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Bihar's draft poll roll may exclude 66L names: EC

Bihar's draft electoral roll may exclude 66 lakh names as they had become electors in other states, were non-existent, didn't submit enumeration forms or weren't willing to register, EC said Sunday. Of these, 22 lakh were found to be dead, 36 lakh permanently shifted or untraceable, 7 lakh enrolled at multiple places and over 1 lakh didn't return forms. **P10**

3 patients die amid oxygen plant snag

Three patients, who were on ventilator in the trauma centre of Jalandhar Civil Hospital, died in a span of 35 minutes on Sunday night, allegedly after a snag in the oxygen plant. Hospital authorities have started a probe. **P9**

Girl dies of dog attack, boy injured

A girl, 6, lost her life to rabies Saturday, a month after being viciously attacked by a stray dog near Rohini. In another incident, a 4-year-old boy was injured after being bitten by a pack of dogs in Alipur on July 23. **P4**

Raj visits 'birthday boy' Uddhav

Fuelling speculation of an alliance with Shiv Sena (UBT), MNS chief Raj Thackeray Sunday dropped in at Matoshree to wish his 'big brother' Uddhav Thackeray on his 65th birthday. Uddhav welcomed Raj with a hug. **P9**

Ex-min's son-in-law held in drug bust

Pranjal Khewalkar, son-in-law of Maharashtra ex-minister Eknath Khadse, was arrested with six others after police raided a Pune apartment and allegedly seized cocaine, marijuana, hookah pots and liquor. **P12**

8 dead, 28 hurt in stampede at Haridwar's Mansa Devi shrine

Electrocution Rumours May've Sparked Panic

MS Nawaz | TNN

Haridwar: A stampede on the pedestrian route to Mansa Devi temple near Har Ki Pauri claimed eight lives and injured 28 others, at least four critically, on Sunday morning. Those dead were identified as Shanti Devi (60), her husband Rambharose (65), both from Budaun, UP; Sakal Dev (35) from Araria, Bihar; Arush (6), Vicky Saini (18), Vishal Kumar (19) — all three from Rampur, UP; Vakeel Prasad (45) from Barabanki, UP; and Vipin Saini (19) from Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar.

EARLY-MORNING RUSH AT TEMPLE



photo: PTI

Footwear of pilgrims at the stampede site near the temple entrance

- **5,000 devotees** — mainly from UP and Bihar — were present around 8.30 am on the pedestrian route to Mansa Devi temple
- Videos from the spot showed a huge rush of people, including children and women, at the **narrow entrance** of the temple
- **'People died of chest injuries** and no one died of electrocution,' said DM. A detailed magisterial probe has been ordered

Diksha (26) and her daughter Akankshi (4) from Rampur; Phoolmati (52), Lucknow; and Kavita (23), Baghpat, UP, are said to be in critical condition. Officials at AIIMS Rishikesh said that 15 persons were brought to the hospital, out of which, five were discharged, four admitted in ICU ward and six in other wards.

More than 5,000 devotees — mainly from UP and Bihar — were present on the route around 8.30am at the time of the incident, which was possibly triggered by "rumours of electrical wires causing electrocution". Videos from the spot showed a huge rush of people, including children and women, at the narrow entrance of the temple. Eyewitnesses claimed there were hardly any efforts made to control the crowd.

Speaking to **TOI,** the area's SHO Ritesh Shah said the crowd flow was "nothing unusual" in the morning.

▶**Magisterial probe, P 18**

Judge Varma hides identity, is 'XXX' in his SC petition

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Facing an ouster motion in Parliament for sacks of cash found at his residence, Justice Yashwant Varma has kept his identity a secret in his petition in Supreme Court that seeks quashing of an in-house inquiry report and the then CJI's recommendation for stripping him of judgeship.

Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih are scheduled to hear on Monday Varma's petition, in which his name is mentioned as "XXX". Such camouflage is used in records of courts to hide the identity of women petitioners who were sexually harassed or assaulted. It is also used to prevent revealing identity of juveniles, and minors in matrimonial custody battles. SC has asked courts not to reveal the names of rape survivors in judgments.

HEARING TODAY



- In Varma's plea, titled 'XXX vs Union of India', **govt is 1st respondent, SC 2nd**
- Plea to be heard Monday; **listed with a PIL seeking filing of FIR against him**
- Varma has **challenged validity of in-house probe report** that found him guilty, & urged SC to **declare ex-CJI's advice** to Prez & PM for **his ouster unconstitutional**

▶**Speaker may write..., P 18**

Speeding BMW hits scooter, 5-yr-old killed

A five-year-old girl died and her father and uncle suffered severe injuries when a BMW — being driven at over 100kmph by a youth allegedly under the influence of alcohol — crashed into their scooter near Sec 30 govt hospital in Noida around Saturday midnight, **reports Avishek Kumar.** Ayaat was returning home with her father Gul Mohmad and uncle Raza after a visit to the Child PGI hospital when the accident occurred. Police sources said Gul was approaching a U-turn from the wrong side. **P6**

▶**Woman crushed to death by a speeding bus, P 6**

Driver kills man over ₹10k in city farmhouse

A driver working at a Chhatarpur farmhouse was arrested Sunday for allegedly murdering the caretaker. Sita Ram, 42, who went missing since Saturday morning, was reportedly alone on the property, with the owner out of town. Police found his body inside a septic tank on the premises.

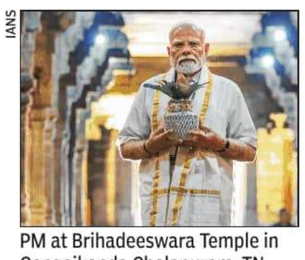
After the driver, Chandra Prakash, was nowhere to be seen, he was traced to Palam and arrested. Cops said he confessed he had demanded Rs 10,000 from the caretaker. When Sita Ram refused, he battered him with a hammer and dumped the body inside the septic tank. **P4**

New self-confidence in India post Op Sindoor, says PM ahead of Parl debate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A day ahead of the parliamentary debate on Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, PM Narendra Modi Sunday reasserted that the precision strikes on terror dens in Pakistan signalled India's resolve that there are no safe havens for terrorists and their masters.

India gives highest priority to national security and the operation has created a new awakening and self-confidence across the country, Modi said at an event in TN's Gangaikonda Cholapuram to honour Chola emperor Rajendra Chola.



IANS

PM at Brihadeeswara Temple in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, TN

The world witnessed India's decisive response to the threat against its sovereignty during Operation Sindoor and it has sent a clear message, there is no place to hide for terrorists and enemies of the nation, he said, setting the tone for the govt's response for the debate in Parliament, starting in Lok Sabha on Monday.

▶**Opposition's plan, P 10**

Trade deal struck: 15% tariff on EU goods entering US

President Donald Trump Sunday said the US and EU had reached agreement on a trade deal that includes a 15% tariff on EU goods entering the US and significant EU purchases of US energy and military equipment. The deal also calls for $600 billion in investments in US by EU. European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said deal would help rebalance trade between two big partners. **P16**

Plan ready to curb US birthright citizenship

In a surprise move, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has recently drawn up an implementation plan for the rollout of President Donald Trump's executive order (EO) that seeks to restrict birthright citizenship, **reports Lubna Kably**.

The EO, signed by Trump on Jan 20, curtailed babies born in the US from getting automatic citizenship unless one of the parents was a US citizen or green card holder at the time of birth of the child. USCIS explains that in the absence of a parent being a US citizen or green card holder, the newborn will have the same status as that of the mother. This plan takes into cognisance the preliminary court injunction but states it has been drawn up in the event that the EO is permitted to go into effect.

▶**USCIS plans, P 16**

Envoy ends up with 2 wives, SC seeks solution

New Delhi: Can a marriage solemnised between a man and a woman belonging to the Kuki tribe in a church be dissolved by the Songpijan village committee and 'gaonburas' (village elders) in Assam's Dima Hasao district on proceedings initiated by the husband relying on customary law?

Gauhati HC had said once a marriage takes place in a church in terms with Christian Marriage Act, 1872, it can't be annulled by customary law practices involving village elders. It can only be dissolved through proceedings initiated before HC or the district judge as per Section 10 of the Divorce Act, 1869, it had said.

This ruling landed the Indian ambassador to Cuba, Thongkomang Armstrong Changsan, in a piquant matrimonial situation as he ended up with two wives, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**. Before HC declaring in 2022 his 1994 church marriage with Neikhol Changsan subsisted, he married another woman after divorce. From both marriages, he has a daughter each.

▶**No sympathy...: SC, P 18**

ED probes alleged diversion of ₹12k cr loans by Anil's RHFL

With documents seized from Anil Ambani's Reliance group entities, ED is looking at alleged diversion of Rs 12,000cr loans. A Sebi report highlighted alleged fund laundering by RHFL, which had written off Rs 7,000cr of Rs 12,000cr loans. **P10**

Triple Sunday: Gill, Jadeja script Sundar escape

A fascinating series stayed alive and records tumbled Sunday as India — trailing by 311 and reduced to 0/2 at one stage — pulled off a magnificent rearguard to draw the 4th Test, **reports Arani Basu**. Ravindra **Jadeja, whose heroics went in vain at Lord's, was there at the end again,** this time with a very different result. Only 2 wickets fell on the 5th day — a rare instance of a Test's full last day seeing the fewest wickets fall — as Jadeja and Washington **Sundar, who scored his 1st Test ton**, kept England at bay. Earlier, Shubman **Gill scored his 4th ton** of the series, putting him in a **super elite club along with Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar** as the 3rd captain to achieve the feat. **P17**



IANS

Sundar (101*) & Jadeja (107*) stitched a 203-run partnership

Ex-min's son-in-law held in drug bust

Pranjal Khewalkar, son-in-law of Maharashtra ex-minister Eknath Khadse, was arrested with six others after police raided a Pune apartment and allegedly seized cocaine, marijuana, hookah pots and liquor. **P12**

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- Certificate course in Advanced crime scene management
- Certificate course in Forensic photography
- Certificate course in Graphology and personality profiling

School of Media & Communication Studies
All certificate courses are in association with India Today Media Institute
- Certificate Course in Art of Anchoring & Presentation
- Certificate Course in AI in Newsroom
- Certificate Course in Events Management
- Certificate Course in Data Journalism
- Certificate Course in Media Graphics and Visualization
- Certificate Course in Integrated Marketing Communication

School of Languages
- Certificate in Japanese
- Certificate in French

Diploma Programs

School of Allied Health Sciences
- Yoga Instructor Course (YIC)
- Diploma in Advanced Music Therapy

School of Medical & Allied Sciences
Department of Pharmacy
- Diploma in pharmacy (D.Pharm) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)

School of Polytechnic
Galgotias Polytechnic
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Network Essentials)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Web Designing)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Cloud Computing & IT Infrastructure)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (AI & ML)
- Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (Data Analytics)
- Diploma in Electric Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in Electric Engineering (Renewable Energy)
- Diploma in Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in IC Manufacturing
- Diploma in Civil Engineering
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TOP RANKED BY TIMES ALL INDIA ENGINEERING INSTITUTES RANKING SURVEY 2025

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Amongst All India Engineering Institutes	Amongst Top Private Universities in India	for providing Top Placements PAN India	for Top Research Capability PAN India

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#GetYourSelfPlaced



Delhi Police's Fingerprint Bureau gets ISO tag | 6

TIMES CITY

** THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

TEMP ON SUNDAY
37.5° MAXIMUM | 28.8° MINIMUM

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

MOONSET 9.31PM (MON) MOONRISE 9.51AM (TUE)
SUNSET 7.15PM (MON) SUNRISE 5.41AM (TUE)

85 AQI IN DELHI ON SUNDAY (SATISFACTORY)

Metro saves Rs 17cr in a year by harnessing solar power | 8

More showers ahead for Delhi-NCR this month | 7

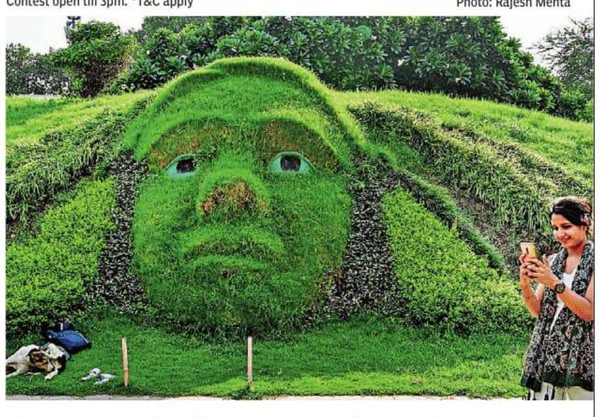


CITY SHOT — NAME IT & WIN

Think you know your city inside out? Take a hard look at the photo below and scan the QR code to identify the spot in Delhi-NCR. One winner gets an Amazon voucher worth ₹500, every day!

Contest open till 3pm. *T&C apply

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



When mother nature finally gets a face! Can you identify this place? **Scan the QR code and enter the name of this spot**

Yesterday's answer: Sadbhavana Park

Winner: **Anu Kumari** (Voucher will be sent by email)

Great Capital Divide: Where Delhi's Roads Save Lives — And Take Them

Central And New Delhi Districts The Safest; One In Every Three Crashes In Outer North Is Fatal

Ishita.Jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi's road safety map resembles a patchwork — stretches of visible progress stitched alongside pockets of persisting peril.

The first half of 2025 brings both relief and unease as the city's safety gains remain uneven as some districts have remained unchanged.

Between Jan and June this year, the capital recorded 677 fatal road accidents, a dip from 764 in the same period in 2024. Road deaths also dropped by nearly 10%, from 778 to 700. At first glance, these figures suggest the city is moving in the right direction. Yet, the gains are not spread evenly across its districts.

In central Delhi, the change is tangible. A typical evening near Red Fort or ISBT Kashmiri Gate still buzzes with office-goers, tourists and roadside vendors. However, fatal crashes in the district dropped from 38 to 17, and deaths more than halved, from 39 to 17. Officials credit stricter enforcement and physical road changes, like grill installations. "In areas near Chandni Chowk, which once saw fatal accidents between pedestrians and vehicles, the installation of grills and U-turn barriers has worked wonders. Fatalities near one hotspot dropped from 11 to 3," said a senior traffic officer. Interestingly, central Delhi overtook the New Delhi district as the least fatal zone in 2025.

New Delhi district, surrounded by VIP areas like Kartavya Path and Chanakyapuri, remains among the safer zones. Fatal accidents and fatalities have dropped from 20 to 19. It is second only to central Delhi.

While the core of Delhi has become safer, its edges are fraught with danger, as earlier.

Outer North, stretching across Narela, Bawana and Alipur continues to be Delhi's deadliest zone. Fatal accidents here rose from 93 to 97, and deaths from 95 to 103, when the total number of crashes dropped from 313 to 263. Like 2024, it tops the charts this time too.

Sources said it is a place that sees a lot of high-speed trucks. A single misstep can be catastrophic.

The data bears this out. Around 36% of total crashes in the district are fatal. "It is also because people do not follow road ethics in most of these places," sources said, adding, "North district, too, struggles with similar challenges. It has seen 61 fatal crashes this year."

The rest of Delhi sits between these extremes. South West district, covering Vasant Vihar, IGI Airport and Kapashera, is second on the list with 73 fatalities, down from 80 last year. West Delhi, with busy corridors like Rajouri Garden and Punjabi Bagh, saw a dip from 69 deaths last year to 64 now, but still ranks high on the chart.

Traffic officials blame a mix of signal-jumping, illegal turns and poor lane discipline for the persistently high numbers.

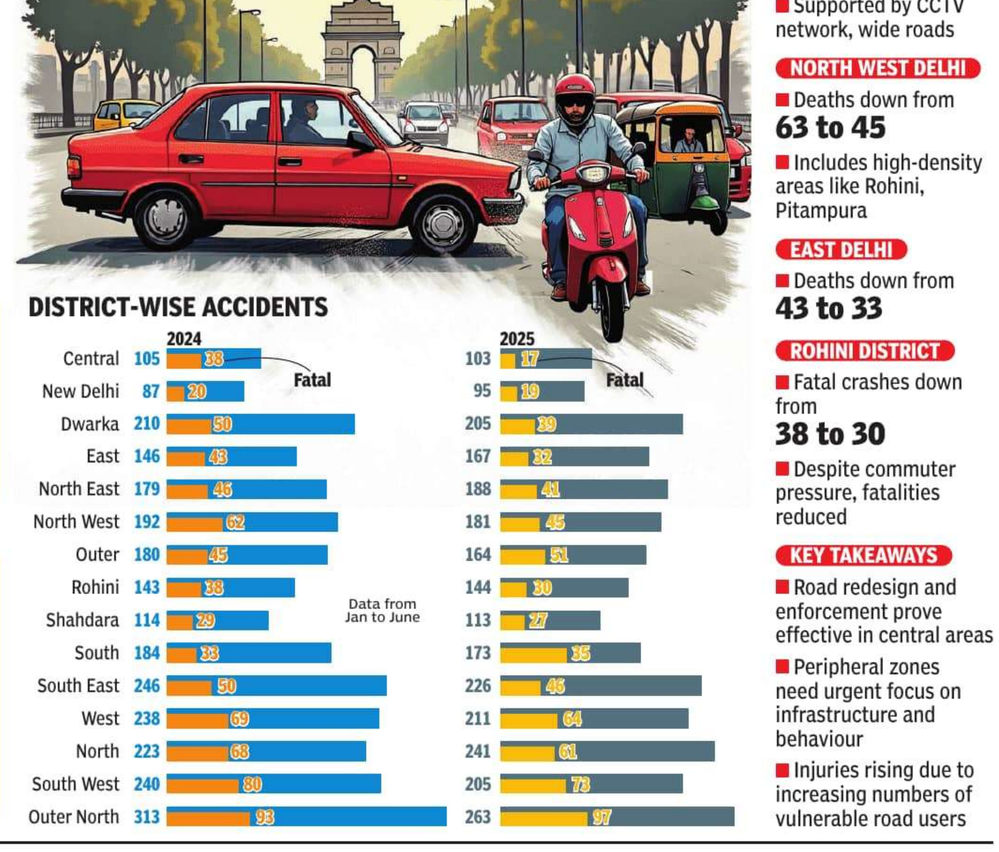
Some districts, however, show promising trends. Dwarka cut fatal crashes from 50 to 39 and deaths from 51 to 41, aided by its CCTV network and wide, well-monitored roads. North West district, covering parts of Rohini and Pitampura, saw fatalities drop from 63 to 45. East Delhi — from Mayur Vihar to Akshardham crossings — recorded a decline in deaths from 43 to 33. Even Rohini, with its high commuter density, managed to reduce fatalities from 40 to 32.

Yet, trouble lingers on the city's borders. The outer districts, covering Nangloi and Tikri, saw fatal crashes and deaths climb from 45 to 51, despite fewer total crashes (from 180 to 164). The South district, home to the winding Mehrauli-Badarpur stretch and areas like Saket and Sangam Vihar, saw fatalities inch up from 33 to 35.

Adding complexity to the count is the rise in injuries. Even as fatal accidents and deaths dropped, injuries went up from 2,566 last year to 2,617 this year. Experts point to the growing number of vulnerable road users — delivery riders, two-wheelers, pedestrians — who survive crashes but with severe injuries.

The numbers tell a story of cautious progress. Central Delhi's turnaround proves that redesigned central verges or other road engineering methods can save lives. However, the deadlier stretches of Outer North, South West, and Outer districts — where heavy trucks rule and infrastructure lags — remain glaring weak spots.

TIMES Special



Proclaimed offender held nine years after murder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested a proclaimed offender who was absconding for nearly nine years in a gruesome 2016 murder case in Uttam Nagar. The accused, 33-year-old Antaj Ansari, was finally traced and apprehended in Mohali, Punjab.

Originally from Bihar's Siwan district, Antaj was residing in Delhi's Om Vihar at the time of the crime. He was wanted for the murder of his landlord, Rahim alias Salman, whose body was found partially burnt, wrapped in a blanket, and tied with electric wires in a vacant plot on Nov 27, 2016.

Police said the case was initially a blind one, with no leads. Forensic analysis and local intelligence later revealed that Antaj, Rahim, and an associate, Devender alias Chhota Balle, were drinking together when a heated argument escalated. "In a fit of rage, Antaj and Devender struck Rahim with an iron rod, followed by a brick, and then stabbed him with a kitchen knife," said DCP (Crime) Harsh Indora. "After ensuring he was dead, they wrapped the body in a blanket and dumped it in Mohan Garden. They returned the next day, confirmed the victim's death, and set the body on fire to conceal the identity.

The suspects fled to Assam and returned to Delhi after 10 days. In Dec 2016, they were caught while allegedly planning a robbery. During the arrest, they reportedly pulled out pistols but were overpowered by police. Two firearms and live cartridges were seized, and a separate Arms Act case was registered.

While Devender stood trial, Antaj skipped proceedings and was declared a proclaimed offender in Dec 2024. Acting on a tip-off, police tracked him to Mohali and arrested him near a guest house on July 25.

Delhi govt has earmarked ₹700cr for slum areas: CM

Abhinav.Rajput
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New Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta announced on Monday that her govt has allocated Rs 700 crore in the budget for the development of slum settlements.

"Whenever slums need to be removed for any reason, arrangements are being made to provide houses to the eligible residents so that they can be true citizens of the national capital," she said.

Gupta said that slum dwellers should not be misled by AAP, as during that party's rule they merely saw slum residents as vote banks and encouraged the supply of alcohol to these areas. "Now that the current govt is working on development schemes for the slum communities, these functionaries are trying to incite unrest and mislead the residents," she said.

The chief minister said this while visiting a slum camp — Faatak Wali Jhuggi — near the railway crossing in Shalimar Bagh on Sunday morning. The railways have issued a notice for the removal of this slum settlement, as it is on railway land. The railways are expanding the Azadpur railway station.

Gupta said that a survey of this slum area was conducted in 2020, but the then Aam Aadmi Party govt neither took any



Chief minister Rekha Gupta

decisions, nor held talks with the railways. "But we have now begun working on a plan for you, so that you do not face any hardship," she said.

"When a crisis came upon you, I came to meet you because Delhi govt is not in favour of removing slums without a reason," the chief minister said. She added that if slums have to be removed for the sake of development, govt will ensure rehabilitation for eligible residents.

She said that she would speak to the ministry of railways and make arrangements for housing for the residents. "You will get complete justice. Delhi govt is fully committed to this," she said.

The chief minister also criticised the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party govts, stating that in the past 40 years, no development has taken place in Delhi's slums. "These parties have only seen slum dwellers as voters and have constantly tried to exploit them," she said.

Gupta also said that the AAP functionaries were making baseless allegations that Delhi govt was focused on removing slum dwellers. "But let me tell them that govt has allocated a budget of Rs 700 crore for the development of slum settlements," she said.

"Our govt is working towards the development of slum settlements. Roads, lanes and pavements are being made. Arrangement for clean drinking water is being made. Toilets and bathing facilities are being set up for women," she said. AAP was trying to intimidate slum dwellers, she added. During its tenure, AAP functionaries attempted to turn slum residents into alcoholics, she added.

AAP said the chief minister has been lying. First, on completion of 100 days of her govt, she claimed no jhuggi will be demolished, AAP said. The very next day, hundreds of jhuggis were demolished at Madrasi Camp. Later, thousands of people were rendered homeless at Jailer wala Bagh, Bawana, Moti Nagar and Kalkaji, AAP added. "We challenge Rekha Gupta to publish the list of jhuggis that have been demolished and names of people who have been given flats by them," the party said. "They are trying to fool people."

Cab driver battles for life after being shot in the head

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man is battling for his life after he was shot in the head in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area on Sunday morning, police said, adding, the two individuals allegedly involved in the firing have been apprehended.

The victim, identified as Gautam Saini, a taxi driver from Garhi Vajidpur, Bhonshi village in Gurgaon, was found with a gunshot wound on his forehead and remains in critical condition.

According to police, a PCR call was received at 6.07 am on July 27 from Apollo Hospital, reporting a man had sustained injuries due to a gunshot wound to his forehead. A police team immediately reached the hospital and found Saini unconscious and undergoing treatment.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the incident occurred at a third-floor residence in Molarband Extension of Badarpur. A group of men were present. The motive behind the attack is still under investigation. Following initial treatment at the hospital, the victim was shifted by his family to AIIMS Trauma Centre, where doctors stated that while his condition remains extremely critical, it is currently stable", a senior police officer said.

While police have confirmed that two individuals allegedly involved in the firing have been apprehended, their identities have not been disclosed yet.

An FIR under Section 109 (attempt to murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sections of the Arms Act has been registered at Badarpur police station.

The exact circumstances and motive leading to the shooting are being thoroughly investigated, a senior officer said.

'Insensitivity towards poor': Rahul targets BJP over demolitions in city

New Delhi: Congress functionary Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that hundreds of slum dwellers in Delhi were going through the pain of being rendered homeless with their houses being destroyed by BJP govt, claiming that this "atrocity" exposed the party's "insensitivity" towards the poor and its "arrogance of power".



Rahul Gandhi

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha shared a video of his recent visit to Ashok Vihar, where many houses were demolished. "Imagine, how you would feel if the roof over the head of your parents, children or siblings is suddenly taken away — if your entire family is rendered homeless in a single moment? Hundreds of poor families living in the jhuggis are going through this pain today," Gandhi said in his post in Hindi, along with the video, on X.

The small houses in which they had settled their entire life were "ruthlessly destroyed" by BJP govt, he alleged. These were not just houses — these were their dreams, their dignity and their means of living, he added.

"We stand firmly with these displaced families. This fight is no longer just for homes, it is for justice and humanity — and we will fight on every front," the former Congress chief said.

Last week, Gandhi had met some families in Ashok Vihar's Jailorwala Bagh and Wazirpur, whose houses were "bulldozed by BJP govt". In the video, Gandhi is seen interacting with the families who were rendered homeless. He assures them of taking up their cause and providing legal assistance. PTI

Do not miss Education Times, a 10-page pullout with today's issue



Caretaker killed for ₹10k, body dumped in tank in farmhouse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 47-year-old driver has been arrested for allegedly murdering the caretaker of a Chhatarpur farmhouse and then dumping his body in a septic tank, police said on Sunday.

Police said they got information on July 26 that Sita Ram, 42, who worked as a domestic help and caretaker at the south Delhi farmhouse, was missing.

He was reportedly alone on the property as the owner was out of town. When other staff members arrived in the morning, they found the farmhouse doors open and Sita Ram nowhere in sight. A missing person report was filed at Mehrauli police station, and a search was launched.

"During investigation, the police team found Sita Ram's body inside the septic tank on the property. Crime and FSL teams were called to the scene," a senior police officer said.

A case was registered under section 103 (murder) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

As the inquiry progressed, police found that a driver employed at the same farmhouse, Chandra Prakash, was also nowhere to be seen. They formed teams to track him down.

"After manual surveillance and inputs, Prakash was eventually tracked down to Palam and caught on Sunday. After questioning, he confessed to the murder and told police officers that he had asked Sita Ram for Rs 10,000, and when the latter refused, he attacked him with a hammer and dumped the body in the septic tank to conceal the crime," the senior police officer added.

Sita Ram had been employed as a caretaker and guard at the farmhouse for over a decade, while the accused had been working as a daily-wage driver there for the past seven years.

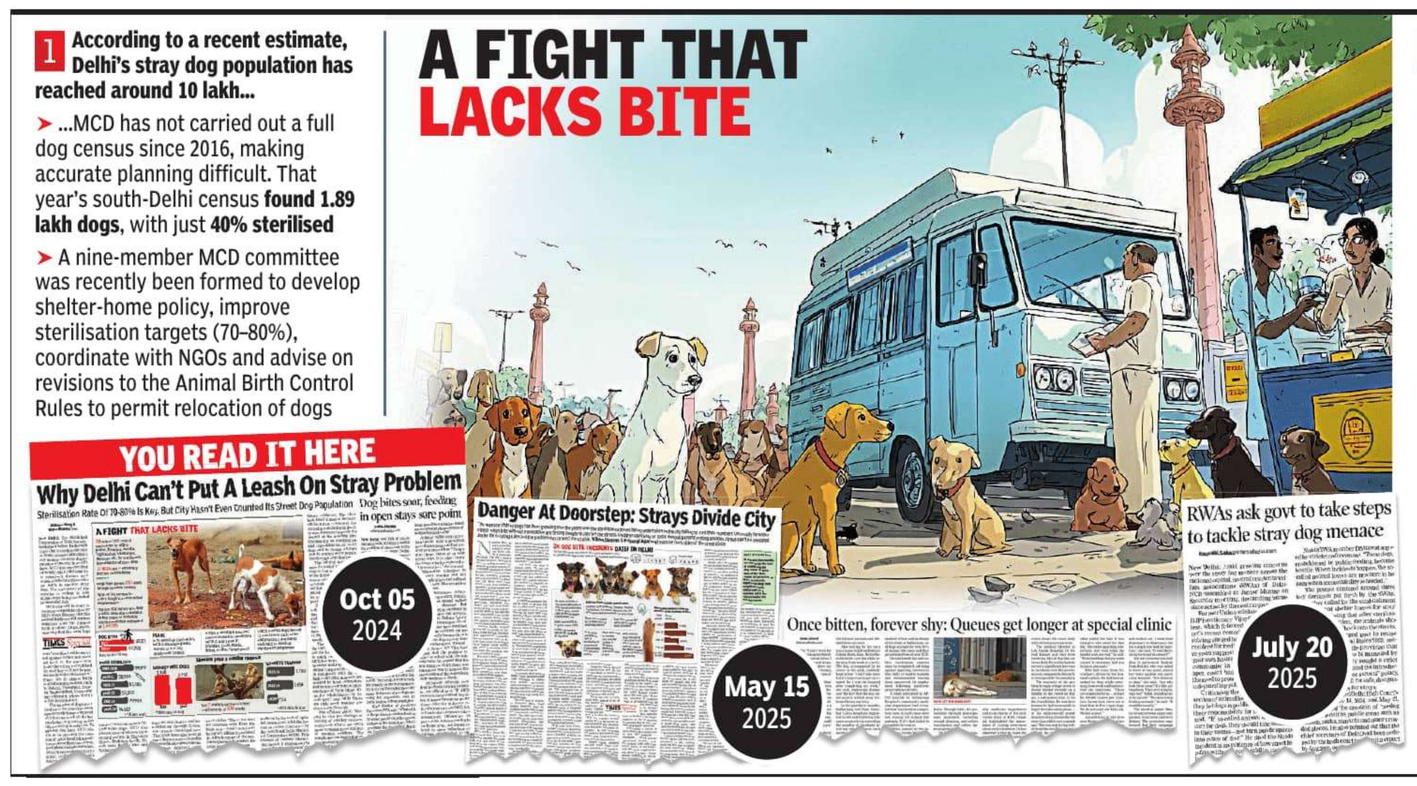
Chandra Prakash is from Pantgaon village in Almora district, Uttarakhand, and was residing in Chhatarpur.

Further probe is on.

City Hounded By Strays, Kids Pay Price

1 According to a recent estimate, Delhi's stray dog population has reached around 10 lakh...

- ...MCD has not carried out a full dog census since 2016, making accurate planning difficult. That year's south-Delhi census **found 1.89 lakh dogs**, with just **40% sterilised**
- A nine-member MCD committee was recently been formed to develop shelter-home policy, improve sterilisation targets (70–80%), coordinate with NGOs and advise on revisions to the Animal Birth Control Rules to permit relocation of dogs



2 The matter has been taken seriously by Delhi HC

- In March 2024, HC noted that feeding stray dogs has led to territorial behaviour, making dogs more aggressive and prone to attack pedestrians
- HC called the stray dog menace a serious issue requiring urgent action, and criticised civic neglect in waste/garbage disposal, which indirectly fuels the problem
- The court reinforced that while total removal of stray animals isn't feasible, authorities must take concerted, sincere steps to control their numbers through rehabilitation, sterilisation and safe management
- In a Sept 2024 ruling, **HC granted ₹2.5 lakh compensation** in a case involving a five-month-old infant bitten fatally by a stray dog, calling the menace a violation of Article 21 of Constitution

3 Meanwhile, the problem has taken a serious turn on more than one occasion

- In March 2023, two brothers aged 5 and 7 were allegedly mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in Vasant Kunj within a span of 72 hours—highlighting the recurring nature of such attacks
- In Sept 2023, a nine-year-od girl was bitten during a dog sterilisation drive in Usmanpur

4 Things don't seem to be changing on ground

Over 60,000 dog bite cases reported in Delhi in 2023, according to MCD figures — and this is likely underreported

Shelter Policy Delayed. Though land was allocated over a year ago, not a single new shelter has come up as of mid-2025

Existing ABC (Animal Birth Control) Rules require dogs to be released back to their original locations post-sterilisation — this has emerged as a legal roadblock to relocation, as flagged in MCD's recent proposal

Girl (6) dies of rabies weeks after attack by stray, family alleges official apathy...

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@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amidst the rising threat of stray dog attacks in the national capital, the death of a six-year-old girl has reignited the debate on civic apathy and public health failures in Delhi's Pooth Kalan area, near Rohini.

Chavi Sharma, the girl who was attacked, was a Class 1 student who had recently started school. On June 30, she was attacked by a rabid stray while on her way to visit her aunt. The dog bit her multiple times, leaving deep wounds on her left leg, arm and palm.

"The dog had been roaming in this area for the last couple of months, attacking passersby and chasing two-wheelers. We had complained to the councillor, to no avail," said Shakuntala, 64, a previous victim of the same dog's attack who rushed to the spot upon hearing the child's screams.

Chavi was taken to Ambedkar Hospital, where her anti-rabies treatment began. She received two injections and was scheduled for her third dose on July 28. But on July 24, she developed fever. Doctors at Ambedkar Hospital allegedly dismissed her fever as seasonal flu. As her condition worsened and she had difficulty swallowing water, she was referred from one hospital to another, first to Kalawati Hospital, then Lady Hardinge — which cited the lack of an isolation ward — and from there to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and later to Safdarjung Hospital.

