production.

After setting up the plants in Gurgaon-Manesar and Faridabad areas, this initiative will be expanded to other cities in Haryana. NVVNL officers will soon visit a few sites for establishing green coal plants

The meeting was held at Shram Shakti Bhawan in New Delhi.

The Union minister, it is learned, is "committed" towards reducing the problem of the increasing quantity of municipal solid waste and using it beneficially for renewable energy production.

During the meeting on waste-to-energy, detailed discussions were held on NVVNL's initiative to produce green coal from solid waste.

Mayor takes stock of cleaning ops in waterlogged areas

Times News Network

New Delhi: Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Sunday visited a few waterlogged spots and took stock of the cleaning work being carried out by Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Inspecting Barapullah drain and the area around it, which was waterlogged during the record-breaking rainfall, Oberoi said that permanent pumps installed in the area were completely submerged in water, necessitating the installation of temporary pumps. Super sucker machines have also been deployed to resolve the issue.

The mayor, during an inspection at Kishanganj railway underbridge, noted significant waterlogging and said that six pumps have been installed, with plans to deploy two additional 83 HP pumps soon. She also assured residents that there will be no further waterlogging in the area.

Mayor Oberoi directed the immediate repair of the bent iron barrier at the underbridge and overnight repair of the broken drain. Announcing the formation of a quick action team to swiftly address waterlogging issues, she urged residents to register their complaints with the control room. "All MCD councillors and officers would be available 24 hours," she added.

Oberoi also visited parts of Safdarjung Enclave which had experienced severe waterlogging and flooding of residents' homes. She identified an open drain in the area as the cause of waterlogging and instructed officials to cover the drain as soon as possible.

6-year-old dies as portion of terrace collapses in NE Delhi

Times News Network

New Delhi: A six-year-old boy died after a portion of the terrace of his house in northeast Delhi's Pratap Nagar collapsed on Sunday, causing him to fall.

After receiving a PCR call about the incident around 5pm, a police team rushed to the spot, a police officer said.

The child was reportedly playing on the terrace when the incident occurred. The family, residing in the building as tenants for the past six months, had rushed the boy to GTB Hospital where he was declared brought dead, the officer said.

Santosh, the boy's father, works as a labourer in a factory located on Sewadham Road.

According to police, the collapsed section of the terrace measured about 50 square yards. The building itself is old and there were no ongoing construction activities at the time of the incident.

The house owner, Ramji Lal, who lives on the ground floor of the building, is currently absconding, the officer said, adding that a case has been registered against the owner and further investigation were ongoing.

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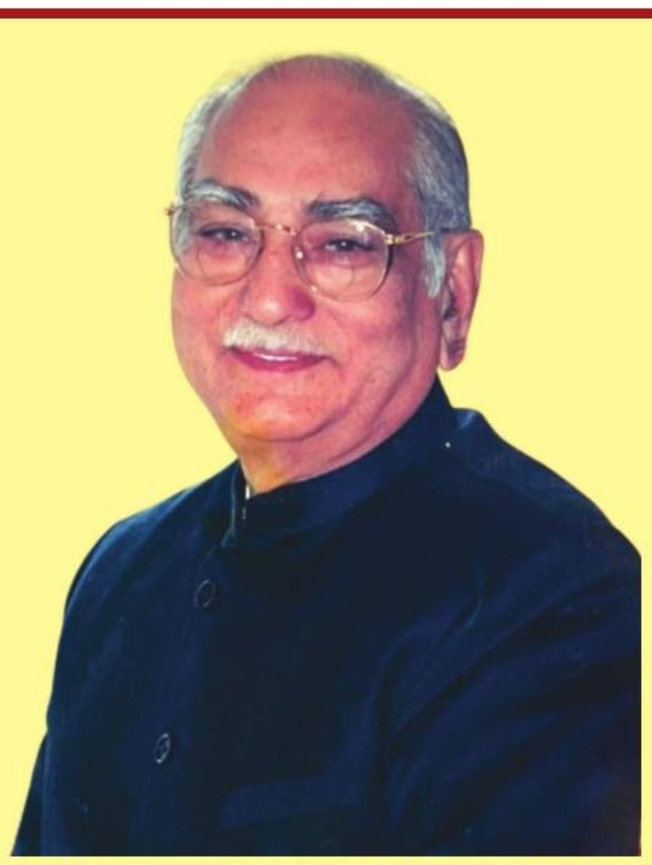

(16th Aug 1930 - 21st June 2024)
In memory of our beloved father
SWADESH PAL BHATIA
Kindly join us in a Prayer Meeting at Chinmaya Mission, 89 Lodhi Estate, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024 from 4pm to 5pm
Fondly Remembered by
Atul & Vimal Bhatia
Neeru & Gyan Ahuja
Anu & Vijay Soni
Grand Children & Great Grand Children

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

In Loving Memory of
Shri Maharaj Krishan Dani
You left the world 15 years back and since then you have been remembered every now and then by all family members, relatives and friends. Your memories are fresh in our minds. You were the source of inspiration and motivation for all who came in your contact. Deeply remembered by Kshama Chadha and Raghuvir Sharan Dani. 1097 Vikas Kunj, Vikas Puri, New Delhi -110018

First Death Anniversary
S.WARYAM SINGH JI (CA)
We miss you every moment of our life. You never really left us. You continue to live in our hearts & mind.
Remembered By: Sdn. Jaspal Kaur, Jaswinder Singh Jolly & Gurpreet Kaur, Sumanjeet Singh Anand, Avneet Kaur Nirula & Randeep Singh Nirula

"HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY. Three words that you taught us. Three words that help us cope with your loss".
The silent joy of remembering a loved one.
The moments you shared together.
Little moments that make life beautiful.
Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

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You left us on this day 3 years ago but will always live on in our hearts. Deeply missed by _____ and _____
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As A New Era Begins, Here's Why You May Find It Easier To Approach Police

You Can Now File FIR Online From Delhi Police's Portal, Report Crime From Outside City Through Zero FIR

Rajshekhar.jha
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New Delhi: Starting today, people in Delhi may find approaching the police easier. With the new laws being rolled out from July 1, not only can they file an FIR online from Delhi Police's portal, but can also report a crime from outside the city through a zero FIR. Not just that, the people can also expect police to be fairer with audio and video recording of procedures, such as search and seizures, and even questioning having been made mandatory.

The new laws also have deadlines prescribed for following of procedures so that the police are accountable and people are not left to wait endlessly.

TIMES *Special*

With Delhi Police directly reporting to ministry of home affairs unlike states, the city cops are under greater pressure for a glitch-free implementation of the new laws. Union home minister Amit Shah is learnt to have given clear instructions to LG Vinay Kumar Saxena and police commissioner Sanjay Arora for ensuring a smooth rollout. Shah has also asked the top cop to give directions to the supervisory officers to have zero tolerance for any deviation from the prescribed norms laid down in the new laws, sources said.

With around 40,000 cops having completed their extensive training in BNS (Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita) and BNSS (Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita) -- which have replaced IPC and CrPC -- Delhi Police seems confident of rolling out the new laws.

"Till June 24, as many as 36,716 cops had been trained. We have now made subsidiary training units, which will train cops at the district level. This exercise will go on till every single cop has been trained in the new laws," said a senior officer. In the first two phases, around 21,000 cops received the training and over 17,000 have been trained in the third phase, which is ongoing.

In the coming months, Delhi Police may also consider procuring tablets for its investigating officers to fulfil the requirements laid out in BNS, it was discussed at a recent meeting with police brass. The tablets will have police's app, e-praman, installed on them and will be connected to CCTNS (crime and criminal tracking network and system) in order to file e-FIRs and chargesheets online.

This will allow them to make videos of the crime scene and take pictures with GPS and time-tagging.

"There is emphasis on ensuring that the evidence collected is authentic and that the investigating officer is present at the crime scene. The hash value of this digital evidence will be preserved to rule out any tampering and ensuring unaltered evidence reaches the court," a senior cop said.

The app and the tablet will help cops upload the videos directly to the crime and criminal tracking and network system. The sanctity of digital evidence is the top priority for cops and the plan is to use a cloud-based service besides the regular storage to save their crime scene videos, photographs and audio files, officials said.

In the new app, the cops are heavily relying upon the "hash values" to establish that there has been no tampering with the digital evidence. "If the hash value changes, it would mean there has been some modification or tampering. All changes will be recorded," said an official. The cloud service will also ensure that there is a backup of case files and evidence.

Four special commissioners -- Ravindra Yadav, Chhaya Sharma, Madhup Tiwari and Shalini Singh -- have spearheaded the project since Jan. Around 4,000 dummy FIRs have been registered at 200 police stations in the city in the last few weeks and the policemen have carried out equal number of mock arrests and seizures under BNS and BNSS. The policemen have also filmed over 1,200 dummy crime scenes during this exercise, sources said.

The policemen have been training in the new laws since Jan this year. Special CP Chhaya Sharma was handpicked for the job. "We started off by training around 5,500 frontline personnel in the first lot. Handbooks and pocket guides were prepared and a comprehensive training programme was initiated. The objective was to keep it simple," Sharma said.

But training such a huge force was not a cakewalk. "It was a challenging task because the investigating officers and other personnel had to first unlearn the old laws and then be thorough with the new laws," said a senior officer.

EASE OF ACCESS

WHAT CHANGES

IPC 302 — BNS 103
Offence | Murder
Punishment | Death or imprisonment for life and fine

IPC 304 — BNS 105
Offence | Culpable homicide
Punishment | Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for not less than five years, but which may extend to 10 years and fine

IPC 304-A — BNS 106
Offence | Causing death by negligence
Punishment | Imprisonment for 5 years and fine

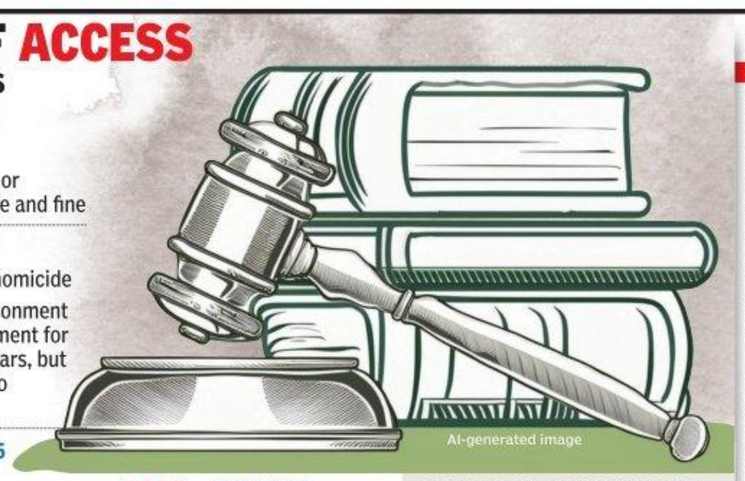
IPC 304-A — BNS 106
Offence | Causing death by negligence by registered medical practitioner
Punishment | Imprisonment for 2 years and fine

IPC 307 — BNS 109 (1)
Offence | Attempt to murder
Punishment | Imprisonment for 10 years and fine

IPC 309 — BNS 226
Offence | Attempt to commit suicide
Punishment | Imprisonment for 1 year, or fine, or both, or community service

IPC 315 — BNS 91
Offence | Infanticide
Punishment | Imprisonment for 10 years, or fine or both

IPC 147 — BNS 191(2)
Offence | Rioting
Punishment | Imprisonment for 2 years, or fine, or both



IPC 379 — BNS 303(2)
Offence | Theft
Punishment | Rigorous imprisonment for not be less than 1 year but which may extend to 5 years, and fine

IPC 380— BNS 305
Offence | Theft in a dwelling house, or means of transportation or place of worship, etc
Punishment | Imprisonment for 7 years and fine

IPC 384 — BNS 308(2)
Offence | Extortion
Punishment | Cognizable Non-bailable; imprisonment for 7 years, or fine, or both

IPC 396 — BNS 310(3)
Offence | Murder in dacoity
Punishment | Death, imprisonment for life, or rigorous imprisonment for not less than 10 years and fine

IPC 397— BNS 311
Offence | Robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death
Punishment | Imprisonment for not less than 7 year

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

IPC 354 — BNS 74
Offence | Molestation
Punishment | Imprisonment for 1 yr which may extent to 5 yr and fine

IPC 354-A — BNS 75(2)
Offence | Sexual harassment
Punishment | Rigorous imprisonment with 3 year or fine or both

IPC 354-D — BNS 78
Offence | Stalking
Punishment | Imprisonment up to 3 years and fine

IPC 376 — BNS 64
Offence | Rape
Punishment | Rigorous imprisonment for not less than 10 years but may extend to imprisonment for life and fine

IPC 376-A — BNS 66
Offence | Punishment for causing death or resulting in persistent vegetative state of victim
Punishment | Punishable with rigorous imprisonment for not less than 20 years but may extend to imprisonment for life which shall mean the remainder of that person's natural life or with death

IPC 376-D— BNS 70(1)
Offence | Gang Rape
Punishment | Rigorous imprisonment for not less than 20 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life and fine

HOW TO FILE FIRs

E-FIR

Step 1 | Log on to Delhi Police website or send the complaint to police station concerned through any e-communication

Step 2 | Fill in details of incident, personal details and supporting documents

Step 3 | The e-FIR is forwarded to the investigation officer (IO) for initial verification

- IO may begin preliminary inquiry to ascertain if there is a prima facie case or will take max 14 days; information sent through e-communication shall be taken on record within three days and FIR registered
- If urgent action is needed, matter may be registered by IO on behalf of complainant
- SHO reviews FIR and assigns it to an IO. FIR copy to be given to complainant for free

ZERO FIR

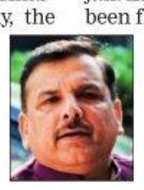
- A complainant approaches any police station to report a cognisable complaint
- SHO/officer on duty records details in zero FIR register
- FIR no. is prefixed with 'zero'
- Officer forwards it to police station having jurisdiction over place of the incident, where it is re-registered as a regular FIR
- SHO assigns FIR to an IO for further action

'Misuse of agencies': Opposition bloc plans protest at Parliament

Times News Network

New Delhi: Alleging that Centre's investigative agencies were misleading Supreme Court, AAP MP **Sanjay Singh** said the Opposition INDIA bloc would protest against it on Parliament premises on Monday.

The AAP functionary said that at a meeting held at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's house on Saturday, the parties associated with INDIA bloc had unanimously decided to stage the protest in Parliament at 10.30 am.



He said that despite the trial court granting bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal, Enforcement Directorate immediately sought high court's intervention and secured a stay on his release. "When CM Arvind Kejriwal seemed set to receive bail from Supreme Court, Modi govt got him arrested by Central Bureau of Investigation," he said. Singh said this was "a blatant misuse of investigating agencies, and both ED and CBI lacked evidence against Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia".

Addressing a press conference at party headquarters on Sunday, Singh claimed that the country's investigative agencies had become "political weapons of the central govt". He said: "When Manish Sisodia's bail was being heard in Supreme Court, the court told ED that the investigation has been going on for one-and-a-half years, questioning how long will they keep a person in jail. There cannot be an endless investigation, SC had said." He added: "Then, ED told Supreme Court that they would finish the trial in 6-8 months. Six months have passed, Manish Sisodia is still in jail. ED's chargesheet has not been filed yet. The trial is far from starting," he said.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the political desperation of AAP functionaries was increasing daily. "Whether it is AAP MPs, Delhi govt ministers, or MLAs and councillors, they are not concerned with public interest work but are worried only about CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is embroiled in corruption charges," he alleged. Sachdeva asked if Kejriwal and other AAP functionaries in jail were innocent, why didn't they get bail from any regular court. He claimed that Kejriwal government was "completely immersed" in corruption, and the cases that had surfaced were just "trailers". Sachdeva added: "When the investigation into Delhi Jal Board and espionage scandal begins, the entire picture will be revealed."

HC may pass order on pleas of Kavitha today

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi High Court is expected to pronounce on Monday its decision on the bail petitions of BRS functionary K Kavitha in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, who had reserved the order on two bail petitions on May 28, is scheduled to pass the verdict at 2.30 pm.

Kavitha has challenged the trial court's May 6 order by which her bail applications in the Central Bureau of Investigation's corruption case and the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering case were dismissed.

Her lawyer submitted that out of 50 accused in the excise case, she is the lone woman, and urged the court to consider granting her bail as law keeps women on a different pedestal. The CBI and ED had opposed Kavitha's bail pleas, saying she was highly influential and powerful enough to influence witnesses, as one of the witnesses has even stated that he was threatened by her.

Students at DU's management school allege harassment

New Delhi: Several first-year students at the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) of Delhi University have filed complaints against their seniors alleging harassment by them, prompting the institute administration to launch an investigation into the matter.

FMS dean Venkat Raman said the matter is currently being investigated and action will be taken if the allegations are found to be true.

According to a complaint sent to the grievance redressal cell of the institute, students have alleged they were assigned tasks with "odd deadlines" like 2.30 am and called for interactions at "odd hours" at 5 am on campus failing which they were forced to sign off their summer placement support.

The placement cell of the FMS is run by seniors.

Two emails, one dated June 22 and the other June 23, show students were given assignments at late night at 10 pm and were asked to submit by "2.29.59 am".

In a complaint to the grievance redressal cell, a student anonymously alleged, "Since June 15, we have been overworked, sleep deprived, subjected to threats and made to feel incompetent. As if the extreme pressure was not enough, the seniors mark our words with nasty feedback that we feel is intended to demoralise and humiliate us."

A student suffered a "panic attack and fell unconscious" on the campus due to this behaviour, another email reporting the incident alleged.

Asked about the allegations, FMS dean Raman said these MBA students are given case studies for corporate exposure.

"Such tasks are given by seniors to help them prepare better for placement. If a task was given at 2.30 am, then you must see that the seniors were also awake till then to assess the assignments," Raman said.

They are basically helping each other, he said.

However, in the process if anything wrong was said, necessary action will be taken, the dean said. "We have an anti-ragging committee in place, if anyone feels they were subjected to an objectionable behaviour, the committee can be reached out." PTI

Guard dies after wooden log falls on him from tower

Advitya.Bahl@timesgroup.com

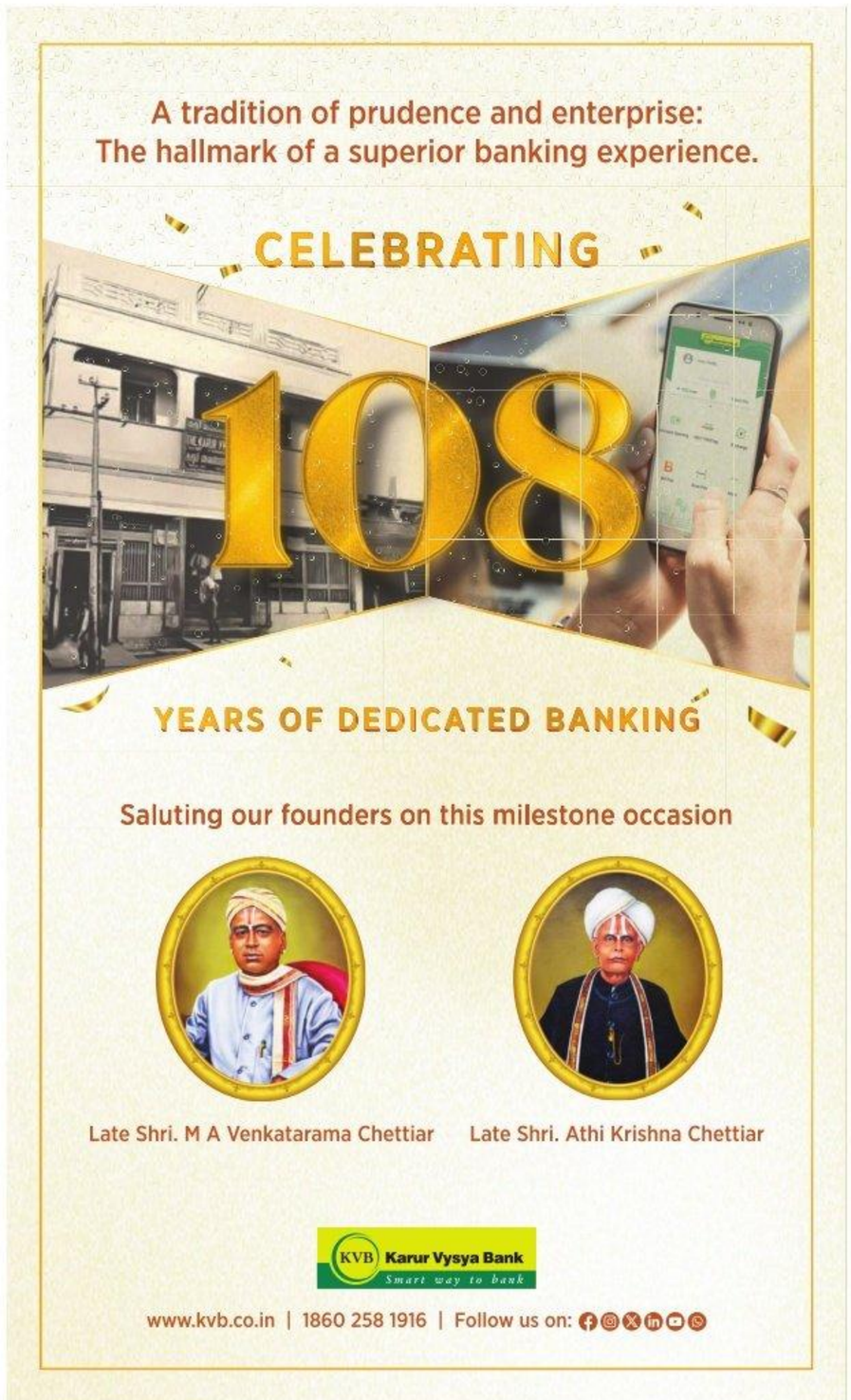
Noida: A 50-year-old guard at a housing society in Bisrakh died after a wooden plank fell on him from a tower being constructed on the premises on Sunday morning.

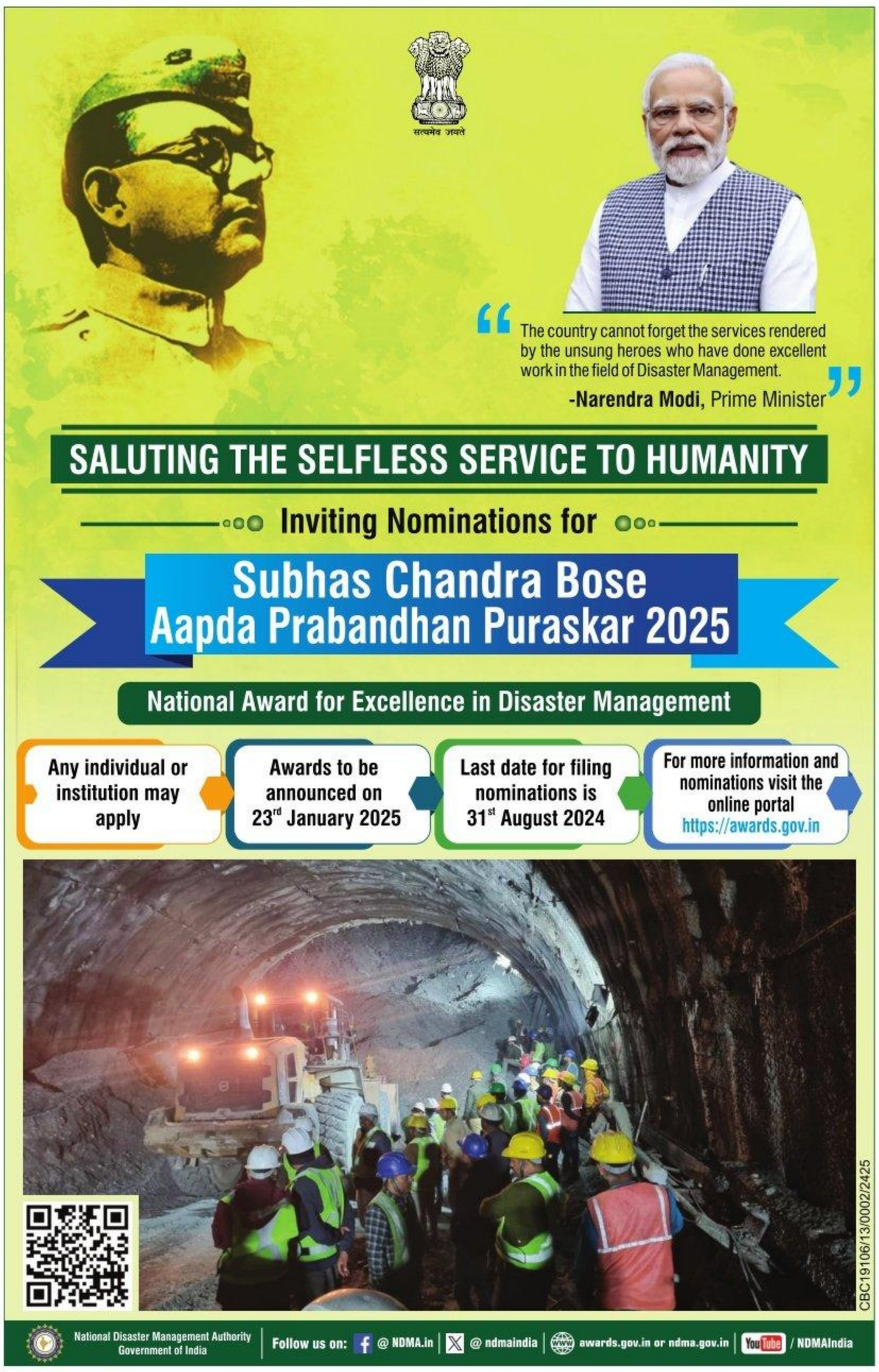
Ram Lakhan, who was from Farrukhabad, was filling his water bottle from the cooler after finishing his night shift around 8.30am when the plank of wood fell on him. Police suspect it fell from the 20 or 22nd floor of La Residentia, moved by gusty winds.

Lakhan, who had been working at the society for the past two months and a half, stayed in one of the under-construction towers.

"He had just finished his duty and was filling water from the cooler when the wooden plank fell on him. Other guards rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he died during treatment," said Arvind Kumar, the SHO of Bisrakh police station.

Omveer Singh, president of the La Residentia AOA, said the society's residents would extend all possible help to the family. "We already helped his wife and other family members with the legal procedure," he said.





Flats Too Small? FIR Against Realtor After Noida Buyers Approach EOW

'BREACH OF TRUST': Homebuyers Allege They Have Been Cheated Of ₹190cr

Aditya.Dev@timesgroup.com

Noida: The economic offences wing of Delhi Police has registered an FIR against the owners and senior management of Prateek Group after a group of 20 homebuyers accused the Noida-based realtor of cheating them.

The FIR – which followed a complaint by the 20 buyers of Prateek Edifice in Sector 107 – named the owners Prashant and Prateek Tiwari, and senior managers Sunil Kumar Mittal and Anshuman Sharma. According to the police document, the developers orchestrated a fraud of more than Rs 190 crore.

The complainants alleged that the 423 flats that were sold in Edifice were 10-12% smaller in size than what they had been charged for.

"The flats delivered to us were significantly smaller in size than what was promised to us. An architect was appointed to carry out a survey after we approached the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) against the developer. They did not just give us smaller flats, but also carried out construction beyond the sanctioned plan without taking any consent from us," said Rajeev Goyal, a complainant.

Prateek Group was also accused of collecting Rs 12.8 crore as one-time lease rent from flat owners when the amount payable to Noida Authority was Rs 6.4 crore. According to the buyers, the developer did not even pay the amount to the Authority.

"Eventually, we were handed possession after NCDRC asked the developer to hand over flats within three weeks. Many facilities and amenities that were promised to us were not delivered," Goyal added.

A spokesperson for Prateek Group said the developer had not received any official communication from police so far. "The flat owners who lodged the complaint have already been given possession of flats. Further action will be taken once we get all the information," the spokesperson added.

'AMENITIES AT SOCIETY INCOMPLETE'

COMPLAINT
Filed by 20 homebuyers of Prateek Edifice, Sector 107

ALLEGATIONS
- Flats handed over to homebuyers were 10-12% smaller in area than what was promised
- Facilities and amenities incomplete
- Excess construction carried out beyond sanctioned plan and without consent from homebuyers

Photo: Himanshu Singh

- ₹12.8 crore collected as one-time rent from homebuyers, though developer owed ₹6.4 crore to Noida Authority and even that wasn't paid
- ₹9 crore collected as 'interest-free maintenance security' but it wasn't refunded to homebuyers' association
- Higher amount charged for grid electricity, meter connection, fibre connection, IGL security and sewer lines

CASE
- FIR registered by Delhi Police EOW against Prateek Group (including 3 of its firms), two owners and two senior management officials
- Charged for cheating, extortion, criminal breach of trust, criminal misappropriation and forgery

DEVELOPER'S STAND
No communication from police so far, complainant has been handed over possession of flat

Bawana-Bhau 'split'? Cops probe Insta post

New Delhi: Delhi Police special cell is looking into an Instagram post purportedly by gangster Neeraj Bawana's claiming a split with his associate Himanshu Bhau, a US-based gangster. Bawana, who is lodged in Tihar, has claimed that he had no ties with Bhau and shouldn't be held liable for the killing carried out by Bhau gang. Cops suspect that it may be a gimmick. TNN

Delhi PUC centres to remain open after Gahlot's assurances to pump owners

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification centres in Delhi will remain operational on Monday as petrol pump owners have postponed their strike following assurances from the transport minister that their request for an increase in rates is under consideration by the department.

Earlier, petrol pump associations in Delhi threatened to close down PUC certification centres from July 1, citing unresolved financial difficulties.

Transport minister **Kailash Gahlot** said on Sunday, "We had held meetings with petrol pump dealers earlier. Officials also held talks with them on Sunday. We are looking at their demands. They have agreed to defer the strike."

Nischal Singhania, president of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association, said, "On the assurance of the minister of transport, Delhi govt, that rates of PUC would be hiked in the next few days, DPDA has deferred the strike call till July 11."

There are around 650 PUC centres at various petrol and diesel stations across Delhi.

With nearly 80 lakh registered vehicles in the city, the closure of PUC centres could lead to severe consequences, such as increased vehicular pollution. Vehicles operating without a valid PUC certificate face a substantial fine of Rs 10,000.

A senior Delhi government official mentioned that pollution test rates were last raised in 2011, while fines for vehicles caught without a PUC certificate have increased significantly.

Currently, the charges for pollution tests are Rs 60 for petrol and CNG-driven two-wheelers and three-wheelers, Rs 80 for petrol-powered vehicles, and Rs 100 for diesel-powered four-wheelers. An additional 18% GST is charged separately. Last year, 50 lakh pollution test certificates were issued in Delhi.

As per the Motor Vehicle Act, vehicle owners caught without a valid PUCC can face imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to Rs 10,000, or both. The Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 mandate that every motor vehicle, including those conforming to BS-I/II/III/IV and those running on CNG/LPG, must carry a valid PUC certificate one year after the date of registration. However, the validity is one year for four-wheeler BS-IV-compliant vehicles and three months for others.

"We have also received requests from people running the pollution test centres, who said it had become difficult to meet expenses as they had to pay huge rents," the official added.

In Delhi, the PUC certification process is carried out in real-time and is integrated with the vehicle registration database.

Two get life term for Delhi woman's gang rape in Aligarh

Deepak.Lavania@timesgroup.com

Agra: A fast-track court in Aligarh has sentenced two men to life imprisonment for the 2022 gang rape and robbery of a woman who lived with her husband in Mayur Vihar in Delhi. The trial of a third accused, a juvenile, continues separately. The assault unfolded when the survivor, travelling to her in-laws' home, was assaulted in a moving auto by the driver and two of his friends, who later dumped her near a canal.

In her statement to the police, the woman recounted that she had left Delhi by bus at 5 pm and reached Aligarh around 10 pm. She took an auto from the bus stand to go to her village. The auto driver allowed two other passengers to board the auto and took the wrong route. When the woman protested, the driver said he was going to drop one of his friends, one of the two co-passengers, in a village nearby.

While she was talking to her husband on the phone, the accused stopped the auto, strangled her, and snatched her jewellery and purse containing Rs 20,000. Later, the two co-passengers gang-raped her in the moving auto before the driver stopped the vehicle to rape her, while her husband continued to be on the phone call.

The accused fled after dumping her near a canal. Labourers at a nearby brick kiln heard the woman's screams for help and called the police. An FIR was registered against three unknown men under IPC sections 376-D (gang rape) and 392 (robbery).

During the investigation, police reviewed footage from over 100 CCTV cameras near the bus stand and the crime scene. They identified the auto with "GURU" written on it and the three accused men. Yusuf alias Rehan, 30, was arrested on April 16, and Azad, 27, and the juvenile were arrested the next day. Jewellery, cash, and other stolen items were recovered from them.

Additional district govt counsel (Aligarh), Krishna Murari Johri, said, "The stolen items found with the convicts, DNA report, forensic lab findings, the testimony of witnesses, the statement of the victim in court and the fact that the husband of the victim was on call at the time of the incident played a crucial role in establishing the case against the three."

He added, "The court of additional district judge (fast-track court) Anju Rajput sentenced the two convicts to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on them on Saturday. The third accused is a juvenile offender, and his trial is continuing in another court."

Five held for armed robbery

New Delhi: Five gangsters have been arrested for allegedly robbing a restaurant worker of Rs. 65,000 at gunpoint in the Welcome area in the city, police said on Sunday.

They said all five have criminal history and have previously been involved in robbery, murder, attempt to murder and Arms Act cases. Police identified them as Rinku (39), Sunny (27), Sachin (23), Shivam (25) and Himanshu (24).

Deputy commissioner of police (crime) Amit Goel said an incident of armed robbery at the Nazeer Restaurant in Delhi's Babarpur area was reported on June 11.

"Two people reportedly robbed Rs. 65,000 in cash and three mobile phones at gunpoint from the cashier and a waiter of the restaurant in Babarpur," he said. The Crime Branch has launched an investigation. PTI

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WEST BENGAL HOUSING BOARD
NOTICE
E-Tender is being invited by the Deputy Director(EW)-I/SLG, WBHB, 105,S.N.Banerjee Road, Kolkata-700014 for the work: **"Restoration of overturned brick wall and construction of barbed wire fencing within Siliguri Satellite Township Project at Dabgram, Fulbari, District - Jalpaiguri under West Bengal Housing Board".** Reference NIeT No.:- **WBHB/DD(EW)-I/SLG/HB/NIeT-05/2024 - 2025.** Earnest money Rs.**12,415.00.** Last date of online submission **08.07.2024.** Other particulars will be available in the website http://wbtenders.gov.in. Corrigendum if any will be published in e- tender site only.
Deputy Director(EW)-I/SLG, West Bengal Housing Board
ICA-T10201(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No : 11/EE/D-III/W&S/KMDA of 2024-2025 (2nd call)
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, DIV-III, GRWW, W&S Sector, KMDA, Bidhangarh, Kolkata-700066, from eligible and resourceful contractors, for the work, **Name of Work, Estimated Amount Put to Tender, Earnest Money, Time of Completion,** Operation and Maintenance of Sluice Valve to regulate and monitoring the flow of water of 6 nos. ESR at different locations of Budge Budge Municipality for 21 months.(2nd Call)., Rs.20,12,789/-, Rs.40,256/-, 21 months, **Last date & time for online Bid submission:** 16.07.2024 at 18.45 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-148)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T10190(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. : 03/EE/South/SD&SWM/KMDA of 2024-25
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, South Division, SD&SWM Sector, KMDA, Baghajatin, STP Complex, Kolkata-700094, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced agencies, for the work, **Sl. No., Name of Work, Estimated amt. Put to tender (with 18% GST, 1% Cess), Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, (1)** Jungle cutting & Silt Cleaning of Khal from Garia Ganga Joyara road near Bhai Bhai Sangha (Lock Gate) to Santi Sangha Club(Sluice Gate) at Ward no-04 under Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality., Rs.7,77,782/-, Rs.15,556/-, 60 days, **(2)** - Same as Sl. No.-1 - Khal from Khalpar (Tally Nala) to Rana-Bhutia Culvert (Kheyada G.P-2 area) via Asharamji Ashram at Ward no- 03 under Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality., Rs.7,03,111/-, Rs.14,062/-, 60 days, **(3)** - Same as Sl. No.-1 - Khal Sabuj Sangha Canel (beside H/O Joydev Pramanik) to Netaji Subhas Engineering College at Ward no-03 under Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality., Rs.4,14,131/-, Rs.8,283/-, 45 days, **(4)** - Same as Sl. No.-1 - Rania Suti Khal-1 from Bonhooghly -2 G.P to Buria Culvert at Ward no-35 under Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality., Rs.4,73,130/-, Rs.9,463/-, 45 days, **(5)** Cleaning jungles & silt clearance of canal from Zero Point to Adarshanagar Lock gate at Ward no-4 & 5 under Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality., Rs.9,17,531/-, Rs.18,351/-, 60 days, **(6)** - Same as Sl. No.-5 - Nayanjali from Jalkhura F.P School to Bagmari More (Culvert) towards Banerjeehat Bus Stand (Culvert) in Word no-23 under Maheshtala Municipality., Rs.7,08,366/-, Rs.14,167/-, 45 days, **Last date & time of Online Tender submission:** 16.07.2024 upto 18.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-149)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
ICA-T10191(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged Memo No:-2891 dated 26.06.2024 related to schemes of "E-Tender for Staff-Cars on Monthly hired basis UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, BANKURA." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 15.07.2024 at 12:00 hrs. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary, DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA-T10197(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged Memo No:-2893 dated 26.06.2024 related to schemes of "E-Tender for Staff-Cars on Monthly hired basis UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, BANKURA." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 15.07.2024 at 12:00 hrs. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary, DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA-T10196(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is being invited from eligible and resourceful contractors/bidders for e-Tender Id- 2024_IWD_701915_1 and Tender ref. No. WBIW/EE/MDMD/e-NIT-06/2024-25. For "Manual cleaning of the Trash Racks at intake of VT pumps at Uttarbhag, Baruipur, 24 PGS(S)" and details information will be available in website: www.wbiwd.gov.in or https://wbtenders.gov.in Last date for submission of tender:- 04/07/2024 upto 17:00 a.m. Other relevant information will be available from the office during working hour. Sd/- Executive Engineer, I.W.D., W.B. Metropolitan Drainage Mechanical Division, Jalasampad Bhawan, Salt Lake-91.
ICA-T10185(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBDD Vide NIeT No- 103 (Sl. No.01)/(2nd Call)/2023-24. Details of works be seen in the above mentioned NIeT in the website:- www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, North Bengal Development Department
ICA-T10192(4)/2024

WBEIDC
Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.
Notice Inviting e-Tender No. EC / 07 / STP I / Revamping AC / 2024-25 / 016, dt. 25.06,24
For "Revamping of Air Conditioning System at 2nd floor (Cyber Crime Wing office premises), STP-II building, salt Lake, Sector- V, Kolkata-700091"
Due date of Submission: 14 Days from Publication
Estimated Cost to be read as : Rs. 24.50 Lakhs (Approx)
Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webel.in
For details or contact 033 - 2339 2297 / 033 - 2339 2364
ICA-T10194(3)/2024

WBEIDC
Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.
Notice Inviting e-Tender No. WEBEL/ EOT / W / 24-25 / 000003 Dt. 25-06-2024
For "Selection of Vendor for CCTV under ramps of 2nd Hooghly Bridge flyover around Nabanna under Howrah Police Commissionerate."
Due date of Submission: 14 Days from Publication
Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webel.in
For details or contact 033 - 2339 2297 / 033 - 2339 2364
ICA-T10193(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. EE (O&M-IIA)/3T-01/2017/36
e-Tender is invited by Executive Engineer, Division-O&M-IIA, W&S Sector, KMDA, 83/1A, Vivekananda Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700006, from eligible and resourceful contactors, for the work, **Tender No., Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, EE/O&M-IIA/T-04 of 2024-2025,** Re-sinking of 300mm X 200mm dia. DTW including supply of 300mm X 200mm dia. PVC pipes and fittings (Medium Duty) and 200mm dia. Fiber Glass Strainer and all other allied works of Adarshapally P.H. No.-3, Ward No.-19 under Sultanpur Zone-II FAWS within North Dum Dum Municipal Area., Rs.12,62,385/-, Rs.25,250/-, 30 Days, **Last date & time of online Bid Submission:** 30.07.2024 upto 16:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-141)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T10199(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WEST BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Company wholly owned by the Government of West Bengal)
Swasthya Sathi, GN-29, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091
Memo No: WBMSC/PROC/ 4012 Date: 27.06.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of different type of medical equipments for health facilities of Govt. of West Bengal as per details indicated in the table below:

A.Procurement of 01 (one) Fibroscan Machine for Suri District Hospital:

Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid
1.	Fibroscan Machine (01)	WBMSCL/NIT-388/2024; Dated – 27.06.2024	15.07.2024 up to 05:00 PM

B. Procurement of 01 (one) Polysomnography with CPAP for therapeutic titration machine for the Department of Chest Medicine for College of Medicine & Sagore Dutta Hospital, Kamarhati:

Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid
1.	Polysomnography with CPAP for therapeutic titration machine (01)	WBMSCL/NIT-389/2024; Dated – 27.06.2024	15.07.2024 up to 05:00 PM

Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website **www.wbtenders.gov.in**. The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites **www.wbhealth.gov.in** and **www.wbmsc.gov.in**
Sd/-
General Manager, WBMSCL
& Joint Secretary, H&FW Dept.
ICA-T10182(3)/2024

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tender & notices

JAYPEE INFRATECH
TENDER NOTICE
Works at YAMUNA EXPRESSWAY
Jaypee Infratech Limited ("JIL") is inviting sealed tenders from experienced parties as per the following details:
- **Name of Works:-**Construction of Toilet and Septic Tank at Cafeteria, km 96 LHS on Yamuna Expressway.
- **Tender Fee (Free of Cost):-** Bidders shall download tender documents from JIL's website (http://jaypeeinfratech.com/tender.html).**from 01.07.2024 from 3.00 PM onwards.**
- **EMD:-** Rs. 57,400/- (in the form DD / BG)
- **Eligibility Criteria:-** Shall be as per tender documents
- **Last date for receipt of bids:-**Up to 15.07.2024 by 7.00 PM (IST)
- **Address for Bid submission:-** Contracts Division, J Block, Jaypee Infratech Limited, Sector-128, Noida, 201304, UP.
- Or, through email at tendering@jilindia.in .
- Ph no. - 0120-4609482/9582887683

