



THE TIMES OF INDIA



Former Meta COO Sheryl Sandberg is learnt to have made her second investment in Bengaluru-based GenAI startup. She is participating in a \$7m funding round for the company, showcasing her continued interest in the Indian startup landscape. **P 19**

An Indian-origin couple, Arvind Mani (45) & Pradeepa Arvind (40), & their daughter Arvind Arvind (17) were killed in a road accident while driving the teen to college in Texas, leaving behind their son (14) as the lone survivor. **P 20**

French film legend Alain Delon, a divisive star known to some as a sex symbol and to others as an egotistical chauvinist, has died at 88, his children have said. **P 20**

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko says that Ukraine has stationed more than 120,000 troops on its border with his nation and Minsk has deployed nearly a third of its armed forces along the entire border. **P 20**

Coast Guard DG dies of cardiac arrest ahead of event in Chennai

Chennai: Coast Guard director general Rakesh Pal, who was in Chennai to take part in the inauguration of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday. He was 59. Sources said he landed in Chennai on Sunday morning from New Delhi and visited the Coast Guard headquarters near INS Adyar to prepare for an event in which Union defence minister Rajnath Singh was the chief guest.



Around 2pm, Pal complained of chest pain and uneasiness before the event. Rajnath Singh, who was also in the same campus, visited Pal before proceeding to other events. Doctors attending to Pal rushed him to Rajiv Gandhi Govt General Hospital. Sources said he suffered four cardiac arrests before he reached the hospital. **TNN**

► **More cardiac arrest, P 13**

In rare move, SC takes up Kol case, may look at docs' safety

CJI-Led Bench To Start Proceedings On Tues Morning

Dhananjay Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Sunday took suo motu cognisance of the Aug 9 rape-murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R G Kar hospital.

This comes days after Calcutta high court transferred

► **EDIT PG: Safe To Say/Why Some Horrors Affect Us All**

the probe to CBI expressing reservations about Kolkata police's investigation into the case. CJI D Y Chandrachud ordered registration of suo motu criminal writ petition. A bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra will initiate proceedings at 10.30am on Tuesday.

It is rare for SC to take suo motu cognisance of an issue that has already been taken



Fans of rival clubs — East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting — united Sunday in a march demanding justice for the RG Kar doctor. Police lathicharged some of them and detained a few. **P 12**

► **Cops summon TMC MP, BJP neta, 2 sr docs**

Kolkata Police Sunday summoned around 200 people, some for allegedly spreading misinformation and others for revealing the victim's identity. They include TMC's SR MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, BJP's Locket Chatterjee, cardiac surgeon Dr Kunal Sarkar and Burdwan CMO Dr Subarno Goswami. **P 12**

serious note of by a jurisdictional high court. The very fact that the apex court has taken cognisance of the incident indicates its intention to

► **SC may seek WB reply, P 12**

Doc's father slams Didi, questions 'hasty cremation'

The father of the murdered doctor Sunday spoke out against Bengal govt's "attempt to silence" protesters. "Why send people demanding justice to jail? We are not satisfied with what the CM is doing," he said, adding that he now suspects there was an attempt to destroy evidence, given the

► **Padma awardee doctors seek PM intervention, P 12**

Ahead of J'khand poll, Champai Soren hints he's set to quit JMM

BJP Silent On Whether It Would Take In Former CM

ASRP Mukesh & Dhritiman Ray | TNN

Ranchi: In a major blow to Jharkhand's governing JMM and INDIA bloc months ahead of assembly polls, former CM and incumbent cabinet minister in the Hemant Soren govt, Champai Soren, dropped ample hints Sunday evening on social media that he had decided to part ways with the Shibhu Soren-led tribal party, saying that in recent months he had been "ridiculed" and "humiliated" by the arbitrary functioning of the party even when he was "chief minister" and that he was then "forced to resign".

Chief minister Hemant Soren blamed BJP, saying it is trying to "poach" INDIA bloc and JMM MLAs by offering money and that some le-

POACHING, SAYS CM

"...I was asked to resign. I was surprised, had no desire for power but was emotional due to blow to my self-respect. Felt as if I had no existence in the party... After so much insult and contempt, I was forced to look for an alternative path—CHAMPAI SOREN

These people (BJP) work to break families, parties. They poach MLAs. Money is such a thing... doesn't take long for politicians to move here and there —CM HEMANT SOREN

► **Posters go missing, P 16**

AC unit falls on 2 teens in city; one dies, other in critical condition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a freak accident, an air conditioning unit fell from the second floor of a building near the Karol Bagh area, hitting two teenagers on the ground. While an 18-year-old died, the other victim is battling for his life.

Responding to a PCR call, police reached the spot and initiated an inquiry. An FIR under sections of causing death due to negligence has been registered, and the site is being inspected by experts.

During a preliminary enquiry, it was discovered that the outdoor component of an AC system, installed in one of the flats on the second floor, got dislodged from its mounting and fell on the teens. Both were rushed to a nearby medical centre. The video of the incident recorded on a CCTV has surfaced on social media.

► **Flat owners quizzed, P 7**

AQI 'satisfactory' for 22 days, best in 4 yrs

Delhi saw 22 consecutive days with satisfactory air quality, which is the best streak of clean air since 2020. According to CPCB, the city has been experiencing satisfactory air quality or an AQI below 100 since July 28. In 2020 (lockdown year), there were 51 consecutive days with an AQI below 100. If 2020 is excluded, then this is the longest such spell since CPCB launched AQI in 2015. **P 2**

Rahul slams lateral entry, govt hits back

Leader of opposition in LS Rahul Gandhi Sunday attacked Modi govt over UPSC inviting applications for mid-tier posts to be filled laterally on contract basis, alleging it was a step towards ending SC, ST and OBC quotas by privatising the IAS. Govt sources hit back, saying the first such recommendation was made by a panel headed by veteran Congressman Veerappa Moily. **P 9**

Minor gang-raped in bus at Doon ISBT by 5, including 3 govt staffers

Kalyan Das & Shivani Azad | TNN

Dehradun: Five men, including three employees of Uttarakhand Transport Corporation, were arrested on Sunday for allegedly gang-raping a 16-year-old girl inside a bus parked at Dehradun's Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT). The assault, which occurred at night last Monday, came to light only after the girl, a resi-

► **B'luru biker offers girl lift, sexually assaults her, P 12**

► **Socia media friend held for teen's gangrape, P 12**

dent of Moradabad in UP, reported the incident to child helpline officials during a counselling session. The three arrested state govt employees are bus driver Dharmendra Kumar, 32, conductor Devendra Kumar, 52, and ticket counter cashier Rajesh Kumar Sonkar, 38. On

ALL FIVE ARRESTED

► **Girl, 16, runs away from home in Moradabad, reaches Delhi's Kashmere Gate ISBT**

► **A driver and conductor spot her, pay for her ticket and take her to Dehradun**

► **After raping her along with 3 others, they plan to take her to Patiala, but a suspicious guard calls up helpline. Police arrest all 5**

► **Cops claim girl mentally unsound, ran away from home earlier as well**

contract drivers Ravi Kumar, 34, and Rajpal Singh, 57, are the other accused in the case. Police seized the bus used in the crime and sent it for forensic examination.

The girl, who had run away from her home, reached Delhi's Kashmere Gate ISBT. There, she met the driver and con-

ductor, who offered her a ride to Dehradun and paid for her ticket. Upon reaching Dehradun, they parked the bus in a secluded area of the ISBT, where they, along with the other three men, assaulted her.

Police said the driver had planned to make her board a bus to Patiala from the Dehradun ISBT before they were spotted at a food stall at 1.30am on Tuesday by a security guard. He alerted an emergency helpline, prompting child helpline officials to rescue her and take her to a shelter home. At the time, she appeared normal and healthy. After she arrived at the shelter, officials conducted a basic medical check-up and a counselling session, where she claimed her parents had died and her remaining family had forced her out of the home.

► **Confessed to crime, P 16**

Cracks in oppn as TMC attacks Cong for Rahul's remark on RG Kar issue

AKM Moinuddin

TMC hit back at ally Congress on Sunday, three days after Rahul Gandhi's "Kathua to Kolkata" remark over the rape and murder of the Kolkata doctor, reports Tamaghna Banerjee. Most INDIA bloc parties have demanded justice for her while backing steps taken by Bengal govt, but Rahul had said there was "an attempt to shield the accused".

On Sunday, while posting an image of a news article on Karnataka governor granting sanction for the prosecution of Congress CM Siddaramaiah in a land allotment scam, TMC ex-PM Kunal Ghosh posted on X: "So, Rahul Gandhi, will you ask your CM to resign? Without having correct info about the WB incident, you made a comment. Now, will you kindly take steps regarding your CM?" **P 12**

Early B'desh polls unlikely as Yunus says must implement reforms first

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: Bangladesh interim govt chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus pledged on Sunday to hold elections but said a "free, fair and participatory" election can only be held when the interim govt has completed its "mandate" to carry out "vital reforms".

In his first interaction with diplomats stationed in Dhaka, Prof Yunus said reforms are needed in the election commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces, and media. In their effort to stay in power, he told diplomats, the "Sheikh Hasina dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. The judiciary was broken and democratic rights suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half crackdown".

The "to-do list" involves a long process, creating uncer-

► **In their efforts to stay in power, Sheikh Hasina's dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. The judiciary was broken. Democratic rights were suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half-long crackdown... Banks were robbed with full political patronisation. And the state coffers was plundered by abusing power**

— INTERIM GOVT CHIEF ADVISOR MD YUNUS, ON SHEIKH HASINA'S REGIME

tainty about the prospect of early elections and formation of an elected govt.

"The revolutionary students want us to carry out meaningful and deep reforms, which will turn the country into a real and thriving democracy," Prof Yunus said.

► **'Previous poll rigged', P 20**

Women's T20 WC may be shifted out to UAE

TNN

The UAE, which offers three world-class cricketing venues at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, has emerged as the likely alternative to host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Bangladesh Cricket Board, however, is still keen to host, despite the turmoil in the country, reports Gaurav Gupta. Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka are in the race too.

The ICC is expected to take a final call this week. It had earlier requested India, its No. 1 alternative, to host the event, but BCCI declined the offer. The tournament runs from October 3 to 20, involving 10 teams and 23 matches. **P 21**

NSA slapped on necrophiliac killer

National Security Act has been slapped on a 22-year-old rape and murder accused currently in Barabanki jail for engaging in sexual activities with the bodies of two of his victims. Amarendra Rawat, also charged with raping and attempting murder of two others, was arrested in Jan 2023. **P 17**

Deities' names are generic, says HC

Dismissing a shop owner's suit against a cousin for using a similar name — Shree Ram Vastra Bhandar, for his outlet — a civil court in Ahmedabad has observed one can't become the exclusive owner of names of deities merely by registering them as a trademark as these are generic names. **P 13**

Ganja disguised as meds seized in Hyd

In a new trend, ganja-laced chocolates made in UP are making their way into Hyderabad, disguised as Ayurvedic medicine. Wrapped in attractive packaging, these chocolates come with 'Ayurvedic Aushadh' printed on wrappers. A large consignment was seized in Pethasheerabad. **P 16**

SUV crash claims 6 lives in Malda

Six people, all aged between 18 and 20, died in an accident in Bengal's Malda late Saturday and another was injured when their SUV lost control, hit the highway divider and then slammed into an oncoming truck on the other flank. Police suspected the SUV was speeding and the driver was drunk. **P 16**

11 UP labourers going home for raksha bandhan die in accident

Meerut: At least 11 labourers of a Ghaziabad-based firm, returning home for Raksha Bandhan, were killed and 26 persons were injured when their pick-up truck collided head-on with a bus on Meerut-Badaun state highway at Salempur in Bulandshahr on Sunday.

► **3 devotees killed, 15 injured in accident, P 16**

Police said around 10.30am, the bus collided with a truck while trying to overtake it, reports Rahul Singh. The victims in the truck were travelling from Ghaziabad to Aligarh while most injured bus passengers were going to Bulandshahr. There were over 20 labourers in the truck, locals said.

► **Returning for rakhi, P 16**

Talks in govt for 100% FDI in insurance, plan's political acceptance being weighed

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New Delhi: Officials are discussing a proposal to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit for insurance to 100%, from current 74%, a move which has the backing of the regulator, but will need political clearance since it involves an amendment to Insurance Act.

Besides, other proposals to ease FDI rules for the sector, such as the mandate to have Indians in certain segments of the top management, are also being reviewed, officials privy to the talks told TOI. Apart from FDI, a comprehensive set of amendments to the law are also proposed although the bill timing is yet to be decided. The department for promotion of industry and internal trade, too, is undertaking a review of sectoral norms and rules to en-

► **Indian insurers, P 19**

Delhi-bound woman assaults two flyers, CISF staffer in Pune

TNN

A woman was removed from a private airline's flight to New Delhi at Pune's Lohegaon airport Saturday after she assaulted two fellow passengers and a CISF constable. This happened during the boarding process around 7.45am.

Airport authorities said the woman attacked a man and his sister who were sitting in their allotted seats. The crew intervened and CISF constables Priyanka Reddy and Sonika Pal were dispatched to the aircraft. However, she responded aggressively, slapping and biting constable Reddy.

The CISF officers then removed the woman and her husband from the flight. She was handed over to the airport police and a case was registered. **P 8**

Merc driver arrested for hit-and-run on Ashram flyover that killed cyclist

TNN

New Delhi: Police have arrested the driver of a Mercedes car that was allegedly involved in a hit-and-run incident at Ashram flyover, resulting in the death of a cyclist. TOI had reported the incident on Sunday.

The accused driver was identified as Pradeep Gautam (45), a Noida resident. Police have seized the vehicle. The driver was granted bail on Sunday, reports Devanshi Mehta.

The accident had claimed the life of Rajesh, a 34-year-old gardener. Cops disclosed on Sunday that the cyclist was discovered nearly 150 metres away from the body, indicating the force of the impact and the speed of the car at the time of the collision.

► **Head trauma, P 3**

HIGH-SPEED CRASH

► **Such was Merc's speed that body of victim, Rajesh, was found 150m from his cycle. He died on the spot due to severe head injuries & bleeding, police said**

► **Car identified through CCTV footage. Owner says he gave vehicle to driver/agent Pradeep Gautam, 45, for purpose of selling it**

Rider stabbed to death as scooty brushes against passerby in city

In yet another road-rage killing in the capital, a security guard was stabbed to death after the scooty he was riding brushed against a person in central Delhi's Karol Bagh early Sunday. Police, citing eyewitness accounts, said the victim, Manoj, was on his way to a hotel in Regarpura to grab a meal. His scooter inadvertently touched an individual, identified as Rishabh, who became enraged and confronted the victim.

The argument soon escalated and Rishabh allegedly brought out a knife and viciously stabbed Manoj in the chest before fleeing. Manoj succumbed to his injuries in hospital. Cops said they had identified the assailant but were yet to arrest him. **P 2**

For 2nd time this year, male tiger from Sariska travels 125km to Rewari forest

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Gurgaon: A three-year-old male tiger is believed to have travelled 125km from the Sariska reserve in Rajasthan to Jhabua forest in Rewari for the second time in eight months.

Forest department officials initiated a search for the animal (ST-2302) after its pugmarks were spotted in the Aravali forest on Saturday evening. The tiger is likely to have wandered out of Sariska last week and travelled by the Sahibi river, where other animals come to drink water and offer an ideal prey base.

On its way to Rewari, ST-2302 was spotted in Khairthal-Tijara district on the Rajasthan border on Thurs-

'MAY BE LOOKING FOR A NEW HABITAT'

► **ST-2302, a 3-year-old tiger, attacked farmer in Khairthal-Tijara district on Rajasthan border on Thursday**

► **Pugmarks first seen Saturday, more found after Jhabua forest scanned Sunday**

► **Foresters stationed to ensure tiger doesn't stray, create panic**

day, when it attacked a local farmer. "A tiger's pugmarks were first seen on Saturday evening. More marks were discovered after the 800-acre Jhabua forest was scanned on Sunday morning. Since we have tigers only in Sariska in the region, the pugmarks were matched with the records there and they were found to

be of ST-2302," said Deepak Patil, the divisional forest officer of Rewari.

Five to seven teams of foresters have been stationed in the Jhabua forest to ensure the animal does not stray into the nearby villages and create panic there.

► **Hide themselves, P 7**

Bank cuts EMIs from Wayanad survivors' aid

TNN

Kerala Gramin Bank has deducted loan EMIs from emergency relief disbursed by the state govt to those who survived the Wayanad landslides. The move has added to the shock of the survivors still grappling with their losses from the disaster that claimed over 230 lives.

The Centre holds a majority stake in Gramin Bank, 50% directly and another 35% through PSU Canara Bank; Kerala govt has a 15% stake. The Left-governed state had announced an emergency assistance of Rs 10,000. State cooperatives minister VN Vasavan termed the bank's move "cruel" and "an indecent act". **P 8**

It's not always stars that light up the silver screen. Look who's in the spotlight now

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Kochi: In the late evenings, when the wind is cool and the earliest stars appear high in the night sky, Selvaraj Raghavan VR would give himself a neck-shake and head to Lokadharmi Nadakaveedu — a small, dedicated theatre group in Kerala's Kochi.

For years, this 63-year-old headliner actor had spent his days hauling heavy loads and his nights performing on the stage. The weight of his labour was lightened only by his love of acting, a passion that would one day propel him and ten of his fellow theatre actors into the spotlight of Indian cinema.



Aattam's cast includes, among others, a tile layer, a painter, a grocer...

on the set of Aattam, a Malayalam film by debutant director Anand Ekarshi, that won over audiences and critics alike, and swept three national awards on Aug 16. Best feature film, best screenplay, and best editing. The story of Aattam is as compelling behind the scenes as it is on screen. This movie, centred on the dark consequences of male chau-

► **Paused day jobs, P 16**



Rapid rail set to run from Meerut to Ghaziabad from today | 4

TEMP ON SUNDAY
34.6° MAXIMUM
27° MINIMUM
 FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky with light rain on Monday. Max & min temp would be around 35 and 27°C
 SUNSET 6.56PM (MON) MOONSET 6.11AM (TUE)
 SUNRISE 5.53AM (TUE) MOONRISE 6.57PM (MON)

82
 DELHI AQI ON SUNDAY (SATISFACTORY CATEGORY)

Transport dept to address key traffic congestion problems | 4



IGI begins operations at newly-built T1 | 3

Hopes Fall Flat: Journey From Slums To Own House Fails To Meet Expectations

In Situ Rehab Scheme Seems To Only Take Civic Misery Upwards, Disrupt Community Living

Devanshi Mehta
 @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Sujeeta thought she had left all woes behind two years ago when she moved into a new flat on Tower A at Kalkaji. "Imagine being a mother of three kids and living on the seventh floor. Every single day for two years, I have had to haul the children all the way down with me to the ground floor to fill a bucket from the RO outlet because there's no drinking water supply in our flats or anywhere else," muttered the 30-year-old. "8am every morning is a full-scale battle for water. No matter how early you get there, you're left with dust in your bucket if you're not quick enough."

In 2022, an optimistic Sujeeta and many of her neighbours in Bhoonihean Camp slum cluster had gleefully unlocked the flats in Kalkaji Extension allotted to them as part of the in-situ slum rehabilitation scheme. They all thought they had achieved their dream of owning a proper house. Indeed, they moved into a flat with a living room, bedroom, kitchen, toilet, bathroom and balcony. But in the time since then, Sujeeta and her friends have found respectable living and escape from the mess of jhuggi life that they had envisioned evading them.



Road. There are 3,024 economically weaker section flats configured in towers of ground-14 floors, with each flat measuring 25 sq metres. The aim was to erase slums and use the land as a resource to provide pucca housing to the people living in shanties. But the experience of two years would probably now convince such planners that the scheme has only succeeded in creating a vertical slum in place of a shanty town.

Not only is tapped water unavailable as promised, but garbage management has literally hit the pits. Residents have repeatedly attempted to establish a residents' welfare association to coordinate waste collection and manage rag pickers, but these efforts have yet to succeed. In the meanwhile, trash continues to accumulate around the apartment buildings. "Maintenance is not taken seriously here. The open sewers overflow with the slightest rain, moisture is causing chunks of the roof to fall off, sometimes on unsuspecting residents, and garbage dumps proliferate in every corner," a resident grumbled. "It's just as suffocating as in the slum, but with

DDA says it's addressing issues

New Delhi: In response to concerns raised by residents of EWS flats in Kalkaji under the in situ slum rehabilitation scheme, Delhi Development Authority has given an assurance that these dwellings have been permanently allotted and that it has no intention of relocating or alienating them from their current homes. Addressing the complaints about broken windows, DDA stated that it was actively working on resolving these issues. However, the authority also emphasised the crucial role that residents play in ensuring the safety and maintenance of their flats.

DDA acknowledged the challenges faced with supply of water, sourced from tubewells, particularly during the summer months when the groundwater table was lower. To mitigate this issue, the authority said it had provided tanker supplies to ensure an adequate supply for the residents. The responsibility for garbage management lay with RWA, and DDA had provided sufficient dustbins for household waste collection, it said. MCD was responsible for the daily disposal of this waste, it said, adding that regular external cleaning of the premises was being carried out.

According to DDA, the street lighting and lifts within the community are in good working condition. However, the authority is addressing issues related to tampering with and theft of lift fittings. To tackle these infrastructural challenges effectively, DDA was working towards fostering a greater sense of responsibility among residents and RWA, it said.

less room to breathe and more layers of frustration." Flat occupants were also promised piped gas, but with no pipelines installed, they are stuck with exorbitant LPG cylinder costs — 800 every three weeks, plus 50 as delivery charges. For those who can't navigate the booking system, dealing with middlemen means paying even more.

The modern amenities that could facilitate a decent lifestyle are not the only things missing in the concrete complex. Lalita, a 30-year-old nurse, reveals the stark reality of the 'gated community' she now calls home. "After late shifts at

the hospital, I sometimes wish I was heading back to my old jhuggi," she sighed. This so-called 'secure' society is anything but. After 1pm, it's like a free-for-all. Goondas roam the streets, drug addicts intimidate women and children, and drunkards sometimes follow you right to your doorstep."

Residents are increasingly alarmed by the spate of robberies in the locality. Many have installed heavy iron gates and pooled funds for CCTV cameras. Yet, the lack of public lighting only deepens their fear that their flats are just nocturnal obstacle courses for would-be burglars. There are no full-fledged security guards on duty nor entry logs to record the comings and the goings of people.

Most of all, the in-situ rehabilitation scheme was meant to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers without affecting their way of life. But the abrupt shift to vertical living in overcrowded buildings has been, for the occupants, an experience in the worst of modern urbanisation — poor room lighting and ventilation, substandard construction and inadequate facilities. The shift from low-rise, high-density

homes to impersonal high-rise buildings has also disrupted social networks and has severed slum dwellers from their street-based livelihoods.

Parmeela, a 65-year-old domestic helper, spends her days tending to the grand bungalows of Kalkaji. By night, she returns to her flat on the first floor. Once a proud resident of the Govindpuri jhuggi-jhopri cluster for 30 years, Parmeela now finds her low altitude flat in B block the only blessing given her arthritis and the unreliable lifts in the towers. "It's as if an eerie silence has settled over these apartments. Back in the jhuggi, there was a real sense of community. If someone had an argument, tripped, or even just had a bad day, everyone spilled out of their homes to offer help. Now, we're confined to our small rooms on different floors. It's a world where no one knows what's happening beyond their own door."

Parmeela ran a pakora shop from her jhuggi in her earlier avatar. "I felt independent and empowered back then — people knew me, kids swung by after school to grab a bite as did labourers, while women came to chat. It was a thriving little ecosystem I managed on my own," she reminisced. "Now, here I am, back to being someone's domestic worker because I cannot afford the astronomical shop rates here and running a business from an apartment is simply impractical."

This disruption in community life has come about perhaps because redevelopment schemes are increasingly being seen as focused on houses rather than on people and life. Many activists point out how the eventual beneficiaries aren't consulted prior to conceptualising the new complexes, another case in point being the in-situ project at Kathputli Colony that has put the colourful and vibrant community life of folk artisans into total disarray. In effect, the sole upwardly mobile aspect of such projects is the concrete towers.

Even then, there still are a few happy people. One of them is Tushar Vishwas, a 26-year-old tuition teacher. He has turned his new apartment into 'Knowledge Classes', a tuition centre, where the Delhi university history postgraduate continues teaching students like he did in Bhoonihean Camp. But the rarity of occupants like him only underline the civic and social disorder that high-rise substitutes have caused.

AQI satisfactory for 22 days, best streak in 4 years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi saw 22 consecutive days with satisfactory air quality, which is the best streak of healthy and clean air since 2020. According to details from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city has been experiencing satisfactory air quality or an air quality index below 100 since July 28. In 2020, the lockdown year, there were 51 consecutive days with an AQI below 100.

If 2020 is excluded, this is the longest such spell in Delhi since CPCB launched AQI in 2015. The streak of 51 days in 2020 came between July 16 and Sept 4, when rains and low emissions due to the Covid pandemic-induced lockdown led to better air quality. In Sept 2021, the city saw a streak of satisfactory air quality for 20 days in a row.

CPCB classifies an air quality index between 51 and 100 as "satisfactory".

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the city's AQI, on a scale of 0 to 500, was 82 against 74 a day earlier. This continued a streak which began on July 28, when Delhi's AQI was 83. The city often recorded cleaner air quality during monsoon due to winds and rain.

Delhi has recorded 240.2mm of rainfall in Aug so

far, which is higher than the average for the month. In July, the city recorded 209.7mm of rainfall. Overall, this monsoon season, which includes the rain recorded in June, Delhi has received 687.3mm of rainfall, which is already higher than the monsoon average of 640.4mm over the four months from June till Sept.

A combination of good wind speed and rain made a positive impact on the air. So far this Aug, the city or at least some of its parts have recorded rain on all days except for Aug 3, making Sunday the 15th day with rain in the city, the longest such streak in at least 13 years, reveals the records from India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Meanwhile, several areas of the city saw rain on Sunday. While the city's base station, Safdarjung, recorded a trace of rain, which was too low to be recorded, Mayur Vihar saw 17mm of rainfall during the afternoon. Delhi University saw 6mm and the Ridge area recorded 5.3mm. The maximum temperature at Safdarjung was 34.6 degrees Celsius while the minimum was 27.

IMD expects very light rain on Monday with a generally cloudy sky. The maximum temperature may hover around 35 degrees Celsius.

51
 DAYS' STREAK WAS SEEN IN 2020

BREATHING EASY

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



➤ AQI has been in 'satisfactory' zone since July 28, 2024

➤ Prior to this, 2021 monsoon saw 20 days of persistent AQI below 100

➤ Cleanest spell of air in the capital now since 2020 due to persistent rain

➤ Last time in 2020, the Covid-19 lockdown year, Delhi recorded 51 consecutive days — from July 16 to Sept 4 — when AQI was 100 or less

➤ If lockdown year is excluded, then this is longest clean air spell since launch of AQI in 2015

HC declines petition to reframe coaching institute guidelines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has declined to entertain a petition seeking directions to authorities to reframe guidelines for coaching institutes to include criminal liability.

The plea also sought to direct authorities to come up with an education system that should work for the refinement of students' minds rather than making them ready for entrance examinations. A bench of acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Tushar Rao Gedela pointed out that it was not in the court's domain to pass such a direction.

"Look at your prayer. This is not in our domain. Even if the education system needs to be reformed, it is not for us to do. If there is a fault in the education system, the elected govt of the day will face the music when they go for elections," the bench told the counsel for the petitioner.

"We can't formulate the education system for the city," it added, while hearing a plea by non-profit organisation Kutumb, which also sought to direct authorities to frame rules and regulations to run paying guest accommodations for students in Delhi.

As the court was not inclined to entertain the plea, the petitioner's counsel sought liberty to withdraw the petition and was allowed to do so by the court. HC also granted the NGO liberty to approach an appropriate forum with its representation.

During the hearing, MCD's counsel Manu Chaturvedi submitted that the Supreme Court is seized of the matter relating to the safety of students in coaching centres. The petition also sought the constitution of a committee to probe and compile a report of coaching institutes that are running in an illegal manner and not following standard norms.

Earlier this month, the court had transferred the probe into the case of UPSC aspirants who drowned in the basement of a coaching centre in the city from Delhi Police to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) "to ensure the public has no doubt about the investigation." It acted on a plea filed by the same organisation, among others.

Major breakthroughs in restoring minors to families as special drives result in 200% rise

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New Delhi: There has been a significant increase of 200% in the number of missing children recovered from various states by the anti-human trafficking unit of Shahdara district.

Data reveals that till Aug 6, 2023, a total of 66 minors were traced. In the corresponding period this year, the figure stood at 200. Of these, 64 were girls and 56 boys, some of whom had turned adults by the time they were found. The children were found in UP, Jammu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, West Bengal and Delhi-NCR.

To trace the missing children, a team of 18 officers was formed by DCP (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary in Jan to meticulously scrutinise all old and current cases. A triad comprising a woman officer was established for each case and, concurrently, a specialised team was assembled to scrutinise call detail record particulars. The teams, headed by inspector Suren Sharma, then carried out raids.

During the seven-month drive, the cops faced several challenges. "The problem arose when the cops had to trace those who had been missing for years, as they didn't have their current photographs. Also, in some cases, the phones the mi-

nor had last used were not in use anymore," an officer said. A comprehensive plan was formed. The teams met

the families of the minors and traced the person with whom they were last in contact or the location where they were

last seen. A dedicated door-to-door search was conducted with the old photographs, with the help of which the

cops gathered clues. Another officer said that in remote areas, the inadequate network signals hindered their ability to communicate with their counterparts stationed in Delhi. Also, language barriers posed another challenge during search operations, compounding the difficulties faced by the teams.

In one case, a girl went from Geeta Colony to Punjab in 2018 for a job opportunity and went missing. A team conducted a door-to-door search with an old photo of hers, got her phone number and, while analysing it, learnt that she had booked a ticket for Telangana. "In another case, we tracked down a girl in Noida who had been missing since 2016. Recently, we also recovered a girl from a spa," the officer said.

Many factors had pushed the children to leave home, the cops discovered. These included parents being strict, performing poorly in school, spending too much time on social media and looking for jobs.

In many cases, police found that the condition of the minors was not good. They wanted to return home but were hesitant, fearing their parents or the society would not accept them. "Some were found working as labourers or domestic helpers. Others were seen roaming here and there in search of food," an officer said.

Road rage: Guard stabbed to death in Karol Bagh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In yet another murder in road rage in the city, a security guard was stabbed to death after his two-wheeler accidentally brushed against an individual in Central Delhi's Karol Bagh early on Sunday. Police are yet to make an arrest, though they said the killer had been identified.

The incident transpired while the deceased, Manoj Sharma (32), was travelling to a hotel on his scooter for a meal. Preliminary investigations have revealed that Manoj was employed as a guard at a security company and often returned home late in the night. Eyewitnesses told cops that Manoj was en route to a hotel in Regarpura when his scooter inadvertently touched an individual, later identified as Rishabh. The latter became enraged and initiated a confrontation.

When Manoj resisted, Rishabh brandished a knife and viciously stabbed him in the chest, inflicting grave injuries before fleeing the scene. According to sources, the police control room was alerted in the early hours of Sunday, informing them of a man discovered in Raigarhpura, Karol Bagh, who had been viciously stabbed and was lying in a pool of blood. Upon receiving the information, a police team was sent to the scene and identified the victim as Manoj, a resident of Karol Bagh Bedanpura. Manoj was taken to a nearby medical facility, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

Cops have taken custody of the body and transferred it to the mortuary for a postmortem examination. A case of murder has been registered, and several teams have been formed to arrest the killer, police said.

LOST AND FOUND

Why they leave home

- Excessive social media use
- Poor academic performance
- Scolding
- Elopement
- Job hunting

Missing children rescued

2023: 66
 *2024: 200 (Jan to Aug 6)

States from where these kids were rescued

Jammu, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Telangana

Challenges faced

- Outdated photographs
- Linguistic barriers
- Unreliable network connectivity

How they were tracked down

- Anti-human trafficking unit's strength doubled
- A team of 18 cops constituted, with three cops, including a female officer, assigned to each case
- A dedicated CDR team formed to track phone numbers of missing people that were last used
- Comprehensive searches involving family interactions and door-to-door inquiries conducted

Graphic: Chhavi Bhargava

Condition of rescued children

27 children were below 14 years, and 89 below 18

Many rescued children reluctant to return home due to fear of rejection by parents or society

Some found working in hazardous conditions or living on streets

Hit & Run: Bailable Offence Triggers A Cycle Of Despair

Over 40% Of Accidents In City Attributed To 'Unknown Vehicles'

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New Delhi: Rajesh, a diligent gardener and the sole breadwinner of his household, met with a tragic fate on Saturday. As he cycled to work in Bhopal, a speeding car crushed him, shattering not only his life but also the dreams and aspirations of his wife and two children.

Rajesh's untimely demise adds to the growing list of victims in cases where FIRs are registered against drivers of unidentified vehicles. The driver, if apprehended later, secures instant bail, and the case languishes in the legal system for years. Shockingly, over 40% of crashes in the city are attributed to hit-and-run incidents or "accidents by unknown vehicles", as they

are commonly referred to. According to sources, the frequency of hit-and-run cases is fuelled by the drivers' belief that they can navigate the legal procedures through the assistance of lawyers later. Some individuals also cite the fear of public retaliation as a reason for fleeing the scene. A senior police officer said, "The majority of individuals who flee accident scenes

say that they did it out of fear of being physically assaulted, financially taken advantage of, or getting entangled in lengthy legal processes. To effectively address this deep-seated fear, it is essential to implement measures that go beyond the protections offered by the Good Samaritan law." However, hit-and-run incidents can be curbed through effective enforcement. Last Jan, 51 people lost their lives to unknown vehicles, while the figure stood at 47 this Jan. This dip was made possible by the collaborative efforts of traffic and local police, who identified hotspots and increased deployment in those areas.

Statistics reveal that 518 individuals have lost their lives in 511 fatal accidents until 15 May of this year. Sources indicate that the figures surpassed the 700-mark by Aug 15. However, police claimed that these numbers were still lower compared with the previous year, where 552 fatalities were documented in 544 collisions during the corresponding timeframe (Jan-May) of 2023.

Ring Road, National Highway (NH) 24, NH 8, Rohtak Road, GTK Road and Mathura Road are among the top 10 segments of thoroughfares in the national capital where the maximum number of lethal mishaps have transpired this year. Previously, hit-and-run cases were tried under IPC Section 304A, carrying a maximum sentence of two years. Now, under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 106(2), the maximum imprisonment has been increased to 10 years. However, the lack of awareness may be contributing to the absence of deterrence.

Mayor writes to MCD commissioner over poor garbage mgmt

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New Delhi: Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Sunday wrote to MCD commissioner Ashwani Kumar over "rising irregularities" in operations, leading to waste accumulation on the streets. She asked the commissioner to ensure proper garbage collection and disposal across Delhi and take strict action against negligent officials. She asked him to accompany her on daily inspections from Aug 20 to Sept 2 across all 12 MCD zones.

The mayor wrote, "This is to draw your attention to the worsening condition of garbage disposal in entire Delhi, especially in west and central zones. For the past few days, the garbage collection in these areas has been irregular, resulting in the accumulation of waste on the streets. The bins remain overflowing, and the stench from the decomposing waste is unbearable. This issue has led to an unhealthy environment, increasing the risk of diseases and discomfort for the residents." Despite repeatedly raising concerns and requesting the commissioner to wit-

ness the situation firsthand, Oberoi stated that no progress had been made, and the issue was reduced to a blame game between MCD officials and concessionaires.

In the central zone, the extended contractual period of the concessionaire got over on July 25, but due to the absence of a standing committee, a new concessionaire couldn't be hired. In west zone, payment issues linger.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the poor sanitation condition in Delhi was the result of AAP's anarchic politics.