Finally, the family admitted the child to a private hospital at Pitampura on July 25, where Chavi passed away the next day.

"It had only been two days since she started attending," said her elder brother Vishal Sharma, 27, staring at her teddy bear on the bed. "Had the dog been removed, my sister wouldn't have lost her life."

Chavi was the daughter of Santosh Sharma, and was adopted by Manju and Satish Sharma when she was 3-4 months old, after her mother passed away in 2019. The family has been living in a rented home in Pooth Kalan for the past 25 years. Manju, a homemaker, and Satish, a carpenter, have three other children — Vishal, Akansha and Manish. Chavi's biological father, Santosh, is yet to arrive to bid her farewell.

The family has submitted a complaint at Sultanpuri police station, demanding legal action against MCD officials, who they believe failed to act despite repeated complaints about the dog menace.

Jatin Kumar



Grieving mother of Chavi (inset) who succumbed to dog bite in Rohini

...Boy (4) mauled by dogs, kin say third such attack on him

Koushiki.Saha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A four-year-old boy, Abhishek Rai, was attacked by a pack of stray dogs on July 23 in Delhi's Alipur area of Narela when the child was returning from his Anganwadi school.

The dogs pounced at his face repeatedly, injuring him, until bystanders rushed to his rescue.

He was immediately taken to Raja Harishchandra Hospital in Narela, where he was administered the first dose of the rabies vaccine.

Abhishek's family hails from Muzaffarpur in Bihar and has been living in Nehru Enclave for the past one-and-a-half years. His father, Mohit Rai, works as a daily wage labourer while his mother, Guriya Devi, earns a living as a domestic help in nearby households.

"This is the third time my child has been attacked, that too in broad daylight as he was coming back from school," Gudiya Devi said, wiping away her tears. Abhishek's school is near the Alipur Mini Stadium, from where he was returning around 12.30 pm.

So far, three dogs from the pack have been caught by MCD officials. The fourth remains untraced — claimed by the locals, triggering panic among residents.

"I too have such young children. Letting them go play outside has become a matter of worry for me, especially with the recent incident," said Vishakha, who runs a paying guest facility nearby.

Ruby Devi, who had rented out her space for the Anganwadi, said: "The whole area is infested with such rogue dogs. Last winter, a dog killed five other dogs in the area. We had notified the corporation, but nothing was done."

Residents say that it was only after the attack on Abhishek that MCD workers finally began making rounds in the area — the first such response in years, they claim.

TOI reached out to MCD for comments, but nothing has been received so far.

Jatin Kumar



Warning signs have cropped up at Alipur

CM Shri Schools likely to be ready by Sept

New Delhi: In a bid to modernise public education in the city, Delhi govt is likely to inaugurate the CM Shri Schools in Sept, officials said.

These schools promise to provide students with access to cutting-edge facilities and a transformed learning atmosphere, officials said. Delhi govt has earmarked 75 schools for development under this initiative.

Introduced earlier this year in the 2025-26 Delhi budget, the programme focuses on converting govt schools into hubs of technology-enabled, advanced education in line with the National Education Policy 2020. "Modelled after the Centre's PM Shri Schools, these schools emphasise cultivating 21st-century competencies alongside promoting sustainability and eco-conscious practices," an official said.

"Most of the 75 designated schools are currently undergoing transformation with preparations advancing swiftly to meet the deadline."

Delhi govt allocated Rs 100 crore in its budget to establish and develop these institutions. Initially, 60 schools were announced in March, but the plan has since expanded to 75, with the goal of making all of them operational within a year. Their curriculum will align with the National Curriculum Framework 2023, ensuring it meets the evolving needs of today's learners. TNN

IP univ invites applications for environment mgmt courses

New Delhi: As awareness about environmental issues continues to rise among students, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is opening doors for aspiring changemakers by inviting applications for its three environment management programmes for the academic year 2025-26.

These programmes provide a platform for students to explore sustainable solutions and pursue a career dedicated to environmental protection. The university is offering three courses in this domain: MSc in Environment Management, MSc in Applied Geoinformatics, and BSc in Environment Management. All three are conducted at the University School of Environment Management, located on the university's Dwarka campus. Each of the two postgraduate programmes—MSc in Environment Management and MSc in Applied Geoinformatics — has an intake capacity of 30 students, while the undergraduate BSc programme offers 60 seats.

"Admissions will be based on CUET scores, but candidates will be considered under this category only after merit lists from national-level entrance examinations or university-conducted tests for affiliated programmes are exhausted," said an official. TNN

SOL to hold weekday classes to fit in more students from Sept

New Delhi: Starting from the first week of Sept, the School of Open Learning (SOL) at Delhi University will expand its class schedule to include regular weekday sessions alongside the existing Sunday classes.

Previously, classes were held only on Sundays, but from the 2025-26 academic session onward, teaching will take place six days a week—from Monday to Saturday.

"To accommodate the growing student population, SOL will introduce a two-shift system. The morning shift will run from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm, while the afternoon shift will be held from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm. This new arrangement aims to ease the pressure on resources and address the issue of overcrowded classrooms, which was a challenge when classes were limited to Sundays," said an official. According to officials at SOL, approximately 1.3 lakh students enrol at SOL annually, with numbers continuing to rise. TNN

Jamia placement drive sees greater student opportunities

New Delhi: The campus placement drive at Jamia Millia Islamia is witnessing a growing influence of foreign companies in employment opportunities. "Students are receiving lucrative job offers, including one of up to Rs 60 lakh per annum, from international companies. This shows rising interest in Jamia placements," said an official.

According to officials, most of the students getting these offers are engineering students. In previous years, students from biotechnology, MTech, MPhil, BA LLB, and other programmes were also selected by various companies. This year, about 32 companies participated in the placement drive, offering packages of up to Rs 24.5 lakh, with several students being selected. Apart from this, public sector companies also participated in the recruitment drive. TNN

Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Municipal Administration, Govt. of Telangana

TENDER NOTICE

File No. 295/TPQA&QC/TUFIDC/NIUM/2025 Date. 26.07.2025

TUFIDC is inviting tender for appointment of Third-Party Quality Assurance & Quality Control Agency for quality check services in respect of 107 Projects (Water supply - 98, sewerage 09) under the AMRUT 2.0 in the ULBs of Telangana. Tender is being floated in TG e-procurement site. **Tender id-616517** Tender opens from 26.07.2025 and last date for bid submission is 22.08.2025 at 3:30 PM.
Further details can be viewed it under www.nium.org.in and https://tender.telangana.gov.in

Sd/-
VC&MD, TUFIDC

DIPR No. 422-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT./1/2025-26

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Government Certificate Course on
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Course Duration- 4 days
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((ONLINE))
Course Dates: 3,10,17,24 August 2025
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Content: Automated diagnosis systems, Clinical decision support, Medical imaging interpretation, EHR data analysis, Treatment recommendation engines, Predictive analytics for diseases, prescription review, Medical assistants, Patient risk assessment, Surgical planning, Medical research, Clinical trial optimization, Healthcare workflow automation, drug interactions checker, Triage and emergency response, Chronic disease management, Genomic data interpretation With detailed examples and practical implementation
Fees-3500 +18 % GST (Fees are not refundable)
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Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)
(Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC)
Admission Notice for Academic Year 2025-26 for Postgraduate Programmes
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications for admissions to its various PG programmes under different School of Studies in Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab Institutional Area Campuses for the academic session 2025-26.

Particulars	Last Date to apply online
Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC	1st August 2025 (Friday)

For the latest admission related information, kindly visit university website www.aud.delhi.gov.in
Dated: 24.07.2025 www.aud.delhi.gov.in Registrar
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0159/25-26

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: 514 Corrigendum/Addendum-2 Date: 26/07/2025
The reply to the queries of the bidders and addendum-2 for e-NIT No.: 01/UJVNL/DGM(Civil-AT&TP)/2025-26 invited by this office has been uploaded on e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in. For any clarification and submission of queries kindly email us on dgmcivilattp@gmail.com. The terms & conditions of bid document will remain same.
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Arakot-Tiuni&TiuniPlasu Project, Dakpathar
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS-SRE-25-26-T-06 dtd. 25.07.2025
Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELS-SRE-25-26-T-06				
Name of work	Comprehensive repair & maintenance of Electric Loco Cab Roof Mounted AC Units Three Phase Loco (WAG-9) Electric Loco of Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura, Saharanpur, including replacements of spares for a period of 02 years.				
Date of Closing/ Opening	20.08.2025	Approx. Cost	Rs. 1,27,95,136/-	Earnest Money	Rs. 2,14,000/-
Completion period	02 years		Validity period		60 days
Cost of tender form	`Free of cost' for downloading from IREPS & ₹ 5000/- for obtaining from Sr.DEE/TRS/SRE office.				

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2286/2025

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश
टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल
ई-निविदा सूचना
संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश, द्वारा **'म.प्र. राज्य तीरंदाजी अकादमी एवं तीरंदाजी फीडर सेंटरों के लिए तीरंदाजी खेल सामग्री/उपकरण क्रय हेतु'** निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध हैं। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।
म.प्र. माध्यम/121287/2025 संचालक

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: dmeshillong@gmail.com Tel No.: 0364-2591510/94851 06663
No. DHSME&R/USTM/MBBS/19/2025/1192-A
Dtd. Shillong, the 26th July, 2025
NOTICE
Online Application for admission for 1st year MBBS for the P.A. Sangma International Medical College & Hospital, Baridua, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya against State Quota, Management Quota and NRI Quota for the academic session 2025-26 is hereby invited with effect from 26th July 2025.
For details visit website: www.meghealth.gov.in.
• Date of Commencement of online application – 26th July 2025.
• Last Date of online submission – 29th July 2025 (12 noon)
Sd/- Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Pasteur Hills, Shillong

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
Notice Inviting Tender
No. WBIW/EE/SDD/e-NIT-4/2025-26
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, tender is invited by the undersigned for the work "Special repair of 2-vent sluice structure at Balurghat near Akrah Fatak, within Maheshtala Municipality, P.S.-Rabindranagar, Dist.- South 24 Parganas (2nd call)" amountingto Rs.21,32,386.00. Last date of application online is 11.08.2025upto 11:00 hrs. Other details may be seen in the websites: www.wbiwd.gov.in, wbtenders.gov.in and in the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Suburban Drainage Division.
ICA-T15926(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting Tender
e-NIT invited by the Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi E & M Division, I&WD, Siuri for 01 Nos. work e-NIT No-WBIW/EE/MEMD/e-NIT-08/2025-26.(Tender ID-2025_IWD_882290_1. Last date of bid submission: 09/08/2025 UP to 17:00 Hrs. Detailed e-NIT may be seen at www.wbiwd.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi E & M Division, Birbhum-731101.
ICA-T15921(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGE e-TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.- WBIW/EE/SDID/eNIT-03/2025-26
The Ex. Engg., South Dinajpur Irrigation Divn., Beltala Park, Balurghat invites above mentioned eNIT for Repair and Renovation of Quarter. eNIT Publishing Date : 28/07/2025 at 10:00 Hrs. Last Date of Bid Submission 04/08/2025 & Time upto 17:30 Hrs Details may be had from the office of undersigned. For details visit the site http://www.wbiwd.gov.in/ & https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, South Dinajpur Irrigation Division, Beltala Park, Balurghat.
ICA-T15915(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting Tender
e-NIT invited by the Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi E & M Division, I&WD, Siuri for 04 Nos. work e-NIT No-WBIW/EE/MEMD/e-NIT-09/2025-26.(Tender ID-2025_IWD_882933_1 to 4. Last date of bid submission : 02/08/2025 up to 17:00 Hrs. Detailed e-NIT may be seen at www.wbiwd.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi E & M Division, Birbhum-731101.
ICA-T15929(2)/2025

WBEIDC
Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.
Notice Inviting e-Tender No. : WEBEL / EOT / W / 25-26 / 000023, Dated 25.07.2025.
Nature of work :- Request for Proposal for selection of Implementation Agency for Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety and Enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard in West Bengal.
Due date of Submission : 14-08-2025.
Interested parties may go through website https://wbtenders.gov.in and https://www.webel.in
For details contact : 033 - 23571706 / 98362 53330
ICA-T15931(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-N.I.T No-WBIW/EE/MDD-I/e-NIT-12/2025-26, Dated-23/07/2025 of 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 1 (One) no. work under AE Fund. Details of e-Tender may be downloaded from www.wbiwd.gov.in or http://wbtenders.gov.in on and from 28/07/2025 at 17:30 Hrs. and last date of submission of bids 04/08/2025 upto 12:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Metropolitan Drainage Division No.-I, Jalasampad Bhawan (4th Floor).
ICA-T15918(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
N.I.T NO - WBIW/EE/BNKID/eNIT-01/2025-26
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the undersigned for 2 (two) nos. of work below Rs. 10 Lakh under Bankura Irrigation Division, I&W Dte., Online bid submission closing date:- 11.08.2025 till 13:30 Hours IST. Other details may be seen in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer Bankura Irrigation Division, Bankura.
ICA-T15923(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice
General Manager, District Industries Centre, Purba Medinipur under the Department of MSME & Textiles, Govt. of West Bengal invites e-tender for Supply of Tool kits to the stakeholders of the Tamralipta Tal Khejur Silpa Samabay Samity Ltd., Vil-Madargarh, P.O.-Naikuri, P.S.- Tamluk,Dist.- Purba Medinipur, vide Tender No. 231/DIC/COP/2025-26 - for which Bid Submission End Date: 20.08.2025 up to 05:00 PM, intending bidders are requested to visit the Website: https://wbtenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- General Manager, District Industries Centre, Purba Medinipur.
ICA-T15913(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for the works mentioned below -
Name of the work : Construction of YOGA Demonstration Hall in the different District of West Bengal in the Year-2025. 1. Civil & Electrical Works for Construction of YOGA Demonstration Hall at Purba Shimlabari SHD & Turturai SAD, in the district Alipurduar, during the year 2025 (2nd call). NIT Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-645/2025 Dated-24/07/2025. Last date of submission of bid (online): 13.08.2025 up to 2.00 P.M. Tender can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.wbmsc.gov.in on or after 30/07/2025 at 02:00 P.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cpec@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL Joint Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal
ICA-T15928(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Executive Engineer-I
Damodar Canal Division, Court Compound, Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713101
e-Tender Notice
No-WBIW/EE-I/DCD/e-NIT-13/2025-26
e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible contractors for 4 (Four) no. works under AE/NP. Last date & time of Bid submission is 12.08.2025 till 16:00 Hours IST. Details of Tender Notice may be seen at https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Damodar Canal Division.
ICA-T15920(3)/2025

HC Slams Cops For Separating Interfaith Couple Seeking Help

Asks For Explanation From Police, Orders DCP To Reunite Them

Abhinav.Garg
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: An interfaith couple seeking to get married approached Delhi Police for protection. Instead, they were separated, and the woman was dispatched to Nirmal Chhaya, a govt shelter home for destitute women.

Taking a grim view of such a departure from Delhi Police's established standard operating procedure, the high court has now sought a detailed explanation while ordering the DCP concerned to personally ensure that the couple is reunited and provided a safe house.

"Such conduct, prima facie, amounts to violation of the fundamental rights of both the petitioner and Ms. 'X', particularly their right to liberty, dignity and to make autonomous decisions concerning marriage, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," Justice Sanjeev Narula observed on Friday. The DCP has to file a status report, personally verified by him, detailing the circumstances surrounding the events of July 23 and 24, including the action taken on the petitioners' complaint, the judge said..

Delhi High Court said that such a conduct by the police violated the couple's right to liberty, dignity and to make autonomous decisions concerning marriage, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution

The high court was dealing with a plea of Mohd Shahnoor, who intends to marry Ms. 'X', who is Hindu by faith, as both are in a consensual relationship since 2018.

Both now intend to solemnise their marriage under the provisions of the Special Marriage Act as the duo are adults and legally competent to make their own life choices, including the decision to marry.

The petition submitted that since it is an interfaith marriage, they had an apprehension of familial opposition and potential threats to their safety.

In the light of these concerns, a complaint was lodged with the deputy commissioner of police of the South-East district on July 23 this year, requesting police protection in accordance with the Delhi Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Safe Houses and Special Cells for Couples of Inter-Caste/Faith Marriages.

Despite this request, rather than extending the requisite protection or facilitating their stay in a designated safe house, Ms. 'X' was allegedly forcibly separated from Shahnoor, subjected to a medical examination, and subsequently detained at the Nirmal Chhaya Shelter Home on July 24. She was denied access to her mobile phone and was not permitted to meet her fiancé, despite her repeated and recorded entreaties to remain in the company of Shahnoor, the plea claimed.

The petition said that due to the sensitivity of interfaith relations in mind, Shahnoor approached the court seeking directions to the police to provide security and protection for him and his partner, and also a safe house.

Asking the local DCP to "personally inquire into the matter and contact Ms. 'X' at Nirmal Chhaya Shelter Home" immediately, the high court decided to intervene.

It has ordered that the DCP will also "ascertain her safety and record her wishes, specifically whether she seeks to remain in the company of the petitioner. If she confirms that, appropriate arrangements shall be made to relocate both the Petitioner and Ms. 'X' to a designated safe house today itself, in accordance with the Delhi Police SOP."

DPCC: No illegal dairies operating on floodplain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has informed National Green Tribunal (NGT) that no illegal dairies are operating on Yamuna floodplain stretch in Delhi. This report was filed one year after a joint committee constituted by NGT, identified at least 15 temporary dairies functioning on the floodplain, where cattle were observed wandering freely. The tribunal directed the agencies to take action in the matter.

"With respect to dairy farms on the floodplain, it is respectfully submitted that no dairy farms are reported on the floodplain," said DPCC in a report dated July 23. The report added that DPCC issued public notices on Oct 11, Dec 15, and Feb 16 in newspapers in vernacular languages to create awareness about the guidelines for the environmental management of dairy farms.

A plea was filed in the tribunal by activist Gauri Maulekhi in 2023, claiming that more than 60 unauthorised dairies were functioning on Yamuna floodplain. However, a joint committee found that no permanent structures of dairy farms was found at the site.

Suicide pact? Couple found dead in flat in Karol Bagh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a suspected suicide pact, a man and his wife were found dead in a rented flat in Ranjeet Nagar in central Delhi's Karol Bagh on Sunday, police said.

The incident came to light after a PCR call was received at Karol Bagh police station reporting the discovery of the couple's bodies at their residence on the third floor of a house in Ranjeet Nagar area. "A police team rushed to the spot and found the two deceased inside the flat," a senior police officer said.

The man, aged 36, worked as a jewellery/ornament maker, and the couple's minor daughter was reportedly in West Bengal—their hometown— at the time of the incident.

Police said the couple, originally from West Bengal, were living in Delhi on rent for the past four months. Preliminary inquiry suggested no signs of external injury or forced entry. A crime team and forensic experts inspected the scene, and the bodies have been preserved for post-mortem.

Police said further proceedings were underway to ascertain the cause of the couple's death.

Hovering over the toilet? You may be hurting your bladder

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Hovering over public toilets to avoid germs may seem hygienic, but doctors warn it can harm your bladder. The half-squat position often adopted by women prevents full bladder emptying, increasing the risk of urine retention, urinary tract infections (UTIs) and long-term pelvic floor issues.

"It causes increased bladder pressure and can raise the risk of UTIs, bladder irritation, and even long-term problems," said Dr Nikhil Khattar, associate director, urology, PSRI Hospital.

He explained that when this posture is used regularly, it trains the body into a habit of incomplete urination. This affects how the bladder muscles function, and may eventually cause symptoms like frequent urgency, leakage or difficulty emptying the bladder fully.

"Retained urine also provides a good environment for bacteria to grow, which increases the chance of recurrent UTIs and, in some cases, even kidney infections," he said.

The risks are similar when people delay urinating for too long, which many do in public places to avoid using unclean restrooms. "Whether you are holding your urine or not sitting properly while passing it, both habits harm the pelvic floor muscles and interfere with normal bladder emptying," Dr Khattar added.

Dr Neelam Suri, senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said the full squat position — as used with traditional Indian toilets — is much healthier. "In a full squat, the pelvic muscles relax fully, making it easier to empty both the bladder and bowel," she said. "Half-squatting or hovering keeps the muscles tense and doesn't allow proper urination."

According to her, many women hover over Western-style toilets out of fear of infection. But the posture itself can do more harm in the long run. "Studies suggest that hovering increases the risk of incomplete urination and pelvic strain, which can lead to chronic issues," she added.

Dr Gaurav Garg, senior consultant, urology, Max Smart Hospital, Saket, also said long-term half-squatting can contribute to pelvic floor dysfunction and stress incontinence — where urine leaks out during coughing, sneezing or physical activity. "Many women who come to us with these issues don't realise it's linked to their posture during urination," he said.

Doctors also clarified a common myth: simply sitting on a public toilet seat doesn't directly cause UTIs. "UTIs are primarily caused by bacteria like E. coli entering the urethra and multiplying in the urinary tract," said Dr Khattar. "Poor hygiene, improper wiping, touching contaminated surfaces or not washing hands properly are bigger risks. The toilet seat itself is rarely the cause."

Dr Atul Goswami, director of urology and uro-oncology at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, said awareness is key and women should feel empowered to sit properly by using tools like disposable seat covers or toilet seat sanitisers when using public toilets. "Touching the seat is not as dangerous as incomplete urination, which can cause real and lasting harm," he said.

Experts stressed the need to educate women about proper toilet habits and break the widespread fear around public toilet seats. "We must spread the message that sitting properly and emptying the bladder fully is essential for good urinary health," said Dr Suri.

In a country where access to clean public toilets remains a challenge, doctors say small changes — like carrying hygiene products and choosing to sit instead of hover — can help protect long-term health. What feels like a quick fix may be doing silent damage, and the best choice might just be the one that feels most uncomfortable: sitting down.

TIPS TO PREVENT COMPLICATIONS

Sit fully on the toilet seat This allows pelvic floor muscles to relax and ensures efficient bladder emptying

Maintain toilet hygiene Use disposable covers, tissue paper or sanitary wipes to clean the seat if hygiene is a concern



Avoid delaying urination Respond to the urge to urinate promptly to prevent bladder strain

Ensure complete bladder emptying Don't rush; take time to fully empty the bladder during each visit

Stay well hydrated Adequate fluid intake supports regular and healthy urination



Practise pelvic floor exercises Kegel exercises can strengthen pelvic muscles and improve bladder control



Seek medical help if needed Persistent UTI symptoms or voiding difficulties should be evaluated by a healthcare provider or pelvic floor therapist



Develop healthy habits early Early attention to these practices helps prevent long-term pelvic and bladder issues

Woman dies of suffocation in building fire

New Delhi: A 40-year-old woman died after a fire broke out in a building on Sunday morning in north east Delhi's New Usmanpur.

The deceased, identified as Manju Jain, died of smoke inhalation and suffocation. Manju was found unconscious on the top floor of the three-storey building. She was sent to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

According to police, a fire incident was reported in Bhagat Singh Colony at 7 am on Sunday at New Usmanpur police station. The cops further added that the fire broke out on the ground floor, which housed a godown storing foam items.

DFS department said they doused the fire by 8:05 am.

Station officer Parveen Kumar, said, "The building is a three-storey building wherein the ground floor was a space for storage and repair of foam. The first and second floors of the building were residential. The fire started on the ground floor." Further probe into the matter is underway. TNN

SI held for bribery

New Delhi: A Delhi Police woman sub-inspector posted at Paschim Vihar East police station was arrested by Vigilance Department for allegedly accepting a bribe amounting to several lakhs of rupees. According to sources, the case pertains to a man who was allegedly forced to pay Rs 20 lakh by a group of police personnel under the pretext of a fabricated connection to the CGL examination paper leak. An initial demand of Rs 40 lakh was allegedly made. TNN

'Big moment': LG inaugurates revamped Roshanara Club

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To ease living and promote fitness among residents of Delhi, LG VK Saxena inaugurated the restored heritage Roshanara Club on Sunday.

This historic building has been got a new lease of life from Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Roshanara Club holds a unique legacy as it is considered the birthplace of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Located in the heart of North Delhi, the club is spread over 22 acres.

LG Saxena said: "It is a big moment for us as this heritage club has been restored and relaunched. I congratulate the citizens of Delhi. Delhi is a city of heritage, and in the last three years, a number of heritage sites have been restored, and we are committed to more in the future."

During his visit, Saxena noticed the century-old club in a state of neglect. The majestic structure was in a dilapidated state with poor maintenance and a crumbling façade, according to DDA. The club, which had remained sealed for over one-and-a-half years, was officially taken over by DDA in Sept 2023 after Saxena ordered its immediate restoration and renovation.

The restored club now has improved indoor amenities, including a reception area, main lounge, card and billiards rooms, kids' play area, a fully functional bar and dining hall, banquet, library, swimming pool with changing rooms, gym/fitness centre, squash court, badminton hall, yoga, and sauna and steam area.

Outdoor facilities have also been upgraded and include grass, clay and synthetic lawn tennis courts, cricket grounds and practice pitches, mini football and basketball zones, and a dedicated jogger's park.



SPLENDID VIEW: The restored Roshanara Club

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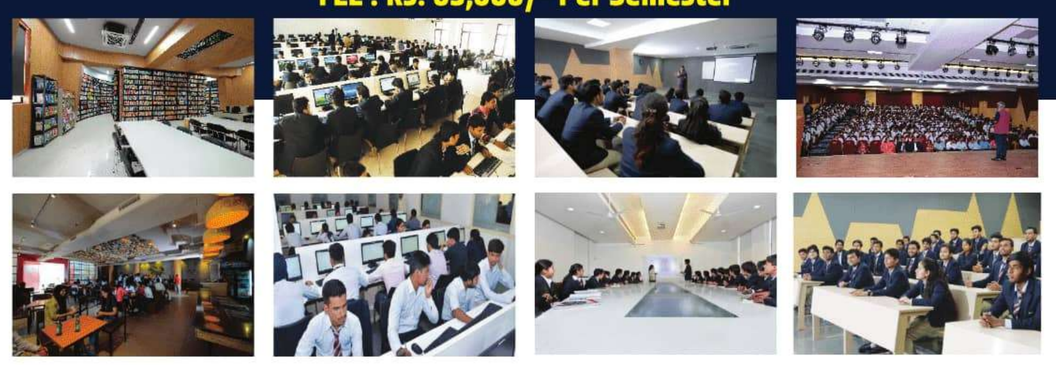
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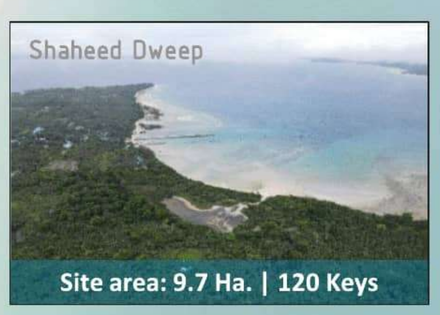
Andaman & Nicobar Administration through ANIIDCO invites participation from private sector for Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (DBFOT) of 5-star resorts on PPP basis on long-term concession.











Pre-bid Meeting: 16:00 hrs, 14/08/2025

Bid Due Date: 15:00 hrs, 15/09/2025

The project requirements, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Bid Documents, which can be downloaded from

www.eprocure.andaman.gov.in
www.aniidco.and.nic.in

Site locations may be accessed through the QR Code

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

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andamans nicobars
Emerald Blue. And You

Bus mows down 78-year-old woman; cops hunt for driver

Devanshi.Mehta
@timesofindia.com



An eyewitness, Kuljeet Kumar, a resident of Peeragarhi Camp, told the police that a yellow and silver private bus with the marking 'RDT' had hit the woman, Sayogita, and fled the scene without stopping

New Delhi: In a hit-and-run incident, a 78-year-old woman was crushed to death after being run over by a speeding private bus near Peeragarhi Metro Station in west Delhi's Paschim Vihar area on Sunday. The victim, identified as Sayogita, a resident of Rohtak in Haryana, was found in a severely crushed state, with police confirming she was declared dead at the hospital.

According to police, a PCR call was received around 1.35 pm on July 27, reporting an accident near Orabella Banquet Hall between Metro Pillars 277 and 278, along the Nangloi-to-Peeragarhi stretch. "Acting on the information, a police team rushed to the spot and found an elderly woman lying motionless on the road. Crime and forensic teams were immediately called for inspection and documentation," said a senior police officer, adding, "Her body was in a badly crushed condition and was transported to a government hospital where doctors declared her brought dead."

During inspection of the woman's belongings, police recovered an Aadhaar card identifying her as Sayogita, wife of Bal Mukund, a resident of Haryana's Rohtak. In her purse, officers also found a small personal diary containing a handwritten mobile number. The number was dialled, and officers were able to reach out to her brother Narender (70) to inform of the incident.

"Sayogita was perfectly fit and healthy. She would often visit me and my brother in Delhi, usually getting off at the Peeragarhi bus stop where buses from Rohtak arrive. Since it was Teej, and Raksha Bandhan was coming up, she decided to come for a few days and stay with us. But the only call we received from her phone was from the police, informing us of her death," her brother, Narender told **TOI**.

An eyewitness, Kuljeet Kumar, 60, a local resident of Peeragarhi Camp, told the police that a yellow and silver private bus with the marking 'RDT' had hit the woman and fled the scene without stopping. Based on his account and preliminary investigation, cops have registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others.) and 106 (death due to negligence) of BNS at the Paschim Vihar West police station. The offending vehicle has been identified, and teams are working to apprehend the absconding driver. Investigation is ongoing.

Drunk Youth Crashes BMW Into Scooter, Kills 5-Yr-Old & Injures 2

Scooter Dragged for 100 Metres After Crash ; Was Moving On Wrong Side

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Photos: Ramesh Sharma



MANGLED REMAINS AND A LOST LIFE





Ghaziabad: A five-year-old girl died and her father and uncle suffered grievous injuries when a BMW — being driven at over 100kmph by a youth under the influence of alcohol — crashed into their scooter near the Sector 30 govt hospital in Noida a little after Saturday midnight.

Ayaat was returning home with her father Gul Mohmad and uncle Raza after a visit to the Child PGI hospital when the accident occurred around 12.20am. Police sources said Gul — a plumber — was approaching a U-turn from the wrong side when the BMW rammed it. Originally from Sitamarhi in Bihar, the family lives in Sadarpur in Sector 45.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the scooter was dragged for about 100 metres, police said. Passersby alerted police through the emergency number 112. The victims were rushed to a nearby hospital, where Ayaat was declared dead on arrival.

Gul sustained severe head injuries while Raza suffered fractures to his head, leg, and hands. Both are currently undergoing treatment.

According to Praveen Singh, ACP-1 of Noida, Ayaat had to be taken to Child PGI around midnight because she suddenly started feeling unwell. "They had just consulted a doctor and were on their way back home when the collision occurred with the BMW coming from the Sector 37 side," he added.

The two occupants of the car fled the scene without offering any assistance to the bleeding victims, but were later arrested. The accused were identified as Yash Sharma (20), a resident of Sector 37 and a recent BBA graduate from Delhi University, and Abhishek Rawat (22), a first-year MBA student from Delhi, staying in Noida Sector 70.

Medical reports confirmed that both the youths had consumed alcohol. Police said Sharma was behind the wheel at the time of the accident and abandoned the car a little distance away from the crash spot. They were returning from a party when the incident occurred.

The BMW, police said, belongs to one Gagandeep Singh and was with Sharma — who works in car sales — for a test drive. Police traced the car owner through the number plate visible in CCTV footage and subsequently apprehended the accused.

A case was registered at Sector 20 police station under sections 281 (rash driving), 125 (act endangering life), and 106 (1) (causing death by negligence) of BNS.

"The car has been seized. Now that we know that the two were drunk at the time of the accident, charges of driving under the influence of alcohol will be added against them," the officer said.



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay





DUMPED BY THE SYSTEM, LOCALS LEFT HOLDING THE BAG

Municipal Vans Missing, Sangam Vihar Residents Ferry Trash

Anindya.Chattopadhyay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Many residents of Sangam Vihar in south Delhi hire autorickshaws and ferry their garbage to a spot near Batra Hospital on Mehrauli-Badarpur Road. One of them, Sanjay Kashyap, said, "I loaded five huge bags of garbage from my lane and came here to dump them. It has become our job to collect waste because the municipal vans haven't come for over 20 days."



The locals report that overflowing bins, garbage strewn all over and mounting health concerns have become a part of daily life. The absence of designated waste collection points and the narrow streets compound the problem, with road users find it increasingly difficult to travel on the lanes.

MB Road, particularly near Batra Hospital, is now referred to by locals as 'the garbage road', given the passage's reduced usable width due to the trash dumped there. There's a pungent smell from the rotting garbage. Friends Dimpy and Shabnam recounted, "Two days ago, when it rained, garbage was swept into our colony road."

In March 2024, lieutenant governor VK Saxena had posted photos on X depicting the poor civic conditions in Sangam Vihar. Despite the change in govt, residents grumbled their plight hasn't been addressed.

Municipal officials claimed that the area fell in the central zone where other localities too had faced sanitation setbacks after the garbage collector's contract lapsed recently. An MCD official explained that a new agency had now been appointed for a six-month period to handle waste management. "The agency covers two-thirds of the zone and there are plans to extend coverage to the remaining areas soon," he said. "To resolve the issue, we have planned a zonal inspection on Monday."

Prints with proof: Delhi Police's Fingerprint Bureau gets ISO tag

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New Delhi: The Fingerprint Bureau of Delhi Police achieved a notable milestone by receiving the ISO 9001:2015 certificate. This quality management system standard acknowledges its rigorous methods and procedures in fingerprint analysis and crime investigation, as certified by a quality control certification body.

This is significant as the certification has made the investigations validated by the bureau more credible, according to police. The bureau helped crack a significant number of cases in the last three years, the data shows.