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I, Pooran Singh Rajpoot S/o Nannoo Singh R/o #03, Basant Gaon,Vasant Vihar Delhi-110 057 have changed my name to Pooran Singh for all purposes
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged Memo No:-2889 dated 26.06.2024 related to schemes of "E-Tender for Staff-Cars on Monthly hired basis UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, BANKURA." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 15.07.2024 at 12:00 hrs. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary, DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA-T10195(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites two no. online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide Tender ID No. 2024_UDD_698325_1&2 WBUD&MA/EE/SLRD/NIT-04(e)/2024-25 of EE/SLRD dated 21/06/2024. Value of work are Rs. Rs.15,32,066 and Rs. 9,65,358.00. Start and Last date of submission of bid online are 01/07/2024 and 16/07/2024 & 08/07/2024 up to 13-00 Hrs. respectively. All documents can be seen / obtained from the website https://wbtenders.gov.in Detailed information can also be seen in the website www.wburbanservices.gov.in and office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division
ICA-T10172(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. WBIW/EE/GAED-I/NIT-01(e)/2024-25
The Executive Engineer, Ganga Anti Erosion Division No-I, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad, I & W. Dte. on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal invites online tender from eligible bonafide outsider contractor having requisite credential for 01(One) no. of works under jurisdiction of Ganga Anti Erosion Division No-I. Last date and time of submission of application- 15.07.2024 upto 12.00 Hours. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website- www.wbiwd.gov.in & https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Ganga Anti Erosion Division No-I, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad
ICA-T10174(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED e-TENDER NOTICE
The Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plan South-I Division, Dist.- PaschimMedinipur - 721101, invites bids regarding e-tender vide e-tender Notice No. WBFOR/WPS-1/NIT01(e)/24-25 regarding Installation of Submersible Pump under the jurisdiction of Working Plan (S)-I Divn. under Non-Plan scheme during F. Y. 2024-25. Bid Submission will be started from 01/07/2024 at 12:00 p.m. to 10/07/2024 at 12:00 p.m. Interested contractors/ bidders are here by requested to check the website- www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.westbengalforest.gov.in or contact the Office of the undersigned at M.M.Nagar, Police Line, Midnapore: 721101. Sd/- Ayan Ghosh, WBFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plan South-I Division, Midnapore
ICA-T10173(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. WBIW/EE/SDD/e-NIT-04/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, tender is invited by the undersigned for "Clearing and removing of Water Hyacinth, Jungle and Solid / Semi Solid campact mass etc. for one year for 06 (Six) Nos. Khals-KantaKhali Main Khal (Ch.0.00M to 22340.00M), Subedali Khal (Ch.0.00M to 3600.00M), Churial Diversion Khal (0.00M to 6750.00M), Kashipur Alampur branch khal of Alampur Main Khal (0.00M to 2440.00M), Bahirchara branch khal of Alampur Main Khal (0.00M to 3660.00 M), Balarampur Branch Khal of Kanta Khali Main Khal (0.00 Km to 3050 M)" amounting from Rs. 2,04,317.00 to Rs. 14,89,276.00 to Last date of application of tender paper is 15.07.2024 upto 14.00hrs. Other details may be seen in the websites: www.wbiwd.gov.in, wbtenders.gov.in and in the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Suburban Drainage Division.
ICA-T10175(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
The undersigned invites the e-Tender for Supply Deer feed for the year 2024-25 at BBWLS, Parmadan under Bongaon SF Range, 24-Parganas (N) Division. **Tender No: WBFOR/06/24PGSN/2024-25. Tender ID: 2024_DOFR_691020_1.** Start date of Bid submission is 01.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m. Last date of Bid submission is 15.07.24 at 5.00 p.m. Details can be seen at https://wbtenders.gov.in and also can see at http://westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, 24 Parganas (North) Division.
ICA-T10171(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. WBIW/EE/BUE004/e-NIT-01/2024-25
Above mentioned e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned from eligible contractors having sufficient credential and financial capacity for 3 Nos. Electrical work at Bhatar, Purba Bardhaman, Kanainatsal, Purba Bardhaman, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman. Tender Id: 2024_IWD_701410_1 to 3. Last date of online submission of the bid: 12.06.2024 17:00 HRS. The other details may be seen from the website https://www.wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.wbiwd.gov.in and also from office of the undersigned on any working days. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Durgapur Mechanical & Electrical Division, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, I&W Dte.
ICA-T10183(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.: WBIW/EE/CID/e-NIT-04/2024-25.
Tender Id- 2024_IWD_699928_2 fo 16 of The Executive Engineer, Contai Irrigation Division invites online tender for 16(Sixteen) Nos. of work under Chargeable Head "**SDS (MAINTENANCE)**" within the District Purba Medinipur. Amount Put to Tender Rs. 94,159.00 to 4,50,360.00. Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the Departmental website: www.wbiwd.gov.in, http://etender.wb.nic.in (Direct Site). Last date of submission of Bid is 09.07.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Contai Irrigation Division, Irrigation & Waterways Dte.**
ICA-T10177(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
CIN NO. U40102WB1961SGC025250
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
NIT No. (1)WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-010 SP/231/2023-24 Tender ID 2024_DPL_699579_1 for Procurement of 2 inch (DN-40) 4500 class actuator operated valve of U#8,DPPS. **(2)WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-012 SR/251/2023-24** Tender ID: 2024_DPL_699662_1 for Procurement of vest, high visibility reflective EN ISO 20471:2013/IS 15809:2008 for fire Department use, DPPS. **(3)WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-009 SP/254/2023-24** Tender ID : 2024_DPL_699063_1 for Procurement of various types of welding electrodes for U#7&8, DPPS. For Sl. Nos. **1 to 3,** Bid submission end date: 06.07.2024 Bid Opening date: 10.07.2024 respectively. **(4)DPL/PUR/CORP/NITE/HRA/08/24-25** Tender ID : 2024_DPL_699925_1 for engagement of an agency for carrying out the jobs of A) Sweeping, cleaning, dusting and gardening at DPL Hospitals, B) Sweeping, cleaning, dusting and gardening at DPL Administrative Building, C) Gardening at DPL Guest House and Honourable MD's Bungalow with effect from 01.08.2024. Bid submission end date : 10.07.2024 Bid Opening date : 12.07.2024. Date extension NIT No. **(5)WBDPL/PP/T/12012(18)/5/2024/AHP/E/47** dated. 11.06.2024 Tender ID: 2024_DPL_691573_1. Bid submission end date: 03.07.2024. Bid Opening date: 06.07.2024. **(6)WBDPL/PP/T/GM(PP)-12021(12)/23/2024/EMOPH/E/053** dated. 15.06.24. Tender ID: 2024_DPL_694533_1. Bid submission end date: 10.07.2024. Bid Opening date: 12.07.2024. Visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in/ www.dpl.net.in
ICA-T10180(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No-WBIW/EE/KMD/e-NIT-06/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of W.B. the Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Mechanical Division, Khatra, Bankura invites tender for the Mechanical works **1)** Amount Put to Tender Rs. 6,87,114.00 (Electrical). **2)** Amount Put to Tender Rs. 6,53,120.00.00 (Electrical). **3)** Amount Put to Tender Rs. 5,21,367.00 (Electrical). Last date of application of tender 15.07.2024 to 10.30 Hrs. Details information are available from the office of the undersigned and departmental website: www.wbiwd.gov.in and https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- P.K.Das, Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Mechanical Division, Khatra, Bankura.
ICA-T10188(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
(N.I.T. No. 159/CE(M)/WBSTC dated-27.06.2024)
(Abridged e-Tender)
Tender, in prescribed from in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works : **1.** Supply of Office Furniture at Various Offices/ Depots/ Units of W.B.S.T.C. Ltd. Tender I.D.: 2024_WBSTC_701676_1. To be Published on 29.06.2024 at 09.00 A.M. Please visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Engineer (Marine) & OSD (Dy. Managing Director), For W.B.S.T.C. Ltd.
ICA-T10186(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING Re-TENDER
(N.I.T. No. 160/CE(M)/WBSTC dated-27.06.2024)
(Abridged Re-Tender)
Tender, in prescribed from in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works : **1.** Selection of Operator for Operation and Maintenance of 04 (Four) nos. LCT Jetties and 04 (Four) nos. LCT Vessels in Patharpratima Block. Tender I.D.: 2024_WBSTC_660223_2. **2.** Construction of Booking Counter (3.00m X 3.00m) By ACP Sheet and Shed (4.00m X 6.00m) by Tata Bluescope at Bagbazar Jetty. Tender I.D.: 2024_WBSTC_691581_2. To be Published on 29.06.2024 at 09.00 A.M. Please visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Engineer (Marine) & OSD (Dy. Managing Director), For W.B.S.T.C. Ltd.
ICA-T10187(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION AND WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT NO.- WBIW/EE-I/LDID/ e-NIT-02/2024-25
e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for 28 (Twenty Eight) nos. Work ranging from Rs. 1.40 Lakh to Rs. 12.40 Lakh. Last date & time of Bid submission is **15.07.2024 till 17.30 Hrs.** Details of tender Notice may be seen at http://wbtenders.gov.in or http://wbiw.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Lower Damodar Irrigation Division.
ICA-T10178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 04/SE(EC)/W&S/KMDA of 2024-2025 (2nd call)
e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, East Circle, W&S Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 2nd floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible and resourceful contactors, for the work, **Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion,** Laying of 600 & 700 mm dia. D.I [K-9] Rising main pipe line for ESR-5 at Ward No-34 within Kamarhati Municipal area and connecting to the existing line & construction of other appurtenance structure including permanent road restoration work in connection to the project "Augmentation of Surface Water Supply Scheme for replacement of clear water Pump and Motor, construction of ESR, renovation & replacement of Primary & Distribution main with allied works within Kamarhati Municipal Area under AMRUT., Rs.1,24,09,070/-, Rs.2,48,190/-, 120 Days, **Last date & time of Online Bid submission:** 22.07.2024 upto 18.30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-144)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T10189(3)/2024

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(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

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Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari
Hon'ble Minister for
Road Transport and Highways

Guest of Honour

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice
& Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs

Honoured Guests

Shri R. Venkataramani
Ld. Attorney General of India

Dr. Manoj Govil
Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Special Session - 3:30 PM Onwards

Recent Developments in Taxation	Digital Governance	Enhancing Accountability and Integrity in South Asia : Accountants as Leaders & Innovators
CA. (Dr.) Girish Ahuja	Shri S. Krishnan Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Mr. Heshana Kuruppu President, South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Mr. Mohammed Forkan Uddin President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)

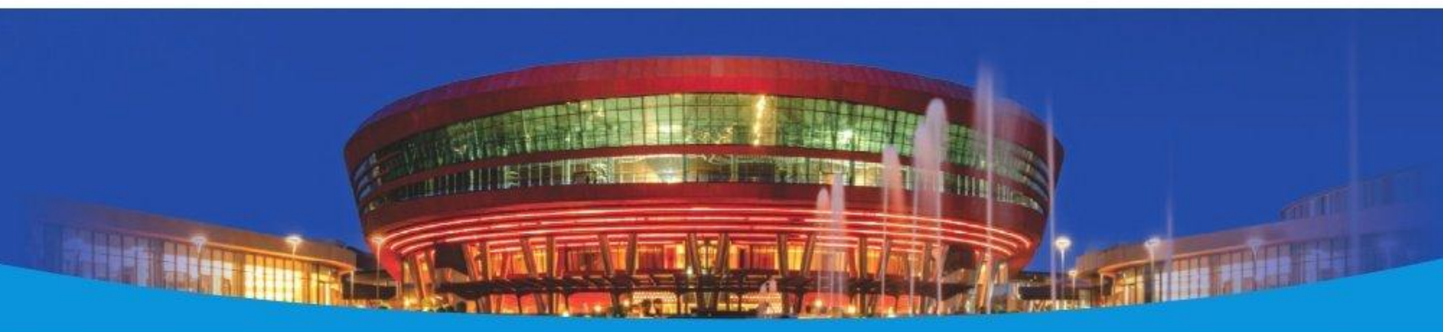
A Cultural Dance Presentation on Journey of ICAI - Drishti - Garuda Gamana

ICAI Torchbearers

CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal
President, ICAI

CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda
Vice-President, ICAI

4 CPE Hours



Venue : Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi | 3:30 PM Onwards

Entry by Invitation only (Please carry your ID Proof along with Invitation Card)

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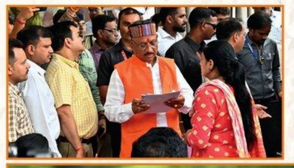
BUILDING A SELF-RELIANT & INCLUSIVE CHHATTISGARH

A GOVT THAT TAKES PEOPLE FORWARD

A GOVT THAT LISTENS TO ITS PEOPLE



A GOVT THAT CARES FOR ITS PEOPLE

Sai Government

A Government that cares for its people, encourages participation of people, takes people forward Under leadership of affable, swift decision-maker, experienced administrator VISHNU DEO SAI

Jandarshan, Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai's weekly initiative for good governance, transparency, and direct citizen engagement.

Fulfilling the promise to farmers, Sai government disburses Rs 3,716 crore in pending paddy bonuses of two years benefiting 1.3 million farmers.

The state government has intensified the naxal operation in Chhattisgarh along with accelerating the development efforts under the government's new "Niyad Nellaner Yojana," which has increased public trust in the government and administration.

Fortifying the pivotal role of women within families

MAHATARI VANDAN SCHEME'S

FIFTH INSTALLMENT OF RS. 1000 TRANSFERRED TO THE ACCOUNTS OF MORE THAN 70 LAKH WOMEN TODAY.

₹ 12,000 PER YEAR

EMPOWERING WOMEN, EMBRACING DIVERSITY

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Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

S-40632/2

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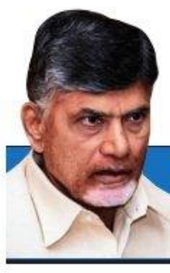
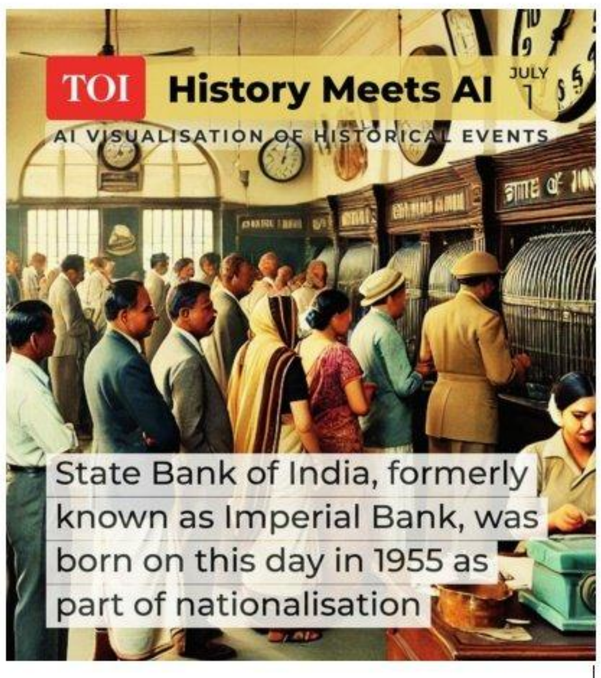
TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024



'LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER CUP WITH YOU': AP CM NAIDU THANKS PM FOR PROMOTING ARAKU COFFEE

SHINDE COMPLETES 2 YEARS IN OFFICE, PITCHES SELF AS MAHAYUTI'S CM FACE FOR MAHA POLLS



3 new criminal laws kick in today, data ousts 'danda' as policing tool

But Cases Filed Before July 1 To Be Tried Under IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The criminal justice system is set for a major overhaul with the three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — coming into force on Monday, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

Starting Monday, all FIRs will be registered under the provisions of BNS. However, all cases registered before July 1 will continue to be tried under IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act until final disposal.

BNS has 358 sections, down from 511 in IPC. As many as 21 new crimes have been added in BNS compared to IPC, duration of imprisonment extended in 41 crimes, fines increased in 82 crimes, minimum punishment introduced in 25 crimes, community service introduced as penalty in six crimes and 19 sections removed.

BNSS has 531 sections as against 484 in CrPC, with changes in 177 sections, addition of nine sections and 39 sub-sections and deletion of 14 sections. The Indian Evidence Act, with 166 sections, is being replaced with BSA having 170 sections, with change in 24 sections, addition of two new sub-sections and deletion of six sections.

BNS, BNSS and BSA are being implemented six months after they were enacted based on protracted and detailed consultations with all stakeholders including SC and HC judges, governors, chief ministers, civil servants, police officers, collectorates and Members of Parliament and legislative assemblies. Around 3,200 suggestions were received and examined over several rounds of talks, with home minister Amit Shah having taken 158 such meetings, leading to the drafting of a whole new set of criminal laws that seek to leverage technology to make India's criminal justice system one of the most modern in the world. The BNS, BNSS and BSA bills were referred to a parliamentary standing committee and most of its recommendations were accepted by the govt before bringing the bills to Parliament for approval.

The underlying spirit of the new criminal laws, as PM Modi had stated at the All-India DGPs conference in Jan, is "citizen first, dignity first and justice first", with emphasis on the 'danda' (baton) being replaced by 'data' as a policing tool.

While replying to the debate in Parliament on BNS, BNSS and BSA bills, Shah had underlined that the focus of the new laws was on justice delivery, while safeguarding the rights of victims as well as accused, rather than on punishment. Also, the colonial mindset apparent behind ordering of IPC sections — with those dealing with 'rajdroh' (treason) preceding ones related to serious offences like 'murder' and 'rape' — was being done away with.

Under the new criminal justice system, a person may report crime online, without having to visit a police station (online FIR) and also file a zero-FIR at any police station. A free copy of the FIR will be provided to the victim. In the event of arrest, the individual will have the right to inform a person of his choice. Arrest details will need to be prominently displayed within police stations and district headquarters.

The new laws prioritise investigation for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. Victims shall be entitled to updates on the progress of their case within 90 days.

Courts may now grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings.

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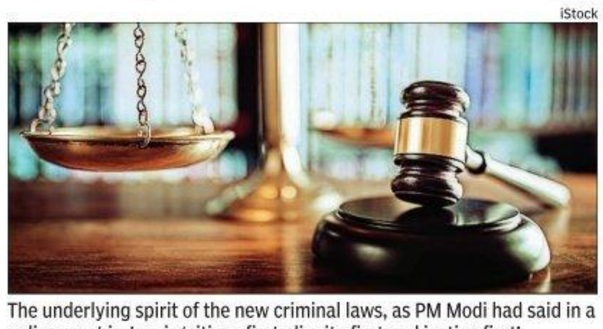


The underlying spirit of the new criminal laws, as PM Modi had said in a police meet in Jan, is 'citizen first, dignity first and justice first'

PM hails people for 'unwavering faith' in statute

Extends Wishes To Athletes For Paris Olympics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PM Modi held on Sunday his first 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast after returning to office for a third straight term

New Delhi: Addressing his first 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast after returning to office for a third straight term, PM Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed people "for having reiterated their unwavering faith in our Constitution and the democratic systems of the country" while wishing Indian athletes headed to the Paris Olympics.

Referring to the Lok Sabha elections, he said, "The 2024 elections were the biggest elections in the world. An election as big as this, in which 65 crore people cast their votes, has never taken place in any other country in the world. For this, I congratulate the Election Commission and everyone involved in the voting process."

▸ Related report, P 12

Returning to his radio broadcast in its 111th episode after taking a pause before the LS polls in Feb, Modi expressed delight to be back. Using a Sanskrit phrase "IIti Vida Punarmilanaaya (I take leave of you, to meet again)", he said, "With this very feeling, I had told you in Feb that I will meet you again after the election results. And today, with 'Mann Ki Baat', I am again present among you."

As the Indian continent will be leaving for the Paris Olympics next month, Modi recalled the performance of Indian athletes in Tokyo four years ago. "Indian players together have participated in nearly 900 international competitions since the Tokyo Olympics. This is a very big number. The whole country is hoping that our players perform well in the Olympics as well... win medals in these games and also win the hearts of the countrymen." He introduced a hashtag #Cheer4Bharat, to support the Paris-bound Olympians.

PM made an appeal to boost the plantation drive, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', launched on World Environment Day on June 5.

Cong questions PM silence on NEET, rail crash, infra collapse

Congress on Sunday asked PM Narendra Modi why he did not mention NEET, the railway accident in West Bengal or instances of infrastructure collapse in his 'Mann Ki Baat'.

Congress's media and publicity head Pawan Khera said, "He did not say anything on NEET, or railway accident, or the daily infrastructure collapses that we are hearing of. He did not speak on the serious incident that happened at Delhi airport, in which a person lost his life. "PM did not speak on any issue of people's interest. His method has been to change the agenda. Because everyone is talking about NEET, the scams, to distract attention, you're talking about umbrella from Kerala." TNN

Assam razes illegal homes of 3 rapists

District administration in Assam's Goalpara demolished the houses of three persons accused of raping two minor girls, reports **Kangkan Kalita**. Govt officials, however, said the houses were illegally built on encroached land and the demolition had no link to the alleged rapes. On May 3, Dhan Ali Talukdar, Bahar Ali and Rahman Ali allegedly raped two girls. When the brother of one survivor confronted the accused, he was thrashed by Talukdar's brother Shekabor Ali, sister Parmina Begum and Ramzan Ali. The survivor's brother died. On Sunday, the administration razed the houses of Talukdar, Shekabor Ali, Parmina Begum, with those of accomplices Bahar, Rahman and Ramzan Ali.

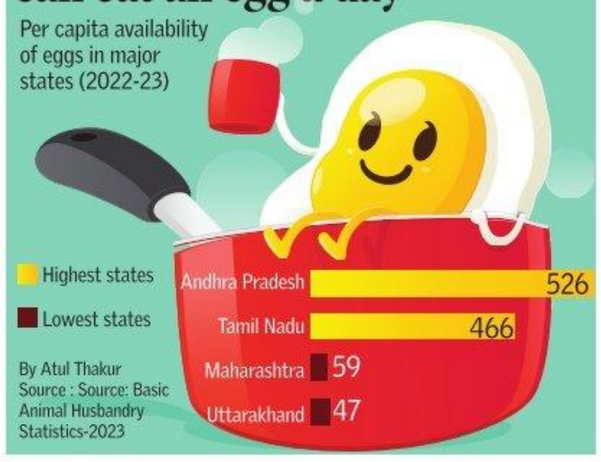
Temple vandalised in J&K, 12 detained

Unidentified vandals damaged idols and ransacked a Shiv temple in Dharmari in J&K's Reasi on Saturday, raising tension and prompting police to detain 12 suspects, reports **Sanjay Khajuria.** Deputy commissioner Vishesh Mahajan rushed to the temple on Saturday night and assured the agitated locals that the culprits would be arrested soon. As photos and videos of the vandalism went viral, locals and several Hindu bodies held protests at various places in Jammu. Sanatan Dharma Sabha has called for a bandh in Reasi on Monday. Locals alleged a conspiracy to disturb the peace in the region during the Amarnath Yatra. "Three suspects were nabbed on Saturday, and nine on Sunday," said SSP Mohita Sharma.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

In Andhra, everyone can eat an egg a day

Per capita availability of eggs in major states (2022-23)



By Atul Thakur
Source : Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics-2023

Manoj Singh, Yogi's trusted officer, is new UP chief secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Manoj Kumar Singh, known in the bureaucratic circles as a trusted officer of CM Yogi Adityanath, took over as the chief secretary of UP on Sunday, replacing DS Mishra, whose tenure came to an end.

A 1988 batch IAS officer, Singh, 59, hails from Ranchi and was holding the posts of agriculture production commissioner (APC), infrastructure and industrial development commissioner (IIDC) and additional chief secretary of the Panchayati Raj department. He is due to retire in July 2025.

Mishra, a 1984-batch IAS officer, was repatriated to his parent cadre UP and appointed chief secretary barely two days before his retirement, on Dec 31, 2021. He had been holding the charge since then after getting three extensions. There was speculation that he might get another extension, but Centre's refusal paved the way for Singh's elevation.

Singh will continue to serve as the IIDC as well while the ACS, appointments and agriculture, has been given additional charge of the APC.

Singh was promoted as additional chief secretary in June 2020. He has been heading the rural development department for more than four years and in May 2022 his stature grew further after he was given the rare dual charge of APC and IIDC.

Besides heading all the industrial development authorities in UP, Singh has been serving the state as ACS food processing, coordinator of diversified agriculture support project and chairperson of PICUP, UPEIDA and UPSHA.

Manoj Singh (L), a 1988 batch IAS officer, took over from DS Mishra (R), who had got three extensions

Sujata Saunik is 1st woman chief secy of Maha

Mumbai: After being overlooked twice, the state's seniormost IAS officer, Sujata Saunik, has taken over as Maharashtra's first woman chief secretary. Now, women head the state's bureaucracy as well as the police force, with Rashmi Shukla as DGP, reports **Prafulla Marpakwar**.

Sujata Saunik succeeds Nitin Kareer, who retired on Sunday. She is set to retire on June 30 next year. When Manukumar Srivastava retired as chief secretary in March 2023, Sujata Saunik was expected to succeed him since she was the seniormost bureaucrat in the state. But her husband, Manoj Saunik, was appointed instead. After his retirement on Dec 31, 2023 she was ignored once again and Kareerwas picked.

TMC man assaults couple, held as video goes viral

Subhro Maitra & Rohit Khanna

Chopra (North Dinajpur): Police on Sunday registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation after a video of a man brutally thrashing a woman and her male friend over an extra-marital relationship in Bengal's North Dinajpur went viral on Sunday. The accused, a TMC functionary, has been arrested.

The accused was identified as Tajemul alias JCB. The party dissociated itself from Tajemul saying police would act tough on the perpetrator. BJP, CPM and Congress have condemned the incident.

The woman, a resident of Chopra, has a 14-year-old daughter and her husband is a migrant labourer. While she had been warned by her in-laws to stay away from the man, who was also married, the couple continued to see each other. On Saturday, they were caught by some men and assaulted by Tajemul.

In the purported video of the assault which went viral by Sunday morning, Tajemul was seen beating the woman and the man with a bunch of sticks even as she begged him to stop and cried in pain. He continued to hit her till she fainted and kicked her once she was unconscious.

TMC's former RS MP Santanu Sen said, "The party never approves of such action. However, BJP should first introspect when such incidents take place in states governed by them." Joby Thomas, Islampur police district SP, said "We have seen the video and lodged a suo motu case. We will investigate."

2 get life term for raping woman in moving auto in UP

Agra: A fast-track court in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh on Saturday awarded life imprisonment to two men for 2022 gangrape of a woman and robbery. The trial of a third accused, a juvenile, continues separately. The survivor, who lived in Delhi with her husband, was travelling to her in-laws' house in UP when she was assaulted, reports **Deepak Lavania**.

In her statement, the woman told cops she had reached Aligarh at night on April 14 and took an auto from bus stand for her village. The auto driver picked up two other men, who he said were his friends, and took wrong route to her village. When she protested, the driver said he was going to drop one of his friends in a nearby village. While she was talking to her husband on the phone, the accused stopped the auto, tried to strangle her, and snatched her jewellery and purse containing Rs 20,000. The two men raped her in the moving auto before the driver stopped to rape her, with her husband on the call all through. They fled after dumping her near a canal. Labourers at a nearby brick kiln heard her screams for help and called the police. The court has also fined the duo Rs 1 lakh each.

Additional district govt counsel (Aligarh), Krishna Murari Johri, said, "The stolen items found with the convicts, DNA report, forensic lab findings, the testimony of witnesses, the statement of the victim in court and the fact that the husband of the victim was on call at the time of the incident played a crucial role in establishing the case against the three."

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India BOI

Inspection and Audit Department, Head Office

Empanelment Notice for Concurrent Auditors

Bank of India invites online application from eligible CA firms as concurrent auditors for empanelment. For more details kindly visit Bank of India's official Website www.bankofindia.co.in under BOI Online->Online Services->Other Services. Last date of submission of application is 10-July-2024 (17:00 IST).

UJVN Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road,Dehradun.-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763508, 2763808; Fax : 0135-2763507
CIN No . U40101UR2001SGC025866

RO No. 552 **e-TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 29/06/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:
E- Tender No-02/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/ 2024-25
Name of work-Refurbishment of damage road on right side of power channel from Court bridge to Skew bridge Dhalipur, Dehradun
Estimated value of Tender: Rs. 3,70,95,655.00 (excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website- From 17:00 Hrs of 01.07.2024
Last Date & Time for submission of tender: Up to 17:00 Hrs 22.07.2024
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity" Executive Engineer

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone : 0135-2763808, Fax : 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

RO. No. 550 **e-Tender Notice** Dt. : 29.06.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), IT, "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun invites online bid from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender no.: **e-01/UJVNL/IT/EE(EM-II)/2024-25**
Name of Work :Maintenance and Support of SAP ERP at UJVN Limited
Estimated cost : **₹ 5,00,00,000/- only (GST extra)**
Date of availability of bid document on e-portal : **29.06.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.**
Last date for submission of bid on e-portal : **30.07.2024 up-to 17:00 Hrs.**
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **"https://uktenders.gov.in"**

Executive Engineer (E&M-II)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड
वस्त्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
PATSAN BHAVAN, 5th & 6th Floor, Street No. 175, Plot No. 6/1, CF Block, Action Area – 1, New Town , Kolkata -700156, Tel :033-2202 1150 ● Email: jute@njbindia.in

NIT No 14/NJB/Prom. Campaign/DAVP Empanelled Agencies/2024-25 Dated 01/07/2024
Notice inviting applications from DAVP empanelled agencies for promotional campaign for Indian Jute and Jute Products. National Jute Board (NJB), a Statutory Body under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India intends to empanel an agency/ agencies empanelled under DAVP to undertake integrated communications and promotional campaign for jute. Sealed applications are invited from bonafide, competent and registered DAVP agencies with offices in Kolkata and at least two of the other five metro cities viz. New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Applications in the prescribed format and covers along with the Earnest Money must reach to the Secretary , National Jute Board , PATSAN BHAVAN , 5th & 6th Floor, Street No. 175, Plot No. 6/1, CF Block, Action Area – 1, New Town , Kolkata -700156 within **13.00 hrs on 15th July 2024**. A meeting with the intending applicants will be held on **8th July 2024 at 14.00 hrs.** in the office of National Jute Board (NJB), Patsan Bhawan, 5th Floor, Street No. 175, Plot No. 6/1, CF Block, Action Area – 1, New Town, Kolkata–700156 to discuss issues concerning the Campaign and scope of jobs. **Attendance in the meeting is not a precondition for participation in the tender.** For further details, the applicants may visit NJB's website at **http:/www.jute.com** by clicking "Tender Notice". **Last Date & time of submission:** 15th July 2024 within 13.00 Hrs .**Opening of Tender:** 15th July 2024 at 15.00 Hrs (RFP -Packet A). Only those Tenderers who qualify in RFP- Packet (A) will be called for presentation before Secretary NJB & the Committee designated for Technical Evaluation and thereafter Packet "B" will be opened tentatively on a date to be confirmed later on.

Secretary
National Jute Board

OFFICE OF MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, UTTARAKHAND
Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society, Deptt. of MH&FW, Govt. of Uttarakhand, DandaLakhond, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun – 248001,
Email:- mdnhmuk@gmail.com

Tender. No.: NHMUK/Statutory auditor/2023-24/E-62311 Dated: 01/07/2024

Notice Inviting Tender

The Mission Director, National Health Mission Uttarakhand (Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare society), invites E tenders from bidders for hiring of services of a chartered accountants firm for conducting statutory audit of State Health Society (SHS) and District Health Society (DHS) for the FY 2023-24 under National Health Mission Uttarakhand.

The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from **website:https://www.uktenders.gov.in.** All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published on aforesaid website only.

Mission Director, NHM Uttarakhand

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: **www.noidaathorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in.** Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Re-Tender Work

S. N.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	02/DGM/SM (WC-1) 2024-25	M/o Road (Corridor Improvement of Udyog Marg from DSC road to Sector-11, T-Point as a Model road), Noida.	4076.26

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **08.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **09.07.2024 at 11.00 AM**.

Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Sector-6, NOIDA NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown found dead on 27.06.2024 at KM Pole No. 3/16 to 3/14, Near Mandawali Railway Station, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 30A, dated 27/06/2024** has been lodged at Police Station Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. Identification of unidentified male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 25-30 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Sky Blue Colour Shirt, Grey Colour Half Pant and bare feet.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi
DP/8341/Rly/2024 Ph.: 8750871314

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road,Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website : www.ujvnl.com

RO No.: 548 **Tender Notice** Date: 29-06-2024

Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Pathri Power House, Bahadrabad, Haridwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
1. Tender No.: 03/EE(Pathri)/2024-25 – Providing & fixing of energy efficient lighting system in Pathri Power House.
2. Tender No.: 05/EE(Pathri)/2024-25 – Repair & maintenance of overhead LT Line supplying LT Power to Bypass regulator gates.
Estimated Cost: Rs. 15,68,100.00 (GST extra) & Rs. 3,67,480.00 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 02.07.2024
Last date for submission of tender: 24.07.2024, up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website **"www.ujvnl.com"**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M&G)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CIRCLE-MORADABAD
Address : TA-1, Ashiyana Phase-1, MDA Colony, Moradabad.
E-Procurement Notice

Letter No:- 232 /RED/Tender/File No 35/ Bond Clerk/2024-25 Dated:- **25.06.2024**

THE SUPRITENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE MORADABAD on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites percentage rate bids through ***e-tenderng system*** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class "A" as the case may be, The Rates floated in Bill of Quantity enclosed with bid document are inclusive of all taxes except GST which will be paid extra to the contractor as per latest Government orders. **The Bidder may submit bids for any of all the works.**
1- Name of work as per table.

S. No	Name of District	Name of Work	Total Estimated Cost (Inc GST) (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid document / Tender Fee including GST (if any) (in Rupees)	Period completion including rainyseason
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Moradabad	Construction of Academic Block and Hostel of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay Block Thakurdwara District Moradabad	417.89	8.36	2714.00	01 Year

2. Date of release of availavility for Bids on on-line: **03.07.2024 at 10.00 Noon**
3. Start date and time of down loading of Bid Documents **03.07.2024 from 10.00 AM**
4. Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **05.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.**
5. Start date and time of submission of bid on tender website: **03.07.2024 from 10.00 AM.**
6. **Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **https://etender.up.nic.in**
7. **Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 25.07.2024** up to **12.00** Noon
8. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement: **25.07.2024** at **12.30 pm**
9. Any affidavit issued before start of tender process will not be accepted.
10. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
11. The work will be done up to the Utility level with in the available funds.

For further details please log on to **https://etender.up.nic.in** and download the bid document
All prospective bidders are requested to read the bid document thoroughly before submission of bid

(Vinay Kumar)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
MORADABAD CIRCLE MORADABAD
For and behalf of Governor of UP

UPID 216827 dt 29.06.2024
www.upgov.nic.in

Hazaribag coaching centre head, teacher under CBI's NEET scanner

'Probe Focus Shifts From Arrested Suspects To Their Collaborators'

Abhijit Sen & Vishvendu Jaipuriar | TNN

Hazaribag/Chatra: The director of a prominent coaching centre in Jharkhand's Hazaribag and a teacher at the institute are on CBI's radar as the focus of the agency's probe into the NEET-UG paper leak shifts from the three arrested suspects to their collaborators and conduits spread across multiple locations, officials said Sunday.

CBI detained two suspects from Chatra district late Saturday for questioning in Patna. Based on the interrogation of arrested Oasis School principal Ehsanul Haque, vice-principal Mohammad Imtiyaz Alam and journalist Jamaluddin, CBI officials also spoke to three students in Hazaribag who were among the top scorers in the May 5 entrance test. Oasis School housed a NEET-UG exam centre.

The city has over two dozen NEET and JEE coaching centres spread across Korrah, Matwari, Pugmil, and Bansilal Chowk. The director and professor of at least one of them are suspected to have links with Haque. The agency is piecing together information about another institute's possible involvement in the racket.

A source said Sanjiv Mukhiya, the alleged kingpin of the NEET-UG paper leak in Bihar, had visited Hazaribag before the exam and contacted some coaching centres to supply leaked questions. "The teacher CBI identified as a possible link in the chain had spoken to Mukhiya using someone else's phone and a new SIM."

Manoj Kumar, the e-rickshaw driver who had transported boxes containing NEET-UG papers to the SBI branch in whose strongroom they were stored, told CBI earlier this week that one person sat in his vehicle while two others followed them on a motorcycle. CCTV footage showed that he arrived at the SBI branch two hours after starting from a destination that should have taken a maximum of 15 minutes, the source said.

CBI has relocated the arrested trio to Patna to cross-examine them with others in custody there, aiming to unravel the extent of the conspiracy and find the missing links. Officials said the Oasis School principal's mobile call details suggest he was in regular contact with many people in the run-up to NEET-UG.

The ambit of CBI's probe has already widened to include UGC-NET after evidence purportedly emerged of a thriving racket in Hazaribag involving paper leaks across competitive examinations and the existence of a customer base willing to pay vast amounts of money for unfair advantage in cracking these tests.

IANS

Oasis school's principal Ehsanul Haque, arrested in the NEET-UG leak case by CBI, underwent medical examination in Patna on Saturday

Cops to move SC against Porsche teen's release from detention

Pune: Police will challenge in Supreme Court the Bombay high court's June 25 order directing the release of a Pune builder's 17-year-old son from an observation home, reports **Gitesh Shelke**. The teenager was involved in a fatal Porsche Taycan car crash on May 19, which killed two software engineers from Jabalpur in MP.

"We had on June 26 submitted an application to state govt stating that the HC order needed to be challenged on certain grounds. Govt gave its approval Saturday to file a special leave petition (SLP) and we will soon file such a plea in SC," Pune ACP (Crime) Shailesh Balkawade said.

HC ordered the teenager's release from the observation home, stating that Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) orders reversing the bail, sending the teenager to an observation home, and further extending his remand there were illegal and passed without jurisdiction.

"Amid the immediate reaction to the accident, the knee-jerk reaction, and the public outcry, the CCL's age was not considered," HC said.

India joins UN's Doha meet on Af attended by Taliban

Sachin Parashar
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India is among the 25 countries participating in the third UN-led conference on Afghanistan in Doha that kicked off Sunday, looking to find ways to improve the lives of the Afghan people in the Taliban-ruled country. The meeting is significant as it is the first time that the Taliban are attending the talks.

However, the UN has denied that the latest round of talks in Doha are meant to pave the way for international recognition for the Taliban. The conference has also come under strong criticism from rights groups for not engaging Afghan women and civil society members.

India is being represented in the meeting by MEA joint secretary of the Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran (PAI) division J P Singh. The official, who visited Kabul in March this year, also met Taliban representatives in Doha.

India continues to tread carefully on the Taliban, as it works closely with them for Afghanistan's humanitarian needs and its own security needs but without doing anything that might be seen as a step towards official recognition for the regime in Kabul.

The conference in Doha is also seeing participation by the EU, OIC and SCO, the Eurasian bloc which will be hosting its summit meeting this week in Astana, where one of the main focus areas again will be the situation in Afghanistan. With PM Narendra Modi skipping participation, although he may still address it virtually on July 4, foreign minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the SCO summit.

Both in Doha and Astana, govt will look to further hammer its point that as a contiguous neighbour, India has legitimate economic and security interests in Afghanistan, and that the international community must focus on combating terrorism, humanitarian assistance, formation of a truly inclusive govt and preserving the rights of women, girls and minorities. The focus on girls and women is important as the Taliban continue to deny them access to schools and colleges, in line with their interpretation of Islamic laws.

Securing its investments in Afghanistan is also a priority for India as it working on close to 500 projects in the country spread across all 34 provinces in areas like power, water supply, road connectivity, healthcare, education and agriculture. In all, India has invested more than $3 billion in Afghanistan.

Ensuring that Afghan territory is not used for sheltering terrorists or financing terrorist acts, however, tops the list of Indian priorities. This is particularly so in the case of terrorists proscribed by the UN Security Council, including those belonging to Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammed. India will look to again make the point that any instability in Afghanistan is a threat to the whole region.

Jaishankar meets Qatar PM, reviews ties

Foreign minister S Jaishankar met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha and reviewed bilateral relations, with a focus on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties.

"Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation. Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," he said in a post on X. Jaishankar's visit comes four-and-half months after Qatar released eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death after being arrested in Aug 2022. One of them, Purnendu Tiwari, is yet to return to India from Qatar. TNN

Ranchi Univ to probe leak in PhD, MPhil entry tests after plaint

Ranchi: An examinee's complaint has prompted Jharkhand's Ranchi University to set up a three-member team to probe allegations of a paper leak linked to the PhD and MPhil entrance exams at the state-run Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences a week ago, reports **Sanjay Sahay**.

Vice-chancellor Ajit Kumar Sinha said Sunday that the complainant didn't have evidence to substantiate her suspicion of a paper leak, but the authorities decided to institute an inquiry nevertheless. "The student claimed the questions 'went viral' on an education portal before the exam, and these could be accessed only by members. Action will be taken based on the probe report."

After Anand arrest, CBI drove edu trust head 86km to Godhra

▸ Continued from P 1

A CBI team arrested Dixit Patel, chairman of a reputable private school in Godhra, in Anand and drove 86km to Godhra, where he was produced in a court with a remand plea. The magistrate asked the agency to seek his remand from the special CBI court in Ahmedabad.

Dixit's arrest came days after CBI sought and received custody of the four people arrested by police in the initial days of the investigation. A CBI team has been camping in Gujarat to connect the dots in the NEET-UG paper leak case investigation that started in Bihar and Jharkhand before evidence emerged in other states, including Maharashtra and UP, of a larger conspiracy involving paper leak rackets entrenched across the country.

The Godhra case was registered on May 8, three days after the exam, against five people based on information that they had helped 27 medical aspirants cheat. All five were charged with criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust under sections of the IPC.

The arrested suspects include Vadodara-based education consultant Parshuram Roy, Jay Jalaram School principal Purushottam Sharma, teacher Tushar Bhatt, and alleged middlemen Vibhor Anand and Arif Vohra.

On June 23, CBI filed a fresh FIR in the case under IPC sections 120B and 420, among others as protests erupted countrywide. CBI has taken over five cases of alleged malpractice in NEET-UG that were being probed by police in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar.

Marksheet scam: Gauhati univ uncovers data misuse by software firm unit head

Gauhati University (GU) has uncovered an alleged misuse of data by the unit head of a software company, ITI Limited, a Central govt enterprise stationed at the varsity, in connection with a marksheet scandal that has engulfed the institute. So far, 10 people have been detained, reports **Kangkan Kalita**.

NDA to fight Bihar polls under Nitish, says Chirag

Patna: Nitish Kumar's position as NDA's chief ministerial face for 2025 assembly elections in Bihar received a boost with LJP (RV) chief and Union minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday backing a resolution to this effect passed at JD(U)'s national executive meeting the previous day, reports **Manoj Chaurasia**.

"NDA will fight the next assembly elections in Bihar under the leadership of chief minister Nitish Kumar," Chirag told reporters here.

Claiming that the people of Bihar have made up their mind to elect the NDA govt again, Union minister Chirag Paswan said that only the double-engine govt could take Bihar ahead on the path of progress and prosperity.

'Underworld culture': CPI's Kerala neta slams CPM for criminal 'links'

Times News Network

T'puram: CPI's Kerala secretary Binoy Viswam continued his not-so-veiled criticism of CPM on Sunday by saying that the latter's alleged links with criminal gangs and gold smugglers damaged the Left's reputation and credibility.

Following the LDF rout in Kerala in the Lok Sabha elections where it won just one out of 20 seats, Viswam had openly spoken of the need for the Left to seriously introspect on the defeat and of the need for senior communist leaders to never appear arrogant and to mind their words, an oblique reference to CM Pinarayi Vijayan's tendency to occasionally use harsh language.

"The underworld culture does not belong to the red flag. I am talking about the Communist party, and it is not about CPI. My reaction is on behalf of everyone who has trust in LDF and those who love the Communist party," Viswam said in New Delhi. He said the criticism should not be seen as a personal attack against anyone but a warning considering the damage it has caused to the Communist party.

The stories of criminal gangs and gold heists come from Kannur, Viswam said, adding that there are reports about the underworld nexus. "Thousands of workers had fought in Kayyur and Karivallur to build Communist party in the state. They have shed their blood to build this movement. The underworld culture does not belong to such a party and both CPI, and CPM are firm that such nexus is not entertained."

Viswam disowned the statement from UDF convener M M Hassan that CPI should come out of LDF.

ADVERTORIAL

Unveiling Indoor Allergens: The Surprising Source of Allergy Triggers in Your Very Haven

Think you're safe from allergies once you're indoors? Think again! While the outside world teems with pollen and pollutants, your home can be a hidden hotspot for allergens like dust mites, mold, and pet dander. These sneaky irritants can wreak havoc on your health, causing symptoms that mirror outdoor allergies. Over the past few years, more and more people are finding that their sanctuary isn't as safe as they thought.

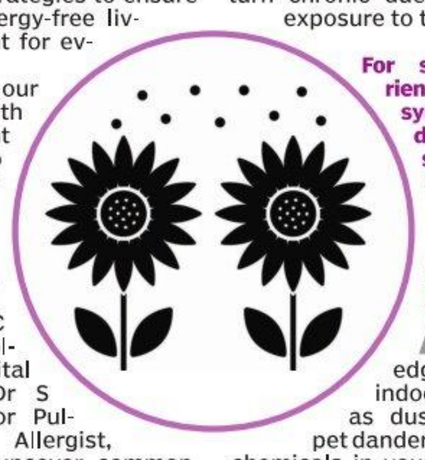
Dr. Dwaipayan Mukherjee
President Elect of The Association of otolaryngologists of India.
Professor & HOD ENT, KPC Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata
Visiting consultant in Manipal Hospital, Kolkata

On the occasion of World Allergy Week, an annual initiative by the World Allergy Organization (WAO) to raise awareness about allergy management and prevention, here is a deep dive into the hidden culprits in your home that causes sniffles and stifles your health.

According to reports by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), indoor air quality is a significant concern due to higher concentrations of allergens such as dust mites, mold spores, and pet dander, which can be 2-5 times more concentrated than outdoor air. Surprisingly, indoor allergies have seen a sharp rise of 30% over the past four years, affecting millions with symptoms ranging from sneezing and congestion to more severe respiratory issues.

This underscores the critical need for proactive measures to mitigate these hidden threats within our homes. Implementing regular cleaning routines, using high-efficiency air filters, and minimizing indoor humidity levels are essential strategies to ensure a healthier, allergy-free living environment for everyone.

Join us in our conversation with two eminent doctors who are both authorities in this field of study, Dr Dwaipayan Mukherjee, professor and HOD ENT, KPC Medical college and Hospital Kolkata and Dr S Z Jafrey, Senior Pulmonologist & Allergist, Indore as we uncover common indoor allergens, what triggers them and how we can safeguard ourselves from their adverse effects.



What are the most common indoor allergens people encounter in their homes, and how do these allergens typically affect individuals? (Dr S Z Jafrey)

A. Indoor allergens commonly encountered at home include dust mites, mold, pet dander, and household products. These allergens can trigger symptoms such as watery eyes, sneezing, congestion, and coughing in affected individuals. Managing indoor allergies involves medication for symptom relief and modifying your cleaning routine. Strategies like using allergen-resistant bedding, regular vacuuming with a HEPA filter, and maintaining low indoor humidity can effectively reduce exposure. Understanding and controlling these allergens through proactive measures are crucial steps in minimizing indoor allergy symptoms and improving overall quality of life.

How do indoor allergies differ from outdoor allergies in terms of symptoms and triggers? (Dr S Z Jafrey)

A. Indoor allergens like dust mites, mold, pet dander, and cockroach droppings persist year-round in the home environment unlike outdoor allergens such as pollen, pollutants and grass that vary with seasons. Symptoms such as sneezing, watery eyes, congestion, and coughing can turn chronic due to continuous exposure to these allergens.

For someone experiencing allergic symptoms indoors, what steps should they take to identify the specific allergen causing their discomfort? (Dr S Z Jafrey)

A. Start by acknowledging common indoor triggers such as dust mites, mold, pet dander, and household chemicals in your home. Keep a diary and note when symptoms occur and their severity, which can reveal patterns tied to specific allergens. Consult an allergist for comprehensive allergy testing, including skin prick and blood allergy, to accurately identify allergens. Implement allergen-reduction strategies at home, like avoiding pets, changing cleaning chemicals and replacing bed covers with allergen-proof ones.

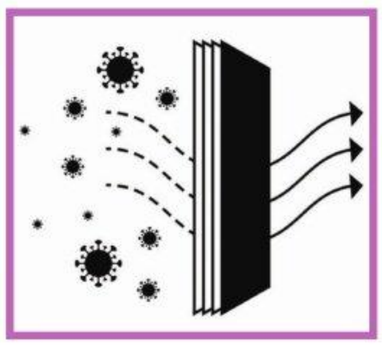
What are some effective strategies or tips to reduce exposure to dust mites, particularly in bedding and carpets? (Dr S Z Jafrey)

- Encase your mattresses, box springs and pillows with allergen-proof covers to create a barrier against dust mites and their allergens. Wash bedding weekly in hot water (at least 130°F) to kill dust mites effectively.
- Opt for hardwood floors or vinyl flooring instead of wall-to-wall carpets, especially in the bedroom where you spend a lot of time. If carpets are unavoidable, go for low-pile options and vacuum them frequently.
- Vacuum your rugs and upholstery at least once or twice a week to reduce dust accumulation. Use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter to capture smaller particles. Dust surfaces with a damp cloth to prevent dust from becoming airborne.
- Dust mites thrive in environments with higher humidity. Consider using a dehumidifier in damp areas like basements and bathrooms.
- Wash throw blankets, curtains, and other soft furnishings regularly in hot water to remove dust mites and their allergens.
- Keep pets out of the bedroom and off upholstered furniture to minimize pet dander accumulation in areas where you sleep.
- Reduce the number of items that collect dust in your household, such as stuffed animals and decorative pillows. Store items in closed closets or containers to minimize dust accumulation.

What are some effective methods to reduce exposure to pet dander in the home, especially for individuals allergic to cats or dogs? (Dr Dwaipayan)

A. Designate pet-free zones, particularly bedrooms, to minimize dander accumulation in bedding and pillows. Grooming pets regularly outside can limit shedding indoors. These steps, combined with adherence to a consistent cleaning routine, can significantly mitigate pet-related allergy symptoms.

What is the role of air filters and purifiers in managing indoor allergies? Are there specific types or features that are more effective? (Dr Dwaipayan)



A. Air filters and purifiers play a crucial role in managing indoor allergies by effectively reducing airborne allergens such as dust mites, pet dander, mold spores, and pollen. Effective air filters feature HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) technology, capable of trapping 99.97% of particles as small as 0.3 microns. This includes common allergens like dust mites and pollen. Carbon filters are effective against odors and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), enhancing overall air quality. Additionally, filters with activated carbon can neutralize odors from pets, smoke, and cooking.

For optimal performance, air purifiers should be appropriately sized for the room and run continuously to maintain clean air. Units with multiple filtration stages (pre-filter, HEPA, carbon) are more effective in capturing a wide range of allergens and pollutants.

In managing indoor allergies, integrating air purifiers with regular cleaning practices can significantly alleviate symptoms.

