



From London 2012's one medal to Paris 2024's 29, India's Paralympics sports ecosystem has come a long way. As the Games come to an end, it is time to celebrate the success of country's differently-abled athletes, **P 17**

Former Indian shooter and veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh has been officially elected unopposed as the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia at the 44th Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly, P 18

Ahead of his debate with Kamala Harris, Trump posts a warning on his social media site threatening to jail those 'involved in unscrupulous behaviour' this election, P 16

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant returns to Test team for first time in nearly 2 years as BCCI announces a 16-member squad for the first of two Tests against Bangladesh. Yash Dayal receives maiden call-up, P 17



BMW hits Mum scaffolding, man falls to death

A 33-year-old man died and another is fighting for life after falling 22 feet from a scaffolding which was hit by a BMW car at Mulund (east) early Saturday. The two among volunteers preparing for Ganeshotsav. The driver has been arrested. Mulund residents Pritam Thorat (33), an auto driver, and Prasad Patil (38), who makes banners, were perched on the scaffolding to put up a banner. The BMW ploughed into the scaffolding that was jutting onto the road, knocking them down. **P 8**

NBCC offers to wrap up Supertech flats

Providing a confidence boost to thousands of homebuyers, NBCC has proposed a three-phase construction plan spread over three years to complete all the 50,000 apartments spanning across 17 projects of Supertech Ltd, which is being run by an insolvency professional. **P 4**

Man electrocuted while charging e-rick

A man died after being electrocuted while charging his e-rickshaw in Delhi's Harsh Vihar Thursday. His relatives said he went to an e-rickshaw parking facility at Saboli Extension, where commercial charging was allegedly being done using a domestic meter. **P 6**

Man rapes girl, 13, smashes head, held

An MP man was arrested in Nashik for the rape-murder of a 13-year-old girl. He smashed her head with a stone after assaulting her. In another incident in Maharashtra, the father-in-law and brother-in-law of a woman were arrested Sunday for allegedly raping her. **P 12**

16 D-Street IPOs eye ₹9,000cr this week

Investors on Dalal Street can select from at least 16 IPOs the coming week, making it one of the busiest for primary offers in recent years. Together, these IPOs are aiming to raise nearly Rs 9,000 crore, with Bajaj Housing Finance alone eyeing Rs 6,560 crore. **P 15**

Rarely used Act slapped on duo

Customs officials have invoked the rarely used Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act against two prime accused, a YouTuber and his Lankan aide, arrested for allegedly smuggling 267 kg gold through Chennai airport. **TNN**

Ggn exec drowns bathing in Rishikesh

Srinivasan G Varadraj (47), a resident of Gurgaon's DLF Phase 2, drowned while bathing in the Ganga at Dayanand Ashram ghat in Rishikesh, where he had gone with friends, early Sunday. Originally from Chennai, he worked as a consultant with a private firm. **P 4**

Key NH to China border reopens

The Joshimath-Malari-Niti national highway, which reaches the China border, opened late Sunday after being blocked for vehicular movement since Friday due to recurring landslides. Movement of Indian Army and ITBP vehicles had been hampered. **P 10**

5 of family killed in TN road accident

Five members of a family were killed and three others injured after the cab they were in rammed a stationary govt bus in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district early on Sunday. The family was returning from a hospital after getting a newborn treated. **P 9**

Sircar to quit as MP, blames Mamata inaction on RG Kar

Also Flags Graft And Strong-Arm Tactics By Netas

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Kolkata: Bureaucrat-turned-TMC Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar announced Sunday he was quitting Parliament and politics in protest against the Mamata Banerjee govt's "confrontational stand" on the unrest stoked by the RG Kar hospital rape-murder, saying he had been "suffering patiently for a month" and awaiting a "course correction" that never came. He will submit his resignation to Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sept 11.

Sircar, who stepped down as Prasar Bharati's CEO months before his scheduled retirement in 2016 after differences with Modi govt and has remained its critic, wrote a letter to Mamata explaining his stand and urging her to "do something to save the state".

Man who visited African nation a suspected mpox case, isolated

A person who recently returned to India from an African country affected by mpox (monkeypox) outbreak has been identified as a suspect case, the health ministry said on Sunday. It added that the young male has been isolated in a designated hospital and is stable, reports **Durgesh Nandan Jha**. "Samples from the patient are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox," the ministry said, and added that the case is being managed according to established protocols and contact tracing is on to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country. It clarified that the development of this case was consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by NCDC & there was no cause of any undue concern. **P 8**

Murder accused served UP govt for 6 years, kept dept in dark

A murderer successfully concealed his dark secrets and served in UP irrigation department for six years in what clearly puts a question mark on the process of stringent police verification for a govt job, reports **Arindam Ghosh & Pathikrit Chakraborty**. Anoop Dubey, in his mid-30s, had spent four months in jail in 2013 after being charged with a murder that year. Police even seized the murder weapon following his confession. But he kept all that under wraps till Aug 14 this year, when he was re-arrested after a Jhansi court sentenced him to life. Dubey had secured the job in 2018 on compassionate grounds after the death of his father, a chief engineer. **P 8**

Construction boom has fuelled sand shortage & criminal activities, leaving behind devastating toll

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

It's hard to imagine a shortage of sand. The endless dunes of the Thar stretch for miles, vast beaches line the seas, and riverbanks are covered with sand. It is everywhere — fills the headlines after time, and stains the bloodied clothes of those who stand in the way of the sand mafia. That's exactly what's wrong.

The country's construction boom has led to an insatiable appetite for sand — not just any sand, but that extracted from riverbeds or banks, where the grains are well-sorted, shaped, and suited for binding with cement and other building materials. Wind-we-

'STIR ALSO AGAINST GOVT & TMC'

Nov 2008-Feb '12 | An IAS officer, Jawhar Sircar was Union culture secy for over 3 years

'12-16 | Prasar Bharati CEO, quit over differences with Modi govt

'17 | Elected 1st non-academic chair of Centre for Studies in Social Sciences

Aug '21 | Elected TMC's Rajya Sabha MP; current member of standing committee on communications & IT & consultative committee of ministry of MSME

to Mamata explaining his stand and urging her to "do something to save the state".

4-6 Haryana seats Cong's 'take it or leave it' offer to AAP; likely to be accepted

New Delhi: After a week marked by flip-flops over forging an alliance in Haryana, Sunday was marked by a 'take it or leave it' offer from Congress to AAP. A likelihood of a tie-up in Haryana between the two parties is hinged on AAP accepting Congress's twin conditions on number of seats and specific constituencies.

Congress, meanwhile, added a twist to the tail by releasing a list of nine candidates for Haryana elections. Though a small number after the initial list of 32, that does not seem to impact the alliance talks, but at the same time, added a sense of urgency for going ahead in the Congress camp and not be held hostage by negotiations with AAP, in a clear nudge to Kejriwal's party to make up its mind fast. A decision on a tie-up is likely to be sealed by tonight. However, AAP sources conceded

CONG'S 2ND LIST OUT

- To pressure AAP, Congress releases a list of nine candidates for Haryana polls
- With AAP putting off its plan of announcing first list on Sunday, it appears **Kejriwal's party may be willing to climb down on its demand for 10 seats**
- If the alliance works out, AAP sources say an announcement for seat pact will follow on Monday

that Congress had not responded to its offer till late. With AAP putting off its plan of announcing its first list of candidates on Sunday, it appears Kejriwal's party may be willing to climb down on its demand for 10 seats to move closer to agreeing to 4-6 seats that Congress is likely to cede, sources said. **TNN**

➤ May spare 3 for SP, P 12

Stop 'cow lynching' & 'man lynching' so that all can live in harmony: RSS functionary

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Patna: RSS national executive member Indresh Kumar on Sunday said there should be no 'man lynching' and 'cow lynching' in the country to ensure that people of different faiths live together in peace.

At a press meet here, when asked about frequent incidents of lynching of people from a minority community by cow vigilantes, he said: "In many parts of the country and the world, people eat meat. But we must recognise that people are sensitive about cows. So, we should strive to create an environment in which there is no 'cow lynching' and 'man lynching'. We should celebrate unity in diversity in the country." Indresh reiterated the stand of RSS's chief spokesperson Sunil Ambekar on caste census in Palakkad following a meet of coordination committee of Sangh affiliates. Ambekar had backed the idea of caste census while saying that it should be aimed at uplifting communities and never be treated as a 'political tool' for electoral gains.

UP dhaba owner changes eatery name after threat

A 60-year-old dhaba owner, Mohd Saleem, changed the name of his 20-year-old vegetarian eatery after "repeated threats from a section of the majority community, including a seer". Saleem runs 'Sangam Shuddh Shakahari Bhojnalaya' on Delhi-Dehradun Road in Muzaffarnagar. **P 8**

urt a resolution describing POK residents as foreigners. I want to tell them our govt considers the people of POK our own. We want them to join us," Singh said. "If voted to govt, we'll make J&K a model state in 10 years," he said.

➤ 'Won't allow Art 370', P 12

18 mths to go for Naxal-free vow, CRPF rushes 4k troops to C'garh

New Delhi: As counter-Naxal forces brace to meet the March 2026 deadline set by home minister Amit Shah for ending Left-wing extremist violence, CRPF has augmented its strength in Maoist bastions of south Bastar (Chhattisgarh) by deploying an additional 4,000 personnel, reports **Bharti Jain**.

Four battalions, comprising 4,000 troops, were recently ordered to leave their stations in Jharkhand and Bihar and join the large number of battalions already fighting Maoists in south Bastar. While three battalions have been brought in from Jharkhand, one battalion is reaching from Bihar.

CRPF has set up over 100 forward operating bases in what once were Maoist strongholds inaccessible to governance and local administration. A CRPF source told **TOI** 10 FOBs have been established so far this year in south Bastar.

➤ March 2026 date, P 13

Right of bail can't be defeated by arbitrary surety demands: HC

Allahabad HC has directed trial courts to ensure that orders granting bail should not have arbitrary surety conditions without considering the socio-economic status of the bail applicant, reports **Rajesh Kumar Pandey**. The court said those who are poor or belong to the marginalised sections might not be able to comply with such bail conditions.

Justice Ajay Bhanot said it is the responsibility of trial courts to apply their minds by considering the socio-economic status of the accused while fixing sureties. "This appears to be a serious matter... The constitutional courts have consistently held the right of bail can't be defeated by arbitrary surety demands," HC said while granting bail to one Arman of Agra. **P 8**

Pak sees you as foreigners, join us, Rajnath tells people of POK

Ramban: The day isn't far when people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) would express their desire to be part of India, defence minister Rajnath Singh told a large gathering Sunday at a poll rally in Jammu's Ramban, reports **Sanjay Khajuria & Saleem Pandit**.

"Recently, additional SG of Pakistan presented in support a resolution describing POK residents as foreigners. I want to tell them our govt considers the people of POK our own. We want them to join us," Singh said. "If voted to govt, we'll make J&K a model state in 10 years," he said.

➤ 'Won't allow Art 370', P 12

B'desh to take steps to get Hasina extradited to face genocide trial

Chief Prosecutor Of Tribunal Points To Pact With India

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: The newly appointed chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) announced Sunday that the country will initiate steps to extradite deposed PM Sheikh Hasina from India to face trial on charges of genocide during the student-led uprising that culminated in her 15-year administration's overthrow on Aug 5.

"Bangladesh has a criminal extradition treaty with India. She will be brought back to the country in line with that agreement. Not just Hasina, but all those involved in the massacre will be officially tried," said chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam, who has a Jamaat-e-Islami background.

'PRIME SUSPECT'

➤ Chief prosecutor Mohd Tajul Islam says **Sheikh Hasina** is prime suspect in most of genocide cases & crimes against humanity. **'Biggest challenge right now is to preserve evidence & bring it into legal framework to prove cases'**

➤ **Islam has a Jamaat-e-Islami background** and is also a key figure in Amar Bangladesh party, founded by Jamaat-Shibir members

➤ As a Supreme Court advocate, Islam had served as deputy to barrister Abdur Razzaque, who led the legal defence team for former Jamaat leaders facing war crime charges at ICT. After Razzaque fled to UK fearing arrest during Hasina's Awami League administration, Islam assumed the role of lead counsel for Jamaat's defence.

➤ 'Prime suspect', P 16

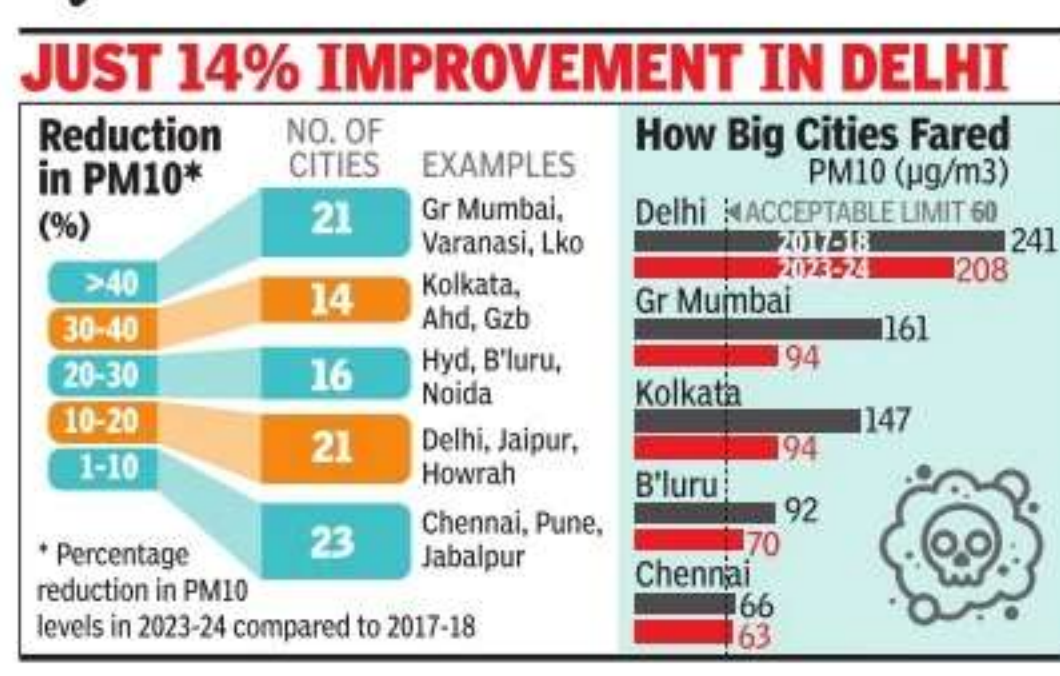
21 cities achieve target of 40% PM10 cut 2 yrs before deadline

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New Delhi: Twenty-one cities — including Greater Mumbai, Varanasi, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Dehradun, Dhanbad, Trichy and Tuticorin — cut the concentration of critical air pollutant PM10 by more than 40% in 2023-24 compared to 2017-18 levels, says the latest compilation of data from 131 cities made by the environment ministry.

Though these 21 cities have met the target of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) two years in advance, most — including Greater Mumbai, Varanasi, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Dehradun — have still not met the acceptable limit (national standards) of keeping PM10 concentration within the annual average of 60 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m3).

For instance, Greater



'Vehicles beat crop fires in CO emissions'

Transport, industrial and domestic sectors in Delhi and neighbouring areas are bigger factors in raising carbon monoxide (CO) levels in Delhi-NCR than crop burning in Punjab during Oct-Nov, says a study. Transport alone contributes 55.4% of NCR's CO emissions, with share of crop burning at 15.8% to 29.9%, of which 11.7% to 23.3% is attributed to Punjab. **P 2**

Mumbai reduced PM10 levels by nearly 42% (from 161 µg/m3 to 94) but its average PM10 level continues to be higher than the national ambient air

Biren meets guv again, said to have sought end to truce pacts

Manipur CM N Biren Singh led a delegation of about 20 MLAs to Raj Bhavan Sunday and handed the governor a memorandum that purportedly recommends revoking the 2008 tripartite agreement on suspension of operations against tribal militant groups suspected to be behind the resurgence of violence in the state.

Later, security forces used tear gas to disperse civilians rallying near Raj Bhavan and the CM's residence against violence by militants, including drone bombings and the first reported rocket attacks in the region, reports **Kangkan Kalita**.

The CM's second meeting with the governor in 24 hours followed six more deaths in multiple instances of ethnic violence in Jiribam district Saturday.

➤ Unified command, P 13

CBI arrests CGST official seeking ₹60L bribe after dramatic chase

Mumbai: A central GST (CGST) superintendent accused of detaining a businessman for 18 hours and demanding a bribe of Rs 60 lakh was nabbed by CBI last week after a dramatic chase in the middle of the night near Oshiwara police station, reports **Vijay V Singh**.

In his bid to escape, the official, Sachin Gokulka, dumped one of his aides — a consultant who had allegedly accepted the bribe on his behalf — on the road but was soon caught by the CBI team in pursuit. The consultant and a CA were also arrested, and an FIR was filed against two IRS officers — additional commissioner, CGST, Deepak Kumar Sharma, and joint commissioner Rahul Kumar — and three CGST superintendents. Kumar, currently posted in another state but who previously worked in Mumbai, is accused of facilitating the deal by contacting Sharma.

➤ Coerced bizman, P 13

18-HOUR ORDEAL

Sept 4 | CGST official, 3 others detain bizman for 18 hrs, seek ₹80L bribe to settle an issue

- Reduce demand to ₹60L, threaten arrest if he doesn't pay, 'abuse, slap' him
- Bizman arranges ₹30L to be handed over to a CA, allegedly acting as a middleman

Sept 5 | Bizman released, asked to deliver the remaining ₹30L the same evening

- He approaches CBI, which nabs consultant supposed to collect money from the CA
- **Sept 6** | CBI sets trap for CGST official, catches him after chase

TN jail DIG booked for 'forcing inmates into home chores'

Fourteen officials of TN's Vellore prison, including DIG R Rajalakshmi, have been booked by CB-CID for allegedly forcing prisoners into chores at their homes. This follows a judicial magistrate's report to Madras HC on the exploitation. The FIR was registered on the orders of the court. S Sivakumar, a murder convict serving a life term, had also alleged the prison authorities beat him up and tortured him after accusing him of stealing Rs 4.5 lakh in cash and other valuables from the DIG's house. Sivakumar was also allegedly kept in solitary confinement for more than three months. **P 8**

India to join China, Russia for lunar N-power plant?

Srinivas Laxman

Call it lunar diplomacy or what you may. Two archrivals, India and China, are likely to team up with Russia for setting up a nuclear power plant on the Moon. This is according to a recent report in EuroAsian Times, referring to Russia's state-owned news agency Tass, saying this was highlighted by Rosatom chief, Alexey Likhachev. Rosatom is Russia's state nuclear energy corporation that has ties with India.

Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum recently at Vladivostok in Russia, Likhachev said: "...with the involvement of the international community, our Chinese

In a 1st, Chandrayaan records seismic signs

In a first-ever collection of seismic data from Moon's south pole, Chandrayaan-3 has detected over 250 seismic signals, some of which may be linked to moonquakes. The findings have been published by Isro researchers in ICA-RUS, a scientific journal. **P 13**

and Indian partners are very interested in this."

India's interest in the project assumes significance in the context of it planning a manned mission to the Moon by 2040 and setting up a base.

➤ 0.5 MW output, P 13

YouTube 'doctor' botches up op, kills 15-year-old

A 15-year-old boy died when a quack botched up a gall bladder stone surgery, which he tried to perform following instructions from a YouTube video on his phone, in Bihar's Saran Saturday. Cops are looking for the offender, who fled after the patient's condition worsened, reports **Manoj Chaurasia**.

An unwell Krishna from Bhuwalpur village was taken to Ajit Puri's private clinic. Puri advised urgent surgery and began it without the consent of the Krishna's kin, his grandfather told **TOI**. Later, Puri arranged an ambulance to transfer Krishna to a Patna hospital, but he had died by then. **P 8**



How illegal wires are cluttering electric poles | 4

TEMP ON SUNDAY

29.6°

MAXIMUM

25.2°

MINIMUM

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain on Monday.

Max & min temp would be around 32 and 25°C

MOONSET

9.52PM (MON)

SUNSET

6.33PM (MON)

MOONRISE

12.21PM (TUE)

SUNRISE

6.04AM (TUE)

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

U-Special bus service may make a comeback in DU | 5

91

AQI IN DELHI ON SUNDAY (SATISFACTORY CATEGORY)

Dwarka residents complain of water supply issues | 6



Only 5 Of 20 Projects Met All Conditions Set By SC For Tree Felling In Green Lungs

Panel Finds Most Proponents Ignored Norms Laid Down By Court Once Construction Started

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New Delhi: The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Supreme Court has found that out of 20 govt projects for which conditional permission was given by the apex court for tree felling or translocation in the ridge area from 2016 onwards, only five have complied with the conditions.

Among the conditions that were not met by project proponents were compensatory plantation and the creation of a green belt at the site. The committee said the project proponents complied with norms until trees were felled or translocated, but after the construction starts, they paid no heed to other conditions.

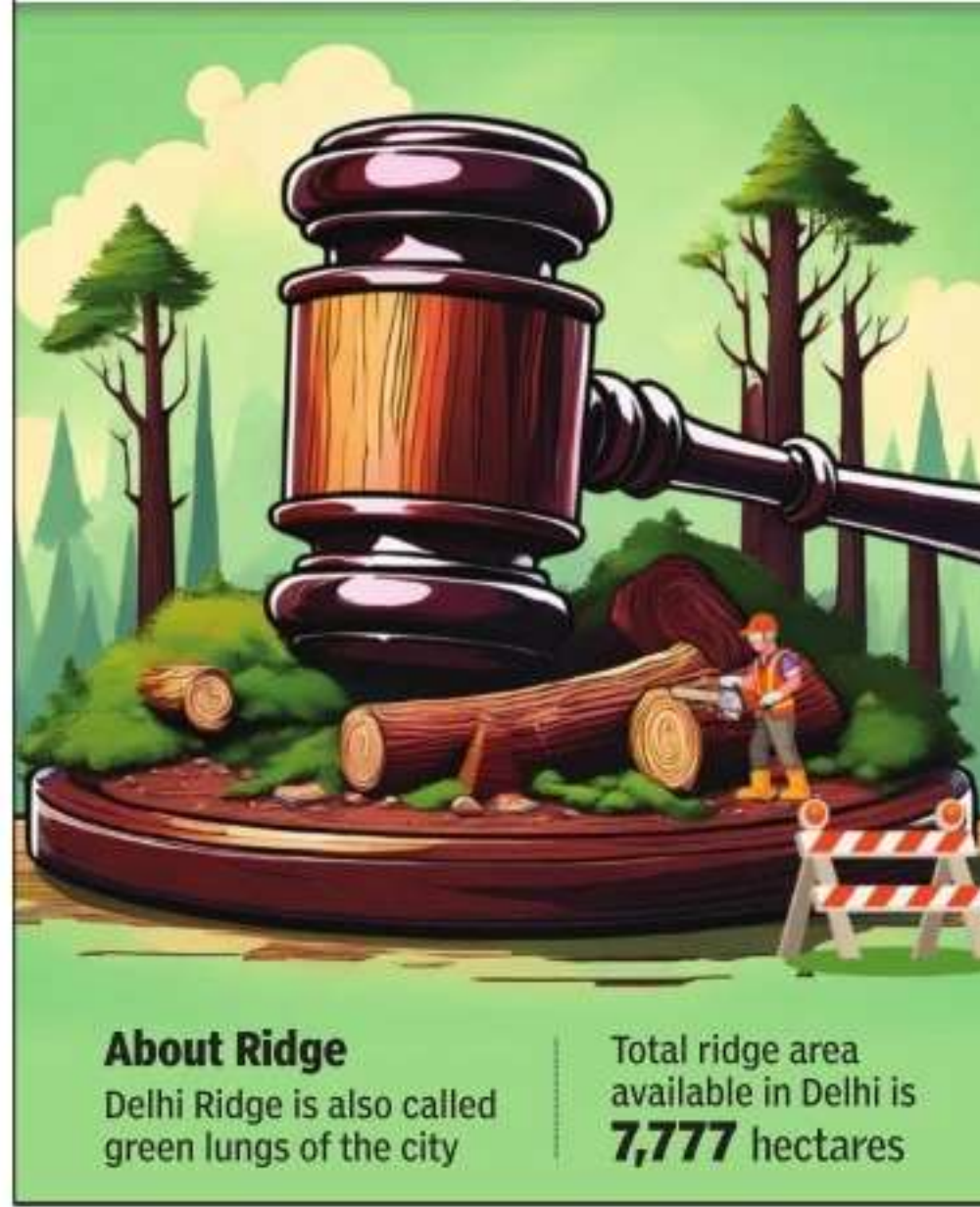
For carrying out construction or any development work in ridge areas of Delhi, the agency concerned has to seek permission from Ridge Management Board, CEC and Supreme Court. The nod also has to be taken from the tree officer of Delhi govt and certain conditions are imposed by the Centre while approving the diversion of forest land for non-forestry use.

CEC, in its report dated Sept 4, said, "CEC has started the exercise of finding out the compliance status of the order of Supreme Court and noticed that the status of compliance is not strictly in the spirit of the orders of this court."

The projects that complied with all conditions included NHAI (Dhaura Kuan); Delhi

GREEN DAMAGE NOT UNDONE

- Supreme Court gave permission for tree felling, or translocation, in Delhi's ridge areas with certain conditions
- Central Empowered Committee of Supreme Court says that, of 20 projects from 2016 onwards, only five met all conditions
- CEC says forest department and Ridge Management Board did not maintain a proper record of compliance with conditions imposed by Supreme Court
- CEC will now create a customised management information system to ensure compliance with Supreme Court orders



About Ridge

Delhi Ridge is also called green lungs of the city

Total ridge area available in Delhi is 7,777 hectares

WHAT CEC REPORT SAYS ON PROJECTS

Project proponent	Non-compliance as observed by CEC
JNU for construction of hostel buildings	No record of compensatory plantation
PWD (FOB) Anuvrat Marg, Near Qutub Minar Metro Station	No record of compensatory plantation and plantation in other vacant spaces
South Asian University, Maidan Garhi	No record of approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980
Power Grid Corporation of India	No record of compliance with creation of a green belt under transmission line
SDMC (Tehkhand, Okhla)	No record of compliance with creation of a green belt around landfill
NBCC (India) Ltd, Crafts Complex, Vasant Kunj	No record of compliance with creation of a green belt around percolation pond
DDA (Siri Fort Road)	5470 sqm of paved area not turned into green belt
CBI Housing Complex, Maidangarhi (NBCC India Ltd)	No record of a green belt around boundary and creation of percolation tank for water recharging
Ministry of Defence (Navy), OFC Cable, Malcha Marg	None of the conditions complied with
Delhi Police (SPUWAC), Nanakpura	No record of compensatory plantation
Ministry of Defence (WESEE)	No compliance reported
INS India, Ministry of Defence, Naval Infrastructure at 183 Brar Square	No compliance reported
DDA (Toilet Block)	No compliance reported
National Capital Region Transport Corporation	No compliance reported
Directorate Of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)	Cost of compensatory plantation not deposited

Transco Ltd; CPWD (Mahipalpur Bypass Road); Referral and Research (R&R) Army Hospital of ministry of defence,

said the CEC report.

The report said the projects that did not fulfil any condition included National Capital Re-

gion Transport Complex, DDA, INS India, and ministry of defence. Some projects that did not meet some conditions were

JNU, PWD, South Asian University, Power Grid Corporation of India, SDMC, NBCC, DDA, CBI, Delhi Police and Directorate of

Revenue Intelligence.

"It is evident that a proper record of compliance with conditions imposed by Supreme Court has not been maintained by Delhi govt's forest department and also by Ridge Management Board. It has also been noticed that while recommending a project of a certain agency, its compliance record of conditions imposed in previous proposals has also not been looked into," said the report.

CEC said it would create a customised management information system to ensure compliance with Supreme Court orders and project proponents would be required to share details on the system.

"It recommended that all project proponents be given a grace period of six months to comply with the conditions imposed by Supreme Court for their projects and till such time their new proposals may be kept pending. If they fail to comply with the conditions even after the allotted grace period, then this court may like to take suitable punitive action against them," said the report.

CEC also suggested that if any agency or authority defaulted in compliance with any of the conditions imposed on any of its earlier proposals, any new proposal submitted by it should not be recommended by Ridge Management Board till compliance with all the conditions has been ensured.

Ridges are the green lungs of Delhi and the total ridge area available in Delhi is 7,777 hectares.

'Transport, industries bigger contributors of CO than farm fires'

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Chandigarh: The impact of industrial, transport and domestic sectors in Delhi and surrounding regions is more significant in increasing carbon monoxide levels in the city and NCR than crop residue burning in Punjab, says a study. This comes against the backdrop of stubble burning being so far identified as a major contributor to NCR pollution, with approximately 75% emanating from Punjab.

According to the study by researchers from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, and National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, US, transport was the largest contributor to carbon monoxide emissions in NCR, accounting for 55.4% of the total. In contrast, crop residue burning contributed 15.8% to 29.9%, with 11.7% to 23.3% of it attributed to Punjab.

The study, titled "Source attribution of carbon monoxide over Northern India during crop residue burning period over Punjab" has been published in the latest edition of international journal *Environmental Pollution*. It was conducted by researchers Abhinav Sharma, Shuchita Srivastava, R Kumar and D Mitra.

Delhi and surrounding NCR areas - Meerut, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad, Gurugram - suffer from poor air quality during the post-monsoon months of Oct-Nov. The study aimed to quantify the contributions of

various emission sources, including industrial, residential, power generation, transportation, biomass burning, photochemical production and lateral transport, to the concentration of carbon monoxide, a key air pollutant in north India.

The researchers used Weather Research and Forecasting model with Chemistry (WRF-Chem) to simulate surface carbon monoxide concentrations over north India during the peak paddy residue burning period in Punjab from Oct 28 to Nov 16, 2021.

According to the study, anthropogenic sources - comprising human activities that impact environment - accounted for 53.4% to 77.2% of total emissions, with the residential, transportation and industrial sectors being the largest contributors.

On transport, the study attributed its high share to the likely presence of older emissions, exceeding a decade in age.

In contrast, background concentration in Delhi had a relatively minor contribution, ranging from 2.9% to 5.4%. Meanwhile, monoxide emissions from other sources varied, accounting for 4.2% to 17.1% of the total.

For Punjab, the study revealed that widespread paddy waste burning significantly impacted pollution, contributing 56.2% to 76.5% of total surface carbon monoxide concentration, with approximately 94% of these originating locally. In contrast, anthropogenic emissions account for 13.6% to 30%, primarily driven by the residential sector.

75% OF CROP RESIDUE BURNING EMANATES FROM PUNJAB

Wetland authority to identify waterbodies already protected

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New Delhi: After discovering that two of the 20 lakes it had prioritised to protect already had "protected" status, Delhi State Wetland Authority (DSWA) has said it will now identify all such water bodies in the city that are protected under other acts or rules. These would no longer require notification and protection as wetlands under the Wetland (Conservation) Rules, 2017.

In Aug 2021, the authority listed 1,045 water bodies, aiming to notify them. Based on satellite imagery, more than 322 water bodies were added recently to the tally. This means a total of 1,367 water bodies that need rejuvenation.

Initially, DSWA drew up a priority list of 10 major water bodies, including Najafgarh lake, but later added 10 more. Soon thereafter, it initiated work to notify the 20 waterbodies. However, it recently found that two of these - Sanjay Lake and Smriti Van Lake - had

protection under Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and will no longer be notified as wetlands.

"There are at least 16 agencies which own the waterbodies. We had asked them for details about the ones we planned to notify as wetlands. We found Sanjay Lake in east Delhi and Smriti Van Lake in Vasant Kunj were already protected," said a senior DSWA official.

Meanwhile, Welcome Jheel is expected to become the first waterbody to be notified as a wetland in the national capital, with the process nearing completion, according to officials.

"For each water body, a brief note needs to be prepared with details like area, capacity and catchment. We have been coordinating with the agency concerned. We expect work for the notification of Welcome Jheel to be finished before the end of the year," said an official from the wetland authority.

Among the 20 waterbodies DSWA had prioritised were Sanjay Lake, Hauz Khas Lake,

Bhalswa Lake, Najafgarh Jheel, Welcome Jheel, Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj), Smriti Van (Kondli), Pooth Kalan, Sultanpur Dabas, Daryapur Kalan, Dheerpur and Mungeshpur.

According to experts, wetland rules are more applicable for waterbodies in open areas or lakes in the countryside.

"For urban lakes, most of the rules cannot be met as it would be difficult to define the catchment area. For example, how would they define catchment areas of lakes like Bhalswa, Sanjay Lake or Hauz Khas? They were not filled by runoff, but part of the river course. Many of these lakes don't have basins, and remnant basins are heavily urbanised," said Manu Bhatnagar, principal director, natural heritage division, Intach.

"The wetland rules require the high flood level to be defined for the last 10 years, with no construction permitted within 50 metres. But already, we have encroachments within 50 metres of these waterbodies," added Bhatnagar.

Plan to discourage pvt buses from parking on roadsides to decongest Kashmere Gate

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New Delhi: Delhi govt has taken steps to reduce traffic congestion in the vicinity of Inter-State Bus Terminals (ISBTs) by implementing new policies. Under it, parking and bus bay usage fees for private and govt interstate buses will now be the same to discourage private buses from parking illegally on the roadside which congests traffic.

