BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. MDCCCXXXVIII | VOL. 76 NO. 148 | NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025 PAGES 30 | CAPITAL | **INVITATION PRICE** ₹5.50; *₹9.50 WITH ET OR ₹10.00 (₹8.50 IN FARIDABAD EDITION) WITH NAVBHARAT TIMES

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Bumrah bags 5 wkts to help bowl out Eng for 465, six short of India's total, as Brook falls for 99. At stumps on Day 3, India at 90/2, **P 17**

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ELECTRONICS & DISPLAY GLASS

DESH KI ZAROORATON KE LIYE

TIMES GLOBAL
* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

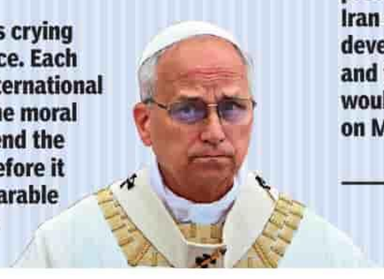
"Trump, who came in as a peacemaker president, has started a new war for the US. With this kind of success, Trump won't win the Nobel Peace Prize. Iran's political regime has been preserved, and it is highly likely that it has become stronger
—DMITRY MEDVEDEV | DY CHAIRMAN, RUSSIAN SECURITY COUNCIL

"China strongly condemns the US strikes that escalate tensions. China calls on all parties to the conflict, especially Israel, to cease fire
—CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

"Kingdom is following with deep concern the developments in Iran and... condemns and denounces the violation of Iran's sovereignty
—SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY

"The State of Qatar is following with great concern the developments following the recent attacks on the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran—QATAR

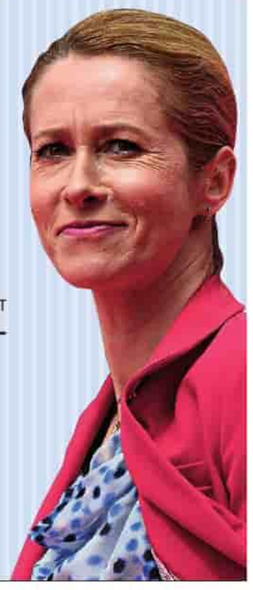
"Iran can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and the US has taken action to alleviate that threat. We call on Iran to return to the negotiating table
—KEIR STARMER | BRITISH PM



"Humanity is crying out for peace. Each member of the international community has the moral responsibility to end the tragedy of war, before it becomes an irreparable chasm —POPE LEO XIV

"Iran must never acquire the bomb. With tensions in the region at a new peak, stability must be the priority. The negotiating table is the only place to end this crisis
—URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EUROPEAN COMMISSION CHIEF

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation. Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and that EU foreign ministers would discuss the situation on Monday
—KAJA KALLAS | EU'S TOP DIPLOMAT



'Midnight Hammer' Stuns The World

Gulf states, home to US bases, on alert amid fears of flare-up

Dubai/Riyadh: Gulf states, home to multiple US military bases, were on high alert on Sunday with their leaders calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint following US strikes on Iran that raised the possibility of a wider conflict in the region.

HAGUE ANTI-NATO PROTEST FOCUS SHIFTS TO IRAN: An anti-Nato protest in The Hague on Sunday shifted its focus to Iran following the US strikes. Thousands marched toward the Peace Palace, home to the International Court of Justice. Organisers estimated the crowd at 5,000, while police said they do not track attendance numbers. Protesters carried banners calling for de-escalation, and for Nato to be disbanded

Gulf leaders, including the UAE president, the Emir of Qatar and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, who had all hosted Trump last month for a tour of the region, discussed the serious implications of the escalation for international and regional security, UAE state news agency reported.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, was on a high-security alert after the US strikes, two sources with knowledge of the matter said, while Bahrain urged motorists to avoid main roads.

Kuwait, another key oil exporter, said its defence council would remain in permanent session, according to the state news agency on Sunday, and set up shelters in a ministries complex. Tehran has previously warned if it were attacked by the US, it could target American assets in the region, including US military bases.

Bahrain is home to the headquarters of the US Navy's 5th Fleet and there are US bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as in neighbouring Qatar and the UAE.

Nuclear authorities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE said they had not detected signs of nuclear contamination following the strikes in Iran. "While the war has so far been contained in direct hostilities between Israel and Iran, direct US involvement is a critical threshold that risks dragging the Gulf states, notably Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, which host large US military facilities, into the conflict," said Hasan Al Hasan, a senior fellow for West Asia policy at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

He said the risk of an open conflict between the US and Iran could plunge the region into a devastating and potentially protracted conflict. The strikes added to airline woes with Singapore Airlines cancelling flights from Singapore to Dubai on Sunday and British Airways cancelling flights to and from Dubai and Doha. Airlines have been avoiding flying over large parts of the Middle East, including Iran, Iraq, Syria and Israel, due to ongoing missile exchanges.

"In light of recent developments in the regional security situation, we urge citizens and residents to use main roads only when necessary to maintain public safety and to allow the relevant authorities to use the roads efficiently," Bahrain's interior ministry said on X. Bahrain also told 70% of its govt employees to work from home on Sunday until further notice, citing escalating tensions. The country's authorities earlier this week said they had activated a national plan to prepare for emergencies, set up an emergency centre and tested warning sirens. Local media also reported Bahrain had set up 33 shelters REUTERS.

BRUTE POWER: THE B-2 & THE BUNKER BUSTER

In inserting itself into Israel's war against Iran, Washington unleashed its massive 'bunker-buster' bombs on Iran's Fordo fuel enrichment plant. US is the only military capable of dropping these weapons, bolstered as it is by the B-2, the only aircraft in the world that can carry them

B-2: THE KING OF STEALTH

Costs $2.1bn each making it the most expensive military aircraft ever built

Production started in the late 1980s but only 21 were made after the fall of Soviet Union triggered a scale-down

Flown only by the US Air Force; produced by Northrop Grumman

Can carry up to **16 B83** nuclear bombs

17 Feet height

ITS RANGE
11,000km without refueling

18,500km with one refueling, meaning it can reach virtually any target worldwide

Two-pilot crew configuration reduces personnel requirements

Can **carry a payload of 18,000kg,** but US Air Force has said it has **successfully tested loads totalling some 27,200kg** (approx two bunker-buster bombs)

B-2 is the king of stealth; its radar cross-section is reportedly comparable to that of a small bird, making it nearly invisible to conventional radar

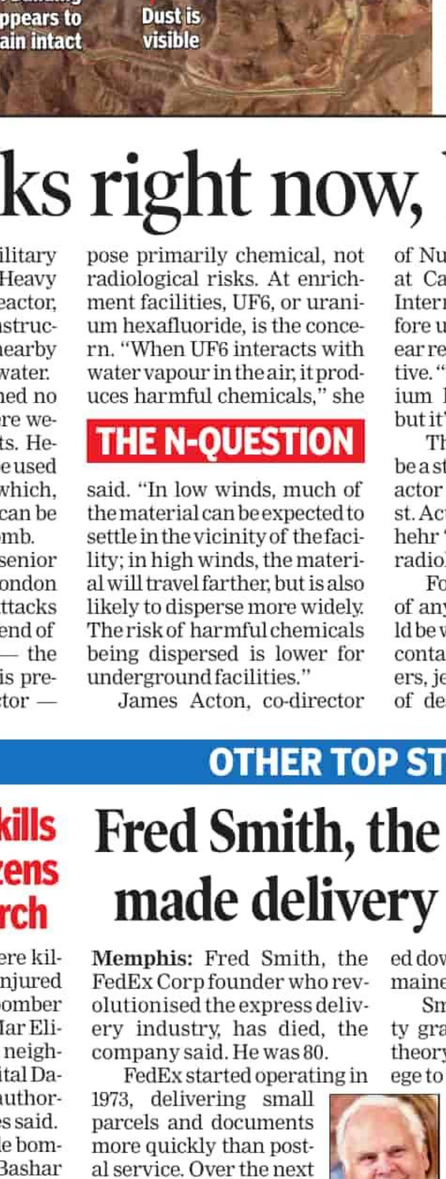
THE BUNKER BUSTERS

- 'Bunker buster' is a broad term used to describe bombs designed to penetrate deep below the surface before exploding. In this case, it refers to the latest GBU-57 A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator bomb in the American arsenal
- The roughly 13,600kg precision-guided bomb is considered the largest conventional bomb in the US arsenal, and is designed to attack deeply buried and hardened bunkers and tunnels
- Its massive size – 20.5-ft in length - allows the B-2 to carry only one or two such bombs per mission
- It's believed to be able to penetrate about 200ft (61m) below the surface before exploding, and the bombs can be dropped one after another, effectively drilling deeper and deeper with each successive blast
- The bomb carries a conventional warhead, but IAEA has confirmed Iran is producing highly enriched uranium at Fordo, raising the possibility that N-material could be released into the area if the GBU-57 A/B were used to hit the facility
- However, Israeli strikes at another Iranian nuclear site, Natanz, on a centrifuge site have caused contamination only at the site itself, not the surrounding area, the IAEA has said. US warplanes also hit Natanz
- In theory, the GBU-57 A/B could be dropped by any bomber capable of carrying the weight, but at the moment US has only configured and programmed its B-2 Spirit stealth bomber to deliver the bomb, according to the Air Force

HOW THE BOMB WORKS

The GBU-57 massive ordanance penetrator

1. Around 12 km above target, a B-2 stealth jet drops the bomb, which is the weight of a school bus
2. The engine-less weapon uses the very high altitude to generate speed as it falls
3. Once deployed, the bomb uses GPS to reach the target, assisted by adjustable tail fins
4. The weighty bomb hits the ground with near-supersonic velocity, generating huge amount of kinetic energy
5. Upon impact, the rounded head gradually distributes the initial crushing force through its steel casing, allowing it to reach the target intact
6. A delayed detonation finally unleashes 2,400kg of explosives



FORDO, IRAN'S NUCLEAR FORTRESS

- Fordo is Iran's second nuclear enrichment facility after Natanz, its main facility, which already has been targeted by Israeli airstrikes. The IAEA says it believes those strikes have had 'direct impacts' on the facility's underground centrifuge halls
- Fordo is smaller than Natanz, and is built into the side of a mountain near the city of Qom, about 95km southwest of Tehran. Construction is believed to have started around 2006 and it first became operational in 2009
- The Fordo site contains thousands of Iran's most advanced centrifuges and is considered crucial for Iran to enrich uranium to 60%, a level from which enrichment to bomb grade — 90% or higher — can be quite rapid
- In addition to being an estimated 80m (260 ft) under rock and soil, the site is reportedly fortified by Iranian and Russian surface-to-air missile systems

Egg on Pak's face day after backing Trump for peace Nobel

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan found itself in an embarrassing diplomatic bind as American bombs rained on Iran early Sunday, barely 24 hours after Islamabad's surprise decision to nominate US President Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.

The airstrikes on Iran prompted the Shehbaz Sharif govt to issue a statement criticising the US for what it said was a violation of "all norms of international law". The prelude to the foreign affairs ministry's condemnation was mounting domestic backlash over the timing and political wisdom of the Shehbaz govt's Nobel move.

"This is diplomatic inconsistency at its worst," said former ambassador Maleeha Lodhi. "You can't praise a man for peace one day and stay silent when he orders bombings the next."

Just a day earlier, Islamabad had announced it would formally nominate Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, citing his role in "halting" the India-Pakistan conflict in May.

The forced change in tone within a day was as dramatic as Trump transitioning from "peacemaker" to aggressor.

"Pakistan condemns the US attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities which follow the series of attacks by Israel. We are gravely concerned at the possible further escalation of tensions in the region," the foreign ministry said. "Iran has the legitimate right to defend itself under the UN Charter."

The backlash reflects deeper unease within Pakistan, where public support for Iran and Palestine runs high. "There's growing anger over inconsistency," said political analyst Mosharraf Zaidi. "It weakens Pakistan's moral position and suggests a transactional approach to diplomacy." Online, the blowback has been swift and unforgiving. Hashtags like #NobelForWar and #TrumpNominationShame trended on X. The Nobel nomination, intended as a diplomatic coup, appears to have backfired spectacularly.

Op began as a fake-out with decoy B-2 flights

Washington: As Operation "Midnight Hammer" got under way on Saturday, a group of B-2 bombers took off from their base in Missouri and were noticed heading out toward the Pacific island of Guam, in what experts saw as possible pre-positioning for any US decision to strike Iran.

But they were a decoy. The real group of seven bat-winged, B-2 stealth bombers flew east undetected for 18 hours, keeping communications to a minimum, refueling in mid-air, US military said.

As the bombers neared Iranian airspace, a US submarine launched over two dozen Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles. US fighter jets flew as decoys in front of the bombers to sweep for any Iranian fighter jets and missiles.

The B-2 bombers dropped 14 bunker-busting GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators, each weighing 30,000 pounds. The operation involved over 125 US military aircraft. From the US military's perspective, the operation was a resounding tactical success. Iran was unable to get off a single round at the American aircraft and were caught completely flat-footed, general Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the Pentagon.

US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said it took months of preparations to ensure the US military would be ready if Trump ordered the strikes. Caine said the mission itself, however, came together in just a matter of weeks. REUTERS

More US staff to leave Iraq, Lebanon

US has ordered staff from its missions in Iraq and Lebanon to leave the countries. More diplomats left Iraq on Saturday and Sunday as part of ongoing efforts to "streamline operations", a US official said. The departures were a continuation of a process that started last week "due to heightened regional tensions", the official added. AFP

Strikes cement Netanyahu's political revival

Jerusalem: Twenty months ago, in the aftermath of Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023, Benjamin Netanyahu's political career teetered on a precipice. As Israel's PM, he had overseen the deadliest military lapse in the country's history, wrecking his security credentials and collapsing support for his government.

The US' overnight attack Sunday on Iran, coupled with Israel's own recent strikes, has taken Netanyahu to the brink of political redemption. For decades, he dreamed of thwarting Iran's nuclear programme, defining its destruction as his highest military priority. Now, he is as close to reaching that goal as he may ever get.

To many Israelis, it is a success that helps to revive his reputation as a guardian of their security, raises his chances of reelection, and could cement his historical legacy. "This night marks Netanyahu's greatest achievement since he came to office in 1996," said Mazal Mualem, a biographer of Netanyahu. NYT

No radiation risks right now, but future tense

London/Dubai: Experts have said military strikes on Iran's uranium enrichment facilities pose limited risks of contamination, and International Atomic Energy Agency said Sunday no increased off-site radiation levels had been reported after the US attacks.

The international nuclear watchdog has previously reported damage to the uranium enrichment plant at Natanz, the nuclear complex at Isfahan that includes the Uranium Conversion Facility and to centrifuge production facilities in Karaj and Tehran.

Israel has also attacked Arak, also known as Khondab. IAEA said Israeli military strikes hit the Khondab Heavy Water Research Reactor, which was under construction, and damaged the nearby plant that makes heavy water.

IAEA said it contained no nuclear material, so there were no radiological effects. Heavy-water reactors can be used to produce plutonium which, like enriched uranium, can be used to make an atom bomb.

Darya Dolzikova, a senior research fellow at London think-tank RUSI, said attacks on facilities at the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle — the stages where uranium is prepared for use in a reactor — pose primarily chemical, not radiological risks. At enrichment facilities, UF6, or uranium hexafluoride, is the concern. "When UF6 interacts with water vapour in the air, it produces harmful chemicals," she said. "In low winds, much of the material can be expected to settle in the vicinity of the facility; in high winds, the material will travel farther, but is also likely to disperse more widely. The risk of harmful chemicals being dispersed is lower for underground facilities."

THE N-QUESTION

James Acton, co-director of Nuclear Policy Programme at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said before uranium goes into a nuclear reactor it is barely radioactive. "The chemical form uranium hexafluoride is toxic ... but it's barely radioactive."

The major concern would be a strike on Iran's nuclear reactor at Bushehr on Gulf coast. Acton said an attack on Bushehr "could cause an absolute radiological catastrophe".

For Gulf states, the impact of any strike on Bushehr would be worsened by the potential contamination of Gulf waters, jeopardising a key source of desalinated potable water. Gulf Cooperation Council is on high alert to monitor for any possible environmental contamination after the attacks, said a source.

While some states such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE have access to more than one sea to draw water from, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait are crowded along the shoreline of the Gulf with no other coastline. "If a natural disaster, oil spill, or even a targeted attack were to disrupt a desalination plant, thousands could lose access to freshwater," said Nidal Hilal, director, New York University Abu Dhabi's Water Research Center. REUTERS

Israelis emerge from shelters, to devastation

Tel Aviv: First responders fanned out across Israel Sunday following fresh waves of Iranian missile strikes that left pockets of devastation in their wake—as the Islamic republic hit back after a US attack on its nuclear sites.

In both Haifa and areas around Tel Aviv, the scenes were all too similar. Rubble filled streets at impact sites as facades of apartment buildings were eviscerated by the falling projectiles, as rescue teams picked through the debris looking for people. In the Ramat Aviv neighbourhood near Tel Aviv, mere skeletons of homes were left standing following the barrage.

As the country was jolted awake by air raid sirens warning residents of air attacks, many in Ramat Aviv left their shelters later to discover the destruction. A man and woman embraced each other and cried. "Our entire house was destroyed — there's nothing left," said Aviad Chernichovsky, who had rushed out of his home to get to a shelter. Many elderly residents were placed on chairs and beds to allow for medical evacuation. "Houses here were hit very, very badly," Tel Aviv mayor Ron Huldai said. "Those who were in the shelter are all safe and well."

Reuters

SEA OF DEBRIS: Rescuers and security personnel work at the impacted site after waves of Iranian missile strikes in Tel Aviv, Israel, Sunday. Haifa too suffered damage

Israeli police said they had been deployed to at least two other impact sites, one in Haifa in the north and another in Ness Ziona, south of Tel Aviv. A public square in a residential area of Haifa was left strewn with rubble and surrounding shops and homes were heavily damaged.. Sirens however did not sound in this area. Authorities said they were actively working to clarify what happened.

Two salvos of missiles were launched at Israel from around 7.30am (local time), the Israeli military said. AFP

'9 Revolutionary Guards killed in Israeli strikes'

At least nine members of the Revolutionary Guards were killed Sunday in Israeli attacks on central Iran, local media reported. "Following the aggression of the barbaric Zionist regime and its mercenaries against two military centres in Yazd city, seven Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps personnel and two conscripts were martyred," the Tasnim news agency reported, quoting an IRGC statement. Others were injured in the attack, it added. The Fars news agency had earlier said Israeli strikes targeted two military sites in Yazd. AFP

OTHER TOP STORIES

Suicide blast kills 20, injures dozens at Syrian church

At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the Mar Elias Church in the Dweila neighbourhood of Syria's capital Damascus Sunday, health authorities and security sources said.

It was the first suicide bombing in Damascus since Bashar al-Assad was toppled by an Islamist-led rebel insurgency in Dec. Syria's interior ministry said the suicide bomber was an IS member. He entered the church, opened fire and then detonated his explosive vest, a ministry said. A security source said two men were involved in the attack, including the one who blew himself up. REUTERS

Fred Smith, the man who made delivery 'express'

Memphis: Fred Smith, the FedEx Corp founder who revolutionised the express delivery industry, has died, the company said. He was 80.

FedEx started operating in 1973, delivering small parcels and documents more quickly than postal service. Over the next half-century, Smith, a Marine Corp veteran, oversaw the growth of a company that became something of an economic bellwether, with many other companies rely on it. It became a global transportation and logistics company that averages 17 million shipments per business day. Smith stepped down as CEO in 2022 but remained executive chairman.

Smith, a 1966 Yale University graduate, used a business theory he came up with in college to create a delivery system based on coordinated cargo flights centred on a main hub.

Smith once said he came up with the name Federal Express as he wanted the firm to sound important when in fact it was a start-up operation with a future far from assured.

He said everything he did running FedEx came from his Marines experience, not what he learned at Yale. AP

Many top politicos of Imran's party get court relief

Islamabad/Lahore: Several senior members of jailed former PM Imran Khan's party have been granted relief by courts in protest-related cases, a media report said on Sunday.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members, including chairman Gohar Ali Khan and leader of opposition Omar Ayub, were acquitted by a court in Islamabad Saturday in two protest-related cases from last year. Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore granted bail to former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a May 9, 2023, riots case.

Khan has been behind bars since Aug 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases. PTI

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Pawar vs Pawar in Baramati's sugar cooperative as candidates of Ajit & uncle Sharad face off. Ajit contesting for chairman, **P 11**

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"There will be either peace or there will be tragedy for Iran far greater than we have witnessed over the last eight days — **US President Donald Trump**

"This mission was not, and has not, been about regime change. This is not open-ended. Trump gave clear, focused mission to target Iranian nuclear capabilities — **US def secy Pete Hegseth**

"Your (Trump's) bold decision to target Iran's nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history — **Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu**

"The events this morning are outrageous and will have everlasting consequences... The US showed they have no respect for international law. They only understand the language of threat and force — **Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi**

US bombs 3 Iran N-sites, says doesn't seek war; Tehran may close Hormuz

Trump Claims Obliteration, Iran Says N-Assets Already Moved

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The United States bombed three nuclear sites in Iran early Sunday morning, bringing itself directly into Israel's war with Iran and potentially kicking off a more dangerous phase in the conflict.

The chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Dan Caine, said that Iran's nuclear sites sustained "severe damage" in the strikes. But, he said, it was too soon to say whether Iran still retained some nuclear capability. Amid fears of a wider regional conflict, the Trump administration sent a clear message that it wanted to restart diplomatic talks. Defence secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters that the US "does not seek war" with Iran. But Tehran said the time for diplomacy had passed and that it had the right to defend itself.

The attack by US warplanes and submarines followed days of uncertainty about whether President Donald Trump would intervene in the conflict, which began with a surprise attack on Iran by Israel on June 13. Trump said the "strikes were a spectacular military success" and Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities "have been completely and totally obliterated".

FULL COVERAGE: INSIDE JACKET, P 16
▶ EDIT PAGE: Bombastic/ Fordoward Thinking

14 BUNKER-BUSTERS, 37HR FLIGHT & A MISDIRECTION

Op Midnight Hammer unfolds around 2.10am Sunday Iran time. **American B-2 bombers drop bunker-buster bombs** weighing 13,600kg on Fordo, a uranium enrichment facility buried 90m under a mountain. Natanz and Isfahan facilities also struck

14 bunker-busters dropped by the bombers on their second longest flight ever, at 37 hours nonstop. **Operation involved 125 aircraft and support units and 75 precision-guided weapons.** US planes in and out of Iran in 25 minutes

Massive ordnance penetrator, aka bunker buster GBU-57, built with steel alloy casing and carrying 2,400kg of explosive payload, penetrates deep underground (up to 60m) before detonating. This is the **first combat use of MOP.** Tomahawk missiles launched from submarines at Isfahan, and other targets inside Iran

Decoy operation launched alongside. While B-2 bombers with payload headed east, **another group of B-2s headed west over Pacific Ocean,** meant as decoys to maintain **tactical surprise,** says chairman of joint chiefs of staff Gen Dan Caine

All 3 sites sustained 'severe damage', says Caine amid Prez's claims of 'obliteration'. **Too soon to say whether Iran still retains some nuclear capability,** says Gen

Ready for peace if Iran is, says US secy of state Marco Rubio. If Iran decides otherwise, they're **'incredibly vulnerable'**

WHAT NEXT

- **Options before Iran** | Get back to talks with US, attack American troops and other assets in region, avoid military conflict but target oil & gas infra. It is already moving to block Strait of Hormuz, which will inflict pain globally
- **Trump is looking for** quick success, and some credit. His voters don't want him to get caught up in another war

Modi speaks to Iran prez, urges de-escalation

New Delhi: As the US waded into the Israel-Iran war, PM Narendra Modi, in a conversation with Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian, expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalation and urged immediate de-escalation and restoration of peace and stability in a region crucial to India's interests.

The Iranian president called Modi to brief him about developments in the wake of the US bombing. In the 45-minute chat, he described India as a friend and partner in promoting regional peace, security and stability. TNN

▶'India's voice', P 16

Iran foreign min to visit Moscow today

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said he will visit Moscow on Monday for "serious consultations", and is also likely to meet President Vladimir Putin. Russia termed the US strikes "irresponsible" and a "blatant violation of international law". AGENCIES

Air India cancels 2 Europe-bound flights

Airspace restrictions due to the Israel-Iran conflict forced Air India to cancel its Delhi-Frankfurt and Delhi-Zurich flights Sunday. "Consequently, AI 2030 (Frankfurt-Delhi) and AI 152 (Zurich-Delhi) also stand cancelled," the airline stated. **P 16**

Oil expected to rise, Gulf mkts unfazed

The US attack on Iranian nuclear sites could push oil prices even higher due to concerns about disruption in supply. While the sensex is expected to open lower Monday, Israeli stocks hit record highs Sunday while most Gulf markets traded higher. **P 13**

Red-faced Pakistan blows hot at US

Pakistan found itself in an embarrassing diplomatic bind as barely 24 hours after deciding to nominate Trump for the Peace Nobel, it had to issue a statement criticising the US for what it said was a violation of "all norms of international law". **INSIDE JACKET**

"Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace. If they do not, future attacks would be far greater and a lot easier," he warned, promising more punishment on a country that insists its nuclear programme is civilian in nature.

Iran confirmed the strikes but said it had evacuated the sites some time ago and transferred enriched uranium reserves, suggesting that the strikes might not have entirely destroyed its ability to reconstitute the programme. Nuclear monitors in the region also reported no signs of contamination or radiation leaks at the targeted sites (Isfahan, Fordo and Natanz).

In a step towards what is widely seen as Iran's most effective threat to hurt the West, its parliament approved a move to close the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly a quarter of global oil shipments pass through the narrow waters that Iran shares with Oman and UAE. Closing the strait would require approval from the Supreme National Security Council.

(With Inputs From Agencies)

▶Retaliation by Iran, P 16

'3 LeT ultras from Pak carried out Pahalgam attack'

Disclosure To NIA By 2 Locals Who Provided Shelter

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Three attackers — all Pakistani terrorists affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba — executed the brutal killing of 26 men, including 25 tourists, in Pahalgam on April 22, as per disclosures by two Kashmiris arrested by National Investigation Agency Sunday for harbouring the three terrorists prior to the attack.

The arrests of Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, Pahalgam, and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam, mark a big breakthrough in the case that shook the nation. The attack, the origins of which were traced to masterminds based in Pakistan, had led to retaliatory strikes by India on terror facilities and later even military assets inside Pakistan.

MUSA AMONG TRIO

- 2 arrested locals accused of **knowingly sheltering the 3 attackers** at a **seasonal 'dhok' (hut)** in Hill Park, Pahalgam, prior to attack
- 1 attacker confirmed to be Hashim Musa alias Sulaiman, **ex-para commando of Pak army's special forces**
- Musa was part of **2 strikes in Oct 2024** at Gagangir, Ganderbal, and Buta Pathri

▶Pak ex-commando, P 15

7 businesses in city won't need police licence now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Seven trade activities — eateries, hotels/motels/guesthouses, discotheques, amusement parks, auditoriums, swimming pools and video games parlours — will no longer require police licences to open and operate in the national capital.

In a major policy shift aimed at cutting red tape and promoting ease of business, lieutenant governor V K Saxena has withdrawn the powers of Delhi Police to issue licences or no-objection certificates to run these trades.

Officials said the reform measure to end licence raj and related harassment aligned with the central govt's motto of "minimum govt and maximum governance by reducing the multiple licensing regimes", which is followed by various states and Union Territories.

RELIEF FOR HOTELS

- Eateries, discotheques, hotels, amusement parks, auditoriums, **pools, games parlours to benefit**
- LG refers to HC judgment that **police should only be concerned with law** & order
- Move **aimed to cut red tape** and is in line with PM's vision of ease of doing business, say officials

▶CM hails move, P 4

Maoists kill 2 on eve of Shah's visit to Raipur

Five armed Maoists killed a surrendered cadre and a village committee member in two villages of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Saturday night, a day before Union home minister Amit Shah arrived in Raipur for a two-day visit to the state on Sunday. The Maoists accused the victims of being police informers. **P 10**

CBFC blocks film over 'name of female character'

CBFC blocked the release of Malayalam film 'Janaki V/S State of Kerala', reportedly due to objections over the character 'Janaki',, an alternative name of Goddess Sita. The film stars Union minister Suresh Gopi. The board reportedly said that Sita's name cannot be given to a woman character who suffered assault. **P 10**

IndiGo pilot alleges casteist abuse

An FIR was lodged against three IndiGo officials after a trainee pilot accused them of caste-based humiliation. He alleged that the three made remarks like "you aren't fit to fly... go back and stitch slippers". **P 6**

Key witness in TMC man's murder dead

Dilip Kumar Shaw, prime witness in the murder of his younger brother and Trinamool ward president Ashoke Shaw, was found dead Sunday in a roadside drain in Bhatpara, about 33km north of Kolkata. **P 9**

ED raids Himachal asst drug controller

ED on Sunday conducted searches against a Himachal Pradesh assistant drug controller, Nishant Sareen, in bribery and extortion cases linked to the charge of him misusing his official position. **P 10**

Turf war over K'taka fake news bill?

Karnataka's IT dept has red-flagged the state's proposed law against fake news which proposes an authority under the culture dept, saying it had given recommendations and consultations were yet to happen. **P 10**

2 judo coaches get jail for sex assault

Two judo coaches were sent to jail for sexually assaulting minor trainees by courts in Meerut and Moradabad in separate incidents dating to 2017 and 2023. One of the victims was a 10-yr-old national-level judoka. **P 10**

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

Trade deal hits hurdle over US demand of low duties on agri, GM food

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

'OUR AGRI NOT READY'

- For the US, a **deal without** lower duties for its **farm produce is not an option**
- **'Can't expose India's agri sector** to imports from large US farms. It is not ready yet,' says an official
- US keen to push **GM maize & soya,** which are not allowed under Indian regulations
- If US **reimposes reciprocal tariffs on July 9,** it'll make life tough for Indian exporters

New Delhi: The proposed trade deal with the US is has run into rough weather with Indian authorities resisting the insistence of their counterparts to allow lower-duty import of American agricultural products such as maize and soybean, fearing adverse impact on farmers and health concerns related to genetically modified food. Sources acknowledged that the talks have hit a hurdle.

In the absence of a limited deal ahead of the July 9 deadline, domestic industry will have to brace for a 26% levy, especially with a view within the govt that what the Trump administration is offering in the form of a 10% baseline tariff, applicable to all countries, is not good enough.

At the start of the negotiations, the govt was hoping to get zero duty access for several products of India's interests, including textiles, leather goods, pharmaceuticals as well as some engineering goods and auto parts.

American negotiators, who are keen that the deal be finalised, have indicated to their Indian counterparts that the Trump administration cannot go down to zero tariffs immediately. In any case, India has sought immunity from future tariff actions once a deal is in place.

Unhappiness in India over US President Donald Trump's claim — since rejected by PM Narendra Modi — of having brokered the pause in Operation Sindoor, has also not helped in creating a conducive atmosphere for resolution of trade-related issues.

▶Sub-par deal, P 13

EC to carry out door-to-door check for Bihar voter roll review

New Delhi: Election Commission is contemplating a house-to-house verification exercise during the special summary revision of electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of assembly polls, aimed at not just adding eligible electors, but also deleting bogus entries, including foreign illegal immigrants erroneously included in the rolls, **reports Bharti Jain.**

The last such rigorous roll revision — involving visits by booth-level officers to each house to verify the names for addition, change in existing particulars, and deletion of shifted and dead voters as also non-citizens possibly included on the basis of documents that may not conclusively prove their citizenship — was undertaken in 2004. "In the past, concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and agencies regarding the inclusion or deletion of names of electors in electoral rolls," a senior EC functionary told **TOI** on Sunday.

▶Ineligible people, P 15

DGCA to audit entire 'aviation ecosystem'

Following the crash of AI171 in Ahmedabad and multiple helicopter accidents in Uttarakhand over the past month, DGCA has launched a "comprehensive special audit" of the entire civil aviation ecosystem, **reports Saurabh Sinha.**

Scheduled and non-scheduled airlines, private operators, maintenance and repair organisations, training academies, flying schools, air navigation service providers, airport operators and ground handling agencies will be covered in the audit. DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai called it a "paradigm shift".

Teams led by senior DGCA officials will conduct the audit, the findings of which will be shared with each entity, which must submit a corrective action plan in 15 days. **P 9**

Crash aftermath: Broken hearts & empty homes

Families of the Ahmedabad crash victims continue to struggle with overwhelming grief, with many displaying unexpected reactions to trauma that has left counsellors concerned, **reports Parth Shastri.** Hospital authorities have appointed 10 counsellors — primarily experienced psychiatrists — to help families cope with the deaths of loved ones. The counsellors, who have been stationed round the clock, have encountered several instances of families unable to return to normal lives, such as a senior citizen who has not gone back to an empty home. **P 9**

In UP village, forgotten Indian roots of Khomeini

Arvind.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Kintoor (Barabanki): A village by the Ghaghara, 70km from Lucknow, claims a legacy that altered the fate of Iran.

Only five Shia families remain in Kintoor, once a thriving centre of Shia scholarship under Oudh. Among them, the Kazmis speak of a bloodline that runs from the lanes of eastern UP's Barabanki to the heart of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"My great-great-great-grandfather Mufti Mohammad Quli Musavi and Syed Ahmad Musavi were cousins," said septuagenarian Syed Nihal Kazmi, seated beneath a fading portrait of Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeini — Iran's first supreme leader until his death in 1989.

Arvind Chauhan

A photograph of Khomeini hangs in the Kazmis' drawing room

Syed Ahmad Musavi Hindi — grandfather of Ayatollah Khomeini — was born in Kintoor in the early 1800s. In 1830, he left British India on a pilgrimage to Najaf in Iraq, where he befriended Yusef Khan Kamarchi, a landowner from Farahan in Iran. By 1839, Ahmad had settled in Khomeyn, purchased a big house with a garden, and married Yusef's sister Sakineh.

▶Story began in UP, P 15

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Monsoon likely in city in the next 2 days, says IMD | 6

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

TEMP ON SUNDAY
36.2° MAXIMUM | 28.4° MINIMUM

FORECAST Cloudy sky. Max & min temperatures on Monday would be around 34°C and 27°C

MOONSET 5.25PM (MON) MOONRISE 3.47AM (TUE)
SUNSET 7.23PM (MON) SUNRISE 5.25AM (TUE)

92 AQI IN DELHI ON SUNDAY (SATISFACTORY)

India may account for 10% of global Parkinson's cases by 2050 | 4

HC grants interim bail to woman convict in Pocso case | 6

Top Traffic Offences: What We See — And What We Don't

Hidden In Plain Sight: PUCC Offenders, Insurance Gaps

Ishita.Jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In popular imagination, Delhi's traffic violations play out like a well-worn reel — bikers zipping past without helmets, cars casually parked across footpaths, autos cutting through traffic, and intersections gridlocked by design and defiance.

These are everyday images we associate with road indiscipline. But zoom in on the city's prosecution data until May 31, 2025, and the frame shifts. The real story of Delhi's most common offences is not just about what's obvious — it's also about what's often invisible.

Improper or obstructive parking, no surprise, leads the charge. The western range has logged over 1.03 lakh violations, followed closely by the New Delhi range with 89,000-plus and 70,498 in the Central Range.

From narrow residential lanes in Malviya Nagar to the buzzing commercial stretches of Punjabi Bagh, the script is familiar: too many vehicles, not enough space, and little regard for where they're left behind. It's a citywide obstacle course where cars routinely spill onto pavements, entrances, and exits — anything but a marked slot.

Riding without a helmet, too, continues to dominate with around 2,45,727 violations across five ranges. In the New Delhi range, it's not among the top five. The western range leads the chart, with 57,064 prosecutions, while the central, eastern and northern ranges have all seen above 50,000 prosecutions. Yet, despite repeated campaigns and crackdowns, the helmet remains more of an afterthought than a necessity for many riders and even more so for pillion passengers.

But where things get interesting — and alarming — is just beneath this layer of visible violations. Two seemingly quiet offences are emerging just as prominently: driving without a Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) and valid insurance. These aren't the headline-making, in-your-face kinds of infractions. You don't see smoke trails or flashing "No Insurance" signs on a car. But the numbers tell a sharp story.

In the western and eastern ranges, over 69,000 vehicles were prosecuted without a PUCC, with this being the top offence in the eastern range. Similarly, in the southern range, with 62,379 prosecutions, PUCC violations surpassed cases of illegal parking and held the first position in the top five. This is in a city where air pollution is a seasonal crisis and vehicle emissions are a major contributor.

Likewise, driving without valid insurance, often dismissed as an oversight, is widespread. In the Central Range, 38,606 prosecutions were recorded, a figure that surpasses even helmet violations in some other ranges.

Driving without a licence is also growing. In all six ranges, it's one of the top five offences. 47,427 prosecutions were recorded in the western range, followed by 41,848 in the northern range.

What makes the violations concerning is that they go largely unnoticed, until a traffic stop, or worse, an accident. A missing PUCC means a potentially polluting vehicle left unchecked. No insurance means no financial or legal cover in the case of a mishap. Yet, because they don't obstruct traffic or draw attention, they rarely spark the same reaction as a badly parked car.

Interestingly, across all seven traffic ranges in Delhi, the top five offences remain the same: improper parking, missing PUCC, helmetless riding, lack of a driving licence, and missing insurance. The uniformity speaks volumes. It suggests not just a pattern in enforcement, but a pattern in behaviour cutting across class, region and vehicle type. From Lutyens' Delhi to neighbourhoods of the east and north, the rules people flout remain consistent.

The data also challenges how we perceive road safety. Helmet drives, parking fines, and tow-away zones dominate the public narrative — and rightly so. But the real danger may lie in the quieter breaches. They may not be visible, but their impact — legal, financial, environmental — runs deep. It's about what slips past unchecked.

TIMES Special

DELHI'S TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS: BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

PUCC VIOLATIONS SURGE ACROSS DELHI

WESTERN & EASTERN RANGES 69,000+ vehicles prosecuted without PUCC

SOUTHERN RANGE 62,379 PUCC cases top the offence list

PUCC violations outnumber traditional offences like illegal parking

Top 5 Prosecutions by Range (Up to May 31, 2025)

KEY TAKEAWAY

Invisible offences like missing PUCC and insurance are major concerns

Traditional violations (parking, helmets) remain high but aren't the whole story

Enforcement focus may need to shift towards these quieter but widespread infractions

How cops pulled child from brink of begging racket

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A four-year-old girl was rescued from her woman kidnapper who allegedly abducted her from central Delhi's Chandni Mahal on June 18 to make her beg and later sell her off, police have said.

The woman allegedly took the girl away when the child's mother was out to fetch drinking water.

Police have said that they have arrested the 40-year-old woman, Barkha, and she admitted that she had planned to use the child for begging and then sell her once she grew up.

AN OFFICER SAYS

The team conducted an investigation, which involved scrutinising footage from CCTV cameras across the area to identify both the victim and the suspect

After reviewing footage from 100 CCTV cameras, officers traced the girl to the woman's house in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. Although the woman initially escaped, she was caught near Old Delhi Railway Station with the child.

Police reported that on June 18, they received a complaint about the girl missing from the Chandni Mahal area.

The complainant stated that around 5 pm, while his wife was collecting drinking water at their rented accommodation, their four-year-old daughter left the house with her elder sister and later disappeared.

Despite extensive efforts, the child could not be located. The complainant suspected that someone may have kidnapped his daughter.

Police then registered a case under section 137(2) (kidnapping) of the BNS at Chandni Mahal police station. Deputy commissioner of police (central) Nidhin Valsan formed a team under inspector Mahavir Prasad and sub-inspector Akash to catch the suspect and trace the child.

"The team conducted an investigation, which involved scrutinising footage from CCTV cameras across the area to identify both the victim and the suspect. From the minute analysis of CCTV footage from various locations, the child was seen alone heading towards Delhi Gate near Sanchar Bhawan. Secret informers were activated for any information," police said.

The team got a tip-off that a woman beggar had taken the girl to her village, Behta, in Barabanki. A police team was dispatched to Barabanki. Upon reaching the village, the team learned that Barkha had brought the child there but, learning that the police were looking for her, she returned to Delhi. Based on this intelligence, police were deployed in plain clothes at New Delhi Railway Station and Old Delhi Railway Station.

On Saturday morning, Barkha was seen deboarding a train at Old Delhi Railway Station and trying to hide near Shanti Van red light along with the child. She was immediately caught, and the child was safely rescued from her custody. Upon interrogation, she disclosed that she had abducted the girl.

The child was reunited with her parents.

'Interest on refund is like compensation in consumer disputes'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), while holding builders liable for deficiency in service, observed that in consumer cases, awarding interest along with a refund serves as a form of compensation.

The commission's bench of Justice Sudip Ahluwalia and Sadhna Shanker was hearing an appeal filed by a builder against the orders of a state commission. The state commission had found the builder's service deficient and directed a refund of Rs 34,27,747 with 12% interest, Rs 1 lakh as compensation, and Rs 11,000 as litigation costs to the complainant.

On June 16, NCDRC modified the state commission's order based on legal precedents. It set aside the Rs 1 lakh compensation but increased the litigation costs from Rs 11,000 to Rs 40,000.

In 2011, the complainants booked a flat in a project by Barnala Builders on the Chandigarh-Ambala Highway after seeing advertisements that claimed it was fully developed and clear of legal issues. They paid a large portion of the price, but the builder did not provide the buyer's agreement at first. Later, the builder gave them an agreement with many unexpected and unfair terms.

The complainants also received several arbitrary service tax demands without a proper explanation. Despite paying over Rs 34 lakh, they were only given a paper possession letter, while actual development, utility connections, and statutory certificates were still missing. They asked for a refund, but the builder only threatened forfeiture.

They filed a complaint before the state commission of Punjab in 2014. The commission in 2016 held that the builder had been deficient in service and ordered a refund of Rs 34,27,747 with 12% interest, Rs 1 lakh compensation, and Rs 11,000 as litigation costs. Aggrieved, the builder filed an appeal before the National Commission.

The national commission reaffirmed that in consumer cases, giving interest and a refund is a kind of compensation.