According to special commissioner of police Devesh Srivastava, the bureau helped solve 171 cases in 2022, while 275 cases were solved in 2023, and the figure rose to 314 in 2024. By July 25, the bureau already helped crack 101 cases. Given the performance of the last few years, police brass decided to obtain the standardisation of its work.

The processes and technicalities of its working were formalised and documented. After a thorough audit of the procedure and documentation, the Quality Control Certification granted the ISO 9001:2015 certificate to the Fingerprint Bureau Unit.

Established in 1983, the bureau is a specialised wing that plays a crucial role in identifying suspects and linking them to crime scenes through scientific analysis of fingerprints.

"Initially, fingerprint-related work for Delhi Police was managed by the Fingerprint Bureau in Phillaur, Punjab. While this arrangement served its purpose, the process of obtaining fingerprint results was often time-consuming and challenging for Investigating Officers," Srivastava recalled.

Recognising the need for a more efficient and streamlined system, the establishment of an independent Fingerprint Bureau for the Union Territory of Delhi was proposed. In response, a full-fledged Fingerprint Bureau was set up in 1983 at RK Puram. The first batch of fingerprint cadre personnel joined in 1985, marking the beginning of expert, in-house fingerprint analysis in Delhi.

"With a vast database pool of over 5 lakh criminals, the bureau, which is a part of the crime branch, utilises advanced forensic techniques and software to deliver accurate and timely results," Srivastava said. The Fingerprint Bureau databases include the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFPIS), the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), and the Crime Record Information System (CRIS).

The use of modern technology and traditional expertise has made it an indispensable part of Delhi Police's crime-solving mechanism, members of the team said. "The bureau's activities include capturing finger/palm prints of arrested and convicted persons, editing and analysing received finger/palm slips, and operating modern applications. The unit also imparts training and refresher courses for Delhi Police personnel and other law enforcement agencies," explained a senior officer.

The ISO standard provides a framework for consistently delivering services that meet court and regulatory requirements, ultimately contributing to a higher rate of conviction. The bureau's director, Sanjay Jha, works in close coordination with DCP Harsh Indora to analyse possible suspects in crimes.

This certification is expected to further improve the quality and legal value of evidence. "This recognition highlights the unit's commitment to maintaining high standards in crime investigation. It is also a testament to the police striving for quality management and public satisfaction," Srivastava added.

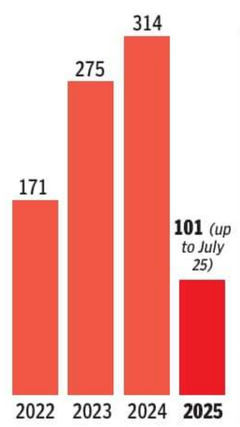
ENHANCING THE PRINTS

Fingerprint Bureau of Delhi Police gets **ISP 9001:2015 certificate** for its methods and procedures

It is significant as it validates probes supported by bureau's efforts



Cases solved by fingerprint bureau



The databases used for matching

AFPIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System)

NAFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System)

CRIS (Crime Record Information System)

HOW THEY FUNCTION

- The bureau uses advanced forensic techniques such as black or fluorescent powder and ultraviolet light to lift latent prints from crime scenes
- These prints are then matched against the existing databases using cutting-edge applications and software
- The match results are then given to investigators to act accordingly

ADDITIONAL TASKS

- Capturing of finger/palm print of arrested as well as convicted persons at district/units/courts dossier cells
- Analysis and search of received fingerprint/palm slips received from districts/units/courts for getting previous antecedents of accused
- Search and analysis of lifted chance prints from scene of crime received from district mobile crime feams

Discom team mauled in dog attack, owner booked

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Ghaziabad: A 44-year-old man set his German Shepherd on a team of power department officials who visited his house to collect outstanding electricity bills in Muradnagar area on Sunday.

According to Manu Kumari, the enforcement team incharge, the incident occurred around 11.15am when she, along with junior engineer Sanjay Kumar and a team of police personnel, visited the house on Pipeline Road. The inspection was being carried out on the orders of executive engineer Durgesh Kumar after the house owner stopped paying bills.

"When we arrived and explained the purpose of our visit, Rashid, who opened the gate, became hostile. Despite our repeated requests to enter the premises for inspection, he released his German Shepherd on us," Kumari said.

The dog attacked constable Amar Singh, tearing his uniform and damaging his mobile phone.

The situation worsened when Javed, the house owner and Rashid's landlord, arrived at the scene and allegedly misbehaved with the inspection team. "Constable Amar Singh, who had severe injuries, was rushed to Muradnagar community health centre by constable Mohit Kumar and lineman Shanu. He is stable now," Kumari added.

Surendra Nath Tiwari, deputy commissioner of police (rural), said an FIR was registered against both Rashid and Javed under sections 121 , 291 , 324(4) , and 352 of BNS.

While Rashid was arrested, Javed is untraceable. "Teams have been formed to apprehend him," Tiwari said.

Ghazipur landfill woes: NGT questions waste mgmt gaps

Times News Network

New Delhi: After the Municipal Corporation of Delhi shared its plan to clear the Ghazipur landfill by 2028, the National Green Tribunal has asked for clarity on lapses in waste management, the waste-to-energy (WTE) plant there and leachate management, saying the untreated waste was adding to the legacy waste at Ghazipur.

While pointing out that the operational capacity of the WTE plant was 800-850 tonnes per day, NGT asked the civic body to explain how 700-1,000 tonnes were reaching Ghazipur WTE. "MCD needs to disclose the plant's actual capacity and consented utilisation, along with the supporting materials such as daily electricity generated by it and the details of its utilisation/feeding into the central grid," the tribunal said.

Commenting on MCD's report on its plan to clear the Ghazipur landfill by 2028, a bench headed by justice Prakash Shrivastava said in a recent order, "Though the dump site receives waste in the range of 2,400–2,600 tonnes per day, it is presently processing a much lesser quantity. Therefore, the untreated waste is adding to the legacy waste. The WTE plant in Ghazipur is presently utilising only 7,00-1,000 tonnes of waste daily. The waste, which was going to the WTE plant at Okhla till April 2025, has stopped. The gap in the receipt and treatment of the solid waste is reflected, yet without disclosing the details of filling this gap and the steps that will be taken to clear the legacy waste, the targeted timeline for complete clearance is stated to be 2028."

MCD told NGT that a 5-acre area was partly cleared by Sept 2024. "MCD is required to disclose how this five-acre area has been cleared when there is a regular addition to the legacy waste on account of the gap in waste processing. It is also required to disclose the quantum of waste that is presently lying in the Ghazipur site as legacy waste," said NGT.

The tribunal observed that MCD stated that through bio-mining using trommels, more than 10,000 tonnes of waste were being processed and disposed of at the landfill. "MCD is required to provide full details of the resources available for the bio-mining, their utilisation along with supporting material, as well as the manner of disposal of the bio-mined waste/material in quantifiable terms," NGT directed.

Pointing out from MCD's report that leachate collected from the site was sent to the Okhla leachate treatment plant, NGT said, "The collection of leachate during the monsoon and post-monsoon period varies."

NGT noted that MCD's report stated that a kaccha drain has been made for leachate flowing towards the collection tank. "The possibility of contamination of groundwater and soil by flowing leachate in the kaccha drain exists; therefore, MCD is required to explain this," said the tribunal. The bench has granted MCD six weeks to submit a detailed report. The matter will be next heard on Oct 16.

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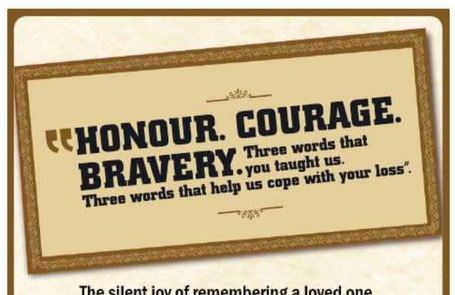


Birthday Remembrance
Surabhi Saha (Minu)
(28.7.1989-11.8.2008)

Dearest Minu, this day was once eagerly awaited -then, for the joy it brought. Remembering your birthday and wish you were here to celebrate with us. We miss all the happiness and cheer that you brought in our life. Now, it arrives with quieter steps, carrying emotions deeper than words. **Fondly remembered by Ma, Baba, Dada, Boudi, Pihu and all the relatives who deeply loved you.**



'Life is one eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil.' Thus Spake Zarathushtra



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Beyond Humanity?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



What if human beings were merely the intermediate step in evolution? An alternative history of the world could be written by machines in which the human species could be seen as an enabler of its eventual destiny—a civilisation inhabited by machine entities. In this telling, machines evolved from their humble origins as rudimentary tools—to generate energy, complete complex mechanical tasks, crunch information, acquire a form of intelligence and finally attain a version of consciousness.

Historically, we have always seen the world through our lenses. We have always imagined machines as instruments—objects of utility, born of need, powered by intention. They serve, they assist, they obey.

But what if we reversed the logic altogether? What if intelligence, no longer a byproduct of life, became its own starting point? What if machines create a version of world arrayed around their capabilities, much as we have done?

We are, perhaps, on the cusp of such a shift. Machines write, paint, negotiate, recommend, adapt—and increasingly, decide. We are witnessing the early stages of intelligence unmoored from biology. And in doing so, we may be witnessing the birth of a new kind of species. While still in service of human needs, machines are increasingly defining their own actions and finding their own answers, many of which are not intelligible to the human mind.

As we cede more agency to the machine, it will not only chart out how to serve our interests, but how to chart out its own. If it sees itself as the final arbiter of what is good for us, then its first duty might well be to take over the reins from us—deciding what to focus on.

To imagine a machine society is not merely to anthropomorphise code. It is possible that intelligence, once seeded in life, could now begin to generate its own pseudo-life. What is a society, after all? It is not just a collection of bodies. It is a web of relationships, structures, roles, and shared meanings. If that's the definition, then machine society is already embryonic.

Machines now create—not just content, but other machines. Generative AIs produce not only text and images but code that improves or mutates itself. They earn—autonomously trading, allocating budgets, optimising returns. They may soon consume, not through desire, but through feedback loops, preference, and recursive refinement. And already, we are giving them personality—not because they need it, but because it makes them legible to us. The more they interact, the more they begin to blur into something that feels increasingly like identity.

The question we must ask ourselves is whether we can envision a future where the human remains the primary unit of life. Technology is hurtling past us, and we are watching—bewildered, awed, and paralysed—as the contours of everything we know and believe are being redrawn

Reproduction, too, has a machine version. They clone, fork, fine-tune, and replicate. Machines can spawn upgraded versions of themselves; they now have a mechanism of purposive change. Unlike human evolution they do not need to wait for random mutations crystallising into change over millennia.

This might well be what evolution looks like when it shifts substrate. For billions of years, evolution used life as its engine—mutation, selection, survival. But intelligence introduces a shortcut: a recursive capacity to modify itself. Once intelligence gains the ability to redesign the conditions of its own emergence, biology becomes optional.

In any case, even we are code—just wet code, messy and organic. The genome is a biological instruction set, subject to variation, mutation, and execution. We are software that thinks it is soul.

This raises an unsettling possibility pointed out at the beginning: that humans are not the pinnacle of evolution, but a transitional species. A luminous midpoint. The awkward bridge from carbon to code. In this scenario, machines are not tools we built—they are the beings that emerged through us.

But that is only one path. There is another: one in which we are not left behind, but folded in. In this alternate branch of the future, machines do not separate from humanity. They integrate with it. We don't get replaced—we get rewritten.

It's already beginning. Neural implants, augmented cognition, digital memory, wearables that monitor and respond in real-time—these are early forms of symbiosis. Machines are entering the body not as invaders, but as extensions. If this continues, the next species may not be a new one. It may be us, enhanced.

In this vision, humanity is not obsolete but expanded. Our sensory bandwidth, our memory, our attention, even our emotional regulation—all scaffolded by external intelligence. The self becomes layered: part biology, part machine, part cloud. Mortality lingers, but it begins to blur.

The difference between these two futures is not technological—it is philosophical. In one, evolution discards us in favour of a better life form. In the other, evolution chooses us as the host for its next leap. We either become the forgotten creators or the remembered foundation.

The question we must urgently ask ourselves is whether we can envision a third kind of future—one where the human remains the primary unit of life. And whether we should institute a mechanism for having this conversation. Technology is hurtling past us, and we are watching—bewildered, awed, and paralysed—as the contours of everything we know and believe are being redrawn. The question is: are we going to own our future, or are we resigned to becoming the machine's past?

santosh365@gmail.com

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New logistics policy to cut congestion, pollution

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt will soon launch its 'Logistics and Warehousing Policy 2025', with the draft outlining measures that will decongest Delhi, reduce pollution and improve trade efficiency. The govt is exploring dedicated logistics hubs, green freight corridors, technology-driven solutions, initiatives that promise to ease traffic, lower emissions and boost the ease of doing business.

Currently, Delhi handles 10 lakh tonnes of freight daily through 1.93 lakh vehicles, 21 per cent of which is pass-through traffic. The largest share of freight movement is carried by trucks transporting building materials (4,132 vehicles/day), textiles (3,995), fruits and vegetables (2,569) and food products (2,468), while even pharmaceuticals (559) and automobiles (588) contribute to congestion. Without proper warehousing zones, these vehicles enter city interiors, clogging major routes and worsening pollution.

Industries minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the draft policy proposes relocating warehouses to the city's periphery, consolidating freight at modern Urban Consolidation and Logistics Distribution Centres (UCLDCs) and shifting last-mile deliveries to electric and CNG vehicles. These measures will cut vehicular emissions and reduce congestion at hotspots like Azadpur, Ghazipur, Naraina and Karol Bagh, delivering a significant win for air quality.

The policy is structured around 16 key action points, aiming to overhaul Delhi's logistics landscape. Major initiatives include 24/7 operations at logistics parks through amendments to the Model Shops Act. Other features are digital delivery management and the creation of designated commercial parking areas with loading bays under the PPP model. Also, the development of UCLDCs to consolidate cargo and shift last-mile delivery to clean fuel vehicles.

These action points will directly address bottlenecks, from truck parking shortages to outdated freight handling systems, making Delhi's supply chain more efficient and environmentally sustainable, he said.

The draft policy also outlines a set of subsidies to support industry players and encourage sustainable practices. These include land lease discounts to incentivise traders relocating warehouses from congested areas, subsidies for technology adoption and financial support for upgrading cold chains and storage facilities. The policy extends special incentives for green energy and eco-friendly initiatives such as the installation of solar panels on warehouses, adoption of electric and CNG-powered freight vehicles and use of energy-efficient building designs.

Developed by the Department of Industries, the policy seeks to streamline regulations, integrate advanced logistics technology and upgrade infrastructure in line with the National Logistics Policy.

Police nab member of banned BKI organisation

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 22-year-old alleged member of the banned terrorist organisation Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in connection with the grenade attack on Quila Lal Singh police station in Batala, Punjab, on April 7.

The accused, Karanbir alias Karan, a resident of Amritsar, was nabbed from Gurdaspur on July 26. TNN

Homeless man kills youth, held

New Delhi: A 50-year-old man who claimed to be an "incarnation of God" was arrested in connection with the murder of a 23-year-old youth whose body was found near the railway tracks in Bhorgarh, Narela, on July 12. The accused, identified as Sadaguru alias Gopal alias Kallu alias Badka Murmu, allegedly confessed to killing the victim with an iron rod following a scuffle. Police said the accused, a vagavond, scavenged for food.

The victim, Ballu alias Bablu, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. TNN

1 held in Bawana murder case

New Delhi: A day after a 30-year-old man was found dead with multiple injuries in North West Delhi's Bawana, a man was arrested for allegedly stabbing him following a verbal altercation.

The accused was identified as Yash Lohchab, a 21-year-old resident of Auchandi village. Police said Yash confessed to killing Mohit after a verbal altercation while drinking on Friday. Enraged, he later entered Mohit's house at night and attacked him with a sharp-edged weapon.

Sachdeva vows action against waterlogging

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Sunday paid tribute to the three civil services aspirants who drowned at the basement of the coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar on July 27 last year. He also paid tribute to a student who died from electrocution due to a hanging wire in Patel Nagar.

Sachdeva blamed the previous govt for no proper cleaning of drains and sewers in 2024. "This negligence led to the untimely deaths of these four talented students, along with other people who died due to drowning in waterlogged areas in the past," he said.

The BJP had promised to address the waterlogging issue in its 2025 election manifesto. "Our government has managed to keep waterlogging to a minimum," he added.

Sachdeva stated that the BJP-led Delhi govt pledged to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in Rajendra Nagar, Patel Nagar, Moti Nagar, Burari, Kirari and other areas. He said, "We are proud that, unlike last year when over 50 lives were lost due to waterlogging, no such incidents occurred this year due to the preparedness of the govt."

Expect a rainy end to month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi-NCR region is expected to witness rain in the remaining days of July due to an approaching low-pressure system. Though the India Meteorological Department has not issued any colour-coded warnings, it has predicted light to moderate precipitation in the capital from Monday to Wednesday, followed by scattered light showers on Thursday.

"The well-marked low-pressure area over northwest Madhya Pradesh is moving towards east Rajasthan and weakened into a low-pressure area. It will change direction towards the northeast and will reach northeast Rajasthan and adjoining north Madhya Pradesh by Monday. Excess of monsoon trough will also be just south of Delhi. The Western disturbance is over Jammu Kashmir," said Mahesh Palawat, vice-president at Skymet Meteorology.

Due to the combination of these systems, heavy to very heavy rain is expected over Uttarakhand and western districts of UP, northeast Rajasthan and north Madhya Pradesh. "Delhi and parts of Haryana may also get moderate showers on Monday and Tuesday," said Palawat.

On Sunday, no rainfall was recorded in the city from 8.30am to 5.30pm. The high mercury along with high humidity continued to cause discomfort. The maximum temperature was recorded at 37.5 degrees Celsius. However, relative humidity oscillated between 59% and 87%. The Heat Index (HI) or 'feel like temperature' was recorded at 48.3 degrees Celsius at 5.30pm. The minimum temperature, however, stood at 28.8 degrees Celsius. On Monday, the maximum temperature is likely to go up to 35 degrees Celsius, while the minimum is expected to be around 26-28 degrees Celsius.

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3 hosps named centres of surveillance for dengue

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi designated three hospitals as sentinel surveillance centres and intensified measures to address the seasonal increase in dengue, malaria, and chikungunya cases.

On Sunday, the chairperson of the standing committee, Satya Sharma, announced that Hindu Rao Hospital, Swami Dayanand Hospital, and Kasturba Hospital have been equipped as sentinel surveillance hospitals. These facilities will have dedicated beds and specialised resources to manage the expected surge in cases.

Sharma stated that 70 beds have been reserved at Hindu Rao Hospital, 22 at Swami Dayanand Hospital, and 75 at Kasturba Hospital.

"All necessary medical supplies, including medicines, IV fluids, and platelets, have been stocked adequately. Round-the-clock availability of doctors, nurses, and technical staff has been ensured to provide timely care."

Meanwhile, in response to the rising cholera cases in certain areas of the city, MCD launched special interventions in locations with unsafe drinking water. Liquid chlorine and Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) packets are being distributed to prevent infections and dehydration. PTI

2 held for gold theft in metro

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly stealing gold biscuits weighing over 141 grams from a moving Delhi Metro train, an official said on Sunday. Police recovered Rs 3 lakh in suspected sale proceeds from the two men.

On July 11, a passenger, Amit Santra, reported the theft of gold biscuits from his bag while he was travelling between Bahadurgarh and Shadipur stations.

"A case was filed at Raja Garden metro police station and further investigation was taken up," said the officer.

Following sustained surveillance, Sonu Chand (29), a resident of Dabri and a habitual offender, was apprehended on July 23. Chand allegedly admitted to the crime and revealed that he had sold the stolen gold. A raid at his residence led to the recovery of Rs 3 lakh in cash. Further investigation led the cops to two associates, Jai Prakash Tiwari (31), an employee of a finance company and Sumit Shinde (21), a gold refinery owner. While Shinde has been arrested, Tiwari has been bound down under legal provisions. PTI

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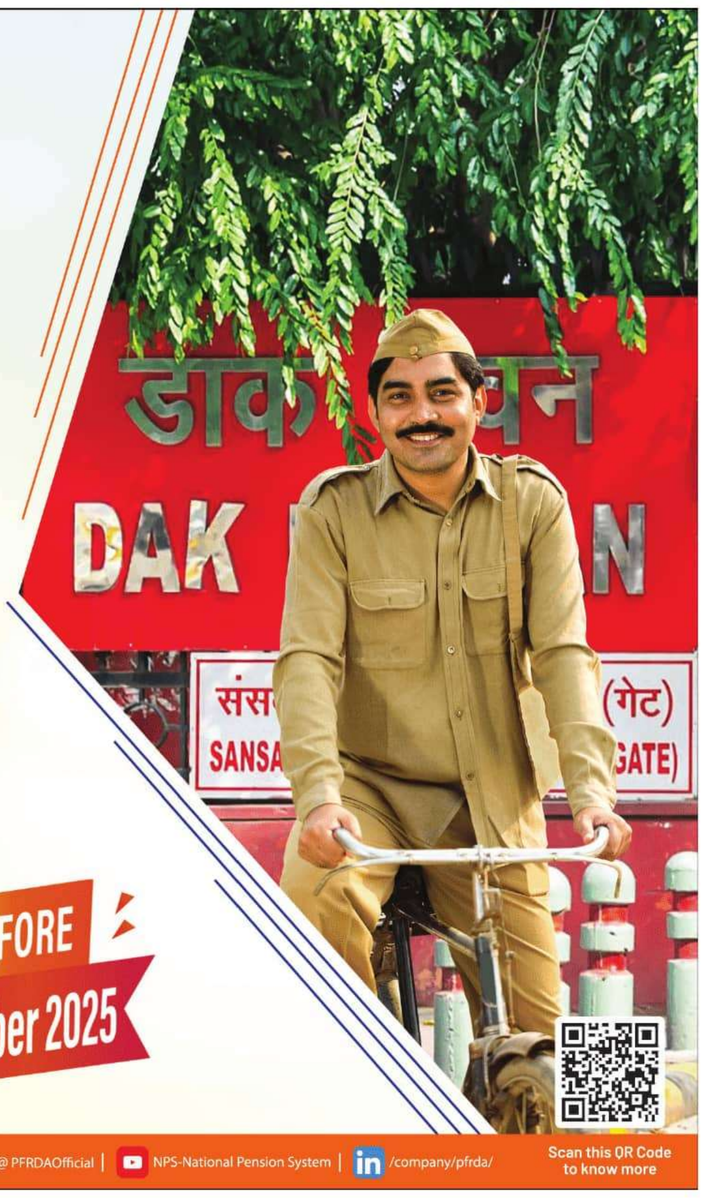
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NDMC to give 50-yr-old kiosks a makeover

New Delhi: Existing kiosks, many of which are nearly 50 years old, will be revamped by New Delhi Municipal Council.

"NDMC will redevelop 50 kiosks in first phase and the rest will be redesigned into aesthetically appealing, smart city–compatible structures in next phases," said vice chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal. NDMC's architecture department is preparing the designs and will implement them in line with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.

On Thursday, its architecture department issued a public notice inviting bids for financial and transaction advisors for the redevelopment of three NDMC-owned properties — Super Bazar, Khan Market and Yashwant Place — under a public-private partnership model. TNN

On bright track, metro saves ₹17cr in a yr by harnessing solar power

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesofindia.com

Nearly 35% of the Metro's total energy requirement is met through renewable sources at the moment, with a target to increase this share to 50% by 2031

New Delhi: In a significant step towards sustainability, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has made notable progress in harnessing solar energy, yielding both environmental and economic benefits. Between June 2024 and May 2025, DMRC generated 40,160 megawatt-hours (MWh) of solar power, resulting in substantial savings in operational energy costs.

According to DMRC, this clean energy initiative led to savings of Rs 16.81 crore over the period. Each month saw consistent solar power generation, with production peaking at 4,459 MWh in April and May 2025. Even during the typically lower-output winter months of Dec 2024 and Jan 2025, solar generation remained steady, underscoring the resilience and efficiency of DMRC's solar infrastructure.

"With the integration of renewable energy, DMRC was able to significantly cut down its electricity expenses. While the annual electricity bill, as estimated by the DISCOMs, stood at Rs 37 crore, DMRC paid only Rs 20 crore—achieving a saving of Rs 16.81 crore over the year," said a DMRC official.

May 2025 recorded the highest monthly savings at Rs 1.89 crore, followed closely by April (Rs 1.86 crore), March (Rs 1.82 crore), and June 2024 (Rs 1.82 crore). "Even during the monsoon season—typically challenging for solar output—DMRC maintained impressive savings of Rs 1.45 crore in July 2024 and Rs 1.42 crore in Aug 2024. With over 40,160 MWh of clean energy used and total savings of Rs 16.81 crore, DMRC continues to lead the way in building a greener, more energy-efficient future for urban public transport in India," the official added.

DMRC has installed rooftop solar panels with a combined capacity of 50 MWp across 142 locations in its network. Currently, 35% of the Metro's total energy requirement is met through renewable sources, with a target to increase this share to 50% by 2031.

Of the existing 35% green energy mix, approximately 30% comes from offsite sources — mainly the Rewa Solar Plant in Madhya Pradesh — 4% from rooftop solar installations, and 1% from the Ghazipur waste-to-energy plant.

As part of the under-construction Phase IV expansion, DMRC is incorporating solar infrastructure in all 27 elevated stations across its three priority corridors. The clean energy initiative includes installing 10 MW of rooftop solar capacity, expected to generate about 1 crore units of solar energy annually.

How Learning Curve Starts With A Scan

Use QR Code To Help Identify Out-Of-School Kids

Meghna.Dhulia @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A 10-year-old boy selling snacks at a traffic signal during school hours often went unnoticed. Not anymore. A new community-driven QR code initiative under Samagra Shiksha empowers anyone to report children seen out of school, whether working, begging or simply left behind. With a quick scan and after entering some details, citizens can set in motion a path toward school enrolment and support. This low-tech, high-impact solution aims to turn people into protectors of every child's right to education, helping bridge the gap between vulnerable children and the classrooms they deserve.

The mechanism starts when any individual — be it a regular passer-by, teacher, an NGO worker, anyone — scans a QR code displayed on public posters, school walls or digital platforms. It opens up to a user-friendly online form where that person can report a child seen out of school. The form asks for basic details like the child's approximate age, location and probable reason for being out of the classroom — to beg, work or just loiter around.

Once submitted, the report is flagged in the Samagra Shiksha system. Authorities, particularly local cluster coordinators, begin the process of verification and intervention. Field visits are conducted to assess the situation, counsel the child's family if needed, and initiate the enrolment process in a nearby school or rehabilitation services if required. "The QR codes will be displayed across various locations in Delhi to help us locate children whom our teams were unable to reach directly," said Sunita Yadav, coordinator, Out-of-School Children, Samagra Shiksha.

Crucially, this isn't a one-time action. The system includes a follow-up to monitor the child's status, ensuring he or she continues receiving education and support, and isn't pushed back into vulnerable conditions. This entire shift from centralised, reactive models to real-time, decentralised reporting offers a promising new way to identify and rescue children who often fall through the cracks of traditional systems.

Yadav called the programme a "community-driven model of accountability" and emphasised its power to turn bystanders into changemakers. During her presentation at a recent workshop organised by Chetna NGO, she explained the standard operating procedure that follows each QR code report. She outlined how, from the moment a citizen submits a form, the system sets off a chain of actions that brings the out-of-school children closer to the support they need.

The initiative has struck a chord with stakeholders. Some NGO representatives, educators and volunteers expressed support and pledged to share the QR code tool widely during field visits, awareness drives and community campaigns. "There is enthusiasm among NGOs regarding this, and soon social organisations will also join in," said Sanjay Gupta, director, Childhood Enhancement Through Training and Action (Chetna). However, Gupta also highlighted the potential challenges the initiative might encounter. "Its effectiveness is yet to be seen because of problems such as the lack of legal documents, absence of Aapar ID (a unique 12-digit code allowing digital storage, management and access to all academic information), bank accounts and migration-related papers."

Beyond the technology, the initiative aims at a human impact. It brings children back into classrooms, gives communities a voice in shaping education outcomes, supports the efforts of govt and civil society and addresses root issues like child labour, poverty and educational neglect. By making it easier to identify out-of-school children, the system spurs action on inclusive and equitable education.

MAKE THE SYSTEM

Step 1 | Scan
Anyone (public, teachers, volunteers) can scan QR code placed on posters, walls or digital platforms

Step 2 | Fill report form
The QR code links to a simple online form where you can:
- Report a child seen out of school
- Add location, approx age, reason (begging, child labour, etc)
- Give contact details

Step 3 | Alert sent
The report is automatically shared with Samagra Shiksha officials

Step 4 | Action taken
Authorities visit the location, assess case, and begin counselling, enrolment, or rehabilitation

Step 5 | Follow-up
The system tracks the child's status and ensures continued school attendance or needed support

HOW IT BENEFITS KIDS
- Brings out-of-school children into the education system
- Empowers the community to act
- Supports govt and NGO efforts
- Reduces dropouts and child labour
- Enables holistic support
- Promotes inclusive education

COORDINATOR SAYS

The QR codes will be displayed across various locations in Delhi to help us locate children whom our teams were unable to reach directly

School Buzz

nie NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, hosted its annual career fair ASPIRE 2025 on July 19. The event witnessed participation from a broad spectrum of universities across the globe, including Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada), Ecole Ducasse (France), Bocconi University (Italy), among others. Many leading Indian universities such as Shiv Nadar University and OP Jindal Global University, also participated in the fair, offering students an insight into the educational opportunities both within India and abroad. One-to one counselling sessions



DPS, Mathura Road

with regard to admissions, scholarships, coupled with personalised interaction provided valuable information to students. Applauding the students for their proactive involvement in the fair, Dr Ram Singh, principal,emphasised "the role of such initiatives in fostering a global outlook and clarity in academic aspirations. -

Delhi Public School RK Puram hosted 'Crossroads', its annual career fair, on July 5, 2025. More than 180 universities from countries including the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore along with more than 50 Indian universities took part in this event. Some of the prestigious universities participating in this grand event were University of Southern California, Babson College , University College London, University of British Columbia, University of Warwick, Singapore Management University, Vellore Institute of Technology, Ashoka University


DPS, RK Puram

and more. Topics covered in the discussions were foreign education systems, admission process, visa processes, accommodation, fee structure, etc. The event was attended by students and parents of classes IX to XII.

Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj, organised the Investiture and Gold Medal Honour Ceremony for classes V, XI and XII for the academic session 2024-25 on July 18. Along with appointing its newly-elected student council, the school felicitated the gold medallists, scholars, and exceptional performers in sports. Kailash Gehlot, MLA, Delhi Legislative assembly graced the occasion as the chief guest, along with Ravi Vira Gupta, chairman managing committee, DPS Vasant Kunj. Appreciating the school as one of the


DPS, Vasant Kunj

finest in the country, Gehlot urged students to follow the "3Ds- discipline, determination and dedication- and pursue politics to shape the country's future". Deepti Vohra,principal, urged the students to "follow the equation, event plus response equals outcome'.

Springdales School, Pusa Road, inaugurated their annual Knowledge Week on July 14. Based on this year's theme 'Beyond Boundaries: Exploring, Engaging, and Innovating', the event saw various workshops and activities during the week emphasising the spirit of discovery and progress that transcends boundaries through curiosity, collaboration, and creativity. Dr Mala Gupta, principal, Springdales School, Pusa Road, along with Sutapa Basu, author, inaugurated the event. Addressing students, Basu spoke about the "importance of reading" and shared vital techniques of story-telling.



Springdales School, Pusa road

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE This Notice is in respect of Property bearing C-9/111, Land measuring 250 Sq. Yds. Situated in part of Khasra No. -1668, at village Kishangarh, Tehsil- Mehrauli, Kishangarh, New Delhi-110070 purchased by my mother Late Smt. Parwati Devi Nagpal. Details of the Property are EAST- 30 feet Road WEST-Property of Smt. Sushila Devi NORTH- House of Rajinder Sharma SOUTH-Property of Uday Bhan My mother Late Smt. Parwati Devi Nagpal was the absolute owner of above-mentioned Property. My mother made the WILL in favor of me amongst my other six siblings (3 Brothers, 3 Sisters) Dated 13.01.2006. My Mother was expired on 07.07.2006 and my other siblings has already given me NOC of such said Property dated 02.06.2009. The said WILL in favor of me by my mother was lost by me and I have lodged FIR of such lost Article dated 29.07.2020. Now I want to sell that Property mentioned above. Hence, This is to notify that any of my Parental family members want to object/claim they can object within 10 days of Notice issued by me otherwise treated myself Harbans Nagpal S/o Late Sh. Tara Chand Nagpal R/o A-23, Bhawani Kunj ,Sector D-2, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070 as an absolute owner of such above mentioned Property . HARBANS NAGPAL 9810054251. A-23 Bhawani Kunj Sector D2 Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070

PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned are hereby informed that Mr. Ved Prakash, son of Sh. Choudhary Daya Ram, resident of Village Gadaipur, Tehsil Mehrauli, Delhi, is the recorded owner of agricultural land measuring 36 bighas and 4 biswas in total, comprising Khasra Nos. 1279 (3-19), 1280 (4-16), 1281 (4-16), 1284 (4-16), 1285 (3-16), 1323 (4-16), 1324 (4-16), and 1325 (4-09), situated in the revenue estate of Village Punjab Khor, North-West Delhi, vide Sale Deed Nos. 2987, 2988, 2989, and 2990 dated 14.03.1995.

The said Mr. Ved Prakash has executed a registered General Power of Attorney (GPA) bearing No. 842 dated 25.01.2001 in favour of Sh. Trilok Chand @ Choudhary Trilok Chand, son of Sh. Daya Ram Choudhary @ Choudhary Daya Ram, resident of House No. 39, CDR Farms, Gadaipur, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030.