Furthermore, buses will be assigned a fixed parking time slot of 25 minutes at a predetermined rate. If a bus exceeds this allotted time, additional charges will be levied. To ensure compliance, buses without FasTags will not be permitted to enter the terminal. Delhi has three ISBTs - at Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan.

These decisions were taken on the instructions of lieutenant governor VK Saxena,

who had inspected ISBT Kashmere Gate and instructed the transport commissioner and Delhi Transport Corporation to reduce the turnaround time of buses and take other measures to remove congestion.

A senior official said, "Currently, private buses are subject to higher charges, so they park and pick up passengers on roads outside the ISBT complex without authorisation. This practice not only leads to traffic congestion but also results in passenger and revenue losses for state-run buses," he said.

Moreover, govt is set to introduce a system of differential parking and utilisation charges based on time, aiming to reduce the turnaround time of buses entering and exiting ISBTs. This measure is expected to have multiple benefits, including reducing passenger waiting time, allowing faster circulation of buses, impro-



Under the new system of Delhi govt, parking and bus bay usage fees for private and govt interstate buses will be the same

ving traffic flow and generating more revenue for the transport department.

Under the new system, buses will be allocated a parking slot of 25 minutes at a predetermined rate. Any delay exceeding this time limit will incur proportionately extra charges for every additional 5 minutes of overstay, said an LG house

official. The enforcement and implementation of this system will be facilitated through the use of FASTags on the buses. Buses without the tags will not be allowed inside the terminal, and a facility will be provided outside the terminal complex where buses lacking FASTags can pay and obtain them before entering.

Bulldozers fail to silence this school's hopeful voices

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New Delhi: While the world celebrates International Literacy Day, Kavita, an educator at Panchsheel Sikshan Sansthan, a modest educational institution for underprivileged children, recounts the harrowing tale of July 5. "I was engrossed in teaching mathematics to my pupils when a bulldozer arrived to raze our school. Although I had heard that civic authorities had demolished illegal occupants of Yamuna Khadar, I never imagined they would destroy our educational establishment. But they did. We managed to salvage a few benches from the wreckage," she says.

The school primarily caters to students from Delhi govt and MCD schools in Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Pocket-4, who attend classes here before and after their regular school hours. Satyendra Pal Shakya, head of this institution, has been imparting knowledge to children from families of farmers, vendors and daily wage labourers for a decade. During this monsoon season, both teachers and students find themselves in dire straits, lacking a proper roof over their classrooms. Shakya says, "Our children possess indomitable spirits; they are acutely aware of their plight, with many even rendered homeless

AMID RUINS, LEARNING BURNS BRIGHT

The school primarily caters to students from Delhi govt and MCD schools in Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Pocket-4, who attend classes here before and after their regular school hours



as their houses were also demolished, yet they remain steadfastly committed to their education, diligently attending classes every day. They are our true inspiration."

Himanshi, a Class V student, expresses her admiration, saying, "I witnessed the courage and resilience of our teachers in the face of adversity, and I aspire to become an educator like them." Similarly, Priyandar, a Class IV student, nurtures dreams of becoming a cricketer. Kareena's house was also demolished, prompting her uncle and aunt to return to their native village. However, Kareena and her parents continue to persevere, holding onto her ambition of becoming a doctor.

Shakya has been dedicated to educating children from Mayur Vihar Pocket-4 slum area since 2015. Yamuna Khadar in Mayur Vihar is populated by migrants from Badaun, Ghazipur, Shahjahanpur and Bihar. Shakya reflects, "I embarked on this mission in 2015 to educate underprivileged and slum children. We gradually constructed our classrooms and acquired benches, with the generous support of many Delhiites. However, after a decade of progress, we find ourselves starting from scratch once again. It makes me wonder whether this truly represents the essence of 'viksit bharat' (developed India)."

Scattered rain likely over next few days, AQI 'satisfactory'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The capital experienced a gloomy day with overcast skies and intermittent very light rain throughout the city. Met officials said the presence of low clouds affected visibility during the day.

Scattered light rain is likely to continue until Thursday. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate rain for Friday and Saturday.

The low clouds prevented the temperature from rising significantly. The maximum temperature was 29.6 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal. The minimum temperature was 25.2 degrees Celsius, which is around normal. The gap between the day's maximum and minimum temperatures was just 4.4 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature on Saturday was 34.4 degrees Celsius.

Met officials attributed the presence of low clouds in Delhi-NCR and parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plains to sufficient moisture from the nearby monsoon trough, coupled with low wind speeds. The city's lowest visibility was re-

corded at 900 metres around 10.30 am on Sunday. "Scattered very light rain was received across the city. Similar rain activity is expected for the next four days," said an IMD official. IMD said light rain is expected until Thursday, but no color-coded warning has been issued.

Safdarjung, the city's base station, logged 1.8 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours till 8.30 am on Sunday. However, it received just 0.2 mm of rainfall from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. During the same period, Ayazgarh recorded 3.3 mm, Palam 2 mm, and Pusa and Pitampura received 0.5 mm of rainfall each. Only "trace" rainfall was recorded at Lodhi Road and Ridge between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

IMD data shows that Safdarjung has logged 73.9 mm of rainfall in Sept so far, which is nearly 60% of the month's long-period average of 123.4 mm.

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'satisfactory' category, with an air quality index (AQI) of 91 on Sunday, up from 70 a day earlier. It is likely to stay in the same category until Sept 11, according to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

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DUSU Polls: How Candidates Are Trying To Buck Recent Trend Of Low Turnout

Concentrate On Outreach Programmes, Look For Direct Engagement With Students

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New Delhi: With a voter turnout of just 39.9% in 2019 and a slight increase to 42% in 2023 when the DUSU polls took place after a gap of three years, student organisations participating this time are concentrating on outreach programmes and direct engagement with students to boost participation.

Potential candidates are gearing up and campaign strategies are being devised as the stage is set for a dynamic and engaging election season. The Delhi University Students' Union polls are scheduled to take place on Sept 27 and the counting of votes will be done on Sept 28.

Ashutosh Singh, ABVP's national media convener, said they launched outreach programmes across 52 colleges to gauge student needs, particularly those of newcomers. "One of our primary goals is to increase voter turnout. The percentage has been below 50% in recent years, and it's crucial for more students to participate.

We're collecting student feedback to shape our manifesto and informing them about ABVP's achievements," Singh said.

Although turnout in 2023 improved over 2019, it still fell short of the 11-year high of 44.5% seen in 2018. The voter turnouts for 2017 and 2018 were 42.8% and 44.5%, respectively.

On Sunday, ABVP, which currently holds three central panel positions at the university, announced its election committee responsible for various decisions, including candidate selection. Appointed as the chairman for the DUSU election committee, ABVP Delhi state president Tapan Bihari said, "We are reviewing potential candidates. Our 'DUSU in campus' campaign has received a positive response this year as well, and we are actively engaging with students."

Honey Bagga, NSUI's national secretary and Delhi in-charge, emphasised their commitment to supporting newcomers who are unfamiliar with the election environment. "From the start of the academic session, we



DUSU polls will take place on Sept 27 with counting of votes on Sept 28

set up help desks for freshers as connecting with them is crucial. We also launched a membership drive to encourage more student participation. Our potential candidates are forming teams at the level, and we will have a proper plan in place after discussions soon," Bagga said.

Various student groups had started their outreach programmes on the first day of the academic session itself by conducting membership drives and telling new students about their work. They were seen greeting freshers, addressing queries, and distributing pamphlets and bookmarks.

Caught on cam: Bouncers told to kneel, shots fired

Times News Network

New Delhi: CCTV footage has emerged showing armed assailants brazenly firing a barrage of gunshots at a club in east Delhi's Seemapuri. The video captures the harrowing moment when the gunmen, brandishing weapons, threatened the bouncers, including a female staff member, forcing them to kneel before discharging their firearms indiscriminately outside the establishment.

Police said disclosed on Sunday that they had arrested one of the suspects, identified as Shahrukh (30), and efforts were underway to catch others. Police are investigating all potential angles, including the possibility of an extortion attempt as the motive behind the incident, they stated.

The footage shows one of the assailants ordering the staff members outside the club, named 'Kaanch', to drop to their knees. When the employees object, the armed individual is overheard issuing an ultimatum before opening fire.

The staff members eventually complied, with the woman being the first to kneel. In a tense sequence, two of the assailants then fired their weapons into the air, causing patrons to seek shelter in panic. Bullets also struck the building's walls, with approximately a dozen shots being fired. No one was injured in the gunfire. According to police, they received a distress call regarding the shooting at Kanch Club in the Jhilim Industrial Area around 1 am on Sept 6. Sub-inspector Pravesh Tyagi and his colleagues were assigned to investigate the incident. Umar, a 25-year-old bouncer at the club, recounted that four individuals arrived at the establishment at 11.45 pm on Sept 5, and two of them aimed their pistols directly at him, firing with the intent to kill. The accused then fled towards Vivek Vihar.

A case was registered under the section of attempted murder in BNS, in addition to Arms Act.



The incident happened at 11.45pm

U-Special: Bus service that was a DU campus lifeline could return

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New Delhi: Poornima (17), who has just started her college days in Daulat Ram, does not know what "U-Special" stands for. To her mom, Sunita, the mere mention of it makes her nostalgic.

U-Special was a group of DTC buses that were for Delhi University students who went to North Campus colleges. "We used to rely on the U-Specials every day to reach college. It was an integral part of my routine. Without it, I would either miss classes or face the ordeal of commuting on a regular DTC bus," Sunita said. She studied in Hindu College from 1995 to 1998. For her, the U-Special was more than a mode of transport. "It was like a dependable companion," she said.

Sunita's daughter Poornima may see a different version of the U-Special service, too. There is a plan to introduce buses from metro stations to North and South Campus to boost last-mile connectivity.

To many former DU students, the daily bus rides were cherished. They were a chance to unwind and connect with fellow students beyond the confines of classroom walls. The buses set the path to new friendships. The rides were a launchpad for budding relationships.

Savithri Singh, a former principal of Delhi University's Acharya Narendra Dev College, was a U-Special passenger back in the 1970s. She was in Miranda House from 1970-75. "I lived in Kidwai Nagar. The U-Special was my preferred option. It began its route at AIIMS and halted only twice—at

South Extension and Andrews Ganj—making the ride much faster. Besides the convenience, it was about the camaraderie. We met familiar faces every day. We used to share notes and discuss everything happening in our colleges. I am still friends with a lot of people I met on those bus rides. We felt secure knowing that only DU students were allowed on the bus." The "monthly pass for just Rs 12.50" was "very affordable", she added.

Like every campus bus service, this one too had its timing quirks. "On the return journey, the bus would leave at 3.30 pm but our practical classes typically ended at 3.40pm," Singh said. "We'd sneak out of class around 3.20pm, leave our bags on the bus and ask other passengers to wait for us. Since everyone knew the regulars, they would oblige," she said.

The U-Specials, although, not as popular after the metro service picked up, was still used by students who were from economically weaker families. The service was stopped in March 2020 during the Covid lockdown. From a fleet of 63 in 2007-08, their number had dwindled to 17 in 2019-20. A DTC official said that the launch of the Kashmere Gate-Vishwavidyalaya metro route, which directly connects North Campus with various parts of the city, significantly diminished the demand for the buses.

The service, designed specifically for students, did not make a comeback when the lockdown eased.

A senior DTC official said that there were plans to bring back the service as there have been requests from the university and student outfits.

"Delhi govt has assured us that the buses will be brought back for the benefit of students. A pilot is likely to be flagged off by the Delhi transport minister soon," said DU's Bipin Tiwary, a professor of political science who is also coordinating with the govt on the matter.

Atishi: Will oppose plan for GST on online transactions below ₹2k

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New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) govt has reiterated its position before the upcoming 54th GST Council meeting, stating that it will oppose the BJP-led central govt's plan to impose GST on payment gateway transactions below Rs 2,000.

The GST Council on Monday is expected to deliberate on several matters, including taxation of insurance premiums.

Atishi, who is the Delhi finance minister, said this decision would have severe consequences for numerous startups and small businesses. She emphasised that central govt's plan would place an excessive financial strain on India's entrepreneurial community.

AAP govt believes that implementing such a tax on smaller transactions will hinder the growth and development of the startup ecosystem and negatively impact small-scale enterprises, she said.

Atishi said that central govt has been continuously saying that it was promoting the cashless economy.

"However, their hypocrisy is evident as

central govt is bringing a proposal in the GST Council meeting tomorrow that online transactions below Rs 2,000, which were exempted from GST until now, will be taxed," she said.

"When we buy something online using debit cards, credit cards or net banking, if our transaction is below Rs 2,000, it is not subject to GST. If the transaction exceeds Rs 2,000, it attracts a GST of 18% on the payment gateway fees."

"Central govt is proposing that all transactions through payment gateways, even if less than Rs 2,000, will be charged 18% GST," she said. This means these small online purchases, made via debit or credit card, will also be taxed. Most of these payments happen through some payment gateway.

There are many such payment gateways. Till now, if all these payments were less than Rs. 2,000, then GST was not levied on them.

Atishi added that now whether the transaction is of Rs 5, 50 or 100, any transaction done on payment gateways will be taxable and 18% GST will have to be paid by the payment gateways.

She said the Kejriwal govt would also oppose GST on research grants in the GST Council meeting. Delhi BJP did not respond to the allegations.

Fire at godown, no injuries reported

New Delhi: A massive fire engulfed a garment godown in west Delhi's Bakkarwala on Sunday, rapidly spreading across three floors of the building, each measuring around 3,000 square yards. A total of 26 fire tenders were dispatched to the scene to combat the blaze.

Delhi Fire Services received a distress call at 6.55 am about the fire in the multi-story structure housing various godowns. The first floor, occupied by Noor Exports, contained a large inventory of ready-made garments and cosmetic products. The second and third floors were used by Nizami Apparels to store their ready-made garment stock.

Despite the extensive damage, no casualties have been reported. A team of over 100 firefighters worked to control the fire and succeeded in extinguishing it by 3.15 pm.

Police are investigating the cause of the fire. TNN

A SPECIAL RIDE

The U-Special bus service, which was discontinued during the Covid-19 lockdown, is yet to resume. It may make a comeback soon

How commuters describe the service

- A lifeline** | Providing a reliable transportation option for students, it became a familiar and comforting part of their daily lives
- A sense of safety** | Offered a secure environment, knowing that only fellow students were allowed onboard. Students were often heard saying 'staff' when they were asked to show ID
- A catalyst for friendships** | Enabled the formation of new relationships and social bonds through daily interactions
- A venue for sharing** | Served as a place to exchange notes, discuss campus news and stay informed about university events
- A platform for networking** | Offered opportunities to students to meet peers from different colleges and disciplines
- Affordable** | An economical choice, with a low fares that fit student budgets
- Memory maker** | Became a cherished part of university life, often remembered fondly as a backdrop for personal experiences and growth
- Enhanced long journeys** | Made extended commutes more comfortable and bearable

Families living close to Barapullah drain suddenly have nowhere to go

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New Delhi: On one side stands the Barapullah drain and on the other is an MCD dumping site. Somewhere in the middle of the two are 400-500 migrant families living in fear of their houses getting demolished.

"However filthy it is, it is our home. From here, our children go to school and we go to work. How can we be removed from our houses overnight?" says Radha, a domestic worker who claims to have been living in the area near the Barapullah drain for several decades.

This week, PWD has put up a notice in the area giving the residents five days to vacate their houses till Sept 9, following which their houses will be demolished.

"We have been living here for almost 30 years and suddenly are being asked to vacate in five days," says Murugeshan (62), who is the pradhan for the Tamil community in the area. "Children, adults and elderly all live here in jhuggies. They want to uproot all these lives in just a week. During monsoon, where



PWD has put up a notice giving the residents five days to vacate houses will these families go?" The residents of the area, mostly migrants from Tamil Nadu, are daily wage workers and claim to have been living in the area for 40 years.

PWD's move comes weeks after National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Aug 6 ordered authorities to desilt the Barapullah drain in three months. The order was based on a report

(ASI), has been handed back to the conservation agency.

According to local people, on Aug 22, MCD demolished around 40-50 houses in the area. Radha and her husband Murgan, whose house was demolished, said: "That morning, around 10, some officials came and asked us to vacate our house and within a few hours, it was razed to the ground. Together, we both earn around Rs 10,000 a month. With that we feed our family, send children to school and make savings. Now that our house is demolished, we can't even think of renting a house as we can't afford it."

Adjacent to her demolished house was Annadurai's (55) one-room house that had five people. He cleans cars for a living. "For decades, we have lived near the drain. We are the city voters but we don't get any facilities. Suddenly, after decades, they have decided to take up desilting work, and demolish our homes. Where are the people from low-income groups like us supposed to go?" Those whose homes were demolished currently live with neighbours. "We don't have many people in the city to support us.

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Tiger that started retreat towards Sariska back in Jhabua

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Gurgaon: The Sariska tiger, which was believed to have started to retreat towards its original habitat on Saturday, is back in the Jhabua forest of Rewari that has been its home for the past three weeks. A drone deployed by the forest department had spotted ST-2303 resting in the millet fields of Jakopur village in Rajasthan – around 4-5km from the Jhabua forest – suggesting it was on its way back to Sariska. In Jan this year, when ST-2303 had wandered in the Rewari forest after a 125km trek, it had returned in 4 days.

The tiger made its presence



FRESH PUGMARKS SPOTTED

felt in Jhabua again on Sunday morning after forest officials spotted fresh pugmarks. The big

cat is believed to have travelled in the dead of night.

This is the second time in abo-

ut 10 days that the tiger attempted a return to Sariska. On Aug 30, the animal had traversed to Baghana village of Rajasthan but retraced its steps back to Jhabua the following morning.

On both occasions when the tiger walked out of Jhabua, it had rained heavily, which the foresters think could be one of the reasons for its return. Moreover, the path it is likely to take back to Sariska has human habitation around it. On Aug 17, ST-2303 had made a 125km trek by the Sahibi river to reach Jhabua, passing through a terrain of bare rock, lush farmland and patches of scrub. Forest officials said they had made attempts to tranquili-

se the tiger, but had failed. "Thrice, we tied a buffalo calf to a tree, hoping the tiger would attack it and we would have enough time to dart the big cat. But it dragged the calf deep into the forest, which is why we couldn't tranquilise it," an official said.

Villagers in Khijuri, which is set against the backdrop of the reserve forest that is now the tiger's home, pointed out that wolves had started to howl on Saturday. "This suggested that the tiger was not in the forest. For the past 21 days, wolves had gone silent. Later, we came to know that the tiger had started to retreat to Sariska. But fresh pugmarks were spotted again," a villager said.

No End To Water Woes For Dwarka

Residents Seek Action Plan From DJB

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New Delhi: Dwarka may be a "planned city", but it has been facing recurring problems with water supply. Recently, due to issues at two command tanks — 4 and 5 of Delhi Jal Board, water supply was curtailed in several societies of sectors 10 and 12. While this might be the latest such episode, residents claim that over the past few months, problems of sewage overflow and water supply have been consistent in the area.

According to residents, the area is the first to get affected whenever there is a problem with Munak canal. Residents' welfare associations have demanded that the water availability, which has been a major problem, be addressed by DJB.

For Dwarka, DJB has a separate water treatment plant that supplies water to several societies. The Dwarka plant gets its raw water supply from Munak. Earlier, when there was a breach of the canal, Dwarka was affected for several days.

"DJB is just not concerned about Dwarka. The water supply has been a continuous issue. Residents are forced to buy packaged drinking water as the tanker services are not efficient," said Rakesh Gupta, president of CGHS Dwarka Ltd — an apex body of 350 Cooperative Group Housing Societies of Dwarka.

According to Geeta Sharma, a resident of sector 12, water supply has been on the lower side for the past two months.

"In the past three to four days, the problem has aggravated. There are societies that are not getting water at all. DJB officials give a different excuse every time we complain. Many societies do not have



Residents say they often have to opt for expensive packaged water

borewell services, and people are forced to spend money buying water from the market. DJB should seriously look into a long-term solution to water supply problems in Dwarka," said Sharma.

DJB did not respond to queries on the issue.

There is also a problem of sewer lines getting choked in Dwarka and sewer overflowing on roads. "After every rain spell, there is a problem of sewage overflowing on roads in sector 5. It is not only unhygienic but could also prove fatal because there are electrical panels there. There could only be two reasons for this: either the level of the drain is higher than societies or the drain is not being cleaned properly. We had complained to DJB about this," they say they have no funds," said Jagmohan Verma, a resident of sector 6 Dwarka and a senior citizen.

30-yr-old man electrocuted while charging e-rickshaw

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man named Deepu died after being electrocuted while charging his e-rickshaw in northeast Delhi's Harsh Vihar on Thursday. According to his relatives, Deepu went to an e-rickshaw parking facility at Saboli Extension in the afternoon. Commercial charging was allegedly being done there using a domestic meter, and Deepu received an electric shock while an e-rickshaw was being charged.

He was taken to GTB Hospital in an unconscious state, where doctors declared him dead. Harsh Vihar police station has filed a case under section 106 of BNS for death due to negligence. An electrical inspector is investigating the issue related to illegal parking.

Deepu lived with his family in Pratap Nagar, Harsh Vihar, and is survived by his wife and two young children. Police

Illegal e-rickshaw charging and parking are widespread in Trans-Yamuna areas such as Welcome, Jafraabad, Mustafabad, Bhajanpura and Nand Nagri

investigation has revealed that a person named Hira Singh was running the parking facility, which has multiple charging points. They are questioning Singh.

Illegal e-rickshaw charging and parking are widespread in Trans-Yamuna. Areas such as Welcome, Jafraabad, Mustafabad, Bhajanpura, Nand Nagri, Tri-lokpur, Kalyanpuri, Shastri Park, Jhil-mil, Chandbagh, Shiv Vihar, Seelampur, Harsh Vihar, and Mandoli have illegal parking operations in homes, where people not only park e-rickshaws but also charge them using domestic meters. Multiple e-rickshaws are often charged simultaneously.

Court convicts man of sexual assault on 2 minor girls in 2017

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently convicted a man of sexually assaulting two minor girls in 2017, finding that the prosecution proved the case against him beyond a reasonable doubt.

Additional Sessions Judge (Poco), Rajesh Kumar, noted in the order dated Sept 5 that the accused had not presented any plausible evidence or defence to prove his innocence or claim of false implication.

According to the prosecution, the accused sexually assaulted the two minors on Nov 4, 2017, leading to a case being registered against him.

The accused argued that he was falsely implicated due to a previous enmity with the father of one of the victims, with whom he had a dispute regarding encroachment and parking of a rehri (wheelcart) in front of his house/temple.

"It is surprising to note that despite taking the defence that the accused and the father of one of the victims had a dispute between them, the father was not cross-examined by the counsel for the accused, and no questions were asked from the father regarding the dispute with the accused. Hence, the accused has failed to prove his defence," the court noted.

The court also observed that the accused did not confront or contradict witnesses and failed to provide evidence or call witnesses, such as those present during a "pooja" he claimed was happening at the time.

Additionally, the accused did not explain or provide evidence showing any benefit the victims or their families might gain from falsely implicating him. The court found the defence vague and unsubstantiated.

"...there is no doubt that the accused is the perpetrator of the crime against both victims. However, the critical evaluation of the testimonies of both the victims shows material contradictions as to which offence has been committed on which victim. The testimonies of both victims are corroborating the fact that they were sexually assaulted by the accused," the court noted.

Bhumi Pujan done for Ramlila

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Shree Dharmic Leela Committee on Sunday performed bhumi puja at Madhav Das Park, Red Fort Ground, the venue for the annual Ramlila performance on Dussehra. The ceremony was conducted by Ram Roshan Das, mahant of Shree Janaki Temple in Janakpur, Nepal.

The event was attended by former Union ministers Murlidhar Joshi, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Meera Kumar; MPs Yogendra Chaudhary and Manoj Tiwari; DPCC President Devender Yadav; actors Vinu Dara Singh (who will play Hanuman), Arbaz Khan (Ravana) and Shilpa Raizada (Sita); and former MLA Alka Lamba, among others.

All the guests were welcomed with mementos and garlands by committee chairman Suresh Goyal, general secretary Dhiraj Dhar Gupta, secretary Pradeep Sharan and spokesperson Ravi Jain. The committee is now in its 101st year of staging Ramlila.

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This is to bring to notice that my client (Sh. S. K. Gupta, Flat No. 36, East Gurgaon, Sector-52, Noida, U.P. The Flat is free of any Ownership/Title issues/dispute. It is notified that if any person has any issue, right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature/type, whatsoever in respect of the above mentioned Flat then the issue/point or demand may be brought to the Notice (with documentary Proof/Evidence) of Noida Authority or Managing Director, IRWO, Minto Road, Railway Office Complex (behind Shantik Market), New Delhi-110001 within one month from this Notice date. Any issue, claim or demand will not be considered/entertained after one month regarding the above mentioned Flat.
S.K. Singh, Advocate
Regn. No. D/4544/2023
Phone: 8795293313

TENDERS

NOIDA GOLF COURSE SOCIETY (Regd.)
Captain Shashank Sharma Marg, Sector-38, Noida, U.P. 201303

OPEN TENDER

NOIDA GOLF COURSE SOCIETY (Regd.) invites sealed proposals from eligible civil contractors for the work of:-

Nature of Work: Renovation work for Health club of Clubhouse of Noida Golf Course at Capt. Shashank Marg, Sector-38, Noida-201303

Sub-Head: Interior works comprising Civil Works, Plumbing works, Electrical Works, Sanitary Installations, Furniture, etc.

The Tender Documents containing the terms & conditions, drawings, BOQ and form of agreement, can be downloaded from the link <http://ngc.org.in> and also from NGC website www.noidagolfcourse.com and the same can be submitted to the Secretary, NGC. Last date of submitting bid document at 1700 hrs on 20 Sept 2024.

Secretary
Noida Golf Course

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ) **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

TENDER NOTICE

For identifying a technical agency to design and create E-learning module on DRE applications RFQ No. 83470423

GIZ India invites bids from the interested companies for providing services for identifying a technical agency to design and create E-learning module on DRE applications. Interested bidders are requested to visit the below given weblinks and download the complete tender package including detailed technical specifications and bidding conditions.

<https://www.dgmarket.com/tender/85604561>
<https://www2.dgmarket.com/Notice/85604561>
<http://www.tender24x7.com/GizTenderDetails/80319291>

The bid must be submitted in digital format / electronically on the specific email id and in the prescribed format to GIZ GmbH as specified in tender document. The bid must reach to us on or before Friday 3rd October 2024.

GIZ reserves the rights to cancel/modify this call for tender and/or reject an offer including a technical and financial proposal, without assigning any reasons.

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 02/EE/SWM/EB/SD&SWM/

Online e-Tendering system is invited by the Executive Engineer, East Bank Division, SD&SWM Sector, KMDA, 5th Floor, Block-A, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced agencies, for the work of:-

Estimated Amount Put to Tender, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Construction of storm water drain from ESK at Churankata to Ichapur via Bhatnagar Road, ward no. 1 to Junction of North Barrackpore Municipality, Rs.88,44,709/-, Rs.1,76,894/-, 120 days, Last date of submission: 24.09.2024 up to 13:30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites.

www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-511)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Electrical Construction Division invites online e-Tender for the work of:-

preventive & routine maintenance of the electrical installation including operation of lift of entire New Office Complex Building, Bhahani Bhawan, Alipore, Kolkata-700027 for the period of 03 year. e-NIT No. WB/PWD/EE/CD/10-Q/23/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WB/PWD_745371_1 Bid submission start date(online): 13.09.2024 at 05:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 24.09.2024 upto 01.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- S.Karmakar Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Electrical Construction Division (ICA-T16088(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 02/EE/SWM/EB/SD&SWM/

Online e-Quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, R.E. DIV-IV, Housing Sector, KMDA, 2nd floor, Block-L, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful and experienced agencies, for the work, Description of Work, Quoted Service Charges considering cost of uniform, shoes, cap (as per requirement), washing, changes and supervision cost but excluding GST (in percentage), Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion in Days, Deployment of private security Guard/Attendant/Supervisor for safe guarding of (G+5) storied Gardenreach Logistic Hub for one year (365 days) round the clock in three shifts at Gardenreach Logistic Hub, Bidder (6) should concentrate only about on service charge, Quoted Service Charges (in percentage) only on Daily Rate of Wages, Amount of Rs.55,000/- (Fifty five thousand) only to be paid through online only as per the system, 365 days. Last date & time for online Bid Submission: 27.09.2024. Time: 15:00hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites.

www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-508)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PURBA BARDHAMAN ZILLA R.M.C. Poddar Commercial Complex (1st floor), Purbasha Bus Stand, Alisha, Burdwan - 713103

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Name of the Work - Repairing & Maintenance of a Market Link Road from Katwa-Kalna Road at Panchghara More to Panuhat Indrapur More within Katwa-I Panchayat Samity under Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. Vide NIT No. WB/Pur.BZRM/C/EE-NIT-08/2024-25 Dated-28/08/2024 bearing Tender ID: 2024_WB/PM/740551_1. The last date for submission of above mentioned tenders is on 27/09/2024 up to 06.00 P.M. The detail information regarding e-NIT will be available on the <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Secretary, Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. (ICA-T16064(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PURBA BARDHAMAN ZILLA R.M.C. Poddar Commercial Complex (1st floor), Purbasha Bus Stand, Alisha, Burdwan - 713103

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Name of the Work - Repairing & Maintenance of a Market Link Road from Katwa-Kalna Road at Panchghara More to Panuhat Indrapur More within Katwa-I Panchayat Samity under Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. Vide NIT No. WB/Pur.BZRM/C/EE-NIT-08/2024-25 Dated-28/08/2024 bearing Tender ID: 2024_WB/PM/740551_1. The last date for submission of above mentioned tenders is on 27/09/2024 up to 06.00 P.M. The detail information regarding e-NIT will be available on the <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Secretary, Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. (ICA-T16064(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE
Principal, NRS Medical College invites Tender (NIT No. 21 to 30/2024-25) from reputed manufacturer/ direct importer/ distributors for supply & installation of reagents/ books & journals. Details in websites - wbtdenders.gov.in & wbhealth.gov.in & www.nrsmc.edu.in Sd/- Principal, NRSMC

ICA-T16091(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Dakshin Dinajpur Electrical Division invites online e-Tender for the work of:-

"Electrical Installation work for Renovation at old building of existing Electrical Panel at Gangarampur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Dakshin Dinajpur. e-NIT No. WB/PWD/EE/DDED/e-NIT-19 of 2024-25, Tender ID: 2024_WB/PWD_746129_1, Bid submission closing date (online): 27.09.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Dakshin Dinajpur Electrical Division (ICA-T16099(4)/2024

ICA-T16099(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Office of the PURBA BARDHAMAN ZILLA R.M.C. Poddar Commercial Complex (1st floor), Purbasha Bus Stand, Alisha, Burdwan - 713103

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Name of the Work - Development of Internal Road (Phase-D) with parking facility from Go-down No.1 to Junction of Go-down No.- 9 & 13 at Sub-Market Yard, Katwa under Purba Bardhaman Zilla Regulated Market Committee, Vide NIT No. WB/Pur.BZRM/C/EE-NIT-02/2024-25/2nd Call, Dated-27/08/2024 bearing Tender ID: 2024_WB/PM/739743_1. The last date for submission of above mentioned tenders is on 25/09/2024 upto 01.00 P.M. The detail information regarding e-NIT will be available on the <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- S. Saha, Secretary, Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. (ICA-T16066(3)/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 02/EE/SWM/EB/SD&SWM/

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www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-511)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENG

What Makes Us Liberals Or Conservatives?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



In a highly polarised world, for many of us, our political beliefs are the cornerstones of our identities. We think of ourselves through these ideological labels and pretty much become our beliefs. But how do we come to this juncture—at what point does one become a liberal or a conservative? No one is born with a worldview; no one comes with a particular political leaning. We develop these over the course of many years, and while we carry these labels unselfconsciously, it is not that easy to pinpoint the source of such firmly held beliefs.

Some sources of difference are easy to see. The station in life, whether one comes from a privileged or marginalised background, how one has been brought up, the importance that tradition and religion have in a household, the extent to which caste and regional identities are overtly embraced—clearly all of these make a difference. Education is the other influence—the kind of schools and colleges one has been to, the quality of intellectual input on offer, the freedom to ask questions and debate issues, the extent to which critical thinking is encouraged.

What confounds this question is that the most obvious sources of difference do not seem to satisfactorily explain the divergence. Siblings within a family end up holding radically divergent views; friends who grew up together, having exposure to similar kinds of influences, end up as bitter adversaries when it comes to politics.

One has only to look at the state of the discourse on school, college, and family WhatsApp groups to come face to face with the extremely contentious divisions that have sprung up between people who have an enormous amount in common. These are groups formed based on the fact they are connected because of common influences, and yet they are the sites of some of the most bitter disagreements that we see today.

An individual's own mental development, over and above the background one comes from, clearly has a critical role to play. What books one has read, the kind of friends one has, who one looks up to and is influenced by. Every individual builds a worldview bit by bit over time, shaped by their own exposure and experiences. One doesn't believe in the things at 40 that one did at 20, a sure sign that one's perspectives evolve with time and experience.

