

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



At least four people killed as Russia launches a sweeping drone assault and airstrikes across Ukraine, hours after US prez Trump cast doubts over his Russian counterpart Putin's willingness to end the war, P 16

Man aged 30 held after he drove his SUV into a crowd at a Filipino community festival in Vancouver, killing 11 people and injuring 20. Canadian police say 'confident it was not an act of terrorism', P 16

Jules Kounde's goal in dying minutes of extra time help Barca clinch dramatic 3-2 win over rivals Real Madrid in Copa del Rey final. It's a record-extending 32nd Spanish Cup for Barca, P 18



Liverpool crowned English League champions for 20th time, equalling Man U's record, after trouncing Tottenham Hotspur 5-1. Seal first Premier League title since 2020, P 18

Fire at ED office housing Choksi, Nirav documents

A fire raged on for nearly 10 hours at Enforcement Directorate's zone-1 office in south Mumbai Sunday, sparking fears that investigation records of some high-profile cases — including those of Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi and politicians Chhagan Bhujbal and Anil Deshmukh — may have been lost. Sources said since most documents were digitised, ED may be able to recover them. **P 10**

12 dead as van hits bike, falls into well

A van rammed into a bike, killing the biker on the spot, before veering off the road and plunging into a water-filled well, resulting in the death of 10 passengers and critical injury to four others in Madhya Pradesh's Mandasaur district on Sunday afternoon. A local, aged 42, who managed to rescue three passengers, died after inhaling toxic gas in the well. **P 10**

Apps gave Apple \$5.3bn in India in '24

Apple raked in \$5.3 billion (around Rs 44,447 crore) through its app ecosystem in India, besides multi-billion-dollar sale of iPhones and lucrative exports. Apple's business engagement crossed nearly \$27 billion in 2024, sources said, \$8 billion of which came from sales of iPhones, MacBooks, iPads etc. **P 17**

Do not miss Education Times, a 6-page pullout with today's issue

Blood boiling but nat'l unity will steer Pahalgam response: PM

'India's Anger Being Felt By The Whole World'

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New Delhi: Reiterating his resolve to punish perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack and their patrons and emphasising that the "blood of every Indian is boiling", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the unity demonstrated by grief-stricken 140 crore Indians was going to be the biggest source of strength for India's "decisive fight" against terrorism. "In this war against terrorism, the unity of the country, the solidarity of 140 crore Indians is our biggest strength. This unity is the cornerstone of our decisive fight against terrorism. We have to strengthen our resolve to face this challenge that has appeared before the country. We have to demonstrate strong willpower as a nation. Today, the world is watching, after this terrorist attack, the whole country is speaking in one voice," the PM said in his monthly radio address.

The focus on unity came amid the bellicose threat issued by Pakistan's defence minister Khwaja Asif to set off terror attacks in each Indian city.

Man who 'shot UP biryani seller over Pahalgam' held

Agra: Police have arrested the self-proclaimed 'gau rakshak' (cow vigilante) who allegedly shot dead a biryani seller in Agra's Tajganj area on Wednesday night and later claimed in a video that it was a retribution for the Pahalgam attack. Agra police commissioner Deepak Kumar said in the video, the suspect had identified himself as Manoj Chaudhary, an alleged member of Kshatriya Gau Raksha Dal. He was arrested following multiple raids across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, sources said on Sunday.

►'Quarrel over food', P 20

Deadline over, 509 Pak nationals leave via Attari

New Delhi: As many as 509 Pakistani nationals exited India via the Attari integrated check post between April 25 and 27, while 744 Indian nationals returned from Pakistan via Wagah in the same period, reports Bharti Jain.

On April 24, India revoked all valid visas issued to Pakistani citizens, barring diplomatic and official visas and long-term visas, as part of a diplomatic offensive launched after the initial probe into the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, pointed to the role of Pakistani terrorists and terror masterminds.

►Medical visas, P 20



Indian Navy said its warships carried out multiple anti-ship firings on Sunday, revalidating readiness for long-range 'offensive' strikes | **P 12**

►PAK MISSION IN UK VANDALISED, P 12
►7 HELD FOR CLASH IN MUMBAI, P 12

►'Will punish perpetrators', P 20

China seeks 'impartial' probe, backs Pakistan

China has sought an "impartial" probe into the Pahalgam attack, backing Pakistan's "legitimate" security concerns and calling upon both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi spoke to his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar Sunday. **P 10**

BJP rebukes MLA for provoking unrest

Rajasthan BJP chief Madan Rathore reprimanded party MLA and Hathoj Dham mahant Balmukundacharya Sunday after he and his backers raised slogans and stuck posters in Jaipur's Jama Masjid before Friday prayers, sparking tension in the walled area. **P 20**

Gunmen kill in J&K bro of 'POK-based LeT terrorist'

Srinagar: A civilian was shot dead by unidentified gunmen late Saturday in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, four days after terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam, reports Naseer Ganai.

Officials said Ghulam Rasool Magray, 45, was shot outside his home in Kandi Khas around 10.30pm during a power outage.

Sources said Magray's brother Ghulam Mohideen is based in POK and is believed to be an active operative of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group.

►MLA slams govt, P 20

DMK forces ministers Balaji and Ponmudy, facing court fire, to quit

Portfolio Rejig Comes Ahead Of Polls Next Year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The DMK govt in Tamil Nadu got two controversial cabinet members to resign Sunday — electricity and excise minister V Senthil Balaji, whom Supreme Court gave an ultimatum last week to either exit or forfeit bail in a moneylaundering case, and forest minister K Ponmudy, in the dock for his purportedly disparaging remarks about women and Hindu symbols.

Both ministers handed their resignation letters to governor R N Ravi, who accepted these immediately. Raj Bhavan issued a statement soon after, saying CM M K Stalin had recommen-



Balaji (left) and Ponmudy

ded to the governor that their resignations be accepted.

While Balaji was censured by SC last Wednesday, Ponmudy's remarks about women and symbols raised the hackles of Madras HC, which asked police to file an FIR against him.

Housing minister S Muthusamy has been assigned the additional portfolios of excise and prohibition that Balaji used to handle. Muthusamy had been overseeing both when Balaji was sent to prison in 2023.

►Swearing-in today, P 11

Indian rulers in, Mughals out of Std 7 textbooks

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New Delhi: All references to Mughals and the Delhi Sultanate have been removed from Class VII NCERT social science textbook. NCERT officials indicated that the released book — 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond' — only represents the first part of the revised syllabus, with the second part expected in the coming months. However, they refrained from commenting on whether the omitted content would be part of the yet-to-be-released second part.

In the English textbook 'Poorvi', out of 15 stories, poems and narratives, 9 are by Indian writers or feature Indian themes, with contributions from figures like Rabindranath Tagore, APJ Abdul Kalam and Ruskin Bond.

►Indian traditions, P 20

ABVP bags 23 of 44 JNUSU councillor seats

Breaking new ground, ABVP won as many as 23 of the 44 councillor posts in JNU Students' Union elections. Results of the central panel posts — president, vice-president, secretary and joint secretary — were awaited till late Sunday night, reports Meghna Dhulia.

As per late-night trends, the United Left alliance, comprising AISA and DSE, was leading in three of the four top posts while ABVP was ahead in joint secretary's position. The gains for ABVP came amid a split in the left ranks this year. **P 6**

2 kids, aged 2½ & 3, killed in fire at city slum cluster

New Delhi: A massive fire ripped through 800 jhuggas at a JJ cluster near Shri Niketan Apartments in Rohini's Sector 17 Sunday, claiming the lives of two toddlers and leaving a 28-year-old man battling critical injuries.

Some 2,500 people were left homeless in the blaze that engulfed a five-acre area densely packed with jhuggas. The bodies of the victims, a two-and-a-half-year-old girl and a three-year-old boy, were recovered from separate shacks. Both were declared 'brought dead' in hospital. A 28-year-old man, Shabul Sheikh, suffered serious burns. Firefigh-



A woman searches through the remains of her burnt home

ters battled for over three hours to douse the blaze. The slum cluster, mainly populated by ragpickers, is surrounded by apartment buildings on all sides, making access difficult. **P 6**

►Strong winds, P 6

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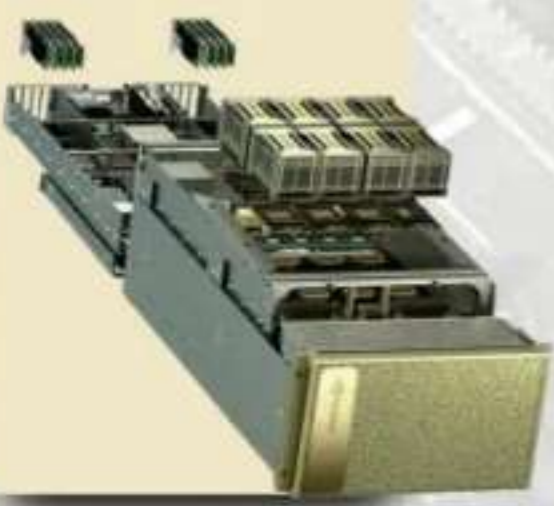
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CITYSTICS Charting Change In Urban India

South Rises In Real Estate: Hyderabad, B'loru Narrow Gap With Mumbai, Delhi

Buying a house costs the most in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR. Bengaluru is fast getting there, but it's Hyderabad that has delivered the best average annual return in housing among 14 markets

Note: Data for quarter ended Sept 2023
Source: WeAreCity Report by UnboxingBLR

Delhi records its hottest April night in 6 yrs; IMD predicts slight relief with light showers tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The city recorded its hottest April night in six years on Sunday, with the minimum temperature settling at 27.2°C—three degrees above normal and the highest this year so far. The temperature jumped by about 7°C since Saturday, when the maximum reached 42.1°C, the hottest day of the season.

udy skies at night, however, this surface heat did not escape sufficiently at night," explained Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet.

The IMD predicts a marginal dip in temperatures with gusty winds and light rain by Tuesday. "A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect the western Himalayan region from May 2, 2025," the IMD stated. On Monday, easterly winds of 10-20 km/hr are expected, with speeds reaching up to 30 km/hr on Wednesday. Cloudiness will likely persist during the evening and nighttime.

IMD has predicted for Tuesday light rain or drizzle, thunderstorms, and surface winds reaching 30-40 km/hr, gusting up to

27.2
DEGREES CELSIUS
MINIMUM TEMP
RECORDED IN CITY
ON SUNDAY

50 km/hr. Rain is also expected on May 2 and 3 under the influence of the western disturbance. The maximum temperature is forecast to be 40-42°C on Monday, dipping slightly to 38-40°C on Tuesday. The minimum will hover between 25 and 27°C.

So far, April has seen only 0.7mm of rainfall—well below the long-period average (LPA) of 16.3mm. Delhi received 1.8mm rainfall in March, which was a deficit of 90% in comparison to the LPA of 17.4mm.

Meanwhile, air quality remains in the poor category, with the AQI at 246 on Sunday. According to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System, AQI is expected to stay poor till April 29 and improve to moderate on April 30.

Taking Your Breath Away: Ground-Level Ozone Breached On 56 Days Since March

SILENT KILLER: Capital Fared The Worst On April 13 With 25 Stations Crossing Safe Limit

Priyangi Agarwal
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New Delhi: This summer, ground-level ozone exceedances were reported on 56 days between March 1 and April 25, according to a new analysis by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The worst day in terms of high ozone levels was April 13, when 25 out of 39 stations in Delhi reported exceedance. The hotspots are Nehru Nagar, Najafgarh, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium and Sri Aurobindo Marg. Of the total 40 stations in the city, the average ozone levels did not exceed the standard at just 10 stations this summer so far.

Exceedance is computed as the daily maximum eight-hour average crossing the ground-level ozone's eight-hour standard, which is 100 microgram per cubic metre.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of research and advocacy at CSE, said, "Ozone is not directly emitted by any source. But nitrogen oxides (NOx) and other gases react with one another under the influence of sunlight and form ozone. This requires stringent control of emissions from vehicles, industry and other combustion sources."

The analysis showed that Nehru Nagar station in Lajpat Nagar recorded the highest exceedance on all 56 days from March 1 to April 25. It was followed by Najafgarh at 54 days and Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium at 50 days.

Out of the 56 days, ozone levels exceeded more than 40 days at Sri Aurobindo Marg, Ashok Vihar, Okhla Phase 2, Wazirpur, Patparganj, Aya-

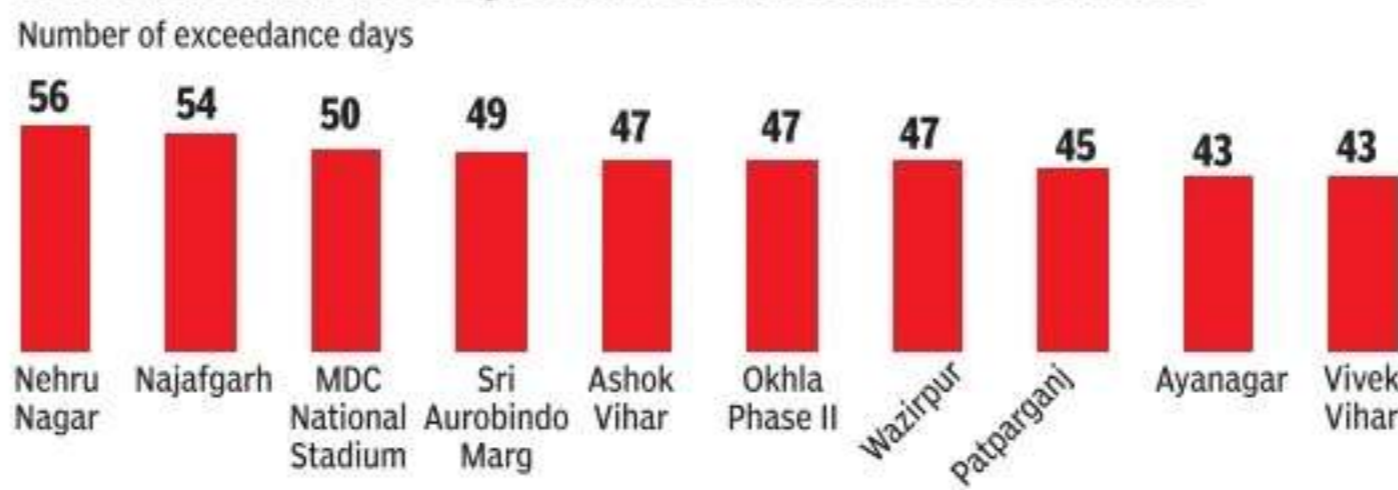
OZONE LEVELS MAY REMAIN HIGH FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS

Ground-level ozone concentrations have increased in the city this summer. The worst day from the spatial spread of ground ozone was April 13, when 25 out of 39 stations reported exceedance

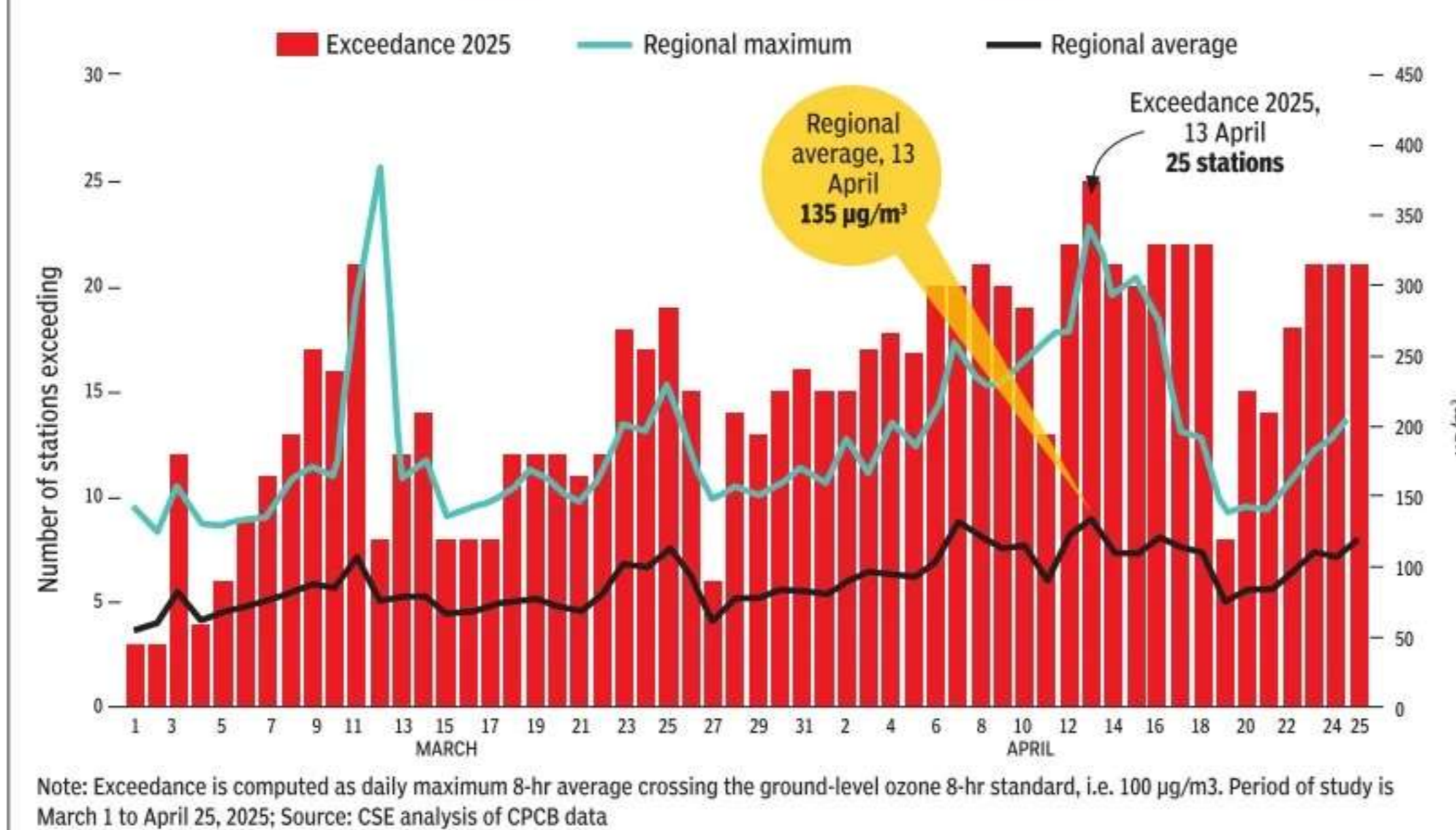
What is ozone?

Ground-level ambient ozone is produced from complex interaction between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that are emitted from vehicles, power plants, factories, and other combustion sources and undergo cyclic reactions in the presence of sunlight to generate ground level ozone. VOCs can also be emitted from natural sources, such as plants

Locations with most ground-level ozone exceedances



Daily variation in ground-level ozone exceedances



nagar, Vivek Vihar, Jahangirpuri and Rohini. The station where the average ozone

levels did not exceed the standard so far are Anand Vihar, IHBAS, ITO, NSIT-Dwarka,

Shadipur, Chandni Chowk, DTU, East Arjun Nagar, Lodi Road, Narela and Siri Fort.

Ozone has serious health consequences. "Ozone is a highly reactive gas. Even

CSE OFFICIAL

Nitrogen oxides and other gases react with one another under the influence of sunlight and form ozone

short-term exposure can aggravate asthma symptoms and other respiratory illnesses. Long-term exposure leads to reduced lung function and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It is important to control ozone at early stages," said Roychowdhury.

TOI earlier reported that the Union environment, forest and climate change ministry informed National Green Tribunal in April this year that it would constitute an expert committee to study the impact of ozone pollution in cities across the country and submit a report.

Central Pollution Control Board, which analysed ground-level ozone in 10 metropolitan cities in 2023 and 2024, found that Delhi-NCR and Mumbai metropolitan regions reported higher exceedances of ozone concentration compared to other regions in the country.

CPCB told NGT that the major sources of ozone precursors—nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOC)—are burning of coal, use of oil in motor vehicles, industrial activities, waste burning, gasoline combustion, wood combustion and evaporation of liquid fuels and solvents. Some biogenic sources—green areas and crops—are also responsible for VOC emission, leading to the formation of ground-level ozone.

Govt plans long-term heatwave strategy to protect residents

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New Delhi: As Delhi faces increasingly severe and prolonged summers, Delhi gov't is preparing a comprehensive long-term strategy to mitigate the impact of extreme heat on its residents. Chief minister Rekha Gupta has instructed all govt agencies, including the civic body and Delhi Development Authority (DDA), to work together on the new plan, which focuses on systemic changes to city planning and infrastructure for long-term resilience.

The strategy includes issuing targeted heat alerts, mapping high-risk areas, and incorporating emergency response plans into the City Development Plan. A key proposal involves strengthening building standards. "New infrastructure will be required to incorporate passive ventilation systems, cool roof technologies, and be designed to maximise thermal comfort," said a senior official. The gov't has asked local bodies and land-owning agencies like DDA to incorporate the latest technologies in its plan, said a senior official.

Retrofitting existing structures, especially in heat-prone areas, will also be prioritised. Revised building bye-laws mandating these changes are expected soon. To protect the urban poor, Delhi gov't plans to identify areas for shelters and shaded spaces across the city, particularly in slum settlements and densely populated zones. "Providing safe spaces where people can take shelter from the heat is crucial," the official added.

The plan also emphasises incorporating indigenous knowledge systems. "Traditional cultural



THE HEAT IS ON!

practices for coping with heat will be documented and included in awareness campaigns to build resilience among residents," the official noted. Outreach programmes will educate the public on the health, livelihood, and productivity risks of extreme heat and ways to mitigate them.

In addition, Delhi gov't will conduct research on Delhi's micro-climate patterns and improve urban temperature monitoring. Policy interventions to revive natural ecosystems, such as parks and urban forests, will create cooling zones across the city. "Delhi needs systemic changes backed by research and community participation," the official said.

Gupta has previously stated that temperatures in Delhi have reached up to 50°C, a serious public health threat. "When the heat becomes this intense, our preparations must be equally robust. Heatwaves are no longer just a weather condition, but a deadly crisis," she emphasised. As part of the initiative, 3,000 water coolers will be installed across the city, and cooling shades will be built along footpaths. Gov't and private buildings will adopt cool and green roof technologies.

Additionally, over 1.4 million students in more than 5,500 schools will be trained in heatwave preparedness.

A roar of joy: Delhi zoo welcomes first lion cubs in 16 years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Zoo is celebrating a rare and joyous occasion as five-year-old Asiatic lioness Mahagauri has given birth to a litter of four cubs. The zoo is closely monitoring her through round-the-clock CCTV surveillance, as the next 24 hours are critical for the first-time mother and her newborns. So far, the mother—Mahagauri—has been seen caring for her cubs, offering a hopeful sign for the zoo.

Zoo director Sanjeet Kumar confirmed that Mahagauri and her cubs are being carefully watched.

"Early morning on Sunday, the five-year-old Asiatic lioness Mahagauri delivered four cubs. The next 24 hours are crucial, and she is currently taking good care of them," he said.

The lioness and her mate were brought to the Delhi Zoo in 2021 from Junagarh.



The zoo is keeping a close watch through CCTV surveillance, as the next 24 hours are critical for the first-time mother and her newborns

Schools issued guidelines to shield kids from blazing heat

New Delhi: As temperatures soar in Delhi, schools have been issued fresh guidelines to protect students from the increasing heat. Directorate of Education (DOE) has reinforced earlier advisories with new measures aimed at minimising heat exposure during school hours.

To safeguard students, DOE has directed schools not to hold assemblies during the afternoon shift, and that "no classes be conducted in open-air environments". It has directed schools to suspend all outdoor activities until the weather improves.

The importance of hydration is stressed, with schools required to ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water at all times. RO systems and water coolers must be properly maintained, and scheduled water breaks must be incorporated, the DOE has stated.

In terms of indoor comfort, schools have been instructed to ensure that classrooms are well-ventilated and equipped with functional fans. Additionally, fire extinguishers must be installed in all corridors, in compliance with fire safety regulations, stated DOE circular.

It has also urged schools to educate students on the importance of covering their heads during sun exposure, particularly while commuting. Additionally, it strictly instructs that "no student, parent, or staff member shall stay or sit in open or exposed areas under direct sunlight."

Health preparedness has been given utmost priority. "Any instance of heat-related illness must be addressed promptly. First Aid kits should include oral rehydration solution for students exhibiting symptoms. All cases of heat-related illness must be reported to the nearest hospital," it states. **TNN**

Man opens fire outside restaurant in east Delhi

New Delhi: A man opened fire outside a restaurant in Preet Vihar, east Delhi, on Saturday night, police said. A video circulating online shows the shooter firing at the establishment, causing bouncers to seek cover. Police received information at 10.30 pm and registered a case under Sections 324 of BNS and 25/27 of the Arms Act. "The incident may be linked to an earlier altercation between bouncers and visitors," a senior officer said. **TNN**

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Jute over concrete: LG rolls out green solution for parks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi LG VK Saxena has directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to use jute carpeting on pathways and tracks in parks, especially on the Yamuna floodplain. This initiative, first implemented at Asita Park near ITO, has proven effective in reducing dust and promoting grass growth through the jute weave, which anchors the carpets firmly, according to a senior official. Saxena, who previously banned concretisation on the floodplain, initiated this cost-effective measure to address environmental concerns. Due to its success, Saxena has now ordered similar action for the Northern Ridge.



LG VK Saxena has instructed DDA to implement loosely-knitted jute carpeting on the tracks

"Concretisation was forbidden on the floodplains, but this led to increased dust on tracks whenever walkers or cyclists used them," said the official, adding, "This caused inconvenience to users and added to environmental dust." To resolve this, Saxena instructed DDA to implement loosely-knitted jute carpeting on the tracks. The pilot project at Asita Park proved successful, mitigating dust while allowing grass to grow beneath the carpeting, further securing it to the ground.

"The use of jute also allowed grass to sprout through the gaps in the carpet, fixing it more strongly to the ground," the official added. Encouraged by the positive outcome, Saxena directed that the same method be used on tracks in the Northern Ridge, which DDA had recently begun restoring. Saxena had visited the area earlier this month and found its condition deplorable.

In addition to combating dust and preventing soil erosion on the floodplain, the initiative also provides a boost to the jute farming industry. "This eco-friendly measure not only benefits the environment but also supports local farmers," the official noted.

Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta recently presented a detailed plan to Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at rejuvenating the Yamuna River. The three-fold strategy focuses on the river's revival, removal of encroachments, and beautifica-

tion of the riverfront. The plan includes 100% sewerage treatment, the tapping of all 22 drains that flow into the Yamuna, and the installation of sewerage networks in 1,799 unauthorised colonies and 639 JJ clusters.

Restoration efforts are already underway across 16,000 hectares on both banks of the river. Completed projects include Asita East (93 ha), Amrut Biodiversity Park (108 ha), and a 16-hectare ghat area. The 'Kalindi Aviral' project (100 ha) is in its final phase, with other areas like Kalindi Aviral Extension (107 ha) and the remaining phase of Asita East expected to be completed by Dec 2025 and March 2026. Asita West's second phase is slated for completion by June 2025.

Under the ghat restoration programme, platforms are being constructed to accommodate devotees and ensure scientific waste management. Old ghat ruins are being preserved by the DDA as part of the renovation efforts, with Vasudev Ghat (16 ha) already developed.

AAP alleges Delhi govt removed 2,000 buses from roads; claims are misleading, says BJP

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: AAP on Sunday said that Delhi's public transport system was crippled as BJP govt had abruptly withdrawn 2,000 buses from city roads, leaving commuters stranded in the middle of a brutal summer.

"Long queues, jam-packed buses and hour-long waits have become the new normal, reversing the progress made under Arvind Kejriwal's administration," AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference, Kakkar said bus stands across Delhi were packed with people waiting endlessly for buses. "Under AAP govt, Delhi residents waited no more than one minute for a bus at any stand. Today, under BJP's govt, people are being forced to wait for up to an hour," she said.

Senior officials, however, refuted the claims and said that the phasing out of buses would be done in stages, and by then, new buses would replace them. More than 2,500 old Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster service buses will go off the road by the end of the year, an official said.

Kakkar added that AAP govt had enforced a rule that no passenger would be required to travel standing—every commuter would get a seat. However, under BJP govt today, every bus is completely packed. This overcrowding is the direct consequence of BJP govt's arbitrary removal of 2,000 buses from Delhi's roads without making any alternative arrangement, she said.

Transport minister Dr Pankaj Singh had said that govt had placed orders for thousands of new buses to maintain adequate transport services. "There will not be a shortage of buses. There will be 900 new electric buses coming soon, and every week it will increase depending on the demand," Singh had said earlier. The minister had said the electric buses would replace the CNG ones.

BJP has said that AAP's claim of a bus crisis in Delhi was completely misleading. Bus routes in Delhi have been rationalised, bus operations are well-organised, and on May 2, chief minister Rekha Gupta will dedicate 400 new buses to the people of Delhi, party spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said. The people were aware that the shortage of buses was due to the failure of Kejriwal's govt and matters would have worsened if central govt had not provided 1,700 e-buses to DTC, he added.




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How Organised Crime Is Carving Up Capital

INSIDE DELHI'S UNDERBELLY: Several Gangs Controlled Remotely From Foreign Countries Add To Law Enforcers' Challenge

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New Delhi: Delhi's underworld is home to a multitude of notorious gangs—95, to be specific—as the Centre informed Supreme Court on Thursday. TOI reported about it. The statistics are chilling for a metropolis like Delhi whose gang landscape has evolved over the years, transforming from yesteryear groups like the Kishan Pehalwan and Anoop-Balraj gangs of Najafgarh to newer entities such as the Bishnoi and Sangwan gangs, forming a complex network of organised crime being controlled remotely from foreign countries.

The capital now has a complex underworld characterised by the presence of various notorious gangs which are engaged in a range of illicit activities that put them at odds with law enforcement and with each other. Resultantly, the city often witnesses turf wars, extortion rackets and murders.

A pertinent question that arises is: Why does Delhi have such a large number of gangs? Investigators who have watched the Delhi's underworld over the years attribute it to a number of factors ranging from Delhi's topography, proximity to states like Haryana and UP and a large migrant population in Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters.

"The organised crime gangs in Delhi often exploit the vulnerabilities of the urban poor, engaging in extortion and other forms of exploitation that further entrench cycles of violence and fear. The fluid nature of gang dynamics, with alliances forming and breaking apart, adds another layer of complexity to the situation," said a retired senior cop.

At first glance, it appears that many gangs initially formed to settle personal scores or gain an edge in college elections. However, the situation quickly escalated, with both sides resorting to violence and eventually engaging in full-fledged criminal activities to sustain their rivalry.

"For example, the Gogi and Tillu Tajpuria gangs which engaged in a deadly gang war in Delhi for years and later ran extortion rackets, originated from a college election at Swami Shradhdhanand College. Gogi, a student of the college, took issue with Tillu and his associates interfering with the college elections and allegedly beating Gogi's friend. This incident sparked a decades-long feud, leading to numerous violent encounters and even the deaths of both gang leaders," a senior police officer explained.

Lawrence Bishnoi's foray into crime was also triggered by the rivalry between student organisations in Punjab. For many Delhi gangsters, their journey began with petty crimes, was nurtured during stints in jail, and ultimately found success driven by the aspiration to live a luxurious lifestyle.

For instance, gangster Kala Jathedi was first arrested for snatching a mobile phone in 2004. A trip to jail prompted him to form his own gang.

One intriguing aspect of Delhi's gang proliferation is how they gain notoriety. According to sources, while most gangsters in Delhi want to name their gangs after their own names, the cops often inadvertently fuel their reputation by labelling small groups of 3-4 collaborators as a gang, effectively legitimizing their existence in police files.