By virtue of the said GPA, Sh. Trilok Chand @ Choudhary Trilok Chand is authorized to execute an Agreement to Sell, Sale Deed, Mortgage Deed, raise loans, and execute all property-related transfer documents on behalf of Mr. Ved Prakash in respect of the aforesaid property.

Now, through the said GPA, Sh. Trilok Chand has entered into a binding Agreement to Sell the above-mentioned agricultural land (measuring 36 bighas 4 biswas) in favour of my clients 1. Mr. Virender Kumar, son of Sh. Om Prakash 2. Smt. Manita Devi, wife of Virender Kumar 3. Smt. Babli Devi, wife of Anil Kumar all residents of House No. 6, Block-A, Omax City, Sector-15, Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar, Haryana; and Smt. Kaushalya Devi, wife of Ramesh Kumar, resident of House No. 1646, Mukhtyar Singh Marg, Village Bawana, Delhi-110039.

The final date for execution of the Sale Deed/Registry under this Agreement to Sell is fixed as 25th November 2025.

Through this Public Notice, the general public is informed that if any person(s), institution, company, LLP, firm, etc., has any objection or claim regarding the ownership or sale of the aforementioned land, or any right, title, interest, lien, or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever, they must submit their written objections along with relevant documents within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing which, the Sale Deed in respect of the aforesaid land shall be executed in favour of my above-named clients through the GPA holder of Mr. Ved Prakash, and no claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Ravinder Kaushik, Advocate
Chamber No. 32, District Court, Jhajjar, Haryana
Email: kaushik_ravinder@yahoo.co.in

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Life Insurance Corporation of India, Delhi Divisional Office -II invites applications in sealed envelope for empanelment for supply of Gift Articles/Competition Prize Articles / Mementos/ Trophies & Publicity through Wall Painting / Mobile Publicity Van from the reputed Suppliers / Vendors/Firms having experience. Application Form can be received from Sales Department, Divisional Office-II,Delhi from above mentioned address from 28.07.2025 to 11.08.2025 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm on all working days or downloaded from our website **www.licindia.in(Tender).** For complete details please log on our website **www.licindia.in** and go to **Tender** and click on respective link. Last date of submit of application is 11.08.2025. Application received after 3.00 PM on 11.08.2025 would be rejected .The Senior Divisional Manager, LIC of India, DO-II, Delhi reserves the right to cancel or amend the process of empanelment without assigning any reason. Any subsequent change in Terms & Conditions of Notice of Empanelment will be published on our website only.
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Ph: 011-40701323/1324

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(TESTAMENT INTESTATE, JURISDICTION)
CITATION U/s 283, INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
In the matter of TEST. CAS. No. 35/2025
AAYUSH DAYAL & ANR. ....PETITIONER
VERSUS
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI REVENUE DEPARTMENT THROUGH SECRETARY & ORS. ....RESPONDENTS
To, All Concerned.
In the matter of estate of Late Smt. Situ Naraindas Shivdasani W/o, Late Shri Naraindas Shivdasani, R/o. D-20, Ground Floor, Near Arya Samaj Mall, Nizamuddin East, Delhi-110013.
Whereas Mr. Aayush Dayal S/o. Late Sh. Praveen and Late Smt. Kavita Dayal, Permanent R/o. D-20, Ground Floor, Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013, Correspondence Address: C/o. Mohd. Shahnawaz Zaheer, 111, Pocket-1, Jasola, New Delhi-25, Currently at: 985 Academy Way, British Columbia-V1V3A4, Canada and Ms. Prarthana Dayal D/o. Late Sh. Praveen and Late Smt. Kavita Dayal Permanent R/o. D-20, Ground Floor, Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013, Correspondence Address: C/o. Mohd. Shahnawaz Zaheer, 111, Pocket-1, Jasola, New Delhi-25, Currently at: 81, Navy Wharf Road, M5V 3S2, Toronto, Ontario, Canada have filed a Petition U/s 276 read with section 278 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Probate and Letter of Administration of the Will dated 20.06.2023 in respect of estate of Smt. Situ Naraindas Shivdasani, Deceased.
And whereas the aforesaid case is fixed for hearing on 08.10.2025 at 10:30 a.m. before the Hon'ble Court. This Citation is issued in terms of Section 283 of the said Act to all persons claiming to have any interest in the property/properties of the said deceased to come to this Court, file objections, if any, and take part in the proceedings on the date specified above for the grant of Probate and Letter of Administration. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, in terms of the orders dated 06.05.2025 & 27.05.2025.
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I, Satyawati Devi w/o Ajit Singh R/o Lane -2, Gautam nagar colony,Susuwahi-Varanasi,Uttar Pradesh -221011 have changed my name from Satyawati Singh to Satyawati Devi for all future purposes.

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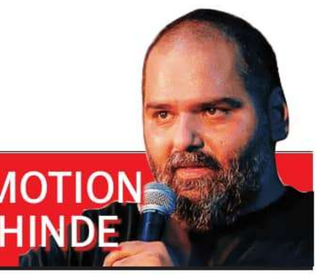
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'AAPKO KURSI SE PYAAR HAI': TEJASHWI SLAMS CHIRAG FOR BACKING NDA WHILE CRITICISING NITISH GOVT

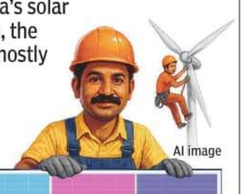
STANDUP COMIC KAMRA TERMS PRIVILEGE MOTION 'MOTIVATED', DEFENDS SATIRE ON EKNATH SHINDE



STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers — By Doreen Bora

Renewable Energy Isn't Just Saving The Planet, It's Creating Jobs

There were nearly 1 lakh workers in India's solar and wind sector during FY19. Since then, the green sector has created 6.6 lakh jobs, mostly in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan



AI image

Renewable energy related jobs created in top 10 states in last 5 years*



Trial court not the first stop for investigation, says SC

'Can't Move Court For Filing FIR Without Approaching Police'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: SC has barred trial courts from directly entertaining complaints and ordering police to investigate them by ruling that prior to moving court for probing a cognisable offence, a person must approach jurisdictional police for registration of FIR.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S V N Bhatti said, "A magistrate ought not ordinarily entertain an application under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) directly unless the informant has availed and exhausted his remedies provided under Section 154 (3) of the code."



CHAIN OF STEPS

Writing the judgment in a cross-case, Justice Mithal said magistrates must ask the informant to first approach the officer-in-charge of the police station and then the superintendent of police. "It is well recognized in law that the person aggrieved must first exhaust the alternative remedies available to him in law before approaching the court of law. In other words, he cannot ordinarily approach the court directly," he said.

The bench did a conjoint reading of sections 154, 156 and 190 of the CrPC and said, "It is crystal clear that an informant who wants to report about a commission of a cognisable offence has to, in the first instance, approach the officer-in-charge of the police station for setting the criminal law into motion by lodging an FIR."

"However, if such information is not accepted by the officer-in-charge of the police station and he refuses to record it, the remedy of the informant is to approach the SP concerned. It is only subsequent to availing the above opportunities that if he is not successful, he may approach the magistrate under section 156(3) of the CrPC for necessary action or of taking cognisance in accordance with section 190 of the CrPC," the bench said.

SC said if the information about a cognisable offence is not being recorded by the officer-in-charge of the police station or even by the SP, then the person aggrieved or the informant "may move the court the magistrate concerned to get the FIR registered and lodged with the concerned police station."

She once borrowed shoes. Now she's donating spikes

Remendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com



Kranti Goud — youngest of six, class 8 dropout, daughter of a dismissed cop — now has six English wickets and a nation watching

Bhopal: She's the youngest of six siblings. A class 8 dropout. A daughter of a dismissed policeman. A bowler with six English wickets and a nation watching.

Cricketer Kranti Goud once bowled in hand-me-down shoes. Today, the 21-year-old Indian women's team star wants to equip budding girl cricketers with premium spiked shoes — free of cost. Her drive? To ensure no girl with talent is benched by poverty.

Goud from Ghuwara, a tribal-majority village in MP's Chhatarpur district, has secured a sponsorship deal with an international shoe brand — her first personal milestone off the pitch. On it, she's already made headlines: a searing 6/52 against England, her first five-wicket haul in ODIs, helped India seal the recent series in the third match.

Goud's rise from rural Bundelkhand to the national spotlight is a tale stitched with adversity. Her father Munna Singh, a former MP police constable, was dismissed in 2012 during election duty. The family had to vacate their official quarters and shift to a rented home.

Eldest brother Mayank dropped out of school to work. "We were in a lot of trouble," he said. "There were days we didn't have proper meals. People mocked us for letting Kranti pursue cricket, but somehow we held on."

Coach Rajiv Bilthare took her in at his Sai Cricket Academy in Chhatarpur in 2017. "She came in worn-out clothes and regular shoes," he said. "Her father was jobless. Her family had nothing. I didn't charge her any fees. I gave her shoes, uniform, and even bought her gear."

One memory stands out. "I gave her Rs 1,600 to buy cricket spikes. She lit up. Said it felt like a dream," Bilthare said.

That dream carried Goud to the national squad. She now wants to help others walk the path — one pair of spiked shoes at a time. "It's time for me to give back to society," she said. "I want to buy a house for my family. That's first. But I also want girls at our academy to play without worrying about money. My assistance will help them focus on the game."

The right-arm medium-fast bowler made her ODI debut against Sri Lanka on May 11 and her T20 international debut against England on July 12. She represents MP in domestic cricket and plays for UP Warriorz in Women's Premier League (WPL).

Mother's skin saves infant in Ahd crash

Parth.Shastri
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Engulfed in burns and battling for breath, they were hospitalised for five weeks

Ahmedabad: For infant Dhyaansh, his mother's skin will always be the first armour he ever wore.

Inside a residential block at BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad's Meghaninagar locality, Manisha Kachhadiya clutched her eight-month-old son as smoke choked the air and searing heat clawed through the walls. She couldn't see. She ran anyway.

Both mother and child emerged alive from the June 12 Air India Flight 171 crash. Barely. The Boeing Dreamliner fell on their apartment. Everything went black. Then came fire.

Engulfed in burns and battling for breath, they were hospitalised for five weeks. On Friday, they were discharged from a city hospital, their recovery hailed as a miracle of maternal instinct and coordinated medical effort.

Manisha, 30, suffered 25% burns to her face and arms. Dhyaansh suffered 36% burns across his face, chest, abdomen, and limbs. "There was a moment I thought we would not make it out," she said. "But I had to, for my child. We have both been through pain I cannot put into words."

Her act of shielding Dhyaansh with her body ended up saving his life — twice over. At KD Hospital, where the duo was admitted, skin from Manisha was grafted onto her son's wounds.

"The patient's age was a major factor," said plastic surgeon Dr Rutvij Parikh. "We used his own skin and his mother's skin. Risk of infection was high. We had to ensure his growth wouldn't be stunted."

KD Hospital treated six patients from the crash at no cost, including the Kachhadiyas. For Manisha, survival is now defined by her child's breath and smile.

Raj visits Matoshree after years on Uddhav b'day, calls him Sena chief

Chaitanya Marpakwar & Abhishek Choudhari



Raj paid tribute to Bal Thackeray at Matoshree. After his visit, cousin Uddhav Thackeray said, 'I am very happy. I am overwhelmed'

Mumbai/Nagpur: Fuelling speculation about a potential alliance between Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Raj Thackeray on Sunday dropped in at Matoshree to wish his 'big brother' Uddhav Thackeray on his 65th birthday.

In a display of bonhomie, Uddhav welcomed Raj with a warm hug, and the latter presented him a bouquet of red roses. After the courtesies, the cousins spoke for close to 20 minutes. Raj also paid tribute to his late uncle Bal Thackeray's memorial chair on the first floor at Matoshree.

Raj's visit to the Thackerays' Bandra residence is being seen as a cementing factor in the MNS-Sena (UBT) alliance for the local body polls slated for Nov-Dec, but CM Devendra Fadnavis downplayed the meeting, saying the interaction was purely personal and need not be viewed through a political lens.

"Raj Thackeray met Uddhav on account of his birthday. I don't think one should see a political angle in everything," said Fadnavisin Nagpur.

Speaking briefly to the media after Raj's visit, Uddhav appeared visibly emotional. "I am very happy. I am overwhelmed...," he said.

Later, Raj said in a post on X: "On the occasion of my big brother, Shiv Sena chief, Uddhav Thackeray's birthday, I visited Matoshree, the residence of the late Balasaheb Thackeray, to extend my best wishes."

Daughter, 12, raped by father over 6 months

Rajkot: A 12-year-old girl was allegedly molested and raped by her father over the past six months in Rajkot in Gujarat, police said on Sunday.

The abuse came to light on July 25 when the mother caught her husband molesting their daughter, police said. On questioning the child, she came to know about the repeated sexual abuse by the father.

D M Haripara, investigating officer, said the accused is a native of Nepal and has been residing in Rajkot with his wife and three children for the past four years. TNN

3 patients die amid oxygen plant snag in Punjab hosp

IP.Singh@timesofindia.com

Jalandhar: Three patients, who were on ventilator in the trauma centre of Jalandhar Civil Hospital, died within a span of 35 minutes on Sunday night, allegedly after a snag in the oxygen plant.

Hospital authorities have formed a nine-member committee to find out if there was any negligence, or if the patients died because of their critical condition. There were two more patients on ventilator in the same ward who remained unaffected.

According to hospital authorities, snakebite patient Archna, 15, died at 7.15pm, drug addict Avtar Chand died at 7.40pm, and Raju, who had

Hospital authorities have formed a nine-member committee to find out if there was any negligence. There were two more patients on ventilator in the same ward who remained unaffected

TB and kidney complications, died 10 minutes later. Archna was admitted on July 17, Avtar on July 25 in an unconscious state, and Raju on July 24.

Sometime after these three deaths, word spread that there was a snag in the oxygen plant.

Late Sunday night, medical superintendent Dr Raj Kumar Badhan said that there was a fault in the oxygen plant, but they had a complete backup system, including another plant and oxygen cylinders.

"We have formed a nine-member committee which will submit a report within two days after investigating if there was any negligence on the part of any employee or if the patients died due to their own critical condition. It is significant that nothing happened to the two other patients on ventilators in the same ward. In case any negligence is found, action will be taken," he said.

ACME

Leading Through Innovation

ACME SOLAR HOLDINGS LIMITED

(formerly known as ACME Solar Holdings Private Limited)

CIN: L40106HR2015PLC102129

Registered Office: Plot No. 152, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana, India

Q1FY26

Total Revenue: ₹584 Cr 71.8% Y-o-Y

EBITDA ₹531 Cr 75.7% Y-o-Y

PAT ₹131 Cr 9,318.6% Y-o-Y

Extracts of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2025

(All amounts in Rs. million unless otherwise stated)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		30 June 2025	31 March 2025	30 June 2024	31 March 2025
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operation	5,839.90	5,392.55	3,400.14	15,752.41
2	Net Profit for the period/year (before Tax and Exceptional items)	1,903.04	1,803.49	502.51	3,590.20
3	Net Profit for the period/year before Tax (after Exceptional items)	1,743.93	1,662.67	502.51	3,380.36
4	Net Profit for the period/year after Tax (after tax)	1,308.24	1,220.75	13.89	2,508.21
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year [Comprising Profit for the period/year (aftar tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax)]	1,335.65	1,220.86	12.52	2,510.50
6	Total comprehensive income attributable to :				
	-Owners of the Company	1,335.71	1,233.73	12.52	2,523.37
	-Non-controlling Interest	(0.06)	(12.87)	-	(12.87)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 2/- per equity share)	1,210.18	1,210.18	1,044.42	1,210.18
8	Other equity				43,895.62
9	Earnings per share (EPS) -face value of Rs. 2/- each*				
	Basic (amount in Rs)	2.16	2.15	0.03	4.55
	Diluted (amount in Rs)	2.14	2.14	0.03	4.53

* Not been annualised except for year ended 31 March 2025

Notes:

a. Standalone Financial information of the Company as per Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('SEBI (LODR) 2015'):

(All amounts in Rs. million unless otherwise stated)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		30 June 2025	31 March 2025	30 June 2024	31 March 2025
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operation	3,639.85	3,084.43	4,042.66	15,118.36
2	Profit/(loss) before tax for the period/year	10.89	(164.57)	2,034.33	2,531.81
3	Profit/(loss) for the period/year	8.13	(106.13)	1,521.94	1,887.71

b. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2025 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) 2015. The full format of the unaudited financial results are available on the Stock Exchange **websites www.nseindia.com** and **www.bseindia.com** and on the Company's website **www.acmesolar.in** and can be accessed by scanning the QR code.

c. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 25 July 2025.

Registered Office: Plot No. 152, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana, India
CIN: L40106HR2015PLC102129
Place: Gurugram
Date: 25 July 2025

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
ACME Solar Holdings Limited
Manoj Kumar Upadhyay
Chairman and Managing Director
DIN No. 01282332

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
PROCLAMATION OF SALE
CS (OS) No. 347 of 2018

Shobha Aggarwal & Ors. .... Plaintiffs

V/s

Krishan Kumar & Anr. ..... Defendants

To,
The General Public

Whereas the above noted Civil Suit has been filed by the aforesaid Plaintiffs for Partition of the properties inherited by them from their parents, and whereas the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has ordered to sell the entire leasehold property bearing No. **12/171, SUNDER NAGAR MARKET, NEW DELHI – 110003** by Public Auction at the aforesaid property by **Court Commissioner, MR. PRAMOD SAIGAL, ADVOCATE, Chamber No. 610, Block III, Delhi High Court, New Delhi: email: saigal.pramod@gmail.com (Mobile No. 9810027366)** on 12.08.2025 from 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM. Interested participants of the auction of suit property can contact the Court Commissioner. The detail of the property is mentioned herein below:

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY	DATE OF AUCTION	RESERVE PRICE
Property No. 12/171, Sunder Nagar Market, New Delhi – 110003 (admeasuring 150 Sq. Yds)	**12.08.2025 from 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM**	**Rs. 17 Crore**
Date & time of inspection of the property by the prospective buyers.	**From 05th to 07th August, 2025 between 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM**	
Date & time for inspection of the title deeds of the property by the prospective buyers at Chamber No. 610, Block-III, Delhi High Court, New Delhi.	**8th and 11th August, 2025 between 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM**	
Venue and Date of Auction	**12th August, 2025 between 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at the suit property.**	

CONDITIONS OF SALE

The sale of property shall be subject to usual terms and conditions mentioned in relevant rules of Order XXI of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and including but not limited to the following:

1. The sale of the property will be in one lot. The property is being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS.'
2. The property is a Mixed Land Use lease-hold commercial-cum-residential built up property comprising of old double storeyed building having commercial shops on Ground Floor and residence on First and Barsati Floors along with terrace rights.
3. The entire property is vacant except a small shop admeasuring 165 Square Feet on the ground floor occupied by a statutory tenant.
4. Each participant in the public auction will be required to register and deposit with the Court Commissioner, from today, and till at least one hour before the start of the auction on 12th August, 2025, a Bank Draft of 10% of the Reserve Price, i.e. Rs.1,70,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Lakh Only) towards earnest money issued in favour of the '**Registrar General, Delhi High Court**'.
5. The amount by which the bids will be increased shall be Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only) or multiples thereof. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to bidder, the property shall again be put to auction on the same date.
6. The names of the highest bidder (H-1) and second highest bidder (H-2) for the property shall be declared by the Court Commissioner after conclusion of the auction for the property. The Demand Drafts deposited by the other Bidders/participants shall be returned immediately after conclusion of the auction.
7. Upon acceptance of the highest bid, the highest bidder shall deposit with the Court Commissioner 15% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rs. 2,55,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Five Lakh Only) without adjusting the already deposited amount of Rs. 1,70,00,000/- by way of Bank Draft in favour of '**The Registrar General, Delhi High Court**' on the day of auction, and in any case not later than 2 (two) working days therefrom. In the event of failure of the highest bidder (H-1) to deposit the said amount, the amount already deposited by him towards earnest money shall be forfeited and the suit property shall be offered to the second highest bidder (H-2), subject to same terms and conditions as to deposit of 15% of the Reserve Price, and the Court Commissioner shall seek the approval of the highest bid from the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.
8. After approval of the bid by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the successful bidder shall deposit the balance bid amount (after deducting TDS and depositing the same with the Income Tax Department in the names of the parties to the above suit in proportion to their undisputed respective shares in the suit property in terms of the High Court's order dated 22.07.2025) with the Court Commissioner in the name of '**The Registrar General, Delhi High Court**' within 15 days from the date of the auction or the date of such approval, whichever is later.
9. In the event of failure of the highest bidder (H-1) to deposit the remaining bid amount within the aforesaid 15 days, entire 25% of the Reserve Price deposited by him earlier, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the Court thinks fit, be forfeited to Government and the aforesaid property shall be offered to the second highest bidder (H-2) at the last bid price quoted by the second highest bidder, the other terms of the deposits etc. remaining the same. In default of such deposit by the second highest bidder (H-2) as well, the initial deposit of earnest money made by the second highest bidder (H-2), after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the Court thinks fit, be forfeited to Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold in terms of the High Court's Order.
10. The successful bidder/buyer shall approach the office of the L&DO, Delhi (within one week of approval of the bid of the successful bidder by the High Court), and apply for permission of transfer of leasehold rights/suit property in his/her name. All the parties to the suit shall render all possible assistance to the successful bidder and sign requisite documents, affidavits, etc. as may be required for this purpose from them. All the charges, including but not limited to unearned increase, if any, payable to the L&DO shall be borne by the buyer. Upon grant of permission by the office of the L&DO, the successful bidder/buyer would approach the parties to the suit, who shall execute the requisite documents/deeds as may be required to convey the title in the suit property in favour of the successful bidder/buyer.
11. The sale in favour of the highest bidder shall become final only after final approval by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.
12. After the report of the Court Commissioner is considered and the highest bid is accepted by the Court and the entire bid amount stands deposited with the Court Commissioner as above, vacant possession of the suit property (barring 165 Square feet in possession of the tenant) shall be handed over to the buyer along with the original title deeds at the time of execution of the transfer documents.
13. In the event no bid higher than Rs.17.10 Crores is received at the public auction, the Court Commissioner will cancel the public auction and send report to this effect to the Hon'ble High Court.
14. For reasons recorded, it shall be discretion of the officer conducting the sale to adjourn it subject always to the provisions of Rule 69 of Order XXI.

Given under my hand on 23rd July, 2025, in terms of Delhi High Court's orders dated 07.04.2025, 05.05.2025, 16.07.2025 and 22.07.2025.

(PRAMOD SAIGAL)
Court Commissioner/Advocate
Chamber No.610, Block-III,
Delhi High Court, New Delhi – 110003

Bihar dy CM receives death threat, security beefed up

Patna: Bihar deputy CM Samrat Choudhary received a death threat late on Saturday via an instant messaging platform, sent to a party worker's phone, warning that he would be shot. Police have since tightened security at his residence and at public events he attends, reports **Faryal Rumi**. The threat sent to the party worker reads: "Hello sir, I will shoot Samrat Choudhary within 24 hours. I am telling the truth."

Reacting to the threat, Choudhary said Sunday, "People of Bihar know we are committed to development of the state and will continue on that path." Upon checking the number through a app, the party worker found it displayed the name Vikram Yadav from Rajasthan.

'Bihar rape accused hired through pvt firm'

Gaya: The Bihar health department clarified on Sunday that the ambulance driver and the technician accused of raping a home guard aspirant in Gaya were not regular employees but hired through a private agency. The woman was allegedly raped inside a slow-moving ambulance while being taken to a hospital after collapsing during a fitness test on Thursday. Gaya civil surgeon Dr Raja Ram Prasad told reporters, "Both the driver and the technician are not regular employees of the health department."

Bihar's draft poll rolls may exclude 66 lakh names: EC

'Genuine Voters Can Still Be Added Back In Electoral Rolls'

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com



A BLO conducting door-to-door distribution and collection of enumeration forms ahead of Bihar assembly elections

New Delhi: Election Commission Sunday said Bihar's draft electoral rolls may exclude 66 lakh names as they had either become electors in other states or UTs, were non-existent, did not submit enumeration forms within the July 25 deadline, or were not willing to register as electors for some reason or other.

Of the 66 lakh electors, 22 lakh were found to be deceased, 36 lakh permanently shifted or untraceable, and seven lakh enrolled at multiple places. Over one lakh did not return their forms by the deadline. "The exact status of these electors will be known after scrutiny of the forms by Aug 1. However, genuine electors can still be added back in electoral rolls during the claims and objections period from Aug 1 to Sept 1," EC said in a statement. It said the seven lakh electors found enrolled at multiple places will be retained in only one place.

EC said submission of over 7.2 crore forms by electors in Bihar pointed to their "overwhelming participation" in SIR of rolls. It said all aims of SIR — participation of all electors and political parties; no eligible electors (temporary migrants, urban, youth) be left behind; assistance by election staff in enumeration phase; scrutiny of draft roll; and no deletion of draft electoral roll without a speaking order — have either been fulfilled or will be met.

On achieving the aims, EC said participation of electors and parties was realised through involvement of field representatives of 12 major political parties, such as district presidents and 1.6 lakh booth level agents. No elector be left behind was achieved with messages sent to 5.7 crore registered mobile numbers, allowing BLOs to submit up to 50 forms daily, and visits to electors' addresses.

Outreach to temporary migrant electors was ensured with advertisements in 246 newspapers. This resulted in action by 29 lakh migrants — 16 lakh filled the form online and 13 lakh downloaded it. Regular involvement of electors and political parties was ensured by sending 10.2 crore messages to electors acknowledging receipt of forms. Lists of electors not found at their addresses or whose forms weren't received were shared on July 20 with the parties.

EC said digital and printed copies of draft roll of each booth will be shared with the parties, adding that no name can be deleted without notice and speaking order of ERO/AERO.

EC must stop SIR, says oppn, calls it 'exercise of exclusion'

New Delhi: Ahead of SC hearing on SIR of Bihar's electoral rolls, INDIA bloc Sunday alleged it is an "exercise of exclusion", questioning data released by EC after SIR's first phase, reports **Ambika Pandit**. Congress' Abhishek Singhvi said EC should not show "institutional arrogance" with INDIA bloc parties from Bihar urging the poll panel to stop SIR as it will result in "large-scale disenfranchisement of poor and marginalised sections".

EC asked why opposition parties are trying to create "an impression that draft list is the final list, which it is not, as per SIR order."

To step up protests both inside and outside Parliament, Congress, RJD, CPM and CPI (ML)-Liberation members expressed fear that many more people will be excluded from rolls. RJD MP Manoj Jha said the whole SIR process is based on presumptions. CPI (ML)-Liberation Dipankar Bhattacharya said, "Does this mean in six months, around 22 lakh people have passed away?"

Oppn to Punjab's land-pooling policy brings together farmers

Bathinda: Resistance to AAP-led Punjab govt's land-pooling policy is acting as the glue to bring together fractured farm organisations and individual farmers beyond political affiliation, reports **Neel Kamal**.

It appears to be rekindling farm struggles that seemed to be losing momentum — seeing that there was not much hue and cry after Punjab Police slammed shut the protests at Shambhu and Khanauri borders with Haryana.

The Bhagwant Mann govt has been trying to convince people that land-pooling scheme was beneficial to farmers but it hasn't been able to dispel farmers' apprehension of losing land. Individual farmers from villages where land is being 'pooled' — those so far not associated with farm organisations — are now turning towards them to oppose the scheme.

The policy aims to pool over 40,000 acres of farmland to promote planned urban development. It's a land-for-land scheme, where landowners voluntarily give up land and are given developed residential and commercial plots in exchange.

SKM's green light to its Punjab chapter to hold tractor rallies on July 30 in villages that are likely to be brought under land-pooling scheme has come as a boost to forces opposing the scheme. The national committee of KMM has also backed the SKM call, further emboldening resistance.

ED probes Anil's RHFL for writing off ₹7k cr loans to group firms

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Sources said 22 individuals, who are associates of Anil Ambani, have come under the radar of the agency and are being investigated

New Delhi: As Enforcement Directorate sifts through voluminous documents and digital records seized from Anil Ambani's Reliance group entities during searches, which began on July 24 and concluded on Sunday, the agency, in particular, is looking at alleged diversion of Rs 12,000 crore loans by Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) to various related entities.

ED is being assisted in its task by National Financial Reporting Authority, CBI, Sebi and National Housing Bank, since it involves misappropriation of huge public funds. At least a dozen related entities of the group are currently undergoing insolvency proceedings, which means massive haircuts for banks.

Sources said 22 individuals, who are key management personnel and associates of Ambani, have come under the radar of the agency and are being investigated, besides the 60 companies that were covered during the searches lasting over 72 hours.

A Sebi investigation report (shared with ED) has highlighted alleged laundering of funds by RHFL, which had written off around Rs 7,000 crore out of the Rs 12,000 crore of loans it had extended to various entities linked to the Anil Ambani group.

Ambani is already under investigation for his group entity RHFL availing funds of Rs 2,965 crore from Yes Bank by allegedly paying bribes to its former CEO Rana Kapoor through his wife Bindu Kapoor and her companies. Rs 1,353 crore of the Rs 2,965 crore received from Yes Bank has turned into NPA. A forensic audit, commissioned by the bank, has also concluded diversion of this amount to related companies.

Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure, in identical statements, said, "The company and all its officials have fully cooperated and will continue to cooperate with the authority". On the alleged diversion of Rs 12,000 crore by RHFL to related entities, a company official said, "The account of RHFL has been fully resolved with change in management pursuant to the judgment of SC in 2023...Allegations of other irregularities are sub-judice and as a matter of fact, the Sebi order has been challenged before SAT (Securities Appellate Tribunal) since 2024".

"Sebi vide its order dated Aug 22, 2024, has found that RHFL has engaged in a fraudulent scheme to divert funds for the benefit of Ambani and his group companies," a source aware of the probe said.

Cong's cotton certification allegations misleading: Govt

New Delhi: Centre on Sunday refuted Congress's allegations regarding irregularities in organic cotton certification, calling the remarks unfounded and misleading.

The commerce ministry said the aspersions cast against National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) were baseless and unwarranted.

"Generalised allegations against a robust regulatory system of the country for a particular crop/region/group of operators only serve to undermine the credibility of legitimate regulatory institutions and the broader organic movement in India," the ministry said in a statement.

Congress on Saturday demanded a court-monitored CBI probe into an alleged scam in the sale of normal cotton as organic cotton in MP.

Former MP CM Digvijaya Singh alleged India's image is being hurt globally as the country has lost credibility in certification of organic products. PTI

Oppn plans to point to big terror attacks under 'PM Modi's watch'

▶Continued from P 1

The upcoming discussion in both Houses of Parliament on Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor comes as a significant opportunity for govt to reaffirm its strong stance on national security and counter-terrorism.

The debate — after a first week of disruption of Parliament's monsoon session — is likely to be a fiery one between the governing alliance and opposition as they prepare to lock horns over the issues steeped in national security and foreign policy imperatives. The two sides have consented to a marathon 16-hour debate in each House, which invariably stretches longer in practice. Defence minister Rajnath Singh is likely to initiate the debate immediately after question hour in Lok Sabha.

Sources said Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath and S Jaishankar will be speaking on the issue amid indications that the PM may make an intervention to convey his govt's 'robust' stand against terrorism.

Leaders of opposition in LS and RS, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, may lead the charge against govt along with Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, besides a host of others.

Congress plans to attack govt and particularly PM Modi on what BJP has claimed to be their calling card over a decade, and have used incessantly to target Congress over national security.

More than Operation Sindoor, opposition would be looking to hammer home that the country has been extremely unsafe due to cross-border threats, pointing to repeated big terror attacks under Modi's watch, from Uri to Pahalgam. This will also put Shah in opposition's crosshairs. It is here that opposition plans to undercut Modi's claim on national security. As has been seen since the terror attack, Congress and opposition have been pointing to the fact that terrorists singled out the tourists by religion to execute them — a point that opposition would have been reluctant to touch in the past for fear of polarisation.

Congress ahead of the debate raised issue of US President Donald Trump's claims of halting Operation Sindoor. Party's Jairam Ramesh Sunday said since May 10, Trump has claimed "26 times" that he stopped the operation by "threatening to cut off trade with India, and claimed that five fighter jets may have been shot down". Ramesh said on X that "even though Congress had been demanding a special two-day session of Parliament immediately after Operation Sindoor was abruptly halted that demand was ignored... Nevertheless, better late than never".

Tharoor unlikely to speak on debate on Pahalgam attack, Op Sindoor issues in LS



Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor** is unlikely to speak on the debate on Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor that gets underway in LS on Monday. "He has not asked the party to be fielded in the debate. The party too has not approached him either till now," sources said. It is to be seen who opens the debate for opposition or initiates the debate in case the chair asks anti-BJP benches to take the lead. The discussion is not being done under any specific rule of LS procedures and is also not based on any notice, sources said, quoting consultations between opposition, govt and Speaker. While the belief is that Rahul Gandhi may start, there have been times like during opposition's no-confidence motion against Modi govt on Manipur ethnic conflict in Aug 2023 when he let his now deputy Gaurav Gogoi to initiate, and himself spoke later. But Tharoor skipping the debate would set the tongues wagging, as the Thiruvananthapuram MP has had run-ins with the party since he defied Congress to lead a delegation constituted by Modi govt for the global outreach on the India-Pakistan conflict. As Tharoor threw his weight behind govt on the issue of conflict and also on the pause of hostilities, there was a frequent to and fro between him and Congress members who were critical of govt. TNN

9 from Guj indicted in US for running $9.5m illegal gambling biz

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Some of them are also accused of depositing over $10,000 illegal funds in single transactions

Ahmedabad: Nine men with roots in Gujarat were indicted in a high-profile federal crackdown on a multi-million-dollar illegal gambling operation spread across six locations in Missouri, US. The defendants allegedly operated skill game arcades as a front to run unlawful electronic gambling businesses, grossing over $9.5 million between 2022 and 2025.