But even this is a partial explanation. It is certainly true that what one has been exposed to can greatly determine how one thinks, but all too often, causality moves in the opposite direction. Our reading is determined by our ideology, much more than the other way around. We seek out friends who think like us; we gravitate to those that echo our beliefs. We do not read indiscriminately, nor do we follow random accounts on social media; in fact, in an environment where all shades of opinion are freely available to us, we have moved decisively towards shutting out contrary worldviews and surrounding ourselves with views that agree with ours.

What social media succeeds in doing is pushing opinions towards the extreme, regardless of the nature of the belief. The moderate centre is squeezed out as not being assertive or clear enough, and what was once

the fringe has become the mainstream. It has also created clear pathways of belonging; it is relatively easy to see which side one leans towards since there is little nuance that can confuse. Also, affiliations are no longer just personal choices but public performances. The pressure to align oneself with a particular camp and to signal virtue or solidarity through social media posts and hashtags has never been greater. This performative aspect of political identity can sometimes overshadow genuine ideological convictions, leading to a kind of political theatre where the loudest voices drown out nuanced discourse.

Or is it simply a reflection of one's psychological needs? Could it be that our so-called ideological apparatus has more to do with what we crave or fear in our minds? That the elaborate intellectual edifice we believe we have built in the form of our belief systems has more to do with our psyche than our minds? Recent research suggests that there is certainly a strong link.

Social psychologist John T. Jost argues that certain psychological needs correlate with one's political leanings—for instance, the need for order, structure, and closure is more strongly associated with conservatism, while tolerance for ambiguity and uncertainty is more pronounced among liberals. The former are likelier to seek security and

Everyone has the right to believe that they have the right answer, but perhaps an awareness of the fact that all ideological positions are in part at least a function of our own subjective experiences, which may not represent the whole and absolute truth, would be useful in today's polarised world

actively manage threats, while the latter are open to experiences. Jonathan Haidt argues that we have what he calls 'moral taste buds' that determine our responses to the world; conservatives and liberals emphasise different aspects of the moral universe we reside in. The former value social institutions far more, while the latter are more focused on care and fairness.

There are obviously no easy explanations, but even the process of examining this question tells us that the beliefs that we hold are not necessarily the output of a completely rational way of thinking. Our beliefs are in part the external projection of an internal need. Who we are, what circumstances we have been exposed to, what psychological needs we are driven to satisfy, what public validation we seek—all of these contribute to reaching the ideological destinations we reach.

Clearly, the development of an ideological framework is a complex process without any fixed determinants. It is a constant negotiation between an individual and their contexts, one that is dynamic and interactive. Everyone has the right to believe that they have the right answer, but perhaps an awareness of the fact that all ideological positions are in part at least a function of our own subjective experiences, which may not represent the whole and absolute truth, would be useful in today's polarised world.

santosh365@gmail.com

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HC to YEIDA: Remove fencing around land meant for Film City

Aditya.Dev@timesofindia.com

Noida: Allahabad High Court has ordered Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) to remove fencing around 28 acres that were enclosed as part of a 230-hectare area earmarked for the Film City project.

The court was hearing a petition by nine farmers from Rabupura, alleging that their land was forcibly taken without any sale deed or legal procedure. The farmers argued in court that YEIDA's

fencing had made the land inaccessible at a time harvesting was just weeks away.

The court asked YEIDA not to interfere with their possession until the land was legally acquired.

"Learned counsel for the respondent no 4 (YEIDA) is not in a position to dispute the said submission. He fairly states that until a sale deed is obtained or the subject land is acquired in accordance with statutory provisions, the Authority will not interfere with the petitioners' possession. Having regard to the above,

we further direct that if any fencing has been put by the Authority over the land of the petitioners, it must be removed," the court observed on Sept 5.

YEIDA, which has plans to acquire 510 hectares in Rabupura, installed a board on June 29 this year and started fencing the area – which included the farmers' land – the petition said.

When they failed to get the Authority to remove the fencing, the nine farmers moved court, seeking a direction to YEIDA in this regard.

Traffic cops seize 500 cartridges from motorcycle in west Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Policemen from the Delhi traffic unit on Saturday seized a bag containing 500 live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle in West Delhi's Moti Nagar. The rider, who fled the scene, abandoned both the motorcycle and the bag of ammunition.

A manhunt has been initiated to nab the perpetrator and any accomplices. The cartridges are of 0.30 calibre, typically used in carbines. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has been assigned to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the case.

This seizure is concerning because, unlike firearms, bullets cannot be manufactured locally. There are suspicions that either a terror module or an incarcerated gangster may have orchestrated the procurement of the ammunition. The police are also meticulously

There are suspicions that either a terror module or an incarcerated gangster may have orchestrated the procurement of the ammo

examining gun houses for any discrepancies in their inventories.

During a routine vehicle check on Saturday at around 7 p.m., traffic police intercepted the motorcycle, but the rider managed to evade capture, leaving behind the vehicle and his belongings. Upon examination, officers discovered 10 boxes containing 500 live cartridges concealed within the bag and the motorcycle.

A case under the Arms Act has been registered, and an investigation is underway. Cops are reviewing CCTV footage to identify the suspect and are also probing the origin and intended destination of the cartridges.

Rouse Avenue to get 34 digital courtrooms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Public Works Department will construct 34 digital courtrooms at the already existing Rouse Avenue court complex. Delhi govt recently approved the construction of a new court complex, which will have these facilities. However, the existing building will be revamped. These new courtrooms will be constructed at a cost of Rs 7 crore.

To enhance the justice delivery system with the help of technology, Indian judiciary has been pushing for more digitisation of courts. Earlier this year, Tis Hazari court got a hybrid court, which was inaugurated with an artificial intelligence-based 'speech to text' facility.

For Rouse Avenue court, which is in Central Delhi, PWD has invited bids to set up these rooms on the seventh floor of the building. The digital courtrooms would be equipped with diverse tools and have documentation process in digital format, CCTV camera systems, thermal scanners, a video wall, and other amenities.

After observing that there is a requirement for additional courtrooms along with the new recruitment of judicial officers to fill up the vacancies against the sanctioned strength, Delhi govt in 2019 commenced the project of constructing rooms at existing court complexes.

Delhi finance minister Atishi has given her approval to the construction of a new court complex at Rouse Avenue at a cost of Rs 427 crore. The proposal was brought before Expenditure Finance Committee, which approved the construction of 55 courtrooms in the new district court complex.

Woman strangled to death in Ggn: A 23-year-old woman was allegedly throttled to death by a 40-year-old man in Jharsa on Saturday following a dispute over payment for sexual favours. The accused, Anil Pahal, was arrested on Sunday for murder and rape. TNN

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BJP carries out membership drive in 252 slum clusters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP conducted a membership drive in 252 slum clusters under the leadership of Delhi party president Virendra Sachdeva and Union minister Harsh Malhotra as part of a slum expansion campaign held every Sunday.

Sachdeva said people in slum clusters were enthusiastically becoming party members because they were disappointed with Kejriwal's govt. "People... have realised that



Malhotra conducted the membership drive at Indira Camp and Patparganj

only BJP can connect their clusters with development," he said.

Malhotra conducted the membership drive at Indira Camp and Patparganj, along with party workers, and said: "Slum dwellers also dream of having clean homes today and understand that this dream will only come true when BJP comes to power in Delhi and implements the Prime Minister's housing scheme. Therefore, they are enthusiastically joining BJP."

BJP functionary Alka Gurjar inducted new members into the party in Shastri Market and near-

by settlements near Vasant Vihar. She said poor women were attracted to BJP because they want to provide a good future to their children, and Kejriwal govt had "disappointed" them.

Many senior BJP leaders, including organisational general secretary Pavan Rana, MP Bansuri Swaraj, and party workers, were present.

Former Union minister Smriti Irani on Sunday began her three-day organisational visit as part of the BJP's membership campaign.

Irani addressed BJP workers in Shahdara, Karol Bagh and New Delhi, where she discussed key points to communicate with people during the household membership campaign, a statement of the Delhi BJP said. "Today, after participating in BJP's national membership campaign, I am satisfied to see the extensive welfare work being done for the poor across the country by BJP govt," Irani said.

AAP said, "As the elections approach, BJP may put on a grand 'drama,' but the people of Delhi remain unwavering in their support for Arvind Kejriwal, their son and brother."

"Arvind Kejriwal, who gave up his IRS job, lived in slums and deeply understood the struggles of the economically disadvantaged sections. When he first became chief minister, he ensured water pipelines were laid in all the 1,800 unauthorised colonies. Before his leadership, these colonies did not even have access to basic essentials such as water," the party said.

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RAHUL ARRIVES IN US ON 3-DAY VISIT 'TO BOOST INDIA-AMERICA BOND', GETS 'GRAND WELCOME'

ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE AL NAHYAN LANDS IN DELHI ON MAIDEN 2-DAY VISIT TO BOLSTER TIES



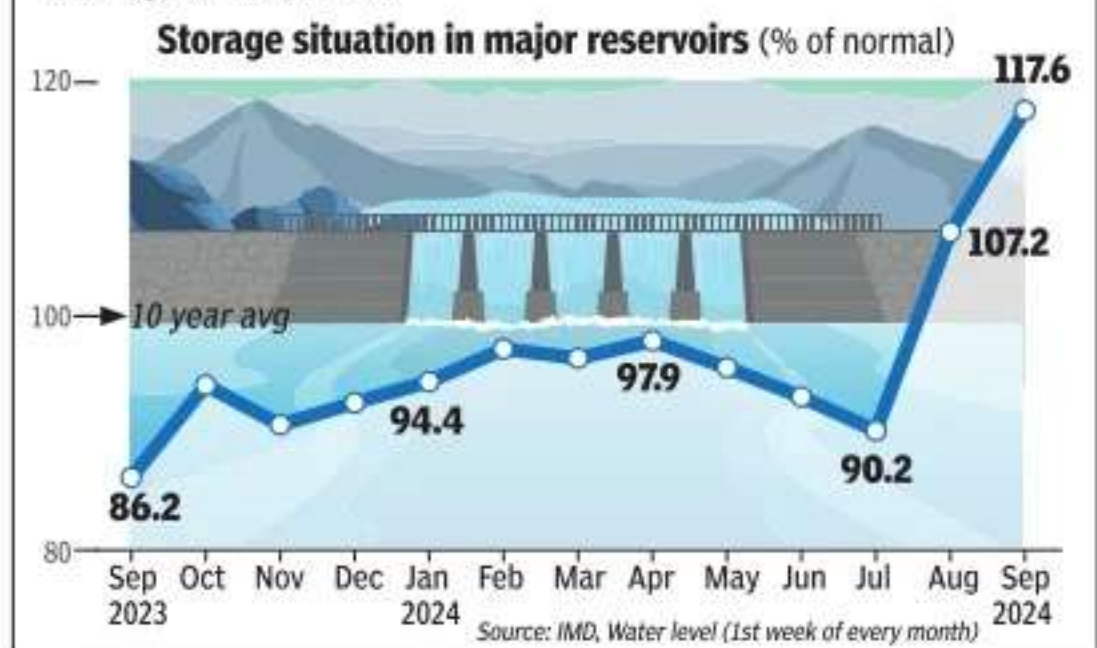
Fake doc performs gallstones surgery using YouTube video, boy dies in Bihar

A quack allegedly killed a 15-year-old boy by performing a botched gall bladder stone surgery, following instructions from a YouTube video on his cellphone, in Bihar's Saran district on Saturday, reports **Manoj Chaurasia**. Krishna Kumar, alias Golu, from Bhuwalpur village under Madhaura police station, was taken to Ajit Kumar Puri's private clinic on Friday with complaints of stomachache and vomiting, Golu's family said. Although he initially felt better after receiving medication, Puri advised urgent surgery. "Puri sent Golu's father to a local fuel station to fetch diesel. Meanwhile, he began the surgery without our consent while watching a video," said Golu's maternal grandfather, Prahlad Prasad Shah. As Golu's condition worsened, Puri arranged an ambulance to transfer him to a Patna hospital, but by then Golu had died. Puri and other hospital staff then fled. "Golu died because of Puri's botched operation," said the boy's father, Chandan Saha. DSP Ishu Gupta said, "We have launched an investigation into the death and are conducting raids to arrest the quack." Indian Medical Association has called for stringent action against quacks who damage the reputation of genuine doctors. "This incident is very unfortunate. The health department must take action against such quacks," said IMA state secretary Dr Santosh Kumar Singh, urging statewide measures against quacks.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers **By Atul Thakur**

Dam happy: It's poured in 2024 monsoon

Central Water Commission monitors live storage status of over 150 major reservoirs in the country. Twenty of them are also hydroelectric projects. These reservoirs are used for providing water for agriculture as well as tap water to households. Since August, the overall storage level is more than 100% of the normal (average for 10 years).



Censor clears Kangana film with cuts, fact check

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has granted 'U/A' certificate to Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency' but asked it for three specific cuts and verification of certain historical claims.

The claims included quotes attributed to former US President Richard Nixon and former British PM Winston Churchill, which were disparaging towards Indian women and population growth, respectively. A 'U/A' rating means the film is appropriate for all ages with parental guidance.



The committee also sought replacement of an expletive and change in a family's surname mentioned in the film.

Further, the filmmakers were asked to provide factual sources for the controversial quotes attributed to Nixon and Churchill, as well as research references, statistical data, details on Bangladeshi refugees, court judgments and permissions for using archival footage of 'Operation Blue Star'. The producers responded on Aug 14, agreeing to all but one of the cuts and providing the requested sources.

The film's trailer featured Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale promising votes for Indira Gandhi's party in exchange for a separate Khalistan state. This sparked strong reactions from Sikh organisations, who approached CBFC and courts to stop the film's release, expressing concern over the portrayal of Sikhs.

Owner 'forced' to change name of vegetarian dhaba in UP after threats

Mohammad.Dilshad
@timesofindia.com



The owner said he was repeatedly threatened by some people, including a seer of an ashram

Agra: A 60-year-old dhaba owner, Mohd Saleem, changed the name of his 20-year-old vegetarian eatery after "repeated threats from a section of the majority community, including a seer", Saleem, who runs 'Sangam Shudh Shakahari Bhojnalaya' on Delhi-Dehradun Road in Rampuri under Civil Lines limits of Muzaffarnagar, said he was forced to take the decision after Swami Yashveer Maharaj, a seer of a local ashram, allegedly issued a "public warning to Muslim owners operating business with names of Hindu deities or pilgrimage sites".

It was renamed 'Saleem Dhaba' on Friday and the owner has written his name as 'Proprietor Saleem Thakur'.

When asked about it, he said, "We are Muslim Rajputs therefore I have used Thakur with the name."

Saleem told **TOI** on Sunday: "This dhaba was started by my father years ago, but I was left with no choice after the

warning from Swami and others. I just want to live in peace and so decided to take this step voluntarily."

Swami Yashveer allegedly released a video warning owners, particularly Muslims, to rename their shops. In the purported clip, he could be heard "threatening to take matters in his own hands if the practice continued and called upon his followers to take to the streets to protect Sanatan Dharma". The Swami could also be heard purportedly giving an "ultimatum", saying: "They have time till 10am on Sept 7 to remove the names".

DSP (Phugana), Sant Kumar, who subsequently met the seer, said, "The matter is in the SC and its guidelines will be followed at all cost." SDM Nikita Sharma added, "We've told Swami not to take steps on their own and escalate the matter."

Winds of change in J&K: Former Jamaat members hold poll rally

Call For Political Prisoners' Release, Claim 'Sea Of People Our Strength'

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Srinagar: Thousands gathered Sunday at an election rally organised by former members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami in Budgam in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, where they pledged support for welfare measures by any future govt and called for the



release of political prisoners. "Earlier, nobody talked to us. Now institutions have approached us, and people also talk to us, which paved the way for us to join the election battle," former Jamaat member Ghulam Qadir Wani said. He didn't reveal who reached out to them.

Nearly a dozen independent candidates tied to the outlawed Jamaat are contesting



Independent candidate Sayar Ahmad Reashi campaigns in Kulgam Sunday

J&K's first assembly elections after 2014 and since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. The rally signals a shift toward mainstream political participation among former separatists, breaking away from their history of election boycotts.

"We are here to say that the vacuum created by the regional political parties needs to be filled. The sea of people is our strength. Fingers will be

raised against us and we will be criticised as well, but this is the reality," said Sayar Ahmed Reshi, independent candidate for Kulgam constituency.

Aijaz Ahmad Mir, running independently for Zainapora in Shopian district, said he would serve the people without compromise if elected. "We will not promote corruption. We will work transparently. We will talk about Kash-

mir and Kashmiris. We will represent the aspirations of people in the assembly," said Mir, who was earlier elected on a PDP ticket in 2014.

Several independents have also formed a group led by ex-Congress politician Taj-ud-din, pledging to support any party with sufficient assembly numbers if it works for J&K's development.

Jamaat had contested under Muslim United Front in the 1987 elections, which were widely seen as rigged and believed to have triggered insurgency in the region. Outlawed in 2019 for allegedly supporting terrorism, the Union home ministry extended the ban by five more years in Feb.

Analysts said the former members now hope to pressure for the ban's removal through electoral success. Their participation in the upcoming polls followed a record voter turnout of 58% in this summer's Lok Sabha polls.

Man falls 22ft to death, another critical as BMW hits Mum pandal

V Narayan & Mateen Hafeez | TNN

Mumbai: A 33-year-old man died and another is fighting for life after they fell 22 feet from a scaffolding that was hit by a BMW car at Mulund (east) around 4am Saturday. The two men were among volunteers preparing for Ganeshotsav of Mulundcha RajaMandal in Gavanpada. The driver who had sped away has been arrested.

Pritam Thorat (in pic), an auto driver, and Prasad Patil (38), who makes banners, were perched on the scaffolding to put up a banner. The BMW ploughed into the scaffolding that was jutting onto the road, knocking down the two.

The driver claimed he didn't notice the scaffolding due to heavy rain and he sped away, fearing public outrage.

Thorat fell smack on his face... mandal president Chandrakant More said, adding that the BMW sped away.

There were 15 others there, a few of whom noted down the car registration number. The two men were taken to Veer Savarkar Hospital, Mulund, where Thorat was declared dead on arrival. Prasad Patil has been admitted to Jupiter Hospital in Thane. He is in a critical condition, and has been put on ventilator.

The BMW driver, Shakti Alag (32), was later nabbed from his friend's home at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, hours after the crash, said an officer from Navghar police station. The BMW driver has claimed he did not notice the scaffolding due to heavy rain. "He says he sped away, fearing public outrage," said the officer who claimed the driver did not seem drunk, but said that his blood sample will be sent for analysis.

Senior inspector Madan Patil said the BMW driver, also a Mulund resident, had bought the second-hand car a year ago. The driver is in police custody till Sept 10, said DCP Purushottam Karad.

BULLDOZERS IN ACTION TO SAVE HYD LAKES



Stepping up its action to save lakes in and around the city, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Authority on Sunday demolished illegal structures at different places. The authority has so far reclaimed 43 acres of land of lakes, ponds, and other water bodies encroached upon by politicians of various parties, VIPs and real estate developers

Mpox suspected, man isolated: Govt

DurgeshNandan.Jha
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New Delhi: A person who recently returned to India from an African country affected by mpox (monkeypox) outbreak has been identified as a suspect case, the health ministry said on Sunday. It added that the young male has been isolated in a designated hospital and is currently stable.

"Samples from the patient are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox," the health ministry said, and added that the case is being managed according to established protocols and contact tracing is on to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country.

In its statement, the health ministry clarified that the development of this case was consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and that there was no cause of any undue concern. "The country is fully prepared to deal

with such isolated travel related cases and has robust measures in place to manage and mitigate any potential risk," it added.

Recently, the World Health Organisation declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in view of the disease's spread in African nations and even outside, in Europe and Pakistan, for example.

"In 2022 too, mpox was declared a PHEIC as cases were being reported from countries that were not endemic for mpox such as EU countries, US. It was the Clade II of the virus that was circulating in that PHEIC period. The 2024 PHEIC, on the other hand, is due to the surge, primarily in Congo (DRC) and other countries of the African continent since Jan this year. This is due to Clade Ib of the virus which is known to be more transmissible and has a higher fatality rate as compared to Clade II. Further, cases this time are also being detected among children," a senior official said.

Colleagues beat Bengal man to death in Jaipur over argument

Malda: A 42-year-old man from Bengal's Malda was beaten to death by his co-workers at a jewellery shop in Rajasthan's Jaipur during a violent argument at a dinner gathering on Tuesday.

Moti Ali, from Hari-shchandrapur in Malda, had worked at the shop for the past 20 years. On Tuesday, while dining with other workers — mostly from Bihar and Odisha — an argument escalated into a violent scuffle. Moti sustained severe injuries to his head, stomach, and back.

He alerted his local friends, who took him to a hospital where doctors discovered extensive damage to his intestines and other internal organs. Despite undergoing surgery, Moti succumbed to his injuries on Friday.

Relatives and friends brought Moti's body back to his village on Sunday morning. "I spoke to him on Wednesday when he complained of stomach pain. Within two days, he was gone. He was the sole breadwinner of our family," said Moti's wife, Roshnara. **TNN**

TN DIG booked for forcing prisoner to do chores at home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Fourteen officials of Tamil Nadu's Vellore prison, including DIG R. Rajalakshmi, have been booked for allegedly forcing prisoners into chores at their homes. This follows a judicial magistrate's report to Madras high court on the exploitation.

CB-CID booked Rajalakshmi, her personal security officer Raju, additional superintendent of prisons A Abdul Rahman, jailer Arul Kumaran and ten constables under Sections 49 (abatement), 115(2) (causing hurt voluntarily), 118(2) (causing grievous hurt), 127(8) (wrongful confinement), and 146 (unlawful compulsory labour) of BNS.

The FIR was registered on the orders of the HC bench of Justices SM Subramaniam and V Sivagnanam on Thursday after G Radhakrishnan, Vellore chief judicial magistrate (CJM), submitted his report. The report concluded that charges levelled by S Sivakumar, a murder convict serving a life term, required an inquiry. Sivakumar's mother had also moved court.

Apart from making him do household chores, the prison authorities allegedly beat up and tortured Sivakumar after accusing him of stealing Rs 4.5 lakh in cash and other valuables from the DIG's house. Sivakumar was also allegedly kept in solitary confinement for more than three



VIOLATIONS GALORE

- 14 officials booked under various sections of BNS
- Officials exploit prisoners for domestic chores at their residences
- Life convict Sivakumar thrashed after being accused of stealing cash & valuables
- Sivakumar also kept in solitary confinement for more than three months

months. He has been shifted to Salem Central Prison on the HC's orders, police sources said.

The HC reprimanded the jail officials and directed Tamil Nadu's DG (Prisons) to initiate disciplinary action. "It is not only a case of violation of the prison manual, but a case of harassment/torture of the convict prisoner. They (jail officials) have not only violated service conditions, but indulged in offences," the HC observed.

Bail orders must shun arbitrary surety riders, HC tells trial courts

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has directed trial courts to ensure that orders granting bail should not have arbitrary surety conditions without considering the socio-economic status of the bail applicant.

The high court pointed out that those who are poor or belong to the marginalised sections of society, might not be able to comply with such bail conditions.

Justice Ajay Bhanot observed that it is the responsibility of trial courts to apply their minds by considering the socio-economic status of the accused while fixing sureties.

"This appears to be a serious matter. Many who belong to marginalised sections of the society or are financially destitute, are unable to arrange or provide sureties fixed arbitrarily by trial courts. To deal with this situation, the constitutional courts have consistently held that the right of bail cannot be defeated by arbitrary surety demands," the court said in an order passed on Aug 30.

"It is the responsibility of the trial court to apply their minds to the socio-economic status of the accused and accordingly fix the sureties. The law has cautioned against determining sureties in a mechanical manner," it added.

The court's observations came while granting bail to one Arman of Agra district, who had been in jail since Sept 2020. The man moved the high court for bail after a trial



It is the responsibility of trial courts to apply their minds by considering socio-economic status of the accused while fixing sureties, the Allahabad HC said

court rejected his bail plea in one of several cases filed against him.

While granting bail to Arman, the high court noted that despite having been granted bail by the trial court in other criminal cases registered against him, the accused had not been released on bail due to his inability to furnish sureties.

The high court called on trial courts to ensure that bail sureties are fixed in line with the directions issued in the case of Arvind Singh vs State of Uttar Pradesh through principal secretary, home department. In this case, the high court had issued detailed guidelines to check mechanical imposition of bail conditions.

Killer hides past, serves in UP govt for 6 years. Secret out after conviction

Arindam Ghosh & Pathikrit Chakraborty | TNN

Lucknow: A murderer successfully concealed his dark secrets and served in UP irrigation department for six years in what clearly puts a question mark on the process of stringent police verification for a govt job. The man in his mid-30s had spent four months in jail in 2013 after being charged with a murder that year. Police even recovered the murder weapon following his confession. But he kept all that under wraps till Aug 14 this year, when he was re-arrested after a Jhansi court sentenced him to life in the case.

An investigation is under way to find out how Anoop was issued a character certificate, given that the murder case against him was filed in May 2013, years before his appointment in 2018, an official said

Anoop Dubey had secured the job in 2018 on compassionate grounds after the death of his father, chief engineer Mithlesh Dubey. On August 13, 2024, Anoop visited his office in Jhansi and applied for a day's leave. The next day, the court convicted him and three others in the murder case. When the senior assistant failed to return to work, the dept initiated an enquiry, leading to the discovery

of his criminal antecedents and subsequent conviction.

"A probe is underway to find out how Anoop was issued a character certificate, given that the murder case against him was filed in May 2013," dept's superintending engineer Ashok Kumar told **TOI**.

In 2013, Lakhani Singh Tomar from Nainagarh filed a police complaint after his son, Devendra, left home on May 14

and did not return. On May 16, Lakhani learned that Devendra had been drinking with Anoop Dubey, Gaurav Jha, Kapil Sharma, and Akash near Jhansi's Babina, police said.

When Lakhani confronted them, they admitted to murdering Devendra over his "arrogant behaviour." They said they had lured Devendra to Babina under the pretext of a picnic, shot him dead, and burned his body. They even threatened to kill Lakhani if he went to police.

Lakhani filed a murder case on May 17, 2013, leading to the arrest of all four. But Anoop's father managed to secure his bail six months later.

A month after RG Kar horror, thousands hit Kolkata streets ahead of SC hearing

Posters, Black Balloons, Human Chains Mark 'Reclaim The Night' Stir

Poulami Roy Banerjee, Srishti Lakhotia, Priyosmita Sur & Sumati Yengkhom

Kolkata: Thousands flooded the streets as Kolkata saw a surge in citizen protests Sunday night, praying that next day's sun would bring with it the much-awaited verdict when the Supreme Court hears the RG Kar Medical College rape-murder case.

The "Reclaim the Night" movement, marking a month since a 31-year-old postgraduate resident doctor was found raped and murdered in the hospital on Aug 9, saw participants with posters, banners, black balloons, and street performances continuing their demonstrations through the night.

A ribbon of solidarity unfurled for 15km, linking the victim's home in Sodepur to Shyambazar near RG Kar hospital through a human chain. From homemakers to schoolchildren and traders, people of all walks of life, free from political banners, stood shoulder to shoulder.

Researcher Rimjim Sinha, who initiated the "Reclaim the Night" campaign, expressed hope for a "fair judicial inquiry" and called for systemic changes. "We are overwhelmed with the response... it is about the safety of all of us," she said.

In south Kolkata's Garia-



Students protest against the rape-murder of a doctor at the RG Kar medical college, in Kolkata on Sunday. Protesters across the city expressed hope for a 'fair judicial inquiry' and called for systemic changes

hat locality, former students from 52 schools held a rally, painted the streets and formed a human chain. Movie artists marched too, while painter Santan Dinda joined the protest by painting a Durga idol and leading a march that ended at Shyambazar.

"We are the artists who give shape to the ten-armed goddess with clay. It's our duty to walk for justice for a Durga, whom we lost," said artist Subal Paul.

Fans of rival football clubs Mohun Bagan and East Bengal participated in the marches, alongside artists and artisans wearing black bands and carrying Durga idols. "We have never seen such spontaneous protests by the citizens before. We demand justice for another Durga," Dinda said.

Yet, a street demonstration was overshadowed by attacks in Naihati, 47km north of Kolkata. According to sources, local youths assault-

ed the participants and struck again when the protesters blocked a road in response to the initial attack.

Junior doctors, who have been on a month-long strike, are awaiting the top court's decision. They plan to gather near their campuses Monday morning. Large screens may be set up at protest sites to livestream the court proceedings. "We are frustrated with the slow pace of the CBI probe," said Mrinmoy Basak, a third-

Doc's parents: Won't get justice easily... will have to snatch it

Parents of the 31-year-old RG Kar victim joined protesters Sunday on the eve of a scheduled Supreme Court hearing, vowing to stand by them in their joint quest for justice, reports **Suman Chakraborti**. "We won't get justice easily. We have to snatch it. This will not be possible without everybody's help," the father declared, fighting back tears at one of two rallies in Kolkata's Esplanade and Rash Behari. This was the second time in less than a week that the parents had joined such protests, with the last at RG Kar Hospital. At Rash Behari, where former students of 52 schools in south Kolkata had organised the rally, the father described the protesters as "our own family".

(Inputs from Poulami Roy Banerjee)

year postgraduate trainee at Calcutta National Medical College, expressing hope that the court would provide clarity on the case.

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front plans to discuss their next steps after the hearing, with some suggesting that protests would continue even if the verdict is positive. "This is not a petty crime. It has evoked mass solidarity," said senior resident doctor Debasish Halder.

Doval to travel to Russia today for Brics meeting of NSAs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: NSA Ajit Doval will travel to Russia on Monday to participate in a meeting of Brics national security advisors, ahead of the summit in Oct in Kazan.

According to Russian authorities, PM Narendra Modi in his recent phone conversation with President Vladimir Putin had expressed readiness to participate in the Brics summit that will see him visiting Russia for the second time this year, after the bilateral visit in July.

The NSAs' meeting is held every year by the host country, which holds the rotating presidency, in the lead up to the Brics summit. Russia holds the presidency this year. The 'Meeting of Brics and Brics Plus High-Level Security Officials' will be held in St Petersburg on 10-12 Sept.

India also participated in a



Doval's visit to Russia, for the second time this year, comes ahead of the Brics summit in Oct

meeting of Brics Sherpa and Sous Sherpa last week in Russia. The BRICS engagement takes place against the backdrop of renewed efforts to bring the Russia-Ukraine war to an end. Significantly, Putin had said last week that three Brics countries — India, China and Brazil — can be trusted to mediate in the conflict.

The meeting of top security officials will discuss the conflict, with Doval likely to reiterate Modi's stated intention of actively supporting any initiative for a diplomatic solution. During his recent visit to Ukraine, Modi had urged President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to talk to Putin, underscoring India's position that it's important to involve both sides in any effort for enduring peace.

Doval is expected to have several bilateral meetings with his counterparts. He had met China's Wang Yi, member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Political Bureau, on the sidelines of the same meeting in Johannesburg in 2023 and conveyed to him that the situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since 2020 had eroded strategic trust and the public and political basis of the relationship. South Africa held the summit last year.

30k villagers toil for 10 mths to bring UP river back on course

Kapil Dixit@timesofindia.com

Prayagraj: In an inspiring effort, over 30,000 people belonging to 20 villages in three blocks of Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district toiled for over 10 months to revive the earlier course of a seasonal river.

Over the last decade, the Sakarni (Sanskrit for one who listens), a rivulet that feeds the Sai, a tributary of the Ganga, saw large-scale encroachment by farmers on its banks. Consequently, the rivulet changed its course and became shallow in stretches. Now it is back to its natural 27.7km-long course



Over the last decade, the Sakarni, a rivulet that feeds the Sai, a tributary of the Ganga, saw large-scale encroachment by farmers on its banks. Consequently, the rivulet changed its course and became shallow in stretches. Now it is back to its natural 27.7km-long course

list under MGNREGS.

Old revenue records were scanned to ascertain the natural course of the river, which was almost lost to the local residents.

Over the next 10 months, nearly 30,000 people worked under MGNREGS to bring the river back to its natural 27.7km-long course. Besides, they also found employment in their respective blocks during the rejuvenation work on the rivulet.

The district administration spent Rs 1.35 crore to

make this happen.

Shri Krishna, Pratapgarh district development officer, said: "The rejuvenation work of the small river Sakarni has been done with the help of villagers. Now, the river is flowing along its natural course. After conducting a detailed survey and analysis, we removed all the encroachments upon the natural course of the river."

He said the seasonal river is now providing livelihood to people of Laxmanpur and adjoining blocks.

Malicious post on CJI's wife triggers WB police warning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A widely circulated WhatsApp message attempting to link CJI DY Chandrachud's wife with alleged "north Bengal lobby" head Shyamapada Das has prompted Bengal police to issue a stern warning against the spread of malicious disinformation.

The "north Bengal lobby" refers to a group of doctors, said to be alumni of North Bengal Medical College near Siliguri, who allegedly influence the Bengal health department. The timing of the message's circulation coincided with a Supreme Court hearing on the Aug 9 rape-murder of a postgraduate resident doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College, which was scheduled for Thursday but postponed to Monday. The SC bench includes CJI Chandrachud.