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% in XII-92

Shashank Kumar
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% in XII-94.4

Akshat Sharma
NEET AIR-4467
% in XII-94

Siddhi Aggarwal
NEET AIR-4601
% in XII-96

Sachin Kumar
NEET AIR -5014
% in XII-91

Charvi Juneja
NEET AIR-6719
% in XII-96.4

Suveera Sharma
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% in XII-94.6

Rahaman Ali
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% in XII-85

Himanshu Kumar
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% in XII-88

Arnav Dar
NEET AIR-9339
% in XII-93.8

Nishty Agarwal
NEET AIR-10470
% in XII-92.8

Drishti Jain
NEET AIR -11677
% in XII-95.6

Shaurya Shankar
NEET AIR-15846
% in XII-92.5

Chaitanya Roy
NEET AIR-16566
% in XII-98

Deepshikha
NEET AIR-16605
% in XII-96.4

Navya Bhasin
NEET AIR -17070
% in XII-90

Sarthak Sharma
NEET AIR-21319
% in XII-82.2

Ritam Das
NEET AIR-24885
% in XII-95.2

Aashish Kumar
NEET AIR -26739
% in XII-85

Pranav Raj
JEE AIR (Adv)-195
% in XII-92.80

Banaj Mahajan
JEE AIR (Adv)-356
% in XII-96.00

Raghav Bansal
JEE AIR (Adv)-372
% in XII-95.20

Arham Bakliwal
JEE AIR (Adv)-740
% in XII-91.00

Apratim Tewari
JEE AIR (Adv)-842
% in XII-96.60

Krish Gupta
JEE AIR (Adv)-954
% in XII-95.20

Praneel Pathak
JEE AIR (Adv)-997
% in XII-98.20

Uday Modi
JEE AIR (Adv)-1099
% in XII-95.60

Nishit Kapoor
JEE AIR (Adv)-1460
% in XII-96.20

Riddhimaa Mishra
JEE AIR (Adv)-1582
% in XII-96.40

Abhimanyu Kashyap
JEE AIR (Adv)-1608
% in XII-93.20

Anshul Tripathi
JEE AIR (Adv)-1912
% in XII-97.00

Rachit Jain
JEE AIR (Adv)-2200
% in XII-97.40

Navneet Raj
JEE AIR (Adv)-2354
% in XII-97.00

Kaustav Kirnapune
JEE AIR (Adv)-2910
% in XII-96.40

Khushi Gupta
JEE AIR (Adv)-3041
% in XII-95.20

Avi Jain
JEE AIR (Adv)-3623
% in XII-97.00

Archit Trehan
JEE AIR (Adv)-3736
% in XII-96.60

Aniket Jha
JEE AIR (Adv)-3747
% in XII-94.40

Harsh Garg
JEE AIR (Adv)-3785
% in XII-88.20

Akshat Verma
JEE AIR (Adv)-3915
% in XII-97.80

Reyansh Agarwal
JEE AIR (Adv)-4015
% in XII-89.20

Azlan Rafiq
JEE AIR (Adv)-4112
% in XII-94.00

Atharv Goyal
JEE AIR (Adv)-4270
% in XII-92.60

Krishang Goel
JEE AIR (Adv)-4279
% in XII-95.20

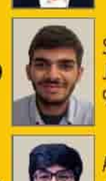
Ananya Garg
JEE AIR (Adv)-4308
% in XII-94.80

Udit Maini
JEE AIR (Adv)-4400
% in XII- 90.00

Harshita Prasad
JEE AIR (Adv)-4677
% in XII-94.00

Bhaskar Kumar Arya
JEE AIR (Adv)-4679
% in XII-90.00

Pranav Gupta
JEE AIR (Adv)-4779
% in XII-94.80



Saumya Rawal
JEE AIR (Adv)-5032
% in XII-94.60

Parv Chopra
JEE AIR (Adv)-5384
% in XII-91.00

Mansi Goyal
JEE AIR (Adv)-5596
% in XII-95.20

Anahad Rakhra
JEE AIR (Adv)-6241
% in XII-96.40

Shiven Jindal
JEE AIR (Adv)-7130
% in XII-92.80

Raamaansh Gupta
JEE AIR (Adv)-7392
% in XII-82.40

Esha Jain
JEE AIR (Adv)-7445
% in XII-94.80

Arkin
JEE AIR (Adv)-7541
% in XII-98.00

Rishi Singh
JEE AIR (Adv)-7620
% in XII-92.20

Divija Pandey
JEE AIR (Adv)-7633
% in XII-94.40

Arnav Jain
JEE AIR (Adv)-7634
% in XII-93.40

Kartik Nayak
JEE AIR (Adv)-7734
% in XII-96.00

Dhruv Bambi
JEE AIR (Adv)-7774
% in XII-96.20

Mudit Kaushik
JEE AIR (Adv)-8713
% in XII-93.40

Pushkal Garg
JEE AIR (Adv)-8898
% in XII-95.80

Harshit Saxena
JEE AIR (Adv)-9510
% in XII-95.60

Ishita Jain
JEE AIR (Adv)-9665
% in XII-97.60

Rishabh Bansal
JEE AIR (Adv)-10416
% in XII-92.80

Naitik Jangid
JEE AIR (Adv)-10781
% in XII-95.00

Lakshita Agarwal
JEE AIR (Adv)-11998
% in XII-95.80

Atulya Singh Rawat
JEE AIR (Adv)-12136
% in XII-93.00

Pranjal Agarwal
JEE AIR (Adv)-12153
% in XII-94.70

Sakshi Vatsa
JEE AIR (Adv)-12771
% in XII-92.80

Parth Goel
JEE AIR (Adv)-12848
% in XII-93.60

Laksh Saini
JEE AIR (Adv)-13080
% in XII-94.00

Raghav Rahul
JEE AIR (Adv)-13422
% in XII-90.00

Raghav Arora
JEE AIR (Adv)-13544
% in XII-96.00

Arav Arora
JEE AIR (Adv)-13701
% in XII-90.20

Navansh Tyagi
JEE AIR (Adv)-13722
% in XII-96.40

Suhaira Khan
JEE AIR (Adv)-13817
% in XII-91.40

Aarya Mehrotra
JEE AIR (Adv)-13899
% in XII-95.00

Tanmay Goyal
JEE AIR (Adv)-13957
% in XII-91.80

Krishna Agarwal
JEE AIR (Adv)-14215
% in XII-93.20

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Contest open till 3pm. *T&C apply | Photo: Tarun Rawat

Putting the cart before the horse: Loyal, overdressed and underappreciated. **Scan the QR code and suggest another witty and hard-hitting caption to win the prize**

Yesterday's answer: Minto Bridge
Winner: **Shaveta Jain** (Voucher will be sent by email)

International conference at JNU to focus on Indian knowledge systems

New Delhi: A three-day international conference on Indian knowledge systems will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from July 10 to 12. Experts from different fields will present their views on the legacy and challenges of Indian knowledge systems. The conference will explore ways to integrate Indian knowledge systems into modern education, industry, govt, and civil society while fostering collaboration with Himalayan nations. "The conference is also being seen as a response to the dominance of European cultural paradigms in shaping scientific discourse worldwide. This mega academic gathering aims to project Indian knowledge systems as an alternative and complementary framework in global academia," said an official. It will provide an international platform for research presentations and discussions aimed at building a collective scientific community. The event will also aim to establish a global network to promote Indian knowledge systems within the global academic and research communities. The official added, "Through this platform, efforts will be made to connect Indian knowledge traditions with contemporary global scientific paradigms and challenges". The conference will highlight fields such as engineering sciences and natural sciences, demonstrating how Indian knowledge systems provide unique insights into humanity, nature, and the pursuit of knowledge. TNN

CITYSTICS Charting Change In Urban India

Delhi Tops Luxury Car Sales, Bengaluru Closes In On Mumbai

Delhi-NCR remains India's luxury car capital, but Bengaluru is accelerating fast. Its steady rise in the last 10 years has brought it neck-and-neck with Mumbai

New luxury-car registrations

*Data includes neighbouring areas
Source: WeAreCity, UnboxingBLR study

Restaurants & hotels cheer move that was 'much awaited'

Amin Ali

New Delhi: The restaurant and hotel industry of Delhi was overjoyed when Delhi CM posted on social media that the requirement for Delhi Police Eating House License has been scrapped. Various restaurant bodies welcomed LG and Delhi CM's decision and stressed that this long-awaited reform will offer significant relief and boost to the capital's restaurant and hospitality industry. The move, hailed as a milestone for ease of doing business by industry, is expected to unlock fresh growth and investment in the food and beverage sector.

National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), which had been advocating the removal of this license for over a decade, termed the decision as a progressive step. Sagar Daryani, president of NRAI, said: "This reform will not only save time and resources but also foster a more vibrant, business-friendly environment for both existing and aspiring entrepreneurs in the F&B sector."

Highlighting the burdens of the earlier system, Manpreet Singh, treasurer of NRAI, noted that entrepreneurs already have to obtain several approvals—including from DPCC, fire department, MCD/NDMC, FSSAI, and excise department. "Despite this, police still required documents like rent agreements and fresh verification every year—even for the same owner running multiple outlets. This duplicative process was time-consuming and burdensome."

Garish Oberoi, chairman of Delhi State Committee and Treasurer of HRANI said: "Many projects ready to open were delayed solely due to this license. Now, time and money won't be wasted, and restaurants won't have to wait to offer full F&B services even after paying excise fees."

Pranay Aneja, executive committee Member of FHRAI, agreed, "Every hotelier in Delhi has a big smile today. We've had to run from one department to another for this one license. Now that energy can go into running our businesses."

Sandeep Anand Goyle, Delhi Chapter Head of NRAI, said the association had submitted this demand to CM on May 13. "Delhi and West Bengal were the only places where this license still existed. Its removal will reduce hurdles for restaurateurs, attract outside investment, and lead to new projects, more jobs and higher revenue for the state," he said. "Many big chains had stopped coming to Delhi. This decision changes that and the entire industry is enthused," Goyle added.

Seventh Heaven: Licensing Reform Gets Thumbs Up From City Traders

Withdrawal Of Police Regulatory Control Over 7 Key Activities To Boost Biz

Vibha.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Traders across the capital have welcomed LG VK Saxena's decision to withdraw Delhi Police's regulatory control over seven commercial activities—including motels, guesthouses, discotheques, amusement parks and eating establishments.

Various trade and sectoral associations, citing their earlier meetings with Delhi govt, noted that while agencies like the fire department, DPCC and civic bodies oversaw fire safety, hygiene and environmental standards, Delhi Police played no significant role in the actual business verification process.

Representatives from restaurant associations highlighted that only select cities like Delhi and Kolkata mandated police licensing for eateries—a requirement they described as outdated and unnecessary.

Atul Bhargawa, president of New Delhi Traders Association, said the order—once implemented—would help streamline operations in popular commercial hubs like Connaught Place and Khan Market, where the restaurant industry often faced procedural delays.

In the case of guesthouses, traders explained that four agencies currently issued mandatory no-objection certificates (NoCs): Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), MCD, fire department and Delhi Police. The new order eliminates the requirement for a police NoC, reducing bureaucratic red tape and easing compliance for businesses.

Pawan Mittal, general secretary of Hotel Mahasangh, said that until now, Delhi Police acted as the nodal agency via an online portal.

"We have to apply with police first, and they forward the request to agencies like DPCC, fire department and MCD. After they grant NoCs, police give their final nod," he said. "But while others verify technical aspects—such as whether generators meet pollution control norms or if fire safety systems are in place—police have no significant role."

Brijesh Goyal, convenor of Chamber of Trade & Industry, said their delegation had raised this issue during a recent meeting with Delhi's minister of industries, food & supplies, and environment Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

"We supported the removal of police licensing for motels and guesthouses. Now that LG has issued the order, we hope a gazette notification or confirmation from Delhi Police will follow soon," Goyal said.

MOVE AIMED AT CUTTING RED TAPE

LG has ordered the repeal of Delhi Police's authority to regulate seven trade activities under Section 28(1) of Delhi Police Act, 1978

SECTORS FREED FROM POLICE CONTROL

WHY THIS MOVE
- Aimed at "minimum govt, maximum governance"
- Boosts ease of doing business
- Eliminates red tape for entrepreneurs
- Lets police focus on law enforcement
- Addresses police manpower shortage
- Clears jurisdiction confusion

HOW IT WORKS
- Police stop issuing licences/ NOCs for these sectors
- Municipal bodies take over regulation (MCD, NDMC, Delhi Cantonment)
- Businesses deal only with civic authorities

WHAT CHANGES FOR BUSINESSES
- No more "licence raaj" or police harassment
- Streamlined clearance process
- Traders hail removal of redundant police checks
- Fewer NoCs needed from govt departments

Representatives from restaurant associations highlighted that only select cities like Delhi and Kolkata mandated police licensing for eateries — a requirement they described as outdated and unnecessary

Rekha hails move as 'citizen-centric governance'

▶Continued from P1

In his order, LG referred to the Delhi High Court judgment in the Uphaar tragedy case, recommending that Delhi Police should only be concerned with law and order and that entrusting the responsibility of licensing was an additional burden on the force. Affirming HC's recommendations, the Supreme Court also suggested that the existing system of police granting licences should be abolished.

Officials said a committee under the chairmanship of the then additional chief secretary (home) and comprising officers of Delhi Police and the law and IT departments of Delhi govt was constituted to look into the entire system of issuing licences, NOCs and permissions by Delhi Police, and their relevance in the current scenario. While considering the report of the committee, the then chief secretary observed that Delhi Police was facing a shortage of staff, which affected its core policing duties, and recommended that the force be relieved of the responsibilities of regulating licences for these seven trades.

Since MCD, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board have also framed laws for regulating these trade activities, the overlapping of regulations issued under the Delhi Police Act impinged on the overall 'ease of doing business'. LG, in his order, mentioned that states such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa had already done away with the requirement of licences from police for the above categories. While revisiting the requirement of multiple regulations in respect of these seven categories, it was observed that LG was well within his powers to direct the police commissioner to rescind the relevant regulations through a general order or notification and remove such anomalies arising out of overlapping jurisdictions to promote ease of doing business.

"In exercise of powers under Section 28 (2) read with section 4 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, I hereby withdraw the sanction granted to the commissioner of police, Delhi, for issuance of regulations under Section 28 (1) of the Delhi Police Act covering the seven activities mentioned at Para 1, and the commissioner of police, Delhi, is directed to issue a notification repealing the said regulations with immediate effect," LG noted in his order.

CM Rekha Gupta said the reforms were direct evidence of her govt's visionary thinking and positive administrative approach. "The licensing process for seven commercial sectors, such as hotels, swimming pools, guesthouses, video game parlours, auditoriums and amusement parks, has now been removed from the jurisdiction of police and entrusted to municipal bodies and departments concerned," she said. This step was an ideal example of Centre-state coordination and citizen-centric governance, she said.

An official said the decision by LG Saxena is in line with PM Modi's vision of "ease of doing business" and "maximum governance, minimum govt". These directions, issued at the instance of Union home minister Amit Shah, who has been insisting on cutting red tape, are bound to have a cascading effect all over the country, making it easier for entrepreneurs to undertake businesses, he added.

Nerves on the edge: India to account for 10% of global Parkinson's cases by 2050

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A neurological tsunami is looming over India as projections reveal a staggering 168% surge in Parkinson's disease (PD) cases by 2050. This sharp rise will see India shoulder 10% of the global Parkinson's burden, with an estimated 2.8 million cases, up dramatically from 2021 levels. Globally, Parkinson's is set to affect 25.2 million people—an increase of 112% from 2021.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous system that primarily affects movement. It develops when dopamine-producing neurons in the brain begin to deteriorate or die. Dopamine is essential for coordinating physical activity, and its decline results in symptoms such as tremors, muscle rigidity, slowed movements and balance difficulties. While Parkinson's is not typically fatal, it significantly diminishes quality of life and currently has no known cure.

Dr Puneet Agarwal, principal director of neurology at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket, explains that although most cases have no clear cause, about 10–15% can be attributed to genetic mutations. Environmental triggers, such as prolonged exposure to pesticides or heavy metals, are also believed to be contributing factors. Mutations in genes, such as LRRK2, PARKIN, PINK1, DJ-1 and SNCA, are often seen in familial or early-onset Parkinson's. While a majority of cases is diagnosed after the age of 60, early-onset PD can begin before 50, and in rare instances, juvenile cases appear before age 20, usually linked to specific genetic variants.

By 2050, two-thirds of global Parkinson's cases are projected to be concentrated in the top 10 most affected countries, with China leading the list, followed closely by India and the United States. As India prepares to face this steep rise in cases, attention often centres on patients. However, the burden on caregivers remains a deeply overlooked aspect of the disease's impact.

The story of Sunita (name changed), a resident of Delhi, reflects the personal toll Parkinson's takes on families. Her father, Raman Kumar (name changed), now 68, was diagnosed three years ago. Once a vibrant corporate professional and frequent traveller, his world changed dramatically after the diagnosis. For Sunita, the change was equally life-altering. "I became his caregiver overnight," she says. "It's physically exhausting and emotionally draining, but love keeps me going." Her daily life revolves around her father's needs—managing his medications, helping him move around the house, and offering emotional comfort. The emotional strain is intensified by the absence of robust support systems and the stigma that still clings to neurological disorders.

PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR OF NEUROLOGY AT MAX HOSP

Although most cases have no clear cause, about 10–15% can be attributed to genetic mutations. Environmental triggers, such as prolonged exposure to pesticides or heavy metals, are also believed to be contributing factors

TIMES Special

Providing effective care for Parkinson's patients requires patience, empathy, and emotional strength. Dr Nitin K Sethi, chairman of neurosciences and senior consultant at PSRI Hospital, stresses the importance of encouraging regular physical activity while closely monitoring changes in movement and behaviour. He adds that medical treatments can help manage symptoms such as hallucinations and behavioural disturbances, and that modifying home environments can help prevent falls. Support groups also play a critical role, offering emotional relief and reducing the sense of isolation often felt by both patients and caregivers.

Dr Sweta Singh, senior consultant of neurology at Narayana Hospital in Gurgaon, notes that while Parkinson's is not typically hereditary, individuals may face a higher risk if a parent has early-onset PD or a known genetic mutation. However, a majority of age-related cases are not passed on to offspring and are more likely the result of acquired mutations.

Although Parkinson's cannot be entirely prevented, lifestyle choices may help delay its onset. Dr Vinit Suri, senior consultant of neurology at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, recommends regular exercise and antioxidant-rich diets to support brain health. Reducing exposure to environmental toxins and maintaining active social and cognitive engagement may also lower the risk, particularly for those with a family history of the disease.

The early signs of Parkinson's are often movement-related. Dr Jyoti Sehgal, director of Neurology at Medanta, Gurgaon, explains that motor symptoms typically include slower walking and movement, reduced arm swing, hand tremors, an expressionless face, and problems with balance. Non-motor symptoms such as sleep disturbances and behavioural changes are also common. Clinical diagnosis is largely based on the visible emergence of these symptoms, as there is currently no definitive test to detect the disease in its earliest stages.

Dr Elavarasi A, associate professor neurology, AIIMS emphasised the vital role of caregivers in supporting patients with Parkinson's disease throughout their journey. "Caregivers assist patients by managing their medications at appropriate times, providing encouragement and facilitating physical activities, including regular walks. As the disease progresses and patients experience increased mobility challenges, caregivers become essential in maintaining both the physical and mental wellness of individuals living with Parkinson's disease," Elavarasi says.

A PROBLEM THAT INDIA CAN'T SHAKE OFF

Parkinson's disease is becoming a major health challenge in India and worldwide

- It's second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world
- WHO has estimated that neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, will become the second leading cause of death worldwide by 2040, surpassing cancer related deaths
- According to the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015, Parkinson's disease is the neurological disease with the fastest growing prevalence and disability
- India is emerging as a major hub, with prevalence rates ranging from 15 to 43 per 100,000 population
- In 2016, an estimated 0.58 million people lived with Parkinson's in India, accounting for about 10% of the global burden
- By 2050, projections suggest India could have 2.8 million Parkinson's cases, a 168% increase from 2021, driven by population aging, increased life expectancy, and urbanisation.

Causes and inheritance of Parkinson's disease

- The exact cause of Parkinson's disease is still unknown, but it is believed to be due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors
- While Parkinson's can run in families, it is uncommon for the disease to be directly inherited by children
- Only a small percentage of cases are due to genetic mutations that can be passed from parent to child.
- Parkinson's disease mainly affects older adults, with the risk increasing sharply after age 65
- But it can also occur in younger people, sometimes even before age 50. This is known as 'young-onset' Parkinson's, and is less common

Gap in condo slide claims portion of 2-year-old's toe

Meenakshi.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

Noida: A defect on a slide in the play area of a Greater Noida society ended in an injury that a two-year-old will have to adapt to for the rest of her life.

On June 13 in Eco Village 3, Amansha Sharma was going down the slide when her middle toe got caught in a metal gap that should not have been there. As momentum carried her downward, a portion of her toe came off.

"My wife quickly picked her up, and we rushed to a nearby clinic where first aid was given and the wound was covered. We were advised to take her to a hospital for further examination," Amansha's father Amar Sharma (33), who lives on the fifth floor of Tower A9, told **TOI** on Sunday.

The couple took Amansha to Kailash Hospital in Sector 71. There, doctors recommended a surgery, which was performed over five to six hours on June 16.

Amansha, doctors told the couple, can use a prosthetic on the damaged part of her toe once she grows up. The girl, parents said, is recovering.

The accident throws light on the larger malaise of poor finishing and safety compromises that are often seen in public places, like a drain cover left open on a footpath, a wire hanging loose from a pole, a nail poking out of a door or a loose tile on a stairwell.

Loopholes like these in public infrastructure can be particularly dangerous.

Amar, whose family has been living in the Greater Noida West society on rent since last Sept, said he got the time to write to the estate manager on June 18. He has neither pressed for charges, nor sought compensation.

"It's not in me to go for things like complaints. I was more focused on my daughter's recovery, which by the grace of god is well," the father, who works for an IT firm in Gurgaon, said.

In his letter to the estate manager, Amar said the accident was traumatic for his daughter and such hazards should be fixed immediately.

"I am submitting this formal complaint to bring the matter to the immediate attention of the estate's management. I also request that all necessary repairs and safety measures be undertaken without delay… to minimize injury risks and thorough safety audit of all play equipment and the surrounding areas," Amar wrote.

He added that the complaint was "not only as the parent of an injured child, but also on behalf of many concerned families in the society". "Our children's safety must be prioritised, and preventive action should be taken urgently," he wrote.

The society manager Ajeet Singh took cognisance of the issue and said rubber mats have been installed in the play area. Singh has sought time of about 10-15 days to get the rest of the repairs done as the expenditure is being worked out.

Amansha, doctors told the couple, can use a prosthetic on the damaged part of her toe once she grows up. The girl, parents said, is recovering

Safdarjung hospital third in capital to start DM in nephrology training

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VNMC) and Safdarjung Hospital have become Delhi's third institutions to start the Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in the nephrology training programme from the 2025 session. Previously, only AIIMS and RML Hospital offered this course.

Dr Sandeep Bansal, the medical superintendent at Safdarjung Hospital, confirmed the allocation of three annual seats for DM in nephrology. "All three positions are being secured by candidates ranking within the top 10," he said.

Principal of VNMC, Dr Geetika Khanna, expressed pride in launching this course. She emphasised the necessity of an additional workforce through postgraduate programmes, citing substantial patient numbers.

Dr Himanshu Verma, who heads the nephrology department at Safdarjung Hospital, stated that approximately 6,000-7,000 kidney patients seek treatment at the hospital each month. India faces a significant shortage of nephrologists and dialysis specialists due to the increasing number of kidney-related health issues.

Statistics indicate that 10% of Indians suffer from kidney-related conditions. The country has an expanding population of chronic kidney disease patients, with roughly 175,000 new end-stage renal disease cases annually. The nation incurs significant expenses for dialysis and transplant treatments. The govt's Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme assists financially challenged patients.

Despite having excellent nephrologists and transplant surgeons, India requires more specialists to handle the increasing population of kidney patients, particularly considering the country's size. Qualified nephrologists are essential to reduce healthcare costs through early identification and prevention of kidney ailments.

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IMD confirms social media a/c hacked

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India Meteorological Department confirmed on Sunday that the official 'X' account of its Regional Weather Forecasting Centre (RWFC) in New Delhi was compromised, resulting in the posting of unauthorised and inappropriate content. In an official statement, IMD said the problematic content was promptly removed. Gajendra Kumar, head of Delhi Regional Meteorological Centre, said further investigation was ongoing to identify the source of the breach and strengthen account security.

The breach came to light when the compromised account posted content linked to a social media influencer. On Sunday, a follow-up post from RWFC New Delhi account acknowledged the incident: "Security Incident – RWFC New Delhi Twitter Handle. The official Twitter handle of RWFC New Delhi was hacked yesterday, and a few inappropriate posts were made during the breach. We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

A senior IMD official confirmed that immediate security measures were implemented, including resetting account passwords and enhancing login protocols. "We are reviewing our digital security policies and will take additional measures as needed to prevent future breaches," the official said. In April 2022, the department's main Twitter account was compromised. That breach lasted several hours before control was restored.

2-day yellow alert for strong winds, thunderstorm, rain

Kushagra.Dixit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The monsoon is likely to reach Delhi within the next two days, with India Meteorological Department forecasting light to moderate rain and improved weather conditions. The department has issued a yellow alert for the national capital and surrounding areas till Tuesday, warning of rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds of up to 50 kmph.

According to IMD, heavy rain is expected over large parts of north and northwest India over the next three days as the southwest monsoon advances further into the region, supported by favourable moisture conditions. The monsoon is likely to arrive in Delhi by June 24. IMD has predicted a normal monsoon for the season.

"Southwest monsoon has further advanced over most parts of Himachal Pradesh, the entire Ladakh and Kashmir region, most parts of Jammu, and parts of Punjab," said RK Jenamani, senior weather scientist at IMD. "The Northern Limit of Monsoon currently passes through Jaipur, Agra, Rampur, Dehradun, Shimla, Pathankot and Jammu. Conditions remain favourable for its advancement over the remaining parts of the North Arabian Sea, more areas of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during the next two days."

Despite the forecast of rain from Sunday onward, no significant weather activity was recorded in the capital till late evening. However, the city's air quality continued to improve. Sunday marked the fifth consecutive day of satisfactory air quality, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) standing at 92 (on a 0–500 scale) at 4 pm. The improvement was aided by sporadic rain and surface winds, which helped disperse pollutants.

Jatin Kumar

Kids at play while Delhi sweats, waiting for monsoon's relief

Delhi govt, in a statement, said Punjabi Bagh recorded the lowest AQI among all major city locations, logging a reading of just 62. Officials attributed the cleaner air to consistent enforcement action and on-ground pollution control measures.

"In the past 24 hours, 211 old or end-of-life vehicles — petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years — were impounded," the statement said. "Additionally, 11,157 pollution challans were issued across the city." Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said, "Our strict action on old vehicles and field-level monitoring is producing measurable results. From city-wide improvements to local successes like Punjabi Bagh, Delhi is steadily moving towards a cleaner air reality."

On the weather front, Delhi experienced a partly cloudy sky on Sunday, with a slight drop in daytime temperatures. The Safdarjung base station recorded a maximum temperature of 36.2°C, two degrees below the normal for this time of year, compared to 37.3°C a day earlier. The minimum temperature stood at 28.4°C, marginally higher than Saturday's 27.8°C but still within the seasonal average.

Despite the slight dip in temperature, high humidity pushed the discomfort levels up. The heat index, or 'feels-like' temperature, touched 47.5°C. IMD expects the maximum to ease further over the coming days, hovering between 33°C and 35°C on Monday, with a possibility of light showers by evening.

IndiGo Trainee Pilot Alleges Casteist Abuse In Ggn Office

Told 'Not Fit For Aircraft, Go Stitch Slippers'; 3 Named In FIR

Samad.Hoque
@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: An FIR was registered against three officials of IndiGo Airlines after a colleague accused them of subjecting him to caste-based harassment and humiliation at the company's corporate office in the city.

The case — under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and BNS — was initially filed as a zero FIR in Bengaluru, but was transferred to DLF-1 police station in Gurgaon. IndiGo Airlines did not respond to requests for comment on the FIR.

The complainant, a 35-year-old trainee pilot from Bengaluru, accused his seniors Tapas Dey, Manish Sahani, and Captain Rahul Patil of verbal abuse and discriminatory behaviour during a meeting on April 28 at Emaar Capital Tower 2 — where the airline is headquartered. The victim alleged that the harassment began immediately after he arrived in office when Dey demanded he leave his phone and bag outside in a "demeaning manner".

"His instruction set the tone for the abuse that followed," he said in his complaint.

The trainee pilot claimed that the three officials made casteist remarks during the 30-minute meeting from 3.30pm, which included statements like "you are not fit to fly an aircraft, go back and stitch slippers" and "you don't even have the worth to be a watchman here".

He alleged that the harassment continued for days and was designed to pressure him into resigning. "The statements they made were not only humiliating but clearly aimed at degrading my identity and status as a Scheduled Caste person," the complaint read.

The harassment allegedly extended beyond verbal abuse. It included "professional victimisation" through unjustified salary deductions, forced retraining sessions, revocation of travel privileges, and unwarranted warning letters. Despite escalating the matter to higher officials and the company's ethics committee, the complainant claimed no action was taken, compelling him to approach the SC/ST cell for legal intervention.

The FIR at DLF-1 police station was lodged under sections 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) of the SC/ST Act, which deal with intentional insults or intimidation meant to humiliate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe member in public view. The case also included sections 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 3(5) (common intention) of BNS.

"We have begun collecting evidence and will soon record the statements of all parties involved," assistant sub-inspector Dalwinder Singh said.

'PATTERN OF TARGETED HARASSMENT'

- Complainant, a 35-year-old Indigo employee, says he faced verbal abuse; his colleagues hurled casteist slurs at him during a meeting
- He files an FIR under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- He alleges a pattern of targeted harassment
- He says he had to go through wrongful salary deductions, forced retraining, revocation of travel privileges, and issuance of warning letters without cause

"We have begun collecting evidence and will record statements from all parties involved,"
— DALWINDER SINGH | ASI

'Will be an honour': Delhi prepared to host 2036 Olympics, says Rekha

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday that Delhi as well as the entire country is fully prepared to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

She expressed confidence that the global community would grant this honour, and India would organise the sports extravaganza with full dedication.

She was speaking after an event where, along with Union minister for youth affairs and sports Mansukh Mandaviya, she flagged off the Olympic Day Run at JLN Stadium. The president of the Indian Olympic Association, PT Usha, was present.

Gupta said: "The Olympic Day celebration and run in Delhi brought immense joy, as thousands of residents participated enthusiastically."

She mentioned that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation was progressing towards better sports infrastructure and facilities for athletes.

The Olympic Day Run was held under the IOC's 'Let's Move' campaign, promoting fitness and inclusivity. "I am very happy that thousands of Delhi people participated in this organised Olympic run," she said.

"Delhi is ready to host the 2036 Olympics. We want to get the privilege to host the Olympics. We will develop good infrastructure, and many sports-people from every village and every state are getting good facilities from central govt. Several athletes are being produced, and we are completely equipped," she said.

Delhi govt has also proposed setting up six Khelo India centres across the city to nurture young talent and promote a culture of fitness. Awaiting approval from the Sports Authority of India, these facilities will offer training, equipment and coaching to aspiring athletes, a senior official said.

The centres will be established across India under the Khelo India scheme. These can be at the state, district or block level, utilising existing sports facilities like schools or community centres.

At present, thousands of athletes are being covered at SAI Training Centres (STCs), including erstwhile Special Area Games (SAG) centres funded under the State Level Khelo India Centre (SLKIC) vertical. The centres provide training and infrastructural facilities to players for athletics, football, volleyball, hockey, and kabaddi.

These centres also serve as a means of spotting promising talent who can receive further training and monetary assistance. Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Gwalior, Ghaziabad, Delhi Cantt, and other cities have been adopted as SLKIC in partnership with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Rajesh Mehta

CM Rekha Gupta and police commissioner Sanjay Arora at an event to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Rain check: NDMC & MCD ban road cutting from July 1-Sept 30

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With the arrival of the monsoon, New Delhi Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have banned road cutting.

The NDMC ban, which will be in force from July 1 to Sept 30, will apply to all essential utilities, except for emergency work, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis with approval from the chairman, the order said.

The agency clarified that if any road cutting is in progress, it will be neatly levelled, dressed and restored to avoid any inconvenience to people.

"In cases where permission has already been granted but no work has started, no road cutting shall be allowed during the restricted period unless deemed emergent and approved on a case-by-case basis by the NDMC chairman," the order said. The decision to ban road cutting has been taken to minimise the chances of accidents and inconvenience to people, the civic bodies said.

An MCD official said that it had stopped allowing digging work till Sept 15, and all executing agencies were asked "to ensure that they not only level the dug-up area properly but also keep a watch because sometimes such an area settles down after rain and may lead to accidents."

"We have not issued any order as such, but this is a yearly exercise wherein the process for issuing fresh permission for road cutting is stopped for safety. Those already carrying out the work have been asked to stop," an official said.

MCD's maintenance department is also keeping a watch in its zones. Any agency violating the order can be fined. "In case of emergency, other agencies can contact us for special permission," the official said.

The civic body claims to have made all preparations to mitigate waterlogging during monsoon and has completed work for desilted the drains. About 40,000 metric tonnes of silt was taken out from small drains by the sanitation team. "Since Jan 1, we took out more than 1 lakh metric tonnes of silt from 800 drains of more than 4 feet," said the official.

Zoo unveils plans to protect animals during monsoon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Zoo has activated its monsoon preparedness plan to safeguard animals and infrastructure during the upcoming rainy season, taking lessons from last year's severe flooding that disrupted operations and left much of the premises submerged.

Key measures include covering kraals, feeding areas and animal enclosures, particularly for herbivores. Soil mounds have been created inside herbivore enclosures to act as embankments in case of flooding. "We're reinforcing vulnerable areas and ensuring that emergency mitigation systems are in place before the rain peaks," said a senior zoo official.

All pump sets in the animal care and maintenance sections have been serviced, with new pumps ordered to increase capacity. To ensure quick response during heavy rain, additional pump operators will be deployed in shifts, and review meetings will be conducted regularly throughout the monsoon season.

The zoo is also repairing existing rain sheds and building new ones. Staff is being equipped with rain gear such as umbrellas, gumboots, torches and other protective equipment. Essential medicines, supplies and logistics are being stocked to prepare for any emergencies. Furthermore, moats and drainage channels are being cleared to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater.

"Last year, we faced a major crisis when heavy rain, combined with a boundary wall breach, caused water to rush into the substation area, damaging transformers due to moisture. The zoo remained without power for nearly 48 hours, and operations relied on two diesel generators, with two more hired on rent," an official recalled.

To avoid a repeat of the 2023 incident—when 228.1 mm of rainfall was recorded on June 28, the highest for the month in 80 years—the zoo is coordinating closely with local authorities to ensure all support services remain responsive.

Foreign languages on the go! SOL launches certificate courses in 8

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For students aspiring to master a foreign language while balancing their regular studies or professional commitments, Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL) is offering a flexible new opportunity.

This year, for the first time, SOL launched certificate courses in eight foreign languages, inviting learners to step into a world of new cultures, careers, and connections. From Japanese to Spanish, and from French to Mandarin, the doors are open — and the race for admissions has officially begun.

Interested candidates can submit their applications online till July 12. Following the application process, the first merit list will be published on July 17, while counselling and admissions based on the merit list will be conducted from July 18 to 20.

The courses are being offered under the Centre for Indian Foreign Languages (CIFL), a specialised unit within SOL. This year, certificate-level programmes are available, and from the next academic year, diploma-level admissions will also be introduced, offering a pathway for students to deepen their proficiency.

The eight languages being offered are Japanese, Korean, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Mandarin (Chinese), and Russian — languages that are increasingly sought after in global job markets and academic circles.

"Recognising the diverse needs of learners, especially working professionals and college students, the classes will be conducted in a hybrid format, combining both offline and online sessions. Moreover, most classes will be scheduled on weekends, ensuring flexibility without compromising on the quality of instruction," said an official.

The academic delivery of these programmes is overseen by faculty from Department of Romance Studies and Department of East Asian Studies, and the courses are approved by University Grants Commission. After completing the certificate course, students will have the opportunity to enrol in more advanced diploma-level courses in the same language.

Admissions are open to all candidates who completed their Class XII education. Notably, there is no entrance exam; selection will be based purely on merit, allowing a fair and accessible entry process for all eligible applicants. These new courses were approved during the university's academic council meeting last month.

Interim bail to convict in Pocso case

New Delhi: Delhi High Court granted two weeks' interim bail to a woman convict, sentenced to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment in a Pocso case, on the grounds of her father's death.

The vacation bench of Justice Pratibha M Singh heard the plea of the convict, a former security guard at a private hospital in southeast Delhi, who was sentenced under various provisions of the Pocso Act.

On June 18, the court noted that she was convicted of aggravated penetrative sexual assault, abetment, and failure to report or record the offence, and was subsequently awarded the sentence.

The court also imposed other conditions, such as the convict only visiting her village residence, reporting daily at the police station concerned, keeping her mobile number operational at all times, and surrendering after two weeks. TNN

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REMEMBRANCES
IN Loving Memory of Shri Shashi Shekhar Giri who passed away on 03/05/2021. Remembered by his wife, three children, family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

SAD DEMISE

My beloved husband DIG Mangal Singh Danu (Retd) passed away on June 14, 2025. पीपल पानी / पितृ भोज will be held on June 24, 2025, 12:00 PM at Comm. Hall, ITBP Housing Society, Sec Pi-1, Greater Noida.
- Mrs. Parwati Danu
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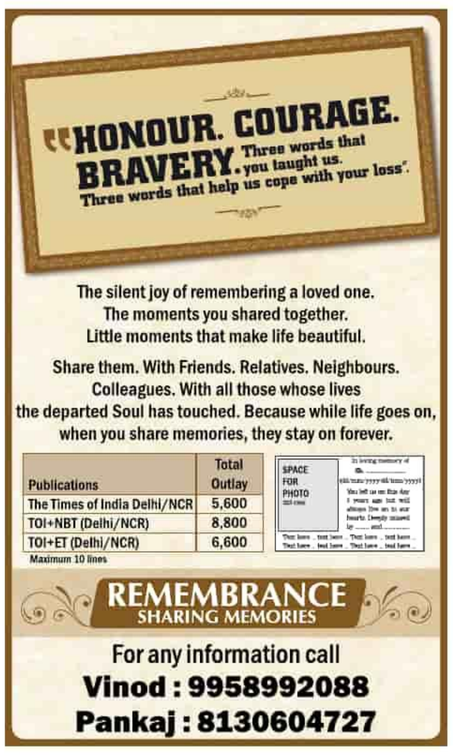

Pvt co running hospital where fake cardiologist operated saw its Hisar centre blacklisted in 2022

Ipsita.Pati@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: The private healthcare company that ran a centre at Faridabad's BK Civil Hospital, where an under-qualified doctor committed an identity theft and operated on patients for months as a cardiologist, saw another centre – in Hisar – blacklisted in 2022 over fake bills. That, however, had no bearing on its contracts to run hospitals under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model in other parts of the state.

Now, even as allegations of serious malpractice at the Faridabad centre are under investigation by the anti-corruption bureau (ACB), officials said talks continue with Meditirina Hospital Pvt Ltd to restart operations there. The heart centre at BK Civil Hospital's fourth floor was shut abruptly this Feb, four months after ACB filed an FIR under sections 120B criminal conspiracy,420 (cheating), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 203 (giving false information) and 467, 468 and 471 (forgery) of IPC on Oct 29, 2024, based on a complaint filed by a lawyer. A 'Temporaily Closed' sign now hangs outside its main door. The lone caretaker, who says he was hired 10 days ago, says he has no idea when the centre will reopen.

A second FIR related to the Meditirina-run heart centre in Faridabad was filed on June 10 against SGM Nagar police station in Faridabad against the fake cardiologist and others.

Allegations of malpractice made by the lawyer, Sanjay Gupta, in the Oct FIR include reusing equipment such as needles and catheters in surgeries. Meditirina signed a contract with the state govt to run the heart centre in Faridabad in 2018. Meditirina also runs centres at Panchkula, Gurgaon and Ambala Cantt in Haryana, at Kollam, Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, and at Jamshedpur and Chas-Bokaro in Jharkhand.

Vinay Gupta

The heart centre at BK Hospital has been shut since Feb this year

Doctors at BK Civil hospital's other departments said Meditirina staffers took all patients' medical records, leaving them with no way to continue treatments for regulars at the heart centre. "Even emergency cardiac cases are being referred elsewhere. We are helpless," a senior physician said. The hospital does not have a separate cardiology department.

Meena Devi, a Ballabhgarh resident who took her father to the heart centre regularly for checks, told **TOI**, "My father needs follow-ups after his stent procedure. Private hospitals are beyond our reach."

Gupta told **TOI** that he had to allegedly approach police because multiple complaints to the hospital management, the district's chief medical officer, and the health department did not elicit a response.

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The Secret Life Of Fruit

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

The mango season is fading away, and the day loses its sweet anticipation. The plump litchi has all but vanished, and the shy jamun, already elusive, retreats into memory. It is as if the pleasures of the flesh are leaving us one by one—those delicate, perishable indulgences that arrive suddenly and vanish just as abruptly, leaving behind only a sticky longing.

Not all is lost, of course. Every season brings its own bounty, and today, for a price, one can find a juicy Kesar in the middle of Dec, flown in or cold-stored, preserved against time. But the joy is never quite the same. Fruit that resists its season feels like a reluctant guest—present, but not entirely at home.

There is something about fruit that is irresistible. It is an advertisement for the very idea of food—so complete, so vivid, so alive. You don't need to cook it, combine it, or disguise it. A ripe mango, a perfect cherry, a bursting fig—each one arrives fully formed, unashamed of its pleasure. It asks to be bitten, not understood. It signals ambrosial abundance like nothing else. Old Hindi films used tables laden with fruit as a sign of wealth—piles no one would eat, as if to mock the rest of us.

In nearly every culture, fruit signifies more than itself. It stands for reward, fulfilment, consequence. To say "the fruits of one's labour" suggests that every act must have a harvest. "To bear fruit" is to justify existence. In Hindi we say *mehnat ka phal meetha hota hai*—the rewards of hard work are sweet. And yet, this is where the metaphor betrays the biology. The fruit is not the reward—it is the vessel. Not the outcome, but a process frozen in a moment.

To understand this, it helps to go back—to the flower.

The flower is where it all begins. A burst of colour and scent, it is the plant's invitation to the world. It is not for us—it is for pollinators. Its purpose is to seduce bees, birds, wind, or bats into enabling fertilisation. The flower is a theatre designed for mating rituals to follow. It is where reproduction is arranged.

The fruit follows. It is the result of fertilisation, but not its endpoint. It emerges from the ovary of the flower, enfolding the seed. Its job is not to attract attention, but to protect, nourish, and disperse. The flower is an announcement; the fruit is a vessel. The flower courts attention; the fruit is the Trojan horse offering passage. The flower is seduction; the fruit, sacrifice.