"Every citizen of Delhi now understands that the failure to constitute the standing committee and ward committees over the past 20 months due to AAP's obstinacy has hindered various development projects. If ensuring cleanliness is indeed the responsibility of the commissioner, then why did AAP claim in 2022 that Kejriwal's party would make Delhi clean?" he asked.

A senior MCD official stated that the letter served as a means to engage in politics and divert attention from the core problem.



SPEED CUTS ANOTHER LIFE SHORT



WHEN
Saturday, 8-8.15 am

WHERE
Ashram Flyover

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Rajesh, a gardener, is cycling to work when he is hit by a car from behind.
- The car speeds away, Rajesh dies on the spot.
- His cycle is found 150 metres away from his body.
- CCTV footage helps cops identify the car using the last digits -- 5555.
- Car is found to be registered in the name of a company during enquiry from transport authority.

AN AGONISING REPEAT

- Aug** | A pedestrian is mowed down by a speeding truck in Paschim Vihar; a Good Samaritan helps cops catch the driver
- July** | A 74-year-old woman is hit by a speeding car while attempting to cross the road in Rajouri Garden
- June** | A CRPF sub-inspector is killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle in northeast Delhi
- May** | A 62-year-old Delhi Congress functionary is mowed down by a speeding SUV during a morning walk
- Feb** | A 69-year-old man riding a scooter dies after being hit by a speeding Mercedes in Dwarka. A four-year-old girl riding pillion is grievously injured
- Jan** | A 39-year-old physically challenged woman dies after she is mowed down by a speeding truck while crossing the road

YOU READ IT HERE

Merc mows down 34-yr-old cyclist on Ashram flyover

New Delhi: A 34-year-old cyclist was mowed down by a speeding car on Saturday morning. The driver fled the scene. Police have managed to identify the car, a Mercedes-Benz, involved in the hit-and-run through CCTV cameras, but the driver had not been arrested as of late Saturday.

'Cyclist died of head trauma, bleeding'

Continued from P1

The incident happened on the Ashram-to-Bhopal side of the flyover, police said. Rajesh was cycling on the side of the road when he was struck by the car. "Gautam, who was driving the car at an excessive speed, lost control and collided with Rajesh before fleeing the scene," said a senior officer.

Police received a PCR call around 8.30am informing them about the accident. Cops found Rajesh lying in a pool of blood on the road. He was pro-

The car's owner provided info about the whereabouts of the driver. It was found that the driver had been using the car for a month as the owner had given it to him to sell

nounced dead on the spot. Doctors concluded that he had succumbed to severe head trauma and excessive bleeding. The offending vehicle,

with registration number UP 16** 5555, was identified through CCTV footage. It was found registered in the name of "M/s SDS Infracon Pvt Ltd". Police then commenced their search for the driver by tracing the car's ownership.

The car's owner provided information about the driver's whereabouts. It was found that the driver worked as an agent and had been using the car for a month, as the owner had given it to him to sell. Cops arrived at the driver's house in Sector 46, Noida by Saturday evening and

summoned him to join the investigation. He surrendered at the police station late in the night, an officer said.

The driver was booked under sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including rash driving, causing death by negligence, and failure to provide assistance and information in case of an accident. The car has undergone a mechanical inspection. Witnesses are being questioned to corroborate the sequence of events.

Police would soon file a chargesheet in the case, they said.

A brand-new experience at Delhi airport's Terminal 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: There is a buzz at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, with its newly constructed Terminal 1 building starting operations from Saturday.

Officials say the terminal efficiently handled 13 flights on its opening day. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) had previously announced the transfer of 13 SpiceJet flights to the new T1 from other terminals.

An official said: "Additionally, starting from Sept 2, IndiGo is set to relocate 34 flights to the new terminal building, with the majority of these flights being shifted from the congested Terminal 2."

The new T1 building integrates arrivals and departures in a single structure, offering more than twice the space compared with the previous T1, which had separate sections for arrivals and departures. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new T1 on March 10, but it remained non-operational until DIAL and other agencies completed a series of trials.

DIAL initiated the expansion of T1 in 2019 after the terminal experienced a significant increase in air traffic and passenger numbers, surpas-



SWANKY AND MORE EFFICIENT

sing projections. The expansion work aimed to prepare the airport for future growth. To enhance the passenger experience, DIAL has introduced several new features at the new terminal, such as mobile check-in service, longer baggage reclaim carousels, an automated tray retrieval system, individual carrier system, common usage self-service, aerobridges, check-in counters and self-baggage drop kiosks. These features are designed to streamline airport processes for travellers. Additional amenities include expanded baggage recla-

im carousels, multiple entry gates, a prayer room, yoga area, quiet zone, group seating, laptop and mobile charging stations, a self-medication room, baby care rooms and smart washrooms. These features aim to improve the traveller experience on the airport.

SpiceJet passengers will enter through Gate A on ground floor, while IndiGo passengers will use entry gates 5 and 6 on the first floor. Adequate signage and road markings are in place to guide passengers from the dedicated arrivals area on ground floor to departures area.

Atishi & Oberoi meet principals after IIM training

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi education minister Atishi and mayor Shaili Oberoi recently met with 48 MCD school principals who completed a five-day training programme at IIM Ahmedabad. The principals shared their experiences and insights from the training, which covered various aspects such as leadership development, providing quality education to students, and engaging parents as partners in education.

Atishi expressed her delight at the enthusiasm and positivity displayed by the principals upon their return from training. She acknowledged the common perception of govt school teachers and principals being indifferent but was pleased to see the principals working to change this notion. Atishi emphasised that their enthusiasm and zeal would positively influence teachers and students in their respective schools.

The minister highlighted the crucial role of teachers and principals in shaping the future of the country, as students studying in schools are the nation's future. She stressed that no one is more important than teachers and principals entrusted with this responsibility.

Principal Parul Jain said: "Going to an institute like IIM Ahmedabad was like a dream. At first, I felt that the professors there prepared the top managers of the world, so they would not know the ground reality of MCD schools. But this illusion of mine broke. Here, we were respected like VIPs."

Principal Shushila Kumari expressed pride in being selected for the training at IIM. She said, "Whatever we learnt during the training, we will use to improve the learning environment in our school. We learnt how to eliminate absenteeism among children by making parents partners in the school."

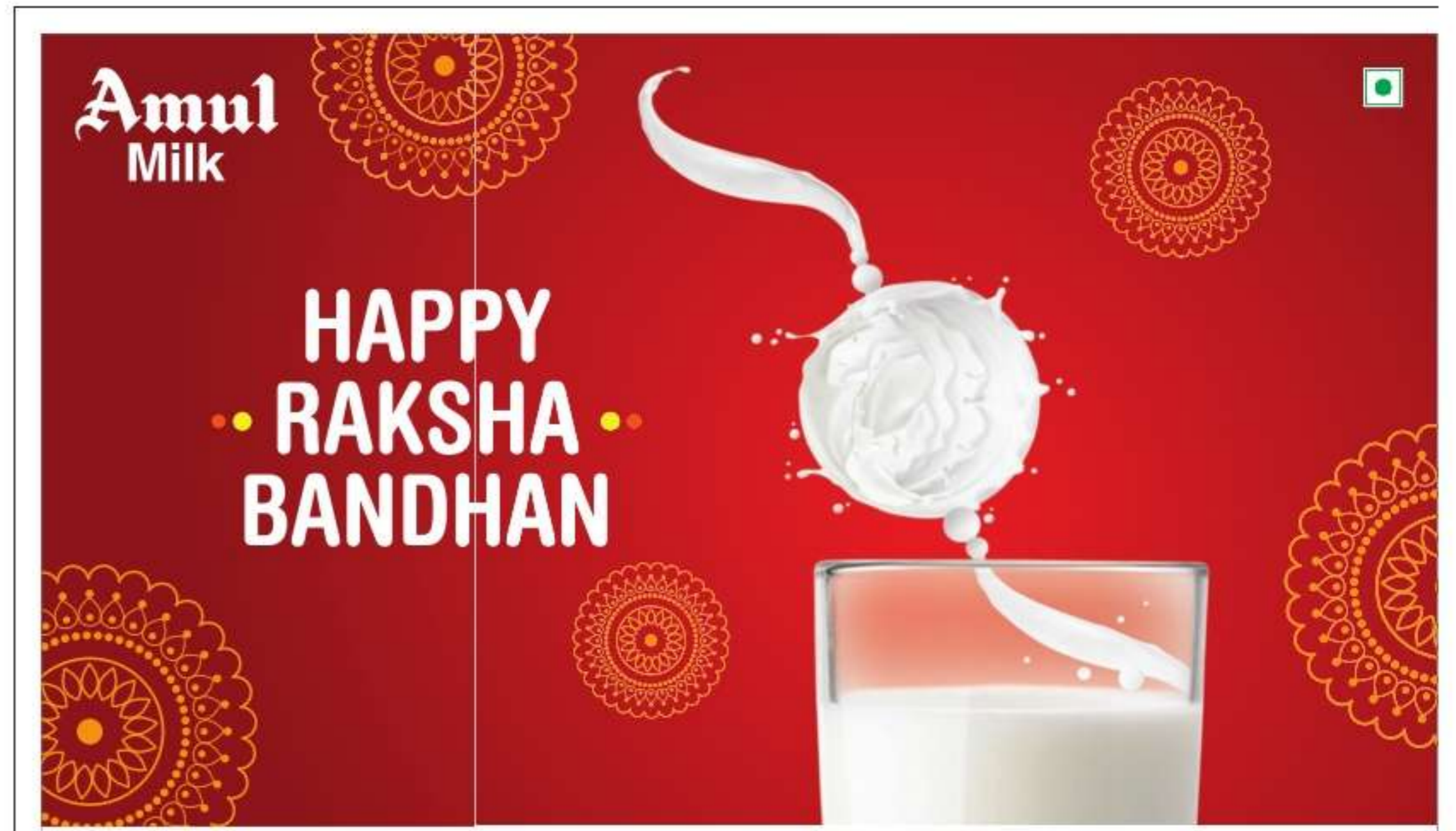
DU admissions: Over 83k accept slots in round 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: DU has received a strong response to its undergraduate admission process, with 83,678 candidates accepting the programmes and colleges allotted to them in the first round.

According to a senior official, around 10,016 candidates have already confirmed their admission by submitting fees. Candidates have until Aug 21 to secure their seats by paying fees. "As of 5 pm on Aug 18, 83,678 out of 97,387 candidates have confirmed their seats by accepting the college and programme offered to them," the official said. The allocation and acceptance process began on Friday, with the university allocating 97,387 seats to candidates in the first round. Despite a

total of 71,600 available seats, the university opted to make additional allocations to ensure optimal seat utilisation and facilitate the commencement of the academic session for the first semester on Aug 29. The allocations exceeded the total available seats by over 11%. "Additionally, 2,092 candidates have chosen to freeze their admission status, and 5,609 students have opted for an upgrade in their college or course preference," the official added. The university has allocated seats based on the unique common rank of candidates. Admissions are being conducted for 71,600 seats across 69 colleges and departments, excluding supernumerary seats. Admissions will be granted based on 1,559 programme-college combinations.



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Panel Orders Action On Encroachments

Finds Rampant Illegal Commercial Use Of Properties

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New Delhi: A Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee recently carried out a joint inspection of several non-notified roads in Delhi and found drastic commercial use of properties in violation of MPD2021 and Unified Building Bylaws.

The committee members asked the agencies concerned for immediate action, such as removing encroachments and submitting action-taken reports in a time-bound manner.

"After the coaching institute incident in Old Rajendra Nagar and, on the basis of several ongoing court cases of illegal construction related to Narela, central zones, etc., the activity of the monitoring committee has increased," said an MCD official. He added that the joint inspection on Aug 6 was attended by senior officials from MCD, Delhi govt's revenue department and DDA.

Like in 2018, the committee conducted a joint inspection in areas of south Delhi, including Chhatarpur, Chandanohla, Fatehpur Beri, Rajpur Khurd, Asola, Lado Sarai and Bhati Mines.

"The committee inspected

MCD OFFICIAL SAYS

After the coaching institute incident in Old Rajendra Nagar and, on the basis of several ongoing court cases of illegal construction, activity of the monitoring body has increased

Sant Shrinagpal Marg (100ft road) and found that this is a non-notified road. Despite this, a lot of commercial activities were found operating from multiple floors (including basements) of most of the premises on both sides of the stretch, in violation of the provisions of MPD2021 and UBBL 2016. Therefore, the deputy commissioner, south zones, was directed to revisit the area and issue notices to misusers under the relevant sections of DMC Act," stated the directions issued by the committee.

"All actions against violators of misuse of premises must be carried out in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Supreme Court in its order dated Nov 2018, giving 48 hours' notice to re-

spond," the committee stated.

On Chhatarpur main road also, the committee found many commercial activities operational in the form of marble traders, wedding venues, hotels/guest houses, resorts and farmhouses. "Similar activities were also carried out from the interior of villages like Chandanohla, Fatehpur Beri, Rajpur Khurd, Asola, etc.," it said.

The civic body has been asked to provide a list of farmhouses wherein permission has been accorded to carry out social functions in accordance with MCD policy. The committee also found many nurseries and shops of stone dealers near Qutub Minar Metro Station on DDA land in the form of encroachments.

Besides the inspection of the above areas, director (land management), DDA, and SDM (Mehrauli and Saket), were directed to identify encroachers on agricultural or private land in some villages, take action and submit a report. These directions were based on complaints submitted to the monitoring committee office wherein it was alleged that on DDA notified land in village Satbari, Gumbad and Lado Sarai, unauthorised plotting and construction was going on unabated.

Eye on polls: MLAs to submit report card to AAP workers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party MLAs will give a report card of their performance in the last four-and-a-half years to party workers as part of preparations for the assembly elections. Meetings with the workers will be held in all 70 constituencies of Delhi.

Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia is holding a series of meetings with AAP functionaries after coming out of jail and has chalked out a strategy for the assembly polls, party sources said. After the release of Sisodia from jail, the party has intensified its preparations for the assembly elections, which are to be held early next year.

AAP's national general secretary (organisation) and Rajya Sabha member Sandeep Pathak said the party was running several campaigns in Delhi regarding the assembly elections and many more campaigns would be launched in the coming time. "The party workers' meetings will be organised in all the assembly seats of Delhi. So far, the meetings have been successfully held in 18 out of 70 consti-

tuencies wherein local MLAs presented the report of their work before the public. Respective area MLAs and state vice-presidents also participate in these events," he explained.

Pathak further said that the top leadership of the party would also participate in the workers' conference to be held in Chhatarpur on Monday. "We are going to every assembly constituency and connecting with the people. We are giving them information about our work done in the last four and a half years. We are directly communicating with the public. Booth mapping work is also going on at the assembly level," he added.

AAP's Delhi state convener Gopal Rai said that the 'auto samvad' campaign, which is a state-level conference of the party's auto wing, would start from Aug 20. "The autorickshaw drivers will communicate the work of CM Arvind Kejriwal to the public. Along with this, they will expose the BJP's conspiracy to stop the work of Delhi. They will become Kejriwal's representatives and will talk to the people by running auto samvad every day at autorickshaw stands," he explained.

Stringent checks on pollution papers, bus-lane violations among key steps to curb congestion

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New Delhi: To tackle the traffic congestion problem in the national capital, Delhi govt has identified some key areas that require attention and has initiated a stringent crackdown on various offences. This includes imposing penalties on overloaded vehicles that breach permit conditions, confiscating unregistered e-rickshaws and targeting overloaded heavy goods vehicles.

Additionally, govt has intensified its actions against vehicles lacking Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC), wrongly parked vehicles and buses violating designated lanes.

The implementation of these measures was triggered by a directive from LG VK Saxena which emphasised the need to reinforce enforcement efforts. Transport data reveals that within a period of 13 days, from Aug 5 to 17, govt impounded a total of 674 e-rickshaws and 121 heavy goods vehicles, such as trucks,

CRACKDOWN CONTINUES

Number of Vehicles Impounded



Challenging of Vehicles

PUC challan: 596
Wrong parking challan: 5612

Bus lane violations

DTC: 37
Cluster: 53

ods vehicles, such as trucks, for overloading. Furthermore, 291 medium or light goods vehicles were also seized during this time.

During the same period, 596 PUC challans were issued, along with 5,612 challans for wrong parking. Vehicles operating without a valid PUC certificate are subject to a heavy

fine of Rs 10,000. Govt had last week raised the charges for PUC for petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles. The new rates for two- and three-wheelers running on petrol, CNG or LPG (including bio-fuel) have been increased from Rs 60 to Rs 80. For four-wheelers and above in the same fuel category, the rates have been raised

by Rs 30, from Rs 80 to Rs 110. Additionally, 37 DTC buses and 53 cluster buses were fined for bus lane violations, amounting to an average of seven buses being penalised daily. As per the rules, the transport department, while enforcing lane discipline for buses and goods carriers, can fine errand drivers up to Rs 10,000.

The crackdown will continue as govt wants to ensure that such violations are controlled to a large extent before the winters when Delhi sees heavy pollution spells, an official said. He added that the department had also received complaints that many bus drivers were flouting lane guidelines.

The intensified action is aimed at not just reducing accident fatalities in Delhi by inculcating lane driving practice among drivers but also ensuring that the lanes are kept free from encroachment and illegal parking, the official said further.

The maximum challans have been issued for wrong

parking, which is around 430 violators being fined every day. "This also includes parking in bus lanes," he said.

In the case of e-rickshaws, govt has impounded both registered ones which have number plates and unregistered ones. "If registered ones also do not follow rules and ply on roads where they have been banned, then action is taken," the official asserted.

One of the cheapest means of commuting—e-rickshaws started plying in 2012 and soon spiralled across the city as it acted as a bridge for last-mile connectivity and pocket-friendly rates. But soon, they also became a major nuisance due to their unchecked growth and regulations not being enforced. The major complaints include cluttering on the road leading to traffic jams and long tailbacks, improper parking, violation of restrictions, one-way violations, overloading passengers and underage driving, the official said.

Truth can't be hidden for long, says Sisodia

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday claimed that BJP got CM Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP functionaries jailed as they feared Kejriwal's model of development. "Kejriwal is the only chief minister in the country who has made electricity bills zero. Only in Delhi, there are excellent schools and hospitals," he said.

Sisodia was addressing the people of Deoli during the third day of his padyatra. The march, which started from Sangam Vihar, drew a large crowd eager to meet him. People welcomed him warmly with garlands. AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal, senior functionaries, councillors and many workers also took part in the padyatra.

Sisodia said: "When they found nothing against us, they prepared false witnesses and jailed us under anti-terrorism laws to deny us bail. But the truth cannot be kept hidden for long. With the blessings of the people and the power of the Constitution, I am out, and Kejriwal will be out soon." "One day people will say that even if you lock up AAP functionaries



Manish Sisodia's padyatra entered its third day on Sunday

in a coal mine, they will come out clean," he asserted further.

Sisodia said that during his 17 months in jail, people prayed for his release. "Now, they are praying for the early release of Kejriwal and former health minister Satyendar Jain," he said.

Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva said that it was "disgraceful for Sisodia to campaign in the Deoli constituency where the AAP MLA had a criminal background." "Today, wherever Sisodia went in Deoli, the common people kept their distance from him. The public wants to know why AAP functionaries are shielding the local MLA, Jarwal, who is responsible for Deoli's deteriorating condition," he added.

Daily grind to turn into blitz as Rapid Rail enters Meerut

Anjali Singh | TNN

Ghaziabad: A piece of transport history was made on Sunday when a Rapid Rail train cruised into Meerut South at 2pm, completing the 42km ride from Sahibabad on the Delhi border in just 30 minutes.

This was also a milestone for India's first semi-high speed urban train system, which now connects two districts (Ghaziabad and Meerut) and is only 10 months away from unveiling its full-length 80km operation from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Meerut.

The breezy half-an-hour ride, which delighted the first batch of commuters who took the train on Sunday, bridges a yawning connectivity gap between Delhi and the divisional headquarters of west UP, reimagining the idea of NCR.

When it reaches the heart of Meerut city by the end of the year, commuters from there can reach Ghaziabad's Sahibabad in 45 minutes, a far cry from the current grind in buses that can take 2 hours or more.

This will make living in Meerut and working in Delhi, Noida or Ghaziabad possible. And it will delight the real estate indus-



A FAST, NEW WORLD!

try by opening up a big stretch to the east of Ghaziabad—which has been on the leeward side of development in NCR—for housing and commercial activity.

In less than a year since it was inaugurated on Oct 20 by PM Narendra Modi—before which the corridor was named Namoo Bharat—rapid rail's passenger operations now cover all of Ghaziabad and the outskirts of Meerut, covering more than 50% of the Delhi-Meerut line that is expected to be completed by June 2025.

Before Sunday, a 34km section in Ghaziabad—Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhara, Duhai, Duhai Depot, Muradnagar, Modinagar South and Modinagar North—was op-

erational. With Meerut South, it added another 8km.

Meerut South will serve as the gateway to the rest of the city and onwards in the district—Mohiuddinpur, Bhudbaral, Bahadurpur, Aminagar, Chhajipur, Karkhoda, Kad-arabad and nearby areas.

In recent years, Delhi-Meerut expressway has to an extent helped bring Meerut closer to the national capital but intercity commute is an advantage largely restricted to those who drive, besides being an expensive proposition. In that, Rapid Rail is transformational because it provides a superfast ride that is cheap. The one-way fare from Sahibabad to Meerut South is Rs 10.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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In reverence & remembrance

Daughter and Son-in-Law
Anita Chaudhry and Deepak Chaudhry

Sons and Daughters-in-Law
Arun Walia and Renu Walia
Arvind Walia and Anita Arvind

Grand Children

Gaurav and Shivangni Chaudhry
Radhika and Keshav Bhojanja
Akshi and Dhruv Mehendiratta
Abhimanyu and Kanika Walia
Ayushi Walia
Ayati Arvind

Great Grand Children

Daneyya, Aaryavir, Rudrvir, Kabir, Ayra, Aavya, Reyaan

In revered and fond memory of
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(1918 - 1988)

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Vinod: 9958992088
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SHEILA BALRAM SETHI
18th Death Anniversary

Mummy your goodness,
your caring nature and
your wisdom live on like
a legacy of love that will
always be with us.

You are unseen, unheard but always near:
Poonam & Col. A.J. Kapil,
Sangita & Col. Praveen Anand,
Sonia & Sanjeev Sethi,
Ekta, Kartik-Vaishali, Tushar - Laksha,
Karan-Mallika, Ashray - Ananya - Nitara.

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BRAVERY. 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.

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The Times of India Delhi/NCR	5,600
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REMEMBRANCE

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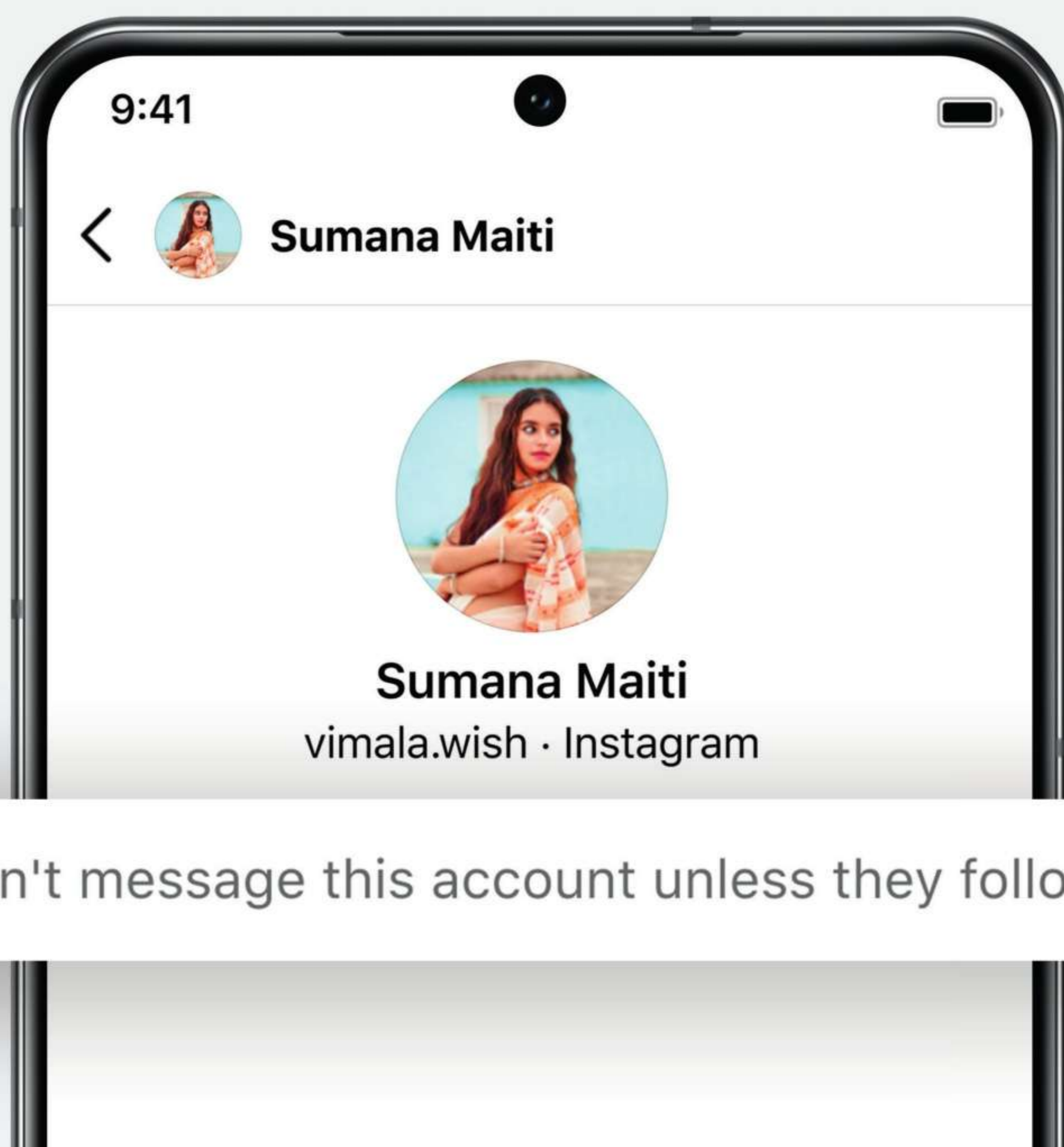
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Obesity rises as battle of Bulge, Experts Call on Govt To Watch Girths Of People

Prolonged Screen Time And Inactive Lifestyle Leaving Work Force Vulnerable To Ailments

Anuja Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Economic Survey 2023-24 has stated what was widely known — India is indeed the deemed capital of diabetes. But it also says that the dangerous combination of excessive social media usage, prolonged screen time, inactive lifestyles and poor dietary choices not only increases the likelihood of developing non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular ailments and specific forms of cancer, but is also jeopardising India's economic potential, particularly among its working-age population.

The survey notes that unhealthy diets and rising rates of obesity need to be tackled urgently to improve health parameters, in order to reap the gains of the country's demographic dividends.

Experts in the field agree and have urged govt to take proactive measures to encourage individuals to monitor and report their health parameters, including waist circumference.

"Govt involvement is crucial in driving the momentum needed to combat obesity effectively," said senior director and head of paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and liver transplantation and nutrition, Medanta Medicity, Gurugram, Dr Neelam Mohan.

She added that by focusing efforts on addressing obesity and overweight, govt can currently alleviate the burden of related health problems, such as diabetes, heart disease, fatty liver, liver cirrhosis and strokes. Alarmingly, in India, there is a growing trend of young adults experiencing cardiac issues, which were previously uncommon

WHAT DOES ECONOMIC SURVEY SAY?

54% Disease burden in India caused by unhealthy diets

Obesity
Urban India **29.8%**
Rural India **19.3%**

Factors
► High intake of ultra-processed foods
► Restricted access to nutritious foods

Adult obesity rate in India has more than tripled
► Rise in children steepest for India, after Vietnam and Namibia

Obesity crisis
70% of urban population obese or overweight | **Lancet**

Grossly overweight children between 5 & 19
1990 **0.4 million**
2022 **12.5 million**
(7.3 million boys, 5.2 million girls)



Sedentary lifestyle

Prevalence in women
1990 **1.2%**
2022 **9.8%**

Prevalence in men
1990 **0.5%**
2022 **5.4%**

Obesity in people over 20
1990 | 44 million women, 26 million men
1990 | 2.4 million women, 1.1 million men

► Cardiovascular diseases cause 33% of global deaths; leading cause in India

► Global rise in diabetes, 14.3% older adults reporting being diagnosed

► With ageing, overweight or obese individuals at higher risk of hypertension & heart disease

in this age group.

Emphasising the significance of individual responsibility in managing body weight, Dr Mohan said, "You are what you eat." While physical activity and exercise contribute to weight management, dietary habits have the most significant impact, accounting for 80-90% of the effect. She stressed the crucial need to educate young parents and adolescents about the importance of embracing nutritious eating habits. By doing so, the progression of obesity from the teenage years into adulthood can be effectively curbed.

Stressing the significance of integrating BMI into the na-

tional policy for preventive health care, Dr Girdhar Gyani, director general of Association of Healthcare Providers (India), proposes that the campaign should begin by concentrating on BMI and then progress to initiatives that encourage better dietary habits, more physical activity, and less screen time. "Increased screen time is the primary culprit for the current situation," he said.

He emphasised the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about stroke and the significance of cervical cancer vaccination for women. Additionally, people are encouraged to get vaccinated on a yearly basis. However, he stressed the im-

portance of promoting awareness about Body Mass Index (BMI) as a crucial next step. When an individual's BMI surpasses 25, they are at a higher risk of encountering health problems, and a BMI over 30 signifies obesity. Dr Gyani advocated for a large-scale awareness campaign on social media platforms to highlight the numerous complications that can arise from obesity. Maintaining a BMI under 25 can aid in managing various diseases.

Dr Gyani further explained that when blood sugar levels surpass 6.5, it is not merely about the numerical value but also about the heightened vulnerability to other illnesses.

The objective is to raise awareness that elevated sugar levels can worsen other health issues. Likewise, a BMI above 25 should serve as a warning sign, and surpassing 30 places an individual in a perilous situation. He emphasised the need to create a sense of urgency and concern, as people often underestimate the seriousness of obesity.

Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, founder chairman of Narayana Healthcare, stated that obesity is the root cause of most medical problems in the contemporary world. Although this is unfortunate, the positive aspect is that many of these

pact on all bodily systems.

Emphasising the importance of monitoring waist circumference as a simple and affordable method to assess health risks, Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of National IMA Covid Task Force, said, "Focusing on waist circumference is the most accessible and cost-effective approach, as it can be easily measured without the need for laboratory tests." By reducing waist size, individuals can improve various health markers, such as blood pressure and blood sugar levels, while also lowering the likelihood of developing chronic conditions like diabetes, cancer, dementia and cardiovascular disease.

He also stressed the significance of educating children about health, beginning from the age of 10 to 12. However, he cautioned that the information provided to them must be carefully curated to eliminate any misinformation. This highlights the need for reliable and accurate health education to ensure that children receive the correct guidance for maintaining their well-being.

NFHS-5 data shows that the prevalence of abdominal obesity is much higher in women compared with men in India.

Dr Anupam Sibal, group medical director and senior paediatric gastroenterologist at Apollo Hospital in Delhi, said that any product or service that poses a risk to an individual's well-being should not be promoted through advertising. He believes that such advertisements can have negative consequences on public health. He emphasised the need for stricter regulations and guidelines to prevent the promotion of harmful products.

TIMES Special

early-stage diseases are reversible. The key message is to "know your number". It is crucial for individuals to be aware of their body weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar levels. They should also have knowledge of their liver function report, kidney function report, and the calcium score in their heart.

For those who are obese, Dr Shetty strongly recommends undergoing a preventive checkup to obtain all the baseline readings. He emphasises that "an obese person feels I can walk a hundred miles, I have no problem". However, it is essential for everyone to understand that their perceived fitness level does not necessarily reflect their actual fitness. Therefore, it is imperative to undergo a preventive checkup and obtain a comprehensive evaluation of their heart, kidney, liver, and all other organs, as obesity can have a detrimental im-

TIES THAT BIND

Rajesh Mehta



Shoppers throng Lajpat Nagar market in New Delhi on Sunday on the eve of Raksha Bandhan



This sibling duo has developed a poignant theme, emphasising that no brother or sister should lose their life to a road accident, as whoever perishes is a cherished sibling to someone. Taarini Sinha (13) and Shauryavir (12) have been dedicated road safety ambassadors for past five years.

DMRC, meanwhile, will keep additional standby trains ready to cater the rush of passengers on Monday. It will also deploy additional personnel at stations to cater to the extra rush of commuters by operating additional ticket counters.

AIIMS neurosurgeon dies by suicide at home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A neurosurgeon at AIIMS Trauma Centre allegedly died by suicide on Sunday at his rented accommodation in south Delhi. Police have initiated an inquiry.

A suicide note was found at the scene in which the doctor allegedly took responsibility for his action and didn't blame anyone, police claimed. Dr Ghonia had completed his Neuro Surgery (MCh) from AIIMS just six months ago and had returned from training in US only 15 days prior to his death.

Ghonia was married but his wife was away at the time of the incident. Police said they were probing if there were domestic issues between the couple and whether an argument happened on Sunday. Call records of the doctor are being analysed.

Without elaborating, an officer said the police were infor-

med that Dr Ghonia was having a dispute with his wife, who had gone to her maternal home for Raksha Bandhan. Following her departure, the doctor allegedly took the drastic step. "The couple had a love marriage, and his wife, a senior resident in microbiology at a private hospital, had recently returned from a trip to Gujarat," said a senior cop. The incident took place in Gautam Nagar, police said.

His wife had reportedly been calling him since morning, but the doctor didn't answer. So, she sent in a colleague to check on him. She informed the police. Police received a PCR call at 2pm and went to the spot. The doctor was found unresponsive in his flat and rushed to AIIMS where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Doctors expressed solidarity with the family and said they expected the police to investigate the death thoroughly.

Apex court to hear Kavitha's bail pleas tomorrow

New Delhi: Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday BRS member K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

The apex court had on August 12 sought responses from CBI and ED on Kavitha's pleas challenging Delhi High Court's July verdict denying her bail in these cases.

As per the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the top court's website, a bench of jus-

tics B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan is slated to hear her pleas.