Each of the gangs have their own distinct identity and sphere of influence. While there are the big names who

— 95 AND NOT OUT —

A PEAK INTO DELHI'S UNDERWORLD

TIER 1

Lawrence Bishnoi Gang
594 cases, 73 members

Jitender Gogi Gang
553 cases, 153 members

Hashim Baba Gang
402 cases, 53 members

Salman Tyagi and Saddam Ghori Gang: 217 cases, 34 members

TIER 2

Badhawar Gang
Neeraj Faridpuria Gang
Irfan Chenu Gang
Nasir Pehelwan gang

TIER 3

Thak Thak Gang
Vikas Langarpuria Gang

YESTER-YEAR GANGS

Kishan Pehelwan Gang
Anoop-Balraj Gang

Gang dynamics

Each gang has its own distinct identity and sphere of influence

Gangs in Delhi had earlier divided their turfs, but now the lines have blurred as everyone wants a bigger share of pie

Gangs have access to sophisticated weapons, including foreign-made pistols

Big gangs have 50-150 members, smaller ones have 5-30

Average six to seven cases against each member of big gangs

Why so many gangs?

Delhi's underworld is home to 95 notorious gangs, according to Delhi Police

These gangs operate in different parts of the city, engaging in illicit activities and turf wars

Gangs exploit vulnerabilities of urban poor, engaging in extortion and exploitation

Many of the gangsters are active in crime since teenage days

Several gangsters started off to settle personal scores, or college disputes, but eventually took to full-fledged crime

Challenges for law enforcement

- 1 Rivalry between gangs leads to violent turf wars and conflicts
- 2 Fluid nature of gang dynamics makes it difficult to predict and prevent criminal activities
- 3 Limited number of policemen have to tackle a large number of gangs and dismantle their networks
- 4 Dense population in JJ clusters creates opportunities for criminals to blend in and evade detection
- 5 Delhi's law enforcement agencies often face resource constraints, outdated infrastructure, and inadequate manpower, limiting their ability to effectively prevent and investigate crimes

Way forward

Addressing underlying social and economic issues fueling gang activity

Comprehensive response required, combining enforcement with social and economic initiatives

Community outreach programmes

Enhanced security measures

operate across Delhi, targeting businessmen, bookies, property dealers and builders

for extortion, the smaller groups engage in activities like robbery, snatching and land

grabbing. A significant number of gangs in Delhi, like the Badhawar gang, are engaged

in smuggling and selling illicit liquor in the city and neighbouring states. There are

also these "Thak Thak gangs" who originally got their name from police for their modus

operandi of knocking on car windows before striking.

The big gangs have 50 to 150 members and have an average six to seven cases against each member. The smaller ones have 5-30 members each. The gangs have access to the best of weapons in Delhi. From copies of foreign-made pistols like Zigana, Taurus, Beretta and Star to the usual 7.65mm pistols manufactured in hubs like Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, Meerut in UP and Mung-er in Bihar.

The existence of such a large number of gangs is a significant challenge for the authorities, who are tasked with maintaining law and order in a city that is both a political hub and a densely populated urban centre. However, many retired and serving cops said that while tackling the veterans was their job, a comprehensive approach was required to curb the new entrants.

"This involves not only direct action against gang members but also addressing the underlying social and economic issues that fuel gang activity. Strategies might include community outreach programmes, job creation initiatives, and enhanced security measures in vulnerable areas. While law enforcement plays a critical role in controlling gang activity, addressing the root causes socially is equally important," said a senior officer.

Despite these challenges, there have been notable efforts by Delhi Police and other agencies to crack down on gang activity, cops say. Operations targeting specific gangs and their leaders have yielded results, disrupting their operations and, in some cases, leading to significant arrests, they added.

In any case, as Delhi confronts this grim reality, one thing is certain—the city's battle against organised crime is far from over.

2 arms suppliers linked to Hashim Baba gang arrested in raids at Rohini, Jafrabad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two arms suppliers linked to the Hashim Baba gang have been arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch, officials said on Sunday.

The arrests were made during separate raids in Rohini and Jafrabad, where police recovered three semi-automatic pistols and six live cartridges. One of the accused, Mohammad Rihan, was apprehended while delivering firearms to a gang member. Based on his confession, his supplier, Salman Ahmad, was also arrested.

According to DCP (Crime) Harsh Indora, "Mohammad Rihan was caught red-handed while attempting to deliver two semi-automatic pistols and four live bullets to an active member of the Hashim Baba gang. A thorough search led to the recovery of the weapons from his possession."

On April 22, acting on specific intelligence, a police team laid a

DCP (CRIME) SAYS

Mohammad Rihan was caught red-handed while attempting to deliver two semi-automatic pistols and four live bullets to a Hashim Baba gang member

trap near a hospital in Sector-24, Rohini, leading to Rihan's arrest. During interrogation, Rihan disclosed that he sourced the firearms from Salman. The team subsequently tracked down Salman, a resident of Jafrabad in northeast Delhi.

"The team arrested Salman on the same day. A semi-automatic pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from him during the arrest," Indora added.

Police have registered a case under Sections 25, 54, and 59 of the Arms Act. They also seized the

motorcycle used by Rihan during the arms delivery.

Rihan, originally from Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh, had been living in Jafrabad. "After studying up to class XII, he initially worked at a private hospital. However, after meeting Salman, he got involved in the illegal arms trade, supplying firearms to members of the Hashim Baba gang," said a senior police officer.

Salman Ahmad, who dropped out of school after class VIII, previously ran a handicrafts business. "He suffered heavy losses two years ago. Following this, he came into contact with his cousin Nadeem and turned to supplying illegal firearms in Delhi NCR," the officer added.

Police said further investigation is underway to uncover the extent of the illegal arms network and its links with organised crime syndicates.

A fresh start for sexual assault survivors

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New Delhi: For the 32-year-old mother of two who received a letter of intent from a reputed organisation recently, it was like a rebirth.

"After going through a lot, this is my second opportunity to live my life with dignity. This opportunity is precious to me. I wish no one has to go through what I did. Our society needs to evolve and raise men who are sensitive enough not to inflict lifetime scars on women's souls," she said. The woman was sexually assaulted in 2021 by a man known to her.

She was at a job fair/placement drive that was organised by Delhi State Legal Services Authority under Project Veerangna last week at the Rouse Avenue district courts complex.

The event culminated with the issuance of 19 letters of intent (LoIs) after several interview rounds. The average CTC offered was Rs 2 lakh per annum by the five

participating companies, recognising the potential and dedication of the candidates.

The DSLSA chose a batch of 30 survivors for a 30-hour certification course in the food and beverages sector at the Institute of Hotel Management Catering & Nutrition, Pusa, under the project.

The course costs between Rs 1.25-1.5 lakh, but the institution accepted the request of the DSLSA not to charge anything. Training started on March 8.

The initiative was part of DSLSA's ongoing efforts to rehabilitate legal services beneficiaries by equipping them with vocational skills. Certificates were given to the survivors of sexual assault and similar offences who had finished the course.

The placement drive saw participation by the beneficiaries who interacted with recruiters from leading hospitality and service sector organisations, including ITC Hotels Limited, The Lalit, Chhanv



EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

Foundation, Lemon Tree Hotels, and Par Anand Charitable Trust. Another participant who was issued the letter of intent and had survived rape told TOI that she received a call from officials from the DSLSA for the course.

"The course offered by IHM was a revelation. I learnt a lot about hospitality, culinary, table manners and a lot more. In such a competitive industry, it feels good to be chosen for a job," the 27-year-old woman said.

A 33-year-old survivor of sexual

assault, who had opted for the course and got the letter of intent for a job, said: "I used to work with DTC as a driver, but after the incident, I left. I got to know about this course while I was attending my case in court. I decided to opt for it after talking to people in DSLSA. As a mother to a 5-year-old, this will help me in supporting my daughter."

Rajeev Bansal, member secretary of DSLSA, emphasised the initiative's role in bringing about positive change. A new round of interviews will soon be conducted by the same industry partners, he said.

"These letters of intent signify the beginning of new opportunities. The project stands as a reflection of DSLSA's unwavering commitment to empowering people with dignity and opportunity. More than a rehabilitation initiative, it is a powerful testament to the belief that with the right support, every person can rebuild a meaningful and self-reliant life," he said.

ABVP Breaks New Ground, Wins 23 Of 44 Councillor Seats In JNU

Gains From Left Split; Students' Union Election Results To Be Announced Today

Meghna Dhulia
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New Delhi: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has won 23 of the 44 councillor posts across the 16 schools as well as joint and special centres of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), breaking into new territory on the campus, a day before the students' union election results are expected.

Under the United Left alliance, AISA and DSF won seven seats in all. The Left-Ambedkarite Unity Panel of SFI, AISE, BAPSA, and PSA won five seats. The remaining seats went to independents and other student organisations, a student union member said.

In JNU student's union (JNUSU), the council comprises the central panel — president, vice-president, secretary and joint secretary — and the councillors. No proposal is passed without the consent of the council. With 23 seats, ABVP's hand in decision-making in



Voting for JNUSU elections took place on Friday

JNUSU will significantly rise.

ABVP's striking success lay in its winning of two of the five seats in the School of Social Sciences. The organisation has won here for the first time in 25 years, breaking into a traditionally Left-leaning stronghold. The RSS-backed outfit also won two positions in the School of Inter-

national Studies. The AISA-DSF alliance secured seven seats, and the SFI-Ambedkarites alliance won five seats.

Counting of votes for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, and joint secretary is on. The result is expected on April 28.

The impact of fragmentation of the Left-leaning student

In JNU students' union, the council comprises the central panel — president, vice-president, secretary and joint secretary — and the councillors

organisations was evident in the results. It allowed ABVP a clean sweep in several centres. The outfit couldn't breach the Left stronghold in the School of Language though, failing to win any of the six councillor positions. These were claimed by Left organisations.

ABVP secured one out of two seats in the School of Biotechnology, the one seat in the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, one out of two in the School of Computational and Integrative Science, two out of three in the School of Computer and System Science, a clean sweep of all four seats in the School of Engineering, the one seat in the Special Centre for Nanoscience, all three in the

School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, both in the Amalgamated Centre, one out of two in the School of Environmental Science, the sole seat in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, and two out of three in the School of Physical Science.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students Federation (AISF), Birsu Ambedkar Phule Students Association (BAPSA), and Progressive Students Association (PSA) panel won five seats. These include one in Arts and Aesthetics by SFI, one in the School of Biotechnology by SFI, one in the Centre for Law and Governance by BAPSA, and one in the School of Language by SFI. All India Students Association (AISA) Democratic Students Federation (DSF) won seven councillor seats, including three in the School of Language and Culture Studies, two in the School of Social Sciences, one in SIS, and one in the School of Arts and Aesthetics.

Delhi govt dissolves school management committees

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New Delhi: Directorate of Education (DoE) has announced the immediate dissolution of all existing school management committees (SMC) in govt and govt-aided institutions across Delhi.

According to a recent circular, fresh elections will be held on May 9 to reconstitute the committees.

The circular states that a school-level election committee, led by the head of school and supported by a teacher convener, will oversee the election process to establish new SMCs in each school.

The move comes in the backdrop of widespread frustration among parents, leading to protests, because of an alleged fee hike. Many parents blamed the mismanagement of SMCs, where such issues should have been addressed.

"The competent authority decided to dissolve all existing school management committees for all govt and govt-aided schools of Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi, with immediate effect. Further, a school-level SMC elec-

According to a recent DoE circular, fresh elections will be held on May 9 to reconstitute these committees

tion committee, headed by the head of school concerned and assisted by its respective teacher convener, would conduct the elections to reconstitute a new SMC of their respective schools," reads the circular.

The DoE outlined several guidelines. The newly formed SMC must include at least 50% women members, and it must also have representation from marginalised communities, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, or the Economically Weaker Sections. The elected parent members will select a vice-chairperson from among themselves. Additionally, the SMC will invite three teachers specialising in social science, science, and mathematics to join as special invitees.

"The SMC plays a crucial role in overseeing the school's operations, managing admissions, and assessing the needs of students and tea-

chers. It typically comprises 12 parent members, the school principal, a teacher representative, a local authority member, and a social worker, with a two-year tenure," an official said.

The nomination forms will be checked by May 7. These forms should include the parent's details — name, address, phone number, and a photograph — along with the name, class and roll number of the child. Candidates are required to explain how they would contribute to the school if elected and secure signatures of five other parents in support of their candidacy. The school's election committee will review these nominations.

Voting is on May 9. Morning shift schools will hold elections from 8am to 11am, evening shift schools from 1pm to 4pm. Results would be out the next day.

The deputy directors of education will establish a three-member permanent core group at the district level. This group, of a school head and two teachers, will be responsible for appointing social workers to the SMC and overseeing the election process.

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भवद्भिः कृतं मांगल्यं, कामना चादभुता मयि। ऋणी जातो भवत्प्रेम्णा, नैम्यहं च मुहुर्मुहुः॥

Whatever happiness, good fortune, health and wealth we have achieved in our life has been obtained only through the principles and benevolence of our parents. We only wish that you continue to shower your blessings, love, affection & inspiration in the future.

We repeatedly salute you and offer our tributes.

1st Death Anniversary



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W/o Late Shri Rajendra Kumar Arora

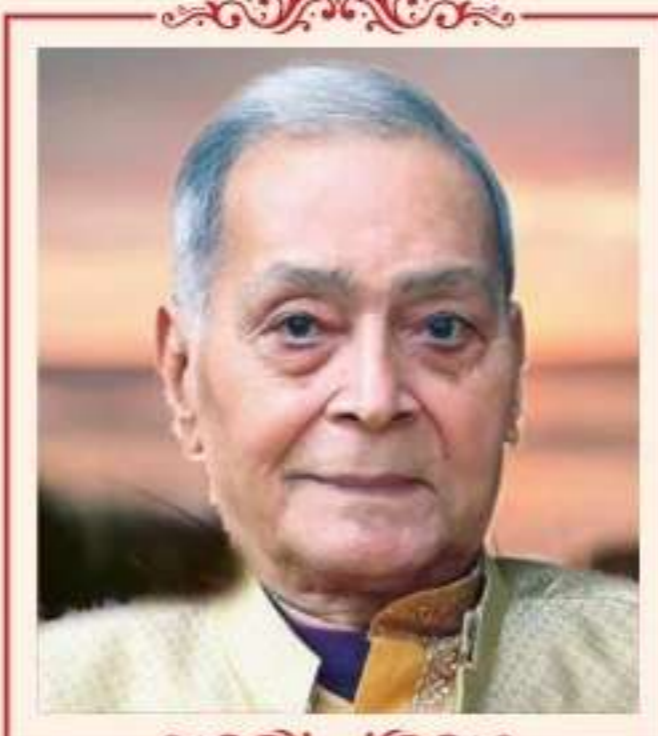
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Saachi - Aniket Kuthiala

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Rani Nanda - Sister
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Rajeev Singh - Son
Anupma Singh - Daughter In Law
Bhuvanraj Singh - Son In Law
Bhawna Singh - Daughter
Grand Children: Rohin Kevin Singh,
Alshaan Kathrene Singh & Uday Singh
Family & Friends

In Loving Memory

Seventh Anniversary



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Appa

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Forever are our thanks

Immortal is your memory

Love and miss you always

Remembered by

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Dr Sridhar - Dr Prabha - Divya

Ashna - Vignesh - Alia

All family and friends.

SAD DEMISE

OBITUARY



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Dr. (Mrs.)

Veena Narain

on April 26, 2025

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(Son and daughter in law)

Nishu & Arvind Mathur

(Daughter and son in law)

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Strong winds caused Rohini jhuggi blaze to spread rapidly

Continued from P1

According to Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call regarding the fire was received at 11.55am. "Immediately, 26 fire tenders were dispatched, and around 150 firefighters were involved in the firefighting operation," a DFS official said.

Fire tenders could not reach the interior lanes and had to be stationed on the main road, with water pipes extending deep into the cluster.

"The flames leapt from one jhuggi to the next in no time. There were highly flammable substances inside the homes. Small gas cylinders, which residents used for cooking, also exploded inside several shacks. Some homes were connected to a gas pipeline as well, which had to be immediately shut down to prevent an even bigger disaster," the fire official added.

Strong winds also helped in spreading the fire. Many trees and electric poles were also engulfed in the conflagration, adding to its intensity. "There was a real fear that the fire would spread to the



DEVASTATING: The fire was finally doused at around 3.20 pm, but cooling operations continued for several hours thereafter

surrounding apartments. It did catch onto the exterior of some buildings, but fortunately did not enter the flats," the official said.

"Adding to the danger, many residents, primarily ragpickers, stored scrap materials such as plastic bottles and other combustible waste near their homes, which fueled the fire further. A thick

toxic smoke filled the entire area, leading to extremely suffocating conditions," the official added.

The fire was finally doused at around 3.20 pm, but cooling operations continued for several hours thereafter to prevent any flare-ups. Delhi Police has launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

Man accused of raping woman at gunpoint held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 37-year-old man, identified as Javed alias Pawwa, was arrested on Saturday after allegedly firing at police officers during a raid in north Delhi's Wazirabad. Javed was evading arrest in connection with a gang rape case registered at Nabi Karim police station, where he is accused of allegedly assaulting a woman at gunpoint in Dec 2024.

"Crime Branch's NR-II team tracked Javed based on specific information, which suggested he was hiding in Wazirabad and armed. During the operation, he fired at police, narrowly missing one officer. The team managed to overpower him, recovering a pistol, an empty cartridge, and five live rounds," said DCP (Crime) Harsh Indora.

Javed, originally from Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, moved to Delhi to work in his father's garment business. He turned to crime in 2013, starting with snatching and later escalating to dacoity and theft. "Despite multiple arrests, including for a 2021 dacoity in Uttam Nagar that went viral on social media, his criminal activities continued," DCP Indora added. Further investigation is ongoing.

Customs seizes ₹1.9cr gold bars

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Customs officials recovered gold bars from an Indian national at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport worth over Rs 1.9 crores being smuggled from Dubai, officials said on Sunday. "On the basis of spot profiling, the officers of customs, IGI Airport, New Delhi booked a case of smuggling of gold on April 25, 2025, against one Indian national passenger, who arrived at T-3, Delhi airport from Dubai by Flight No. SG-6 dated April 25, 2025," an official statement from the office of the commissioner of customs (Airport & General) at T-3, IGI Airport stated.

Govt to survey cow shelters, provide financial support

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi govt will survey cow shelters and frame a scheme to extend financial support for the smooth operation of such facilities to address the issue of bovines straying on the national capital's roads.

CM Rekha Gupta announced the measures at a public gathering at Gramin Gausshala in Bawana and stressed that she, her ministers, and BJP MLAs considered the cow as a mother figure (Gau mata). "It is a matter of great pain for us to see the plight of cows roaming on the roads and, sometimes, encountering accidents. The blame lies with those who just let them wander for food after milking them," she said.

Reminding cattle owners that such animals were not allowed within the city limits, she suggested the bovines be housed

at designated places like Ghoga Dairy, around 50 km from Central Delhi. "It is unbearable to see even a single cow wandering on the roads. Govt as well as philanthropists are there to ensure facilities like fodder and shelter for the cows," Gupta said. CM said her govt would conduct a survey of all cow shelters in Delhi and a scheme would be drawn to provide financial assistance for the facilities to care for the cows in a holistic manner.

It was govt's duty to take care of the old and ill cows wandering on roads after being abandoned, and the dispensation was committed to fulfilling its duty, Gupta added. Gupta had earlier announced the setting up of a model gausshala in Ghumanhera village. Presenting her maiden budget, Gupta announced an allocation of Rs 40 crore for setting up the cow shelter.

(With PTI inputs)

2 stabbed in road rage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two men were stabbed in a road rage incident near Khajuri Chowk in northeast Delhi on Sunday, police said on Sunday, adding that they are undergoing treatment for the injuries.

The incident was reported to the Khajuri Khas police station around 9.45 pm. "Initial investigations revealed that victims, Ikram and Shehzad, travelling separately in their taxis, collided with a motorcycle near the old police station cut. A heated argument ensued, which resulted in both men getting stabbed. The accused fled the scene after the attack," a senior police officer said.

A case was registered at the nearest police station,

and a team was formed to investigate the incident.

Police analysed CCTV footage and used technical surveillance and human intelligence to track down and arrest the accused, Jai Kumar alias Anuj Pandit, 23, a resident of Shiv Vihar.

The knife used in the attack was recovered from his possession. During questioning, Jai Kumar revealed he had an accomplice. Police said Jai Kumar is a notorious criminal with a record of five previous cases, including murder, assault on a public servant, and Arms Act violations. Efforts are underway to trace and arrest his accomplice, police said, adding, the investigation is ongoing.

With profound grief, we inform you that **Smt. Sushila Jain**, beloved wife of Late Shri R.C. Jain and mother of Shri Raj Kumar Jain, left for her heavenly abode on the morning of 27th April 2025.

Uthwani Ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on 28th April 2025 at Mata Ka Mandir, New Friends Colony.

We pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

In Grief

Sarita & Raj Kumar Jain
Rekha & Mahinder Gupta
Vineet Jain
Divya & Anesh Khanna
Tanushree & Prabhav Bedi
All Grand Children and Great Grand Children
PS Jain Family

Renu & Pawan Todi
Archana & Ajay Padia

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



In ever loving memory of our beloved mother

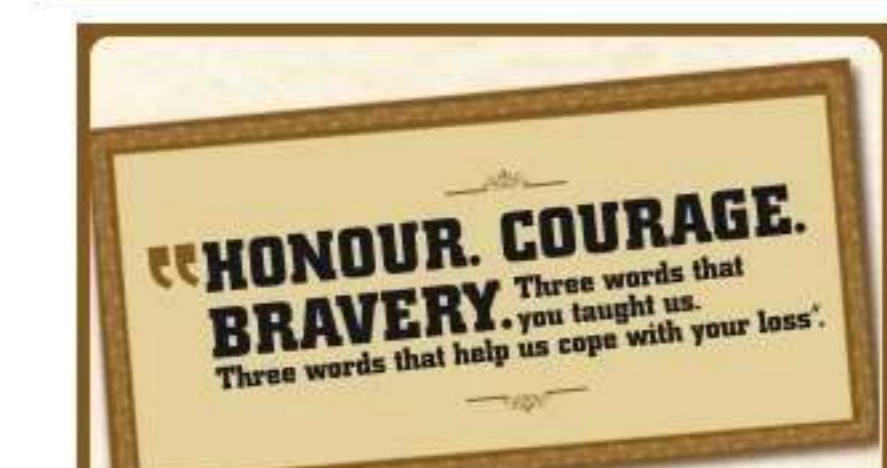
SMT. POORNAM VOHRA

(28-04-1955 TO ETERNITY)

Today, it's been 4 years & we miss you more than ever and even though we can't find the right words to express our gratitude for all that you've given us while still living, we still remember your motherly love and how it touched our hearts.

We honour your life today and we wish you a very happy birthday. Papa has also left for heavenly abode this year.

Fondly remembered by Sandeep & Sakshi, Anuj & Baby Girish



The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful.

Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

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Former I-T employee, absconding post bail cancellation, arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A former Income Tax (I-T) Department employee, Deepak Kashyap, has been arrested by Delhi Police's Crime Branch after absconding following the cancellation of his bail. Kashyap, along with accomplices, allegedly impersonated tax officials to extort money from a businessman's family in west Delhi's Janakpuri in August 2023.

"He recruited accomplices who posed as I-T and other govt officials to lend authenticity to their illegal operation," said DCP (Crime) Aditya Gautam.

On Aug 1, 2023, the businessman—who runs an elevator and escalator company—received a

distress call from his wife. "She informed him that seven unknown individuals, including a woman, had forcibly entered their home, claiming to be from the I-T department. They falsely accused him of hiding income from a land deal, restrained the family, seized phones, and demanded he return home immediately for a so-called 'settlement,'" Gautam said.

CCTV footage confirmed the presence of seven individuals and the getaway vehicle. Kashyap was arrested in 2023 but fled after his bail was cancelled.

Police used technical data, financial transactions, and social media activity, and arrested Kashyap on April 25.

A reason to SMILE: Govt starts drive to rehabilitate beggars

Atul Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt has initiated a plan to identify and rehabilitate beggars across the city under the Centre's 'Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' (SMILE) scheme.

According to officials, nine major hotspots in the capital—Karol Bagh, Old Delhi, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, Nizamuddin, Munirka, Rohini, Shahdara, RK Puram, and Dwarka—have a particularly high concentration of beggars. To ensure effective implementation of the rehabilitation programme, the Social Welfare Department has decided to involve voluntary groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Empanelled agencies will conduct a survey to identify beggars at these hotspots, mobilise them, rescue them to state-run shelter homes, and work on their comprehensive resettlement. "All data will be maintained on the central online portal where all stakeholders—state, districts, nodal agencies, shelter homes—would be able to fetch the required information. After the survey, the agency would undertake outreach work to mobilise the persons engaged in begging to avail the facilities available in the shelter homes," said a senior Delhi govt official.

The agencies will collect detailed information on each individual in a prescribed format, which will also contribute to building a national database.

Adult beggars will be accommodated in shelter homes managed by the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission, while orphaned children will be placed in child care institutions under the ministry of women and child development.

"We will also ask the voluntary organisation or NGO selected for the exercise to assess the actual reason why the persons got into begging. The shelter homes

will provide counselling support to the beneficiaries and motivate them to come out of begging. Anyone requiring the de-addiction facility will be referred to the de-addiction treatment centre in hospitals or to an integrated rehabilitation centre for addicts for detoxification and whole person recovery," the official added.

Legally identified Indian citizens engaged in begging will be assisted in obtaining essential govt documents such as Aadhaar cards and ration cards. They will also receive guidance and support to access various



RELIEF IN SIGHT

us welfare schemes and services offered by the state and central govts.

Children will be enrolled in government schools under the Samagra Shiksha scheme to ensure access to education, while "able-bodied" individuals will be offered vocational training and skill development opportunities tailored to their "capacity, capability, and desirability" to help them achieve self-employment or wage-based livelihoods.

Shelter homes will coordinate with nearby govt and low-cost private schools to admit children under the Right to Education Act. "All expenses of books, uniforms, and school activities will be taken care of," said an official.

Officials added that skill training will be provided under the PM-DAKSH scheme to support occupational readiness. "Private players can be roped in for providing skill development training and funds can be arranged through corporate social responsibility," said an official.

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



On winter nights in Delhi, when the fog descends like a thick wool blanket over the city, few pleasures compare to the simple act of standing by a roadside cart, watching the vendor fish out a perfectly boiled egg from his cart, crack it open, add a little masala and hand it over steaming. Steam rises from your mouth as you wait, hands thrust deep in pockets, while around you, the city slowly dissolves into an impressionist painting of streetlights and shadows. You pop the slices quickly into your mouth, eager to retain the heat, and the egg warms up the insides, suffusing it with a feeling of brotherhood and contentment. The world feels like a good place momentarily.

The egg has an aura of universality, unusual given its non-vegetarian nature. It insinuates itself into unlikely places and makes itself at home where it shouldn't belong. In Gujarat, where vegetarianism is both belief and display, the "aamlet" stands as a form of curious rebellion. Roadside stalls serve up a sexed-up version with eggs transformed by generous helpings of butter and cheese, a guilty pleasure made guiltier by its furtive consumption. This is an act of bravado, of laughing in the face of social custom, as one stands in public, polishing off this sinful concoction. Calling it "aamlet" helps. The very term "aamlet," for in its flattened phonetic form, creates distance from its English original, as if the linguistic transformation tames it, making it like a natural part of one's diet.

But it is in our homes that the egg reveals its true versatility. The weekend omelette is not merely breakfast; it is a statement of leisure, a declaration that time is available to be savoured rather than consumed. Unlike its street-side cousin, the home omelette is often a more contemplative affair. It might be folded around mushrooms and herbs on ambitious mornings, or simply drizzled with ketchup on lazy ones. Either

way, it marks a departure from routine, a small celebration of the day's unhurried beginning.

Then there is the curious case of the egg curry, where the egg performs a remarkable feat of remaining steadfastly itself while swimming in a sea of spices. Unlike chicken or mutton that surrender their identity to the gravy, the egg maintains its integrity, the white refusing to be coloured by its surroundings, the yolk remaining a secret until the moment of discovery. It's almost an act of philosophical def-

The egg has served as a powerful metaphor for life, rebirth, and potential. In our more prosaic times, it continues to carry meaning—the first protein many children learn to cook, the go-to solution for hungry students, the reliable friend of the culinary novice, who proudly knows how to 'whip up an omelette'

ance—being in the world but not of it.

The egg has insinuated itself into our lives slyly, managing to create a buffer zone between the hard boundaries that separate the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian. The egg is a category unto itself—people who have succumbed to the charms of the egg while steadfastly eschewing any other temptation of the flesh. It helps that the egg is visually a universe away from the rawness of meat. It is a little dollop of bland innocence—bloodless, pristine and conspicuously devoid of any signs of having lived once. Of course, despite its innocent appearance, it does not escape controversy, as is evident from the debate around serving children eggs as part of midday meals.

The egg has a posh side too. In its Eggs Benedict avatar, it rents a tux and learns how to wear a bowtie. Poach the

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egg perfectly, drape it in Hollandaise sauce (the name helps), and perch it atop an English muffin. The Oxbridge accent jumps out at you at this point. Yet, underneath all that refinement, it remains essentially the same—the yolk, when pierced, still runs with the same golden abandon as it does in a humble half-fry in a roadside dhaba.

As a design solution, the egg approaches perfection. Its form follows function with an elegance that would make Bauhaus architects weep. The shell, a masterpiece of engineering, is strong enough to protect but fragile enough to yield when needed. The white and yolk arrangement speaks to some deep truth about existence—the relationship between the peripheral and the essential, the protective and the protected.

This intuitive understanding of the egg as a symbol of creation finds its most profound expression in ancient Indian thought through the concept of Hiranyagarbha—the cosmic egg. Here, the humble egg transcends its earthly form to become the very template of existence. The Vedas speak of this golden egg floating in the primordial waters, containing within itself all the potential of the universe. Like our breakfast egg with its white and yolk, the Hiranyagarbha, too, consists of the manifest and unmanifest, the formed and the formless.

Perhaps this is why the egg has historically been laden with so much symbolism. From creation myths to Easter celebrations, the egg has served as a powerful metaphor for life, rebirth, and potential. In our more prosaic times, it continues to carry meaning—the first protein many children learn to cook, the go-to solution for hungry students, the reliable friend of the culinary novice, who proudly knows how to "whip up an omelette."