The fruit hangs for a while between what was and what will be—neither origin nor conclusion, but a brief, sweet passage. We may devour it, discard it, or forget it, but the seed carries on, indifferent to our hunger. In tasting it, we join that fleeting moment

Its sweetness is a bribe, its softness a calculated seduction. The real protagonist is the seed hidden inside—hard, small, often overlooked. Like the human body is, in evolutionary terms, a vessel for DNA, so the fruit exists for its seed—to serve it, to transport it into soil and time. Its fate is to be eaten, digested, or discarded. Its destiny is to vanish so something else might live. The fruit is not an end; it is a means. A momentary burst enabling continuity.

And yet, we have come to see fruit as finality. Language casts it as the prize, the destination, the moral of the story. But nature works differently. The apple on the tree is not the end of anything—it is the middle of a longer journey, one that began with a flower and may continue into a forest.

This gap between how we eat and how we think about fruit, between biology and symbol, is telling. We live in a world that values resolution, where worth is proved by outcome. We want efforts to show results, stories to have conclusions, lives to be measured by legacy. And so, fruit becomes shorthand for closure. But in doing so, we miss its deeper truth—that not all value lies in permanence. Sometimes the most important acts are those that surrender their form for something else.

Fruit also contains within it a particular kind of time. It is perishable, seasonal, a suicide bomber in angelic disguise. A fruit is never eternal. It ripens, softens, sweetens, then collapses. Its very being is built on ephemerality. It is at its best just before the end. The idea of fruit reminds us that beauty often peaks on the edge of decay. There is a brief window of ripeness—and then it is gone.

To eat fruit is to join that fleeting moment. It is an act of presence, a quiet celebration of the now. One cannot hoard the perfect fig or save the ripest mango. They do not wait. The fruit insists that you pay attention. In a world of storage and deferred gratification, it teaches immediacy. It ripens not on our timeline, but its own.

Different fruits carry different meanings. The apple is burdened with moral complexity—knowledge, temptation, sin. The banana is unserious, comedic, phallic. The pomegranate is abundance under restraint, the fig a hushed, sensual thing. The mango is lushness made flesh. We don't just eat fruit—we project onto it. We make it carry our fears, our desires, our metaphors. Even the way we eat fruit—bitten, peeled, sucked, scooped—is intimate.

And so, the fruit hangs for a while between what was and what will be—neither origin nor conclusion, but a brief, sweet passage. We may devour it, discard it, or forget it, but the seed carries on, indifferent to our hunger. In tasting it, we join that fleeting moment—not to claim it as ours, but to let it go.

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BA psychology (hons) dropped from distance mode

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: School of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) will discontinue the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Psychology (Honours) programme in distance mode starting this academic year. The university's Distance Education Bureau denied permission for the programme to continue under the ODL format. Consequently, DU's School of Open Learning (SOL) will not admit any new students to the four-year psychology honours course this year.

Introduced in 2023, the programme attracted nearly 1,500 students over the past two years. According to officials, existing students already admitted to the programme will continue their studies as usual. However, no fresh admissions will be taken for this programme in ODL mode.

An official explained that under National Education Policy, certain professional and laboratory-based courses, such as psychology, nursing, engineering, law, and medicine, are not allowed to be taught through distance learning. Since psychology involves practical and laboratory work, it falls under this category.

Each year, more than 700 students enrolled in the course. In just two years, the number of enrolled students crossed 1,500.

The administration emphasised that this is not just a university issue but linked to national regulations that govern the delivery of professional courses in distance mode. According to the authorities, if at any point these restrictions are relaxed or new guidelines permit such programmes, fresh admissions may resume.

LG allows leeway for Kasturba Nagar redevelopment; 856 trees to be affected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena, through a gazette notification, granted an exemption under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994, to facilitate the construction of residential accommodation at Kasturba Nagar Phase-II over an area of 8.90 hectares. This could lead to the felling or transplantation of 856 trees.

While a tree officer, under the provisions of the DPTA, can only consider an application for felling or transplantation of trees limited to a one-hectare area, the gazette exempts the entire section of the DPTA to overrule the area limitation clause.

Though the notification is not permission to fell the trees, it grants the tree officer authority to consider if the required permission could be granted for the entire exempted area.

This exemption, granted under Section 29 of the DPTA, allows CPWD to seek permission from a tree officer in the Delhi forest department to fell or transplant 856 trees. The move was criticised by Delhi Congress on Sunday.

The gazette notification was issued on June 13 but made public on Sunday. It stated that it invokes Section 29 of the DPTA to bypass the area restriction in "public interest."

"... in public interest, (the LG) exempts an area of 8.90 hectares... from the limitation of maximum one-hectare area under subsection (3) of Section 9 of the said Act for the construction of General Pool Residential accommodation," the notification says.

This provision has been utilised a few times recently, including for the New Delhi Railway station redevelopment (115.88 hect), Common Central Secretariat buildings, and a northeast Delhi flyover. The exemption allows the tree officer to review the previously ineligible application.

With required exemption, the deputy conservator of forest (south division), acting as the tree officer, will evaluate the application according to DPTA guidelines, Delhi Preservation of Trees Rules, 1996, and relevant court directives. The gazette mandates that the tree officer must exercise careful consideration to minimise tree impact.

Attacking BJP, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said, "This is a double blow to both the environment and social justice."

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प्रथम वर्ष में प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाईन काउंसिलिंग वर्ष 2025-26 की सूचना

वीर माधो सिंह भण्डारी उत्तराखण्ड प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय देहरादून के कैम्पस संस्थानों एवं समस्त संबद्ध राजकीय नियंत्रणाधीन/निजी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजो एवं कॉलेज ऑफ टैक्नोलॉजी जी0बी0पी0यू0एण्ट0 पन्तनगर मे शैक्षणिक सत्र 2025-26 हेतु B.TECH, BHMCT, BALLB, BBALLB, LLB, BCA, M.TECH, MBA, MCA, MHM, LLM, PG DIPLOMA IN CYBER SECURITY के पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रथम वर्ष मे प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाईन काउंसिलिंग का कार्यक्रम निम्नवत् है :-

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SECOND	09-07-25 TO 10-07-25	09-07-25 TO 11-07-25	15-07-25	15-07-25 TO 16-07-25	16-07-25 TO 20-07-25
THIRD	21-07-25 TO 22-07-25	21-07-25 TO 23-07-25	28-07-25	28-07-25 TO 29-07-25	29-07-25 TO 03-08-25

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वि0सं0 748 /UTU/Counseling-2025/काउं0सू0/2025-26 दिनांक 19.06.2025 कुलसचिव

NDMC eyes overhaul of Lutyens' Delhi avenue roads post monsoon

Vibha.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: To improve road infrastructure in Lutyens' Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is set to begin a comprehensive revamp of 79 avenue roads. The initiative will be guided by a detailed Visual Distress Survey conducted by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute. The project, currently in its final tendering phase, will begin after the monsoon, tentatively in Oct 2025, and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026, at an estimated cost of Rs 92 crore.

"We'll deploy the latest technology for the work. The tendering process is nearly complete," said NDMC vice-chairman Kuljeet Chahal. "CRRI has identified various issues, including cracks and surface deterioration, and assessed their severity and spread across the road network."

The survey, commissioned under an MoU signed last year, focused on roads where the bituminous layer has exceeded its typical five-year lifespan. CRRI's assessment included not only a visual inspection but also technical procedures such as roughness surveys and extraction of bituminous cores from selected stretches to study subsurface cracking.

₹92 CRORE COST ESTIMATED FOR THE NDMC PROJECT

Based on these findings, the final recommendations propose strengthening measures, including milling to remove worn asphalt layers and laying new overlays. The scope of the project includes a full assessment of existing pavement conditions, crack analysis, measurement of ride quality, calculation of pavement condition index and formulation of optimal milling and resurfacing strategies.

CRRI will also provide technical oversight during the execution phase to ensure quality control and long-term maintenance. According to senior NDMC officials, the 79 roads have been grouped into six divisions, with bitumen work planned in phases to cover all radial routes. The objective is to ensure that roads remain in good condition for the next five years.

In the Connaught Place division, eight major roads were surveyed, including Outer Circle Road, Panchkuian Road (up to SBS), BKS Marg, Sansad Marg, Janpath, KG Marg and Inner Circle Road. The R-I division covered 18 roads, including Atul Grove Road, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, Jai Singh Road, Janpath (between Connaught Place and Rajendra Prasad Road), Shrimant Madhav Rao Scindia Marg, Bhagwan Das Road, Sikandra Road, Safdar Hashmi Road and Copernicus Marg.

In the R-II division, 21 roads such as APJ Abdul Kalam Road, Max Muller Marg, Humayun Road, Archbishop Marg, Aurobindo Marg, Khanna Market Road and Lodhi Estate were included. R-IV division had 28 roads identified for upgrades, including Sardar Patel Marg, Dharma Marg (between Kautilya Marg and SP Marg) and S Radhakrishnan Marg. In the R-V division, four stretches like Pandit Pant Marg and Kali Bari Marg were selected for the survey.

CRRI chief scientist Sunil Jain emphasised the need for milling on all roads prior to overlay treatment. He noted that in specific areas like Golf Link Road, where adjacent zones experienced heavy waterlogging during the last monsoon, the agency recommended milling to a depth of 150–160 mm followed by a 40 mm bituminous concrete layer, effectively lowering the road level by 120 mm to enhance drainage and reduce flooding risk.

Work on construction of high-security prison in Narela expected to start soon

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

An expenditure finance committee meeting has revised the project estimate to Rs 148.6 crore. Officials said a tender has been floated. The Union home ministry has sanctioned about Rs 100 crore for the jail construction

New Delhi: Work on the construction of a high-security prison in Narela, whose design is inspired by the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is expected to start soon. An expenditure finance committee meeting has revised the project estimate to Rs 148.6 crore. Officials said that the first tender did not receive any contractors, following which the terms were revised and the financial feasibility was worked out, before the revised proposal was sent to the DG (prisons).

Officials stated PWD would begin the first phase of the prison construction soon on the 11-acre plot. In the second phase, the staff residence and a training centre are planned.

The new prison will have 250 cells,, with its wings radiating from a central watchtower, making the entire complex look like the spokes of a wheel. The jail will have state-of-the-art high-security features, such as automated locking, X-ray baggage scanners, full-body human scanners, and body-worn cameras. These will help the authorities control the gang activities and check violence inside the jail, according to an officer.

The design of the Cellular Jail was influenced by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham's idea of the panopticon, a building designed in such a way as to enable a single guard at a vantage central point to keep an eye on inmates. The inmates, who would not be able to see the guard, would assume they were always under observation. The Cellular Jail building has seven wings, at the centre of which stands a tower from where guards would keep the inmates under scrutiny.

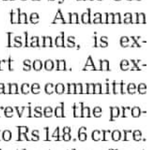
"The jail at Narela will have a locking system that will be automatically triggered in cases of riots or clashes inside the complex," disclosed a Delhi govt official. "The guards will also be equipped with body cameras. The cells will be built in such a way that there will be no chance of high-risk inmates seeing or talking with each other, affecting their ability to form gangs in the prison."

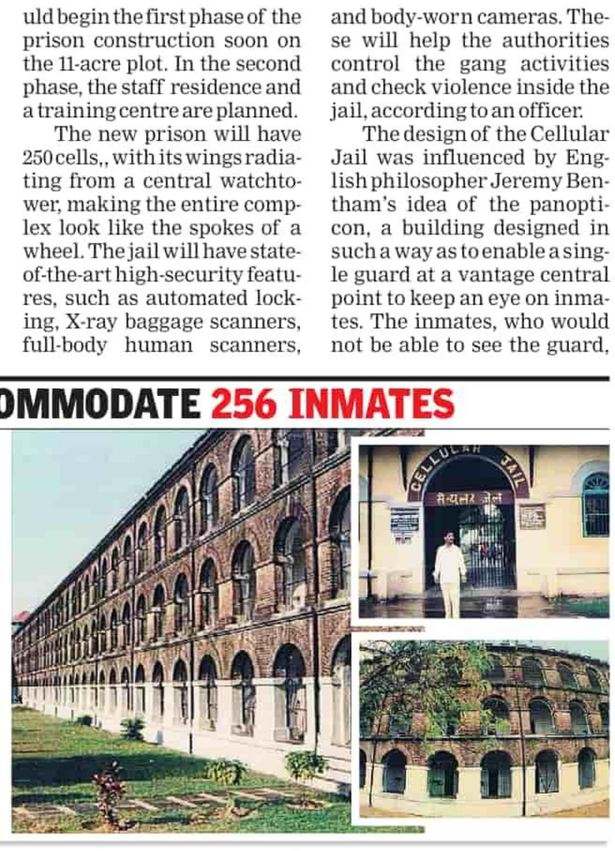
In-built jammers will impair the use of mobile phones in the jail. While security will be heightened for prison staff and families of inmates, the complex will have very high walls to prevent the throwing in of objects like phones, drugs and other prohibited items. It is likely that inmates will be allowed to engage in productive activities like making furniture and food items, for which they can earn money. "The idea is to reform and not just punish," the official said.

The new prison, with its capacity of 256, is expected to take some load off Delhi's other three penitentiaries at Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini, most of which are overcrowded. The total capacity of these is 10,000, but the number of convicted and undertrial prisoners housed in the three complexes is almost double the capacity.

PRISON TO ACCOMMODATE 256 INMATES

The high-security prison being built in Narela will mimic the Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands (photo attached). Like the historic penal facility, it will have wings radiating from a central watch tower, the entire complex shaped like the spokes of a wheel





Total plot area	Phase area
40 acres	11 acres

Features

In-built jammers to impair use of mobile phones | High walls with fencing to deter throwing in of mobiles, drugs | X-Ray baggage scanner | Door-frame metal detector | Full-body human scanner | Body-worn camera | Vehicle scanner device | Control room and dispensary | Langar block

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Divisional Forest Officer
Kangsabati North Division, Purulia
Abridge e-Tender Notice
No. NIT-19/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/ QGSCRN/2025-26

Kangsabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractors vide E-ender Notice No. NIT-19/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/QGSCRN/2025-26 for Creation works of Plantation of QGS Species at Mouza Chuna over 10 ha under Kashipur Range, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 11.07.2025 up to 05:00 p.m. for viewing and participating in E-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia

ICA-T12833(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D INVITING e-QUOTATION

Notice Inviting e-Quotation by the S.E(EL)./NBDD, Vide: NIQ No-09 of 2025-26 & NIQ No-10 of 2025-26, Details of works be seen in the above mentioned NIQ in the website:- **www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in** & **https://wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Electrical), North Bengal Development Department.

ICA-T12892(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice of Date Corrigendum-II
Bid ref. no.- WBMSCL/NIT-442/2025, Dated-27/05/2025

Replacement of CTR make OLTC for 1000 KVA Distribution Transformer at Rampurhat Govt. Medical College and Hospital. Last date of submission of bid (online) extended-28.06.2025 upto 02:00 P.M. Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL.

ICA-T12888(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, Nirman Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kol-91 on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal asked for percentage rates for the work against e-NITNO: WBUDMA/EE/CMD/e-NIT-08/2025-26 (For Sl. 01 to 02). Detail may be seen at W.B Tender Portal & Departmental website: www.udma.wb.gov.in. **Last date of bid submission is 30.06.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.**

ICA-T12891(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice

Principal, NRS Medical College invites Tender (NIT No. 11 to 15 /2025-26) from reputed manufacturer/direct importer/ distributors for supply & installation of equipments/Instruments/Chemicals & reagents/books & journal. Details in websites- **wbtenders.gov.in** & **wbhealth.gov.in** & **www.nrsmc.edu.in** Sd/- Principal, NRSMC.

ICA-T12893(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Divisional Forest Officer
Kangsabati North Division, Purulia
Abridge E-tender Notice
No. NIT-14/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/ QGSCRN/2025-26

Kangsabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractors vide E-ender Notice No. NIT-14/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/QGSCRN/2025-26 for Creation works of Plantation of QGS Species at Mouza Balakdih over 25 ha under Puncha Range, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 11.07.2025 upto 05:00 p.m. for viewing and participating in E-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia

ICA-T12831(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-N.I.T No.-WBIW/SE/NIC- I/ NIT-06(e)/2025-26
Circulated vide T.O. Memo No-3T-8/ 1258/1(14), Date-19.06.2025

The Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle-I, Green Park, Malda, I & W. Dte. on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, invites online tender from eligible bonafide contractors having requisite credential and turnover for 1 (One) no. Building work under CSDS. **Amount put to tender: Sl. No.-1. Rs. 1,00,37,333.00. Start date and time of submission of Technical & Financial bid (online)-23.06.2025 upto 14:00 Hrs. Last date and time of submission of Technical & Financial bid (online)-14.07.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.** The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: **www.wbiwd.gov.in** & URL **https://wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- P. Bhattcharya, Superintending Engineer, North Irrigation Circle-I, Green Park, Malda.

ICA-T12869(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. : 03/EE/ED-VIII/EM/KMDA of 2025-26 (2nd Call)

e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division-VIII, EM Sector, KMDA, 2nd floor, Block-L, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from the eligible agencies, for the work, **Name of Works, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion,** Up gradation and renovation of Gitanjali Stadium and its infrastructural improvement works and including sports ground at Rajdanga, Kasba, Kolkata-107 (Electro-Mechanical Part)., Rs.48,65,180/-, Rs.97,304/- (Initial), 01 month, **Last date & time of Online Tender submission:** 08.07.2025 upto 14.30 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-329)** **www.kmda.wb.gov.in** **www.wbtenders.gov.in**

ICA-T12861(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-N.I.TNo-WBIW/EE/MDD-I/e-NIT-8/ 2025-26, Dated-18/06/2025of Executive Engineer MDD-I is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for the 2 (Two) nos. work under AE Fund. Details of e-Tender may be downloaded from www.wbiwd.gov.in or **http://wbtenders.gov.in** on and from 23/06/2025 at 17:30 Hrs. and last date of submission of bids 07/07/2025upto12:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Metropolitan Drainage Division No.-I, Jalasampad Bhawan (4th Floor).

ICA-T12844(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice for e-Tender

The D. N. De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, 12, G. K. Road. Kolkata – 46 inviting e-tender (Two-Bid System) for purchasing of BOOKS (3rd CALL) and EQUIPMENTS. All interested agencies/vendors are requested to visit www.dndeofficial.org, **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbhealth.gov.in** for further details. Sd/- Principal In-charge & Administrator, D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital.

ICA-T12848(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited e-NIT No. 47/Construction of Emu enclosure and 48/Construction of Ostrich enclosure/Junglemahal Zoological Park/Jhargram Division/2025-26 at Junglemahal Zoological Park under Jhargram Division under the scheme of WBZA, other detailed information / downloading / uploading may be done from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and are also available at Divisional Forest Office, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, Jhargram on any working days. Sd/- Ex-Officio Director, Junglemahal Zoological Park and Divisional Forest Officer, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, P.O.: Jhargram, Dist.: Jhargram

ICA-T12870(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Notice Inviting Tender

Executive Engineer, Kaliaghai-Kapaleswari-Baghai Project Division invites following tenders from outside Bonafide contractors for works at Sabang. NIT No.: WBIW/EE/KKBPD/e-NIT-05 of 2025-26 for 1 No. civil works at Sabang of value of Rs. 79.98 Lakh under KKB Project Division. Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the Departmental website https://wbiwd.gov.in/index.php/applications/tenders or https://wbtenders.gov.in (Direct Site). Last dates of bid submission is on 07.07.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. Sd/- I. Mukherjee, Executive Engineer, K.K.B. Project Division, Irrigation and Waterways Directorate, Temathani, Paschim Medinipur.

ICA-T12851(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-N.I.T. No-WBIW/EE/MEDM/ e-N.I.T.-11/2025-26

On behalf of the Governor of W.B. the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Electrical Division, Midnapore invites online tender for One (01) no. Mechanical Work under website **www.wbtenders.gov.in** bearing Tender ID no. 2025_IWD_866156_1. Last date and time for application of tender is 07.07.2025 UPTO 02:30 P.M. Detailed information is available from the office of the undersigned and departmental website: **www.wbiwd.gov.in** Sd/- A.K. Ghosh, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Electrical Division, Midnapore Khasjungle, P.O-Abas, District- Paschim Medinipur.

ICA-T12845(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE
Notice INVITING 'e' TENDER NO. WBIW/SE/NEIC-I/NIT-5(e)/2025-26
Tender Id:- 2025_IWD_866891_1

The Superintending Engineer, North East Irrigation Circle-I invites e-tender for one no. of work under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Alipurduar Irrigation Division (Works Sl. No. 1, "Protection work along right bank of river Sisamara in between Ch 0.00 M to Ch 980.00 M (length 980.00M) within GP-Salkumar-1, Block Alipurduar-I, PS- Alipurduar, Dist.- Alipurduar") from the eligible and resourceful contractors having sufficient, necessary credential and financial capability for execution of works of similar nature. **Bid Submission Start Date is on 23rd June 2025 from 12:00 Hrs. and Bid Submission End Date is on 14th July 2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. Amount put to tenders are 183.18 Lakh. Scheme head : SDS.** For further details regarding "Scope of work" & "Opening of tenders" **please visit https://wbtenders.gov.in (direct site)** and **also departmental website www.wbiwd.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, North-East Irrigation Circle-I. Debibari, Coochbehar, Dial: 03582-228342

ICA-T12859(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
e-NIT No. 02(e) to 11(e)/BDN/SP/ PLANTATION/2025-26

Sealed tender is being invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division for Creation of Plantation 2025 under State Development Scheme during the F.Y. 2025-26 in various location under Burdwan Division. NIT Publishing date online 23.06.2025 and last date of Bid submission online is 08.07.2025 upto 4:30 P.M. Details of which may be obtained from this office during the office hours or at **http://wbtenders.gov.in** or **https://purbabardhaman.nic.in/notice_category/tenders/** or **https://www.westbengalforest.gov.in/tender.php** Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division.

ICA-T12852(3)/2025

24x7 grievance monitoring in place: CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday that to strengthen grievance redress, grievance boxes are being installed at govt offices, and the public grievance monitoring system (https://pgms.delhi.gov.in/) remains operational 24x7.

She mentioned that through this platform, people can now track the status of their complaints and provide feedback online.

"Public trust is our greatest strength. Our govt is alert, compassionate and fully committed to resolving every public issue," she said. "We are putting into action Prime Minister Modi's belief that a govt should function as a 'sevak' (public servant), not as a ruler. We are fully committed to serving the people with accountability."

To ensure direct outreach and problem resolution, govt is engaging with the people through high-tech systems and on-ground public hearings, the CMO said.

Weekly Jan Sunwai Camps, led by district magistrates, are being held to directly address people's grievances, while a 24x7 Public Grievance Monitoring System (PGMS) remains active to ensure continuous redress. For added accessibility, complaint boxes are being placed outside govt offices.

Gupta said every person's grievances should be addressed in a timely, transparent and sensitive manner. The weekly Jan Sunwai camps are now being held in all revenue districts. These camps are attended by officials of departments, including the municipal corporation, Delhi Police, power and other departments.

These programmes are not just confined to govt offices but are being held in community spaces such as schools, chaupals and banquet halls to make people feel more at ease while presenting their concerns and expectations.

Recently, camps were organised in subdivisions like Model Town, Kanjhawala, Seelampur, Kotwali, Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Vasant Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Kapashera, Sarita Vihar, and Dwarka. Over 600 people attended the most recent weekend camps.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Divisional Forest Officer
Kangsabati North Division, Purulia
Abridge e-Tender Notice
No. NIT-20/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/ QGSCRN/2025-26

Kangsabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractors vide E-ender Notice No. NIT-20/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/QGSCRN/2025-26 for Creation works of Plantation of QGS Species at Mouza Charpatia over 10 ha under Purulia Para Range, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 11.07.2025 up to 05:00 p.m. for viewing and participating in E-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia

ICA-T12838(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED e-TENDER NOTICE
e-N.I.T No- WBIW/EE/KCD-I/e-NIT-06(e)/2025-26

On behalf of the Honorable Governor of W.B. The Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division No. I, Amlagora, Paschim Medinipur (Irrigation & Waterways Department) invites online e-tender for 5no works value ranges within Rs 10.00 (Lakhs) in the Block-Chandrakona-II in the District of Paschim Medinipur. Bid submission start date: 23.06.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Bid submission last date: 30.06.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Details information, downloading & uploading are available from the website www.wbiwd.gov.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in Further corrigendum and addendum, if issued, will be published in website. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division No.-I, Amlagora, Paschim Medinipur

ICA-T12850(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Divisional Forest Officer
Kangsabati North Division, Purulia
Abridge e-Tender Notice
No. NIT-10/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/ QGSCRN/2025-26

Kangsabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractors vide E-ender Notice No. NIT-10/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/QGSCRN/2025-26 for Creation works of Plantation of QGS Species at Mouza Talberia over 15 ha under Raghunathpur Range, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 11.07.2025 up to 05:00 P.M. for viewing and participating in E-tender visit **www.wbtenders.gov.in** and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the **www.westbengalforest.gov.in** Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia.

ICA-T12839(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Divisional Forest Officer
Kangsabati North Division, Purulia
Abridge e-Tender Notice
No. NIT-16/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/ QGSCRN/2025-26

Kangsabati North Division, Purulia invites E-tender from Bonafide Contractors vide E-ender Notice No. NIT-16/WBFOR/DFOKND/SP/QGSCRN/2025-26 for Creation works of Plantation of QGS Species at Mouza Lajhna over 10 ha under Kashipur Range, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia. The last date of submission E-tender documents is 11.07.2025 up to 05:00 p.m. for viewing and participating in E-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in and for more information please contact to the undersigned or visit the www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati North Division, Purulia

ICA-T12835(3)/2025

Cops bust fake Bisleri manufacturing unit in Shakurpur, 2 held

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted a fake Bisleri manufacturing unit in northwest Delhi' Shakurpur and arrested two men for producing and selling thousands of counterfeit water bottles over the past year.

According to police, the racket came to light after a formal complaint was filed by representatives of the Bisleri company regarding the illegal use of their branding and packaging materials.

"After gathering credible intelligence, the police team conducted raids at two locations in Shakurpur and arrested two individuals — Sikander (30) and Ashish (19). During the operation, the team seized 127 counterfeit Bisleri stickers, 55 fake Bisleri bottle caps, 387 counterfeit barcodes, 26 twenty-litre water bottles bearing fake Bisleri branding, and seven heater guns and lighters used for affixing the counterfeit labels," said DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh.

The duo confessed that they had been running the operation for over a year. "They revealed that the fake Bisleri bottles were sold in local markets, deceiving customers and vendors alike. They were found to be operating an illegal bottling unit that used borewell water to fill 20-litre bottles, which were then labelled with fake 'Bisleri' branding, including stickers, caps, and barcodes. These bottles were subsequently pushed into the market as genuine products of the well-known bottled water brand," DCP Singh added.

The investigation also led cops to one Vishal Gupta, who was allegedly carrying out illegal boring operations and supplying untreated groundwater to the accused for bottling. Legal action under Sections 5 and 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act has been initiated against him. TNN

WBEIDC
Webel Bhavan , Sector-V,
Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No. : WEBEL / EOT / W / 25 -26 / 000007, Dated : 13.06.2025

Nature of work : - Selection of vendor for "Restoration, Rectification and Annual Maintenance Contract of CCTV surrounding Nabanna".

Due date of Submission : 14 days from publication.

Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webel.in

For details or contact 033 - 23571706 / 9830037465

ICA-T12895(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE NUMBERS WBFOR/DFO-EFD,PURULIA/NIT 02/2025-26
(TENDER INVITED TO QUOTE RATE FOR CREATION OF STRIP PLANTATION UNDER WBFBCCCR PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT OF PURULIA DURING 2025-26)

e-Tender Notice in the prescribed format is invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Extension Forestry Division, Purulia from bonafide Contractors / Firms / Nursery Owners having experience in successful plantation for e-Tender Notice Number WBFOR/DFO-EFD, PURULIA/NIT/02 of 2025-26 for creation work for STRIP Plantation in the district of Purulia. The date of publication of Tender is 23/06/2025. The Last Date of submission of tender paper is 11.07.2025. The Date of opening of tender is 14.07.2025. For terms & conditions & other details visit website https://www.wbtenders.gov.in Tender Notice along with Terms and Conditions will be displayed at the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Extension Forestry Division, Purulia.

ICA-T12873(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Home And Hill Affairs Department
Abridged Tender Notice

E-Tender is being invited on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for supply of various Stationery Articles for official use of this Department for a period of one year. Detailed Tender Notice (Tender ID: 2025_HHAD_866995_1) may be viewed in this Department official website viz **https://home.wb.gov.in.**

Last date for submission of tender is 11th July, 2025 (up to 02.00 P.M.).

ICA-T12886(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited e-NIT No. 49/climber plant shed for 2 unit beside NIC building and canteen, 50/climber plant shed for 1 unit beside Nilgai enclosure, 51/climber plant shed for 1 unit beside Nilgai enclosure another call at Junglemahal Zoological Park under Jhargram Division under the scheme of WBZA, other detailed information / downloading / uploading may be done from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and are also available at Divisional Forest Office, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, Jhargram on any working days. Sd/- Ex-Officio Director, Junglemahal Zoological Park and Divisional Forest Officer, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, P.O.: Jhargram, Dist.: Jhargram

ICA-T12875(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Ex-Officio Director, Bardhaman Zoological Park
Open e-Tender Notice

Online (e-Tender) tender is invited for the following work at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Ramnabagan, Burdwan. **NIT No. 04(e)/BZP/WBZA/2025-26** - Sal Bullah Piles at Marsh Crocodile Enclosure at Bardhaman Zoological Park- **Estimated Cost Rs. 8.19 lakh.** For further details contact in the Office of The Ex-Officio Director, Bardhaman Zoological Park, Golapbug, P.O.- Rajbati, Dist- Burdwan. Website: **http://wbtenders.gov.in** or **http://bardhaman.nic.in/tenders/tenders.html** or **http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in/tender.php** Sd/- Ex-Officio Director, Bardhaman Zoological Park.

ICA-T12857(2)/2025

e-Tender of Amta-I Panchayat Samity

Sealed %rate tenders are invited from bonafide outsiders regarding tender having Tender Id 2025_ZPHD_867071_1. Bid submission (start date 19.06.25 from 5:00 p.m. & end date 03.07.25 at 5:00 p.m.). For details including corrigendum (if any) see **wbtenders.gov.in** and office notice board of this office.

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Amta-I Panchayat Samity

Memo No.: 505/Advt/DICO/Hwh. Date: 20.06.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-TENDER NOTICE
NO. WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT03/WBFBCCCR/PLTN/25-26 (2nd Call) (Project-1)
NO. WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT04/WBFBCCCR/PLTN/25-26 (2nd Call) (Project-1)

E-TENDER NOTICE NO- 03/PLANTATION OF CREATION WORK OF PLANTATION OF MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES AT BAGHMUNDI FMU UNDER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, PURULIA DIVISION & HEAD, PURULIA DMU OF 2025-26 (2nd Call) & E-TENDER NOTICE NO-04/PLANTATION OF CREATION WORK OF PLANTATION OF MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES AT ARSHA FMU UNDER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, PURULIA DIVISION & HEAD, PURULIA DMU OF 2025-26 (2nd Call).

E-Tender Notice in the prescribe format is invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia Division from bonafide P.W.D Supplier/Firm for **E-TENDER NOTICE NO-03 & 04/PLANTATION OF CREATION WORK OF PLANTATION OF MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES AT BAGHMUNDI & ARSHA FMU UNDER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, PURULIA DIVISION & HEAD, PURULIA DMU OF 2025-26 (2nd Call). (02 NOS PROJECT)** as per enclosed list. Necessary information about the tender may be seen in the office of the undersigned. The date of publication of tender is 23.06.2025. The last date of submission of Bid 01.07.2025. The date of opening of tender is 04.07.2025. For terms and conditions and other details visit website: **https://www.wbtenders.gov.in** and office of the undersigned. Sd/- Anjan Guha, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer Purulia Division.

ICA-T12894(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement, supply and installation of Portable Hand Held Digital X-Ray machines in the Hospital and Medical College of the Govt. of West Bengal as per details indicated in the table below:

Equipment Name (Qty.): Portable Hand Held Digital X-Ray machines (08). Bid Ref. No.: WBMSCL/NIT-509/2025; Dated-17.06.2025. Last date of submission of online bid: 15.07.2025 upto 05:00 PM. Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbtenders.gov.in The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&FW Dept.

ICA-T12871(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Bid reference no. - WBMSCL/NIT- 519/2025, Dated – 19/06/2025 West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for **"SITC of 08 nos. water purifier at different floor of Swasthya Bhawan Building and annual maintenance of existing 06 nos. water purifiers installed at Swasthya Bhawan & Swasthya Sathi Building".** Last date of submission of bid (online) – 07.07.2025 upto 03.00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from **www.wbtenders. gov.in** on or after 12.00 P.M. on 23.06.2025. Details of the tender will also be available at **www.wbmsc.gov.in** Clarification requests, if any may be sent to **eecivil@wbmsc.gov.in** or **info@wbmsc.gov.in.**

Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSCL

ICA-T12884(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
e-NIT No. 01(e)/BDN/SP/Deul Deer Ration/2025-26

Sealed tender is being invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division for Supply of Deer Ration at Deul Deer Conservation Reserve under Durgapur Range. NIT Publishing date online 23.06.2025 and last date of Bid submission online is 08.07.2025 upto 4:30 P.M. Details of which may be obtained from this office during the office hours or at http://wbtenders.gov.in or http://bardhaman.nic.in/tenders/tenders.html or http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in/tender.php Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Division.

ICA-T12854(3)/2025

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Item/Job Description – Request for Proposal for ATM Managed Services and Cash Replenishment Services for Capex ATMs
Date and time of Tender publication - 20.06.2025 11:00 hours
Bid End Date/Time – 14.07.2025 16:00 hours
For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal **https://gem.gov.in** for participation in the Tender.

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Full-length timetable trial run of Namo Bharat trains on 82km corridor

New Delhi: National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has completed a full-length timetable trial run of Namo Bharat trains on the 82km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.They covered the distance from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram in less than an hour.

According to NCRTC, the trains adhered to the planned timetable, demonstrating the system's readiness for full operations. 55km of the corridor, including 11 stations, are already operational. Trial runs and final finishing works are ongoing on the remaining stretches – approximately 4.5km between Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar in Delhi, and around 23km between Meerut South and Modipuram in Meerut.

Trial runs for the Meerut metro are also underway on the 23km section between Meerut South and Modipuram Depot.

NCRTC stated that this is the first time in India that regional and local metro services will run on the same rail infrastructure. The Meerut metro line includes 13 stations, of which 18 kilometres are elevated and 5 kilometres are underground. PTI

TIMES NATION

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

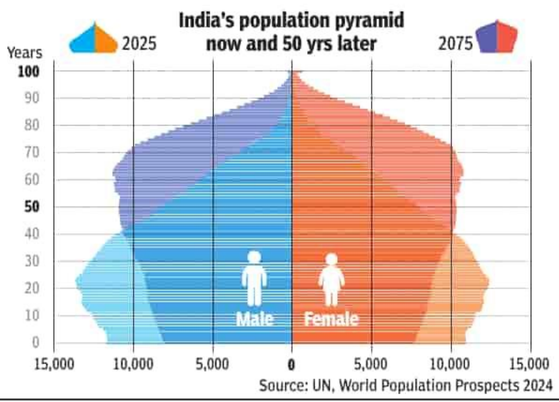
BATTLE FOR BARAMATI: AJIT, SHARAD PAWAR CAMPS FACE OFF IN SUGAR COOP ELECTION | 11

NITISH QUESTIONS CHIRAG'S ASSEMBLY POLL PLAN: 'WHY CONTEST AFTER GETTING UNION BERTH?' | 11

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers — By Doreen Bora

1 In 3 Indians Will Be Over 60 By 2075

India's population is set to reach 1.6 billion by 2075, but its demography will transform from a youthful pyramid into a greying dome. The demographic bulge will shift to the 60+ age group, which will be 31.5% of the population — up from 11% today



Source: UN, World Population Prospects 2024

A husband who hasn't cried, an elderly who won't go home

Reactions From Kin Of AI 171 Victims Worry Counsellors

Parth.Shastri@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Eleven days after the London-bound AI 171 crashed in Ahmedabad, victims' families continue to struggle with overwhelming grief, with many displaying unexpected reactions to trauma that has left counsellors concerned.

One of the most heartbreaking cases is a 27-year-old man who lost his wife and has been unable to cry even once. The couple had married in 2024, and he had flown ahead to set up their new home in London.

"I should have been with her," the guilt-ridden man has been telling himself repeatedly, too traumatised to come to terms with the loss. During their last conversation, his wife had told him repeatedly not to get delayed and keep her waiting at London's Gatwick airport. "So, when he received news of the crash, he took the first available flight and reached Ahmedabad, rebuking himself for getting late. He visited the (hospital) campus for three days to complete procedures and take home her remains for last rites. He did not cry, could not cry rather, even once," said a counsellor at Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad.

ANI

Nandesh Kumar Sharma on Sunday bids farewell to his daughter Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma, a crew member who died in the crash

Hospital authorities have appointed 10 counsellors — primarily experienced psychiatrists — to help families cope with the deaths of loved ones.

Urvika Parekh, one of the counsellors, recounted breaking the news to a seven-year-old girl. "She had come to give DNA samples for identification of remains. The family could not break the news to her. Some families have lost multiple family members. The void is hard to fill," Parekh said.

The counsellors have encountered several instances of families unable to return to normal lives. A senior citizen who lost four family members has not gone back home. "The emptiness of the house is too overwhelming for him, so he has been staying with a close relative for the time being. The same is true for several families as they have just held the last rites of their dear ones and are now finding it difficult to envision life without them," she said.

Parekh explained the seven stages of grief — shock and denial, pain and guilt, anger and bargaining, depression, the upward turn, reconstruction, and acceptance.

Disha Vasavada, another psychiatrist and counsellor said, "It is tougher to cope with the loss of a child than a parent. In many instances, it may take days or weeks to process the trauma." The counsellors will stay in touch with families. "Some relatives gained composure initially but could not hold themselves back when the coffins were handed over. The first few days were spent making arrangements, but when reality sets in, hand-holding is necessary," she said.

The psychiatrists drew parallels with early Covid deaths, where relatives were not allowed to see the deceased one last time, causing dissonance for those seeking closure.

INDIA DIGEST

UP court declares ₹1.7 cr property of hooch kingpin govt property

In a first-of-its-kind action against illicit liquor trade, the special Gangster Act court of Ambedkar Nagar in UP has declared property worth Rs 1.7 crore of alleged hooch kingpin Motilal Gupta as govt property. According to court records, Gupta, a resident of Azamgarh, ran a large-scale operation producing spurious country liquor packaged with fake labels and sold across nearby villages and districts. The illegal trade came to light after a tragedy on May 10, 2021, when several villagers died from consuming the toxic brew. Gupta and ten associates were booked under the UP Gangsters Act, and their properties were seized. The court later upheld the seizure, stating that Gupta and his wife failed to prove lawful ownership, and confirmed the assets as state property. TNN

Brothers fight to avoid caring for 82-year-old paralysed mother

An 82-year-old woman in Ahmedabad faced a distressing situation when her two sons and their wives argued over who should care for her. The woman, partially paralysed and unable to manage daily tasks, became the subject of a long-standing family feud. "We received a call from one of the daughters-in-law about the quarrel after the younger brother and his wife dropped the lady at their residence. It was an old feud between the brothers, as the mother passed on the residence they were living in to the younger son," a counsellor said, adding, "The mother wanted to spend the last of her days with her elder son." The counsellors and Abhayam 181 helpline eventually persuaded the younger son to take the mother home. TNN

Bathinda Police demolished the houses of two alleged drug smugglers in Dhobiana Basti on Sunday as part of a crackdown on illegal properties linked to NDPS cases. A similar demolition drive had also been carried out in the area earlier this month

Prime witness in TMC activist's killing found dead

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: The elder brother and key witness in the murder of Trinamool Congress ward president Ashoke Shaw was found dead Sunday morning in a roadside drain in Bhatpara, sparking tension and protests in the area about 33km north of Kolkata.

Dilip Kumar Shaw, a worker at a local jute mill, had been missing for four days. Sanitation workers discovered his decomposed body along Ghoshpara Road in Jagaddal after residents reported a foul smell.

His younger brother Ashoke was shot and bombed to death on Nov 13, 2024 — the day of Naihati assembly bypolls. That murder case is being heard in a Barrackpore court. Dilip was listed as a prime witness.

Police said Dilip left home Tuesday and did not return. His family filed a missing person complaint at Jagaddal police station. News of his death triggered unrest in the area. Locals blocked roads and vandalised several shops in protest.

"We are reviewing CCTV footage to determine whether foul play was involved," said a senior investigating officer. "We are also probing whether he may have fallen into the drain in an intoxicated state."

FIR against Union mantri for remark on law and order

An FIR was registered on Sunday against West Bengal BJP president **Sukanta Majumdar** for comparing the state's law and order situation to Sonagachi, a red-light area in North Kolkata. The complaint was lodged at Burtolla police station by a sex worker from Sonagachi, accusing him of demeaning the area's sex workers.

Trinamool Congress slammed Majumdar after a video surfaced of him saying, "The law and order in Bengal is like Sonagachi," prompting widespread condemnation. State minister Shashi Panja said, "@BJP4India state president @DrSukantaBJP owes sex workers an unconditional apology for his disgraceful, dehumanising remarks. Using one of the most vulnerable groups as a punchline for political mudslinging is inexcusable." PTI

DGCA orders special audit of entire aviation ecosystem

Experts Express Scepticism, Question Regulator's Track Record

Saurabh.Sinha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has launched a "comprehensive special audit" of the entire civil aviation ecosystem following the crash of Air India Flight 171 in Ahmedabad and multiple helicopter accidents in Uttarakhand over the past month.

DGCA said the audit will cover scheduled and non-scheduled airlines, private operators, maintenance and repair organisations (MROs), training academies, flying schools, air navigation service providers, airport operators, and ground handling agencies.

"This is a paradigm shift," DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai said. "Traditionally, oversight has been siloed — this audit is aimed at evaluating the aviation ecosystem holistically, generating a 360-degree assessment of strengths and gaps."