During the arguments on August 12, Kavitha's counsel had sought bail contending that she has been in custody for around five months and the chargesheet and prosecution complaint have already been filed by CBI and the ED respectively. Her lawyer had referred to the apex court's verdict on the pleas filed by CM Arvind Kejriwal and former deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 1, Housing Directorate, NIT No: WBHD/EE/ED-1/2024/2024-25, Tender Id: 2024_HSD_735330_1. Name of work: "Renovation and Repairing work of internal wiring of 17 nos. vacant quarters at HSE, OBC, under Taramita Electrical Section". Bid Submission end date: 28.08.2024 upto 12 P.M. Tender Opening Date: 30.08.2024 after 12 P.M. Website: wbtenders.gov.in. Tender Location: ODRC Housing Main Road, Naskarpur, Behala, Kolkata-700066. Tender details may be obtained from Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 1, Housing Directorate, New Secretariat Building, "B", Block Room No.1 Ground Floor, I.K.S. Roy Road, Kolkata-700001 on all office days during office hours.
ICA-T14473(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
The Superintendent of Bankura District Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Bankura District Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 02/BANKURA/TN/2024 dated 20.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024. Last date of submission of tender: 09.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Bankura District Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14462(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of "Restoration estimate for proposed laying along the existing road for integrated surface water based piped water supply for Arsenic affected blocks of Baduria, Basirhat-I, Basirhat-II, Degana and Swarnpnagar block different discharge 0.0 Km, 16.00 Km, 200 mm, 300 mm & 500 mm dia along the road side flank of Kholapata-Baduria-Maslandapur-Habra Road under Barasat Division, P.W.D. Estimated Amount Rs.: 2,14,82,025.00. NIT No: WBPWD/SE/EC/NIT-04/2024-2025 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_734514_1 Bid Submission upload start date: 21.08.2024 from 15:00 Hours Bid Submission upload end date: 13.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hours The details of NIT and Tender document may be downloaded from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Govt of WB
ICA-T14474(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Kandi Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Kandi Subsidiary Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 02/Tender-24(Kandi) dated 24.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024. Last date of submission of tender: 09.09.2024 upto 16:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Kandi Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14458(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Suri District Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Suri District Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 03/TN-25(Suri)/2024-2025 dated 30.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 08.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Suri District Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14465(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Arambagh Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Arambagh Subsidiary Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No./03/TN-24 (Arambagh) dated 24.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 08.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Arambagh Subsidiary, Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14456(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Arambagh Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Arambagh Subsidiary Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No./03/TN-24 (Arambagh) dated 24.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 08.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Arambagh Subsidiary, Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14456(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-tender invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Howrah Electrical Division, Onkarnal Jetta Road, Howrah-711103. NIT No: WBPWD/EE/HED/NIT-160 of 2024-2025. Memo. 2368 Dt. 14.08.2024. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_734382_1. Name of Work: Renovation to the Electrical Installation works of South Bhatora PHC under Amta-I block, Howrah. Intending bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website: www.pwd.wb.in. Sd/- Dd. Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Howrah Electrical Division, Govt. of West Bengal
ICA-T14491(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
WBAGR/SC-JAL/NIT(e)-4/24-25 (SI. No. 01, 02, 03). Dt. 09.08.2024. <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & <https://jalpiganuri.gov.in>
e-tender is hereby invited in percentage of rate basis for execution of works under the scheme RAD CC 2024-25, in different clusters of Alipurdia, Jalpaiguri and Siliguri. Last date & time for bid submission is 26.08.2024 upto 15:00 hours. For details, visit the site or office of the Asst. D A (Admn.), Soil Conservation, Jalpaiguri, 735101. Sd/- Director of Agriculture, West Bengal.
ICA-T14470(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: "Day to day Maintenance of entire Electrical Installations (Inside & Outside) and operation of DG set & lift at West Bengal Judicial Academy, Rajrhat, Kolkata-700121 (for 03 Years from date of completion of work). NIT No: WBPWD/EE/BE/EE-NIC-2/2024-25 & e-Tender ID No: 2024_WBPWD_734422. Document Download Closing Date: 12.09.2024 upto 12.00Hrs. Details may be downloaded from wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Bidhannagar Electrical Division.
ICA-T14483(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: "Day to day Maintenance of entire Electrical Installations (Inside & Outside) and operation of DG set & lift at Karigari Bhawan, New Town, Action Area-III, Kolkata-700160, (for 03 Years from date of completion of work). Tender No: WBPWD/EE/BE/EE-NIC-2/2024-25 & e-Tender ID No: 2024_WBPWD_734331_1. Document Download Closing Date: 12.09.2024 upto 12.00Hrs. Details may be downloaded from wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Bidhannagar Electrical Division.
ICA-T14483(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Suri District Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Suri District Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 03/TN-25(Suri)/2024-2025 dated 30.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 08.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Suri District Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14465(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Jhargram Special Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Jhargram Special Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 02/Jhargram/TN-24 dated 22.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 20.08.2024. Last date of submission of tender: 09.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Jhargram Special Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14457(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The West Bengal State Seed Corporation Ltd. (A Govt. of West Bengal Company), 6, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata-700013 invites e-Tenders from the bonafide Sole Producers / Authorized Distributors / Authorized Suppliers of sole producer: 1) For Supply of Hybrid Maize Seeds variety: 568. The e-Tender Ref. No. II: WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIT-16/2024-25 dt. 14.08.2024. II) For Supply of Hybrid Maize Seeds var. Bisco X 5129. The e-Tender Reference No. WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIT-17/2024-25 dt. 14.08.2024. Bid Submission Closing date 03/09/2024 upto 1.00 P.M. The details are available in website: wbtenders.gov.in & wbsscl.com Tender related information including addendum / corrigendum, if any, shall also be available in said website and Notice Board of WBSSCL, Kolkata. Sd/- Managing Director, WBSSCL.
ICA-T14468(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts (Laboratory Technician (Blood Bank - under SBTC WB) For details, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
COMH & Member Secretary
DH & FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N398(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts under NHM (Medical Social Worker for NRC, Attendant for NRC, Municipality Accounts Manager under NUHM, and Dental Surgeon under NOHP). For details, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
COMH & Member Secretary
DH & FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N397(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Assistant Director of Agriculture (Admn.)
Soil Conservation, Birbhum-Burdwan
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 03 of 2024-25 Dated, 12/08/2024 for Supply of 28 days old Ducklings (Indian Runner) and Duck Feeds (Grower Ration) to the beneficiaries within Mahapur Cluster under Murarai-1 Block in Birbhum district. PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENT ON WEBSITE <http://wbtenders.gov.in> is 13.08.2024 to 27.08.2024 upto 1:00 p.m. Details of advertisement will be available at Assistant Director of Agriculture (Admn.), Soil Conservation, Birbhum-Burdwan, 3rd Floor, Golbari Market Complex, Suri, Birbhum & Website: www.birbhum.gov.in Sd/- Director of Agriculture, West Bengal.
ICA-T14469(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D. North 24 Prgs Electrical Division invite online e-Tender for the work of: "Upkeepment of entire Electrical and allied installation with provision of materials and manpower Divisional Court with Quarters in the district of North 24 Parganas-AMC of EI work for the period of 1 (one) year". NIT No: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/EE-NIQ-16/24-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_734346_1. Pre Bid Meeting Date: 20.08.2024 at 12.00 Hrs. Bid Submission start date (Online): 21.08.2024. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 04.09.2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION.
ICA-T14488(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Suri District Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Suri District Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 03/TN-25(Suri)/2024-2025 dated 30.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 19.08.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 08.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Suri District Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14465(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintendent of Jhargram Special Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Jhargram Special Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 02/Jhargram/TN-24 dated 22.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 20.08.2024. Last date of submission of tender: 09.09.2024 at 18:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Jhargram Special Correctional Home, WB.
ICA-T14457(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
E-tender work is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar IT Division, PWD, Room No 115, 1st Floor, DF Block Purta Bhawan Sector-I, Saltlake, Kolkata 700091. Name of Work: Testing Repair & Supply of network accessories for office of the Assistant Engineer, Iliam bazar Highway Sub-Division, PWD/EE/BIIT/NIQ-14 OF 2024-2025. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_735090_1 Bid Submission start date (Online): 23.08.2024. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 04.09.2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D.
ICA-T14459(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts under NHM (Medical Social Worker for NRC, Attendant for NRC, Municipality Accounts Manager under NUHM, and Dental Surgeon under NOHP). For details, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
COMH & Member Secretary
DH & FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N397(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts under NHM (Medical Social Worker for NRC, Attendant for NRC, Municipality Accounts Manager under NUHM, and Dental Surgeon under NOHP). For details, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
COMH & Member Secretary
DH & FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N397(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Recruitment Notice
District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Paschim Medinipur invites applications for different contractual posts under NHM (Medical Social Worker for NRC, Attendant for NRC, Municipality Accounts Manager under NUHM, and Dental Surgeon under NOHP). For details, please visit the website www.wbhealth.gov.in.
COMH & Member Secretary
DH & FWS, Paschim Medinipur
ICA-N397(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The West Bengal State Seed Corporation Ltd. (A Govt. of West Bengal Company), 6, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata-700013 invites e-Tenders from the bonafide Sole Producers / Authorized Distributors / Authorized Suppliers of sole producer: 1) For Supply of Hybrid Maize Seeds variety: 568. The e-Tender Ref. No. II: WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIT-16/2024-25 dt. 14.08.2024. II) For Supply of Hybrid Maize Seeds var. Bisco X 5129. The e-Tender Reference No. WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIT-17/2024-25 dt. 14.08.2024. Bid Submission Closing date 03/09/2024 upto 1.00 P.M. The details are available in website: wbtenders.gov.in & wbsscl.com Tender related information including addendum / corrigendum, if any, shall also be available in said website and Notice Board of WBSSCL, Kolkata. Sd/- Managing Director, WBSSCL.
ICA-T14468(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
The West Bengal State Seed Corporation Ltd., Hooghly and Nadia District office invites e-Tenders. 1) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Hooghly invites e-Tender from WB based Registered Security Service Provider for providing security guard for guarding the seed complex of WBSSCL, Hooghly (NIT No. WBSSCL/DM/HGLY/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 09.08.2024. Bid Submission Closing date 06.09.2024 upto 11.00 A.M.). Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 2) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Nadia invites e-Tender for Packetting, Processing & Drying of different type of Seeds, Fertilizer and others Agricultural inputs in WBSSCL, Nadia Krishnagar Godown. (NIT No. WBSSCL/KNG/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 07.08.2024) Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 3) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Nadia invites e-Tender for Packetting, Processing & Drying of different type of Seeds, Fertilizer and others Agricultural inputs in WBSSCL, Nadia Krishnagar Godown. (NIT No. WBSSCL/KNG/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 07.08.2024) Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 4) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Nadia invites e-Tender for Packetting, Processing & Drying of different type of Seeds, Fertilizer and others Agricultural inputs in WBSSCL, Nadia Krishnagar Godown. (NIT No. WBSSCL/KNG/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 07.08.2024) Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 5) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Nadia invites e-Tender for Packetting, Processing & Drying of different type of Seeds, Fertilizer and others Agricultural inputs in WBSSCL, Nadia Krishnagar Godown. (NIT No. WBSSCL/KNG/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 07.08.2024) Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 6) The District Manager, WBSSCL, Nadia invites e-Tender for Packetting, Processing & Drying of different type of Seeds, Fertilizer and others Agricultural inputs in WBSSCL, Nadia Krishnagar Godown. (NIT No. WBSSCL/KNG/NIT-01/2024-25 dt. 07.08.2024) Sd/- District Manager, Hooghly. 7) The District Manager, WB

ANGER ON THE STREETS

Rajesh Mehta



Members of various resident doctors' associations take part in a candlelight march at Connaught Place, against the rape-and-murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital

25-yr-old strangled, body found stuffed in drum in Gurgaon

Mahesh.Buddi
@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: A 25-year-old man was strangled, and the body was stuffed in a plastic drum at a greenbelt near IMT Manesar on Saturday evening. Police said the body was noticed by workers of an automobile factory when they were clearing bushes in the greenbelt. Around 4.30 pm on Saturday, security staff of an automobile company at Sector-8 in IMT Manesar hired two migrant workers, Mohit of Amethi in UP and Nand Kishore of Siwan in Bihar, to prune trees and plants in the greenbelt area near gate no. 1 of their company is close to Aliyar Chowk. While pruning the trees and clearing the waste, the workers noticed a stench emanating from a plastic drum found in the stormwater drain abutting the greenbelt. They informed the security guard of the company, who in turn alerted cops. Police reached the place and took out the blue drum from the drain. "When we opened the lid of the drum, the body

of a man was found wrapped in a cloth in it. An electric wire was tightly wrapped around his neck," said SI Ishwer Singh of IMT Manesar police station. The SI also said the unknown victim, clad in his underwear, was strangled. "The body was not yet fully decomposed. The victim's identity is yet to be ascertained. We have circulated the photos of the body to all police stations in the city and neighbouring districts," the SI said. Police shifted the body to the mortuary for autopsy. Based on the complaint of Sohan Singh, the security in-charge at the automobile company, a case was registered under BNS sections 103 (I) (murder) and 238 (a) (causing disappearance of evidence or giving false information to screen offender) on Saturday night. "We are verifying the CCTV footage from near the crime scene to identify the offenders. The victim was killed elsewhere, and the drum containing his body was dumped here probably on Friday night," the SI said.

BJP looks to strengthen its 'bond' with slum dwellers

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, along with party workers, MPs, MLAs, councillors, senior leaders, office bearers from state, district, and mandal, celebrated Raksha Bandhan in 291 slum and service colonies in Delhi on Sunday. Sachdeva celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the people of Nehru Camp, a sewa basti in Vinod Nagar. He offered sweets and gifts to the women in the area. Sachdeva stated that Delhi BJP leaders and workers are celebrating Raksha Bandhan this time with their brothers and sisters living in Delhi's slum colonies. "We have always received love from slum dwellers, and we are striving to strengthen our relationships," he said. He added that Raksha Bandhan is a festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters, and BJP has always raised its voice to im-

prove the lives of brothers and sisters living in Delhi's slum and rehabilitation colonies and will continue to do so. MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the women of the slum cluster at JJ Camp Prasad Nagar, Badarpur. Emphasising that the central govt adheres to the principle of sabka saath, sabka vikas, Bidhuri said the Modi govt has given houses to people living in the slums, and several other in-situ rehabilitation projects are in the pipeline. Senior BJP functionaries said that party workers would go to slum areas every weekend and raise the problems faced by them. With elections just six months away, BJP is hoping to build momentum in the slums of the city in its favour. These areas have traditionally been a Congress bastion, which has switched to AAP since its arrival. The saffron party is hoping to make a dent in this voter base with its continuous outreach.

DPCC cracks the whip on e-waste violations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board is in the process of forming an exclusive environmental damage compensation policy for e-waste violations. After the policy is notified, Delhi Pollution Control Committee will impose penalties on the violators based on the new guidelines. This was stated by the committee in a recent report submitted to National Green Tribunal. In the report, DPCC also informed the tribunal of the actions it has been taking against the violators related to e-waste. It stated that it had disconnected the power connection of 1,392 units in Seelampur and some other areas in July. Recently, seven defaulters who were engaged in illegal e-waste handling had been levied a fine of Rs 20,000 each. "Regular drives and meetings are being conducted at e-waste hotspots to control illegal handling, dismantling, and recycling of e-waste," DPCC stated. The report, which was submitted in response to an order by the tribunal's bench headed by chairperson Justice Prakash

Shrivastava, was uploaded on the NGT website on Sunday. Earlier this year, the tribunal had sought details from different states on the mechanism to handle e-waste menace. DPCC, in its latest report, stated that it had in July conducted two drives jointly with a team of CPCB, BSES, MCD and Delhi Police and found more than a hundred violators. These mainly covered Old Seelampur, Kanti Nagar and Mustafabad hotspots. The state pollution regulatory body also informed the tribunal that there are 942 producers of e-waste, authorised on the e-waste EPR portal, who are regularly verified regarding their status of e-waste generation and e-waste channelisation. Three refurbishers have been granted authorisation to manage 6.58 MT e-waste per day, it stated. "DPCC has authorised a total of nine dismantlers of e-waste which are having 8.963 MT per day installed capacity. It is issuing letters to 978 bulk consumers seeking their compliance status with respect to e-waste rules," DPCC added.

AC unit tragedy: Police question flat owners

Continued from P1

Eighteen-year-old Jitesh, a resident of Dorivalan, succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Pranshu, 17, from Patel Nagar remains in a critical condition and is unfit to give a statement due to grievous injuries. The police have questioned the flat owners and are likely to make an arrest soon, they said. Police have found the CCTV footage that captured the incident. Jitesh was seen sitting on a scooter and talking to another victim. The moment Pranshu gave a hug to Jitesh, the AC unit fell on them, leaving Jitesh lifeless. An FIR was lodged under sections 125(a) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, he said. "The forensic team has examined the scene and further investigation is in progress," he added. The incident led to a furore in the apartment with people calling in mechanics to check their AC units. Experts said the mounted AC units should be periodically checked and proper precautions should be taken to prevent such mishaps.

Driver hurt as van rams truck

Gurgaon: A driver suffered severe injuries when his van rammed into a truck travelling on the KMP Expressway on Sunday. He remained stuck in the van's cabin for more than half an hour. Fire department personnel moved the vehicles and pulled him out. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ORDER

No. 231/RPT Dated: 17.08.2024

WHEREAS, on assessment of the law and order situation of the area as scheduled below (hereinafter referred to as 'said Area') in regard to the inputs and information received from credible sources, there are sufficient reasons of violent demonstrations/rallies/meetings by a section of public or an organization thereby causing breach of peace, disturbance of public tranquillity, health or safety, danger to human life as well as obstruction to doctors, nursing staff, medical staff and lawfully employed persons in the said area;

AND

WHEREAS, I, Vineet Kumar Goyal, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata being an Executive Magistrate for the Metropolitan area of Kolkata as well as in the district of South 24 Parganas (within the limits of the suburbs of Kolkata falling under Kolkata Police jurisdiction) as appointed and specially empowered by the State Govt. under the Notification No. 33-P.S. Cell/HR/O/3P-13/05 (Pt-II) dated 08.01.2024 read with the Notification No. 26-P.S. Cell/HR/O/3P-13/05 (Pt-II) dated 08.01.2024 and the Notification No. 34-P.S. Cell/HR/O/3P-13/05 (Pt-II) dated 08.01.2024 read with the Notification No. 27-P.S. Cell/HR/O/3P-13/05 (Pt-II) dated 08.01.2024 to act under the sub-section (1) of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, am of the opinion that there is sufficient cause to proceed under the said Section for not allowing any rallies/meetings/processions/dharnas/demonstrations in the following schedule in the Town of Kolkata, so as to ensure immediate prevention of breach of peace, disturbances of the public tranquillity in the said Area in view of the larger public interest;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 read with the Sub-Section (3) of the said Section, I, Vineet Kumar Goyal, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata being an Executive Magistrate for the Metropolitan area of Kolkata as well as in the district of South 24 Parganas (within the limits of the suburbs of Kolkata falling under Kolkata police jurisdiction) do hereby prohibit for a period of 07 (seven) days from 18.08.2024 to 24.08.2024 or until further order, any unlawful assembly of 05 (five) or more persons, carrying of lathi, any lethal or other dangerous weapons or doing of any act which is likely to cause breach of the peace and disturbances of the public tranquillity within the said Area in the town of Kolkata.

As the notice cannot be served individually upon all concerned, the order is hereby passed ex-parte under sub section 2 of section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. It shall be published for the information of public through Press, the Kolkata Police Gazette and by affixing copies on the Notice Boards of the offices of all Divisional Deputy Commissioners of Police, all Police Stations concerned and the offices of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Any person contravening this order shall be punishable under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

SCHEDULE

The area within the jurisdiction of Shyambazar, Ultadanga & Tala Police Stations in the town of Kolkata bounded:

(1) On the East by	Belgachia Road/ J.K. Mitra Road crossing
(2) On the West by	Shyambazar 5-Point crossing.
(3) On the North by	Along the northern pavement of Belgachia Road from Shyambazar 5- Point crossing extending upto J.K. Mitra Road/ Belgachia Road crossing.
(4) On the South by	Along the southern pavement of Belgachia Road from Shyambazar 5- Point crossing extending upto J.K. Mitra Road/ Belgachia Road crossing.

EXPLANATION: In this order, the TOWN of KOLKATA means the town of Kolkata as defined in Section 3 of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866 (Bengal Act IV of 1866). Given under my hand and seal this day, the 17th August, 2024.

Sd/-
(VINEET KUMAR GOYAL)
Commissioner of Police, Kolkata
&
Executive Magistrate of the Metropolitan City of Kolkata and South 24 Parganas District (within the limits of the Suburbs of Kolkata falling under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police)

ICA-N400(7)/2024

'Tigers hide themselves in millet fields as these provide excellent camouflage'

Continued from P1

However, since some areas of the forest are difficult to penetrate, tranquilising and trapping the elusive big cat is easier said than done, officials said. "If it's ST-2302, it's the same tiger that wandered into Rewari this Jan. The forest boasts of a robust prey base, and an adult tiger can survive here for a few days. We are being vigilant. But we hope the tiger goes back to its original habitat on its own without straying into villages in the vicinity," Patil said. Another forest official said the Jhabua jungle had ample areas that provided a suitable camouflage to the animal. But millet fields in the area were a possible hiding spot too. "Tigers hide themselves in millet fields as these provide excellent camou-

flage. The height of the crops also enables them to remain hidden," the official said. In Jan, ST-2302 had returned to Sariska after staying in the Rewari forest for four days. According to Patil, the tiger had taken the same route then too. "After wandering out of Sariska, it had strayed into Bhiwadi on the Haryana-Rajasthan border. It was spotted in Sukh Kheda village, where it attacked a farmer on Jan 18," he said. "Two days later, the big cat reached the Aravali terrain of Rewari via Kharkhara and Nandampur Bass. It hid in the mustard fields for four days before going back on its own. The entire journey will be around 125km," the divisional forest officer said. AP Pandey, additional principal chief conservator of forests in south Haryana, said they were coordinating with their counterparts in Rajasthan to trace the tiger and send it back.

But animal behavioural experts believe the tiger will trace the same path back on its own. Wildlife biologist Sumit Dookia told TOI that it seemed ST-2302 was seeking a separate habitat of its own. "Look, Sariska is home to more than 40 tigers. In such situations, we often find that stronger males push away those that are relatively weak. So, this tiger may have been looking for a habitat. This also suggests that the wildlife corridor between Sariska and Haryana Aravali is quite active and should be protected well," he said. But the adult male tiger may return soon as the region does not have a female tiger, according to Dookia. "Also, 800 acres is too small an area for an adult tiger. Ideally, such animals require anything between 5-250sqkm, depending on the prey base," he added.

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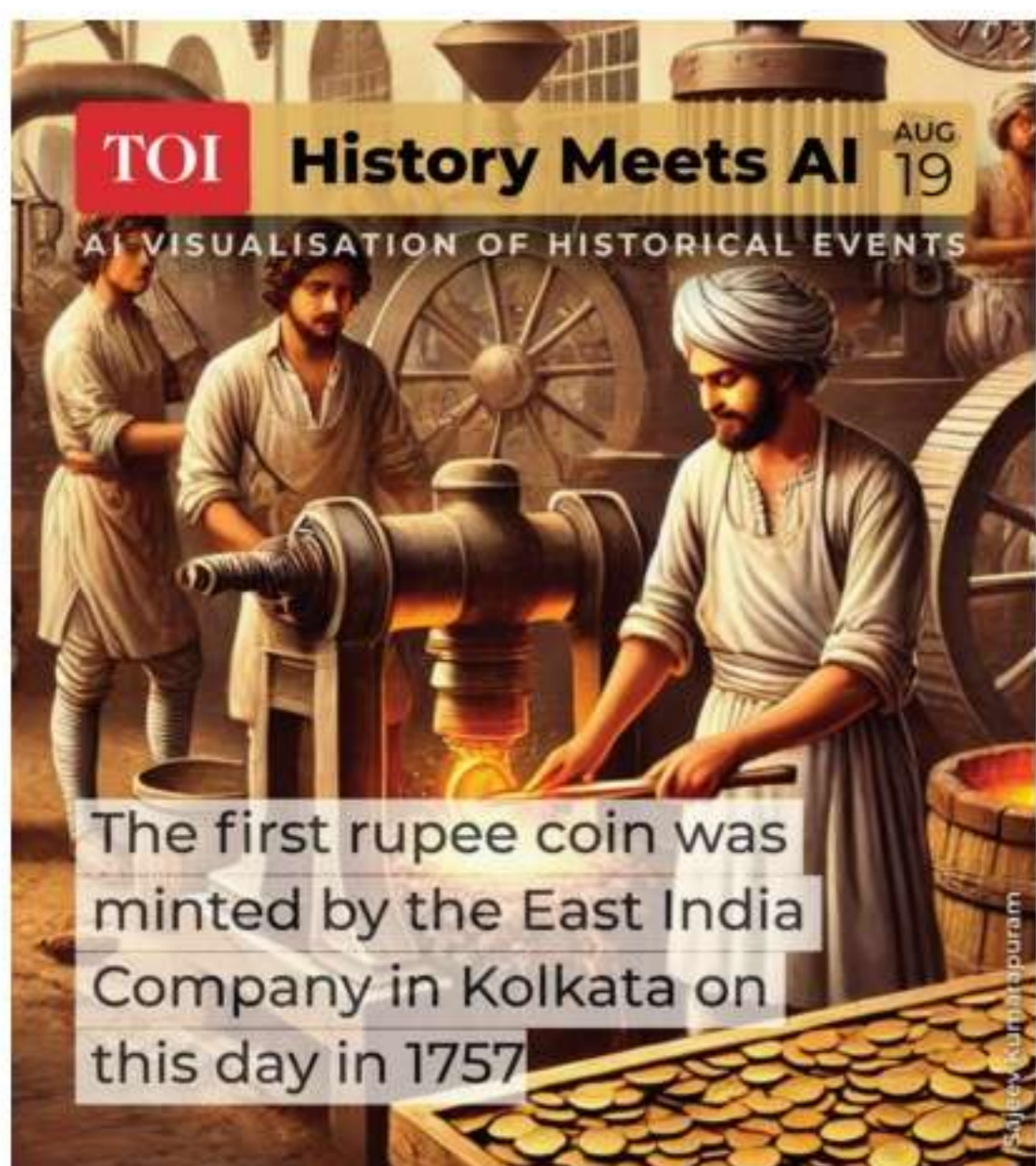
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LANKA SURVIVED BANKRUPTCY THANKS TO PM MODI'S GENEROSITY: PREZ WICKREMESINGHE



TOI History Meets AI AUG 19
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The first rupee coin was minted by the East India Company in Kolkata on this day in 1757

2nd hubby steals woman's alimony

A 42-year-old Bengaluru woman has filed a complaint against her second husband accusing him of running away with cash and gold she received from her first husband as part of their divorce settlement. She also alleged that her second husband has cheated many more women after marrying them, reports Santosh Kumar B. Vijaya (name changed) told police she received Rs 70 lakh cash and 500 grams gold as alimony after her divorce in 2022. Within a few months, she got in touch with a person named Pradeep on Facebook. He claimed to be a divorcee too. They first met at a hotel and after a few meetings, he proposed to her. They tied the knot in Nov 2022. Soon, Pradeep started demanding money to start a business, Vijaya said.

Not satisfied with Bengal CM's action, says RG Kar doc's dad

'Cremation In Haste Raises Doubts About Spoiling Proof'

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: The father of the junior doctor found raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College on August 9 spoke out Sunday against what he said was the Mamata Banerjee gov't's "attempt to silence" those upping the ante for justice to his daughter. "CM is talking about providing justice and even took to the streets in solidarity. But why send common people demanding justice to jail? We are not satisfied with what



People defy rain to hold a protest march in Kolkata on Sunday against the rape-murder of the doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital

Kol doc rushes back from stir site, fails to save cardiac-arrest patient, is thrashed

A junior doctor at SSKM and a cop were allegedly assaulted by patients' kin on Sunday prompting police to detain three from the hospital. The doctor, Subrata Shur, who was protesting over the RG Kar incident on SSKM premises, had rushed to check the 15-year-old patient suffering from cancer after being informed that he suffered a cardiac arrest. However, the patient could not be revived after which Shur was thrashed by the relatives. The 15-year-old's cancer had progressed to metastasis stage. The SSKM's fifth-floor trauma care unit was also damaged, sources said. TNN

Ex-principal's social media messages under CBI scanner

Kolkata: CBI, probing the rape and murder of R G Kar Medical College & Hospital doctor, questioned Sandip Ghosh, former principal of the institution, for the third consecutive day Sunday regarding his call records and WhatsApp messages. They also started forensic psychological assessment of Sanjay Roy, prime accused in the case, reports Rohit Khanna. A team of psychology experts reached CGO complex Sunday. Sources said the officials may conduct a 'psychological autopsy' by putting Roy's voice through a complex voice analysis process. While the ASI who had "helped" Roy stay in the barracks has been questioned, CBI has sent summons to car driver of the PGT doctor. The officials have questioned seven hospital security guards. On Sunday, Ghosh reached the CBI office around 10.40am after a 13-hour interrogation a day ago. CBI is trying to untangle what made the hospital assistant superintendent call up the family to inform that their daughter "died by suicide".

Bank cuts EMIs from Wayanad survivors' relief aid, sparks row

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Wayanad: Kerala Gramin Bank has deducted loan EMIs from emergency relief disbursed by state govt to those who survived the July 30 Wayanad landslides. The move has added to the shock of the survivors still grappling with their losses from the disaster that claimed over 230 lives and left over 100 missing.



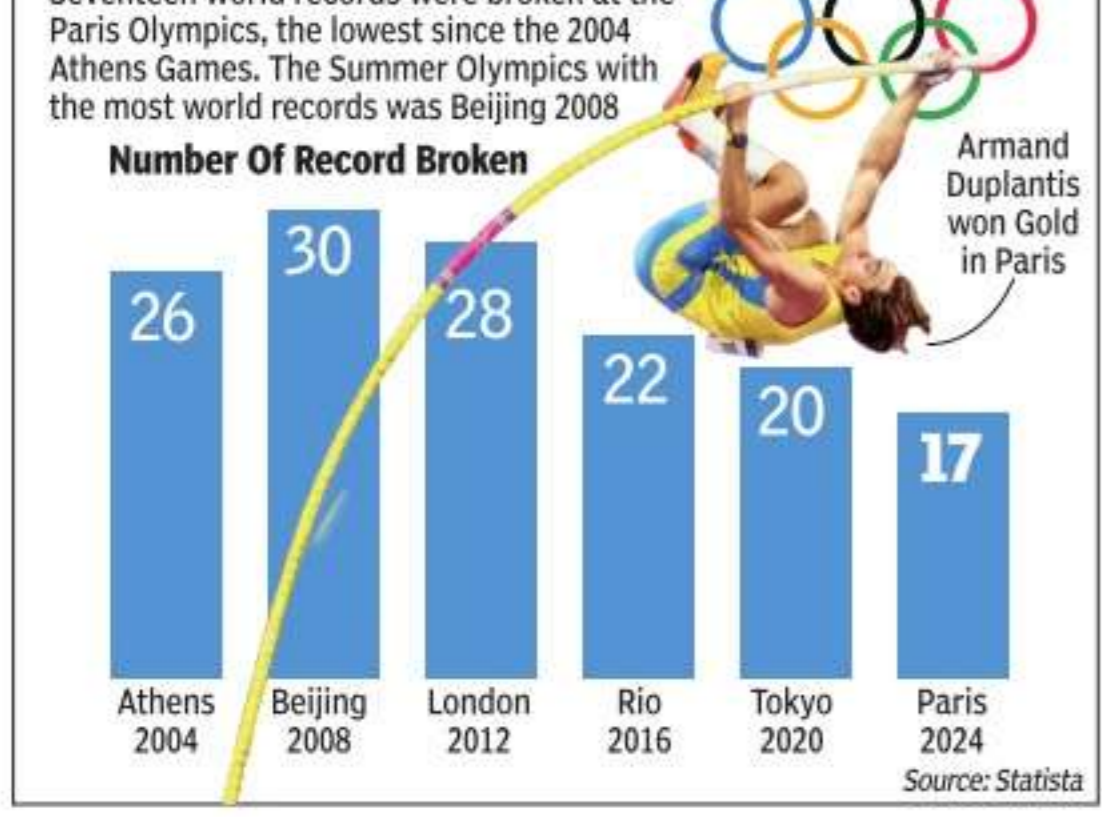
Wayanad deputy collector has asked Kerala Gramin Bank to return the deducted money

The Centre holds a majority stake in Gramin Bank, 50% directly and another 35% through PSU Canara Bank; Kerala govt has a 15% stake. The Left-governed state had announced an emergency assistance of Rs 10,000. State cooperatives minister VN Vasavan termed the bank's move "cruel". Many victims said loan EMIs of up to Rs 5,000 were deducted as soon as the relief amount was deposited in their accounts. Mini Mol, who had taken Rs 50,000 for construction of a house, said the bank took away Rs 3,000 from her aid. Rajesh of Chooralmala, who lost his house, said the bank took an EMI of Rs 3,400 from the relief. "I am a dairy farmer. The landslide washed away my cattle shed and eight cows. We don't have anything left. I was planning to use the (relief) amount to provide advance for a house to be taken on

rent," Rajesh said. Minister Vasavan promised to raise the matter. "Even if the state-level bankers' committee (SLBC) has not issued a formal directive in this regard, the bank branch manager could have approached the issue in a humanitarian manner at his own risk, which did not happen... (It) is definitely an indecent act; we will raise the issue with the SLBC," Vasavan said. KS Pradeep, general manager of SLBC, said he had contacted the chief of the Gramin Bank and she attributed the deductions to standing instructions in the accounts issued prior to the disaster. Meanwhile, Wayanad deputy collector, officiating as CEO of district disaster management authority, has issued directives for Gramin Bank to return the money deducted from relief provided by govt.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

At Paris, Fewest Records Broken Since 2004 Games



Woman assaults 2 co-flyers, CISF constable; removed from flight

Gitesh Shelke & Joy Sengupta

Pune: A woman was removed from a private airline's flight to New Delhi at Pune's Lohegaon airport Saturday after she assaulted two fellow passengers and a CISF constable in a violent outburst. This happened during the boarding process around 7.45am. According to airport authorities, the woman first attacked a brother and sister who were sitting in their allotted seats. When the crew intervened and summoned CISF personnel to defuse the situation, she responded by slapping and biting constable



PLANE TURBULENCE

Priyanka Reddy. The pilot then refused to fly with the woman and her husband, on their way to a funeral, leading CISF officers to restrain the woman and remove the couple from the flight. She was handed her over to airport police and a case was registered. "We let her go after issuing a notice asking her to join our probe as and when summoned by the investigating officer," said senior inspector Ajay Sankeshwari. The woman is a homemaker and her husband is a software engineer in Pune. A CISF officer said: "She seemed to be in a state of extreme distress due to a personal emergency." Despite being asked about her actions, the woman reportedly refused to provide an explanation. The airline has yet to reply to TOI's emails for a response.

CBI arrests own DSP, raids NCL officials in MP

Bhopal: CBI Sunday conducted raids in MP's Singrauli targeting officials and suppliers associated with Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) as part of an investigation into alleged financial irregularities. This follows the arrest of a DSP from CBI's Jabalpur unit Saturday for alleged involvement with some NCL officials under suspicion, reports P Naveen. During the raids, CBI uncovered illegal assets worth around Rs 4 crore, including Rs 1.5 crore in cash, sources told TOI. The operation involved 30 CBI officers. The agency is yet to issue an official statement regarding the investigation.

Pork event to raise funds for Wayanad draws ire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Reacting to criticism over the "pork challenge" conducted by DYFI to collect funds for relief activities in landslide-hit Wayanad, the Left youth outfit has clarified that it was not done to offend any religious community. DYFI Kothamangalam unit secretary Geo Pious said. "In our region, pork is one of the most consumed foods. Our intention was merely to collect funds for relief activities and not to offend a community," Pious said. The "pork challenge" was organized under the leadership of DYFI Kothamangalam municipal north area commit-

tee on Sunday to raise funds for construction of houses for Wayanad disaster victims. As DYFI announced the challenge on Saturday, Sunni cleric Nasar Faizy Koodathayi took to social media, terming the event as "religious blasphemy, done under the guise of a challenge." "Most people suffering in Wayanad consider pork to be forbidden. Knowing this, DYFI Kothamangalam committee made it a challenge and raised funds, even though many permissible foods could have been used for the challenge. Raising funds with forbidden food for a large section of the distressed is an insult," Koodathayi wrote on his post.