In an age of molecular gastronomy and ever-more-exotic ingredients, the egg remains steadfastly itself, neither seeking validation nor requiring reinvention. Its reliability is its revolution; its simplicity is its sophistication. In a world where nothing is static and where reality wears new guises every day, the egg is a reminder of the power of constancy, of always being who you are.

santosh365@gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting Tender
e-NIT Invited by the Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi E & M Division, WBSECL, Sd/- Chief Engineer, North Bengal Development Department ICA-T8386(3)/2025

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WBEIDC
Wibel Bhawan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.
Notice Inviting e-Tender No. WBEEL/EOI/W/24-25/00033 (RE-TENDER 2) Call: 16-84-2025
Nature of work: "SITC of IT Infrastructural Items, CCTV Surveillance System, EPABX & Voice Mail, Visual Intercom, Fire Alarm, Fire Extinguisher & Training room at RCI Office, in the STP-II."
Visit site to tender: 16-84-2025
Due date of Submission: 14 Days from Publication
Interested parties may go through website: <https://wbetenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbidc.gov.in>
For details: 033-23571706 / 98309 52906 ICA-T8389(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No. 86/EE/O&M-IB/W&S/KMDA/2025-26
Two parts e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Division-O&M-IB, W&S Sector, KMDA, from reliable, experienced, bonafide and resourceful manufacturer/ authorized dealer/ bonafide supplier, for the work, Name of the Work, Estimated Amount put to Tender, Earnest Money deposit, Date of Completion, Supplying & Lowering 750 mm dia new Inlet Valve in place of old Dilapidated valve at Existing 0.7MG Capacity UGR situated at Aral Cotton Mill within ward no. 50 of II CD added area, R-7,02,552-1, R-14,051-1, 15 days from the issuance of work order. Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 19.05.2025 at 18.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-50) www.kmda.wb.gov.in & www.wbetenders.gov.in ICA-T8384(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice of DH&FW Dept.
Memo No. of NIT-DH&FW/RPH/653 dt. 24-04-25 and Tender ID: 2025_HFW_839140_1
e-Tender is hereby invited from intending bidders for the "Supply of Outsourced Driver." Bid submission closing date: 15.04.25 at 01.00 p.m. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://wbetenders.gov.in> and office notice board. Sd/- CMOH & Member Secretary, DH&FW/S, Rampurhat HD, Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-T8410(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & waterways Directorate
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No- WBW/SE/WC-1/NIT-1e/2025-26 Encrypted electronic bids are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Government of West Bengal for 2 (Two) no. works amounting to Rs. 4,38,36,338.00 & Rs. 4,65,60,617.00. Interested bidders having credential as specified in the e-NIT. Last date of submission of bid (online) will be on 15.05.2025 till 16.00 Hours IST. Other details may be seen in the website: www.wbetenders.gov.in and www.wbiwd.gov.in and in the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Western Circle-1, W & Dte. ICA-T8394(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridge Notice Inviting e-Tender
No: WBW/EE/PJAWA001/ e-NIT-01/2025-26
Open tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Purulia Construction Division (I), I & W Directorate, Bhatbandh Irrigation Colony, PO & Dist-Purulia for the works of the aforesaid N.I.T. 1. Date of documents download start: 28/04/2025 at 10:00 hrs. 2. Date of bid submission start: 28/04/2025 at 10:00 hrs. 3. Last date of documents download & bid submission: 05/05/2025 at 17:30 hrs. All details may be downloaded from <http://www.wbidc.gov.in> or <https://wbetenders.gov.in> Sd/- T.K. Panda, Executive Engineer, Purulia Construction Division(I). ICA-T8383(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No.-HST/1P-148-2025/SCI/2025/346; Dated 24.04.2025
e-Tender for Procurement of Some Consumable items for a period of two years from the date of AOC, is invited from the manufacturers/direct importers. Interested bidders may visit the website: <https://wbetenders.gov.in> or "www.wbetenders.gov.in" for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 08.05.2025. Bid submission closing date (online): 22.05.2025. Bid opening date (online): 22.05.2025. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T8399(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT No- WBW/EE/MD/ e-NIT-01 (e)/2025-26 (e) Call
On behalf of the Government of West Bengal e-tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mograhat Drainage Division and resourceful contractors for 02 nos. work of Cleaning & removing water hyacinth of different channels under Mograhat Drainage Division. Details may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during office hours or on website: <https://wbetenders.gov.in> & www.wbidc.gov.in Publishing date: 28.04.2025. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mograhat Drainage Division, Barupur, South 24 Parganas. ICA-T8381(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEBEN MAHATA GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, PURULIA
TENDER NOTICE
Cancellation of e-tender notice published vide Memo No. 880 dated 13.03.2025. e-Tender ID: 2025_HFW_828446_1 for hiring of Vehicle (Small Passenger Vehicle) for Deben Mahata Government Medical College & Hospital, Purulia is hereby cancelled due to participation of insufficient number of bidders. Please visit <https://wbetenders.gov.in> / www.dmgch.edu.in / www.wbhealth.gov.in / www.purulia.nic.in for viewing the complete notice. Sd/- Medical Superintendent cum Vice-Principal, Deben Mahata Gov. Medical College & Hospital, Purulia ICA-T8398(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 82/EE/ED-III/EM/KMDA of 2025-26
Online tender is invited by Executive Engineer, ED-III, E-M Sector, KMDA, 39A/38, P.G.M. Shah Road, Kolkata-700095, from eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money deposit, Time of Completion, Maintenance including daily O&M & CFE operation of street light installation from Kamalgazi Flyover end to Padmapukur on Southern Bypass (Both side of Adi Ganga), R-5,34,885-1, R-10,698-1, 07 months. Last date & time of online Tender Submission: 06.05.2025 upto 13.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in & www.wbetenders.gov.in ICA-T8377(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL NORTH BENGAL DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SUSHRUTANAGAR, DARJEELING
e-TENDER NOTICE
Memo No. 494/NBDCBH dt. 25.04.2025 e-Tender are invited by the Principal, North Bengal Dental College & Hospital, Sushrutanagar, Dt. Darjeeling, Pin-734012 from Reputed Food Suppliers for "Providing of Canteen Service at North Bengal Dental College & Hospital" Necessary information is also available from the office of the undersigned from 25.04.2025 Details can be downloaded from www.wbetenders.gov.in For more details intending bidders may visit the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Commissioner, BCW & TD Executive Officer, Srini Ketan Santiniketan Development Authority, ICA-T8403(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
SRINIKETAN SANTINIKETAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BOLPUR, DIST. BIRBHUM.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 16
Online tender in two bid system is hereby invited for "Development of old concrete road with mastic asphalt from Abhaya Ashram to I/o Bilak Roy via Nandan Boys Hostel under Bolpur Municipality ward no-02 & 03, PS-Bolpur, Dist-birbhum. Estimated cost for work: Rs. 31,56,175/-". Tender ID No. 2025_SSDA_837510_1. Bid submission start date (Online) 28/04/2025 at 11:00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (Online) 10/05/2025 at 01:00 P.M. Details are available visit the website: <https://wbetenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Officer, Srini Ketan Santiniketan Development Authority. ICA-T8376(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE
The Commissioner BCW & TD Directorate & Member-Secretary, PBAKOSP, 8, Lyons Range, Mitra Building, Kolkata - 700011 invites e-Tender (online) for "Supply and Installation of AQUAGUARD PRO PURE CHILL 120 P55-RO UV CuZn" vide NIT No. 02/NIT/PBAKOSP Dated 24th April 2025. (Tender ID: 2025_PBAKS_838592_1). Last date of submission of bids online: 19.05.2025 (upto 10.00 am). Intending bidders may visit www.wbetenders.gov.in for bidding and may also download the detailed NIT from www.wbetenders.gov.in For more details intending bidders may visit the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Commissioner, BCW & TD Directorate & Member-Secretary PBAKOSP, 8, Lyons Range, Kol-700001. ICA-T8403(3)/2025

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LOST Original documents-Sub Lease Deed of Shop No.118 (G.F), Modi Mall, Plot No-2, Block-I, Sector-25A, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P) and Shop No.209 (F.F) Modi Mall, Plot No-2, Block-I, Sector-25A, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P) in the name of Lt. Col. Jogi Ram Dahiya (Retd.) R/o H.No.600, Arun Vihar Sector-29, Noida. If found please contact: 9871006619

CHANGE OF NAME
I (Anil kumar) F/O (Anannya) declare that her name (Anannya) to (Ananya Mehra) for all purposes vide affidavit no. IN-DL73556474085384X dated (24 April 2025).

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145 zones to be surveyed in summer bird census

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi forest department and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), along with nearly 100 enthusiastic birdwatchers, volunteers, students, wildlife experts and conservationists, flagged off the summer survey of the Delhi Bird Atlas at Lodhi Garden. The initiative aims to identify micro-habitats across the city.

Chief wildlife warden of Delhi, Shyam Sundar Kandpal, and Dipankar Ghose, senior director of biodiversity conservation at WWF-India, attended the event as chief guests.

The forest department recently provided basic birding training to forest guards, helping them assist experts in the development of the bird atlas. This initiative seeks to document the presence of avifauna across various city locations, identifying specific bird species in different urban areas.

The Delhi Bird Atlas project aims to create a comprehensive record of bird diversity in the capital through public participation and professional surveys. The project is a collaboration between the forest department and various organisations, including Bird Count India, Delhi Bird Foundation, WWF-India, DIAL, Wildlife SOS and Asian Adventurers.

A comprehensive survey will cover 145 subcells across Delhi's various habitats and green spaces during May and June 2025. This extensive project, coordinated by conservation groups and local birdwatchers, aims to collect vital data for urban wildlife conservation.

Forest officials emphasised the importance of public involvement in conservation efforts and acknowledged the unity among Delhi's birding community.

"This unique birding initiative by the birding community of Delhi will reveal the ecological health of the city—how green it is, how beautiful it is, and the well-maintained parks. Birds can only thrive in well-maintained environments. This initiative, led by Delhi's bird watchers and nature lovers, will contribute significantly to environmental awareness in the city," said Kandpal.

Ghose highlighted the importance of such projects in deepening scientific understanding and promoting environmental responsibility among residents.

HC flags 'acute shortage' of judges

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has highlighted the "acute shortage of judges" with respect to the population and the litigation quantum due to which several matters remain unheard.

The high court said that on account of overflowing dockets, it was unable to decide appeals within a reasonable period of time and when some matters remain unheard, it is "extremely painful" for the judge.

The court's remarks came while hearing a plea by a cheating and forgery case convict, seeking permission to travel abroad to attend a club assembly of Rotary Club in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Georgia for his social ties and business growth.

"In my considered view, since on account of overflowing dockets, this court is unable to decide the appeals within a reasonable period of time, the right

to even leisure trips to certain extent ought not to be declined," Justice Girish Kathpalia said.

The court permitted the man to travel abroad from May 1 to May 11 upon furnishing a personal bond of Rs 5 lakh with one surety of the like amount. It said the events like club assembly of Rotarians are more in the form of general get-togethers where social and business relations are developed.



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As education and job markets evolve, Indian B-schools prepare graduates to excel in the global race and digital era. Harnessing the nation's vast talent pool, management institutions are focusing on quality education, nurturing the leaders of tomorrow

Kanchan.Gogate
@timesofindia.com

As India rises as a global economic force, the demand for visionary leaders capable of navigating uncertainty and leading from the front is intensifying. Indian B-schools—beyond just the IIMs—are responding by upgrading curricula, fostering industry ties, and embracing emerging fields like AI, e-commerce, and sustainability. With the world's largest youth population and a rich talent pool, India continues to produce leaders who shape global policy, economy, and corporate spheres. These institutions are working to match global standards and equip graduates for an increasingly digital and dynamic world.

Indian B-Schools are actively shaping future-ready leaders by bridging the gap

India's B-schools are embracing tech-driven models, focusing on practical skills and adaptability to prepare students for an AI-driven future

cultivating a growth mindset. Through robust industry linkages, international collaborations, hands-on projects, and internships, students gain crucial exposure to real-world challenges. These institutions aim to nurture not just employable graduates, but responsible professionals capable of driving innovation and meaningful societal change," he says.

India can convert its human capital into



assets and provide a big talent pool to the world by investing in its educational system and equipping its citizens with the skills and knowledge needed to compete in a global economy, opines Dr. Anant Sardeshmukh, management expert and start-up counsel. "The new Education Policy is a positive step in the right direction, yet certain gaps remain in fostering new-age professional skills. India must strengthen its higher education infrastructure, particularly in the technology and engineering sectors, by expanding access to quality insti-

tutions and resources. Additionally, there is a pressing need to modernise schools and universities by introducing innovative teaching and learning methods. Equally important is the

development of digital skills — such as coding and machine learning — to equip the population with a competitive edge in the global job market," he adds.

In many parts of the world, applications to MBA programmes have seen a decline in recent years, but India has experienced a noticeable surge. The growing interest in management

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ENSURE INNOCENT KASHMIRIS DON'T BEAR THE BRUNT OF WAR ON TERROR: MEHBOOBA MUFTI | 12



FADNAVIS TERMS 'BASELESS' REPORTS THAT MAHA WAS UNABLE TO TRACE 107 PAK NATIONALS | 12



TOI History Meets AI APR 28

AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Saddam Hussein, who ruled Iraq for over 20 years until his overthrow in 2003, was born on this day in 1937

In UP, Aadhaar touts clone 'dy CM'

Covert Fake ID Business Near Lucknow's Seat Of Power Opens Pandora's Box

Arvind Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: Barely a few paces from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in Lucknow, fearless touts at an Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) promise and deliver anything for a price. They even conjure up a name uncannily similar to that of deputy CM Brajesh Pathak.

When this reporter visited the Vidhan Sabha Marg-based Ratan square complex to test a widely rumoured tout racket, he was in for many surprises. The crowd of Aadhaar Kendra had touts lurking everywhere, among them three young women in their mid-20s who were also part of the syndicate.

One such tout, who identified himself as Rajesh, approached this reporter. "I'm from Bakshi Ka Talab area and a huge admirer of deputy CM Brajesh Pathak. I wish to change my name from Brjesh Pathak to Brajesh Pathak, but there are no documents to support this," the reporter dropped the bait. "Ho jayega (it will be done)," Rajesh nodded.

The tout got down to work. He pulled out his phone, downloaded a real voter ID (EPIC) of another Brajesh Pathak from Badaun, pasted the reporter's photo on it, and added a fake barcode. Within minutes, he booked an instant Aadhaar update appointment — at 12:50 pm — the same day. "Go straight to the verifier. No questions will be asked," Rajesh assured, pocketing Rs 1,500 via UPI.

Inside the Aadhaar Seva Kendra, the script unfolded exactly as promised. The verifier at counter-5 barely glanced at the forged documents. At 2 pm, "Brajesh Pathak", along with nearly 20 others who sought touts' help, was called — ahead of genuine applicants. The reporter was directed to counter-22, where a young woman oper-



EPIC of Brajesh Pathak and the Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Ratan Square

ator mechanically processed the update, taking his iris scan. In less than an hour, a fake identity was born. The reporter was embedded in a team of officials who had gone to carry out checks at the ASK after reports swirled about IDs being fabricated.

For the last five years, the ASK in question has been operated by Smart Chip Private Limited, the Indian subsidiary of French multinational IDEMIA group.

After the successful sting operation, TOI contacted the group's officials for comment on the rigged system at Lucknow centre. But after waiting for a day, an official IDEMIA source said: "Since we are under contract of UIDAI (govt agency which issues Aadhaar), we cannot comment."

However, the source acknowledged that there were indeed a few staff at Ratan Square ASK

allegedly involved in malpractices. But still, Smart Chip Private Limited has no mandate to check documents.

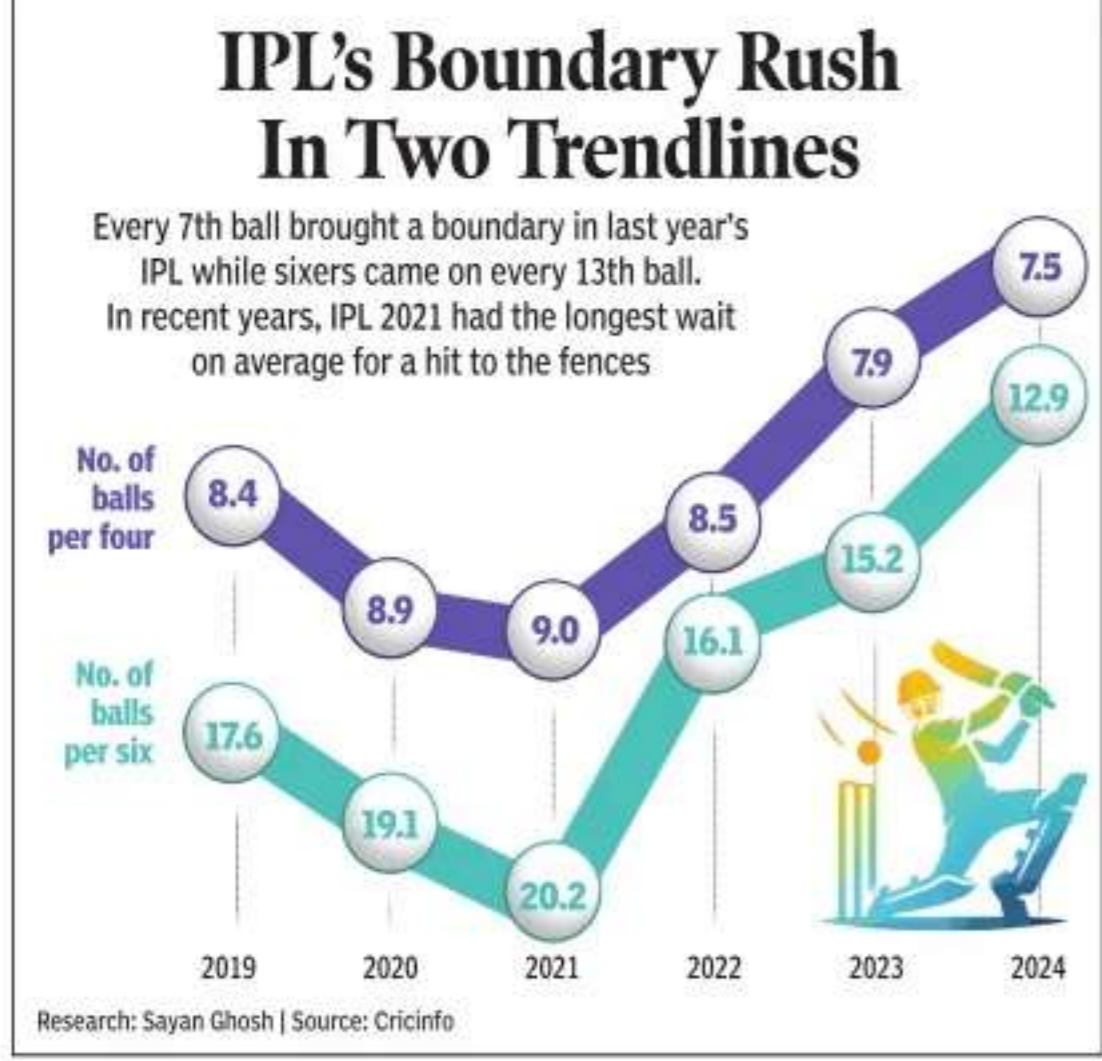
A day earlier, the UIDAI regional office of Lucknow, too, had sent at least two decoys to the Ratan Square ASK, and found that touts in connivance with Smart Chip Private Limited staff were involved in malpractices.

Speaking to TOI, Prashant Kumar Singh, deputy DG of UIDAI (Lucknow region), acknowledged the matter. "A recent surprise inspection at ASK Ratan Square revealed irregularities, prompting a decoy operation on April 21 that uncovered the modus operandi. The matter has been escalated to the agency concerned for probe and filing an FIR. We assure all UIDAI's backend quality checks verify document genuineness, rejecting any fake submissions."

Denied paneer, angry wedding guest races minibus into mandap, injures 6

What are the odds of an untoward incident if a wedding guest is denied his favourite paneer dish in the desired quantity? Well, quite a lot, if the man drives a minibus and goes by the alias of 'Bambooi'. Angered that he was not served as much paneer as he wanted, minibus driver Dharmendra Yadav, who ferried the baraatis to the wedding venue in Hamidpur village in UP's Chandauli district Saturday, drove his vehicle full throttle straight into the mandap, reports **Rajeev Dikshit**. Six people suffered serious injuries. The groom's father, Vinod Yadav, suffered head injuries, while the bride's uncle Jogi Yadav's hand was crushed. The driver managed to escape with his vehicle.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers



2 decades after launch, '3 Idiots' fame Ladakh school now under CBSE

New Delhi: Druk Padma Karpo School in Ladakh, which is popularly known as "Rancho's school", has got CBSE affiliation more than two decades after it was founded. The affiliation was granted after several delays and rejections. The school, which shot to fame after it featured in the Aamir Khan-starrer movie "3 Idiots" in 2009, was so far affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

"We have finally got CBSE affiliation after delay of several years and our first batch of class 10 students is now waiting for their CBSE board exam results... Though we had all the infrastructure in place, excellent result record and focus on innovative ways of teaching and learning, we didn't get NOC from the JKBOSE despite several attempts all these years," school principal Mingur Angmo said.

10-hr fire in ED office having key Choksi, Nirav, Bhujbal case files

Some Records May Have Been Lost In Blaze

Vijay V Singh & Sanjeev Devasia | TNN

Mumbai: A fire broke out and raged on for nearly 10 hours in ED's zone-1 office in a privately owned building in south Mumbai's Ballard Estate on Sunday, sparking fears that investigation records of some high-profile cases, including those involving fugitive businessmen Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi as well as politicians Chhagan Bhujbal and Anil Deshmukh, may have been lost.

There was no clarity on whether ongoing investigations would be hit, but sources indicated a severe impact on office infrastructure, including comput-



There was no clarity on whether probes would be hit, but sources indicated a severe impact on office infrastructure

ers and documentation. They said an assessment of the extent of the damage is underway. While both physical and digital records of investigations were stored at the office, the sources said since most of the documents were digitised, the agency may be able to recover them.

ED has submitted in court the original probe records of cases in which chargesheets have been filed, keeping the copies with itself. The questioning of scheduled wit-

nesses summoned by ED for statements at the office will be affected. ED has offices on the fourth floor as well as on a portion of the first floor of the heritage building, Kaiser-I-Hind, which has more than four floors. The fire was confined to the fourth floor office, which housed the agency's additional director's office and investigation units. Both floors were shut owing to the late hours.

According to the fire brigade, the fire broke out around 2.30am in the building. Only canteen staff and security personnel were present in the building at that time. No one sustained any injury. The fire brigade said the blaze was confined to the probe agency's wooden furniture and other office infrastructure. It said furniture placed in the common passage and the balcony impeded firefighting operations.

The fire was finally finally doused by noon.

12 killed as van hits biker, plunges into well in MP

Indore: A van rammed into a bike, killing the biker on the spot, before veering off the road and plunging into a well, resulting in the death of 10 passengers and critical injury to four others in Madhya Pradesh's Mandasaur district on Sunday afternoon.

A local villager (42), who managed to rescue three passengers, died after inhaling toxic gas in the well.

A Special Disaster Emergency Response Force team deployed a crane to retrieve the van — which was en route to Aantari Mata Temple in Neemuch's Manasa — from the well. They pumped out 8 to 10 feet of water to ensure no one remained trapped inside.

The four injured, including a three-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy, were admitted to Mandasaur district hospital. Deputy CM Jagdish Devda, along with district collector Aditi Gang and SP Abhishek Anand, supervised the rescue operations. The collector said compensation would be given — Rs 2 lakh for the family of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for each injured.

Dhaka court's arrest warrant on Hasina's daughter

Ahsan Tasnim | TNN

Dhaka: A Dhaka court has ordered the issuance of an arrest warrant through the Interpol against Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in connection with a plot/allocation corruption case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Md Zakir Hossain issued the order on Sunday, following an application by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, is currently serving as the regional director of the World Health Organization (South-East Asia Region).

According to a media report, quoting court and ACC sources, the commission had requested the issuance of the Interpol warrant, and the court granted the request after a hearing.

On April 10, the court had ordered arrest warrants against Hasina and Wazed in the same corruption case.

3 NSCN(KYA) militants killed in gunfight

Guwahati: Three militants of proscribed NSCN (KYA) were killed in an operation by security forces in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district bordering Myanmar on Sunday, a defence spokesperson said, reports **Kangkal Kalital**.

Army authorities said the operation by Army and Assam Rifles was mounted to locate two construction workers kidnapped late Friday night from Longding's Pangchao. One of the workers was rescued, while a search was on for the other.

The operation lasted several hours and was on till late Sunday evening, with more forces being sent to the remote site. Longding SP Dekio Gungja confirmed the three militant casualties. Four automatic weapons were also seized.

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Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of Work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) Rs. In Lacs	Remarks
1	2025_PWDRB_416377.1	Betul	Road	Constrn. of Khedi Bazar to Barchhi Road. Length 3.00 Km.	1st Call	520.11	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
2	2025_PWDRB_416379.1	Betul	Road	Constrn. of Betul Stantion Road (Kargil Chowk, Bachha Jai, Akhara Chowkm, Gadaghat to Old NH-69) Road. Length 2.70 Km.	1st Call	578.94	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
3	2025_PWDRB_416384.1	Betul	Road	Constrn. of Kacbar to Koylaari Road. Length 4.20 Km.	1st Call	581.80	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
4	2025_PWDRB_415475.1	Betul	Road	Constrn. of Nahiya Andhariya to Nandpur Road Length 7.25 Km.	1st Call	749.96	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
5	2025_PWDRB_418476.1	Betul	Road	Constrn. of Road Dinesh House to Gram Imlikheda Road. Leneth 5.00 Km.	1st Call	954.59	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
						Total	3385.40

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is **Dated 07-05-2025 up to (17:30)** Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
G-12072/25 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone) P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh

Pahalgam: Beijing In Ally's Support, Indian Diaspora Hits London Streets

China backs Pak's concern, seeks 'impartial' probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: China has sought an "impartial" probe into the Pahalgam terror attack while backing Pakistan's "legitimate" security concerns and calling upon both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi spoke to his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar Sunday and also supported Pakistan's efforts to safeguard its sovereignty and security interests.

According to a Chinese readout, Wang told Dar that as a hard-core friend and all-weather strategic partner, China fully understands the legitimate security concerns of the Pakistani side and supports it in safeguarding its sovereignty and security interests. China had earlier condemned the terrorist attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam but also worked with Pakistan last week to water down a UNSC condemnation of the April 22 attack on tourists. Wang spoke to Dar amid the threat of an armed conflict between India and Pakistan.

"China supports an impartial investigation as soon as possible, as the conflict is not in the fundamental interests of India and Pakistan, nor is it conducive to regional peace and stability. It is hoped that the two sides will exercise restraint, move towards each other and push for a cooling of the situation"

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI

investigation as soon as possible, as the conflict is not in the fundamental interests of India and Pakistan, nor is it conducive to regional peace and stability. It is hoped that the two sides will exercise restraint, move towards each other and push for a cooling of the situation," said Wang, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

Wang also told Dar China is closely following the developing situation. "The fight against terrorism is the common responsibility of all countries in the world, and China has always supported the Pakistani side in firmly implementing counter-terrorism actions," he said.

Dar was reported to have given an update on the tensions between Pakistan and India over the terror attack, saying that the Pakistani side has always been "resolute in combating terrorism and opposes actions that may lead to escalation". "The Pakistani side is committed to managing the situation in a mature manner and will maintain communication with China and the international community," said the readout.

'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' drowns 'Pakistan Zindabad' in UK

Naomi Canton

London: Hundreds of Indian-origin supporters gathered Sunday outside the Indian high commission in London, overwhelming a small protest organised by British Pakistanis aimed at "rejecting Indian propaganda" following the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack that left 26 people dead, mostly tourists.

While about 50 people turned up for the Pakistan protest opposite the high commission, hundreds of PIOs filled the area in front of the mission building. The Indian side, separated by police barricades, displayed a massive Tricolour on the building and used a loudspeaker to outvoice the Pakistani protesters, singing the national anthem and chanting "Jai Shri Ram", "Vande Mataram", and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". Some could be seen shaking water bottles. The Pakistani protesters raised slogans against PM Modi and shouted "Pakistan Zindabad", but lacked placards and enthusiasm. "This is a disaster," said a Pakistani journalist. Mohsin, a protester, claimed the tensions were linked to upcoming assembly elections in Bihar.

"Modi needed this because of the elections in Bihar. They have blamed Pakistan without any investigation," he said. "There won't be war," added Zubair, another protester, claiming that accusations of Pakistani involvement in the Pahalgam massacre lacked proof. "They can't stop the water coming to us as they have no dams. They can't keep the water," Zubair said.

On the Indian side, some participants waved both Indian and Israeli flags. Dheeraj questioned the motives behind the Pakistani protest: "Why are they even here protesting in front of the India high commission?" Placards held by Indian supporters read "Hafiz Saeed Mastermind 26/11" and "Professionalism at the best sar tan se juda — Pakistan high commission hospitality," referencing a throat-slitting gesture made Friday. "They are shamelessly protesting and pretending to be victims," said Gaurav.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a Girl **Namely: Sonam, D/o: Umesh R/o: H.No. A-2, Gali No. 1, Ambedkar Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her home, since 17.04.2025 at 09:00 AM. In this regard, a **DD No 66A, Dt. 19.04.2025**, has been registered at **P.S.: Karawal Nagar, Delhi**. The description of the missing Girl as under.

Age: 20 years, Height: 5'3" Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Light Green Colour T- Shirt, Sky Blue Colour Jeans and Slipper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing Girl may kindly inform to the following.

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Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
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Doc can't be held criminally responsible for prescribing drug of particular co: HC

Lalmohan Patnaik | TNN

Cuttack: Orissa high court ruled that a doctor cannot be held criminally responsible for prescribing drug of a particular pharma company for treatment unless it is "hazardous, of substandard quality/brand, or restricted by govt."

Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra quashed criminal proceedings against Dr Rabintra Kumar Jena and observed, "If this sort of proceeding is encouraged, no doctor would endeavour to treat any patient fairly and fearlessly as per the best treatment standards (including drugs) available."

On Dec 12, 2017, S K Samal, DSP of Cuttack vigilance cell, had accused Dr Jena of abusing his position by showing undue favour to pharma companies. He alleged Dr Jena violated Odisha State Treatment Fund (OSTF), established by the state govt to give respite to poor patients seeking treatment for terminal diseases like cancer and chronic heart ailments. Instead of prescribing a cheaper drug, he allegedly compelled patients to buy expensive chemotherapy drugs.

Justice Mohapatra noted OSTF guidelines do not restrict prescribing expensive medicines, especially when it is better and necessary for treatment. Also, the guidelines do not envisage that cheaper medicine should be prescribed irrespective of the quality and result.

'Roche could've earned over 100 times what it cost for rare disease drug'

Rema.nagarajan
@timesofindia.com



Pharma major Roche may have earned over a hundred times what risdiplam, a drug used to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), should cost to bring to market according to calculations by public health activists. After Roche declined to share information on the cost of clinical trials, Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), a US-based non-profit working on access to affordable medicines, calculated the costs and pegged them at about \$50 million.

flected in our ongoing development work of new treatments in SMA."

Roche earned \$5.8 billion from the sale of risdiplam in the 2021-2024 period, about 115 times the calculated cost.

The three risdiplam trials cited in US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and four earlier clinical trials involved 587 participants.

In response to the calculations sent to it by KEI, Roche stated: "Only a small fraction of projects make it 'from bench to bedside' and we have to absorb the cost of failing projects as well, while your calculation only addresses successful development. Similarly, our dedication to innovation extends to the continuous development of next-generation therapies—a commitment clearly re-

KEI estimated per patient cost of conducting the trial by combining several data sources on the cost of conducting clinical trials.

The US provides a tax credit for qualifying clinical trials for rare diseases. After KEI applied the tax credit to the trial cost, the net cost ranged from \$11 million to \$25 million. Clinical trials typically constitute 60-70% of drug development costs.

Roche was also awarded a Rare Pediatric Disease Prior-

Roche earned \$5.8 billion from the sale of risdiplam in the 2021-2024 period, about 115 times the calculated cos. Roche was also awarded a Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher in April 2020

ity Review Voucher (PRV) in Aug 2020. The PRV is an incentive designed to encourage development of drugs and biologics for serious or life-threatening diseases.

The PRV can be sold to third parties. In 2020, the market value of a PRV was roughly \$100 million, more than the Roche outlays on trials, pointed out KEI.

Since 2003, when it was established, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation (SMAF) has invested \$100 million to develop drugs for this condition. Roche paid \$30 million dollars to get an exclusive worldwide license to PTC Therapeutics' SMA programme, which PTC had developed in collaboration with SMAF.

Roche's costs of manufac-

turing the drug are not significant, with a year of treatment requiring less than 2 grams of risdiplam, which can probably be manufactured by Roche at less than \$50,000 per kilo, or \$50 per gram, estimated KEI.

In India, the treatment with risdiplam typically costs Rs 72 lakh per adult patient per year which is unaffordable for most.

According to Roche's response to TOI, as of Oct 2024, of the 168 patients receiving Roche's treatment for SMA, 56 continued to be treated for free under the company's Compassionate User Program (CUP), 53 were covered under various government policies — Central Government Health Scheme, Defence, Employee State Insurance (ESI) and Railways—and the remaining 59 purchased the drug under Roche's Patient Access Program, launched in 2021, "under which Roche provides free bottles of the treatment for every bottle that is purchased".

Cure SMA, a trust formed by parents of children with SMA, has 1,800 patients registered and the govt portal for rare disease has 700 SMA patients registered.

Aunt's call from Singapore saves girl from dad's abuse

Ram.Sundaram
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Chennai: A child's trauma at being sexually abused by her father, a mother's initial attempt to protect her without reporting the crime, a phone call from an aunt in Singapore that led to the ghostly secret inadvertently tumbling out, and a long, bumpy road to justice.

Seven years of silence, fear, doubt, blackmail and legal complexities culminated recently in a Pocosso trial court verdict that sent the convicted offender — a Chennai builder — to 20 years in jail. The abuse had started in April 2018, with the father targeting his then five-year-old daughter on the pretext of bathing her. When the child complained to her mother about what she was being subjected to, it led to regular fights between husband and wife.