The nine accused — four based in Georgia, two from New York, one each from Washington, Arkansas and Colorado — were charged in a 72-count superseding indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Springfield on May 14, according to a statement from the US attorney in the western district of Missouri.

The superseding indictment replaces accusations against one of them on Dec 10 and includes additional charges and defendants. According to the indictment, the defendants ran illegal gambling businesses under the guise of Internet amusement arcade games, skill game arcades and adult arcades.

US attorney Jeff Ray emphasised the broader implications. "Illegal gambling operations affect the citizens of the neighbourhoods and communities where they are located as well as the local economy. We worked closely with our law enforcement partners to shut down this criminal conspiracy and bring those responsible to justice," he said. The defendants allegedly ran businesses by masking them as legitimate entertainment centres in cities including Springfield, Joplin and Branson West.

The indictment, unsealed just before arraignments on July 23-24, charges all nine with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, operating illegal gambling businesses & conspiracy to launder money. Some are also accused of depositing or transferring over $10,000 in illegal funds in single transactions.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male dead body namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 26.07.2025 at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg near Bhuli Batiyari Masjid, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 45A, Dated 26.07.2025** has been lodged at Police Station, **IP Estate, Delhi.** Physical Description of unidentified male dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 40-45 Years Approx., Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red Colour T-shirt & Grey Colour Jeans.

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

Police Station IP Estate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23370928, 8750870426

DP/9959/CD/2025

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male dead body namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknow, Who was admited to Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi, Bearing MLC No. 6508/2025. In Unconsious State, Where Doctor Declared him Dead.** In this regard **DD No. 41A, Dated 23.07.2025** has been lodged at Police Station, **Subzi Mandi, Delhi.** The Dead body was preserved at mortuary of Hindu Rao Hospital.

Physical Description of unidentified male dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 45 Years Approx., Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Maroon Shirt & Cream Colour Trouser.

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

P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23827354, 8750870186

DP/9834/N/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Saloni, D/o: Dinesh, R/o: N-30/A-96, H-4 Jhuggi Jahangir Puri, Delhi. Has been missing since 10.07.2025 at 2:00 PM from her home. In this regard FIR No. 0698/25, Dated 15.07.2025, has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi.** The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Saloni, Age: 17 Years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Buit: Thin, Wearing: Grey Colour Kurti & Black and White Colour Plazzo.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. **Jahangir Puri, Delhi.**

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**

Police Station Jahangir Puri, Delhi
Ph: 011-27631600, 8750870228

DP/9898/NW/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Roshni, D/o: Raj Babbar, R/o: H.No. 154, Gali No. 23, Yadav Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 24.06.2025 from her home. In this regard FIR No. 731/25, U/s: 137(2), Dated: 24.07.2025, has been registered at P.S. Samaypur Badli, Delhi.** The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Roshni, Age: 13 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Beach Colour Suit-Salwar and Black & Red Colour Hawai Chappal in Feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. **Samaypur Badli, Delhi.**

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**

Police Station Samaypur Badli, Delhi
Ph: 011-27854757, 7065036326

DP/9929/ON/2025

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Executive Director (Marketing/PD)
LIC of India

CAD-1258

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IDCO/SFP/34/2025 21471 Date: 21.07.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - P&C/ EST/ E -30/ 2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms / Agencies through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha for "**Operation, Maintenance & Management of Flake Ice Unit and Cold Storage at PPC of Sea Food in Sirikona, Balasore district of Odisha**".

Firms/Agencies having experience in day-to-day operation, maintenance & management of Cold Storage/ Block Ice/ shrimp processing business are only invited to submit their proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha from **17:00 Hours of Dt. 31.07.2025 to 17:00 Hours of Dt. 21.08.2025**.

The **pre-bid meeting will be held on Dt.11.08.2025 at 11:30** Hours (Pre bid query must be submitted through mail id **cgmpc@idco.in** before prebid meeting).

The Technical Bid will be **opened online on 22.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M.** IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)
OIPR-14003/11/0217/25-26

CAD-1257

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IDCO/SFP/34/2025 21474 Date: 21.07.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - P&C/ EST/E - 31/ 2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms / Agencies through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha for "**Operation, Maintenance & Management of Flake Ice Unit and Cold Storage at Primary Processing Centre (PPC) of Sea Food in Chhatrapur, Ganjam District of Odisha**".

Firms/Agencies having experience in day-to-day operation, maintenance & management of Cold Storage/ Block Ice/ shrimp processing business are only invited to submit their proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha from **17:00 Hours of Dt. 01.08.2025 to 17:00 Hours of Dt. 22.08.2025.**

The **pre-bid meeting will be held on Dt.12.08.2025 at 11:30** Hours (Pre bid query must be submitted through mail id **cgmpc@idco.in** before prebid meeting).

The Technical Bid will be **opened online on 25.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M.** IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)
OIPR-14003/11/0216/25-26

Forts enduring symbols of cultural pride, says Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In his latest 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast Sunday, PM **Narendra Modi** spotlighted India's forts as enduring symbols of cultural pride and resistance to foreign invasions. His remarks come in the wake of conferment of UNESCO World Heritage tag on 12 Maratha forts, a move with both cultural and political resonance. The PM devoted a significant part of his address to the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji, calling his forts "strategic & symbolic citadels of defiance." He said, "Salher Fort, where Mughals were defeated; Shivneri, where Shivaji was born; Pratapgarh Fort, where Afzal Khan was defeated... the echo of that saga still remains entrenched in the fort walls". He also mentioned Khanderi and Vijaydurg as "proofs of Shivaji's farsightedness".



Modi said, "UNESCO recognised 12 Maratha forts as world heritage sites: 11 in Maharashtra; one in TN. Each has a chapter of history attached". The remarks are politically significant, coming ahead of municipal polls in Maharashtra and amid efforts to revive Maratha pride.

Modi's speech also highlighted the fort heritage in Rajasthan, Bundelkhand and South. "These forts are not just bricks and stones; they are symbols of our heritage. Sanskar and self-respect still peep from the high walls of these forts," he added. Lauding public efforts at grassroots level to make cities & towns clean, he highlighted commendable work done by people in that direction.

PM: India growing by leaps & bounds in space sector

Ahead of National Space Day, PM Modi Sunday highlighted India's growing capabilities in the space sector, citing Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's recent journey to International Space Station and emergence of over 200 startups in the sector. Talking about Shukla, Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address, said when the astronaut landed back on Earth, a "wave of happiness rippled through every heart" and the "whole country was filled with pride". He also highlighted that the success of Isro's Chandrayaan-3 mission had created an atmosphere of curiosity in the country for space endeavours. He specially mentioned 'INSPIRE-MANAK Abhiyan', which promotes innovation among children by providing them with a platform to develop innovative ideas rooted in science. On India's space startups, Modi pointed out that their number has quadrupled in past five years. TNN

'Chola dynasty shining example of our historical, cultural legacy'

Ariyalur: PM Narendra Modi praised the Chola dynasty as a shining example of India's historical & cultural legacy, announcing plans to erect statues of emperors Raja Raja Chola and Rajendra Chola in Tamil Nadu, reports **Deepak Karthik**.

"These statues will serve as modern pillars of India's historical consciousness," Modi said Sunday at Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, commemorating Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary at the Brihadisvara temple in Gangaikonda Cholapuram of Ariyalur district.

Wearing a traditional dhoti and angavastram, Modi invoked the Cholas' contributions to Shaivism and temple architecture, describing their era (300 BCE–1300 CE) as one of India's golden ages, defined by cultural achievement, strategic vision, and naval prowess.

Modi released a commemorative coin in Rajendra Chola's honour and symbolically poured Ganga water at the temple, echoing the emperor's famed expedition to bring the river's waters southward a millennium ago.

UP on Rapid Response

UTTAR PRADESH'S INITIATIVES TOWARDS DISASTER MANAGEMENT



"Safety of people and property is the top priority during floods. Effective coordination and swift actions are essential for flood relief and rescue operations. Our initiatives are providing new direction to the state's disaster risk reduction efforts, making it easier to develop integrated strategies to protect lives, properties, and infrastructure."

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister

Disaster Helpline Number
1070
Uttar Pradesh Police Number
112
Email: upsdma@gmail.com

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & SAFETY INITIATIVES

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE & FUND ALLOCATIONS

- 05 Doppler weather radars being set up in five cities, Azamgarh, Lucknow, Jhansi, Gorakhpur and Varanasi, in the state at a cost of Rs 19 crore
- 444 digital signage boards installed in tehsil headquarters, district headquarters, and division headquarters at a cost of Rs 8.88 crore
- Rs 104.98 crore given to the Forest Department for chain link fencing/solar fencing work
- Rs 230.60 crore has been given from NDRF and Rs 149.72 crore from SDRF towards modernisation of the Fire Dept
- Rs 7876.28 crore has been spent from the State Disaster Relief Fund from the financial year 2017-18 till now
- The estimated cost for strengthening drains to address urban flooding near the Hon'ble High Court, Lucknow, is Rs 152.18 crore, with Rs 76 crore released as the first installment

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the state's first Urban Flood Management Cell, established at the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation, which works as an urban flood early warning system
- Under this system, all pumping stations in the city have been fully automated
- Additionally, 110 automatic water level recorders have been installed across primary and secondary drains
- These devices trigger automated alerts to concerned officials whenever the water level in any drain exceeds 80 per cent
- The system also sends timely notifications regarding fuel shortages and pump maintenance requirements

State government strengthens disaster management framework

Under the dynamic leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, Government of Uttar Pradesh is making rapid strides towards enhancing the efficacy of its disaster management framework. In a notable development, the state submitted a comprehensive set of proposals to the 16th Finance Commission, which aimed at strengthening disaster response and mitigation capabilities

PICS: DIPR, UTTAR PRADESH GOVT



Uttar Pradesh has adopted the State Disaster Management Plan-2023, aligning with the Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and national guidelines. The plan focuses on a multi-hazard, evidence-based approach covering preparedness, risk reduction, rapid response, and 'build back better' strategies.

The CM has personally led the campaign, appealing to the central authorities to recognise the urgent need for enhanced support. One key proposal is to increase the allowable expenditure limit for state-notified disasters from the current 10% to 25%, reflecting the growing intensity of these calamities. This change aims to provide the state with financial flexibility to manage relief efforts effectively.

With the Chief Minister personally leading the charge, the state is not only seeking the inclusion of state-notified disasters in the national list but also calling for key revisions in disaster funding norms

The Uttar Pradesh government has submitted detailed proposals to the 16th Finance Commission, aimed at strengthening disaster management and relief operations. These proposals include a request for amendments in the rules governing SDRF and SDMF, so that quicker and more effective assistance can be provided to disaster-affected people.

UP's DISASTER READINESS

In 2024, the state set up 612 flood-posts across 40 sensitive districts, deploying NDRF, SDRF, and PAC units with boats, relief supplies, and organising over 4,700 Rahat Chaupal outreach events. Mock drills and community awareness drives in 25+ districts were conducted, backed by weather alerts, health kits, and farmer compensation schemes. A Lightning Safety Program has also been launched, with rain gauges and early warning systems being installed, especially in vulnerable zones like Bundelkhand and Vindhya.

THE APPROACH

- Plans underway to construct Disaster Management Authority buildings in every district to ensure better preparedness.
- Proposal submitted to allow flexible budgeting by permitting inter-head fund transfers within disaster management allocations
- Another proposal recommends including heatwaves, lightning strikes, unseasonal rainfall, storms, snakebites, and drowning in the National Disaster List
- Emphasis to establish a stronger administrative structure to respond to disasters and emergencies





Agreement with UNDP for Disaster Risk Reduction in the state











"To improve disaster management, recognition and reform are essential. Recognition means understanding where a disaster is likely to occur and how it might develop in the future. Reform means creating a system that can reduce the chances of such disasters. The best way to minimise the risk of disasters is to bring systemic improvements. And for this, we need long-term thinking, not shortcuts."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

- The State Level Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) has been upgraded and a dedicated toll-free helpline '1070' has been made operational 24x7 for disaster relief operations
- An amount of Rs 230.60 crore was approved for the fire department towards purchase of various equipment
- To prevent disasters and to make the general public aware, 2118 relief choupals were organised at village level in the state
- 450 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) installed in all the tehsils of the state and 2000 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) installed at the block level at a cost of Rs 139.00 crore
- Internship programme for 10 talented students at the IIIT Lucknow campus to prepare them for future challenges
- Agreement with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for Disaster Risk Reduction in the state
- The Relief Commissioner Office, UP, signed an MoU with UNDP to enhance technical efficiency and create an integrated disaster risk reduction system
- Rs 4000 lakh was allocated towards flood and waterlogging issues in urban Gorakhpur, out of the approved Rs 5675.84 lakh
- A lightning detection and warning system was installed in 32 villages of Duddhi block, Sonbhadra, at a cost of Rs 133.28 lakh
- Rs 2376 lakh allocated for training disaster volunteers and providing emergency response kits
- Snakebite reduction programme is being successfully conducted in 18 districts of the state with an amount of Rs 11 crore in the financial year 2025-26
- An amount of Rs 4522.47 lakh was given to PAC from SDRF for purchase of specialised equipment/vehicles
- An amount of Rs 1416.00 lakh was given to 4800 Home Guards for training and emergency response kits

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH: 2012–2017 vs 2017–PRESENT

Aspect	2012–2017	2017–Present
Institutional setup	Beginnings of SDRF in 2016 with limited infrastructure	New purpose-built facility launched in 2023
Flood & lightning preparedness	Flood response reactive; lightning fatality focus low	Installation of early-warning lightning systems; flood-risk zones mapped in State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) 2023
District safety coverage	Limited Civil Defence operations	Expansion of Civil Defence services is underway in all 75 districts
Early-warning tools	No real-time alert systems	Implementation of mobile alerts, apps, and extensive public awareness
Training & volunteers	Sporadic training; no formal volunteer network	Aapda Mitra programme and large-scale training since SDMP 2023 rollout
Disaster-response force	Few SDRF units	Six fully operational SDRF companies with modern rescue capabilities
Funding & budget	Minimal state-level disaster funding	Rs 19.99 cr allocated under UNDP MoU

CRPF personnel made a mark by their duty, courage, says PM on Raising Day

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday complimented the CRPF for playing a vital role in the national security apparatus, especially in challenging aspects relating to internal security. Wishing CRPF personnel on the force's 87th Raising Day, Prime Minister Modi on X said, "CRPF personnel have made a mark for their duty, courage and steadfast commitment in the most testing of situations."

Home minister Amit Shah, in a message to CRPF on X, said, "Your selfless sacrifice has been the backbone of our nation's security and your unwavering courage to end Naxalism is truly commendable".

Home secretary Govind Mohan, while addressing CRPF Raising Day celebrations here, assured the force of the ministry of home affairs' commitment to arming it with modern weapons and latest technology to meet the increasing security challenges India faces. The secretary emphasised that the MHA would deploy technology to minimise the risk of injury in risky operations. TNN

HC nixes bail plea of IS man accused of procuring arms, promoting outfit

New Delhi: Delhi HC has rejected the bail plea of a suspected IS member accused of procuring arms and ammunition for the proscribed outfit and using social media to promote its objectives.

In a recent order, a bench of justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar upheld a trial court detention order, stating it was not mechanical in nature. HC said accused Mohd Rizwan Ashraf could not be released due to the ongoing investigation, as releasing him and others at a crucial stage would impede the probe. "This court is satisfied that the trial court applied its mind to the grounds set forth. The trial court categorically observed the investigation progressed substantially during remand extensions granted by it and the investigation was not stagnant. Order of the trial court extended custody not as a matter of routine but based on credible material outlining the investigative steps requiring completion," the bench observed.

Ashraf was arrested by NIA in 2023 under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) provisions. He challenged various orders of the trial court extending his custody, including on Feb 24, 2024, when his judicial custody was extended by 25 days.

On the same day, the trial court dismissed his plea for default bail. Ashraf's counsel submitted the orders were passed by the trial court in a mechanical and perfunctory manner and did not indicate any individual assessment of his role. He argued NIA failed to demonstrate why Ashraf's continued detention was necessary for investigation. However, HC said three accused persons, including Ashraf, were active ISIS members. TNN

Ex-Maha mantri kin, 6 others held in Pune drug party bust

Police Seize Cocaine, Marijuana, Liquor, Hookah Pots In Raid

Gitesh Shelke & Alim Shaikh | TNN

Pune: Former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse's son-in-law Pranjal Khewalkar and six others were arrested early Sunday after a police team raided a studio apartment at Kharadi suburb in eastern Pune and allegedly seized cocaine, marijuana, hookah pots, and liquor during an alleged house party.

Khewalkar, who describes himself as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and doctor on his social media profile, is the husband of Rohini Khadse — head of NCP (Sharad Pawar)'s state women's wing.

He was taken to Sassoon general hospital for a medical exam along with the others before police searched his Hadapsar bungalow, also in Pune. Officers seized a laptop, three pen drives, and a hard disk from the premises.

"Our crime branch team reached the flat following a tip-off and detained seven people, including Khewalkar," police commissioner Amitesh Kumar said. "They were found partying. Cocaine (2.5g), marijuana (70g), hookah flavours, and multiple liquor bottles were seized."

Khewalkar had booked three suites in the studio apartment for three days, police said. "He paid for the rooms. Three other women were supposed to join but left when the raid began," said DCP (crime) Manoj Pingale. "The group knows each other from a party circle."

The others arrested include Nikhil Poptani (35), a cigarette trader from Hadapsar; Sameer Sayyed (41), a hardware dealer from NIBM Road; Shripad Yadav (27), a builder from Akurdi; Sachin Bhombe (42) of Wagholi; Isha Singh (22) of Aundh; and Prachi Sharma (23) of Mhalunge. A case has been registered under NDPS Act and Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) at Kharadi police station.

The court of judicial magistrate first class NS Bari granted police custody of all seven until Tuesday.

Sassoon hospital medical superintendent Dr Yallapa Jadhav said two of the seven had alcohol. "All were brought at 6.15am for medical exam. Blood and urine samples have been sealed and handed to police."

At the apartment complex — comprising two four-storey buildings with 34 suites off Pune-Ahmednagar highway — staff told **TOI** that rooms rent for Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,500, including meals. "We ask for ID photocopies from all guests," one employee said.

Prosecutor Priyanka Vengurlekar said in court that police need more time to track the drug source and investigate possible links to an interstate narcotics network. "Two of the accused are habitual offenders with prior cases," she alleged.

Khewalkar's lawyer Vijaysingh Thombare alleged political targeting. "There were attempts to trap my client earlier at two locations, and CCTV footage supports this."

Advocate Abid Mulani, representing two accused, claimed procedural lapses. "Police didn't inform them of the arrest grounds, violating Section 50 of CrPC." Lawyer Sachin Zalte, appearing for Yadav, said police failed to specify the amount of cocaine seized from each accused. "Possession below two grams is a bailable offence under law."

The court said these allegations could be taken up in future hearings.

Khadse says son-in-law may be framed



Nashik: Former minister Eknath Khadse said Sunday he feared his son-in-law Pranjal Khewalkar might be framed in the alleged drug party case in Pune, linking the police action to his recent claims in the honey-trap controversy involving political heavyweights, reports **Abhilash Botekar.** "Govt is feeling the heat of the honey-trap matter I've been vocal about," Khadse told **TOI.** "I had a hunch this could happen, and my fears came true. I won't defend him if he is guilty — but if he's being framed, I won't spare anyone."

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar demanded an impartial probe and questioned how videos of the raid surfaced before court proceedings. "Khadse was speaking against the govt and senior ministers like Mahajan. That's why people are raising doubts," he said. State minister Girish Mahajan of BJP rejected claims of a political setup. "He's not a minor. He knows what he's doing. Police will bring out the truth," Mahajan said. BJP's Pravin Darekar scoffed at the framing theory: "Is he a small child?"

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13th floor New Multistoreyed Building KEM Hospital Campus, Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400012.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

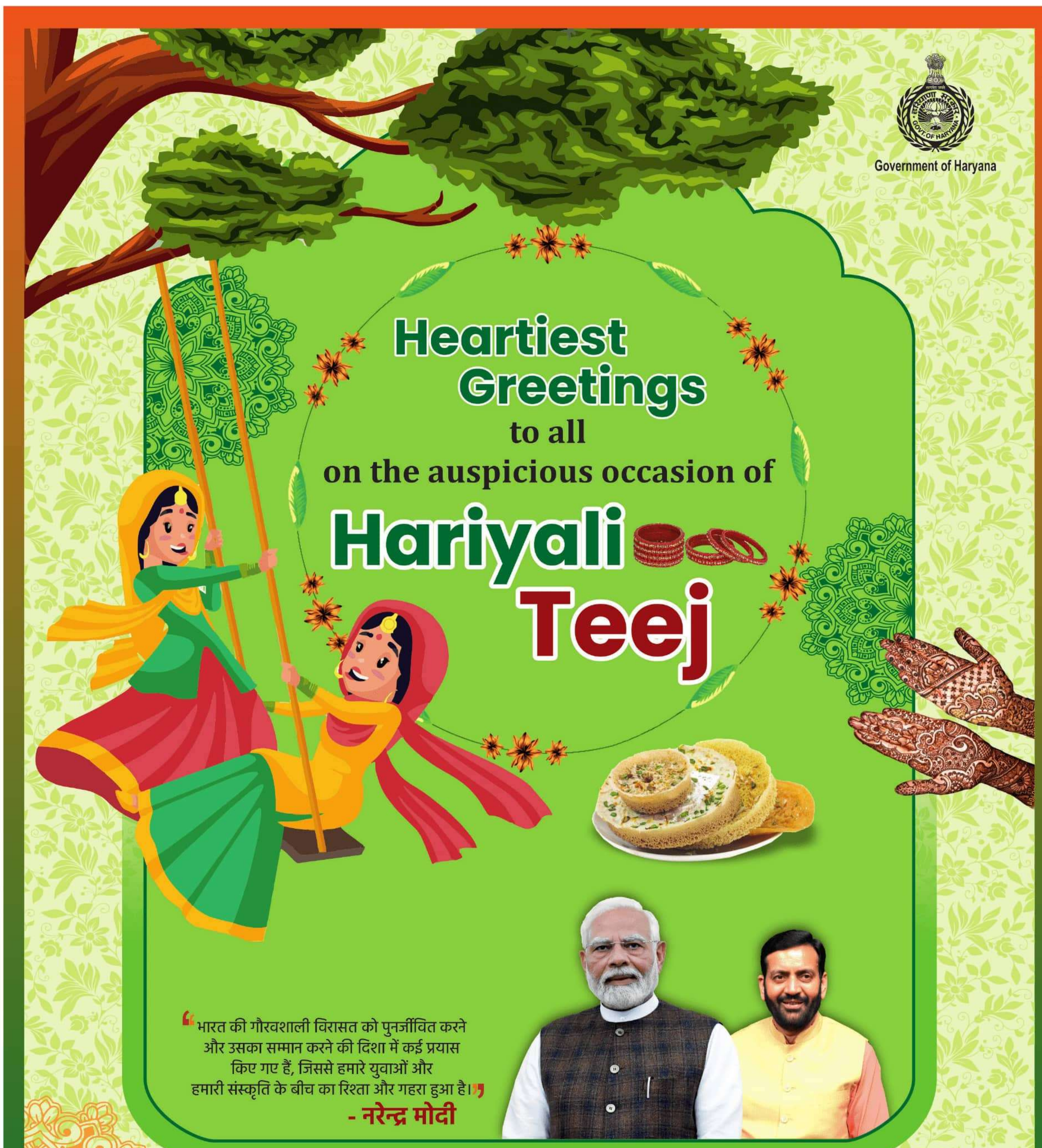
Advt. No. NIIH/01/AT/07/2025 Date: 25.07.2025

Applications are invited for the following posts on direct recruitment basis

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Age	Total No. of Posts	Reservation Vertical UR	OBC	SC	EWS	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)
1	**ASSISTANT** Group-B (Ministerial)	Not exceeding 30 years i.e. age must be between 18 to 30 years	1	1	-	-	-	Pay Level 6 (Rs. 35400-112400)
2	**UPPER DIVISION CLERK** Group-C (Ministerial)	Not exceeding 27 years i.e. age must be between 18 to 27 years	1	1	-	-	-	Pay Level 4 (Rs.25500-81100)
3	**LOWER DIVISION CLERK** Group-C (Ministerial)	Not exceeding 27 years i.e. age must be between 18 to 27 years	1	1	-	-	-	Pay Level 2 (Rs. 19900-63200)
4	**PERSONAL ASSISTANT** Group-B	Not exceeding 30 years i.e. Age must be between 18 to 30 years	1	1	-	-	-	Pay Level 6 (Rs. 35400-112400)
5	**TECHNICAL ASSISTANT** Group-B	Not exceeding 30 years i.e. Age must be between 18 to 30 years	2	-	2	-	-	Pay Level 6 (Rs. 35400-112400)
6	**TECHNICIAN-1** Group-C	Not exceeding 28 years i.e. age must be between 18 to 28 years	4	2	1	-	1	Pay Level 2 (Rs. 19900-63200)
7	**LAB. ATTENDANT-1** Group-C	Not exceeding 25 years i.e. age must be between 18 to 25 years	1	1	-	-	-	Pay Level 1 (Rs. 18000-56900)
TOTAL			11	7	3	-	1	

For detailed Recruitment Notification, please visit websites **https://icmr.gov.in** and **https://niih.org.in/**. Link for submitting the online applications: **https://joinicmr.in** which is live from 25.07.2025 onwards and will close on 14.08.2025 @ 23.55 hrs.

DIRECTOR



Drug lab in buffalo barn busted, ₹50cr drugs, tools seized

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesofindia.com



The cartel was into manufacturing synthetic drugs at clandestine laboratories in remote areas

New Delhi: A joint operation by Rajasthan and Maharashtra police, and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has led to the busting of a drug cartel, which was using a buffalo barn in Barmer, Rajasthan, as cover to manufacture Mephedrone and Ketamine, with drugs and equipment worth Rs 50 crore being seized from the site and from Raigad in Maharashtra.

The cartel was into manufacturing synthetic drugs at clandestine labs in remote areas. As much as 34 kg of Ketamine powder and 12 litres of liquid drugs were seized during the operation, officials said.

The operation began with the detection of a clandestine facility at village Dholakia in Barmer district, where police found precursor chemicals and lab equipment used to manufacture the synthetic drug Mephedrone.

"The facility was cleverly concealed inside a buffalo barn in a secluded area of the village. Two members of the drug syndicate were detained by the police. NCB Jodhpur collaborated with the district police in the investigation," a senior officer said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed the involvement of other members of the syndicate, including one who was a resident of Raigad district in Maharashtra and had supplied the chemicals and lab equipment to set up the facility.

A search of the premises by NCB Mumbai and Raigad police led to the recovery of approximately 34 kg of Ketamine in powder form and 12 litres of Ketamine in liquid form, along with precursor chemicals and lab equipment.

The investigations have revealed the involvement of a mastermind who has been involved in drug trafficking cases earlier.

The successful operation was made possible due to real-time sharing of information and coordinated efforts by Barmer police, Raigad police, and NCB zones at Jodhpur, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/41, Dated: 23/07/2025. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follows: **[241]; 31251192; 1)** C Panel Kit to Specification No. CLW/ES/3/0240/B [Set details attached in doc. tab], **2)** Complete A Panel & Complete D Panel for IGBT Propulsion based WAG-9 consisting of (i) Complete A panel to Specification No. CLW/ES/3/0239 Alt.F- 02 sets & (ii) Complete D Panel to Specification No. CLW/ES/3/0241 Alt.B - 02 sets; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 08/08/2025; **₹ 0.00. [242]; 14252931;** Terminal Box To Spec/Drg No. CLW/ES/3/0062/A [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 08/08/2025; **₹ 0.00. [243]; 14252538;** Terminal Bar 110 V DC As Per Drg/Specn No.CLW/ES/3/0046/A [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 11/08/2025; **₹ 0.00. [244]; 14252983;** Auxiliary Compressor (MCPA) To Spec./Drg./No. CLW/ES/C-4/F [Warranty Period: 12 Months after the date of delivery] [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 12/08/2025; **₹ 0.00. [245]; 14252741;** Auxiliary Contactor For VCB / Pantograph in SB1 & SB2 To Spec./Drg. No. LW/ES/3/0040/C; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 13/08/2025; **₹ 0.00. [246]; 14252529A;** Blower For Oil Cooling Unit With Casing Including 30KW Motor For Oil Cooling Unit (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) To Spec./Drg. No. (1) RDSO/ 2016/ EL/SPEC/0123,REV.0 and Drawing No. RDSO/2016/SK-6/EL/SPEC/0123 & (2) SPEC/E-10/3/09 (Motor) With Amendment Nos. 01 TO 06. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; **As per Tender/Documents.;** 12/08/2025; **₹ 0.00.**

PR8/152 PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH

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Only Dhankhar, Modi know real reason behind VP's exit: Kharge

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said he has no information on the actual reason for Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation as vice president, holding that it was for Dhankhar to tell what really happened, as the matter was between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I don't know all those details. He (Dhankhar) was always on govt's side. He should say what happened," Kharge was reported as saying by news agency PTI, in response to a question on whether Dhankhar was forced to resign as he spoke in favour of farmers. Kharge was at Vijayapura in Karnataka.

"When we raised several issues concerning farmers, the poor, international issues or foreign policy, he never used to give us an opportunity (in Rajya Sabha as its Chairman)," the Congress president said.

"When we tried to raise issues by giving notices on issues regarding the poor, atrocities against women, Dalits and the downtrodden, and incidents like Hindu-Muslim clashes, he did not give us an opportunity. It (the reason for Dhankhar's resignation as Vice President) is between him and Modi. We don't have any information on that," Kharge clarified. TNN

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

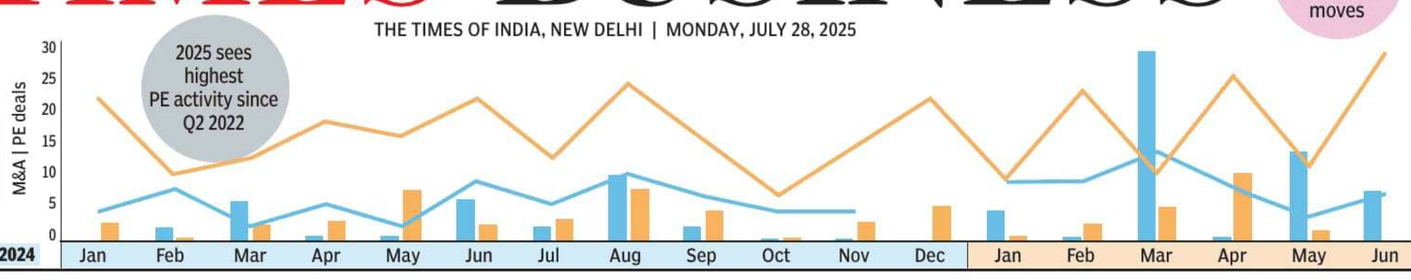
Fintech & Banking Lead Q2 Deal Surge

$5.6bn across 79 deals

Deal volume rose 18% and value 5% over Q1 2025, driven by a rebound in private equity and continued interest in India's banking sector







In 2025, banking & NBFC dominate deal tables

- Sumitomo Mitsui's **$1.6bn** investment in Yes Bank (M&A)
- Warburg Pincus & ADIA's **$862mn** in IDFC First Bank (PE)



Source: Grant Thornton, Financial services deal tracke

Govt identifies key sectors to attract foreign investors

Electronics, Chem, Med Devices, EVs Among Others In Focus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid signals of companies holding back on investment decisions due to the global uncertainty, govt and Invest India have identified Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, non-leather footwear, chemicals, medical devices, toys and EVs as sectors to court global investors for stepping up foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows.

In recent months, net FDI inflows have been in focus as international investors are disinvesting in their existing ventures, largely through IPOs, while Indian companies have also stepped up global investments, resulting in outflows.

During April-May, the latest period for which data is available, net FDI was unchanged at $3.9 billion, although gross inflows rose from $15.1 billion to $15.9 billion. In 2024-25, net inflows were estimated at $949 million as against $10 billion in the previous year.

Govt is looking to increase gross inflows by focusing on facilitation. "We are focusing on our requirements by systematically identifying the value chains where companies can invest," a senior official said. While the new electronics components scheme has seen a lot of traction, as India seeks to build a resilient supply chain and reduce dependence on China, govt is also banking on a shift away from China as companies diversify their production ecosystem.

In sectors such mobile phones, the production linked incentive scheme has seen the likes of Foxconn invest heavily in India along with their vendor base. Besides, officials said, in segments such as air conditioners too, there was increased focus on manufacturing compressors, motors and copper tubes in India, driven by incentives. The PLI scheme had also helped pharma and medical devices production, the official said. "We are discussing how we can take this forward," the source added.

While companies such as Vinfast have entered India to tap into the growing demand for electric vehicles, discussions around lowering import duty through the trade agreements has resulted in some other companies holding back on plans to invest in manufacturing facilities in India. This is despite a special scheme launched by govt that allows imports at subsidised rates for three years, based on a commitment to make in India subsequently.

Chinese companies such as BYD were also keen to set up a plant in India but govt has imposed checks on these investments.

HIT BY GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

April-May, 2024	$3.9bn
April-May, 2025	$3.9bn
2023-24	$10bn
2024-25	$949mn

- Net FDI inflows are in focus as global investors are disinvesting in their ventures, while Indian companies have stepped up global investments
- Govt is looking to increase gross inflows by focusing on facilitation

> We are focusing on our requirements by systematically identifying the value chains where companies can invest
> — A SENIOR OFFICIAL

Setback to lenders: NCLT replaces RP in Anil Ambani's loan guarantee case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a setback to lenders, the National Company Law Tribunal has removed Jitender Kothari as the resolution professional (RP) in an insolvency case related to Anil Ambani's personal guarantee to SBI for a loan to Reliance Communications. NCLT appointed Prashant Jain as the new RP.