Dr S Z Jafrey
Senior Pulmonologist & Allergist, Indore Chest and Allergy Center

Do you recommend any lifestyle changes or home modifications that can prove effective in alleviating indoor allergy symptoms? (Dr Dwaipayan)

- Avoid smoking indoors and encourage a smoke-free environment to prevent irritation to sensitive airways.
- Practice breathing exercises or yoga regularly to strengthen respiratory health and manage symptoms like congestion and wheezing.
- Minimize the use of perfumes, air fresheners, and scented candles, which can exacerbate allergies.
- Ensure good ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens to reduce humidity and prevent mold growth.
- Regularly clean air ducts and filters to maintain optimal indoor air quality.

For personalized advice, consult with a healthcare provider or allergist to identify specific triggers and develop a comprehensive plan to manage indoor allergies effectively.

Are Allergies seasonal? Or it can happen round the year? (Dr Dwaipan)

A. Allergies can be seasonal or it may present round the year. In seasonal cases, usually, problems persist for a specific time period of the year and responsible allergens are mainly Pollens & outdoor allergens. Whereas in case of Persistent or Perennial Allergies, symptoms persist throughout the year and the responsible allergens are mainly indoor allergens like mites, dust, pets, pigeon droppings.

What are the modern treatment options for treating allergic rhinitis? (Dr S Z Jafrey)

- Nasal corticosteroids – this is effective for controlling all types of symptoms of Allergic Rhinitis like sneezing, watery rhinorrhea & nasal obstruction.
- Non-sedating medications – Non sedating antihistaminics are effective for controlling different allergic symptoms & these drugs are helpful for the working population.
- Lifestyle modification & avoidance of specific allergens are helpful.
- Immunotherapy - is effective when pharmacotherapy fails to control the symptoms & when the patients are suffering from allergy due to unavoidable allergens.

#STOPALLERGYBEFOREITSTOPSYOU

As World Allergy Week comes to a close, we would like to urge everyone for proactive allergy management through awareness, education, and prevention strategies for uncompromised quality of life. Left untreated, they can spiral into serious health complications. Act now - address your symptoms immediately and stop them today, before they stop you.
This article is an educational initiative, supported by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare India Ltd.

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Gen Dwivedi takes over as chief of Army, faces China, J&K tests

Will Have To Push Hard To Fast-Track Force Revamp During 2-Yr Tenure

Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An aggressive and expansionist China, which continues to forward deploy around 1.4 lakh troops and heavy weapon systems along the frontier from eastern Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh for the fifth year running now, will be the primary operational challenge for new Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi.

Gen Dwivedi, who took over the reins of the over 11-lakh strong force as the 30th chief from Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday, will also have to contend with the spike in militancy in J&K, especially the series of military-style ambushes by well-trained terrorists that have caused setbacks to his force in the densely-forested and hilly Poonch-Rajouri region.

Gen Dwivedi is no stranger to the threats posed by China and Pakistan, which are often collusive. Commissioned into the J&K Rifles in 1984, he had a two-year tenure as the GoC-in-C of the crucial Northern Command before becoming the vice-chief in Feb this year. "While China has mastered salami-slicing and grey zone warfare, Pakistan continues with its proxy war," a top official said.

PTI

General Dwivedi took over the Army reins from Gen Pande on Sunday

In a statement announcing Gen Dwivedi's taking over the top post, the Army said, "The global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and ever-changing character of modern warfare."

"Operational preparedness to counter security threats to a rising nation, therefore would figure prominently, as a key focus area for the chief. Concurrently, a focused response strategy to myriad non-traditional security challenges, too, shall be a priority towards augmenting the nation's defence," it said.

Gen Dwivedi will have to push hard to fast-track modernisation and transformation of the Army during his two-year tenure.

Despite emergency procurements, the force is still grappling with major operational voids in several areas, ranging from modern air defence weapons and fourth-generation anti-tank guided missiles to attack and light utility helicopters and night-fighting capabilities.

This is especially critical for the Northern and Eastern Commands along the 3,488-km LAC. There are 50,000 to 60,000 Chinese troops with heavy weaponry deployed along the western (Ladakh) and central sectors (Uttarakhand, Himachal) of the LAC. China has upped the ante in the eastern sector (Sikkim, Arunachal) as well, with another 90,000 soldiers deployed there.

Then, there is the entire question of the short-term recruitment of soldiers under the controversial Agnipath scheme rolled out in June 2022. The armed forces want the retention rate of Agniveers to be raised from the existing 25% after their four-year tenures to at least 50%.

Tripathi, Dwivedi were disciplined, totally focused: Ex-classmate

▶Continued from P 1

It is a very proud moment for us, our school and our state. It's for the first time that chiefs of two wings of armed forces are classmates and schoolmates and from the same state," said Dr RS Pandey, senior master at Sainik School Rewa.

The school principal was invited to the ceremony where Gen Dwivedi took charge of Army. Many of his classmates were there, too.

"Our batch is a close-knit family. Even today, 18 of us are here as our batchmate and friend Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes charge as Chief of Army Staff," Prof Amit Tiwari, a classmate, said Sunday. "My roll number was 929, Upendra's was 931 and Dinesh was 938. I was a roommate of Admiral Tripathi for eight years. And for three years I was desk partner with Gen Dwivedi," he said.

"Both of them were very disciplined, extremely focused and stayed away from controversies. They were never a part of any groupism, which is normal during school days," said Tiwari, a former dean of School of Life Sciences at APS University, Rewa, and currently with TRS College, Rewa.

School records of Gen Dwivedi say he was an above average student. Mischievous as a boy and aggressive as a young infantry officer in J&K Rifles, he held very key appointments in his illustrious military career, commanding a battalion in Op Rakshak and a sector in Op Rhino before being made Director General-Infantry.

Batchmates remember the two Service chiefs as being very modest and punctual, who never said a thing loudly but made themselves heard. Also, both of them have stayed connected with their alma mater. During his previous visit to the school, Gen Dwivedi had said: "Other schools give students only 'capability', however this school gives 'attitude and adaptability' as a prequel which is a prerequisite to being a good and effective leader."

The school has been celebrating ever since Admiral Tripathi took over as Navy chief in May. Gen Dwivedi's elevation has doubled the joy.

Venkaiah's life showcases public service commitment

By Narendra Modi

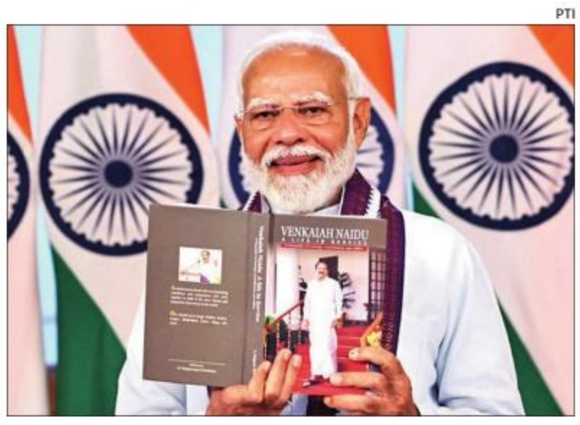
Today, India's former Vice President and respected statesman M Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines.

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated with each other for decades and I have learnt a lot from him. He loves people. He started as a student activist and preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar because he was inspired by its ideology of 'Nation First'. After stints with RSS and ABVP, he joined and strengthened Jana Sangh and BJP.

He joined the resistance against the Emergency imposed in 1975 and was jailed for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. His commitment to democracy led him to join the movement against the dismissal of the N T Rama Rao govt by Congress in the mid-1980s.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, he defied the NTR wave to get re-elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for BJP's growth across the state.

All vouch for Venkaiah Garu's oratory skills. He is certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a worksmith. As a young MLA, he distinguished himself as a people's representative and a lawmaker. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his party but Venkaiah Garu refused to give up his core ideology. He went on to play a big role in strengthening BJP in AP. He led the party in the assembly and even became the state BJP chief.



PTI

PM Modi on Sunday released three books on M Venkaiah Naidu as the former Vice President turned 75. The PM hailed Naidu's eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues

Recognising his effort, the BJP leadership appointed him the party's national general secretary, a remarkable achievement for a grassroots worker. He soon rose to become the party president.

In 2000, when Atal ji was keen to induct him in the govt, Venkaiah Garu surprised all by expressing his preference for the ministry of rural development. However, being the son of a farmer who spent his early years in villages, Venkaiah Garu was clear about the choice and was involved in the conception and implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. When the NDA govt was formed in 2014, he handled the crucial portfolios of urban development, housing and urban poverty alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider and benefited from Venkaiah Garu's insights. He was an effective parliamentary affairs minister—he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to norms and rules.

Nominating him as NDA's vice presidential candidate in 2017 involved a dilemma. Finding his replacement in the govt was tough but at the same time, there was no better candidate for the vice presidency than him. I can never forget the speech he gave when he resigned as minister and MP, recalling his association with the party. It showed his commitment.

Upon becoming Vice President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding chairman of Rajya Sabha.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed on the floor of Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Garu was in the chair. It must have been an emotional moment for him, the young boy who was drawn to Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India was in the chair when this was finally achieved.

Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer too. In Delhi, he is also known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. He loves food and also hosting people.

Even now, Venkaiah Garu has an active public life and calls me on issues he is passionate about as well as important developments.

I wish him once again on this milestone. I hope all those who have a passion for public service learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

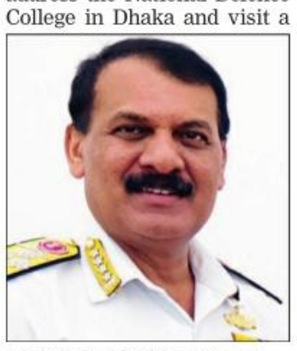
(The author is the Prime Minister of India)

Navy chief starts four-day B'desh visit today to bolster def ties

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will begin his four-day official visit to Bangladesh today to further consolidate bilateral defence ties and explore new avenues for maritime cooperation.

Admiral Tripathi is scheduled to hold talks with his counterpart Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman and Air Force chief Air Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan during the visit, which comes soon after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in India for a comprehensive dialogue with PM Narendra Modi to boost the overall bilateral relationship.

In his first foreign visit after taking charge on April 30, Admiral Tripathi will also review the passing-out parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy Chittagong on July 4 as well as address the National Defence College in Dhaka and visit a few key defence facilities.



Admiral Tripathi's visit comes soon after Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was in India for talks with PM Modi

Concurrently, Indian guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvir has also reached Chattogram in Bangladesh as part of an operational deployment, and will participate in a maritime partnership exercise with Bangladeshi warships.

"Naval cooperation between India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span including operational interactions, bilateral naval exercises and capacity-building programmes. The visit will further strengthen the strong bonds of friendship between the two navies," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. TNN

IN PUDUCHERRY, A VOTE FOR PARIS

AFP

French citizens look at posters of candidates as they arrive to cast their votes at a polling station during the first round of French parliamentary elections at the consulate general of France in Puducherry on Sunday

Cong demands law to tweak Constitution for quota beyond 50% cap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress has demanded that Parliament pass a law to amend the Constitution to enable reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to exceed the Supreme Court mandated 50% cap. The party urged that the bill be brought in the next session of Parliament and asked PM Narendra Modi to clear his stand on the issue.

The demand came a day after NDA constituent JD(U) passed a resolution at its national executive meeting urging the Centre to put Bihar's law pertaining to reservations under the Constitution's Ninth Schedule to rule out judicial review of the quota increase beyond 50% in the state.

In a post on X on Sunday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned the silence of BJP, JD(U)'s ally in the state and at the Centre. He said putting reservation laws beyond the 50% cap in the Ninth Schedule was not a solution, because according to a 2007 SC decision, such laws were also subject to judicial review.

The demand came a day after NDA constituent JD(U) passed a resolution at its national executive meeting urging the Centre to put Bihar's law pertaining to reservations under the Constitution's Ninth Schedule to rule out judicial review

Ramesh said the current limit of 50% was not explicitly mandated by the Constitution, but was decided through various SC decisions. He went on to say that in such a situation, a bill to amend the Constitution was the only way out and this was something the Congress had promised in its manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls and remained committed to.

Ramesh asked whether the PM would "clear his stand"? "Our demand is that such a bill should be introduced in the next session . JD(U) should not be limited to just passing resolutions," he added. TNN

In radio address, PM highlights yoga enthusiasm across the globe

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday said the entire world celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm on June 21 while noting that locals had joined him in the yoga programme in Srinagar.

"As the observance of yoga day is progressing, even new records are being made. Yoga day has attained many great achievements all over the world. For the first time in Saudi Arabia, a woman, Al Hanouf Saad ji, led the common yoga protocol. This is the first time a Saudi woman has instructed a main yoga session. This time in Egypt, a photo competition was organised on yoga day," he said in his radio address.

Modi also highlighted the important role of tribal heroes in the freedom struggle and said June 30 was observed in tribal areas as 'Hool Diwas'. "This day is associated with the indomitable courage of Veer Sidhu-Kanhu who united thousands of Santhal compatriots and fought the British with all their might. This happened in 1855, that is, it happened two years before India's first war of independence in 1857," he said. TNN

Historic Chadwick House in Shimla gets makeover as CAG museum

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Shimla: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has converted Chadwick House — the Shimla residence of former maharaja of Kapurthala where Mahatma Gandhi stayed when he came to attend the Cabinet Mission meeting in 1946 for transfer of power from the British—as its first museum with a collection of rare artefacts, including a 1907 table and chair used by C V Raman, the only Indian to get a Nobel in Physics.

Raman had a brief stint as an assistant accountant general at CAG's Kolkata office. Though the original table is yet to be brought from Kolkata, Raman's life-size statue has been put on display with a similar table and chair.

Inaugurated last week by CAG G C Murmu, Chadwick House is one the most modern museums in India and the first for the federal auditor in 164 years of its history. Among the exhibits is Chanakya's lifesize statue in a sitting posture, writing the Arthashastra, the first written document on the principles of accounting.

The museum has a collection of rare artefacts, including a 1907 table and chair used by CV Raman, the only Indian to get a Nobel in physics. Raman had a brief stint as an assistant accountant general at CAG's Kolkata office

The supreme auditor has a 75-year-long ties with the historic building. It was Chadwick House where the first batch of audit and accounts service probationers held their training, Murmu said.

The museum showcases audit heritage from evolution, achievements to important milestones achieved. Chadwick House provides audio-video interactive displays of artefacts with graphic panels and QR code to access information that gives a glimpse of the audit institution since 1860 when it came into being.

The CAG renovated the building after taking it over from the I&B ministry. Chadwick House was constructed by a British national in the 1880s and was bought by Maharaja of Kapurthala Sardar Charanjit Singh in 1904. He often hosted Gandhi in this house.

"During the freedom struggle, Chadwick House was a favoured residence of Mahatma Gandhi while in Shimla from where he also addressed the public. In 1946, during his visit here for the Cabinet Mission discussions, once again the father of the nation stayed in Chadwick," Murmu said.

THE SPEAKING TREE

THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA

Among the most challenging decisions are those that present us with a dilemma; you need to weigh your current situation and possible outcomes and then find the courage to make a decision, writes

MARGUERITE THEOPHIL

All of us from time to time are faced with decisions that are extremely difficult to make. Even straightforward decisions are tough, but the hardest of all is when confronted with a dilemma, which refers to a decision that must be made where choices available are equally unappealing, or may address one problem while creating another. There's never an easy choice, since all options, even that of ignoring or inaction, carry the potential for loss or disturbance.

A simple folktale illustrates it so well: A hard-working widower had to bring up his two daughters on his own. When they grew up, he was relieved and happy when they each married a good man.

The older girl married a gardener, the younger a potter, both from the neighbouring village. After the weddings, the girls left for their husbands' homes.

The following year, both invited their father to visit them in their new homes. At the older daughter's home, he was welcomed warmly by the couple. Soon after he arrived, he asked his daughter, "How are things with you, daughter?"

"Very well," she replied. "We have all we could ask for, but I have one wish: that this hot, dry weather ends soon and we have heavy showers that will thoroughly water all our growing plants and trees for sale." Later, visiting his second daughter, who seemed happy and well settled too, he asked the same thing, "How is everything with you, daughter?"

"My husband is a good and loving man, and works hard. There is nothing we lack. But, my one hope though, is that the rains stay away, and this spell of dry weather may continue for a good while, so that our tiles and pots he made for sale are well-baked and dry.

"Oh dear", thought the loving father, "If one must have dry weather and the other rain, what must I pray for then?"

COMMENTREE

We see that what is distressing or painful about a dilemma is having to make a difficult choice between two things; a choice one really does not want to make.

Dilemmas can involve choosing between things of equal importance to you; or even between two things, neither of which you want. At times they can involve a struggle between our hearts and minds, or simply seemingly practical choices. An often-used phrase 'on the horns of a dilemma' refers to the possibility of being impaled by either unpleasant choice you make.

And yet there are times we just have to make the choice. Do I stay on in this well-paid job for another year though I repeatedly fall ill from the pressure and stress? Or, do I leave and take up the other job where the salary is poorer, but the pressure is far less? But what about all my financial commitments? But if I fall really ill, that's bad too. Such a situation and subsequent reflection may be easier for some to resolve, but most people will naturally agonise for a long time.

Any dilemma can involve ethics – what we deem to be right and correct and/or values – what we deem to be worthy and important. One step in addressing a dilemma is becoming clear to ourselves on these two. At times, putting off making a decision helps, but that is not a luxury every situation offers. In some cases, procrastination makes things even worse.

None of us can predict the future. You will never have all the information you will need. So, in such an issue, problem or concern in your decision-making process, in which neither choice you make offers a great outcome, you need to weigh your current situation and possible outcomes, good or not so good and then find the courage to make a decision on one option with the information you have at the time. ■

17-year-old Assam trans girl loses school seat over bikini pictures

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The family says she's being targeted because of her gender. Her mother, in a letter to CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, wrote, 'My daughter, with dreams as vast as the Brahmaputra, has faced the heights of discrimination and prejudice. Yet, she stands unwavering, aspiring to contribute to the society...'

My girl child, born in a male body, didn't choose this life of struggle where she is being bullied and hated for who she is... the recent incident at her school in Assam has shaken the core of our faith in institutions meant to protect and nurture our young... The school, which should be a sanctuary of learning, became an arena of judgment... This is the plight of my daughter, a plight shared by many, often silenced by the shadows of ignorance.

These are excerpts from a letter to Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma by a Guwahati woman after photos of her 17-year-old transgender daughter in a swimming pool in a bikini, posted on her social media platform, forced her to leave the school last month.

While the mother has slammed the principal of the reputed co-educational school in Guwahati for "slandering", "belittling" and "mocking" her daughter and "targeting her truth and her very being", school authorities said the photographs "expressed vulgarity" and all that they had asked for was to have the posts removed from social media.

As the world celebrated June as Pride Month, photos of the transgender girl in a bikini, clicked during a family vacation on June 9 and posted on social media, became not just a flashpoint between the school and her family but also put a question mark on the issue of gender inclusivity in educational institutions in India.

The family has asked Sarma for a slew of changes – from embracing diversity with gender-inclusive uniform in schools to extending protection against bullying and harassment.

Also, the state's Transgender Welfare Board has moved Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR), saying "nobody can sexualise a child's body and a photo".

On June 26, ASCPCR began hearings in the case, with the transgender girl's family narrating the incident. "We heard the complainant and would now summon school authorities. After hearing both the parties, we would convene on a specific date. Thereafter, legal action would be initiated," commission chairperson Shyamal Prasad Saikia said.

On June 10, a day after the transgender girl posted the photos, the school principal called the parents at 9pm. "'Your daughter is disgusting and shameful. Come tomorrow and take her out of my school...' this is what the principal told me," the student's mother recounted the call.

The family opted for a transfer from the school rather than what they said was "capitulating to infringement on her right to exist".

School management said they have taken care of the 17-year-old student and counselled her throughout besides protecting her from bullying by some students.

The principal said after she posted the photographs in swimsuit "expressing vulgarity", the school earned a "bad name" among academia and that the school could not tolerate "such behaviour". He said the school never intended to target her and had merely asked her to remove the posts.

However, the student's family hurled allegations at the school, saying the issue of bikini photos was an excuse to get her out of school. They alleged that she became a target because of her gender. "The school doesn't find similar photos posted by boys disgusting or shameful. It indicates their sick mentality," the mother said.

In the letter to Assam CM, which later went viral on social media, the student's mother said, "My daughter, with dreams as vast as the Brahmaputra, has faced the heights of discrimination and prejudice. Yet, she stands unwavering, aspiring to contribute to society..."

"The phone call at night from the principal was a stark reminder of the battles we still face. Her social media, a space of personal expression, was scrutinised and slandered. A family pool outing, a moment of innocent joy, was twisted into a weapon of shame just because my daughter wore a bikini," the letter said.

"We asked for a transfer certificate from the school after she was shamed and subjected to mental harassment. We decided to keep her away from such a toxic environment," her mother said, adding that the family wants a public apology from the school. Now, she might have to forfeit an entire academic year as she was issued the transfer certificate amid the ongoing session.

State Transgender Welfare Board president Rituparna Neog said, "In the explanation given to us, the school's view is that the photos were sexually explicit. I have forwarded this to ASCPCR, with the point that nobody can sexualise a child's body and photos." Neog is also a member of the National Council for Transgender Persons.

The principal told **TOI** that the message was clearly communicated to the family. "Body piercing, tattooing are against our rules. Posting obscene photos on social media is not desired. We told them they could delete the photos and start behaving properly or withdraw the student from the school," he said.

"I am delighted that transgenders will now raise their voice for liberty and fairness. They glanced at my photos but failed to acknowledge my academic achievements," said the student, who passed class X with 76% aggregate.

Cong brass forced to step in as K'taka faction feud intensifies

Reshuffle, Gag Order On Cards As Sidda, DKS Camps Tussle

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TICKING TIME BOMB? The intervention comes amid demands from several party functionaries to replace Siddaramaiah with DKS as CM

Bengaluru: A potential cabinet reshuffle and a gag order are among measures Congress has adopted to address a factional feud within its Karnataka unit, which has pitted supporters of chief minister (CM) Siddaramaiah against those of his deputy DK Shivakumar.

Congress high command has intervened, issuing a stern warning to maintain discipline as the feud is negatively impacting the state's administration and damaging the party's image, sources said on Sunday. This comes amid demands from several party functionaries to replace Siddaramaiah with Shivakumar as CM, and to appoint more deputy CMs.

Although Siddaramaiah denied it, sources said he has been asked to reshuffle his cabinet to include senior legislators who were initially denied ministerial positions. The CM faces pressure from several legislators, led by seniors Vinay Kulkarni and P M Narendra Swamy, to overhaul his council of ministers. Around 40 MLAs are waiting to replace non-performing ministers.

On Sunday, Shivakumar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi, while Siddaramaiah met party MP Rahul Gandhi the day before.

"Kharge, Siddaramaiah, and I have arrived at a decision on how to work in interest of the party," Shivakumar said. "There is no need for any minister, MLA, or any individual to talk about it in public. If any functionary continues to talk to the media about the CM or deputy CM posts, then it would be inevitable for both AICC and KPCC to take disciplinary action."

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar issued strict instructions to their supporters to refrain from making public statements on the CM and deputy CM issues. The central brass has also decided to send veteran Madhusudan Mistry to review Congress' performance in Karnataka in Lok Sabha polls and gather legislators' opinions on the leadership dispute.

The state unit is planning to send a fact-finding team to all 28 parliamentary constituencies. "The objective is to hear from all quarters about prevailing issues and restore discipline to prepare the party to face a series of polls ahead," said KPCC working president GC Chandrashekhar.

Shivakumar's opponents have called for his replacement as Congress state president, citing the party's "one man, one position" principle. Shivakumar currently serves both as deputy CM and state party president.

However, Shivakumar's brother and former MP DK Suresh dismissed these demands, suggesting that those calling for his resignation should either "put up or shut up". Suresh referred to former chief minister Ramakrishna Hegde, who dissolved govt and called for early elections after a poor performance in LS polls, challenging those seeking positions to lead the party to victory before claiming privileges.

MP sarpanch shoots woman dead following drunken brawl, booked

Bhopal: A village sarpanch in Madhya Pradesh's Datia shot a woman dead and injured another in a dispute following a drunken brawl on Saturday night, police said.

Ratiram Yadav and Ravindra Yadav got into a heated argument while drinking in Vanvas village. People intervened to pacify the two, but Ravindra decided to inform his brother Arvind Yadav, the village sarpanch.

The brawl turned ugly when Arvind came along with his accomplices.

They allegedly attacked Ratiram's family in their house. During the altercation, he reportedly fired shots. A bullet hit Ratiram's daughter-in-law, Ahilya, who died on the spot. Another bullet injured Ratiram's niece, Priyanka. Accused then fled. Police have registered a murder case against 13 people, including Arvind and Ravindra. TNN

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

Advertisement No.:02/Projects /2024-25 **Dated- 29.06.2024**

CAP invites applications from suitable candidates for the temporary posts of following Projects:-

1- Project Scientist-I (01 No), Senior Project Associate (01 No.) and Project Associates-II (02 Nos.) in project entitled "Efficient Functioning of Laboratories".
2- Junior Research Fellow (01 No) in project entitled "Aroma Park Facilitation Cell".
3- Lab Assistant (01 No) in project entitled "Evalvating Cannabis Germplasm Selection of **Elite** Accession for Secondary Metabolites Profile".

Interested candidates may **submit applications up to 20th July 2024 till 5:00 PM.** For detailed information kindly visit the institute's website **www.capuk.in**

Director

Girder of under construction bridge collapses in Jharkhand

Bokaro: Girder of an under-construction bridge over Arga river at Bhelwaghati in Jharkhand's Giridih district, around 235km from Ranchi on Bihar border, collapsed late on Saturday night owing to incessant rain, reports **Divy Khare**.

In neighbouring Bihar, a bridge collapsed on Friday in Madhubani due to heavy rain, making it the fifth such incident in nine days. Another had collapsed in Kishanganj on Thursday.

5-month-old bridge collapses in Manipur

A five-month-old bridge over the swollen Imphal river at Mutum Phibou in Manipur's Imphal West district collapsed Sunday morning, taking down with it a firewood-laden truck and four occupants, one of whom died, reports K Sarojkumar Sharma. The accident occurred within weeks of villagers complaining to a visiting minister of defects in the structure.

The bridge in Jharkhand was being constructed on Fatehpur-Bhelwaghati road to connect Dumritola and Karipahri villages. Residents said water level in the river rose significantly following downpour on Saturday and strong currents resulted in the girder breaking apart. Also, one of the pillars got bent.

Road construction department executive engineer Vinay Kumar said the incident was triggered by heavy rain.

The bridge was being built at an estimated cost of Rs 5.5 crore, an official said.

NIA search op in Rajouri over Reasi bus attack

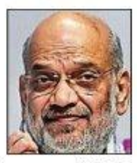
Jammu: NIA on Sunday conducted searches across Rajouri in J&K in connection with the June 9 terrorist ambush on a pilgrim bus in Reasi that claimed nine lives and left 41 wounded, reports **Sanjay Khajuria**.

"NIA took over probe on June 15. It searched five locations linked to hybrid terrorists and overground workers," said an NIA spokesperson. These sites were identified by Hakam Khan, a local suspect arrested for allegedly providing shelter and food to the terrorists, and aiding them in hiding and navigating the area undetected.

In addition to NIA, security teams from Army, paramilitary forces, and J&K police are scouring the hilly, forested terrain following four attacks over June 9, 11 and 12) in Reasi, Kathua and Doda.

Amit Shah calls for 'cooperation among cooperatives'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: Union home and cooperation minister **Amit Shah** on Sunday appealed to people associated with cooperative institutions to open their bank accounts in District Cooperative Banks (DCBs) to help the cooperative sector become viable.

He said if the mantra of "cooperation among cooperatives" is successful, cooperative institutions will not need to take help from anyone. "There is no need to take even a single rupee from central or state govt. The entire cooperative movement can run strongly with money of cooperative institutions," he said.

Shah was addressing the 76th AGM of Kheda District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Nadiad, through video conferencing. The bank has introduced loan management, document management system and tablet banking for the first time in the cooperative banking system of Gujarat, which is considered a landmark achievement. Nadiad is in Kheda district from where Amul was started.

Referring to this successful model of cooperatives, Shah said Amul set an example of achieving "Sahkar se Samriddhi" (prosperity through cooperation) in front of the entire country and the world.

The Union minister said since its inauguration in 1950, Kheda District Cooperative Bank has served farmers of the region well and today it is in net profit of about Rs 31 crore. There were times when there were apprehensions about its future, but after getting the license in 2012, it now has a reserve fund of Rs 258 crore and deposits of Rs 2,500 crore.

Shah expressed the need for involving DCBs for strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), saying stronger PACS will further strengthen cooperative banks.

Sarpanch of Ajit Pawar-led NCP shot dead by rivals in Maha

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Sarpanch of Maralwadi village in Maharashtra's Parli, who belongs to Ajit Pawar-led NCP camp, was shot dead by his rivals over a financial dispute. Police have booked five, including an NCP (SCP) functionary.

Bapu Andhale (35), the deceased, was attacked on Saturday. Dyanoba Gitte, Andhale's associate, also suffered bullet injuries. He was admitted to a hospital. On Sunday, Beed SP Nandkumar Thakur said the main accused has also sustained bullet injuries and has been admitted to a hospital.

"Four other accused are absconding. We have recovered one firearm from the site. It is still unclear if there was a gun fight between two groups," he said. Thakur said six people have been detained and efforts are on to trace the absconding.

Police said Andhale had borrowed money from one of the accused. "He was allegedly not returning the money," inspector Sanjay Lohakare of Parli police station said.

Acting on a complaint by Gitte, police have registered an offence under Section 302 (murder) of IPC among other charges. TNN

Sikh preacher apologises for attending RSS event

Kurukshetra: Sikh preacher Baba Gurwinder Singh from Haryana's Kurukshetra issued a written apology to Akal Takht at Golden Temple in Amritsar. This comes after photos of him attending an RSS event were circulated on social media, sparking outrage among the Sikh community, reports **Jaskaran Singh**. Baba Gurwinder, head of Gurdwara Udasin Braham Akhara Sahib in Mandi village, said he attended a school programme in Kurukshetra on June 23, which turned out to be an RSS event. Expressing remorse, he wrote: "I will not do any such act in future, which hurts the Panth."

Government of Tamil Nadu
Health & Family Welfare Department
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION TAMIL NADU

- For details visit : **http;//tntenders.gov.in**
- Tender ID : 2024_NHMT_457888
- On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu the Mission Director, National Health Mission - Tamil Nadu, DMS Campus, Teynampet, Chennai - 6. invites Bids for the following works.

Si No.	Name of the Work	Date of availability of Bid Documents	Due date for submission of online Bid	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid
1	Hiring Services of Chartered Accountant Firm Empanelled with Comptroller and Auditor General of India and eligible for conducting audit for major PSUs to Conduct Statutory Audit for the Financial Year 2023 - 2024 under National Health Mission (NHM), Tamil Nadu.	01.07.2024 10.00 hrs. Onwards	19.07.2024 11.00 hrs.	19.07.2024 16.00 hrs.

DIPR / 641 / DISPLAY / 2024 **For Mission Director**

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Online Training **PROJECT MANAGEMENT** Fees: 5900/-

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Date & Time: 7, 13,14,20,21,27,28 July - 3, 4th Aug 24 | 2.00 - 6.00 P.M

For more Details:9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633

9 Days Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in Week-ends

Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account

Odisha to roll out spl scheme for women on Modi's 75th birthday

Debabrata.Mohapatra
@timesgroup.com

Bhubaneswar: Odisha govt on Sunday announced to launch on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Sept 17 Subhadra Yojana, a key promise in BJP's election manifesto, under which every woman will receive a Rs 50,000 voucher that can be encashed over two years. Modi is likely to attend the launch of the scheme, approved at the first state cabinet meeting.

Govt had earlier committed to implement the project, partially funded by the Centre, within 100 days of assuming office. It is working on the modalities of how the money will be credited, in how many instalments, and the amount per instalment.

"Drafting of the modalities is being finalised," Odisha chief minister **Mohan Majhi** said.

As per the BJP manifesto, the scheme promised to benefit all women residing in Odisha, irrespective of their economic status and domicile. However, as per the 2011 Census, Odisha has 2,07,62,082 which will need Rs 80,000 crore budget for the project.

"We are working on the modalities to consider if it will apply to all women or those aged 18 years and above, or one woman in every household. We will also take a call on whether women staying outside the state would be considered or not. Whether working women will be included and their income criteria will also be taken into consideration," a senior govt official said.

Though govt has emphasised that the vouchers can be used to enhance women's socio-economic status, including education, healthcare, and entrepreneurial ventures, a concrete list of permissible expenditures will be ascertained in the final guidelines, the official added.

Gym owner shot dead in Bihar

Motorcycle-borne miscreants gunned down a 35-year-old gym owner on Janghariya bridge under in Bihar's Rohtas district Saturday night, report Kshitiz & Alok Chamaria. The crime occurred when Aditya Kumar Srivastava was returning home on his bike with one of his staff, after closing the gym.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF DELHI AROGYA KOSH 3 FLOOR, DGD BUILDING, 5-1, SCHOOL BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI- 110092

A

APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of Accounts Officer on contractual basis for a period of one year, extendable upto 2 years based on work & conduct by Delhi Arogya Kosh, a registered society under Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The application form is available at **www.health.delhigovt.nic.in**

Essential Qualification & Experience	Age Limit	Remuneration
Must have worked as Accounts Officer/ Assistant Accounts Officer in Govt. of Delhi/Central Government and retired from the said post	Upto 65 years	As per existing government rules for post-retirement engagement

The interested candidates may send their application along with their bio-data and requisite documents through Speed Post/ By Hand at the following address latest by 6 PM on 16.07.2024 :

O/o Delhi Arogya Kosh
Room No. 304, 3nd Floor, DGD Building,
S-1, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092
DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES-CUM-MEMBER SECRETARY, DELHI AROGYA KOSH

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0107/24-25

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

बिहार कृषि सेवा प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा
(वि. संख्या 18/2024, 19/2024, 20/2024 एवं 21/2024)

उक्त लिखित (वस्तुनिष्ठ) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों का दस्तावेज सत्यापन दिनांक 05.06.2024 से 15.06.2024 तक आयोजित की गई थी।

दस्तावेज सत्यापन में अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा प्रस्तुत किये गये शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्र / अन्य कागजात / अनुभव अंक की गणना की जाँच त्रि–सदस्यीय विभागीय विषय विशेषज्ञों द्वारा विज्ञापन की शर्तों के आलोक में की गई। जाँच के क्रम में विषय विशेषज्ञों द्वारा Final Marksheet & Certificate Not Available, Final Marksheet & Certificate Wanting आदि से संबंधित प्रतिवेदन समर्पित किया गया है। जिसकी सूची आयोग के वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित है ।

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स्वा:/-
अपर सचिव–सह–परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
7th floor, East Wing, Swarna Jayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038

E - Procurement Tender Notice

NIT.No.: HMDA/DEV/CE/ 3 /2024 Dt.29-06-2024

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is inviting tenders for the following works:

S.No	Name of work	Tender inviting Authority
1.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) for Development of Elevated corridor from Paradise Junction (Gymkhana grounds) to Shameerpet ORR junction on SH-01 on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA
2.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) for Development of Elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to Dairy Farm Road (NH-44) on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA
3.	Selection of transaction advisor (TA) cum area development plan (ADP) consultant for development of 6-lane iconic bridge across Mir.Alam Tank along with beautification of lakefront and development of other relevant infrastructure (including tourism) facilities for commuters & visitors on PPP mode	Chief Engineer, HMDA

For further details please visit website **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**

R.O. No. : 136-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 30-06-2024 Sd/- Chief Engineer, HMDA

Advertisement No. 61/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of
Managing Director
In
North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd (NEHHDC)

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15.00 hours on
23/07/2024

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 15.00 hours on
01/08/2024

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB / Store/2024-25 (213), Bhopal, **Dated 24-06-2024**

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through No. mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender
1	Portable Door Frame Metal Detector	600	10,000/-	9,00,000/-	1st Tender
2	Hand Metal Detector	1100	10,000/-	11,55,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**01/07/2024 up to 1700 hrs.**
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	02/07/2024 at 1100 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	10/07/2024 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	23/07/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
V	Bid will be opened on	24/07/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	31/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police (Intelligence)
M.P. Bhopal Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-12616/24

Workers At E-Commerce Giant Amazon's Warehouses In Delhi-NCR Say Even Toilet Breaks Are Frowned Upon By Managers And The Slightest Pause In Work Can Invite Arbitrary Blacklisting

HANDLED WITHOUT CARE

Ankita.Anand@timesgroup.com

At precisely 8.20am, 10 minutes before the day shift begins at Amazon's cavernous warehouses, the assembled workforce is put through a drill.

"One", says the supervisor. "100", the group choruses in response, arms stretched.

"Two", says the supervisor. "100", the group responds, arms striking a different pose.

"Three," comes the next cue. The arms move again. The chorus is unchanged: "100".

"Four". "100". "Five". "100". Six. "100..." This peculiar count goes on for five minutes.

The next five minutes are for briefings on the day's targets before the 10-hour shift begins at the depots, which Sheetal, a worker, says "feels like being trapped in a jail", each minute akin to being put through a boot camp.

The PT session is more a workout for the mind than muscle, reinforcing and hardcoding the message that all workers have to meet 100% of their targets, says Ritesh, who works in Del-5 (Bilaspur). "It's meant to get us into the zone."

It's this relentless pursuit of "100" which, workers say, has spawned a punishing work culture in Amazon's Indian warehouses, echoing complaints in other countries that have raised questions about the backend practices of the "customer-obsessed" global e-tailing giant.

Sheetal, who works in the stowing section of Del-4 (Manesar), told **TOI** she has to meet "brutal hourly targets" that involve packing 150 items per hour — a ceaseless walking, bending, squatting, pivoting routine that she and fellow workers are expected to perform with robotic precision.

"Once you're in, you're on the move all the time. No breaks and no sitting down, even if you need to put stuff into the lowest rack. Bend and stretch, but don't sit. Sitting counts as idle time. Even toilet breaks are idle time. We get pulled up for it. Cameras cover all sections of the warehouse, so supervisors have eyes on us all the time," Sheetal says. "Workers get text messages if they are seen sitting down. Supervisors send screenshots encircling anyone who is inactive on our WhatsApp groups," she adds.

RAW DEAL OF THE DAY: (Top) Amazon's Del-5 warehouse in Gurgaon. Photos shared by workers show harsh conditions they have to work in, which can entail resting on the toilet floor to avoid detection by floor cameras. Catching one's breath is to risk a message from managers warning them about their targets

'Prime' Time Hard, Mistakes Costly

The tolerance threshold for "time-wasting", according to workers, is even lower in the customer promise department that caters to Amazon Prime. The cart of a Prime customer must be filled within the stipulated time. "In case we get injured or feel unwell, we're simply told to continue. If we can't, we must face consequences. I had to rush to the washroom once, but when I returned after five minutes, the work had been given to someone else and I was threatened with blacklisting," says Gita, who works in Del-4.

Sheetal says she was threatened with termination for a mistake and eventually had to give an undertaking to save the job. "I had stowed nine 'high-risk-value items' into a stack meant for 'small items'. The system is automated, but the scanners missed it, too. I was called by the SLP (security loss petition) team in the only room that has no CCTV cameras. They asked me to give it in writing that it was my mistake, else they would charge me with theft," she says.

Monthly Take-Home Of Rs 10K

Del-4 and -5, both located in Gurgaon, are two of Amazon's largest warehouses in NCR, with around 2,000 workers each. The contracted ones have a monthly CTC of Rs 13,520 (Rs 10,087 take home) and part-time ones like Sheetal, who book slots through an app, are paid Rs 614 per shift. The workers aren't Amazon employees but have contracts with firms like Om Unique, Om Enterprises, Pranav, Simran Enterprises, and Weaving Enterprise.

Workers are entitled to a pickup-and-drop service and get two half-hour breaks during the shift — one for lunch from 12.35pm to 1.05pm, and the other from 4pm to 4.30pm. There are two categories of workers — blue badges (contract employees) and green badges (regular employees). Contract workers say there's a class divide at work with the 'blues' getting the rough end of the stick. Frustration building up over time, catalysed by massive heat stress during one of the harshest summers in north India, prompted the warehouse workers to issue a media statement on June 4 and send a memorandum to govt and Amazon on June 7 about work conditions that they called intolerable. An official of Om Enterprises did not offer any comment. The other firms could not be reached.

Note To Govt — 'It's Unbearable'

"Pooja, an Amazon warehouse worker and member of Amazon India Workers Association (AIWA), has informed that male and female workers are forced to work under unbearable temperatures in warehouses," said the June 7 memo, which coincided with photos surfacing of workers sitting on the restroom floor to catch a breath, evading CCTV surveillance. If caught, there's a penalty by way of pay deduction.

Asking for a heat surcharge payable to workers and better work conditions like shaded areas, drinking water and pink toilet access audits for women, the memo said that on May 20, Pooja recorded a temperature of 31 degrees Celsius in the dock area of her warehouse, 32 degrees in the canteen, and 34.2 degrees in the stow section where she works. "That's why workers, particularly women, are forced to take rest in washrooms amid unhygienic conditions," it said.

Akhil (24), who works in the docking area of Del-4 — it's where incoming cargo is offloaded and is the most physically demanding section — said it became insufferable during the heatwave, with no fan or cooler around. But there was no let-up on deliverables.

"Large metal containers, which can be as heavy as 100kg, are brought here. In summer, these are red hot to touch. Our job is to put them on the conveyor belt that takes them into the warehouse. The belt never stops," said Akhil, who has been working here since 2020 after clearing his Class XII boards, hoping to save to study further and improve his job prospects.

Delhi-NCR saw 38 straight days of 40 degree-plus temperatures from May 13.

An Oath — No Toilet Breaks

The June 4 AIWA statement revealed that a supervisor in Del-4 made workers take an oath on May 16 to meet targets without taking toilet or water breaks. Workers **TOI** spoke with said this happened around 4.30pm. The day was hectic as orders kept pouring in and supervisors realised by afternoon that they were running behind the target. So, one of them asked the workers to extend their hands in the air: "Say after me: 'we will achieve the target, we won't go to the washroom, we will not drink water'," the supervisor allegedly told the workers. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken congisance of the matter and sent a notice to Amazon.

Just like in fitness gyms, the warehouses play groovy Haryanvi, Punjabi, Hindi and Bhojpuri numbers — most of the workers are from UP, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar — to keep the adrenaline high. "There's another song that's played regularly to motivate us — 'Amazon ke cheeteh' (Cheetahs of Amazon). They treat us nothing like that," said Pratap (23), who works in the inbound section of Del-4.

Blocked Cards A Common Complaint

Pratap had his access card blocked in 2020 during the pandemic, when he got high fever during his shift and had to be taken to hospital. "When I went back to the warehouse, my card was declined, and I was told it was cancelled because of the 'trick I pulled'. Two months later, I got a call asking me to come back. I rejoined in Jan 2021," he said. Pratap's case isn't a one-off. Since 2022, 16 complaints have been sent to Gurgaon's assistant labour commissioner (ALC) by Amazon warehouse workers. All pertain to employees being blocked or blacklisted arbitrarily. None of these cases has been decided yet.

A woman from Uttarakhand, who joined Del-4 as a contract employee of PSN Supply Chain Solution, wrote in the complaint, "I was told my card was blacklisted by 'higher-ups' and they will call back when it's reinstated... When I applied for another job, they rejected my application, saying I'd been blacklisted by Amazon." AIWA legal advisor KK Niyogi said, "The ALC sent a notice to the warehouse and the company, asking them to appear for settlement, but nobody came." It has now been told to approach authorities to get the case referred to the labour court.

Trade Practices Loaded Against Workers

Niyogi, who has worked with trade unions for three decades, said warehouse workers are caught in a maze of trade practices that are loaded against them. "For one, the contract period never extends beyond 11 months, so a company can circumvent laws for regular employees. Secondly, warehouses have been set up in Haryana to access cheap labour.

"The minimum wage in Delhi is nearly double that in Haryana and the lack of unions in Haryana allows companies to escape the consequences of non-compliance with laws," he said.

Despite this, manpower is easily available because of the sheer number of youths looking for jobs. "The Amazon model, which is unique globally and is being increasingly adopted, exploits the youths by hiring them for labour-intensive jobs. There is no skill development happening," Niyogi said, adding there was little automation in the warehouses.

"The use of AI is limited to tracking the speed of workers and ensuring they meet targets. For instance, if a conveyor belt is moving fast, workers are forced to match the speed, without which they could end up getting injured," Niyogi said.

Injuries aren't uncommon, said Akhil, especially in the docking section. In May 2023, Akhil's finger was injured as it got stuck in the conveyor belt. He said he got an ESIC card — it gives access to free treatment at the ESIC hospital — after much pleading with the supervisor "and on the condition that I would not get paid for the day".

Why Protests Haven't Worked

Since 2022, Amazon warehouse workers have been organising protests against working conditions every 'Black Friday' — the busiest business day. They call it 'Make Amazon Pay' and apply en masse for leave. But since leave applications are cancelled, only 100-odd workers gather, braving the risk of blacklisting.

AIWA said it is fighting for an eight-hour workday, minimum salary of Rs 25,000, humane work targets, adherence to labour laws, proper seating arrangements, festival bonuses and compliance with International Labour Organisation norms. Dharmender Kumar, convenor of AIWA, said, "No action has been taken on these complaints as workers here cannot unionise like they can in foreign countries. Amazon is still not communicating with us and has only issued statements to the media. But they've said they are looking into the allegations."

What Amazon Has Said

In a media statement put out after workers' complaints over heat stress, Amazon said: "Safety and wellbeing of our associates is of utmost priority for us... All Amazon sites have been equipped with heat index devices that constantly monitor changes in temperature, and our teams implement appropriate corrective measures to provide comfortable working conditions. These include temporarily suspending work in areas reporting a high heat index. Our buildings are temperature controlled... have proper ventilation, offer adequate provision of water and ORS, and follow job rotation as well as work-rest cycles in case of high heat index.

"We are also sensitive to the needs of associates who may have prior health conditions, and our sites are equipped to provide additional emergency medical assistance to those who may need them, such as in cases of a heat stroke.

In a letter to govt, reported by Economic Times on June 26, Amazon India referred to the oath incident as "an unfortunate and isolated" one. "Prompt disciplinary action has been taken against this employee," it said, adding that the employee had thought of it as a motivational exercise. "We take the lessons learnt from this disappointing incident seriously and will double down on our efforts to re-train our managers on workplace, health, safety and wellbeing," it said.