The child, already traumatised, further withdrew into her shell when she saw her parents quarrel. The abuse continued, but she would no longer complain lest the domestic situation worsen. The mother pur-

Seven years of silence, fear, doubt, blackmail and legal complexities culminated recently in a Pocosso trial court verdict that sent the convicted offender to 20 years in jail

portedly saw in her daughter's eyes what she couldn't express, so she sent the child to a relative's house in Thiruvannamalai, 300km from Chennai.

The crime might have been buried forever had the survivor's maternal aunt not called the relative's house one day and asked to speak to her niece.

During the conversation, the child confided in her aunt that she was "finally happy" as she no longer faced "torture". Some prodding led to the survivor narrating her ordeal and naming her father as the culprit.

The aunt flew down to Tamil Nadu within days and took her niece to a hos-

pital, where medical tests confirmed injuries indicating sexual abuse.

Based on the medical findings, a Pocosso case was filed, and the father was arrested. In 2023, the girl's mother moved Madras high court and secured custody of her daughter. This coincided with the trial court denying bail to the father, citing his daughter's testimony.

Over the next year, the mother allegedly tutored the child to retract her statements about being abused by her father. Although the court allowed the girl weekly visits to her aunt, her mother retained custody.

At a hearing last week, the survivor told the court that no abuse of the kind she had previously detailed ever happened and that she wished for her family to live together. Despite the child denying she was abused, Pocosso court judge M Rajalakshmi relied on her original statement — backed by her medical report — to deliver the verdict the girl's determined aunt and the prosecution were waiting to hear. The convict was also fined Rs 1 lakh.

Canadian man held for hoax bomb threat in B'luru flight

Varanasi: Panic gripped Varanasi airport on Saturday night after a Canadian national aboard a Bengaluru-bound IndiGo flight claimed he was carrying a bomb just before take-off, reports **Rajeev Dikshit**. The aircraft was swiftly moved to the airport's apron from the runway and checked for several hours by CISF and bomb disposal squad (BDS) before being allowed to depart on Sunday morning.

Yohanathan Nishanth (23), a resident of Toronto, was arrested by Phoolpur police. Inspector Pravin Kumar said the man appeared to be under the influence. Canada high commission has been informed about the incident.

DCP (Gomati Zone) Akash Patel said no explosive material was found in the aircraft after intensive checking by BDS and CISF personnel. Preliminary inquiry revealed Nishanth had shifted from his seat while the aircraft was moving to the runway. When cabin crew instructed him to return to his seat, he got agitated and claimed to have an explosive in his baggage, besides shouting religious slogans.

Swearing-in of TN mantris scheduled for 6pm today: Guv office

Continued from P 1

The latter got them back on being reinstated as minister soon after coming out on bail.

Transport minister S S Sivasankar has been given additional charge of the electricity department, while dairy development minister R S Rajakannappan will handle the forest portfolio. This is the third change in portfolio for Rajakannappan, as he had been shifted from the transport ministry to backward classes and then to dairy department.

Former dairy development minister T Manothangaraj, who was removed from the cabinet last year, was re-inducted into the cabinet without a portfolio. Mano Thangaraj is the other minister to be brought back. Last year, minorities welfare minister S M Nasar returned to the cabinet. The swearing-in ceremony of the ministers-designate is scheduled for 6pm Monday, Raj Bhavan said. Tamil Nadu goes to polls in a year.

Compelling need for ending tax reforms in GST, says Jairam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Sunday attacked govt, alleging that "sharpening inequality" is now firmly embedded in the nature of the country's economic growth. It also said there is a "compelling need for tax reforms in GST, ending brazen corporate favouritism and providing income support for families and incentives for household savings".

World Bank has released its poverty and equity brief for India, and the report raises several concerns even as the Modi govt spins it to its benefit. Congress general secretary **Jairam Ramesh** said, World Bank has said, "Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty. Extreme poverty defined as living on less than \$2.15 per day fell from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23, lifting 171 million people above this line."

Ramesh said as per calculations, poverty has continued its downward

trend in recent years to reach extremely low levels. "This reflects the success of India's growth story — which began with liberalisation in June 1991 and which has since taken a momentum of its own — and that of several social welfare interventions developed by Dr Manmohan Singh's govt during 2004-14," he said.

The most important intervention was MGNREGA, which effectively set a floor on the annual income for crores of families, acting as a safety net to keep them out of poverty, and National Food Security Act that provides the foundation for Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, he said.

He said, "Lack of clarity and transparency over prevalence of poverty in India is a result of this govt's confused and opaque policymaking". "Since the Rangarajan Committee Report submitted in 2014, govt has not set any updated poverty line," Ramesh said.



Dengue vaccine 'Qdenga' to launch in India next year

Rupali Mukherjee | TNN

New Delhi: Japanese major Takeda plans to launch its dengue vaccine, Qdenga, in India next year, partnering with Hyderabad-based Biological E (BioE) to align with the 'Make-in-India' initiative. Having recognised dengue as a "global health challenge," the over \$23 bn company will adopt a "tiered pricing model for its first global vaccine to maximise access", Derek Wallace, president, global vaccine business unit, Takeda, told TOI in an exclusive interview.

The company, with focus on oncology, rare diseases and gastroenterology, negotiates lower prices for centralised govt procurement on a country-by-country basis, and a similar strategy will be implemented in India, he said.

Elaborating on the regulatory process, he said, it "is ong-

ing and on track", with clinical trials underway to generate local safety data. "We've already submitted a comprehensive data package that supported registration in 40 countries and we anticipate the vaccine will be licensed in India in 2026", he added.

"We plan to introduce the vaccine in both private and public sectors simultaneously. The initial conversation aligns with WHO guidelines for implementing public programs for the pediatric population. However, we are introducing the vaccine in the private sector for both pediatric and adult populations", Wallace added.

Qdenga is the company's first globally developed and marketed vaccine. It is a tetravalent live-attenuated vaccine targeting all four dengue serotypes, and has a two-dose regimen with a three-month interval.

ACB hands tied as Maha withholds 374 sanctions against employees

Mumbai: Maharashtra govt has withheld 374 approvals required by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to proceed with further inquiries and prosecutions against govt servants, revealed an RTI information given by the agency, reports **Chittaranjan Tembhekar**. This delay has halted probes across several departments, raising questions regarding ACB's anti-graft measures.

Of the 374 sanctions under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, over 99%, i.e., 371 approvals faced delays

of more than 120 days, leading to speculation that this could be a deliberate strategy to shield tainted officials, the RTI reply to activist Jeetendra Ghadge suggests. These sanctions are essential for ACB to even begin preliminary investigations against govt officials, establishing a two-tier sanctioning procedure.

Former Director General of Police Praveen Dixit, who was also chief of ACB, said, "The provision of sanction in such cases should be removed as unjustifiably protects the accused govt employee".

Ex-Jamaat members form new J&K party

Srinagar: Former functionaries of the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) Kashmir floated a political party Sunday, naming it Jammu & Kashmir Justice and Development Front with a call to "fill the gap between governance and the grassroots", reports **Naseer Ganai**.

Sayar Reshi, a senior JeI member who contested J&K's first assembly election as a UT last year and ran CPM's M Y Tarigami close in Kulgam, said the new party would field candidates in all future elections in the Valley. In 2024 polls, he was among 10 Jamaat-backed independent candidates in the fray.

People's Conference MLA Sajad Lone said the launch of a new party in J&K's political landscape should be celebrated. "The electoral arena should be exhaustive and present all ideologies," he said. JeI was banned in 2019 over its alleged links with militant outfits.

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Eye on Pak, India flexes muscle in Arabian Sea

Warships Fire Missiles; Night Sorties By IAF

Rajat.Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India is keeping Pakistan on the edge by undertaking major muscle-flexing along the land and maritime boundaries, with the Army strongly responding to ceasefire violations along the Line of Control, the Navy conducting multiple missile firings by warships in the Arabian Sea and the IAF flying long-range day and night fighter sorties.

As Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged small arms fire along the 778-km LoC for the third consecutive night, the Navy on Sunday declared it had conducted multiple firings of anti-ship missiles to "revalidate and demonstrate the readiness of its platforms, systems and crew for long-range precision offensive strikes".

The ratcheting up of pressure seems part of the strategy to keep Pakistan unsettled till decisive strikes can take place in a cold, calculated manner if the govt so decides after factoring in the requisite



At least four frontline destroyers and frigates have test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles

escalation matrix without crossing nuclear redlines.

In the Arabian Sea, at least four frontline destroyers and frigates have test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, whose strike range has been extended to 450 km from the original 290 km, and other weapons over the last few days.

With the Navy affirming that it stands "combat ready, credible and future-ready" to safeguard the nation's interests "anytime, anywhere, anyhow" and releasing videos and photos of the firing drills, the strategic messaging was quite clear.

The air-breathing BrahMos, which flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, is the prime conventional (non-nuclear) precision-strike weapon for the armed forces.

While the Army has at least four BrahMos regiments, the IAF has both land-based batteries as well as 40 Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets armed with the sleeker air-to-ground missile variants. They are likely to come into play, along with other stand-off weapons, when the Indian govt decides to exercise the military option of limited punitive strikes against Pakistan, which could range from concentrated fire assaults without crossing the LoC to deeper precision strikes by fighter jets, as reported by TOI earlier.

"Both PM Narendra Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh have made it quite clear that there will be deadly retribution for not only the perpetrators of the Pahalgam massacre, but also their masters pulling the strings from behind the

scenes," a senior officer said.

Along the LoC, the Army said several Pakistan Army posts had again "initiated unprovoked firing" with small arms like rifles and light machine guns at Indian positions in several areas, like Tutmari Gali, Rampur, Uri, Gurez and Sunderbani sectors, late on Saturday night.

"Our troops responded in double measure effectively with appropriate small arms fire. If Pakistan Army begins using higher-calibre weapons (artillery guns, anti-tank guided missiles and 120mm mortars), we will also open up with them," a senior officer told TOI.

"Heavy costs can certainly be imposed on the Pakistan Army for fuelling cross-border terrorism. It was the norm before the fresh understanding between the Indian and Pakistan DGMOs in Feb 2021 to maintain peace. Our dynamic response strategy is fully in place," he added.

The IAF, too, is maintaining a high state of operational readiness. It has fully activated all air bases on the western front, with fighter jets undertaking regular CAPs (combat air patrols) and air defence missile systems geared towards shooting down aerial threats.

Jaishankar raises Pahalgam terror case with UK counterpart

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's efforts to sensitise the international community about Pakistan's role in the Pahalgam attack

continued Sunday with external affairs minister S Jaishankar taking up the cross-border

terrorist attack with his UK counterpart David Lammy. On X, Jaishankar said that he underlined the importance of zero-tolerance for terrorism in the talks.

As he leads India's diplomatic response to the attack, Jaishankar has stayed put in India skipping participation in the Brics foreign ministers' meeting in Brazil.

As tensions soar with Pakistan, uncertainty looms over the proposed foreign visits in the next few weeks of other key players like NSA Ajit Doval and defence minister Rajnath Singh.

Doval is also unlikely to travel to Brazil later this week for a Brics security meeting. While Singh is supposed to represent India at the Russian Victory Day parade in Moscow on May 9, the proposed visit hinges on how the situation evolves with Pakistan in the next few days.

Govt has so far received messages of condemnation of the attack and solidarity from close to 140 countries, with 16 world leaders expressing those sentiments in phone calls to PM Narendra Modi. P5 countries have all, including China, condemned the attack.

Jaishankar's conversation with Lammy followed the latter's strong condemnation of the attack. Lammy had said earlier he was appalled by the "horrific and cowardly terrorist attack on Kashmir".

No nation has 100% foolproof intelligence, says Tharoor

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said that Pahalgam terror attack took place possibly due to intelligence failure and compared it to the Oct 7, 2023 strike by terrorist organisation Hamas which stunned Israel.

"Obviously, there was no foolproof intelligence. There was some failure. But we have the example of Israel — regarded as having the world's best intelligence services — which was taken by surprise on Oct 7. It seems to me, just as Israel is waiting till the end of the war before demanding accountability, similarly, we too should see the present crisis through and then hold govt to account."

He pointed out the successful thwarting of terror attacks often goes unnoticed, while failures are highlighted. ANI

Forces blow up 3 more houses of terrorists, total 9 homes razed

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: Security forces in Kashmir demolished three more houses linked to active terrorists overnight Saturday as part of an intensified crackdown following the Pahalgam massacre on April 22, authorities said Sunday. A total of nine homes have been razed since Friday.

Unlike in other parts of India, where bulldozers are the preferred method for demolishing the homes of criminals and crime suspects, security forces in Kashmir have turned to dynamites and plastic explosives to destroy houses linked to terrorists.

Officials said the house



Amir Nazir Wan's house was destroyed in Tral on Sunday

of Adnan Shafi, who joined terrorist ranks last year, was destroyed with explosives in Wandina village of southern Shopian district. In Pulwama district, security forces blew up the house of Amir Nazir, another active terrorist. In northern Bandipora district, the home of Lashkar-e-Taiba operative

Jameel Ahmad Shergoiji, an active militant since 2016, was demolished.

On Friday, security forces blasted the homes of Haris Ahmad of Kachipora, Pulwama, active since 2023; Shaikh Ahmad Kutay of Choptipora in Shopian, who joined terrorist ranks in March 2023; and Pakistan-based terrorist Farooq Teedwa. Officials said hundreds of "overground workers" (OGWs) and their supporters, mostly in the four districts of south Kashmir, have been detained as part of the sweeping operation. Police said they detained two "hardcore" OGWs — Tahir Ahmad Kumar and Shabir Ahmad Ganai — under the stringent PSA.

Ensure innocent Kashmiris don't bear brunt of war on terror: Mufti

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: The required war on terrorism should not make innocent Kashmiris collateral damage, Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, and People's Conference chief Sajad Lone have warned amid a massive crackdown on terrorists, including demolition of their family homes, in the Pahalgam attack aftermath.

"Punish the guilty, show them no mercy, but don't let innocent people become collateral damage... There must be a decisive fight against terrorism and its origins. The people of Kashmir have come out openly against terrorism. It's time to build on this support and avoid any misplaced action that alienates people," Omar said. Earlier, National Con-



A security official keeps a vigil at the Dal Lake on Sunday

ference MP Aaga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi alleged on X, "Kashmir and Kashmiris are being given collective punishment."

Mehbooba said the Union govt should tread carefully and avoid alienating innocent people while acting against terrorists. "There are reports of thousands being arrested and scores of houses of common Kashmiris being demol-

ished along with those of militants." She urged the Centre to direct the authorities to ensure that innocent people are not made to bear the brunt, as alienation aids terrorists' goals of division and fear. Lone said that using "collectiveness to define criminality or terrorism is a curse and will never allow reconciliation and social introspection."

"The mass protests against the Pahalgam killings were a rare occurrence, a first of its kind in the last 78 years. It showed a shift in mindset — from a society in which some significant sections may have accorded social sanctity to the concept of violence, to a society which marched in thousands across villages and towns condemning violence, thereby signifying the social stigmatisation of violence," he said.

BJP, media misquoted me on 'war on terror, Pak': Sidda

Bengaluru: Caught in the crosshairs for allegedly saying that India does not need a war with Pakistan to avenge the Pahalgam attack,

Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday accused BJP and media of misquoting him with a sinister spin.

"I never said no to war against terrorism and Pakistan... What I said was that war should be the last resort, and that war is not a solution for everything. These BJPians are fools and are misquoting me. So is the media," he said.

Speaking in Bengaluru at an event to celebrate the completion of two years of his govt, the CM said, "If forced and if war is necessary, we know how to protect our sovereignty. India has proved this time and again. Throughout our history, we have protected our national integrity and sovereignty and shall continue to do so in the future as well."

Unfortunate that Cong netas echoing Pak leaders at such a juncture: BJP

New Delhi: BJP on Sunday hit out at Congress over Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's "no need for war with Pakistan" remark and the statement of Karnataka minister RB Timmapur disputing the account that terrorists identified the victims by their faith before killing them.

"The entire country wants retaliation against those responsible for terror attacks. PM Narendra Modi articulated that feeling by vowing to pursue the attackers and their masterminds till the ends of the earth. It is so unfortunate that leaders of Congress should be echoing Pakistan's leaders at such a juncture. Siddaramaiah ji has only repeated what the foreign minister, defence minister and home minister of Pakistan had said earlier. Why should there be such a convergence of thoughts? Why Congress leaders have suddenly become the darlings of Pakistan's media?" BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, demanding an explanation from the Congress leadership. TNN

He reiterated that India is a land of Buddha, Basavanna, Gandhi, and Ambedkar, and there is no room for terrorism and unrest.

Earlier, state opposition leader R Ashoka tagged the CM to an alleged Pakistani media house that carried chief minister Siddaramaiah's remarks as part of a report on voices in India against war with Pakistan.

Calling him "Pakistan Ratna," Ashoka went on to ridicule the CM, saying India's neighbour would give him "Nishan-e-Pakistan," its highest civilian award, for his "friendliness."

'Will chacha have to leave?' Pak Hindus in Rajasthan brace for another goodbye

Himanshi.Dhawan@timesofindia.com

The Hindus living in the border areas of Rajasthan and in Pakistan's Sindh region are divided by a map, but their connections go deep. Discrimination, economic hardships and pressure to convert often lead to them making the cross-border trek to India, despite the uncertainty of visas.

Most of them first take short-term tourist visas and report to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO). While here, they apply for a Long-Term Visa (LTV) that allows them to settle in the country on a more permanent basis. While some people get a visa for two years, others may get several extensions before they finally get citizenship. This week's govt diktat has been a big blow for those who have just arrived in the country, and have not even had a chance to apply for a LTV.

So shattered is 25-year-old Radha Bhal that she has not eaten in the last two days. Sobs overcome her as she tries to explain her situation. In 2023, Radha, her husband and two daughters who are from Pakistan's Sanghar district in Sindh province, received visas to travel to India. But the happiness came with a caveat: there were no visa papers for her two-month-old baby boy. With a heavy heart, Radha's family made the journey to Jaisalmer in India, leaving the child behind with his grandparents. Over time, they received LTVs, her husband got a job as a cabbie and the older children started school. The mundane parts of life were interspersed with calls to her parents who were raising her son.

On April 4, a long-cherished dream came true when her parents and son finally received permission to travel to India. This was the first time she was seeing him after two years. He didn't recognise her, but she hugged him and held him close. On April 23 evening, her world came crashing down.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre, the Indian govt announced a slew of measures including ordering Pakistani nationals who had visas under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) to leave the country in 48 hours. Among those unintended victims of a stroke of a pen are people like Radha.



IN CHAOS: Uncertainty in border villages as short-term visa holders told to leave. The family of Jethmal Singh (left), who came to India after a four-year wait, says returning to Sindh is not an option

"I have not even hugged him to my heart's content. Last time, I had to leave him in Sanghar out of desperation. I will not let him go again this time," she says.

Hindu Singh, a social activist working in the community for several decades, says, "There has been so much confusion and uncertainty since April 23. People from the community started getting calls from the FRRO office asking them to pack their bags. A couple of volunteers and I have been trying to calm everyone down."

"I have appealed to the govt that it should be clarified that Pakistani Hindus who are a persecuted minority should not be forced out," he adds. On Thursday, there was clarification that those who had been given LTV will not be affected by the order but that has done little to calm the storm as many have relatives on short-term visas who don't want to go back.

There is gloom in Dileep Singh Sodha's house. On April 17, his youngest brother, 44-year-old Jethmal Singh, had arrived from Sanghar after a four-year wait, two visa rejections and endless paperwork. Dileep's house in Jaisalmer city was filled with love and laughter as his mother and three brothers sat together to share a meal. But now, uncertainty fills the air. "Everyone in the house whether it

is the young children, or my mother have the same question: will Jethmal chacha have to leave? I have just lied at home and said the order has been reversed," says Dileep. He adds that going back to Pakistan is not an option for his brother as he no longer feels safe in Sindh. As per the 2023 census, Pakistani Hindus number 5.2 million, with the highest concentration in Sindh.

21 members of my family arrived earlier this month. Now, officials have told them to go back

Kishan Lal Bhal, JAISALMER

Kishan Lal Bhal, who works in a ration shop in Jaisalmer, is in a similar quandary as 21 members of his family arrived in India earlier this month. The family, still catching up after decades apart, was woken up by calls from the FRRO in the night. "My relatives arrived just a couple of weeks ago and now, officials have told them to go," he says.

Recent reports of religious conversions in Sindh have hardened everyone's stand to brazen it out here rather than go back. Hindu Singh says, "They are persecuted in Pakistan. Their home, family, life is here. Going back is not an option."

Singer slapped with sedition case for remark on Pahalgam

Lucknow: An FIR was lodged against folk singer Neha Singh Rathore at Hazratganj police station for allegedly making objectionable remarks on social media regarding the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty.

Rathore, known for her folk songs and political commentary, allegedly used her X handle (@NehaSinghRathore) to post videos and statements questioning the deaths of the innocent victims in the Pahalgam attack. The posts reportedly made provocative statements that challenged the sanctity of the victims' deaths, inciting division along religious lines, says the complaint.

The FIR, filed by poet Abhay Pratap Singh alias Abhay Singh 'Nirbhik', alleges that Rathore's remarks were not only inappropriate but also anti-national. The complaint alleges that her statements went viral in Pakistan, where they were praised by individuals and media outlets who viewed her comments as critical of India. Rathore's posts are reportedly being used by Pakistani media to fuel negative narratives against India.

K'taka min calls Pahalgam widow's claim 'mental fog'

Bagalkot: A day after dismissing a Pahalgam attack widow's eyewitness account of terrorists asking her husband's religion before shooting him dead, Karnataka excise minister RB Timmapur made a dramatic U-turn on Sunday. "It's claimed that terrorists checked the religion of their victims. If it is true, how could a Muslim person also die in the attack? It's just BJP's conspiracy of politicising deaths," Timmapur told reporters on Saturday.

When pointed out that Palavi, wife of victim Manjunath Rao from Shivamogga, had said that her husband was asked his religion before he was shot dead, Timmapur had said, "She might not have been in the best frame of mind when she said that". He had claimed that there was "no proper information" on whether terrorists singled out Hindus during the attack. TNN

'VISA DEADLINE' DILEMMA

Confusion over pregnant Pak woman's return

Gurdaspur: Confusion persists over whether a Pakistani Christian woman, married to a Punjab native and six-months pregnant, has returned home, reports Yudhvira Rana. Maria Bibi and Sonu Masih were last seen in a Gurdaspur hospital on Saturday, a day before the deadline for Pakistani nationals visiting India on short-term visas expired.

Maria's case has drawn attention due to her pregnancy and love marriage with Sonu of Gurdaspur. There is no official confirmation on Maria's visa status, nor whether she had crossed Attari-Wagah border before its closure on Sunday. Sonu's whereabouts are also not known. Maqbool Ahmad, a social activist in Gurdaspur's Qadian, said late Saturday that Maria had been admitted to Gurdaspur civil hospital for treatment, after which the couple had not been seen.

Maria Bibi was asked by the authorities to return to Pakistan even as she maintained that her application for a long-term visa (LTV) was under process.

'Shoot us, but don't throw us out of India'

Balalore: "If we have done anything wrong, let the govt shoot us. But don't throw us out of the country," pleaded 72-year-old Rezia Sultana of Soro town in Odisha's Balasore district, who has lived in India since she was four. She is one of the many Pakistani nationals who have been served notice to leave India in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at Pahalgam, reports Kishan Sahu.

To make matters worse, Rezia is battling kidney-related issues and has a critical medical appointment in Bhubaneswar on May 10. Her family has appealed to the govt to reconsider the decision and withdraw the deportation notice.

Rezia's father, Haider Ali, originally from Bihar, had migrated after Partition to Bangladesh and later Pakistan, where she was born in 1953.

Four years later, Haider returned to India. Since then, Rezia has built her life in this country, marrying Sheikh Samsuddin of Soro and giving birth to two sons. Her husband passed away in 2023.

Relief for Pak Ahmadiya brides in Pjb

Gurdaspur: Pakistani Ahmadiya brides living in their matrimonial homes in Punjab's Qadian town have breathed a sigh of relief after Union home ministry clarified that visa cancellations in the Pahalgam aftermath would not apply to long-term visas (LTVs), reports Yudhvira Rana.

"No new visa will be issued, except for diplomatic, official, and LTV categories, which remain valid," says the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) memorandum issued on Friday.

The clarification came after a wave of anxiety swept through Qadian, international headquarters of Ahmadiyas in Gurdaspur district, where more than a dozen Pakistani-origin brides reside.

"These women were in complete shock," said Chaudhary Maqbool Ahmad, a social activist and Qadian resident who is also married to a Pakistani woman.

"For days, they feared they would be expelled, even though their families, lives, and futures are here."

Shinde, CM differ on 'missing' Pakistanis

Alim.Shaikh@timesofindia.com

Pune: Hours after Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis Sunday termed as 'baseless' reports that the state govt was unable to trace 107 Pakistani nationals, his deputy Eknath Shinde contradicted him, warning the 'missing' Pakistanis to return to their country.

Speaking to reporters after attending an event in Pune, Fadnis urged people to refrain from sharing misleading information.

"Reports of 107 Pakistani citizens reported missing are making the rounds. As the state's home minister, I want to make it clear that no Pakistani national is untraceable in the state. Every individual was traced, and we made arrangements to send them back. None of them will remain here. Their departure procedure will be completed by Monday morning," Maha CM Fadnis said. However, speaking at a ral-



Maharashtra CM Fadnis terms 'baseless' reports that the state govt was unable to trace 107 Pakistani nationals

ly in Buldhana, Shinde said: "(PM) Modi and (Union home minister) Amit Shah both asked Pakistani citizens to leave our country, and it is an order which every Indian wanted from their hearts. There are 107 Pakistani citizens missing in Maharashtra. I warn them to return to their country. Otherwise, police will track them down. People are angry."

Communal clash over Pak flags on Mumbai road

Mumbai: A communal clash broke out over flags of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Palestine being put up on a road in Santacruz East on Saturday night, resulting in two to three persons sustaining injuries. Seven persons have been arrested, police said.

Police said the clash broke out between members of two communities on Nehru Road after the evening aarti. They said a mob of 25-30 persons was involved. Vakola police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

An FIR was registered and senior police officers visited those who were affected. Officers are now viewing CCTV camera footage to identify accused persons. "The FIR has been registered suo motu by police. Charges applied are under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," said a senior police official. TNN

NEET-UG set for May 4 amid steps to foil any malpractice

To Be Held At 5,500 Centres In 571 Cities

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com



180 central institutions have been entrusted to verify the preparedness of the centres

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct NEET (Undergraduate) 2025 on Sunday at around 5,500 exam centres across India and abroad, marking a sharp increase from last year's 4,750 centres spread over 571 cities. This year, the test will be held across 552 cities in India and 14 international locations.

Monitored by the education ministry, 180 central institutions have been entrusted to verify the preparedness of the centres. In some states, such as Assam, following a re-

quest from CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, all centres are located in govt-run institutions.

Candidates have been allotted centres based primarily on their first-choice preferences, leading to expansion in several cities. Nearly 90% of the centres are located in govt-run institutions, including Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas,

and state govt schools, according to NTA officials.

Meanwhile, the datesheet for CUET-UG 2025, scheduled to commence on May 8, remains pending.

Following paperleak allegations and widespread complaints that marred NEET-UG 2024, NTA has formed state-level and district-level committees to oversee logistics and security. According to NTA sources, district magistrates (DMs), superintendents of police (SPs), and senior local officials were consulted before finalising exam centers. They, along with district coordinators, will jointly supervise arrangements to ensure seamless conduct.

NTA has also launched a dedicated portal for reporting suspicious activities related to NEET-UG 2025.

Angry with her marriage, ex-SI shoots daughter

Nashik: A former sub-inspector with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) shot his daughter dead and critically injured her husband on Saturday at a relative's pre-wedding ceremony in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, reports Santosh Sonawane. Police said Kiran Arjun Mangle (48) was angry with her daughter's marriage.

Last year, Trupti (24), an MBBS graduate, married Avinash Wagh (28), a class 12 pass-out who works as a helper with a Pune-based private company and earns about Rs 12,000 a month.

Around 10.15pm, Mangle fired three rounds from his licensed pistol in full view of guests. "Trupti died on the spot while Avinash received two gunshot wounds to his back and hand. On Sunday, he was moved to a hospital in Pune," SP Maheswar Reddy told TOI.

Away in China for a week, CJI to resume today, set for a hectic spell

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
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SC had a five-day holiday from April 10 to 14, during which CJI Khanna had vacated in Port Blair

New Delhi: In a first in the history of Supreme Court, an incumbent CJI did not attend to judicial work for a week to participate in a conference abroad and will resume work on Monday.

CJI Sanjiv Khanna left for China on Monday last week to attend the conference of Chief Justices of Supreme Courts of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries being held in Hangzhou. Several CJIs told TOI that they would attend the SCO conference only when the court was on vacation. If such conferences clashed with the working of SC, then a senior judge was assigned to attend it, they said. Even when India hosted the SCO CJs conference

April 21, the CJI had left for China for the SCO conference. He will resume work on Monday and will have a hectic spell before May 13 when he is due to retire.

Before retirement, he has two important tasks. The first is to decide the prayer for stay of certain provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act sought by more than 150 Muslim petitioners but opposed by the Centre. The second is to decide on the course of action — whether to direct lodging of FIR or close the case — against Justice Yashwant Varma from whose official residence in Delhi a huge pile of cash was found on the night of March 14.

On March 22, the CJI had appointed a three-member judicial panel to inquire into the incident.

BJP sacks Raj's ex-MLA over 'purify' ritual row

Jaipur: BJP on Sunday sacked former Rajasthan MLA Gyandev Ahuja, a repeat offender who had embarrassed the party on more than one occasion, reports Shoeb Khan. This included an instance on April 7 when Ahuja "purified" a temple in Alwar after Tikaram Jolly, leader of opposition and Congress' Dalit face in the state, visited it.

Ahuja's actions in Alwar had triggered widespread outrage and left the governing BJP red-faced. While he was suspended days later and served a show-cause, his expulsion by BJP's disciplinary committee came on the eve of a Jaipur rally by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Both Kharge and Jolly would have likely seized on Ahuja's deeds and pointed to BJP's "discriminatory practices" at "Save the Constitution" rally.

Cancer patient shoots self in Kolkata

A 65-year-old construction businessman and cancer patient from Kolkata shot himself dead Saturday with his licensed firearm on the rooftop of his home at Kolkata's Phoolbagan. Before his death, Jayanta Saha recorded a video on his phone declaring no one was responsible for his death.

Police said Saha was deeply depressed after losing his wife in March. "It seems personal grief and illness drove him to the extreme step. However, we have started a case of unnatural death and sent the body for postmortem," a senior police officer said. TNN

MBBS student kills self at GMC Jammu

A second year MBBS student died by suicide in his hostel room at Govt Medical College in Jammu Sunday. The boy belonged to Mendhar in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. Falak Sayad Khan (22) was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a bedsheet at around 1pm, police said. The body has been sent for postmortem. College principal Dr Ashutosh Gupta said police have registered a case and investigation has been initiated. TNN

13 students detained after clash in Patna

Thirteen students of Patna University were detained following a clash between two groups at its hostels, officials said on Sunday.

The clash took place in the early hours between students of Cavendish and Minto hostels, they said.

"On seeing the police, students started fleeing. It appeared that they pelted stones at each other. Police also recovered some bombs from the spot," Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Town-1) Diksha said. The SDPO said no one was injured in the clash. TNN

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

Subject - Advertisement/Notification for appointment of President in the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission - regarding. Advertisement No. :- 03 of 2025/RR dated 25.04.2025 Last date for acceptance of Applications :- 15.05.2025

Total Vacancies of President : 06 (Six) @ one in each District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission - Doda, Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam & Kupwara.