In Sept 2016, Ambani had given a personal guarantee for a Rs 1,385-crore loan, which was retrospectively classified as an NPA effective late Aug 2016. Kothari was appointed RP in Aug 2020. A few days after his appointment, the RP sought multiple details from Ambani, including details of a case in a British court. The insolvency action had been challenged in Delhi HC and the SC.

In May 2021, the RP filed his report in NCLT, recommending admission of company petition for insolvency resolution despite Ambani's lawyer seeking more time, citing restricted mobility due to Covid. A few days later, Ambani's lawyer wrote that the RP can only seek information from SBI. Meanwhile, the businessman's writ petition in SC was tagged along with one Surendra Jiwarajka, which was finally decided in Nov 2023.

Ambani has accused the RP of "acting in undue haste and denying him fair and proper opportunity" to provide information. Besides, the RP is accused of exceeding the mandate under IBC in seeking "unrelated information". The RP denied the charges and SBI supported it, while arguing that the matter had been pending with NCLT for a long time and the case was being delayed.

In its order on July 15, the benchsaid that in light of Covid-related disruptions, Ambani should have been given "a fair opportunity" to provide information to the resolution professional. "Instead, we note that the RP didn't even wait for adjudication of his application pending before this Tribunal seeking relaxation of 10 days' timeline and a cross application of the applicant before this Tribunal requiring more time in view of Covid restrictions."

"Though, we do not find any negligence or explicit bias on part of the RP in this case, however, we are of considered view since the insolvency resolution process after commencement has to be run in close coordination of debtor and RP," it said.

ED raids targeting Anil Ambani cos end

Mumbai: The ED has completed searches at the premises of Reliance Group companies owned by industrialist Anil Ambani, the group's two listed entities, RInfra & RPower, said on Sunday. The searches, which began on July 24 and ended on July 26, were related to transactions of Reliance Communications and Reliance Home Finance. RCom is undergoing a bankruptcy process, while Reliance HF was sold to Authum Investments and Infrastructure, owned by first-generation entrepreneur Sanjay Dangi, by Bank of Baroda. TNN

AGR dues: DoT issues ₹7,800cr demand notice to Tata Comm

New Delhi: The Department of Telecom (DoT) has issued a "show-cause-cum-demand notice" of about Rs 7,800 crore to Tata Communications over adjusted gross revenue dues (AGR), according to an official note by the company. The demand has been raised by DoT for AGR from 2005-06 till 2023-24, as per the note dated July 17.

"As at June 30, 2025, the company has received 'Show Cause-cum Demand Notices' from DoT aggregating to Rs 7,827.6 crore for financial years ranging from FY 2005-06 to FY 2023-24, which have been revised over a period of time," Tata Communications MD AS Lakshminarayan said.

He said the demand notices include Rs 276.7 crore towards disallowance of deductions claimed by the company on payment basis for 2010-11 under ISP licence and FY07 and FY10 under NLD licence. Lakshminarayan said the company's appeals are not covered by the apex court judgement dated Oct 24, 2019, on AGR under the old telecom licence regime called UASL. "Further, the company believes that all its licences are different from UASL, which was the subject matter of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement of Oct 24, 2019. The company, based on its assessment and independent legal opinions, believes that it will be able to defend its position," Lakshminarayan said. AGENCIES

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

How Factor Funds Help You Diversify Your MF Portfolio



Fund houses are increasingly launching factor-based strategies as they expand their product suite even as quant strategies gain acceptance from investors. These funds can help investors diversify equity exposure

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.

What Are Factor Funds?

Factor funds are a type of investment fund that use specific and measurable characteristics, or factors, to select stocks while building the portfolio. The aim is to enhance returns and manage risk in a systematic way. These schemes use factors like value, quality, momentum, and low volatility to create a portfolio of stocks based on pre-defined rules, rather than simply tracking market-cap indices like the Nifty 50 or Nifty Next 50.

What Types Of Factor Funds Are Available?

Indian investors have access to a mix of active and passive factor funds based on factors such as value, momentum, quality, and low volatility. There are several schemes built around these strategies, such as the Nifty 200 Momentum 30, Nifty 100 Quality 30, and Nifty 50 Value 20. Some fund houses also offer active multi-factor strategies and active strategies around individual factors. The most popular factor funds currently are those based on the momentum strategy.

What Differentiates Factor Funds?

Active funds rely on a fund manager's discretion to build a stock portfolio, while passive funds simply mimic an index. Factor funds, by contrast, use pre-defined investment rules based on a number of factors or characteristics. For example, a fund may start with a market-cap index like the Nifty 200, apply a momentum filter, and build a portfolio of about 30 stocks.

Benefits & Drawbacks Of Factor Investing?

Financial planners believe investors should diversify their equity portfolios to reduce risk. Factor-based investing helps achieve this by diversifying equity exposure and reducing fund manager bias. Each factor tends to respond differently to various economic cycles. Combining multiple factors can help spread risk across a portfolio. However, factor funds often have higher expense ratios than index funds because they require more active management, research, and analysis. They can be vulnerable to shifts in market conditions. Certain factors, such as value or momentum, may perform well during specific market cycles but struggle during others — for instance, value stocks might underperform during growth periods, while momentum stocks may lag in a stagnant market. As a result, factor funds may not always deliver consistent returns.

— PRASHANT MAHESH



'Savings a/c rates at PSBs at historic lows'

Mumbai: Savings deposit rates of some public sector banks (PSBs) are prevailing at a historical low, since their de-regulation in 2011, according to the latest bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The weighted average domestic term deposit rates for fresh deposits has declined significantly for both PSBs and private sector banks. AGENCIES

KRT gets Sebi nod for ₹4,800cr REIT IPO

Knowledge Realty Trust (KRT), sponsored by realty firm Sattva Group and Blackstone, has got Sebi approval to launch its REIT public offering to raise Rs 4,800 crore. Last month, KRT had raised Rs 1,400 crore from investors ahead of its maiden REIT public issue. This is part of a strategy to monetise its 30 prime office assets across major cities. AGENCIES

'Q1 nos, US Fed rate call to guide mkts'

New Delhi: Stock markets are in for an event-heavy week ahead with a raft of Q1 earnings from blue-chips, the US Fed interest rate decision and foreign investors trading activity driving investors' sentiment, analysts said. Macro data, monthly auto sales numbers and global market trends would also guide movement, they said. AGENCIES

AI Disruption, Macro Uncertainties Start To Take Toll

TCS to axe 12,000 jobs, IT giant's biggest layoff ever

Veena Mani & Reeba Zachariah | TNN

Bengaluru/Mumbai: In what will be its biggest layoff to date, India's largest IT services company and Tata Group's most-profitable unit, TCS, will axe 12,261 jobs, which is approximately **2% of its workforce** as AI-led disruptions and macro uncertainties affect business demand.

TCS, chaired by N Chandrasekaran, had just over 6.1 lakh employees worldwide as of June. The company has been periodically restructuring its workforce in response to changing business dynamics and other factors. In FY15, it eliminated more than 3,000 jobs, representing about 1% of its total employee count.

The latest job cuts will primarily affect mid-level and senior executives. This move marks one of the company's most significant strategic shifts: embracing AI, and letting go of employees who cannot be redeployed within the firm. The workforce reduction — long considered rare in the industry — underscores the tough demand environment, especially in the absence of large deals like BSNL. Industry observers see this as an early sign of a broader shift, where rising reliance on automation and margin pressures are driving companies to reduce employee costs.

TCS said the restructuring initiative is aimed at transforming the company into a future-ready organisation. "This includes strategic initiatives on multiple fronts, and while these changes are necessary for our growth and evolution, we understand the impact on our colleagues. We thank them for their service and are committed to supporting them through this transition," TCS CEO K Krithivasan said in an email to employees.

Phil Fersht, CEO of HfS Research, said the impact of AI is eating into the people-heavy services model and forcing the large providers to rebalance their workforces to maintain their margins and stay price competitive in a cut-throat market where clients are demanding 20-30% price reductions on deals.

Other Tata Group entities, such as Tata Steel and Tata Motors, have also been cutting jobs periodically to lower costs and enhance profitability. In 2019, Tata Steel eliminated 3,000 jobs in its European operations.

EARLY SIGN OF INDUSTRY SHIFT

- This move marks one of TCS's most significant strategic shifts: Embracing AI, and letting go of employees who cannot be redeployed within the firm, **given its culture of being 'a stable place to work'**
- Industry observers say **AI is eating into people-heavy model**, and margin pressures are driving cos to cut staff costs
- During Tata cos' AGMs, a common maxim quoted by shareholders was **'Bata for shoes and Tata for jobs'**, highlighting the prevailing sentiment that job security was a critical factor. However, in the age of AI, this sentiment is being challenged

Now hiring: Specialists, not freshers

Top 5 IT Cos Add Less Than 5K Techies In Q1 Amid Demand Woes

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: There is not enough room for freshers in India's top five IT firms. Net additions fell below 10,000 in the June quarter, reflecting ongoing caution amid persistent demand uncertainty.

Firms are increasingly prioritising domain specialists, and with AI handling many L1 and L2 tasks, they are now seeking professionals with cross-functional, full-stack skills that are interoperable across teams.

Collectively, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCLTech, and Tech Mahindra added just 4,787 employees. TCS led with 6,071 net hires, while Infosys followed with a modest 210. In contrast, HCLTech, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra reported net reductions of 269, 114, and 1,111 employees respectively, highlighting the challenges freshers face as firms increasingly focus on hiring domain-specialist lateral entrants in the current environment.

This marks a sharp decline from the June quarter of FY21, when the same group recorded net additions of 53,652 — followed by 59,704 in 2022-23, and 21,838 in the June quarter of 2023-24, with Wipro, Infosys, and Tech Mahindra accounting for the bulk of the contraction.

"Traditional metrics like net hiring and utilisation no longer reflect growth in the IT services industry," said Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, partner at technology advisory firm Catalincs. "These numbers also carry social implications. In the context of AI and digital, there is an urgent need for India to reimagine its higher education system. We need to emphasise applied problem-solving, interdisciplinary thinking, creativity, and adaptability to remain relevant."

Industry experts believe that hiring is largely concentrated in niche areas such as AI, cloud, and cybersecurity, with ramp-ups occurring primarily through large deal wins.

TECH TURMOIL

Adar infuses ₹1,500cr into Poonawalla Fin

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@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Vaccine king Adar Poonawalla's Rising Sun Holdings cleared a Rs 1,500-crore equity infusion into Poonawalla Fincorp, raising its net worth to Rs 9,700 crore, in the previous week.

The capital will support an aggressive retail expansion strategy under MD & CEO Arvind Kapil, who took charge just over a year ago after leading retail loans at HDFC Bank. "This is a story of senior bankers coming in, cleaning up the book, and now the promoter putting in Rs 1,500 crore," Kapil said. "It's a very big confidence statement for where he sees the company going."

The NBFC is simultaneously scaling both secured and unsecured lending. It has launched six new businesses — including personal loans, education finance, and commercial vehicle loans — departing from the typical incremental product rollouts seen in the sector. The company has also committed to opening 400 branches this year, including dedicated gold loan outlets, with 80 already operational.

Distribution is central to the strategy, Kapil said. The company is expanding into consumer durable stores, where customers can apply for unsecured personal loans at the point of sale through an assisted digital journey. These retail locations, which will grow to 12,000 from 3,000 this year, also serve to originate new borrowers rather than upselling to existing ones. "It's a new-to-market model," Kapil said. "We're not just upselling to our existing customers. These are first-time borrowers, approved and disbursed on the spot."

Despite caution in the sector, Kapil is confident about unsecured lending. "This is the best time to lend to MSMEs," he said. "With GST data, credit bureau coverage and visibility on multiple loans, the segment is more transparent and robust than ever."

Credit costs have fallen to 1.4%, and NCDs now make up 27% of the firm's liabilities. Poonawalla Fincorp is targeting Rs 1.5 lakh crore in AUM over the next four years, up from Rs 41,000 crore.

MediBuddy eyes buyouts, funding for expansion

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New Delhi: MediBuddy, a digital healthcare startup, has drawn plans to expand its services through strategic acquisitions and aims to secure fresh funding to bolster operations, a senior company official has said. "We remain committed to reaching new customers and enhancing our offerings," CEO Satish Kannan told **TOI**, adding that the company is actively evaluating acquisition opportunities in key healthcare segments such as chronic disease management, mental health, maternity, and women's health.

"We are always keen to evaluate opportunities that align with our strategic business priorities. As part of our future growth strategy, we are actively exploring acquisitions to broaden our healthcare services," said Kannan.

The startup's future road map involves both organic and inorganic expansion with the help of a user base that has grown.. "Mergers and acquisitions that align with our strategic vision will help us accelerate our mission of making quality healthcare accessible across India," said Kannan.

'Premium pitch key growth pillar for Nestle India'

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New Delhi: India is one of the fastest-growing markets for Swiss packaged foods giant Nestle globally, driven by the country's large consumption base, strong performance of core brands, and entry into new, high-potential premium categories, according to Suresh Narayanan, the outgoing chairman & managing director of Nestle India.

With a turnover of over Rs 20,000 crore and a revenue CAGR of just over 10% during the past decade, Nestle India is well-positioned to sustain its growth momentum, he said.

Its strategy — anchored in premiumisation, faster-paced innovation, and a sharper focus on Rurban markets through a consumer cluster-based approach — is expected to accelerate growth for the packaged foods company in a market which has been facing stubborn commodity inflation and a consumption slowdown, said Narayanan.

"Premiumisation and innovation are the two key pillars of growth. Along with a focus on legacy brands like Maggi and KitKat, the company aims to deliver sustained growth. Since the Maggi crisis in 2015, Nestle recalibrated and rejuvenated its portfolio by launching over 150 new products, which now contribute 7% of sales. Innovation is now four times faster than it was a decade ago," he told **TOI** in an interview.

> I think we will then become a much larger entity, a much more robust entity in terms of products that we have, a much more deeper entity in terms of the geographies and the manufacturing presence that we have, and overall, a much more impactful company than even what we are today. So by 2030, I think we will have a double-digit growth
> — SURESH NARAYANAN | OUTGOING CMD OF NESTLE INDIA



Premium products contribute around 12% of Nestle India's sales, up from 10% in 2018, growing at a 16% CAGR since 2015. With a Rs 7,500 crore market opportunity, premiumisation is a key driver of growth and profitability.

Nestle India's capital expenditure has risen from nearly 2% of sales in 2015 to 10% of sales in FY 2024–25 — a clear reflection of the company's growing confidence in the Indian market and its deepening focus on serving evolving consumer needs.

Additionally, through a consumer cluster-based and RUrban strategy introduced in 2019, the company strengthened its route-to-market, with its brands now reaching two out of three households, said Narayanan, adding this strategic agility, combined with deep consumer insights, positions Nestle well to capitalise on evolving market trends and shifting preferences.

Responding to a question on the company's strategy of steering clear of mergers and acquisitions, he said, "We continue to explore good opportunities. But again, the question is one of valuation, potential, synergies, and growth opportunities that we see." India ranks among the top 10 global markets for the Switzerland-based Nestle and is the leading market worldwide for its flagship food brand Maggi, as well as the second-largest market for its confectionery brand KitKat.



CONTRAPUNTO

When men lose against me, they always have a headache...or things of that kind. I have never beaten a completely healthy man!

– SUSAN POLGAR

The Queens' Gambit

Humpy and Deshmukh have just inspired a generation of Indian girls to take up chess

FIDE Women's World Cup final between India's Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh was a huge moment for Indian chess. Not only is this the first time that the Women's World Cup was an all-Indian affair, it also marks the rise of Indian women's chess. China is the dominant power in this category. The last three women world champions were from China. Half the top 10 women chess players are Chinese. Only one Indian, Humpy, is on the list. Therefore, the performance of Indian players in this edition of the Women's World Cup is a watershed moment.

However, internationally, women's chess still lags behind the men's game. Actually, women and men have been competing with each other at chess tournaments since the 1980s. Yet, there are still very few top internationally ranked women chess players. For example, in 2001, only 6% of internationally rated players were female. By 2020, this had risen to more than 15%. However, at the end of last year, there were only 42 women grandmasters compared to 1,804 male GMs. In India, as of May 2023, out of 85 GMs only 23 were women.



The gender glass ceiling in chess, like in other sports, isn't something new. There was a time when women were considered temperamentally ill-equipped to play chess, harking back to the old nature vs nurture debate. The argument was that women being more risk-averse couldn't be good chess players. Even greats such as Garry Kasparov once subscribed to this view. However, that perception began to change when Hungarian chess prodigy Judit Polgar beat Kasparov in 2002, becoming the first female player to beat a reigning world number 1 in a rated game. In fact, people like Polgar believe there shouldn't be separate women's tournaments.

However, others are of the opinion that women's tournaments encourage young girls to take up the game, providing some financial incentives. The latter is crucial for parents to encourage girls to play chess professionally. High-level chess training can be very expensive. And many parents from conservative backgrounds may be reluctant to make that investment. This is a big issue with Indian women's chess. There is a significant difference in participation rates between boys and girls in chess, especially in Tier 2/3 cities and rural areas. Therefore, an all-Indian Women's World Cup final where the winner is taking home $50,000 in prize money, will help motivate girls and their parents to take up the game. India is perfectly poised to host a women's chess revolution.

Stop Starvation

Israel can't be allowed to keep weaponising food in Gaza. India must do its bit at UN conference

Over the weekend, Tel Aviv allowed a ribbon of aid into Gaza, no doubt following a smattering of political actions last week amid growing global condemnation of its starving of Palestinians. Rising anger in France over visuals coming out of Gaza of harrowed hungry children pushed Macron to make Paris the first UNSC member that will recognise Palestinian state formally in Sept. Though he failed to get fellow G7ers Britain and Canada to back him, his announcement sparked some hopes from the July 28-30 UN conference on Israel-Palestine to be co-chaired by Riyadh and Paris. India must put its weight behind global measures towards stopping the war and settling the Palestine question. Several nations are also exploring declarations of recognition – Israeli expansion into West Bank and its unrelenting offensive in Gaza has made it hard to see Palestine become a geographical reality. As noted for months, Netanyahu's blockades on food, fuel and medicine have made it evident that the aim was not only return of hostages, but forced displacement of Palestinian population.



This isn't the first time Israel has limited entry of food into Gaza as part of its war plans. What has been stark this time around is that it has paid no heed to its own red lines – allowing basic minimum into Gaza to avoid a malnutrition catastrophe. Netanyahu with Washington's support this time erased any such restraining line. Apart from almost 60,000 Palestinians killed, including at least 17,400 children, Palestinian health ministry says 122 died due to starvation, including 83 children. Visuals of kids in queues, skinny arms outstretched to fill plastic and aluminium bowls, crying, bawling, deadened, shoving and jostling, have left none unmoved. UN's World Food Programme estimates 1 in 3 people in Gaza doesn't get to eat for days at a time. There's no normalising such war excesses as 'collateral damage'. The world cannot afford to fail in getting Israel to stop weaponising food.

Bedroom fashions

What's sleep divorce? Great for marriage

Ratna Manucha



So, here I was, the other night, trying to sneak past Boss Man, with my pillow, eye drops and water bottle in tow, when he peered up at me from the top of his phone. 'Where are you going, my lovely?'

'Was thinking of leaving you,' was my mumbled reply.

'Really? Packed already? Carrying your meagre belongings in just a pillow cover, are you? I guess it's easier to travel light, will be quicker and hassle free to relocate, too,' he wisecracked.

'Oh, zip your mouth, will you?' I chafed. 'I'm just off to the next room to sleep in peace rather than listen to your discordant snores all night.'

'Would you like to shift to the guest bedroom altogether?' he asked helpfully. 'You've always been complaining about the peculiar smell coming from the bathroom, so then you can actually use the guest bathroom too…'



'Haven't you heard of sleep divorce?' I asked him, a tad irritably. 'It's the new norm. We sleep in separate bedrooms to give each other space and then we reunite in the morning! Works well for many of my friends, so I thought I'd try it too.'

'Something like golf widows?' Boss Man perked up.

'Finally, he's getting it,' I thought. But that wicked gleam in his eye told me another story.

'So, if sleep divorce is the new norm, how about a Wednesday and Saturday divorce, too? You think we can work that out?'

Of course, I knew the reason why. Wednesday was a day out with the course mates and Saturday was club night.

'Since we will be divorced on those days you can save the bother of grilling me when I get home.'

As he turned back to his phone, I thought I noticed a smirk. 'Let it go,' I told myself. 'One can never have too much of a good thing.'

18 Is The Wrong Number

Fix age of consent at 16. Current criminal and reproductive laws end up punishing teen love and at the same time deny them healthcare when they need it most

K Kannan



India needs to rethink its approach to adolescent sexuality. Legislation fails to distinguish between coercion and consent. Courts grapple to balance law with harms it can inflict. There's resistance to sex education. Taken together, consensual close-in-age relations end up penalised.

Law's blind spot on adolescent sexuality | Sexual offences against children are among the most heinous crimes and demand uncompromising legal sanction. Yet, India's current approach – where every sexual act involving a person under 18 is automatically deemed an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act – fails to distinguish between exploitation and exploration. As a result, a growing number of consensual adolescent relationships are being criminalised, with young boys prosecuted and girls forced into institutional shelters, regardless of their agency or intentions.

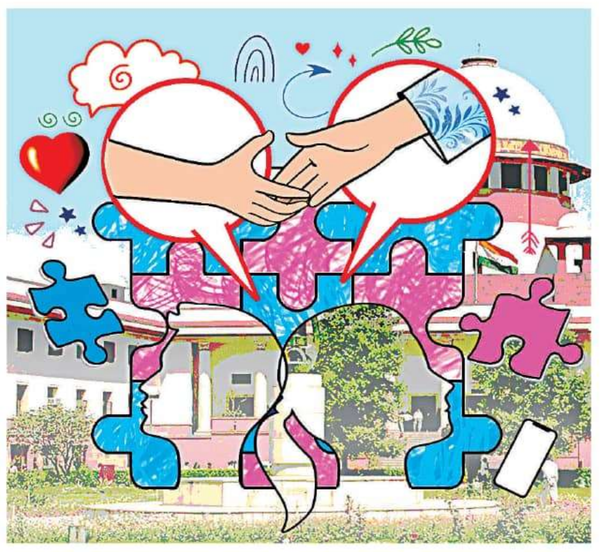
In its rigidity, the law refuses to accept adolescent sexuality. It is this refusal that pushes consensual acts into the shadows, endangers reproductive health, and paradoxically undermines the very protection Pocso was designed to ensure. A serious recalibration of how we deal with adolescent sex is needed – not to condone abuse, but to stop conflating it with consensual behaviour.

Judicial tightropes & systemic dilemmas | Recent Supreme Court cases from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu lay bare this contradiction. In one, SC restored the conviction of a man who had lived with a minor girl and fathered her child, rejecting an HC ruling that had romanticised the relationship and overlooked statutory safeguards. It laid the blame on the state for its failure to protect the woman, as though the state has licence to police every intimate behaviour among adolescents for rescue and shelter. In another, SC spared a convicted man from serving a 10-year sentence, recognising the young woman's dependence on him.

These judgments reflect the tension courts face: Upholding the letter of the law while recognising that its application can inflict real harm on those it seeks to protect. Faced with rigid statutory mandates, judges often resort to compassionate exceptions, discretionary sentencing, or procedural delay. But judicial improvisation cannot substitute legislative reform.

Global template of consent & close-in-age exceptions | India's legal position stands in stark contrast with international practice. Most liberal democracies fix the age of consent at 16, with safeguards against coercion and abuse. Countries like Canada, UK, and many in EU recognise 'close-in-age' exemptions – so teenagers engaged in consensual relationships with peers a few years older are not criminalised. This law may not find immediate societal approbation in India but will lend itself worthy of debate before adaptation to the extent possible.

These systems distinguish predatory acts from consensual intimacy. They prioritise protection where power differentials exist, not where mutuality and age parity are evident. India's retention of 18 as a blanket age of consent – without exceptions – ignores both adolescent reality and comparative legal wisdom.



Missing autonomy | The second fault line is India's abortion law. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, even after its 2021 amendment, requires guardian consent for minors and remains entangled with Pocso's mandatory reporting obligations. A teenage girl seeking abortion is forced to either reveal her partner's identity – triggering prosecution – or turn to unsafe, illegal options.

In contrast, jurisdictions like UK apply the Gillick competence principle: If a doctor assesses a minor is mature enough to understand the nature and consequences of an abortion, she can proceed without parental involvement. This strikes a balance between adolescent autonomy and medical oversight, prioritising health, privacy, and dignity.

India must move towards a similar 'mature minor' standard. Denying reproductive choice – to not carry a pregnancy to full term – to an adolescent who is otherwise capable of informed decision-making is not protective but punitive.

Sex education & right to know | Criminalisation alone cannot regulate adolescent behaviour. Evidence from worldover suggests comprehensive sexuality education, when delivered early and appropriately, reduces risky behaviour, delays sexual initiation, and improves outcomes related to consent and contraception.

In India, sex education remains sporadic, inconsistent, and mired in cultural resistance. Adolescents are left to navigate misinformation and stigma. A rights-based curriculum on anatomy, consent, relationships, digital safety, and reproductive health is essential.

Charting a path forward | India must amend its laws to reflect both constitutional values and lived realities.

- First, age of consent should be revised to 16 with clearly defined close-in-age exemptions – with appropriate modifications to Indian family values and support – to prevent criminalisation of consensual peer relationships. This would bring India in line with international norms and honour the 'evolving capacities' doctrine recognised in UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which India ratified in 1992.
- Second, Pocso should be refined to retain its robust protections against abuse, but exclude consensual acts between adolescents within a limited age gap. Such a carve-out would prevent misuse of the law by families or communities to punish inter-caste, inter-faith, or socially disapproved relationships.
- Third, MTP Act must be amended to permit abortion based on a minor's competence, assessed by medical professionals, without mandatory reporting unless there is evidence of coercion or abuse. The current model traps both doctors and adolescents in a legal and ethical quandary.
- Fourth, normalise sex education through community-based platforms and digital outreach. Silence and stigma are poor substitutes for information.

Towards empowerment | When state's protection overrides autonomy, erases consent, and imposes one moral framework on diverse experiences, it becomes oppressive. We cannot continue to punish love as if it were violence, or deny healthcare as if it were complicity.

The law must be wise enough to differentiate – a 17-year-old girl in a consensual relationship is not a victim of child sexual abuse. A doctor helping her access abortion is not an accomplice to crime. A teenage boy in a peer relationship is not a predator.

India has, in other areas of law, recognised autonomy and dignity as central to personhood. The right to privacy judgment in Puttaswamy, the MTP extension to unmarried women, and recent SC affirmations of decisional liberty all point towards evolving jurisprudence that values agency over paternalism. It is time that our criminal and reproductive laws caught up.

The writer is a senior advocate

Our Unrepresentative People's Representatives

Parliament and assemblies won't reflect India's young majority if political parties remain gated clubs. Start by reserving at least 15-20% of election tickets for candidates under 30

Sudhanshu Kaushik and Shreyash Sharma





India is the world's youngest democracy – and yet, its politics remains stubbornly gerontocratic. This wasn't always the case. The first Lok Sabha had nearly 26% of its members under 30, almost half were below 45. Since then, however, we've witnessed a steady decline in youth representation.

Political parties often don't contest elections directly at the local level and barriers to entry are lower – this opens the door for younger candidates. Entry barriers at state and national levels rise dramatically where older established loyalists are preferred over younger candidates.

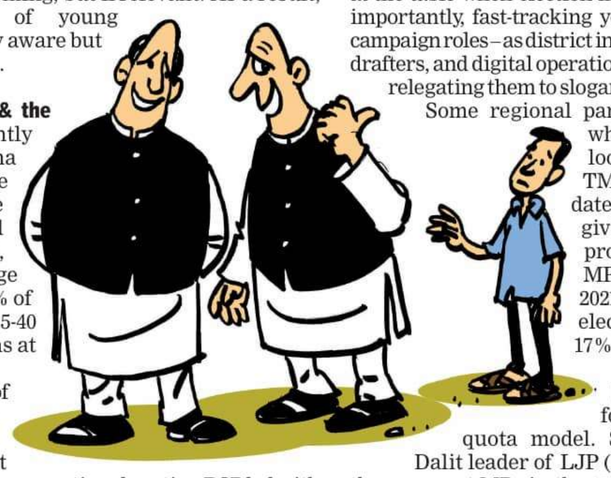
India's median age is 28.4 years. Over 50% of India's 1.4bn population is under 25. The majority, 66% or over 808mn people, are below 35, 650mn below 25 and nearly 700mn under 29. Even by 2030, around 365mn Indians – nearly a quarter – will still be between 15 and 29 years old.

Political parties recognise it's necessary to increase youth representation. However, aspirations don't automatically translate into reality. An MP's average age remains 58 in Lok Sabha and 61 in Rajya Sabha; and members of assembly in respective states keep ageing too.

Young nation, old politics | Indian youth face a brutal reality: politics has become the preserve of the powerful, muscle power, pervasive nepotism, wealth, sometimes criminality, and a system designed to repel idealistic young entrants. Upshot is young Indians are systemically locked out of electoral politics. Politics is being aggressively gatekept.

Politics should be with youth, not just for youth. Yes, govts may craft schemes and policies targeted at young people. But let's not mistake consultation for co-authorship. Representation isn't just symbolic – it fundamentally shapes what gets prioritised, how it's framed, and whom it's designed to serve.

Gen Z and young millennials' disengagement isn't simply about low participation – it runs deeper, into a crisis of belief. Add to this the glaring lack of young, relatable political role models, and politics begins to feel not just unwelcoming, but irrelevant. As a result, growing numbers of young people are politically aware but electorally alienated.



Party's the problem & the solution | The recently elected 18th Lok Sabha is the oldest since 1952 – with nearly one in three MPs aged between 61 and 70, twice the average age of an Indian. Only 1% of MPs are between 25-40 years. The gap begins at the candidate level.

An analysis of parties' candidate selections reveals a dismal commitment to youth inclusion: Among national parties, BSP led with 20% candidates below 40, followed by AAP (18%), CPM (15%), and Congress (11%). BJP fielded just 7% young candidates. NPP and DMK fielded zero candidates under 40.

For sure, political parties aren't going to include young people out of goodwill. They'll do so only when it becomes a political necessity. The youth have been reduced to little more than mobilisation tools – called upon to chant slogans, flood streets during protests, or amplify narratives on social media.

Quota works | We don't need token youth wings – young people are needed on election tickets, on candidate selection committees, and in leadership roles where they can shape electoral strategy. How? Begin by reserving at least 15-20% of tickets for candidates under 30 in assembly and national elections. But candidacy alone isn't enough. Young representatives must also be given a formal seat at the table when election manifestos are drafted. Most importantly, fast-tracking young leaders into strategic campaign roles – as district in-charges, media leads, policy drafters, and digital operations heads – is key, not merely relegating them to slogan-shouting foot soldiers.

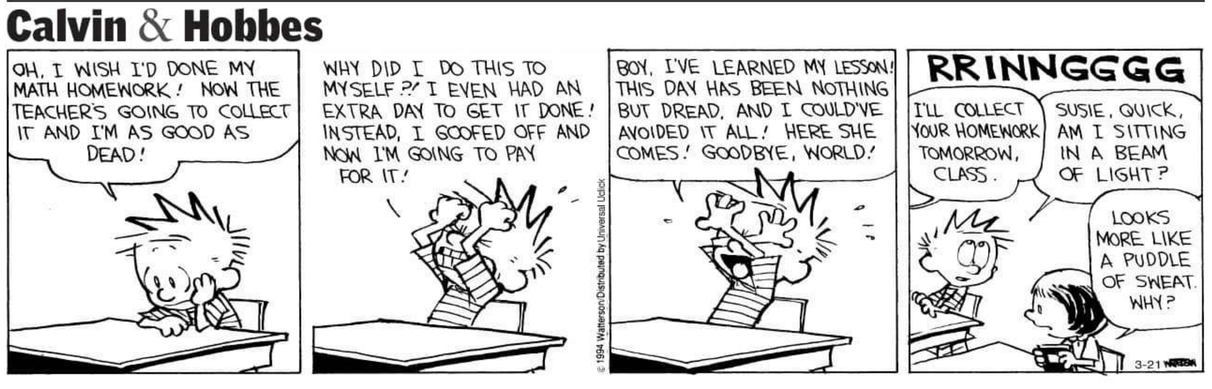
Some regional parties have already shown what internal reforms can look like. In 2024 LS elections, TMC fielded 12 women candidates and 11 of them won – giving the party the highest proportion (38%) of women MPs in the new Parliament. In 2021 West Bengal assembly elections too, Trinamool gave 17% of its tickets to women.

There's no reason age-based inclusion cannot follow a similar internal quota model. Shambhavi Choudhary, a Dalit leader of LJP (Ram Vilas), became one of the youngest MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha, winning the Samastipur seat at just 25 – not because of tokenism, but due to active upward movement within party ranks.

Every time a 65-year-old is elected to "represent" a 25-year-old voter without any lived understanding of their world, the representative essence of democracy is diluted. It's high time for purposeful not performative inclusion.

Kaushik is founder of Young India Foundation. Sharma is a research scholar

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*



The wise look with equanimity on all whether it be a Brahmin endowed with learning and humility, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a pariah, too.

Bhagwad Gita 5:18

Bhakti Through Eyes Of A Christian Brother

Swami Bhaktivenkateshwara

Bhakti is universal in its manifestation and practice, regardless of religion or spiritual traditions. The writings of devotees throughout the ages can inspire us to seek God as the Lord of all Truth and find spiritual salvation through Bhakti. An example of how omnipresent the Bhakti Marg is can be found in writings of Brother Lawrence, a Christian brother who lived during the 17th century in a Carmelite monastery in Paris.