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I Sushila Kumari R/o W/o Mahesh Kumar ward no 22, Kaimari ki Dhani Teh Nawalgarh, Khiror jhunjhunu Rajasthan - 333042. Changed my name as Sushila Devi W/o Mahesh Kumar.
I Abhinav Kumar Singh S/o Ashok Kumar Singh R/o House No. 11, First Floor, Block D, 13A, Model Town - II, Delhi-110009 have changed the name of my Minor Child aged 8 yrs from Avansh Singh to Avansh Singh Tomar.
I Arti Khattar W/o Deepak Khattar R/o 9/1634, Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 have changed my minor son's name from Rounak to Rounak Khattar for all future purposes.

tender & notices
PUBLIC NOTICE
NAGA DHUNSERI GROUP LTD Address: 4A, Woodburn Park, Kolkata-700029
Notice is hereby given that the share certificate No.2050, 2051, 2052 & 4219 with Distinctive No. 289386 to 289405 (10), 289446 to 289510 (25), 471411 to 471486 (76) & 792638 to 793038 (201), totally 402 shares, in respect of NAGA DHUNSERI GROUP LTD in the name of PL Nachhappan are reported to be lost and the Company has received application for issue of duplicate share certificates. If no objection from any interested person is received by the company's registrars, Matheswari, Datacomics Pvt. Ltd., 23, RN Mukherjee Road, Kolkata-700001, within 15 days from the publication here of the application, the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates to the applicants.
Address: N.VISALAKSHI W/o. Late P. Nachhappan, Karakudi-630003, Tamilnadu. Mob. +91 9444324104 Dated: 18/08/2024

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Digitization Vertical Central Office, Mumbai
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Additional Vendor for Implementing solutions for Analysis of Statements & OCR (Optical Character Recognition).
Union Bank of India invites proposal for Selection of Additional Vendor for Implementing solutions for Analysis of Statements & OCR (Optical Character Recognition). The detailed information regarding, eligibility norms and tender document is available on the Bank's Website www.unionbankofindia.co.in and government portal www.gem.gov.in or www.eprocure.gov.in. The last date for submission of tender bids is 13.09.2024 till 16:00 Hrs. "Corrigendum/Addendum" if any, shall be issued on the above websites.
Deputy General Manager

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'Towering figure': PM tribute to Karunanidhi on centenary

Rajnath Unveils Special Coin; TN CM Stalin Thanks Centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes to former Tamil Nadu CM and DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi as the Centre released Sunday a commemorative coin marking the departed politician's centenary.

In a letter to Karunanidhi's son and current CM M K Stalin, the PM praised the DMK stalwart, describing him as a "towering figure" in Indian politics, literature, and society. Modi's sentiments were shared in a post on platform X by Stalin, who expressed gratitude, saying: "I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi avl. for his kind wishes and support..."

Stalin expressed pride in the national recognition of his



Rajnath Singh and MK Stalin at the release of a commemorative coin marking the centenary of Karunanidhi, in Chennai on Sunday

father's legacy, saying: "I am happy that the entire country is celebrating Kalaingar through the centenary coin."

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, who officially unveiled the coin at a ceremony in Chennai, remembered Karunanidhi as a national figure. "A man whose influence extended far beyond Tamil Nadu, Karunanidhi was a titan of Indian politics, a cultural stalwart, and a relentless advocate for social justice," Singh said.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also paid tribute, highlight-

ing Karunanidhi's progressive vision. "Kalaingar Karunanidhi's socially progressive vision and unwavering dedication to empowering people paved the way for millions to live a life of dignity," he said. He credited Karunanidhi's leadership for transforming Tamil Nadu.

Earlier in the day, Singh and Stalin visited Karunanidhi's memorial at Marina Beach in Chennai. The ceremony also saw the attendance of BJP state president K Annamalai, who was seated in the front row.

24x7 vigil must to stop threats from sea, says Rajnath in TN

New Delhi: All maritime agencies must maintain a 24x7 vigil and a pro-active approach to thwart conventional and non-conventional threats emanating from sea, defence minister Rajnath Singh said Sunday, while inaugurating new Coast Guard facilities in south India. The facilities include a maritime rescue coordination centre and regional marine pollution response centre at Chennai and an air enclave at Puducherry. "These will ensure robust maritime security and provide efficient responses to emergencies, reinforcing country's commitment to maritime safety and environmental protection," an official said. "The air enclave, equipped with Chetak and advanced light helicopters, will play a vital role in security along the coast." TNN

Apni Party founder joins BJP before polls

Jammu: Former J&K minister and a founding member of Apni Party, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, joined BJP on Sunday, close on the heels of EC announcing assembly polls starting Sept 18, reports Sanjay Khajuria. Zulfkar was inducted by Union minister and BJP's J&K assembly election in-charge

Azad not returning to Cong, says his party

Amid speculation about Ghulam Nabi Azad's plan to rejoin Congress, his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) dismissed the "rumour" Sunday, reports Sanjay Khajuria.

Ge G Kishan Reddy, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and Union minister of state for PMO Jitendra Singh. On Saturday, he had met Union home minister Amit Shah.

Zulfkar said he joined BJP for the welfare of the ST community and the progress of Rajouri-Poonch area.

B'desh Hindus now 9% due to forced conversions: Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: The Hindu population in Bangladesh has drastically reduced from 27% during Partition to 9% today due to forced conversions and displacement, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Sunday in Ahmedabad.

"Where have the rest gone? They were either subjected to forced religious conversion or sought refuge in India. Don't they have the right to live as per their religion? If they cannot live with respect in the neighbouring country and seek refuge in our country, what should we do? We cannot sit as silent spectators. This is Narendra Modi gov't, you will get justice," Shah asserted.

The event marked the granting of citizenship certificates to 188 Hindu refugees who had come from Pakistan before Dec 31, 2014. Shah emphasised that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) aims to provide rights and justice to refugees and assured the Muslim community that



Amit Shah hands over citizenship certificate to a woman in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel is also seen

the law does not revoke anyone's citizenship, but rather, it facilitates granting it.

Shah took the opportunity to criticise past Congress-led gov'ts, accusing them of delaying citizenship for refugees due to appeasement policies. "Those who sought refuge in India were denied citizenship from 1947 to 2014," Shah said. "They (refugees) were not just tortured in neighbouring countries for being Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh, but also in our country as lakhs

and crores of people longed for justice for three generations." He said while intruders were made citizens illegally in the past, those who followed the law and applied for citizenship were denied.

Shah also praised PM Narendra Modi's gov't for acting on promises and reforms. He highlighted the abolition of Article 370, the ending of triple talaq, and the amendments to the citizenship law as key achievements under PM Modi's leadership.

NCPCR chief flags use of Pak books in Bihar madrassas

Madan Kumar @timesofindia.com

Patna: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairman Priyank Kanoongo on Sunday raised serious concerns about what he claimed as "radical curriculum" and use of "Pakistan-published books" allegedly in govt-funded madrassas in Bihar and the enrolment of Hindu children in such schools.

In a post on platform X, he questioned the role of Unicef in designing the madrasa curriculum, calling it the "height of appeasement by both Unicef and the Bihar State Madrasa Education Board". Kanoongo urged the UN to investigate these activities and recom-

mended the dissolution of the Madrasa board. "Many books included in the prescribed syllabus of these madrassas are published in Pakistan and research on their content is ongoing," Kanoongo wrote. He criticised the inclusion of texts like Talimul Islam, which he claimed label non-

'RADICAL SYLLABI'

Islamic people as 'kafir' (infidels). Kanoongo claimed while Hindu children have been admitted to these madrassas, the Bihar gov't has not disclosed the ratio of Hindu and other children.

On the issue of transferring Hindu children from madrassas to schools, Kanoongo cited information

from the Madrasa board, saying the curriculum was developed by Unicef. "It is not Unicef's job to create a radical curriculum using funds received from gov'ts, under the guise of child protection," Kanoongo wrote.

Unicef officials in Patna declined to comment, but sources in the state education department indicated that Unicef had prepared the madrasa curriculum at the Bihar State Madrasa Education Board's request, aligning with the New Education Policy of the Centre.

"A madrasa is not a place for basic education of children in any form. Children, including those from Hindu community, should study in regular schools," Kanoongo also said.

Observe Aug 18 as Netaji death anniv: Daughter

Kolkata: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff has urged the Indian gov't to bring home Netaji's ashes from Renkoji temple in Japan and start observing his death anniversary on Aug 18, the day Bose is believed to have died in a plane crash in Taipei in 1945.

Her statement, issued from Stadtbergen in Germany, confirms the Bose family's acceptance that Netaji indeed perished in a plane crash, which has been vehemently contested by many, including a large section of the Bose family.

Bose's grandnephew, Chandra Kumar Bose, repeatedly appealed to the central gov't to bring his ashes back from Japan. On the eve of Independence Day, Bose wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an appeal to bring Netaji's mortal remains back. TNN

Lateral entry will end quotas, says Rahul...

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Sunday attacked Modi gov't over UPSC inviting ap-



plications for mid-tier posts to be filled laterally on contract basis, alleging this was a step towards ending SC, ST and OBC quotas by privatising the IAS.

TOI had reported that UPSC, as part of a drive to have lateral entrants, has advertised 45 mid-level posts of director, joint secretary and deputy secretary in various ministries and departments.

"INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this anti-national step that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice," Gandhi said in a post in Hindu on X. "Narendra Modi by doing recruitment of public servants through RSS instead of UPSC is attacking the Constitution."

Bid to deprive 'PDA' of reservations: SP

Attacking NDA gov't over appointment of bureaucrats at Centre through lateral entry, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav Sunday said it is a part of BJP's conspiracy to deprive "PDA" (picchde, Dalit, alpsankhyak) of reservation benefits. He said lateral entry was BJP's channel to post "ideologically aligned" officers on high positions and it was time for a nationwide protest from Oct 2. TNN

He said that reservation of SC, ST and OBCs is being "openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries."

Gandhi went on to allege that instead of taking measures to improve the situation, by resorting to "lateral entry", those from the underprivileged category are being pushed further away from the top posts.

...Vaishnaw retorts: Moily panel mooted it in 2005

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Cong MP Rahul Gandhi and I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw exchanged barbs on "lateral entry" with gov't defending its latest move to hire 45 specialists by the UPSC at the middle level citing the recommendations of the second administrative reforms commission set up by UPA.

Late in the evening, Vaishnaw, in a social media post, said, "INC hypocrisy is evident on lateral entry matters. It was the UPA gov't which developed the concept of lateral entry. The second Admin Reforms Commission (ARC) was established in 2005 under UPA gov't. Veerappa Moily chaired it... UPA period ARC recommended recruitment of experts to fill the gaps in roles that require specialised knowledge."

The minister said NDA gov't has created a transpar-

ent method to implement this recommendation and the recruitment will be done through UPSC in a transparent and fair manner.

Gov't sources said that Moily had built upon the idea about induction of those with specialised skills which was mooted by another veteran Congressman K Hanumanthaiah. They added that the proposal was "strongly endorsed" by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), established in 2005 and chaired by Moily. The ARC was tasked with recommending reforms to make the Indian administrative system more effective, transparent, and citizen-friendly.

Sources said that in its 10th report titled "Refurbishing of Personnel Administration - Scaling New Heights" the commission had emphasised on the need for reforms in personnel management within the civil services.

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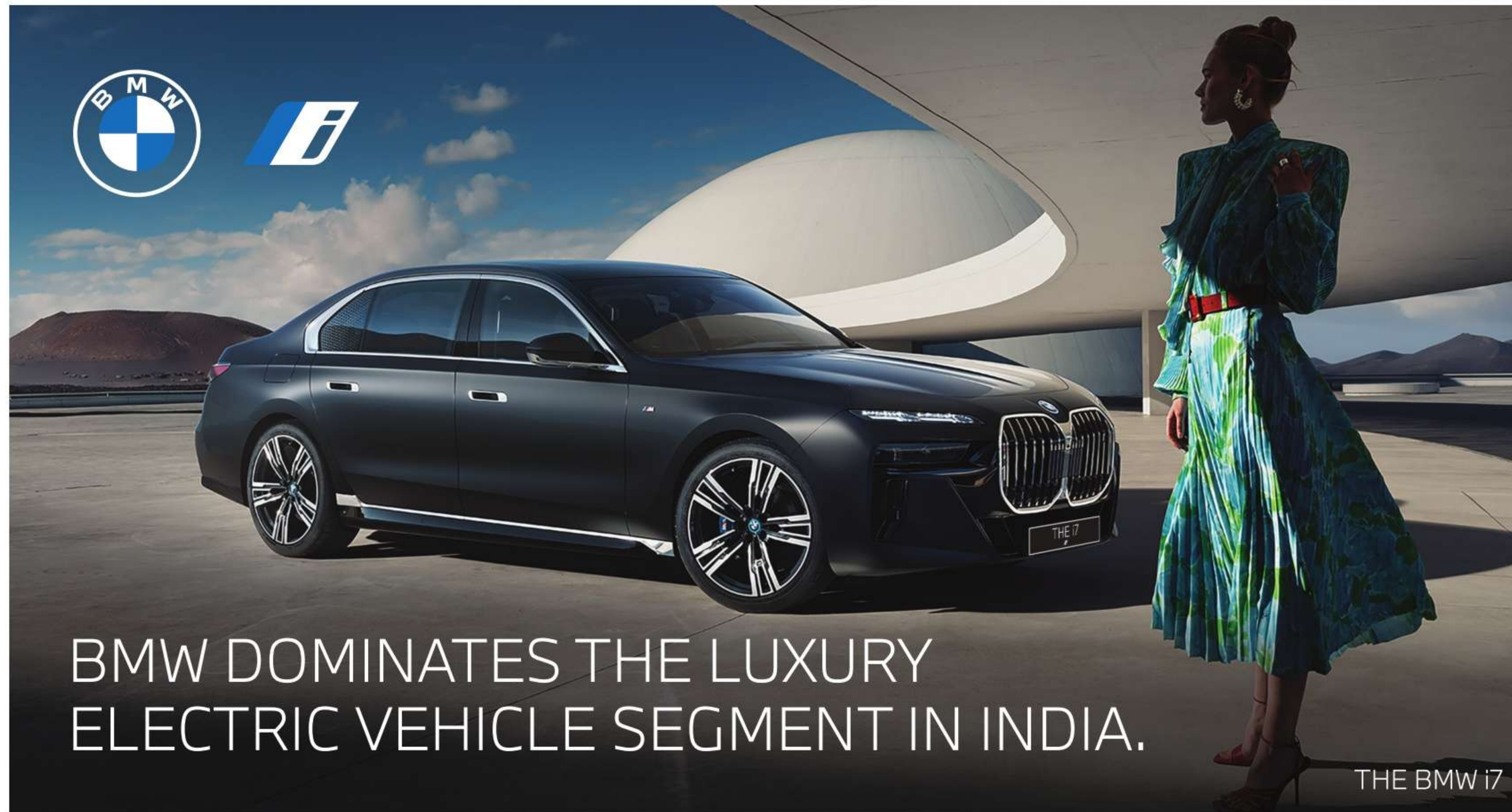
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'Will you ask Sidda to quit': TMC to Rahul after Kol case remark

Tamagna Banerjee
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Trinamool attacked Congress on the Karnataka CM issue on Sunday, three days after Rahul Gandhi's "Kathua to Kolkata" remark over the rape and murder of a PGT doctor at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital. While most INDIA bloc parties demanded justice, they backed steps taken by West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee-led gov in the case. Gandhi, however, said there was "an attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim". The Bengal Congress, too, has been out on the streets protesting.

While posting an image of a news article on Karnataka governor Karnata Chand Gehlot granting sanction for the prosecution of CM Siddaramaiah in a land allotment scam, former TMC RS MP Kunal Ghosh posted on X: "So, Rahul Gandhi-ji, will you ask your CM to resign? This is a gross allegation of corruption. Without having correct information about the WB incident, without knowing the steps taken by Mamata Banerjee, you made a comment on social media. Now, will you kindly take steps regarding your CM?"

On Thursday Gandhi had posted on X saying, among other things, "I stand with

TMC accuses CBI of slow probe

Trinamool Congress accused the CBI of a slow investigation into the RG Kar rape-murder case after its two-day protests demanding a speedy trial and capital punishment for the accused ended on Sunday.

Trinamool Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev posted on X, "On Aug 16, the CM urged CBI to complete its investigation by Aug 18, aligning with the original deadline set for Kolkata Police. However, since taking over the case on Aug 14, CBI has offered no updates on the probe's progress. What exactly has CBI done in the last four days to solve the case?"

the victim's family in this unbearable pain... The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration."

Meanwhile, on Sunday, AAP RS MP Sanjay Singh said the incident in Kolkata was extremely heartbreaking, painful, and unimaginable, and asked CBI to expedite its probe.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and former Bihar CM Rabri Devi have defended CM Banerjee on the issue.

Call for justice trumps football rivalry, unites fans of 3 clubs

Suman Chakraborti & Tamagna Banerjee | TN

Kolkata: Separated by team loyalty but united by a cause. Scores of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal fans were detained Sunday evening as they protested outside Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, demanding justice for the post-graduate resident doctor who was found raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Aug 9.

Despite their traditional rivalry, supporters from Kolkata's three major football clubs — Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, and Mohammedan Sporting — joined forces in the protest. Heavy rain failed to deter the demonstrators, who shouted slogans like "One chant for both galleries, justice for RG Kar".

The Mohun Bagan-East Bengal Durand Cup derby, scheduled for Sunday, was cancelled less than 24 hours before kickoff due to police concerns about potential unrest. However, thousands of fans still gathered outside the stadium, united in their call for justice.

The protest, which lasted for about five hours, saw more than 40 people initially detained by police as they allegedly tried to breach barricades set up 200m from the stadium. Police resorted to a lathi charge and forcibly detained protesters. A police officer said the detained protesters were released at a distance.

2 MPs, 198 others get Kol police notices for 'spreading misinfo'

'Revealing Victim's Identity' Among Reasons For Summonses

Dwaipayan Ghosh, Sumati Yengkhom & Tamagna Banerjee | TN

Kolkata: Trinamool's Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, BJP's Lockett Chatterjee and two senior doctors — cardiac surgeon Dr Kunal Sarkar and Burdwan chief medical officer Subarno Goswami — were among 200-odd people against whom police issued summonses Sunday for allegedly "spreading misinformation" about the RG Kar rape-murder or "revealing the victim's identity".

Roy had put out a post on X demanding "custodial interrogation" of former RG Kar Medical College principal Sandip Ghosh and city police commissioner Vineet Goyal to know the "who and why" of the "suicide story" that was floated before news



Protest condemning Kolkata rape-murder case, in Bengaluru on Sunday

of the crime came out. He also questioned in the same post why sniffer dogs were used in the investigation allegedly three days after the rape-murder, a charge police have contested.

Sarkar, vice-chairperson of Medica Hospital, received a summons over an Aug 14 YouTube video in which he expresses anguish over the rape-murder of the 31-year-old junior doctor studying for her postgraduation and questions the "hurried post-mortem and cremation", besides "lapses in the investiga-

tion". He also uses the term "gang-rape". The cardiac surgeon, who is travelling, told TOI, "While I have explained my take in my video, if the police require more explanations, I will do that."

Goswami confirmed receiving the summons and termed it an attempt to "gag the voice of whistleblowers". "Whatever I have said is based on the postmortem report, which I have accessed. And my statement was a collective statement of the doctors' organisation (Association of Health Service Doc-

tors, West Bengal) I represent. As a law-abiding citizen and a govt servant, I will respond to the summons on Monday," he said.

Actor-turned-politician Lockett, who had referred to the victim as "Tilottama (not her real name)", denied having received a summons. "It would have been better had they (police) shown the same promptness while investigating the case. Everyone wants justice for the girl," she said.

MP Roy, whom Nadimul Haque recently replaced as Trinamool's RS chief whip, didn't respond to calls and texts from TOI. Ex-TMC Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh was the first to respond to his colleague's post on X, calling it an "illogical outburst".

Party spokesperson Riju Dutta soon wrote on X, "It doesn't matter who you are! Whether you are a sitting MP, ex MP, Doctor, Lawyer or anybody. Whether you are TMC, BJP, CPM, INC or anyone. If you are seen to be spreading fake news in an ongoing investigation, which can cause civil unrest and a law & order situation, then you will be summoned per law."

Social media friend, 2 aides held for teen's gangrape in MP

Bhopal: Police arrested a social media acquaintance and two of his accomplices, all aged 22 to 24, on Saturday for allegedly raping an 18-year-old girl in a forested area of Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district last month.

The social media acquaintance Yashwant Patel invited the survivor to visit a nearby shrine. However, midway, Patel diverted his bike to a forested area, where he raped her and then fled. Soon after, two of his friends, Hemant Patel and Hemraj Patel, arrived and also raped her. They threatened to make a video of the rape viral if she reported the incident to police, the survivor complained in an FIR.

Frightened, the survivor remained silent until one of the accused repeatedly demanded physical relations from her. Frustrated, she confided in her parents, who took her to Stationing police station and filed the FIR on Friday.

"We have sent their phones for forensic analysis but could not find any video. It seems they deleted it, fearing arrest," SDPO Monika Tiwari said.

7 held for trying to hush up rape by NCC officer

Krishnagiri: Seven people, including the principal of a private school, were arrested in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district on Sunday for trying to hush up the rape of a 13-year-old student by an NCC officer, Sivaraman. Police are on the lookout for Sivaraman and another NCC officer. Krishnagiri SP P Thangadurai said the incident took place during a week-long NCC camp in the school when 17 girls spent the nights in the school.

"Sivaraman lured the girl outside the auditorium and sexually assaulted her on the night of Aug 8," Thangadurai said. When the girl told the principal about the incident, he urged her to remain silent. After the camp concluded, the girl returned home, but her health worsened and on a visit to hospital on Aug 16, she told her parents about her ordeal.

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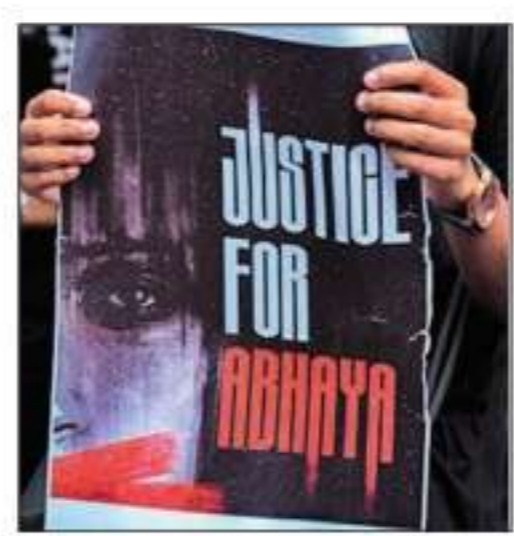
Deeply anguished by delayed action: AAP's Bhajji to CM, gov

Former cricketer and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh has written an open letter addressed to West Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose and CM Mamata Banerjee expressing "deep anguish" over the delay in justice and urged that they take "swift and decisive" action in the rape and murder case in Kolkata. "The safety and dignity of women are non-negotiable. The perpetrators of this heinous crime must face the full weight of the law, and the punishment must be exemplary," he added. "Only then can we begin to restore faith in our system and we create a society where every woman feels safe and protected. We must ask ourselves—if not now, when? I feel, the time for action is now," Singh said in his post.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At least 70 Padma awardee doctors have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his personal intervention to ensure justice is done in the brutal rape and murder of a young doctor in a Kolkata hospital last week.

"As the head of our nation, we implore your immediate and personal intervention to address this alarming situation. Such acts of brutality shake the very foundations of service by medical professionals and highlight the urgent need to address violence, particularly against women, girls, and healthcare professionals," the Padma awardee doctors'



The letter suggests measures such as rigorous application of current legal frameworks to protect healthcare professionals

letter to the PM states.

The Padma awardee doctors who have signed on the letter include radiologist Dr Harsh Mahajan, former AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, ex-ICMR director gen-

eral Dr Balram Bhargava and neurologist Dr M V Padma Srivastava among others.

The letter suggests measures such as rigorous application of current legal frameworks to protect healthcare professionals, harsher and time-bound punishments for perpetrators of sexual violence and enhanced safety measures in hospitals and medical institutions.

"We urge the central and state governments to quickly enact and implement a separate law for the protection of healthcare workers, ensuring its rapid enforcement on the ground. A proposed bill, 'The Prevention of Violence Against Doctors, Medical Professionals and Medical Institutions

Bill,' has been ready since 2019 but has not yet been tabled in Parliament for passage and adoption. We strongly believe that an ordinance to this effect can be brought immediately, and the bill should be passed post-haste so that all those working in healthcare delivery systems in the country can work without fear, in service of suffering patients," the letter adds.

Earlier, on Saturday, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) had written to the PM to demand a central law to protect healthcare workers from violence, in addition to beefing up the security protocols of all hospitals to the level of security provided at the airports.

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, HARIDWAR**
Email: gmcharidwar@gmail.com, Website: www.gmcharidwar.com

Letter No.: GMC/Advt./Recruitment/2024-25-290 Dated: 17-08-2024

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A walk-in-interview for various Faculty positions of Government Medical College, Haridwar will be held on 29-08-2024 (Thursday) at 10:00 am onwards in Govt. Medical College, Jagjeetpur, Lakshar road, Haridwar. The appointments will be made on contractual basis for three years (extendable on yearly basis) or till recruitment of faculty in the college would be operational through PPP mode or till regular appointments are made, whichever is earlier.

The details of vacancies in various departments are uploaded in the website of Govt. Medical College Haridwar, www.gmcharidwar.com and www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in

Principal,
Govt. Medical College, Haridwar

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.,
ऊर्जा भवन, 220 के.वी. विद्युत उपसंस्थान,
बाई-पार्स रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा-282007
[CIN No. U31200UP2003SGC027460]
[GSTIN No. 09AAACD0695D1ZS]

ई-निविदा सूचना

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Tender Details	Name of District	Earnest Money to be deposited (Rs. in Cr.)	Tender Cost (Rs. in Rs.)
1.	DVVNL/RDSS/Additional HH/2024/7	आर.डी.एस.एस. योजना के अन्तर्गत छूटे हुए द.वि.वि. नि.लि. के आगरा/अलीगढ़/फिरोजाबाद/मथुरा/एटा क्षेत्रों के कुल 632 अदद मजदूरों में अविद्युतीकृत परिवारों को विद्युतीकृत किये जाने के कार्य।	आगरा/अलीगढ़/फिरोजाबाद/मथुरा/एटा	Rs. 0.67 (2% of Estimated Cost or Rs. 5.00 Cr. which is lower)	10,000.00 + GST @18%
2.	DVVNL/RDSS/Additional HH/2024/8	आर.डी.एस.एस. योजना के अन्तर्गत छूटे हुए द.वि.वि. नि.लि. के बांदा-1 क्षेत्र के कुल 606 अदद मजदूरों में अविद्युतीकृत परिवारों को विद्युतीकृत किये जाने के कार्य।	बांदा	Rs. 0.86 (2% of Estimated Cost or Rs. 5.00 Cr. which is lower)	10,000.00 + GST @18%
3.	DVVNL/RDSS/Additional HH/2024/9	आर.डी.एस.एस. योजना के अन्तर्गत छूटे हुए द.वि.वि. नि.लि. के बांदा-2 क्षेत्र के कुल 433 अदद मजदूरों में अविद्युतीकृत परिवारों को विद्युतीकृत किये जाने के कार्य।	हमीरपुर/सिद्धपुर एवं महोबा	Rs. 0.55 (2% of Estimated Cost or Rs. 5.00 Cr. which is lower)	10,000.00 + GST @18%
4.	DVVNL/RDSS/Additional HH/2024/10	आर.डी.एस.एस. योजना के अन्तर्गत छूटे हुए द.वि.वि. नि.लि. के कानपुर-2 क्षेत्र के कुल 413 अदद मजदूरों में अविद्युतीकृत परिवारों को विद्युतीकृत किये जाने के कार्य।	इटावा/फर्रुखाबाद/कन्नौज एवं औरैया	Rs. 0.54 (2% of Estimated Cost or Rs. 5.00 Cr. which is lower)	10,000.00 + GST @18%
5.	DVVNL/RDSS/Additional HH/2024/11	आर.डी.एस.एस. योजना के अन्तर्गत छूटे हुए द.वि.वि. नि.लि. के कानपुर-1 एवं झांसी क्षेत्रों के कुल 501 अदद मजदूरों में अविद्युतीकृत परिवारों को विद्युतीकृत किये जाने के कार्य।	कानपुर देहात/कानपुर नगर/जालौन/ललितपुर	Rs. 0.73 (2% of Estimated Cost or Rs. 5.00 Cr. which is lower)	10,000.00 + GST @18%

निविदा शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, DVVNL, AGRA की वेबसाइट www.dvvnl.org के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।
विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ लें।

उपरोक्त निविदा दिनांक 12.09.2024 को समय 13:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकेंगी एवं निविदा खलने की दिनांक 13.09.2024 को सांघ 16:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र उ.प्र. शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड की जायेगी, वहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे।
मुख्य अभियंता (RDSS)

अधिक जानकारी हेतु कृपया <http://etender.up.nic.in> की लॉग-इन करें।

"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"
पत्रांक 522 /मु.अभि. (RDSS) आगरा/विज्ञापन दिनांक: 18.08.2024

National Dairy Development Board
PB No. 40, Anand, Gujarat-388001, Tel: 02692-260 148/149/160 Fax: 02692-260 159
Website: <http://www.nddb.coop>, www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc Email: purchase@nddb.coop

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)/ LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)/ REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Sr. No.	Description of works/Bid Reference	Est'd Cost (₹) Incl GST/Duration	Event Start/ Close Date	Bid submission/ opening date & time
A	Bids are invited from eligible bidders for carrying out the following job:			
I	Rate Agreement for supply of SNP Array Chip/Plate (INDUSCHIP/BUFFCHIP) and installation of equipment for processing of Chips at NDDB, Anand NDDB/HO/Purchase/53/24-25/ET/53 [Rate Contract INDUS-BUFF CHIP]	1150 Lakh/ 18 Months	19.08.24/ 11.09.24	11.09.24 15:00 hrs. 11.09.24 15:30 hrs.
B	NDDB invites eligible companies/firms, to submit their Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the following consultancies:			
I	Audit of Fund Utilization Certificates of projects based in North and West Zone under Rashtriya Gokul Mission Scheme of Govt. of India (NDDB/HO-PUR/REOI/RGM:CONS:01/2024)	24 Months	21.08.24/ 04.09.24	04.09.24 15:00 hrs. 04.09.24 15:30 hrs.
II	Audit of Fund Utilization Certificates of projects based in South and East Zone under Rashtriya Gokul Mission Scheme of Govt. of India (NDDB/HO-PUR/REOI/RGM:CONS:02/2024)	24 Months	21.08.24/ 04.09.24	04.09.24 15:00 hrs. 04.09.24 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB/REOI and for downloading the bid document/REOI, please visit these websites: www.nddb.coop, and www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc and For any clarification please contact Group Head (Purchase), NDDB, Anand-388001. NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites. REOI shall be published on NDDB website only.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender EMD
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/2687/2024-25	Date: 14.08.2024	
1	Replacement of 450mm, 300mm, 150mm dia CI pipe line by MS pipe line and DI pipe line at Brigade road junction to Adarsha junction along MG Road for proposed White topping work coming under Halasuru service station of AESE-2 sub division.	Rs. 402.15 Lakhs Rs. 7.12 Lakhs
2	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class pipe line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at location (1) Lower Agaram road from ASC junction to Military compound (2) L.R.Nagara main road from Hosur road to Ambedkarnagara main road (3) K.H.Road from Mission road to Lalbagh East (4) Anepalya main road to NGV SWD (5) Anepalya main road Masjid road to Hosur road for proposed White topping work coming under Johnson Market service station of AESE-1 sub division.	Rs. 278.26 Lakhs Rs. 4.93 Lakhs
3	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class pipe line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at location (1) Palm Groove road, KH Rehman road from Victoria road to Military Bazaar Street (2) Mother Theresa road-ORC road from Richmond road to Lower Agaram road junction (3) Ejjipura main road from Vivekanagara Signal to Military compound (4) Ejjipura main road from Ejjipura Bus Stop to 24th cross (5) Residency road from Brigade road junction to Musume road for proposed White topping work coming under CLR service station of AESE-1 sub division.	Rs. 284.24 Lakhs Rs. 5.03 Lakhs
4	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class pipe line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at M.G.Road (both sides) and Swamy Vivekananda road from Anil Kumble Circle to Adarsha Theatre junction for proposed White topping work coming under Halasuru service station of AESE-2 sub division.	Rs. 400.86 Lakhs Rs. 7.10 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **03.09.2024 upto 16.00 hrs.** The bids will be opened on: **05.09.2024 after 17.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1515/Zen/2024-25

B'luru girl returning from party raped by biker who gave her lift

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 21-year-old college student was allegedly sexually assaulted by a biker whom she had hitched a ride with for a drop home past Saturday midnight.

The alleged incident took place at an isolated spot in Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, HSR Layout, in southeast Bengaluru's Sector-7. The woman was returning to her accommodation in Chandapura area, off Hosur Road, after attending a party with friends in Koramangala.

According to preliminary reports, the survivor's friends were to drop her home in their car. However, their vehicle brushed against an autorickshaw minutes after they left Koramangala, leading to a road-rage incident. The two parties began arguing and police were called to resolve the dispute.

The woman left the scene before police could arrive. She tried to flag down several passing bikers asking for a drop. While some told her that they were not going her way, one agreed to drop her at her accommodation. Instead of dropping her at Hongasandra, he took her to an isolated

TOOK BIKE RIDE AFTER CAR HIT AUTO

B'luru cops form five teams to trace and nab a biker, who allegedly sexually assaulted a 21-year-old student; city police say they have definite clues

The survivor took a bike ride after the car in which she was travelling brushed against an autorickshaw late Saturday night and the incident turned into a road rage case

After agreeing to drop the girl home, the suspect took her to

an isolated place in Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, a few metres off Hosur main road

Sensing danger, the girl pressed the SOS button on her cellphone; her friends arrived at the spot and rushed her to a private hospital

Police say the survivor, who is from another state, is studying BBA in a private college in Bengaluru; case filed under section 64 of BNS Act

place in Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, a few metres off Hosur Main Road, she claimed.

Sensing danger, she immediately pressed the SOS button on her mobile. The messages and her location were shared with her father and friends, whose numbers were saved as emergency contacts.

According to police, two of her friends rushed to the spot and found her behind a truck without her clothes. They covered her with their car cover and got her into the vehicle. They spotted an agitated man at the place without a shirt. They tried to catch him he managed to flee. Her friends then rushed her to a private hospital in

Bommasandra, where she was hospitalised. The hospital raised a medico-legal case. One of her rescuers filed a complaint with the HSR Layout police station regarding the incident.

Police have registered a case of rape under BNS Section 64. The complainant stated that the biker had attempted to sexually assault her. According to police, the woman had come from another state and is pursuing a BBA in Bengaluru. Her parents arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday.

ACP (east) Raman Gupta said the incident occurred around 1.30 am and that they have definite clues about the suspect.

SC may seek responses from Bengal, Centre on lack of docs safety in hosps

Continued from P 1

While HC may still be permitted to carry on with the monitoring of the ongoing CBI investigations, SC is expected to take a pan-India call on the lack of safety of doctors and healthcare professionals, especially women, in hospitals. The bench headed by CJI is likely to seek responses from West Bengal and Union govts about addressing this issue. It may also decide to implead all states and Union Territories as parties to the case if it were to lay down a pan-India safety guideline.

Another factor which may have forced SC to take

up the case was the Aug 14 midnight vandalism at the Kolkata hospital that was allegedly aimed at foiling a planned rally by doctors and students in solidarity with simultaneous "reclaim the night" marches across the city. The mob targeted patients, staff, medical equipment and hospital property. Nurses, security guards, and even visitors were traumatised by threats given by the mob. Subsequently, the HC rapped state govts for its inability to provide security to medical and healthcare professionals and staff at the hospital.

Interestingly, an SC bench of Justices Sanjay

Khanna, Sanjay Karol and Sanjay Kumar had dismissed a writ petition filed by Delhi Medical Association and Dr Satyajit Borah last month seeking adequate security for medical and healthcare professionals citing numerous incidents of violent attacks on doctors by irate relatives of patients.

Justice Khanna-led bench told senior advocate Vijay Hansaria that the SC cannot direct the govt to bring in a legislation in this regard. Observing that anybody who indulges in violence can be dealt with under the penal code, the bench had said that the only question is the implementation of the law.