- Qualification :-**
The applicant should be a person who is, or has been, or is qualified to be a District Judge.
- Disqualification :-**
The applicant shall be disqualified for appointment as a President, if he/she :-
i) has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which involves moral turpitude; or
ii) is adjudged to be insolvent; or
iii) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
iv) has been removed or dismissed from service of the State Government or the Central Government or a body corporate owned or controlled by such Government; or
v) has, in the opinion of the State Government, such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially the discharge by his/her of his/her functions as a President.
- Terms & Conditions :-**
i) The appointment shall be made under the provisions of the 'Consumer Protection Act, 2019' and the 'Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of the President and members of the State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020' as amended from time to time and subject to outcome of civil Appeal (SLP (Civil) No. 25612 of 2023; Ganesh Kumar Rajeshwarrao Selukar & Ors. Vs Mahendra Bhaskar Limaye & Ors. & connected matters) pending for consideration of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
ii) The appointment is subject to submission of an undertaking by the candidate that he/she does not and will not have any such financial or other interest as are likely to affect prejudicially his/her functions as President of the District Commission.
iii) The President shall receive salary and allowances and their terms and conditions of services shall be as per the rules notified by the Government in this regard.
iv) The President of a District Commission shall hold Office for a term of four years or upto the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
v) Every appointment of a President shall be subject to submission of a certificate of Physical fitness signed by a Civil Surgeon or Chief Medical Officer to his/her medical fitness.
- Declaration of Financial and Other Interests** - A President before entering upon his/her office shall declare her assets and liabilities.
- Oath of Office and Secrecy** - Every person appointed as President before entering upon his/her office shall take an oath of office and secrecy in Form I and II.
- No TA/DA** is admissible for attending any test or interview in this connection, if conducted by the Selection Committee.
- Procedure of Appointment:**
The appointment of President of the District Commission shall be made on the basis of the performance in written test consisting of two papers of 100 marks each and 50 marks for viva-voce. The written test consisting of two papers will be as per the following schemes :-

Paper	Topics	Nature of Test	Max Marks	Duration
Paper-I	(a) General Knowledge and Current affairs (b) Knowledge of Constitution of India (c) Knowledge of various Consumers related Laws as indicated in the Schedule.	Objective type	100	2 hours
Paper-II	(a) One essay on topics chosen from issues on trade and commerce consumer related issues or Public Affairs. (b) One case study of a consumer case for testing the abilities of analysis and cogent drafting of orders	Descriptive type	100	3 hours

The qualifying marks in each paper shall be 50 per cent and there shall be viva-voce of 50 marks.

SCHEDULE

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019)
- The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (1 of 2010)
- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016)
- The Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003)
- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006)
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940)
- The Sale of Goods Act, 1930 (3 of 1930)
- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (16 of 2016)
- The Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003)
- The Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938)
- Important Instructions Before Applying :-**
a) Applications are accordingly invited in the attached form from the desirous candidate which shall be submitted only digitally through an e-mail by attaching the duly filled application form in PDF format at the given e-mail address :-
"recruitmentcell99@yahoo.com"
b) The Registrar Recruitment shall duly acknowledge the receipt of every application through a return mail.
c) Applications incomplete or lacking in any details as asked for and those received after the cut-off date will be rejected, summarily. Any qualification/experience acquired after last date of receipt/submission of online Application Forms i.e., 15.05.2025 shall not be taken into account for any purpose.
d) A fee of Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand only) per application has to be deposited in the Account Number (0406010200000846) operating in the name of "Registrar Recruitment (Secretary to the Selection Committee)", in the shape of a Demand Draft (DD). The receipt of Demand Draft shall be the only enclosure to be attached with the duly filled application form in PDF. The Fee deposited shall be non-refundable.
e) It is clarified that multiple applications have to be submitted in case a candidate wants to apply for multiple District Commissions. Separate Fee is to be submitted for each application.
f) Candidates are not required to submit any document along with the Application Form, except for the receipt of Demand Draft. Original documents/testimonials will be seen only when specifically called for Viva by the Selection Committee, at a later stage.
g) Serving (In-service) candidates should apply through proper channel viz the concerned Head of Department. In the event of failure of the candidate to route the application through proper channel, his/her eligibility shall be assessed as if he/she is not an in-service candidate.
h) The salary and other terms and conditions of service of candidate will be governed by the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances & Conditions of Service of President and Members of the State Commission & District Commission) Rules, 2021 notified vide S.O. 355 dated 18.10.2021.
i) The date of examination & subsequent viva-voce shall be notified separately, regarding which publicity shall be given through print, electronic media and official website https://www.jkhighcourt.nic.in of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

(Satinder Singh)
Registrar Recruitment
Dated :- 25.04.2025

No. 22672-91/RR
HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
Advertisement No. :- 03 of 2025/RR dated 25.04.2025
APPLICATION FORM FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT, DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION (DISTRICT COMMISSION)

- Name of the District for which applying :
- Name of Applicant :
- Gender :
- Father's Name/Spouse's Name :
- Permanent Address :
- Address for Correspondence With PIN Code
- Contact details for correspondence :
Residence/Office Landline-
Mobile (mandatory) -
E-mail (mandatory) -
- Date of Birth :
- Age as on date of Notification :
- Present Occupation & Annual Income :
- Qualification (Graduation and onwards) :

Affix your recent passport size photograph duly attested

EXAMINATION PASSED	UNIVERSITY	YEAR OF PASSING	% OF MARKS/CGPA

- In case of In-Service candidates :
i. Date of Joining of service
ii. Present designation
iii. Scale of pay & basic pay
iv. Date of superannuation
v. Government under which serving
- In case of Retired Candidates :-
i. Date of Joining of service
ii. Last post held (on substantive basis)
iii. Last Pay scale drawn
iv. Date of retirement
v. Government under which served
- Experience (which is considered necessary for current assignment) :
Name of subject/field - _____ (whether in Consumer Affairs, Law, Public Affairs, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Industries, Finance, Management, Engineering, Technology, Public Health or Medicine)

S. No.	Position held	Name & Address of Organization	Nature of work handled	Period

DECLARATION
I hereby declared that all statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found false or incorrect or ineligibility being detected before, during or after the process of selection / appointment, my candidature will stand cancelled and all my claims to the appointment will stand forfeited.

Date :- _____
NB :- 1) All particulars should be filled in capital Letters.
2) Application without duly authenticated photograph and receipt of Fee would be treated as incomplete and void ab-initio.
(SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE)

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

Subject - Advertisement/Notification for Appointment of Member (Female) in the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission - regarding. Advertisement No. :- 05 of 2025/RR dated 25.04.2025 Last date for acceptance of Applications :- 15.05.2025

Total Vacancies of Member (Female) : 04 (Four) @ one in each District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission - Anantnag, Kupwara, Udhampur & Jammu. (Note: Only female candidates can apply).

- Qualification :-**
The applicant should :-
i) Not be less than 35 years of age on the date of notification of the advertisement ;
ii) Possess a Bachelor's degree from a recognized University ;
iii) Be person of ability, integrity and standing, and having special knowledge and professional experience of not less than 10 years in Consumer Affairs, Law, Public Affairs, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Industries, Finance, Management, Engineering, Technology, Public Health or Medicine.
- Disqualification :-**
The applicant shall be disqualified for appointment as a Member, if she :-
i) has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which involves moral turpitude; or
ii) is adjudged to be insolvent; or
iii) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
iv) has been removed or dismissed from service of the State Government or the Central Government or a body corporate owned or controlled by such Government; or
v) has, in the opinion of the State Government, such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially the discharge by her of her functions as a member.
- Terms & Conditions :-**
i) The appointment shall be made under the provisions of the 'Consumer Protection Act, 2019' and the 'Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of the President and members of the State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020' as amended from time to time and subject to outcome of civil Appeal (SLP (Civil) No. 25612 of 2023; Ganesh Kumar Rajeshwarrao Selukar & Ors. Vs Mahendra Bhaskar Limaye & Ors. & connected matters) pending for consideration of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
ii) The appointment is subject to submission of an undertaking by the candidate that she does not and will not have any such financial or other interest as are likely to affect prejudicially her functions as Member of the District Commission.
iii) The Member shall receive salary and allowances and their terms and conditions of services shall be as per the rules notified by the Government in this regard.
iv) The Member of a District Commission shall hold Office for a term of four years or upto the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
v) Every appointment of a Member shall be subject to submission of a certificate of Physical fitness signed by a Civil Surgeon or Chief Medical Officer to her medical fitness.
- Declaration of Financial and Other Interests** - A Member before entering upon her office shall declare her assets and liabilities.
- Oath of Office and Secrecy** - Every person appointed as Member before entering upon her office shall take an oath of office and secrecy in Form I and II.
- No TA/DA** - is admissible for attending any test or interview in this connection, if conducted by the Selection Committee.
- Procedure of Appointment:**
The appointment of Members of the District Commission shall be made on the basis of the performance in written test consisting of two papers of 100 marks each and 50 marks for viva-voce. The written test consisting of two papers will be as per the following schemes :-

Paper	Topics	Nature of Test	Max Marks	Duration
Paper-I	(a) General Knowledge and Current affairs (b) Knowledge of Constitution of India (c) Knowledge of various Consumers related Laws as indicated in the Schedule.	Objective type	100	2 hours
Paper-II	(a) One essay on topics chosen from issues on trade and commerce consumer related issues or Public Affairs. (b) One case study of a consumer case for testing the abilities of analysis and cogent drafting of orders	Descriptive type	100	3 hours

The qualifying marks in each paper shall be 50 per cent and there shall be viva-voce of 50 marks.

SCHEDULE

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019)
- The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (1 of 2010)
- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016)
- The Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003)
- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006)
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940)
- The Sale of Goods Act, 1930 (3 of 1930)
- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (16 of 2016)
- The Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003)
- The Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938)
- Important Instructions Before Applying :-**
a) Applications are accordingly invited in the attached form from the desirous candidate which shall be submitted only digitally through an e-mail by attaching the duly filled application form in PDF format at the given e-mail address :-
"recruitmentcell99@yahoo.com"
b) The Registrar Recruitment shall duly acknowledge the receipt of every application through a return mail.
c) Applications incomplete or lacking in any details as asked for and those received after the cut-off date will be rejected, summarily. Any qualification/experience acquired after last date of receipt/submission of online Application Forms i.e., 15.05.2025 shall not be taken into account for any purpose.
d) A fee of Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand only) per application has to be deposited in the Account Number "Registrar Recruitment (Secretary to the Selection Committee)", in the shape of a Demand Draft (DD). The receipt of Demand Draft shall be the only enclosure to be attached with the duly filled application form in PDF. The Fee deposited shall be non-refundable.
e) It is clarified that multiple applications have to be submitted in case a candidate wants to apply for multiple District Commissions. Separate Fee is to be submitted for each application.
f) Candidates are not required to submit any document along with the Application Form, except for the receipt of Demand Draft. Original documents/testimonials will be seen only when specifically called for Viva by the Selection Committee, at a later stage.
g) Serving (In-service) candidates should apply through proper channel viz the concerned Head of Department. In the event of failure of the candidate to route the application through proper channel, her eligibility shall be assessed as if she is not an in-service candidate.
h) The salary and other terms and conditions of service of candidate will be governed by the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances & Conditions of Service of President and Members of the State Commission & District Commission) Rules, 2021 notified vide S.O. 355 dated 18.10.2021.
i) The date of examination & subsequent viva-voce shall be notified separately, regarding which publicity shall be given through print, electronic media and official website https://www.jkhighcourt.nic.in of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

(Satinder Singh)
Registrar Recruitment
Dated :- 25.04.2025

No. 22712-31/RR
HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
Advertisement No. :- 05 of 2025/RR dated 25.04.2025
APPLICATION FORM FOR THE POST OF MEMBER (FEMALE), DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION (DISTRICT COMMISSION)

- Name of the District for which applying :
- Name of Applicant :
- Gender :
- Father's Name/Spouse's Name :
- Permanent Address :
- Address for Correspondence With PIN Code
- Contact details for correspondence :
Residence/Office landline -
Mobile (mandatory) -
E-mail (mandatory) -
- Date of Birth :
- Age as on date of Notification :
- Present Occupation & Annual Income :
- Qualification (Graduation and onwards) :

Affix your recent passport size photograph duly attested

EXAMINATION PASSED	UNIVERSITY	YEAR OF PASSING	% OF MARKS/CGPA

- In case of In-Service candidates :
i. Date of Joining of service
ii. Present designation
iii. Scale of pay & basic pay
iv. Date of superannuation
v. Government under which serving
- In case of Retired Candidates :-
i. Date of Joining of service
ii. Last post held (on substantive basis)
iii. Last Pay scale drawn
iv. Date of retirement
v. Government under which served
- Experience (which is considered necessary for current assignment) :
Name of subject/field - _____ (whether in Consumer Affairs, Law, Public Affairs, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Industries, Finance, Management, Engineering, Technology, Public Health or Medicine)

S. No.	Position held	Name & Address of Organization	Nature of work handled	Period

DECLARATION
I hereby declared that all statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found false or incorrect or ineligibility being detected before, during or after the process of selection / appointment, my candidature will stand cancelled and all my claims to the appointment will stand forfeited.

Date :- _____
NB :- 1) All particulars should be filled in capital Letters.
2) Application without duly authenticated photograph and receipt of Fee would be treated as incomplete and void ab-initio.
(SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE)



CONTRAPUNTO

Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply didn't know where to go shopping

-BO DEREK

It Pays To Pivot

Trump's willingness to switch track on policies is a good thing. All leaders should take note

You can disagree with Trump's ideology, if he has one, and you can frown upon his methods, but you can't deny the man can pivot. Like he did on Saturday at the Pope's funeral. Having told off Zelenskyy at their last face-to-face on Feb 28 – "you've done a lot of talking...you're not winning this...you're gambling with WW-III" – he sat down again with the Ukrainian leader inside St Peter's Basilica. Videos show three chairs were hurriedly placed but only Trump and Zelenskyy sat, drawing closer into what psychologists would describe as a sub-4-foot "friendly" range.

What Trump said afterwards about Putin was the real surprise. He's been accusing Zelenskyy of starting the war, even when Russian strikes killed over 30 Ukrainians in Sumy on April 13. And again last Wednesday – "It's inflammatory statements like Zelenskyy's that makes it so difficult to settle this war." But after Saturday's meeting, Trump sounded doubtful about Putin's intentions – "maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently".



It's a clear shift, and Trump has rapidly changed position on other matters too in recent days. For instance, he's become less strident on the China tariff issue. Last Tuesday, he said tariffs will "come down substantially. But it won't be zero". He's already backed off from his threat to fire Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell. For now, his department of Homeland Security has also paused the campaign to deport foreign students. Altogether, some would say, Trump isn't looking like the strong and decisive leader his MAGA voters wanted. Yet, flexibility might be his greatest strength. After all, he was elected to deliver, not sink under the weight of his bluster.

If tariffs are backfiring, there's no point persisting with them while American firms and consumers suffer. Brexit, for instance, was a huge mistake – UK's per capita GDP has risen just 4% over the 2016 level, as against 8% across the eurozone – but the country's been too proud to change course. Trump is smarter than that way, and other leaders shouldn't become hostage to their own rhetoric either. While Indian leaders spoke hot words after Pahalgam, and rightly so, India's actions should be governed by cold self-interest. Unlike Pakistan, India has a global stature and a promising future. There's no point in jeopardising both with rash actions.

Use & Throw Nightmare

A fridge fished out of a Bengaluru lake tells us what's in store as upgrades replace repairs in consumer culture

It's true, Bengaluru's lakes sometimes catch fire. Because there's so much garbage that it simply overwhelms the water. This sight, if not the fires, at least not so far, is a familiar one at water bodies across the country. What feels even more overwhelming is how every cleanup points to the need for bigger and better efforts. At Madiwala lake, which suffers a severe water hyacinth infestation, an airboat called Jaldost, designed by the National Aerospace Laboratories, has already pulled out over 20 tonnes of waste. But what all makes up this waste?

Not just weeds. Not just plastic bags. But also mugs, books, pens, steel vessels. Both at home and at work, our dustbins are growing larger and larger. The detritus of modern life overflows. The garbage mounds lining our highways and railway tracks and culverts that we are constantly photoshopping out of our selfies, are the result of govts slacking. They have totally fallen out of step with how much, how fast today's Indians consume and create waste. Once, we used to marvel at bicycles being discarded into Amsterdam's canals. Today, Jaldost has fished out a refrigerator from Madiwala lake.

We haven't embraced DIY culture with nearly the same enthusiasm. In India it's still possible to comfortably find someone to repair a shoe or an air-conditioner, to reupholster the family sofa, to appreciate a hand-me-down silk sari or door or carpet or book. Our neighbourhoods still have carpenters, cobblers, tailors, mechanics, carrying forward our reuse and recycle heritage. Of course the less it's patronised the faster it will die, and as that Madiwala fridge tells us, so will our lakes and forests. Imagine all our refuse and rubbish invading all our surroundings like relentless water hyacinth. Have a rethink. Choose repairing over replacing.

The right word: Terrorist

On Pahalgam and the West's 'militant' bias

Arnab Ray



Words matter. The progressive liberati tell us they matter so much that your survival as a decent human being depends on being sensitive enough to correctly gender a houseplant on social media. Nouns, adjectives and pronouns must be treated with the reverence accorded to ancient artifacts found at an archaeological dig. You would imagine that when Hindus are hunted down and murdered in Pahalgam, Kashmir – murdered for the crime of existing – then NYT would deploy that same obsessive precision. Surely, they would reach for a familiar, correct word, the word they use for the perpetrators of 9/11. You know, terrorists.

But no. When Hindus die, the term that gently floats down is 'militant' – a word so gloriously beige that it sounds like someone got a bit rowdy at a PTA meeting. 'Militant' – not a monster, not a butcher – just a spirited political activist with poor anger management. Makes you wonder if the target of their attack were soldiers and tanks...or families on vacation. Spoiler: it was families.

Jacques Derrida – patron saint of people who quote books they've never finished – taught us that language encodes hidden power structures. Well, here's an easy one: when Western media call terrorists 'militants', it's because Hindus, in their worldview, can never be victims. Hindus are cast as permanent oppressors, with violence against them cast as 'punching up'. No different than storming the Bastille – violence, sure, but to be seen in the larger context of historical justice, or, wait, there is a word for it, karma.

There is a side-show of clowns that enable this, pushing a pseudo-academic thread of messaging, namely that Hinduphobia isn't real. It's a 'constructed term', they say, from the comfort of panel discussions that smell faintly of Sauvignon Blanc and moral cowardice, used by Hindu fascists to protest when the chickens come home to roost – or militants come to do their 'militant' things.

Terror exists. All religions are targeted where they are in the minority. Some groups, though, get murdered twice: first by bullets and again by the slow suffocation of their truth. Meanwhile, their killers get to keep their moral alibi, polished and gleaming, courtesy of Western media houses.

Yes, words matter, especially when they come from organisations of influence. It's long past time we used the right words. And called out those who do not.

Chairs Pulled Up But Wheels Off

Results of Trump-Zelenskyy chat at Vatican may not be enough to set right the current round of American peacemaking efforts on Ukraine

Andreas Umland



Columnist based in Stockholm

It has been encouraging to see Trump and Zelenskyy meet at the funeral of Pope Francis. This confirms how well US-Ukraine relations have survived the many tensions of the last three months. And yet, current American attempts to mediate between Moscow and Kyiv will fail. At least this is what people familiar with East European affairs expect.

Since Trump returned to the White House in Jan, what's been missing from the 'new' American search for a compromise between Russia and Ukraine? Any substantial increase of international pressure on Moscow.

During the last three years, Kremlin has put up a list of demands that violates, in a scandalous way, fundamental rules of post World War II international law in general and post communist European security order in particular. In essence, Moscow continues to demand from Washington and the rest of the world that they throw out of the window, with regard to regular UN member country, the two most basic principles of the modern state order: territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

Surprisingly, Washington has, in its proposal for the latest negotiation round, partly satisfied Russia's demands. The Trump administration has offered to formally recognise the Russian illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and to cancel Ukraine's official Nato membership perspective existing since 2008.

These US concessions do not only undercut world security by demonstratively disregarding the integrity and sovereignty of a fully recognised, entirely peaceful, and, since 1991, properly independent state. They are also paradoxical within the context of US foreign policies of earlier Republican administrations.

A written Nato membership perspective was provided to Ukraine as well as Georgia at the Nato Bucharest Summit in early April 2008 – on the insistence of George W Bush. And in 2018, during the first Trump administration, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued an official "Crimea Declaration" – saying that US "rejects Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and pledges to maintain this policy until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored".

The second Trump administration has now reversed

both former GOP foreign policies and one of the first Trump administration's most explicit pledges towards Ukraine. It has made these and other incredible American compromises vis-à-vis Kremlin without any tangible material successes.

So far, there is no soothing of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. In fact, US's demonstrative turning away from international law, Western principles, and American foreign political traditions has had, until now, the opposite results. It has led to an increase of Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Treaty seriously – at risk of a direct military confrontation with Russia.

Moreover, Nato's mutual support promise has been undersigned by altogether 32 countries. This implies that a relatively minor armed conflagration in, for instance, the Baltic region could quickly escalate into an all-European or even a world war.

The most far-reaching consequences of Trump's turnaround concern the worldwide regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Russia, its official political friend China, as well as now its quasi-collaborator US are all official nuclear-weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

When Ukraine became independent in 1991 it was a country with thousands of atomic warheads but agreed to become a non-nuclear weapon state under NPT. In exchange it received guarantees from NPT's five official nuclear-weapon states, which also happen to be the UN Security Council's permanent members. Only France and UK are still observant of the five security assurances issued to Ukraine in Dec 1994.

Washington's public agreement to recognise Crimea as Russian, and its undisguised pressure on Kyiv to make concessions vis-à-vis Moscow put the logic of non-proliferation on its head. NPT as well as the conventions on chemical and biological weapons no longer look like worldwide arrangements to prevent mass destruction – but ploys to keep non-nuclear-weapon states defenceless vis-à-vis expansionist great powers.

A more and more likely scenario is that countries around the world will officially or unofficially leave the non-proliferation regime, and arm themselves with WMDs, thereby creating domino effects, if not arms races in their regions.

As in other fields of US domestic and foreign affairs where the second Trump administration is currently disrupting old arrangements, Washington's new approach to the Russo-Ukrainian War constitutes, even within narrowly understood American national interests, a strange development. US is dissociating itself from the very world order that it once principally co-created and from which it has benefitted for 80 years. The distrust that Washington currently sows concerning the rules-based order in general and US foreign policies in particular will have aftereffects increasingly disadvantageous to or even dangerous for US itself.

The writer is an analyst at Swedish Institute of International Affairs



Washington's strange international behaviour not only vis-à-vis Ukraine, but also in other regards, one fears, will continue to encourage Moscow to behave even more aggressively. Trump's new course may even lower Kremlin's so far prevalent hesitation to risk direct military escalation with a Nato state. If so, a prime candidate for attack is Estonia, a Nato member since 2004. Estonia hosts the most Russian city outside Russia, Narva, and follows a particularly restrictive approach towards Russian residents, trade and tourists.

A Russian advance into a country like Estonia has become more likely after the publication of Trump's recent odious proposal to Ukraine. An attack on a Nato member state would touch upon US obligations under the 1949 Washington Treaty establishing the Alliance. While Trump's plan is supposedly about peace, it is putting US – at least as long as it takes the Washington

'Dalits in Rajasthan remain labourers at society's base...with only 1-2% in govt jobs and 1% owning land'

After Rajasthan LoP Tikaram Jully visited a Ram temple in Alwar early this month, BJP's Gyan Dev Ahuja "purified" it with gangajal. Amid the resulting controversy, BJP first suspended Ahuja, and finally expelled him yesterday – on the eve of Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's 'Save the Constitution' rally in Jaipur. Siddhartha Dutta discusses the episode, entrenched caste divisions, and solutions with Jully.

● What was your initial reaction to Ahuja purifying the temple?

I dismissed it, knowing Ahuja's history of offensive behaviour. He labelled Dalits as "demonic", made derogatory remarks about JNU, and openly supported cow vigilantism. His actions weren't surprising. However, when family, sisters, and friends called to offer support, I grew uneasy, reflecting on how a community still faces such targeting. It troubled me deeply, leaving me restless for two nights. One BJP functionary also called to say he disagreed with Ahuja's statement. I cannot name him because that would put him in a spot.

● What did you make of Rajasthan BJP chief Madan Rathore calling Ahuja sanskari at the time of his suspension?

Ahuja is a repeat offender, regularly making statements that violate India's Constitution, yet BJP never disciplined him (before Sunday). Union home minister Amit Shah also failed to apologise for his remarks against Baba Saheb Ambedkar in Parliament. This mindset traces back to RSS, which, when the Constitution was enacted, opposed equal rights for women and marginalised groups. They resist women's empowerment, and progress for backward classes. In Rajasthan assembly, I urged RSS to formally denounce caste discrimination and unacceptability on its centenary. Everyone in the govt opposed me. Why? Was I wrong? Earlier, state education minister Madan Dilawar suggested a DNA test to verify a tribal leader's Hindu lineage, reflecting RSS's mentality.

● Rajasthan ranks third in Dalit atrocities after UP and MP. Recently in Sikar, a Dalit youth was abducted, subjected to casteist slurs, sexually tortured, and urinated on.

Are you surprised?

Govt inaction is baffling; law and order have collapsed in Rajasthan. I repeatedly raised Dalit atrocities with officials, but Dalits and backward classes aren't priorities. This neglect fuels (caste-related) crime. In the assembly, I highlighted the high number of cases, yet no action followed. I felt caste dynamics intensely after entering politics, unlike in childhood. My father, a daily wage labourer-turned-army man, started a slate export business in 1976, which I later managed. We engaged with all communities, breaking bread together. But politics exposed deep caste consciousness, especially in rural areas. Some transcend it, but I never played the caste card. When BJP MLAs silenced me in the assembly, I didn't frame it as the targeting of a Dalit. Casteism persists, though it is also true that if some perpetuate it, many don't.

● What's the way forward?

Many Dalits in Rajasthan remain labourers at society's base. Their progress through education or reservation unsettles some. BJP's anti-Dalit, anti-Muslim, and anti-Sikh agenda poisons society, unlike Congress's focus on equality. Empowerment is critical, starting with education. Congress govt opened English-medium schools and SC hostels to foster awareness and self-reliance, moving Dalits beyond manual labour. Yet, 90-95% of Dalits remain labourers, with only 1-2% in govt jobs and 1% owning land. Most rely on govt-provided homes, with no option but manual labour.

● Why demand reservation for SC students in the Swami Vivekananda Scholarship?

Congress launched the scholarship for 500 students, but BJP cut it to 300. Now, only children of govt officials bene-

fit. I advocate reservations for OBC, MBC, SC, ST, and Hindi-medium govt school students to ensure broader access for marginalised groups.

● Why, then, do many among Rajasthan's 18% SC population support BJP?

Historically, SCs aligned with Congress, but BJP's communal narrative in the 2023 election drew them into the 'Hindu' fold. BJP's Dalit deputy CM, Premchand Bairwa, and union minister Arjun Meghwal lack real power. BJP even scrapped Bairwa's home district, Dudu. Schemes for the poor, mostly Dalits, have stalled – medical services are weak, pensions and unemployment allowances delayed, and other programmes are closing. Congress, by contrast, had four Dalit cabinet ministers and a Dalit chief secretary. BJP's shift from caste to communalism is a political tactic that hasn't benefitted lower castes.

● Is the lack of a Dalit leadership causing SC voter attrition?

I won't say that. My party leadership appointed me as LoP in Rajasthan. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have supported me, especially through the Ahuja episode. Congress consistently champions equality. I am the youngest LoP in Rajasthan assembly's history.

● Does Congress's recent post about Rahul Gandhi with Kanshi Ram's sister, Swarn Kaur, resonate at the grassroots?

In politics, impact is unpredictable, evolving gradually. Actions like Ahuja's temple "purification", Dilawar's remarks on STs, or Shah's Ambedkar comment form a pattern shaping community perceptions. Kanshi Ram's sister aligning with us carries weight in this context.

Calvin & Hobbes



How Love Songs Bridge Sacred And Profane

Sonali Srivastava

Ye chaand sa roshan chehra, zulfon ka rang sunahra,
Ye jheel si neeli aankhen, koi raaz hai in mein gehra.
Tareef karun kya uski, jisne tumhe banaya.

In a shikara on beautiful Dal Lake in Kashmir, a young man sings to profess his love to a Kashmiri girl. The song is an assertion of earthly, romantic love, yet it also becomes a paean to the Creator for fashioning someone so beautiful that her eyes resemble the blue waters of the lake. Most songs – whether Bollywood numbers, ghazals, English pop, or Sufi renditions – are imbued with sacred and profane interpretations.

The profane meaning remains purely at the level of physical existence, involving praise of skin-deep, ephemeral beauty that will eventually fade. However, such songs also allude to the

inner beauty of a realised soul – a spark of the Divine that exists within all.

The Upanishads mark this divinity by declaring: "Aham Brahmasmi" – I am Brahman; "Tat tvam asi" – So are you. The Isha Upanishad states: "Isha vasya idam sarvam, yat kincha jagatyan jagat" – God permeates everything that moves and does not move. Ishwara exists in all that we see and feel, including our very selves.

Hence, when the singer praises his lover, it is one divine spark praising another; and in doing so, exalting the Self that inhabits all beings. The song, then, is no longer about the ephemeral beauty of lover; it becomes a metaphor for the Divine. We experience non-duality of one realised soul praising another.

Take another example: a song picturised with young people

celebrating and dancing on the beach. While hedonism is apparent in the song's visuals, embodying the profane, its lyrics narrate a different story:

"Aayi jag taj ke; ishq sikha jab yaar kare parwah meri/Mujhe kya parwah iss duniya ki/Jag mujhe lagaye paban-di; main hoon hi nahi iss duniya ki," – When my beloved taught me how to love; when He cares for me, why should I care about this world? The world tries to impose restrictions on me, but I no longer belong to this world.

The more obvious meaning is – a girl wanting to break all rules of engagement and explore unbridled physicality of her relationship with her lover. The exalted meaning, however, is why worry when Beloved (the Divine) is taking care of us? We are merely souls on a short physical journey through this world; it

Sacredspace

Sorrow comes in great waves...but rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us, it leaves us. And we know that if it is strong, we are stronger; inasmuch as it passes, and we remain.

Henry James



THE SPEAKING TREE

Why Indians are 'abandoning' their children at US borders

Families Lacking Valid Visas Are 'Strategically' Leaving Minors At Border Crossings, Alone And Only With A Chit, Hoping They Can Become Their Ticket To The American Dream

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They are to be found at the US border with Mexico or Canada. Mostly between 12 and 17 years old, but sometimes even as young as six. Left alone, afraid, in unfamiliar surroundings, carrying nothing but a chit of paper, on which is scribbled names and contact details of their parents.

In a disturbing trend visible over the past few years, Indian children are increasingly being found all by themselves at the US borders, trying to enter the country sans documents or the company of guardians. Data from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shows that from Oct 2024 to Feb this year, 77 unaccompanied Indian minors were apprehended at the US borders, pointing to a pattern in which minors become both victims and tools in the complex world of illegal immigration.

These children, mostly teenaged, were found "strategically abandoned" along the US-Mexico border, though a significant number also crossed from Canada, where harsh weather conditions make it riskier.

Data show that 53 of the 77 kids were apprehended at the southern land border with Mexico, and 22 were caught crossing over from Canada. Some were intercepted within the country. These children highlight the persistence of undocumented immigration and the increasing use of minors as part of broader immigration strategies.

Child-First Immigration Pattern

According to USCBP records, between 2022 and 2025, a total of 1,656 unaccompanied Indian minors were apprehended while attempting to enter the US. The highest number of children — 730 — were found in FY 2023 and 517 in 2024. In 2022, the number was 409.

The Covid pandemic saw comparatively lower numbers, with 219 minors found in 2020 and 237 in 2021, possibly due to travel restrictions and a global slowdown in migratory movement. However, the numbers sharply rose after the pandemic, indicating renewed activity on illegal migration routes.



Illustration: Uday Deb

'I SENT MY KIDS ALONE'

How a man from Gujarat who sent his two kids alone to US explains his decision...

"I knew they were not going to be in danger. They were with my friends and relatives and were ultimately going to be in the custody of US law agencies. So, they are safe and secure in the US."

The Reasoning

"We can't wait till our kids complete their residence in India and then opt for legal ways to enter the US... If they are already there when young, they can complete their studies, find a job and earn decent money"

The Incentive

"When their children are caught at the borders, they seek refuge for the minors and themselves — which they usually get on humanitarian grounds," said a person associated with illegal trafficking, who added that these kids are seen as 'green cards' for their parents, who are often already in the US as illegal immigrants.