In response to the viral message, Bengal police took to their 'X' handle Saturday: "...Exploiting freedom of speech to indulge in wild falsehood, that too against the apex court, is illegal and punishable. Sternest possible legal action will be initiated against those trying to malign the judiciary."

FIR filed against 3 docs close to former principal

Tamaghna Banerjee @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal police Sunday lodged FIR against three doctors — Birupaksha Biswas, Aveek De and Ranjit Saha — all linked to 'North Bengal lobby' and close aides of former RG Kar principal Sandip Ghosh following physical and email complaints of intimidation by 31 junior doctors of Calcutta Medical College and Hospital.

Police compiled all complaints into one FIR and registered a case under BNS section 351 (assault as making a gesture or preparation that causes someone to believe that they are about to be subjected to criminal force). Probe has started into the matter, police said.

Last week, the state health department had suspended De and Biswas. Their names appeared in 'health syndicate' posters. The suspension is result of allegations including misconduct and unauthorised presence at RG Kar Medical College.

Director forced me to sit on lap, kissed me: Actor plans legal step

Priyanka Dasgupta @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The actor who alleged that director Arindam Sil kissed her in public during a film shoot without her consent said she was appalled to see Sil taking part in a 'Reclaim the Night' demonstration. The actor has decided to seek legal assistance.

West Bengal Commission of Women (WBCW) chairperson Leena Gangopadhyay told TOI: "The actor told us that since she was humiliated publicly, she wanted a public apology in writing. Sil had initially wanted to say that it was an unintentional act. But the actor protested since she said that the director had even asked if she had liked being kissed. Then he agreed to rephrase the letter. There is no question of us forcing him to delete any word."

Reacting to the incident, Sil told TOI: "There is nothing on my mind right now. I am clear in my conscience. I am sorry if she has felt bad for any unintentional act of mine. I am seeking expert advice. For the rest, I leave it

to time. People have the right to say whatever they want to. But I guess they don't know the truth."

The incident at a resort occurred on April 3 on the sets of 'Ekkti Khunir Sandhane Mitin'. "First, he demanded that I sit on his lap. I refused and asked him to tell me what

to be done. He commanded in an authoritative tone, 'I am saying - sit!' He was so intimidating I didn't know how to say no. After I sat, he kissed me

on my cheek. I was shocked but didn't know what to do. I swiftly moved away, while he feigned innocence, as if nothing had occurred. People were smiling as if it was some kind of a joke. I told the director about it when he went back in front of the monitor. His reply was: 'Didn't you like it?' she claimed.

The actor said it is "deplorable" to witness Sil apologise to her in writing and subsequently deceive the media by claiming that he had kissed her accidentally. "If a predator can go to this length after apologising to me, I will have to seek legal advice." The actor lodged a complaint with the WBCW in July.



TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



5 of family returning from hosp killed as cab hits govt bus in TN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Madurai: Five members of a family died and three others were injured after their speeding cab rear-ended a govt bus parked on a road near Uchipuli in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district early Sunday while they were returning from a hospital.

Rajesh (33), his two daughters, Darshana Rani (8) and Pranavika (4), and his two relatives, Senthil Manoharan (70) and Angaleswari (58), died on the spot.

Rajesh's wife, Pandiselvi (28), their newborn baby, and the cab driver, Britto (35), sustained injuries.

They were returning to Rameswaram after the newborn's treatment at a private hospital in Ramanathapuram on Saturday, police said.

Around midnight, as they were crossing Pirappanvalasai on the highway, they rammed into the TNSTC bus, which was stopped on the road because one of its passengers had fallen sick, police further added.

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CHANGE Begins Here

Andhra flood toll rises to 45 as 13 more bodies found; 2 still missing

Vijayawada: The toll in rains that battered Vijayawada and several districts in Andhra Pradesh, triggering catastrophic floods, increased to 45 with 13 more bodies recovered on Sunday. Two persons are still missing, reports **Madhu Rasala**.
The toll rose sharply from 32 to 45 on Sunday after rescue teams found 13 bodies in bushes and canals and under debris. The unprecedented floods last week caused widespread devastation, with NTR district suffering the most, accounting for 35 fatalities. Other affected districts, including Guntur, Krishna, Palnadu and Eluru, also reported casualties.
NTR district has been the worst, accounting for 35 of the 45 fatalities reported from the state. The flash floods also caused widespread destruction and property damage across the state. The disaster led to deaths of 473 animals and 71,639 poultry birds.
The fishing community has suffered severe losses, with 377 boats being fully destroyed and 226 boats getting partially damaged. Also, more than 3,900 km of roads were damaged by the floods, with 63 major breaches.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tender No.: JHS-Engg-GSU-2024-19 **Date:** 03.09.2024

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Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through online (E-Tendering) for the following work.

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Note: (1) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 30.09.2024. (2) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. **1570/24 (A)**

North central railways **CPRONCR** www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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1. Army Public School Noida invites sealed Tenders from reputed contractors/dealers latest by 20 September 2024, 03:30 pm for the following services:
(a) Procurement of furniture for 10 classrooms of Middle Wing. (400 students of Classes VI-VIII)

2. Tender forms can be obtained from the school reception on payment of Rs 1,000/- with effect from 10 September 2024 to 20 September 2024 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on working days.

3. Quotations are to be submitted for specific items only (Brand, Model No, Size & Colour Code should be same as per tender form). Interested parties may contact with Adm supervisor on mobile No 8527405710.

4. The Principal is fully empowered to reject the tender(s) without assigning any reason.

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H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001ISGC025866, **Website:** www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 801 **Short term Tender Notice** **Date:** 07/09/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No. 10/2024-25/EE(C-M) Vyasi Project.
Name of work: "Annual Operation, repair and maintenance of water supply distribution system including pumping plant at Hathiyari Power House of Vyasi HEP and cleaning of Public toilets/site office"
Estimated cost : Rs. 846327.00 (GST extra as applicable)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 09-09-2024 From 10:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of tender: 23-09-2024 Upto 15:30 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

The Government of Andhra Pradesh invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor to

1. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
2. Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
3. Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur
4. Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapuram
5. Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry
6. Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa
7. Krishna University, Machilipatnam
8. Rayalaseema University, Kurnool
9. Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore
10. JNTU Kakinada
11. JNTU Anantapur
12. JNTU Gurajada Vizianagaram
13. Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupati
14. Dravidian University, Kuppam
15. Dr. Abdul Haq Urdu University, Kurnool
16. Dr.YSR Architecture & Fine Arts University, Kadapa
17. Andhra Kesari University, Ongole

For other details, please visit <https://apsche.ap.gov.in>. Online Application filled in the prescribed proforma with required documents shall be submitted by 28.09.2024. Apply here https://apsche.ap.gov.in/vc_appl.php
Date: 09-09-2024, **Place:** Velagapudi
**Sd/- SAURABH GAUR, IAS
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender
		EMD
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-IDCE(M)-ITA(S)/3427/2024-25	Date: 03.09.2024
1.	Work of providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class Pipe line and 230mm SW line at Sarakki Thota 1st to 7th cross, Kuvempu Road, Opp.to BBMP Office, Jaraganahalli Park, Chikkaswamy Layout, Basavaraja Layout, JP Nagar 6th Phase coming under JP Nagar-2 service station of AEE(S)-1-1 Sub-division.	Rs. 116.01 Lakhs Rs. 1.74 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-IDCE(M)-ITA(S)/3428/2024-25	Date: 03.09.2024
2.	Work of providing and laying of 300/230mm dia RCC SW sewer line facilities to vishal mart surrounding areas, Rajeev Gandhi Nagara, St. Mary's Church and surrounding areas coming under the jurisdiction of HSR layout service station of AEE (S)-1-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 191.47 Lakhs Rs. 2.87 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-IDCE(M)-ITA(S)/3433/2024-25	Date: 03.09.2024
3.	Work of Providing & laying 300/100 mm dia DI water supply line to provide water supply line in Hosur main road coming under the jurisdiction of HSR layout service station of AEE (S)-1-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 233.03 Lakhs Rs. 3.50 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-IDCE(M)-ITA(S)/3436/2024-25	Date: 03.09.2024
4.	Work of Providing & laying 300mm dia MS water supply line at Manipal County road and surrounding areas coming under the jurisdiction of Kodichikkanahalli service station of AEE(S)-1-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 240.70 Lakhs Rs. 3.61 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-IDCE(M)-ITA(S)/3437/2024-25	Date: 03.09.2024
5.	Work of providing and laying 230mm dia GSW and 300mm dia RCC class pipeline at Basavalingappa Nagara, Blekahalli Village, From Veeranjaneya Temple to Arakere 80 feet BDA main road and surrounding areas coming under the Vijaya Bank layout service station of AEE(S)-1-1 Sub-division.	Rs. 156.32 Lakhs Rs. 2.34 Lakhs
For above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: 23.09.2024 upto 15:00Hrs. The Tenders will be opened on: 25.09.2024 after 16:00Hrs.		
Sd/- Chief Engineer(South).		
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWW-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.		
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/577/2024-25	Date: 06.09.2024
6.	Work of providing Multirake Mechanical Coarse bar Screen, Grit removal and Fine screen for 4 MLD Madiwala STP coming under AEE(WWM-STP)-1-K&T Valley Sub-division. Call-2.	Rs.118.68 Lakhs Rs. 2.00 Lakhs
For above work, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: 23.09.2024 upto 17:30Hrs. The Tenders will be opened on: 25.09.2024 at 16:00Hrs.		
Sd/- Chief Engineer(WWM-East).		
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 above signed office during working hours.		
DIPRC/PR/1875/2024-25		

Landslide-hit NH to China border opens after 3 days

Dehradun: Joshimath-Malari-Niti NH, which connects to Indo-China border, opened late on Sunday after remaining blocked for vehicular movement since Friday due to recurring landslides near Lata village, about 26 km from Joshimath, reports **Gaurav Talwar**.

As a result of landslides, traffic on the strategic route was severely impacted, particularly restricting movement of defence vehicles belonging to the Army and ITBP. Chamoli district's disaster management officer, Nand Kishore Joshi, said, "The road, which was blocked since Friday, was marginally opened for pedestrians and small vehicles on Sunday and subsequently opened for heavy vehicles, too, late evening."

Defence vehicles had been waiting for the road to clear for past three days, and supplies to nearly a dozen villages on China border had been affected, officials said. The key villages that had been cut off included Dronagiri, Garpak, Malari and Gamshali in Niti Valley.

Malayalam actor detained at Hyd airport for 'creating ruckus'

Hyderabad: A criminal case was registered against Malayalam character actor Vinayakan, who was allegedly drunk, for creating a ruckus at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here late Saturday.

He was briefly detained by RGIA police. The actor was on his way from Kochi to Goa and had a connecting flight from Hyderabad.

"By the time the actor had landed at Hyderabad, he was under the influence of alcohol. At the airport lounge, he again consumed liquor and picked an argument with the airport staff," RGIA inspector K Balaraju told TOI. **TNN**

Sand mafia's power connections make it difficult for law to prevail

► Continued from P 1

This story is not isolated. A police officer was murdered in MP's Shahdol in May and a tehsildar escaped an attempted assassination in Aug.

The sand mafia's deep-rooted connections with local power structures make it difficult for the law to prevail, leaving many communities in a state of fear and uncertainty. Across India, police officers, govt officials, and ordinary citizens have lost their lives or faced serious threats for attempting to combat illegal sand mining. In 2022, Haranya witnessed 12 sand mining-related attacks in Nuh, including the killing of DSP Surender Singh on July 19. Singh was run over by a dump-truck while investigating illegal mining near Panchgaon. Six suspects have been arrested, and the case is ongoing. A judicial commission was formed to investigate but was disbanded in 2023. Singh's son Sidharth was appointed

TIMES Special

DSP on compassionate grounds. Yet, the family hasn't got closure as trial continues.

Environmental activists highlight that corruption, inadequate resources, and ineffective enforcement are major hurdles in combating these illegal activities.

Kalyana Karnataka, with its vast sand plains from the Tungabhadra, Krishna, Malaprabha, and Bhima rivers, has become a hub for the sand mafia. Despite bans, illegal mining continues, particularly in Kalaburagi, Raichur, Ballari and Koppal districts. Mandya SP N Yathish said trenches have been dug to prevent law-enforcement vehicles from entering the Maddur region after illegal mining was detected.

The mafia's deep connections complicate efforts to curb their operations. Notable cases include the 2017 assassination attempt on DC Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh and the killing of village accountant Saheb Patel in Raichur in 2018. In June 2023, police constable Mayur Bhimu Chavan was fatally run over while trying to stop illegal mining in the Bhima river.

The method of extraction depends on where the sand is located. Equipment costs for illegal operations include excavation machines priced between Rs 40 lakh and Rs 60 lakh, and tipper trucks costing Rs 45 lakh apiece.

Along rivers, sand is often dug up with excavators, shovels or bare hands. Miners also use dredging boats rigged with suction pumps. In states like Kerala, Goa and Bihar, the sand mafia operates at night using boats and metal scoops, evading authorities by minimising storage and using escorts to avoid police.

The volume of this underground economy is hard to quantify. For instance, in Bengal, the legal sand trade is valued at Rs 3,500 crore annually, but illegal mining remains

widespread. Operators in Birbhum mine 1,200-1,500 truckloads daily, with illegal sand fetching up to Rs 50,000 per truckload in Kolkata. Despite the introduction of the West Bengal Sand Mining Policy in 2021, which includes drone surveillance and auctioning mining rights, the mafia continues to thrive, often bribing officials to bypass legal constraints.

Same story in Goa, where the construction industry is grappling with a severe sand shortage due to a prolonged ban on legal sand mining, leading to rampant illegal extraction. Prices have skyrocketed to Rs 35,000 per truck.

Unregulated mining has caused substantial environmental damage, including riverbank collapses in 12 villages along the Mandovi. Poor migrant workers, operating in unsafe conditions, extract sand overnight to evade authorities. Govt's efforts to expedite legal approvals have been delayed by court rulings, leaving builders to blame the sand shortage on a thriving sand mafia.

In Kerala, illegal sand is sold at Rs 9,500-Rs 10,000 for 150 cubic feet, with huge profits. Despite the 2015 Kerala HC ban and NGT directives, illegal mining persists in areas like the Bharathapuzha and Neyyar rivers. In 2023, seven police officers were dismissed for colluding with the mafia, and numerous cases and vehicle seizures have been made to curb illegal activities.

In Tamil Nadu, a study revealed sand quarrying far exceeded permitted limits, with excess mining valued at Rs 4,730 crore. Rivers such as Cauvery and Kollidam are heavily exploited, leading to groundwater depletion. Although authorities have made arrests, officials face threats from the sand mafia. In June, an attempt was made on the life of a revenue divisional officer in Pudukkottai, underscoring the dangers faced by those combating illegal mining.

Rajasthan's ban on river sand excavation during the monsoon and expiring leases have led to increased illegal mining and inflated sand prices. Prices of pre-monsoon stockpiles have surged from Rs 1,150 a tonne to Rs 1,500-Rs 1,750 in Aug.

Delays in auctioning sand leases and inactive contracts in Sawai Madhopur and Bhilwara have worsened the shortage, letting the mafia dictate terms. Villagers in Nagaur district alleged that illegal mining in Luni river continued in the rainy season, with scores of trucks shipping sand from riverbeds in Alhiyawas, Riwayawas, and others. The leases in the district expired in Feb.

In India, sand is classified as a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957. However, sand is a major resource after the 2000 bifurcation of Bihar, with most metal ores going to Jharkhand. The 2016 liquor ban further shifted the focus of illicit profits to sand, with law en-

KILLING FIELDS

Sept 1, 2024 | Tribal farmer killed for trying to top sand-laden tractors from driving through his paddy fields in MP's Singrauli district

June 6 | A 25-year-old tractor driver, Avinash Kumar, found buried in a sand mound in Bihar's Begusarai following a dispute over sand mining

May 6, 2024 | ASI Mahendra Bagri crushed to death by a tractor-trolley in Shahdol, MP

Nov 26, 2023 | Prasann Singh, a patwari, crushed to death by a tractor-trolley in MP's Shahdol district



Nov 14 | SI Prabhath Ranjan killed at Chanwar village in Bihar's Jamui district

Nov 1 | A constable mowed down by a speeding tractor in Bihar's Aurangabad district

July 19 | DSP Surender Singh

Bishnoi mowed down in Haranya's Nuh district

June 16 | A constable of Nelogi police station run over by a tractor in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district

Apr 25 | A village administrative officer, Lourdhu Francis, hacked to death inside his office in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu

Feb 18 | Farm activist Gurbachan Singh, who was objecting to sand mining, mowed down by a tractor in Punjab's Mohali

5 FACTS ABOUT SAND

1 The best sand grains for construction measure between 0.6mm and 2mm in diameter. This size provides the ideal balance for a strong, cohesive concrete mix

2 Grains smaller than 0.5mm are considered silt and too fine for concrete, while grains larger than 3mm (pebbles) create voids in the mix, weakening the structure

3 Best sand for construction comes from riverbeds, lakes, and shorelines, where the grains are perfectly sized and shaped for strong concrete and glass manufacturing

4 Desert sand grains are too fine and rounded, leading to poor cohesion in concrete. This

makes them unsuitable for construction compared to the sharper, more angular grains from rivers or beaches

5 Silica sand, typically found in riverbeds and shorelines, is essential for producing glass used in windshields, smartphone screens, and more

How mafia split a sacred river into two to carry on illicit trade

Shalabh | TNN

Lucknow: The bulldozer grunts on the shore of Ganga in UP's Unnao, baring its teeth. There are trucks and tractors waiting to be loaded with sand, and more almost certainly on the way.

This is how it is here, where the sand mining mafia built a road that cuts through Ganga at Sumerpur Ghat. This unauthorised road has split the sacred river into two streams, creating a pathway for transporting their illicit cargo under cover of night. On another road of Unnao, shadows of a dark tragedy loom large over the Tripathi household.

Shubham Mani Tripathi, a young journalist in his mid-20s, was gunned down in cold blood on June 19, 2020. His crime? Publishing a series of investigative articles exposing illegal activities of

Kanhaiya Awasthi and his wife Diviya Awasthi—known as "bhu mafia".

"My brother was killed for speaking the truth," Shubham's elder brother Rishabh Mani said. "In a town where silence once protected the corrupt, Shubham's voice—though silenced—was an example of courage and resistance. The least we can do is to ensure that his killers pay for their crimes." Just three months before his murder, Shubham had married on Feb 26, 2020, marking what should have been the beginning of a new chapter in his life. Shubham's father died in March 2020, deeply affected by the threats his son received from the Awasthis.

The family's home is now under round-the-clock security, with an armed policeman permanently stationed there—a grim reminder of the threats that still hang

over them. But the administration provided no financial assistance or job offers.

At 30, Rishabh runs a small café and online service centre. "After my brother's death, I was responsible for managing everything for the family. My priority was seeking justice for Shubham and ensuring the killers were held accountable. I couldn't afford to spend time pursuing financial aid from govt offices."

The road to justice has been long and arduous. Of the 16 charged in connection with Shubham's murder, only five are currently behind bars. The incarcerated Awasthi couple's assets and properties, worth Rs 15 crore, have been seized. The Supreme Court's recent rejection of Kanhaiya's bail application has brought some solace to the Tripathi family, but the pain of their loss remains ever-present.

forcement often targeted by the mafia's violent reprisals. Major cases include the killings of a constable and a sub-inspector by tractors in Aurangabad and Jamui, and attacks on mining officers in Patna and Kishanganj.

Legal mining is permitted at 155 ghats across 12 districts in Bihar, but illegal activities continue year-round, costing the exchequer about Rs 1,000 crore annually. In 2022-2023, over 16,185 raids were conducted, resulting in 3,295 FIRs, 181 arrests, and 14,670 vehicle seizures.

Former DGP Neelmani called for strict measures to protect govt revenues. "The first thing that should be done

is confiscating ill-gotten properties of those involved in the illegal sand mining business," he suggested.

During the 2022 assembly elections in Punjab, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal promised an annual income of Rs 20,000 crore from sand mining. However, illegal sand mining remains a major issue, with illicit operations far exceeding the revenue from legal mining. Illegal mining flourishes, especially during the monsoon when govt sites are closed.

The illegitimate sector is bolstered by alleged collusion between political figures, police, and mining officials. High-profile cases include the

Jan 2022 seizure of Rs 6 crore from former CM Charanjit Singh Channi's nephew Bhupinder Singh alias Honey and the resignation of power minister Rana Gurjit Singh in May 2017. On May 29, 2024, ED raided 13 illegal mining sites in Ropar, seizing Rs 3.5 crore linked to money laundering involving drug lord Jagdish Bhole.

(Inputs from Amarjeet Singh in Bhopal, Gauree Malkarnekar in Goa, Lawrence Milton in Mysuru, Rohit Khanna in Kolkata, Rajeev KR & Saikiran KP in Thiruvananthapuram, Julie Mariapan & Gokul R in Chennai, Manoj Chaurasia in Patna, Shalabh in Lucknow, Ajay Singh Ugras in Jaipur)

3 held, FIR against 150 after crowd pelts stones at cops in Ratlam over Ganesh procession row

Indore: Ratlam police have filed an FIR against 150 people and arrested three of them after a crowd pelted stones at police and damaged vehicles on Saturday night after stubbornly trailing the cops to a spot where a stone had allegedly been thrown at a Ganesh procession earlier that evening.

Police resorted to a mild lathicharge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. Police forces from adjoining districts had to be called in. There is heavy police deployment in Ratlam, 140km from Indore. The ruckus started

on Saturday evening when a transgender named Kajal alleged that someone had thrown a stone that hit a man in the Ganesh procession when it was passing through Mochipura area.

SP Rahul Lodha said that there was nothing to corroborate this allegation. "All CCTV footage from the area has been reviewed, and no evidence of stone pelting was found. The idol was also not damaged," the SP said, assuring that if any evidence emerges during the investigation, appropriate action will be taken against the culprits. Police filed an FIR against unidentified persons on Saturday night. **TNN**

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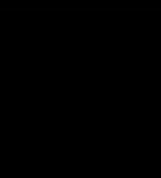
E-Tender Notice

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi invites online E-tenders for the purchase of Instruments for Shri Saibaba & Shri Sainath Hospital from primary manufacturer / Importer / company authorised distributor. The tender details will be available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in for downloading. For details and terms & conditions visit our official website www.sai.org.in

Tender submission starts date - 09/09/2024.
Pre-Bid Meeting date - 12/09/2024.
Tender submission end date - 26/09/2024.

**Goraksha Gadilkar. I.A.S.
Chief Executive Officer,**

DGIPR 2024-2025/2716

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORK DIVISION, SANGAMNER
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 14 FOR 2024-2025**

E-Tenders in B-1 Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Sangamner Phone No. (02425-225335) From Registered Contractors in appropriate only Class with Government of Maharashtra, Public Works Department Details information regarding Tender is available on following web site.

Work No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost put to tender	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Registration class of contractor	Time stipulated for completion of work
1	Upgradation of Primary Health Center in to 30 Bedded Rural Hospital Building At. Bota Tal. Sangamner Dist. Ahmednagar	170667676	854000	3540	Capable and Eligible Registered or Unregistered Contractor	18 Months (Including monsoon)

TENDER SCHEDULE

1.	Tender Downloading	-:	Date 09.09.2024 to 16.09.2024			
2.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	-:	Date 12.09.2024 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer P.W. Circle Ahmednagar At 12.00 AM			
3.	Envelope Opening	-:	Date :- 19.09.2024 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer P.W. Circle Ahmednagar At 11.00 AM or as Possible			
4.	Date of Submission for Sealed Envelope of Hard Copy of E-Tender Document	-:	In the office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Division Sangamner on or before Date 19.09.2024 up to 17.00 hrs			

सविस्तर निविदा सूचना व निविदेबाबतची इतर माहिती खालील संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे.

The Details of works Provided in the websites are as below.
1. www.mahapwd.com 2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
3. There is a provision of "POST QUALIFICATION CRITERIA" for works.

DGIPR 2024-2025/2717

**sd/-
(S. R. Varpe),
Executive Engineer,
Public Work Division, Sangamner**

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

Signal & Telecom Work

TENDER NOTICE No. BRC. SnT.W.24-25_02 **Date:** 04/09/2024 **Dy CSTE (Works)/Vadodara** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. BRC. SnT.W.24-25_02. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 1. **Name of the work with its location:** Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking (E.I) system and Multi Section Digital Axle Counter in connection with the work of Replacement of ABS(Bombardier) Audio Frequency Track Circuit (AFTC) by Multi Section Digital Axle Counters (MSDAC) in Utran-Panoli Automatic Signalling Section of Vadodara Division. 2. **Approx. cost of the work:** 15,79,13,877.53 3. **Bid Security/Earnest to be deposit:** 9,39,600.00 4. **Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender:** 01/10/2024 at 15:00 Hours 5. **Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc.:** Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Works), 2nd Floor-Annex Building, DRM's Office, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

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Education TIMES

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THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Advertorial, Education Promotional Feature

CBSE cracks down on dummy schools in Delhi, Rajasthan to check their rapid proliferation

The inspections will be conducted in other parts of the country too to ensure affiliated schools uphold the Board's standards

Rajlakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

With a view to curbing the dummy school menace, the CBSE recently conducted surprise checks at 27 schools in Rajasthan and New Delhi, both reputed coaching hubs. These inspections were also aimed at ensuring that the schools affiliated with the board were strictly conforming to the norms and byelaws set forth by the board. A CBSE statement claims that the inspections were conducted by 27 teams, each comprising a CBSE officer and a principal from a CBSE-affiliated school. "The inspections were meticulously planned and executed in a synchronised manner, taking place simultaneously across all selected schools within a short timeframe. This approach was adopted to maintain the element of surprise, thereby ensuring that the information gathered about the operations and compliance of the schools is accurate and reflective of their everyday

functioning," the board stated. Talking to *Education Times*, Himanshu Gupta, secretary, CBSE, says, "After going through the data, we found that there was a huge difference between the enrolments of class X and XII students. Further, through data analytics, it was revealed that there could be some schools where there might be cases of dummy students. This prompted us to conduct pinpointed raids on 27 schools, and gross irregularities have been found. We will be issuing show cause notice and based on the schools'

replies take corrective action." The inspection committee's report will also aid in the process. While the focus this time is on Rajasthan and Delhi, Gupta says the inspection will be conducted in other parts of the country too to ensure that affiliated schools uphold the quality and standards expected by the Board. It is to be noted, that the CBSE, early this year, cancelled the affiliation of 20 schools for enrolling dummy students. "With every inspection, we check whether stu-

dents are actually studying in the schools, the teachers are in the required capacity, and labs are in working order," Gupta says.

Welcoming the initiative, an educationist on condition of anonymity who was part of the inspection team, emphasises that "both the coaching institutes and dummy schools complement each other with the latter providing the necessary backup of a 'flexible' attendance system." The bulk of these schools violate the board's affiliation by-laws by enrolling students beyond their actual attendance records, and in the process create 'dummy' enrolments. "Students as per the actual attendance register are abysmally low; in some cases, there could be around 10 students in class XI and around 19 students in class XII. Additionally, even though many

of these schools do not offer any science stream, they have science labs which are in a dilapidated state, often serving as makeshift storerooms. These labs are pressed into action during the practical exams with teachers hired on contractual basis to pass off as internal examiners," the educationist says. "What makes these defaulting schools an attractive option is the fact that students can attend coaching classes all day without being held accountable for regular classes. They can appear for their board exams straightaway without stressing over the CBSE's mandatory 75% attendance criterion, as the dummy schools are at hand to salvage the situation. Unless regular schools step up and help students ace competitive exams such as CU-ET, JEE Main and Advanced without sticking to just the board's rationalised syllabus, it would be difficult to check students' exodus to dummy schools," the educationist adds.



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

NMC guidelines on substance abuse will help students with mental health issues

Shehwaaz.Khan@timesofindia.com

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently issued guidelines for the AIIMS and other medical institutions to implement Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) activities for medical students. The guidelines include forming Nasha Mukti hostel committees, conducting awareness and sensitisation programmes, establishing helpline networks, and creating student support groups. Speaking to *Education Times*, Dr B Srinivas, secretary, NMC, says, "The guidelines have been introduced as a preventive method to stop students from using addictive substances. Medical institutions have been asked to curb the supply of addictive substances from neighboring areas by assessing their premises within a few kilometres. Special efforts will be taken to prevent the consumption of tobacco and alcohol."

The deteriorating mental health of medical students due to high academic pressure is one of the major reasons for issuing the guidelines. A recent NMC report on the mental health and well-being of medical students revealed that 27.8% of UG students have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, and 16.2% experienced suicidal thoughts. Among PG students, 4.4% attempted suicide within the last year. "Overall, 60%-70% of students experienced mental health issues due to stress, making them more vulnerable to using addictive substances. Moreover, as medical students deal with narcotics, the easy availability of drugs makes them more prone to substance abuse," says Srinivas.

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Select the most appropriate pair of words to fill in the blanks.
1. Feathers determine what a bird looks like and they are useful to _____ and _____ birds.
(A) screen...cover (B) guard...conceal
(C) save...obfuscate (D) camouflage...protect
2. People with a strong urge and determination can easily give up a bad habit but _____ from the old habit is often more difficult than the _____ act of giving it up.
(A) staying away...initial (B) staying on...critical
(C) staying out...originally (D) staying by...final
Select the most appropriate words in bold and select the correct option.
3. A great deal of expertise and specialised equipment are required to correctly **appraise** (a) / **apprise** (b) a diamond.
Ilahi teaches **arcane** (a) / **archaic** (b) theories of modern breathing techniques in a remote town of Syria.
If seeds are sown by hand, there is a high likelihood that the **aspersions** (a) / **dispersion** (b) of seeds will be uneven.
The news of Ariana's pregnancy **augurs** (a) / **augers** (b) happiness for her in the days to come.
All gossips are **born** (a) / **borne** (b) by an ill wind.
(A) bbbbab (B) bbbbbb (C) abbbbb (D) aabab
Answer key for the last week's quiz: 1.(d), 2.(d), 3.(b), 4.(c), 5.(c)

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ALERTS

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■ ISST, Pune invites applications for Dr PC Shejwalkar Athlete Scholarship Programme
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■ Amazon India invites application for Pratidhi Scholarship 2024
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UGC directs HEIs to participate in Swachhata campaign

The UGC has requested HEIs to actively participate in Special Campaign 4.0 for Swachhata and contribute to making the educational environment cleaner and more efficient, and minimising pendency across all HEIs. The Government of India recently announced the launch of Special Campaign 4.0 for Swachhata. The campaign will be conducted from

October 2, 2024, aligning with the national vision for a clean and efficient governance system. The Special Campaign 4.0 will be held in two phases: Preparatory Phase (September 16 to September 30) which will nominate and train Nodal officers; Implementation Phase (October 2 to October 31) which will focus on the implementation of plans.

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A tiny flower nearly killed a tiger habitat, until a snip in time saved it

TN forest department's Lantana weed eradication drive helped restore the dying Mudumalai reserve and while doing so reduced human-wildlife conflicts

Shantha.Thiagarajan@timesofindia.com

It's hard to believe that one of the biggest threats to a tiger's survival could come from a small, beautiful flower. Yet, Lantana camara, a tropical American shrub, has invaded over 40% of India's tiger range, with the Shivalik hills, Central India, and the Southern Western Ghats being the worst affected.

Introduced by the British in the 1800s as an ornamental plant from Latin America, the weed quickly spread across the country. By 2020, it was estimated to occupy more than 40% of India's tiger habitats.

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the Nilgiris, home to more than 100 tigers, has also suffered from Lantana invasion, which has led to a decline in vegetation and green patches in its core and buffer zones. That's when the question arose: Is MTR a dying forest?

But then, in the last year, there has been a sudden transformation. Shoots of indigenous species began sprouting across the reserve, and the forest seems to be experiencing a complete regeneration of vegetation. Wildlife officials say the recovery is due to concerted efforts to remove the invasive weeds, which helped restore the ecosystem.

The MTR comprises 32,100 hectares of core zone across six ranges, with an additional 36,700 hectares in the buffer zone spread over four ranges. Faced with a threat to the ecosystem, invasive and exotic species such as Lantana camara, Senna spectabilis, Prosopis juliflora and wattle are being removed. While the buffer zone—a shrub forest—is infested with various invasives, the core zone, a dense forest, is overrun by Lantana. The process of removing these invasives began in early 2022.

In the buffer zone of MTR, about 20% of the area is en-

RETURN TO GREEN: Lantana removal restores grasslands bringing back herbivores and larger animals; (below) Lantana camara



MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE

Declared tiger reserve in 2007
Core zone area: 322sqkm
Buffer zone area: 366sqkm

MTR shares boundaries with Karnataka and Kerala forests

No of tigers in the reserve as per 2018 census:	No of tigers utilising the reserve:
103	162

MTR had scored high (above 90%) in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2022 cycle done by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and was categorised as an 'excellent reserve'

The invasion of 'lantana camara' in the MTR is a cause of concern as it is outcompeting the natural grass

of grass. "Wild animals help spread the seeds of these species across the forest, maintaining a natural cycle facilitated by wildlife in any forest land," says Venkatesh.