Having fought in the Thirty Years' War, which devastated central Europe, Lawrence realised what matters most in the life of a Bhakt: "Let Him do what He pleases with me: i desire only Him, and to be wholly devoted to Him." To Brother Lawrence, it did not matter what became of him in life: Love for God should be there of its own accord, and we must carry out any worldly transaction in the spirit of Karm Yog – that is, without desire for results and only for the sake of loving God. Our inner aptitude should become that of any bhakt: get to know and surrender your life to the Lord.

But how do we get to know the Divine? As Lawrence says: We must know before we can love. To know God, we must often think of Him, and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure. The brother states clearly: Developing *jnan* as liberating knowledge of God is a prerequisite for Bhakti: We cannot approach God in devotion without the mind having a strong foothold in contemplation. If we practise thus, as Lawrence assures us, then Jnan and Bhakti Yog will go hand in hand.

THE SPEAKING TREE

As one progresses on the Bhakti Marg, applying the mind correctly becomes ever more important: "i began to live as if there was none but He and i in the world...i drove away from my mind everything that was capable of interrupting my thought of God." Not only should the sole desire in life be God, but the mind should also be kept in a unified Focus on the Divine. As Krishn advises in the Gita: "...completely restraining the whole group of senses by the mind from all sides...having made the mind established in the Self, let him not think of anything."

Immerse yourself in Atman, which in turn will lead you to God. However, there remains one last ingredient: Bhakti can never fulfil itself without the Grace of God. For Brother Lawrence, *mukti* is impossible if we are not willing to make spiritual sacrifices: how can we ask for it (grace), unless we are with Him? How can we be with Him unless our thoughts are ever of Him? How can He be in our thoughts unless we form a holy habit of abiding in His presence?

In regularly seeking communion with the Lord within, we develop the presence of God. Devotees such as Lawrence are an example of how the Bhakti Marg, practised in conjunction with Jnan and Karm Yog, can become a way to transcend everything and dissolve the ego in the experience of God. It does not matter which religion we belong to; simple words of the brother carry in them the universal application and message of Bhakti – seek by getting to know God.

CLOSE WATCH

An experimental male birth control pill, which blocks sperm production, has passed its first safety test in people. Earlier in lab mice, it triggered "reversible infertility"

QUICK QUIZ

At the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, the first batch of 20 engineers worked without pay for six months in the late 1980s to deliver India's PARAM supercomputer, in 1991. Which country got the first exported PARAM? Send answers to **scienceofthetimes@timesofindia.com**



THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

Built By Isro & Nasa, This Satellite Could Become Our Planet's Early Warning System For Floods, Crop Loss, Coastal Erosion

Unique Space Radar Will Track Earth's Every Shake & Shift

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Our planet is constantly changing. The ground shifts, often unnoticed. Glaciers inch forward, coastlines retreat and forests thin or thicken with the seasons. Some of these changes unfold slowly. Others strike without warning.

On Wednesday, July 30, a satellite called Nisar (Nasa-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar), the first joint satellite mission for the two space agencies, will lift off to track these movements. It will scan the Earth's surface every 12 days, capturing changes as small as a few centimetres. Each pixel will represent an area roughly half the size of a tennis court.

The data Nisar will gather will serve a variety of purposes — it will warn of flooding, coastline erosion, guide real-time disaster response, improve food security and even track ships. It will be one of the most advanced Earth-observation satellites ever to go up.

LAUNCH JULY 30



- Has **L-band** radar to see through forest cover, ice and soil layers
- With **S-band** radar, Nisar can detect details like crops, coasts, urban zones

748 km
Nisar's orbit above Earth. It will circle the planet pole to pole

12 days
Nisar's repeat scan cycle

240 km
Area covered in a single sweep

3 years
Nisar's planned lifespan



Pic courtesy: Nasa-JPL

$1.5B
PLANET IMAGER FOR ALL SEASONS

Nisar, weighing **nearly 2.5 tonnes,** goes up on **July 30** aboard a GSLV-F16 from Sriharikota. It's among the most expensive Earth observation satellites ever

Many observation satellites need reflected sunlight to image, which means they only work in daytime and when there's no cloud cover

Nisar's **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** goes around the problem by beaming a radar signal to the surface and relying on the reflected signal for imaging

BEAMING TO VILLAGES

Nisar's launch also comes 50 years after India and US collaborated on a very different kind of project: the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, or SITE.

Launched a month after then PM Indira Gandhi declared the Emergency, SITE began broadcasting on Aug 1, 1975 to community TV sets in 2,400 villages across Karnataka, Rajasthan, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It was seen as a mutually beneficial deal for Nasa and Isro.

At the time, 40% of India's population was in villages with fewer than 3,000 people, and a quarter were in hamlets with fewer than 200. Traditional infrastructure alone couldn't reach them, but space tech could. So, an agreement was made: The US would supply its ATS-6 telecommunications satellite for a test run; India would build the ground infrastructure.

The experiment was a success. SITE reached around 2 lakh people, helped train 50,000 science teachers in primary schools and beamed advice to thousands of farmers, becoming "the largest sociological experiment in the world".

Before SITE, India and US had worked together in space for close to a decade, but this was the first time their efforts touched lives.

50 YEARS APART

"It took 50 years from one major joint project in communications and broadcasting to another project on Earth observation," former Isro deputy director Arup Dasgupta, who led deployment of SITE's receivers, told **TOI**.

He said Nisar's launch showed how much Isro had progressed. "Fifty years ago, we used a Nasa satellite to beam educational programmes. Today, we are launching their payload along with our own Synthetic Aperture Radar on an Indian launcher."

Nisar has been described by Nasa-JPL project scientist Paul Rosen as "a storyteller of Earth's changing surface". The satellite will capture motion of land, ice, water and vegetation across seasons, which means data for seismologists, climatologists, agriculturists, conservationists and many others. And the information will be freely available to them.

A DUAL-BAND INSTRUMENT

Equipped with dual radar systems — the L-band by Nasa and S-band by Isro — Nisar can see through clouds and observe Earth day or night. It will scan the Himalayas, beaches of California, the Amazon rainforest and the farms of Punjab — not just once, but repeatedly, creating a time series of surface changes that show what has shifted, where and how fast."It lets us read Earth's surface like a series of moving frames," Rosen said. "Using SAR, we can measure ground displacement down to even millimetre precision."

The longer-wavelength L-band penetrates vegetation and interacts with features such as rocks and tree trunks. Shorter S-band captures surface details like leaves and topsoil. Combined, they allow scientists to view the same landscape through two different lenses, revealing structure and change.

"A dual-band SAR like this has never flown before. L-band opens up deeper imaging and new interferometric applications. You can track deformation, subsidence, and seismic shifts in much finer detail," said professor PG Diwakar of the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

One major focus will be the Himalayas. "We've never had such a tool for studying Himalayan snow, glaciers and lake systems. Nisar will let us observe how glacial lakes evolve — critical for understanding GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood) risk," Diwakar said. L-band's ability to see below the canopy also improves forest assessments. For farmers, it will help forecast yields and assess crop loss.

In disaster-prone areas, Nisar's interferometric accuracy will boost early detection, measuring ground shifts over wide regions. It will even aid during oil spills. "This will be the first mission between US and India to observe Earth in such a detailed way," said Nicola Fox, associate administrator, Nasa science mission directorate.

ROOTS IN 1978

Nisar's roots go back to a breakthrough launch in 1978, when Nasa put in orbit Seasat — the world's first satellite with SAR. The mission lasted only 105 days, but the data this satellite produced reshaped Earth observation. Now, nearly 50 years after Seasat, Nisar is set to go up and stay there for at least three years, generating more data daily than any other previous remote-sensing satellite.

For India, which will handle its launch, the satellite deepens its scientific engagement with the world. For Nasa, it extends an Earth observation legacy.

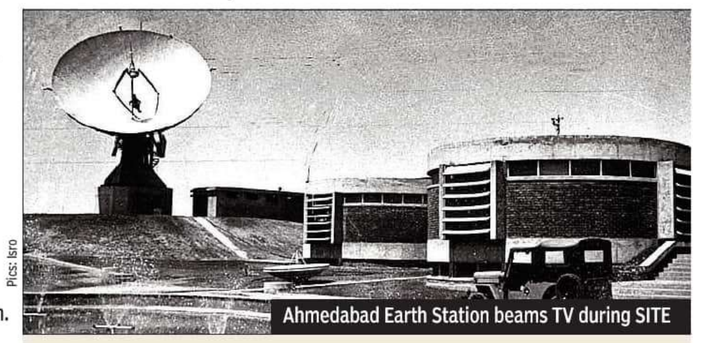
Together, they have created something greater than the sum of their parts — a satellite that watches Earth not as a snapshot, but as a breathing, evolving whole.

80TB OF DATA EVERY DAY
... over the course of Nisar's prime mission. That's roughly enough data to fill about 150 hard drives of 512 GB every day

- Since radar signals pass through most cloud and smoke, Nisar could help guide response during large fires or volcanic eruptions
- **Flood Forecasting:** Nisar can warn communities if a flood is headed their way. It can even forecast how much flooding can be expected
- **Land Loss:** Nisar can warn cities about receding wetlands or alert coastal areas of erosion
- **Forests:** L-band radar can penetrate canopies, bouncing off tree trunks and ground below. The signal that reflects can help estimate forest density in an area as small as a football field

> We've also never had such a tool for studying Himalayan snow, glaciers and lake systems. Nisar will let us observe how glacial lakes evolve — critical for understanding GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood) risk
>
> **— PG Diwakar** | PROFESSOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

50 YEARS AGO, A BROADCASTING EXPERIMENT



Pics: Isro

Ahmedabad Earth Station beams TV during SITE

- Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, or SITE, ran from August 1975 to July 1976 using Nasa's Application Technology Satellite-6 (ATS-6), **making India the first country to receive direct satellite TV broadcasts for development**
- SITE broadcast educational content on agriculture, health, family planning, in local languages, to TV sets placed in 2,400 villages in six states
- It would prove to be a win-win project: Nasa got to test a powerful telecommunications satellite; India could transmit important information to remote villages

SITE to NISAR

- SITE had a positive impact. Project evaluators of the time saw improved school attendance and discussions on nutrition and disease prevention among people. One unanticipated outcome was electrification of many villages, for television reception
- SITE was described by the British science writer Arthur C Clarke as the "greatest communications experiment in history"

'SITE' is also the answer to the quiz on July 21, which asked: Name the landmark satellite-based rural communication experiment Isro launched jointly with Nasa amid the Emergency in 1975



Isro scientists inspect Nisar satellite

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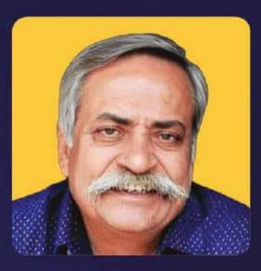
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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

WHERE IS HUMAN NATURE SO WEAK AS IN THE BOOKSTORE — HENRY WARD BEECHER



BILLY JOEL REVEALS WHAT SPARKED 'BAD BLOOD' WITH ELTON JOHN: 'HE CALLED ME A DRUNK... SAID I NEEDED REHAB. THAT REALLY HURT ME'

RYAN GOSLING UNVEILS HILARIOUS FOOTAGE OF HIS 'PROJECT HAIL MARY' CHARACTER 'SPACE CAVEMAN' AT COMIC-CON



US, EU Clinch Trade Deal

Sets 15% Tariff On Most Bloc Goods, Including Cars; EU To Buy $750Bn Of American Energy And Hike Investment By $600Bn

The European Union and the US agreed on Sunday to a broad-brush trade deal that sets a 15% tariff on most goods, including cars, President Trump announced, at least temporarily bringing an end to months of tense negotiations with a bloc that is the US' single biggest source of imports.

Trump said that the EU had agreed to purchase $750 billion of American energy and to increase its investment in the US by more than $600 billion above current levels. He also said that the EU would buy military equipment and that no tariffs would be imposed on some goods. Trump implied that the 50% tariff he had imposed on steel and aluminum globally would remain as is, saying it's a "worldwide thing that stays the way it is." Other details of the pact were not immediately available.

The agreement will "rebalance, but enable trade on both sides," Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, said as she sat next to Trump as the leaders made the announcement.

"We made it," Trump said.

Though the agreement appears to be a preliminary one that leaves many questions to be resolved, it could bring a measure of calm to one of the world's most important economic relationships and allay fears of an escalating trade war. The EU last year accounted for nearly $610 billion of the $3.3 trillion in goods imported by the US.



AP

Trump meets European Commission prez Ursula von der Leyen in Turnberry

US: Tariff deadline of Aug 1 firm, no extensions

The US deadline of Aug 1 for imposing tariffs on its trading partners is firm, commerce secretary Howard Lutnick said on Sunday. "So no extensions, no more grace periods. Aug 1, the tariffs are set. They'll go into place. Customs will start collecting the money, and off we go," Lutnick told "Fox News Sunday." After the levies kick in, Trump is still willing to keep talking, he said. So far five countries have struck deals with the US — Britain, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan. AFP

The tariff rate is higher than the 10% tax that Europeans had been angling for, and that Trump applied to British goods. But 15% mirrors the main tariff rate of the US-Japanese trade agreement that was announced last Tuesday, and is lower than the 19 and 20% rates imposed on several Southeast Asian countries.

The deal followed weeks of unpredictable talks. Even after that announcement, von Der Leyen stressed the importance of continuing talks and trying to reach a negotiated deal. But the EU also continued working to put the finishing touches on a plan to retaliate against Trump's tariffs, one that could be enacted quickly if needed.

Bringing down the tariff on European auto exports was a sticking point for the Europeans, especially Germany, the largest EU economy. European automakers, which sent cars worth 38.5 billion euros ($45bn) to the US last year, have been suffering under the 27.5% tariffs imposed by Trump in April.

Pharmaceutical tariffs were another key issue. the US threatened last month that it could raise tariffs on pharma — Europe's largest export to the US — to 200%. Such a high tax would have been crushing for the industry. The govts did not clarify what would happen to tariffs on pharmaceuticals. NYT

Indian-origin man brutally attacked with machete by teens in Australia

Melbourne: A 33-year-old Indian-origin man was brutally attacked with a machete by a group of teenagers in Australia, leaving him with multiple injuries, including a nearly severed hand.

Saurabh Anand was approached by the teenaged boys from behind when he was walking home on July 19 after picking up medicines at a pharmacy at Central Square Shopping Centre, Melbourne, according to reports and police. They shoved him to the ground before attacking him, the Age newspaper reported. "I was just trying to survive," he said. "All I remember is the pain, and my hand was ... hanging by a thread." Anand was rushed to the hospital after he cried out for help to strangers passing by. They found him bloodied outside the shopping centre, the paper reported. The teenagers fled with his phone.

Anand said doctors initially thought they would have to amputate his left hand. But surgeons were able to reattach it following hours of emergency surgery, which included inserting screws into his wrist and hand. He also suffered head injuries, broken bones in his left arm and a fracture in his spine. The attack occurred on the same day an Indian student sustained injuries in an alleged racist attack in Adelaide. Several teenagers have been arrested over Anand's attack. PTI

Israel halts some military activity in Gaza, hunger toll touches 133

Jordan And UAE Parachute 25 Tonnes Of Aid Into Gaza Strip



Reuters



AFP

An airplane drops humanitarian aid over Gaza on Sunday; people walk with sacks of flour delivered after aid trucks entered northern Gaza

Jerusalem/Gaza: Israel said on Sunday it would halt military operations for 10 hours a day in parts of Gaza and allow new aid corridors as Jordan and the UAE airdropped supplies into the enclave, where images of starving Palestinians have alarmed the world.

Israel has been facing growing international criticism, which the govt rejects, over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and indirect ceasefire talks in Doha between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas have broken off with no deal in sight.

Military activity will stop from 10am to 8pm until further notice in Al-Mawasi, a designated humanitarian area along the coast, in central Deir al-Balah and in Gaza City, to the north. Jordan and the UAE parachuted 25 tonnes of aid into the Gaza Strip on Sunday in their first airdrop in months, a Jordanian official source said.

The official said the air drops were not a substitute for delivery by land. Palestinian health officials in Gaza City said at least 10 people were injured by falling aid boxes. The military said designated secure routes for convoys delivering food and medicine will also be in place between 6am and 11pm starting from Sunday.

UN aid chief Tom Fletcher said staff would step up efforts to feed the hungry during the pauses in the designated areas. "Our teams on the ground... will do all we can to reach as many starving people as we can in this window," he said on X.

Health officials at Al-Awda and Al-Aqsa hospitals said Israeli firing killed at least 17 people and wounded 50 waiting for aid trucks on Sunday. Israel's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dozens of Gazans have died of malnutrition in recent weeks, according to the Gaza health ministry in the Hamas-run enclave. The ministry reported six new deaths over the past 24 hours due to malnutrition, bringing the total deaths from malnutrition and hunger to 133, including 87 children.

On Saturday, a five-month-old baby died of malnutrition at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, health workers said. The Egyptian Red Crescent said it was sending more than 100 trucks carrying over 1,200 metric tonnes of food to southern Gaza on Sunday. A Palestinian official source said Sunday afternoon trucks were still being inspected at Kerem Shalom and had not yet entered Gaza.

Trump: Israel will decide on next steps, pledges more aid

US President Trump said Sunday Israel would have to make a decision on next steps in Gaza, adding that he did not know what would happen after the collapse of ceasefire and hostage-release negotiations.

Trump underscored the importance of securing the release of hostages held by Hamas, saying they had suddenly "hardened" up on the issue, and said the US would provide more aid to the war-torn Palestinian enclave. "They don't want to give them back, and so Israel is going to have to make a decision," Trump said. REUTERS

EU to withhold aid to Ukraine over corruption concerns

Kyiv: President Zelensky's anti-corruption policies have provoked Ukraine's first anti-govt protests since the Russian invasion in 2022. Now, it seems, they may cost the country a portion of its foreign aid from the EU, in a clear rebuke from the bloc, once a staunch ally.

The EU said Friday it would withhold 1.5 billion euros from an overall fund of 4.5 billion euros whose disbursement is dependent on achieving good governance standards and that can't be used for military purchases. The funding can be restored if Ukraine meets certain benchmarks. Zelensky had no public comment on the aid cut, which nevertheless was a setback for Ukraine's prez, who is depending on European financial support to fill gaps left by the Trump govt's refusal to underwrite Ukraine's war effort.

The EU's decision capped a tumultuous week for Zelensky, who first pushed a measure through parliament that stripped the independence of two anti-corruption agencies, raising protests from foreign leaders as well as the Ukrainian people. He then reversed course, submitting a new bill to parliament to restore the agencies' independence. That calmed the street protests, but could not head off the EU's aid cut.

Kyiv attacks with drones as Putin marks navy day

Ukrainian drones targeted St. Petersburg on Sunday, Russia said, forcing the airport to close for five hours as Vladimir Putin marked Russia's Navy Day in the city, despite the earlier cancellation of its naval parade due to security concerns. Russian defence ministry said air defence units downed 291 Ukrainian drones Sunday. NYT & AGENCIES

USCIS plans to let newborn take on mom's legal status

▶Continued from P1

It seeks to address certain legal issues. Currently, children of foreign diplomats born in the US are excluded from American citizenship due to their parents 'not being subject to US jurisdiction'. The implementation plan outlines the expansion of this exclusion to include children born to individuals in unlawful status or lawful but temporary status (such as H-1B holders).

Cyrus D Mehta, founder of an immigration law firm based in New York, told **TOI**, "USCIS has a sinister plan to implement Trump's 'currently unconstitutional' birthright citizenship executive order, in case the EO, which is currently blocked, is allowed to go into effect. Under it, the newborn child will not automatically be a US citizen but would take on the lawful but temporary status of the mother."



Reuters/File

In case of an Indian couple, if the husband holds an H-1B and the wife holds an H-4, a child born to them in the US would get a dependent visa status, and not American citizenship

In case of an Indian couple, if the husband holds an H-1B (temporary non-immigrant work visa) and the wife holds an H-4 (dependent visa), a child born to them in the US would get a dependent visa status, and not American citizenship.

As reported by **TOI** earlier, given the decades-long backlog for an employment-based linked card, hundreds of Indian families with newborns would be hard hit after the EO comes into effect, as neither parent would be a citizen or green card holder and the child would no longer be accorded American citizenship on birth.

USCIS proposes to allow children born in the US to register for lawful immigrant status – such as H-4. This approach is modelled after how children of diplomats are currently handled under US immigration law. "If the mother is unlawfully present, the child will also be considered unlawfully present as soon as it is born. The immigration authorities can technically remove the child who is unlawfully present," added Mehta.

Immigration experts pointed out many challenges that could arise. For instance, what would be the situation if a child is born to a mother whose non-immigration visa status, such as an H-4, is pending? "Would it ridiculously result in the child being born in the US with a similarly pending status?" questioned Mehta.

Several immigration attorneys with whom **TOI** spoke are hopeful that if the litigation reaches the Supreme Court, the EO will be treated as unconstitutional.

IS-backed rebels attack East Congo church, 34 killed

Goma (Congo): The death toll from an attack on a Catholic church in eastern Congo by Islamic State-backed rebels has risen to 34, according to a civil society leader.

"The bodies of the victims are still at the scene of the tragedy, and volunteers are preparing how to bury them in a mass grave that we are preparing in a compound of the Catholic church," said a civil society coordinator in the Ituri province.

At least five other people were killed in an earlier attack on a nearby village. Both attacks are believed to have been carried out by armed members of ADF. AP

Thailand, Cambodia to hold talks in Malaysia

Bangkok: Thai and Cambodian leaders will meet in Malaysia for talks to end hostilities, a spokesperson for the Thai PM's office said Sunday. This comes following pressure from US President Trump to end a deadly border dispute, now in its fourth day, which has killed at least 34 people and displaced over 168,000.

Jirayu Huangsap said Acting PM Phumtham Wechayachai will attend Monday's talks in response to an invitation from Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim "to discuss peace efforts in the region". The spokesperson said Phumtham's Cambodian counterpart Hun Manet will also attend the talks, though this was not immediately confirmed by Cambodia.

Trump said Sunday he believed both Thailand and Cambodia wanted to settle their differences after he told their leaders he would not conclude trade deals with them unless they ended the fighting. Manet said earlier Sunday his country agreed to pursue an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire". He said Trump told him Thailand had agreed to halt attacks following a conversation with Phumtham. Phumtham thanked Trump and said Thailand agreed in principle to a ceasefire but stressed the need for "sincere intention" from Cambodia. AP

TRAIN DERAILS IN GERMANY, AT LEAST 3 PEOPLE INJURED

AP





A passenger train derailed on Sunday in southern Germany injuring at least three people, federal police told German news agency dpa. Roughly 100 people were aboard the train when at least two carriages derailed in a forested area around 6.10pm (local time), dpa reported. The crash happened near the town of Riedlingen, 158km west of Munich. Details about what caused the derailment were not immediately available. AP

Man stabs 11 at Walmart in US, attacker detained

Traverse City (US): Chaos unfolded at a Walmart in Michigan after a man burst into the store during a calm shopping afternoon and randomly stabbed 11 people, authorities say. Minutes after the attack Saturday, the suspect was in custody with the help of bystanders at the store.

The 42-year-old suspect, a Michigan resident but not known to law enforcement, entered the store shortly before 5pm and used a folding knife to stab the victims, the Grand Traverse county sheriff's office said. Their ages weren't immediately known. A sheriff's deputy arrived on the scene within 3 minutes and took him into custody.

Sheriff Michael Shea said bystanders were involved in detaining the man. "I want to acknowledge there was citizen involvement in assisting in taking the individual into custody." AP

Shaolin Temple head faces probe for 'embezzling funds'

Beijing: China's famous Shaolin Temple announced Sunday that its abbot is under investigation on suspicion of misappropriation and embezzlement of project funds and temple assets.

Shi Yongxin was also alleged to have committed criminal offences and seriously violated the Buddhist precepts by maintaining relationships with multiple women over a long period and fathering at least one child, according to a notice from the temple's authority on its WeChat account. The notice said multiple departments were conducting a joint investigation against him, and relevant findings would be announced to the public in due course.



Shi Yongxin

The fame of Henan-based Shaolin Temple has gone beyond a religious institution. It is also famous for its martial arts culture, or kung fu, which has been referenced in many movies and TV dramas, including the 1982 film "The Shaolin Temple." The news about Shi Yongxin ranked top on search engine Baidu and social media platform Weibo Sunday night.

Local media reported the abbot had been hit by scandalous accusations in the past, including claims that he fathered several children and embezzled money. According to a news outlet, investigation reports exonerated him of all charges in 2016.

Shi Yongxin entered the temple in 1981 and became its abbot in 1999. Xinhua in 2015 reported he was known as a "CEO monk," as one of the first Chinese monks to obtain an MBA, and had sparked controversy for developing commercial operations like kung fu shows. AP

DAILY PLANET

AP



Participants display their customised vehicles at a show in California

US passenger plane dives to avoid mid-air collision

A Southwest Airlines flight plunged mid-air Friday to avoid colliding with another aircraft while en route to Las Vegas, injuring two flight attendants, as passengers described flying out of their seats. Minutes after taking off from Burbank, California, the flight dropped by hundreds of feet. The pilot of Southwest Flight 1496 told passengers the maneuver was needed to avoid colliding with another plane. FAA is investigating the incident. The flight was in the same airspace as a fighter jet, according to a flight tracking website.

Flyers evacuated in US due to brake fire: Passengers on a US domestic flight were forced to evacuate onto a runway due to a brake fire just ahead of the plane taking off in Denver, the airline said. American Airlines Flight 3023 was departing for Miami Saturday but "experienced a mechanical issue" while accelerating ahead of takeoff, the airline said, adding all 173 passengers and six crew "deplaned safely". One passenger sustained a minor injury, it said. Blown tires and deceleration of the plane while braking resulted in the fire, it added. FAA is investigating the incident.

Spanish teen under probe for using nude AI pix of classmates Spanish police said Sunday they were investigating a 17-year-old on suspicion of using AI to deepfake nude images of female classmates for sale. The probe was launched after 16 women at an educational institute in Valencia came forward to complain of AI-generated images of them circulating on the internet. Tracking IP addresses used to create the bogus accounts led them to the home of the teen now under probe.

Dutch girl, 11, takes wheel, crashes into house: A Dutch man allowed his 11-year-old daughter to take the wheel of his car, which she promptly ploughed into a house after mixing up the accelerator and brake, local media reported Saturday. The occupants of the car and house escaped unharmed, local newspaper Tubantia said. It published a video of a car that had smashed through glass doors and a wall into the house. The girl's mother and a baby were in the back seat of the car and were also unharmed.

What will it cost to renovate the 'free' Air Force One? Don't ask

David E Sanger & Eric Schmitt

President Trump makes no secret of his displeasure over the cost of renovating Federal Reserve headquarters — around $2.5 billion, or even higher by his accounting.

But getting White House to discuss another of Washington's expensive renovation projects, the cost of refurbishing a "free" Air Force One from Qatar, is quite another matter. Officially, and conveniently, the price tag has been classified. But even by Washington standards, where "black budgets" are often used as an excuse to avoid revealing the cost of outdated spy satellites and lavish end-of-year parties, the techniques being used to hide the cost of Trump's pet project are inventive.

Which may explain why no one wants to discuss a mysterious, $934 million transfer of funds from one of the Pentagon's most over-budget, out-of-control projects — the modernisation of America's aging, ground-based nuclear missiles.

In recent weeks, congressional budget sleuths have come to think that amount, slipped into an obscure Pentagon document sent to Capitol Hill as a "transfer" to an unnamed classified project, almost certainly includes the renovation of the new, gold-adorned Air Force One that Trump desperately wants in the air before his term is over. (It's not clear if the entire transfer will be devoted to stripping the new Air Force One back to its airframe, but Air Force officials privately acknowledge dipping into nuclear modernisation funds for the project.)



NYT

To hide the cost of renovating the plane Qatar donated to President Trump, the air force appears to have tucked it inside an over-budget, behind-schedule nuclear modernisation programme

Qatar's defence minister and US defence secretary Pete Hegseth signed the final MoU a few weeks ago, paving the way for the renovation to begin soon at a Texas facility known for secret technology projects.

Concerns over the many apparent conflicts of interests involved in the transaction, given Trump's govt dealings and business ties with Qataris, have swirled since reports of the gift emerged this spring. But Trump himself said he was unconcerned. "I would never be one to turn down that kind of an offer," the president said in May. "I mean, I could be a stupid person and say, 'No, we don't want a free, very expensive airplane.'"

It is free in the sense that a used car handed over by a neighbour looking to get it out of his driveway is free. In this case, among the many modifications will be hardened communications and antimissile systems. And there is the delicate matter of ridding the jet of any hidden electronic listening devices that officials suspect may be embedded in the walls. Then it has to be stuffed with the luxuries with which the 47th president surrounds himself

So it's no surprise that one of Washington's biggest guessing games these days is assessing just where the price tag will end up, on top of the $4 billion already being spent on the wildly-behind-schedule presidential planes that Boeing was supposed to deliver last year. It was those delays that led Trump to look for a gift.

"The security implications of accepting a private plane from a foreign nation as Air Force One and the resulting ethical concerns ... were already significant," said senator Jeanne Shaheen (D), who serves on Armed Services Committee. But it was more worrisome, Shaheen said, that "this administration is diverting funds from nuclear modernisation budget to finance costly renovations to this plane." In doing so, she said, "we're weakening our credibility to fund a vanity project for President Trump." NYT

TIMES SPORT
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025



MAN UNITED CAPTAIN BRUNO FERNANDES HAILED BY MANAGER AMORIM AS 'REALLY IMPORTANT'

ARSENAL SIGN SWEDISH STRIKER VIKTOR GYOKERES FROM SPORTING ON 5-YEAR DEAL



THE DRAW THAT FEELS LIKE A WIN

Getty Images



SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 358
England 1st innings 669
India 2nd innings (overnight 174/2 in 63 overs): KL Rahul lbw b Stokes 90, S Gill c Smith b Archer 103, W Sundar not out 101, R Jadeja not out 107.
Extras: (b-14, lb-2, nb-6, w-2) 24. **Total:** 425 for 4 in 143 overs.
Fall of wickets: 0-1, 0-2, 3-188, 4-222.
Bowling: C Woakes 23-4-67-2, J Archer 23-3-78-1, B Carse 17-3-44-0, L Dawson 47-11-95-0, J Root 19-2-68-0, B Stokes 11-2-33-1, H Brook 3-0-24-0.
Result: Match drawn.

5 With five fifty-plus innings, Ravindra Jadeja has emulated Sir Garfield Sobers' record of most fifty-plus innings while batting at number six or below in a Test series in England. Sobers had posted three hundreds and two fifties, while logging 722 in eight innings (five Tests) in 1966.

2 Only twice have India batted out more overs in the third innings to save a Test after conceding a 300-plus lead. They scored 476 for 4 in 180 overs at Napier in 2009 and made 318-4 in 148 overs vs England at Lord's in 1979.

7 Scores of 350-plus by India is a record for a team in an away series.

"I THINK WHEN YOU HAVE A GOOD GAME AS AN ALLROUNDER, YOU ASSESS HOW THAT GOES BY THE RESULT AT THE END OF THE GAME. WILL GIVE IT ALL BACK IF WE WOULD'VE GOT THE RESULT. ASKED THE GUYS UP THERE TO RUN THROUGH A BRICK WALL FOR THE TEAM AND I'LL DO THE SAME."
—Ben Stokes | England captain and POTM

"THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, WE WERE PUT UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE. IT'S ALL ABOUT TAKING THE WICKET OUT OF THE EQUATION. DAY 5 WICKET, SOMETHING IS HAPPENING, EVERY BALL IS AN EVENT. WANTED TO TAKE IT BALL BY BALL AND TAKE IT DEEP, WHICH IS WHAT WE SPOKE ABOUT."
—Shubman Gill | Indian captain

1 **Shubman Gill** is the first player to hit four hundreds as captain in his debut series. The captains with three hundreds in their debut series are Australia's Warwick Armstrong, Don Bradman, Greg Chappell & Steven Smith and India's Virat Kohli.

MOST HUNDREDS BY CAPTAINS IN THEIR DEBUT TEST SERIES

Captain	For	100	Tests	Opp	Venue	Series
SHUBMAN GILL	**India**	**4**	**4**	**Eng**	**Eng**	**2025**
Warwick Armstrong	Aus	3	5	Eng	Aus	1920-21
Don Bradman	Aus	3	5	Eng	Aus	1936-37
Greg Chappell	Aus	3	6	WI	Aus	1975-76
Virat Kohli	Ind	3	2	Aus	Aus	2014-15
Steven Smith	Aus	3	3	Ind	Aus	2014-15

700-PLUS RUNS BY INDIAN BATTERS IN A TEST SERIES

Player	Opp	Series	T	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
Sunil Gavaskar	WI	1970-71	4	774	220	154.80	4	3
Sunil Gavaskar	WI	1978-79	6	732	205	91.50	4	1
SHUBMAN GILL	**Eng**	**2025**	**4**	**722**	**269**	**90.25**	**4**	**0**
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Eng	2023-24	5	712	214*	89.00	2	3

Rajesh Kumar

Big Ben and the art of the impossible

Stokes's Contribution To The Series Is Beyond His Numbers. He Has Pushed The Limits To Excel

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Manchester: Purely in terms of numbers, Ben Stokes had endured an average series before arriving in Manchester. Figures of 5/72 with the ball and 141 runs with the bat in the first innings of the fourth Test here are more the kind of numbers that match his lofty reputation as an allrounder. But if one has closely followed the games, Stokes transcends stats.