According to immigration experts, these figures reflect a deliberate pattern by families trying to se-

ecure residence in the US by sending their children first.

The Strategy

These kids act as 'green cards' for their parents, who are also illegal immigrants, a person associated with an illegal immigration network explained. "In most cases, their parents first reach the US illegally and then they send for their children with other illegal immigrants to the US," he said. "When their children are caught at the borders, they seek refuge for the minors and themselves — which they usually get on humanitarian grounds."

In some instances, the strategy is reversed: parents send their children first, using their presence as a reason to apply for asylum themselves later. "They claim asylum on the grounds that their children are already in the US," this person told TOI.

Another insider involved in human trafficking said children are often sent along with groups of adults, but abandoned near border checkpoints to be picked up by the authorities. "These children carry chits in their pockets or bags, which bear the names of their parents and/or guardians. They are then sent to their parents, who may be already living illegally in the US, and

given health and education benefits free of cost," the source explained.

First-Hand Accounts

Several Gujarati families have admitted to following this route. One such case is of a couple from Kadi in Mehsana, where the father, a lawyer, shared how he and his wife had moved to Atlanta illegally in 2019, leaving their two-year-old son in India.

"All sources of transport were disrupted because of the pandemic," the lawyer said. "I told my cousin who was travelling to the US (illegally) in 2022 to bring my child there, who had turned five by then. My cousin did as told and left my son at the border near Texas, where he was spotted by a US security agency officer."

Officials located him through a note that his son was carrying, which had his name and contact details. A call later, they were reunited.

From rural Gujarat, particularly villages like Jhulasan, Mokasan, Nardipur, Dingucha, Vadu and Kaiyal, there has been a noticeable uptick in minors being sent to the US. A police officer from Gandhinagar range confirmed this trend. "Cops cannot prevent them because they are not doing anything illegal on Indian soil," the officer said. "It is up to the US authorities to take action against the exploitation of children in human smuggling."

The Road Ahead

A US-based source said abandoned children are not officially declared as such in many cases, but that they stood a strong likelihood of securing green cards within six to eight months after juvenile court rulings. "In such cases, once kids get green cards, their relatives here proceed with adoption applications," he said.

However, some see the current trend slowing down because of changes in US policy. Experts say the Trump administration's tough stance on immigration is expected to reduce the number of unaccompanied minors at the borders.

In the meantime, children continue to arrive — some from the dusty lanes of rural Gujarat, others guided through vast international routes — ending up alone at a foreign border, often with just a slip of paper as their lifeline.



WHAT MAKES THIS RURAL TOLL PLAZA INDIA'S RICHEST?

Located On A Prime Stretch, Karjan In Vadodara Dist Earned Nearly ₹500Cr Last Fiscal

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Had it been a startup, it would have been a storied one, its annual turnover almost hitting Rs 500 crore while operating from a village of 364 houses and 1,761 people (2011 Census) after posting four straight years of earnings above Rs 400 crore. The feat has made Karjan toll plaza, located in Bharthana in Gujarat's Vadodara district, the country's top highway grosser and yet another example of success beyond cities.

It's the value of his personal contribution to this success that makes Piyush Parmar feel "pride" when he steps into his glass cabin next to one of the 22 toll gates here. Parmar has to make sure the computer registers each passing, and paying, vehicle. His shift is a long eight hours, but time flies. "I barely get time to relax because of the constant flow of vehicles. After all, this is one of the major junctions on a busy national highway," he says.

Busy is an understatement for NH-48, which is the conveyor belt linking engines that run the Indian economy. It's the main — and, as of now, only — highway connection between Delhi and Mumbai (the new Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is yet to be completed). But NH-48 is also a lot more. It runs all the way to Chennai, carrying the arterial traffic between the north, west and south. It links the Tamil Nadu and Haryana automobile hubs and is the gateway to Gujarat's industrial cities and Dahej port. A part of it is known in the north as Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and Delhi-Jaipur highway. The west knows another section as Ahmedabad-Mumbai highway.

Karjan toll plaza is on the industrial thoroughfare between Vadodara and Mumbai. Gujarat is India's leading chemical and petrochemical manufacturing hub, and most of the units are based in central and south Gujarat, access to which is through Karjan. Because



Every hour, around **2,000 vehicles** cross the toll plaza on NH-48, which connects Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai

of this, and cargo movement from Dahej port, around 65% of the traffic that the plaza sees is commercial — containers, trucks, tankers, etc.

"For commuters, it's just another toll plaza, but for us, it's about keeping a vital north-south link running smoothly," said Rangesh Mishra, operations manager of the plaza, managed by Prakash Asphalting and Toll Highways (PATH) India Ltd on behalf of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The toll plaza, set up in 2009, has been a star performer for years because Gujarati factories use it to transport goods to Mumbai ports like JNPT. "Besides industrial traffic, Karjan also collects toll from the passenger vehicle traffic," said P R Patelia, secretary, roads and buildings department, Gujarat.

The last time Karjan was in the news was 13 years ago, when Vitthal Radadiya, a former MP, brandished his pistol at a toll plaza employee during a brawl. That was a rare anomaly in an operation that otherwise runs like clockwork, in three shifts spanning 24 hours.

The operations resemble a medium-scale company with 190 employees, led by four managers. Around 80 of these employees are engaged in toll collection and 33 are deployed at the lanes to assist drivers. Five work in IT and the rest handle cleaning and maintenance.

The efficiency shows in how the toll remains free of jams despite being such a busy one. "There are 11 toll lanes on either side of the plaza and FASTag runs smoothly. So, I don't have to wait," said Pritesh Shah, a transporter who frequently crosses it.

Karjan, in fact, was the test site for NHAI's FASTag pilot project. After it got the green signal here, FASTag was rolled out nationally.

S P Sharma, former general manager and project director of NHAI, currently posted in Rajasthan, said, "This has been one of our star toll plazas for a long time. In 2017, the daily fee collection at this plaza exceeded Rs 1 crore."

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OPEN E-TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

Tender No.: NMRC/PD Area/Sec.-81, Sec.-83 and Depot Metro Station/348R1/382/2025
Tender for licensing of commercial spaces at, Sector-83, Sector-81 and Depot Metro Station in NMRC Network.

Tender for Work related to the below mentioned scope is invited from competent bidders:

- The license period of this tender is for 15 years
- The table provided below outlines the key terms and conditions of the tender.

Station Name	Location/ Spaces	Commercial Area (in sqm)	Minimum reserve price of space (per sqm per month) (in Rs.)	Requirement of Average annual turnover (past 3 years) (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	
Depot station	Conc./1st Floor	106	320	17,00,000	1,90,000	
	Sec-81	Ground Floor-1	26	360	12,00,000	51,000
		Ground Floor-2	172	400	23,00,000	2,00,000
		Conc./1st Floor-1	315	280	26,00,000	2,40,000
Sec-83	Conc./1st Floor-2	232	280	22,00,000	2,00,000	
	Upper Ground	226	400	27,00,000	2,50,000	

3. Bidder can bid for one or more than one or all the offered spaces at, Sector-83, Sector-81 and Depot Metro Station.

4. The bid processing fee is Rs. 23,600.

5. Bidder can refer the E-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/> and NMRC Website www.nmrcnoida.com/ for term and condition of tender.

The Tender/RFP is available on the E-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/> and NMRC Website www.nmrcnoida.com/ from 26.04.2025. If there is any amendment/change in the tender, it will be made available on these websites. Last date of submission of tender on E-portal is 16.05.2025, till 15.00 hrs.

Executive Director, NMRC Ltd.

IN THE COURT OF SUBHAS MEHLA, SPECIAL JUDGE (Under the Prevention Money Laundering Act 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED
See Section 82 Cr.P.C (Section 84 of the BNS 2023 read with section 65 of the PML Act 2002)

Directorate of Enforcement Versus Anil Jindal & others

Case No:- 02/29.08.2022 The PML Act, 2002
Date of hearing:- 06.06.2025 Complaint U/s 44 r/w Sec-45 of the
Time :- 10:00 a.m. PMLA 2002 for commission of offence
C.I.S. No:- COMA/14/2022 U/s 3 r/w Sec 70 of PML Act 2002
CNR No: HRGR01-013928-2022 ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated:20.12.2018

Whereas accused Sunil Jindal S/o Giriraj Singh Jindal (Whole Time Director of M/s SRS Ltd and Director of M/s SRS Real Estate Ltd) R/o Flat No 702, RR-3, Eros Royal Retreat, Charmwood Villagae, Suraj Kund Road, Faridabad, Haryana is facing trial before this court in Case No. COMA/14/2022 pertaining to ECIR No:- ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated 20.12.2018, for the commission of offence of money laundering as defined under section-3 read with section -70 punishable under Section-4 of the PML Act 2002 and it has been reported on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued against said Sunil Jindal S/o Giriraj Singh Jindal that the above named accused cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above named accused Sunil Jindal S/o Giriraj Singh Jindal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil Jindal S/o Giriraj Singh Jindal (Whole Time Director of M/s SRS Ltd and Director of M/s SRS Real Estate Ltd) R/o Flat No 702, RR-3, Eros Royal Retreat, Charmwood Villagae, Suraj Kund Road, Faridabad, Haryana is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the 06.06.2025

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 24th day of April, 2025.

Sd/-
SPECIAL JUDGE
(Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

IN THE COURT OF SUBHAS MEHLA, SPECIAL JUDGE (Under the Prevention Money Laundering Act 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED
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CNR No: HRGR01-013928-2022 ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated:20.12.2018

Whereas accused Praveen Kumar Kapoor (Co-founder & Promotor of SRS Group) R/o H No 506, Sector -14, Faridabad- 121007 is facing trial before this court in Case No. COMA/14/2022 pertaining to ECIR No:- ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated 20.12.2018, for the commission of offence of money laundering as defined under section-3 read with section -70 punishable under Section-4 of the PML Act 2002 and it has been reported on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued against said Praveen Kumar Kapoor (Co-founder & Promotor of SRS Group) that the above named accused cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above named accused Praveen Kumar Kapoor (Co-founder & Promotor of SRS Group) has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Praveen Kumar Kapoor (Co-founder & Promotor of SRS Group) R/o H No 506, Sector -14, Faridabad-121007 is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the 06.06.2025

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 24th day of April, 2025.

Sd/-
SPECIAL JUDGE
(Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

IN THE COURT OF SUBHAS MEHLA, SPECIAL JUDGE (Under the Prevention Money Laundering Act 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED
See Section 82 Cr.P.C (Section 84 of the BNS 2023 read with section 65 of the PML Act 2002)

Directorate of Enforcement Versus Anil Jindal & others

Case No:- 02/29.08.2022 The PML Act, 2002
Date of hearing:- 06.06.2025 Complaint U/s 44 r/w Sec-45 of the
Time :- 10:00 a.m. PMLA 2002 for commission of offence
C.I.S. No:- COMA/14/2022 U/s 3 r/w Sec 70 of PML Act 2002
CNR No: HRGR01-013928-2022 ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated:20.12.2018

Whereas accused Jitender Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Prem Nath Garg (Director of M/s SRS Limited and Promotor and Director of many others Companies of SRS Group) R/o H No 537, Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana-121007 is facing trial before this court in Case No. COMA/14/2022 pertaining to ECIR No:- ECIR/03/CDZO/2018 Dated 20.12.2018, for the commission of offence of money laundering as defined under section-3 read with section -70 punishable under Section-4 of the PML Act 2002 and it has been reported on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued against said Jitender Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Prem Nath Garg that the above named accused cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above named accused Jitender Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Prem Nath Garg has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Jitender Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Prem Nath Garg (Director of M/s SRS Limited and Promotor and Director of many others Companies of SRS Group) R/o H No 537, Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana-121007 is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the 06.06.2025

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 24th day of April, 2025.

Sd/-
SPECIAL JUDGE
(Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002)-cum-SESSIONS JUDGE, GURUGRAM

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GEORGE LUCAS EXPLAINS WHY YODA FROM 'STAR WARS' SPOKE BACKWARDS: 'IF YOU SPEAK REGULAR ENGLISH, NO ONE LISTENS'



OSCAR-WINNER DIRECTOR FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA, 86, GIVEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

Parents living illegally in the US deported. But should their US-born kids with cancer go too?

Lawyers, Activists Say Families Being Rushed Out Of Country Without Due Process

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: America's liberal conscience is being shaken this weekend by the deportation on Friday of three US-born citizens, children of immigrant parents, including a 2-year-old baby and 4-year-old child with stage-4 metastatic cancer.

US authorities maintained the children's mothers, who were undocumented, were being deported to their home country Honduras, and they chose to take the children with them. But a judge, a Trump appointee, found the process questionable and said there appeared to be no meaningful process to their deportation. He called the move "illegal and unconstitutional".

Lawyers for the families said the two mothers were taken into custody while attending a routine check-in in New Orleans as part of the "intensive supervision appearance programme", which allows individuals to remain in their communities while undergoing immigration proceedings.

In one case, Jenny Carolina Lopez Villela, mother of the two-year-old girl and her older sister, is said to have given a handwritten note in Spanish choosing to take them with her even as the children's father, whose immigration status is unclear, was on the phone with her to remind her their younger daughter was a US citizen and not liable for deportation. He was cut off when he was about to give her contact information for lawyers.

In the other case, a four-year-old child with Stage 4 cancer



Protesters protest deportation of immigrants in NYC last week

Nearly 800 immigrants held in Florida in a week

Immigration and customs enforcement officers, along with state law enforcement officials, arrested about 780 immigrants in Florida in an operation this past week, according to ICE data obtained by NYT. The operation began Monday and targeted immigrants living in the country illegally with final deportation orders, according to an ICE official. The officers picked up more than 275 migrants with final removal orders, the data showed. ABC News and Fox News earlier reported news of the arrests, which took place over four days. It was the latest move by Trump to seek to accelerate deportations of immigrants living in the country illegally, which have so far been well below the administration's goals. The effort in Florida was the first to be conducted as part of a formal arrangement with state law enforcement known as a 287(g) agreement, according to the official. NYT

when they were detained at a customs and border protection checkpoint in South Texas. The Trump administration maintains it does not deport US citizens, but they may choose to accompany family members being deported, and in the case of minor children, family members being deported may take the children with them as part of a policy not to separate families. The MAGA perspective: Trump didn't deport two-year-old American citizen. US provided free transportation to a yo-

ung child whose custodial mother wanted her daughter to come with her. But civil liberties lawyers and activists say the families are being rushed out of the country without due process. In the New Orleans case, district judge Terry Doughty appeared to agree with them. The two mothers and their children were reportedly prevented from communicating fully with their families trying to arrange legal representation, driven to the airport, and put on a flight to Honduras, irking even a Trump appointee judge.

"The govt contends this is all okay because the mother wishes that the child be deported with her. But the court doesn't know that," Doughty said, noting he was unable to verify the mother's consent for the child to accompany her before the deportation. The case highlighted growing disquiet in the country over the Trump administration's crackdown on not just undocumented immigrants, but even green card and visa holders, including international students, not to speak of bearing down on judges, two of whom have been arrested for purportedly obstructing the deportation of illegal immigrants.

In some cases, homeland security officials in plainclothes have been arresting immigrants without serving warrants, with supporters of such action citing security concerns. New Trump administration policies include reversing Biden-era curbs on arrests in sensitive locations like hospitals and invoking Alien Enemies Act for expedited removals.

Trump calls for free passage of US ships through Panama and Suez canals

President Trump called for "free of charge" passage of US ships through the Panama and Suez canals, renewing his focus of expanding US influence over critical commercial and naval waterways. While Trump began pushing for an exit of Chinese port operators around the Panama Canal soon after returning to the White House in Jan, the post on his Truth Social network on Saturday also turned attention to the Suez Canal, which cuts through Egypt to link the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. "Those canals would not exist without the US," Trump said, adding that he has asked secretary of state Marco Rubio to "immediately take care of" the situation. BLOOMBERG

Prez floats new tax cut to ease bite of tariffs

President Trump suggested Sunday his sweeping tariffs would help him reduce income taxes for people making less than \$200,000 a year, as public anxiety rises over his economic agenda. Trump has previously argued tariff revenue could replace income taxes, though economists have questioned those claims. "When tariffs cut in, many people's income taxes will be substantially reduced, maybe even completely eliminated. Focus will be on people making less than \$200,000 a year," Trump said Sunday on his Truth Social network. BLOOMBERG

Toll from blast at Iran port rises to 40, over 1,200 hurt

Def Ministry Denies Missile-Related Cargo Led To Blast

Dubai: The death toll from a powerful explosion at Iran's biggest port of Bandar Abbas has risen to at least 40, with more than 1,200 people injured, state media reported on Sunday, as firefighters worked to fully extinguish the fire.

Saturday's blast took place in the Shahid Rajaei section of the port, Iran's biggest container hub, shattering windows for several kilometres around, tearing metal strips off shipping containers and badly damaging goods inside, state media said. The incident occurred as Iran held a third round of nuclear talks with the United States in Oman.

Fires kept breaking out in different parts of the affected area as of Sunday night, according to state media, with helicopters and fire fighters continuing efforts to extinguish them. Chemicals at the port were suspected to have fuelled the explosion, but the exact cause was not clear and Iran's defence ministry denied international media reports that the blast may be linked to the mishandling of solid fuel used for missiles. A spokesperson for the ministry told state TV the reports were "aligned with enemy psyops", saying that the blast-hit area did not contain any military cargo.

AP cited British security firm Ambrey as saying the port in March had received sodium perchlorate, which is used to propel ballistic missiles and whose mishandling could have led to the explosion. The Financial Times reported in Jan the shipment of two Iranian vessels from China containing enough of the ingredients to propel as many as 260 mid-range missiles, helping Tehran replenish its stocks following its direct missile attacks on arch-foe Israel in 2024.

Plumes of black smoke rose above the site on Sunday and pieces of twisted metal



Smoke rises following an explosion at the Shahid Rajaei port in Bandar Abbas. British security firm Ambrey said that the port in March had received sodium perchlorate, which is used to propel ballistic missiles and whose mishandling could have led to the explosion

and debris lay scattered across the blast site. By early afternoon, the head of Iran's Red Crescent Society told state media the fire was 90% extinguished and officials said port activities had resumed in unaffected parts of Shahid Rajaei.

A spokesperson for the country's crisis management organisation appeared to blame the explosion on poor storage of chemicals in containers at Shahid Rajaei. REUTERS

150 Russian drones hit Ukraine as Trump says he doubts Putin's desire for peace

Kyiv: Russia launched a sweeping drone assault and air strikes across Ukraine early Sunday, killing at least four people, officials said, after US President Trump cast doubt over Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to end the war.

Three people died and four were wounded in air strikes in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, the regional prosecutor's office said. Another person died and a 14-year-old girl was wounded in a drone attack on the city of Pavlohrad in the Dnipropetrovsk region that was hit for the third straight night, governor Serhiy Lysak said.

The attacks came hours after Russia claimed to have regained control over the remaining parts of the Kursk region



People paint on a giant wall in Kyiv to help them relieve stress

that Ukrainian forces seized in in Aug 2024. Russian agencies even quoted Kremlin as saying that Putin telephoned his top commanders in Kursk to congratulate them on "victory" and the end of the operation to expel Ukrainian forces from the region in western Russia.

Ukrainian officials, however, said the fighting in Kursk was still under way. Trump said Saturday he

doubts Putin wants to end the more than three-year-old war. Only a day earlier, Trump had said Ukraine and Russia were "very close to a deal". "There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days," Trump wrote in a post after attending the funeral of Pope Francis at the Vatican, where he met briefly with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. Trump also hinted at further sanctions against Russia.

US secretary of state Marco Rubio said on Sunday that the coming week would be "very critical", and the US would need to "make a determination about whether this is an endeavour that we want to continue to be involved in." AGENCIES

'Adverse information' claims by USCIS alarm H-IBs

Lubna Kably | TNN

A new request from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) while processing H-1B visa applications (Form I-129) and also while processing applications for employment-linked green cards is perplexing attorneys and H-1B beneficiaries who are sponsored for the visa or green card. USCIS states that it has "adverse information" and requires an updated address of the beneficiary for collection of biometrics.

The number of such inquiries from USCIS has gained momentum over last week. "The request for evidence (RFE) states: We have encountered po-

tentially 'adverse information' related to the beneficiary. To continue processing your application or petition, we require an updated address for the beneficiary so that we may collect biometric data. Please submit the beneficiary's current and updated residential address."

This has prompted the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) to issue a 'Practice Alert' for its members and also to reach out to USCIS. It has reminded the agency that if it does have any adverse information, it is required to disclose the same and provide the petitioner with an opportunity to respond.

Kripa Upadhyay, immigration attorney at Buchalter, sta-



BATTING FOR IMMIGRANTS

tes "USCIS is breaking the law. Regulations require it to disclose any derogatory information being used as a basis for an adverse decision. These RFEs provide no information or indication of what the 'adverse information' is." Cyrus D Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney echoed the same and added, "It is bizarre and again

one wonders whether this is an AI program that has gone rogue." Vincent W Lau, managing partner at Clark Lau, who is the vice-chair at AILA's 'USCIS Benefits and Policy Committee' told TOI, "An official answer is still awaited from USCIS. Anecdotally from AILA member reports, we surmise that the 'adverse' information may include prior police activity and USCIS may be trying to use biometrics to verify the identity of the individual."

While biometrics are collected in several cases, such as citizenship, green cards, employment authorisation, or when applying for visas at consulates abroad, immigration attorneys are also puzzled as H-1B visa

holders have not normally been required to submit to biometrics. "I would not say therefore that it is illegal to request biometrics of H-1B beneficiaries but it has not been part of the petition process. If indeed this is a new trend, practitioners have not received any notice of this and therefore, with the uncertainty and unpredictability in the immigration space right now, it is unsettling. Practitioners and their clients are not sure whether there is more to the request. Is this just a simple request for biometrics or is there more behind the request? Should an individual be concerned and what can one expect when appearing to submit biometrics?" states Lau.

Pak troops kill 54 militants trying to enter through Af

Islamabad: Pakistani security forces overnight killed 54 militants who attempted to cross into the country from Afghanistan, the military said Sunday, marking one of the deadliest such killings in recent years.

The military said intelligence reports indicated the killed militants were "Khwarizm" — a phrase gov't uses for Pakistani Taliban.

Without directly blaming anyone, the military said the slain insurgents had been sent by their "foreign masters" to carry out high-profile attacks inside Pakistan.

The insurgents were spotted and killed near the former stronghold of Pakistani Taliban near North Waziristan, a district in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province along the Afghan border. "This is the first time during the ongoing operations against terrorists that Pakistani forces killed terrorists in such a high number in a single day," interior minister Mohsin Naqvi said. AP

11 people killed as a vehicle plows into a Filipino street festival crowd in Vancouver

Canada Cops Rule Out Terrorism; Suspect Held; Jagmeet Singh Was Among Attendees

Vancouver: At least 11 people were killed when a man drove through a crowd at a Filipino community festival in the western Canadian city of Vancouver on the weekend before Canada's federal polls, police said.

Police said they had arrested a 30-year-old Vancouver man at the scene of the incident on Saturday evening. "At this time, we are confident that this incident was not an act of terrorism," Vancouver police said on X. "It is the darkest day in Vancouver's history," said Vancouver police interim chief Steve Rai. "The person we have in custody does have a significant history of interactions with police and health care professionals related to mental health."

Speaking Sunday morning, Canadian PM Mark Carney said more than 20 people were injured in what police described as a car ramming attack. He said an investigation had begun into how and why the attack took place. "Last night, families



Police forensics officers investigate the attack scene in Vancouver

lost a sister, a brother, a mother, a father, a son or a daughter. Those families are living every family's nightmare," Carney told reporters in Hamilton, Ontario, where he also expressed his condolences to the country's Filipino community.

The suspect was initially chased down and held by festivalgoers until police arrived, witnesses said. The injured were taken to multiple hospitals. The incident happened near East 41st Avenue and Fraser Street, where Lapu-Lapu Day Block Party was taking place. One witness said he saw a black vehicle driving erratically in the area of the festival just before the crowd was struck. Carney's campaign movements for Monday's election were delayed after the tragedy, but a gov't official said the PM would head to Saskatoon to resume campaigning. Philippine President Ferdi-

Carney or Poilievre? Canada votes today

Donald Trump might as well be on the ballot when Canadians vote for a new gov't. The US president's trade war and threats to make Canada the 51st state have infuriated Canadians and led to a surge in nationalism that has helped the Liberal Party flip the narrative heading into Monday's parliamentary election, at least in opinion polls. Foreign policy hasn't affected a Canadian election this much since 1988, when, ironically, free trade with the US dominated the political discourse. PM Mark Carney, the Liberal leader, led in the polls heading into Monday. Until a few months ago, Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre was seen as a shoo-in to become the next PM. The first results of the polls will come in just after 7pm and 7.30pm EST, when voting hours end in the four Atlantic provinces, accounting for a little less than 10% of the seats in play. The vast majority of results will be released at 9.30pm, when voting ends in most of the country. The outcome of the election could be known shortly after these votes start to be reported. AGENCIES

DAILY PLANET



Participants drive vintage cars during a rally in Moscow on Sunday

Dog rescued after 529 days on Aus island, doing well

A miniature dachshund, whose rescue after 529 days missing on an Australian island captured global media attention, is recovering well, rescuers have said. Valerie the sausage dog's survival story made headlines after she was rescued Friday on Kangaroo Island, about 14 km off the coast of South Australia state. Valerie went missing in Nov 2023 when her owners travelled to the island. "She's doing really, really well," Jared Karan, director of Kangaroo Wildlife Rescue. The mission to find her comprised more than 1,000 hours of searching by volunteers, and also involved vehicles and "numerous cameras and traps".

Letter written onboard Titanic fetches \$399,000 at auction A lettercard penned by one of Titanic's most well-known survivors from onboard the ship, days before it sank, has sold for 300,000 pounds (\$399,000) at auction. In the note, written to the seller's great-uncle on April 10, 1912, first-class passenger Archibald Gracie wrote: "It is a fine ship but I shall avoid

it my journeys end before I pass judgement on her." The letter was sold to a private collector from the US, according to auction house Henry Aldridge & Son in Wiltshire, England. The hammer price far exceeded the initial estimate price of 60,000 pounds. The letter is believed to be the sole example in existence from Gracie from onboard the Titanic. Gracie, who was rescued by other passengers onboard a lifeboat went on to write "The Truth about the Titanic. The letter was postmarked Queenstown, Ireland, one of two stops the Titanic made before sinking.

Suspect in Kardashian heist case plans to admit role at trial One of the suspects in the armed robbery of Kim Kardashian said he plans to take responsibility for his role in the 2016 high-profile heist and will apologise in court as the trial begins Monday in Paris. Yunique Abbas, 71, who has publicly acknowledged his participation in the heist, is among 10 suspects facing charges, including armed robbery and kidnapping. Kardashian is expected to testify in person at the trial. Abbas said he was unarmed and did not personally threaten Kardashian, but acknowledged he shared responsibility for the crime.

20 yrs ago, 3 US presidents travelled together to mourn a pope. Not this time

David E Sanger

Twenty years ago this month, President George W Bush landed in Rome to pay his respects to a deceased pope, John Paul II. He was the first sitting president to attend a papal funeral. But he was not alone: He had asked his predecessor, Bill Clinton, to ride along on Air Force One, along with his father, George HW Bush.

Together, the three presidents sped to St Peter's Basilica. Kneeling, they prayed side by side before the pope's body.

It was a remarkable display of American bipartisan unity, the kind of kinship among political rivals that feels unimaginable today. And things played out differently when President Donald Trump landed in Rome on Friday night to attend Pope Francis' funeral. He was accompanied by his wife, Melania, and a clutch of senior aides. But his predecessor, former President Joe Biden, and his wife, Jill, flew in on their own.

Considering Trump had recently stripped Biden of his security clearances and regular-



Faithful attend Mass following the funeral of Pope Francis at the Vatican

ly denounces him, it is understandable they did not share a ride to Rome. When former President Jimmy Carter died in Dec, Trump said he had passed away "a happy man" in the knowledge that "he wasn't the worst. President Joe Biden was."

Biden has often talked about his Roman Catholic upbringing. He saw Francis briefly in Italy in June, weeks before the disastrous debate with Trump that led to his decision to drop out of the race. Biden had talked about returning to Rome to get the pope's blessing before leav-

ing the White House, but he cancelled the trip because of the Los Angeles wildfires in Jan.

Asked on the flight to Rome whether he planned to talk with Biden at the funeral, Trump sounded surprised his predecessor was attending. "It's not high on my list," he said. "It's really not." The contrast was stark. Bush was eager to ensure Clinton was part of the full presidential party. Not only did the two men attend the funeral together, Clinton sat in on the highly classified presidential daily brief on the flight over. NYT

Automotive segment witnessed strong rebound in deal landscape, both in terms of volumes and values by 27% and 191%, respectively. The revival was majorly attributed to over billion-dollar deal closing in Q1, 2025 in the PE space



Source: Grant Thornton Bharat



Bill proposing 100% insurance FDI likely in monsoon session

New Delhi: The Insurance Amendment Bill, which proposes 100% FDI in the insurance sector, may be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming monsoon session, sources said. The draft bill is ready and will be placed before Cabinet for its approval soon, sources said, adding, after Cabinet nod the Department of Financial Services under the finance ministry would begin the process for introduction of the Bill in Parliament. The ministry hopes to table the Bill in Parliament during the upcoming monsoon session, sources said. Monsoon session usually begins in July. AGENCIES

Happy developers: iOS stores facilitate ₹45k cr sales in 2024

Apple's India Biz Engagement Crosses ₹2.3L Cr Last Year

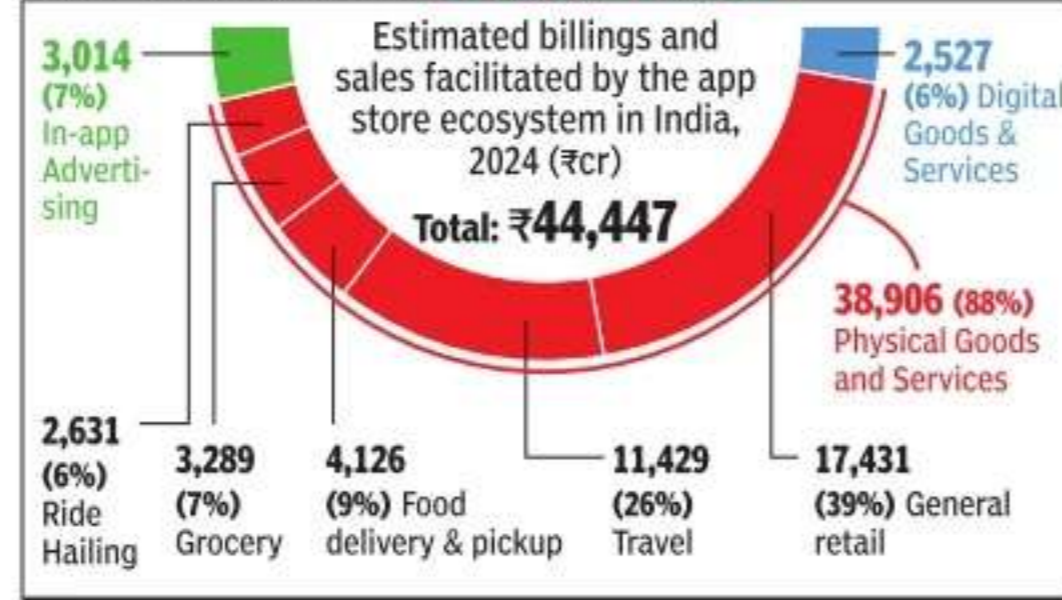
Pankaj.Doyal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It's not just the multi-billion-dollar sale of iPhones and lucrative exports, the world's biggest electronics company Apple has also hit a jackpot in developer billings and sales on the iOS app ecosystem in India.

The Cupertino-headquartered company has reaped in a rich engagement through its app ecosystem in India, raking in \$5.3 billion (around Rs 44,447 crore) last year. This has opened a whole new frontier for the company in India, and has seen Apple's business engagement cross nearly \$27 billion (Rs 2.3 lakh crore) in 2024, sources told TOI. This includes around \$8 billion of sales of iPhones and other products such as AirPods, MacBooks and iPads in the local market, \$14 billion of exports (a large part to the US), and \$5-billion-plus of app store transactions.