No Action On Complaints: Union

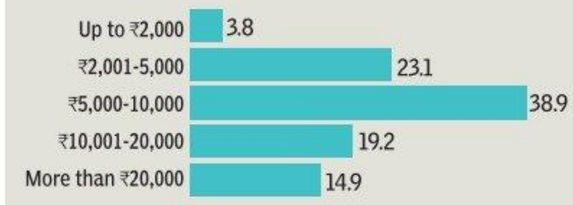
In response, AIWA released another statement on June 26, pointing out that none of the concerns it had raised — prolonged work hours, lack of adequate restrooms and seating, setting of unachievable targets, blocking of cards and blacklisting, lack of annual wage revisions and a forum for grievance redress — had been addressed by the warehouse management.

(Names of workers changed on request)

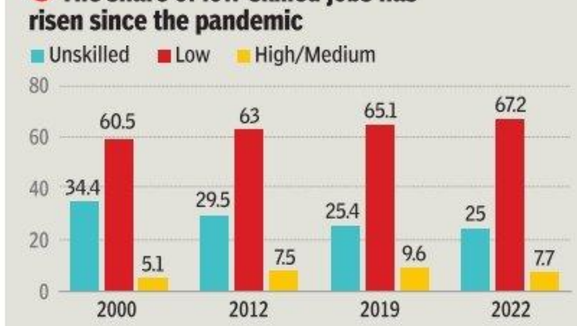
If you think jobs in warehouses are bad, here's a reality check

66% of Indians holding regular jobs earn below ₹10,000 a month, according to ILO's India Employment Report 2024

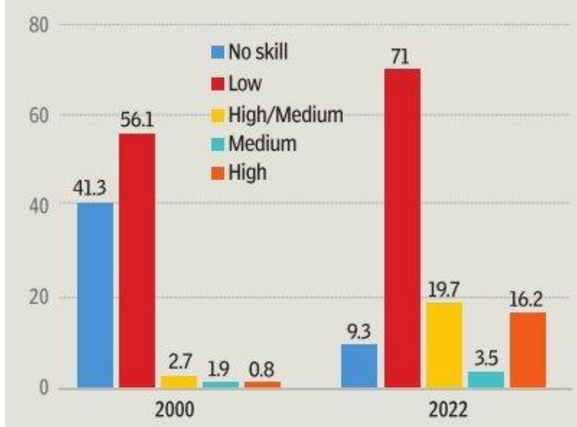
1 Distribution of regular workers, by monthly wages (₹, at 2022 prices), %



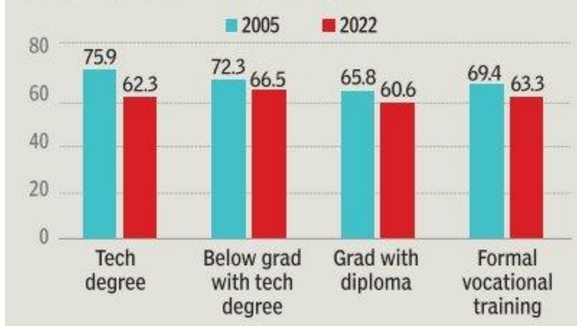
2 The share of low-skilled jobs has risen since the pandemic



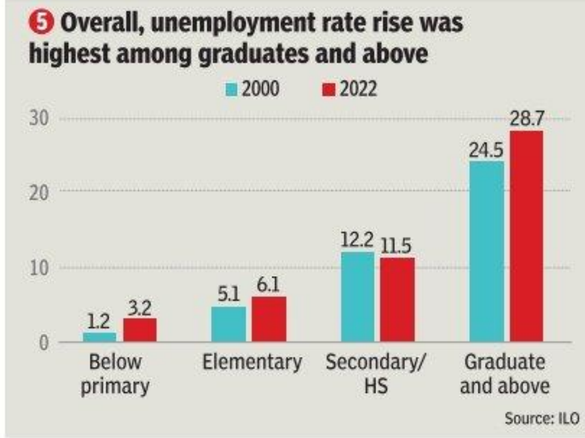
3 Logistics is a big employer in India but 80% of the jobs it creates are low-skill or unskilled



4 Worker-population ratio among youths with technical degrees saw a bigger decline than among youths with formal vocational training, indicating a lack of suitable jobs



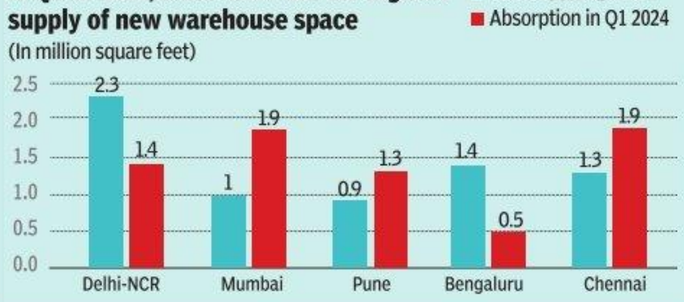
5 Overall, unemployment rate rise was highest among graduates and above



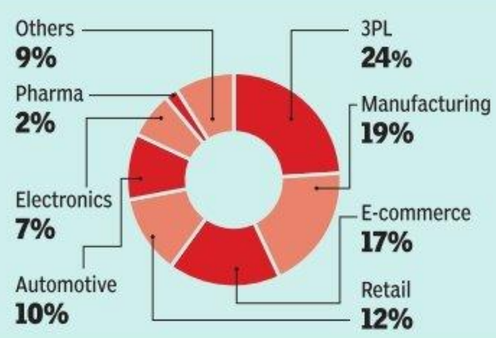
THE WAREHOUSE ECONOMY HAS BOOMED along the Delhi-Jaipur highway in Gurgaon and is now one of India's largest because of the growth of the digital economy, logistics services, aggregation as a business model, and smooth access to both north and west via expressways. Other than Amazon, scores of companies run warehouses in which thousands of people are employed.

In Q1 of 2024, Delhi-NCR had the highest supply of new warehouse space

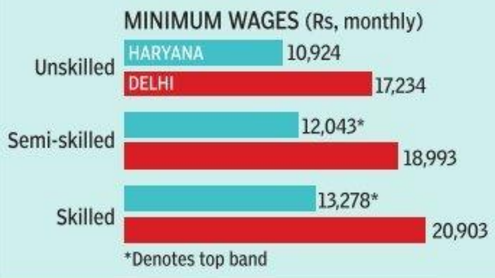
(In million square feet)



E-COMMERCE IS A BIG PLAYER, BUT NOT THE BIGGEST. It's 3PL or third-party leasing, the co-working space equivalent of logistics where space is leased to different firms, that has the largest share of warehouse space



Companies have to pay lower wages in Haryana than Delhi



Warehouse data source: Anarock Capital

If you aren't home, they don't get paid

Mahesh.Buddi@timesgroup.com

Revolving around customer convenience, just how rough the gig economy can get on those who spin its wheels can be gauged from a day in the life of Vijay. Or Sunil Kumar. Or Rajvir.

Vijay sets out on his bike at 7am. On a typical workday, he has to make 50 parcel deliveries within a radius of 10km. For each parcel delivered, Vinod gets Rs 15-16. "If it's prepaid, I get Rs 15.15 and, if it's cash on delivery, I get Rs 16. If a parcel is undelivered, I do not get paid," says the 43-year-old who works nearly 10 hours from 7am-5pm every day, making between Rs 750-800 on a good day.

His earnings are entirely through commission. There's no reimbursement for the fuel he burns, no concept of leaves or a weekly off. No one forces him to work, of course. But such is the model that if he takes a day off, he makes no money that day. If the weather turns bad — like heavy rain or harsh heatwave — there's just one invariable outcome for him: a no-pay day. "When I started, I got Rs 24 per parcel. The fee has come down but everything else, petrol to food, is costlier," says Vijay.

While complaints from Amazon workers turn the focus on working conditions at warehouses, there are thousands engaged in delivery jobs, bringing to your house everything from groceries to gadgets, who are grappling with similar problems, from low pay and lack of benefits to, perhaps, even more testing work conditions.

Sunil Kumar, who delivers parcels from 3pm-11pm in Delhi, is always praying that his next customer is home. "Bringing back more than two undelivered parcels displeases the supervisor and affects the number of parcels assigned to me the next day," says the 32-year-old from Farrukhabad in UP who moved to Delhi last year after signing up with Amazon's Amflex. After rent, petrol, food and other expenses, Kumar, who has a son and a daughter, is left with around Rs 7,000 a month for everything else — from school fee to medical needs.

And the physical strain of carrying heavy parcels and driving long hours begins to show after some months. Sunil says he has a persistent backache and insomnia and describes the job as a "*majboori* (compulsion)" as he hasn't found anything else.

Rajvir, a 27-year-old from Jalore in UP who has been working with Delhivery's vendors for four years, says what hurts him most is pay cut for lost parcels even in case of theft. "Besides, if a customer pays one rupee less because they don't have change, it's deducted from my payment," he says.

Muhammad Mukhtar Alam, national coordinator of Gig Workers Association of India (GigWA), says they have urged the labour ministry to bring in a heat wave surcharge and compensation for families of workers in case of death due to heat stroke. "Most companies now claim to have accident cover for delivery workers, but provident fund and hospital facilities are not there. We have also sought an emergency helpline for distressed workers." he says.

An Amazon spokesperson said Amazon Flex allows delivery partners "to be their own boss" and they are "not expected to make a delivery if they don't feel safe". "Most delivery partners tell us that they love the flexibility of the programme," the spokesperson said.

A Flipkart spokesperson said the company had taken several steps to help out during the heatwave, including providing glucose drinks. "We are also enabling flexibility in the afternoon delivery schedules by encouraging restful breaks when the summer heat is at its peak and allowing relaxed delivery timelines so that packages can be delivered in the evening too," the spokesperson said.

A Delhivery representative, too, said glucose drinks were provided to field workers during the heatwave. "Field executives are at liberty to take breaks to avoid peak afternoon heat by fulfilling orders earlier or later in the day. We also equip our executives with protective gear such as raincoats and winter jackets." The representative added that "all last-mile executives are provided with a grievance redress platform".

(Names of workers changed on request)

INQUIZITIVE

by **JOY BHATTACHARJYA**

1 Italy's busiest airport, located at Fiumicino and serving the city of Rome, is named after which legendary Florentine?

2 Which aircraft, in service in Indian Air Force, has a name that literally means gust of wind in the nation in which it was originally made?

3 Panch phoron or pancha phutana is a spice blend commonly used in eastern India. Four of the five spices in it are fenugreek (methi), wild celery seed (radhuni or joni), fennel (saunf) and nigella (kalonji). Which is the fifth?

4 What do we call the doctor who specialises in the treatment of inflammation in bones, muscles, joints, and internal organs?

5 Brightly coloured Lung Tas and Darchogs are often found alongside trails and roads in Himalayas. What are they?

6 Which Indian film released in 2012 was screened that year at the Cannes Directors' fortnight with its original length of 321 mins, but shown in a different format back in theatres in India ?

7 Jaipur, Benaras and Lucknow are gharanas associated with which dance form noted for its rhythmic foot movements, with dancers' feet traditionally adorned with ghungroo?

8 The first novel of which famous author shares its name with a famous tourist landmark in California?

9 The cricket stadium in North Sound, Saint George, Antigua and Barbuda is named after which legendary sportsperson?

10 If a sweet biscuit is called 'cookie' in US, what are savoury biscuits normally called in that country?

ANSWERS

1 | Leonardo Da Vinci
2 | Rafale means 'gust of wind' or 'burst of fire' in French
3 | Cumin (jeera)
4 | Rheumatologist
5 | Tibetan prayer flags meant to bless the surrounding countryside
6 | Gangs of Wasseypur
7 | Kathak
8 | Vikram Seth, Golden Gate
9 | Viv Richards
10 | Crackers

Second Navy officer held for Korean visa racket, suspected to be kingpin

Ahmed.Ali@timesgroup.com

iStock

The racket came to light following a complaint against a Navy officer from South Korea's consulate in Mumbai

Mumbai: Mumbai police crime branch probing human smuggling to South Korea has arrested a second naval officer and suspected kingpin of the racket, Sub-Lt Braham Jyoti (29), along with a 26-year-old woman, Simran Teji, who ran a company through which she would allegedly send people abroad using forged documents.

The racket came to light following a complaint against a Navy officer from South Korea's consulate in Mumbai. Police said many of the applicants, mostly from J&K, have travelled to S Korea, destroyed their documents, including passports and visas, and have sought asylum. A police team is working on identifying them.

A police note said the first officer arrested, Lt Commander Vipin Dagar (28), would prepare forged documents, forward them to the South Korean consulate in Mumbai and visit it on Jyoti's instructions. Both officers were posted in Western Naval Command, which has its headquarters in Mumbai.

Two others, Ravi Kumar and Deepak Dogra, have been arrested from J&K and are being brought to Mumbai, police said. Police said Kumar wanted to leave for South Korea on a visa acquired through forged documents, while Dogra appears to have been monitoring the overall operation and identifying potential targets.

All arrested accused have been sent to police custody till July 5. They have been booked for cheating, forgery, breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy under IPC as well as relevant sections under Passport Act.

Police have seized 14 passports, documents of four fictitious companies, fake rubber stamps, stamp papers, various certificates, and three bank accounts with a balance of a little over Rs 2 crore. An examination of Jyoti's bank account showed that he had accumulated Rs 1.6 crore in the last eight years, which was beyond his known sources of income.

Investigations showed that the gang would entice people seeking opportunities abroad, particularly in South Korea, to apply for visas even if they were ineligible. The two naval officers would visit the consulate in Mumbai in uniform, claiming to be close relatives of the applicants, to ensure that certain discrepancies were overlooked, said police. They even forced the consulate employees to expedite visa applications, they added.

Police said Teji (26) had established a fictitious company, Tosha International, through which she would send people abroad.

PM congratulates team on T20 WC win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

narendramodi - X

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as they speak with PM Modi on Sunday

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian cricket team on their victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, personally speaking to several players over the phone on Sunday. He praised their outstanding performances, particularly highlighting captain Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli, both of whom announced their retirement from T20 internationals post the win.

Modi commended Rohit Sharma for his exceptional leadership and notable T20 career. "You are excellence personified. Your aggressive mindset, batting, and captaincy have given a new dimension to the Indian team. Your T20 career will be remembered fondly. Delighted to have spoken to you earlier today," Modi conveyed to Sharma.

The PM also had high praise for Kohli, who was instrumental in the final match.

"Like the innings in the finals, you have anchored Indian batting splendidly. You've shone in all forms of the game. T20 cricket will miss you, but I am confident you'll continue to motivate the new generation of players," Modi told Kohli.

Modi singled out Hardik Pandya for his nerve-wracking final over and Suryakumar Yadav for his stunning boundary catch to dismiss David Miller, which proved pivotal in the match's outcome. He also commended Jasprit Bumrah for his significant contributions with the ball.

The PM expressed his gratitude towards head coach Rahul Dravid for his immense contributions to Indian cricket. He emphasised the excellent skill and spirit exhibited by the team throughout the tournament.

"The team's performance has filled the country with pride. Their dedication and hard work have been inspiring, and this victory is a testament to their relentless pursuit of excellence," he added.

Lanka registers protest with India for death of navy sailor

New Delhi: Sri Lanka has registered a protest with India for the death of a navy sailor who was killed while attempting to seize an Indian vessel allegedly poaching in Lankan waters. The sailor sustained critical injuries due to "the aggressive manoeuvres of the Indian trawler, resisting its seizure".

Daily Mirror reported on Saturday that the Lankan foreign ministry summoned a junior official from the Indian high commission and expressed concerns about the incident. Sri Lanka has arrested and booked 10 Indian fishermen for causing the death of the sailor.

Asked about the action against Indian fishermen, ministry of external affairs had said last week it's already raised the issue with Lankan authorities. "On these 10 fishermen, our high commission is aware of the matter. We are aware of the matter and we have taken up this issue with the Sri Lankan side. Hopefully, we will see how best to take it forward," said the MEA spokesperson.

"In Colombo, the foreign ministry summoned a diplomat from the Indian high commission to convey the Sri Lankan govt's concerns about the incident. The ministry's South Asia Director General Niluka Kadurugamuwa conveyed the govt's concerns and also reiterated Sri Lanka's opposition through a formal note to continuing IUU fishing, especially bottom trawling and indiscriminate poaching by Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters," said a report in Lanka's Sunday Times.

There was no confirmation by the Indian side about the summoning. TNN

Waterfall trip turns tragic as 5 drown near Lonavala dam

Pune: A monsoon outing in the backwaters of Bhushi Dam in Pune's Lonavala turned tragic for a group of 15 from two families as five of them drowned in a waterfall near the dam on Sunday afternoon, reports **Mihir Tanksale & Gitesh Shelke**.

The picnickers from Sayyadnagar in Pune's Hadapsar were playing in a stream of the dam when 10 of them began to slip into the waterfall as the volume of water rose. Locals managed to rescue only five of them.

Pune Rural SP Pankaj Deshmukh told **TOI**, "There was a flash flood-like situation after heavy rain in the hills where the families went for a picnic. Bodies of a woman and a 13-year-old girl were recovered in the afternoon. That of an eight-year-old girl was recovered in the evening."

Police issued an advisory to tourists going to the picnic spot not to venture into its waters. But the group ignored warning, said DSP Sathya Sai Karthik.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM

No. 75/Paper Publication/ Fab Dated: 27/06/24. The following corrigendum has been carried out in respect of the Tender mentioned below: **Sl.No.; Particulars; Tender No.; Opening Date From/Existing; To be read as; Quantity From / Existing; To be read as** are as follows : **[1];** TOD; **75244030A;** 01/07/2024; **22/07/2024;** 106 sets; **260 sets. [2];** TOD; **75244032;** 16/07/2024; **18/07/2024;** 214 sets; **322 sets. [3];** TOD; **75244022;** 08/07/2024; **27/07/2024;** 219 sets; **315 sets. [4];** TOD; **75244019;** 02/07/2024; **22/07/2024;** 181 sets; **286 sets.**

PR3-499 SMM/M/CLW/Chittaranjan

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National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FREE (TOLL) RATES AT BHANERA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 02.07.2024 AT 08:00 HRS

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette No. S.O. 592(E) dated 08.02.2024 by MoRT&H and with approval of user fee rates by the Competent Authority of NHAI dated 25.06.2024, the Scheduled Rates of the user fee for the use of National Highway from Km. 86.590 to Km. 112.545 (Jalalabad) section of NH-119 (New NH-34) at Bhanera Fee Plaza at Km. 98.000, village Bhanera, District-Bijnor in the state of Uttar Pradesh at the following rates.

Category of vehicle	Fee for Single Journey (in Rs.)	Fee for Return journey within 24 hrs (in Rs.)	Fee For Monthly Pass for 50 single journey in a month (in Rs.)	Fee For single journey for the Commercial vehicles registered within Bijnor district (in Rs.)
Car, jeep, van or Light Motor vehicle	45	65	1460	20
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	70	105	2355	35
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	150	220	4935	75
Three Axle commercial vehicles	160	240	5385	80
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axles)	230	350	7745	115
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	285	425	9425	140

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles residing within a distance of 20 Km from the Fee Plaza for the FY 2024-25 shall be Rs. 340.

2. The said stretch is being developed under Hybrid Annuity Mode vide Concessionaire Agreements dated August, 2020. The said stretch has been completed and I.E. vide letter no. LNMIPPL/PNC/NHAI/Meerut-Nazibabad/2024-25/1239 dated 06.05.2024 has certified that the completed length of 51.230 km. for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a stretch of 24.290 km. at Bhanera Fee Plaza, which comprises of following:-

Type of section	Length (km)	Equivalent Length (km) for which user fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	15.418	15.418	4-lane
Bypass (costing > Rs.10.00 Cr)	8.740	8.740	4-lane
Structure (Length > 60m)	0.132	1.320	6-lane

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
(i) Return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
(ii) 50 single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 33%)
(iii) Commercial vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of fee plaza (discount 50%)
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to fee rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950 (E).
5. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay as per notification no. G.S.R. 920 (E) dated 25.09.2018.
6. The capital cost of the project is Rs.1622 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
7. For any enquiry and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact [Name: Sh. R.K. Nagarwal, DGM(T)/Project Director, A-1 Vaishno Dham Colony near Gayatri Heights, Kankerkhera, Meerut (UP)- 250001, Phone No. 0121- 2631228, 2631129]

PROJECT DIRECTOR

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FREE (TOLL) RATES AT CHOTA MAWANA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 02.07.2024 AT 08:00 HRS

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette No. S.O. 592(E) dated 08.02.2024 by MoRT&H and with approval of user fee rates by the Competent Authority of NHAI dated 25.06.2024, the Scheduled Rates of the user fee for the use of National Highway from Km. 11.500 (Meerut) to Km. 39.250 (Behsuma) section of NH-119 (New NH-34) at Chota Mawana Fee Plaza at Km. 27.900, village Chota Mawana, District-Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh at the following rates.

Category of vehicle	Fee for Single Journey (in Rs.)	Fee for Return journey within 24 hrs (in Rs.)	Fee For Monthly Pass for 50 single journey in a month (in Rs.)	Fee For single journey for the Commercial vehicles registered within Meerut district (in Rs.)
Car, jeep, van or Light Motor vehicle	45	65	1425	20
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	70	105	2300	35
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	145	215	4815	70
Three Axle commercial vehicles	160	235	5255	80
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axles)	225	340	7555	115
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	275	415	9195	140

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles residing within a distance of 20 Km from the Fee Plaza for the FY 2024-25 shall be Rs. 340.

2. The said stretch is being developed under Hybrid Annuity Mode vide Concessionaire Agreements dated August, 2020. The said stretch has been completed and I.E. vide letter no. LNMIPPL /PNC/NHAI/Meerut-Nazibabad/2024-25/1239 dated 06.05.2024 has certified that the completed length of 51.230 km. for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a stretch of 26.940 km. at Chota Mawana Fee Plaza, which comprises of following:-

Type of section	Length (km)	Equivalent Length (km) for which user fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	25.092	25.092	4-lane
Bypass (costing > Rs.10.00 Cr)	1.700	1.700	4-lane
Structure (Length > 60m)	0.148	1.480	6-lane

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
(i) Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
(ii) 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount-33%).
(iii) Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of fee Plaza (discount 50%)
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to fee rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
5. The Vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay as per notification no. G.S.R. 920 (E) dated 25.09.2018.
6. The capital cost of the project is Rs.1622 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
7. For any enquiry and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact [Name: Sh. R.K. Nagarwal, DGM(T)/Project Director, A-1 Vaishno Dham Colony near Gayatri Heights, Kankerkhera, Meerut (UP)- 250001, Phone No. 0121- 2631228, 2631129]

PROJECT DIRECTOR

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल.– 33004 / 99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.–डी.एल.–अ.–10022024-251989
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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY,
भाग II-खण्ड 3–उप.खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)
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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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No. 561] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024/MAGHA 20, 1945

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 8th February, 2024

S.O. 592(E).—Whereas by notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways number S.O. 5056(E) dated 28th November 2023 issued under Section 11 of the National Highway Authority of India Act 1988 (68 to 1988) , the Central Government has entrusted Entire NH -119 (New NH-34 and NH-534) from km 11.5 to km 138.635 in the state of Uttar Pradesh to the National Highways Authority of India (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority");

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), read with rule 3 of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the "rules"), the Central Government hereby levies the fee on mechanical vehicles at the rate specified in column (2) of the Table 1 for net road section length of 41.152 km and for equivalent structure length (having length more than 60m) of 2.800 km (having length of 0.280 km) and at one and one half times the base rate for bypasses having length of 12.518 km costing rupees ten crore or more on the type of vehicles specified in column (1) of the Table 1 below for the use of four or more lane of Meerut-Najibabad section from design kilometer 11.500 to kilometer 39.250 (existing Km 11.500 to Km 39.240) and from design kilometer 79.500 to kilometer 105.700 (existing Km 86.590 to Km 112.545)of National Highway number 34 (Old NH 119) in the State of Uttar Pradesh and authorises the Authority to collect, either through its officials or through a contractor, the said fee, namely:-

Table-1

Type of vehilce	Base rate of fee per km for the base year 2007-08 (in Rupees)
(1)	(2)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	0.65
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	1.05
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	2.20
Three-axle commercial vehicles	2.40
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (four to six axles)	3.45
Oversized Vehicles (seven or more axles)	4.20

1. The fee to be levied and collected hereunder shall be due and payable at the Fee Plaza for net road length specified for such Fee Plaza namely: -

Table-2

Location of Fee Plaza (chainage)	Length (in km) for which Fee is payable	Rate at which fee is payable
At Design km 27.900 (existing chainage 27.380) at Chota Mawana Village of Meerut Districtin Uttar Pradesh State.	25.602 [Excluding length of Bypass (costing >10 Cr.) and length of structures (>60m)]	100% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above
At Design km 98.000 (existing chainage 104.850) at Bhanera Village of Bijnor District in Uttar Pradesh State.	15.550 [Excluding length of Bypass (costing >10 Cr.) and length of structures (>60m)]	100% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above

2. In addition to above, the following fee shall also be due and payable for the use of the bypass costing Rs 10 crore or more at the following Fee Plaza for net bypass length specified for such Fee Plaza: -

Table-3

Location of Fee Plaza (chainage)	Name of the Bypass	Taking Off	Merging at	Length and Cost of bypass for which additional fee is payable		Rate at which fee is payable
				Length (in Km.)	Cost (in Rs. Crore)	
At Design km 27.900 (existing chainage 27.380) at Chota Mawana Village of Meerut District in Uttar Pradesh State.	Masoorie Bypass of NH - 34	Design km 19.800 (existing km 19.800)	Design km 21.800 (existing km 21.570)	2.000	101.88	150% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above
At Design km 98.000 (existing chainage 104.850) at Bhanera Village of Bijnor District in Uttar Pradesh State.	Swaheri Bypass of NH - 34	Design km 83.150 (existing km 90.240)	Design km 86.700 (existing km 93.510)	3.550	135.69	150% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above
	Kiratpur Bypass of NH - 34	Design km 88.200 (existing km 95.000)	Design km 95.300 (existing km 102.150)	6.968	307.97	150% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above

3. In addition to above, the following fee shall also be due and payable for the use of the following structures having length more than 60m at the following Fee Plaza(s), by converting the length of structures into an equivalent length of highway by multiplying the length of such structures by an equalisation factor of 10: -

Table-4

Location of Fee Plaza (chainage)	Length of structures^ (in km) to be converted into equivalent road length	Equivalent road length (in km)	Rate at which fee is payable
At Design km 27.900 (existing chainage 27.380) at Chota Mawana Village of Meerut District in Uttar Pradesh State	0.148^	1.480	100% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above
At Design km 98.000 (existing chainage 104.850) at Bhanera Village of Bijnor District in Uttar Pradesh State	0.132^^	1.320	100% for four or more lane of the base rates mentioned in Table-1 above

^The detail is as under:

	Chainage		Type of Structure	Length (in km)
	From Km	To Km		
1	15.264	15.336	Major Bridge	0.072
2	35.602	35.678	Major Bridge	0.076
			Total	**0.148**

^The detail is as under:

	Chainage		Type of Structure	Length (in km)
	From Km	To Km		
1	90.184	90.316	Major Bridge	0.132
			Total	**0.132**

4. The rate of monthly pass for a person who owns a mechanical vehicle registered for non-commercial purposes and resides within a distance of twenty kilometres from the fee plaza is Rs 330.000 (Three Hundred and Thirty Only) for the year 2023-24 and is subject to revision every year as\per the provisions of the said rules.
5. For multiple journeys on the highway section, passes shall be issued at the following rates, namely: -

Table-5

Amount Payable	Maximum number of one way journeys allowed	Period of validity
One and one-half times of the fee for one way journey	Two	Twenty four hours from the time of payment
Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys	Fifty	One month from date of payment

6. Fee for commercial vehicle (excluding vehicles plying under National permit) registered in the district where the fee plaza falls shall be 50% of the specified rate for that category of vehicle provided no service road or alternative road is available for use of such commercial vehicles.
7. The driver or owner or a person in charge of a mechanical vehicle which is loaded in excess of permissible load specified for its category, shall be liable to pay fee for entering the overloaded vehicle on the National Highway to the fee collecting agency, equal to the fee specified in sub-rule 1A of rule 10 of the said rules, and shall not be entitled to make use of the highway section unless the excess load has been removed from such mechanical vehicle.
8. All definitions including category of mechanical vehicles, its permissible load, category of exempted vehicles, service road, alternative road, etc. shall be as per definitions specified in the said rules.
9. The fee rates shall be displayed for information of the users in accordance with rule 12 of the said rules.
10. Based on the base rate of fee per kilometer for the base year 2007-08 as mentioned in Table-1 above, the actual amount of fee to be charged from the mechanical vehicles and the discounts will be calculated by the Authority on the basis of the completed length of the section and revised annually in accordance with the rule 5 of the said rules and the same shall be published in at least one newspaper in English and vernacular language.
11. The estimated capital cost of the project is Rupees 1622 crore. The capital cost is subjected to variation as the activities of land acquisition, utility shifting, tree cutting, etc. are yet to be completed. The Authority shall maintain a record of the recovery of capital cost through user fee realised.

[F. No. NHAI/13013/CO/23-24/Fee Notification/Meerut-Najibabad Section/ (km11.50-km 39.250) & (km79.500-km105.700)/E-228678]
SUMAN PRASAD SINGH, Jt. Secy.

CONTRAPUNTO

The heat of the battle is as sweet as the victory

–BOB MARLEY

That Catch, This Match

A triumph that'll live in India's collective memory, T20 World Cup win means a lot more

India's cricket fans needed this. Cricketers in tears as the reality of the triumph sank in, India's streets alive, late at night, with wild celebrations, deliriously happy posts on social media – fans needed them all. For many of them, coping with grim realities of life, real good news is often in short supply. But late Saturday night, momentarily, their troubles seemed swept away. Life was touched by magic. This is what sporting triumphs do, in any country fortunate enough to experience them. The T20 World Cup came to India at a time the country, across class, caste, region and languages, really needed a unifying moment of joy.

Like monsoons that replaced heatwaves, the cricketing triumph also brought relief, ending a drought. For too long, India was monotonously regular at exiting, either in semi-finals, or, failing to cross the final hurdle. Questions were rightly raised about the team's temperament in big, knock-out games, and its ability to handle pressure. This tournament provided a resounding answer, "Yes, we, too, can." The victory came after defeating Australia (World No. 2), England (defending champion and World No. 3), South Africa (World No. 5) and familiar foe Pakistan. It doesn't get more comprehensive than this. We were World No. 1 earlier too. But minus the glittery trophy, it meant little. Now we are a deserving World No. 1.

No such win is achieved without meticulous homework and careful planning. Coach Rahul Dravid and the support staff deserve plaudits for nurturing a talented team and instilling in them a self-belief that didn't leave them even in the toughest moments. So do BCCI's national selectors for choosing a squad, which despite a few debatable choices, was in harmony with a larger plan and vision. This was a genuine team effort. But if there is one cricketer in this fine team who stands out, it is Jasprit Bumrah. Coming back from a debilitating back injury last year, Bumrah is a living example of how high-quality craft can become sublime art. It's mystifying how he does what he does – another way of saying he's a sporting genius.

Finally, a word for South Africans. Their cricket was brave and beautiful. They didn't choke. It is just that sports can be cruel, sometimes by millimetres – as happened to Miller when SKY took *that* catch. That catch, this match, will always be part of India's collective memory.

Bihar's Real Status

JDU's resolution for spl category funding is political ritual. Money isn't the problem. Misgovernance is

JDU has said its party brass will meet Modi to lobby Bihar's cause for special category status, a category that no longer exists. The party brass even passed a 'resolution'. But it's self-delusional, even gimmicky, for both economic and political reasons.

Limited help | The 11 states and UTs that receive such fillip from Centre are the eight Northeast states, J&K, Himachal and Uttarakhand. The funding plan – Centre-state funding of central schemes is split 90:10 – was conceived for specific conditions: states along the international border with hilly terrain and geographically difficult areas where supply of public services is difficult. Insurgencies added to the need for Central help.

Bihar has sought 'special category' status since 2007 and, unsurprisingly, never met the criteria. Centre has repeatedly stated such status was hardly meant for a state where misgovernance is largely responsible for its poverty – giving in would only spark off a similar clamour from other poorly run states. Bihar's assembly passed a resolution for 'special category' status last year. Following its caste survey, Nitish govt announced an allocation of ₹2.5L cr over next five years to help 94L poor families. Then it turned to Centre for funds.

It's about sushasan, babu | JDU's resolution in Delhi is politics that's too clever by half. Modi's only expected to roll this ball down the road. Nitish Kumar of all netas should know that looking to Delhi for assistance will hardly help his poll rhetoric ahead of 2025's Bihar assembly elections, where he's the incumbent, in alliance, as of now, with BJP. Leave alone the staggering numbers of poor, alarm bells are clanging in Bihar – five bridges have given way in the last nine days. Yet Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, ex-Bihar CM, can only see "conspiracy". It's exactly this poverty of mind of Patna's leadership that drives its mindless governance. This is Bihar's burden to bear, and it makes Bihar the poorest of major states, with highest out-migration.

Patna has failed to even utilise funds it gets. More money doesn't get the work done. Bridges are breaking up, and Bihar, still a *bimar* state, is sinking under the weight of decades of misgovernance, not for want of funds.

Life of fans

How World Cup victories get deeply woven into our personal timelines

Arnab Ray

What do World Cup victories mean to us? I don't mean the players; we all know the answer to that. But what does it mean to us, the fans, the ones who do nothing? I can tell you what it means to me. They say that before one dies, the moments that mattered in our life flash before our eyes. World Cup victories will be in my final kaleidoscope.

I will see Kapil Dev running back on the green of Lords, my little boy's heart in my mouth, taking a catch that changes the history of a nation. I will see Misbah, with the Cup in hand, hand it over to the gentle dollies of Joginder Sharma, and I will see Dhoni, of course, sending the ball into the night sky. To that now, add Suryakumar Yadav, balancing himself on the line between victory and defeat, pivoting the game on a knife's edge back to India.

I will see them all, and I will see more. I will see who I was with when those moments came to pass. My father aging from '83 to 2024 in the images in my mind, and a new entrant to those memories, my daughter in 2024. I will see myself, too, reflected in the echoes of how I felt, from the boy wide-eyed in wonder in '83, hoping the power doesn't go out again during the telecast to the young man in another country in '07 and '11 and now back in my own, this time a father – four different me-s in shape, size and mind, tied together through time simply by a chain of indescribable happiness, the happiness made happier by how rare these moments of World Cup victory are, dots on a timeline plagued by defeat and disappointment.

But why this happiness for the achievements of a group of strangers, the cynical older me asks, ones who play for a club called BCCI? Why bother? It's because it's these moments that tie our happiness to billions of others. It's when the trajectories of our lives all meet at a common emotion at the exact same time before they diverge again in random ways, making us aware, even if for a fleeting moment, of a simple yet forgotten truth. We are not alone.

Their Gift To Indian Cricket

Rohit and Virat quit T20 internationals in style, and after creating a team culture that can pay off for years to come

Anand Vasu

The passing of the torch only means something when the flame is proud and tall. And Rohit Sharma has ensured that he is handing a healthy sprig of burning brush to whoever will take it and run.

Not only did Rohit end India's title drought (last ODI World Cup win in 2011 under MS Dhoni, last T20 World Cup crown in 2007), he said his time had passed. Taking a falling leaf from this banyan was Virat Kohli, whose innings of 76 spearheaded India's win in the final, saying he too had played his last essay in this format.

Two pivots who made all difference | There is an easy grace about Rohit, the way he bats, how he addresses his elders, when he rebukes his teammates that does not come naturally to his predecessor Virat Kohli. But the two are remarkable champions and without their coming together this world title might not have been possible.

The culture they have built, six-packs on one side and taking care of each other and carrying everyone with them is remarkable, if largely unknown. They may not like each other but between the two of them you have seen a culture emerge and evolve.

Others who took up baton | You do not win a World Cup on the back of two players, and there have been others who have served masterfully. No praise will be enough for Jasprit Bumrah, who is in a league of his own. Arshdeep Singh's left-arm variation of angle could not have worked if he was not accurate.

The twirly trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel could not have had such a chokehold in the middle overs – if such a thing exists in a 20-over game – if not for how and when they were deployed by an astute captain to exacting fields.

India had two senior gun batsmen as openers, and even if one did not fire till the final game, when he did, it made the difference between a middling score and a competitive one. If you're going to hate on Rohit vs Kohli, best stop reading now, because they work together.

Having this duo at the top meant everyone and everything that came after could just put their heads down and follow instructions. And this is what India did day in and day out till the tournament was won, not losing a single game. Can any more be asked of these players?

There may be ticker tape parades when they return home and blazer-enforced felicitations at Rashtrapati Bhavan, but that will only be official recognition from a country that should already be grateful.

What victory portends | By winning this World Cup, Rohit has opened the doors for many others to go out there and express themselves without worrying about results. For all you know, this could be the proverbial opening of the floodgates, with India winning many more titles and dominating the game for a time.

For one thing, India can finally switch to a Twenty20 mindset like never before. All those fearless youngsters who muscle their way to the top of the Indian Premier League tables can feast.

In this squad alone, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rinku Singh, two of the most uninhibited hitters at either end of the batting spectrum, did not get a look-in. With Rohit and Virat going, opportunities automatically open up.

Winning as a habit | Nothing succeeds like success. Look at those who dominated this great game in the past. Australia got on a roll after winning the World Cup in 1986-87 and then could not be stopped for decades, but they also had the power at the boardroom table at the time. India are there now. The other old force, England, peeps in from time to time, always staying in the picture.

But, what this lot – Rohit, Virat, Bumrah, Jadeja and others – have done is to throw open the arena. To an entire nation of believers. In future, it will be less difficult to join the dots. From Kapil Dev's rank outsiders to Mahendra Singh Dhoni's all-rounders, it took 28 years. Now, India have reached the final in three formats under Rohit in the blink of an eye. The World Test Championship is not yet enough of a reality in the public eye. But the 50-over World Cup and the T20 World Cup are, simply because these are tournaments that crown the best in the world.

There will be people who say that Rohit did not lead India to the ultimate prize, as he does not have the ODI title. But those will soon find themselves in the minority as the world is changing at pace.

Rohit, in the evening of his career, was smart enough to make a way for himself in the new world. And he took the Indian team with him, even occasionally kicking and screaming.

The sun will rise from the east two kites trilling, one crow cawing, with a cat watching in disdain, but the game will go on. This is the gift this champion team has given to generations to come.

The writer is a sports journalist

In This Election, America Has Already Lost

Mumbling Biden and bombastic Trump are frozen forever in gifs from the first presidential debate. Two rambling geriatrics are blundering their way to arguably the world's most powerful post

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American presidential elections are sometimes won, or lost, in what is later perceived as a single moment of brilliance – or blunder. In the 1984 presidential debate, an aging Ronald Reagan – in hindsight a youthful 73 at the time compared to the 160 years split between Joe Biden and Donald Trump – allayed concerns about his advancing years with a joke that made even his relatively young opponent, Walter Mondale, 55, laugh: "I will not make age an issue in this campaign because I don't want to use my opponent's youth and inexperience against him."

In 1988, a solitary mistimed, mismatched image tanked Michael Dukakis's presidential campaign when he was 15 points ahead of George Bush Sr: a photo of him atop an Abrams tank, looking midget-y and fidgety.

Those moments occurred in an era when there was no internet or social media. On Thursday, June 27, 2024, however, it wasn't a howler that foreshadowed a possible Democratic debacle; it was a brain freeze. In a moment that immediately was amplified into a GIF that'll keep on giving, President Joe Biden, at 81 already under scrutiny over his age and senescence, searched for coherence while answering a question about the economy during the first presidential debate with Donald Trump. The momentary mental meandering and mumbling uncorked a cascade of questions about his capacity to navigate another four years in White House.

Beyond the brain freeze, so disjointed was his overall performance and so decrepit did he appear, that within hours, even some Democrats were baying for Biden's blood as they doom-scrolled social media to assess the disaster. They suggested that he step aside in the 2024 presidential race. The liberal chatterati and commentariat too hit the panic button, calling on the President to pass up on the Democratic nomination and allow the party convention to throw up a fresh, younger candidate.

That optics, rather than substance, should define a presidential campaign, is a feature of American politics – perhaps politics everywhere in the age of Twitter and TikTok. Americans expect their leaders to be youthful and articulate, delivering well-honed lines in curated events. Campaign slogans and one-liners are trialled and practised extensively before use. Biden spent a week in Camp David preparing his lines. Then he flubbed it.

Biden's opponent was by no means lucid or youthful. But even amid his familiar bluster replete with lies, delusions, and dissimulation, Donald Trump projected a confident, if bombastic, demeanour in pitching for a second term. He essayed a strong voice and pugnacious body language. In contrast, Biden looked parched and pallid. He spoke in a weak rasp, repeatedly stumbled over words. It's an affliction that comes from an old problem – talking too fast to overcome a stammer he has had to conquer.

Although he recovered some mojo at a public rally the day after, the party remained down on him following the debate fiasco, watched by 51mn Americans. Even before the televised torment, a Gallup poll found 67% of Americans saying Biden is too old to be president, nearly twice as many as those who said the same for Trump, who at 78, is only around four years younger.

Neither man is telegenic. Biden, harshly dubbed walking dead by unsparing critics because of his robotic gait and shuffle, showed his age. Trump, all jowls and scowls, displayed ignorance no bluster could hide. It was painful watching, mitigated partly by the fact that hosts CNN muted the mic of one candidate when the other was speaking to forestall interruptions. Anchors also abjured fact checks to keep the debate moving.

Both worked to Trump's advantage. The mic stop prevented him from maundering his way to a train wreck, as he's often prone to do, enforcing a verbal discipline that he himself is not known to summon. Lack of immediate fact checking also allowed him to gaslight his way in a more restrained performance despite familiar lies and dissembling. The back-and-forth included dancing around policy questions that required greater command of facts and figures, where Biden has the advantage – if only his communication were comprehensible – because of his long years in public life and lawmaking.

The optics were bad even though the topics were familiar – abortion, immigration, economy, climate change, among others, all flagged and flogged to death. With entrenched positions reflecting their constituents' views rather than their own convictions, the debate offered nothing new. The only takeaway is that they're in for months of repetitive dissimulation till Nov 5.

The debate basically informed the world that a Trump II administration would be no different from Trump I, only turbocharged by even greater hubris. Just as a Biden second term will be more of the same, with less energy and passion.

Polls are again pointing to a tight race in which a resistible force is tangling with a movable object. There is national dismay at having to choose between two rambling geriatrics for arguably the world's most important job. In this tedious contest, Trump did not clinch the debate; Biden blew it. Regardless of who won the first war of words, America lost.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Truly dualism is the root of suffering. There is no other remedy for it than the realisation that all this that we see is unreal, and that I am the one stainless reality, consisting of consciousness.

Ashtavakra Gita 2:16

The Angels And Demons Within Us

Jug Suraiya

On March 4, 1861, the 16th President of United States, Abraham Lincoln, took the oath of office and made his inaugural address to his country, over which loomed the gathering storm of a murderous civil war.

Seven of the states of the South had already seceded from the Union because of Lincoln's determination to abolish slavery. It was feared that the remaining eight southern states would soon follow, tearing the republic apart.

The towering, gaunt-faced president appealed to his compatriots, "The mystic chords of memory…will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched as they will be…by the better angels of our nature."

What are the 'better angels' in us that Lincoln evoked, in the hope of avoiding a blood-drenched conflict? And if there are the better angels – of compassion, love, and fellowship – must there not also be their opposite, the demons of hate, and rage, and violence, the two sides often engaged in an unresolved civil war within us?

In his 1886 novella, RL Stevenson personified the angels and demons in us in the characters of the good and gentle Dr Jekyll and the homicidal Mr Hyde, two diametrically opposed psyches inhabiting the same physical body.

The German-Swiss philosopher-novelist, Hermann Hesse, rendered his interpretation of this human duality in his 1927 parable, *Steppenwolf*. The protagonist, the middle-aged Harry Haller, is suffering from a deep-seated emotional and spiritual crisis.

He deems himself an outsider, isolated from the conventionalities of everyday life, and is engaged in a relentless daily, internal battle between an innate animalistic wolf-being and the yearning to elevate himself to the ranks of the "Immortals", such as Goethe and Mozart, representative of the pinnacle of human attainment.

There is a lurking Steppenwolf in all of us, caught as we are in a confrontation that we might try to avoid acknowledging, between the ideals of truth, honesty, kindness, and generosity and their adversaries – falsehood, deceit, avarice and malice.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Only too often, and too clearly, do we distinguish right and wrong, what we ought to do, and what we are tempted to do; we hear simultaneously the voice of our better angel and the seductive whisper of fallen Lucifer.

The choice we make, in matters trivial or tragic, small or great, is often not a choice at all, but a submission to what the Greeks called akrasia, a state of unmindfulness in which we act against our better judgment through weakness of will.

DH Lawrence wrote:

"This is what I believe:
That I am I.
That my soul is a dark forest.
That my known self will never be more than a little clearing in the forest.
That gods, strange gods, come forth from the forest into the clearing of my known self and then go back.
That I must have the courage to let them come and go.
That I will never let mankind put anything over me, but that I will always try to recognise and submit to the gods in me and the gods in other men and women.
There is my creed."

To be human is to track our way through this haunted forest in that unique expedition that we call our life.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

MUTUAL FUN by HSBC Mutual Fund

An Investor Education & Awareness Initiative by HSBC Mutual Fund

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Visit https://grp.hsbc/KYC w.r.t. one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) process, complaints redressal process including SEBI SCORES (https://www.scores.gov.in). Investors should only deal with Registered Mutual Funds, to be verified on SEBI website under Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions (https://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). Investors may refer to the section on Investor Education on the website of HSBC Mutual Fund for the details on all Investor Education and Awareness Initiatives undertaken by HSBC Mutual Fund.

CL 1556

Card dues & gold loans beat bank credit growth of 20%

Card Spends Up 26%, Gold 30% Even As RBI Flags Concerns

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: For banks, credit card outstanding and gold loans remain outliers in growth. The segments recorded a year-on-year increase of 26.2% and 29.7% respectively as of May 2024.

This is much higher than the 19.8% growth in overall bank credit which — adjusting bank's books for the addition of loans due to HDFC's merger with HDFC Bank — shrinks down to 16.1%.

The increase in credit card and gold loans comes at a time when RBI has expressed concerns over unsecured credit and is taking a hard look at the gold loan books of some lenders, given the surge in prices of the yellow metal.

Another segment that has been of concern to RBI — bank credit to non-banking financial companies — has moderated. But this segment's growth is still faster than overall bank credit growth at 16%.

Monthly sectoral data on bank credit released by RBI shows that credit card outstanding stood at Rs 2.7 lakh crore as of May, up from Rs 2.6 lakh crore at the end of March 2024 and Rs 2.1 lakh crore a year ago.