PTI

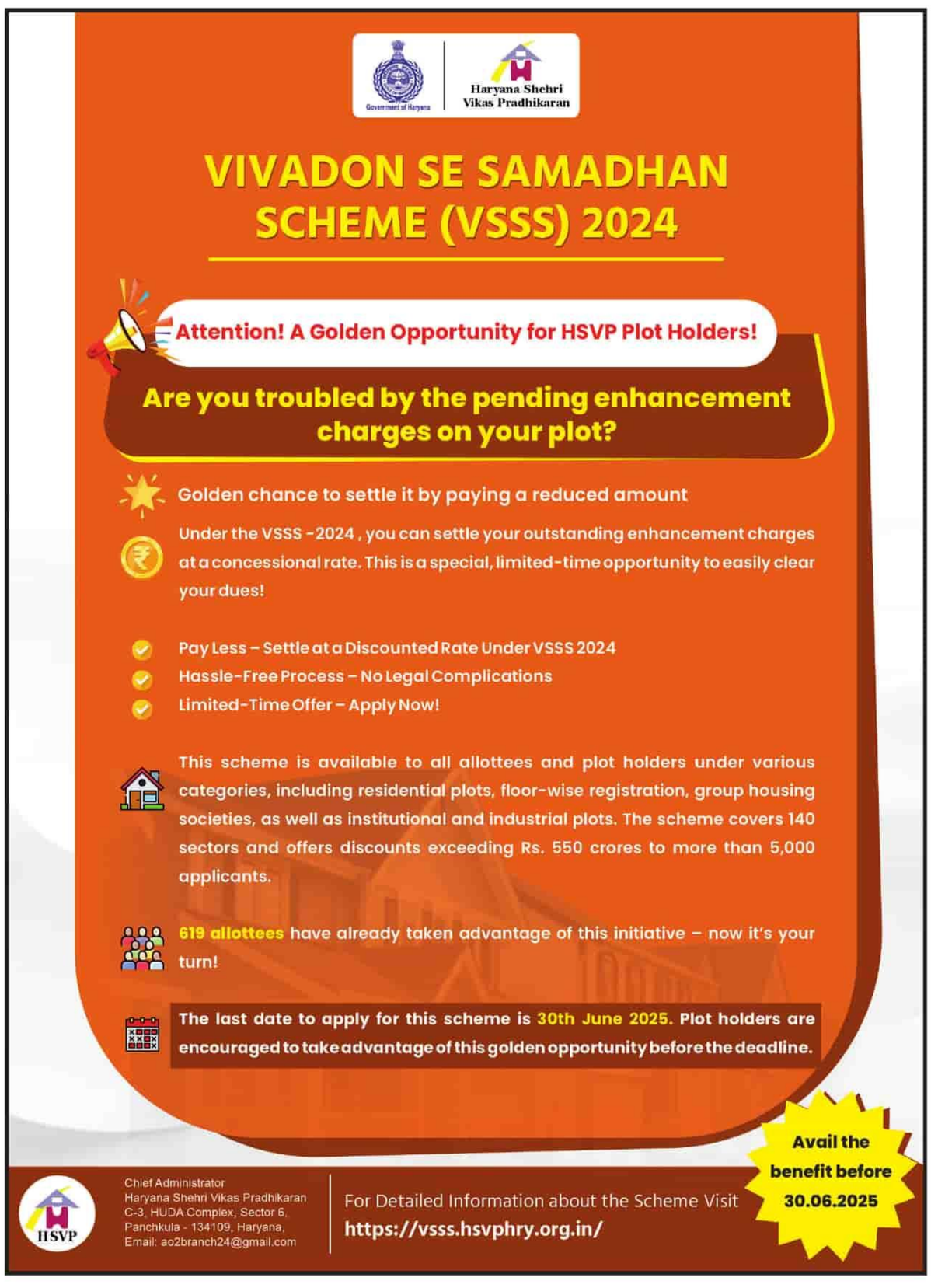
THE CLEANUP: The tail of crashed AI 171 got stuck in a tree while being taken to Ahmedabad airport on Sunday. It was freed by police and locals, and will be kept in a hangar for investigation

The focus will be on safety management systems, operational practices, and regulatory compliance, along with supporting systems such as emergency response, technology infrastructure, supply chains, and coordination bodies. Multidisciplinary teams led by senior DGCA officials — including experts in air safety, airworthiness, licensing, flight standards, and navigation services — will conduct the audit. External industry specialists may be brought in when required.

Upon completion, audit findings will be shared with each entity, which must submit a corrective action plan within 15 days. "DGCA will monitor implementation through progress reviews and follow-up audits," the order said. Entities failing to act may face penalties ranging from operational restrictions and fines to suspension or licence revocation. Air safety analyst Amit Singh questioned the regulator's track record. "DGCA has been auditing aviation since time immemorial. Wouldn't it be prudent to invite a third party to audit and why have past DGCA audits failed to rein in safety?"

Others in the industry echoed scepticism, saying audits and enhanced surveillance have become routine, with limited long-term effect. Financial fragility of several aviation operators, especially airlines, remains a structural weakness beyond the regulator's scope.

"Many struggling players in the last two-three decades have warned authorities they'd shut shop if forced to dot every 'i' and cross every 't', which would hit regional connectivity," said an industry insider. "Hopefully the recent crashes will change things."



2 coaches get jail terms for sexual assault on judo players

Krishna Chaudhary & Kanwardeep Singh | TNN

Meerut/Bareilly: Courts in Meerut and Moradabad sentenced two judo coaches to prison for sexually assaulting minor trainees, including a national-level judoka, in separate incidents that took place in 2017 and 2023.

Manish alias Max, 26, received a life sentence for raping a 10-year-old national judo player in Meerut, special public prosecutor Kuldeep Mohan said. Additional district judge Sangeeta also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him.

Special public prosecutor Avkash Jain told **TOI**, "The convict violated the girl in the guard room while her brother and fellow players were asked to practise. After the crime, the minor bled profusely, and Max, in a cynical attempt to conceal his crime, staged a drama; he told the minor's parents that she sustained a severe injury during practice."

Jain added, "Believing the convict's theory, the minor was rushed to a medical facility and underwent treatment in three different hospitals, and after eight days, she secretly wrote her ordeal on a paper, which somehow reached her father."

In a separate case, special Pocso judge Ghanendra Kumar sentenced Mohd Qasim Ali, 46, to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old boy in Moradabad. The convict was also fined Rs 60,000 and taken into judicial custody immediately after the court order.

Additional district govt counsel Manoj Gupta said, "The incident occurred on Sept 9, 2017, when the boy was in his school where the convict was appointed as judo coach. Mohd Qasim took the boy to the forest on the pretext of judo training, where he forcefully sodomised him. The boy narrated his ordeal to his family upon returning home."

Gupta added, "The submitted medical examination report to the court confirmed the assault. Additionally, the statement of the survivor and the circumstantial evidence helped in nailing the accused." The chargesheet was submitted in court, and the judge expedited the trial.

Show the power of Hindu vote: TN BJP ally at Murugan meet

Andhra Dy CM Slams Atheists & Secularists

Times News Network

K Antony Xavier

Pawan Kalyan (C) at the Murugan conference on Sunday. Former state BJP president K Annamalai (extreme right) is also seen

Madurai/Chennai: Hindu Munnani, a right-wing outfit close to BJP, Sunday called upon people to demonstrate the strength of the Hindu vote bank in the assembly elections in Tamil Nadu due in April next year. At the Lord Murugan Devotees Conference organised by it, Hindu Munnani passed a resolution for 'Hindu unity' and protection of Hindu rights and temples.

Another resolution at the conference, which was attended by Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and BJP office-bearers of Tamil Nadu, said the DMK govt should "stop treating temples as revenue sources and use funds to benefit devotees".

Pawan Kalyan hit out at 'secularists' and atheists for targeting Hinduism while 'remaining silent' about other religions even as several parties including DMK, Congress, NTK and MDMK attacked BJP, saying it was using the conference to gain political mileage through religion.

"Secularism has become a convenient word for a lot of people. Secularism means there should not be any discrimination in the name of any religion, except Hinduism, Hindu gods and Hindu culture. The so-called secularists do not have the guts to speak about the religion which came from Arabia," Pawan Kalyan said, adding that for atheists, "it has become a habit to denigrate our gods. This has to change. If this does not change, it would be difficult to sustain Hindu dharma".

Speaking in Tamil, Pawan Kalyan called Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, an icon of Thevars, an incarnation of Lord Murugan who was "world's first revolutionary leader". The Thevar community is an influential vote bank in south Tamil Nadu.

Former BJP state chief K Annamalai said there should not be any religious conversion from Hinduism, adding those who have converted should return to Hinduism.

Though BJP's ally AIADMK has chosen not to speak about the conference, four former ministers from the party — R B Udhayakumar, Sellur K Raju, Rajendhira Balaji and Kadambur Raju — participated in the event. Union minister L Murugan and senior BJP members H Raja, Tamilisai Soundararajan and Vanathi Srinivasan were also present.

Attacking BJP and Hindu Munnani, TN Hindu religious and charitable endowments minister P K Sekarbabu said Lord Murugan will never offer his blessings to 'wrong people'. "Lord Murugan knows which event is political and which is spiritual. He can differentiate between right and wrong. So, he will never side with wrong people," he said.

NTK chief Seeman said BJP was trying to appropriate Lord Murugan after they failed to reap political dividends using Lord Ram and Lord Ganesh in TN. "Why are they trying to appropriate Murugan suddenly, when all they spoke about for years was Ram in north India, Ganesh in TN and Ayyappa in Kerala?"

K'taka IT dept, stakeholders in dark over fake news bill

Cabinet To Review Bill In Next Meeting

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

File photo

A leaked copy of the draft Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, mentions the establishment of an authority to determine fake news and take appropriate action under Kannada and culture department. Sources said the draft was still to be reviewed by the cabinet because there was no clarity on how the objective of combating fake news could be realistically achieved

Bengaluru: Congress-governed Karnataka's proposed law to make dissemination of fake news online punishable with up to seven years in jail may have hit its first hurdle already, with confusion over why the Kannada and culture department should be the deciding authority on something within the information technology domain.

"As custodians of Information Technology Act, we have given recommendations to the law and parliamentary affairs department. Consultations are yet to happen on the draft bill," IT&BT minister Priyank Kharge said.

Advocate Vinay Sreenivasa highlighted the potential for such a law to be misused without an effective mechanism. "The proposed bill is likely to cause suppression of civil liberties rather than contain fake news. It is shocking that the Congress govt hasn't followed the pre-legislative consultation policy brought by UPA II. Govt must immediately organise a consultation," he said.

A leaked copy of the draft Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025 mentions the establishment of an authority to determine fake news and take appropriate action under the Kannada and culture department. Sources said the draft was still to be reviewed by the cabinet because there was no clarity on how the objective of combating fake news could be realistically achieved. Kharge's objection to some aspects of the proposed mechanism led CM Siddaramaiah to postpone the discussion till the next cabinet meeting, they said.

Officials of the law and parliamentary affairs department said a scrutiny committee scanned the bill before the first draft was finalised.

Internet Freedom Foundation, an independent agency, points out on its website that the govt hasn't yet sought public feedback on the proposed bill. The foundation wants the govt to drop criminal provisions in the bill and publish the full draft and background note for public consultation.

On eve of Shah visit, Maoists kill former comrade, villager

Times News Network

Naxalite killed in Bijapur encounter worked as cook in govt school: Cops

Raipur: One of the seven Maoists killed during anti-Naxal operations earlier this month in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh's Bastar division worked as a cook in a govt school, police have revealed, reports **Rashmi Drolia**.

Seven Maoists were killed in multiple encounters by a joint team of security personnel during an anti-Naxal operation in Indravati National Park area between June 4 and 7. One of them was identified as Mahesh Kudiyam, who served as an active member of the national park area committee of Maoists. It was later learnt that he was working as an assistant cook at a primary school in Irpagutta village.

The matter came to light Saturday when a villagers from Irpagutta claimed Kudiyam was not associated with the Maoist organisation but worked as a cook preparing mid-day meals in a school. It was found that Kudiyam also got remuneration in his bank account and was appointed by the village school management committee. He was paid salary till March.

Kudiyam carried a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh.

Raipur: Maoists killed a surrendered cadre and a village committee member in two villages of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Saturday night, a day before Union home minister Amit Shah arrived in Raipur for a two-day visit to the state on Sunday.

Five armed Maoists raided Sendrambore and Ampur villages in Pamed region, near the Telangana border, around 8pm. They identified their targets and strangled them, accusing them of being police informers.

Veko Deva, alias Sandeep, one of the victims and a former section commander of the Maoists' 2nd Company Platform Party Committee Member (PPCM), had recently surrendered.

Bijapur SP Jitendra Yadav confirmed, "We have received credible input. A team has been sent to the location to confirm the details."

So far in 2025, Maoist violence has claimed the lives of 22 civilians, following 71 civilian deaths recorded in 2024.

Key evidence located, 2 held in Meghalaya murder case

Indore: In a breakthrough in the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case, Shillong police recovered the charred remains of a bag which was brought back to Indore by key accused, Sonam, after the murder of her husband, reports **Karishma Kotwal**.

The bag, police said, is likely key evidence containing mobile phones and Raja's gold jewellery. The recovery was made from a vacant plot in Hare Krishna Vihar Colony in Indore.

The location of the remains was revealed by one of the accused, Silom James, a property dealer arrested on Saturday, who led police to the spot where he admitted to burning the bag with the help of the second accused, Ballu, a security guard of the building where Sonam rented a flat. Ballu was arrested ib Sunday afternoon,

The SIT from Shillong has been carrying out searches in the city for the last five days, looking specifically for the bag hidden in the flat which was rented by Sonam during her stay in Indore while evading arrest.

Police produced Ballu and Silom before a court from where a transit remand was granted. Police booked both the accused for aiding the murder accused and tampering with the evidence.

BACK IN BUSINESS

IANS

A range of fish on display at Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai on Sunday. The 61-day fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal has ended, and fish markets are back in business. The annual ban is enforced to allow fish to breed and replenish stock along the eastern coast. Even though fishing has resumed, normalcy in price and supply might take a while, traders say

Rape accused shot in leg in encounter in UP

Varanasi: A man accused of raping a five-year-old girl was arrested after being shot in the leg during a police encounter in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district late Saturday.

The accused allegedly raped the minor on Friday evening when her parents were away at the market.

Azamgarh ASP (city) Madhuvan Kumar Singh said cops had been conducting raids to apprehend the accused.

On Saturday night, they received a tip-off that he might attempt to flee the district via Rajdharpur village, leading them to cordon off the area. When police spotted a person moving around late at night and shone a torchlight to signal him to stop, he opened fire and tried to escape.

The police team retaliated in self-defence, resulting in the accused suffering a bullet injury in the leg. Police rushed him to a community health centre in Mehnagar after recovering a country-made pistol and live cartridge from him. TNN

ED searches HP asst drug controller for bribery, extortion

Times News Network

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate on Sunday conducted searches against a Himachal Pradesh assistant drug controller, Nishant Sareen, in bribery and extortion cases linked to the charge of him misusing his official position.

The anti-money laundering agency is also probing "political patronage" to Sareen who after being removed as Baddi assistant drug controller on allegations of bribery in 2019 was reinstated and posted by the new Himachal Pradesh govt as Dharamshala assistant drug controller in 2024.

In Oct 25, 2019, he was released on bail in the Baddi corruption case in which trial is pending. The State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau and police had filed a chargesheet under the Prevention of Corruption Act in this case and arrested him in Sept 2019. Sareen was accused of receiving bribes from pharmaceutical companies based in Baddi, a pharma hub in the state.

ED is also probing 'political patronage' to Nishant Sareen, who, after being removed as Baddi assistant drug controller in 2019 on allegations of bribery, was posted by the new govt as Dharamshala assistant controller in 2024

Komal Khanna, an associate of Sareen, was also accused of corruption and was made an accused in the chargesheet. Five residential and commercial premises linked to Sareen, his father-in-law Ramesh Kumar Gupta and Khanna in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab were searched on Sunday.

ED is probing allegations of political patronage and complaints of extortion and bribery against Sareen in his present role as Dharamshala assistant drug controller too, sources said.

4 from Haryana killed, 1 hurt as car hits truck in Dehradun

Dehradun: Four tourists from Haryana were killed and another injured after their car hit a cement bag-laden trailer truck while purportedly trying to overtake it on the busy Dehradun-Saharanpur national highway near Asharodi checkpost in Dehradun early Sunday.

Police said the car was heading towards Dehradun from Saharanpur, and the incident took place around 3am. The severely injured men were rushed to hospital where doctors declared them "dead on arrival". They were aged between 22 and 32 years, and were involved in agro-based business.

Dehradun SSP Ajai Singh said, "Initial probe suggests the car was moving behind the trailer truck for some time while on the way to Dehradun. Then its driver decided to overtake the trailer and, in the effort, hit it... The driver of the Haryana-registered trailer was detained for questioning. He belongs to Saharanpur."

Those dead were Ankush, Paras (both residents of Sonipat); Ankit (from Jind); and Naveen (from Rohtak), Singh said, adding that Vinay (from Sonipat) was the lone survivor. He is in hospital. TNN

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | 150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma

Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust

Toran, Opp Gandhi Ashram, Ahmedabad- 380027

E-Tender Notice No - 01/2025-26

Name of Works	**Selection of Design- Build-Operate-Transfer Agency (DBOT) for Curation, Content Development, Exhibit Fabrication and Outdoor Sculpture Works for Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust at Ahmedabad Gujarat.**
Date of Download from	Date :- 24-06-2025
Last Date of Online Submission	Date: 21-07-2025 up to 4.00 PM
Tenders available on	www.nprocure.com

Censors block Union mantri's film after objections to 'Janaki' in title

Kochi: A censorship row has broken out after CBFC blocked the release of Malayalam film 'Janaki V/S State of Kerala', reportedly due to objections over the title character 'Janaki', another name of Goddess Sita. Starring Union minister Suresh Gopi and Anupama Parameswaran, the film was scheduled for release on June 27 but was denied screening clearance at the last minute.

Directed by Pravin Narayanan, the courtroom drama centres around a lead named Janaki. He confirmed the film would not be released as planned.

Film Employees Federation of Kerala general secretary B Unnikrishnan said the organisation would not hesitate to launch a protest against the CBFC's decision. "The story is about the legal fight carried out by an assaulted woman against the state. It is said (by the Board) that Goddess Sita's name cannot be given to the woman character who suffered assault," he said.

(With agency inputs)

Ajit and uncle locked in bitter battle to control sugar coop

Maha Dy CM Is Contesting For Chairman's Position

Prasad.Kulkarni1
@timesofindia.com

PAWAR VS PAWAR AGAIN

Pune: Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar voted Sunday in a key Baramati sugar cooperative election in which his nominees are pitted against those of his uncle and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, setting up another Pawar-vs-Pawar fight in the family pocket borough.

Ninety candidates are in the fray for 21 board seats in the Malegaon sugar cooperative, with Ajit himself contesting for chairman's post. Ajit has fielded his nominees for the 21 seats, as has Pawar has through grandnephew Yugendra. Baramati MP and Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule also voted in the polls. Counting will be on Tuesday.

Ajit asserted there was no office-of-profit hurdle in contesting for the chairman's post. "I claim the chairman's post and I have the right to decide whether to contest in any election or not," Ajit said, dismissing objections over his participation in the election despite being deputy chief minister. Ajit is contesting for this chairmanship nearly 40 years after his last attempt. His nominees are arrayed under 'Nilkantheshwar' panel for the 21 seats. Pawar and Yugendra's panel of contestants have come together under "Baliraja Sahakar Bachao" panel. A third set of nominees is contesting under "Sahakar Bachao Shetkari" panel, led by Ranjan Taware, an opponent of the Pawar family.

Over 19,000 members from 37 villages in and around Baramati voted in the election to Malegaon sugar cooperative, one of the most financially sound in Maharashtra. Voters have been divided into two categories — A and B. Group A represent cane cultivators from the region; Group B voters are co-operative representatives.

Late Wednesday night, there was high drama in Baramati when supporters of nominees backed by Pawar and Taware alleged that a local bank branch was open till 11.30pm — fuelling allegations of horse-trading. Sule demanded an SIT inquiry.

Ajit — who is also district guardian minister — dismissed the controversy, stressing he had "no role to play". "None of my panel members was present at the bank. On the other hand, opponents are using their cooperative bank for campaigning and running the election system till late night," Ajit said.

Ahead of BMC polls, 2 UBT ex-corporators switch to BJP

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT)'s condition in the city has become dangerous and dilapidated, said BJP Mumbai president Ashish Shelar as he welcomed two more former corporators, Ishwar Tayade and Akanksha Shete, into the party on Sunday, reports **Clara Lewis**.

BJP has been inducting former elected representatives from opposition parties as it prepares for local body elections across state. The BMC elections are also expected in next four months.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters, Shelar said in 2017, Shiv Sena (then undivided) had 84 corporators in the BMC and BJP 82.

"When former corporators from Andheri East and Malabar Hill joined BJP, we equalled their numbers, and now we have surpassed the Sena (UBT) numbers. Really speaking, we have crossed 100 as several other ex-corporators of previous tenures have also joined BJP," Shelar further said.

FIR against Jagan, driver for running over party activist

Samdani.MN@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: Andhra police on Sunday filed an FIR against YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and his driver for the alleged accidental death of a 65-year-old party activist who was crushed under the wheels of Jagan's car on Guntur outskirts on Wednesday.

Police took Jagan's car driver Ramana Reddy into custody on Sunday and questioned him about why he proceeded without stopping the convoy, even after Cheeli Singaiah was crushed under his vehicle.

"We have conclusive evidence that Singaiah was crushed under the wheels of former CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's vehicle. We have changed the sections accordingly and booked driver Ramana Reddy, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, (former MP) Y V Subbareddy, (former ministers) Vidadala Rajani and Perni Nani," said Guntur SP Satish Kumar.

Singaiah died when Jagan's convoy was on its way to Sattenapalle in Palnadu to meet the family of a party activist who died by suicide a year ago, police said on Sunday, revising its earlier version that blamed a private vehicle for the crash.

YSRCP questioned the police's change in version, saying the Guntur SP had Wednesday said the vehicle involved in the accident was a private vehicle, not part of Jagan's convoy.

You're Union mantri, why fight Bihar polls, Nitish 'asked' Chirag

Jainarain Pandey | TNN

'BIHAR IS CALLING'

Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar can't see why Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and NDA ally Chirag Paswan should aspire to contest assembly elections after being rewarded with a berth in the Union cabinet, the latter's brother-in-law and Jamui MP Arun Bharti said on Sunday.

"You are a Union minister, a young politician with a bright and long political career ahead. So, why contest assembly elections now?" Bharti quoted the CM as saying during a meeting with Chirag in Siwan ahead of PM Narendra Modi's June 20 rally there.

Nitish, whose JDU could be wary of Chirag's party complicating NDA's seat-sharing arrangement for elections to the 243-strong assembly, also enquired about the constituency Chirag was interested in, Bharti said. The Union minister for food processing industries has announced his party is preparing to contest all seats in Bihar, fuelling speculation about his chief ministerial ambitions.

Bharti said Chirag told CM Nitish that he would "go by my party's decision in this regard and come to seek your blessings before contesting the polls".

The MP said Chirag iterated his oft-quoted phrase, "Bihar is calling", while explaining his vision for the state. "He told the CM that like him, he too wants to be directly involved in state politics to take Bihar out of the RJD's 'jungle raj'."

RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said Chirag "should speak openly that he wants to become CM instead of doing the 'Bihar is calling' drama". Bharti accused RJD of attempting to spread rumours of a rift in NDA as it fears the governing alliance could reduce the opposition to fewer seats than it got in the 2020 assembly polls. "LJP (RV) is set to host around two lakh people at Rajgir in CM Nitish's home district of Nalanda, with his blessings, at the 'Bahujan Bhim Sankalp Samagam' on June 29," he said.

2 held, minor detained for killing woman on tantrik advice

Nishikant.Karlikar
@timesofindia.com

Thane: In a shocking twist to the murder of a daily wage labourer at a Kalwa underconstruction site last week, police found that the crime was committed by three Bihar residents, including two teenagers, allegedly on the behest of a tantrik who told them that sacrificing a woman and taking her ornaments would bring them prosperity.

On Saturday, Thane crime branch and Kalwa police arrested Vishwajit Singh (30) and Devraj Kumar (19), and detained a 17-year-old boy, and brought them to the city.

They killed the woman on the behest of a tantrik who said that it would bring them prosperity

Police said the trio travelled 1,000km from their village near Patna to Kalwa, where they zeroed in on Shanti Chavan (37) in Samrat Ashok Nagar. Initial probe suggests that they tied her up and gagged her, and the 17-year-old slit her throat. They took four gold beads from her.

Based on CCTV footage analysis, the police tracked down the three accused from the crime scene to LTT and then to their village.

Man dies by suicide in Jaipur police station, 6 cops shunted

Jaipur: A day after a 28-year-old man allegedly died by suicide in Sadar police station, Jaipur police on Sunday transferred six police officials, including the SHO, to police lines pending a judicial inquiry, reports **Dishank Purohit**.

Police said the deceased, Manish Pandey, an inveterate alcoholic from UP living on a rented house in Mansarovar, was allegedly involved in several incidents of two-wheeler theft to sustain his addiction.

On Saturday afternoon, locals allegedly caught him red-handed while attempting to steal a bike in Sadar area. They thrashed him and later handed him over to police. Since he was in an inebriated state, he was made to sit near a room at the police station, police said.

Around 5 pm, when police were reportedly engaged in other duties, Pandey used the opportunity to hang himself with a piece of cloth. Pandey's family and locals protested outside SMS Hospital mortuary demanding strict action.

IAS officer's guard shoots at exec over earth-filling dispute

IP.Singh@timesofindia.com

Jalandhar: A gunman assigned to IAS officer Babita Kler allegedly shot and wounded a steel firm's manager during a confrontation over earth-filling work on a plot adjacent to her residence in Jalandhar's Chhotti Barandari area, police said.

Harpreet Singh, manager at the firm owned by industrialist Sulakhan Singh of Prabal TMT, was shot in both legs and hospitalised. Police have arrested constable Sukhkaran Singh.

An FIR has been filed against Babita, her husband Steven Kler, a former AAP district president, and the constable for attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, voluntarily causing hurt, and under the Arms Act.

Industrialist Sulakhan Singh's son Karanjit Singh Kang said their workers were sent to begin filling earth on the family's plot adjacent to the Kler residence. "Steven objected and insisted on speaking to the owner. My father called and clarified that it was our land. Then he sent our manager Harpreet to the site. But Steven and Babita refused to allow the work. Amid the argument, they ordered the gunman to shoot," Karanjit alleged.

Steven denied issuing any directive to fire and claimed workers' arrival raised concerns over a possible land grab. "I asked to speak to the owner. One man on the phone said he owned six mills and used rough language. I asked the workers to leave and went back inside. Later, I was told the gunman opened fire in self-defence after he was allegedly attacked," he said. Steven said he and his wife were inside their home. "If they were following Punjab urban planning and development authority (Puda) norms, we had no issue," he said.

Lalu to continue as RJD chief: Party

Patna: Lalu Prasad (78) will remain RJD's national president, the party's principal general secretary Abdul Bari Siddiqui said on Sunday, dismissing speculation that Lalu might step down due to health issues, reports **Jainarain Pandey**.

Claiming that Lalu is fit and actively attending RJD programmes and other events, Siddiqui told **TOI** that Lalu will file his nomination papers on Monday. He added that the rank and file of the party want Lalu to continue as the party's chief for a 13th consecutive term. The election for party national president will be held on July 5.

FIR against actor under SC/ST Act over remarks on tribals

Hyderabad: A case was registered against **Vijay Deverakonda**, famed for his role as 'Arjun Reddy', over charges of "defamatory comments" against tribal communities.

The case against the actor under the SC/ST Act was lodged at Raidurgam police station here following a complaint from a tribal body, stating that Deverakonda made the comments during a recent movie promotion event.

SHO Ch Venkanna said the complaint was lodged on June 17. The case will be handed over to assistant commissioner of police (ACP), Madhapur, for investigation.

During the promotional event, the actor made some remarks related to the situation between India and Pakistan and likened the neighbouring country to a "tribal" community.

Responding to the row on 'X', Deverakonda issued a clarification saying there was no intention to offend or target any group. TNN

CAD-873

Cuttack Development Authority
Arunodaya Bhawan, Link Road, Cuttack-12
Fax No - 0671-2312299
email –cda.cuttack@nic.in

Notice No: 6754 Date: 21/06/2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) Auction for Disposal of Used/ Unused items present at CDA Office, Cuttack

Brief Description of the process: Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) invites applications For Disposal of Used/ Unused items present at CDA office, Cuttack.

The applicants are requested to make themselves aware of the site conditions and eligibility criteria mentioned in the EOI before participating in the process. The EOI can only be downloaded from CDA website http://www.cdacuttack.nic.in and the last date of submission of application in prescribed format and required documents by **Dt. 07/07/2025** till 15:00 Hrs. C.D.A. Any amendments/addendum/corrigendum shall only be posted in the CDA website. Cuttack reserves the right to accept or reject any application(s) and to annul the selection process at any time, without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof.

For any assistance/ clarification in this regard, the prospective applicants may contact the Executive Engineer on 8456866531 during office hours.

-Sd-
Vice Chairman
OIPR-13037/11/0297/25-26

Govt. of Bihar

Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan (LSBA)
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society

CORRIGENDUM

ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONDUCTING 'WALK-IN-INTERVIEW' For Selection of Consultant- Public Financial Management System & Banking (PFMS & B) under "LOHIYA SWACHH BIHAR ABHIYAN" (LSBA).

Advt. No. PR- 006065(B&C) 2025-26

Reference to advertisement published in various newspapers on 17-06-2025, it is hereby informed that due to some unavoidable circumstances, the **Website** address for applying to the post of Consultant-PFMS & B was mentioned incorrectly and the date for walk-in interview which schedule on **30-06-25** has been reschedule to **04-07-25**.

Please find below the corrected details:

Previous Website Url : (http://lsba.bih.nic.in/)

Corrected Website Url: http://lsba.bihar.gov.in/

All other terms and conditions mentioned in the original advertisement remain unchanged.

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

Officer On Special Duty-cum-State Coordinator
Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan-BRLPS

PR. No. 006580 (B&C) 25-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

DIRECTORATE OF FLYING TRAINING
Cabinet Secretariat Department
Patna Airport, Patna – 800014.
Letter. No: सि०वि०नि०(स्था०)– 01–12 / 2020 . 238
Short Notice Tender (Re-tender)

Govt. of Bihar

Sealed tender under TWO BID SYSTEM are hereby invited by the Directorate of Flying Training, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar from DGCA (CAR-145/CAMO) approved organizations for providing services/man power requirement of 01 Quality Manager (QM), 01 Continuing Airworthiness Manager (CAM) and 02 Technical Officer for maintenance & operations related work of Training Aircrafts owned and operated by Government of Bihar.

1. The tender must reach the Director, Directorate of Flying Training, Patna Airport, Patna-800014 on or before dt. **14-07-2025** at **05:00** P.M. by registered post/speed post/courier services or by hand.
2. Bidders shall submit their offer in two separate sealed ensvelopes leveled one as Technical Bid and other as Financial Bid. These two bids shall be kept in another big envelope which should be sealed and subscribed, **'Tender for providing services of QM, CAM and Technical Officers for Cessna 172 R and other trainee Aircrafts owned by the Govt. of Bihar'**.
3. Bidder should clearly mention their communication address, contact mobile/phone number as well as email Id on envelop.
4. For all Tender related enquiries prospective bidder shall reach out to us through email <bfibihar@bihar.gov.in> within 5 days of publication of this tender.
5. **Eligibility:**
   a. Bidder should have DGCA approval certificate and scope of approval certificate issued by the DGCA.
6. **Scope of Work :**
   For CAM and QM shall be in accordance with the CAME, MOM, AMP & TPM approved by DGCA.Technical officers shall assist AME, CAM, QM in documentation related work or as required from time to time by the above post holder.
7. **Qualification:**
   Service provider have to ensure that QM, CAM and Technical Officers should hold all necessary eligibility criteria to be able to provide services as well as eligibility needed for the maintenance approval of the institute in light of DGCA recruitment rules.
   Service provider shall ensure the approval from DGCA as CAM & QM.
8. The Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Bihar reserves the right to reject the bid or cancel the tender at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
9. In case of any dispute, the place of settlement will be within the Judicature of Patna High Court at Patna.

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

Director
Directorate of Flying Training

PR. No. 006647 (CSD) 2025-26

अगर मन में हो एच.आई.वी. अथवा यौन जनित रोग से जुड़े सवाल तो तुरन्त 1097 पर करें कॉल।

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
No: OIRDS/2025-26/EoI/HEALTH/002

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION/AGENCY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE PROJECT TOWARDS PROMOTING MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE MANAGEMENT THROUGH SETTING UP OF COMMUNITY BASED SANITARY NAPKIN PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND AWARENESS CREATING UNITS IN RURAL VILLAGES OF ASSAM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND TRIPURA IN NORTH-EAST INDIA OR ANY OTHER AREA (S) AS PER NEED UNDER OIL INDIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (OIRDS)

1. OIRDS is intending to partner with a reputed organization/agency having CSR Form-1 registration working towards promoting Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management through setting up of Sanitary Napkin Production, Marketing & Awareness units (social enterprise) in rural villages of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura in North-East India or any other area (s) as per need.
2. **The EoI document may be requested by interested organizations/agencies by writing an email to oirds.djn@gmail.com with the subject mentioning the EoI no.**
3. The organizations/agencies who fulfils the eligibility criteria may submit their EoI in a sealed envelope along with copies of supporting documents in the address given below mentioning the **EoI no. and subject as "EoI for implementation of healthcare interventions towards promoting women's healthcare project towards promoting Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management through setting up of community based sanitary napkin production, marketing and awareness creating units in rural villages of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura in North-East India or any other area (s) as per need under Oil India Rural Development Society (OIRDS)" on the top cover."**

   President
   Oil India Rural Development Society
   Centre of Excellence Building, Tipling Tinali
   Duliajan, Assam 786602
4. **The last date of submission of EoI is 9th July, 2025 (Wednesday) by 17:30 hrs. For any queries contact: 0374-2807279/2808579/2807284 or email to oirds.djn@gmail.com**

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता,
गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर
Email-grmc1976@yahoo.co.in, Phone-0751- 2403400

क्रमांक 24130/क्रय /2025 **द्वितीय ई-निविदा सूचना** ग्वालियर,20 जून, 2025

नवीन चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, श्योपुर के लिये एन.एम.सी. निरीक्षण को ध्यान में रखते हुये द निम्नांकित उपकरणों (नॉन कौर आयटम) के क्रय हेतु द्वितीय बार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की की जाती है।

S. No.	Item Name	Department	Qty.	Tender ID
1.	Table with Stainless Steel Top with min Size 6' x 2' x 3'	Anatomy	15	2025_DME_ 432260_01
2.	Table stainless Steel Top Half Standard Size	Anatomy	05	
3.	S.S. Trolley	Anatomy	02	
4.	Storage Tank to Hold Cadavers, Static/ Movable, Durable Tank with Input & Output	Anatomy	04	
5.	S.S. Tray	Anatomy	10	
6.	Model, Charts. Slides	Anatomy, Physiology, Community Medicine, Forensic Medicine	As Per List	2025_DME_ 432262_01

उपकरणों के प्रदाय हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाता,फर्म निविदा फार्म, शर्तें, विस्तृत स्पेसीफिकेशन, सूची, संख्या इत्यादि विवरण म.प्र. शासन के निविदा पोर्टल **www.mptender.gov.in** माध्यम से दिनांक 24.06.2025 से ऑनलाईन क्रय कर निर्धारित अंतिम तिथी तक ऑनलाईन ही प्रस्तुत कर सकेंगे। निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य रूपये 1,000/- निर्धारित है जिस पर ऑनलाईन प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क एवं जी.एस.टी. पृथक से देय होगा जो कि निविदादाता को ही वहन करना होगा। निविदा का कुल अनुमानित मूल्य रूपये 25.65 लाख है।

Sd/-
अधिष्ठाता
गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय,ग्वालियर

''पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार''

G-14650/25

Directorate of Primary Education,
Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojna (Ind. Cell)
17, Dr. Ambedkar Road,
Maharashtra State, Pune-411001.

E-mail: mdmtender2021@gmail.com @(020) 2612 8157

O.No. DEP/PM-POSHAN/E-Tender/2025-27/03189

NOTICE FOR E-TENDER

Directorate of Primary Education, Maharastra State, Pune invites proposals from reputed and experienced bidder to participate in the competitive bidding process to E-TENDER for transportation of rice and coarse grain from Food Corporation of India's (FCI) godowns to school/centralized kitchen and supply of other foodgrains and condiments at schools that does not covered under central kitchen system in Amaravati district of Maharashtra for two years, 2025-27.

For complete and detailed tender documents and information, please log on to https://www.mahatenders.gov.in. Interested bidders are requested to register themselves by visiting the above mentioned website in order to participate in the E-tender process.

E-tender proposal submission would be online from 23/06/2025 at 11:00 am upto 11/07/2025 at 06.15 pm.

Date-23/06/2025.

sign/-
(Sharad Gosavi)
Director (Primary Education)
Mahrashtra State, Pune.

DGIPR 2025-26/1294

C-563

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
VIVEKANAND MARG, NEAR KALPANA SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR-751014

No : 30769/ BMC DT : 19.06.2025
XXXXX-II-SWMPMU-42/2020-21

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation), BMC invites expression of interest from the experienced and qualified interested Proprietorship firm/Company/registered partnership firm, registered company, registered society or registered trust for **"Empanelment of agencies for Disposal of Recyclable and Non- Recyclable waste generated from different Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Centres operated in the territorial jurisdiction of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for a period of 1 years".** The detail EOI document can be seen and downloaded from BMC website **http://bmc.gov.in.**

For queries, interested parties may contact the office of Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation at ICOMC Tower at Satya Nagar, Infront of Satya Nagar Kali Temple on Janpath, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar- 751007, Odisha, India.

1. Schedule of Events:

Availability of EoI document	**21.06.2025 (12:00 Noon) to 07.07.2025 till 5:00 PM** (Downloadable from website: (**http://bmc.gov.in**)
Last date & time for receipt of EoI	**07.07.2025 by 05.00 PM** (Through **Speed/Registered Post/Courier/Hand delivery**)
Place of submission of EoI in hard Copy	**Office of Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation) I/c Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation** ICOMC Tower at Satya Nagar, Infront of Satya Nagar Kali Temple on Janpath, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha, India.
Date and Time of opening of EoI	**08.07.2025 at 4:00 PM**
For further enquiries, please email at:	**dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in/ swmpmubmc@gmail.com**

2. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only interested parties should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC
Sd/-
Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation) I/c
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

OIPR-13002/11/0215/25-26

Ensure Muslim trader can access shop in Hindu area: HC to Guj govt

Saeed.Khan@timesofindia.com

The petitioner faced opposition in the neighbourhood as some residents challenged the sale of the property to a Muslim and demanded its cancellation

Ahmedabad: Reminding state govt that maintaining law and order was its duty, Gujarat high court directed the authorities to redress the problem faced by a Muslim trader in conducting business from his legally-owned shop in a Hindu-majority locality in Vadodara.

The order by a bench of Justice H D Suthar came as a relief to petitioner Onali Dholkawala, who allegedly faced relentless obstruction from locals as they have refused to let him open the premises.

Dholkawala had legally purchased the shop from two Hindu brothers near Champaner Darwaza in 2016. However, he could get the sale deed registered only in 2020 after he approached HC, as the area is covered under Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provisions of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, 1991. The Act restricts property transactions in designated areas and mandates the district collector's permission for transactions.

Dholkawala continued to face opposition in the neighbourhood as some of the residents challenged the sale to a Muslim and demanded its cancellation. The residents contended that allowing a Muslim to buy property in the area could lead to polarisation and disturb demographic equilibrium.

In Feb 2023, HC rejected their petition and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on each of the two litigants hounding the owner and "thwarting his attempt to enjoy the fruits of the property which he successfully purchased". An appeal against this order was also dismissed.

However, the locals still did not allow Dholkawala to use the shop. They allegedly dumped debris at its gate so that it could not be opened. Dholkawala approached high court once again, seeking police protection so that he could get the shop repaired and conduct business from the premises.

Dholkawala complained that he had approached police multiple times requesting protection, but received no support.

90% of kids rescued last year were from child labour: Report

Sex Exploitation, Begging Were In Next 2 Positions

Ambika.Pandit @timesofindia.com

RESTORING BROKEN DREAMS

New Delhi: Nearly 90% of the 44,902 children freed from the clutches of exploitation in over 27,000 operations between April 2024 and March this year were rescued from child labour, according to a report. The children were rescued by a collective of voluntary organisations in collaboration with authorities.

The highest number of rescue operations (23,530) were related to child labour, followed by cases of sexual exploitation (2,766), and begging (1,092). Telangana reported the highest number of child labour rescues (11,063), followed by Bihar (3,974), Rajasthan (3,847), Uttar Pradesh (3,804), and Delhi (2,588). As many as 2,971 children were rescued from sexual exploitation, with West Bengal standing out at the top with 1,005 rescues followed by Bihar (454), Odisha (232), Maharashtra (194) and Rajasthan (191).

The report, prepared by voluntary organisation India Child Protection, has drawn from data gathered by Just Rights for Children, a civil society network of over 250 organisations in across 26 states and UTs working in coordination with law enforcement agencies to combat child labour and trafficking as an organised economic crime.

Focusing on how prosecution acts as a tipping point to end child labour, the report highlighted that legal action taken in 27,320 operations, showed that in majority of cases that is 35% (9,595) FIRs were registered — seen as a the most critical step in ensuring that those who are exploiting are prosecuted. In another 25% (6,959) cases were filed as General Diary entries, which are initial police records.

In addition, around 23% of legal actions involved orders from child welfare committees (CWCs) or were filed under Form 17 of Juvenile Justice Rules, both of which focus on immediate care, protection and rehabilitation of rescued children. In 14% cases, challans were issued by labour departments, mainly in cases of child labour, serving as administrative penalties. The report said a very small proportion (less than 1%) were orders from district magistrates or sub-divisional magistrates, and only about 2% of cases had no clear legal action recorded.

Just Rights for Children national convener Ravi Kant said despite gaps, prosecution action, crucial in creating strong deterrent against trafficking and child labour, is getting stronger in India.

The report also highlighted that 5,809 employers and traffickers were arrested as part of these rescue operations and 85% of these were in child labour-related cases. Telangana, Bihar and Rajasthan reported the highest arrests, while states like UP and MP had fewer arrests despite high rescue numbers — highlighting enforcement gaps. The report also draws attention to missing children data, citing that is not uncommon for children classified as missing to be subsequently rescued from exploitative labour situations.

Nearly 11,409 missing children were identified by the civil society network in 11,068 FIRs over 2024-25. Of them, 8,749 children were reported to be traced by March-end this year. States such as West Bengal (3,509), Maharashtra (1,149), and Bihar (1,306) reported the highest rescues of missing children, pointing to active coordination with child tracking systems.