Such has been the intensity through the India app Store that Apple's global CEO Tim Cook has termed it a "miracle for developers in India" due to the rush in transactions. "The app store has been an economic miracle for developers in

APP ECONOMY ON THE RISE



India and all around the world, and we're thrilled to support their work," Cook said as he commented on the billings and sales estimates for 2024, arrived at in a study conducted by IIM, Ahmedabad, professor Viswanath Pingali.

Cook further said, "This study underlines the power of India's incredibly vibrant app economy. And we're committed to keeping investing in the success of developers of all sizes as they build apps that make an important impact and enrich people's lives."

Interestingly, more than 94% of billings and sales facilitated by the app store in India accrued solely to the

developers, without any commission paid to Apple. Also, the global earnings of India-based developers tripled over the past five years through the engagement on the apps which are available across Apple's markets.

On an average, more than 22 million users visited the India app store each week - double to what it was three years ago. Throughout the year, iOS users in India downloaded apps nearly 1.1 billion times, which is also almost double to what it was three years ago. A significant share of the app store ecosystem in India is driven by the local developer com-

munity: 38% of the downloads by users in India in 2024 were for apps developed by India-based developers. This represents a 27% increase in the share of local downloads compared to five years ago.

Talking about the global reach, the study shows that close to 80% of India-based developers' app store earnings came from users outside of the country, and 87% of developers were active on multiple storefronts (countries).

"Throughout the same year, users from all over the world downloaded apps from developers in India more than 755 million times through the app store - twice as many as five years ago. Many apps from India-based developers have also appeared on the most-downloaded app charts in storefronts outside of India, and apps from India-based developers were in the top 100 most-downloaded apps in 70 storefronts outside of India."

In the last five years, downloads by Indian users have more than tripled, and earnings from these users have increased more than five-fold, the study said.

'Sarvam AI to build India's 1st AI platform in 6 months'

New Delhi: Lightspeed venture capital-backed Sarvam AI will develop India's first AI platform in six months, the company's founder said on Saturday.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the selection of Sarvam AI to develop India's first GenAI platform. "We are confident that Sarvam's models will be competitive with global models," Vaishnaw said.

The minister asked for a timeline for developing the platform from Sarvam founders who committed that it would be done in six months. Govt will allocate 400 GPUs to Sarvam for six months for developing India's own large language models with 70 billion parameters. TNN

Amid global headwinds, FMCG cos bet on India

From P&G To Reckitt And PepsiCo, Cos Say Consumption In Country Remains Steady

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Mumbai: For global consumer giants battling business headwinds posed by tariffs and sluggish consumer spending in developed regions like the US, where an uncertain macro environment has nudged people to cut back on purchases, India is emerging as one of their key growth markets. From P&G to Reckitt and PepsiCo, companies in their recent earnings calls said that consumption in India remains steady, even as some firms have lowered their full-year forecasts due to the global backdrop.

"If you look at markets like India, we are profitable, and India is driving mid-single-digit growth very nicely. We have local production on the ground, and we have R&D capability on the ground. The market gets better every time we look at it," said Andre Schulten, chief financial officer at P&G. The firm, however, did not rule out the possibility of volatility in emerging markets going ahead in line with the macro developments unfolding globally. The maker of Pampers and Tide detergent, which expects current tariffs to have an impact of \$1-\$1.5 billion, said that currently the largest US tariff impacts are coming from raw and packaging materials and some finished products sourced from China.

Unilever's acting CFO, Srinivas Phatak, said that in

REVENUE DECLINES WORLDWIDE

Company	March Qtr 2025 Net Revenue (In \$ billion)	March Qtr 2024 Net Revenue (In \$ billion)	Y-o-Y change (%)
P&G	19.8	20.2	-2
Unilever	16.8	17	-1
Reckitt	4.90	4.97	-1.4
PepsiCo	17.9	18.2	-1.8

Source: company releases

India, there are no new macroeconomic headwinds and that is an "important element to call out". Govt incentives, tax relief, and lower food and oil inflation are potential consumption tailwinds that set up the market for good growth, the firm said.

"I think this is a market where we'll be unblinking in our defense. And when we get our growth engine moving up, we know how to really make money here and how really to drive earnings ahead of growth," said Phatak. A huge population and an increasing shift from unbranded to branded consumption help companies tap into new growth spaces in India, even though broader local consumption has been subdued over the past few quarters due to tepid urban demand.

Reckitt said that the company has seen strong volume growth in emerging markets led by China and India, particularly in the germ protection and intimate wellness

spaces. "We fully expect sustained strong volume growth in China and India and in other emerging markets as we go through this year," said CEO Kris Licht.

The company expects Europe to deliver low single-digit growth and North America to show a low single-digit decline in Q2, given the weaker consumer backdrop. "The overall macro environment has gotten weaker and has been more volatile than what we would have seen when we were guiding for the front half of the year," said CFO Shannon Eisenhardt.

American beverage major PepsiCo, which lowered its full-year earnings forecast, said that it sees India in a "good place", and the international business continues to be the largest "growth engine" for the company. Nestle, which expects importing Nespresso into the US and some soluble coffee to be impacted by tariffs, said it will expand in India this year.



Huawei's AI chip to rival Nvidia's: Report

China's Huawei Technologies Co is getting ready to test a new and powerful artificial intelligence processor that the company hopes can replace some products made by US-based Nvidia Corp, the Wall Street Journal reported. Huawei has approached some companies about testing the feasibility of the new chip. BLOOMBERG

Netherlands, India look to boost trade

New Delhi: India and European nation Netherlands have discussed ways to boost trade and investments ties during the visit of commerce secretary Sunil Barthal to Hague. The visit assumes significance as India's exports to Netherlands are recording healthy growth despite global economic uncertainties. AGENCIES

Hybrid MF schemes' inflow moderates

New Delhi: Hybrid MF schemes attracted Rs 1.2 lakh crore in FY25, 18% lower than last fiscal, owing to market turbulence in second half of FY25, triggered by earnings slowdown and geo-political tensions. Despite moderation in inflow, the category has seen increase in both the number of investors and AUM. AGENCIES

73% Share of UPI users who would stop using the service if a transaction fee is imposed

External probe: IndusInd's derivatives loss at ₹2k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: IndusInd Bank will take a charge of Rs 1,956 crore in the fourth quarter of FY25 to correct longstanding discrepancies in its derivatives valuation. The private lender also plans to hold employees accountable for the lapses that inflated its reported profits over several years.

In a disclosure to stock exchanges, the bank said that an independent investigation, commissioned in March 2025, had confirmed an adverse accounting impact of Rs 1,960 crore as of March 31st. The investigation report was submitted on Saturday and taken up by the board which met for the purpose on

Lender also plans to hold employees accountable for the lapses that inflated its reported profits over several years

Saturday and Sunday. The bank has not revealed the name of the external agency which was appointed by the bank, but sources said that it was Grant Thornton.

The discrepancies stemmed from internal derivative trades between the asset-liability management desk and the treasury, which used accrual accounting, while external counterparties' trades were marked to

market. This mismatch allowed IndusInd to defer losses internally while prematurely booking gains externally, overstating earnings. The bank began internal derivatives trade between its asset-liability management desk and treasury in 2017-18, mostly hedging foreign currency borrowings in yen and dollars. A regulatory intervention in Sept 2023, when the RBI tightened derivatives accounting rules, prompted an internal review.

The central bank subsequently banned internal derivatives trades from April 2024, forcing IndusInd to unwind its positions. In March 2025, the bank warned of a Rs 1,600 crore pre-tax hit.

ICICI Lombard to up health biz investments, look at buyouts

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard General Insurance plans to step up investment in its health insurance business, seeking to close the gap between its health portfolio and its broader non-life market share. The company also remains open to acquisitions should suitable opportunities arise.

"Historically, we've been below the industry in terms of market share. We did not invest enough in products or on distribution expansion, which is why our market share has been at 3% in retail health compared to our aggregate market share of close to about 9%," said Gopal Balachandran, the company's chief financial officer.

In recent years, ICICI Lombard has sought to correct this imbalance by launching new products and expanding its sales force focused on health insurance. Though it has surplus capital, the company is not actively pursuing acquisitions. Rather, it is interested in businesses aligned with sectors where it is already investing organically. "For example, retail health, we are investing organically. So if there are opportunities in the space of similar kind we are willing to look at it," Mr Balachandran said. The push into health insurance comes as growth in motor insurance, traditionally a stronghold for the firm, slows. TNN

India may seek parity on tech access in trade pact with US

New Delhi: India is likely to ask the US to ease export controls and grant it access to critical technologies on par with key American allies like Australia, the UK, and Japan under the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA), sources said.

They added that India may seek these easing for sectors like telecom equipment, biotechnology, AI (artificial intelligence), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing and semiconductors.

The country is also seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes and bananas in the proposed pact with America. On the other hand, the US wants duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles particularly), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples, and tree nuts, they said. AGENCIES

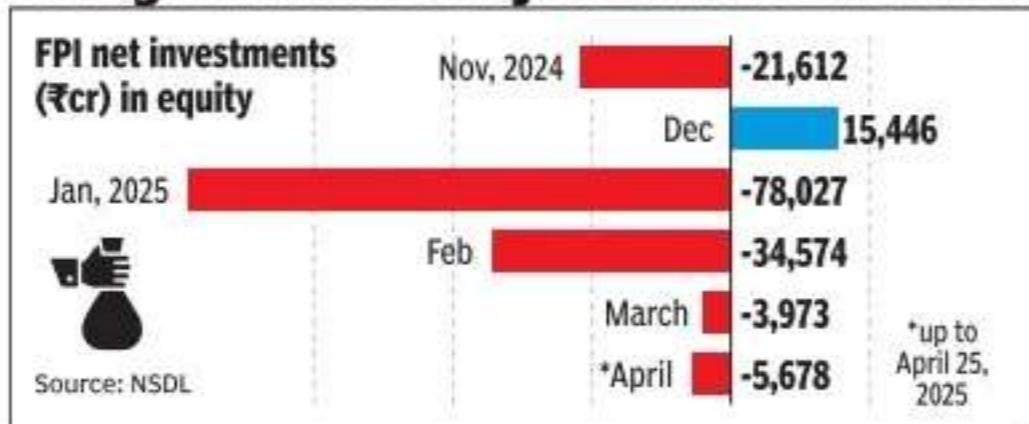
Indo-Pak tension, FPIs to decide trend on D-Street

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, in the backdrop of the Pahalgalam terror attack, trading trends by foreign funds, quarterly results by companies in India and the US, and trading trends in the US markets will decide how investors on Dalal Street behave in the truncated trading week.

The volatile nature of Indo-Pak relations, especially after the suspected backing of the terrorists by Pakistani actors, took its toll on the market on Friday, pulling the sensex and Nifty down by about 0.8% each, while mid and smallcap stocks were hit even worse. The day's selling also wiped out over Rs 8 lakh

Foreign Investors Inject ₹17k cr In A Week



crore worth of investors' wealth. If Indo-Pak tensions continue and skirmishes at the border escalate, there could be more downside to the market, brokers and traders said on Sunday.

Surprisingly, foreign funds are betting big on India despite the tensions at the border. In the last eight ses-

sions, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) net bought Indian stocks worth nearly Rs 32,500 crore. According to VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Investments, there is a distinct trend reversal in FPI strategy in India. The week will also see many blue-chip companies announce results.

India committed to reforms: RBI gov

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Despite rising protectionism around the world, India remains committed to market reforms, according to Sanjay Malhotra, governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Speaking at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum on Friday, Malhotra pointed to the new liberalisation measures in defence, insurance, petroleum, telecom, and space.

Stating that market-oriented policies had been a consistent theme across successive Indian governments, Malhotra said, "While the pace and specific focus of reforms may have varied from time to time, the commitment to a more market-oriented ec-

onomic structure has not changed." The governor said that almost all sectors have been opened up to 100% foreign direct investment in a

come," he said. He credited monetary policy for helping to tame inflation. "In view of the benign inflation outlook and moderate growth, monetary

'India set for sustainable growth'

While the pace and specific focus of reforms may have varied from time to time, the commitment to a more market-oriented economic structure has not changed. India is poised to be a dynamic powerhouse of opportunities, innovation, and sustainable growth in the years to come

Sanjay Malhotra | RBI GOVERNOR



phased manner. "Almost 90% of the FDI is now under the automatic route," he added.

Malhotra painted a bullish picture of India's prospects. "India is poised to be a dynamic powerhouse of opportunities, innovation, and sustainable growth in the years to

policy has turned accommodative," he said, noting a cumulative 50 basis point reduction in policy rates this year.

The Indian economy, he said, had demonstrated "remarkable resilience and dynamism", with average growth of 8.2% over the past

four years, compared with 6.6% in the previous decade. Growth is expected to hold up at 6.5% this year despite global financial volatility. Over the past decade, India has climbed from the world's tenth-largest economy to the fifth-largest, and ranks third by purchasing-power parity. "Even nominally, we are poised to become the third largest economy shortly," Malhotra said. He reiterated India's goal of becoming a developed economy by 2047.

On external balances, he said India's current account deficit remains manageable at 1.3% of GDP and that the rupee has held up better than many emerging-market currencies. India's foreign-exchange reserves, he noted, stood at \$886.1 billion as of April 18th.

BACK ON THEIR PERCH

Liverpool Win Premier League For Record-Equaling 20th English Title

Liverpool: Liverpool demolished Tottenham 5-1 to clinch the Premier League title at an impassioned Anfield on Sunday, sealing a record-equaling 20th English top-flight crown.

Arne Slot's men stormed back after conceding a surprise early goal to dominate the first half as the decibel level soared among 60,000-plus crowd. Liverpool, who can no longer be caught by second-placed Arsenal, are now level with bitter rivals Manchester United as the joint-most successful club in English top-flight history.

Slot's men started on the front foot at an expectant Anfield after a stirring rendition of club anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" in the warm spring sunshine. The Liverpool fans - deprived of celebrating the 2020 Premier League trophy due to Covid restrictions, ran through their full repertoire of songs as their team pushed for a fourth goal in the second half.

Top-scorer Salah scored the goal the crowd craved, collecting Szoboszlai's pass before cutting in and blasting his shot into the bottom corner. He celebrated by grabbing a fan's phone before taking a selfie in front of the Kop.

Deafening cheers of "We're going to win the league" and "We shall not be moved" rang out. The win leaves Liverpool on 82 points, 15 clear of Arsenal with four games remaining. AFP

LIVERPOOL'S ENGLISH TOP-FLIGHT TITLES (20)

1900-01, 1905-06, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1946-47, 1963-64, 1965-66, 1972-73, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1989-90, 2019-20

SUCCESS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE YEARS

2019-20 The success in 2019-20 finally ended a wait for domestic supremacy that had extended to 30 years as Klopp's all-conquering team added the Premier League title to the Champions League and FIFA Club World Cup trophies to become reigning champions of England, Europe and the world.

2024-25 Klopp's successor Arne Slot has made it a record-equaling 20 titles this season.



SELFIE SALAH: Mo celebrates with the Anfield faithful

League titles before the Premier League (1992-93 onwards)

18 Liverpool
10 Arsenal
9 Everton
7 Manchester United
7 Aston Villa
Most EPL title wins
13 - Man United
8 - Manchester City

WHAT IT STANDS FOR...

"This is our bread and butter (pointing to the 1st Div trophy)."

-Bill Shankly, LIVERPOOL MANAGER (1959-1974)

"My greatest challenge was knocking Liverpool right off their ***** perch. And you can print that."

-Alex Ferguson, MANCHESTER UNITED MANAGER (1986-2013)

CITY BEAT FOREST 2-0 TO REACH FA CUP FINAL

London: Manchester City beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 at Wembley on Sunday to reach their third straight FA Cup final, with goals from Rico Lewis and Josko Gvardiol keeping alive City's hopes of avoiding a rare season without a trophy.

Lewis scored inside two minutes when he was fed by the influential Mateo Kovacic and given time and space to fire into the bottom corner and silence the Forest fans.

Conceding an early goal was certainly not in the gameplan for Forest, who struggled to gain a foothold in the first half.

City comfortably closed the game out and victory in their record-extending seventh consecutive FA Cup semifinal means they will face Crystal Palace on May 17. REUTERS

TITLE BLOW FOR INTER BEFORE CL TIE

Madrid: Inter Milan's Serie A title hopes took a massive blow when the defending champions suffered a 1-0 home loss to AC Milan on Sunday, giving Napoli the chance to open up a three-point gap at the top when they host Torino later on Sunday. The hosts, who bowed out of the Coppa Italia on Wednesday with a 3-0 semi-final second leg defeat by AC Milan, suffered their third loss in a week as their treble bid risks coming apart at the seams.

Inter need to recover before Wednesday's Champions League semifinal first leg at Barcelona.



"I just went to run in every direction (after scoring), to join the fans and my team-mates, this is what we live for, this is why we love football, it brings these sort of emotions." - Jules Kounde, BARCELONA DEFENDER WHO SCORED THE WINNER

Barca win Cup, Real lose pride

Catalans triumph in extra-time to win wild Copa del Rey final

Seville: Barcelona defender Jules Kounde struck deep in extra-time to decide a gripping Copa del Rey Clasico final on Saturday in Seville, earning his side a 3-2 win over rivals Real Madrid.

The Catalans, aiming for a quadruple this season, won the first major trophy of Hansi Flick's reign as coach and a record-extending 32nd Spanish cup in dramatic fashion.

Pedri sent Barcelona ahead at La Cartuja but two Real Madrid goals in seven second-half minutes, from Kylian Mbappe and Aurelien Tchouameni, pulled the Spanish and European champions level. However, Ferran Torres struck in the 84th minute to take the game to extra-time and Kounde drilled home to win it for the La Liga leaders. "It was a good time to bring joy to our fans - we have to enjoy it but without forgetting the Champions League semis are coming," Torres told La 1. Barca host Inter Milan on Wednesday.

"They can make a party - for today, it's OK," a delighted Flick, who has won all seven finals he has coached in his career, told Movistar.

Substituted Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger was sent off in the final seconds for appearing to throw an object onto the pitch towards the referee, and Lucas Vazquez, also replaced, was dismissed for further protest as Madrid unravelled. "I don't want to talk about the referee," said stone-faced Madrid coach Ancelotti.

He admitted he had no idea about that happening, with his team out of control. "I don't know what happened at the end."

"They can't handle us this year, we've proven it." -Lamine Yamal

"There's definitely no excuse for my behaviour last night. I'm very sorry for that. Before the final whistle I did a mistake." -Antonio Rudiger on X, after attempting to throw a piece of ice at the referee

"It has been a perfect night. To win a title in a game like the Clasico against Real Madrid is always special. The treble is an option, but we have to keep working." -Hansi Flick, Barca coach



LOSING IT: Real Madrid players argue with referee Ricardo De Burgos Bengoetxea

Madrid pride themselves on their 'senorio' - gentlemanliness, honourable approach, or class - none of which was evident during a frightening weekend for Spanish football.

Madrid's actions before the match and in its denouement, with Antonio Rudiger, Jude Bellingham and Lucas Vazquez sent off in a blizzard of red cards, ripped at the fabric of the game. Rudiger and Bellingham needed to be restrained as they confronted the official, with the former facing a lengthy ban.

For many months Real Madrid have attacked Spanish referees via their official television channel. La Liga is still on the line and they face Barcelona again on May 11, trailing them by four points, but have not been able to stop them yet. AFP

GALLERY

Assefa wins London Marathon

London: Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa shattered the women's-only world record in winning the 45th London Marathon on Sunday, pulling away from Joyciline Jepkosgei of Kenya. The 28-year-old Assefa crossed the finish line in two hours, 15 minutes and 50 seconds. Olympic marathon champion and 2024 London winner Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands ended third in 2:19:00.

14 Indian boxers advance:

As many as 14 boxers moved to the finals of the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships in Amman. Nine of the 12 women's U-15 boxers competing in the semifinals won their bouts to progress on Saturday. Komal (30-33 kg), Navya (58 kg), and Sunaina (61 kg) secured dominant RSC (Referee Stopped Contest) victories, while Khushi Ahlawat (35 kg), Tamanna (37 kg), Princi (52 kg), and Trushana Mohite (67 kg) picked up dominant wins.

Aditi struggles:

Aditi Ashok had a rough time in the third round, managing a 5-over par to be placed tied 74th at the Chevron Championship in The Woodlands, Texas. Aditi's third round included one birdie, four bogeys and one double bogey. She is seven over par for the tournament.

Lahiri placed T19:

Anirban Lahiri was hit by a triple bogey as he carded an even par 71 in the second round of the LIV Golf Mexico City to be placed Tied-19th. Lahiri had six birdies, three bogeys and a triple on Par-5 12th.

Rawal, bowlers shine as India hammer Sri Lanka

Opeker Pratika Rawal struck a fine half-century after spinners Sneha Rana and debutant Shree Charani starred with the ball as India outclassed Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the rain-hit opening ODI of the women's tri-nation series here Sunday.

Brief Scores:

Sri Lanka: 147 all out in 38.1 overs (Sneha Rana 3-31) lost to India: 149/1 in 29.4 overs (Pratika Rawal 50n.o., Harleen Deol 48n.o., Smriti Mandhana 43). AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Sudirman Cup Finals, 7 am & 2.30 pm (Star Sports, JioHotstar)

CRICKET: Rajasthan vs Gujarat, 7.30 pm (Star Sports, JioHotstar)

TENNIS: Madrid Open, 2.30 pm (Sony Sports)

Zaheer backs 'leader' Pant despite his struggles with bat

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Mumbai: A major reason for Lucknow Super Giants' inconsistent IPL-2025 campaign has been the poor form of their captain Rishabh Pant, who has scored just 110 runs in 10 matches at an average of 12.22. His run includes six single-digit scores, with a top score of 63 against Chennai Super Kings. On Sunday against Mumbai Indians, Pant managed only a two-ball four, falling to Will Jacks in LSG's 54-run defeat.

However, the struggling 27-year-old received solid backing from LSG mentor and former India pacer Zaheer Khan. Dismissing suggestions that Pant - bought for a record Rs 27 crore - is feeling the pressure of the price tag, Zaheer insisted that Pant "has been ticking all the right boxes as a leader" and just needs "something to click with the bat" to rediscover form.

"I wouldn't relate it to anything like that. He is a leader, and he has been fantastic as a leader, which I can vouch for. The kind of effort he has been putting in to ensure each individual in the group feels comfortable and heard, and his planning around everything in the IPL, has been spot on. As a leader, he is ticking all the boxes. As a batter, the middle order depends on Rishabh and I am very confident that the impact we want from him will come. It's just about something clicking," Zaheer said.

Reiterating that the hefty price tag was not adding pressure on Pant, Zaheer said, "I wouldn't relate it to pressure. You have seen that he is the kind of personality who doesn't dwell on setbacks. What happened in the last game is behind him. He is very optimistic and positive."

Zaheer emphasised that Pant remains key to LSG's ambitions. "When you're talking about a team aiming to win the tournament, you look at leaders who can take you forward. We've identified Rishabh as that leader. Players will hit form and lose form - that's how the game goes. Now, in the back end of the



Rishabh Pant got out attempting a reverse sweep to Mumbai's Will Jacks on Sunday

Pant fined for slow over-rate

Mumbai: LSG skipper Rishabh Pant was fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate on Sunday. "The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, will be fined either INR six lakhs or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser," IPL said in a release. PTI

tournament, with pressure increasing, it's about finding that one innings that can turn things around for anyone," he said.

Meanwhile, Zaheer expressed confidence that pacer Mayank Yadav's pace will improve as he gets more game time. Returning from a back injury, Mayank returned figures of 4-0-40-2 on Sunday, but clocked speeds below his earlier highs of 150-155 kmph. "It was important for him to complete his full quota of overs and stay on the field for 20 overs. Execution and speed will only improve," Zaheer said.

'Nehra's inputs proving invaluable' Yorking KL Rahul Is Standout Dismissal For Prasad Krishna

Sabu Cherian & Arnab Mukherji | TNN

Ahmedabad: In Gujarat Titans' inaugural season in 2022, their bowling attack was led by Mohammad Shami, Hardik Pandya, Lockie Ferguson and co. Despite Ferguson's departure in 2023 and Mohit Sharma's subsequent addition, the franchise came within one ball of defending the title.

Currently positioned second after 46 matches in the IPL, their strategic focus on bowling at the mega-auction has proven successful, with Prasad Krishna (16 wickets in 8 matches) and Mohammed Siraj (12 wickets in 8 matches) leading the charge.

With Kagiso Rabada having returned home for personal reasons and leg spinner Rashid Khan's reduced wicket-taking form, Prasad has effectively managed crucial wickets across all phases of the game, effectively limiting opponents' scoring opportunities. This augurs well for the Titans as the tournament enters a crucial stage.

Prasad, on Sunday, was



highlighting the role of GT head coach Ashish Nehra in his impact this IPL season. "I was very clear about what I wanted to work on, made sure I put in the hours, and had the right conversations with Ashish Nehra. One thing that I've learned from him is about reading the conditions, the pitch, making sure you make the right decisions when you're at the top of the mark," Prasad said in the JioHotstar Press Room for Race to Playoffs.

"All of these things help you be more confident. And when you're confident, I think you would want to play as many games as possible and make sure you contribute to your team's victory," he added. Against DC in Ahmedabad, Prasad's full-length yorker dismissed KL Rahul during the visitors' high-scoring powerplay, effectively reducing their scoring rate. It's his personal favourite. "KL Rahul's wicket was my favourite because I was kind of under the pressure. I was lucky that the ball swung very late and got somebody like KL Rahul," he said. "And if that happens at a crucial stage when the right batsman gets out, that means you slow down the run rate and you get the momentum back. So, it has a chain reaction kind of a thing. And it definitely helped the bowlers."

Royals face uphill battle against GT

Mandakini.Shalya @timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals will have little to lose as they face Gujarat Titans in their 10th league match against Gujarat Titans here on Monday.

Placed at eighth spot in the table, Royals face uphill battle against high-flying Titans who are holding the top spot. But, as their stand-in captain Riyan Parag said after the team lost by 11 runs against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Royals "will play for pride now".

RR's regular captain Sanju Samson is not available for the match as he is yet to recover from a side strain he picked during the game against DC. Royals' top order, featuring Yashasvi Jaiswal's flair and 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavashi's raw potential, is looking good, but beyond that, there is little hope for the hosts. Nitish Rana's patchy form, Riyan's inability to convert, Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer's inability to finish leave Royals vulnerable.

The possibility of a fight against Titans' juggernaut which includes bowlers like Prasad Krishna, Mohammed Siraj, Sai Kishore and Rashid Khan, look bleak.

Titans' top-order, captain Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler, are in red-hot form. The three have consistently scored runs giving their team a dream start.

53.90 Gujarat Titans' top three batters are averaging 50-plus in this IPL, scoring 1078 runs, including 11 50s in nine matches - the only group of batters to average 50-plus in this IPL. -Rajesh Kumar

FACE-OFF
RR VS GT
TV TIME: 7.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD
RR 1 GT 6
LAST FIVE MATCHES
RR L L L L L
GT W W L W W

VENUE: JAIPUR
WEATHER 37°C
ODDS
RR 12/10 GT 7/10

Chhange spurs Mumbai City; JFC edge NEUFC to make semis

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Giant-killers Inter Kashi's run in the Kalinga Super Cup came to a halt at the hands of Mumbai City on Sunday. After shocking Bengaluru FC via penalty shoot-out in the pre-quarterfinals, the expectation from Inter Kashi was sky-high. But despite all their efforts to continue the dream run in the knockout tournament, Inter Kashi succumbed to Mumbai's constant pressure that resulted in Lallianzuala Chhangte netting the only goal of the early quarterfinal at Kalinga Stadium on Sunday.

Mumbai City will take on Jamshedpur FC in the semifinal and the latter held their nerves to beat North East United FC 5-4 via penalty shoot-out after the second quarterfinal of the day finished goalless in regulation time.

There was hardly anything to separate the two Indian Super League (ISL) sides in the evening game as they matched each other in almost every aspect - be it defending with grit or showing profligacy in front of the goal. ISL Golden Boot winner Alaaeddine Ajarai failed to find his goalscoring touch as the Jamshedpur box was guarded by an ever-alert Stephen Eze, who was adjudged Player of the Match for his efforts. Ajarai's only notable effort came in the second half when he was denied by the near upright from left.

As 90 minutes failed to provide any winner, the game headed to shoot-out.

India lose 1-4 to Denmark in opening tie

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PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy suffered straight game losses as India went down to Denmark 1-4 in the Group D round robin league match of the Sudirman Cup in Xiamen on Sunday.

The saving grace for India was the 21-13, 21-18 victory of women's doubles pair Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra in the last match of the rubber. Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, who started the proceedings for India, faltered.

SUDIRMAN CUP

against Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund 13-21, 14-21. Prannoy, who came in next, worked hard but was not able to stop Anders Antonsen 15-21, 16-21. In the crucial men's doubles tie, youngsters Hariharan Amsakarunang and Ruban Kumar proved no match to the formidable pair of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen 7-21, 4-21. At 0-3, Sindhu was expected to fetch the first point for India. But the ace shuttler, who is struggling to get back to her best, went down fighting against Line Hojmark Kjarsfeldt 20-22, 21-23. This is Sindhu's first loss against the Dane in six meetings.

In the other Group D match, Indonesia blanked England 5-0.

Ugandans Cheptegei & Chelangat seize the day

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Bengaluru: Race Day on Sunday morning was pleasantly cool due to the early start times, with temperatures around 23 degrees Celsius. However, high humidity levels, recorded at approximately 85 percent, quickly offset this comfort. The conditions hindered

MARATHON

the potential for record-breaking performances in both the men's and women's elite races. Ultimately, Ugandan Olympic Champion Joshua Cheptegei and former Youth Olympic Champion Sarah Chelangat each secured the winner's prize of \$26,000 in the TCS World 10K Bengaluru.

For Cheptegei, the race unfolded as expected, culminating in an exciting finish on Cubbon Road. He shifted gears and fended off a strong challenge in the last

two kilometres from young Eritrean Saymon Tesfagiorgis (27:55) to win in 27 minutes, 53 seconds.

The event record remained intact at 27:38, as the multiple Olympic and World Champion charged to breast the ribbon even as the Open 10K runners, numbering more than 20,000, got into stride for a test of stamina and endurance.

Abhishek, Sanjivani clock best timings for India

Abhishek Pal and Sanjivani Jadhav finished on top among Indians.

Abhishek, an Asian championship bronze medalist in 2023, improved his 10K best to 29:12 to finish seventh overall. The highly experienced Sanjivani, who secured two gruelling distance running double in Kochi, was a bit slower than her last year's winning time in Bengaluru while retaining the top spot among women in 34:16.

ZVEREV, SABALENKA ADVANCE

Madrid: World No. 2 Alexander Zverev was taken to the limit by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in a gripping Madrid Open third round battle on Sunday, progressing 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/0). Earlier Andrey Rublev's Madrid Open title defence hit the rocks in a defeat by Alexander Bublik. Bublik won 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

In the women's draw last year's defeated finalist Aryna Sabalenka fought back to beat Elise Mertens and reach the last 16. Women's world No. 1 Sabalenka progressed 3-6, 6-2, 5-1 against Belgian Mertens, ranked 26th. AFP



Styled to wander

Volkswagen Virtus and Taigun



Krunal's all-round show crushes DC

SKY, Bumrah help MI seal fifth win in a row

Southpaw's Heroics With Both Bat And Ball Help RCB Beat Capitals By Six Wickets On Dry Surface

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It has been a while since the world has seen Krunal Pandya the allrounder, flourishing. On Sunday evening, on a pitch designed to help the three Delhi Capitals spinners, he brought out his A-game that once saw him make the Indian team. He backed up his bowling spell of 1/28 with a tenacious unbeaten 73 off 47 to help Royal Challengers Bengaluru chase down 163 with six wickets and nine balls to spare here.

At 26/3 in the first four overs of the chase, Capitals would have felt their plan to play on sluggish pitch was working to a nicety. Then Krunal and Kohli happened. With the master of chasing moderately high totals holding one end, Krunal maintained his composure even as he looked clueless for the first 25 balls of his innings. It took two crisply-times sixes - one off the backfoot over fine-leg and one down the ground over long-off - off Mukesh Kumar to open the floodgates for RCB.