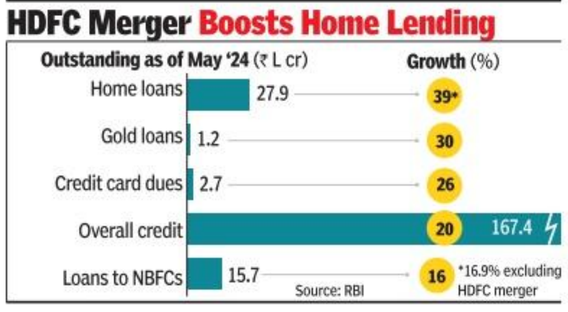
Banks' gold loan books stood at Rs 1.2 lakh crore at the end of May, compared to Rs 1 lakh crore at the end of March and Rs 90,036 crore in the year-ago period. Bankers said that the increase could also have been due to an increase in market share from NBFCs. Credit cards and gold loans are watched carefully because they reflect household indebtedness and at times financial distress.

The personal segment, with a year-on-year growth rate of 28.7%, continues to be the fastest-growing among industry, agriculture, services and personal loans. However, this is due to the HDFC-HDFC Bank merger, which has resulted in home loans growing nearly 39% yearly (16.9% excluding the merger).

Excluding the merger impact, services are the fastest-growing segment at 23.2% versus 17.8% in the personal segment. A large component of service industry loans comprises of providing loans to lenders.

While the growth rate in credit to NBFCs has moderated from a high of 27% a year ago, the book size continues to remain large at nearly Rs 15.7 lakh crore — up 1.3% from Rs 15.5 lakh crore in March.

HDFC Merger Boosts Home Lending



Bull run: FPIs turn buyers, invest ₹26.6k cr

New Delhi: After two months of net outflows, foreign investors turned buyers in June, infusing Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

Looking ahead, attention will gradually shift towards the Budget and Q1 FY25 earnings, which could determine the sustainability of FPI flows, Vipul Bhowar, director, listed investments, Waterfield Advisors, said.

According to data with depositories, FPIs have made a net infusion of Rs 26,565 crore in equities this month. This came following a net outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said political stability and the sharp rebound in markets aided has forced FPIs to turn buyers in India. AGENCIES

Money spent abroad grows 29x in a decade

Forex Spends Outpace Increase In Inward Remittance, Which Rises 71% In FY14-24

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The increase in forex spends by Indians has far outpaced the growth in remittance of foreign exchange workers into India over the decade.

Money spent abroad has gone up nearly 29 times — from $1.1 billion in FY14 to $31.7 billion in FY24 — largely due to travel. The amount sent home by foreign workers has gone up 71% from $70 billion to $120 billion over the same period. India continues to be the highest recipient of foreign remittances, getting nearly twice the amount received by Mexico at $66 billion.

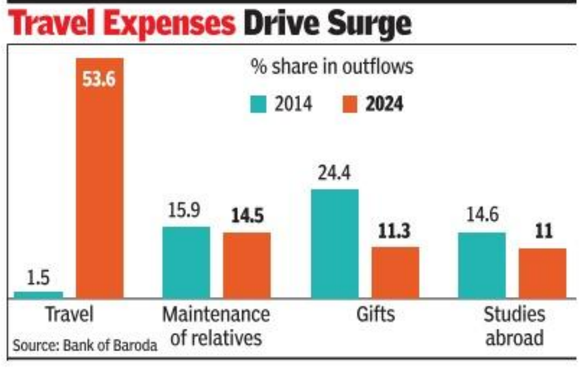
According to a study by the Bank of Baroda, money flowing into India has increased at a CAGR of 5.5% over the last decade — higher than the global growth rate of 4%. Only Mexico, at 10%, has grown its inward remittances at a faster decadal CAGR than India, which has helped it overtake China to claim the second place.

"From just $1.1 billion in FY14, remittance outflows increased to $31.7 billion in FY24. This translates into a CAGR of over 40%, which is much higher than the CAGR of remittance inflows in the same period," said Aditi Gupta, an economist with BoB. According to Gupta, the rise of an aspiring middle-class has ensured that discretionary spending of households goes up, which is reflected in higher travel expenses to foreign countries. In 2024, BoB expects inflows to continue to grow.

Global growth is expected to gradually improve, with the US expected to remain resilient. Labour markets in the US, UK and Eurozone remain robust with unemployment rates near record lows, which bodes well for inward remittances. Further, while there seems to be some slowdown in remittance inflows from the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCCs), stable oil prices should help in reviving inflows from the region, the report said.

In terms of sources of remittance inflows globally, the US is the largest source of remittances to the world, accounting for over 25% of total remittance inflows in the world in 2021. This was followed by the GCCs at 17%. Apart from these, Germany, the UK and Russia are also important contributors to global remittance flows.

Travel Expenses Drive Surge



Import of glass fibre faces probe

New Delhi: India has initiated an anti-dumping probe into the import of glass fibre from China, Thailand, Bahrain, following a complaint by a domestic player.

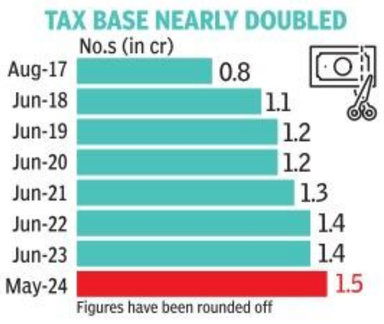
The commerce ministry's investigation arm is probing the alleged dumping of glass fibres and its articles originating in or exported from these countries. The duty is aimed at protecting domestic industry from cheap imports.

Glass fibre or fibre glass is reinforced plastic that is strong, lightweight, flexible and can be moulded into many complex shapes. It has many industrial and domestic uses. Owens-Corning (India) has filed the application seeking initiation of anti-dumping investigation on imports. AGENCIES

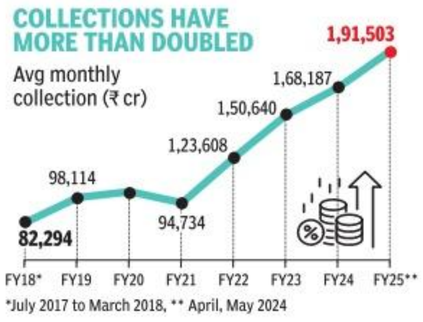
7 YEARS OF GST: MILESTONES AND MISSES

GST completes seven years on Monday. While it has helped boost collections and improve compliance, there is still a long way to go to **lower the burden** on consumers and reduce complications

TAX BASE NEARLY DOUBLED



COLLECTIONS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED



TAX ON SEVERAL PRODUCTS HAS COME DOWN

BUT, THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY SLABS

	GST (%)	Items
Exempted	0	Milk, education, health, foodgrains, salt
Slab 1	5	Sugar, packed paneer, edible oil, footwear under ₹500, apparel under ₹1,000, EVs, restaurants, economy class air ticket
Slab 2	12	Butter, ghee, computers, mobiles, umbrella, hotels with room rent up to ₹7,500 a night, business and first class air travel
Slab 3	18	Capital goods, ice cream, corn flakes, printers, pasta, aluminium foils, hotels with room rent of over ₹7,500 a night
Slab 4	28	Cement, ACs, online gaming, casinos
Misc	1	Affordable housing
Misc	1.5	Cut & polished diamonds
Misc	3	Gold jewellery, biscuits

MANY COMMON USE GOODS AND SERVICES HAVE HIGH RATES

	GST (in %)
Telecom	18
Insurance	18
ACs	28
Cement	28
TV sets over 32 inch	28
Tyres used in cars, bikes	28
Dish washers	28
Small cars	29
Bikes with over 350cc engine	31

CESSES ADD TO TAX BURDEN

	Effective rate (%)
Caffinated beverages	40
Large cars & SUVs*	48-50
Pan masala	88
Gutka	232

*Cars over 1,200cc engine capacity, over 4 mtr length

Source: GSTN, Clear Tax

VW in talks to sell stake, rope in local partner

Pankaj.Doval @timesgroup.com

Prague: German auto giant Volkswagen is in talks to sell stake in its India business to a local partner, having failed to crack the market despite investing over $2 billion in the country.

The company is developing new cost-competitive cars to shore up its low market share against launching "over-engineered" European vehicles that have failed to find success, a top global executive has said.

The group has also advocated that hybrids should be given lower tax rates as govt cannot "force people to buy electrics" at a time when the market takes time to transition from internal combustion engines to green cars, **Klaus Zellmer**, global CEO of Skoda Auto (which is leading VW group's India investments and strategy), has said.

On reasons for talks with potential local partners — where Mahindra & Mahindra is understood to be the front-runner — Zellmer said, "We have been in India for over 20 years and have not proven to be on the right track. So, you try a new track. I am convinced that if we find the right partner, then we can only learn and benefit from each other…"

Zellmer did not specify the timelines by when the group will close the local partner talks. Asked whether it will be a partnership where equity will be offered to the new player, he said, "We are looking for a true partnership… that is (to have a) skin in the game. It's a bit like getting married without a contract. It means (getting access to) engineering competence, sales competence, procurement competence."

He said European cars are often "over-engineered" which may not be required in India. "Often we build cars according to our own expectations, and they tend to be over engineered. And, over-engineering always comes with a price tag. This price tag is something that weakens our competitive position. So, we need to learn, (and) we need to be aware of the sweet spot."

He said India partner will give local connections for sourcing and procurement to make the vehicles competitive. "Combined with our engineering excellence, it can be a winning combination… It will not be right to say that we are a weak partner who is looking for directions, for somebody to lead us. It has to be on eye level for both, we have to benefit each other, and then it can be a lot more successful than in past."

On incentives for hybrids, he said, "I can only say that lessons learnt in China, Europe and US suggest just giving options between BEVs (battery electric vehicles) and ICE — take it or leave it — is not the right way. If you look at China and share of hybrids, it's staggering and higher than BEVs… This is what we need to do…"

(The writer was in Prague at VW group co Skoda Auto's invite)

Correction

In a graph carried in edition dated June 29, the weekly change in stock prices of Somany Ceramics, GR Infra, Indiabulls Housing & Ambuja Cements were recorded erroneously due to a technical glitch at the data sourcing site. The error is regretted.

IBBI forms: To ease the compliance burden and enhance effectiveness of the liquidation process, IBBI has launched a set of electronic forms under IBC Code. AGENCIES

Ola Elec to invest $100mn in its gigafactory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Ola Electric founder Bhavish Aggarwal said the company is investing $100 million in the initial phase of building its gigafactory to produce indigenous lithium-ion batteries at its facility in Tamil Nadu.

The company aims to power its electric vehicles with its own battery cells by early next year, replacing the batteries currently sourced from Korea and China. Aggarwal believes that in-house battery production will reduce costs and improve profitability, although the decision to pass on the benefits to consumers will depend on market conditions.

The company is also developing solid-state batteries at its battery innovation centre in Bengaluru, which it claims will reduce the risk of battery fires. However, this technology is still in the research phase, and Aggarwal acknowledges that it is difficult to provide a timeline for completion, as solid-state battery technology is still nascent globally, with companies like Toyota Motors and Nissan also working on similar technology.

Ola's gigafactory operates an all-women factory for EV manufacturing. In contrast to recent reports suggesting that Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn, one of Ola's suppliers, has excluded married women from its iPhone plant workforce, Aggarwal said, "Women are more disciplined and dexterous on the floor. There are more women in the junior level and you would have seen some men in the factory. Those are at the managerial level. We don't find a lot of qualified women at the managerial level and end up hiring men. Even there, we hope to hire more women."

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Hold MF Units In Your Demat... Or Buy From Fund House Directly

As many as 7.9mn new investors started investing in mutual funds over the last one year, taking the total number of unique mutual fund investors up to 46mn. Many more investors are likely to buy mutual funds in the coming months. Investors have an option to buy and hold their mutual fund units in their demat account or they can **buy units from the fund house** which does not require any demat account.

How Do You Buy & Hold MF Schemes?

Once you have chosen a mutual fund scheme to buy, the next step is to proceed to buy these units and execute your transaction. There are **a number of ways to buy mutual funds**, be it the fund house websites, RTA (registrar and transfer agent) websites, third-party platforms and stock brokers. Investors can opt for a statement of holding, or certain brokerages give you the option to hold units in a demat form. Some brokers only offer MFs in a demat form, while a few offer a mix of the two. Depending on the comfort and ease of an investor one can choose between the two. Investors who buy units in the physical form can later convert them into a demat form, by submitting a request to the depository participant and units bought in demat form can also be rematerialised again.

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at https://scores.gov.in

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Advantages Of Buying MFs In Demat Form...

Distributors believe one big advantage of buying MF units in a demat form is that you can **get a consolidated view of your investments in one place**, along with other investments. Investors often buy stocks, gold bonds, ETFs and NCDs which lie in the demat account. With mutual fund units there too, investors can get a consolidated view of their portfolio. In addition, since all investments are in a single location, it makes portfolio management simpler. Investors can monitor, track their assets, transaction history, and portfolio performance with a single statement. Another big benefit of holding mutual funds in a demat account is that it helps in **streamlining the transfer of units** to the nominee or legal heirs in the event of death. In the case of physical mutual units, investors will have to submit a separate set to each asset management company where you have an investment, while in a demat account, one single set of documents need to be submitted to just the depository participant.

Why Are Investors Hesitant?

One of the big disadvantages is that investors have to **incur additional costs** related to maintenance of the demat account, which is levied by the broker. One big problem with units in a demat form is that they are **serviced only by the depository** and investors can't ask queries to the fund house or transact with the fund house or the registrar. There are certain platforms that use demat which do not allow STP (systematic transfer facility) in demat accounts, which many investors look to use while staggering their investments.

—PRASHANT MAHESH

JUST BEFORE THE 2ND HALF GRANIT SAID, 'PLEASE RUBEN, SCORE A GOAL, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER', AND THEN I WAS ON THE BALL A SHORT WHILE LATER. I REMEMBERED WHAT GRANIT SAID, TELLING ME TO SHOOT - I SHOT, AND THE BALL FOUND THE BACK OF THE NET."

—RUBEN VARGAS | SWISS WINGER

ENGLISH BREAK FAST

Southgate's Men Finally Show Some Spark, Script Comeback Against Plucky Slovakia To Advance Into Quarters Against Swiss

Gelsenkirchen: England advanced to the quarterfinals of the European Championship after Jude Bellingham scored a stunning overhead kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time to spark a comeback 2-1 win after extra time against Slovakia on Sunday.

Bellingham's acrobatic overhead kick leveled the round-of-16 game at 1-1 with seconds remaining at the Veltins Arena. Harry Kane headed in the winner in the first minute of extra time as England avoided one of the biggest shocks in the history of the Euros. Ivan Schranz scored in the first half for Slovakia and his goal looked like being enough to eliminate England, which was one of the pre-tournament favorites and runner up at the last Euros.

But Bellingham's wonder goal sent the game to extra time and Kane sealed the win and a place in the quarterfinals where England will play Switzerland in Dusseldorf.

England were unable to get a foothold against a Slovakia team who were aggressive from the start and pressed their opponents relentlessly, taking the lead with an Ivan Schranz strike from a counter attack in the 25th minute.

Declan Rice hit the post from long range as England desperately sought an equaliser, but it wasn't until five minutes into added time that Bellingham found the net, with his side's first shot on target in the game, before Kane headed home in the first minute of extra time.

ROUND OF 16

ENGLAND Bellingham 90 + 5, Kane 91	2
SLOVAKIA Schranz, 25	1 aet

Getty Images

HARRY HOUDINI: Harry Kane scores the winner for England in extra-time against Slovakia at Arena AufSchalke on Sunday

England captain Kane, who had a ratther inconspicous presence throughout, came alive a minute into extra-time. Cole Palmer's free-kick is punched to the edge of the box by Slovakian goalkeeper Martin Dubravka.

Eberechi Eze meets it with a scuffed volley which comes to Ivan Toney who heads it across the box for Kane to nod in. It completed England's turnaround in a matter of minutes,

For so long it looked like being one of the most humbling defeats England had ever suffered — bringing back memories of its elimination at the hands of Iceland at Euro 2016.

Boos rang around the stadium in the first half as frustration grew among fans after Slovakia took the lead through Schranz's goal in the 25th minute. England - ranked fifth - dominated the second half in search of an equalizer. AGENCIES

14 Harry Kane has scored 14 goals at major tournaments (World Cup/Euros), with only four European players netting more than him - Cristiano Ronaldo (22), Miroslav Klose (19), Gerd Müller (18) and Jürgen Klinsmann (16).

Germany ride out of thunder, and lightning

Pass Denmark Test But Clouds Remain

Dortmund: Germany are through to the quarter finals of a major tournament for the first time in eight years, but clouds remain for Julian Nagelsmann's Euro 2024 hosts.

The home side won 2-0 in Dortmund, coming up not only against a determined and organised Denmark, but also a 25-minute thunderstorm delay which derailed Germany's early momentum.

ROUND OF 16

GERMANY Havertz 53-pen, Musiala 68	2
DENMARK	0

In a match Nagelsmann called "bizarre" and "wild", Germany needed a fair share of luck to get past the Danes, with two VAR reviews within a minute going in favour of the hosts.

Nagelsmann's unforced changes to his starting XI will also come under fire, particularly the decision to replace the in-form Florian Wirtz with Leroy Sane, who had another frustrating night.

Having ridden out the storm on Saturday, Germany will hope for a clearer week ahead. Nagelsmann's decision to replace the defensive-focused Maximilian Mittelstaedt with the attack-minded David Raum was a reward for the latter's assist for Niclas Fuellkrug's late equaliser against Switzerland. The other unforced change was difficult to understand, with Nagelsmann dropping Wirtz for Sane.

Wirtz, 21, came on with nine minutes remaining and was an immediate upgrade. The coach's decision to again pick Kai Havertz over Fuellkrug also raised eyebrows, despite the Arsenal forward converting a second-half penalty.

In general play, Havertz had a number of chances but could not break through. Fortunately for Germany, Jamal Musiala had killer instinct when it mattered. AFP

AFP

MAN OF THE MOMENT: Jamal Musiala seals the win for Germany

WAR ON VAR: CONFUSING TECHNOLOGY

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said the game is now better for its technology. "If VAR interrupts the game and you compare it to the former days. I think it's more fair than if you have no VAR." Former England captain Alan Shearer doesn't think so. "The hand ball law is (expletive)," Alan Shearer, the former England great, wrote on social media. A look at the decisions that evoked criticism...

Referees remotely controlled: Referees can often seem to be remotely controled, going against FIFA's pledge in 2016: "Never lose the authority of referees, never take it out." "Michael Oliver is not making this decision," Tottenham's Australian coach Ange Postecoglou said of the penalty award during the Denmark game. The ball clearly struck Andersen's hand though from a hard-hit cross at such a close distance that Oliver did not initially judge it a foul. VAR intervened, applying the strict laws of the game regarding handball and penalty was awarded to Germany. VAR officials also were not technically responsible for the offside judged against Denmark's Thomas Delaney, who had a toe or two beyond the last German defender. It was a binary ruling by the multi camera-based Semi-Automated Offside Technology (SAOT) system.

The unlucky Belgian: This is the tournament, of course, where the joint top scorers through Saturday have three goals and Belgium forward Romelu Lukaku alone has had three goals overruled by VAR. Lukaku being offside before scoring against Romania was similarly marginal.

Overruled! After 20 corrections by VAR in 36 games, the rate was bumped up by the three key overrules — two goals disallowed, one for each team, and the Germany penalty awarded — in the second of the R16 games.

Offside tech: The offside tech has been giving decisions within an average of 46 seconds, while VAR decisions overall were averaging 1 min, 36 secs. AGENCIES

1 Mbappe's goal against Poland (a penalty) was his first at Euros. He has played six games at the tournament.

KEVIN DE BRUYNE

Neighbourly Disputes: Misfiring Belgium Face World Cup Demons In France Showdown

Asterix meets Tintin

Duesseldorf: Belgium have a chance for revenge on Monday when they face neighbours France in the last 16 of Euro 2024, a showdown between two big-hitters who have played well below expectations so far.

Defeat to France in the semifinals of the 2018 World Cup was extremely bitter for Belgium, as a so-called "golden generation" of players was sucker-punched by Les Bleus after a stunning last-eight victory over Brazil. And frustration boiled over in the stands in Stuttgart on Wednesday even though their goalless draw with Ukraine pushed Belgium into the knockout stage.

Belgium would have avoided France and in fact been on the other, ostensibly easier, side of the draw had they beaten Ukraine and finished top of Group E. Instead the Red Devils had to settle for a point which infuriated their supporters.

The fury was such that star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne appeared to instruct his team-mates not to head over to applaud supporters after the game, later saying little more than "we need them against France".

"I think we had a lot of chances. For me we don't really need to change anything, just be more sharp," Johan Bakayoko told reporters on Saturday.

"And yeah, we need to have a bit more luck which is also a part of football. Sometimes we score four or five times and sometimes we don't."

Meanwhile, Antoine Griezmann's current struggles reflect that of a France side for whom the goals have worryingly dried up.

France emerged from their group unbeaten but they scored just twice in three matches, one an own goal which allowed them to beat Austria, and the other a penalty by Kylian Mbappe in a 1-1 draw with Poland.

In between there was a 0-0 stalemate with the Netherlands in which Griezmann notably squandered a couple of excellent opportunities.

Griezmann, now 33 and playing at his sixth major international tournament for France, was extraordinary at the World Cup in Qatar.

The contrast between Qatar and the Euros so far for Griezmann has been striking. The Atletico Madrid star reverted to a role on the left of a midfield three in the win against Austria, but the broken nose suffered by Mbappe in that game had a big impact on his vice-captain. Griezmann, now wearing the captain's armband, was again asked to play behind the centre-forward - in this case Marcus Thuram - against the Netherlands but endured an off-night. So much so that he was dropped against Poland, only appearing as a substitute for the last half-hour. "It was just a choice. That's all," insisted Deschamps after that game in Dortmund.

Not since Euro 2016, when France lost the final as hosts, had Griezmann been omitted from the starting line-up in a major tournament game with something on the line.

So now the question is what role Griezmann will play against Belgium. The expectation is that he is recalled to the starting line-up where he can support Mbappe. With Mbappe available there is a little less pressure on Griezmann to score. AGENCIES

120 Belgium is France's oldest and most frequent opponent. The first international for both countries was a 3-3 draw in Brussels 120 years ago.

IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT, THEY CAN CHANGE THE CHANNEL."
— FRANCE COACH **Didier Deschamps** TOLD HIS DISGRUNTLED ARMCHAIR CRITICS

"Once the group stage is over, it's in the past, just as it is for us. Mentally, they'll be different. They're still a side who can surprise you at any moment."
—Eduardo Camavinga, FRANCE MIDFIELDER

2/31 France's Antoine Griezmann has netted just twice in his last 31 games for his country.

2 France and Belgium met in the semifinals of the 2018 World Cup and the 2021 Nations League, with the French winning each time.

"As we are neighbours, this match is always a classic and something special. They've won the last two matches we've played against them even though we played well, so we want to win."
— Timothy Castagne BELGIUM DEFENDER

FRANCE VS BELGIUM
Dusseldorf Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (75 games)

FRANCE WON 26 | DRAWS 19 | BELGIUM WON 30

FORM GUIDE

FRANCE: D D W D W

BELGIUM: D W L W W

(most recent first)

David vs Goliath? Not quite

Portugal Face Slovenia For Place In Last Eight

Frankfurt: Concerns are building among Portugal supporters over Roberto Martinez's approach as his side take on Slovenia in the Euro 2024 last 16 on Monday.

Portugal arrived in Germany among the contenders to win the tournament for a second time, but despite topping Group F, their performances lowered expectations over how far the Selecao can go. They scraped a last-gasp 2-1 win over the Czech Republic, impressed in a 3-0 victory against Turkiye and then fell to a shock 2-0 defeat by debutants Georgia. Martinez deployed a 3-5-2 formation against the Czechs and Georgia which his players struggled to get to grasps with, while their more familiar 4-3-3 worked well against Turkiye.

After qualifying for the Euros with a 100 percent record, Portugal's form since has been far patchier, with Georgia inflicting the first competitive defeat in Martinez's reign. Slovenia were the first side to beat Martinez's Portugal in a March friendly, with his 3-5-2 system failing again that day. But veteran Portugal defender Pepe said that the team needs to step up and follow Martinez's instructions better.

"I think we lost when we should have lost and now we need to learn from that," said the centre-back ahead of the clash with Slovenia in Frankfurt. "(We must learn) from what we didn't do as players, whether we followed what the coach asked us to do in general, and of course, try not to make mistakes in the next game."

However some in Portuguese media believe the players are puzzled by Martinez's plans and therefore are struggling to execute them. Despite rotating virtually his whole team for the defeat by Georgia, Ronaldo still started.

Matjaz Kek's side could prove thorny opposition for a Portugal team struggling to hit their stride. AGENCIES

There are concerns coach Martinez is too deferential to 39-year-old striker **Cristiano Ronaldo**, who did not score in any of the three group games.

PORTUGAL VS SLOVENIA
Frankfurt Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (1 game)

PORTUGAL WON 0 | DRAWS 0 | SLOVENIA WON 1

FORM GUIDE

PORTUGAL: L W W W L

SLOVENIA: D D D D W

(most recent first)

Spalletti keeps Italian job

Berlin: Italy are back at square one after a humbling exit from Euro 2024 as Luciano Spalletti was tasked on Sunday with revitalising the Azzurri despite his role in an embarrassing title defence.

A shockingly one-sided 2-0 defeat to Switzerland in Berlin, where Italy won the 2006 World Cup, led to last-16 elimination. Saturday's limp loss was one of the lowest points in Italy's history, and the latest in a worryingly large number of humiliations, including missing out on the last two World Cups. On Italy's national broadcaster RAI, the verdict was swift and brutal: "unacceptable", "slow and predictable", said commentators, while the headlines in newspapers ranged from "Shameful" to suggesting the players take up farming.

Spalletti's future as Italy coach had been in doubt. However the 65-year-old was confirmed in his post as Italy's chief Gabriele Gravina said a "long-term project" could not be abandoned. AFP

LUCIANO SPALLETTI

MARTINEZ BRACE STEERS ARGENTINA INTO LAST-8

Miami: Argentina shrugged off the injury absence of Lionel Messi to maintain their perfect start at the Copa America on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over Peru in Miami.

Lautaro Martinez scored twice at the Hard Rock Stadium to seal a win that ensured Argentina advance to the quarterfinals as Group A winners.

With Messi sidelined after complaining of a sore right hamstring, and coach Lionel Scaloni serving a one-game suspension, Argentina made nine changes to their starting XI at the Hard Rock Stadium.

But despite the makeshift-looking line-up, Argentina were always in control against a disappointing Peru side who managed just one shot on goal during a one-sided encounter.

Martinez's first goal came just after half-time. A sublime through ball from Angel Di Maria released the Inter Milan forward, who calmly lifted a deft finish over advancing Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Argentina had a chance to double their lead in the 72nd minute after Jesus Castillo handled in the area to concede a penalty.

But Leandro Paredes crashed his ensuing spot-kick against the woodwork to leave the score at 1-0.

Martinez then grabbed a second in the 86th minute, latching on to a long pass forward before finishing past Gallese.

Replays indicated Martinez appeared to shove defender Aldo Corzo in the build-up but referee Cesar Ramos waved Peru's protest and the goal stood.

"It was tough in the first half because they were defending deep, but the first goal opened up the game," Martinez said afterwards. "There's a lot more to come from us." AGENCIES

AP

"I went to hug Leo (Messi) for everything he means to us. Every time I wear this shirt I enjoy it. Many want to wear this shirt. I work to show the coach that I am ready to play when he needs me."
—Lautaro Martínez (No. 22) celebrates his opening goal against Peru

CANADA MAKE MAIDEN ENTRY INTO KNOCKOUTS

Orlando: Canada sealed qualification for their first-ever Copa America quarterfinals in a drab 0-0 draw with Chile on Saturday, as manager Jesse Marsch praised his side for playing intelligently and closing out the match against 10 men.

The draw moved Canada up to four points in Group A, five behind leaders Argentina, whose win over Peru in Saturday's other match ensured Canada's progression.

"We could have made life so much easier on ourselves by finding a way to finish it off, but we knew Argentina scored at the beginning of the second half, so the key was to not give anything away," Marsch said.

"I tried to encourage them to stay stable and balanced ... It's not just the goalkeeper and the defenders, the entire team has been very organised tactically, and disciplined.

"That has meant that we are very difficult to play against. We have looked athletic and strong in every match, and that's what has helped us move forward."

TIMES SPORT
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

FLAWLESS FRANCESCO BAGNAIA CLAIMS THIRD CONSECUTIVE DUTCH MOTOGP

BRAZIL MIDFIELDER DOUGLAS LUIZ IS THIAGO MOTTA'S FIRST BIG SIGNING AT JUVENTUS

Djokovic hopes to go all the way

Thought Of Missing Wimbledon Was Just Not Correct, Says 7-Time Champion

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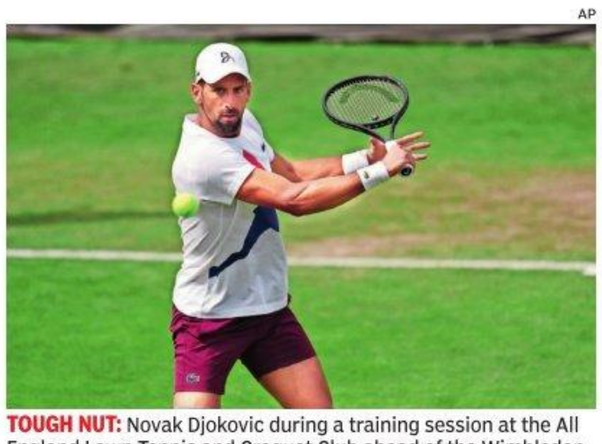


AP

TOUGH NUT: Novak Djokovic during a training session at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club ahead of the Wimbledon

> "I wouldn't call it a fear of missing out. It's this incredible desire to play, particularly because it is Wimbledon. The thought of me missing Wimbledon was just not correct. It's probably less of a rational or logical explanation, but more of an inner feeling of a great desire to play Wimbledon."
> —Novak Djokovic

London: Jelena Djokovic posed a question to her husband as he fast-tracked his recovery from knee surgery, rushing to compete at Wimbledon, where he is already a seven-time champion. Mrs Djokovic, a constant presence at courtside, only verbalised the query on every connoisseur's mind.

The 37-year-old Serbian, who has won 24 major titles, but is yet to win an Olympic gold, earlier in the year labelled the 2024 Summer Games a priority for himself. Yet, here he was, seeking counsel — from Taylor Fritz to Stan Wawrinka to champion Alpine ski racer Lindsay Vonn — after his right knee went under the knife to repair a torn medial meniscus in Paris. There should be more Wimbledons for Djokovic in the next couple of years, but who knows if there'll be another Olympic Games for him?

WIMBLEDON 2024

Why the rush then? Why the unnecessary risk?

Djokovic conceded that the question, when posed to him again at his pre-championship press conference, was fair.

"I wouldn't call it a fear of missing out," Djokovic said. "It's this incredible desire to play, particularly because it is Wimbledon. The thought of me missing Wimbledon was just not correct. It's probably less of a rational or logical explanation, but more of a feeling of a desire to play Wimbledon."

Djokovic, seeded two, faces Czech qualifier Vit Kopriva in the first round. "I wanted to see how fast I can recover, be in a condition to compete at best-of-five on grass," Djokovic said. "I didn't come here to play a few rounds and prove to myself that I can actually compete in one or two matches. I want to go for the title."

Djokovic, who finds himself in an unlikely situation, as he's yet to win a title this season at the halfway stage, is aware that his next tournament is the Olympics on clay.

"We put in a huge amount of hours into rehab in the last three weeks, raising the level of intensity of training and rehab every single day," he said. "I haven't had any setbacks. If I had one setback, I would then be questioning whether I should be here or not. But I haven't had a single one. Why not give it a shot?"

Djokovic — who could play Tomas Etcheverry in the third round, Holger Rune in the fourth and projected to meet seventh seed Hubert Hurkacz in the quarterfinals — arrived in this leafy suburb a week ago, sporting a knee brace.

"It's been a good week of training, particularly the last three days. I played practice sets with (Jannik) Sinner, Frances Tiafoe, (Daniil) Medvedev, Emil Ruusuvuori and Rune," he said. "The knee has responded well so far, that's why I decided to be in the draw."

The Serbian, seeded to play fourth seed Alexander Zverev in the semifinals, is in the lighter half of the men's draw, which gives him an opportunity to play himself into the tournament.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and the world No. 1 Jannik Sinner headline the top half and are seeded to meet in the semifinals.

Sumit Nagal keen to make SW19 return count

Prajwal.Hegde
@timesgroup.com

TOI

London: Results may or may not be a case for Sumit Nagal at the 2024 Wimbledon tennis championships.

This outing is about an evolving relationship — a tricky surface, an address that's built on the foundation of tradition, and a city where the 26-year-old has a connection. At a venue where he has history, having triumphed in the boys' doubles here nine years ago, the India No. 1 is looking to write his transition story. From boy to man.

Nagal will step out on a match court at SW19 for the first time in six years when he takes on Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round late on Monday. The grass looks greener this time round.

Nagal, who thrives on clay, said grass was a 'different type of physical'. A beast.

"On clay you can slide," he said, speaking to **TOI** on Media Day. "If you slide on grass, you can roll over your ankle or even tear your groin. On clay, rallies are longer, on grass rallies are shorter, but your legs are active all the time, you have to stay low, and your base has to be solid and big."

"One of my strengths is court coverage and if I can use that strength well, I can have the upper hand," said Nagal sporting a duck egg blue tee. "I believe I can do well on grass, if I can get used to the movement, I can be good."

Nagal's best result in the juniors came at Wimbledon — on his least favourite surface, and in doubles, even though singles is what he enjoys playing. This time the Indian will also feature in the doubles draw, where he'll play alongside Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

"The grass is slower on the Championship courts and I am enjoying playing on it. I am excited," Nagal said. "When you feel that way, anything is possible."

Nagal, who is ranked 72, and Kecmanovic, the world No. 53, have met once in the pros. The 24-year-old came out on top in that meeting, four years ago on hardcourt. Kecmanovic, who has a career-high ranking of 27 achieved last January, has played five tie-break sets in his two grass-court outings this season -- Halle and 's-Hertogenbosch.

Nagal, who motored on uncommon courage in sealing an Olympic slot in the last week, arrived in London early and practised on the grass.

"We have known each other for a while, since our junior days. We are friends," he said of Kecmanovic.

"We played a few times, practised a few times. He knows my game and I know his. It's going to be a battle."

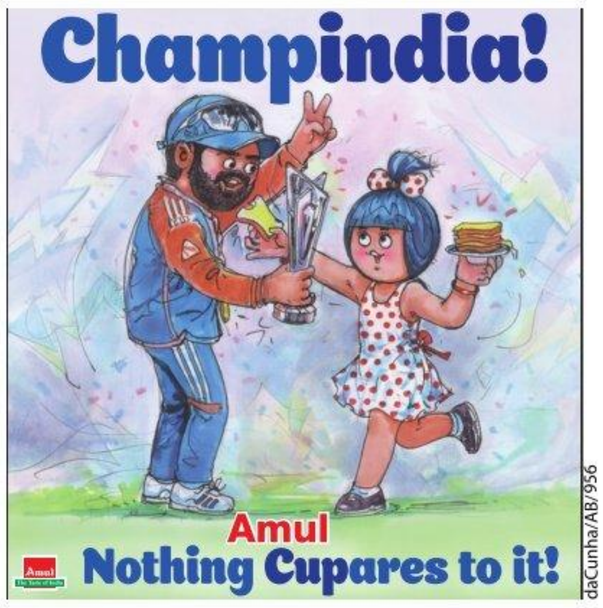
GALLERY

Russell wins after Max, Norris collide

Spielberg: George Russell claimed a dramatic victory for Mercedes on Sunday after a sensational late collision between series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull and his nearest rival Lando Norris of McLaren in the closing laps of an action-packed Austrian Grand Prix. It was the British driver's second career victory, endorsing the improved form of the Mercedes team in recent races, as he made the most of Verstappen's impulsive and aggressive move against Norris, to finish 1.9 seconds clear of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren.

Praggnanandhaa beats Giri: After missing out on opportunities to win, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finally broke through and scored a hard-earned victory over Dutchman Anish Giri in the fourth round of the Superbet Classic chess tournament in Bucharest. D Gukesh had little trouble holding off Firouzja Alireza of France to a draw.

Bhatia and Rai keep lead at tight Rocket Mortgage Classic: Akshay Bhatia and England's Aaron Rai shot 4-under par 68s to remain co-leaders through the third round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic on Saturday in Detroit. Bhatia and Rai began the round sharing the lead, but the overall leaderboard has tightened. Rai had five birdies and a bogey, while Bahatia navigated his third consecutive round without a bogey. They're both at 17-under 199 going into Sunday's final round. AGENCIES



SA fight back after Sneh Rana heroics

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Chennai: Indian spinner Sneh Rana's (8-77) spectacular spell in the first innings was overshadowed by a resolute performance from South Africa on Day Three of the one-off Test here on Sunday.

After South Africa were bowled out for 266, courtesy off-spinner Sneh's masterclass, the hosts enforced a follow-on. The visitors then staged a comeback as Sune Luus (109, 203b; 18x4) was once again in the thick of things. On Saturday, she scored a composed half-century and paired with Marizanne Kapp to keep India at bay.

In the second innings, Luus found company in skipper Laura Wolvaardt (93 batting, 252; 12x4) and together they stitched together a massive 190-run association for the second wicket. It was the highest South African partnership for any wicket in women's Tests.

Responding to India's mammoth first innings tally of 603/6, South Africa were 232/2 in 85 overs at stumps, trailing by 105 runs. To reach there, the SA batters dealt with the Indian attack patiently.

Proteas' opener Anneke Bosch's wicket off Deepti Sharma made way for Luus, who stood like a wall to score her maiden century. Her splendid knock contained 18 hits to the fence, off which she struck 10 against the day's first innings star -- Sneh.

Sneh, who earlier thrived on the spin-friendly surface, was kept under check by Luus in the latter half of the day. She went on the back foot to tackle the spin attack as it gave her additional time to respond. As she continued to chip away, the deficit for SA kept reducing.

When she reached the three-figure mark, Luus received a standing ovation from the spectators and her skipper Wolvaardt was visibly chuffed.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur took it upon herself to bring an end to the threatening stand by castling well-settled Luus' off-stump. Harmanpreet let out a huge roar before exhaling with relief.

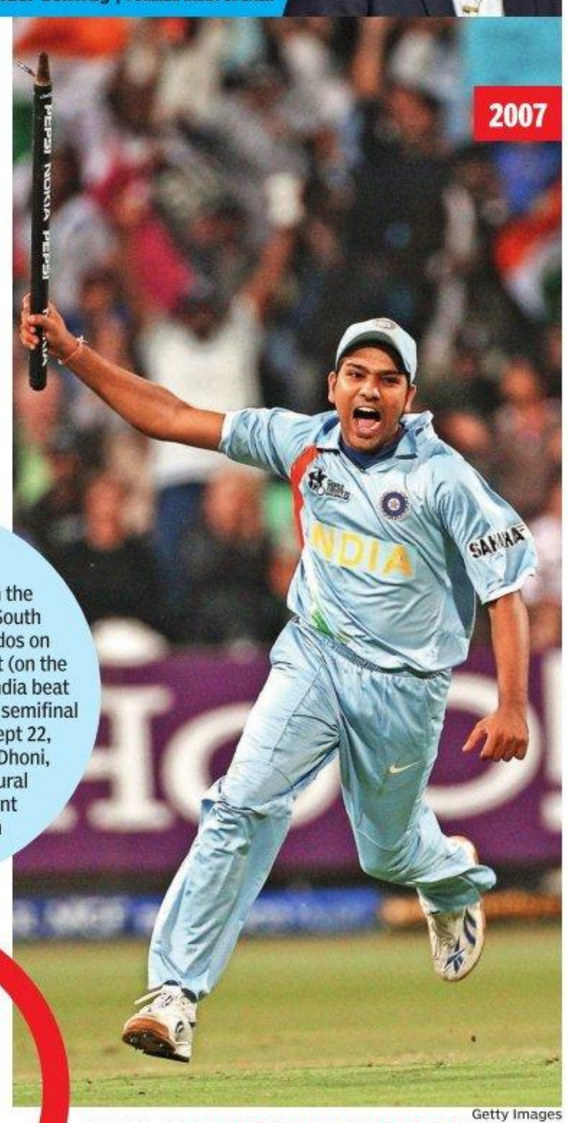
Earlier, South Africa began the day at 236/4 but with Sneh tormenting them with her guile. The middle and lower order crumbled for the addition of 30 runs.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 266 in 84.3 overs (Kapp 74, Luus 65, Rana 8-77) and 232/2 in 85 overs (Luus 109, Wolvaardt 93*) vs India: 603/6 decl.

"I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS IS A BREAKOUT WIN FOR US. FOR YEARS, WE HAVE PLAYED WELL, BEEN CONSISTENT BUT NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET PAST THE FINISH LINE. AFTER THIS WIN, I THINK WE WILL BE WINNING MANY MORE ICC TROPHIES."
—Virender Sehwag | FORMER INDIA OPENER

FOR ROHIT, A SENSE OF CLOSURE

He Started As A Young Member Of MS Dhoni's 2007 World T20-Winning Side & Bows Out Of The Format With Another World Title, This Time As Leader. Truly, Things Have Come Full Circle For One Of India's Modern Batting Greats...



BOOKENDS: Rohit Sharma (left) celebrates after India won the T20 World Cup by beating South Africa in Bridgetown, Barbados on Sunday. A much younger Rohit (on the right) is over the moon after India beat Australia in the 2007 World T20 semifinal at Kingsmead, Durban on Sept 22, 2007. That team, led by MS Dhoni, went on to win the inaugural edition of the tournament by beating Pakistan in the final

Getty Images

85.71% Rohit's success % is the best among the captains who have led in at least 10 matches in the T20 World Cup.

Getty Images

ROHIT SHARMA IN T20Is

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR	6s
Overall	159	4231	121*	32.05	5	32	140.89	205
As captain	62	905	121*	34.01	3	13	149.76	105

IN TWENTY20 WORLD CUP

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR	6s
Overall	47	1220	92	34.85	0	12	133.04	50
As captain	14	373	92	28.69	0	4	136.63	19

ROHIT'S CAPTAINCY RECORD IN T20Is

	Played	Won	Lost	Winning %
T20Is	62	50	12	79.83
T20 WC	14	12	2	85.71

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Bridgetown (Barbados): The once-chubby teenager is a greying veteran now. The young Mumbai boy, who loved to fool around off the field and bat like a happy prince when on it, has seen all the ups and downs a cricketer can experience over an 18-year career. And now, as Rohit Sharma pulls the curtains down on his T20 International career, the World Cup-winning captain feels life has come full circle.

"Someone told me sometime back that when I started in 2007, I won the World Cup in South Africa and now I am leaving with another World Cup. My career has truly come a full circle," Rohit said at the Kensington Oval after India's win.

The official press conference was done long back, in which he announced that he was retiring from the format. The captain was soaking in the moment of victory with his teammates, coaches and support staff. When the media requested him for another chat on his T20 career, Rohit was typically accomodating. "*Chalo, kar lo yaar, aa jao*." He called us in front of the dressing room.

The skipper went back to those days of youth when he was just finding his feet as an international cricketer. As a member of MS Dhoni's side that won the first World T20, he batted at No. 6 in the final against Pakistan. In the last over of the innings, the then 20-year-old hit left-arm pacer Sohail Tanveer for a six, a shot that doesn't get discussed too often.

It was a crucial shot that proved to be the difference in the end and when **TOI** reminded him of it, Rohit said: "*Haan, bilkul yaad hain*, I was a kid then...basically I had a role then to play as a No. 5 or 6 and finishing used to be important. Scores of 150 those days used to be challenging and I was still in the process of learning the format. Now I understand it much better and I tell these young boys how important it is to perform those little roles given to them."

Rohit has gone through many phases as a batter. From a middle-order floater, he slowly turned into a white-ball opener and by the middle of the 2010s, he became a bit of a monster who started getting feared by one and all. But his real development as a cricketer happened later in the decade, when he mastered the red ball, and that too, as an opener. And that went a long way in him becoming an all-format captain, a role that he has performed wonderfully well.

Rohit will continue to play ODIs and Tests, as well as the IPL. But when asked how difficult it is to juggle formats, the 37-year-old said: "Oh yes, all formats are different and it is difficult to adapt, more so as a captain. There are technical aspects that you have to work very hard on.

"Then there's constant planning in T20s to out-think a batter, but you know it's a fun format, a challenge. I have always enjoyed challenges."

Had India won the ODI World Cup in November last year, there was a serious possibility that Rohit and Virat Kohli would probably have skipped the T20 World Cup. Sources close to the team management had indicated that it was the disappointment of Nov 19, 2023 that pushed them to carry on for that sense of closure. But Rohit said he doesn't "make decisions so far ahead". "Whatever I feel right inside me, I do that. I don't know whether I would have played or not. In fact, I hadn't thought that I would retire from T20s here, just that I thought this was a perfect situation for me," the right-hander insisted, adding that this World Cup was something that he desperately wanted to win.

It felt all so right that a captain who has been so consistent and scored three crucial half-centuries in this World Cup, and also played the best innings of the event against Australia, has had his wish fulfilled.

205 Sixes in 151 innings hit by Rohit, a record in T20Is. He is the only captain to complete a century of sixes.

149.76 Rohit's strike rate in 62 innings as captain, the highest among captains with 1500 runs or more in T20Is.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'At 17, he had unbelievable hitting prowess'

Abhishek Nayar, Former India Cricketer & Rohit Sharma's Close Friend, Talks To TOI About The India Captain's Journey...

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ABHISHEK NAYAR

Mumbai: "It was some time in 2003," Abhishek Nayar jogs his memory as **TOI** quizzes the former India and Mumbai allrounder and current Kolkata Knight Riders assistant coach about his first interaction with his "close, close" friend Rohit Sharma.

"We (Mumbai's senior team) had gone to Hyderabad to play in the Moin-ud-Dowlah Gold Cup. I fell sick there. I had a fever and was sleeping in my room. A certain Rohit Sharma, who was supposed to be my roommate, arrived after playing for Mumbai in an U-19 event. Realizing that I would be disturbed, he would go out of the room to talk on his phone. I found that very considerate. He was shy and would hardly talk. Slowly, we developed a friendship, a close bond which has remained strong," Nayar says.

Soon, Nayar would have a glimpse of a then teenaged Rohit's precious talent. "We batted together in one match. I saw someone who was hitting some unbelievable sixes in red-ball cricket, not a familiar sight those days. He played a few 30-run odd cameos, but his highly impressive sixes caught my eye.

"Since then, I knew Rohit was special. I've always enjoyed his batting. While playing for the Mumbai U-19 team, he would hit huge sixes, and that too consistently, which would land up on the first and second tier at the Brabourne and Wankhede Stadiums. You don't see that kind of hitting prowess from somebody who is 17," Nayar says.