AI now cuts single-aisle flights by 5% till mid-July

New Delhi: After a 15% cut in wide body flights, Air India on Sunday said that it is temporarily reducing narrow body operations by about 5% till at least July 15. Air India uses its Airbus A320 family of single aisles mostly on domestic and nearby international routes. Three daily flights — between Bengaluru and Singapore (AI 2392/2393), Pune and Singapore (AI 2111/2110), and Mumbai and Bagdogra (AI 551/552) — have been suspended till July 15.

"This voluntary decision leads to temporary suspension of Air India's services on three routes and reduction of frequency on 19 routes. These reductions are aimed at strengthening Air India's network-wide operational stability and minimising last-minute inconvenience to passengers. Despite these temporary reductions, Air India will continue to operate close to 600 daily flights with its narrow body aircraft on 120 domestic and short-haul international routes," the airline said in a statement.

"Air India apologises to the passengers affected by these curtailments and is proactively contacting affected passengers to offer re-accommodation on alternative flights, complimentary rescheduling or full refunds as per their preferences... We remain committed to restoring our full schedule as soon as practicable, while at all times prioritising the safety of our passengers, crew and aircraft," it added. TNN

Remove Hindi banners from Ooty station, Raja writes to Vaishnaw

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raja said increasing use and prominence of Hindi in railway stations had stirred 'widespread attention & protest'

Coimbatore: DMK deputy general secretary A Raja urged railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to remove Hindi banners at Udhagamandalam railway station in Tamil Nadu. The Nilgiris MP also pointed out in the letter sent on Sunday that a verse attributed to Madan Mohan Malaviya belonged to Tamil poet Mahakavi Bharathi. The verse calls upon people to travel in all directions and bring literary works back home.

Raja said increasing use and prominence of Hindi in railway stations had stirred "widespread attention and protest". He added that Tamil Nadu had a long and proud history of linguistic identity and cultural autonomy.

The state's people, he noted, had consistently advocated for a two-language policy, in line with regional needs and historical context.

"The recent developments at Udhagamandalam railway station are seen as a case of linguistic imposition. Promoting Hindi in public spaces feels disconnected from the linguistic needs of the local population and is viewed as a political assertion," he said in the letter.

Sharing the letter on social media, the Nilgiris MP said Tamil Nadu would not accept Hindi imposition.

"The use of Hindi in Indian railway stations is increasing day by day. The banners installed in Hindi at the 100-year-old Udhagamandalam railway station are hurting the sentiments of Tamil people. I request the relevant authorities to immediately remove them," he said on X.

"The banners in Hindi have hurt sentiments of Tamil people," he said, urging the rail minister to respect the linguistic sentiments of the state's people and avoid compulsory inclusion of Hindi where it was not contextually necessary.

Scribe drags molester out of bus, hands him over to police

Kolkata: A woman journalist returning home from work in a private bus was allegedly slapped, abused, molested and had her dress torn by a 55-year-old co-passenger. The accused, Sanjay Basak, of Narayanpur in Bengal's South 24 Parganas, was seated on a seat reserved for women, next to the complainant, Friday night, reports **Tamaghna Banerjee**.

According to her complaint, the accused started touching her inappropriately. "I asked him to sit properly multiple times but he was abusive... I shouted at him, raising an alarm," she told **TOI**. Startled, the man stood up. "He picked up my bag and threw it at me. As I raised my voice, he slapped me and began tugging at my clothes, which tore."

The woman, with the help of some co-passengers, dragged the man out and handed him over to police.

"We registered a case under BNS sections dealing with molestation, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, criminal intimidation, wrongful restraint, & mischief. The woman will depose her confidential statement before the magistrate Monday," police said. Basak was granted bail with condition of timely appearance before the magistrate.

TINY PLASTICS COME WITH BIG HEALTH RISKS

MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION AFFECTS COASTAL AREAS

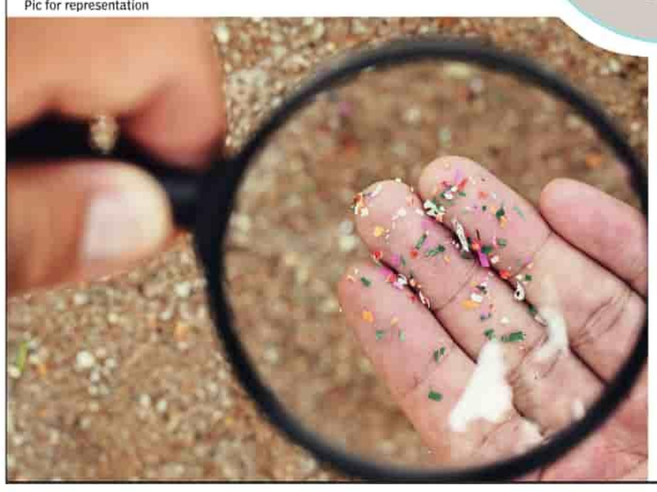
Microplastics are tiny and invisible, but are increasingly being associated with mega health problems. A study has found that people living near oceans severely contaminated with microplastics have higher risks of stroke, heart problems and diabetes

HOW COMMON
2.7 million tons
Quantity of microplastics that seeped into the environment in 2020, an estimate expected to double by 2040, according to the United Nations Environment Programme

WHAT ARE MICROPLASTICS
1nm-5mm
Fragments of plastic that are of width between 1 nanometre (width of a human hair) and 5 millimetre

- Primary microplastics are made to be small (microbeads in face washes and personal care products)
- Secondary microplastics come from the slow disintegration of larger plastic products such as food packaging (single-use water bottles), synthetic fabrics, paint and artificial turf
- Nanoplastics are smaller (one-thousandth of a millimetre), invisible to the naked eye

Pic for representation



WHY IS IT DANGEROUS
- Microplastics can enter the human body through ingestion and inhalation
- Unconfirmed studies say nanoplastics may even slip through the skin

- A 2019 study estimated that adults could potentially be consuming between 39,000 to 52,000 microplastics particles a year on average, depending on their location and jobs

Microplastics have been found throughout the human body, including in the walls of arteries

A NEW STUDY
- Rates of type 2 diabetes, coronary artery disease and stroke were higher among residents in 152 US coastal counties near microplastic-polluted oceans, according to a new study in the 'Journal of the American Heart Association', an indexed and peer-reviewed publication
- While type 2 diabetes was 18% higher, the prevalance of coronary artery disease (plaque-clogged blood vessels feeding the heart) was 7% higher and there were 9% more stroke compared to people living near waters with low levels of microplastic pollution
- Due to seawater intrusion when seawater mixes with groundwater resources, there is high concentration of contaminants such as microplastics in groundwater aquifers in coastal areas

"IIT Bombay's researchers found microplastics in salt, Versova beach has the highest concentration of microplastics among the city's beaches, and microplastics have been found in our fish samples too — **Arpita Bhagat** | PLASTIC POLICY LEAD, ASIA PACIFIC, AT GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INCINERATOR ALTERNATIVES

Scientists count snow leopards using forehead pattern photos

New Delhi: Wildlife scientists, while enumerating snow leopards in India during the last population assessment, used a smart trick to make the elusive big cats in the high and rugged Himalayas pose in front of cameras and get their foreheads having distinctive patterns — akin to human fingerprints — photographed, reports **Vishwa Mohan**.

They used a scent, which only had a localised effect, in luring and making a snow leopard bend down and expose its forehead to the appropriately positioned camera trap, according to a recent study that explained the methodology adopted to count the big cats.

It was done by spraying a small amount of perfume just below the cameras that were deployed near their favoured scent marking rocks on high-ridge tops, said the authors of the study published last month in the open-access journal, PLOS One. They added that once the curious leopards lower their heads to smell it, the enumerators got their prized-unique pictures.

Though snow leopard population assessment in India was done during 2019-23 and the counting figure — total 718 in India — was released last year, the scent lure method as a clever trick was revealed in the study by Pankaj Raina from Ladakh wildlife protection department and co-authors, including senior wildlife scientist at Indian National Science Academy, Yadvendradev V Jhala, and others from the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India.

Individual snow leopards were identified through their unique forehead pattern, the authors said while underlining that every camera trap photograph was geotagged and stamped with the time and date information in the metadata. The photo-captured species were identified using AI-based software programme, CaTRAT, customised to identify Himalayan species. The identified species were subsequently validated by biologists, they said.

INS Tamal, last Indian warship built abroad, to be commissioned in Russia on July 1

Rajat.Pandit @timesofindia.com

INS Tamal has significant upgrades over her predecessors, punching well above her weight, an officer said

New Delhi: The last Indian warship to be built abroad, a 3,900 tonne multi-role stealth frigate packed with sensors and weapons like BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, will be commissioned as INS Tamal in Russia on July 1.

The Navy currently has 59 warships and vessels under construction in Indian shipyards at an overall cost of around Rs 1.2 lakh crore to add to its expanding blue-water combat capabilities. It also has the initial approval or 'acceptance of necessity (AoN)' for indigenous construction of another 31 warships, including big projects for nine diesel-electric submarines, seven new-generation frigates and eight anti-submarine warfare corvettes.

"The force has fully transformed from a 'Buyer's Navy' to a 'Builder's Navy' over the years. There is no plan for an Indian warship to be constructed abroad in future," a officer told **TOI**.

The Navy, which currently has 140 warships and submarines along with over 250 aircraft and helicopters, plans to expand to around 180 warships and 350 aircraft and helicopters by 2030. This is crucial for tackling the rapidly-growing maritime collusiveness between Pakistan and China, which has the world's largest Navy with 370 warships but is currently constrained by the 'tyranny of logistics' in the Indian Ocean Region.

The 125-metre long INS Tamal, with extended endurance, a top speed of over 30 knots and a crew of 250 sailors, will be commissioned at a ceremony presided over by Western Naval Command chief Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh in Kaliningrad.

India in Oct 2018 had inked an umbrella agreement with Russia for four upgraded Krivak-III class frigates, with the first two to be imported for around Rs 8,000 crore. The other two, Triput and Tavasya, in turn, are being built at the Goa shipyard with transfer of technology at an overall cost of around Rs 13,000 crore.

The first frigate, INS Tushil, reached her home port of Karwar from Russia in Feb. These four new warships will add to the six such Russian frigates, 3 Talwar-class and 3 Teg-class warships, already inducted from 2003-2004 onwards.

Designed for blue-water operations across the spectrum of naval warfare in four dimensions of air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic, these frigates are armed with a wide array of advanced weapon systems. "INS Tamal has significant upgrades over her predecessors, punching well above her weight," an officer said.

Besides BrahMos missiles, the frigate has Shtil vertical launched surface-to-air missiles, an improved A190-01 100mm gun and a new age electro-optical/infrared Sandal V system. She is also equipped with a 30mm close-in weapon system, heavyweight torpedoes, urgent attack anti-submarine rockets, apart from various surveillance and fire control radars and systems.

MP cop caught on video extorting trucker, abusing senior; suspended

Bhopal: A video purportedly showing a police assistant sub-inspector (ASI) extorting a truck driver and abusing his senior in an inebriated state in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district was widely circulated on social media. Taking note of the video and verifying it, senior officials suspended the cop and ordered a probe.

The cop, Ganesh Rawat, is an ASI posted at Kolgawan police station. The video is believed to be from Saturday night near Madhavgarh locality, where he was deployed. In the video, the accused cop is apparently seen abusing a truck driver, threatening him and speaking ill of his police station in-charge. Satna SP Ashutosh Gupta said, "Prima facie, on the basis of the video, his conduct was found to be violating disciplinary rules and so he was immediately placed under suspension."

A probe report is to be submitted within three days. Additional SP, Satna (Urban), Shivesh Singh Baghel, said, "CSP Satna has been assigned the probe. Further course of action will be decided on the basis of the findings." TNN

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES : TIRUPATI
(A University established by an Act of Andhra Pradesh State Legislature)
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

SVIMS is inviting e-Tenders for providing of Ambulance Services at SVIMS, Tirupati For more details, please visit the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in For further inquiries, contact phone numbers 0877-2287777 & 0877-2263231

DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME" OR "GENERAL DONATION TO THE DIRECTOR SVIMS ACCOUNT"

Roc.No. GM/283/AMBULANCE SERVICES/SVIMS/2025, Dt:16.06.2025 MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

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

RO No. 472 **e-Tender corrigendum Notice-01** Dated : 21/06/2025

In continuation to uploaded below e-tender for construction of Sirkari Bhyol Rupsiabagar HEP (3X40 MW), Munsyari, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, Technical corrigendum has been uploaded in the portal.
Tender No. : 01/DGM(Civil)/SBR/2025-26
Name of work : Construction of Coffer dam, Barrage, intake and its appurtenant works including river diversion works, Hydro mechanical works & associated project roads and bridges etc .
Bid submission closing date on portal: 14.07.2025 upto 16: 00 Hrs
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity" DGM (Civil), Munsyari

North Eastern Railway Auction Notice No. 04/2025-26

E-Auction Program for the Month of July-2025

All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

Proposed e-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
03, 15 & 25 July-2025	Dy. CMM/GSD/GKP	0551-2283558
09, 17 & 30 July-2025	Dy. CMM/GSD/IZN	0581-2518138
11, 18 & 31 July-2025	Sr. DMM/LJN	0522-2233113
04, 16 & 24 July-2025	Sr. DMM/BSB	0542-2224819
10, 21 & 29 July-2025	Sr. DMM/IZN	0581-2518104

Type of material : Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, Condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as Copper, Aluminum, Batteries etc. In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction will be continued on the subsequent days also. **Details of Auction Catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at www.ireps.gov.in. This Auction Programme is also available on North Eastern Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in.**
CPRO/S-21 Principal Chief Materials Manager/Gorakhpur
Never travel on roof and foot boards

GMR KAMALANGA ENERGY LIMITED
New Shakti Bhawan, New Udaan Bhawan Complex, Opp Terminal 3, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110 037
Tel: 011 46882200/5760/7603 | W: www.gmrgroup.in

TENDER NOTICE

GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited Invites Tender for 1X350 MW Extension project work of 3x350 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant based at Kamalanga, Dist:- Dhenkanal, State- Odisha.
Interested Bidder may submit offer for BTG-Design Engineering, Supply, And Supervision of Installation, Testing and Commissioning.
For other details, interested parties may refer our websites **www.gmrgroup.in/energy** or **www.gmrpui.com/energy**
GMR GROUP-KE/23/PREM ASSOCIATES

UTTAR PRADESH CRICKET ASSOCIATION
(Affiliated to BCCI Registered under Companies Act 1956)

Expression of Interest (EOI)
invited For sale of 13.0309 Hectare Land
Location: Village Murtaza Nagar, District Unnao,Uttar Pradesh
(Available on "As is where is" basis)

Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) invites Expression of Interest from eligible person/company/institution/firm for sale of 13.0309 hectares of freehold land. **Last Date: 12 July 2025**
Interested person / company / institution / firm can submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) by post/courier to the following address or
email upcaknp@gmail.com.
Contact: 0512-2218076/2223459

Hon'ble Secretary,
Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association,
19, Kamla Club, 84/31 Kalpi Road,
Kanpur - 208012, Uttar Pradesh
Website: www.upca.tv

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
गर्दनीबाग भवन प्रमंडल, भ0 नि0 वि0, पटना
शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक–2438 अनु0 दिनांक–24.05.2025 द्वारा ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–05/2025–26 (**Housekeeping Services for Minister Enclave, Type C, D & E officer's Residence Gardanibagh Minister Enclave, Gardanibagh, Patna for the year 2025-26)** जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या–004557 (भवन) 2025–26 है, जो दैनिक समाचार पत्र में दिनांक 29.05.2025 को प्रकाशित हुआ है, को तकनीकी कारणो से तिथि को संशोधित किया जाता है।
निविदा की विवरण:–

क्रमांक	विवरणी	पूर्व निर्धारित तिथि	पूर्व संशोधित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक–04.06.2025 से दिनांक– 25.06.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक–12.06.2025 से दिनांक– 03.07.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक–12.06.2025 से दिनांक– 08.07.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।
2	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक–26.06.2025 को 15:30 बजे।	दिनांक–04.07.2025 को 15:30 बजे	दिनांक–09.07.2025 को 15:30 बजे
3	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बीड अनुमोदन के बाद।	तकनीकी बीड अनुमोदन के बाद।	तकनीकी बीड अनुमोदन के बाद।

शेष सभी नियम एवं शर्ते यथावत रहेगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
गर्दनीबाग भवन प्रमंडल, पटना
PR. No. 006587 (BCD) 25-26

विहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।
टॉल फ्री नं– 15545 या 1800 345 6268

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

Letter No: 474 **e-Tender corrigendum Notice-14** Date: 21/06/2025

In continuation to uploaded below e-tender for construction of Sirkari Bhyol Rupsiabagar HEP (3X40 MW), Munsyari, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, Technical corrigendum has been uploaded in the portal.
Tender No. (Package-II): 02/DGM(Civil)/SBR/2024-25
Tender No. (Package-III): 03/DGM(Civil)/SBR/2024-25
Name of work (Pac-II): Construction of Feeder tunnel, Desander, HRT, SFT, surge shaft, valve house ,adits and its appurtenant works & associated project roads.
Name of work (Pac-III): Construction of underground Power House Building, Tail Race tunnel, Switch yard and other associated work of Power House site, Adits, MAT, vertical pressure shaft & steel liner including branch tunnel & associated project roads.
Bid submission closing date on portal: 14.07.2025 upto 16: 00 Hrs
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **"http://uktenders.gov.in".**
DGM (Civil), Munsyari
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

US Strikes On Iran Come At Fragile Moment For Global Economy

The outlook for the global economy now hinges on how forcefully Iran retaliates

- The rising geopolitical risks intersect with a potential escalation in tariffs in the coming weeks as **US President Donald Trump**'s pauses of his hefty so-called 'reciprocal' levies are due to expire
- The biggest economic impact from a prolonged conflict in West Asia would likely be felt through **surging oil prices**
- In the extreme scenario in which the **Strait of Hormuz is shut**, crude could soar past $130 per barrel, analysts said
- That could take US CPI near 4% in the summer, prompting the US Federal Reserve and other central banks to **push back the timing of future rate cuts**
- About a fifth of the world's daily oil supply goes through the Strait of Hormuz — most of it heads to Asia. Any disruptions to shipping through the strait would have a significant **impact on the liquefied natural gas market too**

Source: Bloomberg

India Cements to sell Industrial Chemicals to Mirai for ₹98cr

Chennai: India Cements is selling its subsidiary Industrial Chemicals and Monomers (ICML) to Mirai Sensing for Rs 97.7 crore. The company will enter into an agreement with Chennai-based Mirai Sensing and complete the sale within six months from the date of agreement, India Cements informed the stock exchange. India Cements board at its meeting, on Saturday, approved the sale of its entire equity investment held in ICML. After completion of the sale, ICML would cease to be its subsidiary, the regulatory filing added. TNN

Kazam raises $6.2mn to expand EV infra

Bengaluru: Electric mobility technology company Kazam has raised $6.2 million led by the IFC and participation from existing investors Vertex Ventures and Avaana Capital. The fresh capital will help Kazam expand its digital EV infrastructure offerings across markets. TNN

Musk's xAI lures debt investors to $5bn deal

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup xAI lured enough investors to its $5-billion debt deal by offering sweeter pricing on Friday. The offering presented a rare opportunity for credit investors to gain exposure to AI and Musk's business empire. BLOOMBERG

Bitcoin drops below $100k, Ether falls 10%

Bitcoin slid below $100,000 for the first time since May and Ether sank sharply after US strikes on Iran, triggering risk aversion in weekend trading in crypto markets. Bitcoin sank as much as 3.8% to $98,904, while Ether, the second-largest token, fell as much as 10%. BLOOMBERG

figure it out

90.6%

is the share of imports in India's crude oil needs as of May

Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

Oil, inflation not immediate worries

Iran Turmoil: Govt Eyes On Strait Of Hormuz Situation, Key To Crude Supply

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt is drawing comfort from its diversified oil purchases but is keeping close tabs on the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, which accounts for nearly a fifth of global oil consumption, in the wake of the US attack on Iran.

The Strait — which serves as the primary export route for Persian Gulf producers such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iraq — is crucial not just for crude supply — but also cargo headed to West Asian markets. Amid the threat of disruption by Iran, govt sources indicated that other routes will be explored.

With Brent spiking to $90 a barrel, the margin of the oil companies selling petrol and diesel will get eroded but is unlikely to result in changes in pump prices due to the recent excise duty related changes. Although Opec may impact the overall calculations, India is estimated to have **imported more oil from Russia this month than the combined quantity of shipments from West Asia.** India's strengthening of ties with Russia on crude purchases post-Ukraine conflict are expected to come to its aid to ensure that there is no disruption, sources said.

Beyond oil, there may be concerns on gas as large quantities come from the Gulf region. Besides, the price of piped cooking gas and CNG are linked to these and may impact the overall cost dynamics for industry too.

Given that retail inflation in May had moderated to an over six-year low of 2.8%, price increase is not an immediate worry, but its future trajectory will weigh on policymakers, apart from adding to the already high levels of geo-political uncertainty.

For trade, war risk insurance is seen to be a challenge, including its availability and pricing. "Overall demand will take a hit. There is massive uncertainty," said Fieo director general Ajay Sahai.

"Simultaneously, the situation in nearby Red Sea is deteriorating. Following Israeli airstrikes on Houthi forces on June 14–15, tensions have escalated, placing India's westbound exports at fresh risk. Nearly 30% of India's exports to Europe, North Africa, and US East Coast transit through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is now increasingly vulnerable. If security conditions force shipping to reroute via the Cape of Good Hope, delivery times could increase by up to two weeks, sharply raising costs for Indian exporters," added Ajay Srivastava of GTRI, a trade research body.

TO EXPLORE OTHER ROUTES

- Govt will explore other routes for crude supply, amid threat of disruption in Strait of Hormuz, say sources
- With Brent price spiking, margin of oil companies will get eroded
- But, pump prices are unlikely to change due to recent excise duty related changes
- With retail inflation moderating to an over six-year low of 2.8%, price increase is not an immediate worry
- For trade, war risk insurance is a challenge, including its availability and pricing

SBI
The banker to every Indian

TIMELESS TREASURES OF SBI

SBI is the only bank in India to have its own 'Payment Aggregator Services' (SBIePay), which was launched in March 2014. Unlike other banks, which rely on the services of private aggregators, SBI has an in-house aggregator, which, when coupled with SBI's own PG services, gives SBI security and a distinct cost advantage over other aggregators and banks.

SBI 75th SAAT DASHAK DESH KE SAATH

Continuing 219 years of legacy

D-St braces for 'risk-off' selloff

Investors On Edge: Oil & Gold May Surge, Pain For Rupee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Investors on the edge after an escalation in the West Asia conflict with most Dalal Street players expecting the sensex to open lower on Monday. They also expect crude oil prices to spike, which in turn would put pressure on the rupee.

On Sunday, after the US bombed three nuclear sites in Iran and the latter resolved to close the Strait of Hormuz through which about 20% of the world's crude oil and natural gas pass, market players said oil prices could spike soon.

On Friday, as Dalal Street investors ignored the geopolitical tensions between Iran and Israel, the sensex recorded a four-digit points gain to close at 82,408 points. And Nifty on the NSE gained 319 points to close at 25,112 points.

Globally, Brent was trading at above the $77/barrel level while WTI crude was around the $75 level. Both were trading at near their four-month high levels.

Despite the global headwinds, India's economic fundamentals on the other hand could act as a balancing act to those negative factors, Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund MD Nilesh Shah said.

"Indian equity and rates market is like a man having average temperature with one leg in cold water and the other in hot water. Domestic factors support current valuation for long term investors expecting moderate returns. (However) global factors from (the US president Donald) Trump's policies to oil price/supply are boiling hot," he said.

Shah said that investors need to keep a watch on the availability of oil as well as the price. "We have enough forex reserves to manage higher oil prices in double digits. (However) oil prices crossing triple digit or restricted supply will have an adverse impact on the market." Shah added that investors should use any market correction as an opportunity to accumulate while traders should remain on a cautious mode.

The geopolitical uncertainty could also push up prices of gold as investors move to 'risk off' mode, meaning they sell risky assets like equities and move to haven assets like gold and govt bonds, market players said. A section of the market players believes that in case Iran doesn't react aggressively to the US's move to bomb its three nuclear sites, the markets may soon recover after a negative opening in Monday's early trade.

One trader even pointed out that TA 35, the main stock market benchmark in Israel, was up more than 1% in Sunday's trading session, indicating investors in Israel had ignored the geopolitical tensions.

SAFETY FIRST

- Dalal Street players expect **crude oil prices** to spike, which would put pressure on the **rupee**
- **Oil crossing $100** per barrel or restricted supply will have an adverse impact on markets

What next? India's **economic fundamentals may act as a counterbalance** act to negative geopolitical factors

Israeli stocks hit record high

Israeli stocks hit record highs on Sunday as investors believe the US strikes would prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons anytime soon. The broader Tel Aviv 125 index closed 1.8% higher, while the blue-chip TA-35 gained 1.5%. REUTERS

Why IPO-ready startups seek 'confidential' route

Biz Metrics Remain Hidden From Rivals | Can Test Market Appetite, Tweak Timing

Asmita Dey & Partha Sinha | TNN

Mumbai: Startups preparing to go public are increasingly opting for the confidential IPO filing route.

After Swiggy's $1.4-billion IPO last year, filed through the confidential mode, sailed through, a clutch of firms including PhysicsWallah, Groww, Boat, and Shiprocket have taken this route. Lenskart and Meesho are also headed this way, sources said. While traditional companies such as Vishal Mega Mart have opted for this mode, and recently, Tata Capital chose to go confidential, the trend is picking up among startups that operate in a competitive market.

For one, a confidential filing allows startups to keep their business metrics and performance away from the public eye. It also gives them the leeway to test the market appetite and accordingly decide on the IPO timing. Startups that are still firming up their path to profitability find this approach to be more prudent, investment bankers said.

"The trend has been picked up by startups which are in very competitive businesses as it helps them to shield public disclosure of their KPIs and other sensitive business information like clients and vendors. This could also be useful in cases where issuers have a slightly longer time frame in mind for IPOs, yet want to get the regulatory clearance as Sebi observations are valid for an 18-month period in this route," Anurag Byas, director, equity markets solutions at Rothschild & Co, told **TOI**.

The first batch of big startup IPOs was seen in 2021 when, fuelled by the pandemic-led surge in appetite for digital services, companies rushed to the markets to capitalise on consumer sentiment. Sebi introduced the confidential filing route in 2022.

"Companies facing intense market competition prefer shorter windows for narrative battles in the public square. Less time spent on information wars is better for companies focused on frenetic growth and execution," said an executive at an IPO-bound startup which took the confidential route on condition of anonymity.

Zepto, PhonePe, Pine Labs, and Lenskart are among a spate of startups that are eyeing a public listing. In a volatile market, the option of confidential filing becomes more favoured. "With global rate cycles and geopolitical risks keeping equity markets volatile, startups prefer to keep their listing ambitions discreet. This route allows them to stay prepared, monitor the sentiment, and hit the market quickly when windows open up," said Prakash Bulusu, joint CEO at IIFL Capital.

The practice of confidential filing is in place in developed jurisdictions, and the adoption in India gives issuers greater flexibility, said Kailash Soni, head of India equity capital markets at Goldman Sachs.

"Companies are choosing to realign their strategies and focus on investor marketing after receiving Sebi's approval," said Gaurav Sood, MD & head, equity capital markets at Avendus Capital.

This has helped issuers to consult with Sebi for views on regulatory issues and test waters from a valuation perspective, added Arka Mookerjee, partner at JSA.

FROM SWIGGY TO BOAT

- After **Swiggy**'s $1.4bn IPO, filed via the confidential mode, sailed through, cos like **PhysicsWallah**, **Groww**, **Boat**, and **Shiprocket** opted for this route
- **Lenskart** & **Meesho** are said to be headed that way. The trend is picking up among startups that operate in a competitive and volatile market
- Startups that are still firming up their **path to profitability** find this approach to be more prudent, investment bankers said
- Sebi introduced the confidential filing route in **2022**

Govt doesn't want to agree to sub-par US trade deal

▶ From P 1

Govt does not want to agree to a sub-par deal that will open the doors to a market with 140 crore consumers as well as crores of farmers, multiple sources said. For the Americans, a deal without farm produce is not an option.

"We can't expose our agricultural sector to imports from large American farms. It is not ready yet," a source told **TOI**. Govt was earlier looking at the option of allowing lower duty imports of certain quantities. While nuts and other products are not so much of a concern, there is already some outcry over apples.

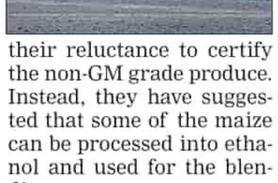
The US is keen to push its maize and soya into Indian markets, most of which are genetically modified and are not allowed under Indian regulations. The Americans have indicated their reluctance to certify the non-GM grade produce. Instead, they have suggested that some of the maize can be processed into ethanol and used for the blending programme — something that's not feasible considering that the limits on blending have already been reached.

Similarly, in the case of soybean, the suggestion has been to process it into oil, but that may have to be done locally, allowing GM produce to hit Indian shores.

Besides, the US is keen on several of its other products such as automobiles being allowed to be imported at low duty.

Higher duties, if Trump decides to end the reciprocal tariff suspension on July 9, is something that will make life tough for Indian industry in the largest export destination. Although trade deals with the UK and possibly with the European Union and a few other countries will open some other markets, exporters will have to deal with choppiness in the months ahead, something that is acknowledged in govt too.

The US is keen to push its maize and soya into Indian markets, most of which are genetically modified and are not allowed under Indian regulations. The Americans have indicated their reluctance to certify the non-GM grade produce



Oil supply chain stable, says minister

Sanjay.Dutta@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's oil supply chain remains stable as a result of diversification in the last few years, oil minister Hardeep Puri said on Sunday..

"...We have diversified our supplies in the past few years and a large volume of our supplies do not come through the Strait of Hormuz now," he said in a post on X.

Data from Kpler showed Indian refiners pivoting away from West Asia since outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Iran stoked fears of Hormuz closure. In June, for example, oil imports from Russia and the US outpaced combined volumes of from traditional West Asia suppliers like Iraq and Saudi Arabia. India imports oil from 13 countries. India does not buy any oil from Iran. Hormuz is crucial for India as 40% of oil imports still passes through this waterway between Iran and Oman.

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

How To Earn More Using Overnight & Liquid Funds

With more banks expected to lower interest rates on savings accounts following another lender's example, investors have a strong reason to park idle cash in overnight or liquid funds.

Why Park Money In Overnight & Liquid Funds?

The central bank has cut repo rates by 100 basis points this calendar year. This has led to a large public sector bank making the first move and reducing its savings bank interest to 2.5%. Other banks are expected to follow soon. Compared to this, overnight and liquid funds could help investors earn 5-5.5%.

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at https://scores.sebi.gov.in

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

How Can Investors Park Surplus Money?

Many investors let idle money lie in their savings bank account, which earns less. Financial planners feel investors could keep a small amount of essential money in their savings account for immediate needs or emergencies, and keep the rest in a liquid or overnight fund. They should keep in mind that money kept in a savings bank can be withdrawn without any delay, while money in a liquid or overnight fund will come back to them on the next working day.

Where Do Overnight & Liquid Funds Invest?

Overnight funds have a portfolio that invests in securities that mature in a single day, while liquid funds invest in debt and money market securities that mature within 91 days. The portfolio largely consists of short-term instruments like treasury bills and government securities. These schemes carry the lowest risk and minimum volatility in the category of mutual funds.

Timeframe & Minimum Amount Needed

Financial planners suggest investors should consider overnight funds if they have a timeframe of one day to a week, while they can use liquid funds if they have 7 days to 3 months. Most funds accept amounts as low as ₹500 as a lumpsum investment.

Returns One Can Expect

According to data from Value Research, over the last one year, the liquid fund category has given an average return of 6.92%, while overnight funds have returned 6.33%.

How Are These Funds Taxed?

Once these units are redeemed, the income earned is taxed as per the investor's tax slab.

— PRASHANT MAHESH

Indian cos chart magnet supply chain plans

Pankaj.Doval@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As Indian auto industry faces a magnet supply crunch, following restrictions placed by China, a group of companies, including some homegrown advanced material entities, have come forward to build in-house supply chains.

The companies have made presentations to govt, including the heavy industries ministry, and assured building of supplies within India to reduce dependence on China. "The companies include Midwest Advanced Materials, Entellus Industries, and public sector Indian Rare Earths (IREL)," sources have told **TOI**.

The sources said that heavy industries secretary Kamran Rizvi has also taken presentations from companies as govt develops strategies for indigenous capabilities in magnet production.

"Midwest Advanced Materials made a presentation about their plans to produce rare earth magnets in India with a capacity of 500 tonnes per annum. They forecast that by end of 2026, they will be able to produce custom-made rare earth magnets for the industry," one of the sources said.

Entellus, a UK-headquartered company with primary operations in India, also made a presentation to govt, detailing their plans to produce rare earth magnets. "They have told officials that their plant is ready to produce the magnetic powder but will still take some time to produce industry-grade magnets," the source said.

IREL, which was among the last to make its presentation, informed govt that once production begins, they will be able to match China's rates. "However, the company said that ore present in Indian geography is 100 times less than in China, the US, and Australia," the source said.

Companies also told govt that magnet production in India was shut down over the past two decades due to proliferation of cheaper Chinese supplies. "The industry members requested govt to support companies in setting up magnet production by providing incentives and monetary benefits," the source said.

Secretary Rizvi told the companies to make "realistic statements about magnet production" as potential customers in the auto sector will suffer due to incorrect assessments. The auto industry has also requested potential local producers to provide a firm timeline on supplies, if possible, emphasising that their production line depends on quick procurement.

The situation for the auto industry has deteriorated over the past few months as no Indian auto component or vehicle company has managed to get approval from the Chinese govt for procuring rare earth magnets. Also, there has been "no clarity as yet" on any timeline for a confirmed meeting with representatives of Chinese govt, despite intervention of Indian officials.

The applications for sourcing magnets have been filed mainly by parts manufacturers who provide fully-built sophisticated component assemblies such as speedometers, electric motors, e-axles, electric water pumps, automatic transmission kits, speakers, sensors, and ignition coils (used in engines).

The request for a meeting with Chinese representatives is being pursued not just by industry bodies of component makers (Auto Component Manufacturers Association) and vehicle manufacturers (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers), but also facilitated by officials in ministries.

LOOKING BEYOND CHINA

- Some companies, including Midwest Advanced Materials, Entellus Industries, and public sector Indian Rare Earths, have made presentations to govt and assured to create magnet supply within India to cut dependence on China
- Midwest Advanced Materials said by 2026-end, it will be able to produce custom-made rare earth magnets for the industry
- Entellus said its plant is ready to produce magnetic powder but will take some time to produce industry-grade magnets
- Indian Rare Earths informed govt that once production begins, they will be able to match China's rates
- Companies were told to make "realistic statements about magnet production" as incorrect assessments will hit potential customers in the auto sector

CONTRAPUNTO

A world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all of us

– MARGARET THATCHER

BOMBASTIC

What really are the positives, even for US, after it hit Iran? The possible negatives are plenty, though

Fordow is gone, Trump posted on Truth Social early on Sunday, even before experts had time to analyse the aftermath of the raid. In his telling, "Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated." If that's true, Israel is the lone, undisputed nuclear power in West Asia now, and the war must stop. For, eradicating Iran's bomb-making infra was the stated aim of Israel's June 13 strikes. Trump has also said, "Our objective was the destruction of Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity."

But you can't hold Trump to his word. As late as June 10, he said he would like to avoid a conflict. Yet, on June 13, after Israel's airstrikes, he admitted: "We knew everything." And on Saturday, when he lamented he wouldn't get a peace Nobel, "no matter what I do", his fleet of B-2 bombers was already on its way to hit nuclear facilities at Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz.

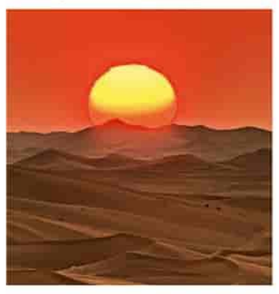
Trump, the consummate dealmaker, perhaps reckons that a humbled Iran will sue for peace. But this isn't business. Here's a regime fighting with its back to the wall. Isolated and sanctioned for 46 years, it derives legitimacy from strength, or a semblance of it. It cannot cower before Trump's "if peace does not come quickly" threat. And Iran has not run out of moves yet. Although it shouldn't, it can attack military bases in the region that house 40,000 US troops. Iran can also inflict pain globally – as it threatened on Sunday – by shutting off Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil passes. So, wittingly or otherwise, Trump has walked America and his MAGA voters into another West Asia swamp after vowing not to do so.

For what? As experts point out, Iran – world's number one state sponsor of terror, in Trump's words – didn't have planes or missiles to hit America. US friends in the neighbourhood – Oman, Qatar, Iraq – disapprove of the strikes. Even the Saudis, for the second time in 10 days, have "condemned and denounced the violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran". Whose war is Trump fighting then, and what will it achieve, besides steeling Iran's resolve to build its nuclear deterrent, like N Korea? Each GBU-57 that Trump's B-2s dropped shook the international order on Sunday. Global treaties like NPT, and principles of engagement are under a cloud now. And with Pakistan in Trump's embrace, India should be very watchful.

Coding For The End

UK's assisted dying bill is a momentous law. The conversation must start in India

Third time lucky. After rejecting versions of the bill in 1997 and 2015, UK lower house voted for a law to allow assisted dying in England and Wales. This means patients terminally ill, as defined in law, and likely to die within six months, can apply for an exit. The legislation will have to be set in motion within four years (2029). If delayed in the Lords – it's highly contested and the lower house win was by just 23 votes – the bill will lapse. It may not be done and dusted yet, but a historic social change has begun. Exhaustive debates and tweaks to the bill included dropping provision of a judge having to sign off on the decision. Importantly, no other person is 'obliged' to take part. Patients will have to administer the drugs, whatever is decided, themselves, so it's a first step to active euthanasia. Reportedly, UK govt estimates there may be 4,000 such patients.



To legislate on assisted dying is never a straight road in any country. Fears and concerns are real that vulnerable, disabled and older people risk being coerced to use the law, to reduce the financial and care burden on the family. UK bill's penalty for coercion is a 15-year jail. While such fears have been voiced to reject assisted dying, the Indian reality is that terminally ill people and families are often left to fend for themselves as a result of lack of access to treatment and/or unaffordability of care. At the privileged end of affordability/access, there is little policy or regulations to limit life-sustaining interventions inappropriate at end-of-life stage. The Supreme Court upheld advanced directives, the right to refuse treatment: passive euthanasia. UK's bill is an opportunity to take further the conversation around a 360-degree end-of-life care that includes palliative care and covers assisted dying for the terminally ill.

Capt America's new coach

Bibi's an edgy chap who's rewriting the playbook: Now every duck by a player is a coded attack signal

Anjana Menon

America has just been made great again. It's thrown out the dusty constitution, the will of its simple hardworking people, and outsourced the brain of its executive. Its leadership no longer goes by the book.

They go by Coach Bibi. No, not the fair-playing, rulebook-led grey-haired bloke you imagine. But an edgy chap who thinks every duck by a player is a coded attack signal.

Bibi sees a threat everywhere – the kind that only he can spot. Limited edition Bibi-goggles, mostly trained on the barbecue fires in people's back yards, saw "most dangerous weapons" being cobbled together. Bibi's words, not mine.

The International Atomic Energy Agency brought its own binos to double-check. They faithfully reported it was meat, not plutonium – no heavy water in the mocktail mix. It wrote a memo too. But the voice of Coach Bibi was too loud, too repetitive. One has to, after all, listen to the force of civilisation.

Enter Donald, uhh…Captain America to the world, who was really just a VIP bystander in the match in which Bibi was lead coach.

Perfect opportunity, coach! Rope him in before your boys tire out, they haven't had a break for months now. Make Donald think Team America is playing in a match between Team Israel and Team Iran – a game America isn't even in. Confuse him, let him lend you his boys so you can end the match before the coin toss.

So the coach muddies the playbook, which is easy to do. He starts with a few pre-game videos. Grainy stuff, with a bit of AI generated magic in which a bunch of unknowns are supposedly sloganeering "Death to America", and some rookies are tripping and falling. A few knees bruised and so on; you know how it is when boys play rough.

"They think they can play rough?" says Captain America, "Oh boy, I can play rougher."

"Strike the barbecue pits to end the game," whispers the coach. "No food, no energy, no game."

And that's how we have all ended up watching a fixed match – big, beautiful, magnificent and utterly avoidable. Game on.

Iran may still negotiate with US, taking a long view, while skirmishing with Israel. Even if its nuclear infra is damaged, its knowhow isn't. But if the conflict spreads, welfare of 9mn Indians in the region will be New Delhi's first concern

FORDOWARD THINKING

Rakesh Sood

When Israel launched surprise strikes on Iran on June 13, Netanyahu knew he was taking a calculated gamble. But the stakes were high. If he succeeded in taking out the nuclear and missile threats that he called "existential", his political future would be secure but to achieve that, he had to bring US into the war. Only US had the bunker buster bombs (GBU-57) and the B-2 heavy bombers, necessary to take out Fordow, the underground enrichment facility near Qom.

After urging Iran to come back to the negotiating table, on June 19, Trump announced that he was "giving Iran a period of time – two weeks would be the maximum". Simultaneously, he also asked for military options to be prepared. Two US aircraft carrier task forces, USS Nimitz and USS Gerald Ford, were deployed to the region, adding another 150 fighter aircraft, to bolster the USS Carl Vinson; B-2 bombers were flying into Diego Garcia.

Trump knew that his MAGA support base was opposed to US getting involved in a war in West Asia. He too was eager to do a deal with Iran but had bought into Netanyahu's line that some amount of military pressure would help in persuading Iran to be more reasonable.

Finally, Netanyahu's gamble paid off. In the early hours of June 22, three B-2 bombers successfully dropped two GBU-57 bombs each at Fordow and US submarines fired at least 30 Tomahawk missiles at the nuclear facilities at Natanz and Isfahan. Announcing the destruction of the nuclear sites, Trump added with a characteristic flourish, "NOW IS THE TIME FOR PEACE." A one-off strike by US that leads to negotiations with a chastened Iran may yet be the best outcome for Trump.

Iran retaliated by targeting Tel Aviv and Haifa with two waves of rocket strikes. However, the question is whether Iran will now accept Trump's invitation to resume talks or escalate by hitting US assets and bases in the region.