"Even after uprooting invasives, the forest will witness subsequent resprouting," says

Arun Kumar, deputy director of MTR-buffer zone. "This makes maintenance important. Without it, the initial efforts would be utterly wasted. The health of the habitat is important as regenerated grasslands attract herbivores, both small and large."

The forest department has identified key passages in the reserve for invasive removal. Arun Kumar says in the expansive 50-hectare area of the Singara range, where invasive removal has been done and second-year maintenance is underway, herds of elephants are frequently attracted by the fresh grasses. "The health of a forest triggers a chain reaction in the ecosystem. The natural regeneration of grasses and legumes can help reduce conflicts in fringe areas, as a healthy habitat tends to keep animals within their boundaries."

Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Paper Limited is involved in removing Senna spectabilis species, which is found in the buffer zone of MTR. "The bark of Senna is so resilient that even a small piece left behind can quickly resprout. Therefore, extra care is needed during the removal process," he adds.

C Vidhya, deputy director of the MTR-core zone, says the Senna species has only a scattered presence in MTR's core area. "The real issue is Lantana. But we can't say Lantana is all bad. It also provides ambush cover for carnivores and fruits for birds and monkeys. In some ways, it plays an eco-friendly role too. If we focus solely on tigers and herbivores, Lantana appears to be a threat."

Vidhya says 50% of the core area is infested with Lantana. "Our fight against Lantana focuses on crucial animal passages and riverines, ensuring removal does not open up the forest too fully. Riverines and water bodies are lifelines for

Can't accept corrupt officers getting prime postings: Sircar

► Continued from P 1

Mamata called Jawahar Sircar, elected in 2021 as one of TMC's 13 Rajya Sabha MPs, in a bid to persuade him to change his mind, but he wouldn't budge.

"Let us analyse frankly and realise that the movement is as much for Abhaya (the RG Kar victim) as it is against state govt and Trinamool Congress. This calls for course correction immediately or else communal forces will capture the state," the former Union culture secretary said.

Sircar said that his commitment to "fight corruption, communalism and authoritarianism in Centre and the state is simply non-negotiable."

He wrote, "I just cannot accept some things, like corrupt officers (or doctors) getting prime and top postings. No."

Sircar pointed out that when he joined TMC in 2021, he had spoken out against corruption after the arrest of former education minister Partha Chatterjee, "but senior members in the party had heckled me". He said he didn't



Artisans of Kumartuli village and others on Sunday take part in a protest march in Kolkata over the alleged sexual assault and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar hospital

resign then because he believed in Mamata's public statements against weeding out corruption.

"There is no party anywhere that does not have a corrupt section. I was also persuaded by well wishers to remain as MP to carry on the battle against a regime that is the greatest ever threat to Indian democracy and civil liberties," he said.

So, what next for the retired IAS officer, who had been defending TMC on his X handle until Sept 7? "For some years, my wife and

Party footsoldiers will fight battle from within: TMC on Sircar exit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: TMC Sunday sought to rein in discordant voices within the party over Bengal govt's response to the unrest stoked by RG Kar hospital rape-murder, terming Rajya Sabha MP Jawahar Sircar's decision to resign his "personal prerogative".

The party admitted that Sircar's "anxieties and observations" about the need for "course correction" couldn't be dismissed. It said TMC's footsoldiers would fight the battle from within the party fold. "He (Sircar) is highly respected and accomplished," ex-Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh said. "He has worked at topmost ech-

Guv asks Didi to call emergency cabinet meet to decide on removing Kol top cop

In the wake of people's uproar demanding justice for RG Kar hospital rape-murder victim, Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose on Sunday directed chief minister Mamata Banerjee to hold an emergency cabinet meeting and discuss the issue, a Raj Bhavan source said. Bose said the state should decide on demand to replace Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Goyal. "According to the governor, the state should function within the Constitution and the rule of law. Ostich-like attitude will not pay and the state must address the public demand to remove the police commissioner of Kolkata," the source said.

lons of govt as a bureaucrat, he is a sensitive person. He has made a decision; I will not add a single word to it."

Several others criticised Sircar for "running away from the battlefield". "A wa-

Congress may also spare 3 seats for SP in Haryana

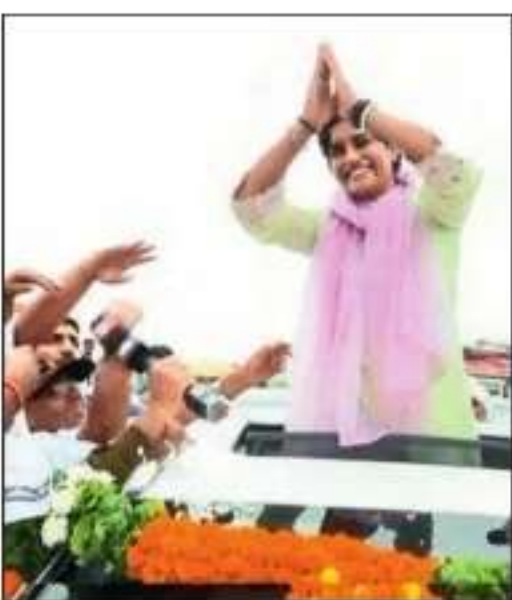
► Continued from P 1

If the alliance works out, AAP sources said an announcement will follow on Monday. The last date to file nominations is Sept 12.

Congress Haryana in-charge Deepak Babaria and AAP's Raghav Chadha along with others were engaged in hectic negotiations till late. As per sources, AAP may be offered seats where Congress does not think winnability will be a factor or where it performed poorly in the past.

"An alliance seems possible on 4-6 seats if AAP agrees to the nature of constituencies that Congress is offering," a Congress source said. The development comes amid strong opposition from the Haryana unit of the party.

Meanwhile, sources said Congress may spare three seats for Samajwadi Party in Haryana. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has asked Congress for



Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat campaigning for the upcoming Haryana elections in Julana on Sunday

Hathin constituency in Palwal, Dadri in Charkhi Dadri and Sohna in Gurgaon.

Earlier in the day, Chadha said Congress and AAP were trying to forge an alliance by keeping aside their individual aspirations. He also said AAP will not proceed with the alliance "if there is no win-win situation".

BJP 'gags' BBSS on Punia, Phogat

BJP has reportedly issued a 'gag order' for its ex-MP and former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, urging him to refrain from commenting on national wrestlers and medal winners. The order was issued soon after Singh appeared on news and shared his views on Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress.

BJP brass directed Singh to avoid issuing comments over the wrestlers. TNN

AAP's three-time MLA from Malviya Nagar in Delhi Somnath Bharti cautioned his party against an alliance with Congress by citing how Congress functionaries never campaigned for him when he was the candidate while AAP members went all out to a campaign and garner support for Congress candidates.

Hopper collapse kills 4 workers at Chhattisgarh alumina refinery

Raipur: Four workers were killed and one sustained injuries after a hopper filled with coal collapsed on them at an alumina refinery in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district on Sunday. As per preliminary information, a steep hopper mounted on a steel tower filled with coal fell on the labourers working right under it.

The accident occurred at Maa Kudargarhi Alumina Refinery in Silsila village. Officials said more workers could be trapped under the iron hopper. Efforts are on to find the missing. A police team reached the spot and rescue was launched swiftly following which, bodies of four labourers were retrieved while one worker who was critical was hospitalised. Officials said the hopper was used to load coal and was connected to a conveyor belt, a part of which was damaged. TNN

No power on earth can bring back Art 370 till BJP's there: Rajnath to NC

► Continued from P 1

At a rally in Banihal for BJP candidate Mohd Saleem Bhat, defence minister Rajnath Singh iterated that India was ready to start a dialogue with Pakistan if the latter stopped sponsoring terrorism in J&K: "Who would not like to improve relations with neighbouring countries? We also want improved relations with Pakistan, but first, they should stop terrorism."

J&K's first assembly election in a decade starts Sept 18 with the first of three phases of polling. In Ramban, BJP nominee Thakur is up against National Conference's Arjun Singh Raju and rebel candidate Suraj Singh Parihar.

The defence minister termed the electoral exercise a "historic" one that the world would be keenly watching. "I was recently in the US, and people of Indian origin there



Defence minister Rajnath Singh at a rally in Ramban on Sunday. He termed the electoral exercise in J&K a 'historic' one

asked me what J&K election would yield. I categorically told them that Kashmir would have a BJP govt," Singh said. "You will see a new J&K."

Without naming PDP chief and ex-CM Mehbooba Mufti, he said people who declared J&K would be on fire if Article 370 were touched had realised that BJP-led govt at Centre was not one to back out of taking tough decisions. "We abro-

used to guarantee special status to J&K. "I want to tell them that no power on earth can bring back Article 370 till BJP is there," he said.

Singh also fired a salvo at Farooq's son and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah for suggesting that Afzal Guru should not have been hanged after being convicted in the Parliament attack case. "What were we supposed to do with Guru if not hang him? Garland him?"

He said Modi govt believed in solid governance, from punishing the guilty to getting justice for the oppressed. "In J&K, daughters were not safe, and the marginalised, including refugees from West Pakistan and Valmiki community, were denied the right to vote. Under Modi's leadership, these people were granted their rights. The Pahari community received ST status. They were also provided political reservation, as were the Gujar-Bakarwals," he said.

MP man held for rape & murder of 13-year-old

Santosh.Sonawane@timesofindia.com

Nashik: A 13-year-old girl was raped and murdered by a man, who was later arrested based on description provided by the victim's younger sister. Police arrested a 30-year-old man, who originally hails from MP but has been staying with his parents in Chopda taluka.

A couple of days ago, the man had come to his sister's residence, which is close to the farm that the girl's family had taken for tilling, police said.

On Saturday, when he was returning to his parent's home in Chopda, the victim and her younger sister were returning from the field. The man dragged the older sister into a farm and sexually assaulted her. Later, he smashed her head with a stone.

The younger sister, who witnessed the crime, ran to village and alerted her parents. The victim was taken to

In-laws held for rape of brick kiln worker

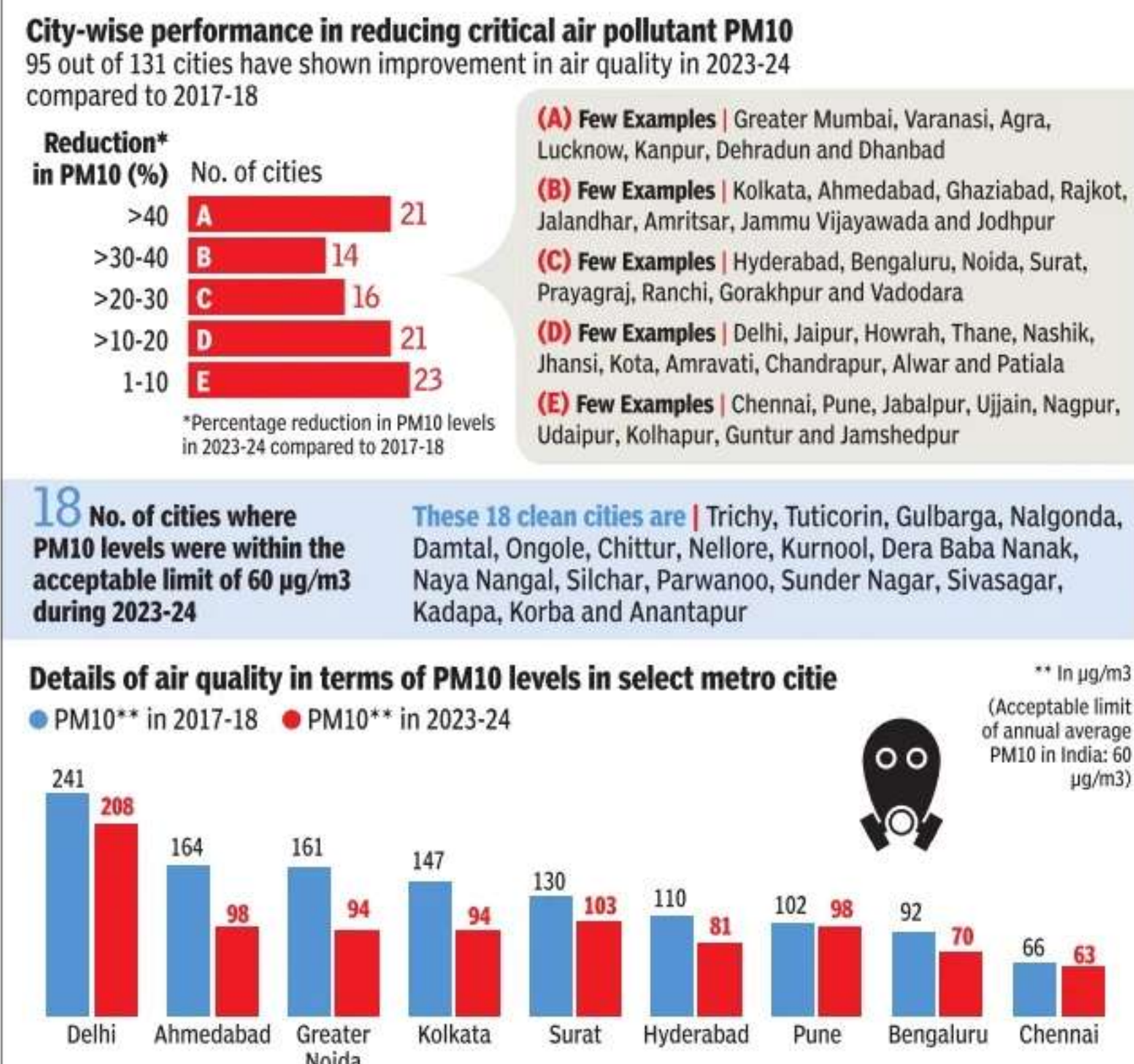
A man and his son were arrested on Sunday for allegedly raping a 27-year-old woman working in a brick kiln in Kalyan in Thane district, police said. The father-son duo and a minor entered the hut of the woman and raped her in turns on Sept 6, police added.

"The accused are father-in-law and brother-in-law of the survivor. The juvenile and the survivor's husband were detained. The survivor is severely injured following the incident and is admitted in hospital," police said. "The survivor's husband beat her up when she reported the incident to him," police said.

a hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

The accused was produced before a court on Sunday, which remanded him in police custody till Sept 13.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



Surat, Jabalpur top million+ popn cities in pollution fight

Vishwa.Mohan@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: High-polluting cities such as Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Nashik and Kota recorded improvement in terms of reducing PM10 to an extent, but their levels remain quite far from the acceptable limit, as per data released by Union environment ministry.

Delhi reduced the level of PM10 from 241 µg/m3 in 2017-18 to 208 µg/m3 in 2023-24 (nearly 14% decline) but the city continues to be highly polluting by recording pollutant levels by more than three times of the national standards.

Under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched in 2019, the ministry planned to reduce PM10 levels by 40% by 2025-26 from the baseline year 2017-18. Overall, 95 out of 131 polluting cities have shown improvement by reducing levels of PM10 in varying percent-



Delhi reduced level of PM10 from 2017-18 to 2023-24 by nearly 14% but it continues to be highly polluting by recording pollutant levels by more than three times of the national standards

ages although just 18 have so far reached the acceptable limit of this critical pollutant.

PM10 is small enough to enter the lungs through breathing causing serious health hazards. Data on improvement in air quality in these cities was shared by the ministry at a function to observe 'Interna-

tional Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' in Jaipur on Sept 7, where Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav awarded nine cities in three different categories for better implementation of different actions for mitigating air pollution under NCAP.

Surat, Jabalpur and Agra were awarded for being top three cities in million-plus population category, whereas Firozabad, Amravati and Jhansi received the award in category of 3-10 lakh of population, and Raebareilly, Nalgonda and Nalagarh in the category of less than three lakh of population. Except for Nalgonda in Telangana, none of these cities, however, figured in the list of 18 which met national standards for clean air. The cities were awarded under 'Swachh Vayu Survekshan' 2024 on the basis of different mitigation measures where the weightage of improving PM10 levels is merely 2.5% in this annual survey.

GST ON GRANTS: TAXING BLOW TO RESEARCH?



TAX ON RESEARCH GRANTS GIVEN TO UNIVERSITIES CAN HAVE A CHILLING EFFECT ON RESEARCH OUTPUTS. I HOPE IT'S AXED

T V Mohandas Pai | INFOSYS CO-FOUNDER



It's Tax Terrorism Say Academicians And Could Derail Projects And Curtail Innovation

Pushpa.Narayan@timesofindia.com

There's a storm brewing in India's academic circles, and it's not about a new discovery or theory, but an unexpected tax on research grants. Seven Indian institutions – including the govt-run IIT Delhi, and Anna University in Chennai – recently got showcase notices from the directorate general of GST intelligence (DGGI) for unpaid taxes on research grants they received since 2017. While IIT Delhi faces a demand for ₹120 crore, including penalties over the past seven years, other universities have been asked to pay between ₹5 crore and ₹60 crore. “Tax terrorism” is what entrepreneur and Infosys co-founder T V Mohandas Pai called it on social media handle X, tagging GST India and PM Modi. While the DGGI says research and develop-

ment grants received by educational institutions are not exempt from tax, many academicians, scientists, and funding agencies disagree. They say grants, especially for educational institutions, are difficult to secure, and tax relief on these funds is a common practice in several countries. “GST on research grants will reduce money allocated for research. So, the govt must remove GST,” says Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, a strong advocate for education, who funds research projects in institutions such as IIT and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Experts say research is inherently a risky endeavour. Without the burden of taxes, institutions are more likely to invest in innovative and potentially high-risk projects that could lead to significant breakthroughs. “Some large and reputable research studies go on for several years. The Framingham Heart Study, for instance, is a long-term, ongoing cardiovascular co-

hort study of residents of Massachusetts that began in 1948,” says orthopaedic surgeon Dr George Thomas, former editor of the Journal of Indian Medical Ethics. “The National Institutes of Health invested USD 14 million in the Lower Extremities Assessment Project (LEAP), a comprehensive research initiative designed to evaluate and improve outcomes in patients with severe injuries of the legs. Without large investments, breakthrough research is difficult. Taxing research grants reduces the already low investments.” Researchers also say funds for research have remained the same for years, though the scope of research has expanded. “It has not kept pace with inflation,” says scientist Ashok Jhunjhunwala, who has chaired govt committees and boards of institutions such as IIT. He says GST on research could be covered by the grantee. “When researchers receive grant money from the ministry, the govt should pay the GST. Researchers would welcome it because they currently pay GST on equipment or components bought with grant funds. If grants were given with GST already paid, they could offset the GST costs they currently bear,” he says. Research grants are fully itemised with amounts allocated for equipment, components, travel, salaries and overheads. “Where is the GST money supposed to come from within this? Placing a GST demand on research institutions is just harassment.” While several universities are gearing up for litigation against the demand, legal experts say Centre should reconsider this issue before it reaches the courts. “GST is levied on the supply of goods and services,” says advocate K Vaitheeswaran, an expert on taxes and head of the taxation committee of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “For example, at a shop there is a tax on sold goods. GST is on the supply of goods or services for consideration. When a university receives a research grant, there is no quid pro quo to provide any goods or services. A grant is not a consideration; it is akin to a donation.” Legal experts say there is no certainty in research outcomes, which may or may not result in saleable goods or services, and so, research grants and donations received from govt or private agencies should not be taxed based on anticipated outcomes but on monetised results. “When income tax provides an accelerated tax shield for research institutions notified under section 35(i)(ii), GST too should extend the same reasoning and logic for research grants,” they say. Academicians hope this issue will be discussed at the GST council meeting on Sept 9, chaired by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. “Research grants to universities must be considered a subsidy as funds are used solely for delivering public good without any profit motive, making it a quasi-government endeavour by the university,” says an academicians. Pai recommends setting up an expert committee within GST India like the one at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. “Questions should be referred to this committee, position paper prepared, put out for public comments and after that issued as the official view,” says the public policy advocate. “This will ensure uniform policy throughout the industry and eliminate arbitrary action by GST officers which harm the country and business as well as reduce tax terrorism. Officials must raise contestable questions and debate it out before they issue such notices. Tax on research grants given to universities can have a chilling effect on research outputs. I hope it's axed.”

Farooq slams Shah, vows to get J&K its statehood back

‘BJP Trying To Stoke Fear But People Are Wise’

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ATTACK MODE: Terrorism is now a challenge and BJP is responsible for it, said Abdullah

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Sunday said NC-Congress combine was not afraid of Union home minister Amit Shah's comment in Jammu that “it (NC-Congress) should stop fooling people by promising statehood as only Centre can restore the status”. “We are committed to ensure restoration of full statehood to J&K one day,” the NC president said.

Talking to mediapersons after paying tribute to his father Sheikh Abdullah on his 42nd death anniversary at his mausoleum in Hazratbal, Farooq said, “Time will come when J&K will get back full statehood.”



He was flanked by his son Omar Abdullah and other party functionaries.

“BJP had claimed that terrorism would be wiped out in J&K, after abrogation of Article 370. Has terrorism ended in J&K? Rather, it has now become a challenge and they are responsible for it,” Farooq said, questioning BJP's claim that terrorism would return if NC and Congress started governing.

“BJP is trying to create fear among voters. But people are wise enough to understand whom to vote for this time,” he said.

“Those raising questions about Muslims should know that Muslims have contributed to the freedom movement and sacrificed their lives. They are trying to scare Hindus, hoping Hindus will vote

Will keep Art 370 issue alive: Omar

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said his party would keep Article 370 issue alive until it is restored. He also accused the UT administration of failing to curb militancy. “We can't predict if Article 370 will be restored tomorrow or during this assembly, but we will keep the issue alive, just as BJP did for 20-25 years,” Omar said. Regarding home minister Amit Shah's charge that NC-Congress alliance will bring terrorism back, Omar said if anyone has failed to combat militancy, it is the present govt. **TNN**

Nix Omar nomination over NC threats: BJP

BJP has decided to urge Election Commission of India (ECI) to reject or cancel the nomination papers of National Conference vice president and former J&K CM Omar Abdullah for allegedly threatening people with death if they don't support his party. “A former sardarch of Ganderbal, with Omar Abdullah's consent, has threatened that anyone who does not support the NC flag will be killed. We will approach ECI demanding the cancellation of Omar's nomination from Ganderbal,” a BJP neta said. **TNN**

for them. But, Hindus here are aware,” he added.

2 Magadh Exp coaches detach, split train into two; none hurt

Patna: Passengers of New Delhi-Islampur Magadh Express had a close shave Sunday in Bihar's Buxar district when its two coaches detached splitting the train into two, reports Kumod Verma. No one was injured, said Danapur divisional railway manager Jayant Kumar Choudhary. The mishap occurred at 11.07am between Tunninganj and Raghunathpur stations on DDU-Patna mainline. It was caused by a coupling system fault between S-6 and S-7 coaches. Choudhary said the two coaches, 13th from the locomotive, disconnected midway. “The coaches were carefully reattached and brought to Raghunathpur,” he said. Saraswati Chandra, the chief public relations officer of East Central Railway, said an accident relief train was dispatched immediately from Danapur with a rescue team. “The faulty S-6 coach was detached and repaired while passengers were moved to other coaches,” Chandra said. The train resumed its journey around 2.25pm after a three-hour delay, he added.

Shah had set March '26 date to 'end Naxalism'

Continued from P1

Once FOBs are set up, administration moves in to reach benefits of government schemes to villages in the vicinity. The strategy has paid off by exposing local people to development and social sector benefits, while weaning them off the influence of Left-wing extremists. Shah had, during a recent visit to Raipur, declared March 2026 as the outer limit for ending Naxalism in the country. For this, he had emphasised on the need for a “strong and ruthless” plan of action. As per a reply given by the ministry of home affairs to a question in the Lok Sabha in Aug this year, incidents of LWE violence in the country have dipped 73% from the high level witnessed in 2010. The resultant fatalities among civilians and security forces too reduced by 86% in 2023 compared with 2010.

Chandrayaan-3 picks up 250 seismic cues, 50 of them may be linked to moonquakes

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Bengaluru: In a first collection of seismic data from Moon's southern polar region, Chandrayaan-3 has detected over 250 seismic signals, some of which may be linked to moonquakes. This experiment, conducted by Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) aboard Vikram lander, is the first of its kind on the lunar surface since Apollo. “Of the more than 250 seismic events recorded, about 200 signals correlate to known activities involving Pragyan rover's movements or the operation of scientific instruments, but the remaining 50 do not have any explanation. Further studies are needed to understand what may have caused these unexplained signals,” Isro's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS) director Sriram told TOI. The findings have been analysed and published by a group of Isro researchers in ICARUS, a scientific journal dedicated to planetary science. The paper, accessed by



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Isro's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems director Sriram said further studies were required to understand what may have caused the unexplained seismic signals

TOI, notes, “As the distance between the rover and ILSA increased, there was a systematic reduction in the amplitude of the signal un-

der normal roving conditions. For example, when the rover was about 7 metres away from the lander, the average peak-to-peak amplitude was around 200 microgravity.” Researchers mentioned that any events classified as deep or shallow quakes were beyond the targeted objectives and design specifications of ILSA. They acknowledged the very low probability of such events occurring during the instrument's operation over one lunar day.

0.5MW output to help power lunar base

Continued from P1

According to Tass, the lunar power project, led by Rosatom, aims to build a small nuclear power plant capable of generating up to half a megawatt of energy, providing the necessary power for the base. Likhachev said China and India are eager to be involved in creating this ground-breaking lunar energy solution. The reactor will provide energy for a proposed lunar base, which Russia and China are jointly working on. India's desire for a lunar base coincides with its possible participation in the lunar power project. Experts said India is playing its diplomatic cards carefully. While it is sending Shubhanshu Shukla of the Gaganyaan mission to the International Space Station in the US, it is now exploring the possibility of joining China on the Russian project.

52% of rape, Pocco cases cleared but pendency at FTCs already 2L

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New Delhi: Even though the fast-track special courts set up by govt on the Supreme Court's directions for expediting trial have disposed of 52% (2,14,463) out of 4,16,638 rape and Pocco cases since the initiation of the FTSC scheme in Oct 2019 till the end of last year, a backlog of over two lakh cases remains.

The existing FTSCs will need to dispose of nearly 554 cases every day — that's one case every three minutes — to clear the backlog as of Dec 2023 within one year. As of Aug 2024, 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive Pocco courts, are functional out of the 1,023 earmarked courts under the scheme.

The findings are part of the ‘Fast Tracking Justice’ report that looks at the role of FTSCs in reducing case backlogs.

The report states that at the current disposal rate of 76,319 cases in FTSCs per year, India would need approximately three years to clear the existing backlog if no new cases are added. “These estimated years can go on an infinity if new rape and Pocco cases are added to the existing fast-track courts and no new courts of this category are set up,” the report brought out by non-profit ‘India Child Protection’ says. It calls for making the re-



The existing FTSCs will need to dispose of about 554 cases daily — one case every three minutes — to clear the backlog within a year

maintaining 268 FTSCs functional under the scheme and setting up at least 1,000 more to deliver within the timelines wherein trial in rape cases need to be completed within two months after filing of chargesheet and within one year in Pocco cases.

The report says the number of cases for trial before FTSCs each year has also risen — from 1,95,991 in 2020 to 2,78,494 in 2023 — reflecting both addition of new cases and continuing challenge of managing pending caseloads. “Correspondingly, the number of cases disposed by FTSCs each year has seen significant improvement, with 37,148 cases disposed in 2020, rising to 76,319 in 2023. Also the percentage of cases disposed during the year out of the total cases for trial (pending and new) has also shown an increase, rising from 19% in 2020 to 27% in 2023,” the report says. Asserting the need to deal

with pending cases, the report also assesses year-wise data of the number of new cases instituted and cases disposed in that year to compare what would be the status of disposal if there were no pending cases and the data represented only disposal for that year itself. For instance in 2023, 81,471 new rape and Pocco cases were instituted, while 76,319 cases were disposed by FTSCs, which comes to a disposal rate of 94%.

“While all of the number of disposed cases may not be the same that came to FTSCs that year itself, this data indicates that India is close to reaching the tipping point to justice, a point when the number of cases disposed in a given year is equal to or greater than the number of new cases instituted during the same year. In this backdrop this report calls for expediting disposal of pending cases by creating 1,000 new FTSCs so that India is able to build on the momentum seen in terms of disposal rate,” said Bhuwan Ribhu, child rights activist and founder of India Child Protection.

Stating that there is no real-time data available on acquittal and conviction in rape and Pocco cases, the report calls for provided this data on the FTSC dashboard to enable assessment of the success of the courts.

CGST officials coerced bizman into arranging ₹30L for release

Continued from P1

CBI has searched the premises of Sharma, the four superintendents and the other two aides.

As per a complaint, Gokulka and the other three GST superintendents — Nitin Kumar Gupta, Nikhil Agrawal and Bijender Janawa — detained a Goregaon businessman for 18 hours on Sept 4 and threatened to arrest him if he failed to pay a bribe of Rs 60 lakh — reduced from the original demand of Rs 80 lakh — to settle a pharmaceutical company's issue. The businessman was allegedly abused and slapped multiple times, and coerced into calling a relative to arrange Rs 30 lakh, which was to be deliv-

ered to a middleman, chartered accountant (CA) Raj Aggarwal, through hawala.

After receiving the initial amount, the CGST officials released the businessman the following day, instructing him to arrange the remaining Rs 30 lakh by that evening, which he was asked to deliver to Aggarwal. The businessman approached CBI. He could only arrange for Rs 20 lakh, which he handed over to Aggarwal, who was supposed to pass on the money to a consultant, Abhishek Mehta. CBI caught Mehta when he arrived to collect the money from the CA. He revealed that he was to hand over the bribe directly to Gokulka.

In the presence of CBI officials, Mehta spoke to Gokulka

over the phone, who asked him to turn up near Oshiwara police station for the bribe handover. CBI then set a trap.

Gokulka, accompanied by two women, arrived in a car at the spot around 2.30am on Sept 6. He asked Mehta, who was waiting in another vehicle, to join him. When Mehta got into his vehicle with the amount, the official sensed something amiss and sped away. After a while, he asked Mehta to get out of the car with the money and drove away. The CBI team, which was in pursuit, managed to nab Mehta and subsequently traced Gokulka. CBI produced Gokulka, Aggarwal and Mehta in court on Sept 6. They were remanded in the agency's custody till Tuesday.

Memo to Manipur guv likely eyes unified command reins for CM

Continued from P1

The toll in the rash of attacks since Sept 1 stands at nine. Sources said the BJP-led govt's memo likely contains a demand echoed by organisations in the valley — that the CM be given the reins of the unified command structure for law and order. The unified command, which coordinates between central and state forces, is currently headed by former CRPF DG Kuldeep Singh, whom the Centre deputed to the state last year as security adviser to the govt. While the CM's memo presumably seeks the revocation of the pact for suspension of operations against tribal armed outfits, the Kuki Students' Or-

While the CM's memo presumably seeks the revocation of the pact for suspension of ops against tribal armed outfits, Kuki Students' Organisation has sought a ban on valley-based outfits Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun

ganisation issued a statement demanding a ban on Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, both based in the valley. “Immediately designate these groups as terrorists and ban their activities to prevent further violence against the Kuki-Zo people,” it said. Amid the escalating

violence, Assam Rifles deployed anti-drone systems to stave off potential aerial attacks by militants. CRPF tested a similar anti-drone system before deployment. The family of a civilian victim in a drone and RPG attack on Koutruk village in Imphal West district on Sept 1, Ngangbam Surbala Devi, received ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh from the state govt. Representatives of a joint action committee had met the CM at the secretariat to seek adequate compensation. “While no financial assistance can truly compensate for the life lost, it is our responsibility to stand by the affected families and offer them support in these difficult times,” the CM wrote on X.

In clip, PSU exec seen removing minister's shoes

Dhanbad: Controversy erupted in Jharkhand after a video went viral showing a general manager-rank officer of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) in Dhanbad removing the shoes and fixing pyjamas of Union minister of state for coal Satish Chandra Dubey, reports Anil Ashutosh.

The video was purportedly taken when the minister was about to enter an underground mine in Munihih. The BCL official refused to comment saying he would speak only after watching the video clip.

Dhanbad district Congress president Santosh Singh expressed shock and sought the minister's apology for demeaning a BCL officer. During his visit, inspected subsidence-prone areas near Sendra-Bansjora, the fire patch of Ena colliery, and the underground mine at Munihih.



CONTRAPUNTO

There's no clarity. There was never meant to be clarity

-CHARLES BUKOWSKI

Step Aside, Ms Buch

High finance regulators like Sebi chief have a special responsibility to stay above suspicion

Madhabi Puri Buch came to the job of Sebi chief with almost a halo around her – the first woman in this high profile, high responsibility post, a bright finance pro from the private sector who can make the regulator less fusty. But when she leaves office end of term, a cloud of intense suspicion will have replaced the halo. The *only* way she can change how this story ends is by voluntarily stepping aside, pending the results of an impartial inquiry she should ask for herself.

Most public office holders, and indeed many in high profile private sector jobs, in this country view such a response as a strategic defeat. But if you are not guilty – Buch has insisted her financial transactions do not imply impropriety or conflict of interest – stepping aside is a strategic win. It shows confidence. Staying on the job as more and more questions of integrity swirl around, strengthens perceptions that something's off. But the bigger reason Buch should take this course of action is that it is *expected* of a person tasked with keeping markets clean.