And then came the moment that catapulted Rohit, then just 19, into the Indian team, almost out of nowhere. It was April 4, 2007. Chasing 142 against Gujarat at the Brabourne Stadium in a league match of the inaugural edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, Mumbai had slipped to 32/3 in the sixth over before Rohit smashed a match-winning 101 not out off just 45 balls, including 13 fours and five sixes. It was the first hundred in T20 cricket by an Indian. Mumbai's next highest score in that five-wicket win was Wilkin Mota's 14. "One of his sixes broke the glass at CCI when he smashed Siddharth Trivedi for a six on the first floor," Nayar says.

Amongst those watching the match was former India skipper Dilip Vengsarkar, then the national chief selector. "It was the only game in that tournament in which Rohit got runs but he was still picked soon for India, so a lot of credit goes to Dilip sir, who was a blind believer in Rohit's talent," Nayar reminisces.

A few months down the line, Rohit was part of India's team, which triumphed in the inaugural World T20 in South Africa.

A few years later came the big shocker. Not in the best of form and fitness, Rohit was dropped from the 2011 World Cup team, which went on to clinch the title.

"It was the biggest rejection of his life. While India won that World Cup, Rohit felt that he had lost the most personally, However, I would call that as the moment of 'transformation'. Thereafter began his renaissance (with Nayar helping him out with his fitness). It was a transition that saw his attitude and mindset towards the game, and his fitness, undergo a complete 180-degree transformation," says Nayar.

SKY evokes memories of Kapil's magic catch in '83

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Bridgetown (Barbados): It was happening just below the press box and wasn't visible at first instance. While the world watching on television had seen Suryakumar Yadav's incredible catch and were probably sure David Miller was out, those closest to the action just couldn't figure out what had happened.

It had to be the replay, the wait, and the explosion of euphoria over the next few minutes that told all of us at the Kensington Oval that this World Cup might just be India's.

When **TOI** caught up with Surya as he was going back to the dressing-room after signing a few autographs, the best T20 batter in the world said: "I really don't know what was going through my mind. All I could see was the World Cup flying away and I just latched on to it."

When great catches in Indian history come up for discussion, the first that comes to mind is the one that Kapil Dev took to dismiss Viv Richards in the 1983 World Cup. It altered the course of Indian cricket history, and Roger Binny, the highest wicket-taker of the 1983 World Cup and the current BCCI president, told **TOI** Surya's catch was as good as Kapil's.

"Kapil's catch was magnificent in its own right. He had to run back, keep an eye on the ball and complete the catch, which he did with great ease. This was a case of incredible athleticism, where Surya was dealing with the variable of the boundary rope. We would have probably lost if he had dropped it, just as it was with Kapil's catch. These two catches are on a par," Binny said at the Kensington Oval on Saturday.

Captain Rohit Sharma isn't one who likes to make comparisons. Rather he described his own emotions as the catch was getting completed. "I was standing at long-off so I could clearly see Surya there. He is very calm under pressure, has got brilliant hands. The moment he took that catch, I knew he was inside (the rope). I was very calm, still, until the scoreboard says out, it's not out. But I had already started already thinking about the other five balls we still had to bowl," he said.

Template decided after 2023 ODI WC defeat

▶ From P1

While there were serious efforts made to push the needle while batting, the defeat in the 2023 ODI World Cup final was a cruel blow for these bravehearts in blue. But as the management tried to deal with disappointment, a template was forged over the next few months.

It was decided that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma would open the batting and it would not change unless there's an injury to any one of them. Four allrounders were included and add to that three left-arm spinners — something that's not exactly common in any form of cricket.

Rohit explained why these unique methods were followed as India went after the prize that has been eluding them for so long. "See, allrounders needed to add depth. We wanted to see how we could cover all bases, how we could get bowlers who can swing the ball in the beginning and reverse it in the end. Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar had a big role to play in it and the BCCI allowed us to do what we wanted to do. They put a lot of faith in the team and that worked," Rohit said.

While it was a moment of redemption for a team, there are a few in the group for whom it meant a little more. Dravid had never won a World Cup as a player, and he described Saturday as "a memory of a lifetime" for him. Hardik had gone through incredible upheavals on personal and professional front. He seemed to have answered all those both with the bat and the ball. "Yes, a lot of people have said a lot of things about me without probably knowing me. It's fine, here I am now in front of you guys, being able to do what I was asked to do by the team," Hardik, who could well be India's next T20 captain, said, with the World Cup in his hand.

And then, there's a Virat. The greatest T20 batter ever for India was having a torrid time in this World Cup till it all turned around in the final. Battling form, the champion played a match-winning knock that won him the Man of the Match award in the last T20 game of his career. Virat was happy. He was signing autographs, obliging all those who wanted selfies, but when there was a request for a farewell chat, he smiled: "Talking is not my forte. Playing is."

Many of them are exiting the Indian T20 set up. Coach Rahul Dravid had announced before the tournament that this would be his last stint. Virat Kohli said goodbye to the format at the prize distribution ceremony. When **TOI** asked Rohit Sharma about his thoughts on his T20 career, the captain said: "This is the moment for me to leave this format. I hadn't thought of it before, but the way things shaped up, this is the time to go."

'This is no redemption, I don't think on those lines'

Coach Dravid Signs Out On A High, Says He Will Miss Personal Bond He Shared With Rohit

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Getty Images

PILLAR OF SUPPORT: Coach Rahul Dravid is lifted by the Indian team at the Kensington Oval

Bridgetown (Barbados): A World Cup in West Indies 17 years ago left Rahul Dravid the captain shattered. On Saturday, the West Indies gave it back to him on his last day as coach. The humiliation of crashing out at the group stage of an ODI World Cup seemed like a long-forgotten memory as the legend was up in the air again, this time his players right there to hold him.

Dravid, who referred to himself as "unemployed," with just a hint of a smile, after India's win at the Kensington Oval, never won an ICC trophy in his playing career, though he did come close a few times. As coach, despite building a team that has been No. 1 across formats for a while now, the defeats in two finals in the World Test Champion and ODI World Cup must have hurt.

Barbados gave him back a few things, though he refuses to call it "redemption". "It is a memory of a lifetime for me. But this is no redemption, I don't think on those lines. As player I was not lucky enough to win a trophy but I always knew I gave it my best and I know many greats who haven't won a big prize. I was lucky to be given the coach's job and it is a great to be part of a moment like this," Dravid said, savouring the moment as the sun hid behind the clouds.

One of India's greatest batters of all time, Dravid comes from a different generation. His quiet, understated and methodical approach isn't always a straight fit with a group of young players who are mercurial. Even if you are a legend, it's not always easy to impress ideas upon them, especially when they are stars in their own right.

Rohit Sharma, for whom Dravid was his "first international captain", was probably the go-between when it came to the younger crop of players and the 51-year-old coach. The skipper himself said it wasn't easy for Dravid as he had to "suppress his instincts many times".

"It is not easy to match the wavelength of these boys. So, Rahul bhai suppressed himself. He understood what the boys wanted, he made that his priority. It is not easy for anybody to do all these, but Rahul bhai did that for the whole team. He understood what the boys needed and worked accordingly," Rohit said.

Dravid agreed. "There are things which are different. They are fantastic talents, their energy, their confidence are of a different level. We had to take this confidence ahead and win an ICC trophy that was eluding us. But it's because of them we are getting a moment to celebrate like this," the outgoing coach said.

There's no denying that the Rohit-Dravid captain-coach combo will be remembered in Indian cricket just the same way Ganguly-Wright, Dhoni-Kirsten and Kohli-Shastri will be remembered. They seemed to understand each other very well which worked wonders for the team, and Dravid insisted it is the personal bond that he will miss most.

"Hope we still remain friends," Dravid laughed. "But honestly, I will miss Rohit the person most. The kind of respect, care and commitment he has shown to me, it's really touching. He will be a great captain, a great player, but he is the person who I will be most fond of."

"What's the legacy that you're leaving behind?" The question had to be asked. Dravid, the master of understatement, was in his elements again when he said he is "not a legacy person". "I am glad we gave the best we could and lucky to be working with such a hard-working, intelligent group of coaches. But I am happiest for those Indian fans who keep coming back." Dravid said he will be "moving on" and going on with his life from next week.

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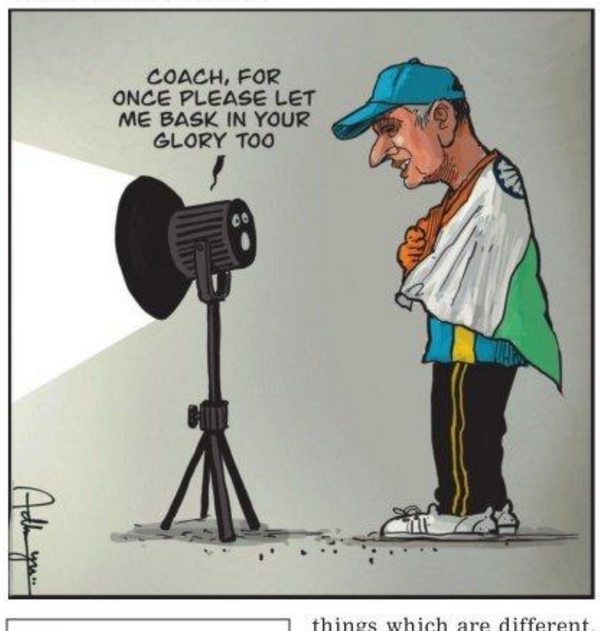
TRYST WITH SPOTLIGHT



"ALL THREE WHITE TICKED OFF, ONE RED TO GO. TICK IT!"
—Rahul Dravid reminds Virat Kohli that the World Test Championship trophy is still missing from his cabinet.

8 Virat Kohli has been adjudged Man of the Match for the eighth time in a T20 World Cup — a record — three times vs Pakistan, twice vs South Africa and one each vs Australia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

"IT WAS AN AMAZING GAME. ONE DAY YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T GET A RUN BUT ONE DAY, THINGS JUST CLICK. I AM SO PROUD TO GET THE RUNS FOR THE TEAM THE DAY IT MATTERED MOST."
—Virat Kohli | INDIA BATSMAN

VIRAT KOHLI IN T20Is

M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
125	4188	122*	48.69	1	38	137.04

IN TWENTY20 WORLD CUP

35	1292	89*	58.72	--	15	128.81

16 Number of Man of the Match awards for Kohli in 125 T20Is - the most by a player, bettering Suryakumar Yadav's tally of 15 in 68 matches.

1 India became the first team to remain unbeaten throughout in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

37y 60 days Rohit Sharma has become the oldest captain to win a T20 WC. He is the second oldest skipper to win an ICC event after Imran Khan (ODI WC, 1992).

'Victory a tribute to team's brotherhood'

Hardik Says World Cup Triumph Is The Best Farewell India Could Have Given Rohit And Kohli

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Bridgetown (Barbados): Hardik Pandya has been to hell and back in the last few months. An injury cut short a promising ODI World Cup campaign and that eventually cost him his T20 captaincy as well. It was followed by a disastrous move to Mumbai Indians from Gujarat Titans in the IPL, replacing Rohit Sharma as the captain, which wasn't too well received by fans. His form, too, took a nosedive and there was a clamour to drop him from the T20 World Cup squad.

The BCCI and captain Rohit, however, felt Hardik had done enough to get a chance. He was included to add depth to a line-up both in batting and bowling. It was ironic that he was left to bowl the last over with 16 to play with in the final, but Hardik rose to the occasion and got the job done.

He also got the wicket of the super-dangerous Heinrich Klaasen that actually started South Africa's downfall. During a chat with the media after the game, Hardik talked about what he had endured, how he fought back and what was going through his mind when he was bowling the last over. Excerpts....

How do you feel about this win, in which you had such a crucial role to play?

It is obviously very special. From where I come from, this is something that is always a dream and it is a feeling that I can't describe, more so when I knew that everything came down to me at the end. I am just very happy for the group.

You have gone through a lot in these last few months. A lot has been said about you as well...

Yes, a lot of people said a lot of things without knowing who Hardik Pandya is. Everyone had an opinion and I don't mind that, but I have always maintained that you never reply with words. You can only answer with your actions. Yes, there were difficulties but I knew that I won't be down always. I believe it is important to be graceful in victory and in defeat, and I tried to maintain that. Only thing I want to tell the fans is that they, too, should learn to be graceful, at times they should also find better ways to express themselves. Anyway, I am sure they will also be happy today.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have retired. You may well become the next T20 captain. How do you see things looking forward to the 2026 World Cup?

2026 is far off. For now, I am very happy for Rohit and Virat, two giants of Indian cricket who deserve every bit of the success. We will obviously miss them in the format but at the same time, this is probably the best farewell that we could have given them. This victory is a tribute to the brotherhood that has been created in the team.

What was going through your mind when you came to bowl the last over?

I think I was enjoying it. Not too many people get such chances which can change their lives. Things might have gone the other way, but it didn't bother me. I knew there was no point taking pressure, I just tried to bank on my skillset. I think it was written in the stars. I have always tried to keep smiling through the difficulties and I can assure you this is going to be a very long smile.

You shone both as a batter and a bowler in different phases of this World Cup...

Now that we have won, I feel that even if I hadn't scored, it wouldn't have mattered. Individual performances don't matter when the team doesn't win. But whenever I got the chance, I was happy that I could contribute something to the team's cause. I have always played my cricket that way, if it is one over, I try to do it to the best of my ability.

ICC/X

HARDIK PANDYA IN T20 WC

BATTING		BOWLING	
M	8	M	8
RUNS	144	WKTS	11
50s	1	BEST	3-20
HS	50	Avg	17.36
Avg	48	ER	7.64
SR	151.57	SR	13.63

From villain to hero: Booed and ridiculed in the IPL, Hardik Pandya had a T20 World Cup to savour

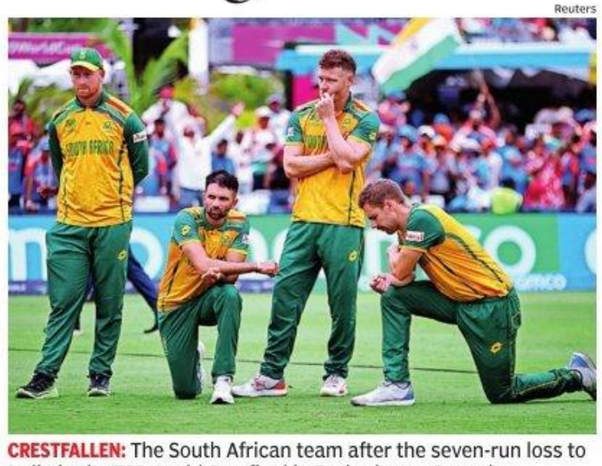
Hurricane Beryl may disrupt team's return to India

Indian cricket fans might have to wait to see their T20 World Cup-winning heroes back in the country as the Rohit Sharma-led side's travel plans have been impacted by a hurricane in Barbados. Reports said that hurricane Beryl, originating in the Atlantic, had intensified with maximum sustained winds of 210 kmph.

The Category 4 hurricane was about 570km east-southeast of Barbados and reports said that the airport in Bridgetown was shut on Sunday evening. Team India was supposed to take a flight from New York via Dubai on Monday. The plan now is to travel in a charter to Delhi once flights resume. PTI

A gut-wrenching loss, but good for it to sting: Markram

Reuters



CRESTFALLEN: The South African team after the seven-run loss to India in the T20 World Cup final in Barbados on Saturday

Bridgetown: A devastated South African skipper Aiden Markram is hopeful that at some point he would be able to see the good in his team's T20 World Cup campaign but for now, all he feels is a "sting" which, he hopes, will ensure a "fire in the belly for next time".

South Africa needed 30 off 30 balls in a chase of 176 against India but fell short by seven runs despite Heinrich Klaasen's awe-inspiring 27-ball 52 in the see-saw summit clash here on Saturday.

India had Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya's death bowling and a blinder of a catch by Suryakumar Yadav to thank for the close win after the peerless Virat Kohli set up the match for them with a brilliant 76-run knock.

"It's not the first game of cricket that's been lost with a team needing 30 of 30 – it's more that India was allowed to bowl well, they're allowed to field well, they're allowed to go from that position to a position of strength," the 29-year-old Markram said in the post-match press conference.

"Right now to pinpoint something is quite tough but we'll reflect over the next few days, over the next few weeks, try and find areas that we could have maybe improved in during today's game, but also to highlight the things that went really well for us," he added.The pain aside, Markram is proud of his teammates, who managed to get rid of the chokers' tag to an extent by making their first World Cup final.

"I think one thing that I will definitely say is how proud we are. Not just of today, the game itself, but the competition as a whole, the build-up to get here.

"So, in hindsight, the things will still feel really good about this competition. But like I mentioned, just for the time being, it stings a bit, but it's good for it to sting. It gives you that little bit of fire in the belly for next time that you're here," he said.

Markram admitted that Klaasen will find it tough to make peace with the result after such a "special effort".

"We've seen him do it many, many times around the world and to deliver it in a stage like this is a really special effort. So, it's going to be tough for him, that's what I say when I mean we reflect back. There's going to be lots of things to be happy about," he said.

While the Indian players had happy tears in their eyes, the Proteas broke down in the realisation that another major title had slipped through their hands, only this time at the final hurdle. "It's just gut wrenching, that's really what it is. Each player has been on a different individual journey to get to this first final. Ultimately you become really tight as a group and you want good things to happen to this group because you know they're great people," he said.

"When you get really close like that, especially the nature of how the game went, obviously adds to the emotions and it's one of those things but yeah, we can channel it moving forward but I think next couple of days you let it be. You let yourself feel the way you want to feel and then really start reflecting in a positive manner."

Despite the disappointment and heartbreak, Markram did not forget to applaud India's brilliance and composure in the final. "It's tournament cricket, it's tough cricket, it's not easy to win trophies and you've got to take your hats off to a team like India for lifting the trophy. A lot of hard work goes into it. But yeah, we'd like to think we're one step closer and hopefully moving forward we can get that first win and it can be a snowball effect of quite a few to come," he said. PTI

"IT'S NOT THE FIRST GAME OF CRICKET THAT'S BEEN LOST WITH A TEAM NEEDING 30 OF 30 – IT'S MORE THAT INDIA WAS ALLOWED TO BOWL WELL, THEY'RE ALLOWED TO FIELD WELL, THEY'RE ALLOWED TO GO FROM THAT POSITION TO A POSITION OF STRENGTH. IT WILL TAKE A BIT OF TIME FOR US TO REFLECT BACK ON ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE. BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, IT JUST HURTS A LOT."
— AIDEN MARKRAM | SA skipper

Sahid SK

(Top): Social media was abuzz mixing two of the country's greatest obsessions, Bollywood and cricket. This one from 2001 hit Lagaan went viral (Below): Chance of India's win when Klaasen and Miller were on song

Tanay Jaipuria

Jadeja follows Rohit and Kohli into T20I retirement

Allrounder Played In 30 Matches Across Seven T20 World Cups

Bridgetown: Seasoned India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on Sunday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals, joining his illustrious teammates Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in bidding adieu to the format a day after winning the World Cup here.

One of the world's finest fielders, Jadeja said he will continue to play ODIs and Tests.

"With a heart full of gratitude, I bid farewell to T20 internationals. Like a steadfast horse galloping with pride, I've always given my best for my country and will continue to do so in other formats," the 35-year-old wrote on Instagram underneath a picture of him holding the trophy.

"Winning the T20 World Cup was a dream come true, a pinnacle of my T20 International career. Thank you for the memories, the cheers, and the unwavering support. Jai hind," he added.

Having made his debut in T20Is against Sri Lanka back in 2009, he played 74 matches, scoring 515 runs and taking 54 wickets.

In the T20 World Cup title clash in Barbados on Saturday, India beat South Africa by seven runs to claim their second title in the tournament's history.

The triumph was followed by the duo of Rohit and Kohli announcing their retirement from the format.

Jadeja, a great servant of Indian cricket for more than a decade and half, did not have much to do in the tournament and was often overshadowed by Axar Patel. He batted for only 22 balls in five innings and could log only 35 runs. With the ball, he bowled 14 overs for just one wicket at an economy rate of 7.57. He is a four-time IPL winner. He was part of Shane Warne's inaugural IPL champions, Rajasthan Royals in 2008 as a rookie. However, it is with Chennai Super Kings that he found success and stardom winning three titles in 2018, 2021 and 2023. With 10 needed off the last two balls, he hit a six and a four to win the 2023 final for CSK against Gujarat Titans. AGENCIES

RAVINDRA JADEJA IN T20IS/T20 WC

Batting & Fielding record

M	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	Ct
74	515	46*	21.45	127.16	28
T20 WC					
30	130	26*	14.44	108.33	14

Bowling record

M	Wkts	Ave	Best	SR	ER
74	54	29.85	3/15	25.1	7.13
T20 WC					
30	22	28.86	3/15	24.0	7.21

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Reuters

Each player in the team may get 5cr as reward

▶Continued from P1

The massive booty of Rs 125 crore awarded to players and support staff tells you about the BCCI's unbridled joy at Team India finally ending a desperate wait for its first T20 World Cup title since 2007, the first World Cup crown since 2011, and the first ICC title since 2013.

It's not clear how this massive prize money will get distributed amongst the players and the support staff. India had picked a 15-member squad, with four reserve players, for the Cup. The roughly 15-member support staff was led by head coach Rahul Dravid, and included the batting (Vikram Rathour), bowling (Paras Mhambrey) and fielding coach (T Dilip). Then, there were three throwdown specialists, three physios (two initially, and then another one flew on after one fell ill), one trainer, manager, logistics manager, the video analyst, security and integrity officer. There could still be more members of the support staff added to this list.

It is estimated that all the 15 players of the squad could end up receiving at least Rs 5 crores each, while the four reserve players and the members of the support staff too will receive at least Rs 1 crore.

It is learnt that the prize money amount is more than six times of what the team received from the ICC ($2.45 million, or Rs 20.37 crore) for winning the World Cup.

Compare this to what the then much financially weaker BCCI rewarded to 'Kapil's Devils' 41 years ago for upsetting the mighty West Indies at Lord's on June 25 to win India's maiden limited overs World Cup! Recently, at an event in Mumbai, former India skipper Dilip Vengsarkar, who was a member of that team, recalled, "When we won the World Cup in 1983, the then BCCI president, NKP Salve, announced a prize money of Rs 25,000 per player. At that point, when Lata Mangeshkar (legendary singer) heard that we would get this prize money, she said: 'I'll have an evening (concert) for the players, and subsequently, she had an evening for the players in Delhi, and we received a cheque of Rs 1 lakh each for the first time in our lives!"

However, in 2024, a time where the players have often been accused of prioritising the IPL over national duty, this kind of a sum, while it appears a tad extravagant at first, is par for the course. "In the age of the IPL, where players are paid handsomely by their franchises, Rs 125 crore to a team for winning the T20 World Cup is a simple message to the players — win trophies for India and you'll be cash-rich," a BCCI member told TOI.

PTI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah (left) with outgoing coach Rahul Dravid

"Life comes full circle for Indian cricket in the West Indies. From our lows in the 2007 ODI World Cup to becoming a cricketing powerhouse and winning the T20WC in 2024. Very happy for my friend Rahul Dravid, who missed out on the 2011 World Cup win but his contribution to this T20 World Cup victory has been immense."
SACHIN TENDULKAR

CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what u guys did. From all the Indians back home and everywhere in the world, a big thank you for bringing the World Cup home. CONGRATULATIONS. arreeee thanks for the priceless birthday gift."
MS DHONI

"You did it boys ! @hardikpandya7 your a hero ! @Jaspritbumrah93 what an over to bring India back in the game ! Extremely ecstatic for @ImRo45 great captaincy under pressure ! @imVkohli #Rahul Dravid and the whole team well played @akshar2026, @IamShivamDube koi reh to nahi gaya ! Oh @surya_14kumar what a catch under pressure."
YUVRAJ SINGH

NOT MANY SPORTSMEN GET TO WRITE THEIR OWN EXIT SCRIPT, OR TIME THEIR DEPARTURE FROM A GAME, OR FORMAT WITH PRECISION. VIRAT KOHLI, ROHIT SHARMA AND RAHUL DRAVID HAVE DONE IT TO PERFECTION HERE. WELL BATTED GENTLEMAN."
IAN BISHOP

"VIRAT HAS PLAYED HIS LAST T20I. BEEN A STELLAR CAREER. THE KNOCKS I REMEMBER ARE VS AUSTRALIA IN THE 2016 T20 WC AND VS SOUTH AFRICA IN THE 2014 T20 WC SEMIS. THE MAN IS ACTUALLY A MYTH."
R ASHWIN

"Great players rise above others in crunch situations. @imVkohli Played a magnificent knock (no doubt) but the two overs from @Jaspritbumrah93 at the end was pure World Cup winner. Congratulations Team India and @ImRo45. Champions."
WAQAR YOUNIS

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ROHIT SHARMA AND HIS TEAM. WHAT A GAME TO WIN. MAY BE A WORLD CUP IN 11 YRS (13). BUT THE TALENT THAT THIS COUNTRY HAS ,THEY WILL WIN MANY MORE. BUMRAH IS ABSOLUTELY MAGIC. WELL DONE VIRAT, AXAR, HARDIK AND EVERY ONE. RAHUL DRAVID AND THE SUPPORT STAFF. WHAT A PROUD MOMENT."
SOURAV GANGULY

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||Shree Swami Samarth||

26 Years

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OF INDIA

TOIFA - OTT edition has the largest film jury in the country - 175 members of the Producers Guild of India

Prathamesh Bandekar

FOR ALL THE MOMENTS FROM THE POST-WIN CELEBRATIONS, SEE 12

TOIFA TO HONOUR THE FINEST TALENT ON OTT

(L-R) Siddharth Roy Kapur, Shibasish Sarkar and Sivakumar Sundaram unveil the TOIFA trophy

The Times of India (BCCL) has relaunched its prestigious Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA), with the unveiling of its inaugural OTT edition. A press conference was held on Friday to announce the awards that promise to honour exemplary talent in acting, content creation, and technical prowess in Hindi films and web series that were released on digital platforms in 2023. At the event, the magnificent TOIFA trophy was also revealed.

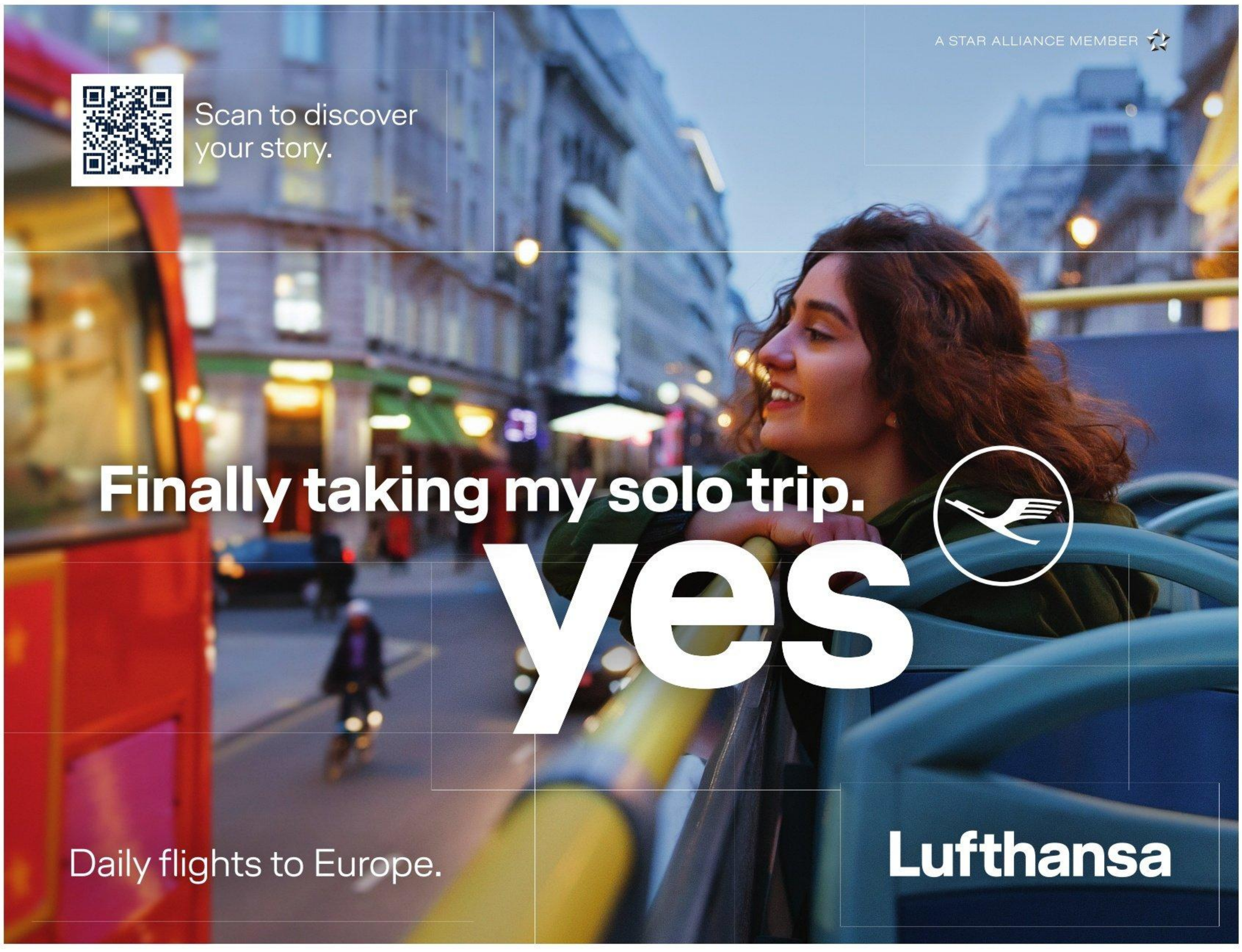
CONTINUED ON 3

Audiences can cast their vote for People's Choice Awards in four categories.

- Male Actor - Web Film
- Female Actor - Web Film
- Male Actor - Web Series
- Female Actor - Web Series

To vote, log on to www.toifa.in or scan the QR code

> Recognising the significance of streaming platforms, we are delighted to launch the TOIFA – Hindi OTT edition. Through a rigorous voting process, we will celebrate outstanding talent on OTT
>
> – Sivakumar Sundaram, CEO - Publishing & Executive Director, BCCL



#TimeToFightAMR

(Celebrating National Doctors' Day, 1st July 2024)

Dr. Waheedu Zzaman
Urologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a complex problem that requires multifaceted solutions. Antimicrobial resistance requires a global response and collaboration across borders."

Dr. Sharda Jain
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance undermines the effectiveness of modern medicine."

Dr. Ashu Priya Dube
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance undermines the effectiveness of treatments for infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria."

Dr. Pratibha Garg
Gynaecologist

"We must preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics for future generations by addressing antimicrobial resistance now."

Dr. Anshu Arora
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a ticking time bomb; we must act now to prevent its devastating effects."

Dr. Vineet Arora
Physician

"We must prioritize the development of new antibiotics and alternative therapies to combat antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Nisha Jain
Gynaecologist

"The emergence of pan-resistant bacteria (no available antibiotics effective) is a nightmare in fight against antimicrobial resistance thereby making Physicians helpless to save patients Lives."

Dr. Harbinder Singh
Urologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to healthcare sustainability, increasing costs and reducing treatment options."

Dr. Anita Uniyal
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to sustainable development, undermining progress towards universal health coverage."

Dr. Santosh Dhar
Gynaecologist

"The misuse of antibiotics in agriculture contributes to the proliferation of antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Sushma Kaushik
Gynaecologist

"No action today, no cure tomorrow"

Dr. Ila Gupta
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance doesn't discriminate; it affects people of all ages including children and backgrounds."

Dr. Renu Malik
Gynaecologist

"Combating antimicrobial resistance requires a One Health approach, involving human, animal, and environmental health."

Dr. Ruby Sehra
Gynaecologist

"Antibiotics are a precious resource; we must use them responsibly to avoid fuelling antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Piyush Gupta
Urologist

"It's not about using less antibiotics. It's about using the right antibiotic for the right diagnosis and for the right duration of time."

Dr. Asha Sharma
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a crisis we cannot afford to ignore."

Dr. Aakanksha Kumar
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial stewardship is a team game with the patient at the centre and it's our teamwork that makes the dream work."

Dr. Dolly Marya
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a symptom of broader issues in healthcare, including Overprescribing Antibiotics and lack of access to basic services."

Dr. Nimmi Rastogi
Gynaecologist

"Misue of Antibiotics leads to antimicrobial resistance that destroys years of medical progress and advancement."

Dr. Shashi Gupta
Gynaecologist

"The discovery of antibiotics revolutionized medicine, but antimicrobial resistance threatens to turn back the clock."

Dr. Vineeta Narang
Gynaecologist

"Every antibiotic resistance gene is a potential threat to global health."

Dr. Ankur Singhal
Urologist

"Preventing infections is key to reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Aashima Aron
Gynaecologist

"If we use antibiotics when not needed, we may not have them when they are most needed".

Dr. Neeru Kiran
Gynaecologist

"Every dose of antibiotics taken unnecessarily contributes to antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Anupma Gupta
Gynaecologist

"Some experts say we are moving back to the pre-antibiotic era. No. This will be a post-antibiotic era. In terms of new replacement antibiotics, the pipeline is virtually dry. A post-antibiotic era means, in effect, an end to modern medicine as we know it. Things as common as strep throat or a child's scratched knee could once again kill."

Dr. Madhu Gupta
Gynaecologist

"Educating healthcare professionals and the public is crucial in the fight against antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Richa Gupta Maheshwari
Gynaecologist

"The misuse of antibiotics accelerates the development of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance is a silent pandemic, threatening our ability to treat common infections."

Dr. Reena Jain
Gynaecologist

"Innovations in infection prevention and control are essential for combating antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Sudhir Khanna
Urologist

"Antimicrobial stewardship programs play a crucial role in optimizing antibiotic use and preventing resistance."

Dr. Priyanka Bagai
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance requires a whole-of-society approach, involving governments, healthcare professionals, industries, and individuals."

Dr. Anupama Sobti
Gynaecologist

"We're in a race against time to combat antimicrobial resistance before it renders antibiotics ineffective."

Dr. Sujata Agarwal
Gynaecologist

"Education is key to raising awareness about the importance of responsible antibiotic use in fighting antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Birbala Rai
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is not just a healthcare issue; it's a societal challenge."

Dr. Vishakha Munjal
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance knows no borders; it's a global threat that requires a coordinated response."

Dr. Gurmeet Bansal
Gynaecologist

"Vaccination can help prevent infections and reduce the need for antibiotics, thereby slowing antimicrobial resistance."

Presents

TIME TO FIGHT AMR™

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Dr. Susheel Kharbanda
Urologist

"Even when there isn't a fire, you're using a fire extinguisher. You bought it, you stored it, and you know it will work. Antibiotics are to infections as fire extinguishers are to fires."

Dr. Charanjit Kaur
Gynaecologist

"The rise of multidrug-resistant bacteria is a sobering reminder of the urgent need to address antimicrobial resistance and stewardship in antibiotic prescription."

Dr. Harmeet Khurana
Gynaecologist

"If we fail to act, we are looking at an almost unthinkable scenario where antibiotics no longer work, and we are cast back into the dark ages of medicine."

Dr. Jyoti Agarwal
Gynaecologist

"We need to innovate new treatments and diagnostics to stay ahead of antimicrobial resistance."

Dr. Nisha Ohri
Gynaecologist

"Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to global security, with potential implications for bioterrorism and pandemics."

Let's pledge to stop antibiotic abuse; It's time to fight Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR)

Consult your Doctor | Use Antibiotic only when prescribed by a doctor

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Delhi

TOIFA returns with its inaugural edition of OTT awards

Prathamesh Bandekar

Siddharth Roy Kapur and Shibasish Sarkar

CONTINUED FROM 1

The announcement was made in the presence of Sivakumar Sundaram, CEO - Publishing & Executive Director of Bennett, Coleman & Company Ltd (BCCL), along with Shibasish Sarkar, President of the Producers Guild of India and Siddharth Roy Kapur, Founder, Roy Kapur Films. The grand TOIFA Awards ceremony will be held in the last week of July 2024, in Mumbai.

Sharing his excitement, Sivakumar Sundaram said, "The Times of India Film Awards has emerged as the definitive awards platform for the Indian film industry. This year, recognizing the increasing significance of streaming platforms, we are delighted to launch the TOIFA – Hindi OTT edition. Through a rigorous voting process in partnership with the Producers Guild of India, we will celebrate outstanding talent from across 28 different award categories on OTT."

> I was impressed by the commitment of the organisers to create a credible and respected platform that will recognise excellence in streaming
>
> – Siddharth Roy Kapur, Founder, Roy Kapur Films

> We are delighted to partner with the TOIFA OTT edition and are confident that they will provide credible and prestigious recognition for outstanding work in the streaming space
>
> – Shibasish Sarkar, President, Producers Guild of India

TOIFA is committed to setting new standards and ensuring credibility and industry recognition. And what sets this award apart is the TOIFA Academy, which has been constituted in collaboration with the Producers Guild of India. This alliance reinforces TOIFA's standing as the paragon of excellence in the Indian entertainment industry. Another highlight is that TOIFA will have the largest film jury in the country – 175 members of the Producers Guild of India. The nominees for the awards were shortlisted by 30 members of the Screening Jury, comprising known actors, filmmakers, studio execs, writers, casting directors and film critics. The entire process is being audited by EY.

Talking about the Producers Guild of India's collaboration with TOIFA, Shibasish Sarkar said, "We are delighted to partner with the TOIFA – OTT edition and are confident that they will provide credible and prestigious recognition for outstanding work in the streaming space. Especially so, as the jury/academy comprising Producers Guild of India members will be voting on the various award categories."

The awards are being mentored by an Advisory Council comprising industry stalwarts like Rajkumar Hirani, Shoojit Sircar, Sameer Nair, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Nikkhil Advani, Aanand L Rai, Guneet Monga Kapoor, Raveena Tandon and Madhureeta Mukherjee.

Siddharth Roy Kapur stressed on how TOIFA's attempt to set high standards of credibility and transparency made him want to associate with it. "I was pleased to join the Advisory Council of the TOIFA – OTT Awards because I was impressed by the commitment of the organizers to create a credible and respected platform that will recognize excellence in streaming. This aligns perfectly with our shared goal of celebrating exceptional talent across all creative and technical disciplines in the industry."

The TOIFA – OTT Edition 2023 is presented by KRasa, Co Powered by Goldiee Masale & KPT Pipes in association with Usha Kakade Productions & Amanté!

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Goldiee MASALE | KPT PIPES

Ultimately, content is all about audiences, and the TOIFA – OTT Awards are committed to inclusivity. To ensure consumers have a voice, the TOIFA – OTT edition has introduced People's Choice Voting Awards in four popular categories.

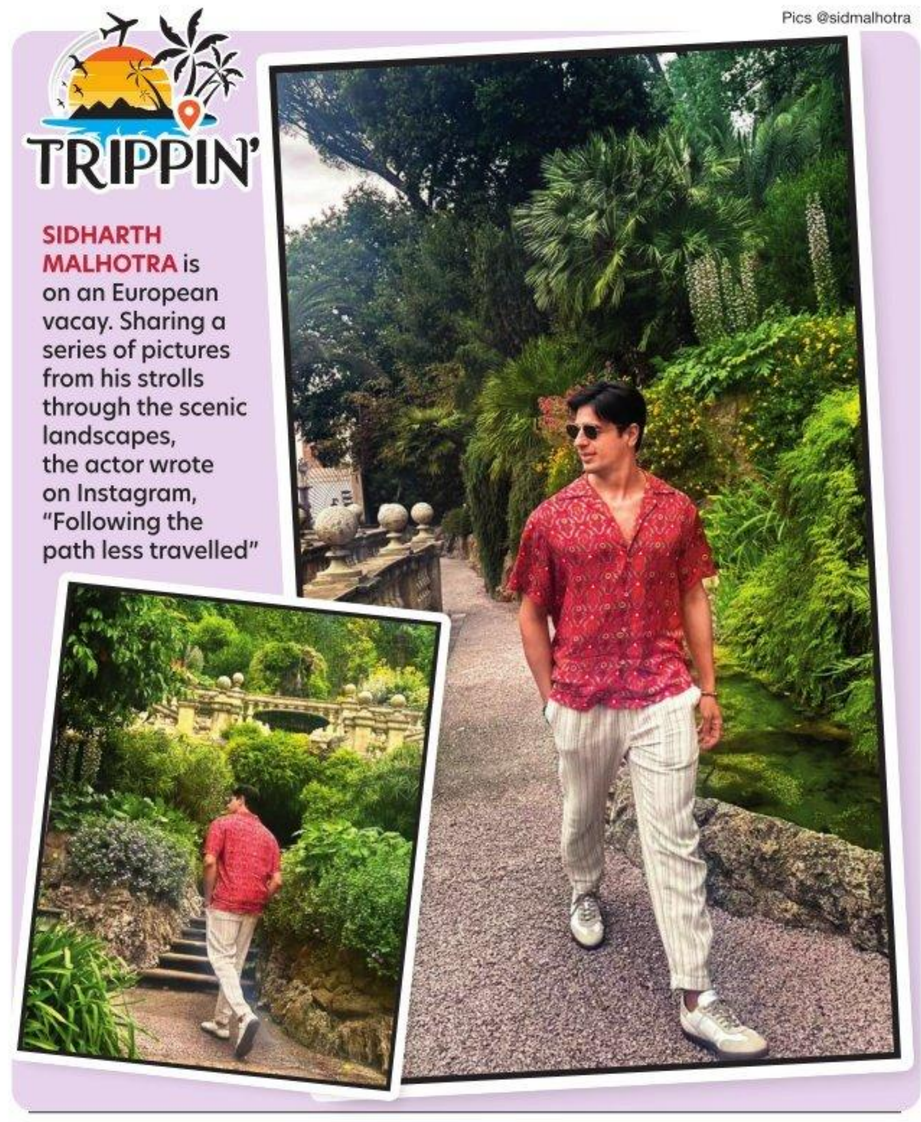
- Male Actor - Web Film
- Female Actor - Web Film
- Male Actor - Web Series
- Female Actor - Web Series

To vote, log onto www.toifa.in

TRIPPIN'

Pics @sidmalhotra

SIDHARTH MALHOTRA is on an European vacay. Sharing a series of pictures from his strolls through the scenic landscapes, the actor wrote on Instagram, "Following the path less travelled"



Amy's b'day note for fiance Ed Westwick

@iamamyjackson

Amy Jackson and Ed Westwick; (inset) her post on Ed's birthday

Amy Jackson took to Instagram to celebrate fiance, actor **Ed Westwick**'s 37th birthday with heartfelt wishes. Sharing a series of intimate photos, Amy expressed her love with a touching message, declaring, 'You're the best decision I've ever made. Happy birthday, baby.' Ed responded warmly, commenting, 'My dreams come true with you every day. Thank you for this sweet message. I love you.'

Recently, Amy took to her Instagram account to drop a series of pictures as she celebrated her bachelorette party with her friends on a private jet in France. Earlier in January, Amy had announced her engagement to Ed.

iamamyjackson Edited • 1d
You're the best decision I've ever made. Happy Birthday, baby @edwestwick

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SHOWBIZ

Privacy is my luxury: Himanshi on reports of 'ugly' breakup

While **Himanshi Khurana** and **Asim Riaz** announced in December 2023 that they had parted ways after four years of dating, a recent report claiming the erstwhile couple had an "ugly" and "messy" breakup prompted the actress to react with a story on her Insta.

The actress wrote, "My biggest flex is that nobody ever knows what's really going on in my life. Where I am, or my next move, unless I make it known. Therefore anything anyone says is just an assumption. Privacy is my luxury. Privacy is my peace."

@ iamhimanshikhurana

Himanshi Khurana with Asim Riaz in a music video that they had acted in; (left) the post she shared on social media in December announcing the breakup >>

TV is a women-centric medium, says Karan Vohra

Karan Vohra

Karan Vohra, who is currently seen playing the lead in TV show *Main Hoon Saath Tere*, celebrated his twins' Akshveer and Aryaveer's first birthday on June 16. Sharing his excitement, Karan says, "My babies turned one and we celebrated their birthday with a small party at our home."

On the work front, Karan says he is choosy about the projects he takes up. He explains, "Television is a women-centric medium with not much focus on male actors. Often the makers don't care much about the male actors and because of this. So, I have done few shows on television."

> Television is a women-centric medium with not much focus on male actors. Often the makers don't care much about the male actors and because of this. So, I have done few shows on television

POV

Not gyaan, give a pregnant woman her space

Going by the response to Deepika Padukone's decision to wear heels to an event, it would seem even men could teach her a thing or two about how to carry her baby bump. And women have a lot to tell her about what to wear and how.

There is something about our obsession with pregnant women. And it is not confined to homes where mother-in-laws, aunts and other senior female relatives prevail upon the woman with the standard line: "I've been there, done that, more than once." The assumption being a first-time mother is in dire need for *gyaan*, even if she is the one carrying the baby. Not the world.

The pushback started perhaps with the bold pregnancy photo shoots that screamed agency. Women such as Konkona Sensharma and Sameera Reddy blazed a trail despite the backlash, inspiring hundreds of women after them to take charge of their pregnancy narrative from the word go. There is nothing to hide, nothing to be apologetic about, was the message as women worked, partied and carried their pregnant bodies exactly the way they wanted to.

When Kalki Koechlin decided to have a baby with her partner, she was flooded with advice. In an interview, the actress, who chose to have a water birth with a trained midwife, explained how she was sifting through all kinds of inputs, including one that said she should eat her placenta. Kalki of course did exactly what she wanted to. Meanwhile, Masaba, who has been sharing her pregnancy journey, recently talked about the visible changes in her skin, renaming the persistent acne as 'baby kisses'. Evidently, she is in no mood to pay any heed to 'well meaning' advice about how to deal with hormonal changes.

It is heartening to see women clap back at those who feel they have the moral authority to tell them how to get their pregnancy act together. Or like Swara Bhaskar, gather the strength to talk about the difficult postpartum phase as well. To quote Richa Chadha, who is also expecting her first child with Ali Fazal: 'No uterus No *Gyan*'.

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? **Write to us at:** pov@timesgroup.com

LEISURE

EVENTS

EXHIBITION

India Habitat Centre: The DIVINE Elements Vol - II A Solo painting exhibition by Divyaman Singh.Today, Visual Arts Gallery, IHC

India Habitat Centre: *Tradition in Art: Madhubani's Timeless Beauty* - An exhibition of Madhubani paintings by Jas Karan Gupta. Till July 5. Convention Centre Foyer, IHC

Email us at tims.delhitimes@timesgroup.com

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

1						2		6
	2		6					9
		7	8		2			
				8			9	
		2	9		1	4		
	3			7				
			1		8	5		
9					7		8	
2		4						7

HOW TO PLAY

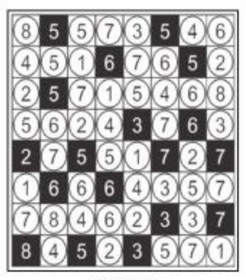
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

TIMES HITORI

HOW TO PLAY

1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

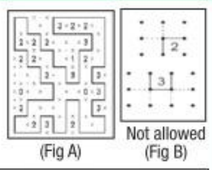
6	2	1	5	5	2	4	2
6	3	1	5	7	2	8	4
7	7	6	2	3	1	7	9
5	8	5	3	5	9	7	1
6	1	5	6	4	3	4	7
1	4	1	8	5	5	6	4
9	9	7	1	2	8	5	3
3	5	3	4	6	2	2	8

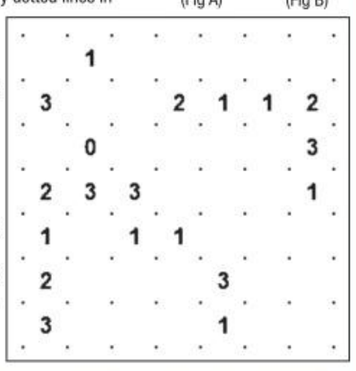

Example

LOOP THE LOOP

RULES

- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.