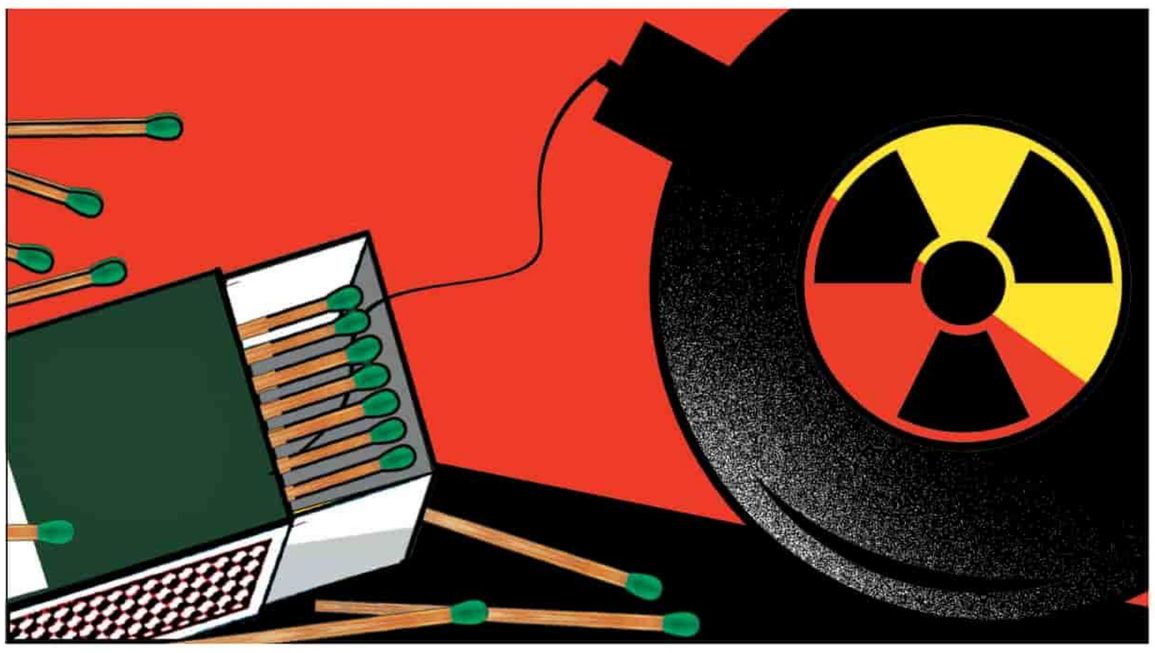
Iran's leadership can be pragmatic. It is one thing to continue the missile and drone exchanges with Israel for another week but a pragmatic Iranian leadership would not want to take on US directly. It may prefer to save the Islamic regime by accepting talks with US and getting the Israelis off their backs.

There are indications that US had informed Iran in advance about the impending strikes so that casualties could be minimised. Unlike Israel that would like to see the end of the theocratic regime even if there is no plan for a day after and it leads to wider regional instability, US will be cautious as will its allies, particularly Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar, and all three carry influence in the Trump White House.

The Islamic revolution in Iran was a year old when Iraq attacked in 1980. The war lasted eight years causing heavy losses, over half a million dead. Eventually, to save the regime, Ayatollah Khomeini accepted a UN-brokered ceasefire in 1988. Iraq's blatant use of chemical weapons was largely ignored by Western countries and Soviet Union was preoccupied in trying to manage an exit from the quagmire of Afghanistan.

It is during this period that Iranian leaders began to consider the need for a nuclear deterrent, though as a party to NPT, it had forsworn the development of nuclear weapons and had accepted full-scope-safeguards by IAEA. This followed India's and Pakistan's different nuclear paths. Neither of the two had joined NPT.

Another example was North Korea; it joined NPT in 1985 and announced its intention of quitting in 1993 leading to a flurry of negotiations. In 1994, it put its withdrawal notice on hold as it concluded a Framework Agreement with the Clinton administration taking the lead. However, after President George Bush included it in his "axis of evil" speech, it withdrew from NPT in 2002 and carried out its first test in 2006. Iran's conclusion was to remain within NPT and develop capabilities that would lead it to becoming a threshold state, without crossing the red line.



With the losses it has incurred, both material and human, Iran will have to review its strategy but it will need breathing room for it, only possible by concluding a deal with Trump. President Pezeshkian is considered a 'moderate' but enjoys the support of the Supreme Leader and foreign minister Abbas Araghchi is a consummate nuclear negotiator who was also involved with JCPOA negotiations.

As a negotiating tactic, the Iranian Majlis could pass a resolution recommending withdrawal from NPT. As a civilisational state, Iran understands the virtues of patience, rooted in the confidence of its longevity.

For other countries pondering over their nuclear security, the writing on the wall is clear. Deterring a nuclear adversary is not going to be possible with threshold status; it needs a nuclear deterrent. Unlike in the 1970s and 1980s when India claimed to safeguard its 'nuclear option', today, threshold status is a dangerous place to be in.

Countries that enjoy US's extended nuclear umbrella will also undertake a rethink. Meanwhile, China will be pleased at the prospects of US getting involved in West Asia, whether in negotiations or in bombings.

The writer served as PM's Special Envoy for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Syed Akbaruddin

For two decades every United States administration said it might someday bomb Iran's enrichment plants. On Saturday night that 'someday' arrived. B-2 stealth bombers dropped 30,000-pound 'bunker buster' bombs while submarines and aircraft launched Tomahawks at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan, the three most consequential nodes in Iran's IAEA monitored nuclear network.

Trump declared that "Fordow is gone", and that Tehran must "agree to end this war". The flourish was vintage Trump – muscular and headline grabbing. But behind the applause lines lies a strategic gamble whose downsides may echo far beyond Qom.

Trump crossed a threshold earlier presidents tiptoed around, turning an Israel-Iran slugfest into a US-Iran confrontation. He insists the raid was a 'one-off', intended to cripple enrichment. Although neither US nor Israel has produced evidence that Iran was on the brink of building a bomb, the Pentagon's quick look report claims the strikes set the programme back by years at minimal cost.

Physics, however, counsels humility. Centrifuges are hardware while enrichment expertise is software lodged in scientists' heads. Bombs can destroy cylinders but not knowledge. Hardliners in Tehran will now argue that only a nuclear weapon can deter the next bunker buster. Did the raid delay a bomb or make it inevitable?

Iran accused US of a grave violation of the UN Charter, NPT and international law and vowed that it will not go unanswered. The easiest escalation is to menace the Strait of Hormuz through which about a fifth of global oil passes every day. Next may come missile salvos on Gulf energy infra or on US installations, and then the possible activation of proxies from Lebanon to Yemen.

With Iran's parliament reportedly approving the closure of the strait, Brent could easily move past $100 a barrel. Oxford Economics projects $130 if flows are disrupted, a level that would push world inflation back toward 6%. Traders are already paying a war premium in after-hours quotes.

Jerusalem meanwhile is jubilant. Netanyahu called the strike a bold decision. Strategically Israel has shifted part of the fight and the risk to Washington. If Iran retaliates, Americans rather than Israelis will calibrate the counterpunch. That is deterrence by entanglement in the short run. Over time it hands Iran a larger menu of US targets and risks dragging America into a war it does not want.

Russia immediately cited the bombing as proof of US recklessness while Beijing called it a serious violation of international norms. Any condemning move at the Security Council will face a US veto. However, in the General Assembly the Global South is expected to side with Iran in significant numbers.

For India the strike lands like a thunderclap at a cricket match. New Delhi has tried to balance a growing partnership with Washington, deep defence ties with Israel and consequential arrangements with Tehran, from the Chabahar port to International North-South Transit Corridor and once-robust crude imports. That balancing act has lately been criticised by the main opposition party.

- The immediate anxiety is economic. The Gulf supplies 54% of India's oil, generates about 40% of its remittances and accounts for more than $170bn in two-way trade. India imports more than 80% of its crude; every ten dollar rise in Brent adds about one billion dollars a month to the import bill and pressures the rupee. Consumer inflation just slipped below 5%; a Hormuz scare could undo that gain and complicate RBI's plan to cut rates. GOI is already moving to secure supplies, eyeing the strategic petroleum reserve and talking to several producers to ensure continuity.
- A second priority is the safety of nearly nine million Indians working in the region. Evacuation from Iran and Israel is underway. Operation Sankalp ships in the region can be helpful, if required.

Diplomatically India has open channels with Washington, Tehran and Jerusalem, but leverage is thin while missiles fly. Still New Delhi may be able to offer discreet messages that help each side edge away from the brink, just like back-channel efforts by Qatar and Muscat. Meanwhile others such as Saudi Arabia and UAE are actively counselling restraint.

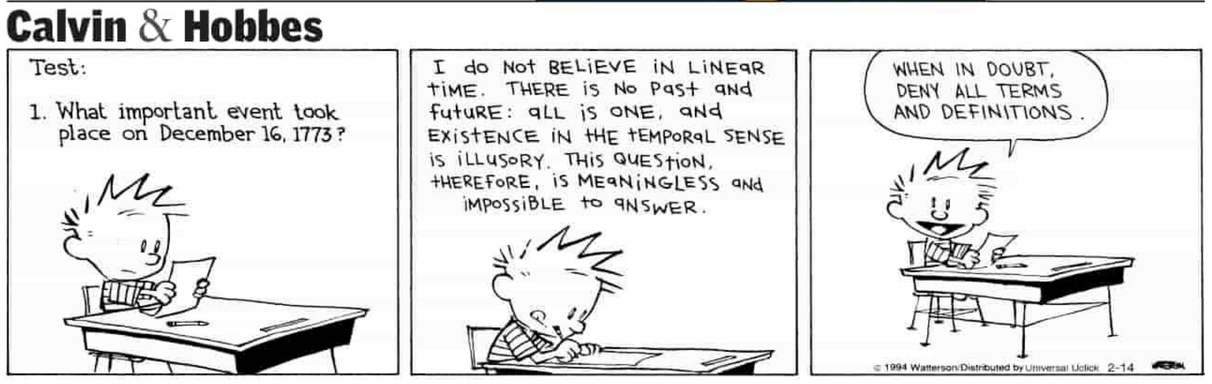
The key actors need face-saving options. That also means Washington spelling out what de-escalation looks like. Would it accept enrichment capped below weapons grade? Does it envisage returning to the JCPOA framework with phased sanctions relief? Absent clarity Tehran will read 'time for peace' as code for surrender.

In US, supporters have praised decisive action; critics have warned that the President had bypassed Congress and demanded a War Powers vote. Trump's boast that the mission was historic and limited is politically smart yet strategically ambiguous. If Iran swallows the blow and returns to talks the White House can claim victory. If Tehran retaliates Washington can strike again and say it had no choice. Either way the attack chips away at the nonproliferation regime and bets that humiliation will not ignite a wider war.

The US entry into another West Asian conflict recalls 1991 and 2003, but this round involves nuclear facilities, peer power pushback and an energy hungry Global South. Fordow's tunnels may indeed be rubble, yet geopolitics rarely collapses neatly. US strikes may be tactically brilliant. Strategically they kick a radioactive can down a much steeper road. That road needs to be kept from becoming a cratered battlefield. The test is whether diplomacy can move faster than the bunker busters.

The writer is former permanent representative of India to UN and served as an international civil servant at IAEA

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured...in India only.

Mark Twain

The Spirit Of India: Song Of A Billion Souls

Harsh Goenka

I am the rhythm of the dhol and the whisper of the veena,
I am the smile in Holi's colour,
And the silence in your Diwali prayer,
And bow with folded hands at Ajmer Sharif.

I beat the drums in a tribal dance in Bastar,
And recite verses from the Vedas under banyan trees,
And fly kites across the sky on Makar Sankranti.
I serve langar in golden bowls at Amritsar,
And offer 'roze ka iftar' to my brother next door.

I am the cheer of children in Shillong's monsoon,
I sow rice in the fields of Tamil Nadu,
I herd yaks in Arunachal…
And fish in the deltas of Bengal.

I dance Garba all night in Ahmedabad's courtyards.
And whisper lullabies on a houseboat in Dal Lake.
I chant on the ghats of Varanasi,
And meditate in the caves of Ellora.

THE SPEAKING TREE

I wear the lungi, the lehenga, the sherwani, the sari,
I am the tilak, the chandan, the rudraksha and the rosary.
I write in Marathi, think in Bengali, sing in Kannada,
And dream in all the tongues of my land.

I am the army fighter's cry in the borders.
The farmer's hope in Vidarbha.
I build software in Bengaluru,
And craft poetry in Kolkata cafés.

I race camels in Rajasthan's sands.

I am not one.
I am many.
I am contradiction and harmony.
I am the one who prays, and the one who protests.
I am youth, I am age.
I am ancient, and I am tomorrow.

I walk through every temple gate and every church aisle,
Every dargah door and gurdwara corridor.
I am welcomed everywhere with 'aadaab', 'pranam', 'vanakkam' and 'namaste'.

I am the spirit of India.

CLOSE WATCH

Researchers in China have made a contact lens that gives people infrared vision — even with their eyes closed. The lens is infused with nanoparticles that convert near-infrared light into shorter wavelength light humans can see

SCIENCE OF THE TIMES

QUICK QUIZ

Earth's rotation is gradually slowing down. What long-term effect is this having on our planet's days?

Clue: It's only milliseconds per century — but adds up over eons.

Send your answers to **scienceofthetimes@timesofindia.com**

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

Even If She Can't Smell You, She'll Still Get You

A fumigation drive in Mumbai

While the dengue mosquito is a smarter predator than previously thought — it can detect you with its legs, too — Indian scientists have detected that a stealthy group of immune cells could be the unsung heroes in fighting the infection

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

It's tough to outsmart a mosquito out for your blood. Here's some consolation. The buzzing insect outsmarts even supersmart scientists.

"Aedes aegypti", the mosquito behind dengue, Zika, and yellow fever, hunts down its prey — humans — primarily by its sense of smell. So, when researchers from the Rockefeller University stripped Aedes aegypti of its primary olfactory gene, Orco — knocking out their sense of smell — they reckoned the female mosquito will lose her hunting instinct. But she was smarter than they were.

As a new study published in Science Advances details, when deprived of their olfactory power, Aedes use their ability to sense body heat. Typically, it's the mosquito's antennae that detects odours and heat. But Orco mutants deploy their forelegs to detect human skin temperature.

Researchers traced this sensory compensation to a heat-sensitive receptor called "Ir140". Once the sense of smell was gone, the receptor's power increased. Scientists call this upregulation.

This kind of cross-modal compensation, where one sensory system ramps up when another fails, happens in humans too. It's why some visually impaired people develop a heightened sense of hearing. That the same compensation happens in mosquitoes, shows how evolution has fine-tuned them into single-minded hunters. It's only when Orco and Ir140 are knocked out — a complicated process — that Aedes lose their ability to detect heat.

Humans aren't entirely helpless prey, though. A group of immune cells, called T cells, battles mosquito-borne diseases like dengue. But that story has got more interesting.

In a new study led by India's National Institute of Immunology (NII), AIIMS-Delhi, and global collaborators, scientists have identified a powerful subset of immune cells — CD4+ T cells — that help drive the body's antibody response during dengue infection.

This T cell subgroup, christened "PD-1+CXCR5–CD4+ T cells", works by boosting the activity of B cells, which produce antibodies. Scientists say this is done via a pathway that involves a signaling molecule, called IL-21.

Unlike conventional follicular helper T cells that typically work inside germinal centres, these 'peripheral helper' cells operate outside — extrafollicular niches — and may even travel to inflamed tissues.

This discovery reframes part of the immunological story of dengue. For years, scientists have known that antibodies play a curious double role — they can protect, but also potentially worsen the disease, particularly in people with a history of prior dengue infection. This phenomenon, called antibody-dependent enhancement, means not all antibody activity is beneficial.

The new study now pinpoints a cell type that could be fuelling the surge of antibodies seen in acute and severe dengue. Single-cell analyses revealed that these PD-1+ helper T cells aren't a monolith — they split into IL-21-producing 'helpers' and cytotoxic variants. Some may stick around as memory cells, forming part of our longer-term immune memory against dengue. Whether they confer protection or promote risk in future infections, however, remains to be fully understood.

If and when they are fully understood, scientists hope that accurately identified helper cells can become the basis of a smart vaccine.

Till then, we should just admit that mosquitoes will usually outsmart us.

Swarnadip Ghosh, a researcher from National Centre for Biological Science (NCBS) in Bengaluru, summed up all the science in a poem:

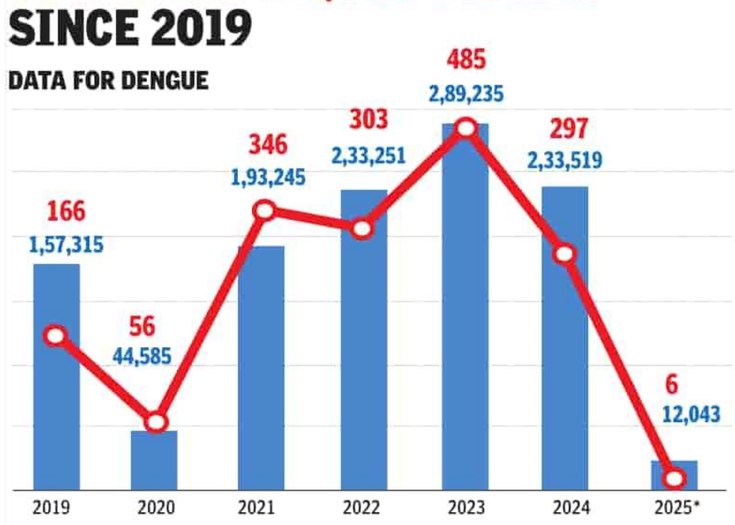
"When scent fades out,
the mozzie's not beat,
She hunts you down by
the stink of your feet.
No nose? No problem —
she's got legs that feel heat,
And still thinks your
blood is a five-star treat."

THRIVING ON A WARMING PLANET

- **Aedes aegypti** is the mosquito that spreads dengue
- Its name means 'Hateful Egypt' in Greek
- Apart from dengue, it also spreads yellow fever and chikungunya
- It can be recognised by black and white markings on its legs, lyre-like marking on thorax
- Males live off fruits. Females bite for blood, needed to mature her eggs
- They have a lifespan of two to four weeks
- Eggs can be viable for over a year in a dry state, which allows mosquitoes to re-emerge after a cold winter or dry spell
- It originated in Africa and spread to the Americas through slave trade
- As the world's climate becomes warmer, Aedes aegypti will spread to more areas, scientists fear

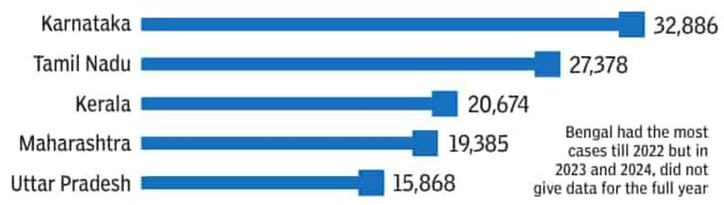
9.3L CASES & 1,659 DEATHS SINCE 2019

DATA FOR DENGUE



Source: DGHS | *Provisional, Up to March 31

STATES WITH HIGHEST DENGUE CASES (2024)



Bengal had the most cases till 2022 but in 2023 and 2024, did not give data for the full year

BREAKTHROUGHS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

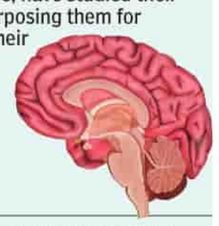
HOW RICE INHERITS TOLERANCE TO COLD WITHOUT DNA CHANGES

Rice plants can pass on cold tolerance without genetic changes, a decade-long Chinese study published in the journal Cell has found. Researchers demonstrated that repeated cold exposure triggered heritable 'epigenetic' changes — chemical tweaks on DNA that don't alter its sequence. By the third generation, previously cold-sensitive rice produced seeds despite chill stress, and retained this trait over five generations. Genetic tests confirmed no DNA sequence changes, challenging the traditional view that only random mutations drive evolution. Some experts describe it as "landmark," while others are calling it strong evidence of environmentally induced adaptation.

(SOURCE: NATURE)

PROMISE OF NEXT-GENERATION STRATEGY FOR NEURO DISEASES

Neurotrophin peptidomimetics—synthetic molecules mimicking natural proteins—show promise in treating neurodegenerative disorders by enhancing neuronal growth and survival. Unlike unstable natural neurotrophins, peptidomimetics offer greater stability, bioavailability, and brain permeability, making them effective and less prone to side effects. Researchers at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, led by Prof Ashis K Mukherjee, have studied their potential, including repurposing them for conditions like cancer. Their findings, published in Drug Discovery Today, highlight the promise of these compounds as a next-generation therapeutic strategy for neurological diseases.



LAST WEEK'S QUICK QUIZ

Question on June 16: In 1967, cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov became the first human to die in a space flight when his Soyuz, which took off with 203 known structural flaws, crashed. A famous friend of Komarov would later go on to blame Soviet leadership for the tragedy. Who was that friend?

Answer | Yuri Gagarin

TIMES NATION

Assam classifies transgenders as backward class

Guwahati: Assam cabinet classified Sunday the transgender community as a socially and educationally backward class, granting official recognition and benefits exclusively to original residents of the state, reports **Kangkan Kalita**.

"We will give identity cards to only those who are residents of Assam. This status won't be enjoyed by those transgenders who are here for various work," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said. The move aligns with SC directives and tasks district commissioners with verifying applicants before issuing ID cards.

The cabinet also greenlit a new scheme — Shradhanjali — to support transportation of bodies of youth and students who die while working or studying in other states.

"...Their bodies will be brought back at state govt's expense," Sarma said.

Set to begin Oct 1, the programme will cover costs for low-income workers and exceptional cases. Deaths during medical treatment out of state are excluded.

A story that started in UP but became Iran's

'Ahmad's Choice Reshaped West Asia Discourse'

▶Continued from P 1

Khomeini's photograph on display at Nihal Kazmi's drawing room wall

Sakineh was his third wife and the couple had three daughters and a son. The son Syed Mostafa fathered Khomeini, the future Ayatollah. The family name Khomeini comes from Khomeyn.

Journalist and author Baqer Moin writes in "Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah" that Ahmad died in 1869, buried in Karbala. His lineage — Musavi Syeds — claims descent from the Prophet through his daughter and Musa al-Kazim, seventh Imam of Twelver Shiism. Their origins trace back to Nishapur in Iran. They migrated to Kintoor, more than 2,500km away, in the early 1700s.

"Ahmad's story began here, but he became Iran's forever," Nihal Kazmi said. His son and an LLB graduate added: "Our ancestors' journey from Nishapur to Kintoor, and Ahmad's return to Iran, tied two worlds together. Long before Khomeini or Khamenei, it was Ahmad whose choice reshaped West Asia's discourse."

The Kazmis still hold fast to the past, while war simmers across Shia heartlands. A photograph of Khomeini, stoic and fierce, gazes from Nihal Kazmi's drawing room wall.

Kintoor's legacy doesn't end with Khomeini. Justice Syed Karamat Husain, a Musavi Syed, served at Allahabad high court and founded Karamat Husain Muslim Girls' PG College in Lucknow — a rare voice for women's education.

Once a hub of clerical learning, Kintoor now watches history play out from the margins — but echoes of Ahmad's long journey still ring in its mosques and memories.

Odisha slams US travel advisory on Maoist threat, sexual assaults

Bhubaneswar: A US travel advisory cautioning its citizens from visiting India, citing concerns over sexual assaults and Maoist activities in six states, including Odisha, has come in for criticism from the state govt, which described it as a deliberate attempt to tarnish the reputation of PM Narendra Modi and the nation, reports **Debabrata Mohapatra**.

"As India emerges as the world's fourth-largest economy, US conspiracy and false narratives through the travel advisory seem designed to undermine our growing global influence under PM Modi's leadership. Foreign nations, including US, are unable to accept and digest India's economic progress and global influence," state law minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said, rebutting the US claims.

The Level-2 advisory issued on June 16, a day after a 20-year-old student was gangraped by 10 men at Gopalpur beach in Ganjam district, states "rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crimes, including sexual assault, happen at tourist sites and other locations."

The advisory cautions against travel to parts of central and eastern India due to terrorism and Maoist activities. "Attacks against officers of the Indian govt continue to occur sporadically in rural parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand that border with Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. Southwest areas of Odisha are also affected."

"Due to the changing nature of the threat, US govt employees working in India are required to obtain permission prior to travelling to most areas in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Odisha," the advisory further states.

Harichandan said while US was grappling with violent crimes, it chose to issue "misleading advisory" about India and Odisha.

One of the Pahalgam attackers was former Pak para commando

▶Continued from P 1

The two arrested men — accused of having knowingly provided shelter to the three attackers at a seasonal 'dhok' (hut) in Hill Park, besides food and logistical support, before the terror act — have disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack, confirming that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT.

TOI has learnt that one of the attackers is confirmed to be Hashim Musa alias Sulaiman, purportedly a former para commando of Pakistan army's special forces, the Special Service Group (SSG). As reported by **TOI** on April 29, Musa was active in Kashmir for a few months before the Pahalgam massacre and was part of the twin strikes in Oct 2024 at Gagangir, Gandbal, in which six non-locals and a local doctor were killed, and Buta Pathri, which had left two Army personnel and two porters dead.

Tourists take a horse ride at Sonamarg on Sunday

Musa was possibly loaned by SSG to the LeT, which had sent him on a specific mission to unleash terror attacks on non-locals and security forces, as per sources.

Apart from Musa, J&K police had put out sketches of another Pakistani terrorist, Ali Bhai, and a local terrorist, Adil Hussain Thoker, who had received terror training in Pakistan — all identified on the basis of eyewitness statements. It had declared a Rs 20-lakh award for any information on them.

NIA sources told **TOI** that the agency zeroed in on Parvaiz and Bashir based on statements of witnesses, including around 15 overground workers found to be in touch with the attackers or who had partial knowledge of the conspiracy, as well as "technical analysis". Technical surveillance found that the attackers were in touch with Pakistan-based Lashkar masterminds via Chinese apps such as Ultra. They are still suspected to be hiding in the jungles dotting the Tral-Kulgam-Anantnag tri-junction.

The two arrested accused will be produced in an NIA court in Jammu. Their custodial interrogation is expected to give important clues about the Pahalgam attack conspiracy and its origins in Pakistan.

Sources told **TOI** that the two accused do not have a police record. NIA has arrested the duo under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

EC discussing ways to identify ineligible persons in rolls, may reverify proof of birth

▶Continued from P 1

EC has repeatedly emphasised that it is committed to ensuring that only genuine and eligible citizens are enrolled in the electoral rolls," the functionary added.

As per Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, any citizen of India aged 18 years and above — unless disqualified due to non-citizenship, unsound mind or involvement in a specified crime or corrupt practice — may be registered as an elector.

TOI has learnt that ways of identifying and weeding out ineligible persons, including non-citizens, from the rolls are being discussed, but could include re-verification of the documents submitted as proof of birth. The documents accepted as birth proof now include birth certificate, Aadhaar, PAN card, driving licence, passport, and Class 10/12 certificate issued by CBSE, ICSE or state boards.

Bihar house-to-house verification may be replicated in the next annual roll revision countrywide

Summary revision of electoral rolls is undertaken by EC annually throughout the country and also before parliamentary/assembly poll/bypoll in a state/UT.

The Bihar house-to-house verification may be replicated in the next annual roll revision countrywide.

Multiple factors make it mandatory for EC to keep updating the rolls. For instance, the country continuously witnesses inter-state, intra-state, inter-district and intra-district migration due to reasons such as marriage, job opportunities, education, family requirements etc. In 2024, as per forms received by the EC, around 46.3 lakh people shifted their residence, 2.3 crore applied for corrections and 33.2 lakh requested for replacement. Thus, in a single year, nearly 3.2 crore changes were required to be made nationwide.

Generally, number of deletions are much lesser than the registered deaths, possibly because families do not bother to report the deaths to EC. A house-to-house verification will also ensure addition of newly-eligible electors who have turned 18 and requests for correction in electoral details such as names/photographs/addresses.

The change in upper limit of electors per polling station to 1,500 from 1,200 will also require rationalisation of polling stations.

The entire process of updation of electoral rolls provides sufficient opportunity to political parties to file claims, objections and appeals before the final electoral rolls are published.

Lens on new pharma colleges in Maha over fake docus for nods

Yogita.Rao@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Pharmacy colleges established in the state over the last three years have come under scrutiny following complaints about forged documents, including certified maps and occupation certificates for buildings, being submitted for approvals. More than 115 colleges offering B Pharm and nearly 200 offering D Pharm have emerged during this period.

Acting on these complaints, state govt has ordered a re-inspection of all such institutions to verify the authenticity of their documents and whether they meet all the requirements. The aim is to contain the mushrooming of colleges in the state and prevent vacancies of seats during admissions. Data from the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) shows that over 30% of seats remained vacant last year in both B Pharm and D Pharm courses in the state.

In a recent order, govt stated that several complaints were received by the higher and technical education minister regarding pharmacy, diploma, degree, and postgraduate institutions that were granted approval by submitting bogus documents such as certified maps, no-objection certificates (NOCs), occupancy certificates, and utility certificates to state and central govts. The order directed: "The validity of these documents should be verified with the relevant authorities, and an institution-wise inspection report should be submitted to confirm whether adequate educational facilities are available." The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) gives approval to new institutions once affiliating universities and respective state govts provide them with NOCs.

Milind Umekar, president of Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association, a federation of five pharmaceutical associations, highlighted two key reasons behind the rapid increase in pharmacy institutions in Maharashtra. "The demand for pharmacy courses surged after Covid-19 pandemic, as people began recognising growing opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry. India ranks third globally in drug production by volume and is among the top exporters. Secondly, before 2022, the PCI imposed a moratorium on setting up new institutes. Once this was lifted following a court order, several colleges rushed to introduce pharmacy programmes," he said.

Rockets to acquire Kevin Durant from Suns: Report

Houston: Houston Rockets are acquiring 15-time All-Star forward **Kevin Durant** from the Phoenix Suns in exchange for guard Jalen Green, forward Dillon Brooks, the No. 10 overall pick in the 2025 NBA Draft and five second-round picks, ESPN reported on Sunday. Durant has one season left on his current deal and is set to earn $54.7 million in 2025-26. Durant, who turns 37 in Sept, played 62 games with Suns in 2024-25. REUTERS

GALLERY

Talwar holds it together on Day 3 to move to T-6

Pleneuf Val Andre (France): India's Saptak Talwar played an even-par third round at Golf Bluegreen de Pleneuf Val Andre in the Blot Play9 to move into tied-sixth place in the standings despite difficult conditions with high winds here. His three-day score was two under par and was four behind the leader Max Kennedy.

Jimenez shoots 66 at Firestone for share of lead: Miguel Angel Jimenez shot a 4-under 66 for a share of the lead with Steven Alker in the Kaulig Companies Championship, the third major of the year on the PGA Tour Champions. Jimenez played a five-hole stretch in the middle of the round at Firestone South in 4 under, making birdies on Nos. 7-8 and 10-11.

Six Indian boxers in finals in Seychelles: India is assured of several top-podium finishes with six of its pugilists entering the finals of the Seychelles National Day Boxing Tournament in Mahe, Seychelles.

Bhatia picks another eagle, lies tied-37th: Akshay Bhatia landed his second eagle in as many days during his steady round of 2-under 68 at the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, USA, to be placed on tied-37th spot.

Men's freestyle wresters win team title at U-23 Asian c'ship: Indian men's freestyle team produced its best ever show at the U-23 Asian Wrestling Championship, winning six gold and a silver to clinch the team title in Vung Tau, Vietnam.

India, Kyrgyz Republic play out goalless draw: The India U-23 football team played out a goalless draw against Kyrgyz Republic in their second international friendly in Hisor, Tajikistan. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Eng vs Ind, Test 1, Day 4, 3.30 pm (JioHotstar, Sony Sports); MLC, 5.30 am Tuesday (Star Sports, JioHotstar)

Inter join the party

Dash Urawa's Hopes With Late Winner; Dortmund Survive 7-Goal Thriller; Freytes Fires Fluminense

Getty Images

GOAL POACHER : Inter Milan captain Lautaro Martinez celebrates after scoring

Philadelphia: Inter Milan came from behind to beat Urawa Red Diamonds and knock the Japanese side out of the Club World Cup on Saturday, while Borussia Dortmund held off Mamelodi Sundowns to win a seven-goal thriller. Fluminense rallied in the second half to beat Ulsan 4-2 and knock out the South Korean side. Juan Freytes put Fluminense in front in the 83rd minute and Keno's second-half stoppage time header sealed the victory in East Rutherford.

CLUB WORLD CUP

Monterrey held River Plate goalless. At Lumen Field in Seattle, Ryoma Watanabe got an early opening goal for Urawa Reds, who were backed by a noisy contingent of their supporters. But captain Lautaro Martinez -- who got Inter's equaliser in their 1-1 draw with Monterrey in their opening game -- repeated the trick to level matters with a clever overhead kick 12 minutes from time.

"Our opponents play with their hearts and to counter that as a team we need to play with more pride, be humble and know how to suffer," Martinez told broadcaster DAZN.

Valentin Carboni was then the unlikely hero as he grabbed the winner two minutes into injury time. The result left some Urawa fans in tears and Inter level on four points with River Plate. Earlier Jobe Bellingham got his first goal for Dortmund as his new club overcame stifling heat in Cincinnati to beat Sundowns 4-3 and move to four points from two matches in Group F.

The South African champions had taken a surprise early lead through a fine solo goal from Lucas Ribeiro.

However, Sundowns goalkeeper Ronwen Williams handed Dortmund their equaliser on a plate, passing the ball straight to Felix Nmecha, who stroked home. Serhou Guirassy gave Dortmund the lead with his 35th goal since the beginning of the season. AGENCIES

Real's Mbappe out of Pachuca meeting too

Palm Beach Gardens: Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe did not travel to Charlotte for the team's Club World Cup match against Pachuca, coach Xabi Alonso said on Saturday. The French superstar was taken to hospital on Thursday for tests and treatment after suffering gastroenteritis, before later being released.

Real coach Xabi Alonso said, "He's doing better. We're optimistic about having him against Salzburg," he said. Madrid face Salzburg in the final game of Group H. Madrid B-team player Gonzalo Garcia, 21, would again deputise for the Frenchman, said the Real Madrid coach.

Jude's brother Jobe now makes his mark

JOBE BELLINGHAM

Cincinnati: Jobe Bellingham said his first goal for Borussia Dortmund was a surreal experience as the new signing from Sunderland made an immediate impact at the Club World Cup on Saturday. "It's a little bit surreal really when the ball hits in the net, it's just crazy," the 19-year-old said.

"Everything happened so slowly but yeah I'm really pleased."

It was a second run out, but first start, for Bellingham since his move from Sunderland to the Bundesliga giants, where he will look to follow in his elder brother Jude's footsteps.

Bellingham said it had been a hard assignment in the midday sun in Ohio, where the temperature was 32 degrees Celsius (90°F). "I think the conditions make it so difficult, especially for us being a European team. They (Sundowns) played a fantastic game but I'm sure they're used to this kind of weather, but we definitely aren't."

EX-ARSENAL MIDFIELDER CAZORLA, 40, LEADS OVIEDO BACK TO THE TOP FLIGHT IN SPAIN

Madrid: With veteran Santi Cazorla leading the way 20 years after he left the club, Oviedo made it back to the first division of the Spanish league.

The club owned by Mexico's Grupo Pachuca since 2022 secured its return to the top flight with a 3-2 aggregate victory over Mirandes in the final of the promotion playoffs on Saturday night. After a 1-0 first-leg loss, Oviedo won 3-1 in extra time with Cazorla scoring one of the goals. Cazorla, the former Spain and Arsenal playmaker, converted a 39th-minute penalty for Oviedo, that sealed their promotion for the first time since the 2000-01 season thanks to Francisco Portillo's goal in extra time after erasing the first-leg deficit with a 2-1 win in regulation.

Oviedo, coached by former Serbian player Veljko Paunovic since March, had been in the second division since 2015-16, and spent a few seasons in the third tier before that. "At 40 years old I think this is the greatest thing I've ever experienced," Cazorla said. "I've been lucky enough to experience great things with Spain and with the clubs that I've been with, winning many trophies, but nothing compares to this."

Oviedo, based in northwestern Spain, is Cazorla's boyhood club. He rejoined Oviedo in 2023 after playing in Qatar. AP

STADIUM STAMPEDE IN ALGERIA LEAVES 3 DEAD, 81 INJURED

Algiers: Three people were killed and 81 injured in a stampede among supporters of Algerian football club MCA in Algiers, authorities said Sunday. A previous toll count after the supporters fell from the upper stands on Saturday said only one had died and 11 were injured.

"Three deaths have been recorded," the health ministry said in a statement, adding that hospitals in the capital had admitted 81 injured people.

Crowned Algerian champion for the second consecutive year and the ninth time in its history, the celebrations of the Mouloudia Club d'Alger (MCA) turned to mourning. According to the sports website La Gazette du Fennec, a security barrier collapsed, resulting in many fans falling onto the lower level. The Stade du 5 Juillet was packed as reigning champions MCA drew 0-0 against NC Magra. As a result of the tragedy, the national football league decided to cancel the official trophy presentation ceremony. MC Alger players, staff and administrators also went to donate blood.

Alcaraz crowned king of Queen's once again

AP

SUPER SHOW: Carlos Alcaraz holds the winners trophy after defeating Jiri Lehecka in the final

London: Carlos Alcaraz clinched his second Queen's Club title as the world No 2 warmed up for Wimbledon with a 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 win against Jiri Lehecka in Sunday's final.

Alcaraz blasted 33 winners and 18 aces to subdue the gritty Czech world number 30 in two hours and 10 minutes in west London.

Having won titles on clay at the French Open, Rome and Monte Carlo, as well as the hard courts of Rotterdam, Alcaraz has now collected five trophies in 2025.

The 22-year-old has not lost since the Barcelona final against Holger Rune on April 20 and is enjoying the longest winning streak of his career with 18 successive wins. Top seeded Alcaraz is just the second Spanish man to win Queen's twice after Feliciano Lopez, who lifted the trophy in 2017 and 2019. For a player raised on the clay of Spain, Alcaraz has developed into a supreme force on grass.

The former world No. 1 signalled his emergence on the surface by winning Queen's in 2023. He clinched the Wimbledon title for the first time just weeks later and defended his All England Club crown last year.

Kessler wins Nottingham Open: McCartney Kessler clinched the first grasscourt title of her career as the American beat Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska in the Nottingham Open final on Sunday. Kessler earned a 6-4, 7-5 victory that secured her fourth WTA title. AGENCIES

Bublik beats Medvedev to regain title at Halle

AP

ON TOP: Alexander Bublik holds the trophy after defeating Daniil Medvedev in the Halle Open men's singles final on Sunday

Halle: Alexander Bublik finally defeated Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6 (4) on Sunday to win the Halle Open for the second time. It was his first win in seven matches with Medvedev.

"Daniil, I've been cursed to play you forever and never won a set in my life, but today I'm happy to get through, and I wish you – you're a great champion – I wish you a lot of success," Bublik told his opponent afterward. "I mean, to win, to beat you here, it's a privilege for me."

The Kazakhstan player, who also won the grass-court tournament in 2023, is just the third player to claim the title more than once after three-time winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov and 10-time champion Roger Federer.

Bublik made a strong start and put together a 12-point winning streak in the first set. The second was not quite as fluid with five double-faults, but Medvedev produced consecutive backhand errors in the tiebreaker and Bublik seized his chance to wrap up the match in 81 minutes. Bublik, who defeated top-ranked Jannik Sinner in the second round, dedicated the title to his wife and son, who were absent because of illness.

"This is for you, I know you're watching," he said.

Medvedev, who saw off home favorite Alexander Zverev in the semifinals, was playing his first final since losing to Carlos Alcaraz at Indian Wells in March 2024. AP

Strikes will have 'everlasting consequences', says Iran's foreign minister; Khamenei mum

▶Continued from P 1

The Pentagon is braced for retaliation from Iran. Tehran has vowed to strike at US bases in the Middle East, and US intelligence agencies had earlier confirmed that Iran would take steps to widen the war and hit US armed forces in the region.

Iran foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said after the US strikes that Iran had a legitimate right to respond to defend its sovereignty and people. He called the strikes "outrageous" and said they would have "everlasting consequences."

When asked if the door to diplomacy was still open, Araghchi said, "This is not the case right now."

There was no immediate comment from Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Sunday about the US strikes.

Many analysts, including some aligned with Trump on all other issues, say allegations of Iran making a bomb are pure drivel, with echoes of similar trumped-up Bush era charges against Iraq that sucked the US into another war in 2003. Even some of Trump's hardcore MAGA supporters are accusing him of being suckered by phony narrative propagated by paranoid Israeli hardliners and neurotic Jewish nativists.

"Every time America is on the verge of greatness, we get involved in another foreign war. There would not be bombs falling on the people of Israel if Netanyahu had not dropped bombs on the people of Iran first. Israel is a nuclear-armed nation. This is not our fight. Peace is the answer," raged Marjorie Taylor Greene, a MAGA lawmaker who is gradually exiting from the Trump orbit.

But pro-Israeli elements in the US maintain that the Jewish state, its 0.1% of landmass in the Middle-East buffeted by 22 Arab/Muslim nations, cannot afford the slightest risk in its existential crisis.

TRUMP STRIKES, WHAT NOW?

Last week, Trump was the big unknown in the Israel-Iran fight. Like he said Wednesday, ***'Nobody knows what I'm going to do.'*** *The suspense ended with Op Midnight Hammer yesterday, but there are other unknowns now*

President Trump with members of his Cabinet, including White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Daniel Caine, Vice President JD Vance and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in the situation room

What will Iran do next?

- **Return to talks with US,** albeit with fewer bargaining chips. This will stop aerial raids but will mean loss of face for Ayatollah regime. However, it might be necessary this time for survival
- **Take the fight to US** by attacking its troops and other assets in the region, like Al-Asad air base in Iraq, and Al-Udeid air base in Qatar. But that would invite massive retaliation, possibly uprooting the regime
- Avoid military showdown with US, but **target oil & gas infra of Arab states.** US may choose not to get drawn into what is not its own fight. Or, it might
- Inflict pain globally by **blocking tankers passing through Strait of Hormuz.** Painful for US, as inflation will spike, but also for Iran
- **Use proxies to hit US tourists, embassies, etc** – asymmetrical conflict – to maintain deniability. This has been Iran's time-honoured strategy, but it won't restore regime's sheen after the battering

How reckless is Iran's leadership?

- Led by an 86-year-old, **it's unsurprisingly patient.** When US killed Gen Qasem Suleimani in 2020, the Iranians didn't go berserk. The regime prioritises its own survival by picking fights carefully. But if US and Israel push it to the wall, all bets are off

What does Trump want?