Regulatory jobs in high finance have a sharper version of the Caesar's Wife principle built into them. Even suspicions about the possibility of a conflict of interest must be avoided by those with power over market rules. The very nature of Buch's job demands that she stops doing it for now. Those who argue against this will point out that so far markets haven't displayed nervousness centred around allegations against the Sebi chief. There are two arguments against this. First, markets don't have a moral dimension. Second, on the reasonable assumption that more questions about Buch may surface, markets may respond with apprehension if the quantum of suspicion hits a tipping point.

There are already three sets of questions on potential conflict of interest around three different business entities – Adani group, Wockhardt, ICICI – that were put under the regulatory lens by Buch-led Sebi. Perhaps, Buch's actions in all cases were free of any bias, as she has insisted. But the best way to demonstrate that is by allowing an impartial inquiry to look into Sebi's workings. And a Buch-free Sebi is precondition for a fair probe.

Buch may be summoned by a parliamentary committee. That's a good thing. In fact, Parliament, like US Congress, should question regulators often. But Parliament doesn't have the power to ask Buch to step aside. If she can't find in herself the moral courage to do the right thing, then govt should step in and do it.

Up With The Best

Our para athletes' great showing at Paris is a reminder of need to create more disabled-friendly spaces in India

India's excellent performance at the Paris Paralympics is testament to the calibre and dedication of our para athletes. With 29 medals – 7 gold, 9 silver and 13 bronze – our contingent delivered its best ever performance. Even more heartening is the fact that as many as 10 women have done India proud. Each medal winner represents an extraordinary story of triumph in the face of adversity. Take Sumit Antil. He repeated his Tokyo performance, winning a gold in men's javelin (F64). Ditto for shooter Avani Lekhara, who became the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold.



Performance turnaround | Paris also reiterates how quickly a country's sporting fortunes can change. As recently as London 2012 and Rio 2016, India had bagged just one and four medals, respectively. Increased funding and provision of resources by the Centre and corporate bodies has clearly made all the difference. This must be carried further since India participated in just 12 of the 22 sporting categories at Paris.

India's unfriendly environment | Amidst this success, let us not forget what our para athletes have had to battle, besides disability, to win glory. For, India remains a disabled-unfriendly country. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 sought to make all public spaces disabled-friendly in five years, but its implementation has been far from satisfactory. The Centre has even cut budgetary outlays for schemes under the Act. It is hardly a surprise then that private buildings and transport systems have failed to fall in line, even in metro cities. The success of our para athletes should serve as a reminder that changing this would not just allow persons with disabilities to give their best but it is also what the country owes them.

Hello kitty

On (not) being a childless cat lady in US

Rosa E Soto



Columnist based in New Jersey

JD Vance has got it all wrong. It's actually hard to be a childless cat lady in America. I tried putting in papers to adopt, met a three page questionnaire with every crazy question you can imagine, and got told that they would not adopt out kittens to women without other animals or kids.

They did helpfully point out that all their available cats and kittens are posted on the Chance at Life Cat Rescue website. I could check them out there. They mentioned that Wren, for example, is an all-black female kitten.

But then came the kicker. They said that since I had no other cats at home, if approved, they hoped I would consider adopting two. Perhaps Wren and one of her siblings, Chickadee or Forrest.

Their philosophy is that kittens and cats should be with a sibling or playmate. The only time they adopt out cats separately is when someone already has a cat in the home or they have a cat that prefers or needs to be an only cat. Here is what they said: "Kittens and cats with playmates are less lonely and don't get bored which means less likely to get into trouble."

This made me feel like Murphy Brown from the show *Murphy Brown*. Back in 1992, when that character, a journalist, consciously decided to raise a baby on her own, none other than veep Dan Quayle blamed it for a breakdown of family values. He said a prime-time character "supposedly" epitomising "today's intelligent, highly paid professional woman" ought not be "mocking the importance of fathers by bearing a child alone and calling it just another lifestyle choice". In response, in the show, Brown schooled Quayle, that his definition of family was painfully unfair when millions of children were growing up in non-traditional families. Is it billions now?

My friends have been telling me about animal shelters that do not have such a ridiculous stipulation. One points out that even this prickly one will get a litter with an odd number of kittens! Another says that not all cats go by set rules. And most cats are loners because they're not conditioned to live as part of a pack. I really want a black kitty. I've never had one. So if you hear about one, let me know.

Kamala Vs The Crazyies

US social media game has changed since 2020. Trump is no longer acing it. But weird right-wing disinformation is still thriving, seeding doubts that will be consequential if Harris wins by a narrow margin

Jeffrey Layne Blevins



Columnist based in Ohio

Kamala Harris's nomination has energised the Democratic Party's social media game in a way that we have not seen since Obama's presidential campaigns in 2008 and 2012. Her campaign's TikTok account boasts over 4mn followers, engaging younger voters with viral content. At the same time on X, the Harris campaign account is steadily trolling her Republican rival on a daily basis.

X, when it was Twitter, used to be Trump's ace in the social media game, where "the Don" is now clearly slipping. Stock prices for his own vanity platform, Truth Social fell to a new low last week, which dovetails with the social media outlet's steady decline in users this year.

Trump created Truth Social after being kicked off Twitter, for inciting the violence that occurred at the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, while the US Congress was trying to certify the 2020 presidential election results. Although his political ally Elon Musk acquired Twitter, changed its name to X, and restored Trump's account, he is bound by an agreement with his own company to post any campaign-related announcements first on Truth Social.

The lagging performance of Trump's media business and social media campaigning comes while the broader political landscape is shifting away from him. Democrats have surprisingly rallied around Harris, in a way that did not occur during Hillary Clinton's 2016 run for the presidency.

At the same time, some Republicans, such as US Senator Mitt Romney, have begun distancing themselves from Trump's wholly unsubstantiated claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him. Others, such as former US representatives Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, have gone as far as formally endorsing his Democratic challenger, Harris. Last week, Dick Cheney also announced that he will vote for Harris. From the Republican point of view, this is a stunning dispatch from a staunch conservative who served as VP to George W Bush.

But will any of this make a difference to the 2024 election results? The doubt arises because in many other ways, politics on social media during this campaign season looks a lot like it did in 2016, with a

profusion of disinformation from right-wing political influencers.

Recently, far-right operatives have falsely claimed that an apartment complex in Aurora, Colorado had been overrun by a Venezuelan gang. Fox News bolstered these claims on its cable network, along with Musk, while Trump has been citing the false info in campaign speeches. Together, they are creating an echo-chamber of disinformation, intended to inflame fears



Chad Crowe

about illegal immigration in US.

Research on social media and politics has graphically demonstrated the power of these networks of disinformation online. As groups share the same themes and messages on social media (even when it's based on unsubstantiated or misleading information), it tends

to amalgamate on partisan media outlets and within extremist political rhetoric, reifying its believability.

What makes this kind of disinformation even more vexing is that it plays heavily into the emotions of fear and anger. My own most recent research on digital politics in an age of digital emotion, examined the content of political posts on X for clues as to why certain ones resonated with followers. What my co-author and I learned is that rhetorical strategies employed by Trump and far-right influencers since 2016 rely on the power of emotion and hyperbole in crafting their political and cultural narratives. And they do so with great effect, compared to more reasoned forms of discourse.

The political left often tends to try to counter misinformation and hyperbolic rhetoric with expertise, facts, context, and nuance. However, this approach alone simply does not work, especially within the current US political climate in which social media users have hardened ideological views.

Since deriding news media as "the enemy of the people", Trump has primed his followers to distrust experts, journalists and others. Personal beliefs and emotions expressed in short soundbites and memes are more likely to resonate with voters on the political right.

One lesson that Democrats and the Harris campaign can take from our study is that the most effective social media influencers use a range of rhetorical strategies to make a single point, including emotional language and humour, in addition to rational evidence and logic. So far, the Harris campaign seems to have embraced this approach, especially in its use of humour and ridicule, which are powerful emotive devices.

Social media will not determine the outcome of the 2024 election, but it will shape the American public's perception of the result. If the popular vote and electoral college results are decided by a narrow margin in Harris's favour, it will be easier for Trump's predetermined claims of election interference to resonate. And this will help the idea that the vote was somehow "rigged" against him, to take hold among the political right. However, if Harris can win by a large margin, it is less likely that rank and file Republicans will follow along and support Trump's assertions of voter fraud.

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How To Get The Best Out Of Criminal Code's New Idea

As community service gets included as a sentencing option in BNS, probate officers can be made point persons for convicts awarded such reformative penalty

Vijay Raghavan and Saugata Hazra



Justice reform measure in India that's practised in many parts of the world. The idea of community service is to have offenders go through a programme as a sentencing option, whereby they're placed in unpaid positions with non-profit or tax-supported agencies, to serve specified numbers of hours, to serve or work, within a defined time limit.

In a first, Supreme Court in the Sanjeev Nanda hit-and-run case had ordered the accused to pay ₹50L to GOI within six months. This was to be used for compensation to victims of motor accidents where vehicle owner, driver, etc could not be traced, as in hit-and-run cases. On default, he'd have to undergo a year's simple imprisonment. SC further ordered the accused to do community service for two years that the social justice ministry would arrange for. On default, he'd have undergone simple imprisonment for two years.

What it is for | In BNS, the provision for community service applies only to petty offences as of now. Quantum hasn't been specified for any of the offences.

Broadly, six types of offences can attract community service sentencing – public servants engaging in unlawful trade, persons failing to appear before a court despite an order issued by it, first-timers committing theft of value lower than ₹5,000, persons defaming, drunk persons appearing in public places, and for suicide attempts that intend to prevent a public servant from doing their duty.

Who it is for | There exists a law, the Probation of Offenders' Act, 1958, under which convicts – in offences where maximum sentence doesn't amount to life imprisonment or death – have the benefit of being released on a bond of good behaviour (up to three years)

or under supervision of a probation officer (PO), who functions under court jurisdiction.

While granting such release, courts arrive at their decision based on a pre-sentence investigation report submitted by the PO. This takes into account the nature of offence, offender's socio-economic and family background, antecedents, and offender's prospects of reformation and rehabilitation, once guilt is proved.

Since a framework for alternatives to imprisonment is already provided for in the statutory regime of probation, the same may be extended to include a structure for community service. It can be an option before the judge in cases where maximum sentence is three years or less, or in cases where maximum sentence is seven years or less, and the offender is a first-time offender or a youth offender below age 21.

For how long | The roadmap for implementation of a community service order can start with the convict opting for such service in lieu of imprisonment. It should specify number of hours of community service per week for a convict. A way will have to be devised to calculate appropriate number of hours a judge may award in lieu of imprisonment.

There's considerable variation among countries in calculating number of hours of community service for a sentence. Finland uses a ratio of 1 hour in lieu of each day of imprisonment. Spain stipulates 8 hours against a day of imprisonment. Minimum number of hours is around 40 and maximum around 750 hours, as in Australia. An order can specify a minimum number of hours per week.

Who'd be in charge | Such service can include regular counselling, retraining, re-entry into education, or attending de-addiction programmes, supervised by a

community service officer (CSO) or PO.

Since the system of POs already exists in most states, these officers may be given additional charge as CSOs with more training. They would remain in touch with the offender and maintain a record of number of hours completed every month.

Where will convicts work | A community service structure needs a network of recognised voluntary organisations/NGOs/local bodies. Work should aim to improve social responsibility of the offender towards the community. Work awarded should not be degrading in nature. Convicts can volunteer work in public sector organisations in healthcare, education, civic rights, child care, elderly care, legal rights and education, community and rural development etc.

CSO or PO would need to immediately report violations of conditions. Based on good behaviour and satisfactory reports from placement organisations,

CSO/PO may recommend reducing the number of hours after at least half the hours of the community service sentence is completed.

Noting that "crime...affects at least three parties: the victim, the community and the offender,"

Canada's top court in *R vs Proulx* observed, "A restorative justice approach seeks to...address needs of all parties...through rehabilitation of offender, reparations to victims and to the community, and promotion of a sense of responsibility in the offender and acknowledgement of harm done." Community service instead of jail can lead to a less punitive and more restorative form of justice system.

Raghavan is professor, Centre for Criminology & Justice, TISS. Hazra is legal fellow at Prayas, a legal aid and bail project at TISS

Calvin & Hobbes



Karan Singh

The world today is in turmoil. Wars, the ultimate symbols of negativity, are raging everywhere. There are wars in Europe, wars in Asia, wars in Africa, wars in Latin America. As a result of these thousands of people are dying every week, but that seems to be written off as collateral damage. There is no sense of sympathy with the victims of those wars. In addition, climate change with all its erratic weather events has created havoc around the world. Between flooding and drought, hurricanes and tornadoes, melting of glaciers and species extinction, large sections of the world population are suffering the direct impact of global warming. Several island states will disappear soon, and we will be faced with a new category of environmental refugees.

All this raises the question as to

what we as individuals can do in such a situation. It is easy enough to shrug off the ocean of suffering as part of world politics, but that is surely not a satisfactory response from those who claim they are following a spiritual path. For such persons the ancient concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is a family, has to be rearticulated. Many parts of this family are in turmoil, and we also bear part of the responsibility because of our lack of caring. Even if we are not able to help concretely, it is important that each one of us try to find within ourselves the fountain of peace and harmony. If enough individuals around the world are prepared to look within and find the spiritual core of their being, it can make a difference to the destiny of the human race.



THE SPEAKING TREE

At present we seem to be following the prognosis of the European philosopher Arthur Koestler who predicted that the human race was programmed for self-destruction because of an engineering defect in the human brain, thereby the thinking and feeling aspects are not adequately conjoined, so that while we know what we should be doing we do not do it, and while we know what we should not be doing, yet we do it. This is reflected in Dushasana's enigma in the Mahabharat when he says, "I know what is correct but I am not attracted to it/I know what is wrong but I am attracted to it."

The greater the outer turmoil, the deeper the inner integration must be, otherwise humanity, which is at a precarious tipping point, may tip over, not to speak of the new threats and

challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence and its multiple implications.

The world, of course, is constantly changing: 'Samyak Sansariti iti Sansar', and we all have to adjust ourselves to the rapidly changing situation. It is not really a question of age, but rather our ability to face and confront the problems before us.

A collective can be very useful in this context. For example if people in a mohalla, colony, decide to band together in saving the environment. The same is true with movements against drug use, alcoholism and faulty hygiene. These are all building blocks towards creating a healthy society. Corruption, unfortunately, almost seems to have entered our DNA, and here again it is only committed individuals who can fight against these social evils. In the final analyses the compassionate and dedicated individual remains our only hope in the dystopian world that surrounds us.

Sacred space



These things will destroy the human race: politics without principle, progress without compassion, wealth without work, learning without silence, religion without fearlessness, and worship without awareness.

Anthony de Mello

Are Autonomous Vehicles Safer?

High AV crash rate in California: In 2022, autonomous vehicles (AVs) in California had a crash rate of 96.7 per 1,000 vehicles, much higher than the 7 per 1,000 for regular cars

Accidents/million miles: AVs had 26.3 crashes per million miles in California, while regular vehicles had just 0.7 per million miles

Causes of AV collisions: Most AV collisions in 2022 were caused by other road users being distracted, impatient, or trying to swerve around AVs



Crashes per vehicle miles travelled in '22



Higher standards for AV crash reporting: AV collisions are often minor and reported more strictly, unlike regular cars where many minor accidents go unreported

Safety woes slow down automation: Despite the growth of Robotaxis, full autonomous driving faces delays due to safety concerns

Source: Statista

SpiceJet's Singh may sell over 10% in airline: Report

New Delhi: SpiceJet promoter and chairman Ajay Singh may offload more than 10% stake in the struggling carrier as part of the latest funding round that is expected to close by the end of Sept, according to sources, reports PTI. The budget carrier — which is grappling with multiple woes including financial challenges, legal battles and grounding of aircraft — is looking to raise money that will help it meet various obligations. A source said that Singh could offload up to a 15% stake in the airline if certain conditions are conducive. PTI



Jio Fin, BlackRock JV for advisory biz

New Delhi: Jio Financial Services on Sunday said it has formed a joint venture with BlackRock Advisors Singapore to undertake investment advisory business. Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers was incorporated on Sept 6. AGENCIES

FPIs invest ₹11,000cr in equities in Sept

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors infused nearly Rs 11,000 crore in domestic equities in the first week of the month owing to resilience of the Indian market and expectations of a rate cut in the US. AGENCIES

Shriram Fin to raise \$1bn from overseas

New Delhi: NBFC Shriram Finance plans to raise \$1 billion (about Rs 8,300 crore) from overseas in the next 6 months to fund its business growth. The fund raise would also include loans from development financial institutions. AGENCIES

Boeing inks deal with union to avert strike

Boeing and its largest union said they've hammered out a landmark deal to potentially avoid a strike that would risk crippling the already troubled US aircraft manufacturer. BLOOMBERG

figure it out

Nearly 20% of total coal consumed (1,234 million tonnes) in India in FY23 was imported. Over 997 million tonnes of coal was produced in the year



Source: Economic Survey

Not keen to invest under new EV policy: BMW

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New Delhi: German luxury carmaker BMW has said that it is not keen to invest under the electric vehicles manufacturing policy announced by the govt earlier this year as it doesn't provide a level-playing field and fails to consider past investments made by companies in the country.

"While the policy is great as it encourages electric vehicles, it ignores companies who have been in the market for a long time," BMW India president Vikram Pawah told TOI.

Pawah said the policy should have acknowledged companies, which have been early investors in India, and thus stipulated separate investment

It's raining IPOs on D-Street. 16 offers eye ₹9k cr this week

Bajaj Hsg Fin Biggest At ₹6,560cr | 11 Of 16 Are From SMEs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Investors on Dalal Street will have the option to select from at least 16 IPOs to invest in the coming week, making it one of the busiest weeks for primary offers in recent years. Together, these 16 IPOs are aiming to raise nearly Rs 9,000 crore from the market, data on Chittorgarh, a web portal on public offers, showed.

Of the 16 IPOs, three are already open and will close next week. Twelve will open and close during the week. Another IPO will open on Friday and close the following week. Of the total, five are mainboard IPOs while eleven are SME offers.

The biggest among these 16 public offers, in terms of the amount of money to be raised, is by Bajaj Housing Finance. The IPO is set to open on Sept 9 and close on

'Strong Prospects For Next 12 Months'

Mainboard Cos	Open Period	Size (₹ cr)
Bajaj Housing Finance	Sept 9-11	6,560
P N Gadgil Jewellers	Sept 10-12	1,100
Kross	Sept 9-11	500
Tolins Tyres	Sept 9-11	230
Shree Tirupati Balajee Agro Trading	Sept 5-9	170

> SME* mop-up ₹393cr
*SMEs include businesses in BFSI, manufacturing, IT services, agro products etc

Why IPO Frenzy?
> Liquidity to invest in IPOs
> FOMO driving rush for IPOs, which have been witnessing good returns on listing

Sept 11, and aims to raise Rs 6,560 crore, a release from the company said. This will be followed by the Rs 1,100-crore IPO by P N Gadgil Jewellers that will open on Sept 10 and close on Sept 12. Both companies are headquartered in Pune.

According to a note from Pantomath Capital Advisors, a mid-market invest-

ment bank, the domestic primary market has demonstrated robust momentum this week and the outlook remains strong for the next 12 months. "The persistent zest for IPOs and healthy subscription numbers highlight the increasing investor confidence" in Indian IPOs. According to an analysis by Pantomath, in Aug, 10 com-

panies raised about Rs 17,047 crore, "making it the busiest period for public offerings since May 2022".

Merchant bankers believe that a few factors are driving the current IPO frenzy. Investors' substantial liquidity to invest in IPOs is one. Additionally, regulatory and other changes to the IPO market have made it tough for bad companies run by unscrupulous promoters to tap investors for funds. Another reason is the FOMO (the fear of missing out) factor that's driving this rush for IPOs, which have been witnessing good returns on listing.

A recent Sebi report showed that banks and retail investors were most likely to invest and quickly book profits in those stocks which listed at a gain. Mutual funds, on the other hand, remained investors for the long term.

Ex-AirAsia India to be merged into AI Express

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New Delhi: India's low cost carrier (LCC) space is in for a major rejig with Tata Group's mega Air India Express coming into being on Oct 1, 2024, when the process of merging erstwhile AirAsia India into it gets completed. The combined entity, with 7,000 employees, as of now has 84 aircraft (mainly Boeing 737s and a few Airbus A320s) and this number will grow to 100 before end of this calendar year.

Erstwhile AirAsia India was Tata Group's re-entry into the airline space for the first time after JRD Tata launching Air India in 1932. It started flying in June 2024 and from Oct 1 its designator code I5 will cease to exist. Tata's other JV airline, Vistara, which had started flying in Jan 2015, merges into AI on Nov 12.

With India the fastest growing aviation market globally, the LCC market here is set to rise exponentially in coming years. "The emergence of LCCs other than IndiGo should not be seen as competition to the latter as the market is too big for all but as choice for consumers. Having a strong alternate means players will have to improve in areas they are weak in. For IndiGo, it means improving the onboard experience for flyers. For AI Express, it means quickly expanding its network, frequencies and connecting city pairs. Akasa is to watch out for if it can arrange funding and get Boeing to deliver the ordered planes on time," said an industry observer.

While market leader IndiGo is way ahead, the Tata LCC will position itself differently to appeal to passengers. "Our two main differentiators are that we have hot meals on board and are less formal on the branding side, appealing more to today's traveller," said officials.

i4, iX1, and Mini Cooper SE.

Pawah said the company has sold around 2,000 electric cars over the past two-and-a-half years, which is roughly 10% of the total cars it sold in the period. Asked whether the company plans to assemble some of the models locally, he said that it is on the cards. "It is a matter of time, and may happen sooner rather than later... We see that the govt is serious about promoting EVs, and wants them to take off."

The BMW president also said that the company's assembly operations in India give it the flexibility of making vehicles of any fuel type — petrol, diesel, hybrids and/or electric.

Rivals need to invest in EV tech: Ola CEO

'Shareholders Will Penalise Cos That Don't Take EVs Seriously, It's Not Assembly Biz'

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New Delhi: Ola Electric founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal has said that his company was well ahead of competition to grow the electric two-wheeler business and added that rivals needed to invest heavily in technology to come up to speed, while reiterating his suggestion to stop the production of scooters and bikes that run on traditional internal combustion engines.

"Our competitors, who had said that EV is a fake business and there is no money to be made, have pretty much eaten their words by their actions. Ab maidan mein sab kood parein hain (now everyone has jumped into the fray), without the right tools and weapons. All of them are losing money in EVs, while I am profitable. They will have to go through the journey of investing in technology. In the last four years, I have invested almost \$1 billion, which they have not done. EV is not an assembly game, it is a very strong technology game," Aggarwal told TOI.

One in every five scooters sold in India is now an EV, which the startup founder believes is coming of age for a segment that was not seen to be viable. Those like Rajiv Bajaj of Bajaj Auto have been sceptical of EVs.

"It is good that they (rivals) are in the maidan (field), because it will increase consumer mindshare of EVs, but it will be hard for

them to compete on product performance, profitability and growth because they just don't have the foundation required in terms of technology," he said.

Aggarwal said there is now "rhythm" in the electric two-wheeler space, with the entire infrastructure

of 850 dealerships and will launch its motorbikes in the March quarter, having unveiled three models, with eight variants, on Independence Day. "There is continued focus on vertical integration to bring in newer technologies and reduce costs. Our overall strategy is to drive profitable

"...All of them (competitors) are losing money in EVs, while I am profitable. They will have to go through the journey of investing in technology. In last four years, I have invested almost \$1 billion, which they have not done..."



"...The ICE industry is doing dis-service to the nation by continuing to produce ICE... The ICE makers in national interest should shut down ICE

— BHAVISH AGGARWAL | FOUNDER AND CEO, OLA ELECTRIC

falling into place — from suppliers to distribution and charging ecosystem.

"In scooters, ICE production should stop because customers have enough options. The ICE industry is doing dis-service to the nation by continuing to produce ICE... The market forces are in good rhythm to scale up the charging network, distribution, service network and supply chains. The ICE makers in national interest should shut down ICE... If they don't take EVs seriously, if they don't invest, their shareholders will punish them in the future," he said.

Ola Electric, which listed recently, has lined up plans to add 1,000 non-company stores to augment its capaci-

growth," he said, while repeatedly emphasising on the need to keep costs low.

Aggarwal did not rule out an entry into three-wheelers, although he qualified it by saying that the company has never announced any launch date. "The entire technology and product development for two-wheelers is easily transferable to three-wheelers. The cost advantage, the profitability can be easily transferred. As and when we choose to get it, another advantage we will have is that three-wheeler drivers are already on the Ola Cabs platforms. We know their requirements, their problems, their financing needs and we have a relationship with them."

Staff costs surge at HCLTech

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Bengaluru: HCLTech, in its recent investor presentation, said that employee costs as a percentage of revenue are higher than pre-pandemic levels.

In FY24, employee benefit cost was Rs 62,480 crore, which is 56.8% of the revenue. This is up from Rs 55,280 crore, which was 54.5% of the revenue in the year-ago period.

There has been a significant increase compared to the year immediately preceding the pandemic (2019-20) when employee benefit costs, excluding contractors, were 49.4% of the revenue. In the financial year that ended

in March 2020, employee costs were Rs 34,928 crore.

Meanwhile, the firm has said that the increase in employee costs was due to an increased employee count at on-site locations. However, the exact mix of on-site and offshore employees has not been revealed by the firm.

"Onsite percentage increased due to acquisitions and taking over people as part of large cost take-out deals. Second is that fresher hiring remained subdued last year. These two reasons contributed to higher employee cost as a percentage of revenue," Pareekh Jain, CEO and lead analyst at Pareekh Consulting, said.

Mrinal Rai, principal analyst at ISG, said that with an increasing focus on enabling clients to make the best use of the latest innovative technologies, there is also a focus on enhancing these professional services skills. These can also contribute to increasing the cost of resources, he said. This comes at a time when HCLTech, along with its peers, is trying to cut costs and even moderate appraisals, which are in single digits for most leading IT services firms. For HCLTech, the average salary increase for employees has been 3.4% for 2023-24 — among the lowest in a top IT services firms.

TOI
IN THE CLASSROOM

To Put More Into SIPs, Add To Existing Scheme Or Opt For New One

Investors are continuously increasing their contributions towards systematic investment plans. Data show that inflows through SIPs have increased every month, touching ₹23,332cr in July 2024, as compared to ₹15,814cr in Aug 2023.

How Can A SIP Investment Be Increased?

Investors can increase their monthly SIP contribution by adding money to their existing mutual scheme or choosing a new fund for their portfolio. They can schedule the additional amount on the existing SIP date or any other convenient date. Choosing different dates helps in spreading the investments over the month.

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.

On Adding Scheme While Boosting SIP Amt...

Investors should build their long-term MF based on age, risk-taking ability and long-term goals. They should follow an asset allocation approach and diversify across equity, fixed income, gold and REITs/Invits. They could use a mix of active and passive funds to build their portfolio. While the core portfolio should be in long-term-oriented fund categories, they could have some thematic or sectoral funds in their satellite portfolios for alpha generation. Take the case of an investor with a SIP of ₹10,000 per month of which ₹8,000 is in a flexi-cap or multi-cap fund, ₹1,000 each in gold and fixed income. If the investor wishes to park an additional ₹2,000 and has a high risk appetite, it can be in a

thematic or sectoral fund, while if conservative the SIP can be in a hybrid fund that's low on equity. If the investor doesn't want to add more schemes, the money can be divided among existing ones.

Should One Start SIP In NFOs?

Investors should not get carried away by new fund offers, since many are launched by fund houses to complete their product basket. They should opt for an NFO only if such a product isn't available with any fund house or if there is a compelling proposition that fits their portfolio. It is better to choose a fund for starting a SIP from existing schemes as they have a track record and portfolio details are available.

What To Consider Before New SIP?

Investors should remember that the basics of investing apply to new SIPs as well. Equity fund investors should have a time frame of at least 5-7 years and not be unduly by interim volatility. Should they need money 1-2 years down the line, they should not start a new SIP in an equity mutual fund but opt for a fixed-income fund or hybrid fund.

— PRASHANT MAHESH



PARIS HILTON SAYS SHE IS RELEASING NEW ALBUM BECAUSE 'SOMEONE NEEDED TO SAVE POP MUSIC': 'I'M THE OG BRAT'



NICOLE KIDMAN WINS BEST ACTRESS FOR 'BABYGIRL' AT VENICE FILM FEST; MISSES CEREMONY, FLIES BACK HOME AFTER MOTHER'S DEATH

Trump warns of 'bloody' eviction of illegal immigrants if he wins

Also Threatens To Jail Those Involved In 'Unscrupulous Behaviour' In Election

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: MAGA supremo Donald Trump has warned of a 'bloody' eviction of 'millions' of illegal immigrants from the US if he becomes president while threatening to prosecute and jail those who may challenge what he believes will be his inevitable election to the White House in Nov

In increasingly erratic and unhinged speeches on the campaign trail, Trump is now invoking apocalyptic scenarios of internment camps and mass deportation of illegal immigrants, telling his MAGA supporters that such invaders will take over their homes and the US will become "Venezuela on steroids". "Getting them out will be a bloody story," Trump said at rally in Wisconsin in a rambling 100-minute speech in which he made the absurd projection of 100 million illegal immigrants coming into the country — which would result in a 30% increase in US population — if Kamala Harris becomes prez.

According to estimates by credible organisations such as the Pew Research Center and Center for Immigration Studies, the unauthorised immigrant population in the US is currently between 11 million and 12



Kamala Harris takes photo with a patron at a shop in Pittsburgh on Saturday

Harris, Trump effectively tied in final stretch: Poll

Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are effectively tied heading into the final weeks of the election, shows to a national poll by NYT and Siena College. Trump is up one percentage point, 48%-47%, over Harris a difference that is well within the survey's three-point margin of error, meaning a win for either candidate is well within reach.

While the Trump campaign endured a relatively rocky stretch after Joe Biden dropped out, the poll, released Sunday, indicates the core of his support base is not going anywhere. The poll showed that voters feel they need to learn more about Harris, while their opinions on Trump are set. Tuesday's debate could be a crucial moment. NYT

million. The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which is seen in some quarters as a hate group with ties to white supremacists outfits, puts it at 16.8 million. The most extreme estimates are nowhere near the 25 million per year

that Trump is throwing out.

Separately, Trump also threatened his political opponents with prosecution and prison sentences for what he alleged was rampant 'cheating and skulduggery' by Democrats in the 2020 prez election

which he suggested could happen again. "Therefore, the 2024 Election, where Votes have just started being cast, will be under the closest professional scrutiny and, WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences so that this Depravity of Justice does not happen again," he wrote in a message with the caption CEASE&DESIST on his social media platform.

"We cannot let our Country further devolve into a Third World Nation, AND WE WON'T! Please beware that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behaviour will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country," he threatened.

US courts repeatedly threw out Trump challenges to results of the 2020 election, which he lost by a massive 7 million popular votes and in the electoral college. Many analysts reckon that Trump's threats and projections are a sign of panic, and he is setting the stage for challenging from the get-go any result that goes against him.

Nato's Romania and Latvia say Russian drones violated airspace

Kyiv: Two Nato members said Sunday Russian drones violated their airspace, as one flew into Romania during nighttime attacks on neighbouring Ukraine while another crashed in eastern Latvia the previous day.

A drone entered Romanian territory early Sunday as Moscow struck "civilian targets and port infrastructure" across the Danube in Ukraine, Romania's ministry of national defence reported. It added Bucharest had deployed F-16 warplanes to monitor its airspace and issued test alerts to residents of two eastern regions. It also said investigations were underway of a potential "impact zone" in an uninhabited zone along the border. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage.

Later on Sunday, Latvia's defence minister Andris Spruds said a Russian drone fell the day before near Rezekne, and had likely strayed into Latvia from neighbouring Belarus. Spruds said no victims or property were infringed. While the incursion into Latvian airspace appeared to be a rare incident, Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions since Russia invaded Ukraine. AP

Russia takes east Ukraine town as it nears Pokrovsk

Moscow: Russia said Sunday its forces had taken full control of a town in eastern Ukraine as Moscow's forces advance on the strategically important city of Pokrovsk and seek to pierce the Ukrainian defensive front lines. Russian forces, which control about a fifth of Ukraine, are advancing in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to take the whole of the Donbas.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had taken Novohrodvika, which lies 12km from Pokrovsk, an important rail and road hub for Ukrainian forces in the area.

The general staff of Ukrainian military described the situation as "tense" throughout the Pokrovsk sector and said "fierce battles" gripped areas around several towns, including the town of Novohrodvika. "So far, the enemy has carried out 23 assaults on Ukrainian positions," the report said. "Battles are going on in six locations." REUTERS

B'desh-India ties must be based on fairness and equity, says Yunus

Dhaka: Interim govt chief adviser Muhammad Yunus Sunday said Bangladesh wants to maintain good relations with India while



asserting that it should be based on equity and fairness. Yunus, 84, made the remarks while responding to a question at a meeting with students who had participated in the revolution that ousted PM Sheikh Hasina last month, BSS reported.

Yunus' special assistant Mahfuj Alam, who briefed the media, said the chief adviser said Bangladesh always gives importance to mutual respect and equity in maintaining relations with neighbours. He stressed reviving SAARC to enhance regional cooperation.