(Fig A) Not allowed (Fig B)

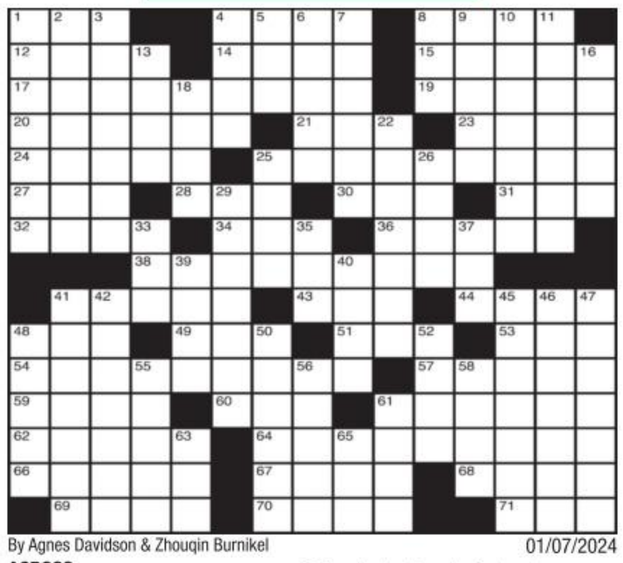


HOW TO BEGIN:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend **(Fig B)**.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Agnes Davidson & Zhouqin Burnikel 01/07/2024

ACROSS
1 "Antiques Roadshow" network
4 Sudden burst of activity
8 Seeks an answer
12 People who are not prone to infatuations, informally
14 In the past
15 Mown path
17 Improper etiquette at a social gathering
19 Company newbie
20 Customary routine
21 Pot cover
23 Fat in tamale dough
24 Confident way to solve newspaper puzzles
25 Aristocrat
27 Actor Jeong
28 Biol. or geol.
30 __ de mer
31 Korean automaker
32 Jason's ship, in Greek mythology
34 Sport-__: versatile vehicle
36 Zipped
38 Romantic outing
41 Image problem, for short
43 General on a Chinese menu
44 Ocean predator that sleeps with one eye open
48 Chum
49 Faux __
51 Sports drink suffix
53 Shade tree
54 Biography
57 Take, as advice
59 Actor Alda
60 Meadow mama
61 Pique, as interest
62 Accent on "señor"
64 Newspaper's attention-getters, and what both words in 17-, 25-, 38- and 54-Across can do
66 Job seeker's success
67 Home to billions of people
68 Celebratory suffix
69 Fleeting trends
70 Time period
71 Farm enclosure

DOWN
1 Dusting on deviled eggs
2 No-__: easy decision
3 Doing some laundry prep
4 "ur hilarious!"
5 Mattel game with 108 cards
6 Light boat in a regatta
7 Balloon gas
8 Fire pit residue
9 Gloppy fare
10 Singalong activity at a bar
11 Drug type banned by most pro sports
13 Leave speechless
16 Ibsen's "__ Gabler"
18 Himalayan bovines
22 Prayer opening
25 Small taste
26 Yawn-inducing
29 Bargain-basement
33 Like 2025, but not 2024
35 Doc who treats sinusitis
37 Exec concerned with data security
39 Tablet downloads
40 "If you ask me ... "
41 Courtroom figure who says "All rise!"
42 Cloverlike crop
45 Optimizes, as an engine
46 Most near
47 Political pardon
48 Student of Socrates
50 "You think I care?"
52 Noble title
55 Phased out
56 Elle portrayer in "Legally Blonde"
58 Pageboy, for one
61 Genesis man
63 Busy hosp. areas
65 Yoga ball filler

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	D		P	H	I				I	R	I	S	H
L	O	O	S	E	E	N	D			M	E	T	O	O
I	M	J	U	S	T	K	E	N		S	H	A	L	T
G	O	O	N	T	H	E	A	I	R		A	L	A	S
			D	E	E	D		C	A	S	S	I	S	
	S	C	A	R	Y		D	O	N	T	H	A	T	E
F	L	O	E	S		J	O	L	T	S		N	Y	U
R	I	M	S		C	A	S	A	S		T	I	E	R
A	P	B		M	A	N	E	S		C	A	C	A	O
U	N	O	P	E	N	E	D		T	A	T	E	R	
	S	M	I	L	E	D		M	U	T	T			
O	L	E	G		S	O	L	A	R	C	E	L	L	S
B	I	A	L	Y		E	A	R	T	H	R	I	S	E
I	D	L	E	D			C	O	L	O	S	S	A	L
T	E	S	T	S				N	E	W		A	T	L

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GARFIELD

ARCHIE

SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

DDEIO
AHSST
EGULNT
AFLMNU

The first human who hurled an ___ instead of a __ was the founder of civilization. - Sigmund Freud (6,5)

HOW TO PLAY

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

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See what the stars have in store for you - according to your moon sign.

ARIES: Consider love as action as well as physical attraction. A good chat can lift your spirits. Communication is the heart of any relationship. Keeping secrets may not be the best choice. A flexible attitude is best. You are lost in your own world. Stand on much firmer ground.

TAURUS: This is a great day to get going on an artistic project of some kind that has been at the back of your mind for some time. Explore your options to the fullest. This is a good time to get your finances in order.

GEMINI: You should be feeling especially strong, healthy, and charismatic, and are likely to receive some invitations to some exciting parties. Emotionally, you ebb and flow right along and that makes you temperamental, emotionally capricious, and unpredictable.

CANCER: Your ability to deal with your life situation is high and you will tackle any projects that you have been unable to motivate yourself to start recently. Trust your inner voice more than you ever have before, and pay attention to your dreams. Look on it as a learning opportunity.

LEO: Don't miss opportunities to pursue your dreams in every sense of the word. There may be a powerful transformation that takes place within you as you start to wield your power instead of giving it away blindly to the people around you.

VIRGO: You are restless today, you find it hard to settle down and stay in one place for long. A victory of some kind has come your way, which contributes to your great mood. Enjoy your day. Life eases up for you.

LIBRA: Visualising what you want to achieve helps bring it to reality. Don't hesitate to make independent decisions. Be willing to experiment on this day. True intimacy comes from a sense of acceptance and open exchange of feelings. Expect lessons of love.

SCORPIO: Let your brain slow down and allow yourself to think clearly without the distraction of too many people around you. Your good-hearted desire may leave you feeling very tired and drained. You need to turn your attention to your own needs or you will get burned out.

SAGITTARIUS: Enjoy your day. Pull out your leadership robes and put them on proudly. Be careful, that your head doesn't get so big that it ends up breaking your neck. Don't forget the other people in your life. Some actions might affect you and your relationship with colleagues.

CAPRICORN: You could induce some pretty deep thinking, leading to decisions that could actually alter the course of your life in some way. Engage in activities that exercise your mind and body. There is an aggressive tone to things that will not be easily ignored.

AQUARIUS: This is not a good day to sit around. Your mood today should be optimistic and positive, and you could be full of utopian schemes for the future. You have the solutions.

PISCES: You know you want to be in a physically and emotionally healthy living situation. You are more gregarious than usual and both old and new friends could seek out your company. You will have a dispute over who is holding the reins.

SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:
03-average | 04-good | 05-outstanding

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

DENNIS THE MENACE

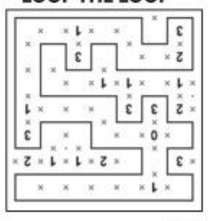
"YA THINK SHE'S FOLDIN' HER ARMS BECAUSE SHE'S TIRED OR MAD?"

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

1	5	8	7	3	9	2	4	6
4	2	3	6	1	5	8	7	9
6	9	7	8	4	2	3	5	1
5	4	1	3	8	6	7	9	2
7	6	2	9	5	1	4	3	8
8	3	9	2	7	4	1	6	5
3	7	6	1	9	8	5	2	4
9	1	5	4	2	7	6	8	3
2	8	4	5	6	3	9	1	7

LOOP THE LOOP



TIMES HITORI

6	3	5	7	2	8	4	
7		6	2	3	1		9
5	8		3		9	7	1
	1	5	6	4	3		7
1	4		8		5	6	
9		7	1	2	8	5	3
3	5		4	6		2	8

SPELLATHON

heir, hire, mesh, SHIMMER, shire

SCRAMBLE

Answer: The first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization. - Sigmund Freud

Words: Diode, stash, gluten, manful

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On Doctor's Day, dermatology clinic chain unveils new clinic in the capital

This year, on Doctor's Day, Oliva Skin, Hair & Body Clinic aims to highlight its commitment to excellence with the recent launch of its flagship clinic in Greater Kailash II. The brand's management team says, "With a large team of over 115 dermatologists, our brand offers personalised and effective treatments, ensuring top-notch care without compromising safety."

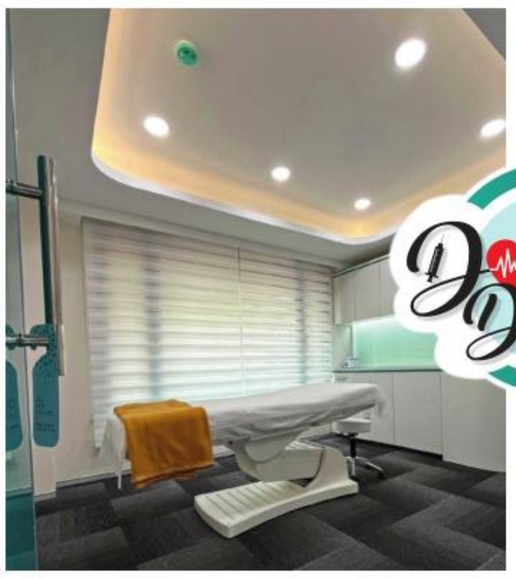
To celebrate Doctor's Day, the brand has unveiled various offers. "Our new clinic in GK-II, as well as Pitampura, Punjabi Bagh, and Preet Vihar branches, bring you unmissable offers. One can choose from a range of offers – flat 20% off on all treatments, flat 10% off on advanced anti-ageing treatments, full body laser hair removal starts at just ₹16,000, flat 30% off on all our premium products, flat 25% off on our advanced body contouring treatment, flat 15% off on our transformative beyond weight loss treatment, save big with plan 999 and plan 2999. To know more, one can visit our clinic," informs the team.

"We have a large team of dermatologists and specially-trained trichologists, aestheticians, and nutritionists, along with advanced techniques. This diverse expertise helps offer personalised care," says the team, adding, "We have in-depth consultations designed to understand your skin and hair concerns in detail. These help dermatologists customise treatments to each client's needs. All our dermatologists are qualified MDs and are further meticulously trained on a gold-standard curriculum."

They further inform, "Oliva's clinics are equipped with US FDA-approved technology, ensuring that clients receive treatments with the highest safety standards. We also have a range of personalised solutions, including acne/acne scar treatments, advanced hair regrowth treatments, laser hair removal for unwanted hair, diverse skin lightening treatments, Oliva's exclusive Instaglow skin rejuvenation therapy, anti-ageing treatments and transformative weight loss solutions."

Address: First and second floor, M Block Market, M-2, Greater Kailash II
Contact: 91211 06610
Website: www.olivaclinic.com

Interior of the clinic



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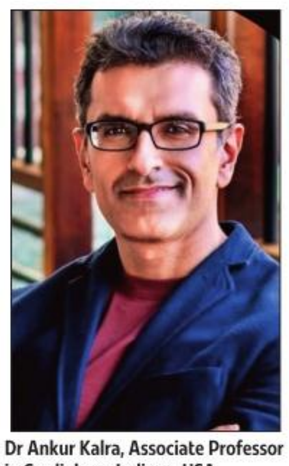
'Preventive care is a significant aspect of a cardiologist's role'

On the occasion of Doctor's Day, it's important to note the role of a cardiologist. Dr RN Kalra says, "A cardiologist's role, focused on diagnosing, treating, and preventing diseases of the cardiovascular system, which includes the heart and blood vessels, is critical in managing conditions such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, arrhythmias, and hypertension. They perform a range of diagnostic tests, including electrocardiograms (EKGs), echocardiograms, and stress tests, to assess heart function and detect abnormalities."

Dr Kalra adds, "In addition to diagnostic duties, cardiologists prescribe medications, recommend lifestyle changes, and perform or oversee procedures like angioplasty, stenting, and pacemaker implantation. They collaborate closely with primary care physicians, surgeons, and other specialists to provide comprehensive care for patients with complex cardiovascular issues."

Dr Ankit Kalra, Cardiologist and Director of the hospital


Dr Ankur Kalra, Associate Professor in Cardiology, Indiana, USA

Dr R N Kalra, Medical Director of the hospital

Preventive care is a significant aspect of a cardiologist's role. Dr Kalra further says, "By adopting the latest state-of-the art technology, cardiologists have set new benchmarks in terms of treatment for all kinds of heart ailment at Kalra Hospital. Preventive care involves patient education on risk factors like smoking, diet, and physical inactivity. The noble mission of physicians, cardiologists, and surgeons is to selflessly serve humanity with unwavering dedication and integrity, contributing to the overall health and well-being of India."

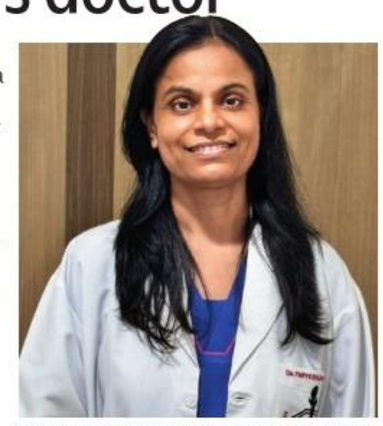
Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the experts.

Doctor's Day

Air pollution increases the risk of acute respiratory infections, says doctor

On Doctor's Day, Dr Parveen Kaur highlights a pressing issue – air pollution – a silent but deadly human-made problem. According to the World Health Organisation, it claims 7 million lives worldwide annually and leads to heart diseases, strokes, chronic respiratory diseases, and lung cancer. Speaking about the same, Dr Kaur emphasises that air pollution can trigger asthma, worsen chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and increase the risk of acute respiratory infections. She believes that air pollution affects everyone, regardless of wealth or status.

She adds, "Air pollution contains a mixture of polluting particles that can cause lung cancer by accumulating in the lungs and damaging the DNA in cells, potentially leading to cancer. Additionally, exposure to industrial substances like arsenic, organic chemicals, radon, asbestos, radiation, tuberculosis, and environmental tobacco smoke in nonsmokers also increases the risk of developing lung cancer. But collective actions and a healthier way of leading a life can help all of us keep these chronic diseases at bay."


Dr Parveen Kaur, Head, Department of Critical Care, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the experts.

'Practise body awareness, investigate family history to detect breast cancer'

Hina Khan, 36, recently revealed her diagnosis of Stage 3 breast cancer. Doctors share insights into the rise in breast cancer among young women and the steps needed for early detection

Riya Sharma

HINA HAS STAGE 3 BREAST CANCER

WHEN SHOULD YOU START GETTING SCREENED?

Normally the screening starts after the age of 40 but if there is a history of breast cancer in the family then the screening should start five years earlier, suggests Dr Amit Upadhyay Senior Consultant, Oncology & Hemato-Oncology, PSRI Hospital

- It is recommended to do biennial mammography screenings for those in the age group 40-50 and annually thereafter for women with average risk
- Women with a higher risk profile may benefit from early screening
- Consult a healthcare provider to determine the appropriate screening schedule based on individual risk factors and medical history
- Early detection and personalised multidisciplinary management are crucial in treating breast cancer effectively

– Dr Ramesh Sarin

DOC Talk

Early symptoms that should not be ignored

- A lump in the breast or underarm
- Changes in the shape and size of the breast
- Recent onset nipple inversion
- Changes in the colour or texture of the breast skin
- Any lump in the armpit (axilla)

– Dr Arun Kumar Goel, Chairman & Head, Surgical Oncology, Andromeda Cancer Hospital

'AGE IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN BREAST CANCER DEVELOPMENT'

Dr Ramesh Sarin, Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, explains that the risk of breast cancer increases as women age, with most cases occurring in women over 55. "However, breast cancer in young women tends to be more aggressive and diagnosed at advanced stages. Early detection and screening are crucial for young women with a higher risk profile, such as those with a family history or genetic predisposition," he adds.

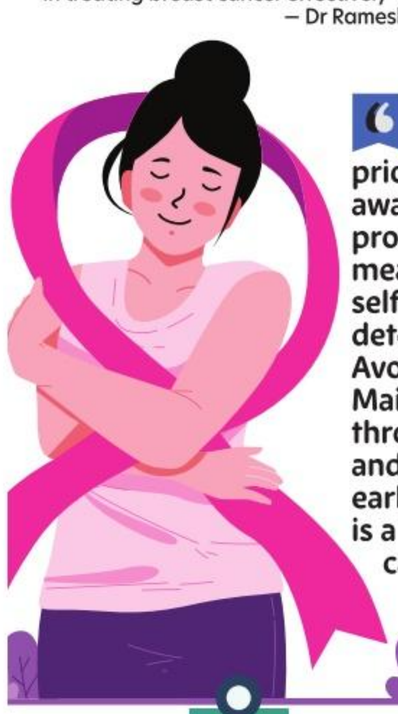
The median age of presentation at diagnosis is 49 years in India, as against 62 in the Western population, shares Dr Divya Sehra, Consultant Gynecologic Oncology, Manipal Hospital, Dwarka. "The incidence varies widely within India too, being higher in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai, mainly due to reproductive factors (late marriage, delayed childbearing, low rates of breastfeeding) and lifestyle factors (sedentary life, red meat-based diet, tobacco, and alcohol consumption)," she adds.

It is to be noted that rural areas have a lower incidence of breast cancer compared to urban areas, again pointing to lifestyle differences

Hina Khan; (inset) the post she shared on Insta

I have been diagnosed with Stage Three Breast Cancer.

Despite this challenging diagnosis, I want to reassure everyone that I am doing well. I am strong, determined, and fully committed to overcoming this disease. My treatment has already begun, and I am ready to do everything necessary to emerge from this even stronger.



My advice to young women is to prioritize self-awareness and take proactive health measures. Practice self-body awareness to detect any changes early. Avoid alcohol consumption. Maintain a healthy weight through balanced nutrition and regular exercise. Start early investigations if there is a family history of breast cancer

- Dr Arun Kumar Goel

'CANCER IN INDIAN WOMEN OCCURS TEN YEARS EARLIER THAN IN WEST'

In 2023, a study based on data from 1.5 lakh screenings by Apollo Hospitals between 2018 and 2023, found out that a striking **25% of breast cancer cases among Indian women occurred at the age of 39 years or less.** The recorded minimum age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis is 23 years.

"Research from ICMR and Tata Memorial indicates that in the last 10-15 years, **cancer in India in women occurs ten years earlier than their Western counterpart. For women under 40 years of age, the incidence is double to what it is in the West.** This trend is attributed to various factors, including genetics, family history, and lifestyle choices," points out Dr Ramesh Sarin.

@chhavihussein

Chhavi Mittal was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022

Stay strong, stay positive: Chhavi tells Hina

After Hina Khan posted on social media that she has been diagnosed with stage three breast cancer, we spoke to actress **Chhavi Mittal**, who battled breast cancer in 2022. Talking about Hina's post, Chhavi said, "It's a difficult time for Hina. In her post, she seems focused on staying positive and strong, which is good. We should respect her privacy. I'm sure she is in good hands and will come out of this stronger than ever. I don't know Hina personally, but I would like to tell her that it may seem tough right now, but this, too, shall pass. In the future, you will look back at this period and understand how you were bestowed with strength. Stay strong, stay positive."

Chhavi says her own diagnosis and subsequent cancer treatment have made her a stronger person today. She says, "Self-belief is what helped me. There are some things which still bother me physically, but I have accepted that as a part of life. No matter how much I try not to think about what happened to me, it will always stay at the back of my mind."

It's a difficult time for Hina. I'm sure she will come out of this stronger than ever. I would like to tell her that it may seem tough right now, but this, too, shall pass – Chhavi Mittal

— Hasti Doshi

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• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

NEUROLOGIST

Dr. Abhishek Aggarwal

Climate change is no longer a hoax and this heat wave is taking a toll on our health - let's all stay hydrated and healthy. So,on this doctors day, all of us should take a pledge to take small steps to prevent the damage. Wishing you a very happy doctors day

Dr. Abhishek Juneja

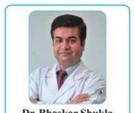
Honor and appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of all doctors who work tirelessly to make the world healthier.

Dr. Anand Kumar Saxena

On this Doctor's Day warm wishes to the extraordinary doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy and safe. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta

Happy Doctor's Day to the superheroes in white coats! Your commitment to healing and saving lives inspires us all.

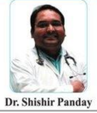


Dr. Bhaskar Shukla

Happy Doctor's Day to the healers, caregivers, and lifesavers! Your compassion and knowledge bring hope and healing to countless lives. We are forever grateful.

Dr. Dinesh Chaudhary

"As a stroke doctor, I see firsthand the importance of timely intervention and compassionate care. On this Doctors' Day, let's celebrate the dedication and resilience of all medical professionals who work tirelessly to give patients a second chance at life. Our mission is to restore hope and function, one patient at a time."



Dr. Shishir Panday

Keep your Brain Healthy by Regular Exercise 30 minutes for 5 days in a week , 8 hours sleep , Avoid processed foods , Take Nuts and Resins , Control Hypertension and Diabetes, Avoid Alcohol and other addictions.

Dr. Swarupa Bansode

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to the doctors who work tirelessly to make a difference, thank you for your relentless pursuit of excellence in healthcare. Your passion and commitment inspire us all. Cheers to Health Heroes.

Dr. Himank Goyal

Happy Doctor's Day to the doctors who bring hope, healing, and comfort to their patients! Your compassion knows no bounds.

Dr. Jaideep Bansal

Medical is not just science, it is an art. Each patient or disease doesn't behave in same way. It is a science of probability. There is NO 100% in medical science. Doctors put all efforts and expertise to save the life of the patient with full dedication & many times endangering own life. Salute to the medical fraternity. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Lovelina Singh

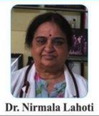
To ensure good health, stay happy, eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately & maintain an interest in life. Your own body is the best pharmacy.

Dr. Manoj Khanal

When there are tears, you are a balm; when there is pain, you are a painkiller; when there is tragedy, you are a solution; you are the only hope in midst of sadness and darkness. Thanks for everything. Happy doctors day 2024.

Dr. N Sairam

On this special day, we celebrate the invaluable bond between doctors & patients. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey towards health & healing.



Dr. Nirmala Lahoti

Medicines cure diseases, but only doctors can cure the patients. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Rahul Chauhan

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day and let's acknowledge the immense contributions of doctors in our lives. They bring healing, comfort, and hope when we need it the most. Thank you for your invaluable service.

Dr. Rima Khanna

To the doctors who treat illnesses, uplift spirits, and instill hope. Happy Doctor's Day.

NEURO SURGEON

Dr. Arun Saroha

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to the remarkable men and women who wear the stethoscope with pride. Your commitment to excellence in healthcare inspires us all.

Dr. Gaurav Tyagi

Sending warm wishes and deep gratitude to all the doctors on this Doctor's Day. Your expertise, empathy, and selflessness make the world a better place.

Dr. Rohit Bansil

On this Doctor's day I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my patients and loved ones, for trusting me. What we do as doctors is part of the equation which depends on your cooperation and faith to be complete. Today I reflect on the privilege that it is in serving as your Doctor. Stay Healthy, Stay Active and Stay Happy!

Dr. Sushil Bhasin

To all the dedicated doctors, On this special day, we celebrate our tireless commitment to improving lives and advancing healthcare. Our selflessness,resilience, compassion, expertise and unwavering dedication makes a profound difference to the care we provide to the mankind every day. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Rajni Farmania

When there are tears, you are a shoulder. When there is pain, you are a medicine. When there is a tragedy, you are a hope. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Rekha Mittal

I wish all my patients the best of health & pray for their well being. I pledge to continue doing my best for them only.

Dr. Saurabh Chopra

We thanks all doctors who work toward improving the lives of their patients and communities. Happy Doctor's Day.

PSYCHIATRIST

Dr. Akshara Mishra

On doctors day i want to remind all doctors to take care of their own mental and physical health with the same dedication as when they are serving the society.

Dr. Amit Garg

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to the incredible men and women who wear stethoscopes and dedicate their lives to healing. Thank you for your extraordinary service and for making a positive difference in countless lives.

Dr. Ashish Narvariya

On this special day, let honour the doctors who go above & beyond to provide exceptional care. Your knowledge, skill & compassion make a lasting impact on countless lives. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Atmesh Kumar

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to all the heroes in white coats who selflessly devote themselves to the well-being of others. Your knowledge and skill bring hope and healing to countless individuals.

Dr. Mukesh Batra

Doctor's day is a reminder to all of us to take some time out to appreciate the doctors who put all their lives into offering services to others.

Dr. Jatin Ukrani

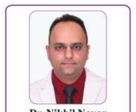
To the incredible doctors who selflessly serve humanity with their skills and expertise. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Maneesh Gupta

Reiterating the spirit of care & compassion of doctors of modern medicine. Patient's health is our primary purpose.

Dr. Megha Agarwal

A healthy mind is important for a healthy you as there is no health without mental health.

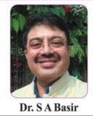


Dr. Nikhil Nayar

On this Doctor's Day, we extend our deepest appreciation to the doctors who go above and beyond to provide exceptional care. Your passion and commitment to your profession are truly admirable.

Dr. Rohit Sharma

Wishing a wonderful Doctor's Day to the compassionate caregivers who make a difference in the lives of so many every day.



Dr. S A Basir

Happy Doctor's Day to the brilliant minds who heal with their knowledge, care with their hearts and touch lives with their compassion. You are the epitome of excellence in healthcare.

THANK YOU DOCTORS

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Restoring, renewing, reviving, reclaiming, and rejuvenating are as noble as creating!!!

HAPPY DOCTOR'S DAY

MSN Research for Better Medicines

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Dr. Varun Rehani

Happy Doctor's Day! Thank you for your unwavering commitment to healing, caring, and saving lives. Your dedication is truly commendable.

Dr. Vinay Aggarwal

Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to someone who dedicates their life to the well-being of others. Your sacrifices and commitment do not go unnoticed.

Dr. Ravindra Srivastava

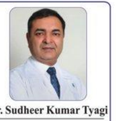
Happy Doctor's Day to the superheroes who don't wear capes but save lives everyday. Your dedication & sacrifice are truly admirable. Thank you for being our guardian angels.

Dr. Vishal Jain

On this special occasion of Doctor's Day, let's express our heartfelt appreciation to the doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy. Thank you for your selflessness & dedication!

Dr. Shailesh Jain

On this Doctor's Day, we express our deepest gratitude to the caring and dedicated physicians who make a difference in countless lives.



Dr. Sudheer Kumar Tyagi

Today, i want to recognize the incredible contributions of my fellow doctors. Your expertise makes a significant impact on the lives of our patients.

PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST

Dr. Anita Sharma

Doctor's day is a reminder for unwavering, compassionate service to community.

Dr. Apurva Tomar

Wishing a fantastic Doctor's Day to the compassionate healers who tirelessly work to keep us healthy.

Dr. Praveen Kumar

Happy Doctor's Day to our favourite healer. You have touched our lives with your kindness, and expertise. Thank you, the genuine.

Dr. Shailesh Jha

Sending heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy. Your dedication & selflessness are unparalleled. Thank you for being true healthcare heroes. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Vishal Chhabra

On this special day, let's honour the doctors who go above and beyond to provide exceptional care. Your knowledge, skill, and compassion make a lasting impact on countless lives. Happy Doctor's Day.

UROLOGIST

Dr. Anil Kumar Varshney

Good morning Friends! Let's appreciate the hard work dedication and commitment all the Doctors of the Nation on this Doctors Day I am really proud of the Doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy." And wish each and every Doctors of the Nation the running the pride future.

Dr. Sudhir Khanna

"Today, we celebrate the unwavering dedication and care of Doctors everywhere. To all patients, your strength and trust inspire us to heal, comfort, and support. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your health journey. Happy Doctor's Day!"

Dr. Rajesh Taneja

Doctors are the true heroes who dedicate their lives to healing others. Happy Doctor's Day!"

Dr. Pawan Kesarwani

"Doctors give us hope and strength in our toughest times. Celebrating your invaluable service today and always. Happy Doctor's Day!"

Dr. Mrigank Shekhar Jha

"Happy Doctor's Day to all the Doctors who embody compassion, resilience, and excellence! Your dedication to your patients is truly commendable"

Dr. Parag Gupta

"On National Doctors' Day, we express our deepest gratitude for your tireless efforts in keeping our communities healthy."

Dr. Samir Khanna

"Today we celebrate the healers, the caregivers, and the life-savers. Happy Doctor's Day to all the extraordinary Doctors!"

Dr. Ashish Saini

Happy Doctor's Day to the brilliant minds who heal with their knowledge, care with their hearts and touch lives with their compassion. You are the epitome of excellence in healthcare.

Dr. YPS Rana

On this special day, let's honour the Doctors who go above and beyond to provide exceptional care. Your knowledge, skill, and compassion make a lasting impact on countless lives. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Shafiq Ahmed

Stay healthy and get your health check up on regular basis after the age of 40 years .Happy Doctor's day !!

Dr. Manish Singla

Thank you, my patients, for believing in me. Your trust motivates me to work harder. I wish you a happy and healthy year.

Dr. Sushil Kharbanda

On this special day, we celebrate the incredible work of Doctors like you. Your expertise, empathy, and compassion make a profound difference in the lives of your patients. Thank you for being an exceptional Doctor.

Dr. Anil Kumar Gulia

Doctors gives us hope and strength in our toughest time. Celebrating your invaluable service today and always. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Vikas Agrawal

Want to thank all my teachers, colleague and patient who made me what I am today. Trust your Doctor and understand us for better future.

Dr. Swatantra Rao

"Your compassion and expertise make a world of difference in our lives. Wishing you a Happy Doctor's Day!"

Dr. Zeeshan Rehman

Happy Doctor's Day! Thank you for your unwavering commitment to healing, caring, and saving lives. Your dedication is truly commendable.

HEMATOLOGIST

Dr. Sarita Rani Jaiswal

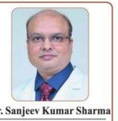
Doctors are not just professionals; they are pillars of strength, sources of comfort, and beacons of hope.

Dr. Mitu Shrikhande

The bond between a Doctor & patient is built on trust, empathy & open communication. It is a partnership in the journey towards better health.

Dr. Dinesh Jain

Doctor is not merely someone who diagnoses and treats diseases, but a compassionate soul dedicated promoting wellness.



Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma

To me, being a Doctor means having privilege to make positive impact on people's lives every single day.

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Dr. Ankur Arya

On this Doctor's day, let's acknowledge the immense contributions of Doctors in our lives. They bring healing, comfort, and hope when we need it the most. Thank you for your invaluable service!

Dr. Ajay Agarwal

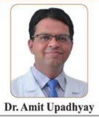
Sending heartfelt gratitude to all the Doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy. Your dedication and selflessness are unparalleled. Thank you for being true healthcare heroes. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Nitin Gupta

Being a Doctor is a great honour, a life-long commitment to the sick and responsibility to practice ethical medicine.

Dr. Esha Kaul

We are community of healers, caretakers and advocates, bound together by shared passion for medicine and the well-being of our patients.

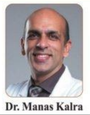


Dr. Amit Upadhyay

Only a Doctor is blessed with the magical powers to treat life, to bring health into our lives and to be there with us when we lost all the hopes.

Dr. Amrita Ramaswami

On this Doctor's day, let us take a moment to reflect on our journey, the lives we touched and the impact we continue to make.



Dr. Manas Kalra

Doctors are the guardians of health, the healers of bodies, and the champions of hope. Happy Doctor's Day to all.

Dr. Rohit Kapoor

Behind every successful recovery, there is a compassionate Doctor who never loses faith.

ONCOLOGIST

Dr. Praveen Kumar Bansal

Medicines can cure disease but only a Doctor can cure patients.

Dr. Puneet Gupta

Doctor are not God but the best candidate through whom God heals.

Dr. Deni Gupta

Doctors are the silent warriors fighting battles against illness and disease. Today, we honor your bravery and dedication.

Dr. Devavrat Arya

On this Doctor's Day, I want to express appreciation to all healthcare professionals who tirelessly work, facing challenges with courage and unwavering dedication.

Dr. Saphalta Baghmar

Doctors are the guardians of health, the healers of bodies and the champions of hope. Happy Doctor's Day to all.

Dr. Bhuvan Chugh

Being Doctor, the greatest gift you can give your patient is your time, your empathy, and your care.

Dr. Parveen Jain

Wishing all Doctors a Happy Doctor's Day filled with appreciation and recognition for their invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of humanity.

Dr. Ajay Sharma

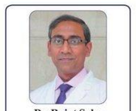
As a medical Doctor, it is my duty to evaluate the situation with as much data as I can gather and as much expertise as I have and as much experience as I have to determine whether or not the wish of the patient is medically justified.

Dr. Chandragouda Dodagoudar

In the face of adversity, we find strength. In the depth of illness, we discover resilience. As Oncologists, we stand with our patients to fight cancer together.

Dr. Sandeep Batra

Doctors don't just treat symptoms; they restore faith, dignity and quality of life.

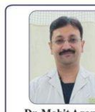


Dr. Rajat Saha

Doctors are individuals who devote their lives to the noble cause of healing. Your compassion and expertise make all the difference.

Dr. K. M. Parthasarathy

Happy Doctor's Day! Today, let's acknowledge the resilience, sacrifice and brilliance of Doctors worldwide, who are the true heroes of our communities.



Dr. Mohit Agarwal

I wear the white coat with dignity and pride as it is an honor to be of public service as my profession.

Dr. Namita Sharma

To the world, you may just be a Doctor, but to your patients, you are a hero. Happy Doctors Day to all.

Dr. Sushant Mittal

Not every warrior has armor and sword. Some have white coat and stethoscope.

HAPPY DOCTOR'S DAY

HAPPY DOCTOR'S DAY

GYNECOLOGY

Dr. Bharti Ahuja
Gratitude and immense rapture for being able to extend my bit to the society. To be able to contribute was the only intent when I skittishly embarked on this journey 20 years ago. Today as we celebrate yet another Doctor's day, I would like to give a quick heads-up to all the young and aspiring doctors, 'the road may not be all roses, but its worth it!!'

Dr. Jayasree Sundar
It is not easy to be a pioneer – but oh, it is fascinating!

Dr. Uma Verma
I m thankful to the almighty that I m serving girl s . It give me satisfaction that my hard work bring happiness in the life of so many girls . I can't ask god more than this .

Dr. Meenu Goyal
Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love for humanity. Sending healing energy your way.

Dr. Neelam Garg
Celebrating the remarkable doctors who inspire us every day. Happy Doctors' Day!

Dr. Renuka Tyagi
Mother is that celebrity without even God is incomplete. whom-give Blood for those who give life.

Dr. Soniya naik
Your selfless service is an inspiration. Happy Doctors' Day and thank you!

Dr. Purnima Jain
Anaemia is the most Common Cause of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Dr. Richa Maheshwari
On this doctor day I would like &thanks all my follow colleges and senior as well as junior as know it is very helpful presenting helping the community day.

Dr. Archana Bharti
This doctor day I would like to thanks all my senior college junior patient for their low support trust and dedication always remember a good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor book of treatment.

Dr. Shuchita Sharma
Injudicious use of antibiotics is the most common cause of AMR or Anti microbial Resistance.

Dr. Anushka Madan
On this Doctor's Day, I am reminded of the profound privilege it is, to guide hopeful parents through their journey to parenthood. To all my colleagues, let's continue to turn dreams into reality, one family at a time.

Dr. Anita K Jain
Iran Deficiency Anmia is most Commen deficiency in Indian female. Our deal Should be fortified mater iron rich dements and in severe Cases, females exp pregnant females Should be given injectable iron.

Dr. Neena Singh Kumar
Happy Doctors' Day!

Dr. Sheetal Sabharwal
Celebrating the doctors who make a real difference in our lives. Thank you and Happy Doctors' Day!

ORTHOPAEDIC

Dr. Ajay Raj Sharma
Doctors are the one who stands as corona warrior's & they sacrificed there life to sevre many lives, my deep condolence to doctors who died in fighting with corona patient.

Dr. Amit Chaudhary
Health is the most important thing and we do not realize it until we lose it.let us take good care of it.

Dr. Apurv Mehra
Doctor is just not a small letter word infact it's just not a word it's an emotion which is made as a conglomerate of care, passion and most importantly kindness.

A Doctor has two biggest earnings from the society in return respect and blessings .

Blessings infact are the most powerful shield that protects the saviour.

Being a doctor is a matter of honour as well as responsibility.

May all the doctors keep serving humanity with kindness .

Dr. Hemant Sharma
We are in the business of health.It is Our job to help people to not become our patients.

Dr. Himanshu Gaur
Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.

Dr. Mrinal Mathur
"On this Doctor's Day, let us pledge to live a life free from pain, free from disability, deformity and promise to provide right treatment at the right time to the sick to the best of our abilities".

Dr. R K Pandey
A doctor is incredible who selflessly serve humanity with their skill and expertise.

Dr. Samarjit Singh
Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live in.

Dr. Suresh Dargan
"Investment in health yields lifetime of dividends"

Dr. Vinay Gupta
I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.Salute to all covid warriors!!

GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Dr. Ashish Kumar
Here's to the incredible doctors who selflessly serve humanity with their skills and expertise. Happy Doctor's Day!"

Dr. Ashok Goyal
"When diet is wrong medicine is of no use, when diet is correct medicine is of no need". Never forget health is the real wealth.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Wani
When You Experience Acid Reflux Two or More Times, In a week it has a special name and is called GERD

Dr. Rohan Mahajan
Doctors are ordinary people who choose to be extraordinary. They heal the suffering of humanity.

Dr. Hitendra K Garg
"Heartburn and Pain are two most common and characteristic symptoms of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease(GERD)"

Dr. Ishtikhar Ahmed
In nothing do men more nearly approach the gods than in giving health to men."

Dr. Lokesh Nath Jha
On this doctors day, I would like my patients to keep a check on his/her dietary habits so that one should not worry about diseases in future.

Dr. M Qaleem
-Avoid full stomach eating and avoid lying down immediately after eating.

- Avoid caffeine products like coffee, tea and chocolates.

-Avoid fried, spicy and junk food items.

- Regular physical activity.

-Adequate and regular water intake.

Dr. Mayur Rathod
Being true to my profession does not merely mean prescribing medicines to the diseased. It also means to be always in the Frontline providing hope to the people in despair and gifting the society with goodness and health.

Dr. Naresh Agarwal
He have been talking about health every year on doctors day. Please look bac, have you changed your approach to positive health or taken some resolution for improving health particularly exercise, balanced diet and more important gaining knowledge about the interaction of Health and diet.

If you have not, this is the time because morning is when we wake up, so please take care of your health in the best possible way that you can.

Dr. Naresh Bansal
Service of humanity is the most noble thing to do, and to do that part as a doctor is the blessing.

Dr. Neeraj Dhamija
"Every patient's journey, a testament to dedication and compassion-Happy Doctors' Day!"

Dr. Nishant Nagpal
The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease."

Dr. Praveen Sharma
Happy Doctor's Day to the doctors who embody compassion, resilience, and excellence! Your dedication to your patients is truly commendable."

Dr. Ramesh Garg
You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all the world's problems all at once. But don't ever underestimate the impact you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.

Dr. Rohit Sharma
Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

Dr. Rubal Gupta
Following Healthy life style routine and maintaining proper weight are the mainstay of GERD treatment.

Dr. S K Thakur
" Unjustified dietary restrictions based on myths rather than facts is the major cause of Gut - ill health ".

Dr. Sandeep Gulati
Early detection of the illnesses is the key to favourable outcomes.

Please don't ignore your health.

Health is the real wealth.

Dr. Surakshit TK
One of the fastest way to improve your health is to eat slowly.

Dr. Vasudha Goel
Happy Doctor's Day! I want to thank each and every one of you for putting us with your care. It's an honor to serve you and make a difference in your lives. Let's work together to create a healthier and happier world! ThankYou.

Dr. Vivek Bhatia
The world needs huge positive energy to fight against the negative forces. Go to the center of your inner begin and generate that positive energy for the welfare of the humanity.

DERMATOLOGIST

Dr. Ruchika Miglani
On this Doctor Day, We as a doctor pledge to serve the nation and patient's at our best level and efforts. All human being should be healthy during this panedemic. This is our sole intention. Be healthy, Be safe. Follow Corona protocols.

Dr. Jangid
On this Doctor's Day, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful patients and community members who trust me for their treatment. Your support and confidence inspire me to provide the best care possible. At SkinQure, we are dedicated to enhancing your skin and hair health. Together, we make a real difference in people's lives. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey toward better health.

RHEUMATOLOGIST

Dr. Pof. Rohini Handa
There is good news for patients with arthritis. The success rate of modern-day treatment has increased significantly over the last decade. Patients can look forward to a life without pain. The important thing is early detection. If you have pain, swelling or stiffness in your joints- please consult a rheumatologist. Rheumatology is the specialty that deals with arthritis and other autoimmune musculoskeletal diseases. Together, we can make a difference.

Dr. Shallu Verma
There are six components of wellness: proper weight and diet, proper exercise, breaking the smoking habit, control of alcohol, stress management, and periodic exams.

Dr. (Lt General) Ved Chaturvedi
Rheumatology is the last bastion of clinical Medical science. while orthopedic speciality is a surgeon to the joints while Rheumatologist is a physician to the joint . An early referral to Rheumatologist is the key to prevent joint damage and to recognise exact disease.

Dr. Sundeep Upadhyaya
There are several forms of arthritis and newer treatment for these disorder are virtually curing them. Do speak to a Rheumatologist Immunologist for the most latest and effective therpies.

Dr. Lalit Duggal
On the occasion of Doctor's Day, I would like to reinforce my advice to patients and the public: eat healthily, exercise regularly, restrict your addictions, and take your prescribed medicines consistently to stay fit for yourself, for your family, and for your country at large.

Dr. Jatinder Juneja
Wishing Everyone a Joyous Doctor's Day !!

Let us all Make a Pledge Today to Safeguard Our Health & That of our Fellow Citizen's. Little do we Realise that Health is a Nation 'National Treasure

Must be Looked after, As Such.

Dr. Nikhil Gupta
On this Doctors' Day, let's prioritize our health together.

Disability due to arthritis and autoimmune diseases are preventable.

Dr. Shruti Bajad
As we celebrate Doctor's Day, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all my patients. Your faith in my abilities motivates me to constantly improve and deliver the best care possible. May you always be blessed with wellness and peace.

Dr. Priyanka Kharbanda
Stay strong, stay healthy, wealthy is wealth arthritis patients should take their medicine on time along with good healthy diet and daily exercise.

Dr. Alok Kalyani
Walking is best exercise for arthritis patients, please walk for your good health.

Dr. Neha Agrawal
Arthritis us serious, can be life threatening .It impacts daily life and the livelihood of those affected. Early diagnosis and early treatment is essential to prevent irreversible deformities and complications.

Dr. Anju Singh
Good health is not only essential to improving the longevity of a person but also helps to achieve higher goals in life.

Dr. Hemant Sharma
Rheumatoid Arthritis if not treated properly can lead to increase chances of cardiovascular problems and early death. So patient of Rheumatoid Arthritis should be visiting their treating doctors regularly to keep the disease under control.

Dr. Sunil Attri
Thank you, my Patients, for believing in me. When I see happiness and smiles on the faces of patients, all the hardships disappear. Thank you for the immense faith & trusting us.

I thank you all for celebrating us today.

Dr. Vivek Rana
Wellness is the complete integration of body, mind and spirit . Recognising this interconnectedness is the key to optimal health.

CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN

Dr. Alok Joshi
Shorter the waist line, longer the lifeline.

Dr. Amar Gautam
We wish you happy drs day for always being there for us, for serving us with happiness and for treating our problems.happy doctors day.

Dr. Ashish Rohatgi
Patience, tolerance and intelligence, you have all these in you. Happy Doctors Day.

Dr. Haresh Sidhwa
Thank You Doctors, You make the universe a better place to live . Happy Doctor's Day

Dr. Meghana Kabra
Putting your selves and your families at risk or staying away from them. May the Almighty grant you strength to carry-on the mission.

Dr. Rajeev Chawla
Happy Doctor's Day to the doctors who bring hope, healing, and comfort to their patients! Your compassion knows no bounds.

Dr. Rakesh Sharma
Your health is my priority, and together we will overcome any challenge that comes our way. Stay strong, have faith, and remember that I am here for you every step of the way.

Dr. S K Mundhra
Happy Doctor's Day to the healers, caregivers, and lifesavers! Your compassion and knowledge bring hope and healing to countless lives. We are forever grateful.

Dr. Suninder S Arora
Sending warm wishes and deep gratitude to all the doctors on this Doctor's Day. Your expertise, empathy, and selflessness make the world a better place

Dr. Tribhuvan Gulati
Happy Doctor's Day to the superheroes who don't wear capes but save lives every day. Your dedication and sacrifice are truly admirable. Thank you for being our guardian angels.

Dr. Vijay Kathuria
Your job is certainly not easy, but you make it look much easier with your dedication and humanity. Happy Doctors' Day.

Dr. Vineet Sabharwal
Happy Doctors Day to the guardians of health whose expertise and dedication save lives every day.

Dr. Anand Vadehra
The most important thing for everyone is to maintain a healthy quality of life. Without health, without a sense of wellness there is not much in life. Exercise, eat healthy, stay healthy.

Dr. Anil Raheja
Our national heroes who worked towards improving the lives of patient and communities.These warriors are always an inspiration to all of us.

Dr. (Prof.) G. P. Dureja
On this Doctor's Day, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for entrusting me with your pain management. Your unwavering trust and faith in my abilities are the biggest motivators in my journey as a senior doctor. Witnessing your resilience and determination in the face of pain inspires me to continually strive for excellence in my practice.

Wishing you a happy Doctor's Day and a life filled with wellness.