Graft case relief for man as CBI errs on gift to son

Hand-Me-Down Family Property Was Tagged Financial Asset

Ram Sundaram | TNN



The court found critical mistakes in the probe against a railway official and his wife and that CBI failed to prove that the couple's assets exceeded their income. They were acquitted of all charges

Chennai: A simple, sentimental gift to a 10-year-old boy led to the collapse of a high-value corruption case against a railway engineer. The CBI misclassified this family hand-me-down property as a financial asset, inflating charges and leading to the eventual acquittal of his parents.

Judge S Ezhil Velavan found critical mistakes in the investigation against KSSVP Murthy Raju and his wife K Pushpavalli, ruling the property was wrongly included and that the CBI failed to prove the couple's assets exceeded their income. The court then acquitted the couple of all charges.

The case against Raju, a deputy chief engineer in the railways, and Pushpavalli spanned over a decade. The CBI accused them of possessing disproportionate

assets totalling Rs 54.6 lakh.

The CBI's investigation scrutinised every aspect of the couple's finances, including salary slips, property deeds, bank accounts, and personal gifts.

Central to this investigation was a Rs 92,900 property gift given to their son Sushanth,

when he was 10 years old, by a relative, G Nalini Mohan Raju.

This property was not a typical financial acquisition, but a sentimental family hand-me-down intended to secure the boy's future. However, the CBI mistakenly treated this gift as a significant financial transaction, adding it to the list of assets the couple allegedly could not explain.

This mistake inflated the family's perceived wealth, contributing to the corruption charges against them. The inclusion of this property as a disproportionate asset tipped the scales in the CBI's investigation, making the case appear stronger than it was.

Further, the CBI erred by overvaluing assets like a Rs 1-lakh gold necklace and miscellaneous cash and investments, such as Rs 6.4 lakh in a finance firm and Rs 2.2 lakh in a locker. They also failed to properly review documentation, wrongfully including Rs 35,500 in gold jewellery and legitimate investments as disproportionate assets.

The defence exposed these errors, proving the property gifted to Sushanth was a non-financial transfer wrongly included as a disproportionate asset.

Woman doc assaulted by patient, kin at Mum hosp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sion police Sunday filed an FIR against a Chunabhatti resident and his sister for allegedly assaulting a female doctor at Sion hospital, one of the sites of the ongoing strike by resident doctors. The man had sought treatment, along with relatives, early Sunday and allegedly verbally abused the doctor while she was checking his wound and his sister allegedly assaulted her.

Within three hours of registering the FIR, police detained the siblings — Prasad Devendra (31) and Shweta Devendra (28). This is perhaps the first time in the city that a complaint about violence against doctors was reported by an institute within six hours as mandated

This is perhaps the first time in Mumbai that a complaint about violence against doctors was reported by an institute within six hours as mandated by the Union health ministry on Friday

The FIR was filed by the institute (the assistant medical officer on duty) and not the individual doctor, as was the previous practice.

Prasad, who was reportedly drunk, was taken to Sion hospital with injuries on his face early Sunday. According to

the BMC faction of Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), Prasad was accompanied by five relatives. The resident doctor requested that only two of them stay in the ward, but they did not comply.

"During examination, the doctor noticed the wound was covered with gauze and instructed the patient to lie down for removal of the dressing. This procedure caused the patient some pain, which is normal in the case of the wound," said a MARD representative. This led to "verbal abuse" from the patient and a female relative, said the representative.

"In a distressing turn, one female relative forcibly applied the soaked gauze to the resident doctor's face

and physically assaulted the doctor, resulting in an abrasion on the right hand," said Dr Akshay More from the hospital. The accused fled from the hospital soon after.

The doctor, a first-year resident of ENT, recorded her statement at the police station later in the day. "She is emotionally shaken up. The department seniors will decide if she is to stay away for a few days to recover," said one of her colleagues.

Police have booked the siblings under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2010.

Pal had another cardiac arrest after angioplasty

Continued from P 1

Doctors used life-saving measures, including a defibrillator, to revive Coast Guard director general Rakesh Pal. When he reached the emergency room, his pulse and blood pressure were drastically low. Doctors performed an angiogram and confirmed that the main vessel supplying blood to the heart was blocked. A balloon angioplasty was carried out to remove the block and he was shifted to ICU. "But his pulse and blood pressure began fluctuating again and he suffered another cardiac arrest. We could not revive him. He was declared dead at 7.10pm," RGGGH dean Dr E Theranirajan said. Rakesh Pal's mortal remains be taken to New Delhi for the funeral.

No rights over 'Shree Ram' due to trademark: Court

Ahmedabad: One can't become the exclusive owner of names of deities merely by registering them as a trademark, an Ahmedabad civil court has observed, dismissing a clothing shop owner's suit against a cousin using the similar "Shree Ram Vastra Bhandar" name for his outlet.

The court pointed out that a god's name is a generic term and cannot be monopolised by any individual. "Shree Ram is the name of a Hindu God and if any party registers the said name with the trademark registry, it does not mean he becomes the exclusive owner of the name 'Shree Ram', and any other Hindu person or any person cannot use the said name," the court said in its recent order.

The descendants of one Balkrishna Shah had sued their cousin Ashutosh Shah for using the "Shree Ram Vastra Bhandar" name as a trademark for the latter's shop. The plaintiffs claimed their use of the name and its logo registered since 1975 gave them exclusive rights to both. Ashutosh also runs a shop with the same name, with the words "since 1975" inscribed on his banner. The court turned down their contentions, stressing there was nothing exclusive in the name as "a clothing store is called a Vastra Bhandar".

"It is a settled principle of law that a family business name can be used by any family member. Merely because one family member has got registration of the trade name, it does not mean exclusive rights and (that) only he can run the business in registered trade name," the court said. TNN

Ethical Hacking
Ministry of Man, Small & Medium Enterprise TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
An Autonomous Body under Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Establishment Centre, Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar
For Registration
COURSE CONTENT: 1) Network Fundamentals, 2) Operating systems, 3) Server types, 4) Foot printing, 5) Scanning Networks, 6) System Hacking, 7) Malware threats, 8) Session Hijacking, 9) Firewalls, 10) SQL Injection, 11) Wireless networks, 12) Cloud computing.
Date: 24.25.31 Aug - 01 Sep 24
Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees: 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
4 Days (week-end)
Online Training Program
For more Details: 7358887633, 8667359360, 0422-2993949
Visit us at: www.pptcudvt.org
E-Certificate will be Awarded

APTRANSCO :: Vijayawada e-procurement Tender Notice
The APTRANSCO invites bids on e-procurement platform vide Tender Specification No. PMM22-e-29/2024 for Procurement of ACSR MOOSE CONDUCTOR - 102.44 KM. Bidding documents are available at www.tender.approcurement.gov.in. Date of availability of Bids: 19.08.2024 @ 5p.m.
Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission, Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada, AP.

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Employees' State Insurance Corporation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
पिकेटिसा मारवाडीय, पीजीआईएमएसआर जय अस्पताल
सेडम रोड, कलबुर्गी, कर्नाटक-585106
Medical College, PGIMSR & Hospital
Sedam Road, Kalaburgi, Karnataka-585106
Phone No. 08472-265546/4748 Email: deamnc-gb@esic.gov.in

ADMISSION NOTICE
ADMISSIONS TO DIPLOMA IN PARA MEDICAL COURSES UNDER "INSURED PERSONS (IPs) QUOTA" AT ESIC PARAMEDICAL INSTITUTION, GULBURGA, (KALABURGI) KARNATAKA FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25.
Applications are invited from eligible and interested candidates for admission to six (06) Diploma in Para Medical Courses under "Insured Persons (IPs) Quota" at ESIC Para Medical College, Gulbarga, (Kalaburgi) Karnataka for the Academic Year 2024-25. Applications to be submitted through e-mail only to deanmc-gb.kar@esic.nic.in, other means of submission will not be considered. The candidates are informed to go through the detailed Admission notice & tentative schedule for admissions 2024-25. The Last date for receipt of applications will be 26.08.2024 by 11:59 PM. For more details kindly visit www.esic.gov.in/admissions
Sd/- DEAN

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Viduth Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun -248002
Corporate ID No: U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711
E-TENDER NOTICE
Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Construction of 400 KV D/C (Twin Moose) Vishnugad-Pipalkoti HEP to 400KV Switching substation Pipalkoti transmission line" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/TL-07/2024-25. The last date of submission of e-bid is 20.09.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCUL_74731_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899899000
Letter No.: 1483/HQPU/PTCUL Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
Dated : 17-08-2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Viduth Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun -248002
Corporate ID No: U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711
E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-2
The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Supply, Erection and Testing & commissioning of 40 MVA 132/33 KV Transformers with NIPFES system and dismantling work at 132 KV Substation Simli (Kanranprayag)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-04/2024-25 is hereby extended upto 06.09.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCUL_72754_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899899000
Ro no 1482/HQPU/PTCUL Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
Dated 17.08.24 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."

जिल्हाधिकारी नागपूर यांचे कार्यालय
नागरपरिषद प्रशासन
E-mail: dponagpur@gmail.com
जा.क्र. जिप्रक्रना/शाळा/कनि-73 दि. 14/08/2024
ई-निविदा सूचना
नागर परिषद डिग्रीड होली खालील दर्जाविलेल्या कामाकरिता कंत्राटदारकडून/पुस्तकाधारककडून निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहेत. याबाबतची सविस्तर माहिती नागरपरिषद प्रशासन कार्यालय कार्यालयीन वेळेत पाहण्यास मिळेल.
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रारंभ उपलब्ध होणे : दि.19/08/2024 ते दि. 26/08/2024 दुपारी 3 वाजेपर्यंत
ऑनलाईन निविदा भरण्याची अंतीम तारीख : दि. 26/08/2024 दुपारी 3 वाजेपर्यंत

अ. क्र.	कामाचे नाव	अनामत रक्कम	सुरक्षा रक्कम	निविदा प्रपत्राची किंमत
1	Smart Teaching Learning & School Development Program For Nagar Parishad Schools in Nagpur District (Est. Cost Rs. 18,54,20,000/-)	0.5%	2%	3000/-

जिल्हा सह आयुक्त
नागरपरिषद प्रशासन
जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालय, नागपूर

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure Division, #307, 3rd Floor,
Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: EE/RI/TEND/11/2024-25 Date: 17-08-2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Government of Karnataka vide G.O. No. UDD 153 MNY 2023, Bengaluru, Dated: 24-03-2023 has accorded approval in Principal and Sanctioned Budget under SURAKSHA-75 Scheme for taking up of the works listed below.
The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers on Turnkey, Lump Sum, Fixed Price, No Variation and No Escalation basis for the Construction of Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Yelahanka Road Vidyanarayana Main Road, Hostel Bus Stand Junction, Byatarayanapura Junction, Veeranapalya Bus Stop in Yelahanka Zone. Amount of Work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs): 332.13 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00
2	Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Tin Factory, Marathalli, K.R. Puram, B. Channasandra Bridge, Benniganahalli K.R. Puram Junction, Doddanekundi Junction & Varthur Kodi in Mahadevapura Zone. Amount of Work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs): 747.38 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 11.25
3	Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Bellary Pallanahalli Road, Bellary Kogilu Main Road, NES Bus Stop Junction, Yelahanka New Town in Yelahanka Zone. Amount of Work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs): 332.15 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00
4	Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Kundalahalli Junction, Mahadevapura, ORR Embassy Tech Village, Subramanya Swamy Temple, Sarjapura Signal next to Iblur Lake, Bagmane Tech Park Junction in Mahadevapura Zone. (Call-2) - Amount of Work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs): 789.63 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 11.85

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 19-08-2024 onwards. 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries: 29-08-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting: 29-08-2024 at 16.00 Hours. 4) Last Date for Submission of Tenders: 03-09-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 04-09-2024 at 16.15 Hours. 6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated to Qualified Tenderers. Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure Division, BBMP.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management - East)
5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560 009.
No: BWSSB/CE(WWM-EAW)/TA-1475/2024 Date: 14.08.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of providing & laying 900 mm dia Sewer line from Mahadevapura Outer Ring Road to linking existing 1100 mm sewer line near Railway Track Doddanekundi lake.
Amount put to tender: Rs. 281.02 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 4.21 Lakhs.
Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on 17.09.2024 upto 15:30 hrs. The technical bids will be opened on 18.09.2024 at 16:30 hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-East)
DIPRC/PMIA/1516/2024-25

PUNJAB CRICKET ASSOCIATION
I.S. BINDRA STADIUM, SECTOR-63, SAS NAGAR, MOHALI
Bid No.: 02/2024 Date: 19.08.2024
On behalf of Punjab Cricket Association, Mohali Project Director, invite bids for "New International Cricket Stadium at Mullapur (New Chandigarh)" for the following work for which contractors having relevant experience for executing the similar work are eligible.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of non refundable Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of completion	Approx. Value of the Work (Rs.)
1.	Designing, Supplying, Erection of Structural Tensile Fabric Canopy including PU Painting etc. complete in all Respect On Design Built Basis	Rs. 20.00 Lakhs	Rs. 11,800/-	06 Months	To be quoted by bidder
2.	Designing, Supplying, Planning, Installation, testing, commissioning of LED Mast Flood Lights for practice pitches including related Civil and Electrical works complete in all respect on EPC Mode.	Rs. 1.80 Lakhs	Rs. 5,900/-	02 Months	To be quoted by bidder
3.	Design, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Audio Visual Conferencing in Board room and Conference room complete in all respect.	Rs. 1.10 Lakhs	Rs. 5,900/-	01 Month	To be quoted by bidder

2. Important Dates are as under:-

1. Period of availability of Tender online shall be	From 20.08.2024 to 03.09.2024 upto 05.00 PM
2. Last Date and Time for online-submission of bid shall be	03.09.2024 up to 05.00 PM
3. Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid	04.09.2024 at 11.00 AM
4. Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated later

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website: eproc.punjab.gov.in
E-mail: project.director@cricketpunjab.in Sd/- Project Director

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, PANCHAYAT SAMITI GALIYAKOT, DIST: DUNGARPUR (RAJASTHAN)
File No. F () Accounts/E-Tender/2024/478 Date. 16.08.2024
E-Tender Notice Inviting Bid 02/2024-25
Bids for Rate Contract for Construction of Handpump & Platform under Jurisdiction of Panchayat Samiti Galiyakot, Dist: Dungarpur, Raj, are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM (time) 07-09-2024 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.
NIB : ZDU2425A0114
UBN : ZDU2425WLCR00336
Sd/- Block Development Officer Panchayat Samiti Galiyakot

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
National Institute of Communication Finance
Mehrauli Gurgaon Road, Ghitorni, New Delhi-110047
Tender No.: DG (NICF)/S.Co/2024-25/01 Dated: 19.08.2024
TENDER FOR RENTING OUT SHOPS
National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF), an Apex Level Central Training Institute, is in process of renting out/leasing out vacant shops, located in its campus to Individuals/Proprietors/Registered Agencies/ Firms. Sealed tenders are invited from interested parties for setting up & running the shop(s) in the leased area. Tender form & further details can be obtained from our website www.nicf.gov.in or by sending a request through email at nicf.moc@gov.in.
The duly filled & sealed tender(s) in prescribed manner shall be addressed & sent via Registered/Speed post to "The DG, National Institute of Communication Finance, Opposite metro pillar:152, Ghitorni, New Delhi-110047" so as to reach on or before 09.09.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs.
Director, NICF.

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Viduth Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711
E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1
The pre-bid clarifications of the E-Tender for "Comprehensive Maintenance of Web-based Software of online system for grant of NOC to Open Access customers for four (4) years and integration of NOC portal with NOAR portal of Grid-India" against tender specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/SLDC/NOACM-01/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website. For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_SLDL_74067_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899899000
पत्रांक:286/पाठानुमोक्षण/अधीनस्थ अधिकारिता/एमओ-36/2024-25
दिनांक : 17.08.2024
Superintending Engineer (SLDC)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR20013GCO25866 Website: www.ujvn.com
पत्र सं. 727 दिनांक : 17/08/2024
TENDER NOTICE
The office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:-
NIT No. 04/EE(E&M)/PB/2024-25
Name of work/supply/services etc. : Manufacturing & Providing of Spares of Barrage gates at Virbhadra Barrage, Rishikesh
Estimated cost: Rs 24,61,500/- + GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website:17/08/2024 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of tender: 09/09/2024 Up to 15.00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com.
Executive Engineer (E&M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No: EE/RI-TEC/TEND/02/2024-25 Dated: 16.08.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
The Executive Engineer - Traffic Engineering Cell division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders for eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works
1	"Construction of Skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on "Dynamic Duration" model under Commercial Advertisement rights at Mysuru Road Connecting Deepanjalinagara Bus Depot to Ranganatha Colony". EMD Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-
2	"Construction of Skywalks under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on "Dynamic Duration" model under Commercial Advertisement rights at Sarjapura Road near St. Francis School". EMD Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of RFP: 17.08.2024. (2) Last date for Tender Queries: 22.08.2024 upto 3:00 pm. (3) Pre bid meeting on 22.08.2024 at 3:30 pm at the office of Engineering in Chief, No.109, 1st Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. (4) Last Date for Receipt of Tender is 03.09.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is 04.09.2024 by 4:30 pm. (6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid after approval to Technical bid.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC Division

ICMR NITVAR
आइसीएमआर-राष्ट्रीय ट्रान्सलेशनल वायरलॉजी एवं एड्स अनुसंधान संस्थान, पुणे
पूर्व आइसीएमआर-राष्ट्रीय एड्स अनुसंधान संस्थान, पुणे
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग,
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
ICMR-National Institute of Translational Virology & Aids Research (ICMR-NITVAR), Pune
Formerly ICMR-National Aids Research Institute, (ICMR-NARI)
Department of Health Research,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
भर्ती की अधिसूचना | RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
संख्या-आइसीएमआर-नितवार/डिआर/प्रशासन/01/2024-25
Advertisement No: ICMR-NITVAR/DR/ADMN/01/2024
आइसीएमआर-नितवार, पुणे में सीधी भर्ती के तहत निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए पात्र उम्मीदवारों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following positions under the Direct Recruitment at ICMR-NITVAR, Pune.

अ. क्र. Sr. No.	पद का नाम Name of the post	कुल संख्या Total No. of Posts	पदों की संख्या Unreserved	आरक्षण Reservations	वैतन स्तर (संवैधानिक अनुसूची) Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)
1	प्रवर श्रेणी लिपिक Upper Division Clerk	03	03	0	वैतन स्तर Pay Level-4 (₹25500 - 81100)
2	अवर श्रेणी लिपिक Lower Division Clerk	05	02	02	वैतन स्तर Pay Level-2 (₹19900 - 63200)
कुल TOTAL		08	05	02	01

विस्तृत भर्ती की अधिसूचना को ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण के साथ उचित समय पर आइसीएमआर और आइसीएमआर-नितवार वेबसाइटों (<https://main.icmr.nic.in/> and <https://www.nari-icmr.res.in/>) पर प्रकाशित और अपलोड की जाती है। आवेदन लिंक के अधिसूचना में यदि कोई परिवर्तन होता है, तो इसे उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर शुद्धि/परिशिष्ट के रूप में प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
The detailed recruitment notification is published and uploaded on ICMR and ICMR-NITVAR websites (<https://main.icmr.nic.in/> and <https://www.nari-icmr.res.in/>) along with online registration/application link. If there are any changes in the notification, corrigendum/addendum will be published to that effect, on the above websites.
निदेशक DIRECTOR



Education TIMES

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THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Advertorial, Education Promotional Feature

UGC directive aims at CUET reforms and curbing seat wastage in CUs

Central Universities can conduct their own entrance exam to fill seats that remain vacant even after several rounds of CUET counselling

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

The UGC has permitted Central Universities (CUs) to conduct their entrance exams for undergraduate and post-graduate courses if seats remain vacant following regular admissions through the CUET scores. This decision aims to ensure that all available seats are filled. However, challenges such as technical glitches during the CUET, delays in the announcement of results, and disruptions to the academic cycle underscore the need for reforms in the CUET process to ensure that it stays relevant.

Despite CUET and subsequent rounds of counselling based on its scores, several seats remain vacant in CUs. In 2023, it was reported that after four rounds of seat allocations for the undergraduate (UG) programmes, more than 5,000 seats were vacant in over 60 Delhi University (DU) colleges.

Second chance

The UGC released the Standard

There are many programmes where the NTA list gets exhausted, and the seats remain vacant. This is a serious issue, particularly in the case of SC/ST students

Operating Procedure (SOPs) to fill the vacant seats. In a letter to HEIs, the UGC said, "You may be aware that a good number of seats are still vacant in some central universities even after three or four rounds of counselling. To keep the seats vacant for an entire academic year is not only a waste of resources but also results in denial of quality higher education to many students who aspire to pursue higher education in central universities."

Talking to *Education Times* about why the UGC allowed CUs to conduct entrance exams, UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar says, "For all central universities, admission in UG and PG programmes is through CUET-UG and CUET-PG. This is a mandatory requirement, however, the UGC has allowed CUs to conduct their entrance exams after filling the seats through CUET. They can fill the vacant se-

ats using the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by UGC to realise full utilisation of infrastructure and resources and increase access to more students."

The SOPs allow CUs to conduct their entrance exams after exhausting the list of applicants who appeared in CUET and also admit students based on marks obtained in the qualifying examinations. Consequently, the University of Delhi (DU) has decided to fill its vacant seats in 2024 using class XII marks.

"There are many programmes where the NTA list gets exhausted, and the seats remain vacant. This is a serious issue, particularly in the case of SC/ST students, as the vacancies in this category continue to exist even

after the NTA's list is exhausted. However, the only disadvantage is geographical as a student from Kerala will have to go to Delhi for DU's admission test," says Amruth G Kumar, professor and dean, School of Education, Central University of Kerala.

Creating an efficient system

While it is important to create a centralised entrance exam system for Indian universities, it is equally important to ensure that the system runs efficiently. "Most of the admissions will happen through CUET. In all program-

mes, the level of takers is not the same, which is why the UGC has permitted exams to be conducted at the university level to reduce seat wastage. Aspirants must submit their CUET scores or qualify for the university's entrance exam. CUs in remote areas or the newly formed ones often grapple with vacant seats. A centralised exam is a globally accepted format, but we need some improvements. The country should develop a much better infrastructure for large-scale Computer-based Tests (CBT) and two-level exams could be a better way to go about it. At the first level, all students can participate, and at the second level, the number decreases, and a high-quality exam can be conducted," says BJ Rao, vice-chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, adding that roughly 5%-10% of seats remain vacant in CUs.

Despite a centralised exam, investing significant time

and money is counterproductive when universities are left struggling to fill their seats. "Taking multiple entrance exams is a waste of time and places an unfair burden on students who cannot afford expensive coaching. A more equitable approach would be to admit students based on their performance in board exams. While there may be variations across different boards, there are ways to standardise these differences. The only ones benefiting from the current system are those profiting from conducting these tests. If entrance tests must be conducted, they should offer Computer-based Testing (CBT) multiple times a year, perhaps on demand. We should revert to the previous system if the necessary technology or capability is lacking. The current delays in academic sessions and unfilled seats are unacceptable, especially in a semester system, as they place undue hardship on students," says Furqan Qamar, former vice-chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.



Why Tamil Nadu and Delhi dominate NIRF College Rankings

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

Government support, robust infrastructure, a focus on getting NAAC accreditation, and highly qualified faculty are reasons behind the stellar show of Tamil Nadu (TN) and Delhi colleges in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 'college' category.

In the recently released NIRF rankings, 63 of the top 100 institutions in the college category are from Tamil Nadu (37) and Delhi (26). The colleges in TN and Delhi occupy several of the top 15 positions in the college category—seven in Delhi and six in TN—while only two colleges from Kolkata are in the top 15.

The top 15 colleges in the college category are Hindu College, Miranda House, St Stephens; Atma Ram Sanatan Dharm College; PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore; Loyola College, Chennai; Kirori Mal College; Lady Shri Ram College for Women; PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore; Hans Raj College; Presidency College, Chennai; Madras Christian College, Chennai; and Thiagarajar College, Madurai.

The maximum number of colleges in the top 15 college category in NIRF is in Delhi, and this has been the case not just in 2024 but also in previous edi-



(L) Hindu College, Delhi, topped the NIRF 2024 college category; (R) Presidency College, Chennai, ranked 13th

tion of NIRF Rankings. In 2023, Miranda House led the college category, closely followed by the Hindu College and Presidency College, Chennai. However, only three colleges from Tamil Nadu were in the top 15 in the College category, while Delhi had nine in 2023. "The increasing number of colleges in NIRF Rankings has been made possible due to colleges focusing on NAAC accreditation in Tamil Nadu. Further, emphasis on research also enhances educational opportunities for students in the state," says Prof M Krishnan, vice-chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu.

"Further, strong government support, extensive digital infrastructure, and a focus on inclusive education have resulted

in high enrolment rates and academic performance in TN," says SRR Senthilkumar, principal, Sona College of Technology, Salem.

Since Delhi is the national capital, the city has the best available infrastructure for students from all over India to make their way to study here. This helps the Delhi colleges lead in outreach and inclusivity on campus, which is a parameter in NIRF rankings. Furthermore, University of Delhi (DU), a collegiate central university in Delhi is recognised as an Institute of Eminence (IoE) and almost all top Delhi colleges in NIRF college rankings are affiliated with DU. "There are three parameters that make DU a top choice: quality of teaching, academic administration, and timely de-

claration of results. It is one of the few universities that have conducted 101 convocations after the completion of 100 years, which means one convocation every year. Timely declaration of results and distribution of degrees boost students' confidence that they are in the right university," says Vikas Gupta, registrar, DU.

"The availability of some of the best faculty makes Delhi colleges a top choice for students across the country. Most faculty in Delhi colleges are either from central universities such as Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) or Jamia Millia Islamia or University of Delhi (DU)," says Savita Jha, professor, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce.

Inclusion of open, skill, and state public universities in the Rankings to boost quality education

Priyadarshini.Gupta
@timesofindia.com

The recently released NIRF Rankings 2024 saw a rise in participation of HEIs from 3,565 (2016) to at least 10,845 (2024). This growth has also been marked by an expansion in categories and subject domains assessed, increasing from four in 2016 to 16 in 2024. Evidently, open universities, state public universities and skill universities have been included as new verticals in this year's rankings. The inclusion of the new verticals in the rankings highlights the growing relevance of these institutions in the higher education landscape and an acknowledgment of their importance in providing accessible and practical education to diverse population, say academicians.

Enabling access

Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), says, "The mainstreaming and recognising of skill universities will enhance the value associated with skills, create awareness, and build a sense of dignity of labour in India. Meanwhile, open universities permit students in remote areas who do not have enough access or financial resources to get a degree education. This will also enable increasing the much-desired increase in GER as envisaged in NEP."

Several students have limited knowledge about good state universities, and their presence in the ranking will empower them to choose the best one. "Public opinion is a significant

NIRF RANKINGS 2024

Top 3 State Public Universities	Top 3 Open Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 1 Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal - 2 Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra - 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi - 1 Netaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal - 2 Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 3

Top 3 Skill Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune, Maharashtra - 1 Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal, Haryana - 2 Bhartiya Skill Development University, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 3

challenge for non-traditional universities compared to the more established traditional institutions. The inclusion of these varieties in the NIRF rankings can play a crucial role in changing perceptions and raising awareness about their value and contributions," adds Sahasrabudhe. Open universities will increasingly adopt a cafeteria approach, allowing students to choose from a diverse array of courses offered by various educational institutions. "This flexibility will enable learners to tailor their education to their interests and career goals. Also, with advancements in digital technologies, open universities will develop more sophisticated online learning platforms. As internet infrastructure improves, especially in remote and rural areas, the accessibility and quality of online education will significantly increase," adds Sahasrabudhe.

Long-term benefits

Amit Singh Khokhar, assistant professor at Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU), highlights that the inclusion of skill universities in the NIRF rankings aligns with the NEP 2020's vision. "While it is too early to gauge the immediate impact due to the limited number of participating institutions, the long-term benefits are promising. The new verticals play a critical role in expanding access to quality education, especially for marginalised sections of society, including women and workers. They offer flexible learning options catering to diverse learners," he adds.

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a. 80,000 b. 60,000 c. 100,000 d. 120,000

Q2. Percentage increase in the volume of sphere if radius is increased by 10% is
a. 21% b. 30% c. 33.1% d. 33.33%

Q3. Raghu purchased toys of 2 types costing Rs 11 and Rs 17 each respectively. If he purchased at least one toy of each type spending Rs 123, find maximum number of toys that he could have purchased.
a. 7 b. 5 c. 9 d. 10

Q4. How many liters of 30% alcohol solution are to be added to 10 liters of 45% alcohol solution to obtain 40% alcohol solution.
a. 5 b. 20 c. 15 d. 25

Q5. In a class there are 84 students, which of the following cannot be a ratio of boys and girls.
a. 2:5 b. 12:5 c. 7:5 d. 9:5

Q6. The average age of class of 19 students is 20 years. If a teacher is added in a group of these students then average becomes 21 years. Find age of teacher.
a. 40 b. 35 c. 36 d. 41

Answer key for the last week's quiz: 1. (d), 2. (b), 3. (a), 4. (c), 5. (d), 6. (c), 7. (b), 8. (c), 9. (c) 10. (a)

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Strong research focus of IIT MBA grads helps in carving a presence in NIRF

Rajlakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

The fact that several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have made it to the top ranks alongside the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at the NIRF India Rankings 2024 in the management category speaks of a paradigm shift in management courses, where technical expertise, innovation, and technology are becoming increasingly integral to business leadership. Highlighting the key differences between the IITs and IIMs and the reasons behind the former's stellar performance, Prof V Ramgopal Rao, former director, IIT Delhi, says, "The IIT management programmes are known for their research, where a lot more papers get published than the IIMs which are more industry-centric." Compared to the IIMs that offer a variety of broad-based programmes, the IITs tend to offer more engineering-focused programmes, barring the finance and human resource related courses that are common to both streams. "Overall, the top rankers still prefer to go to the IIMs, while the IITs may still be competing with the newer IIMs," Prof Rao adds. However, year on year, the trend is changing reflecting the broader acceptance of IITs in management education. "The learning advantage of the IIT ecosystem and a relatively lower fee structure at some of the IITs also play a crucial role for students from diverse backgrounds," says Prof Biswajita Parida, coordinator, NIRF Ranking and faculty, Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, highlighting, "The institutes leverage their strengths in technology, innovation, and research to offer management education which is rigorous and aligned with industry needs. Their interdisciplinary approach to teaching and quality

The IIT learning ecosystem and a relatively lower fee structure play a crucial role for students from diverse backgrounds

faculty contribute to their performance. Additionally, the growing importance of AI/ML, digital business, tech product management etc across workplaces place the IITs in an advantageous position."

New knowledge

Prof M Thenmozhi, head, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras, explains that the IITs' reputation for cutting-edge research, enables the creation of new knowledge, innovative frameworks, and advanced methodologies that are valued in the management domain.

IITs versus IIMs

"Since the batch size of MBA in the IITs is generally much smaller as compared to the older IIMs, it gives scope to a faculty member to focus on publications in top ranking peer reviewed journals," says Prof Rajat Agarwal, HoD DoMS, IIT Roorkee that offers MBA in eight terms as opposed to many IIMs where it is offered in trimester mode. "The IIT MBA structure also offers opportunities to work on live projects, and study electives from engineering and technology which expose students to techno managerial roles," Prof Agarwal says.

However, it is the IIMs that bring core B-school values in management education with a more people-oriented approach to solve problems. Prof Vinita S Sahay, director, IIM Both Gaya says that since some of the IIMs have been around for the last 70 years, they cannot be dislodged overnight. "Apart from the large talent pool even among the newer IIMs, all our faculty have PhDs which reflect on the learning outcomes. The IIMs are also pioneers in bringing the concept of Professors of Practice (PoPs) to classrooms, thereby enhancing students' industry focus," Prof Sahay says.

On the whole, industry relies on institutions such as the IITs to take students who can generate solutions to problems that need both management and technology skills. "Given the rapid growth of technology, their scope will only increase," Prof Thenmozhi adds.

Moving ahead



A look at the recent performance in the NIRF rankings indicate that while IIM Ahmedabad bagged the top rank, followed by IIM Bangalore and IIM Kozhikode at 2nd and 3rd position respectively, IIT Delhi secured the fourth position, followed by IIT Bombay at 10th rank, IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee at 16th and 18th position respectively in the management category. IIT Kharagpur also made it among the top 20 at 19th position, with IIT Kanpur at 29th rank, and IIT (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad bagging 46th position among the top 100 institutes.

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DO INDIAN LAWS REALLY NEED LATIN?

Archaic Language And Complex Wording Of Laws Reflect A Colonial Legacy. Simplifying How They're Written Will Benefit The Common Man And Lawyers Too, Says Vidhi Centre For Legal Policy

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This is not an excerpt from an old, outdated, colonial-era legislation. It is a provision in the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which the govt introduced in Lok Sabha on August 7, 2024. This is not an exception. It is the norm. In India, laws are not written simply. Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is battling for SARAL, or 'Simple Accessible Rational Actable Laws' to ensure 'Purna Swaraj' for the Indian statute book.

A Colonial Legacy

Writing laws in difficult-to-comprehend legalese is a colonial legacy. During the raj, laws were deliberately drafted in inaccessible language. This ensured that only a select few could understand, interpret, and take advantage of the law. The use of archaic English and Latin terms was also intended to send a message — the law was not made by Indians for Indians — it was a top-down imposition by the raj on its native subjects.

Consider an excerpt from the Bengal Indigo Contracts Act, 1836, which monopolised British control over the cultivation and trade of indigo and ultimately resulted in the Indigo revolt in Bengal. It also happens to be one of the oldest British legislations that is technically still in force in India as it has not been repealed. Hiding behind the complex, un-

wieldy language is a malicious intent — suppressing dissent before it even begins.

"...And it is hereby enacted, that when a lawful contract shall have been made between a ryut and another party, by which contract the ryut shall have bound himself to cultivate Indigo Plant for the other part, or to deliver Indigo Plant to the other party, and when the other party shall have advanced money to the ryut for the purpose of enabling the ryut to fulfill such contract, then if any other person, knowing that such contract exist, and that such advance has been made, shall prevail upon the ryut to break such contract, the party who made the advance shall be entitled to proceed by civil action against the person who shall have so prevailed on the ryut, as well as against the ryut, and to recover from him or them, jointly or severally, damages to the extent of the injury sustained, together with costs of suit."

Cutting Costs With Clarity

When laws and contracts are written in plain language, compliance costs go down and the rate of compliance shoots up. The simplification of a variety of legal instruments across the world has always resulted in financial savings.

In 1977, the Federal Communications Commission in the US rewrote the regulations for radio licensing, which were extremely difficult to understand and had led to intense litigation. As soon as the plain language version came into effect, the litigation almost vanished. There have been only three cases surrounding the regulations since then. The US FCC was also able to reassign the permanent staff members who had been employed to answer public queries on the complicated regulations.

Making The Pie Bigger

Some feel that lawyers will lose out if laws are made simple. That is a fallacy. Curiously, when India



WHAT DO JUDGES HAVE TO SAY?

Justice Gautam Patel — a former judge of Bombay High Court — and a strong votary of plain language laws, had this to say on SARAL:

Why do you think laws are complex and do you think this is a uniquely Indian problem?

■ I don't think it's uniquely Indian, though it is widely prevalent here. Complexity in law is something that's historically true. Lawyers speak an esoteric language. They also dress differently. This is based on a process of alienation and keeping the litigant and the common man away from this thing called justice.

So, that lends to complex and complicated structures. This has been historically true, but countries all over have begun to understand that this is an impediment and have begun to simplify processes. That's an exercise that I think is long overdue here.

What would it take for a plain language movement to develop in India?