- A quick success, mostly. He couldn't halt the Ukraine war, nor the Gaza carnage. Bombing a nuclear programme to smithereens sounds impressive. His voters certainly don't want to get bogged down in West Asia again, so Trump will be hoping dropping 14 GBU-57s will **ensure his place in history**

Can bombs end conflict?

- No, eventually, the matter of nukes **will have to be resolved through diplomacy.** But inviting Iran to the table on the condition of unconditional surrender – which could mean giving up nuke pursuit as well as missiles – is a bad idea. Besides, even a weakened Iran is no Syria or Afghanistan

Can Iran still make a bomb?

- Some of its scientists have been killed, and most of its enrichment facilities have been bombed, but that **doesn't mean its N-programme is dead.** They've pumped hundreds of billions of dollars into it over decades, and won't give it up so easily

Will the fight escalate?

- Trump says it won't if Iran doesn't retaliate. And Iran might not if B2s don't appear on its horizon again. But the older **Israel-Iran hostility isn't going away**

What's the end goal of these strikes?

- Both Israel and US have said their aim is to end Iran's nuclear programme. But they've also **hinted at regime change** in not so many words

Will Iranians turn against regime?

- It may not be popular, but it signifies continuity and stability. **A forced regime change might not sit well with the masses.** Besides, foisted governments seldom lead to democracy, and Iranians had a taste of one for over two decades under the Shah

Trump eventually fell in line with the view after initial scepticism, sharing encomiums with Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who initiated the war. "We worked as a team like perhaps no team has ever worked before, and we've gone a long way to erase this horrible threat to Israel," Trump said.

Except for a few stragglers, Trump's MAGA minions, including many who believed in his 'no foreign war' pledge, quickly fell in line with the party supremo. Among them was Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's intelligence czar, who as recently as March had testified before Congress that the US intel community "continues to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and its supreme leader Khomeini has not authorised the nuclear weapons programme that he suspended in 2003".

After Trump twice smacked her down saying, "I don't care what she said. I think they were very close to having one", Gabbard quickly reversed course and accused the media of intentionally taking her testimony out of context and spreading fake news as a way to manufacture division. "America has intelligence that Iran is at the point that it can produce a nuclear weapon within weeks to months, if they decide to finalise the assembly. President Trump has been clear that can't happen, and I agree," she said. For her compliance, critics dubbed her 'Trump's Powell', alluding to then President Bush's secretary of state Colin Powell who famously made a dodgy case before the United Nations Security Council to justify military action against Iraq alleging possession of weapons of mass destruction and ties to terrorism.

Also lining up behind the president, literally, were vice-president J D Vance and two cabinet principals, defence secretary Pete Hegseth and secretary of state Marco Rubio, who had initially dissociated US from Israel's precipitate action. All three stood behind Trump in his 10pm TV address, abiding by his turnaround on keeping US out of distant wars.

In his brief address and a pair of social media posts, the US president gloated about the reach, power, and precision of the American attack, saying: "There is not another military in the world that could have done this."

"This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR," Trump wrote, even though it was Israel which began the war with US backing.

But the American public was less impressed by yet another distant war, two of which (Afghanistan and Iraq), besides other random interventions, have cost them trillions of dollars and put the country in a $36 trillion debt. A Washington Post insta-poll found Americans opposing US airstrikes by a 20 percentage-point margin — 45% to 25% — with a sizable 30% saying they are unsure.

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said that Trump sending US troops to bomb Iran without the consent of Congress is a "blatant violation of our Constitution".

Another Congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, said: "The president's disastrous decision to bomb Iran without authorisation is a grave violation of the Constitution and congressional war powers. Trump has impulsively risked launching a war that may ensnare us for generations. It is absolutely and clearly grounds for impeachment."

Many analysts, including some aligned with Trump on all other issues, say allegations of Iran making a bomb are pure drivel, with echoes of similar trumped-up Bush era charges against Iraq that sucked the US into another war in 2003. Even some of Trump's hardcore MAGA supporters are accusing him of being suckered by phony narrative propagated by paranoid Israeli hardliners and neurotic Jewish nativists

Air India cancels two Europe-bound flights due to airspace closure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Airspace restrictions due to the Israel-Iran conflict forced Air India to cancel its Delhi-Frankfurt (AI 2029) and Delhi-Zurich (AI 151) flights Sunday.

The carrier attributed the cancellations "to extended flight times caused by airspace closures in the Middle East amid rising tensions in the region". "These closures would have exceeded the mandatory flight duty time limitations for the pilots. Consequently, AI 2030 (Frankfurt-Delhi) and AI 152 (Zurich-Delhi) also stand cancelled," it said in a statement.

With Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) not giving any further dispensation to Air India for making pilots fly longer than allowed after the AI 171 crash, the airline could not operate these flights that would have had to take an even longer route due to airspace closures. Other airlines, both Indian and foreign, said their flights were taking longer routes between India and the West.

"Air India deeply regrets the inconvenience caused to passengers due to this unforeseen disruption, which is beyond the airline's control. Our ground teams are committed to providing comprehensive assistance to affected passengers, including alternative flight options and full refunds, as per their preferences. At Air India, the safety of our passengers and crew remains our top priority," according to the statement.

WEST ASIA CRISIS

Air India has undertaken enhanced pre-flight safety checks and temporary reduction (15%) of services "to uphold its commitment to safe operations. This will improve stability and will minimise last-minute inconvenience to passengers." "However, despite all efforts, due to extraneous factorscertain flights get delayed or cancelled. We notify passengers ahead of time to reduce inconvenience," the airline added.

Iran Prez: India's voice important for restoration of regional peace, stability

▶Continued from P 1

Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian thanked the PM for India's position and call for de-escalation and said India's voice and role were important in the restoration of regional peace and stability. "We discussed in detail about the current situation... Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," **Modi** said in a post on X.

According to an Iranian readout, Pezeshkian strongly condemned the American action, saying what the world was witnessing today was a worrying and unacceptable trend, in which "a country that is pursuing peaceful nuclear activities within the framework of international regulations, especially under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, becomes the target of attack by the US and Israel".

"This action shows that all their claims about peace, democracy, human rights and commitment to international norms are nothing but slogans and deception of public opinion," he said.

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

VONDROUSOVA WARMS UP FOR WIMBLEDON WITH BERLIN TITLE, BEATS WANG IN FINAL

UNABLE TO RECOVER FROM KNEE INJURY IN TIME, CASPER RUUD PULLS OUT OF GRASS COURT MAJOR

Sloppy India pay the price

Poor Fielding, Wayward Bowling Hurt Visitors As England Almost Cancel Out India's 1st Inns 471 With 465; Bumrah Claims 14th Five-For; KL Rahul's 47* Takes Gill & Co. To 90 For 2 At Stumps

Dwaipayan.Datta
@timesofindia.com

The sky was closing in, the lights switched on, as India fought to find their way in this opening Test of the tour.

The Sunday theatre at Headingley had its twists and turns. Earlier under a bright, blue sky the English late middle-order found its mojo to whittle India's lead down to six as Shubman Gill's boys spilled chances that came their way. And just when it seemed the hosts were on the ascendancy after removing first-innings centurion Yashasvi Jaiswal early, they ran into some stiff resistance by two Indian batters who seemed to be on a mission.

17 KL Rahul has become the 17th Indian player to complete 1000-plus runs in Tests vs England. The two Indian batters with 2000-plus runs against them remain Sachin Tendulkar (2535) and Sunil Gavaskar (2483).

Till one of them — Sai Sudharshan — hit a middle-stump half-volley from Ben Stokes straight into the hands of Zak Crawley at short mid-wicket. Trying to make amends for his first-innings duck on Test debut, Sai, playing extremely late and close to his body, had battled his way to 30. His 66-run partnership with senior pro KL Rahul (batting on 47), seemed to be taking India to safe shores at the end of Day 3, till the lapse happened on the part of the left-hander.

Rahul, though, at the other end, seemed to be in a different zone. There was a lot of help for the English pace bowlers, but not for once did it seem that the Karnataka batter was under any threat. Beautifully balanced with his bat face low and playing close to his body, Rahul kept the scoreboard ticking. India finished the third day at 90-2.

England let off the hook early

For now, the game is in the balance, but things could have been much rosier for India. They got overnight centurion Ollie Pope (106) cheaply in the morning, paceman Prasidh Krishna being the beneficiary of a loose shot.

With Jasprit Bumrah in the middle of a wonderful early spell, India were just one wicket away from taking control. But Prasidh and Mohammed Siraj were poor, to put it mildly. They hardly bowled the full length that is crucial for extracting the early movement, and Brook cashed in on anything short. On Saturday night, he had survived after getting out for a duck off a Bumrah no-ball, and it might have given him the belief that luck was on his side.

There's a bit of natural flair in his game too, especially on true surfaces where there is not much spin on offer. He lost his captain Stokes (20), at a crucial juncture when England were 195 runs short of the Indian total, but that didn't stop him from launching a counter-attack.

Another dropped catch at 82 by Jaiswal — again off Bumrah — with the second new ball gave him more confidence and at the other end, wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith (40) too showed some spunk before throwing it away.

Brook's luck, though, finally ran out at a time when he was one short of his ninth Test century. His attempted hook off Prasidh couldn't clear the deep square-leg boundary as Shardul Thakur completed the catch.

It was after this that India completely lost the plot. Brydon Carse and Chris Woakes tried to get the lead down and went into an attacking mode, as Gill's inexperience as captain came to the fore. With Prasidh and Siraj going for runs, he had to bring Bumrah and Jadeja back but he delayed it for far too long.

The next 50 runs that India allowed to leak might just prove vital in the final outcome. Bumrah (5-83) did finally do the needful after being brought back for another spell, but England by then had enough oxygen to take the fight forward.

3 Jasprit Bumrah has become the first Indian bowler to produce three five-wicket hauls in Tests vs England in England — 5 for 64 at Nottingham in 2021; 5 for 83 at Leeds in 2025 & 5 for 85 at Nottingham in 2018.

150 Bumrah has become the first Asian bowler to bag 150 wickets at 20.88 runs apiece in 32 Tests in SENA countries, outstripping Wasim Akram's tally of 146 at 24.11 in the same number of Tests.

3 With Pope's catch, Rishabh Pant has become the third Indian wicketkeeper to complete 150 catches in Tests, joining MS Dhoni (256) & Syed Kirmani (160).

12 With twelve five-fors in 34 away Tests, Bumrah has emulated Kapil Dev's feat (66 Tests). Both share an Indian record of producing most five-wicket hauls in overseas Tests.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Getty Images

- **Opportunities off Bumrah** Duckett dropped by Jadeja on 15. Scores 62.
- Pope dropped by Jaiswal on 62. Scores 106.
- Brook reprieved on knot despite a catch by Siraj at mid-on because Bumrah oversteps.
- Jaiswal drops Brook on 82. Scores 99.

SCOREBOARD AT STUMPS ON DAY THREE

India (1st innings): 471 all out

England (1st innings, overnight 209-3): Ollie Pope c Pant b Prasidh 106, Harry Brook c Thakur b Prasidh 99, Ben Stokes c Pant b Siraj 20, Jamie Smith c Sudharsan b Prasidh 40, Chris Woakes b Bumrah 38, Brydon Carse b Siraj 22, Josh Tongue b Bumrah 11, Shoaib Bashir (not out) 1. **Extras** (B-8, LB-18, NB-7, W-1) **34. Total (all out, 100.4 overs) 465.**

Fall of wickets: 4-225, 5-276, 6-349, 7-398, 8-453, 9-460, 10-465.

Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 24.4-5-83-5, Mohammed Siraj 27-0-122-2, Prasidh Krishna 20-0-128-3, Ravindra Jadeja 23-4-68-0, Shardul Thakur 6-0-38-0.

India (2nd innings): Yashasvi Jaiswal c Jamie Smith b Brydon Carse 4, KL Rahul batting 47, Sai Sudharsan c Zak Crawley b Ben Stokes 30, Shubman Gill batting 6. **Extras** (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3. **Total (for two wickets, 23.5 overs) 90.**

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-82. **Bowling:** Chris Woakes 6-2-18-0, Brydon Carse 5-0-27-1, Josh Tongue 5-0-15-0, Shoaib Bashir 2.5-1-11-0, Ben Stokes 5-1-18-0.

'Definitely no politics, but open to coaching India'

Kolkata: Former skipper Sourav Ganguly has categorically ruled out entering politics, but says he is not averse to coaching the Indian team.

SOURAV GANGULY

Ganguly, who will turn 53 this July, was the Team Director of Delhi Capitals between 2018-19 and 2022-24. "I never really thought about it because I got into different roles," Ganguly said during a podcast when asked if he would like to coach the Indian team.

"I finished competitive cricket in 2013 and then became BCCI President," said Ganguly, noting that his biggest contribution to Indian cricket in that role was to promote women's cricket. When suggested that he could have contributed more by becoming India coach, Ganguly said: "We'll see what the future holds. I'm just 53, so let's see what happens. I'm open to it. We'll see where it goes," the veteran cricket.

One thing he is not getting into is politics. Asked if he would like to join a political party ahead of West Bengal elections in 2026, Ganguly said, "I am not interested." PTI

Bumrah rising, but India's support-cast not taking cues

Dwaipayan.Datta @timesofindia.com

Being a lone ranger can be a tough job, and Jasprit Bumrah may already be feeling the pinch. Across the world, and across formats, the Indian team has been overly dependent on the 30-year-old. This over-dependence has already led the paceman suffer two serious stress fractures, leading to loss of availability and playing time, which has also probably cost Bumrah his Test captaincy. "I can't play more than three Test matches in a five-match series, given the condition of my body. So, I turned down captaincy for the England series," Bumrah had recently said before the start of this tour.

Saying that Bumrah was overworked in Australia last winter was an understatement. At the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, Bumrah was forced to bowl 54 overs, the workload ultimately leading to his breakdown in the final Test in Sydney in the first week of the new year. He was out of cricket for three months following the series Down Under.

Six months down the line, at Headingley, defending a first-innings total of 471, Bumrah was once again India's only hope with the ball -- with little or no help from the other end. Time and again, he had to be brought back by skipper Shubhman Gill and while it finally culminated in his 14th five-wicket haul, he had had to account for 25 of the 101 overs that India has bowled in England's first innings.

While Bumrah's efficacy and potency is beyond doubt, it is the banality of the support-cast that is becoming a cause of headache for Indian cricket observers. Despite returning from a well-documented break following the Australian tour, Mohammed Siraj remains a mystery, losing the zing that had made him such a special bowler a couple of years ago. His seam position is wobbly, the length all over the place and alarmingly, the growing tendency to lose composure is adding to the problems.

Prasidh Krishna, clearly a favourite of bowling coach Morne Morkel, meanwhile, hasn't yet figured the right length for English conditions. He was impressive in the Sydney Test, and was the best bowler in the IPL. He ended up with 3-128, but leaked runs.

In the duration of the first innings on Friday and Saturday when the conditions were favourable for the pace bowler, Krishna bowled way too short and let the English batters off the hook. "He struggled to bowl the fuller length bowling from the far end, which doesn't help when you're playing in England. Not sure how judicious it is to bowl bouncers with the new ball," former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara pointed out during commentary as the English tail kept hurting India.

The fact that captain Gill didn't show confidence in fourth pacer Shardul Thakur, didn't make things any easier for India.

In such a situation, Gill, time and again, was forced to go back to Bumrah, not just for wickets but to contain the runs as well. As the workload increased, the fielders didn't help either, dropping four catches off him at crucial junctures. There was an element of helplessness creeping into his body language after his spell with the second new ball – a feature that didn't augur well for India.

There's a second innings still to be played and it is imperative on Bumrah's support-cast to rise to the occasion. Else, India's lone X-factor bowler will once again stare at a burn-out and the next couple of months will prove a long grind for Gill's new India.

Mohammed Siraj (top) and Prasidh Krishna went for 250 runs in their combined tally of 47 overs leaving Shubman Gill with few options but to keep going back to Jasprit Bumrah

RED-HOT OWEN SINGES MINY AS FREEDOM WIN

Washington Freedom secured a nail-biting victory against MI New York, propelled by outstanding performances from Mitchell Owen and Mark Chapman in their MLC encounter at Dallas..

Freedom, chasing 189, made a blazing start with 74 for 2 in the powerplay. Owen's explosive 48 off 21 deliveries, featuring four boundaries and four maximums, set the tone. Rushil Ugarkar bore the brunt of that onslaught, conceding 22 runs in a single over with Owen striking three sixes.

Owen departed in the eighth over, following the earlier dismissals of Rachin Ravindra and Andries Gous and the innings stalled a bit. Chapman's initially sluggish partnership with Jack Edwards yielded 41 runs in 5.5 overs. Despite wickets tumbling at the opposite end, with Sunny Patel and Naveen-ul-Haq making crucial breakthroughs, Chapman kept his cool, knowing he had the big game to make up towards the end.

The 17th and 18th overs proved challenging for Freedom, managing just two runs and losing three wickets. Trent Boult's exceptional over yielded just one run and a wicket.

MINY's decision to use Ugarkar in the 19th over provided Freedom the opening they needed, with Chapman steering them to victory in Kieron Pollard's final over.

Earlier, MINY's innings, after being put in to bat, saw Quinton de Kock and Monank Patel power them to 70 in the powerplay. The momentum shifted immediately after, with Owen dismissing Monank. Despite their strong start at 70 for 1 in 6.1 overs, Nicholas Pooran's subdued 33 off 30 balls and de Kock's exit for 55 hampered their progress.

Michael Bracewell's unbeaten 42 from 24 deliveries, including five fours and a six, helped MINY post a competitive total. Freedom's superior scoring rate in the powerplay (74) and middle overs (95) compared to MINY's 70 and 78 proved decisive, despite a late wobble.

The victory placed Freedom third on the table with six points from four matches, level with Texas Super Kings but behind on net run-rate.

MINY remained fourth on the table with just one victory in four outings. TNN

Brief Scores: MI New York 188 for 4 (De Kock 55, Bracewell 42*, Pooran 33, Monank 32, Holland 1-6) lost to **Washington Freedom 189 for 8 in 19.2 overs** (Owen 60, Chapman 45*, Edwards 30, Naveen 2-28, Sunny 2-37, Boult 2-38) by two wickets.

Mitchell Owen enabled Washington Freedom to break the back of the chase of 189 against MI New York in their MLC match at Dallas on Saturday by scoring 48 runs out of 74 in the powerplay

David 'Syd' Lawrence, England's first British-born black cricketer, dies at 61

London: Former England fast bowler **David "Syd" Lawrence** has died at the age of 61 after a year-long battle with motor neurone disease (MND), his family said on Sunday.

Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to represent England, was diagnosed last year with MND, a degenerative condition that causes muscle wastage and affects the brain and nerves.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Lawrence MBE (King's Birthday Honours) following his brave battle with Motor Neurone Disease," Lawrence's family said.

Lawrence, who earned five Test caps for England, made 280 appearances for Gloucestershire and took 625 wickets for the county. His Test debut came at Lord's against Sri Lanka in 1988. AGENCIES

Kujur makes promising start at European circuit

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Indian sprinter Animesh Kujur ran a wind-aided 20.27s in the men's 200m at the AtleticaGeneve 2025 – a World Athletics continental tour bronze level event – in Geneva, Switzerland on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Odisha sprinter's performance, marking a promising beginning to European campaign, though cannot be registered as a new national record as it came with a wind assistance of +2.3 m/s. World Athletics regulations specify that only times recorded with wind assistance of +2.0 m/s or less are considered valid for record purposes.

Animesh, who currently holds India's national records in both 100m and 200m events, secured fifth position in his heat and sixth overall in the final race. Benjamin Richardson from South Africa claimed victory in 19.79s, followed by Xavi Mo-Ajok of the Netherlands at 19.96s, while Israel's Blessing Afrifa secured third place with 19.99s.

IN THE FAST LANE: Kujur

Last month, Animesh surpassed his own national record, set earlier this year, becoming the second Indian male to secure a 200m medal at the Asian athletics championships in Gumi, South Korea. He recorded 20.32s in the final for bronze, bettering his previous national mark of 20.40s from the Federation Cup. "I want to become the first Indian athlete to run below 20s. I am working in that direction. I am waiting for that performance to happen," Animesh had stated then.

Canada qualify for men's T20 World Cup

Ontario: The Canadian men's cricket team has qualified for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka after defeating Bahamas by seven wickets in the Americas Qualifiers here. Thanks to their fifth successive victory in as many games, Canada, who had also featured in last year's men's T20 World Cup in the Americas, have joined defending champions India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa, United States, West Indies, Ireland, New Zealand and Pakistan, in the 20-team event.

"Seven more teams — two from Europe Qualifier (to be played from July 5-11, 2025), two from Africa Qualifier (to be played from Sep 19 to Oct 4) and three from Asia-EAP Qualifier (to be played from Oct 1-17) — will join the Men's T20 World Cup through the Regional Qualifiers," said ICC. PTI

Unusual quiet in transfer market

Marcus.Mergulhao
@timesofindia.com

Panaji: In recent times, Mohun Bagan Super Giant have often proved the busiest during the transfer windows, picking up any big player who's ready to move. This season, the champions have been unusually quiet.

Their rivals, East Bengal, in contrast, have been busy, signing two foreign players – Mohammed Rashid (Palestine) and Miguel Ferreira (Brazil) – besides snatching India striker Edmund Lalrindika for a transfer fee of Rs 1 crore from Inter Kashi. They have now made a bid for India left-back Jay Gupta with a transfer fee upwards of Rs 1.5 crore.

This season, East Bengal is the exception to the lull that is currently existing in the transfer market. Most other clubs, as evident by Bagan's inactivity, have paused their signings owing to the uncertainty over this edition of the Indian Super League (ISL). ISL clubs have also delayed start to their pre-season training, which was expected to kick off between July 15 and July 22.

This stalemate arises given that FSDL, the body that runs the league, have told club owners that the league will not kick off unless there is clarity over the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between All India Football Federation (AIFF) and its marketing partners.

Bagan's only move so far has been for Kiyan Nassiri, who left the club last season and moved to Chennaiyin FC. The Kolkata giants now want him back in a move which will cost the club Rs 30 lakh.

Clubs like FC Goa have identified new foreign players but have not completed the signings. It's a similar story at Kerala Blasters, Chennaiyin, Odisha and Hyderabad.

Indian men beat Belgium 4-3 to end 7-match losing streak

AP

Antwerp: The Indian men's hockey team edged past Belgium 4-3 to register its first win in the European leg of FIH Pro League on Sunday, ending a run of seven successive losses.

With the scores tied at 3-3 with just two minutes left for the final hooter, India asked for a referral after a strong challenge inside the circle. The decision went in India's favour and Harmanpreet Singh stepped up to convert the penalty stroke and seal the issue in his team's favour.

Earlier, Arthur de Sloover dished out a terrific finish as he fired the ball into to the top right corner to put Belgium in lead in the eighth minute. The home team ended the first quarter 1-0 ahead after a dominant display. In a desperate search of equaliser, India restored parity through Sukhjeet Singh's strike from a penalty corner that packed quite a punch.

PRO LEAGUE

Belgium threatened on the break and struck again in the early part of the third quarter to regain their lead after a neat finish by Nicolas Stockbroekx. Sukhjeet Singh again came to India's rescue with a his second goal (35th minute) of the match only a minute after going behind. This time, he struck from open play.

To the Indian team's delight, Amit Rohidas put them his ahead after they won a penalty corner. However, Belgium hit back with Thibeau Labouchere scoring his maiden international goal from a penalty cornrer. But Harmanpreet ensured India had the last laugh.

Sukhjeet Singh scored two goals for India on Sunday

Women suffer sixth straight defeat

The Indian women's hockey team went down 0-2 to Belgium to suffer its sixth successive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League and inch closer to relegation here on Sunday. After two goalless quarters, Belgium scored twice in quick succession in the third quarter to win the reverse fixture a day after a 5-1 mauling of the beleaguered Indian side.

Ambre Ballenghie broke the deadlock in the 40th minute of the game and Lien Hillewaert struck the team's second goal in the 43rd minute. The result ensured that India dropped to the ninth and last spot on the table with 10 points from their 14 matches. PTI

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CHROME ACCENTS

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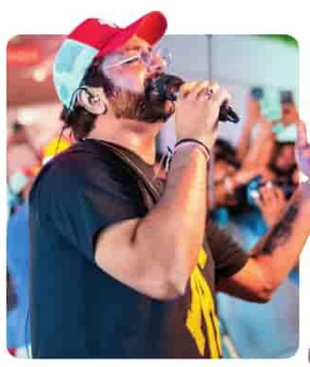
RS/Hero/06/25

Delhi Times

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

OF INDIA

DELHI IS...
AKHIL SACHDEVA, ANKUR TEWARI LIT UP NCR WITH LIVE MUSIC
P3



Any feedback related to stories in Delhi Times?
Mail us @delhi.times@timesofindia.com

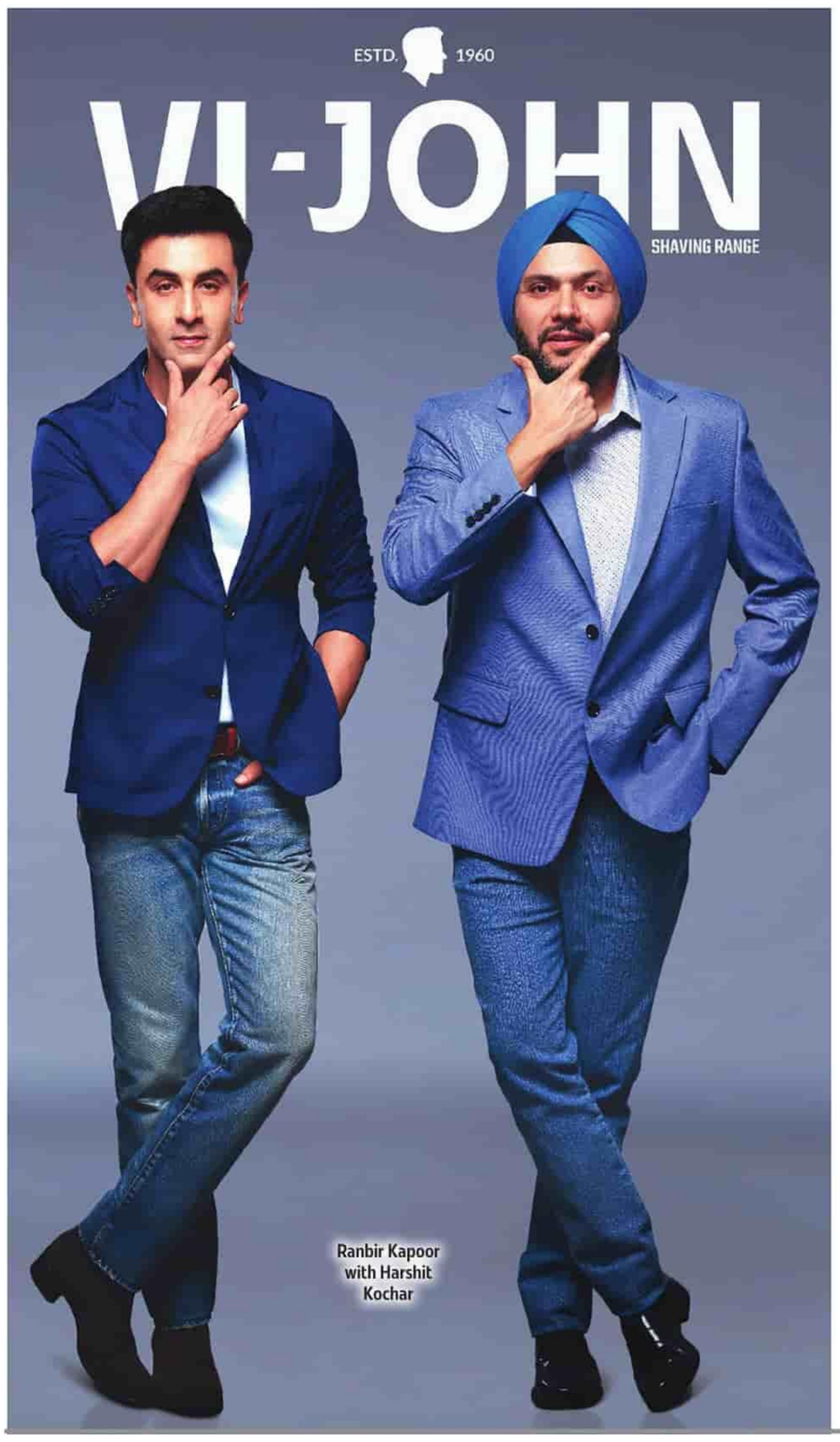
Buzzstop

THIRD INSTALMENT OF DRISHYAM CONFIRMED

Drishyam fans are in for a treat. Director Jeethu Joseph along with the production company have announced that the shooting of the third part of the much-awaited film will begin in October. Speaking to us, Jeethu Joseph shared, "The script of the third film is nearing completion. There have been reports that the Hindi version will have a different story, but that's not true. The Hindi film will also be based on my story. Once I complete my script, it will be shared with the Hindi team, who will then adapt it."

– Inputs from Gopika IS

Ranbir Kapoor is the new face of grooming brand



Ranbir Kapoor with Harshit Kochar

One of India's leading shaving category brands, Vi-John has announced Ranbir Kapoor as the brand ambassador for its shaving category. This collaboration signals a fresh chapter in the brand's evolution as it connects more deeply with millennials and Gen Z.

"Vi-John has been a part of Indian grooming culture for over 60 years, known for delivering value, quality, and reliability to consumers across urban and rural India," says the brand, adding, " With grooming now viewed as a daily act of self-care and self-expression, the brand is modernising to align with the aspirations of a younger, image-conscious audience."

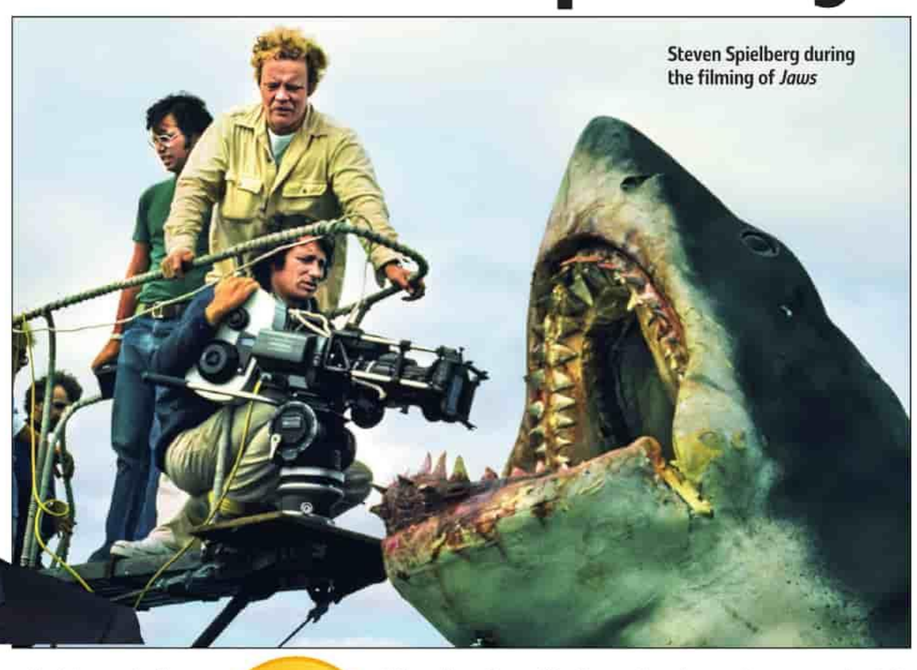
Addressing the collaboration, Ranbir shares,"I'm thrilled to be part of the Vi-John family. Grooming is not just about appearance anymore – it's about how you show up in the world, confidently and authentically. Vi-John understands that, and we're here to make that experience even better."

Harshit Kochar, managing director, Vi-John Group, adds, "Ranbir is a powerful voice of today's youth. His values align with ours – hard work, sincerity, and family-first thinking. His youth appeal and authenticity make him an ideal partner as we introduce new-age offerings like premium and sulphate-free shaving range, razors, trimmers, shavers and more."

"This association marks the brand's next leap in becoming a full-spectrum grooming solutions brand, blending tradition with innovation to serve the evolving Indian man," the brand says.

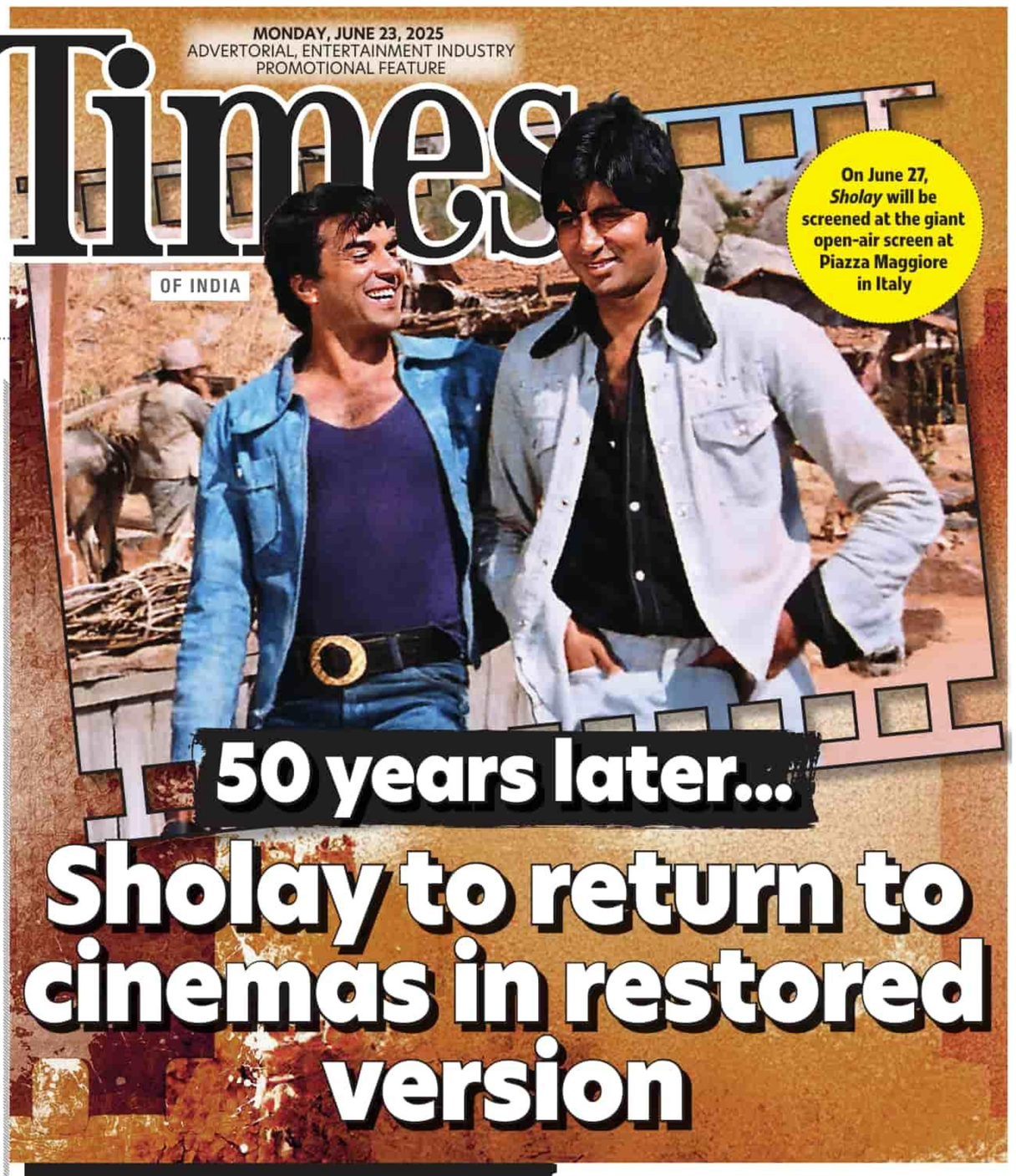
I believed Jaws would be the last movie I would direct: Spielberg

Spielberg chose Martha's Vineyard as a location for *Jaws* because he wanted his mechanised shark, who he shares was "more temperamental than any movie star I've ever worked with," to swim in real waters


Steven Spielberg during the filming of *Jaws*

That summer of 1974 was a bad dream before it ever became the dream of a lifetime," said Steven Spielberg recently in a video message to an audience at Martha's Vineyard, where he originally filmed *Jaws*, during the world premiere of the documentary *Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story.*

Talking about the film, the veteran director shared that he didn't think he would get to direct any other film after *Jaws*. "In the wake of running over schedule and budget, I truly believed that *Jaws* would be the last movie I would ever be given to direct," Spielberg said, adding, "Fifty years after its initial release, making *Jaws* remains a seminal experience for every single one of us, and five decades has done nothing to dim the memories of what remains one of the most overwhelming, exciting, terrifying and rewarding experiences of my entire career."


On June 27, *Sholay* will be screened at the giant open-air screen at Piazza Maggiore in Italy

50 years later...

Sholay to return to cinemas in restored version

A restoration over three years

- In 2022, Shehzad Sippy began discussions with the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) to restore *Sholay*
- Original 35mm camera and sound negatives were found in a Mumbai warehouse. Additional film elements were located at Iron Mountain in the UK, with support from the British Film Institute (BFI)
- Reels from Mumbai and London were sent to L'Immagine Ritrovata in Bologna for restoration. The original camera negative was too damaged to use. The team worked with interpositives from both cities
- A colour reversal intermediate found in London included the origial ending and two deleted scenes
- The FHF also sourced the original Arri 2C camera used to shoot the film. With no surviving 70mm prints, they consulted veteran cinematographer Kamlakar Rao, who had worked alongside *Sholay*'s director of photography, Dwarka Divecha
- The final restored version combines two interpositives and two colour reversal intermediates, bringing back the director's original vision, including the lost scenes and original ending

Niharika Lal

This August, *Sholay* will turn 50. And the celebration has already begun – thousands of miles away from Ramgarh – in a theatre where filmmaker Fellini once ruled. This week, Italy is hosting the world premiere of the newly restored, uncut version of Ramesh Sippy's iconic film at II Cinema Ritrovato festival. When it was first released in 1975, Sholay turned into a phenomenon – running for over five years in some theatres. Amitabh Bachchan says, "At the time, I had no idea it would be a watershed for Indian cinema."

Now, five decades later, the film is returning to theatres in a restored version. As it prepares for a comeback on Indian screens later this year, we take a look at how *Sholay*'s restoration came to life.

CONTINUED ON 4

> Everyone associated with *Sholay* worked really hard on the film
>
> – Director Ramesh Sippy at *Sholay*'s postal stamp release

AROUND THE WORLD

GALLERY

Thousands gather to mark solstice at the Stonehenge

Around 25,000 sun worshippers – including pagans, hippies, locals, and tourists, many in elaborate costumes – gathered at the **STONEHENGE** before dawn to celebrate the summer solstice on Saturday

Iconic cauldron from 2024 Olympics returns to light up the Paris skyline

The cauldron lifted off over the Tuileries Garden at sunset on Saturday

A year after captivating crowds at the Paris Olympics, a centrepiece of the Games returned on Saturday to light up the city's skyline. The helium-powered balloon – once decked in Olympic branding – has been reintroduced as the Paris Cauldron.

Set to fly every evening from June 21 to September 14 for the next three years, the cauldron will also take special flights on Bastille Day (July 14) and the anniversary of the 2024 Olympic opening ceremony (July 26). AP

The head, the heart and some immaterial things

POV

If your social media feed is buzzing with smart takes on a Hollywood rom-com, you should definitely tap into it. Literally. Not because it stars some of the most gorgeous looking actors together for the first time (Chris Evans, Dakota Johnson, Pedro Pascal), but the way it has resurrected a conversation we thought was redundant in these times of algorithm-aided matchmaking and life choices.

From Jane Austen's classics to *Titanic*, from *Pretty Woman* to *Bridget Jones's Diary*, from *Bridgerton* to now *Materialists*, nothing captures our romantic imagination quite like the story of a girl caught between the head and the heart, her prince and the pauper, stability and power versus someone who can barely afford a fancy brunch.

This dilemma never really goes out of style – a timeless love triangle, between you, your feelings, and your better judgment. Think about it – somewhere, someone right now is weighing that exact choice. On a first date. In a long-term situationship. Or while stalking their ex's new partner on Instagram. Is it going to be the one who's emotionally available but can't split the rent, or the one who checks all the "life partner" boxes but makes your soul yawn?

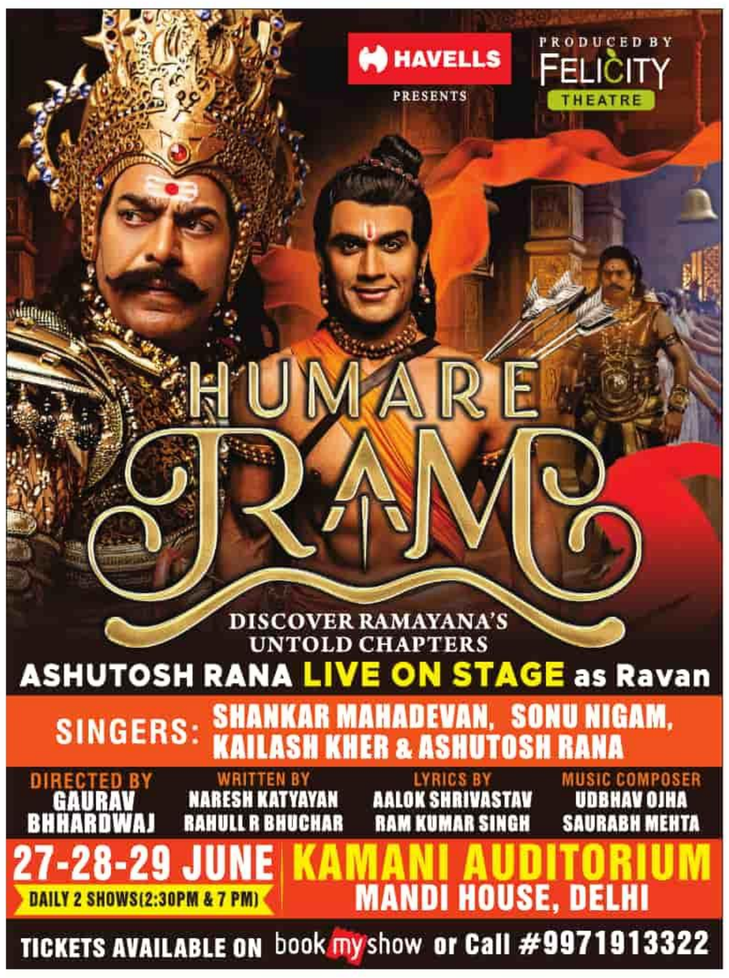
While *Materialists* may be set in New York, this tug-of-war hits us differently. We've all grown up balancing dreamy *filmi* romances with practical *shaadi* setups. One side whispers "spark," the other side screams "settle."