Meanwhile, foreign affairs adviser Md Tuhid Hossain expressed surprise over defence minister Rajnath Singh's remarks, emphasising he does not foresee any threat of conflict between the neighbours. Singh Thursday had called upon the military brass to analyse the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and the situation in Bangladesh to "predict" problems and stay prepared to deal with the "unexpected".

Hasina prime suspect in most of genocide cases: Top prosecutor

Continued from P1

Chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam is also a key figure in Amar Bangladesh party, founded by Jamaat-Shibir members. Islam said Hasina is the prime suspect in most of the genocide cases and crimes against humanity. "The biggest challenge right now is to preserve the evidence and bring it into the legal framework to prove the cases," he said, warning of attempts to destroy evidence of the killings that took place in July. It is widely reported that hundreds were killed during clashes and a crackdown on protesters.

Interim govt warns against unrest during Durga puja

Amid concerns of possible unrest during Durga puja, the interim govt Sunday warned potential troublemakers, pledging tough action against those disrupting communal harmony or targeting places of worship. "If anyone disrupts or harasses people, we won't spare them. We will bring them under law and ensure peace," said religious affairs adviser AFM Khalid Hossain. PTI

Cops, PTI backers clash at Islamabad rally seeking Imran's release

Islamabad: Jailed former PM Imran Khan's PTI Sunday held a power show, demanding his immediate release while slamming the govt for its crackdown on the party as police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. The rally — postponed twice in two months — was held in the suburbs of Islamabad after organisers were denied permission by the capital administration. Thousands of supporters attended, proving the party's power base was intact despite hurdles it faced, including the incarceration of Khan, who completed 400 days in prison on Sunday.

The rally was scheduled to end at 7pm. As soon as the deadline ended, the district administration directed police to take action against rally-goers. Authorities said organisers violated the rules by not concluding the gathering by the deadline. In response, PTI workers began pelting stones at police, injuring many security personnel, including senior superintendent of police Shoaib Khan.

Evidence on Imran points to a military trial: Pak def min

Defence minister Khawaja Asif said evidence against Imran Khan points towards a military trial in cases on the May 9 violence last year. "Army was targeted where demonstrations took place... This leads us (to believe) some people were directing (rioters)," he said, adding it must've been from Imran. PTI

Is US' mainstream media 'sanewashing' Trump?

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: America's mainstream press, including the New York Times and CNN, are getting a drubbing from sections of the media fraternity for 'sanewashing' Donald Trump's "unhinged" election speeches even as the former prez is spiralling into ever-crazier remarks replete with trash-talking and fear-mongering.

'Sanewashing', a term coined recently by independent journalist Aaron Rupar, refers to the MSM (mainstream media) practice of distilling the nonsensical word stew Trump is lading out in campaign speeches into logical, coherent remarks, in the process normalising an incomprehensible presentation that has become a Trump trademark on the campaign trail. The term was born after Trump dished out absolute drivel in response to a question at an economic policy event by Reshma Saujani, the Indian-American founder of the group MomsFirst, on how he would resolve the rising cost of childcare in America.

The media, including Wall Street Journal, took it upon itself to conjecture that Trump meant to convey that revenue from tariffs he would impose on foreign nations would be so great it would somehow offset domestic childcare costs.

In more egregious examples, the media has taken to simply sanitising or censoring some of Trump's crazier remarks because they are so patently false to the point of being absurd. In recent engagements, Trump has repeated his bizarre and spurious claim that children are being subjected to sex change operations when they go to school and return home with a different gender.

He has also blathered on and on about later-term abortions, including claiming babies are aborted after they are born (which would amount to infanticide, a word may be too complicated for him) and crimes perpetrated by illegal immigrants, even though the allegations are not borne out by data.

Some media mavens are calling out such 'sanewashing' of Trump statements, saying it



'Sanewashing', a term coined recently by independent journalist Aaron Rupar, refers to mainstream media's practice of 'distilling the nonsensical word stew Trump is lading out in campaign speeches into logical, coherent remarks'

is a form of misinformation that poses a threat to democracy. "By continually reframing Trump's incoherent and often dangerous rhetoric as conventional political discourse, major news outlets are failing in their duty to inform the public and are instead providing cover for increasingly erratic behaviour from a former — and potentially future — president," media critic Parker Molloy said. "The consequences of this journalistic malpractice extend far beyond misleading

headlines," Molloy wrote.

Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg explained how this process works in the MSM newsroom: "Trump sounds nuts, but he can't be nuts, because he's the presumptive nominee for president of a major party, and no major party would nominate someone who is nuts. Therefore, it is our responsibility to sand down his rhetoric, to identify any kernel of meaning, to make light of his bizarre statements, to rationalise."

Some media commentators also trashed NYT for trying to elevate Trump's twaddle into great oratory, including invoking, in one oped, literary giants like James Joyce and William Faulkner. "By framing Trump's incoherent ramblings as some form of avant-garde oratory, the Times isn't just failing to accurately report — it's actively warping reality to its readers," Molloy said. Many news outlets that ran fact checks on Trump's statements have now given up on the practice, simply because there are so many and they come so fast and furious.

TYPHOON KILLS AT LEAST 21, WREAKS HAVOC IN VIETNAM



Typhoon Yagi, Asia's most powerful storm this year, wreaked havoc in northern Vietnam, where it damaged factories and infrastructure in export-oriented industrial hubs. The typhoon and subsequent landslides and floods killed 21 people in Vietnam and injured 229, according to preliminary

estimates from the govt, after claiming the lives of four people on the southern Chinese island of Hainan and 20 in the Philippines, the first country it hit a week ago. While Vietnam's weather agency downgraded the storm Sunday, several areas were under half a metre of flood waters and without electricity. REUTERS

Mother of Georgia suspect called school mins before shooting: Report

New York: The mother of the teen charged with fatally shooting two students and two teachers at a Georgia high school called the school that morning and warned a counsellor about an "extreme emergency," The Washington Post reported.

Marcee Gray, the mother of 14-year-old Colt Gray, said she told the counsellor to find her son immediately. Phone records provided by a relative to the Post show a 10-minute call to the school at 9.50am, about 30 minutes before the attack began. Gray declined to detail what prompted her call but said she had shared that with law enforcement. She expressed remorse for the "pain and suffering" victims' kin are going through.

A school administrator went to her son's math class that morning, according to another student, the Post reported, but he was not in the room. REUTERS

Maduro's challenger Gonzalez flees Venezuela, seeks asylum in Spain

Caracas: Former Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez has fled into exile after being granted asylum in Spain, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his upstart campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign govts, including the US and EU, to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced Saturday night by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez. She said the govt decided to grant Gonzalez safe passage out of the country to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility." The dramatic exit of the 75-year-old came a week after authorities issued an arrest warrant for him, accusing him of conspiracy and other crimes.



Edmundo Gonzalez's dramatic exit came a week after authorities issued an arrest warrant for him for conspiracy and other crimes

Spain's centre-left govt said the decision to leave was Gonzalez's alone and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force. Foreign minister Jose Manuel Albar said his govt will grant Gonzalez political asylum as he requested. "I have been able to speak to (Gonzalez) and once he was aboard the airplane he expressed gratitude toward the Spanish govt. I told him we

were pleased he is well and on his way to Spain, and I reiterated the commitment of our govt to the political rights of all Venezuelans." Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez said Friday, before Gonzalez's departure, that he was "a hero whom Spain is not going to abandon."

EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell described it as "a sad day for democracy in Venezuela," and disclosed the Dutch were involved in helping Gonzalez. The Netherlands secretly sheltered Gonzalez at Dutch embassy in Caracas for six weeks before he fled.

Exiled opposition leader Franco Casella said Gonzalez will campaign against the regime from abroad. Spain has been a major point of exodus for Venezuelans, particularly those in opposition to Maduro's regime. Some 44,000 people immigrated to Spain in first six months of 2024. AGENCIES

Popular Hawaii hiking trail shut after 37 fall sick in 'rare' norovirus outbreak

A popular hiking trail on the island of Kauai in Hawaii was closed this week after more than three dozen people fell ill in what officials said was a "rare occurrence" of the highly contagious norovirus. Kalalau Trail, a 22-mile round-trip stretch within Napali Coast State Wilderness Park, was recommended to remain closed until at least Sept 19 while health department officials assessed the risk of transmission and as stations along the trail were disinfected.

Health department received reports of illness from at least

37 hikers and campers over the past several weeks, though the actual number is expected to be higher, officials said.

"This is a very concerning and rare occurrence, magnified by the extreme remote nature of Kalalau Valley," Curt Cottrell, an administrator for state parks, said.

The trail was closed Wednesday after health officials received several reports of gastrointestinal illnesses from hikers, and Thursday health department said test results from four patients confirmed they had contracted norovirus.

The state's department of land and natural resources said dozens of backpackers had reported gastrointestinal illness, and one person was evacuated but no one had been hospitalised. "All it takes is one person to spread the virus, which can be on surfaces, in soil and in water," said department spokesman Dan Dennison.

Norovirus is highly contagious and typically causes vomiting, often accompanied by fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhoea as the stomach and intestines become inflamed. It spreads easily, and is common



A view of Kalalau trail. Norovirus is highly contagious and typically causes vomiting, accompanied by fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhoea as the stomach or intestines become inflamed

in tightly packed spaces, but it can also be transmitted across contaminated surfaces. Most people recover after several days, but severe infections can occur in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems.

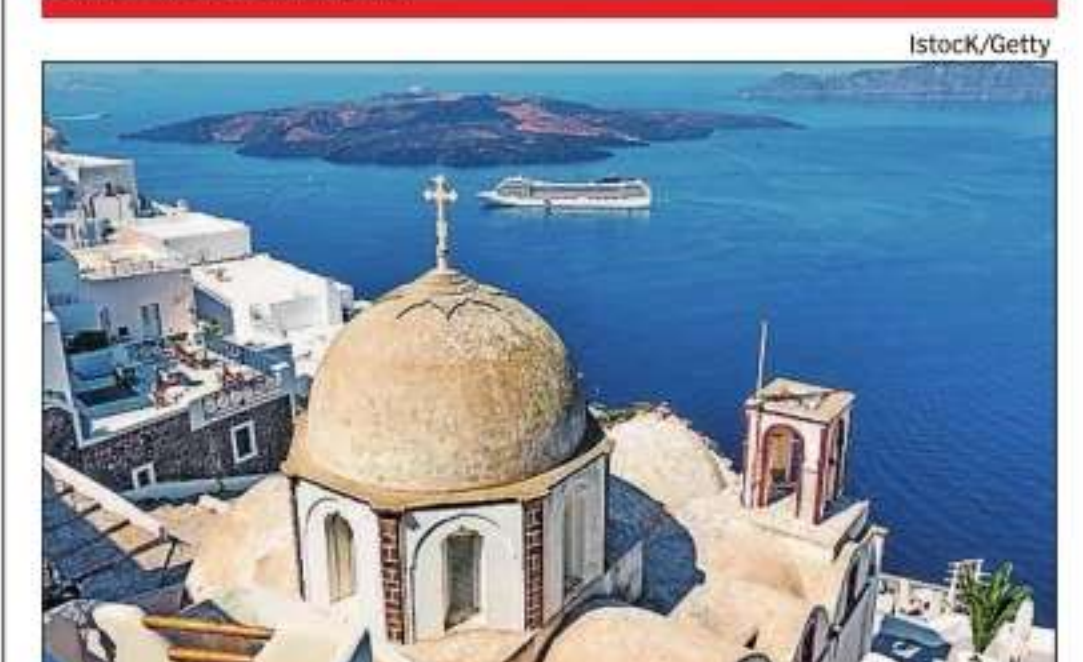
Kalalau Trail allows up to 80 people per permit to camp overnight, and composting toilets are available. One way that norovirus can spread is through contact with fecal matter.

The open air might help dilute the virus "but mostly it's just being around people that are ill and shedding the virus"

that aids in spreading it, said Donald Schaffner of Rutgers University. The spread in a ventilated environment such as a trail "is possible due to virus transmissibility and challenges to hand hygiene and sanitation," department of land and natural resources said.

"Hiking is one of the activities that is a risk" for the virus, said Stuart C Ray, professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. "The problem is people don't have good access to clean water, and they can't wash their hands." Alcohol wipes do not kill the virus, he added. NYT

DAILY PLANET



ARRIVING BY CRUISE, PAY TAX: Greece plans to impose a €20-levy on cruise ship visitors to the islands of Santorini (above) and Mykonos during the peak summer season, in a bid to avert overtourism, PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Sunday. Last year some 800 cruise ships brought 1.3 million passengers to Santorini island of just 15,500 residents

Mr Greedy, patriarch to 200+ penguins, passes away at 33



Mr Greedy and some of his brood at the Maryland Zoo

A popular African penguin known as Mr Greedy, a fixture of Maryland Zoo who sired many offspring and left "an astounding 230 descendants" over five generations, has died after an age-related decline in his health, the zoo said. He was 33 — yes, in human years. When he was not reproducing or bringing joy to visitors, Mr Greedy swam, took care of his mate — Ms Greedy — and was constantly looking for things to steal. His mischievous ability to steal nesting materials and food earned him the nickname.

AROUND THE WORLD

"Prisencolinensinaingciusol", composed and sung by Adriano Celentano is an Italian gibberish song which became a great hit. The song with its gibberish lyrics was written for Italian audience and was sung in a way that it sounded like American English. 'Alright' is the only meaningful word in the song.

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



EL IDRISSE SMASHES WOMEN'S PARA MARATHON WORLD RECORD IN PARIS

DRAVID: CRICKET POWERFUL IN INDIA AS TALENT COMES FROM ALL OVER COUNTRY



SHINING BRIGHT!

Indian Paralympians' Performance In Paris Is Cause For Cheer And Hope

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New Delhi: India, it's time to celebrate the success of your differently-abled athletes. Cheer for them, love and respect them and take pride in every single medal won by them at the Paralympic Games, which concluded with a glittering closing ceremony on Sunday night in Paris.

In fact, jubilation, accolades and admiration shouldn't only be restricted to medal winners, but for all those Indian para athletes who came close to finishing on the podium and for the entire 84-member strong contingent which wrote compelling stories of grit and determination and overcame incredible odds.

Paris has given hope for a brighter future and has ensured that India's para athletes are no pushovers when it comes to performing on the biggest stage.

This success is the result of concerted efforts put in by the athletes themselves and by the govt, Paralympics Committee of India (PCI), coaches and support staff alike. From London 2012's one medal to Paris 2024's 29, including seven gold, India's para sports ecosystem has come a long way and it's for all the stakeholders involved to maintain the momentum going forward.

India's 29 medals – seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze – placed it 18th among the participating nations. The country's track and field athletes shone bright, winning 17 medals including three gold. They were followed by badminton players (5 medals), shooters (4) and archers (2).

Out of 29, women athletes won an impressive 10 medals – four in athletics and three each in badminton and shooting.

Records shattering performances



In shooting, Avani Lekhara set a new Paralympic record in women's 10m air rifle SH1 final. (Right) Sumit Antil too surpassed his own PR thrice to set a new record at 70.59m in javelin F64

India's para athletes not only just won medals but broke several world, Paralympics and Asian records in Paris.

In archery, Sheetal Devi surpassed the previous world (698) and Paralympic (694) record in the women's compound open ranking round with a score of 703. She, however, missed setting the new world and Paralympic record by mere one point (New WR & PR: 704).

In athletics, Sumit Antil surpassed his own Paralympic record of 68.55m thrice to set the new PR at 70.59m in the men's javelin F64 event. Sharad Kumar set the new Paralympic record in T42 category, bettering the old PR (1.86m) with the best jump of 1.88m in the men's high jump T63 event. Dharambir set the new Asian record with the best throw of 34.92m in the men's club throw F51 event while Sachin Khilari rewrote the Asian record with the best effort of 16.32m in the men's shot put F46 event.

In shooting, Avani Lekhara



Pix: Getty Images

FIRST-EVER/ BEST-EVER PERFORMANCE

Badminton

● Debutant Nitesh Kumar won the gold in SL3, to retain top spot in this event from previous editions

● Suhas L Yathiraj won silver to become the only Indian para-shuttler to win back-to-back medals

● Thulasimathi & Manisha achieved India's first-ever double podium finish by women

● Archery

● Harvinder Singh clinched the gold in the men's individual recurve open, becoming India's first-ever Paralympic champion in archery

● Sheetal Devi & Rakesh Kumar

won the bronze, India's first-ever medal in compound archery as well as a mixed team event

Shooting

● Avani Lekhara became the first Indian (male/female) para-shooter to successfully defend her gold in the Paralympic or Olympic Games

● Manish Narwal won silver to become the first Indian male para-shooter to win back-to-back medals in different editions of Paralympics

Athletics

● Preeti Pal made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal in a track event at the Paralympics

● India achieved its first double podium finish in athletics at the Paris Paralympics, with Ajeet

Youngest and oldest

Debutant Sheetal (para archery) became the youngest-ever medallist from India at 17 years, 7 months and 23 days. Similarly, Dharambir became the oldest Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the Paralympics, achieving this feat at the age of 35 years and 7 months, surpassing Devendra Jhajharia, who was 35 years and 3 months old when he won gold at the Rio Paralympics 2016.

Record female participation

Paris Paralympics also saw India sending a record number of female participants. Out of 84 members, 32 were women athletes. Female athletes won a total of 10 medals – one gold, one silver and eight bronze.

There were as many as seven female debutants in Paris – Thulasimathi Murugesan (silver, badminton), Sheetal Devi (bronze, archery), Manisha Ramadass (bronze, badminton), Nithya Sre (bronze, badminton), Preethi Pal (two bronze, athletics), Deepthi Jeevanji (bronze, athletics) and Mona Agarwal (bronze, shooting).

Singh and Sundar S Gurjar winning silver and bronze respectively in the men's javelin throw F46 event

● India achieved its first-ever top 2 finish in athletics with Dharambir and Pranav Soorma, winning gold and silver respectively in the men's club throw F51 event

Medals Missed

Seven Indians came close to winning medals, finishing 4th place: Rakesh Kumar (individual compound archery), Sandeep (javelin throw F64), Sivarajan Solaimalai & Nithya Sre (mixed doubles SH-6 badminton), Sukant Kadam (men's singles SL-4 badminton), Shailesh Kumar (men's high jump T63), Harvinder Singh & Pooja (mixed team recurve open) and Simran (women's 100m T35)



ANI

'Wanted to prove naysayers wrong'

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New Delhi: Curious looks, taunts and jibes weren't new to Navdeep Singh. He still faces them.

Suffering from dwarfism — he is four feet, four inches — the 23-year-old from Haryana's Panipat sought respect and dignity.

When he landed in Paris on Aug 31 for the Paralympic Games, Navdeep wanted the people around him back home in India to remember him differently — not as someone with short height but as a champion para-athlete.

On Saturday evening in Paris, Navdeep came up with the throw of his lifetime to claim a historic gold medal with a personal best effort of 47.32 metres in the men's javelin throw F41 final at Stade de France arena. It was the country's first-ever top podium finish in this event.

"I deserve the same respect, I too have brought glory to the country. Society must understand that we (dwarf people) also exist in this world, and nobody should make fun of us, which is often the case. We also can make our country proud. There were a lot of hurdles initially, but I kept at it and strengthened myself which led to good results," Navdeep said.

Navdeep had originally won the silver medal but in a dramatic turn

of events, his second-place finish was upgraded to gold after Iran's Beit Sayah Sadegh was disqualified for "unsporting and improper conduct".

Navdeep started his sporting journey at the age of 10, dabbling in wrestling and sprinting before settling for javelin throw. He began receiving professional coaching in 2017 and made his international debut at the Asian Youth Para Games that year, where he won gold. He has since won five gold at the national level.

However, when it came to the major multisport events such as Paralympics and para Asiad, luck eluded him. He finished fourth at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 and Hangzhou Asiad last year, facing criticism from people that he wasn't good enough for big events.

"I suffered a lot, so I wanted to achieve something for my country. My event was on the last day, but I came on Aug 31 itself. I heard things like, 'He can't do this, he only performs well in India'. I ignored all that. I just needed right guidance. I carried all my past baggage, the training, the hard work, the criticism with me. I knew I had to unleash all of this on the Sep 7, and I did that and won," added Navdeep, who is employed as an inspector in the Income Tax department in Bengaluru.

Dayal gets maiden call-up; Pant returns

FULL-STRENGTH SQUAD PICKED FOR BANGLADESH TEST MATCH

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New Delhi: Nearly 21 months since he last played a Test match, Rishabh Pant is set to don the big gloves for India in whites again in the two-Test home series against Bangladesh this month. The national selection committee picked a full-strength team for the first Test, beginning Sept 19 in Chennai, after having missed some senior players during the series at home against England earlier this year.

Axar Patel, who was benched midway during the England series, makes a comeback. KL Rahul too comes back after getting injured after the first Test against England.

Interestingly, the selectors decided to include Jasprit Bumrah in the squad. They have been looking to groom a pool of fast bowlers after Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj. This approach has led them to pick left-arm pacer Yash Dayal in the team.

There were doubts whether Bumrah would be included for this series or not as the team management wanted to keep him fresh for the marquee five-Test series in Australia from Nov. Since Shami has not been declared fit yet, the selectors opted to go with Bumrah's experience. However, sources told TOI that Bumrah's workload will be monitored and a call on how many matches he plays in the five-Test home season before the Australia tour will be taken accordingly. The Indian cricket board (BCCI) expects Shami to be fit for the three-Test series against New Zealand in Oct.

It is also learnt that the selectors and team management have been looking for a left-arm seam option. Dayal has picked Arshdeep Singh and Khaleel Ahmed to the spot after an impressive Duleep Trophy outing this week. "Khaleel has been made to play red-ball cricket regularly since last season. The team management was keen on Arshdeep too but he hasn't played much red-ball cricket in the past couple of years. Dayal has been consistent in domestic cricket. But the selectors didn't want to throw young fast bowlers in the deep end. The idea is to give young pac-



RISHABH PANT



YASH DAYAL

ers exposure," a BCCI source told TOI. Interestingly, the selectors have not announced a vice-captain for the series. It is learnt that even though Gill has been given the responsibility in the other two formats, he needs to prove his consistency in Test cricket.

Before Pant met with an accident in Dec 2022, he was seen as an integral part of the leadership group in Tests along with Bumrah.

As for the batting lineup, with Pant set to play ahead of Dhruv Jurel, it's likely to be a toss up between Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan for a spot in the middle order. With Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel both in the team, the team management can have depth in the batting.

SQUAD FOR 1ST TEST: Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal.
Series schedule: First Test - Sept 19-23 in Chennai; Second Test - Sept 27-Oct 1 in Kanpur.

Musheer, pacers steer India 'B' to victory

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Bengaluru: From the selectors' point of view, the Duleep Trophy serves an important purpose, as it allows them to judge the form of top players and get a good look at greenhorns waiting to get their foot on the door in international red-ball cricket.

This year, the opening round fixtures were meant to be a dress rehearsal for the 10 Test matches India play over the next four months. Some caught the eye,

DULEEP TROPHY

while others failed to grab the opportunity. Rishabh Pant (61), who did little in the first innings, came good with the bat for India 'B' with a half-century on Saturday. Then top-order bat KL Rahul (57; 121; 4x7) got amongst the runs, albeit in a losing cause.

Rahul's teammate Akash Deep also shone, even if his team collectively failed. The 27-year-old pacer, who made his Test debut against England earlier this year, finished with a



Chetan Shivakumar

PATIENT APPROACH: KL Rahul showcased a glimpse of his preparedness for the long season ahead

match haul of nine wickets (4/60 & 5/56). This was before turning in the second-best score for his team, (43; 42b; 3x4; 4x6).

Young Musheer Khan's (181) exploits in the first innings and Pant's crucial innings in the second helped India 'B' set 'A' a target of 275. India 'A' fell short, handing 'B' a 76-run win. The difference really was a plethora of dropped catches that cost India 'A' dearly.

With the bat, the spotlight was on homegrown hero Rahul.

In his first essay, he had made a patient if laboured 111-ball 37. At the M Chinnawaswamy stadium on Sunday, Rahul showcased a glimpse of his preparedness for the long season ahead.

In tricky conditions, Rahul, whose career has regularly been punctured with injuries, decided to grind it out for three hours. He waited for the loose deliveries and dispatched them to the boundary. There was little sign of the rustiness and

Afghan captain wants 'one good home venue' in India

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Greater Noida: Afghanistan cricket has been on the rise. The last two ICC white-ball tournaments — 2023 ODI World Cup and 2024 T20 World Cup — are a testimony to that. In Tests too, Afghanistan achieved their first victory in only their second match. They became the fourth team after Australia, England, and Pakistan to win one of their first two Tests. Afghanistan enjoyed back-to-back successes when they followed their first Test win (against Ireland) with a victory over hosts Bangladesh by 224 runs in a one-off contest in Chattogram.

But Afghanistan have played just nine Tests in six years after gaining Test status. As per ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP), after the one-off Test against New Zealand in Greater Noida, Afghanistan are scheduled to play Zimbabwe (six Tests), Ireland (three), India (one), Australia (one) and West Indies (one) in the 2023-27 FTP cycle.

"In six years, nine games... I cannot say it's a lot," Afghanistan's Test and ODI skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said, a day before the Test versus New Zealand here. "If we get more chances against good teams, we will improve. Our cricket board is trying to give us opportunities against good teams. If we get a three or four-match series, it will be good for us. If you look at our past, we get one Test and we start preparing for that 10 days before the game. It's not easy to play red-ball cricket like that. Playing more matches will give us better judgment in comparison to playing just in the nets," Shahidi added.

The Afghanistan skipper also wished for "one good venue", while they play their "home Tests" in India. While Greater Noida's Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathak Stadium hosts the match against New Zealand from Monday, Afghanistan have played their home Tests in Dehradun, Lucknow and Abu Dhabi since getting ICC's Full Membership status.

"If you see, India is our home and when we host teams, the other nations have played more cricket here than us. Hopefully, we will get one good venue here in India and we stick with that. If we stick with one venue, it will be more effective for us," Shahidi said.

New Zealand captain Southee doubts longevity of Test seamer in future

Tim Southee, one of the legends of New Zealand cricket with 380 wickets in 100 Tests, has had a long, illustrious career as a seamer in international cricket. After the retirement of England's James Anderson (704 wickets in 188 Tests), Southee is the senior flagbearer of Test seamers. Sadly, he feels that with the rise and expansion of T20s, and the ODIs still having its relevance, the Test seamer's longevity is in serious doubt.

"I am not sure. I don't think the world will witness another James Anderson-like career in the future," Southee, New Zealand captain, said on Sunday. "For me, I still love Test cricket. So, I am just excited to be back playing Tests after a bit of a break. We will have to wait and see (whether) pacers of the current generation can keep playing Tests for a considerable length of time). It is tough work."

AFGHAN-NZ TEST: RAIN THREAT LOOMS LARGE

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Greater Noida: In a significant moment for international cricket, the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathak Cricket Stadium will become the 124th venue, and Noida the 95th city to host an international Test match when Afghanistan lock horns with New Zealand in a one-off Test Monday onwards. The stadium is the 30th ground and Noida the 23rd city in India to host a Test match.

The Afghans are well-acquainted with the Greater Noida stadium, having played five One-Day Internationals (winning three) and six T20 Internationals (five wins) at the venue since 2017.

On Sunday, Noida witnessed incessant rain in the afternoon which saw the ground staff at the stadium cover the ground — primarily the playing area — with blue tarpaulins. The Afghanistan team had trained in the morning, when it didn't rain, but the New Zealanders weren't so lucky and didn't get to practice a day before the Test.

Rain has been a regular feature in Greater Noida for the last one week. The forecast is pretty much the same for all five days of the Test match, with an occasional thunderstorm looming large. The Test, in all likelihood, is going to be a stop-and-start affair. The chances of abandonment are not ruled out.

The stadium, managed by local authorities, lacks the advanced equipment typical of other international venues in India. One could see that the drainage of the stadium isn't something to write home about.

There are two super-soppers at the stadium, out of which only one was being used to dry the ground.

Moeen Ali retires from England duty

London: England's World Cup-winner Moeen Ali has retired from international cricket, with the 37-year-old insisting: "I've done my part."

The spin-bowling all-rounder, in an interview with Britain's Daily Mail, said he made the decision after he was overlooked for England's upcoming white-ball series against arch-rivals Australia.

"I'm 37 years old and didn't get picked for this month's Australia series," Ali told the newspaper. "It's time for the next generation, which was also explained to me. It felt the time was right. I've done my part."

Matthew Mott was

sacked as head coach of England's limited-overs sides in July following woe-filled title defences in both the ODI and T20 World Cups. And there was further change when both Ali and Jonny Bairstow, who have over 400 Eng-

land caps between them, were left out of the squads for this month's T20 and ODI matches against Australia.

Ali, one of the first openly Muslim cricketers to represent England, had already called time in his red-ball international career but said he could have extended a stint in the national set-up that has seen him appear in 68 Tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20s. AFP



MOEEN IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

BATTING	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Test	68	3,094	155*	28.12	5	15	51.79
ODIs	138	2,355	128	24.27	3	6	98.16
T20Is	92	1,229	72*	21.18	0	7	142.41

BOWLING	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	SR	ER
Test	68	204	37.31	6/53	61.8	3.62
ODIs	138	111	47.84	4/46	53.9	5.32
T20Is	92	51	27.13	3/24	19.5	8.31

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

HER ARENA

Hardcourt queen Sabalenka wipes off tears of the past, adds US Open to Slam collection with win over home girl Pegula

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A flood of emotion hit Aryna Sabalenka as she fell on her back on the Arthur Ashe stadium. Her palms covered her face. The lines between reality and realization were happily smudged.

In previous years, the powerful 26-year-old had come close at the US Open, on Saturday she wasn't thinking touching distance. A millimetre. A nanosecond. The Belarusian then held herself together – thunderbolt play and reined in emotions – against New Yorker Jessica Pegula. Sabalenka took leads and squandered advantages as the battling 30-year-old clawed back. In the second set, the world No.6 went from skidding to kicking 0-3 to 5-3 before Sabalenka, the WTA's hardcourt queen, powered to a 7-5, 7-5 win.

The statuesque world No.2, on a

Grand Slam titles:
Australian Open
2023, 2024; US Open
2024.

129 Her average forehand speed (in kmph) at the US Open is higher than all women and men in the tournament

FINAL RESULT:

2-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 6-Jessica Pegula (USA) 7-5, 7-5

5 Number of women's players in the Open era to win both hard-court Grand Slam titles in the same year, after Sabalenka joined Steffi Graf, Monica Seles, Martina Hingis and Angelique Kerber (the last one in 2016).

27-1 The No. 2-ranked Sabalenka is 27-1 on hard courts at majors over the past two seasons.

I've been always working on this variation on the court. I'm really glad that I'm brave enough to use these tools in those key moments."—Sabalenka ON MIXING IT UP



GREAT EVENING: Aryna Sabalenka does it; the champ goes through the ritual of touching her performance coach's head; with Billie Jean King and runner-up Pegula; strikes a tiger's pose with the ball kids

12-match winning streak, wrapped up a near perfect 27-1 run in the last four Slams on hardcourts, having also won the Australian Open last year and this year. "So many things were going through my mind," Sabalenka said of the moment when she watched Pegula's forehand sail long on match point. "All those tough losses in the past... I was so proud of myself and proud of my team that we were able to come back stronger and come back with better tennis."

"And now finally we are having this beautiful trophy. I don't know how to describe that feeling. You're crying, you're laughing, you feel all these emotions at the same time. That's the best feeling. Wish everyone could experience that," she said.

There were no flashbacks from last year for Sabalenka during the near two-hour final, save for when it was all done. "I kept reminding myself that this is the final of the US Open, of course she's going to fight really hard for it, and I have to work really

hard to get it," the second seed said. "In those tough moments, I was trying to stay strong, reminding myself that I have been through a lot and I'm strong enough to hold under this pressure."

If she gained cognizance of her victory when lying on her back on the Arthur Ashe stadium, the Belarusian, who had a complete makeover later in the evening for the champion's photo shoot, owned the silverware as she posed for photographs on the grounds. Sabalenka wore a high-slit sleeveless red dress that was accessorized by her beaming smile as she held the trophy close.

The sky was dark and the lights burned bright. The only comparison on Saturday to Sabalenka's laugh, a clear, ringing sound, was her forehand, which according to Eurosport was struck at an average speed of 129 kmph, the fastest on both sides of the draw at the US Open. Sabalenka's shot is flatter, which accelerates the strike, taking her past Carlos Alcaraz' average of 127 kmph and Jannik Sinner's 126 kmph.

The second seed – who has had to deal with some tragic reverses in the last few years, includ-

“Everyone is like, 'Congrats! Amazing tournament!' I'm like, 'Eh, whatever.' I think maybe once I decompress a little bit, I'm sure I will be a little bit more appreciative and see all of that. Not even annoyed losing the tournament - I just wanted to win the match.” —Pegula ON MISSING THE OPPORTUNITY

ing losing her father Sergey to meningitis five years ago at the age of 43, and then her former boyfriend Konstantin Koltov, an ice hockey player, dying by suicide almost six months ago in March at the age of 42 – has waged a sturdy battle on and off the court.