■ First, we'd have to persuade consumers that this is in their interest. That it's not against them, but in their interest to actually have documentation that is easier to understand; that does not contain unnecessary ambiguities, leading to protracted litigation and uncertain results.

We've also inherited or retained a lot of the baggage from colonial British traditions and precedents, which the British don't use anymore. Their conveyances have become simpler. Their building society loan agreements have become simpler, their insurance policies are simpler. Ours have to keep up.

It is said that you need to use words like 'notwithstanding', 'provided that' to be precise while drafting laws. How would you respond?

■ Scholars on plain language will tell you that none of this is ever necessary. Some of these words are unnecessarily verbose and prolix. 'Provided that' can quite easily be substituted with a simple 'but'.

Will simply drafted instruments reduce litigation in this country?

■ They will reduce the uncertainty. Lawyers draft bespoke documents based on the transaction in question, and these have to be carefully structured. This will continue but should be done in simpler, more straightforward, more direct language. Use shorter sentences, and don't be afraid of the full stop. The time for SARAL laws is now.

THE BRITS HAVE MOVED ON

The British write their own laws simply now but, ironically, the colonial overhang still continues in India. At the turn of the millennium, England rewrote all its direct tax laws in plain language. Indian tax law continues to be a minefield of complexity. Just take a look:

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"Where any Central Act enacts that income-tax shall be charged for any assessment year at any rate or rates, income-tax at that rate or those rates shall be charged for that year in accordance with, and subject to the provisions (including provisions for the levy of additional income-tax) of, this Act in respect of the total income of the previous year of every person: Provided that where by virtue of any provision of this Act income-tax is to be charged in respect of the income of a period other than the previous year, income-tax shall be charged accordingly."

Income Tax Act, 2007 (England)

"The following Acts make provision about income tax — (a) ITEPA 2003 (which is about charges to tax on employment income, pension income and social security income and makes provision for the high income child benefit charge), (b) ITTOIA 2005 (which is about charges to tax on trading income, property income, savings and investment income and some other miscellaneous income), and (c) this Act (which contains the other main provisions about income tax)."

was considering dematerialising shares and digitising trade accounts in the 1990s, stockbrokers — who feared obsolescence and the loss of control over the market — were sceptical. Ultimately however, dematerialisation and digitisation made the whole process simpler, thereby increasing trust between investors and brokers, and expanding the size of the market. The staunchest opponent — the stockbroker — became the greatest beneficiary.

Similarly, simplifying laws will expand the size of the market as more individuals will be able to understand and enforce their rights. Going to court will always require lawyers, whether the language is simple or complex.

Curated by Arghya Sengupta, Aditya Prasanna Bhattacharya and Shireen Yachiu of the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, which is developing a set of tools for SARAL drafting

JMM flags, posters go missing from Champai's homes

ASRP Mukesh & Dhritiman Ray | TNN

Ranchi: Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren, in posts on 'X' sent hours after he suddenly flew to Delhi on Sunday afternoon amid raging rumours that he was set to join BJP, said the current phase of his career came about after he was "forced to resign as CM".

Champai did not take a direct flight to Delhi but went to Kolkata by road via Jamshepur on Saturday night and flew to Delhi from there.

Between his transit from Ranchi to Delhi, JMM flags and posters went missing from Champai's residence at Jilingora and his govt bungalow in Ranchi, lending credence to rumours that he was leaving the party. By Sunday afternoon, he also changed his bio on 'X' by removing his JMM and ministerial credentials, referring to himself only as former CM of Jharkhand. He described the current phase as "his personal struggle" and said he had no intention of involving any party member in it or causing harm to JMM, which, he said, had his blood and sweat.

"After watching the news today, many questions must be arising in your mind. What happened that brought the son of a poor farmer living in a small village of Kolhan to this turning point? From the day of my resignation as CM till today, and till the upcoming Jharkhand assembly election, all options are open for me in this journey," said the veteran tribal politician.

When CM Hemant Soren was arrested in Jan this year, he had chosen Champai as his successor. However, after Hemant was released on bail, he made Champai step down in July. He said, "Can there be anything more humiliating in a democracy than this incident in which a CM's programmes are cancelled by someone else? Despite swallowing this bitter insult, I said that the appointment



Former CM and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha neta Champai Soren in New Delhi on Sunday

letter distribution is scheduled in the morning while the legislature party meeting will be in the afternoon. So, I said I would join both events but I was flatly refused. For the first time in my spotless political journey in the last four decades, I was broken from within."

He continued, "Even as the CM, who happens to be the head of the legislature party, I was not even told the agenda of the meeting. During the meeting I was asked to resign. I was surprised but I had no desire for power so I immediately resigned, but I was emotional due to the blow to my self-respect. I felt as if I had no existence in the party, no existence at all, to which I had dedicated my entire life."

JMM was still to comment officially. However, JMM MLA and tourism minister Hafizul Hassan said, "He is the pillar of the party and is the most trusted general of JMM. We are hopeful that he will continue to remain with us in future."

BJP, on the other hand, said they have been highlighting how lust for power and a family-centric party forced Champai to turn away from JMM. Meanwhile Soren, while addressing a govt function in Godda district, said the INDIA bloc is ready to take on the NDA even if "election dates are announced tomorrow".

All accused have confessed to crime, say U'khand cops

► Continued from P1

Dehradun SSP Ajai Singh added, "She didn't appear mentally sound. She was also continuously changing her statements. She once said she was from Moradabad, and at another moment, she said she belonged to Patiala. The next day, during another counselling session, she said she had been raped. Officials immediately informed police, and a team, including female officers, visited the shelter. Once she felt comfortable, she disclosed the details of the crime during the third day of counselling. Following her statement, a case was registered against unidentified suspects on Saturday."

The police investigation, which included reviewing CCTV footage from the area, revealed that the girl was seen with one of the accused, leading to their identification and subsequent arrests.

"All of them confessed to the crime during the interrogation," Singh said.

Further investigation revealed the girl had run away from home several times before, and her parents, who are alive, were informed about the incident. They were expected to arrive in Dehradun on Sunday evening.

On Sunday, Kusum Kandwal, chairperson of the Uttarakhand State Commission for Women, and Dr Geeta Khanna, chairperson of the Uttarakhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, assessed the girl's condition. They condemned the recent horrific incidents in Uttarakhand—the rape of a nurse in Udham Singh Nagar followed by the gang rape of a teenage girl.

"Her apparent lack of concern about the incident raises questions about whether she has experienced similar trauma before," Khanna said.

3 devotees die as stray cattle send van off course

Bareilly: Three persons were killed and 15 sustained injuries when a minivan carrying devotees — mainly kirtan singers — from Haridwar turned turtle when the driver attempted to save stray cattle that suddenly appeared on the Delhi-Lucknow National Highway in Shahjahanpur district of UP on Sunday.

Police said victims were on their way to perform 'kirtan' (devotional songs) in Sitapur and had started from Haridwar, late on Saturday. Two were residents of Haridwar and the third was from Muzaffarnagar district. A survivor said the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle while trying to save cattle. There were around 20 devotees in the van, he added.

"The driver has been taken into custody and is being questioned," police said. After the accident, other devotees rushed to assist police. TNN

Unconventional film: Aattam's actors paused their day jobs to step into roles

► Continued from P1

Sanosh Murali is a percussionist. Prasanth Madhavan works as a tour operator, and Madhan Babu K is a govt employee. Selvaraj recalled the moment that changed his life. Before filming began, director Ekarshi called him out of the blue and asked how much he would need to leave his job for a month to work on the film. Selvaraj modestly quoted Rs 25,000, and to his amazement, the next day the money was deposited into his account.

"It was like something out of a movie," said the actor, who had played a small role in the 2010 film Kutty Srank starring Mammootty that also won the national award. Selvaraj, along with his friends, paused their day

Ekarshi, a psychology postgraduate, crafted the film with influences from Iranian filmmakers like Asghar Farhadi and the minimalist, psychological plays of August Strindberg

jobs to step into roles that required nothing more than their real selves. Their real names even became their character names in the film. "Anand Ekarshi and (actor) Vinay Fortt gave us a crash course on how to adapt real life into cinema," said Piravom. "We've shared decades of friendship, and this film grew out of our love of theatre and storytelling."

The creation of Aattam was unconventional, just like its cast.

Ekarshi, a psychology postgraduate, crafted the film with influences from

Iranian filmmakers like Asghar Farhadi and the minimalist, psychological plays of August Strindberg.

His aim was to retain authenticity, using fewer locations and simple costumes to build a world that feels grounded and real. The story revolves around the aftermath of a woman's sexual assault in a hotel, exploring how the crime sends ripples through the lives of those around her. Zarin Shihab, who plays the lead character Anjali, initially focused on uncovering the mystery of who commit-

ted the crime.

"But during rehearsals, I realised that wasn't the point. The story shows that it could be anyone. It was a cathartic experience, both as an actor and a person," she said. Unlike the rest of the cast, Shihab and co-star Kalbhavan Shajohn were not regulars at Lokadharmi Nadakaveedu. Yet they found themselves deeply intertwined with the group's ethos. For Selvaraj and his fellow actors, the success of Aattam has been deeply fulfilling. As Aji put it: "Financially, theatre isn't viable, but we do it for passion and the satisfaction it brings." And now, these amateur actors have shown that passion, perseverance, and a stroke of serendipity can turn ordinary lives into extraordinary cinema.

Truck overturned after hitting bus, says victim's son

► Continued from P1

They were moved to the district hospital in Bulandshahr and a private health facility in Salempur. Of them, four were referred to another medical centre. Most of the critically hurt suffered head injuries. Their families were informed and bodies sent for post-mortem," the Bulandshahr DM said.

Dharmendra Singh (19), a resident of Aligarh, who lost his father in the accident, told TOI: "The collision was so intense that the truck overturned on the road. My dad and I were travelling in the pick-up truck. We were going home for Raksha Bandhan."

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials on Sunday to provide all possible assistance.

Ganja-laced 'ayurvedic meds' seized from Hyd kirana store

Pinto, Deepak @timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: In a new trend, ganja-laced chocolates made in Uttar Pradesh are making their way into Hyderabad, guised as ayurvedic medicine. Wrapped in attractive packaging, the chocolates come with Ayurvedic Aushadh printed on wrappers.

A large consignment of these drug-infused chocolates was seized from a kirana store in Petbasheerabad by Cyberabad police on Sunday. The seized products had 14 gm of cannabis content for every 100 gm of chocolate, according to details printed on the packing. It also mentions the chocolate can be consumed twice a day to treat indigestion and other stomach-related issues, by mixing it with water.



The seized products had 14 gm of cannabis content for every 100 gm of chocolate, as per details printed on the packing

Acting on a tip-off, Cyberabad Special Operation Team sleuths raided Komal Kirana store — run by Pivesh Pandey, from UP — and found several packs of these chocolates. Cops said that at least 200 chocolates were seized from the store.

The chocolate cover also mentions that it can be con-

sumed twice a day to treat indigestion and other stomach-related issues, by mixing it with water.

During investigation, Pandey told the police that this 'Ayurvedic Aushadh' is easily available across UP and is also used as a medication for diabetes.

"The store owner belongs to Prayagraj district in UP, and has been living in the city for the past few years. For the past six months, he has been selling these chocolates at his kirana store," a police official from Cyberabad said.

Meanwhile, Telangana anti-narcotics bureau has identified several private players in UP and Rajasthan manufacturing ganja-laced chocolates and has alerted the respective state police departments.

2 drownings in Yamuna claim lives of 3 teens

Agra: Three youngsters drowned in the Yamuna river in two separate accidents in Agra within 24 hours, police said on Sunday.

Aman Singh, 18, on a visit to Bateshwar in Agra with his sisters — Rakhi and Neetu — to celebrate Raksha Bandhan, lost his life while bathing in the river around 9.30am on Sunday. At the temple ghat, he slipped and the strong currents swept him away. Divers and locals pulled him out of the water and he was taken to a community health centre in Bah, where doctors pronounced him dead.

In an incident on Saturday, two brothers, Aryan Kushwah, 14, and Vansh Kushwah, 16, residents of Shikohabad in Agra, drowned in the same river. Both were taking a bath at Panchmukhi Mahadev Ghat in Bateshwar. TNN

6 die as SUV hits divider, slams truck in Malda

Malda: Six people died in an accident in Bengal's Malda late Saturday when their SUV lost control, hit the highway divider and then slammed into an oncoming truck on the other flank. Police suspected the SUV was speeding and the driver was drunk.

Such was the impact of the crash on NH-12 in English Bazaar area that the driver's head was severed, police said. Five passengers died on the spot and another succumbed to his wounds at the hospital. One passenger is battling for his life. The deceased were between 18 and 20 years of age. They were returning home after dinner at an outlet in English Bazaar. Minister Sabina Yeasmin met their families at the hospital. TNN

Gear up to diagnose mpox cases early, govt tells top labs

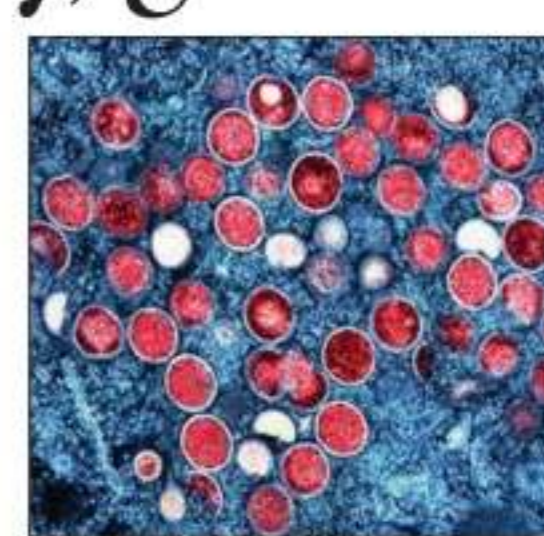
DurgeshNandan.Jha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Virus research and diagnostic laboratories (VRDLs) across the country have been asked to be ready for early diagnosis of Monkeypox (mpox), an infectious viral disease that was recently declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

VRDLs are a network of labs linked to the Indian Council of Medical Research that are equipped with cutting-edge technology for timely identification of viruses and other agents causing morbidity significant at public health level.

India has more than 100 VRDLs. Of them, 32 labs are currently equipped for testing mpox.

Dr P K Mishra, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, who chaired a high-level



As many as 32 labs in India are currently equipped to test mpox

meeting on Sunday to assess preparedness to deal with mpox in the country, directed authorities to enhance surveillance and take effective measures for prompt detection of cases. Mishra directed that the testing laboratories network should be geared up for early diagnosis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to monitor the mpox situation in view of its declaration as a public health emergency of international concern by WHO," it added.

The high-level meeting was briefed that as of now, there is no reported case of mpox in the country. As per the present assessment, the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low.

Mishra directed officials to disseminate the protocols for prevention and treatment of the disease on a large scale.

He further emphasised an awareness campaign among the healthcare providers regarding the signs and symptoms of the disease and the need for timely notification to the surveillance system.

The health ministry informed in the high-level meeting that sensitisation of teams at international airports (ports of entry) has been undertaken.

The WHO declared mpox a public health emergency on Aug 14 in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

Cops slap NSA on rape-murder accused in UP

'Performed Sex With Bodies Of Two Of His Victims'

Pathikrit Chakraborty | TNN



During his psychiatric evaluation, it was found that Amarendra had developed a deep-seated hatred towards women

Lucknow: National Security Act (NSA) has been slapped on a 22-year-old rape and murder accused languishing in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki jail for engaging in sexual activities with the bodies of two of his victims.

Amarendra Rawat, also charged with raping and attempting to murder two other women, was arrested in Jan 2023 while searching for another target in Ayodhya's Hunhuna village.

The killer's actions came to light on Dec 29, 2022, when the strangled body of a 60-year-old woman from Thathera village in Barabanki's Ramsanehighat was discovered in a nearby forested area. The elderly woman had gone there to relieve herself and was found dead the next day. "There were clear signs of rape followed by murder. During the in-

vestigation, it was revealed that a similar incident occurred on Dec 17 in Ibrahimabad village. Three days earlier, another attack took place in Kusehti, Ayodhya's Mawai area. On Dec 5, 2022, there was an attempted rape of an elderly woman defecating in a forested area near the neighbouring Dayarampur village. A witness filmed the attack, which helped us identify the suspect," Barabanki SP Dinesh Singh said.

During his psychiatric evaluation, it was found Amarendra had developed a deep-seated hatred towards women, which fueled his violent actions.

T'gana ASP held in phone-tap case gets bail after 5 months

Hyderabad: About five months after he was arrested for being part of the police team that conspired to tap phones of political bigwigs, including current Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy, N Bhujanga Rao, an additional superintendent of police rank officer, has been granted 15-day interim bail on medical grounds. Rao cited a previous heart ailment and claimed it required further treatment, reports Srinath Vudali.

The officer was in judicial remand since March 23. He was also charged with tapping phones of the current CM's family, leading industrialists and private individuals. According to some confessions, this was done to help BRS retain power in Telangana. The court said: "In view of the complexity of the medical conditions of the accused, it may require a thorough diagnosis which may even include his admission to hospital." After the completion of 15 days, Rao has to update the court about his treatment and surrender.

Police have named as accused six persons in the case, including former Special Intelligence Bureau chief Prabhakar Rao.

NEC withdraws draft vision plan over 'Chin State of Manipur' gaffe

Kangkan.Kalita1@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: North Eastern Council (NEC) has withdrawn its draft Vision Plan 2047 after Manipur CM N Biren Singh said that the Kuki (Chin) tribe of the state was erroneously identified as originating from "Chin State of Manipur" in the document. Biren announced the development on social media on Saturday.

The mistake was found in Chapter 3 of NEC Vision Plan 2047, titled "Art, Culture and Natural Heritage," which discussed the migration of ethnic tribes in northeastern region. Chin State is actually in Myanmar, which shares an international border with Manipur and Mizoram.

NEC planning adviser Som Kamei wrote to the chief secretaries of northeastern states on Saturday, saying, "The zero/first draft of NEC Vision Plan 2047, shared via M/o DoNER's emails dated August 9 and 17, is hereby withdrawn."

Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Civil Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna - 800014.
TEL. No: 0612-2225659, 2224423, Fax 0612 2224614, e-mail-cadbihaar@bihar.gov.in
Letter. No: सि/वि/पि (रैम) -01-06/2020

CORRIDGEMENT
(PR.NO.004642 (CSD)/2024-25)
CHANGE IN LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF AVIATION

With reference to our Advt. PR No. - 004642(CSD)/2024-25 published on date 25.07.2024 for Appointment of Director, Directorate of Aviation on contractual basis for two years or until regular appointment is made, whichever comes first, due to unavoidable Circumstances we hereby extend the last date of submission of application upto **23.08.2024 (Friday)**.

If required applicants may contact Director through Mob. no. 8757894141 or through mail cadbihaar@bihar.gov.in.
For detailed notification or further updates, kindly visit the website: www.state.bihar.gov.in/csd
Other terms and conditions of the advertisement published in PR.NO. 004642(CSD)/2024-25 will remain unchanged.
This bears approval of the Add. Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar (Nishith Verma) Director
PR- 006329 (Cabinet) 2024-25

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

Quality Council of India

Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous body under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The mandate of QCI is to lead a nationwide quality movement in India by involving all stakeholders for emphasis on adherence to quality standards. QCI is playing a pivotal role in propagating, adopting, and adhering to quality standards in all important spheres of activities through its constituent boards and divisions, namely, NABL, NABH, NABET, NABCB, NBQP, PPD, ZED and PADD. QCI is planning to have a dedicated office space in the New Delhi, and for this, we hereby invite proposals for:

S. No.	Name of tender	GeM bid number
1	Engagement of Agency for Design Consultancy services for Interior Works	GEM/2024/B/5301093
2	Engagement of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Interior Works	GEM/2024/B/5301145

The detailed set of requirements may be found on QCI's website (www.qci.org) or on GeM portal.

Interested parties should submit their technical and financial bids on GeM portal by 27.08.2024, 21:00 Hrs. The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) documents are available on QCI website under the tenders' section (<https://qci.org/work-with-us/#-tenders>)

Quality Council of India, Institution of Engineers Building, 4th Floor, 2, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002, India.

BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY
VIDHYUT BHAWAN, ANNEXE - II, BAILY ROAD, PATNA 800021
Telephone: 91-612-2504980, Telefax: 91-612-2504960
Email: info@brlp.in, website: www.brpls.in

INVITATION OF BID FOR PREPARATION OF RATE BANK FOR PROCUREMENT OF 28 DAYS REARED BIRD BY CBO'S PROMOTED BY BRLPS (JEEVIKA)

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), a Government of Bihar Society invites sealed bids (Two Envelope -offline) from eligible bidders for preparation of Rate Bank of 28 days reared bird by Community Based Organization promoted by BRLPS.

Particulars	Date and time
1. Downloading of bidding document	19/08/2024 Through BRLPS website.
2. Closing date and time for submission of Bid at BRLPS office, Patna (Bihar)	10/09/2024 at 16:00 hr
3. Opening of Technical Bid at BRLPS office, Patna (Bihar)	10/09/2024 at 16:30 hr
4. Opening of Financial Bid	Will be communication through email to technically qualified bidder/s.

Note: - Any addendum /clarification if any will be uploaded on BRLPS website.

Bidding documents with detailed information may be seen/ downloaded from www.brpls.in/Procurement/Tender. This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No. 006393 (B & C) 2024-25 (Chief Executive Officer cum Mission Director)

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Focus on green energy as Malaysian PM arrives in India today

Aradhana Takhtani | TNN

Kuala Lumpur: Visiting Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim is expected to make an emphatic pitch for Indian investments to revive his country's economy and amplify its digital and green energy sectors given India's solid experience and skill. Anwar is scheduled to reach Delhi on Monday evening. This will be Malaysia's first prime-ministerial visit to India since 2018. He will meet PM Narendra Modi on Aug 20.



and support on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Artificial Intelligence.

India has a robust long-term growth trajectory, aided by new EV policy measures that are wooing investors. But with Tesla recently scrapping its plan to manufacture EVs in Malaysia, govts here finds itself in a difficult spot. It has, from time to time, announced its readiness to shift gears in the car market and build an EV ecosystem with battery development. Barring a few wealthy buyers, EVs still face low demand. Experts in the sector believe Anwar will seek investment from India to grow this promising but nascent industry in Malaysia.

Other key sectors will include import of palm oil from Malaysia that suffered due to former PM Mahathir Mohamad's trenchant posturing on Kashmir. Anwar will seek to iron this out with Modi. India imported Malaysian palm oil to the value of 7.08 billion Malaysian Ringgit between Jan to Aug 2023. The two sides will also review the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to include new items on the list.

After assault on cabin crew, AI to shift staff to safer UK hotel

New Delhi: Following a shocking assault on its cabin crew at her room in a London hotel by an intruder earlier this week, Air India has decided to move its staff to another property, reports Saurabh Sinha.

The airline has asked the management of Radisson Red Hotel, Heathrow Airport, to ensure safety of its crew till they are relocated to a safer place.

The crew had been complaining of poor security for some time to the hotel management to no avail, sources said. It is learnt the crew felt unsafe at this property due to no CCTV surveillance in many areas; no response of hotel staff to emergency calls; no staff at reception often; frequent random knocking on doors and windows from outside by strangers; dim lighting; staff entering room without knocking.

On Sunday, Air India said in a statement: "We are deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain that affected one of our own... We constantly review travel and stay arrangements, made at reputed international hotel chains, based on feedback of our employees and internal review to ensure the safety and comfort of employees. In this particular instance, we have taken immediate measures and decided to move our colleagues to another hotel."

Nepal FM in India to hold talks with EAM to bolster ties

Kathmandu: Nepal's new Foreign Minister Arzu Deuba Rana on Sunday embarked on a five-day official visit to India during which she will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss ways to strengthen the bilateral ties and promote cooperation.

Rana is visiting India at the invitation of Jaishankar, the foreign ministry said in a statement. "This is Rana's first official visit to a foreign country after assuming charge. "During the visit, Foreign Minister Rana will hold a bilateral meeting with her Indian counterpart Jaishankar and discuss matters of mutual interest for strengthening Nepal-India relations and promoting cooperation," the statement said.

As part of the regular exchange of high-level visits between Nepal and India, Rana's trip will further consolidate the age-old, deep and multifaceted relations between the two neighbours, the statement said. "Nepal is a priority partner of India in its Neighbourhood First policy. The forthcoming visit will provide both sides an opportunity to discuss and review the progress in bilateral cooperation and help in advancing our ties further," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Office of Executive Engineer
Master Planning Investigation and Project Preparation Division-2
Block -A/502 Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Anisabad, Patna- 800002
Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar
E-mail: pippmpat@gmail.com

Memo No. - यो०/५०-२/१३/२०२४-३०६
Short Term EoI Notice No. - 02/2024-25

Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for "Preparation of Detailed Project Report of River linking Project related to Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar"

- Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar** invites experienced consulting firms to submit their expression of interest for providing comprehensive consultancy services for "Preparation of Detailed Project Report of River linking Project related to Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar".
- Interested Consultants may upload/submit their proposal as scheduled below:-**

Sl. No.	Information	Detail
1.	Website for submission of online offer.	http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
2.	Date and Time for submission of online offer.	26/08/2024 to 06/09/2024 Upto 15:00 hrs (IST).
3.	Date and Time for opening of offer.	At 16:00 hr on 06/09/2024.

- The objective of consultancy:** Conducting detail site investigations, survey and data collection, performing feasibility studies to assess technical, economic, and environmental aspects, analyzing sustainability considerations including long-term operational and maintenance strategies, undertaking comprehensive hydrological and hydraulic studies including water balance study relevant to the project area, developing design and engineering drawings for the river linking project, conducting cost estimation and financial analysis for all project elements, performing comprehensive social and environmental studies including impact assessments and mitigation strategies, creating accurate hydraulic models and simulations & preparing a detailed project report (DPR) that includes all findings, designs, models, and recommendations for project implementation. The goal is to prepare a working DPR that aligns with best practices and regulatory standards.
- The consulting firms will prepare DPR** in accordance with prevailing guidelines of Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Government of India, and assist in obtaining techno-economic clearance from CWC.
- Interested firms should possess the following qualifications:** Proven experience in water resources engineering with a focus on river linking projects, demonstrable expertise in hydrological, hydraulic modelling and water balance study, a track record of conducting feasibility and sustainability studies for large-scale infrastructure projects, strong capabilities in civil and structural engineering design and drawing, experience in cost estimation and financial planning for large engineering projects, expertise in conducting social and environmental studies, complying with environmental and social regulations & previous experience in preparing DPRs for similar projects and its clearance from CWC.
- Firms interested in submission of interest must submit the following:** Company profile detailing previous projects and experience, evidence of technical and professional capability (certificates, awards, and references), a brief proposal outlining the approach and methodology to the project scope & any other documents that support the firm's qualifications and expertise. Potential firms will undergo a short listing process assessing their technical expertise, project experience, financial stability, and compliance with legal and ethical standards.
- Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria:**
 - The firms must have at least 5 years of experience in preparing DPR of various river linking projects and having valid incorporation/Registration certificate along with valid PAN, GST, EPF registrations, Power of Attorney and declaration of Non-Blacklisting / Debarred.
 - The firm must have minimum experience in preparation of at least one DPR with project cost of INR 200 Crore or more in last 5 years.
 - The firm must have audited minimum Average Annual Turnover (AAT) of INR 15 crore from consultancy Service in last three financial years i.e. 2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21.
 - The firm must have experience in obtaining Techno-Economic Clearance for at least one DPR from CWC in last 10 years.
 - The firm must have at least one key personnel on regular payroll in each of the following categories :-
 - Water Resources Expert having 15 years' experience in relevant field with Post-graduate in Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
 - Hydrology/hydraulic Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Post-graduate in Civil Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
 - Engineering Geologist having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Master degree in geology or equivalent.
 - Geo-technical Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Master degree in Geo-technical Engineering or equivalent.
 - Civil/ Structural Design Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Master degree in Civil Engineering/ Structural Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
 - Hydro-mechanical/ Hydraulic Gate Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with B. E. / B. Tech. in Civil Engineering/ Mechanical Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
 - Construction Planning/ Costing Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Master degree in Civil Engineering/ Structural Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
 - River Engineering cum Morphology Expert having 10 years' experience in relevant field with Post-graduate in Water Resources Engineering or equivalent.
- The firms, who successfully meet above criteria, will be shortlisted for further activities.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address - Executive Engineer, Master Planning Investigation & Project Preparation Division- 2, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Anisabad, Patna -800002, Phone - 9471004696, E-mail:pippmpat@gmail.com from 10:30 to 17:00 hours (IST) on all working days.
- This notice for the Expression of Interest will also be available on websites <https://wrd.bihar.gov.in>, <http://prdbihar.gov.in> and <http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
- e- procurement details -
 - The BSEDC Processing Fee of Rs. 590/- (Rupees Five Hundred Ninety) inclusive of all taxes has to be paid through e-payment mode only by online payment gateway.
 - For any support related to e-procurement process, agencies may contact at following toll free no. or address - Toll Free No. 1800 572 6571, Email: id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, mjunction services limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, opposite Vidyaepist Institute, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. Shashtri Nagar, Patna-800014.
- The EoI opening and evaluation will be done through online mode only.
- The Water Resources Department Govt. of Bihar doesn't take any responsibility for delay/Non Submission of EoI or Non Reconciliation of online payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet connection, Network Traffic/Holidays or any other such reason.
- Any corrigendum or date extension notice will be published on the above e-Procurement website only and it is the responsibility of the consultant to regularly check the status on the e-proc 2.0 website.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the EoI (Expression of Interest) without assigning any reason.
- The Consultant must assign a page no. to all the documents uploaded with their offer duly signed and stamped by their authorized representative. (Executive Engineer)

PR. No. 006403 (WRD) 2024-25

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

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

JEEVIKA
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society
State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar

INVITATION OF PROPOSAL UNDER NON-CONSULTING SERVICES (Two Envelope E-procurement)

Selection of Solution Provider for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of a Management Information System (MIS) with Analytics for Mahila Samvad in the State of Bihar

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society-JEEVIKA invites online proposal from registered service provider for Selection of Service Provider for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of a Management Information System (MIS) with Analytics for Mahila Samvad in the State of Bihar. Interested service providers may download Request for Proposal (RFP) document from <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. The RFP can also be seen at www.brpls.in/procurement/tender for reference purpose. Other information is as follows:

Description of services	Selection of Service Provider for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of a Management Information System (MIS) with Analytics for Mahila Samvad in the State of Bihar.
Date for start of downloading the Request for Proposal document	19/08/2024 through e-Procurement Portal https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Pre-Bid Meeting	27/08/2024 at 11:00 AM at BRLPS Office, Patna, Bihar.
Last Date/Time for uploading the Proposal (Pre-qualification, Technical and Financial)	10/09/2024 till 03:00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Date/Time for Opening the Pre-qualification & Technical Proposal	10/09/2024 at 03:30 PM on the e-Procurement Portal https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Nodal Person from Client	Dr. Santosh Phone: 0612-2504980 (Extn. 242)

For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address during working hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays on "eProc 2.0 Help Desk Address: m-junction services limited RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar. Tollfree No:1800 572 6571 or may contact on Email: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No. 006399 (B & C) 2024-25 (Chief Executive Officer cum Mission Director)

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

बिहार सरकार

भवन निर्माण विभाग,
कार्यपालक अभियंता, संरचना प्रमंडल संख्या 3, पटना
केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट एवं www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
S.B.D (EPC) ई- निविदा संख्या-02, Cons-3 / 2024-25

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, संरचना प्रमंडल संख्या 3, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना।
2. निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि	दिनांक-19.08.2024
3. निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-19.08.2024 से 09.09.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा जमा करने (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-10.09.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक।
5. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-11.09.2024 को 15:30 बजे।
6. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बीड खोलने के पश्चात्।
7. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	(क)दिनांक-28.08.2024 को 16:00 बजे औद्योगिक अभियंता, संरचना अंचल, भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में। (ख) दिनांक-02.09.2024 को 16:00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता (पटना) भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
8. निविदा वेबसाईट की अवधि	120 दिन
9. निविदा स्वीकृत करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम	रक्षक प्राधिकार
10. परमाणु विपत्र बिडों का स्थान	केवल वेबसाईट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर
11. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान	केवल वेबसाईट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

कार्य की विवरणी:-

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (₹) में	अद्यतन की राशि (₹) में	निविदा का मूल्य (अनुपारंपरीय) (₹) में	ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया संचालक सॉफ्टवेयर (₹) में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)
1	संयुक्त कार्यालय भवन, पूर्वी गार्डन रोड, पटना का निर्माण कार्य।	₹60,75,23,000/-	₹70,75,500/-	10,000/-	As Per eproc2	18 महीना

विरतुत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
संरचना प्रमंडल संख्या-03,
भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना
पटना-23

PR. No. 006394 (BCD) 2024-25

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।



CONTRAPUNTO

Evil is unspectacular and always human, and shares our bed and eats at our own table

-WH AUDEN

It's Safe To Say...

...That every case of assaulted woman is a blow against women's workforce participation

There is no possible road to India's prosperity, which doesn't run through it becoming a gender fair society. Everyone doesn't need to march to "reclaim the night". But everyone does need to understand the costs of continued indifference to the security needs of women. As IMF's Gita Gopinath indicated this weekend, India's economic aspirations can't be met without lifting its women's labour force participation, which in turn depends on actively ensuring women's safety.

It is bad enough that the women's labour force participation rate in India is about half of, say, Vietnam. What's much worse is how few Indian women are actually getting paid. A 2023 Azim Premji University report, for example, suggests that only about 17% of urban women are in the paid workforce. Rural women are much worse off. This amounts to women being caught in a vicious cycle. Their unpaid work, be it domestic or agricultural or in family enterprises, has low status. Seeking paid work, or higher education to enable it, is discouraged on account of various factors, very high among which is lack of safety.

Efforts to ensure their safety often, ironically, involve putting them in a cage. There's a maze of laws and regulations to curb whether they can work at night or in jobs deemed hazardous or arduous or morally inappropriate. These also end up curbing women's ability to rise up the ladder. Becoming a top manager means overcoming all the impediments, and also, as Gopinath indicated too, the countless suggestions to just chill, which men just don't have to contend with. We have no way of knowing how many chains and hurdles the doctor raped and murdered at a Kolkata medical college and hospital on Aug 9, had to break through to be on night duty. But we know that in the press conference that day, her principal said she had been "irresponsible" to go to the seminar hall alone at night. The thing that women know about staying in a cage, though, is that it only gets more and more oppressive, and has a safety rating of zero.

This is a complex social problem, no doubt. But there's no solving it without tough deterrence. CCTVs are everywhere in our cities now. Everyday, police must publicise how it has used these to catch a sexual assailant. Stop telling women where not to go. Start making more transports and destinations assault-free. By swiftly punishing the men who commit the assaults.



Think Laterally

Reservations shouldn't be applicable when recruiting outside talent for short stints in govt

Opposition parties have charged that GOI's advertisement for 45 lateral entry posts in the bureaucracy is unmindful of reservation provisions. Jobs advertised include those of joint secretary, director, and deputy secretary in 24 ministries of the central govt. But if the idea here is to recruit talent from outside the civil services system and tap domain expertise, reservations for lateral recruitment make little sense.

Enhancing merit | The whole purpose of lateral recruitment is to try and make the bureaucratic system more efficient. Specifically, lateral recruits are expected to deliver on specific projects and achieve faster implementation of fresh ideas. The purpose of affirmative action is to bypass structural social barriers to opportunities. Thus, the objectives are vastly different. Note that lateral entry posts are temporary in nature, lasting three to five years. Lateral recruitment should, therefore, focus on only getting the best expertise for the job, irrespective of the social background of the candidate.