Dr. Anil Tomar
"On the occasion of doctor's day , i am grateful for the opportunity to help my patients regain their mobility and live pain free lives. Thank you for trusting me with your orthopaedic care"

Dr. Jatin Hans
"Thank you for putting yourself in the way of danger to save others. This is what it means to be a hero. Heartfelt gratitude!"

Dr. M L Parnami
In this period risk to life and step taken up by doctors to this pandemic is incredible. Its time for society to respect these warriors and improve faith in doctors. Sometimes, doctors risk their lives just save others. Doctors live for others.These warriors are always an inspiration for society.

Dr. R.K. Sunkaria
Being true to my profession does not merely mean prescribing medicines to the diseased. It also means to be always in the Frontline providing hope to the people in despair and gifting the society with goodness and health.

Dr. S. K. Jain
Dear All, your musculoskeletal health is essential for maintaining an active and fulfilling life.

Stay active, eat healthily and don't hesitate to seek medical advice when needed.

THANK YOU DOCTORS

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PULMONOLOGIST

Dr. Ankit Bhatia
On this Doctor's Day, we celebrate the dedication and compassion that define our profession. Each patient we care for is a reminder of the impact we make. Here's to healing hands and hopeful hearts.

Dr. Akansha Chawla
The best doctor gives the least medicines.

Dr. Vipin Gupta
Medicine cures diseases, but only doctors can cure patients.

Dr. S. Vidhya Nair
Being healthy' is an outfit that looks different on each individual.. every human is different, don't compare.

Dr. Gurmeet Singh Chhabra
A doctor is not only the dispenser of remedies but also the executor of gratitude.

Dr. Pritha Nayyar
All knowledge attains its ethical value by the cure of patient and happiness of their family members.

Dr. Sandeep Nayar
Keep smiling and Breathe deep, thats all to keep your lungs healthy...

Dr. Bobby Balotra
Being a doctor means being entrusted with the most precious gift - the gift of life. It is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Dr. Puneet Khanna
We are doctors, We help you heal your bodily pain and sufferings, Be day or night, We are standing for you!

Dr. Hemant Kalra
For Doctor there are three ways to Ultimate success-: The First way is to be kind. The Second way to be kind. The Third way is to be kind.

ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Dr. Ajay Aggarwal
"Doctors don't just treat diseases; they bear witness to the human experience in its most vulnerable moments."Happy Doctors' day""

Dr. Ajay Kumar Ajmani
"Doctors are not just healers; they are everyday heroes navigating the complexities of life and death."Happy Doctors' day""

Dr. Anshul Kumar
Doctors don't just treat symptoms; they listen, empathize, and offer support to those in need. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Anu Mathew
Every day, doctors walk a tightrope between hope and despair, navigating the delicate balance between life and death. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Aprajita Pradhan
Doctors are not just professionals; they are advocates for healing, justice, and dignity for all. "Happy Doctors day"

Dr. Arun Kumar
In a world of uncertainty, doctors are pillars of strength, resilience, and unwavering dedication to their patients. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Chhavi Agarwal
Behind the calm demeanor of a doctor lies a heart that feels deeply, empathizes profoundly, and cares endlessly."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Danendra Sahu
Behind every patient encounter is a doctor who brings empathy, compassion, and unwavering dedication to their practice. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Himanshu Sharma
The life of a doctor is a delicate balance between science and humanity, compassion and detachment. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Ishrat Majid Mir
"Behind every successful treatment is a doctor who goes above and beyond, facing challenges with courage and determination. "Happy Doctors' day""

Dr. S K Mathur
In the relentless pursuit of healing, doctors confront the complexities of illness, suffering, and human resilience with courage and compassion. "Happy Doctors day"

Dr. K S Brar
Doctors don't just save lives; they provide hope, healing, and comfort to those in their darkest moments."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Monika Sharma
Behind every medical breakthrough is a doctor who refuses to accept the status quo, pushing boundaries and challenging conventions."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Nishant Raizada
In a world of constant pressure and uncertainty, doctors are beacons of strength, resilience, and unwavering dedication."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Priyamvada Tyagi
Doctors are not just healers; they are advocates for justice, equity, and access to quality healthcare for all."Happy Doctors' day."

Dr. Rahul Chauda
Doctors are not just professionals; they are guardians of health, stewards of compassion, and champions of empathy."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Richa Chaturvedi
Behind the stethoscope lies a world of uncertainty, stress, and relentless dedication."Happy Doctors' day."

Dr. Sajad Ul Islam
Behind the scenes, doctors grapple with the ethical, emotional, and practical complexities of their profession."Happy Doctors' day."

Dr. Setu Gupta
In the face of adversity, doctors stand tall, embodying courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to their patients."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Suman Kirti
Behind the sterile walls of the operating room, doctors confront the fragility of life and the power of human resilience."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Tarunika Bawa
Amidst the chaos of the emergency room, doctors remain calm, composed, and compassionate, providing care and comfort to those in need."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Vimal Gupta
Behind every diagnosis is a doctor who carries the weight of their patients' hopes and fears."Happy Doctors' day"

NEPHROLOGIST

Dr. Ajay Kher
Doctors are not immune to the challenges they face; they too need support, understanding, and appreciation. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Anupam Roy
Doctors don't just treat diseases; they confront the profound realities of human suffering and resilience."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Ashok Sarin
Appreciate doctors not just for their medical expertise, but for their unwavering commitment to their patients."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. B.S. Solanki
Doctors are not just professionals; they are companions on life's journey, offering care, comfort, and empathy along the way."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Bhanu Mishra
Doctors don't just diagnose diseases; they navigate the intricate tapestry of human emotions, fears, and hopes. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Deepak Kalra
In a world where every decision matters, doctors carry the weight of responsibility on their shoulders. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Dilip Bhalla
Doctors are not just healers; they are agents of change, advocates for justice, and champions of compassion."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Dinesh Mittal
Doctors don't just treat diseases; they provide comfort, support, and guidance to those facing life's challenges."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. DK Agarwal
Behind the closed doors of the clinic, doctors confront the complex realities of illness, suffering, and mortality."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Gaurav Sagar
Amidst the chaos of the hospital, doctors remain steadfast in their commitment to healing, comfort, and hope. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Geet Bajpai
Doctors are guardians of health, stewards of compassion, and champions of empathy."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Jayant Kumar Hota
Behind every medical decision is a doctor who weighs the risks, uncertainties, and ethical considerations with care and compassion."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Kailash Nath Singh
Behind every diagnosis is a doctor who listens with empathy, compassion, and unwavering dedication."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Manish Malik
In the face of adversity, doctors stand as beacons of hope, resilience, and unwavering dedication to their patients. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Mudit Gupta
Doctors don't just save lives; they provide hope, healing, and comfort to those in their darkest moments."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Rajesh Aggarwal
In the face of adversity, doctors rise to the occasion, demonstrating resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to their patients. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Ramesh Jain
Doctors not only look after your mental and physical well-being but also help make this world a better place to live. Happy doctor's day

Dr. Tushar Gupta
Doctors don't just prescribe medications; they provide care, comfort, and support to those in need."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Vaibhav Tiwari
Doctors are not just professionals; they are guardians of health, advocates for change, and champions of humanity."Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Vijay Kher
Amidst the challenges of the healthcare system, doctors remain steadfast in their commitment to their patients' well-being. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Vikram Kalra
Behind every white coat is a story of sacrifice, dedication, and compassion. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Vinant Bhargava
Doctors don't just treat illnesses; they provide solace, support, and guidance in times of uncertainty and fear. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Yogesh Chabbra
Amidst the uncertainty of illness, doctors provide a steady hand of care, compassion, and expertise."Happy Doctors' day"

CARDIOLOGIST

Dr. Pradeep K Rustagi
This world has become a better and healthier place to live in with doctors bringing joy of health and goodness to our lives. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Heemanshu Lodhi
Good Doctors understand responsibility better than privilege and practice accountability better than business.

Dr. Rupali Malik
There are multiple types of arthritis or joint diseases which can affect not only the elderly individuals but also young people and children. The degenerative arthritis like OA usually affects the older age groups while inflammatory arthritis like RA, SpA can affect younger individuals too. Most arthritis are not curable but can very well be managed by the various treatment options available if diagnosed in time. So patient awareness and an early diagnosis are the key factors

Dr. Dharmendra Kumar
To study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all. All doctors treat, but a good doctor lets nature heal.

Dr. Sumit Kumar
Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile! Salute to all the doctors and healthworkers who work tirelessly day and night to keep the world healthy. They are truly the angels in white coat.

Dr. Harnish Bhatia
On this Doctor's Day, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my patients. Your trust and resilience inspire my dedication every day. Together, we've faced challenges and celebrated victories. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey to better heart health.

Dr. Nilashish
As we get involved in the emotional healing of others, we get healed emotionally ourselves.

Dr. Ravi Prakash
A Doctor is a teacher in every sense. He not only treats a person but teaches and guides him in pursuit of a healthy and happy life.

Dr. Nishant Verma
The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Diwakar Kumar
The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.

Dr. Purneshwar Pandey
The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will instruct his patient in the care of the human frame, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease.

Dr. Vikas Kohli
Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.

Dr. Prateek Chaudhary
The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.

Dr. Mohit Arora
Doctors may not always find the cure, but their compassion and care bring healing to the souls of their patients.

Dr. Vikas Thakran
Take good care of your heart because it gives you strength to face any adverse condition of life.

Dr. Vikas Chopra
The presence of the doctor is the beginning of the cure.

Dr. Rajiv Passey
Key to cure your Disease is- "Stay informed, and follow the advice given by your doctor". Happy Doctor's day.

Dr. Ashwani Mehta
Doctors are not only healers but also educators. They empower individuals to take charge of their health and well-being.

Dr. S. S. Murthy
This doctors day its a special message for all my doctor friends out there. Its shorter than you think. You have been a hero for all but now dont forget to be your own hero. Laugh more travel more and seek happiness.

Dr. Amitabh Yaduvanshi
Thanks you Doctor for everything you have done to keep us healthy and best of spirits Happy Doctors Day.

Dr. Ankit Mittal
Warm greetings on Doctors Day to all the doctors who always put their patients before anything else.

Dr. Ashish Singhal
You are more than just a doctor, you are a guide and friend too, We wish you Happy Doctors Day!

Dr. Devendra Kumar Agarwal
Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to all the compassionate healers out there! Your expertise and care make a world of difference.

Dr. Dheeraj Garg
A doctor's greatest reward is the smile on a patient's face, knowing that they have made a difference in someone's life. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Manav Aggarwal
Our profession is the only one which works unceasingly to annihilate itself.

Dr. Manoj Kumar
You have never ever compromised with your duties and that is what makes you an exceptional doctor. Happy Doctors Day to you.

Dr. Mohit Bhagwati
we wish you warm wishes to the extraordinary Doctor who work tirelessly to keep us healthy and safe .Happy Doctor Day.

Dr. Naveen Bhamri
A doctor's dedication knows no bounds, for in every patient, a friend is found. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Nishant Tyagi
We wish you warm wishes to the extraordinary doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy and safe. Happy Doctors Day!

Dr. R.R. Mantri
Hats off to the doctors hard work, and dedication. Happy National Doctors Day.

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Rajput
Whenever I need your help, you are available, thank you doctor for being my saviour. Happy Doctors Day

Dr. Rajesh Madan
Not every warrior has armour and sword. Some have white coat and stethoscope. Happy Doctors Day.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma
Happy doctors day to all doctors who work tirelessly to make a difference, thank you for your relentless pursuit of excellence in healthcare.

Dr. Rajiv Agarwal
Saving Lives in the toughest and most important job in the world, you were not just a doctor but a true hero.

Dr. S K Gupta
Wishing a very Happy Doctor's Day to all the compassionate healers out there Your expertise and care make a world of difference.

Dr. Saket Bhardwaj
Happy Doctor's Day to the brilliant minds who heal with their knowledge, care with their hearts and touch lives with their compassion. You are the epitome of excellence in healthcare.

Dr. Samir Kubba
Heal others, Heal yourself, Love others, Love yourself.

Dr. Sanjay Sharma
I am wishing a wonderful Doctors Day to the compassionate caregivers who make a difference in the lives of so many every day.

Dr. Satbir Singh
I am wishing a fantastic Doctors Day to the compassionate healers who tirelessly work to keep us healthy.

Dr. Subhash Saini
On this Doctors Day, we express our deepest gratitude to the caring and dedicated physicians who make a difference in countless lives.

Dr. Sukriti Bhalla
On Doctors Day, we honor and appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of all doctors who work tirelessly to make the world healthier

Dr. Sumeet Sethi
Sending heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors who work tirelessly to keep us healthy. Your dedication and selflessness are unparalleled. Thank you for being true healthcare heroes. Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Vikas Kataria
We thank all doctors who work towards improving the lives of their patients and Communities.

Dr. Vikash Kumar Jha
We are so proud because of your deeds. It is an honor to have a doctor in the family. I wish you a Happy Doctor's Day.

Dr. Vivek Kumar
When there are tears, you are a shoulder. When there is pain, you are a medicine. When there is a tragedy, you are a hope.

Dr. Zakir Hussain
There are no words to thank you for the unconditional service that you are offering to your patients.

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Tears, hugs and bhangra: Men in blue celebrate

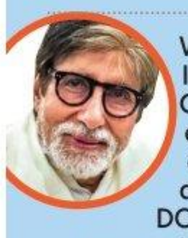
Celebs cheer for the win

WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what u guys did

– Dhoni

AND... I love this man @viratkohli. So grateful to call you my home - now go have a glass of sparkling water for me to celebrate this... Our daughter's biggest concern was if all the players had someone to hug them after she saw them cry on tv..... Yes, My darling, they were hugged by 1.5 billion people. What a phenomenal victory and what a legendary achievement!! CHAMPIONS - CONGRATULATIONS!!

– Anushka Sharma



WORLD CHAMPIONS... INDIA!!! T20 WORLD CUP .. 2024... The excitement and emotions and the apprehension... ALL DONE and over... the TV was not seen... we lose when I do..! Nothing more enters the cerebrum... just the tears in tune with the tears of the TEAM!

– Amitabh Bachchan

Hum jeeeeeeeet gayeeeeeeeee.. Tears of joy tears of everything!!!! Congratulations team INDIA!!!!!!! What a win!!!!!

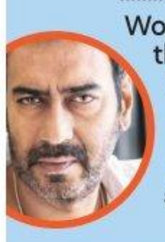
– Alia Bhatt

INDIA ON TOP OF THE WORLD!!! What an ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC way to win the ICC T20 World Cup after 17 long years!!!

– Chiranjeevi

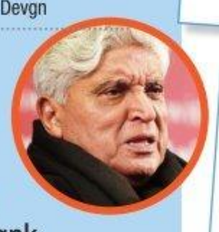
Wooohoooo!!!!!! Congratulations team India..What a fantastic finale and tournament

– Kiara Advani



Words can't describe the joy! Congratulations Team India, you've made history! ..This victory is etched in our hearts..#T20WorldCup #INDvSA2024

– Ajay Devgn



Calm, cool, focused, together and determined to win. Our whole nation stands to learn so much from these boys!!! Congratulations and thank you, Cricket Team of India

– Javed Akhtar

This was an open secret, it's time for the next generation to take over. Win or lose, I was going to announce it

– Virat Kohli on retirement

I was very desperate for this title...No better time to say goodbye to this format... This is what I wanted, I wanted to win the cup

– - Rohit Sharma on retirement

THE ONE WHERE WE ALL CRIED: Virat and Rohit, the seniors of the team, who spearheaded many matches and moments, announced their retirement from the T20 international after the win

Mohammad Shami @MdShami11

End of an era. Virat bhai, you have taken T20 cricket to new heights with your passion, dedication, and exceptional skills. Your leadership and sportsmanship will always be remembered. It's been an honor to play alongside you. Best wishes for your future endeavors. 🙏 🇮🇳 @virat.kohli #ThankYouVirat #Legend #T20Cricket"

Ian Raphael Bishop @irbishi

Not many sportsmen get to write their own exit script, or time their departure from a game, or format with precision. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid have done it to perfection here. Well batted gentleman 👏👏👏👏.

Yusuf Pathan @iamyusufpathan · 6h

Congratulations, @ImRo45, on an incredible T20i career! One of the most entertaining batsmen we've ever seen. Your achievements make India proud. What a perfect way to end on a high after winning the T20 World Cup! Best wishes for the future. #RohitSharma #Legend

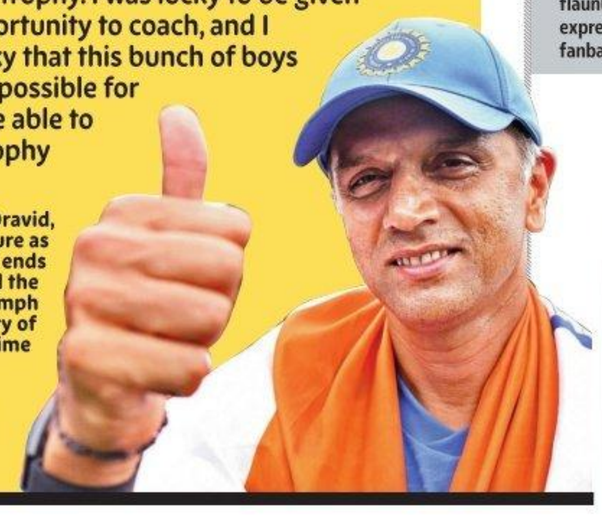
ilika s thapa @ilikasrivastava

Those who grew up watching Dravid play in the '90s understand the significance of him showing his emotions like this. It's a rare sight for a rare occasion. ❤️ #DoItForDravid #T20WorldCup #T20WorldCupFinal

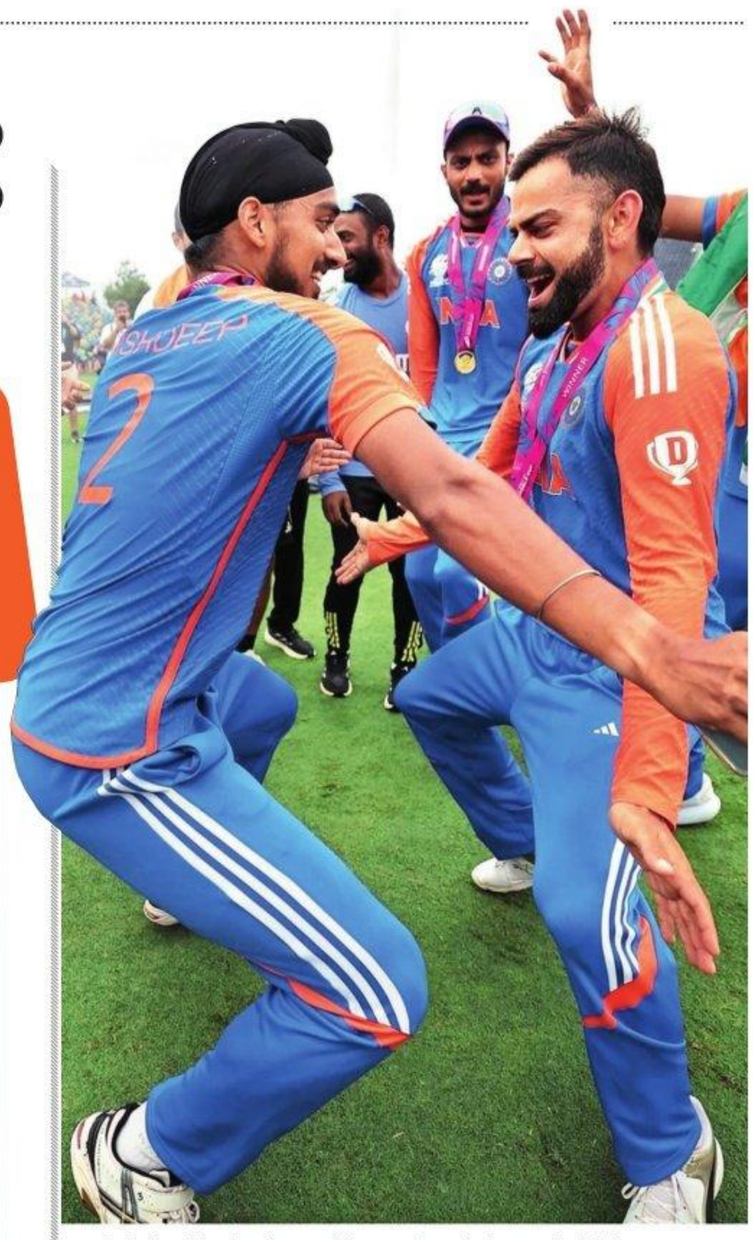
VOICES

I think it was a great testimony... for the team to lose three wickets in the first six overs, to be in the kind of position we were in, but the boys just kept fighting, they kept believing. You know, as a player, I was not lucky enough to win a trophy, but I tried my best whenever I played and it happens, it's part of sports... There is no redemption. I am not one of those guys who thinks about redemption and those kind of things. There are a lot of other who have not been able to win a trophy. I was lucky to be given the opportunity to coach, and I was lucky that this bunch of boys made it possible for me to be able to win a trophy

– Rahul Dravid, whose tenure as India coach ends now, called the title triumph the memory of a lifetime

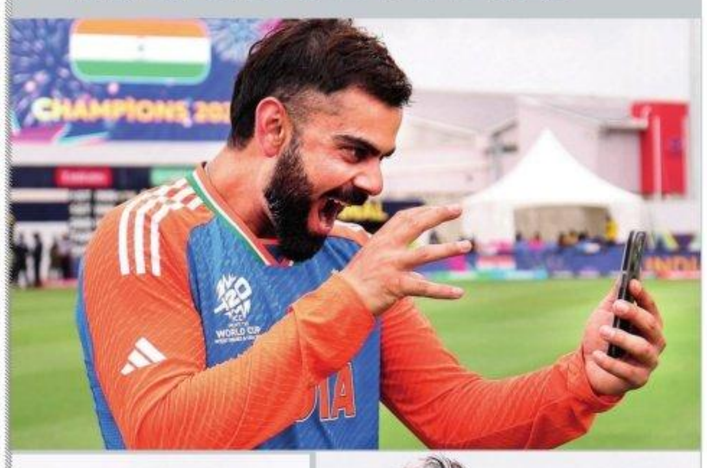


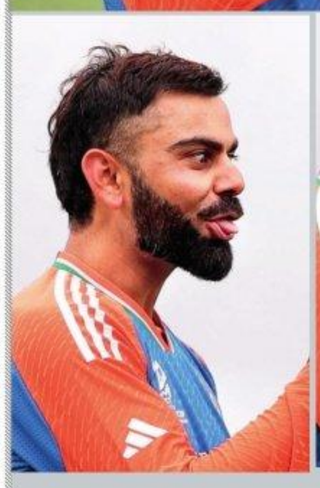
Amid the countless World Cup wishes, #DoItForDravid trended on social media. However, the former cricketer, who has never been a part of a World Cup winning team, said, "It's totally against my values. You know, I don't really believe in this 'Do it for somebody'."



And the celebrations have only begun...Every desi wanted to join in when Arshdeep and Virat unleashed their bhangra moves

VIRAT'S DADDY DUTIES





While the men in blue won the World Cup, Kohli easily won the internet. From flaunting his medal on a call with Anushka Sharma to his playful candid expressions for daughter Vamika, Virat's heartwarming moments have a fanbase of their own

While sports journalist Sanjana Ganesan attempted to maintain a professional rapport during her post-win interview, Bumrah couldn't help but hug wifey!

CHAMPION'S WALK: Remember when Messi created this iconic walk while lifting the FIFA World Cup for Argentina in 2022? Shoutout to football fan Kuldeep Yadav for coaching Captain Rohit to recreate the moment!

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THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

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Complete transition to CBT mode can help reduce paper leaks in NEET UG, UGC NET

The question paper leakage will be curbed as there is no hard copy of the question paper in CBT mode

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesgroup.com

The recent NEET UG and UGC NET paper leaks have underscored the urgent need for a more secure examination system. One solution could be transitioning to a Computer-based Test (CBT) format for all high-stakes exams. The CBT mode can reduce question paper leaks by tightening control over access to exam questions.

Over 23 lakh candidates appeared in over 5,000 centres across 557 Indian and 14 foreign cities in the NEET UG exam, conducted in 13 Indian languages—a complex exercise. The paper-based system involving finalising questions, printing, and transporting them to the exam centres is vulnerable to leakages. The shift to CBT could also offer a sense of control and security. It can reassure students and parents, provided it is scaled up to enable thousands of students to take the exam successfully.

Varied approaches

When considering potential solutions, it is crucial to think big. One such approach could involve splitting the exam into 10 sessions of two-lakh student batches and conducting it in the CBT mode through a question bank model, allowing everyone two chances. "Conducting exams such as UGC NET and NEET UG in the CBT mode can be difficult simply because there are not enough computers. To make conducting NEET UG in CBT mode feasible, over 20 lakh candidates can be split into 10 sessions with 2 lakh candidates each. Additionally, a question bank with 100,000 questions must be created. Once centres are finalised, slots can be created where candidates can pick the slot and take the exam. Each student can be tested with varied questions, including some difficult and a few relatively easy ones, and the test scores across 10 sessions must be normalised. Like the JEE Main and JEE Advanced, NEET UG can follow a similar trajectory. At the screening level, the stakes are low; later, the advanced exam with a select number of students can be conducted in CBT mode," says Ramgopal Rao, former director of IIT Delhi and group vice-chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani campuses.

If NEET UG follows the JEE Advanced process, 10 sets of question papers will be required. "One of the largest CBT exams in India is JEE Advanced. The IITs have ensured faculty involvement in conducting these exams. However, the NTA depends on the volunteers; they have to rely on a third party, and sourcing people from a third party cannot ensure their integrity and ability to conduct the exam. Moreover, the JEE Advanced exam is conducted in Hindi and English, unlike NEET, which is conducted in 13 languages. The problem with conducting the NEET exam in 13 languages is that many people get access to the question paper for translation. It is difficult to maintain the integrity of the question paper," adds Rao.

The problem with conducting NEET exam in 13 languages is that many people get access to the question paper for translation

Random order

In the offline exam, since the question paper must be printed in an officially decided printing press and later distributed to many exam centres, the chances of the paper leak are high. "In the CBT exam, the question paper can be randomly selected from a large question bank. This can be done a few minutes before the exam so no one will know the question paper in advance. The questions and the choices can be presented in a random order, which reduces the chances of one person copying from another sitting near him/her, and the sharing of answers becomes difficult. To avoid students copying from each other, the proper distance and location of the computer should be considered," says Professor VN Muralidhara, associate professor, IIIT Bangalore.

Fixing the gaps

The UGC NET was held for the first time in pen and paper mode on June 18 for admission to PhD programmes and appointment as associate professors in colleges. The exam was held on a single day, which saw registration from 11 lakh students. "In large-scale entrance exams, cheating will decrease considerably if the CBT exam mode is adopted in its entirety. There seems to be no anxiety about the leakage of questions in exams such as the global Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). The paper-based system has more vulnerable points for error. The choice of the questions and their finalisation, printing, transporting them to the exam centres, storage at the centres and usage are huge responsibilities. In the CBT mode, these risks are reduced," says PV Navaneethakrishnan, former controller of examinations, Anna University. While no system can be guaranteed to be entirely foolproof, significant steps can be taken to ensure the security of online exam papers in CBT mode. "These include encrypting all data, all question papers and candidate responses, using secure servers to store and process exam data, implementing strict access controls and multifactor authentication to limit who can view and handle the exam content, conducting regular security audits, and having disaster recovery plans to protect against data loss," says Sudhir K Routray, professor and dean, Department of CSE, CMR University, Bangalore.

Transfer of Delhi govt schoolteachers will not benefit learning outcomes

Educationists feel new transfer policy will disrupt the education system by breaking the established bonds between teachers and students

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The Delhi Directorate of Education (Del E) has recently issued a circular asking the government schoolteachers who have completed 10 years in a particular school must apply online for a transfer. If a teacher does not apply online, they will be transferred to any school as per the official requirement.

The policy will lead to a loss of experienced teachers, affecting the bond between teachers and students, say educationists. A senior government teacher on the condition of anonymity, says, "The NEP 2020 does not recommend frequent transfers as it negatively impacts the education system. There has been no study which shows long-serving teachers hamper studies. Rather, they develop a deep understanding of their students' strengths, and weaknesses. Disrupting this can hinder student learning and development."

Stakeholders feedback

Highlighting that stakeholders were not involved before bringing out the directive, he says, "Teachers are not involved in any administrative dealings, and their longer tenure does not equate to corruption. The newly introduced policy is an outcome of the ongoing tussle between the Delhi LG and the elected government, and the teachers and students are being made a scapegoat."

He adds, "The Post Fixation Cell (PFC) of the Del E brings out a list based on the previous year's student strength; this helps identify the teacher-student ratio; if teachers are surplus in any school, they are shifted to the ones where the numbers are few to ensure a balance. The Del E has made a blunder by releasing the transfer policy order before releasing the PFC list. Now, if the transfers are implemented in July, and the PFC list is released after that, chances are high that it may lead to a surplus of teachers. Later, teachers will have to be transferred again to correct the imbalance which will have a negative impact on the students' academic session and learning."

The NEP 2020 does not recommend frequent transfers as it negatively impacts the education system

Mentor teachers

In cases where teaching is not up to the mark, he says that instead of transferring teachers, mentor teachers, who have been trained abroad, should be deployed in such schools. "The new directive will make no qualitative change in the education system. The policy will promote corruption as teachers might resort to unethical means to retain their positions," says the teacher. Meanwhile, Government School Teachers' Association general secretary Ajay Veer Yadav, says, "We met the directorate officials who assured us that the directive will be made optional, as in if a teacher gets a mutual substitute, he/she can opt for it; however, the order guidelines will not be made mandatory." A senior former government official, says, "A transfer policy was implemented for a long time wherein teachers who want to take a transfer due to various reasons, may apply online. The principals also have the power to recommend teachers on administrative grounds. However, this is the first time that the 10-year clause has been introduced. The Del E has altered the established transfer policy without consulting any of its key stakeholders. They did not get the approval of even the education minister before issuing the circular. The minister has asked the department to withdraw this clause and not force transfer of teachers."

Lack of faculty in most medical colleges is leading to a workforce crunch in radiotherapy

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The number of radiation oncology seats in PG Medicine at most medical colleges has remained limited over the years. The two major reasons behind the low count of seats are the low demand for cancer care and the lack of faculty members and infrastructure. Experts suggest that adopting advanced technologies, increasing the availability of radiotherapy machines, updating curricula, attractive scholarships and loan repayment options to students can help increase the number of skilled radiation oncologists. According to the *Indian Cancer Journal*, as of 2023, India had as many as 706 postgraduate medical colleges, but only 87 radiotherapy departments. The disparity at the training level is reflected in the lack of skilled medical professionals and limited access to radiation therapy.

Limited seats

Dr Shirley Lewis Salins, associate professor and in-charge, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology at Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Karnataka, says, "The Doctor of Medicine (MD) course in Radiation Oncology is offered by approximately 97 medical colleges (both government and private) across the country with over 445 seats per year. The maximum number of seats is concentrated in UP, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra. In addition to the MD, DNB Radiation Oncology courses are offered by medical colleges and cancer centres in around 50 centres with approximately 73 seats in each academic session."

Dr B Srinivas, secretary, NMC, says, "If the NMC increases the oncology seats, then students may pass with a degree but will not have the required skills to be a radiotherapy professional. If there are no teachers, we will have professionals lacking in quality. Not all medical colleges can bear the cost of maintaining an oncology department due to a lack of faculty members. Also, infrastructure and machines demand huge investments." The NMC aims to increase the number of oncology professionals in the industry by maintaining a chain of trained students who could complete their education and later work as faculty.

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Aspiring biotechnologists must leverage the power of antibodies

To cater to industry and academic demands, Bennett University offers a 4-year BTech in Biotechnology and a 5-year integrated BTech + MTech in Biotechnology programme, writes **Vaishali Verma**

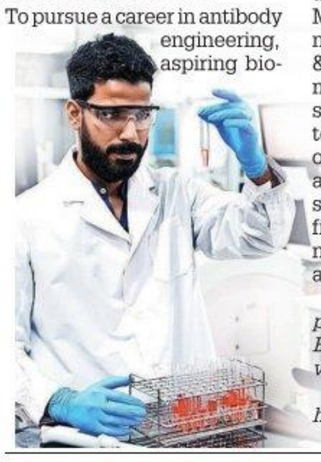
In the ever-evolving field of biotechnology, antibody engineering is a field brimming with opportunities and innovation potential. For aspiring biotechnologists, understanding the significance and applications of antibodies can open doors to exciting careers as antibody engineers.

Key opportunities

Antibody engineering is pivotal in developing targeted therapies for various medical conditions, including cancer, autoimmune diseases, snakebite, and infectious diseases. Biotechnologists leverage this technology to create more effective and less toxic treatments.

How to get started

To pursue a career in antibody engineering, aspiring biotechnologists can start with a bachelor's degree in biotechnology, molecular biology, biochemistry, or related fields, focusing on immunology and bioprocess engineering. Advanced degrees like a master's or doctoral programme can provide deeper knowledge in immunology, genetic engineering, and bioinformatics.



To cater to industry and academic demands, Bennett University offers a 4-year BTech in Biotechnology and a 5-year integrated BTech + MTech in Biotechnology programme with a diverse range of specialisations in cutting-edge areas such as Biomedical Technologies, Drug Discovery & Protein Therapeutics, Genetic Counselling & Precision Medicine, Industrial Biotechnology, and Nanotechnology & Biosensors. These programmes also include elective courses in antibody engineering technologies and offer hands-on training through mini research projects, aiming to equip students to explore dynamic fields such as antibody engineering and other exciting areas in biotechnology.

(The author is assistant professor, Department of Biotechnology, Bennett University)

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Why academic cycle derailment is a small price to pay for a foolproof exam system

While there are enough buffers in the system, exam authorities should strike a balance between safeguarding the exam process and maintaining a stable schedule for the students

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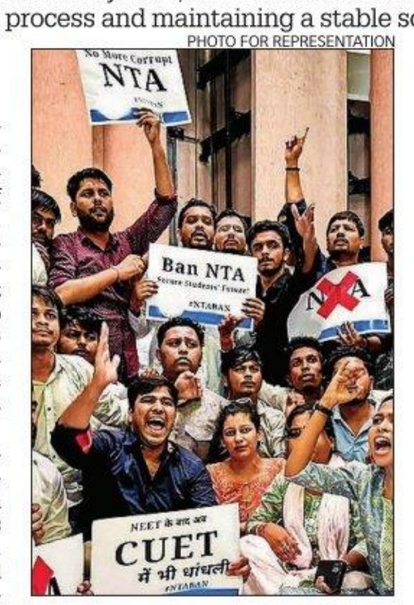
Amidst the spate of exam cancellations, re-tests and postponements, students' academic cycles would inevitably be thrown out of gear, now that the NEET UG, UGC NET, NEET PG exams are in the eye of controversy. Not since Covid have such irregularities been witnessed, for just when the academic sessions seem to have come back on track, the nation seems to be in the grip of a flawed examination system where alleged paper leaks, grace marks, compromised integrity seem more the norm than exception.

Drawing from the pandemic-induced experience, V Ramgopal Rao, vice-chancellor, BITS Pilani group, says, "In Covid times, the academic sessions were delayed by around four months, and given the current crisis, there could be a similar fate. The academic calendar of two years may suffer a setback, but by conducting extra classes during the summer and winter vacations, it may be possible to bring the academic sessions back on track. The pandemic experience and the subsequent lockdown was itself a great eye opener, and if we could overcome the challenges and maintain continuity of exams and commencement of sessions, this year too would be no different."

Addressing the challenge

Discussing the worst-case scenarios, he says, "If NEET UG were to be conducted for over 23 lakh candidates that would have been a mammoth task, and one that may not be feasible unless the Supreme Court deemed it fit. For UGC NET where it appears that the fate of over 9 lakh candidates may have been impacted due and the dates for gaining admission to PhD programmes may be deferred, managing such admissions may not be as difficult as providing admissions through NEET UG, JEE Mains and Advanced where the numbers are much larger." He elaborates, "A tight academic calendar with manifold courses at the UG level may be more challenging to implement than programmes at the PG level. In any case, with the irregularities in the exam system, it is important to understand what had gone wrong in the first place and address those issues with immediate effect so that similar instances do not recur in future. Rescheduling of examinations and delay in the commencement of the academic session seem like a small price to pay. The problem with NTA is that it was expected to conduct far too many national level competitive exams in a single year, hence, what was lacking was a sense of ownership, unlike the IIT system where the JEE Advanced and GATE is conducted by the IITs on a rotational basis and with the utmost seriousness. Adopting the UPSC format, with leading academics managing the exam process, and involving top institutions in the conduct of exams, can accelerate the integrity of these exams. Be it NEET, JEE Main or CUET, it is important to involve a set of the top HEIs in the conduct of these exams jointly with NTA to democratise the whole exam conducting process," Rao adds

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION



By conducting classes over weekends and vacations, the academic session can be brought on track

Quality will not suffer

Discussing the issues impacting NEET UG and PG aspirants, Dr B Srinivas, secretary, NMC, says, "Quality of medical education for MBBS and PG will not suffer despite the unforeseen circumstances. In 2021, the counselling for the NEET UG and PG programmes had been suspended and delayed by around six months, but even then, we were able to cover the MBBS and PG syllabus. Moreover, post Covid, there is enough resilience in the medical education system to overcome what may appear as insurmountable problems. We can shorten the duration of foundation courses and summer vacations, conduct classes of longer durations and over weekends to make up for lost time. Once the loopholes in the exam system are plugged and reforms introduced through a high-powered committee that has been set up, sessions are more likely to commence on time."

EducationTIMES

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>> First three correct entries will win a 'pen drive.' Send in your entries only through e-mail with your Name, Address, Email, *Tel* no. and Profession to ***Brainstrain.hyd@gmail.com***

1. **Which word emphasizes the compactness of a group, the difficulty of individual movement, and the attendant discomfort?**
   a) Throng b) Crush c) Mob d) Horde
2. **In which cluster all the words relate to lack of sureness?**
   a) Pyrrhonism, cynicism, skepticism
   b) Cynicism, skepticism, capriciousness
   c) Pyrrhonism, skepticism, dubiety
   d) Skepticism, capriciousness, cynicism
3. **Which set of words are only nouns?**
   a) Worship, adoration, devotion
   b) Rite, ordinance , sacrament
   c) Function, rosary, incense
   d) Penalty, retribution, fine
4. **"The best fish swims near the bottom"-- Choose the option that is closest in the meaning to the proverb:**
   a) People who talk a lot or threaten, may not be actually harmful.
   b) Our affection increases when we are parted from our loved ones.
   c) Nothing can go on forever as all the things change.
   d) The finest things are hard to get.
5. **The prefix 'in' has two opposite meanings: "not, without, lacking" and "in,into, toward". Identify the pair in which both the words come from "in, into, toward"**
   a) Inadvertence, immaculate b) Inanimate, induce
   c) Immaculate, induce d) Induce, influx
6. **From the options select the idiom, which means: "very close to someone".**
   a) Hand in glove b) Hand over hand
   c) Hand over fist d) Hand in hand

Answer key for the last week's quiz: 1.(b), 2.(d), 3.(c), 4.(a), 5.(a), 6.(c), 7.(b), 8.(b), 9.(c)

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Zooming ahead while managing gender parity and carbon neutrality

Women are ruling the shop floors at the JSW MG Motors, Halol, as their inclusivity initiatives help women break the glass ceiling in car manufacturing plants that have essentially been a male bastion

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Godhra girl Gayatri had an eye for colours, she started with painting and soon she became the first manual sprayer at MG Motors India. Working for five years, she is now in charge of cross training team helping new female recruits.

When Harpreet from Punjab got her Electronic and Communication diploma, little did she know that a place in the automobile plant was waiting for her. With hands-on training at the plant, she is now a prominent worker on the shop floor.

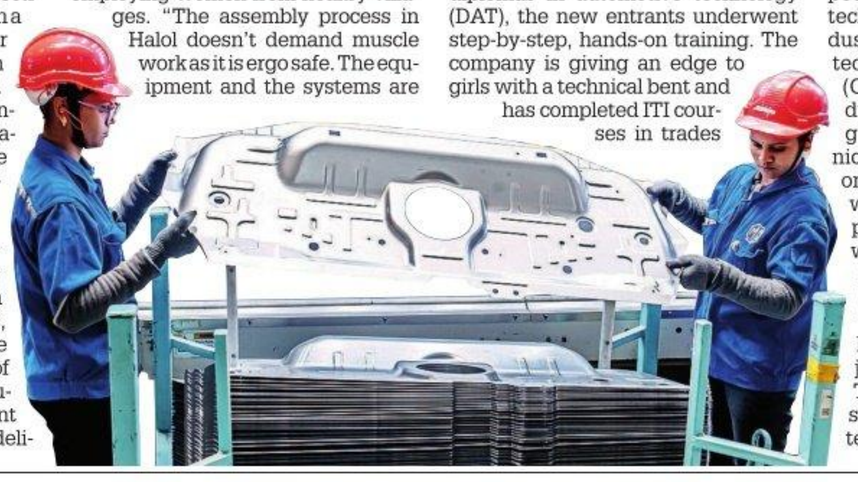
These are only a few examples as around 34% of the total employees at JSW MGMotors Halol plant are women, who are making their strong presence felt by displaying their agility and an intrinsic creative streak. The company motto is based on three key pillars–innovation, diversity, and community. Around 40% of the women workforce manage the assembly lines that manufacture Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles and Electric Vehicles (EVs).

When the automaker started the recruitment drive, its primary objective was to embrace inclusivity with a strong intent to achieve gender parity and have a 50% women workforce in the coming years. With the support of the Government of Gujarat, the Halol plant made several amendments to state rules of the Factories Act that helped in providing opportunities to women. The only precondition that the state had was the safety of women. The idea of deploying women in the plant was met with a hitch from the local villagers, who were apprehensive about the safety of their daughters, most of whom had never worked in an automobile company. The auto giant introduced women-centric guidelines which included ferrying them home at night, pregnancy leaves, Drive Her Back (DHB) initiative to bring qualified women back into the system after a sabbatical and creche facility at the workplace to encourage new mothers to work guilt-free.

Women workers at the JSW MGMotors Halol plant in Vadodara, Gujarat

Ravi Mittal, director, Manufacturing, points to the company's focus on employing women from nearby villages. "The assembly process in Halol doesn't demand muscle work as it is ergo safe. The equipment and the systems are safe to handle, which makes the involvement of women simpler. After onboarding women, we realised training them was convenient as most of them were process-oriented, which led to error reduction. We also noticed 5-6% first output rate efficiency."

Managing to hire graduates, fresh pass-outs from ITI and students with diplomas in automotive technology (DAT), the new entrants underwent step-by-step, hands-on training. The company is giving an edge to girls with a technical bent and has completed ITI courses in trades such as fitting, diesel mechanics, automotive, electrical work, and welding, which have been male-dominated fields. "We started with 22% women onboarded at the shopfloors, which has now increased to 37% and we hope to reach the 50% target in a few years," adds Mittal.



Yashwinder Patial, senior director, HR at JSW MG Motor India, says besides managing the shop floors, 33% of female engineers are working in managerial/leadership roles. Moving forward to achieve gender parity and carbon neutrality, the auto giant is focused on the expansion of Electric Vehicles (EVs). MG has collaborated with the IITs for several EV research projects, which are finding a prominent place in its R&D wing.

"We have collaborated with as many as 42 colleges wherein 1000 students have been included in several projects that involve EVs, and integration of emerging technologies including IoT and AI. Several interns from various colleges/EdTechs are being hired for an 11-month project, which often gets converted into PPO," says Patial. Under the MG Nurture initiative, which aims to expedite skill development and foster technical upskilling to bridge the industry-academia gap, the Connected Autonomous Electric Vehicles (CAEV) programme has been introduced in several engineering colleges, ITI and government polytechnics. "The automobile sector will soon see a major shift towards EV, which demands training of manpower and research growth. However, there will be a demand for hybrid technology and upskilling of mid-management workers. Young engineers need to take specialised courses to find entry-level jobs in EV manufacturing units. The changing technology will also stress the need to relearn newer technologies," adds Patial.

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UGC introduces Disaster Management in UGC-NET to give diverse options to scholars

Shehwaaz.Khan
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The University Grants Commission (UGC) introduced Disaster Management as a subject in the UGC-NET December 2024 exam which will attract more scholars to pursue research in the area, thereby increasing the number of PhDs directly pursuing research in Disaster Management. The decision was made following the recommendations of the UGC expert committee, which assessed the increasing demands for the subject.

Manish Ratnakar Joshi, secretary, UGC, says, "The expert committee was formed to look at the growing number of students pursuing Disaster Management in their master's and the number of institutes offering this subject. Moreover, Disaster Management is an emerging field due to the impact of climate change and changing infrastructural demand. UGC considered these factors to introduce it as a separate subject." The committee has also prepared a syllabus for the UGC-NET December exam, available on the UGC's official website. "The addition of Disaster Management in the UGC-NET exam will also increase the number of candidates appearing for PhDs, which will further increase the number of Junior Research Fellows (JRFs)," says Joshi, adding that the stipend for JRF-qualified students will be Rs 37,000 per month, which is the same as other subjects.

A welcome move

Jacqueen Joseph, dean, Centre for Disaster Management,Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), says, "Previously, students of geography, psychology, sociology with a master's in disaster management would apply for UGC-NET under the subjects they graduated in. However, they will now have the option to apply specifically under Disaster Management."

Amit Kumar Dhiman, professor and head, Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation & Management, IIT Roorkee, informs that students opt for research in Disaster Management through GATE, CSIR-JRF, DST-INSPIRE, and PMRF. "Now that UGC has introduced the subject, it will attract more scholars," he says.

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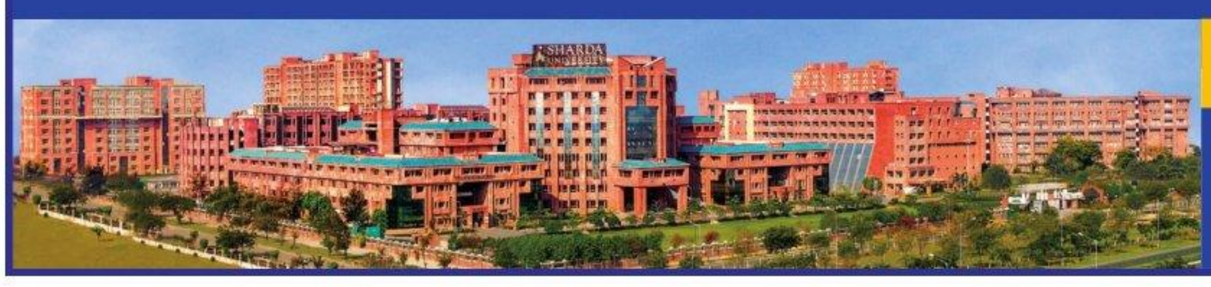

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