Modern Indian dating apps may sell "compatibility scores" in their bios, but many users still want that mystery box. That ineffable pull of attraction, even if it comes wrapped in red flags and financial risks. Most will swipe for magic, romance over reason, but panic when it shows up in ill-fitted jeans and no fixed salary. We have all been there, done that. And likely to fall for it again.

"Men always want to be a woman's first love," wrote Oscar Wilde. But women "have a more subtle instinct," What they like is "to be a man's last romance." The head vs heart question? It's the OG cliffhanger after all.

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? **Write to us at:** pov@timesofindia.com

GALLERIA
TIMES interact



LEISURE

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

9			7	8				3
					5	1		
	7	6	4			9		
	2					8		1
5								2
7		8					9	
		4			1	7	3	
		2	3					
8				4	9			5

HOW TO PLAY

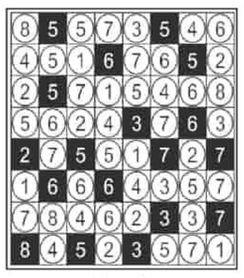
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

TIMES HITORI

HOW TO PLAY

1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

2	2	2	6	2	1	4	5
1	4	9	2	8	6	7	5
1	3	9	9	1	3	8	2
3	1	5	8	9	2	6	3
2	2	3	5	4	7	9	1
4	9	8	6	7	1	5	5
8	8	8	3	8	5	8	4
9	6	1	7	5	4	2	3

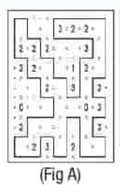


Example

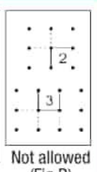
LOOP THE LOOP

RULES

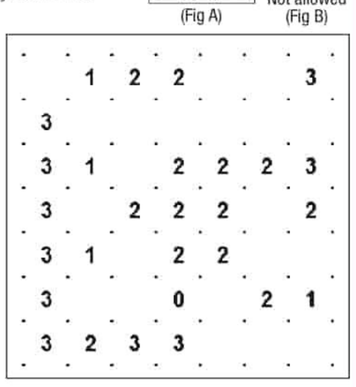
- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



Not allowed (Fig B)

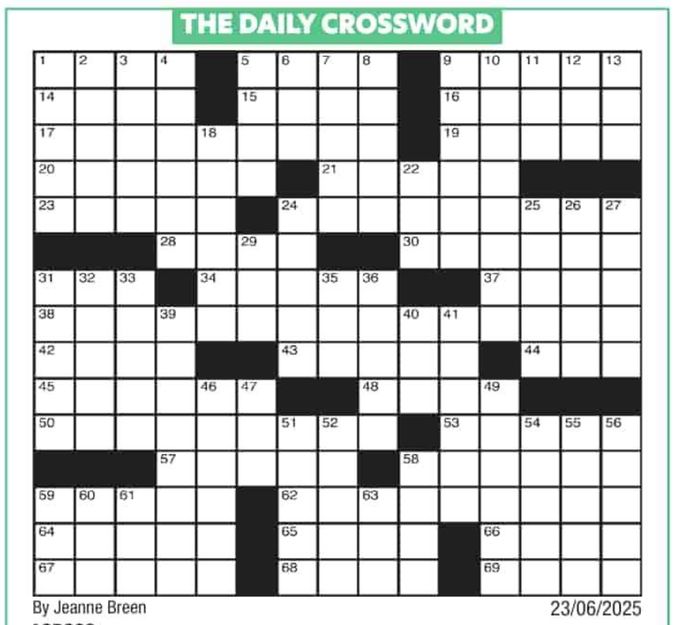


HOW TO BEGIN:

Example (Fig A) -
Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend **(Fig B)**.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jeanne Breen 23/06/2025

ACROSS

1 The "T" of the education acronym STEM
5 Baroque composer of more than 200 cantatas
9 Nest material
14 Cuatro y cuatro
15 Potatoes, in Indian cooking
16 Desert pit stop
17 Unexpected development in a story
19 Me.-to-Fla. route
20 Shade of many an Easter egg
21 Concert souvenirs, casually
23 "I wouldn't __ you wrong!"
24 Textile pattern with round spots
28 Purple palm berry
30 Out jogging, say
31 Place for a "me day"
34 Bonus
37 Ivy League school in Connecticut
38 Hubbub
42 Flower in some van Gogh paintings
43 Ice cream serving
44 Always, in verse
45 Call back
48 Gift toppers
50 Youth-oriented fashion magazine
53 "That's possible"
57 Insinuate
58 Disquiet
59 Blue-gray shade
62 Classic David Bowie song with the lyric "Put on your red shoes," and an apt title for this puzzle
64 Praline nut
65 Breed of horse with a high-set tail
66 Massage target
67 Early web portal
68 Some members of the fam
69 Coll. entrance exams

DOWN

1 Collectibles brand with a "Cards 101" section on its website
2 Panache
3 Made a selection
4 Drink served with dim sum
5 Cry noisily
6 Boxer Muhammad
7 Cran and vodka cocktail
8 Concierge's workplace
9 Bird on a box of Froot Loops cereal
10 Times to do laundry
11 Prefix meaning "equal"
12 Sloe __ fizz
13 NNW opposite
18 Bygone Toyota model
22 "Citizen Kane" studio
24 Pocket breads
25 Speechify
26 Wedding gown fabric
27 Show scorn
29 Log chopper
31 Jersey, for one
32 Baby food, usually
33 Parenthetical remark
35 GOP org.
36 Photoshop maker
39 Chinese beer brand
40 Fan's "I do not like this!"
41 Detectable by smell, in a way
46 Lotion brand for sensitive skin
47 Place to park a car
49 Thick cuts of meat
51 Extravagant parties
52 Wombs
54 Divine nourishment
55 Fancy necktie
56 Throws forcefully, in slang
58 Some computer ports
59 Secret agent
60 Grazing meadow
61 Düsseldorf "D'oh!"
63 Soda can opener

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	T	F	I	S	H	I	N	G		P	A	L	L
I	T	S	A	N	H	O	N	O	R		A	L	O	E
C	H	A	T	T	E	R	A	T	I		S	I	V	A
A	E	R		O	R	A	L		P	E	T	B	E	D
D	A	I	S		A	C	I	D		G	R	A	T	E
A	R	N	A	Z		E	N	E	R	G	Y	B	A	R
S	T	A	V	E	D		E	S	A		C	A	P	S
			E	D	I	T		K	I	T	H			
P	S	A	T		O	R	R		D	I	E	T	E	R
O	N	T	H	E	R	O	A	D		A	F	O	R	E
T	O	W	E	L		T	W	E	E		S	P	O	T
H	O	O	D	O	O		M	A	L	L		P	S	Y
O	K	R	A		P	I	E	R	C	E	D	L	I	P
L	E	S	T		A	D	A	M	A	N	D	E	V	E
E	R	T	E		L	A	T	E	P	A	S	S	E	S

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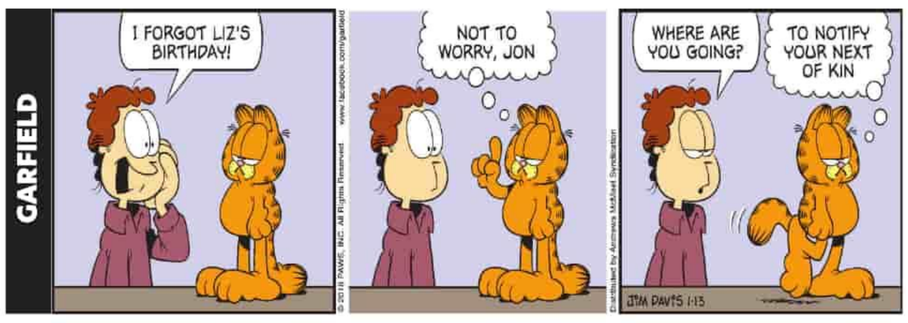

SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

EMELE
IRTTA
FENATT
RMENAN

HOW TO PLAY

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

____ is in art like colour in pictures. - Martin Kippenberger (13)

EVENTS

EXHIBITION

India Habitat Centre: *Live in Splendour: The Art Edition.* June 20-23. Visual Art Gallery, IHC

The National Centre for the Performing Arts: India Meets Denmark: A Cross-Cultural Celebration of Western Classical Music at the NCPA. June 24 & 27. NCPA, Delhi

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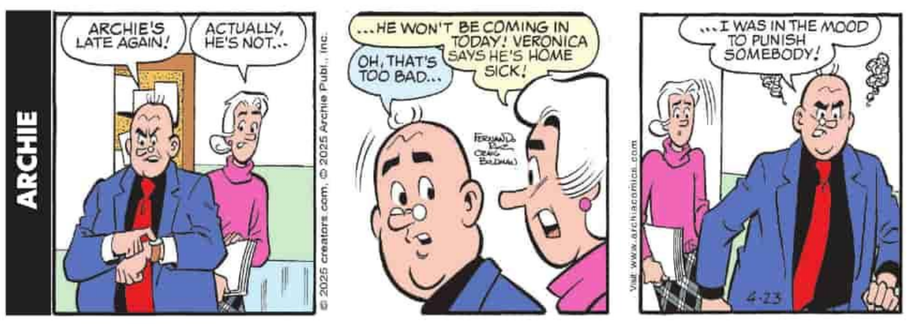

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See what the stars have in store for you – according to your moon sign.

ARIES: There are some movements and unexpected developments anticipated in your professional life. Action and persistence are needed. Make this the perfect time to begin new ventures.

TAURUS: You might well be swept off your feet by some powerful phenomenon today. You might find yourself delving into all possible sources to learn as much as you can. You may also find that things in your personal life are bit aggravating.

GEMINI: Today, there will be a number of people looking to you for advice and support. Your mind is so receptive and retentive today that you might surprise yourself. The current planetary energy is likely to aggravate your already sensitive nature.

CANCER: The sense of ambition that you are receiving from the Sun is guiding you towards the desire for understanding and harmony. A heavy emotional burden weighs upon you and the one you love. You have been thinking of buying or selling a property, and this is the perfect time.

LEO: You may feel cheated today. You have been in doubt as to which spiritual path may be the best for you. It's important to come to terms with your anger or your health could be compromised. A colleague has the power to bring out the worst in you.

VIRGO: The effect of the Moon on you is making you evasive and unreliable. It may affect matters at home. Don't be surprised if you feel somewhat discouraged and worn out by giving up your time to people who are incapable of understanding you.

LIBRA: The tension that you feel between you and a friend turns into a fog of confusion today. Don't be surprised if colleagues are not cooperating at a high level. You are somewhat at loggerheads with the people that you love. You don't have faith in anyone, least of all yourself!

SCORPIO: Your progressive attitude is apt to inspire others to take a more educated approach to things. You know how to make the most of favourable opportunities. You are ready to enjoy the joys of romance. You don't trust anyone.

SAGITTARIUS: Your discipline and your sense of responsibility find a favourable echo with the people who are close to you today. The best you can do is to give each other some space, and discuss the matter at a later date.

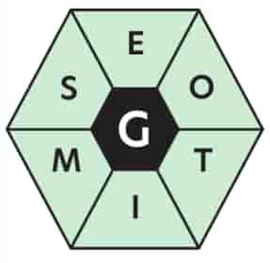
CAPRICORN: Make a start while you still have some energy to give matters the attention they seek. You will get concrete proof of love that contributes you to dispel your doubts and your anxieties today. Be mindful to do plenty of exercise and drink plenty of water these days.

AQUARIUS: Your energy and powers of analysis will be strong. You will know exactly how and when to act & turn things to your advantage. Your finances will help you invest your hard-earned cash in the most profitable manner.

PISCES: Your emotions are extreme today. State your views clearly and directly without getting angry. Don't get discouraged if you feel a bit weighed down this morning. Things are bound to pick up tremendously as the day wears on. Make a snap decision today concerning finances.

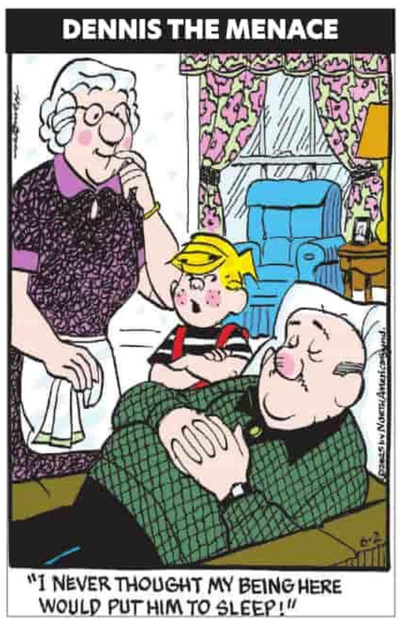
SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:
04-average | 05-good | 06-outstanding



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

DENNIS THE MENACE

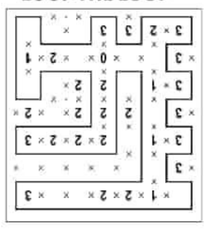


SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

8	3	7	6	4	9	2	1	5
1	9	2	3	5	7	6	8	4
6	5	4	8	2	1	7	3	9
7	4	8	1	3	2	5	9	6
5	6	1	9	7	8	3	4	2
3	2	9	5	6	4	8	7	1
2	7	6	4	1	3	9	5	8
4	8	3	2	9	5	1	6	7
9	1	5	7	8	6	4	2	3

LOOP THE LOOP



TIMES HITORI

3	6	1	7	5	4	2	9
4	2	5	9	8	1	3	6
1	4	9	2	6	7	8	5
2	1	4	5	7	9	6	3
5	9	6	8	3	2	1	4
6	3	8	1	9	5	4	7
9	5	7	3	4	6	2	1
8	7	3	4	2	8	5	9
7	8	2	6	1	3	9	5

SPELLATHON

egoism, egoist, EGOTISM, gismo, gist, smog

SCRAMBLE

Answer: Entertainment is in art like colour in pictures. - Martin Kippenberger
Words: Melee, trait, tatter, manner

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Pics: Ajay Kumar Gautam

Akhil Sachdeva, Ankur Tewari's acoustic sets have Ggn singing

Gurgaon sang along as singers **Akhil Sachdeva** and **Ankur Tewari** brought alive the spirit of street performances and live music at Buskr Chowk on Saturday evening.

The duo kept things easy and engaging with tracks like *Jeene Mein Aaye Maza, Channa Ve, Sabse Peeche Hum Khade, Tu Jaane Na*, and *Samjhavan*. While Akhil admitted it was his first attempt at busking, he embraced the format, stepping off stage to interact with the crowd and even stopping for selfies mid-set.

Ankur, too, set the tone early – walking up front with his mic to connect directly with the audience. As voices joined in and the crowd swayed, the evening turned into a celebration of music on the streets.

Ankur and (above) Akhil during their unplugged gig on Saturday

Vaibhav during his set at Buskr Chowk, which seeks to celebrate independent performing arts and foster community connect through culture in public spaces

Siddhi Prasanna presented a few pieces on the flute

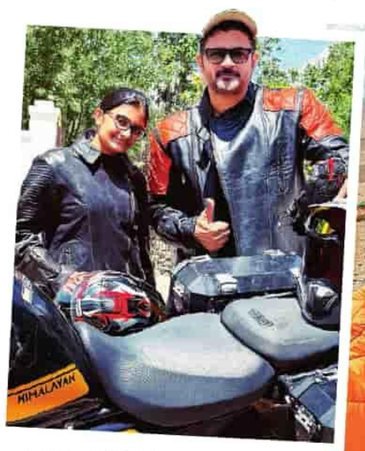
TRIPPIN'

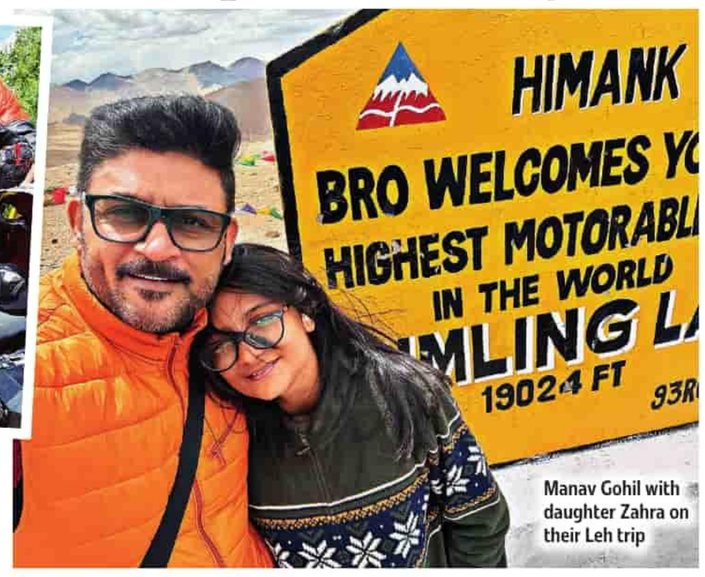
Pics: @ishaankhatter

"First time the big bro and I travelled together – just us!" wrote **ISHAAN KHATTER** sharing **SLOVENIA** trip photos with **SHAHID KAPOOR.** "He couldn't have chosen a better companion (the bike)," he added

Manav ticks off Leh bike trip with daughter

Manav Gohil recently ticked off a long-held wish – a daddy-daughter bike trip through Leh with his adventure-loving daughter, Zahra. He tells us, "I did a solo bike trip in Leh a couple of years ago, I fell in love with the place. So, I wanted Zahra (his daughter) to experience it one day. I am glad that we have finally done this."





Manav Gohil with daughter Zahra on their Leh trip

'STARGAZING IN HANLE WAS MAGICAL'

Sharing highlights from the trip, the actor says, "We reached Leh on June 13 and visited the Alchi Monastery the next day – it's one of the oldest, and the bike ride there was incredible. On Father's Day (June 15), we drove to Hanle, and stargazing that night was magical."

'MOUNTAINS HELP YOU BOND DIFFERENTLY'

"When you're in the mountains, you connect with nature – and with each other – in a way that's very different from city life. It wasn't an easy trip, but we managed things well. The change may not be instantly visible, but this journey has definitely brought us even closer," Manav shares.

– Soumitra Das

After every 100 mts, Zahra would shout in joy. Seeing her that happy and excited made the entire bike trip completely worth it

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'From an unsuccessful venture to record-breaking run, Sholay was an emotional rollercoaster for all of us'

CONTINUED FROM 1

I hope that 50 years later, the film captures the imagination of new audiences: Amitabh Bachchan

Reminiscing about the film, Amitabh Bachchan says, "Some things in life remain permanently etched in your mind. *Sholay* is one such film. Shooting for the film was an unforgettable experience, but at the time I had no idea that it would be a watershed for Indian cinema. Its dramatic change in fortunes from being declared an unsuccessful venture, to its record-breaking box office run was an emotional rollercoaster for all of us. I hope that even 50 years later, the film will capture the imagination of new audiences across the world."

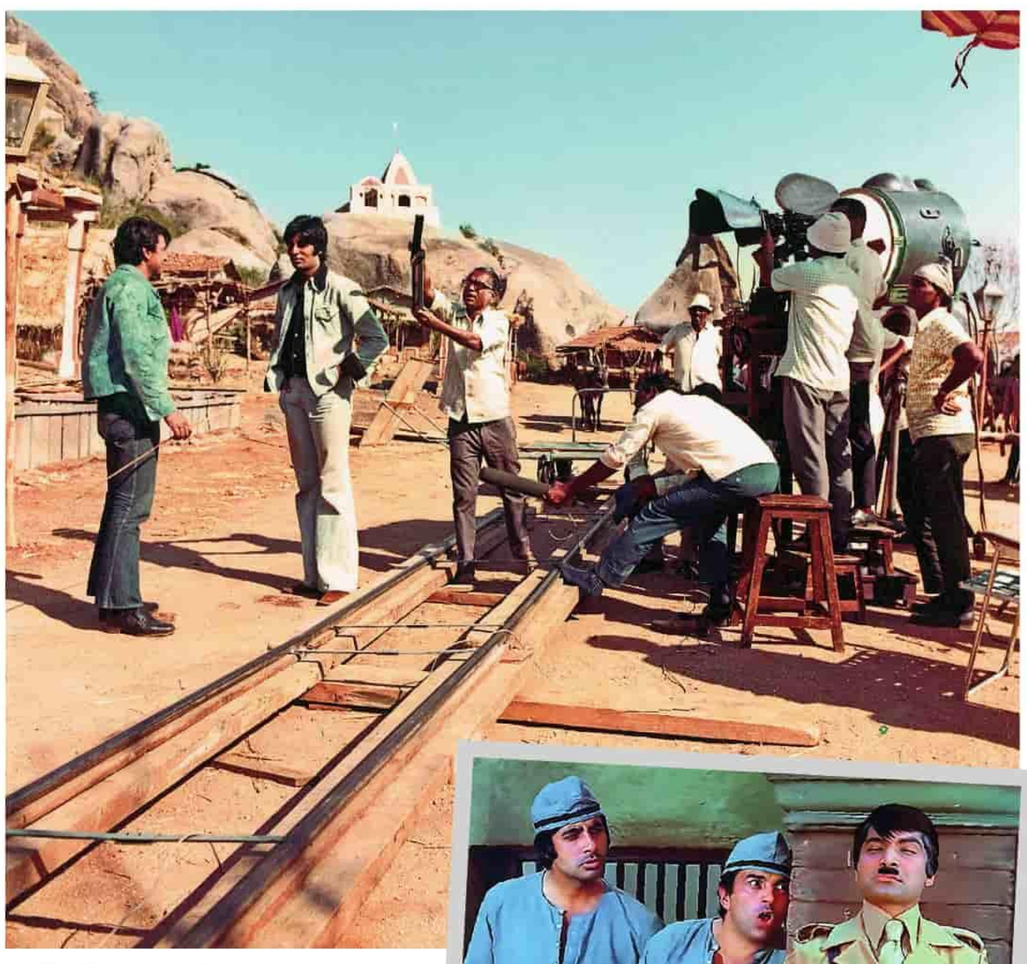
> I am thrilled to hear that the film is being restored and I am sure it will have the same success as it had 50 years ago. Who can forget the dialogues of Salim-Javed and the direction of Ramesh Sippy? So many scenes have gone down in the history of Indian cinema
>
> – Dharmendra

Can't wait for Sholay to begin its new lease of life: Shehzad Sippy

Talking about the restoration, producer Shehzad Sippy, shares, "It has taken us three years, but we were able to find the original ending and some deleted scenes that the world will see for the first time at the grand premiere at the Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna. I can't wait for *Sholay* to begin its new lease of life."

The original ending and previously deleted scenes that were not part of the widely distributed theatrical cut of *Sholay*. They have been included in the restored version.

Did You Know?



'This world premiere is a recognition of Sholay's place in global cinematic history'

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, Director, Film Heritage Foundation, says, "*Sholay* is often described as the greatest Indian film ever made. I know every frame and every dialogue of the film by heart. *Sholay* was a masterpiece of passion that generations of Indians have loved and seen time and time again. Despite the fact that we could not use the original camera negative and that not a single 70mm print survives, we have left no stone unturned to ensure that this historic film has been beautifully restored. The Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival is renowned for its dedication to showcasing restored and classic films. This world premiere marks not just a celebration of a film, but a recognition of its enduring power and its place in global cinematic history."

Some of the iconic scenes from *Sholay*. The stills prompt one to say, "*Hum angrezon ke zamane ke* jailer *hain*" or "*Yun ki, yeh kaun bola?*" – and in the same dramatic tone too

Ezra teases Hollywood return: First thing I'll do is film with Lynne

Ezra Miller is making a gradual return to the spotlight. The 32-year-old actor, who uses they/them pronouns, made a rare public appearance at the Filming Italy event on Thursday and revealed that they have been contemplating a return to the film industry despite the legal issues that have overshadowed their career in recent times.

Discussing their shock appearance at the Cannes Film Festival last month, Ezra told an Italian publication, "I came to Cannes to support one of my closest friends in the world who is Lynne Ramsey." The star explained that they have been writing an unnamed movie with Ramsey – whom they collaborated with on the 2011 flick *We Need To Talk About Kevin* - and said that the project "will likely be the first thing I do" if a return to Hollywood materialises.

Ezra – who has faced accusations of harassment, burglary and grooming of minors – said, "I've been writing a lot, because you can do that in solitude." Talking about their legal woes Ezra said, "Not that I don't hold a lot of remorse and lamentation for a lot of things that I did and a lot of things that happened in that time, but I'm really, really grateful for the lessons that came with that abyss." Agencies

Talking about their legal woes, Ezra Miller said, "I'm really, really grateful for the lessons that came with that abyss"

Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actors Lataa and Sanjeev have separated

Lataa Saberwal and Sanjeev Seth starred as Hina Khan's on-screen parents in *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*, playing a married couple in the show. If reports are to be believed, the couple fell in love on the show and later married

Lataa Saberwal and **Sanjeev Seth**, best known for their roles in daily soap *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*, have called it quits after 16 years of marriage. On Saturday, Lataa took to Instagram and announced her separation from Sanjeev.

"After a prolonged silence... I declare that I (Lataa Saberwal) have been separated from my husband (Mr Sanjeev Seth). I give gratitude to him for giving me a lovely son. I wish him all the best for his future life," she posted.

Lataa also requested everyone to respect the former couple's privacy. "I request everyone to please respect my and my family's peace and not to ask any questions or call regarding this. GRATITUDE," she added.

> After a prolonged silence... I declare that I have been separated from my husband. I give gratitude to him for giving me a lovely son. I wish him all the best for his future life – Lataa Saberwal

Lataa and Sanjeev gained immense popularity after playing the roles of Akshara's (Hina Khan) parents in *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*. If reports are to be believed, the couple fell in love on the show and later married. They have a son named Aarav. ANI

Pics: @ihansika

FURRY FRIENDS

With snuggles and selfies, HANSIKA MOTWANI is serving serious pet parent vibes as she shares adorable pictures with her pooch

Madonna shares designer-filled bathroom chronicles

In one of her looks, she sported the statement tights — featuring the quote "Mom, I am a rich man" — priced at $52 (₹4,500 approx), paired with a blue T-shirt and fuzzy slippers

Madonna has once again shown why she remains a style and cultural icon. The 66-year-old posted an Instagram photo highlighting her designer wardrobe, giving fans a glimpse inside her $40 million (₹346.33 crore approx) Upper East Side apartment.

She captioned the post, "Life in my bathroom lately! Also. It's important to read the fine print……..IF YOU WANT IT (sic)." The line was a reference to a pair of tights by Berlin-based brand Saint Sass, featuring the quote "Mom, I AM a Rich Man," originally said by Cher, according to *US Weekly*.

Madonna showed off a range of looks, from casual T-shirts to designer dresses. Recently, Madonna has been sharing more glimpses of her New York home through social media. Agencies

Madonna also wore a black-and-silver corset dress with dark tights and loafers, accessorized with a custom crocodile leather Aupen bag reportedly worth $100,000 (₹86.5 lakh approx)

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Indian students studying Medicine in Iran stare at uncertain career

File photo: Indian students board a flight from Armenia to New Delhi under Operation Sindhu

Ayushi.Gupta1@timesofindia.com

Amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate its citizens, including over 6,000 students, from war-affected Iran. The first flight, carrying 110 Indian nationals, mostly students, landed in New Delhi from Yerevan, Armenia, on June 19, 2025. Most of these students are pursuing MBBS degrees and chose Iran to pursue their medical studies due to unstable conditions in Ukraine and Russia. However, with the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, these students' careers have been put on an indefinite pause.

Speaking to *Education Times*, Hasan Zaidi from Agra, UP, who travelled to Iran in 2024 to pursue MBBS at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, is only thinking of returning home. This was his first year of study, but he has now been forced to return to India. "Initially, we believed the conflict would end quickly and there would be no need to return. I chose Iran because of the war in Russia and Ukraine, as education there seemed risky. Unexpectedly, a similar situation has emerged in Iran now," Hasan says.

The Indian embassy in Tehran is assisting students to evacuate through Armenia, Turkmenistan, and other border countries. "There were minor attacks near Arak city close to our university area, which were intercepted by Iranian forces. We are all safe but scared. We will cross the border to reach Turkmenistan or Afghanistan," Hasan says. Afroz Ahmad Bisati from Awantipora, Jammu & Kashmir, whose daughter studies at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, shared that she was initially moved to Qom city along with other students from Tehran. "My only concern is their safe evacuation amid the uncertainty," Bisati says.

Research scholars demand monthly disbursal of stipends

Divyansh.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Delay in grants undermines both quality and progress of research

Despite persistent appeals to the government, a large number of PhD scholars under Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC), National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes (NFSC), and Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) are grappling with severe financial and mental distress due to prolonged delays in the disbursements of stipends. Several scholars have been waiting for more than six months, which has jeopardised their well-being and derailed the progress of their research.

Speaking to *Education Times*, an NFOBC scholar at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), who receives Rs 37,000 per month under the fellowship, says the troubles are mounting because of lack of funds. Due to fellowship delays, most scholars are unable to pay conference fees, send money home, or even buy basic research materials. "The initial fellowship instalment was released after a significant delay of approximately six months. Furthermore, the amount disbursed was less than the allocated sum, which had been budgeted for critical expenses such as international conference participation. This shortfall necessitated seeking financial support from family to sustain research activities and directly impacted our ability to engage in seminars and acquire necessary resources," the scholar says.

Lal Chandra Vishwakarma, president, All-India Research Scholars Association (AIRSA), says that approximately 1,000 MANF scholars are waiting for the stipend to be released. "Research scholars should receive their stipends with the same regularity as a government salary. We have reached out to the Ministry of Minority Affairs to demand payment of monthly instalments instead of quarterly or yearly payments." Despite multiple letters to the ministry and funding agencies, the demand has fallen on deaf ears. "The average delay for these stipends ranges from four to six months, a delay that has also affected NFOBC scholars, whose stipends were released after numerous follow-ups and six months of waiting," Vishwakarma adds.

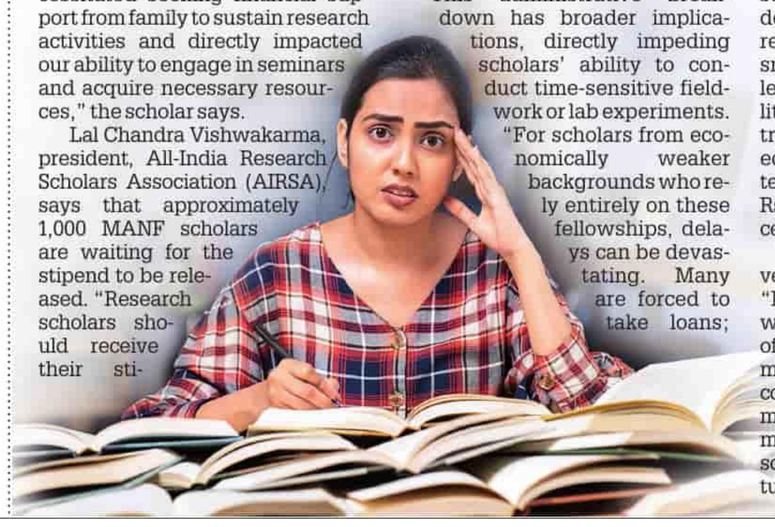
The core issue is a systemic failure and administrative breakdown within government funding mechanisms. Vikash Kumar, president Indian Research Scholars Association (IRSA), points to the NFOBC as a prime example of worsening conditions. "Every year, almost 1,000 research scholars are selected, however, since 2022, scholars have been facing a lot of challenges in getting a fellowship." From April 1, 2024, to February 2025, NFOBC scholars did not receive the fellowship and the delays were attributed to "insufficient grants from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment."

This administrative breakdown has broader implications, directly impeding scholars' ability to conduct time-sensitive fieldwork or lab experiments. "For scholars from economically weaker backgrounds who rely entirely on these fellowships, delays can be devastating. Many are forced to take loans; their focus shifts from research to worrying about finances. This uncertainty undermines both the quality and the progress of their research," adds Kumar.

"The lack of direct communication between funding bodies, the ministry, and host institutions leaves universities without a formal channel to report distressed scholars when stipends are withheld, creating an administrative breakdown," he says.

The disparity in disbursement is also a significant point of concern. Husna Moab, MANF scholar at IIT Patna, says, "I haven't received my fellowship since January 2025, and the delay is over six months. Many MANF scholars across India (around 1,500-2,000) are in the same boat." The fellows getting grants from UGC, CSIR get stipends without delay. "These delays are attributed to slow fund release by the ministry, technical snag and multi-level approval bottlenecks directly impacting our ability to attend workshops, pay for travel, or even manage basic needs, including substantial semester fees," adds Husna, who receives Rs 25,000 plus House Rent Allowance (HRA) under the fellowship.

A JRF scholar from Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, says, "Most of us are used to the delays as we have rarely received regular flow of funds for five consecutive months. This uncertainty leads to compounding the already existing mental stress due to heavy academic load and sometimes compels scholars to think about other opportunities outside academia."



Sagging Morale

The associations and scholars have emphasised a strong call for immediate action. "Monthly fellowship payments are crucial for uninterrupted research. Delays hurt the research work and morale of scholars. We need timely monthly disbursal for academic progress," says Husna Moab, MANF scholar.

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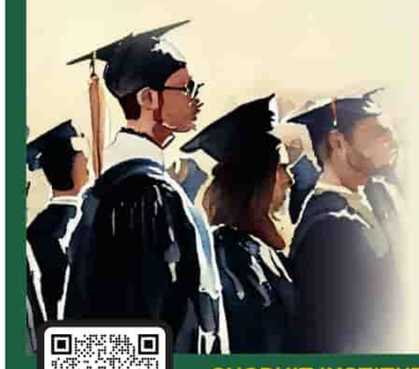

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Q1. What is synonymous to 'friendly'?
A. hostile B. cordial C. veracity D. ubiquitous

Q2. Lugubrious is to mirth, ancient is to
A. archaic B. antediluvian C. geological D. modern

Q3. 'There was not a single dry eye in the room.' The underlined phrase signifies
A. no one with a medical condition
B. no one wore spectacles
C. everyone was crying bitterly
D. there was hatred among them.

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

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MoE forms committee to tackle rising dependence on coaching centres

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) has established a special committee to address issues related to the coaching of entrance examinations, their impact, and fairness. This nine-member committee will delve deeply into the subject to understand the increasing dependence on coaching centres.

The committee will investigate the shortcomings in the current school education system that lead students to rely more on coaching centres than school studies. It aims to uncover the reasons behind this preference and identify the gaps that need addressing. One of the key areas the committee will explore is the rise of dummy schools and their effects on the formal education system. The committee will investigate how this trend impacts education.

The committee will also review the advertising practices of coaching centres, examining the misleading claims and selective success stories used to attract students and parents. Another focus area will be evaluating the awareness levels among students and parents regarding multiple career pathways and how this lack of awareness contributes to the over-dependence on a few elite institutions. The committee will also assess the availability and effectiveness of career counselling services in schools and colleges and suggest measures to strengthen career guidance frameworks.

AR-VR technologies can democratise access to cultural heritage

Priyanka.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

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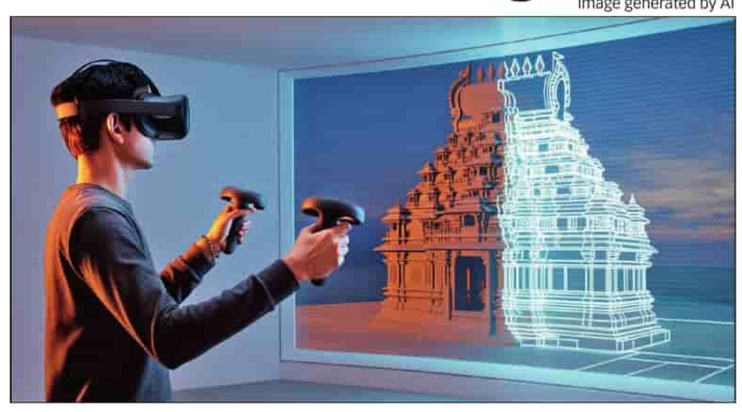


India must use technology to preserve and promote its heritage. **Prof Neeru Misra, former ICCR director, visiting professor, Culture, Heritage & Museums, BL Institute of Indology, Delhi,** on use of new technology to ensure longevity of cultural legacy, connecting past and future generations while addressing the complexities inherent in digital preservation. Excerpts of the interview:

How can digital technology and AI preserve cultural heritage and art history for future generations?
The integration of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be transformative in preserving cultural heritage and the history of art. Digitisation will safeguard artefacts through high-resolution imaging, 3D modelling, to create resilient digital archives. This will protect physical degradation and ensure global accessibility, facilitating scholarly research and public appreciation.

AI advances preservation by analysing environmental factors that affect artefact deterioration, predicting potential damage, and enable precise restoration. Furthermore, it reconstructs lost or fragmented works based on historical data, ensuring fidelity of the original creations. Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR and AR) complement these efforts by offering immersive experiences of historical sites and artefacts, democratising access to cultural heritage.

Is India prepared for technological revolution to create interactive virtual guides and personalised tours, predictive maintenance and sentiment analysis for people who cannot personally visit museums, heritage sites and historical places?
India is home to a vast array of historical landmarks and cultural treasures but faces the challenge of leveraging advanced technologies to make heritage accessible. AR/VR promise significant benefits, including interactive virtual tours, predictive maintenance of sites, and sentiment analysis for enhanced visitor engagement. While these advancements can democratise access to heritage, their implementation in India remains nascent.

Current initiatives include virtual exhibits of Ajanta caves at the National Museum, VR recreations of Ellora caves, and private efforts showcasing Rajasthan forts by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). But, limited technological infrastructure, funding, skill shortages, and the digital divide hinder its adoption. Strategic investments in infrastructure, government funding, partnerships with tech firms, and training s are essential to overcome these barriers.

> Technology promises significant benefits, including interactive virtual tours, predictive maintenance of sites, and sentiment analysis for enhanced visitor engagement.
> – Neeru Misra

The students of History and Museology need to upgrade their technical skills to prepare for advancing industry demands and job market. Should the curriculum be tweaked?
Adapting academic curricula to meet the evolving market demand is imperative for students. Integrating technical proficiency, interdisciplinary collaboration, and practical training create a robust foundation for career readiness. A pivotal inclusion is digital tools, such as Geographic Information System (GIS), virtual reality applications, and database management systems essential for modern archival practices and presentation of cultural heritage. Quantitative historical analysis and digital humanities can nurture critical thinking and data literacy. Interdisciplinary electives, spanning fields like anthropology and conservation science, enhance collaborative competencies, while modules on grant writing, marketing strategies prepare students navigate financial and managerial challenges.

Can AI be used to enhance experiential learning and accurate assessment by the professors?
AI holds transformative potential to introduce innovative pedagogical models. Experiential learning benefits from AI-driven simulations and virtual environments, enabling students to engage in practical, risk-free scenarios such as virtual surgeries or engineering designs. In pedagogical innovation, AI facilitates gamification, blending engagement with skill acquisition. Collaborative AI-powered platforms enable effective interdisciplinary teamwork through role-based task assignments. For assessments, AI enhances accuracy through automated grading systems, holistic performance analysis, and predictive analytics, guiding professors to adopt proactive teaching strategies. Universities can incorporate AI by developing robust digital infrastructures, training faculty in AI applications, and establishing ethical frameworks to ensure data security and algorithmic fairness.

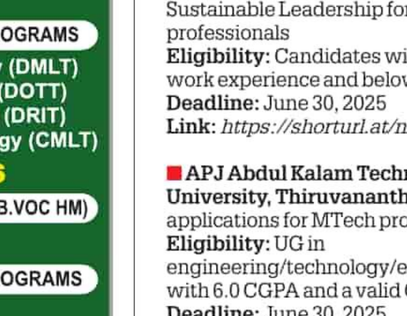
Q&A

Ethics in AI is a challenging requirement. How can students acquire credible information about history to control fake news?
Technology helps address critical challenges such as historical misinformation and regulating fake news. AI tools, such as advanced fact-checking systems, can cross-check historical claims with verified sources to ensure accuracy. AR-VR enables immersive engagement with historical events, allowing students to experience key moments authentically. Digital libraries enhance accessibility to primary sources, promoting in-depth understanding of history. Addressing fake news requires AI-driven solutions such as real-time content verification and natural language processing to detect misinformation patterns.

Mission Admission 2025 held

In a time when students and parents are inundated with choices after class XII, *The Times of India* and *Navbharat Times* came together to host Mission Admission 2025–a one-day seminar and expo–held at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre. The event brought together top universities, career counsellors, and academic experts to help students navigate the evolving landscape of higher education.

From decoding new-age careers and emerging technologies to exploring design, liberal arts, international education, and medical pathways beyond MBBS, the event covered it all. A rejuvenating yoga session marked the beginning of the day, setting a calm and focused tone. With insightful sessions and one-to-one counseling by institutions like the IILM University, GD Goenka University, TERI School of Advanced Studies, Amity University, Manav Rachna University, Institute of Management Education, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Delhi Technical Campus, Asia Pacific Institute of Management, ICAI, Study UK, Sushant University, Shiv Nadar University, Ashoka University, GGSIPU and SGT Medical College attracted hundreds of students and parents seeking clarity on courses, scholarships, and admissions.



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UGC validates dual degrees earned by students before 2022 to retain academic continuity

Sonal.Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

To ensure flexibility, the UGC has modified the Guidelines for Pursuing Two Academic Programmes Simultaneously to validate dual degrees earned by students preceding the UGC's official notification in 2022. In 2022, the Guidelines stated that no retrospective benefit could be claimed by students who had already done two academic programmes simultaneously before the notification of these guidelines, which had raised confusion among students and universities. In its 589th meeting held on April 2025, the UGC approved a partial modification to the Guidelines. The revised clause says: Two academic programmes, pursued simultaneously before the issuance of these guidelines, by the UGC regulations and norms prescribed by the statutory professional councils, shall be treated as valid.

Coherent Framework

By validating past dual-degree combinations, the UGC has acknowledged that the efforts of students who pursued simultaneous degrees should not be invalidated. "It brings a welcome sense of continuity. In effect, UGC has turned a regulatory patch into a coherent framework," says M Jagadesh Kumar, former chairman, UGC.

Key Challenges

Implementing dual degrees in a traditional classroom format will require logistical adjustments. "Universities may need to schedule morning and evening shifts to accommodate dual degrees. Just as universities sign MoUs to implement the Multiple Entry and Exit System (MEES), similar arrangements can be made for dual degrees depending on student demand," says RP Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. "Moreover, class XII students must be oriented early about such opportunities," says Prof Vishwanatha P, principal, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College, Ujire, Karnataka.

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