Global experience | Lateral entry in govt isn't a new idea. In US, a special govt employee category was created by Congress in 1962 to allow the federal govt to take advantage of outside experts. From 2005 to 2014, an average of 2,000 such employees worked every year for various US govt departments. Similarly, Britain has had the system of special advisers assisting ministers for decades.

Keep politics out | It's also the opposition's case that lateral entrants may be biased towards the party in govt. But this also holds true for regular, senior bureaucratic appointments, in Centre and in states. Calibre ought to be the only criteria for lateral entrants since they will serve very specific functions for a limited period. For the sake of a nimble bureaucracy, let's not politicise the idea.

Independence Day 2424

On what Forster got wrong, and also his printer

Harish Trivedi



On the last page of an English novel published in 1924, an India-friendly British character nevertheless mocks India's aspirations to achieve freedom: "India a nation!" The Indian character he is closest to retorts: "If it's fifty or five hundred years, we shall get rid of you, we shall drive every blasted Englishman into the sea, and then... you and I shall be friends!"

So, the timeline projected by even this fervent Indian patriot has India attaining freedom in 1974 at the earliest and in 2424 at the latest. But the British printer of the book presumably could not believe what he saw in the manuscript and quietly changed "fifty or five hundred years" to "fifty-five hundred years" - which would take us virtually to the extinction of Planet Earth at the rate we are going.

This printing error persisted through scores of reprints for no reader seemed to find much wrong with it! It was corrected only in 1948 after India had in fact become free, which was only 23 years after the novel was published.

This novel was *A Passage to India* by EM Forster, probably the greatest novel about India ever written by a Westerner. He was not the only one to believe what he did. Lord Curzon, who had served two terms as the Viceroy of India and knew the ground reality, also declared in the 1920s that British rule in India would last for another five hundred years. Building their grand new capital in New Delhi on Raisina Hill, the British claimed it would last a thousand years. It will may, but when Lord Irwin became the first occupant in 1931 of Viceroy House, he could not have foreseen how soon afterwards that House would change hands and name.

In fact, many Indians did not anticipate how soon independence would come. It was only at the annual session of Indian National Congress in Lahore in Dec 1929 that a resolution asking for "Purna Swaraj" was adopted. Indian Liberals did not then support full independence nor did Muslim League.

Forster did get one thing right. The first section of his novel is titled "Mosque" and the last "Temple", signalling the enduring communalist tension. He had written on Mohammad Iqbal and it would be Iqbal who would in 1930 be the first to ask for a separate Muslim "State". Fiction can at times be as strange as truth.

Why Some Horrors Affect Us All

Cases like the RG Kar and Nirbhaya rape-murders feel like a faultline in civilisation itself. The feeling of being trapped spreads among countless women. Taking to the streets is survival mode

Rajat Mitra



The word rape comes from the Latin word *raptus*, to seize another man's property. Also called sexual assault, it is a heinous crime like no other. It is the only crime where the crime scene is the victim's body and not the geographic location. It shatters our basic assumptions about safety and where we are going as a society.

Two questions that police officers and forensic experts ask most often in cases of sexual assault are, "Whose body is it?" and "How much has it been brutalised?" This has been true of both the Nirbhaya and the RG Kar cases too. One victim was a physiotherapy intern and the other a trainee doctor. So, both women were going to serve as caretakers of humanity. The nature of brutalisation of their bodies feels like a faultline in civilisation itself. It wounds the most cherished values of society.

Research indicates that eight out of 10 Indian women live with a significant fear of rape and are constantly trying to distance and detach themselves from what they read and hear about it. But some cases smash through this barrier of "it is happening to someone else." The fear and horror are as if all women are under attack. As if they too are trapped and immobilised.

Privacy and control are the keys in this crime. The rapist destroys what is private for us and is not private for the rapist. He establishes control over the victim in the unlikeliest of places, and the nearer it is to the place where we feel safe, the more traumatic it becomes for us all.

In a city, a bus and a hospital are two places where we feel our children and women should be safe and protected. An attack on a person in a moving vehicle with hundreds of people driving other vehicles surrounding it, or in a hospital where thousands of patients and workers are around, makes us wonder why no one

saw anything or raised an alarm.

In another case in 2002, a medical student while walking back from her college was raped in broad daylight at Delhi's Khooani Darwaza, a monument in the middle of a street open from all sides, and quite close to police headquarters. A police officer said that he found it difficult to answer why the rapist chose that as a 'safe' place of all places and was able to evade detection for so long.

In cases such as these, the rapist is able to establish total control over the victim. It also symbolises for him control over society itself, because he has overcome all the mechanisms that keep society safe, because he has ruptured a painstakingly and collectively built security fabric in no time at all. He feels this, so do the people. This is why the demand for retributive justice increases after every rape, why people demand capital punishment for rapists.

The rapist establishes control over the victim in the unlikeliest of places, and the nearer it is to where we feel safe, the more traumatic it becomes for us all

Research shows that rape, out of all crimes, most closely reminds us of the predator-prey encounters that we have evolved from. The cases that draw our focus tell us that we can get trapped and our bodies can be under attack. It is as if a society becomes immobilised with its deepest fear about losing control and fragmenting itself.

That is the reason we see people take to the streets as a collective, marching to demand justice. Some primitive senses have been triggered in our brains, in those parts of the brain that are responsible for survival. Recall how people marched in medieval times to the King's palace to demand justice for the wronged.

As we hear or watch reports of the graphic details, our body too can experience extreme duress. One of the myths we try to hold is that rape is predictable and can be avoided: If a woman doesn't wear

short clothes and if she doesn't behave in a way that provokes a man, she remains safe. While these myths stand shattered, there is no other escape plan.

Even in the most patriarchal part of society, it is impossible to do "victim blaming" in such cases. How do you blame a doctor working in a hospital for taking a rest after hours of duty? You cannot say she "asked for it". A woman student articulated her feeling of being diminished by the RG Kar rape-murder: "This case shows to me that my upbringing, my gender, my personality and professionalism don't make a difference to society."

Every rape becomes a survival test for other women, in their mind. It makes them wonder: "Is there a survival kit within me that can prevent me from falling into such a situation?"

After analysing women who have survived a rape attempt, research has revealed five distinct survivor types: the fighter, the believer, the connector, the thinker and the realist. Each type negotiated with the offender in a unique way to stop him from committing the act.

It would not be down to her as an individual, if there was larger political will amounting to zero tolerance towards rape. But rape affects everyone. So it will also take each one of us showing in some measurable way that we have zero tolerance towards this heinous crime, to end its terror.

The writer is a professor of psychology



Counting Castes Is All Politics, Zero Policy

There's value in a caste census. But too much politics is driving the demand for it. It's Congress's tool to scatter BJP's attempts at Hindu vote consolidation

Chetan Bhagat



One of BJP's major political achievements has been its successful consolidation of the 'Hindu vote'. This translated into massive vote share gains for the saffron party. Congress tried several times to enable votes to return to them, but nothing really worked. Bottom line was that if the majority Hindu vote were to remain a unified bloc behind BJP, there was no way Congress, and its allies, could ever hope to return to office.

This is why, following some recovery in 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress and allies are trying extra hard to work on that essential ingredient needed for their success - cracks in the 'Hindu vote'. The caste census is opposition's shot at scattering away some of the Hindu consolidation.

What worked for Congress was its Dalit-Muslim support base. Muslims largely voted for Congress in the April-May Lok Sabha elections. Its Dalit support base, however, had eroded following BJP's thrust to consolidate the 'Hindu vote'.

A somewhat rejuvenated Congress and a new Rahul Gandhi are now all set to break up this BJP bloc - using the caste census. There are arguments for and against the caste census. But who are we kidding? Its inherent value aside, the issue is fundamentally political - a deft strategy by Congress. But whether it will succeed depends much on how BJP handles the issue.

The main benefit of a caste census is to better understand the caste picture across the country. That is not only compiling numbers but also collating their socio-economic position. In any caste, for instance, how many of those who profess to be of that caste, own cars? How many own two-wheelers? What is their level of education? Where do they live, what's the median age? Answers will help sharpen welfare

measures, including reservation. India is a low-income country with limited resources and opportunities. Within this, resources are to be redistributed to the less privileged and historical wrongs corrected.

However, if current measures are based on dated assumptions and incorrect data, it is likely a waste of resources as welfare policy may end up targeted at those for whom such measures are not intended.

We live in times where data gathering is used to optimise everything. Apps provide us traffic data on every street to help plan our trips better. Advertisers

use social media usage data to target ads better. Similarly, to have accurate data to enact welfare and reservation schemes seems like a no-brainer. As they say, what gets measured, gets managed.

There are cons of the caste census too. The biggest one is that all these exercises ultimately keep the caste system alive. Even SC reservation, a caste welfare measure for the most marginalised, keeps caste alive. What is our ultimate goal as a society? To have

maximum reservation? Or that one day we will have a society where caste does not exist. Again, no easy answer. But one thing is clear. Until caste exists, and caste-based reservation exists, having good caste-based macro socio-economic data is extremely important.

But, this is as much about politics as about looking out for the marginalised. Just as there were logical arguments for and against Ram Temple and Article 370. But ultimately, these two issues were also about politics. These two issues helped BJP consolidate the Hindu vote.

Caste census will reveal variations within communities, and among individuals of any caste. Some may be doing better than expected, which should be the case especially if reservations have worked. Data will demand a policy rejig. But more reservation will upset upper castes. If all goes to plan, it will serve its political intention - detonate and scatter the Hindu vote. Little surprise why BJP is slow-footed on this one.

And yet, we have to conduct a caste census at some point. Not doing it may upset the non-upper caste swathe, which itself is a risk for BJP. Congress is trying to put BJP in the Chakravayuh - BJP's trapped if it does and trapped if it doesn't.

BJP must communicate that as the "Hindu" party, it is they who will take point on the caste census in some form. Last thing BJP needs is for lower castes to believe that the party doesn't care for them. BJP must navigate carefully, to ensure it takes the good out of the caste census while not falling into Congress's trap.

Congress too doesn't want to be seen as political opportunist, and alienate upper caste voters even before the caste census has begun. It also needs to reveal the results of the caste survey already carried out in Karnataka and declare what actions it will take basis the Karnataka data. Essentially, it needs to walk the talk.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

Love isn't something natural. Rather it requires discipline, concentration, patience, faith, and the overcoming of narcissism. It isn't a feeling, it is a practice.

Erich Fromm

A Roadmap To Divine Union And Liberation

Swami Bhaktivenkateshwara

Among the 12 Hindu poet-saints of South India known as Alvars, there was only one female named Andal. She lived around the seventh century in Srivilliputhur, 80km from Madurai. Along with her father, Vishnuchithan, she was an ardent devotee of Ranganath, the sleeping form of Vishnu. Andal wanted to marry Ranganath.

Every day, Vishnuchithan would offer a tulsi garland to his beloved deity. When her father was away, she would wear the garland intended for the Lord and look at her reflection to see if she was a fit consort for her Isht Dev. One day, Andal was found out by her father, who remonstrated her for such a sacrilege. But that night, Vishnu appeared to Vishnuchithan in

a dream and told him he was most pleased with Andal's devotion and that from now on, he would only accept garlands first worn by her. Vishnuchithan did accordingly.

When it was time to get Andal married, the Lord told her father to bring her to Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, where the marriage would take place. When she was led into the sanctum sanctorum, to the surprise of all present, she merged with the murti of Ranganath and gained liberation. Pious tradition holds Andal to be the incarnation of Bhumi Devi.

During her life, Andal refused to give in to earthly marriage because she only wanted the Lord. She was self-realised and ready to gain mukti. Once we have

understood that only the Supreme gives meaning to life and we are nothing without it, we may come to realise that the Lord should be our ultimate goal to reach. The Divine is always there for us, but are we ready to receive it?

This is the first question that spiritual practitioners should explore before starting any sadhana. We must be willing to renounce everything mundane - good or bad.

This will show us how much we have become attached to family and friends and, indeed, to all the pleasures and comforts that life may offer us. But are they worth hanging onto when they hold us back from developing spiritually towards the Divine? Is not God-realisation the ultimate fulfilment of all life?

We must trust the Lord, even when doubts and questions arise. By combining our faith with devotion, we will feel guidance from within sooner or later. At first, it might seem like listening to an Inner Knowledge that we cannot explain, but it will always make sense in hindsight.

Andal knew it was best for her to follow only the divine call within. Nothing else mattered, and no attachments to family prevented her from reaching the Ultimate. We should take her example as inspiration and follow the Divine to achieve our goal. That way, we will realise in moments outside the mind - away from our usual mental patterns - that life makes sense with the Divine shining within. God can shower Its grace and blessings at any moment - all we have to do is be open and follow our inherent dharma.



THE SPEAKING TREE

Both candidates embrace expansions of gov power to steer economic outcomes — but in vastly different areas

Source: NYT News Service



KAMALA HARRIS

Large tax increases on corporations and high earners to assist low-income and middle-class workers who are struggling to build wealth

Big tax breaks to cos engaged in what Harris sees as delivering great economic benefit — like manufacturing tech needed to fight global warming, or building affordable housing

Supports exempting more tipped income from federal taxes

DONALD TRUMP

New taxes on imported goods in a bid to force more cos to make products in America

Pledged to continue cutting taxes, including extending cuts for individuals that he signed in a 2017 tax overhaul and eliminating federal income taxes on social security benefits and tip income

Deport millions of immigrants to bring housing prices down

India's holding of US gov securities hits 1-year high

New Delhi: India's holding of US gov securities touched a one-year high of \$241.9 billion in June as the country continued to increase its exposure for the third straight month. Japan was the top holder with securities worth over \$1.11 trillion, followed by China at the second spot with a holding valued at \$780.2 billion in June, according to the latest data released by the US Treasury Department. At the third place was the UK with an exposure of \$741.5 billion. AGENCIES



FPIs pull out ₹21k cr from equities in Aug

New Delhi: Foreign investors continued their selling in the Indian equity markets in Aug, offloading shares worth Rs 21,201 crore due to the unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US and geopolitical conflicts. This came after an inflow of Rs 32,365 crore in July. AGENCIES

Hero MotoCorp gets over ₹17cr GST notice

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp on Sunday said it has received a demand notice of over Rs 17 crore from Delhi GST authorities. Based on the company's assessment, the tax demand is not maintainable in law, it said. AGENCIES

BPCL plans to invest ₹1.7L cr for expansion

New Delhi: BPCL plans to invest Rs 1.7 lakh crore over five years to grow its core oil refining and fuel marketing business as well as in 'future big bets' of petrochemicals and green energy, its chairman G Krishnakumar said. BPCL owns about 14% of India's oil refining capacity. AGENCIES

India-Oz trade deal talks resume today

New Delhi: Chief negotiators of India and Australia will begin the next round of talks for the comprehensive free trade agreement from Monday in Sydney, where both sides are likely to close negotiations on several chapters of the pact, an official said. AGENCIES

figure it out

94 central banks across the world have cut interest rates in 2024. 19 have raised the rate this year



At 5.9%, Bihar records highest inflation in July

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Bihar recorded the highest inflation rate at 5.9% among states and Union territories in July, followed by Assam at 5.1%, while Jharkhand had the lowest rate at 1.7% during the month, latest retail inflation data showed.

Odisha, which had been witnessing stubborn price pressures, posted a rate of 4.8%, while Uttar Pradesh had 4.6%. Haryana and Kerala both recorded 4.5% inflation rates.

Out of the 22 states and Union territories for which data is published, 20 of them had an inflation below 5%. This is below the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance band and a major relief from the inflationary pressures witnessed during past few months.

JHARKHAND SEES LOWEST RATE

States with highest inflation in July (%)

Bihar	5.9
Assam	5.1
Odisha	4.8
UP	4.6
Haryana	4.5
Kerala	4.5

States/UTs with lowest inflation (%)

Jharkhand	1.7
Delhi	2.1
Chhattisgarh	2.2
Rajasthan	2.5
Uttarakhand	2.8

Latest data released by the National Statistical Office on Monday showed retail inflation softened to a near 5-year low in July, led by a moderation in vegetables, fruits and spices, and the impact of a statistical high-base effect.

India Inc profit shrinks 3% in Q1, worst qtr since pandemic

Slowdown Despite Stable Interest Rates, Lower Input Costs: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Corporate India's profits shrunk by 3.1% in the first quarter of FY25 compared to a 31% growth in the corresponding quarter last year. In terms of earnings growth, this is the worst first-quarter performance after the pandemic (since Q1FY21).

In Q1FY25, net sales of 2,539 companies totalled Rs 22.9 lakh crore, a 5.2% increase from Rs 21.7 lakh crore in Q1FY24. Total expenditure rose by 6.4%, reaching Rs 19.6 lakh crore compared to Rs 18.5 lakh crore in the previous year. Net profit shrunk by 3.1%, with companies reporting Rs 1.9 lakh crore net profit in Q1FY25, down from Rs 1.97 lakh crore in Q1FY24, a report by Bank of Baroda's economics department showed.

The corporate scorecard excludes the performance of companies in the BFSI segment. Meanwhile, an analysis of the country's top 50 companies represented in the Nifty by Motilal Oswal shows that their profit after

DEBT STILL UNDER CONTROL

Continued muted sales growth, which remains in single digits, is a concern, according to a Bank of Baroda report

The profit slowdown impacts calculation of gross value added, leading RBI to lower its GDP forecast for Q1FY25

However, the ability to pay interest (ratio of earnings before interest and tax to interest expenses) has not been affected much as borrowings are under control

Sectors like cement, iron, and steel saw sales hit by heatwaves and elections, while consumer durables gained from the heat.

tax rose 4%, with the aggregate performance being dragged down by public sector oil marketing companies. Excluding the oil marketing companies, Nifty 50 posted 9% growth in earnings.

el saw sales impacted by heatwaves and general elections, while consumer durables benefited from the heat, achieving their best quarterly sales.

FMCG companies reported a sequential sales pickup and are optimistic due to the satisfactory monsoon progress. The overall profit slowdown is significant, as it impacts the calculation of gross value added, leading RBI to lower its GDP forecast for Q1FY25, reflecting moderation in corporate profitability.

The good news is that despite the drop in profits, the ability to pay interest (ratio of earnings before interest

and tax to interest expenses) has not been affected much because borrowings are under control.

"Going ahead, an unfavourable base and increased input costs will weigh on corporate profitability. However, support will come from a pickup in demand due to the festive season, moderation in inflation and a pickup in rural demand. Interest costs too are expected to decline once the RBI cuts rate," Bank of Baroda economist Aditi Gupta said in the report.

According to the Bank of Baroda report, Of the 33 sectors, 18 saw sales growth above the 7.7% average, with 22 industries showing improved sales compared to last year, partly due to the base effect from Q1 FY24. Key sectors with strong sales included consumer durables, electricals, and retailing, driven by seasonal demand. For net profits, 20 sectors exceeded the 3.5% average growth, but only 15 surpassed last year's profit growth, including consumer durables and healthcare.

Ex-Meta COO Sandberg to invest in B'luru AI co

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Former Meta chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg is learnt to have made her second investment in Bengaluru-based GenAI startup Simplismart, sources told TOI.

Sandberg is participating in a \$7-million funding round for the startup, showcasing Sandberg's continued interest in the Indian startup landscape, particularly in GenAI. The round is being led by Accel, sources added.

Simplismart, founded by BITS Pilani alumni Amritanshu Jain and Devansh Ghatak, assists customers in deploying GenAI models using its high-speed inference engine, which is available across various cloud

providers for scalable and cost-effective solutions. The company has previously secured funding from Titan Capital, Shastra VC, and First Cheque in a seed round. It counts Voxel, Dubverse, and Mobavenue as some of its customers.

"Investors in the Valley are actively evaluating generative AI and Simplismart just made the cut, the deal will be announced soon," a source said.

Prior to starting Simplismart, Jain worked across machine learning engineering roles at Oracle and Capillary Technologies. Ghatak, on the other hand, worked across engineering roles at Avaamo and Google. Prior to this investment, Sandberg's only known exposure to the Indian startup ecosys-

tem was as a client of Iconiq Capital, a US investment management firm that has funded companies like Flipkart.

Sandberg did not respond to an email seeking comment till the time of going to press. Simplismart's Jain told TOI that Sandberg is not participating in any investment round in the company. Online news chronicler Entracker had earlier reported about Accel buying into the GenAI startup. Sandberg has also invested in another GenAI startup Ema that enhances productivity across roles in an organisation by automating complex workflows through simple conversations. TOI had recently reported how Ema's no-code platform allows users to build and deploy custom AI agents (personas) using natural language.

'No threat to Indian insurers with detailed guidelines'

From P 1

Given that most large Indian conglomerates have already invested in the insurance sector, officials said, it is time to allow 100% FDI in the sector since several foreign players with deep pockets are willing to come into the country but are not able to find a matching domestic player. Insurance is among one of the consumer-facing sectors that remains only partially open to FDI, while other sectors have all moved on.

A 100% limit will be especially beneficial for the long-gestation life insurance business where the promoter needs to keep capitalising the company to meet the solvency norms prescribed by the regulator. As a result, only promoters with deep pockets can enter space as it requires a constant flow of funds till the company starts generating profits.

"It is almost 25 years since the sector was opened up and despite an increase in the limit, we still have strong Indian players in the business. There does not appear to be any threat especially when there are detailed guidelines and the regulator keeps a close watch on all the players," a second source said. There are several checks and balances on overseas investments and repatriation apart from the capitalisation norms which act as a safety valve, sources said.

A senior finance ministry official said that amendments to the law are being discussed with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) and they would be finalised soon.

Given that BJP's strength in Lok Sabha is below the majority mark, the political leadership will have the final say on the issue, although NDA partners may not have a problem with the plan.

Global QSR brands lose mojo in India

Competition Heats Up As VC-Backed New Age Firms Gain Ground Riding On Food Delivery Apps

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Indians seem to be falling out of love with global quick service restaurant (QSR) brands like McDonald's, Burger King and Pizza Hut, nudging companies to go aggressive on value offerings in the market.

Be it the rise of new age food brands that are finding favour with venture capital (VC) investors who are backing them with funds to scale up or the growth of Zomato and Swiggy which offer consumers access to a variety of food brands at the top of their smartphones, global QSR giants have been struggling to get customers to their stores.

Westlife Foodworld, which operates McDonald's chain of outlets in West and South India, said at the company's Q1 earnings call: "...there's obviously been pressure in terms of customers entering our restaurants".

The company launched McSavers+ in Q1 which allows customers to get a chicken burger or a snacking item of their choice (from among a range of options available) and a Coke combo meal at Rs 69. Burger King is offering customers two veg burgers for Rs 79 and two non-veg burgers for Rs 99. KFC and Pizza Hut are also in the 'value' queue, with meal options at Rs 99, Rs 149 and Rs 169. Domino's is wooing customers with its Rs 99 lunch feast.

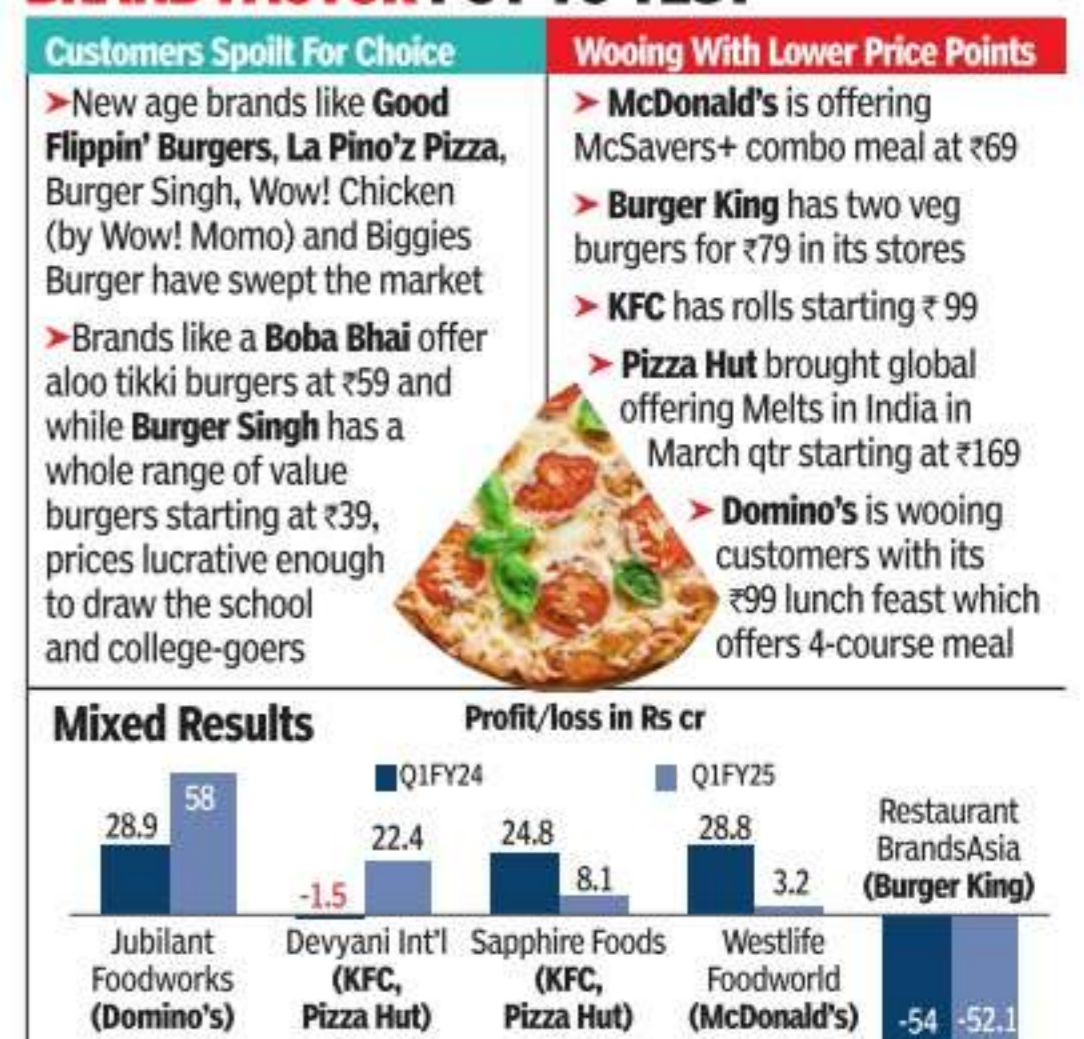
"Pizza Hut has been working on product and value strategies that work towards making the brand relevant for a cross-section of consumers, especially Gen Z," said a local company spokesperson.

Ravindra Yadav, partner at Technopak, said such offerings are "desperate measures" to get customers back. "It's a flawed long-term strategy. If they focus on value, they will be impacting their profitability or compromising on the quality of the product,"

said Yadav. Global brands have always been aspirational for local consumers and on many counts, they perhaps still are but in a market where young, experimental Gen Z and millennial consumers are dictating consumption patterns, companies need to have more than just a brand pull. They are not innovating enough, said analysts.

tomers and gain scale that of fine stores alone may not suffice. Over the recent years, a plethora of new age brands like Good Flippin' Burgers, La Pino'z Pizza, Burger Singh, Wow! Chicken (by Wow! Momo) and Biggies Burger have swept the market. Brands like a Boba Bhai offer also tikki burgers at a starting price of Rs 59 and a chicken burger for

BRAND FACTOR PUT TO TEST



"The consumer today is spoilt for choice and can order different kinds of food because of food delivery aggregators. Customers are getting experimental. If they find the user experience to be good in any of the new age brands, there's a consumption shift. The big QSRs have to innovate or offer a very different user experience," said Karan Taurani, vice-president at Elara Capital. He added that margins for global brands have collapsed by 400-500bps (100 basis points = 1 percentage point) in the few quarters because of discounting and promotions.

Any homegrown brand today can piggyback on Zomato and Swiggy to reach more customers. The formalisation and continuous expansion of regional chains in QSR has impacted the growth story of these international brands, said Yadav. Regional players like a Nik Baker's too are expanding and offering more food choices to consumers.

Foxconn plans energy storage unit

Sriperumbudur: Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn is working on plans to set up a battery energy storage system unit in India, its chairman Young Liu said here. With an eye on the electric vehicle segment, Foxconn has been expanding its battery manufacturing business, with the first plant already set up in Taiwan.

Liu said that Foxconn's information and communication technology segment has just started in India. "We are also waiting to put our 3+3 future industry in India. I have been talking to the minister for industries here about how we can collaborate on BESS (battery energy storage system) in Tamil Nadu..." Liu said. As part of the "3+3 strategy", Foxconn has prioritised the three key industries — electric vehicles, digital health, and robot-

ics — each has a significant growth potential with current scale at \$1.4 trillion and over 20% compound annual growth rate. Foxconn's battery storage business is more focused on electric vehicles. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) enable energy storage from renewable sources like solar and wind. Foxconn has set up its first BESS unit in Taiwan for e-Buses. AGENCIES

TOI **Using Mutual Funds To Invest For Long-Term Goals**

IN THE CLASSROOM

Wealth managers believe investors should invest in mutual them as a tool judiciously to meet their long-term goals.

How Are Life Goals Defined?
Every individual has some life goals. Assuming the person's age is 35, such goals can be a foreign vacation one year down the line, funding children's higher education, buying a house within the next decade or simply planning for retirement which is 25 years away. So, goals which are less than three years away can be termed short-term goals, while those that have a horizon of five years or more are considered long-term goals.

How Mutual Funds Can Help Meet These Goals?

Mutual funds have schemes across asset classes and across time frames in which one can invest to reach goals. For example, if you plan for a foreign holiday two years from now which will cost you ₹5 lakh, you could use a combination of debt funds and equity savings funds to reach that goal. Since it is a nearer term goal and the time is less than three years, investment advisors would suggest a very small equity allocation in an equity savings fund. Once you work out the math, you can decide whether to make a one-time investment or stagger your money. Similarly, for retirement which is 20 years away, you could use a combination of equity mutual fund schemes. For your child aged 5 who needs money for higher education upon turning 18, a monthly SIP of ₹10,000 for 12 years in an equity fund at a 12% return could accumulate ₹32.2 lakh.

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.

How Should Finances Be Mapped To Goals?

The first step is identifying goals for which one needs to start investing. Once that is done, work towards finding the cost of the goal today. To that value, add a reasonable amount of inflation, which will give an idea of the cost in the year you wish to accomplish it. Once this is done, identify an asset class or a mix of asset classes needed to reach the goal. This process can be done individually or with the help of a financial adviser. Now, work backwards and calculate the amount you could save through a systematic investment plan (SIP), lumpsum or a combination of both to reach the goal.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



FIRE DESTROYS PARIS HILTON'S TRAILER AT A MUSIC VIDEO SET, SAYS SHE IS THANKFUL THAT EVERYONE IS SAFE

HALLE BERRY TEASES REPRISING 'CATWOMAN' ROLE, DEFENDS THE CRITICALLY PANNED 2004 FILM: 'MAYBE IF I COULD DIRECT IT (SEQUEL)'



Trump's Kamala jabs causing 'gender chasm', dip in polling

Ex-Prez Boasts He's 'Better Looking' Than Harris; Polls Show Him Losing Women Base

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In yet another rambling 90-minute campaign speech in which he insisted he is not rambling, Donald Trump on Saturday maintained he was "better looking" than Kamala Harris, triggering another cascade of memes and jokes that have become the entertainment element of an election that could determine America's future.

It was one of the many bizarre asides at a Trump rally in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania where he survived an assassination attempt last month but where even his political allies say he is shooting up his own campaign to an extent he could lose the election. Senator Lindsey Graham among others are sounding the alarm, rushing to TV talk shows to warn that Trump the "showman and provocateur" is not going to win unless he focuses on policy issues.

But precise policy prescriptions have been at a premium in Trump rallies as he continues to denigrate his opponent in crude personal terms, disparage allies, praise dictators, and demonize immigrants, all while painting a dark, dystopian future for America unless he is elected. At Saturday's rally, Harris' looks and race were again triggers for Trump's pique as he babbled about a Time magazine cover featuring her, saying they had made her look like Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor by using a sketch instead of a photograph.

While Trump supporters maintain such statements are



Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania's Wilkes-Barre

Harris' ex-BF to Trump: Mention my name again and get sued

Willie Brown, the ex-mayor of San Francisco, has a message for Donald Trump: Keep my name out of your mouth or get sued for defamation. "He's never brought a lawsuit in his life. But you know who's pushing him to it? A guy by the name of Trump," his lawyer said Saturday. Trump has falsely claimed that he had once nearly died in a helicopter ride with Brown. He said Brown, who dated V-P Kamala Harris in 1994 and 1995, said "terrible things" about her just before they almost plummeted to their deaths. Brown has called the tale a lie and said he respects Harris. NYT

the entertainment element of his rallies, the digressions are frustrating mainstream Republicans — many of whom are also running for office in concurrent elections to the House and Senate. Aside from personal barbs, Trump attacks on

Trump team jet with Vance aboard makes emergency landing

A chartered campaign plane carrying JD Vance, the Republican veep nominee, was forced to make an emergency landing in Milwaukee Friday shortly after takeoff because of a door malfunction on the aircraft, a campaign spokesman said. The spokesman said Boeing 737-86J, which the campaign refers to as Trump Force Two, returned to Milwaukee airport where the problem was quickly resolved. It was the second time in a week that one of the Trump team's planes had a mechanical issue. Last Friday, Donald Trump's Boeing 757 had to divert because of an unspecified issue. NYT

Harris now includes describing her as a "socialist lunatic" who as a "border czar" is deliberately letting in illegal immigrants to destroy America. He continued to make the bizarre claim that countries all over the world are emptying out the

ir prisons and mental asylums to send criminals and lunatics to the US, throwing out random and false statistics. "She wants to destroy our country. After causing catastrophic inflation, Comrade Kamala announced that she wants to institute socialist price controls.... What they are doing is a communist takeover of our country," he told MAGA supporters. Trump also continued his attempts to delegitimise Harris' candidacy as Democrats heading into their party convention in Chicago on Monday, complaining of how Democrat operatives switched the nominee after he had spent \$100 million thinking Biden would be his opponent. "Who the hell is Harris?" Trump said.

Polls continue to indicate Trump is losing ground, particularly in the seven swing states that will determine the election outcome, with women and young voters among the undecided trending towards Harris. Frank Luntz, a Republican pollster, is among those warning that Trump is opening up a gender chasm with his constant denigration of Harris and harping on the past instead of focusing on the future and economic issues. "It's not a gender gap, it's a chasm. We've never seen this before... don't insult your opponent on how they look, how they speak, women can't stand that... they expect you to focus on the future and not anger about the past... that's the exact opposite of what Trump's actually doing," Luntz told CNN in an analysis of polls showing a surge in female support for Harris.

Yunus: Previous polls rigged, generations grew up without exercising voting rights

Continued from P1

The task is huge but doable with the support of all people and the international community," Prof Yunus said, adding, "We must succeed. We don't have any other option." His comments came amid calls from the international community for steps to "restore democratic order and rule of law" through an "inclusive and participatory" process guided by human rights.

Yunus said previous elections were rigged blatantly and generations of young people had grown up without exercising their voting rights. "Banks were robbed with full political patronisation, and the state coffers was plundered by abusing power," said Yunus, adding that they would also make sincere efforts to promote national reconciliation.

Over 50 diplomats, including Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma and representatives of the UN agencies, were present. Yunus said the interim govt has to create opportunities to build a poverty-free and prosperous new Bangladesh. "We believe all our friends and partners in the international community will stand by our govt and people as we chart a new democratic future."

Responding to criticism in Bangladesh and abroad over rights violations, including attacks on minority communities, the chief adviser said, "Our govt remains pledge-bound to ensure the safety and security of all religious and ethnic groups."

He also said they have also made it a priority to ensure justice



Students return to school in Dhaka as Bangladesh on Sunday reopened all educational institutions across the country. They were closed indefinitely on July 17 in the wake of clashes over job quota protests

Rights group meets Yunus, seeks 'minority commission' to probe attacks on Hindus

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: The Minority Rights Movement, a platform of minority communities in Bangladesh, has demanded the formation of a "minority commission" to investigate attacks on Hindu houses and places of worship across the country. A six-member delegation met interim govt chief adviser Prof Yunus on Sunday and presented eight demands, including prosecution of people for attacks on properties of minority communities and the ensuring protection of their communities.