Even if RCB weren't running away with the game, Capitals were never breathing easy with Kohli milking the bowling and Krunal going about finding the fence at regular intervals. When Kohli finally fell for 51 off 47, trying to hit his first six of the innings, the score was 145 in the 18th over. The duo had set the

stage for Tim David to knock off the remaining runs. It was clear RCB had targeted Mukesh Kumar - the least potent option for skipper Axar Patel. And they ended up scoring 51 off his 3.3 overs.

Earlier, Capitals played out a strange innings by current IPL standards. Had it not been for Abhishek Porel's fluent 11-ball 28 at the top of the innings and Tristan Stubbs clubbing 34 off 18 at the back end, the score would have looked worse than 162/8.

It was strange on two counts. Firstly, the Capitals management has been yearning for slower tracks at the Kotla. Secondly, their middle-order has largely struggled the most on their home track. Much was expected of KL Rahul to regulate the pace of the innings once Capitals got off to a flyer through Porel.

The Capitals batters who batted between Porel and Stubbs struggled to maintain a strike-rate of 100 for most part of their knocks, Rahul being at the centre of it. Rahul's 41 off 39 balls seemed even more bizarre as he struggled to find his new-found power-hitting form for nearly an hour at the crease.

Eventually, it turned out that the RCB bowling assessed the pitch conditions better in the first half of the match. The spin duo of Suyash Sharma and Krunal are fast emerging as one of the more depend-



ON SONG: Krunal Pandya smashes one to the fence during his dynamic 47-ball unbeaten 73

Styled to wander

able pairings this season with figures of 0/22 and 1/28 in their four-over spells.

Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar laid out the template for pacers bowling on this pitch returning figures 2/36 and 3/33.

3/33 Bhuvneshwar Kumar produced his best bowling performance vs Delhi Capitals in the IPL. His previous best was 2 for 11 at Hyderabad in 2023.

Rajesh Mehta

SCOREBOARD

DC: A Porel c Sharma b Hazlewood 28, F du Plessis c Kohli b Pandya 22, K Nair c Kumar b Dayal 4, KL Rahul c Bethell b Kumar 41, A Patel b Hazlewood 15, T Stubbs c Hazlewood b Kumar 34, A Sharma b Kumar 2, V Nigam run out 12, M Starc 0 not out, D Chameera 0 not out; **Extras:** (lb 1, nb 1, w 2) 4; **Total: In 20 overs (RR: 8.10) 162/8; FoW:** 1-33, 2-44, 3-72, 4-102, 5-118, 6-120, 7-158, 8-162; **Bowling:** Kumar 4-0-33-3, Dayal 4-0-42-1, Hazlewood 4-0-36-2, Suyash 4-0-22-0, Krunal 4-0-28-1.

RCB: J Bethell c Nair b Patel 12, V Kohli c Starc b Chameera 51, D Padikkal b Patel 0, R Patidar run out 6, K Pandya 73 not out, T David 19 not out; **Extras:** (nb 2, w 2) 4; **Total: In 18.3 overs (RR: 8.91) 165/4; FoW:** 1-20, 2-20, 3-26, 4-145; **Bowling:** Axar 4-0-19-2, Starc 3-0-31-0, Mukesh 3-3-0-51-0, Vipraj 1-0-12-0, Kuldeep 4-0-28-0, Chameera 3-0-24-1.

Result: RCB won by 6 wickets.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	PTS
RCB	10	7	3	0	0.521	14
GT	8	6	2	0	1.104	12
MI	10	6	4	0	0.889	12
DC	9	6	3	0	0.482	12
PBKS	9	5	3	1	0.177	11
LSG	10	5	5	0	-0.325	10
KKR	9	3	5	1	0.212	7
SRH	9	3	6	0	-1.103	6
RR	9	2	7	0	-0.625	4
CSK	9	2	7	0	-1.302	4

18 Josh Hazlewood, with 18 wickets became the leading wicket-taker in the IPL - overtaking Prasadidh Krishna's tally of 16.

6 Royal Challengers Bengaluru have won all six games away from home in the ongoing IPL.

443 Runs tally by Virat Kohli. It is the highest by any batter in this IPL.

-Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Gaurav Gupta
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Mumbai: Is 2025 Mumbai Indians' year in the IPL? Playing flawless cricket, MI outplayed Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) by 54 runs to record their fifth consecutive win, propelling them to the second spot on the table on Sunday.

Rising like a phoenix after a habitually low start that saw the five-time IPL champions lose four out of their first matches, MI raised hopes of a playoffs berth, thus putting to rest the bad memories of a forgettable campaign last year.

It was proper teamwork that helped MI call the shots in this crucial game. While the fiery pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah (4/22) and Trent Boult (3/20) were their chief heroes with the ball, the architects of the five-time champions' thumping victory were the in-form Suryakumar Yadav (54, 28b, 4x6, 4x4) and South African opener Ryan Rickelton (58, 32b, 6x4, 4x6).

Chipping in with vital all-round contributions were Will Jacks (29 & 2/18) and South African allrounder Corbin Bosch (20 & 1/26). Shrugging off his controversial exit from PSL, Bosch



10 Suryakumar Yadav posted ten consecutive scores of 25-plus in the ongoing IPL, emulating Robin Uthappa's feat, which was accomplished between May 2, 2014-May 28, 2014.

capitalised on the first opportunity he got after left-arm spin ace Mitchell Santner was ruled out due to a niggle.

Chasing 216, LSG looked to be in contention till Mitchell Marsh (34), Nicholas Pooran (27), Ayush Badoni (35), and David Miller (24) were in the middle. However, the peerless Bumrah dashed any hopes in his second spell.

Brief scores: Mumbai Indians 215/7 (Ryan Rickelton 58, Suryakumar Yadav 54, Will Jacks 29; Mayank Yadav 2/40, Avesh Khan 2/42) beat Lucknow Super Giants 161 all out (Ayush Badoni 35, Mitchell Marsh 34; Jasprit Bumrah 4/22, Trent Boult 3/20, Will Jacks 2/18) by 54 runs.



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Class Action: Indian Consumers' New Weapon

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A relative newcomer in the Indian grievance redress system, class action got its biggest shot in the arm yet this March when Delhi high court upheld Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'s guidelines barring hotels and restaurants from charging patrons a service tax.

Formed during the pandemic after the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, came into force, CCPA has made important interventions through class action, like refunds for flyers when planes were grounded during Covid. Class action itself became available as a legal recourse to enforce consumer rights after the Act laid down provisions for it, offering protection for consumers and providing an avenue for redress against companies engaging in unfair trade practices.

The Act empowers CCPA to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements that are prejudicial to the interests of the public and consumers, and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of "consumers as a class".

CCPA became functional in difficult circumstances after the first wave of the pandemic because the consumer affairs department, which is its parent, didn't wait for a full office with staff and manpower.

It went ahead with whatever resources it had at its disposal then. The move paid off when CCPA made major interventions through class action, such as directing companies to withdraw misleading advertisements claiming to neutralise the novel coronavirus and ordering refunds for cancelled air travel.

"Since the idea of establishing CCPA was to take cognisance and act immediately when one saw a pattern of infringement of consumer rights, we went ahead with it rather than wait for posts to be created and an office to be set up," former consumer affairs secretary Leena Nandan told TOI.

To begin with, an additional secretary in the ministry was designated chief commissioner and a joint secretary was appointed as commissioner. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

With the law finally recognising consumers as a class, the customer can truly hope to be queen or king

Illustration:
Uday Deb

and National Test House (NTH) were tasked with technical investigation.

Class Action & Outcomes

So far, CCPA has passed nearly 150 orders. Among these are class action cases. Post the first phase of the lockdown, it took cognisance of complaints lodged with National Consumer Helpline (NCH) about large-scale pending refunds by people who had

booked tickets in advance but could not fly because of the lockdown. Airlines and ticketing firms had not cleared refunds despite a Supreme Court order of April 20, 2020. After a series of hearings and warnings, all the refunds were issued.

Another such intervention came when it took suo motu cognisance of misleading advertisements by coaching centres, claiming success rate and high rank of students, particularly for civil service exams, and imposed nearly Rs 80 lakh in penalties over two years on two dozen institutes. It clubbed complaints lodged with NCH about enrolment fees they charged by making such claims and initiated class action that eventually got coaching institutes to collectively refund Rs 1.6 crore to the affected students. That is also how it acted against food

delivery platform Swiggy after NCH received 10,590 complaints of deficiency of services and delivery of defective or wrong products. It directed Swiggy to change its consumer grievance redress mechanism and ensure faster resolution of complaints. It took cognisance as well of 7,938 consumer complaints against Zomato, with directions to the aggregator to submit their resolution status. The directives were passed in Oct 2024.

Also, following a similar CCPA intervention in Dec 2024 — with more than 10,000 pending complaints for service deficiency, delivery delays, and a slow repair process against the company — Ola Electric addressed almost all the complaints. Among other important orders were the recall of non-ISI pressure cookers sold on e-commerce platforms and refund of payments to consumers and a Rs 10 lakh fine plus a directive to withdraw all misleading ads to Naapolt in 2022.

Where To Complain?

Consumer affairs secretary and chief commissioner of CCPA Nidhi Khare told TOI that similar complaints lodged with NCH are one of the criteria that trigger class action. "Sometimes, even a few complaints or sale of an item that poses a threat to consumer safety can become the basis for a class action," she said.

"While complaints can be sent to CCPA, we encourage people to lodge complaints with NCH. That helps us identify a pattern and initiate action to bring relief to a large section of consumers. The focus of CCPA and NCH is to strengthen grievance resolution at the pre-litigation stage without any financial burden on the consumer."

CCPA can also be an avenue for the executive to step in, as proceedings on car seat-belt alarm-stoppers showed. The road transport ministry had approached CCPA to stop their sale by e-commerce companies, arguing that their manufacture and sale was illegal under Motor Vehicles Act. Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho, Snapdeal and Shopsy have since collectively delisted 13,118 stoppers.

Consumer Rights Get Teeth

The suo motu approach has led to a marked difference in the assertion of consumer rights compared to the earlier regime of the consumer affairs department issuing advisories. Companies could overlook those and the only practical option would be to go to the consumer forum.

Rohit Singh, a member of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and former consumer affairs secretary, said, "The establishment of CCPA marked a transformative moment in the evolution of consumer rights in India. For the first time, a dedicated statutory body has been empowered to take

KEY JUDGMENTS THAT SHAPED CLASS ACTION

Refund On Flight Bookings During Covid In India

■ Post the first phase of the lockdown, CCPA took cognisance of the large number of complaints lodged with National Consumer Helpline (NCH) regarding pending refunds for tickets booked in advance for flights that were subsequently cancelled.

■ Airlines and ticketing firms had not cleared refunds despite a Supreme Court order. After a series of hearings and warnings, all the refunds were issued.

Misleading Ads By Coaching Institutes

■ CCPA took suo motu cognisance of misleading advertisements by coaching centres claiming high success rate of

their students, particularly for civil services exams. The institutes had to collectively refund Rs 1.6 crore to the students.

Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, 1998

■ The case was brought against all the major tobacco companies by more than 40 US states.

Settlement cost
\$246 bn

■ In 1998, the tobacco industry agreed to pay billions of dollars over 25 years that would be spent by US states on smoking-awareness projects.

Dieselgate: VW emission scandal, 2015

■ Volkswagen's admission about falsifying environmental claims of its diesel vehicles triggered a wave of litigation. In 2016, a San Francisco judge approved a \$14.7 billion settlement with regulators and nearly half-a-million vehicle owners.

Settlement cost
\$14.7bn

■ Other class action suits related to the same matter are ongoing in other jurisdictions, including the UK.

suo motu action against unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements, and rights violations. This has shifted the paradigm from reactive grievance redress to proactive market oversight."

Ashim Sanyal, COO of Consumer Voice, added, "It's clear now that if CCPA functioning is streamlined as an independent body with its own setup, it gives the regulatory framework the teeth it needs to stop business malpractices."

Birth Of Class Action

The old law, the Consumer Protection Act, 1983, focused on individual consumer rights and lacked mechanisms to effectively address unfair trade practices and enforce product liability through class action. It provided for consumer forums at the district, state, and national levels, offering consumers an avenue to seek compensation for grievances related to goods and services. But it didn't spell out mechanisms for regulatory interventions on behalf of the consumer.

Officials who dealt with the preparation of the new consumer protection law recalled that with the dissolution of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) and the emergence of Competition Commission of India (CCI), unfair trade practices no longer fell under direct regulatory scrutiny. While CCI concentrated on promoting fair competition, consumer issues such as misleading advertisements and deceptive pricing remained unaddressed. Without class action and product liability enforcement, it was difficult for consumers to seek justice against powerful corporations.

Learning From The US

G Gurucharan, former additional secretary in the consumer affairs department, said the regulatory gap led to the legislation of Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Sources said the idea of CCPA as a body that could initiate class action came from a conference where experts from the US talked about the impact of class action in their country and how companies complied with orders.

The US enacted Class Action Fairness Act in 2005, which lets one or more plaintiffs file or prosecute a suit on behalf of a larger group in federal courts. Class action results in orders or settlements that treat all class members as one, even those who are not part of the suit. Types of class action include securities litigation, school funding, and consumer product liability cases. Successful class action cases often result in hefty pre-trial settlements.

For filing a class-action suit in the US, a lawyer looks at a case to determine its strength and then files a complaint. A judge certifies class action based on the information provided.

Pak on verge of split, Balochistan will be a new nation: Goa CM

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Panaji: Pakistan is on the verge of splitting into two as Balochistan makes its final push towards independence, Goa CM Pramod Sawant predicted to a gathering of BJP workers on Sunday. He also assured them that PM Narendra Modi would "100% take revenge on Pakistan" for the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Sawant said that unlike Pakistan, where the population of Hindus had been declining, India's Muslim community was growing.

"Muslims stayed back in India after Partition and we have since seen their population increasing. We have no issues with them. We are a secular country. Hindus, Muslims and Christians maintain communal harmony and stay together peacefully in the country."

He suggested Pakistan's forced insularity had since paved the way for another split. "Bharat was one country. After it was divided, India and Pakistan were formed. In 1971, Pakistan was divided into two countries, and a new country Bangladesh was born. Again, a new country called Balochistan is likely to be born."

Balochistan, the largest and among the more backward provinces of Pakistan, has been at war with Islamabad, with Balochs claiming their territory was forcibly annexed.

Referring to the attacks on Kashmiri pandits in the 1990s that led to their exodus from J&K, the CM said it was only possible because politicians of that era tolerated terrorism. He said Congress was in govt for almost 60 years but never took a stand against terrorists.

"Think why they (Congress) are in this situation — because they have never worked in the interest of the country but for themselves. This is the first time the people of India have realised it," he said.

"Modi is not like them... he won't tolerate," Sawant said. "Govt has already asked Pakistani nationals to leave the country and it will not allow them to enter India till Pakistan stops terrorism." He said three Pakistani nationals who had been living in Goa on short-term visas had since left the country.

Raj BJP chief reprimands MLA over raising slogans in mosque

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Rajasthan BJP president Madan Rathore reprimanded Sunday party MLA and Hathoj Dham mahant (head priest) Balmukundacharya after he and his supporters raised slogans and stuck posters inside Jaipur's Jama Masjid before Friday prayers, triggering tensions in the city's walled area.

"Those who deliberately provoke unrest have no place in BJP. Such acts are a betrayal of our principles and will be dealt with strictly," Rathore said, adding that he had instructed all party members to uphold communal harmony and warned against actions damaging public trust.

Tensions escalated after Jaipur's Hawa Mahal MLA Balmukundacharya and his supporters stepped onto the first stair of the mosque on April 25. A large gathering of Muslims formed soon after, leading to unrest. An FIR was filed against Bal-



Protests intensified Saturday when police lathi-charged demonstrators

mukundacharya at a Jaipur police station on charges of disrupting religious peace.

Protests intensified Saturday when police lathi-charged demonstrators demanding the MLA's arrest.

Rathore said Balmukundacharya had apologised and clarified his position. "I instructed him to prioritise peace and public sentiment," Rathore said, stressing that BJP "respects all religions and their places of worship" and advising against politicising the matter.

"Good governance can-

not thrive without unity. We reminded our representatives that promoting peace and harmony is their foremost duty," he said, while urging Congress MLAs Raufek Khan and Amin Kagzi to work for calm.

Adarsh Nagar MLA Khan welcomed Rathore's action. "I welcome your call to reprimand him for actions that undermine the dignity of a public representative," he said, stressing that all elected representatives must work to maintain peace and harmony.

PM repeats resolve to punish perpetrators, their controllers

Continued from P 1

No matter which state one belongs to, no matter which language one speaks, one is feeling the pain of those who have lost their loved ones in this attack. I can feel that the blood of every Indian has been on the boil after seeing the pictures of the terrorist attack," Modi said as he repeated his resolve to hand severe punishment to the perpetrators and their controllers. "I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, justice will be done. The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response."

The PM also said the terrorists and their patrons were driven by desperation to reverse the progress achieved by J&K in recent years.



The terrorists and their patrons were driven by desperation to reverse the progress achieved by J&K in recent years, said Modi

"At a time when peace was returning to Kashmir, schools and colleges were vibrant, construction work had gained unprecedented pace, democracy was getting stronger, the number of tourists was increasing at a record rate, people's income was increasing, new

opportunities were being created for the youth. The enemies of the country, the enemies of Jammu and Kashmir, did not like that," he said. "They want Kashmir to be destroyed again and so executed the heinous conspiracy."

He also underlined that the international community shared the anger.

"Anger that we the people of India feel, that anger is there in the whole world. After this terrorist attack, condolences are continuously pouring in from all over the world. Global leaders have called me up as well, written letters and sent messages too. Everyone has strongly condemned this heinous terrorist attack. They have expressed condolences to the families of the deceased. The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism."

Cop: Man shot as a result of quarrel over food quality

Continued from P 1

On the night of April 23, Gullam Ali, 27 — who worked at Shahid Ali Chicken Biryani, owned by his cousin — was closing the shop when three men arrived on a scooter. Two of them approached and greeted him before one of them shot him in the chest. His co-worker Saif Ali, 25, suffered minor injuries in the attack. The assailants escaped after the shooting.

Hours later, a video circulated online showing Manoj Chaudhary, with pistols tucked in his jeans, alleging he was from Kshatriya Gau Raksha Dal and taking responsibility for the murder. He claimed that he will arrange the killing of 26 — in an apparent reference to the Pahalgam incident — with 2600.

Police had earlier dismissed the link of the murder to any operational Kshatriya Gau Raksha Dal unit in Agra, adding that the video was "likely a publicity stunt". After the arrest, police commissioner Deepak Kumar reiterated the cops' earlier stance, saying, "The crime seems to have been committed as a result of a quarrel over the quality of food served by biryani seller a few days ago."

J&K MLA slams govt over killing of bro of 'LeT man'

Continued from P 1

Suspected terrorists entered the residence, took him outside, and opened fire, critically wounding him. Locals took him to a hospital in Srinagar, but he died around 2am. "There was no electricity at the time, making it impossible for me to identify them," Magray's mother said. Magray, who was unmarried, is survived by his mother.

Langate MLA Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh, brother of jailed MP Engineer Rashid, called for accountability. "I want to know what govt is doing to stop such killings. Govt should take such killings seriously. Those unknown gunmen involved in his killing should be made accountable," said J&K Awami Ittehad Party legislator.

Police have registered a case and launched a probe.

Only those on med visas have until tomorrow to leave India

Continued from P 1

Govt had, while revoking the visas, announced that the validity of Saarc visa would expire on April 26, medical visa on April 29, and all other visas across a dozen categories, by April 27. Thus, all Pakistani citizens in India on these visas were required to time their exits accordingly.

Sources in agencies manning the Attari ICP told TOI that 191 Pakistani nationals had returned to their home country on April 25 by crossing over to Wagah, followed by 81 Pakistanis on April 26 and 237 the day after.

The deadlines for 13 or 14 the 14 categories of visas issued by India to Pakistanis expired by Sunday. Only those on medical visas have another couple of days, until April 29, to leave India.



A security personnel checks the passports of Pakistani nationals at the Attari on Sunday

As for Indian visitors to Pakistan on valid visas, 287 returned to India via the Wagah-Attari land route on April 25, followed by 342 on April 26 and another 115 on Sunday. Some Pakistanis may have returned home through the air route via a third country, given that no direct flights currently operate between India and Pakistan, but no data in this regard was immediately available.

Revisions aim at including Indian traditions into school curriculum

Continued from P 1

This marks a shift from the previous textbook 'Honeycomb', which had only four Indian writers among its 17 authors.

The new books, which were released this week, introduce a variety of changes, including addition of chapters on Indian dynasties, "sacred geography", govt initiatives and other cultural aspects, aligning with the vision outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

These revisions aim at incorporating Indian traditions, philosophies and local knowledge systems into the school curriculum.

The move follows earlier efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic to streamline the syllabus, where sections on Mughals and the Delhi Sultanate, including detailed accounts of dynasties like those of Tughlaq, Khalji, Mamluk, and Lodi, were trimmed. In the most recent update, all references to these historical pe-

riods have been completely removed from the social science textbook.

Instead, the revised social science textbook 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond' introduces fresh chapters on ancient Indian dynasties such as the Magadha, Maurya, Shunga, and Satavahanas, with a strong emphasis on "Indian ethos". One notable addition is a chapter titled 'How the Land Becomes Sacred', which explores the sig-

CULTURAL TOUCH

nificance of sacred places across India and the world, touching on major pilgrimage sites associated with various religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

The chapter delves into concepts like "sacred geography", describing networks of revered locations such as the 12 jyotirlingas, the Char Dham Yatra, and the shakti pithas, as well as sacred mountains, rivers, and forests. A quote from Jawaharlal Nehru about India being a

land of pilgrimages further underscores this theme. The revised curriculum also discusses the 'varna-jati' system, noting its role in providing societal stability initially, but highlighting how it became rigid over time, particularly under British colonial rule, leading to inequalities.

In addition, the Maha Kumbh Mela, which attracted around 660 million people in Prayagraj this year, is mentioned, though the tragic stampede that resulted in the loss of 30 lives is not referenced. The book also introduces content related to modern-day India, including references to govt initiatives like 'Make in India', 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and the Atal Tunnel.

A chapter on the Constitution emphasises the importance of national flag, recounting a landmark moment in 2004 when a citizen challenged the restriction on flying the national flag at home. SC's ruling affirmed that flying the tricolour is part of Fundamental Right to Freedom of Expression.



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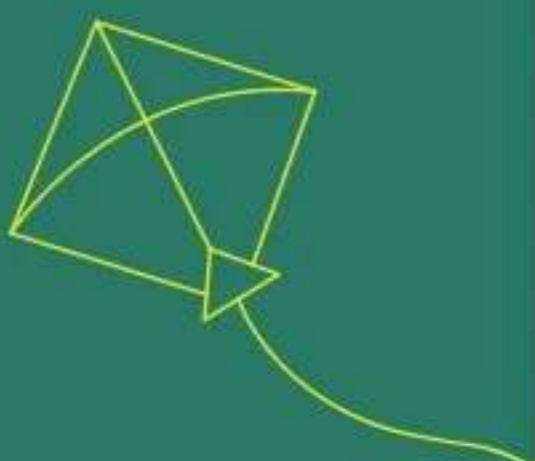
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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Dhaka court orders issuance of arrest warrant through Interpol against Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed Putul in a graft case, P 10



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- Essay Guidance Program
- CSAT-Edge
- Interview Guidance Program

AIR
6



Komal Punia
GS Advance Course,
GS Test Series, IGP

AIR
9



**Aditya Vikram
Agarwal**
GS Advance Course,
GS Test Series, IGP

AIR 12 Ashi Sharma GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 14 Abhishek Vashishtha GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, Essay Guidance Program, IGP	AIR 16 Madhav Agarwal GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 21 Divyank Gupta GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 22 Riya Saini GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 30 Panchal Smit Hasmukhbhai GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation Course, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 32 Utkarsh Yadav GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 34 Abhi Jain Essay Guidance Program, Optional Test Series (PSIR), IGP	AIR 36 Muskan Srivastava GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 41 Sachin Basavaraj Guttur GS Advance Course (CA-VA), GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 49 Sourav Sinha Essay Guidance Program	AIR 50 Ankur Tripathi GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP
AIR 52 R Sri Rusat Economics Foundation Course, Optional Test Series	AIR 55 Ritika Chitlangia GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation Course, GS Advance Course (AIM), Geography Optional Foundation, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 56 Vishal Singh GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 57 Lavanya Gaur GS Advance Course (CA-VA), IGP	AIR 58 Kshitij Aditya Sharma GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 59 Vidyanshu Shekhar Jha GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 62 Chintakindi Shrawan Kr. Reddy Essay Guidance Program, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 64 Abhishek Chaudhary GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 65 Poorva Agrawal GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 67 Farkhanda Qureshi GS Advance Course (CAP), GS Test Series	AIR 75 Ketan Shukla GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	
AIR 77 Neelesh Goyal GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation Course, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 78 Abhishek Singh GS Advance Course (AIM), Civil Engg. Optional Advance Course, Optional Test Series, IGP	AIR 84 Prastuti Upadhaya GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 87 Abhishek Anjani Singh Economics Optional Foundation, Optional Advance Course, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 88 Utkarsh Pathak GS Advance Course (CA-VA), IGP	AIR 90 Vaibhav Kumar GS Advance Course (CA-VA), GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 97 Aditi Chhaparia Economics Optional Foundation, Optional Advance Course, Optional Test Series, IGP	AIR 98 Bharat Dutt Tiwari Sociology Optional Foundation, Optional Advance Course, IGP	AIR 99 Tejasvi Deshpande Economics Optional Foundation, Optional Advance Course, GS & Optional Test Series, IGP	AIR 103 Damanpreet Arora GS Advance Course, PSIR GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 105 Deepali Mahto GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	
AIR 106 Eshani Anand GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 107 Pranav Sharma GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 109 Pavitra Goyal GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 111 Kashish Kalra GS Advance Course (CA-VA), Essay Guidance Program, IGP	AIR 112 Yash Pal Singh GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 113 Deepak Gupta GS Advance Course, Essay Guidance Program	AIR 117 Aakash GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 120 Anupriya Sakya GS Advance Course (CAP), GS Test Series	AIR 122 Kabil Bhargava GS Advance Course (CA-VA), GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 123 Priyanshu Agrawal GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 129 Abhilash Sundaram GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 130 Abhinav Sharma GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP
AIR 132 Rajat Singh GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 133 Nitisha Thakwani GS Advance Course, Essay Guidance Program, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 134 Manimala N Essay Guidance Program, IGP	AIR 135 Ajink Kumar GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 144 Dev Vrat Joshi GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 146 Challa Pavan Kalyan GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 152 Ramandeep Singh GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 156 Zinnia Aurora PSIR Optional Foundation, IGP	AIR 157 Sidaq Singh GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 171 Shikhar Mogha GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 178 Ayush Jaiswal GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 183 Neepa Manocha GS Advance Course, Essay Guidance Program, GS Test Series, IGP
AIR 186 Astha Jain GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 187 Tanvi Gupta Economics Optional Advance Course, IGP	AIR 189 Anupriya Rai GS Advance Course (CAP), GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 194 Aayush Saini GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 201 Vaibhav Sarvesh Pandey GS Advance Course, Mathematics Optional Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 211 Vineeth Lohidakshan GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 212 Anup Nayak GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 218 Soumya Sharma GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 222 Amitej Pangtey GS Advance Course, Essay Guidance Program, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 224 Vidhi GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 225 Annu Kousik Narasimha Mathematics Advance Course, Mathematics Test Series	
AIR 227 Yash Kumar GS Advance Course (CA-VA), IGP	AIR 228 Devansh Mohan Dwivedi GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 231 Charan Teja Narisimsetti GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 232 Poola Dhanush GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 234 Prateek Mishra GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 237 Anupam Yadav GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 242 Rahul Shekhar GS Prelims-cum-Main Foundation, GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 245 Sahil GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 250 Gaurav Gangadhar Kayandepatil GS Advance Course, GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 252 Mudra Raheja GS Advance Course, GS Test Series	...and many more 229+ Selections from GS and Optional courses	

Top Rankers from Test Series & IGP Courses

AIR 2 Harshita Goyal IGP	AIR 4 Shah Margi Chirag IGP	AIR 5 Aakash Garg GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 7 Aayushi Bansal IGP	AIR 15 Banna Venkatesh GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 17 Sanskriti Trivedy IGP	AIR 20 Trilok Singh IGP	AIR 23 B Sivachandran IGP	AIR 24 R Rangamanju GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 26 Shivansh Subhash Jagade IGP		
AIR 28 Rishabh Choudhary IGP	AIR 31 Shreya Tyagi GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 33 Alfred Thomas Optional Test Series (Maths), IGP	AIR 35 Shreyak Garg IGP	AIR 37 Shobhika Pathak IGP	AIR 38 Abhishek Sharma IGP	AIR 44 Mudita Bansal IGP	AIR 47 Nandanaa G P IGP	AIR 48 Ritika Rath GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 66 Simran GS Test Series, IGP	AIR 71 Shivani Mohan IGP	AIR 74 Aman Tiwari IGP
AIR 79 Meghna Chakraborty IGP	AIR 82 Vaibhav Singh IGP	AIR 83 Saksham Bhatia IGP	AIR 86 Sakshi IGP	AIR 89 Ria Kaur Sethi IGP	AIR 94 Chakka Snehith IGP	AIR 96 Aditya Acharya IGP	AIR 100 Shagun Kumar IGP	AIR 101 Vishwa Varddhan IGP	AIR 114 Vivek Garg IGP	AIR 119 C. Shiva Ganesh Reddy IGP	...and many more 371+ Selections from test series and IGP courses

7 in Top 10
(From all courses)

13 in Top 20
(From all courses)

34 in Top 50
(From all courses)

65 in Top 100
(From all courses)

600+ Selections
From all courses

Course details of all the selected candidates will be uploaded on our website.

GS Foundation Course Duration : 11-12 Months	GS Advance Course Duration : 1-3 Months	Optional Foundation Course Duration : 4-5 Months
Optional Advance Course Duration : 3-4 Months	Prelims Test Series Duration : 3-6 Months	Mains Test Series Duration : 3-6 Months
GS Anubhav Duration : 3-4 Months	Interview Guidance Program Duration : 1-3 Months	Note : All of the above course are paid courses except GS Anubhav.

GENERAL STUDIES FOUNDATION COURSE

(Prelims-cum-Mains Foundation Course for Civil Services Examination)

English Medium
हिन्दी माध्यम

<p>1Yr GSPM Foundation Course</p> <p>DELHI (Old Rajinder Nagar)</p> <p>5 May 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM 15 May 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM</p> <p>DELHI (Mukherjee Nagar)</p> <p>1 May 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM</p> <p>LIVE-ONLINE</p> <p>5 May 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM 15 May 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM</p> <p>PRAYAGRAJ</p> <p>20 May 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM</p> <p>JAIPUR</p> <p>1 May 8:00 AM-11:00 AM 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>	<p>2Yr Course : FAIM</p> <p>GSPM Foundation + AIM</p> <p>Tailored for 2nd/3rd/final Year under-graduate and college pass-out students. Batches from 5 May & 15 May</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>	<p>हिन्दी माध्यम बैच</p> <p>दिल्ली : ऑफलाइन एवं लाइव-ऑनलाइन</p> <p>5 मई</p> <p>से बैच प्रारम्भ</p> <p>सुबह : 8 से 11 बजे</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>
<p>3Yr Course : EDGE</p> <p>First Step + GSPM Foundation + AIM</p> <p>Suitable for 1st/2nd/3rd year under-graduate students. Batches from 23 April 2025 (6:00 to 8:30 PM) 4 days/week</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>	<p>2Yr Course : ELEVATE</p> <p>First Step + GSPM Foundation</p> <p>Suitable for 1st/2nd/3rd year under-graduate students. Batches from 23 April 2025 (6:00 to 8:30 PM)</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>	<p>1Yr GS FIRST STEP</p> <p>Early Start Course</p> <p>This course is suitable for students after class 12th</p> <p>Batches from 23 April 2025 (6:00 to 8:30 PM) 4 days/week</p> <p>Scan to Enroll</p>