Tennis was Sabalenka's anchor during her tough days. "After I lost my father, it's been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis," she said. "Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything to keep me going."

After her loss to American Coco Gauff last

THE DIFFERENCE

It starts with the serve. Sabalenka and Pegula both won 65 percent of their first serves, but Sabalenka was twice as good with seconds - 14-for-33 (.424) versus Pegula's 6-for-28 (.214).

The Sabalenka forehand gets all the headlines. She cracked 40 winners (against 34 unforced errors) and had 205 for the tournament - an average of 29 per match.

year she picked apart her predicament. "The good news is that it's me against me," she had said.

This time it was Aryna Sabalenka versus Jessica Pegula. There was a noisy full house under the roof, but the Belarusian was up and away. The gates in her head were locked. "I faced a lot of challenges on and off the court. Like being injured and not able to play Wimbledon. It was a new experience for me," she said. "That's why it's very special, because no matter what I came back stronger. I never gave up on this dream."

Veteran administrator Randhir Singh first Indian to be elected as OCA president

New Delhi: Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh on Sunday became the first Indian to be elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the 44th General Assembly of the continental body here.

A five-time Olympic shooter, Randhir was the lone eligible candidate for the OCA president's post. His tenure will run from 2024 till 2028, and his election was unanimous.

The 77-year-old Randhir has been the OCA acting president since 2021, filling in for Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who was handed a 15-year ban from sports administration in May this year over ethics breaches.

Randhir, who held different ad-

ministrative posts in Indian and Asian sports bodies, was officially named OCA president in the presence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and top sports leaders from all 45 countries of Asia.

"Congratulations to all my team. I sincerely thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Asia is one family. Thank you all for all support. We will try to carry on for long," Randhir said after his election.

"Special congratulations to all the ladies who have joined the team. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your dedication to the Olympic course.

"Let's all work together towards a future where the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and re-

spect are celebrated," he added.

The new OCA chief said Asia as a continent has a strong foothold in world sports. "All NOCs are standing with us united. Last year there were lot of differences but we are united now. Since 1991 we are one family. It is big moment for India to host the General Assembly," Randhir said.

"OCA is the strongest among the five rings of the Olympics. We organise five Asian Games, Summer Asian Games, Winter Asian Games, Youth Asian Games, Beach Asian Games and Martial Art Games and these remains our priority.

"Asia is now becoming a strong continent, whatever Games are to be hosted the world body looks at Asia," he added.

Randhir also highlighted India's growing power in world sports. "India is doing very well, sports wise our base has become very strong... Till 2034 Asian Games have been allotted but you never know we can bid for 2038 if the support is there," he said.

The post of president, five vice presidents for the five zones and five executive board members were all uncontested. The electronic voting, by tablet, required a simple majority of 50 per cent plus one from the 45 National Olympic Committees. Randhir received 44 out of the 45 votes, with one abstention and no "No" votes. A total of 45 nations from Asia participated in the General Assembly. PTI



RANDHIR'S STORY

Age: 77 • From: Patiala (Punjab)

●Belongs to a family of sportspersons. His uncle, Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, played Test cricket for India and was an IOC member. His father Bhalindra Singh, also a first-class cricketer, was an IOC Member between 1947 and 1992.

●A five-time Olympic shooter

●He was member of the IOC between 2001 and 2014, after which he continued as an honorary member.

●OCA acting president since 2021

●Tenure as elected president: 2024-2028

GALLERY

Boxer Deepali becomes first Asian schoolgirl champ

New Delhi: Young boxer Deepali Thapa became the first ever schoolgirl champion as India bagged seven female titles at the Asian Championships in Al Ain, UAE on Sunday. Competing in the 33kg category, Thapa defeated Kazakhstan's Anelya Ordbek in the semifinals and went on to dominate Ukraine's Liudmyla Vasylichenko in the final, showcasing superior technique and control to claim the title. Bhoomi who triumphed in the 35kg weight class, defeating Kazakhstan's Assel Jalimbekova. Nischal Sharma added to India's tally in the 37kg category with a strategic win over Ukraine's Maria Matsiura. PTI

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: England vs Sri Lanka, 3rd Test, Day 4, 3.30 pm (Sony Sports); Afghanistan vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 1, 10 am (Eurosport, Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** Intercontinental Cup, India vs Syria, 7.30 pm (Jiocinema); Nations League; France vs Belgium; Israel vs Italy; 12.30 am Tuesday (Sony Sports) **HOCKEY:** Asian Championships, India vs Japan, 1.30 pm (Sony Sports)

Musiala spurs Germany to 5-0 drubbing of Hungary

Duesseldorf: Jamal Musiala scored once and set up three more goals as Germany crushed visitors Hungary 5-0 on Saturday in a winning start to the Nations League competition.

NATIONS LEAGUE

New-look Germany, who have set their sights on the 2026 World Cup after their quarter-final run at the Euro on home soil in July, no longer have any 2014 World Cup winners in the squad following the international retirements of Thomas Mueller, Toni Kroos and Manuel Neuer.

Former captain Ilkay Gundogan also ended his international career.

They took the lead in their Group A3 encounter with Niclas Füllkrug's tap-in from midfielder Musiala assist following a good passing combination in the 27th minute.



Jamal Musiala celebrates Germany's second goal on Saturday

Germany, who play Netherlands on Tuesday and also face Bosnia in their group, should have added at least one more goal with Kai Havertz hitting the crossbar with a header in the 33rd and then firing narrowly wide in first half stoppage time.

With Hungary pushing for an equaliser, Musiala struck on the break in the 58th, completing a quick counter-attack from a visitors' corner.

Florian Wirtz then drilled in their third after a one-two with Musiala in the 66th before Havertz hit the woodwork once more.

Man-of-the-match Musiala then sent through Aleksandar Pavlovic in the 77th to slot in.

Dutch score five against Bosnia

Eindhoven: The Netherlands endured some nervy moments but in the end proved too strong for Bosnia as they began their Nations League campaign with a 5-2 triumph at the Philips Stadion on Saturday.

Joshua Zirkzee scored on his first start for the Dutch to give the hosts a 13th minute lead in their League A Group 3 encounter but they were caught by a swift counter-attack 14 minutes later that saw Ermedin Demirovic equalise.

Tijani Reijnders restored the home side's lead on the stroke of halftime and Cody Gakpo made it 3-1 some 11 minutes into the second half. AGENCIES

India face Syria in must-win game

Shiva.Gundra@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Having played out a goalless draw against Mauritius in the Intercontinental football Cup opener, defending champions India need a victory against unbeaten Syria in their final match at the GMC Balayogi Stadium on Monday.

India - ranked 124th in the world - began a new chapter under coach Manolo Marquez with a draw as they failed to breach the citadel of 179th-ranked Mauritius. Ranked 93rd in the world, Syria are likely to pose a tougher challenge.

Like India, Syria are in a transition phase with a new coach. But they will be upbeat about their chances after their

convincing 2-0 victory over Mauritius in the previous outing. A draw will be enough for them to win the title.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP FOOTBALL

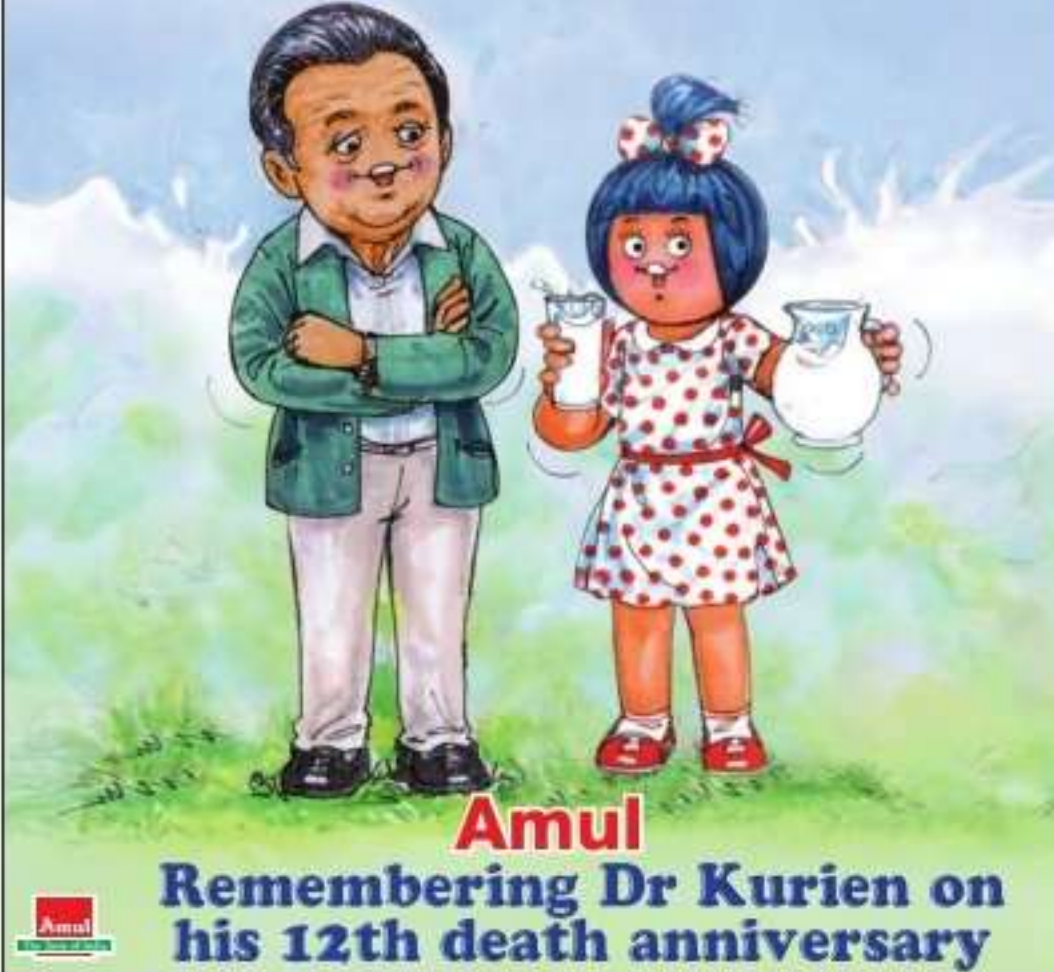
After the first match, Marquez had five days of training time with the team and he is confident of a better performance. "It will be a difficult game for both sides. We expect to play a good game and win the tournament," said the Indian coach on the eve of the clash. "I prefer to play a good game than to win the tournament. I want the team to understand our ideas and play better be-

cause we need to arrive at a style of play and that's what we are focusing on," added Marquez.

Syria were in India in 2007 and 2009 for the Nehru Cup finals, but lost on both occasions. They also finished fourth in 2012.

Syria's coach Jose Lana, who took charge in their previous match, said: "I think India are a great team. I like the way they play with this coach. They try to move the ball fast. I think it will be a difficult match for us. And our only objective for tomorrow is to be better than our previous match," said Lana. "They are well organised. They know how to play when they don't have the ball. They try to press high," he added.

Your spirit flows on



India drub China in ACT opener

Hulunbuir (China): The Indian men's hockey team dished out a dominant performance to launch their title defence with a commanding 3-0 win over hosts China in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Sunday.

Sukhjeet Singh (14th minute), Uttam, Singh (27th) and Abhishek (32nd) were the goal-scorers for India.

Coming into the tournament after securing a second successive bronze at the Olympics, India looked the more enterprising side, grabbing opportunities up front and was rock solid in defence to emerge winners. "I think we played very well. We created some good chances but the best part is that we kept a clean sheet," captain Harmanpreet Singh said.

"Some new faces got an opportunity to perform and I think they played very well. It's a good opportunity for them to play with the Asian teams and gel with the senior team. They are skillful and very talented. I wish them the best for the future," he said.

India were slow off the blocks as China created an early counter attack opportunity but an alert Krishan Pathak saw the ball sail wide harmlessly.

Halfway through the quarter, Abhishek forced a penalty corner from China but Harmanpreet's dragflick was saved and China initiated a blistering counter attack which was thwarted by the Indian defence. China received a penalty corner with six minutes left but squandered the opportunity.

India pegged China back in the last few minutes of the quarter, registering a few circle entries. But no clear chance was made until Jugraj Singh thundered the ball into the shooting circle and Sukhjeet deflected it into the top



Sukhjeet scored the first goal

corner to make it 1-0 for India.

India were visibly alert in the second quarter with Abhishek unleashing an early shot that was saved by the Chinese goalkeeper Caiyu Wang.

India began controlling the tempo of the game, pushing China into their own half. With minutes to go for the half-time break, Uttam doubled the lead for India, slotting a stray ball into the net after Raheel's close range shot was battered away.

India came out swinging in the third quarter. Manpreet found Abhishek at the top of the circle, who rifled the ball to sound the backboard on the half turn and make it 3-0 for his side. In this period, India continued to recycle the ball through the backline in search of another goal from the young forwards.

A rare counter by China, with three minutes left in the quarter, resulted in a penalty corner but Chinese captain Jiesheng Gao slotted the ball wide of the goalpost. China's spirits, buoyed by the attempt, led them to manufacture a 3-on-3 counter but Jugraj averted the danger.

In the last quarter with 12 minutes left in the game, Gurtoglu Singh bamboozled the Chinese defence on the left wing and found Abhishek whose reverse shot whisked past the post. PTI

Paris Games break ticket sales record

Paris 2024 sold a record 12 million tickets for the Olympics and Paralympics, beating the Games record previously set by London 2012, organisers said on Sunday.

Some 9.5 million tickets were sold for the Olympics and

2.5 million for the Paralympics, which end on Sunday.

In 2012, London organisers set the record for the Paralympics with 2.7 million tickets sold but only 8.2 million were sold for the Olympics. REUTERS



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Venezuela's ex-oppprez candidate Gonzalez goes into exile after getting asylum in Spain, delivering a blow to millions who placed hopes on him, P 16

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FINSERV



(Please scan this QR code to view the Red Herring Prospectus)

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Our Company was originally incorporated as 'Bajaj Financial Solutions Limited' at Pune, Maharashtra as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated June 13, 2008, issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Pune ("RoC") and was granted its certificate for commencement of business on September 24, 2008 by the RoC. Thereafter, the name of our Company was changed to 'Bajaj Housing Finance Limited' with a fresh certificate of incorporation dated November 14, 2014 issued by the Assistant Registrar of Companies, Pune. Our Company has also been granted a certificate of registration dated September 24, 2015 by the NHB bearing registration number 09.0127.15 to commence/carry on the business of a housing finance institution without accepting public deposits. For details, please see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 255 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated August 30, 2024 to be read with the Addendum to the RHP dated September 2, 2024 (the "Addendum"), and together with the red herring prospectus, the "RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus" filed with the RoC.

Registered Office: Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune - 411 035, Maharashtra, India; Corporate Office: 5th Floor, B2, Cerebrum IT Park, Kumar City, Kalyani Nagar, Pune - 411014, Maharashtra, India
Tel: 020 71878060; Website: www.bajajhousingfinance.in; Contact person: Atul Patni, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; E-mail: bhlfinvestor.service@bajajfinserv.in; Corporate Identity Number: U65910PN2008PLC132228

THE PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY: BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED AND BAJAJ FINSERV LIMITED

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED ("COMPANY") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹65,600.0 MILLION (THE "OFFER") COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹35,600.0 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE (THE "OFFER FOR SALE") OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹30,000.0 MILLION BY BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER") ("OFFERED SHARES"). THE OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY. THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹2,000.0 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹5,000.0 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE SHAREHOLDERS ("SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND THE SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% AND [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER, OFFER FOR SALE AND THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION

Name of Selling Shareholder	Type	Number of Equity Shares offered / amount (₹ In Million)	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition Per Equity Share (in ₹)*
Bajaj Finance Limited	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹30,000.0 million	12.2

*As certified by the Statutory Auditors of our Company, by way of their certificate dated August 30, 2024.

Our Company: We are a non-deposit taking Housing Finance Company registered with the National Housing Bank since September 24, 2015, offering mortgage products include home loans, loans against property, lease rental discounting and developer financing. We have also been identified and categorized as an "Upper Layer" NBFC by the RBI in India (please refer page 248 of the RHP).

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer

Employee Reservation Portion: Up to [●] Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 2,000.0 Million | Shareholders Reservation Portion: Up to [●] Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 5,000.0 Million

PRICE BAND: ₹ 66 TO ₹ 70 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE AND THE CAP PRICE ARE 6.6 TIMES AND 7.0 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES RESPECTIVELY.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 214 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 214 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated September 2, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the 'Basis for Offer Price' section beginning on page 116 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s), as applicable, disclosed in 'Basis for Offer Price' section beginning on page 116 of the RHP.

In making an investment decision and purchase in the Offer, potential investors must only rely on the information included in the RHP and the terms of the Offer, including the merits and risks involved and not rely on any other external sources of information about the Offer available in any manner.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

For details refer to section titled "Risk Factors" on page 36 of the RHP

- Recoverability of Collateral and Default Risk:** A substantial portion of our loan portfolio is exposed to events affecting the real estate sector. Any adverse developments in the real estate sector may lead to an increase in impairment losses and adversely affect our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition. If we are unable to repossess the collateral or recover the collateral value or the sums due from defaulted loans, our profitability may be materially and adversely affected.
- Gross Non-Performing Assets Risk:** Higher Gross Non-Performing Assets/Stage 3 Assets could adversely impact our credit ratings and translate into an increase in our cost of funds. Any change in the Expected Credit Loss Provision (Stage 3), Provision Coverage Ratio, Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio and regulatory-mandated provisions may have material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, profitability. Our GNPA, NNPA, ECL, PCR, CRAR ratio are as follows:

Particulars	As at				
	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022
GNPA (%)	0.28%	0.23%	0.27%	0.22%	0.31%

The following table sets forth the maturity patterns of certain items of assets and liabilities as at June 30, 2024:

	As at June 30, 2024										
	1 to 7 days	8 to 14 days	15 to 30/31 days	Over one month to 2 months	Over 2 months to 3 months	Over 3 months to 6 months	Over 6 months to one year	Over one year to 3 years	Over 3 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Total
Total Inflows (A)	16,472.8	21,829.5	18,601.4	18,533.3	26,186.1	56,016.3	132,226.3	292,038.0	177,792.8	399,463.0	1,159,159.5
Cumulative Total Inflows (B)	16,472.8	38,302.3	56,903.7	75,437.0	101,623.1	157,639.4	289,865.7	581,903.7	759,696.5	1,159,159.5	
Total Outflows (C)	9,325.4	20,499.5	17,958.5	15,217.7	24,992.3	50,204.3	131,875.8	407,294.2	182,710.9	299,080.9	1,159,159.5
Cumulative Total Outflows (D)	9,325.4	29,824.9	47,783.4	63,001.1	87,993.4	138,197.7	270,073.5	677,367.7	860,078.6	1,159,159.5	
Gap (E=A-C)	7,147.4	1,330.0	642.9	3,315.6	1,193.8	5,812.0	350.5	(115,256.2)	(4,918.1)	100,382.1	
Cumulative Gap (F=B-D)	7,147.4	8,477.4	9,120.3	12,435.9	13,629.7	19,441.7	19,792.2	(95,464.0)	(100,382.1)	-	
Cumulative Gap as a % (F/D)	76.6%	28.4%	19.1%	19.7%	15.5%	14.1%	7.3%	(14.1)%	(11.7)%	0.0%	
Regulatory Permissible Limits	(10%)	(10%)	(20%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

- Concentration of Loans Risk:** We are exposed to risks related to concentration of loans to certain customers. As at June 30, 2024, loans to our top 10 and 20 largest customers amounted to 6.2% and 8.8% of our total outstanding loans.
- We will not receive any proceeds from the Offer for Sale portion and the same will be received by the Selling Shareholder.
- The average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares held by the Promoter Selling Shareholder is ₹12.2, which may be lower than the Offer Price. The Floor Price and Cap Price are 5.4 times and 5.7 times the average cost of acquisition of Promoter Selling Shareholder, respectively.
- Price/ Earning (P/E) ratio based on basic and diluted EPS for Financial Year 2024 is 25.4 and 26.9 times at the lower and upper end of the Price Band, respectively, as compared to the average industry peer group PE ratio of 20 times.
- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Financial Year ended 2024, 2023 and 2022 is 14.3%.
- WACA for all shares transacted in 1 year, 18 months and 3 years immediately preceding the Red Herring Prospectus

Particulars	As at				
	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022
NNPA (%)	0.11%	0.08%	0.10%	0.08%	0.14%
ECL (₹ in millions)	1,402.3	999.0	1,374.4	873.4	794.7
PCR (%)	59.4%	65.9%	63.7%	63.6%	54.3%
CRAR (%)	23.82%	22.52%	21.28%	22.97%	19.71%

- Concentration Risk:** 85.2% of our total Asset Under Management as at June 30, 2024 is concentrated in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and New Delhi.
- Interest Rate Risk:** Any significant change or volatility in interest rates can impact our Net Interest Income, Net Interest Margin. Our Net Interest Margin for 3 months ended June 30, 2024, June 30, 2023, FY24, FY23, and FY22 was 3.9%, 4.4% 4.1%, 4.5% and 4.0% respectively.
- Asset Liability Mismatch Risk:** We may face potential liquidity risks due to mismatches in the maturity of our assets and liabilities.

	As at June 30, 2024										
	1 to 7 days	8 to 14 days	15 to 30/31 days	Over one month to 2 months	Over 2 months to 3 months	Over 3 months to 6 months	Over 6 months to one year	Over one year to 3 years	Over 3 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Total
Total Inflows (A)	16,472.8	21,829.5	18,601.4	18,533.3	26,186.1	56,016.3	132,226.3	292,038.0	177,792.8	399,463.0	1,159,159.5
Cumulative Total Inflows (B)	16,472.8	38,302.3	56,903.7	75,437.0	101,623.1	157,639.4	289,865.7	581,903.7	759,696.5	1,159,159.5	
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Gap (E=A-C)	7,147.4	1,330.0	642.9	3,315.6	1,193.8	5,812.0	350.5	(115,256.2)	(4,918.1)	100,382.1	
Cumulative Gap (F=B-D)	7,147.4	8,477.4	9,120.3	12,435.9	13,629.7	19,441.7	19,792.2	(95,464.0)	(100,382.1)	-	
Cumulative Gap as a % (F/D)	76.6%	28.4%	19.1%	19.7%	15.5%	14.1%	7.3%	(14.1)%	(11.7)%	0.0%	
Regulatory Permissible Limits	(10%)	(10%)	(20%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (in ₹)*	Cap Price is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition	Range of acquisition price: Lowest Price – Highest Price (in ₹)*
Last 1 year	18.1	3.9	18.1
Last 18 months	18.1	3.9	18.1
Last 3 years	15.3	4.6	13.7-18.1

*As certified by Statutory Auditors, by way of their certificate dated August 30, 2024

12. WACA, Floor Price and Cap Price

Past transactions	Weighted average cost of acquisition (₹)*	Floor Price	Cap Price
Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) of Primary issuances	18.1	3.6 times	3.9 times
Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) of Secondary transactions	NA	NA	NA

*As certified by Statutory Auditors, by way of their certificate dated August 30, 2024

Continued on next page...

...continued from previous page.

13. The 7 BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 92 public issues in the past three financial years, out of which 21 issues have closed below the offer price on the listing date

Name of the BRLM	Total Public Issues	Issues closed below the issue price on listing date
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	9	-
BofA Securities India Limited*	-	-
Axis Capital Limited*	9	3
Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited*	-	-

Name of the BRLM	Total Public Issues	Issues closed below the issue price on listing date
SBI Capital Markets Limited*	4	-
JM Financial Limited*	7	-
IIFL Securities Limited*	10	-
Common Issues handled by the BRLMs	53	18
Total	92	21

*Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs.

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON : WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024*

*The UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 p.m. on Bid/Offer Closing Date.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission and Revision in Bids	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. IST
Bid/Offer Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) for RIBs, Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion and Eligible Shareholders Bidding in the Shareholders Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic application (bank ASBA through online channels like internet banking, mobile banking and syndicate ASBA applications through UPI as a payment mechanism where Bid Amount is up to ₹0.50 million)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications of QIBs and NIIs)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 3.00 p.m. IST
Submission of Physical Applications (Bank ASBA)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 1.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications where Bid Amount is more than ₹0.50 million)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 12.00 p.m. IST
Modification/ Revision/Cancellation of Bids	
Upward Revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories*	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST on Bid/Offer Closing Date
Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIBs, Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion and Eligible Shareholders Bidding in the Shareholders Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST

* UPI mandate end time shall be 5:00 p.m. on the Bid/ Offer Closing Date

* QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids

Bid / Offer Period

Event	Indicative Date
Bid/Offer Opens on	Monday, September 9, 2024
Bid/Offer Closes on	Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Finalisation of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Thursday, September 12, 2024
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors)/unblocking of funds from ASBA Account	On or about Friday, September 13, 2024
Credit of Equity Shares to dematerialized accounts of Allottees	On or about Friday, September 13, 2024
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Monday, September 16, 2024

ASBA[#]

Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

[#] Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

**UPI**
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non - Institutional Investor applying for amount upto ₹ 5,00,000/-, applying through Registered Brokers, DPs and RTAs. UPI Bidder also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020, issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the subsequent press releases, including press releases dated June 25, 2021 and September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Investors in the Retail Portion; (ii) Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 502 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document, ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?do=RecognisedFirmyes&ntmid=35 and <https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?do=RecognisedFirmyes&ntmid=43>, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the BRLMs or their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail ID: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/ Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/ Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs"), the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

This Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the SCRR read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein in terms of Regulation 32(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs"), and such portion, the "QIB Portion" provided that our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("Anchor Investor Portion"), of which at least one-third shall be available for allocation to domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the Net QIB Portion. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation to domestic Mutual Funds and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders (other than Anchor Investors) including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders out of which (a) one-third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹200,000 and up to ₹1,000,000; and (b) two-third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹1,000,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to applicants in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("RIBs") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective bank accounts (including UPI ID for UPI Bidders using UPI Mechanism) (as defined hereinafter) in which the Bid amount will be blocked by the SCSBs or the Sponsor Banks, as applicable, to participate in the Offer. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion of the Offer through the ASBA process. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Offer Price. Furthermore, up to [•] Equity Shares, aggregating up to ₹5000.00 million shall be made available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Eligible Shareholders bidding in the Shareholders Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 502 of the RHP.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders' Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022,

dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of our Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of our Company, please see the section "**History and Certain Corporate Matters**" on page 255 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section titled "**Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection**" on page 532 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of our Company: Limited by shares

Amount of share capital of our Company and Capital structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹ 90,000,000,000 divided into 9,000,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 78,195,752,730 divided into 7,819,575,273 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each. For details, please see the section titled "**Capital Structure**" on page 98 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company are Bajaj Finserv Limited, Rahul Kumar Bajaj, Rajinayan Bajaj, Madhur Bajaj, Sanjivnayan Bajaj, V. Sankara Raghavan, and Kevin D'sa. For details of the share capital history of our Company, please see the section titled "**Capital Structure**" on page 98 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares that will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges, being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters each dated July 30, 2024. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Sections 26(4) and 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus until the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 532 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 471 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 473 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

Disclaimer Clause of BSE : It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Red Herring Prospectus has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. The investors are advised to refer to page 473 of the Red Herring Prospectus for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of BSE.

Disclaimer Clause of NHB: The Company is having a valid Certificate of registration dated April 5, 2018 as amended on May 31, 2018 issued by the National Housing Bank (NHB) under Section 29A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. However, the NHB does not accept any responsibility or guarantee about the present position as to the financial soundness of the Company or for the correctness of any of the statements or representations made or opinion expressed by the Company and for repayment of deposits/discharge of liabilities by the Company.

General Risk: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and Bidders should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Bidders are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, Bidders must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have neither been recommended, nor approved by SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the Bidders is invited to "Risk Factors" on page 36 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS						REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
 KOTAK Investment Banking	 BoFA SECURITIES	 AXIS CAPITAL	 GOLDMAN SACHS	 SBI CAPS Complete Investment Banking Solutions	 JM FINANCIAL	 IIFL SECURITIES	 KFINTECH
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 1 st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. C - 27, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 66328000 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@kotak.com Website: https://investmentbank.kotak.com Investor Grievance ID: kmccredressal@kotak.com Contact Person: Ganesh Rane SEBI Registration Number: INM000008704	BoFA Securities India Limited 18 th Floor, A Wing, One BKC, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 66328000 E-mail: dg.bajaj_housing_finance_ipo@bofa.com Website: https://business.bofa.com/bofas-india Investor Grievance E-mail: dg.india_merchantbanking@bofa.com Contact Person: Lohit Sharma SEBI Registration Number: INM000016125	Axis Capital Limited 1 st Floor, Axis House, P.B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 43252183 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@axiscap.in Website: www.axiscapital.co.in Investor Grievance E-mail: investor.grievance@axiscap.in Contact Person: Pavan Naik SEBI Registration No.: INM000012029	Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited 951-A, Rational House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 6616 9000 E-mail: bhfiipo@gs.com Website: www.goldmansachs.com Investor Grievance E-mail: india-client-support@gs.com Contact Person: Mukarram Rajkotwala SEBI Registration Number: INM000011054	SBI Capital Markets Limited 1501, 15 th Floor, A & B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 41968300 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@sbicaps.com Website: www.sbicaps.com Investor Grievance E-mail: investor.relations@sbicaps.com Contact Person: Karan Savardekar / Sambit Rath SEBI Registration No.: INM000003531	JM Financial Limited 7 th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 66303030 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@jmf.com Website: www.jmf.com Investor Grievance E-mail: grievance.ibcd@jmf.com Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri SEBI Registration No.: INM000010361	IIFL Securities Limited 24 th Floor, One Lodha Place, Senapati Bapat Marg Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 46464728 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@iiflcap.com Website: www.iiflcap.com Investor Grievance E-mail: eiward.ris@kfinitech.com Website: www.kfinitech.com Contact Person: Mansi Sampat / Pawan Jain SEBI Registration No.: INM000010940	KFin Technologies Limited Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 and 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Hyderabad- 500 032, Telangana, India Tel: +91 40 6716 2222/ 18003094001 E-mail: bhfi.ipo@kfinitech.com Investor grievance e-mail: eiward.ris@kfinitech.com Website: www.kfinitech.com Contact Person: M. Murali Krishna SEBI Registration No.: INR000000221

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the section titled "**Risk Factors**" on page 36 of the RHP as well as the Addendum dated September 2, 2024 to the RHP, published on September 3, 2024, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP shall be available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of the Company at www.bajajhousingfinance.in and on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, BoFA Securities India Limited, Axis Capital Limited, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, JM Financial Limited and IIFL Securities Limited at <https://investmentbank.kotak.com>, <https://business.bofa.com/bofas-india>, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.goldmansachs.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.jmf.com and www.iiflcap.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF THE ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS: A copy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the Offer at www.bajajhousingfinance.in, <https://investmentbank.kotak.com>, <https://business.bofa.com/bofas-india>, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.goldmansachs.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.jmf.com and www.iiflcap.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of **BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**, Tel: 020 71878060; **BRLMs** : **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4336 0000; **BoFA Securities India Limited**, Tel: +91 22 66328000; **Axis Capital Limited**, Tel: +91 22 43252183; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6616 9000; **SBI Capital Markets Limited**, Tel: +91 22 41968300; **JM Financial Limited**, Tel: +91 22 66303030 and **IIFL Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 46464728; **Syndicate Member: Kotak Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6218 5410; **JM Financial Services Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6136 3400; **Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6849 7400 and **SBICAP Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22-69316204 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd, Centrum Broking Ltd, Edelweiss Broking, Eurekha Stock & Share Brokers Ltd, Globe Capital Markets Ltd, HDFC Securities Ltd, ICICI Securities Limited, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd, JM Financial Services Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities P. Ltd, Keynote Capital Limited, KJMC Capital Markets Ltd, Kotak Securities Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Formerly known as Edelweiss Broking Limited), Prabhudas Lilladher P. Ltd, Pravin Ratilal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd, Religare Broking Ltd, RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd, SBICAP Securities Ltd, ShareKhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Ltd, Systematix Shares and Stock Brokers Ltd, Tradebulls Securities Limited and YES Securities (India) Limited

Escrow Collection Bank / Refund Bank : Axis Bank Limited

• **Public Offer Account Bank** : HDFC Bank Limited

• **Sponsor Banks**: Axis Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For **BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

Atul Patni

Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Pune
Date: September 6, 2024

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed a red herring prospectus with RoC dated August 30, 2024, read with the addendum dated September 2, 2024 published on September 3, 2024 (together, the "RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus"). The RHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, as well as on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.bajajhousingfinance.in and on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, BoFA Securities India Limited, Axis Capital Limited, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, JM Financial Limited and IIFL Securities Limited at <https://investmentbank.kotak.com>, <https://business.bofa.com/bofas-india>, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.goldmansachs.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.jmf.com and www.iiflcap.com, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" on page 36 of the RHP.

This announcement does not constitute an invitation or offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities law in the United States, and unless so registered and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and in accordance with any applicable U.S. applicable state securities laws in the United States. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are only being offered and sold (a) in the United States only to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) in transactions exempt from, or not subject to the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and (b) outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in, and in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur. There will be no public offering of securities in the United States.