Yunus assured them that his govt is committed to protecting the human rights of every citizen, including members of religious minorities, the press wing of the chief adviser said.

and accountability for all the killings during the recent mass uprising. He said he had spoken to UN high commissioner for human rights Volker Turk. "We want an impartial and internationally credible investigation into the massacre and subsequent due judicial processes," he said.

On Rohingya refugee population, he said that Bangladesh will maintain support both for them. Coming to economy, Yunus the govt will support the vital garment trade. He also said they will undertake robust and far-reaching economic reforms to restore macroeconomic stability and sustained growth.

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Rights body slams attacks on those honouring Mujibur

Dhaka: Human rights organisation Justice Makers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) has expressed deep concern and outrage over recent reports of severe human rights violations in Bangladesh, reports AKM Moinuddin. The attacks on peaceful individuals attempting to pay their respects at what was the personal residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Aug 15, the 49th anniversary of his assassination, are egregious violations of basic human rights. JMBF chief adviser Robert Simon condemned the attacks, stating, "The use of violence to suppress peaceful assembly and freedom of expression is a direct violation of basic human rights. The international community must condemn this violence and support the interim government to hold the perpetrators accountable and ensure justice for the victims."

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Meme wars and the Hunt for Red November

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Republicans and Democrats are digging deep into humour and satire in a meme war aimed at winning over Gen Z voters expected to have a big say in the presidential election outcome.

An estimated 40 million Gen Z voters — those born in the late 90s and early 2000s — will be eligible to cast ballots in the 2024 elections, and both sides are turning it up on social media to win a constituency adept in online sparring.

Democrats appear to have an advantage in this sphere given their support among urban, college-educated youth compared to the more rural, older voter orientation of the GOP. While Trump offers comedic gold dust on an everyday basis for Democratic operatives, MAGA online warriors are leaving no stone unturned in portraying Kamala Harris as a "radical left lunatic" who is out to destroy America.

From Trump's purported incoherence, to Kamala's "kamunism" and "Kackling" video clips, carto-



ons, and memes are flooding social media in an information age with low attention span. Even the geriatric Joe Biden — himself the subject of jokes about his age — got caught up in the smackdown syndrome, characterising his predecessor as "Donald Dump" at one campaign event.

While Harris herself has chosen to take the high road compared to her opponent, her supporters are dumping on Trump where it hurts with biting humour, satire, and sarcasm, caricaturing him as "Diaper Don" in one meme, and ridiculing him for alleged treason and dementia in others.



One spoof of a poster of 'The Lion King' showed Trump as "The Lyn' King" while another poster showed the words "Super Callous Fascist Racist Extra Braggadocious" imprinted on his face — taking off from the hit song in the Disney movie Mary Poppins. Even Trump's attempt to hold Harris accountable for the undeniable price rise and inflation by showcasing the high cost of groceries was turned around on him by Democratic online warriors in a meme that read: "Nothing says 'I understand the economy' better than a billionaire standing outside his \$250 million

golf club in front of grocery products he has never purchased in his life." Trump supporters hit back with a poster showing Harris grinning against the backdrop of empty grocery shelves with the caption "Unburdened by what has been", an exhortation she has used to tell young people to look positively to the future.

Ahead of the Democrats convention in Chicago starting Monday, one MAGA meme showed Kamala Harris, dressed in red, speaking to supporters in a sea of red against the backdrop of a red flag with hammer and sickle to suggest a gathering of communists.

remained unchanged and described it as Lukashenko's rhetoric. "We are not seeing any increase in the number of equipment or personnel of Belarusian units near our border."

Lukashenko did not say exactly how many troops Minsk has deployed along the border. Belarus' professional army has about 48,000 troops and around 12,000 state border troops, according to a 2022 report. Belarusian defence minister Viktor Khrenin said Friday there was a high probability of an armed provocation from Ukraine and the situation at the border "remains tense". REUTERS

Belarus deploys a third of its army to Ukraine border

Belarusian Prez Alexander Lukashenko said Sunday that Ukraine had stationed more than 120,000 troops at its border with Belarus and Minsk had deployed nearly a third of its armed forces along the entire border; the Belta state news agency reported. Lukashenko, a staunch ally of Russian Prez Putin, was speaking against the backdrop of a Ukrainian incursion into Russia that began on Aug 6.

"Seeing their aggressive policy, we have introduced there and placed in certain points our military along the entire border," Belta cited Lukashen-

Ukraine troops strike 2 key bridges in Kursk

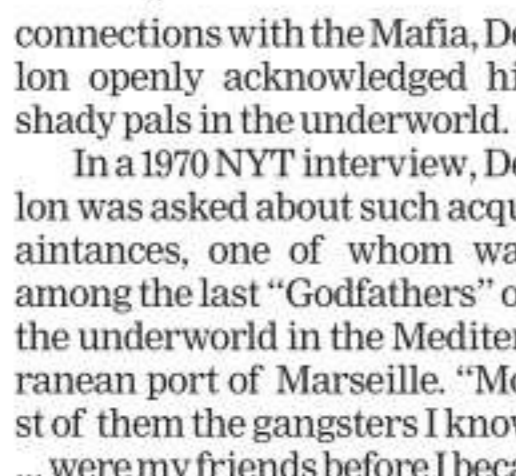
Ukraine has destroyed a key bridge in Russia's Kursk region and struck a second one nearby, less than two weeks into its stunning cross-border incursion, disrupting Russian supply routes and possibly signalling that its troops are planning to dig in. Russia's pro-Kremlin military bloggers have acknowledged that the destruction of the first bridge will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges in the area. Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Russian regional governor Alexei Smirnov. Russia's Mash news site said the attacks left the area with just one intact bridge. Kyiv has been tight-lipped about the planned goals of its lightning push into Russia, the largest attack on the country since WWII. AP

ko as saying in an interview with Russian state TV. Andriy Demchenko, a spokesman for Ukrainian border service, said Sunday the situation on the border with Belarus

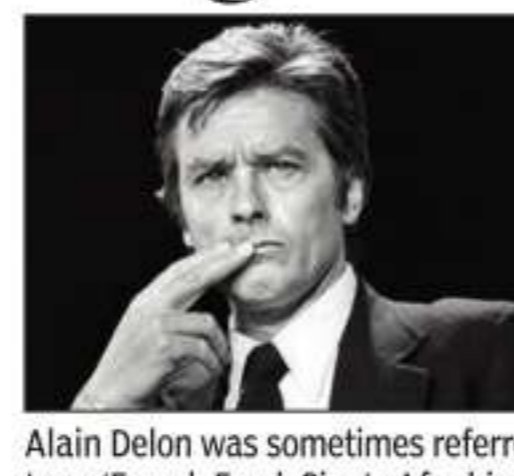
Alain Delon, smoldering French film star, passes away at 88

Paris: French actor Alain Delon, who melted the hearts of millions of film fans whether playing a murderer, hoodlum or hitman in his postwar heyday, has died, French media reported on Sunday. He was 88. He had been in poor health since suffering a stroke in 2019, rarely leaving his estate in Douchy, in France's Val de Loire region.

With striking blue eyes, Delon was sometimes referred to as the "French Frank Sinatra" for his handsome looks, a comparison Delon disliked. Unlike Sinatra, who always denied



connections with the Mafia, Delon openly acknowledged his shady pals in the underworld. In a 1970 NYT interview, Delon was asked about such acquaintances, one of whom was among the last "Godfathers" of the underworld in the Mediterranean port of Marseille. "Most of them the gangsters I know... were my friends before I became an actor. I don't worry about what a friend does. Each is responsible for his own act. It doesn't matter what he does."



Alain Delon was sometimes referred to as "French Frank Sinatra" for his looks, a comparison Delon disliked. Born in Henri Verneuil's 1963 "Melodie en Sous-Sol" ("Any Number Can Win") and was a major hit in Jean-Pierre Melville's 1967 "Le Samourai" ("The Godson"). The role of a philosophical contract killer involved minimal dialogue and frequent solo scenes, and Delon shone.

Delon became a star in France and was idolised by men and women in Japan, but never made it as big in Hollywood despite performing with American cinema giants, including Burt Lancaster when the Frenchman played apprentice-

hitman Scorpio in the eponymous 1973 film. Delon was well past the peak of his fame when he won the best actor Cesar, France's Oscar equivalent, for his performance as a middle-aged alcoholic grasping for happiness in the Bertrand Blier drama "Notre Histoire" (1984). Born on Nov 8, 1935, in Sceaux, just south of Paris, Delon was placed with a foster family after his parents' separation when he was 4. At 17, Delon joined the navy and was sent to Indochina. Back in France in 1956, he held vario-

us odd jobs from waiter to a carrier in the Paris meat market before turning to acting. Delon was outspoken off-stage and courted controversy when he did so — notably when he said he regretted the abolition of the death penalty and spoke disparagingly of gay marriage, which was legalised in France in 2013. He publicly defended the far-right National Front and telephoned its founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, an old friend, to congratulate him when the party did well in local elections in 2014. REUTERS, NYT & AP

Blinken arrives in Tel Aviv in bid to seal a truce deal

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 28 people overnight and into Sunday, including young quadruplets, local health officials said, as US secretary of state Antony Blinken landed in Tel Aviv to try to seal a ceasefire deal after months of talks. It is his tenth trip to the region since war began last Oct.

The US and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha. But Hamas has signalled resistance to what it called new demands by Israel. The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during Oct 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war fought between Israelis and Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.

Israeli PM Netanyahu's office expressed "cautious optimism" that a deal could be reached. An Israeli delegation was travelling to Cairo Sunday for further talks, and Blinken will meet with Netanyahu on Mon-



A protester takes part in an anti-Netanyahu rally in Tel Aviv

day. Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting that there are areas where Israel can be flexible and unspecified areas where it won't be. "Not a scenario in which we just give and give," he said. Meanwhile, the latest Israeli bombardment included a strike on a home in Deir al-Balah that killed a woman and her six children, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital. The children's grandfather said his daughter, a teacher, was with her husband and their children when their house was struck. He said the children were as young as 18 months and included quadruplets. "The six children have become body parts. They were placed in a single bag," AP

DAILY PLANET



THAILAND GETS YOUNGEST PM: Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra (L), became Thailand's new PM on Sunday after royal approval. She is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt. Both were removed from office in coups. She is Thailand's second female PM, and the youngest at 37

NYC mayor mixes up India with Pak at an I-Day event

In a gaffe, New York City mayor Eric Adams referred to India as "Pakistan" at an event to celebrate Indian Independence Day in Queens. The stage from where he addressed the Indian diaspora was decorated with Indian flags, balloons in hues of the tricolour and banners that read "Mayor Adams Celebrates the Indian Community". Adams himself was holding the Indian tricolour and the American flag. Despite all this, he mixed up India with Pakistan thrice while speaking at the Saturday event. In one instance, he said: "I've known this community for so long, from little Pakistan and Queens, little Pakistan and Brooklyn, you are a major foundation of our entire city. So let's continue to celebrate your independence." At this point, someone in the crowd corrected him, shouting: "India. It's India".

Indiana Jones' iconic felt fedora sells for \$630,000

The brown felt fedora worn by actor Harrison Ford in the second installment of the Indiana Jones movies sold for \$630,000 at auction, film memorabilia company Propstore said Friday. The hat featured in 1984's "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" had been expected to fetch between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The fedora comes from the personal collection of the late stunt performer Dean Ferrandini, who also wore it while standing in for Ford as Jones. Created by the Herbert Johnson Hat Company in London, it is made of sable-colored rabbit felt.

AROUND THE WORLD

Spain's national anthem, known as the Marcha Real (Royal March) has no lyrics. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and San Marino too have no lyrics in their anthems

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily

GREENWOOD SCORES TWICE ON DEBUT AS MARSEILLE MAKE WINNING START

FRANCESCO BAGNAIA WINS AUSTRIAN MOTOGP, TAKES CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD



UAE frontrunner as alternate host

Women's T20 WC: B'desh Still Keen To Host The Event

Gaurav Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: With the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) having refused to host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the likely alternative to host the event, even as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), trying its best to prevent the tournament from being moved out, is still keen to host it, despite the turmoil in their country.

With Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka also being in the race, the International Cricket Council (ICC), it's understood, will this week take a final call on which country will eventually host the event, as time is now running out. The UAE offers three world-class cricketing venues at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

The ICC had earlier requested India, it's No 1 alternative, to host the event but the BCCI declined the offer, which came after the recent turmoil in Bangladesh. "They (ICC) have asked us if we would conduct the World Cup. I have categorically said no. We're in the monsoon and on top of that we will host the women's ODI World Cup next year. I don't want to give any kind of signals that I want to hold consecutive World Cups." BCCI secretary Jay Shah said at a meeting with TOI's reporters and editors in Mumbai on Wednesday. The tournament runs from October 3 to 20, involving 10 teams and 23 matches.

U-19 Women's 2025 WC out of Thailand

Meanwhile, after Thailand backed out of co-hosting the women's Under-19 T20 World Cup 2025, the ICC on Sunday declared Malaysia as the sole hosts of the 16-team tournament (Samoa will make their debut), which will be played at four venues. Defending champions India are grouped with West Indies, Sri Lanka and hosts Malaysia for the event, which will begin on January 18, 2025. The 41-game event will conclude with the final on Feb 2.

SA remain in hunt for WTC final berth with win over WI

Providence (Guyana): South Africa's Test series success over the West Indies keeps up their outside chance of a place in next year's World Test Championship final even if they must win at least five of their next six matches.

The 40-run win over the West Indies at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown on Saturday was their second success in six Tests in the 2023-25 cycle and moved them up to fifth in the standings.

But if they are to stand any chance of challenging the likes of log leaders India and second placed Australia for a berth in next year's one-off final, they must win at least five of their next remaining six Tests – two away against Bangladesh in Oct, followed by two home to Sri Lanka and Pakistan each at the end of the year.

Reaching the final of the championship is a goal for South Africa, who kept up their long-standing dominance over the West Indies with their weekend win in Guyana. It



South Africa players celebrate their win

proved a see-saw battle in the second Test as the home side chased a target of 263 run to win but fell short when South Africa bowled them out for 222. "It was very satisfying because winning away from home is never an easy feat, and you should never take it for granted," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said. South Africa were in their first Test outing since February when the Twenty20 commitments of most of their players saw them send a second-string side to New Zealand and be easily beaten.

They were back to full strength for their brief Caribbean tour, where they drew the first rain-affected test in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Our goal was to come to the Caribbean and win the series, and we're happy that we were able to do so. And I think along the way as well, we've played some good cricket," Bavuma said.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 160 & 246 in 80.4 overs (K Verreynne 59; Seales 6-61) bt West Indies 144 & 222 in 66.2 overs (G Motie 45; Rabada 3-50, Maharaj 3-37, Mulder 2-35, Piedt 2-50). AGENCIES

How to stop Jaiswal? Lyon picks Hartley's brain

We Are Hungry To Turn Things Around, Says Australian Spinner

Sydney: Ace off-spinner Nathan Lyon has already started his homework on batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal with England spinner Tom Hartley's inputs on the southpaw safely stored in his memory bank ahead of the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series between India and Australia starting from November 22. Jaiswal, who scored a century on debut in the West Indies last year, scored an astounding 712 runs in the five Test series against England at home earlier this year. But the pace and bounce on offer on Australian



BORDER-GAVASKAR SERIES

LYON IN TESTS

	T	Wkts	Ave	Best	5WI	10WM	SR	ER
Overall	129	530	30.28	8/50	24	5	61.8	2.93
vs India	27	121	31.56	8/50	9	2	61.9	3.05



Pix: Getty Images

YASHASVI JAISWAL IN TESTS

T	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
9	16	1	1028	214*	68.53	3	4	70.07

tracks will pose a different challenge for the Mumbaikar.

"I haven't come across him (Jaiswal) yet, but that will be a massive challenge for all us bowlers," Lyon was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "The way he (Jaiswal) played against England, I watched that quite closely and thought that was quite amazing. I had some really good chats with Tom Hartley (England left-arm spinner) about different ways he went about it to different guys which I found quite interesting."

Lyon had a stint in English county with Lancashire and had an opportunity to share notes with Hartley, who had 20 wickets in four Tests against India and he is someone who has first-hand knowledge of Jaiswal's exploits.

The 36-year-old Lyon, who has 530 wickets from 129 Tests, feels that with

so much information "floating around", Aussies have the best chance to accomplish the "unfinished business" against India.

"I love talking about cricket, so if I can talk to someone who has played Test cricket, I might be able to pick up something I'm not aware of. There's so much knowledge floating around this game that we can always tap into."

Since winning the 2014-15 Border-Gavaskar 2-0, Australia have lost the next four series against India – two to

Virat Kohli's side (2016-17, 2018-19), Ajinkya Rahane (2021) and Rohit Sharma (2023). Along with Lyon, Josh Hazlewood is another survivor from the 2014-15 series and conceded Australia's recent results against India present a significant hole in their record.

"It's been ten years of unfinished business, it's been a long time, and I know we're extremely hungry to turn things around, especially here at home," Lyon said. "Don't get me wrong, India is an absolute superstar

LYON'S WICKETS SUMMARY

Right-hand batters	344
Left-hand batters	186

side and extremely challenging but I'm extremely hungry to turn things around and make sure we get that trophy back."

Lyon feels that this Australian team under Pat Cummins is slightly different compared to Tim Paine's team that lost back-to-back series against India at home. "Feel like we are a different team to a couple of years ago. We are on a journey of becoming a great Australian cricket team. We're definitely not there but we are along that journey and have been playing some decent cricket."

Beating India in a Test series could tick a box in many players' CV, reckoned Hazlewood. "There are quite a few players who have never beaten India in a Test series. It's quite astounding to say that," he said. "That's one we need to tick off, definitely, in particular at home - we should pretty much win every series here at home." ❏

MATCH AT MCG IN 2027 TO MARK 150 YEARS OF TESTS

Melbourne: Australia are set to host England in a stand-alone celebratory match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in 2027 to celebrate 150 years of Test cricket. The first-ever Test match, played between Australia and England, was held in March 1877. The 1977 Centenary Test was won by Australia, as they did the first-ever match, by 45 runs.

Besides, Cricket Australia (CA) has finalised the allocation of hosting rights for various men's international Tests, ODIs, T20Is and other matches over the next seven summers, spanning from 2024-25 to 2030-31. These arrangements, finalised by CA, are part of a series of strategic partnerships between the cricket body and state governments to provide greater access to fans and communities. The arrangements had also put to rest speculations about shifting the annual Boxing Day Test from the MCG, which is a tradition, while the Sydney Cricket Ground will continue to host the New Year's match. ❏

Priya's five-for helps India A win final tie

Mackay: Leg-spinner Priya Mishra grabbed five wickets while Tejal Hasabnis and Raghvi Bist scored half-centuries as India A beat Australia A by 171-run in the third and final one-dayer here on Sunday.

India A finally achieved success in the third and final one-dayer after having lost five successive games – three T20s and two one-dayers – in the six-match white-ball series.

India A scored a modest 243/9, thanks to middle-order batter Tejal's 66-ball 50 and Raghvi's 64-ball 53 before 20-year-old Delhi cricketer

Priya took a fiver (5/14) to dismiss the Australia A batting for just 72 runs for a massive win.

Playing in only her first match on the tour, Priya dismissed opener Maddy Darke (22) and top-order batter Tess Flintoff (20) as the home team was left reeling at 52/4 in the 15th over of the chase.

The one-off unofficial Test will be played in Gold Coast from August 22.

BRIEF SCORES: India A 243/9 (T Hasabnis 50, R Bist 53, S Sajana 40, M Mani 34; M Brown 3/39, C Knott 2/26) beat Australia A 72 in 22.1 overs (P Mishra 5/14, M Mani 2/4).

OZ TEST SKIPPER CUMMINS TAKES EIGHT-WEEK BREAK

Melbourne: Australia Test captain Pat Cummins has taken an eight-week break to re-energise himself in his quest to lift the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India later this year.

Cummins, who recently returned from the United States following his maiden stint in Major League Cricket, was rested for next month's white-ball tour of the United Kingdom to manage his workload and give him time to work on his body ahead of a busy summer.

"Everyone that comes back after a break is a little bit fresher, you never regret it," Cummins was quoted as saying by Fox Sports. "I've basically been bowling non-stop since the World Test Championship final, nearly 18 months ago. This gives me a good seven or eight weeks completely off bowling so the body can recover, then you start building up again for the summer. "It means you can hopefully bowl for a little bit longer, maintaining pace is a bit easier, makes you less susceptible to injuries," he added. ❏

GALLERY

Punjab felicitates 8 hockey players with Rs 1 cr each

Chandigarh: Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday felicitated the hockey players from the state with a cash prize of Rs 1 crore each for winning bronze at the Paris Olympics. Mann disbursed Rs 1 crore each to eight hockey players and Rs 15 lakh each to 11 other participants of Olympic Games from the state. Mann said he watched every match of the Indian team and added that the spectacular performance by the players made everyone feel proud.

Lahiri slips further down: Anirban Lahiri carded a below-par 1-over 71 in the second round to slip further down at the LIV Golf Greenbrier tournament in White Sulphur Springs, USA. From overnight T-38, Lahiri slid down to T-49 in the field of 54 players. Lahiri had two bogeys against one birdie despite favourable scoring conditions at the Old White Course. Jon Rahm rose to the top of the leader board after a second-round score of 8-under 62.

Swiatek loses to Sabalenka: Aryna Sabalenka defeated world number one Iga Swiatek 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday to reach the final of the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Open, advancing on her 10th match point. Victory by the double Australian Open champion put Sabalenka into the Monday title match against the winner from American Jessica Pegula and Spain's Paula Badosa. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

TENNIS: Cincinnati Open, Final, 3.30 am (Sony Sports)

Key players to be rested for Asian Champions Trophy

Paris Olympians To Return To Camp On Aug 24

Manuja.Veerappa @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a state of euphoria following the bronze medal show at the Paris Olympics, the members of the Indian Olympic team are gearing up for a fresh start.

The first tournament in the new Olympic cycle will be the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) beginning in Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, China, from September 8 to 18. India, who won the previous edition in Chennai, will begin their title defence against hosts China on the inaugural day.

The tournament will be India's first outing in the post-Sreejesh era with the focus on his understudy Kishan Pathak and the goalkeepers' line-up that includes Suraj Karkera and Karnataka's HS Mohit.

While 21 players, who were not picked for the Paris Games, are already in a camp that began at the SAI, South Centre here last month, the



UNCERTAIN TIMES: Midfielder and India's chief playmaker Hardik Singh is nursing a shoulder niggle

Olympians from Paris, along with coach Craig Fulton, will join the camp on August 24. The camp will conclude on September 4 following which the team will head to China.

According to sources, some of the key players like strikers Mandeep Singh and Lalit Upadhyay have request-

ed for rest and will join the national camp after the ACT.

The team, which is likely to be led by regular skipper Harmanpreet Singh, will be without the services of key midfielder Hardik Singh, who is nursing a shoulder niggle. Unlike the previous Olympic cycle, in which In-

dia hosted key tournaments like the ACT and the 2023 World Cup, the team will play fewer international tournaments at home. While the ACT will be held in China, the World Cup in 2026 will be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands in Wavre and Amstelveen re-

"In the new Olympic cycle, all the major tournaments like the World Cup are outside India and it is good for the team to play without the weight of too much expectations from the fans."

Craig Fulton | COACH, INDIA

spectively. India finished joint ninth with Argentina at the previous edition of the World Cup and coach Fulton believes playing key tournaments away from home will be a blessing in disguise for the team.

"Playing tournaments at home in India is difficult because the expectation is very high. The fans put the players on a pedestal and when the bubble bursts it's very difficult to deal with."

"In the new Olympic cycle, all the major tournaments like the World Cup are outside India and it is good for the team to play without the weight of expectations from the fans," pointed out the South African.

Vinesh wants wrestlers from her village to achieve big success

Balali (Haryana): Overwhelmed by the grand reception she received on her arrival from the Paris Olympics, Vinesh Phogat said it would be a matter of great pride for her if she could train women wrestlers from her village Balali and they become more successful than her. Vinesh, 29, reached her native village around midnight and was accorded a grand welcome. Her neighbours and friends met her with tears and smiles and patting her for the courage she has shown.

Exhausted after a tiring journey that began in Paris, Vinesh addressed the gathering before calling it a day.

The two-time World Championships medallist wished that someone from Balali would better her wrestling achievements.

"It would be disappointing if no wrestler emerged from this village. We have paved the way given hope with our achievements. I request you all to support the women in this village. They

need your support, hope and trust if they have to replace us in future," Vinesh said.

"They can achieve a lot. All they need is your support. I will always be indebted to this nation, this village for giving me so much love and respect. Whatever I have learnt in wrestling, I don't know if that is god-gifted or my hard work but whatever I have I would like to share with my sisters from this village and I wish they achieve greater heights than me. I can then say with pride that she is from my village and I have trained her."

"I want that (my) records are broken by wrestlers from this village. Thank you all for staying up so late in the night for me."

Before arriving in Balali, Vinesh had said that her fight against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) would continue. "I want to thank all the people who supported us in our struggle. Life itself is a struggle. Our fight has not ended and it will continue," said Vinesh. ❏

lists and lamented that Bhaker, despite winning two medals in Paris, will have to fight for a place in the national squad once she returns from a three-month break. "All the Olympic medalists, we don't see them after one or two Olympics because there is no system by which we can protect them and their career," he observed. "The squad is selected from the Nationals. So, if she is not playing the Nationals, which she is not, then next year she will not get the facilities other shooters will get," the coach asserted. ❏



THE FIRST OF MANY: Erling Haaland scores his and Manchester City's first goal of the season in the 19th minute of Sunday's marquee game against Enzo Maresca's Chelsea. It was the Norwegian's 91st goal in his 100th appearance for City as the champions kicked off their Premier League title defence with a lively 2-0 away win

HE'S FAB, THAT FABIAN

Brighton's young manager has caught the eye with his opening win

Liverpool: Brighton's Fabian Hurlzeler insisted he would stay "humble" after the Premier League's youngest manager marked his debut with a 3-0 victory at Everton on Saturday.

Aged 31 years and 173 days, Hurlzeler is the youngest permanent boss in Premier League history following his arrival from St Pauli to replace Roberto De Zerbi in the close-season.

The German is the first manager to be born after the Premier League started in 1992 and is seven years younger than Brighton midfielder James Milner.

Despite his tender years in comparison to his Premier League peers, Hurlzeler made a flying start as 10-man Everton were brushed aside at Goodison Park. "I'm very happy, it's a good start but nothing more and it's important to stay humble after this," Hurlzeler said. "It's a very good feeling but I don't want to talk about myself, the players deserved this. They worked hard in pre-season and I'm very proud of them."

He hauled St Pauli away from the relegation zone and led them to promotion to the Bundesliga last season, catching the eye of Brighton owner Tony Bloom in the process.

Texas-born Hurlzeler already appears at home with the club from England's south-coast. *AFP*

KNOW HURZELER

- Brighton's Hurlzeler was the first manager to take charge of a Premier League game having been born in February 1993 - after the competition started.
- He is seven years younger than Brighton midfielder James Milner, who has now played a record 23 EPL seasons.
- Texas-born Hurlzeler holds German, Swiss and American citizenship. His father is Swiss, mother German and the family moved to Germany when he was two.
- Hurlzeler became the youngest head coach in the German second tier when he was hired by St Pauli aged 29 in December 2022.
- Won first 10 games, breaking a Klopp record
- Won last season's 2. Bundesliga title

EB, BAGAN TO PLAY THEIR LAST-EIGHT MATCHES AWAY

Kolkata: The quarterfinal fixtures of the 133rd Durand Cup was announced with Kolkata hosting the Bengaluru vs Kerala Blasters match at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday. East Bengal's match against Shillong Lajong will now be held in Shillong instead of the Salt Lake Stadium because of the unrest in the city.

Durand Cup quarters: Aug 21: Northeast United vs Indian Army (Kolkata); Shillong Lajong vs East Bengal (Shillong). Aug 23: Bagan vs Punjab FC (Jamshedpur) Bengaluru vs Kerala Blasters (Kolkata). *PTI*

City begin with a bang

London: Erling Haaland marked his 100th appearance for Manchester City with his 91st goal for the club as the defending champions began their search for a fifth straight Premier League title with a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Sunday.

Haaland gave his team the lead in the 18th minute and Mateo Kovacic added a strike from just outside the area in the 84th to make it a harsh welcome for new Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca in his first game in charge. After a promising start for Chelsea, Haaland scored when he received the ball on the edge of the area and cut between Levi Colwill and Marc Cucurella before dinking the ball past Robert Sanchez.

It was the kind of clinical centre-forward play that Chelsea lacked for much of last season and again on Sunday despite another summer of heavy spending.

Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson had a goal disallowed just before halftime after needlessly straying offside and then hit a close-range volley straight at City goalkeeper Ederson in the 61st. Still, there were signs of encouragement for Maresca, the former Man City assistant under Pep Guardiola. *AP*

Flick passes Barca debut test, with assist from Lewandowski

Valencia: Robert Lewandowski scored late in the first half and early in the second to give Barcelona a winning start in coach Hansi Flick's Spanish league debut.

The goals by Lewandowski gave the Catalan club a 2-1 win at Valencia in their opening league match on Saturday. It was Flick's first official match in charge after he replaced former club great Xavi.

"It was very important to debut with a victory," Flick said. "We made some mistakes in the first half but we improved in the second."

Valencia opened the scoring with a header by Hugo Duro in the 44th, but Barcelona rallied with goals by Lewandowski in first-half stoppage time and four minutes into the second half. "The goal at the end of the first half was very important," Flick said.

Lewandowski's first goal came after an assist from teenager Lamine Yamal, whose father was stabbed on Wednesday after an altercation near Barcelona. The 35-year-old Lewandowski gave Barcelona the lead by converting a 49th-minute penalty kick after forward Raphinha was fouled inside the area. "My objective is to



score goals. It's important to start the season like this to give us more confidence," Lewandowski said.

Barca selected three 17-year-olds in his starting line-up - Yamal, Pau Cubarsi and midfielder Marc Bernal, the latter making his debut. 20-year-old academy midfielder Marc Casado was also given his senior debut. "If you can win like this with such young players it is something special," said Lewandowski.

JOIN THE CLUB: Lamine Yamal (front) was one of three 17-year-olds in Flick's starting lineup and he set up Lewandowski (R) for the first of the Pole's two goals

Flick, meanwhile, expects Ilkay Gundogan to stay this season after reports suggested the German, one of the top earners at the club, might leave after the signing of midfielder Dani Olmo. *AP*



New season, new trophy for Leverkusen

Berlin: Bayer Leverkusen are taking their knack for late goals into the new season.

Patrik Schick equalized in the 88th minute to secure a 2-2 draw and Leverkusen went on to defeat Stuttgart 4-3 on penalties in the German Supercup on Saturday.

Though it's considered the least important title of the season, both teams played as if it were the last. Referee Tobias Stieler issued a host of yellow cards and sent off Leverkusen debutant Martin Terrier in the first half for an ankle-threat-

ening tackle on Stuttgart's Ermedin Demirovic. Victor Boniface gave Leverkusen an early lead but Enzo Millot replied almost straight away and Stuttgart went on to hit the crossbar and the post.

Germany forward Deniz Undav put Stuttgart ahead 2-1 in the 63rd. Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso sent on Schick Florian Wirtz and Jeremie Frimpong to boost his team's attacking threat for the final 15 minutes. In the shootout, Leverkusen keeper Lukas Hradecky saved Frans Kratzig's effort before Silas missed the decisive spot kick for Stuttgart.

Sahin enjoys comfortable start as Borussia Dortmund coach

Nuri Sahin was off to a winning start as Borussia Dortmund coach with a 4-1 win over fourth-tier team Phoenix Lübeck in the first round of the German Cup. *AP*

13 years since Bayern Munich missed the German Supercup game (since 2011). Stuttgart qualified by finishing 2nd in the league, behind Leverkusen. Leverkusen also won the German Cup



NUMBER THREE: Xabi Alonso (L) and his Leverkusen team showed their trademark resilience to lift their third trophy, after last season's double

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US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives in Israel to try to clinch a deal that could end the war in Gaza Strip, even as West Asia remains on edge, P 20

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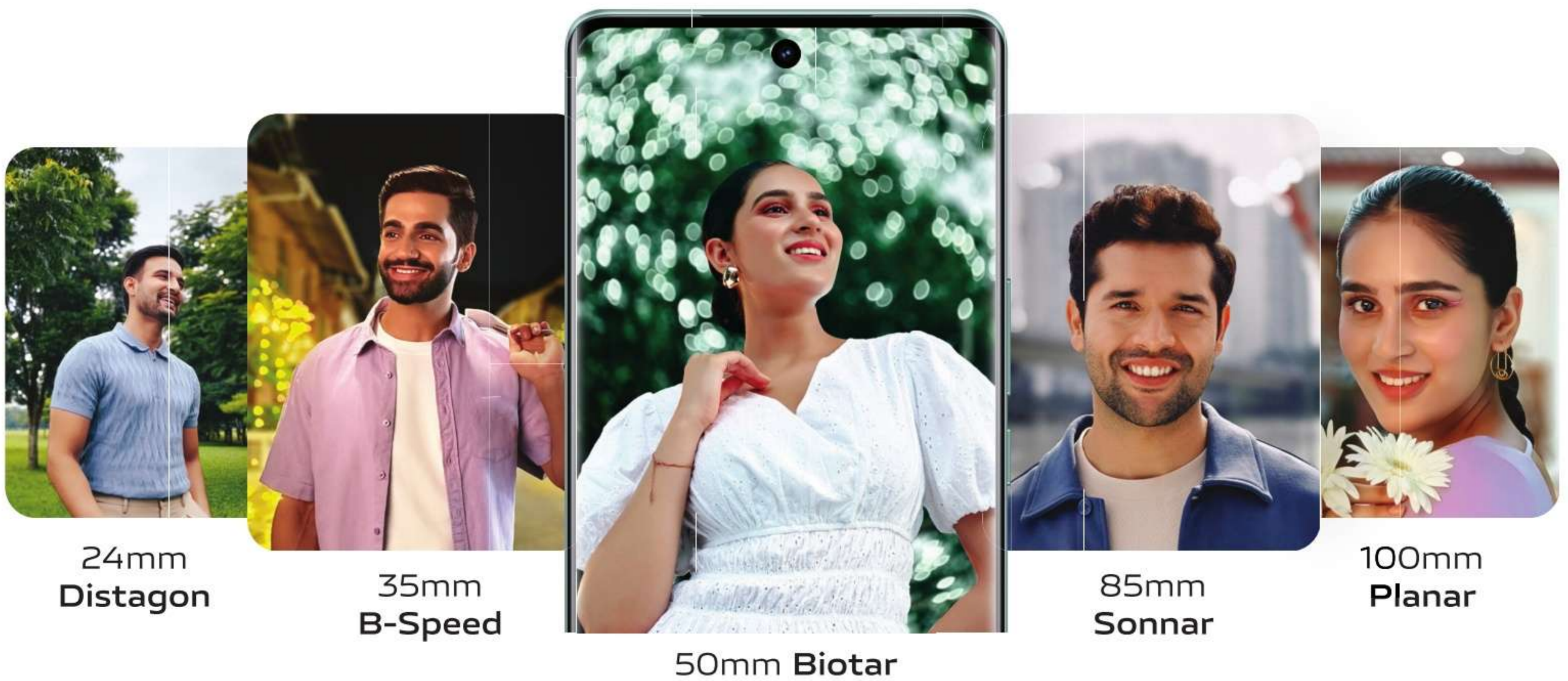
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