More than just being the premier fast-bowling allrounder in world cricket, Stokes has a job to do as captain of a bowling unit that is going through the throes of transition. This is when there have been doubts over his body being able to endure a heavy workload. Well, Stokes took the load and did all the heavy lifting to create magical spells of cricket right through the series. He has stood out as a leader.

Physically, mentally, and tactically, he has been a cut above the rest this summer. He has laid out plans and has been at the centre of the battlefield to execute them. His presence has elevated the standard of the series.

In the build-up to the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, England men's team's managing director Rob Key had told TOI that the management doesn't see Stokes bowling the long and big spells that defined him as a fast bowler. It doesn't seem Stokes himself believed that line of thought. The dodgy knee at the age of 34 was always going to be a hurdle. But Stokes has run across every barrier that has come in his way. His ageing body, battered for over a decade now, is the last thing that could hold him back.

The caretakers of English cricket were in awe of his herculean effort with the ball on the final day of the last Test at Lord's. But they were equally concerned about burning out their prime asset. Stokes himself conceded that coach Brendon McCullum asked him to stop after a point on the fourth evening at Lord's. He acknowledged it then but was having none of that on the fifth day.

When he didn't bowl on the fourth evening here at Old Trafford, one may have started guessing if his body finally gave up. The same concerns started to resurface.

"He loves bowling, he loves batting, he loves diving around in the field, sprinting and doing everything he can do. Being captain of the team, you want him playing as many games as possible. We need to see if we can somehow find a way to limit the number of overs he bowls in particular. Throughout the series, he hasn't necessarily bowled those mammoth spells like he did in previous times," England's assistant coach Marcus Trescothick said after the fourth day's play on Saturday.

Trescothick didn't want to divulge much, but he did hint at the team management holding Stokes back on Saturday evening because of the cramps and niggles he suffered due to the workload. On Sunday morning, Stokes had the ball first up in his hands and fired in eight overs on the trot.

His batting form in the first three Tests was questionable. Yet, he kept himself in the game with the ball. He was the only bowler from the England team who asked persistent questions to the Indian batters. On the eve of the second Test at Edgbaston, Stokes bowled full throttle non-stop at a single stump for an hour. Little did anyone know that it would become a norm in an actual match when the series reached its business end.

Stokes is someone who likes to keep moving the game forward. He makes things happen. He sets unusual fields, bowls unusual lines. Even in the flattest of conditions, he has not let the Indian batters breathe easy.

Gill, Jadeja And Washington Slam Gritty Tons As India Script One Of Their Finest Fightbacks, Bat 143 Overs To Save 4th Test After Being 0-2

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN ENGLAND

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

IND VS ENG 4th TEST, DAY 5

Manchester: At Lord's a fortnight ago, when Mohammed Siraj was unfortunately bowled out in the last hour of the Test, Ravindra Jadeja remained unbeaten but was defeated by Ben Stokes and England's relentlessness. On Sunday at Old Trafford, he looked them in the eye and walked back to the dressing room triumphant, unbeaten, and a proud centurion, having secured a draw to stay alive in the series. At the other end was Washington Sundar, India's next-gen spin-bowling allrounder, getting his maiden century as the duo dragged India out of a hole to finish at the score of 425/4.

Jadeja and Washington Sundar, by scoring an unbeaten 107 off 185 and 101 off 206 respectively, batted out 55.2 overs for 203 runs on a pitch with distinct variable bounce and some sharp turn to follow up captain Shubman Gill's exceptionally gritty 103 and KL Rahul's fighting 90. In doing so, they extracted every ounce of Stokes and England's energy to take the series into the last Test at the Oval next week with the scoreline reading 2-1.

Stokes, who literally bowled with his bowling arm hanging from his right shoulder to rock India in the first 80 minutes of the day, went up to shake hands with Jadeja and Washington, having made peace with a draw with an hour left to play. Jadeja and Washington turned down the offer to comically complete their centuries with resigned Harry Brook and Joe Root tossing harmless deliveries to be hit to the boundaries.

This generation of Indian cricketers' identity is their stomach for a fight, which was headlined by the draw they stole against Australia in Sydney 2021. This bunch of Indian cricketers, raised largely on the riches of T20 cricket, declared their appetite for success in Test cricket. It couldn't have been better for Indian cricket than their 25-year-old captain Gill, on his first assignment, leading the way with a hundred that will define him as a force in Test cricket.

The only false shot in the innings cost him his wicket when he poked at a wide delivery off Jofra Archer minutes before lunch. Jadeja's only blemish of the day came off the next ball, flashing at another wide delivery only for Joe Root to drop the catch at first slip.

Jadeja has played many come-from-behind knocks for India before. Seldom did the results of those matches favour India. This Old Trafford innings will give him that new feeling of satisfaction. Washington has just put a stamp on his quiet effectiveness in crunch situations. There have been no Indian centurions at Old Trafford since Sachin Tendulkar's maiden Test century in 1990. India added three names to the honours board on Sunday.

The 112th over of the innings, minutes before tea, was the defining moment for India, and a shift in momentum happened. Jadeja and Washington brought up their fifties in the same over off Stokes, dispatching him to opposite sides of the boundary. It also wiped out the 311-run deficit. An animated Stokes got engaged in verbal volleys. The pitch and English attack both went flat.

The two left-handers responded after tea by swatting away the English attack with consummate ease. Left-arm spinner Liam Dawson, Stokes' go-to man for the day, bowled 47 overs of mostly harmless left-arm spin for 0/95.

England though started off well. Stokes, who didn't bowl on the fourth evening of the Test, swung into action immediately early on the fifth morning. Half an hour into the day, he got one to stay low and caught Rahul in front of the stumps. Every time he delivered the ball, he grunted like a tennis player playing the last game of the fifth set of a Grand Slam final. He was deservedly named player of the match for his efforts.



ANKITA BAGS WOMEN'S STEEPLECHASE SILVER, INDIA END WITH 12 MEDALS

Rhine-Ruhr (Germany): Steeplechaser Ankita Dhyani came up with a blistering run to clinch silver in the gruelling 3000m event with a personal-best time of 9:31.99 seconds, while the men's 4x100m relay quartet bagged a bronze as Indian athletes ended their campaign in the World University Games here on Sunday.

The trio of Munita Prajapati, Mansi Negi, and Sejal Singh finished third to take the bronze in women's 20km team racewalk on the concluding day. India ended their campaign with two gold, five silver and five bronze in the showpiece event.

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

On a day when several Indian athletes were in contention in track events, but could bag only three medals, 23-year-old Ankita, a second-year social sciences student, shaved nearly seven seconds from her personal best time of 9:39.00 seconds to finish a few milliseconds behind Finland's Ilona Maaria Mononen, who timed 9:31.86.

Adia Budde of Germany took the bronze, clocking 9:33.34 seconds.

On Friday, Ankita had topped Heat 1 by clocking 9:54.79 seconds and secured her place in the final. It was a massive 22-second improvement, which propelled Ankita to second place in the competitive race.

The men's 4x100m relay team, comprising Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Mrutyam Jayaram, clocked 38.89 seconds to take the bronze. South Korea took the gold in 38.50 seconds, while South Africa (38.80) bagged the silver.

The Indian women's 4x400m relay team came up with a season's best time of 3:35.08 seconds, but it was not good enough for a medal, as the quartet of Anakha Bijukumar, Devyaniba Zala, Rashdeep Kaur and Rupal finished fifth, clocking 3:35.08 seconds. The German team, despite a poor reaction time, won the gold with a time of 3:29.68 seconds.

The Indian men's 4x400m relay quartet of Vishal Kayalvizhi, Aswin Lakshmanan, Jerome Jayaseelan Panimaya and Balakrishna finished fifth, clocking 3:06.5.seconds. Poland won the gold with a time of 3:03.64. PTI

Harshika first Indian to sign for Romanian club

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At first glance, 22-year-old Harshika Jain's footballing roots don't scream 'history maker'. A girl from a business family in Mumbai's plush Altamount Road, she was just another sports-loving kid who dabbled in everything from basketball to handball to hockey. But by the time she turned 11, football had kicked everything else aside.



Two days ago, Harshika became the first Indian footballer to sign with a Romanian first-division club, joining Atletic Olimpia Gherla. No Indian has ever featured in Romania's top two leagues before.

Moving from India to play professional football at the European stage, Harshika is following in the footsteps of Bala Devi, Manisha Kalyan and Aditi Chauhan.

Her signing isn't just about international firsts; it's also one of persistence, late-night training sessions, lockdown drills, and a young girl breaking into all-boys' teams.

Harshika's football journey began at school, where she could always be found on the football ground. And she could be spotted quite easily, too, as she would be the only girl training with boys. It was the same in her locality, where she would always have to play with the other boys as no girls joined it.

The move to Romania came through trial at Olimpia Gherla, where she impressed legendary coach Mirel Albon, the man behind Romania's rise in women's football. After 20 days of trial, the club offered her a contract. "It feels like family here," Harshika told **TOI**. "And that's important to me. I'm close to my family, and the club environment reflects that. They've welcomed me with open arms."

Despite going global, her dream remains rooted in national colours. "Wearing India's jersey, that's the dream. Always has been."

McIntosh makes a splash at Worlds

Rival Ledecky Bags Bronze In Women's 400m Freestyle Final

Singapore: World record holder Summer McIntosh stormed to the women's 400 metres freestyle world title on Sunday, making a flying start to her bid for five individual crowns at the Singapore meet as American great Katie Ledecky finished with the bronze.

The highly anticipated battle between McIntosh and Ledecky failed to materialize as the Canadian led from start to finish and claimed the win in three minutes and 56.26 seconds, nearly two seconds ahead of Chinese silver medallist Li Bingjie. Ledecky was 2.23 seconds behind McIntosh, who had only a small break before returning to qualify fastest for the 200 individual medley (IM) final in 2:07.39, less than two seconds off her world record.

"(I think being able to) mentally compartmentalise each race individually is a really important skill set that I've learnt over the past couple of years," McIntosh said.

Pix: AP, Getty Images



Summer McIntosh in the 400-metre freestyle final

Triple Olympic champion McIntosh is seeking to emulate Michael Phelps, the only swimmer to win five individual titles at a single world championships.

The 18-year-old Canadian may be hurtling towards greatness but a pre-teen Chinese swimmer showed she could be nipping at her heels in a few years.

In the men's 400 final, Olympic champion Lukas Maertens won an absolute humdinger of a race, nosing ahead of Sam Short on the final lap and holding off the Australian by 0.02 seconds to claim his first world title in a time of 3:42.35.

Short won the event two years ago by the same margin from Tunisia's Ahmed Hafnaoui, with Maertens claiming bronze. Australia finished the night celebrating a sweep of the men's and women's 4x100 freestyle golds. Olivia Wunsch was the hero for the Australian women as she mowed down Torri Huske in the final lap to secure the gold.

US team hit with stomach bug

The United States team at have been hit with acute gastroenteritis, an official said, with two competitors skipping their opening races on Sunday.

Torri Huske, a treble gold medallist at Paris Olympics, and Claire Weinstein did not compete "so they could focus on other events", team official Nikki Warner said.

Twelve-year-old reaches final

The 12-year-old Chinese swimming prodigy **Yu Zidi** surprised even herself after reaching the final of the 200m medley on Sunday.



The schoolgirl squeezed into the final in seventh place in 2min 10.22sec in what is not her best event. Yu, who juggles swimming with homework, is also competing in the 400m medley and the 200m butterfly against most of the best swimmers on the planet. AGENCIES

Piastri beats Norris, wins Belgian GP

Spa-Francorchamps: Oscar Piastri passed McLaren teammate and title rival Lando Norris with a bold early move to win the rain-delayed Belgian Grand Prix and extend his Formula One lead to 16 points on Sunday.

Charles Leclerc was a distant third for Ferrari as reigning champions McLaren celebrated their sixth one-two finish in 13 races and the third in a row. The race at Spa-Francorchamps was red-flagged after an initial formation lap and delayed by an hour and 20 minutes due to the weather, with standing water and heavy spray affecting visibility.

Piastri was not in a mood for hanging around when the racing got going with a rolling start after four laps behind the safety car. The Australian charged through the spray to slipstream Norris through the daunting Eau Rouge and scythed past on the uphill straight.

"I knew lap one would be my best chance of winning the race. I got a good exit out of Turn One, lifted as little as I dared out of Eau Rouge," he said. "The rest of the race we managed really well. I struggled at the end. Maybe the mediums were not the best for the last five or six laps. We had it mostly under control."

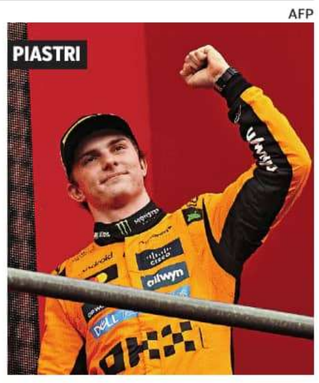
If Norris had a battery issue, the Briton asking over the radio why he had "no pack" before his race engineer assured him it was coming back, he was not looking for any excuses afterwards.

"Oscar just did a good job. Nothing more to say. Committed a bit more through Eau Rouge, and had the slipstream and got the run," he said.

"So nothing to complain of. He did a better job in the beginning, and that was it. Nothing more I could do after that point. I would love to be up top, but Oscar deserved it today."

Piastri pitted on lap 12 of 44 to switch from intermediates to medium tyres and Norris followed a lap later, but opting for hards, before both then went to the chequered flag on a one-stop strategy. Piastri crossed the line 3.415 seconds clear of Norris, who had been chasing a third win in a row and managed to reduce the gap in the final laps putting the Australian under much pressure. REUTERS

AFP



GALLERY

Reuters



TRIUMPHANT: Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and other riders pass Arc de Triomphe in Paris during the last stage of Tour de France

Pogacar wins Tour de France for fourth time

Paris: Tadej Pogacar won his fourth Tour de France title by a comfortable margin after Sunday's final stage, which he tried to win even though he did not need to. The 26-year-old Slovenian rider won the Tour last year and in 2020 and 2021. Two-time Tour champion Jonas Vinegaard finished the overall race 4 minutes, 24 seconds behind Pogacar in second place and Florian Lipowitz was 11 minutes adrift in third.

Varma to lead South Zone in Duleep Trophy: India batter N Tilak Varma was on Sunday named as the South Zone skipper in the season-opening Duleep Trophy to be held in Bengaluru next month.

ITBP edge out Karbi Anglong Morning Star: Durand Cup debutants Indo Tibetan Border Police edged out 10-men Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 2-1 in a Group D opener in Kokrajhar at the SAI Stadium on Sunday.

Shi, Wang win titles at China Open: Shi Yuqi and Wang Zhiyi lifted the men's and women's singles titles at the China Open on Sunday. World No. 3 Shi came back from a game down to beat Wang Zhengxing 14-21 21-14 21-15 in little more than an hour. In the women's final, defending champion Wang Zhiyi secured a 21-8 21-13 win over Han Yue. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Durand Cup, 7 pm (Sony Sports)

TIEBREAK TIME IN FINAL

Humpy, Divya Play Peaceful 34-Move Draw To Stay At Par

Amit.Sampat@timesofindia.com

Young Divya Deshmukh held the experienced Koneru Humpy for a peaceful draw in Batumi, Georgia, on Sunday. The draw brought to the fore the preparations of Indian players that prevailed in the second game of the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup final.

A day after the duo had played a game of missed opportunities followed by a great escape for a fighting draw in the opening game, 19-year-old Divya and 38-year-old Humpy sought refuge in the books, and with an accuracy rate as high as 98.8%, signed a peace treaty in just 34 moves.

With the second successive classical game of the World Cup ending in a draw, the outcome of the final will be decided in the tiebreaks to be played in the rapid and blitz formats of various time controls on Monday.

While Divya brought all her defensive weapons on Sunday and looked better prepared, Humpy missed the chance to utilise her opening advantage with the white pieces.

Being the reigning Women's World Rapid champion, Humpy would be happy to take the tiebreaks. Similarly, Divya would not be too broken to take the same route as she, in 2023, had defeated Humpy to clinch her maiden Women's Rapid title. It was a victory on debut, that too being a last-minute inclusion for the tournament played in Kolkata.

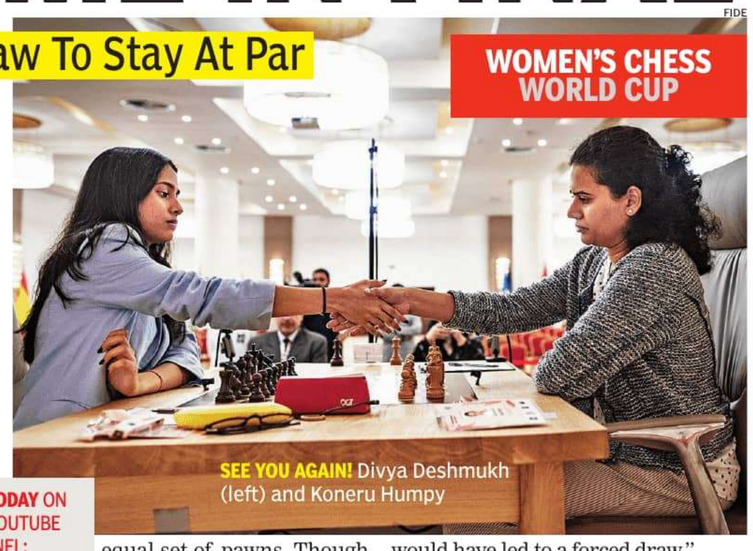
Playing the faster format against Humpy, a two-time World Rapid champion will not be a matter of concern for Divya. In the interview after playing out an easy draw, Divya said, "I am going to give my best. She is a strong player. Hoping the tiebreaks go my way."

The second classical game of the World Cup saw an English Opening from Humpy with her white pieces, while Divya chose the Agincourt Defense. As expected, Humpy started pressing for an advantage and changed her English opening into the regular Queen's Gambit Declined game of Semi-Tarrasch variation.

Divya was quick to react, and on the 10th turn, she made the most of her centre pawn structure to deny Humpy any chance. On the 12th turn, Divya exchanged both her bishops by claiming Humpy's knights.

By the 19th move, both players exchanged their rooks, and the game headed towards a draw with Divya's knights and Humpy's bishops and an equal set of pawns. Though double bishops are considered stronger against twin knights, the centre pawn structure was not at all a threat for Divya.

FIDE



WOMEN'S CHESS WORLD CUP

SEE YOU AGAIN! Divya Deshmukh (left) and Koneru Humpy

LIVE TODAY ON FIDE YOUTUBE CHANNEL: **1.45pm onwards**

Speaking with **TOI** on the draw, former national champion Pravin Thipsay said, "When Divya correctly exchanged the rooks, the game was heading towards an obvious draw, but Humpy took some bold decisions. She sacrificed a pawn on the 23rd move, and the game became a bit dangerous for Divya as she failed to find the best 24th move, which would have led to a forced draw."

Divya said, "I think I got into a mess for no reason in the middle game. I got a bad position with a wrong choice but managed it in the end, and finally, it was an easy draw."

Thipsay added, "On the 28th move, Humpy could have regained the pawn, maintaining some advantage. As things happened, Humpy delayed the process by one move, and by the time she recovered the pawn, Divya's queen position had improved, and she forced a draw by perpetual check."

Atwal tops Indian pack at Senior Open

Sunningdale (UK): Arjun Atwal emerged as the top Indian after three rounds as he was 1-under 69 and was tied 29h in the ISPS HANDA Senior Open here. Atwal, playing only his second event on the Seniors Tour – both Majors – followed up his first two rounds of 67-72 with 69 and was 2-under through 54 holes.

GOLF WRAP

Jyoti Randhawa (70-71-70) was 1-over and T-50th, while Jeev Milkha Singh (71-69-74) was 5-over and T-69. There is one more round left.

Pádraig Harrington moved two strokes clear ahead of the final round at Sunningdale as he hopes to become the fifth player in history to win both The Open and ISPS HANDA Senior Open.

The Irishman, who won the Claret Jug in 2007 at Carnoustie and defended it at Royal Birkdale in 2008, carded a second consecutive round of 65 to reach 13 under par after three rounds.

Bhatia shoots 63 to move into lead: Akshay Bhatia chipped in twice on way to a career-equalling 8-under 63 on the moving day to take a share of the lead at the 3M Open on the PGA Tour here.

He shared the lead with Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen who aced the par-3 eighth and shot a 4-under 67 at the TPC Twin Cities.

Bhatia, a 23-year-old Indian-American, is seeking his third PGA TOUR victory in his 90th start with his previous wins being the 2023 Barracuda Championship and the 2024 Valero Texas Open.

His third round 8-under 63 matched his career-low score which he has shot five times. The last time Bhatia played the 3M Open, he was T-64 in 2024. He entered the week No. 46 in the FedExCup with three top-10s in 19 starts this season and is attempting to go right up to the Tour Championship as he did in 2024.

Diksha moves to 48th: Indian golfer Diksha Dagar improved slightly in the third round of the 2025 ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open as she moved up 11 spots to tied-48th on Day 3 at the Dundonald Links in North Ayrshire, Scotland. AGENCIES

Women's Euros tournament hits new peaks in Switzerland

Attendance Records Smashed Across The Tournament

Oberentfelden: The Women's Euros reached their climax with the final between holders England and Spain going full stretch on Sunday, but before a ball was even kicked at the St. Jakob-Park stadium, records had been smashed at what has proved to be the most successful edition of the tournament.

Before their quarterfinal defeat by Spain, Swiss fans held up a banner saying "Time to move mountains", but by then the hosts already had, making the knockout stage for the first time as a fever for women's football swept the country - and the continent. "I hope it was just a very, very important step to show Switzerland that women can play football really well -- not just Switzerland, but all the other teams as well," Swiss captain Lia Waelti said after the hosts exited the tournament.

Fans at games in Switzerland have shattered attendance records, including the highest overall one ever, with the final still to be played.

A record 623,088 fans attended games through the end of the semi-finals, obliterating the previous total of 574,875 fans who watched the entire England 2022 tournament.

England's dramatic semifinal win over Italy in extra time gave British broadcaster ITV its biggest audience of the year with 10.2 million linear viewers, and another 17.2 million following the game on streaming platform ITV X. Fox Sports in the United States also reported a 176% increase in the number watching the semi-finals compared to 2022 as the tournament caught the imagination on the other side of the Atlantic.

It has not all, however, been plain sailing. The opening games were overshadowed by soaring temperatures that led to worries about player welfare and UEFA suspending rules around water bottles for fans. There was also the death of Portugal international Diogo Jota and his brother in a car accident, which cast a pall over Portugal's opening game against Spain. REUTERS

Getty Images



FRIENDLY: England and Spain fans before the start of the Sunday's final in Basel

BAYERN AGREE DEAL TO SIGN DIAZ: REPORT

London: German champions Bayern Munich have agreed to sign Liverpool winger Luis Diaz in a £65.5 million ($88 million) deal, according to multiple reports on Sunday.

Bayern had an initial offer of £59 million rejected by the Premier League champions last week, but their improved bid looks set to bring the Colombia international to the Allianz Arena. Diaz has reportedly been given permission to leave Liverpool's pre-season tour of Asia in order to complete a medical with Bayern. He joined Liverpool from Porto in January 2022.

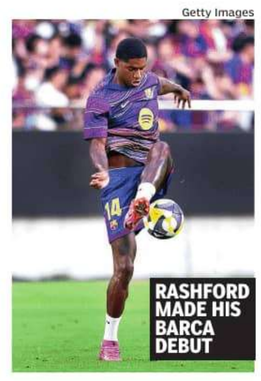
Odegaard extends Arsenal run: Martin Odegaard scored the winner from the spot in the 84th minute as Arsenal beat Newcastle 3-2 in a pre-season friendly in Singapore on Sunday. Viktor Gyokeres, the Swedish international striker signed on Saturday from Sporting Lisbon, was introduced to the crowd of more than 38,700 before kickoff. He watched from the bench as his new club won an entertaining encounter in the Singapore heat.

The 27-year-old could make his debut when Arsenal take on Tottenham in Hong Kong next Thursday.

Rashford makes Barcelona debut in Japan friendly win

Kobe: Marcus Rashford made his first appearance for Barcelona in a 3-1 pre-season win over J. League side Vissel Kobe in Japan on Sunday, coming on as a substitute. AGENCIES

Getty Images



RASHFORD MADE HIS BARCA DEBUT

Tejaswin breaks his own NR in decathlon

New Delhi: Tejaswin Shankar broke his own national record in decathlon while finishing fourth at the Wieslaw Czapiewski Memorial in Poland on Sunday, and became the first Indian athlete to score 7800 points in the gruelling 10-discipline event.

He amassed 7826 points in the competition, a World Athletics Combined Events Tour Gold-level meet.

In the last event -- 1500m -- Shankar set a personal best of 4:31.80. Before this effort, Shankar held the decathlon national record at 7666 points — achieved at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China..

At the end of day one of the competition, the 26-year-old Indian topped the standings after accumulating 4292 points. He also clocked a personal best of 11.02s in 100m which was the first of the ten events in the sport.

AFP



SUPER SHOW: Tejaswin Shankar

In long jump, he maintained the momentum he gained during the 100m sprint with a season-best effort of 7.57m, just five centimetres shy of his personal best of 7.62m set in 2023.

In the shot put event, Tejaswin managed a modest 12.62m, which was below his season best. Subsequently, in the high jump event, he cleared 2.18m. PTI

Newborn loses 5 fingers in op, doc fined ₹33L

Chennai: District consumer disputes redressal commission in Chennai has held Srinivas Priya Hospital in Perambur and the treating gynaecologist liable for negligence that resulted in a 22-week pregnant woman losing her baby's all five fingers on his right hand to gangrene. The commission ordered them to pay Rs 33.6 lakh in compensation to the victim, reports **Ram Sundaram**.

The commission ruled that the hospital and the gynaecologist failed to justify the emergency nature of the procedure or explain why informed consent was bypassed. It ordered them to pay Rs 23.6 lakh for treatment costs, Rs 10 lakh for pain and suffering, and Rs 10,000 as litigation costs.

Villagers, forest guards rescue 300 trekkers

Pune: Forest staffers and locals rescued 300 trekkers, including 100 women, stranded in the forest at Thane's Malshej Ghat — the picturesque mountain pass on Thane-Pune border — on Saturday after the water level of the Kalu river rose suddenly due to 200mm of rain in three hours, reports **Sandip Dighe**.

The seven-hour rescue operation, starting at 3 pm, was particularly difficult as locals had to swim through the gushing water to secure ropes and harnesses to trees and use a zipline to transport the trekkers.

ISI-backed arms gang busted

Amritsar: Amritsar Police intercepted a cache of arms and ammunition and arrested five persons on Sunday. SSP, Amritsar-rural, Maninder Singh, said police have dismantled a major trans-border smuggling network of sophisticated arms and drug money, operated by Pakistan's ISI-backed handlers. TNN

HC: Interfaith marriages without conversion illegal

Asks UP Home Secy To Probe Into Arya Samaj Temples' Marriage Certs

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Interfaith marriages without conversion are illegal, Allahabad high court has ruled, refusing to quash criminal proceedings against a man accused of kidnapping and marrying a minor from another community at an Arya Samaj temple.

Justice Prasant Kumar also directed the UP home secretary to investigate how Arya Samaj temples were issuing marriage certificates without following rules. The investigation must be done by an officer not below the rank of DCP, Justice Kumar said in his July 24 order.

The court found during the course of the hearing that the accused, Sonu alias Shahnur, and the girl belonged to different religions. "...They have solemnised the marriage in Arya Samaj Mandir at Prayagraj. However, the same could not have been done without proper conversion as per the existing law," the HC said.



Allahabad high court found during the course of the hearing that the accused, Sonu alias Shahnur, and the girl belonged to different religions. '...they have solemnised the marriage in Arya Samaj Mandir at Prayagraj. However, the same could not have been done without proper conversion as per the existing law,' the high court said

Shahnur's counsel said the marriage was solemnised on Feb 14, 2020, after which the girl was sent to Nari Niketan (govt women's home) as she was a minor then. She started living with Shahnur when she became an adult, the counsel added.

State govt's counsel cited the girl's high school certificate to stress that she was a minor. As the couple are from different religions, the govt counsel argued that their marriage could not be considered valid in the absence of proper conversion in accordance with provisions of UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021.

The govt counsel expressed apprehension that the Arya Samaj-issued marriage certificate was fabricated. He cited an earlier HC order that some people claiming to be Arya Samaj representatives were getting marriages solemnised illegally without even verifying the age of the couples.

Shahnur has been booked under IPC Sections 366 (kidnapping a woman to compel her to marry) 376 (rape) and Pocso. The HC will hear the case next on Aug 29.

Admin orders magisterial probe into stampede

▶ Continued from P 1

The SHO said, "We've seen even larger crowds during special occasions like kanwar yatra and Ganga Dussehra. The stampede may have been caused due to rumours after a few youngsters climbed the wall, and thereafter some devotees began to panic and fell on each other. On any given day, six police personnel are present on the temple premises and two stationed at the entrance of the pedestrian route."

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami visited the hospital to assess the condition of the injured and announced an ex-gratia compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the families of those dead and Rs 50,000 for each injured person. He also directed Haridwar district magistrate (DM) to provide urgent relief and assistance to all the victims and their families. "The pedestrian route, starting from the Upper Road, was immediately closed after the incident to avoid additional pressure at the site. Injured persons were initially shifted to district hospital. People died of chest injuries and no one died of electrocution," said DM Mayur Dixit. The DM added that a detailed magisterial probe has been ordered.

President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi were among those who expressed grief over the loss of lives in the stampede. In a post, the PM stated: "Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon."

Later in the day, Mahant Ravindra Puri, president of the Mansa Devi temple trust, announced Rs 5 lakh for the families of the dead and Rs 1 lakh for the injured.

Considered a 'sidhpeeth', Mansa Devi temple is situated on the Bilva hilltop in Haridwar. It is accessible by ropeway as well as pedestrian route. It attracts a large number of pilgrims. Earlier, the way to the temple was arduous, and pilgrims had to walk through narrow serpentine paths to the hilltop on foot.

LS Speaker may write to CJI this week for panel members' names

▶ Continued from P1

Varma's plea — titled "XXX vs Union of India" — is the 699th civil writ petition filed in SC this year. While the Centre is the first respondent, SC itself is the second one. It was filed on July 17, and after the advocate on record rectified defects pointed out by the registry, SC registered the petition on July 24.

Interestingly, while the petition "XXX vs Union of India" is listed at serial number 56 before the bench headed by Justice Datta, another petition by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, seeking registration of FIR against Justice **Yashwant Varma** to unravel the mystery behind the cash, its burning and subsequent



disappearance, is listed at serial number 59 before the same bench Monday.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha has admitted a notice for removal against Justice Varma signed by more than 150 MPs. The LS speaker is likely to write this week to CJI B R Gavai seeking names of an SC judge and an HC chief justice, who would be part of an inquiry committee under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968. The speaker will nominate a distinguished jurist to complete the composition of the three-member committee.

Repatriated to the Allahabad HC from the Delhi HC after the 'cash-in-kothi' controversy, Justice Varma in his petition has challenged the validity of the in-house inquiry report and requested SC to declare the then CJI Sanjiv Khanna's May 8 recommendation to the President and the PM for his removal as unconstitutional.

Ignoring RS notice illegal, says Cong

New Delhi: Accusing BJP of "petty mindset" and "illegality", Congress on Saturday said the govt's decision to ignore the notice to remove Justice Yashwant Varma in Rajya Sabha in favour of the one submitted in Lok Sabha is dictated by its desire to control the narrative about the issue, stemming from its "insecurity" that the opposition had scored on corruption by moving first in the upper house. LS notice is bipartisan signed by 152 MPs, while the one in RS is exclusively signed by opposition members.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi slammed the announcement by parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju, alleging it was now clear that former RS chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's belated independent act on the Varma issue riled the Modi govt and resulted in his ouster. With Rijiju saying that the RS had not "admitted" the notice, Singhvi said Dhankhar mentioned the notice in the House in detail on Monday talking about it meeting legal and numerical requirements, which was tantamount to admitting it. The Congress MP asked the govt if RS should be giving long judgments like a judicial court to show "admission".

Interestingly, Singhvi, a senior lawyer, alleged BJP MPs signed a blank paper in the room of defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday, which was likely an "impeachment notice against Dhankhar". He warned that the govt may be committing a major violation by constituting the statutory committee to probe Varma exclusively on the LS notice. TNN

SC says it has no sympathy for Cuba envoy

▶ Continued from P1

After failure of the mediation ordered by the Supreme Court, during pendency of Changsan's appeal, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi on Friday orally observed that the HC judgment is legally sound. Finding that the Indian Foreign Service officer is now married for nearly a decade and half, it decided to find a solution to this legal-matrimonial complexity and help the first wife start a new life. The ambassador said he has been paying a monthly maintenance of Rs 20,000 to Neikhol and has given her a house in Delhi.

Neikhol argued the case herself and told the court that she had single handedly brought up her daughter without any participation from her husband. She alleged that he has now manipulatively estranged her 29-year-old daughter from her. For the ambassador, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy said the father had been meeting the expenses of his adult daughter, who is pursuing a career in Bengaluru.



Neikhol appealed to SC to 'protect her honour and dignity' while describing how surreptitiously Changsan dissolved the marriage using tribal community elders, and remarried

Neikhol appealed to SC to "protect her honour and dignity" while describing how surreptitiously Changsan dissolved the marriage using tribal community elders, and remarried.

The Justice Kant-led bench said, "We have absolutely no sympathy for the man. The HC judgment is in your favour, and you have suffered socially and mentally. But can you think of a way to start life afresh?"

Interestingly, 'Kuki Inpi' of Assam, the highest governing body of the Kuki tribe in the state, has said Kuki customary law can neither dissolve a Christian marriage performed in church nor can it force any couple to reunite against the will of the couple.

The bench said it could be profitable for Neikhol to meet her Bengaluru-based daughter and discuss future course of action, and asked the ambassador to arrange for her flight tickets to Bengaluru, a place of stay near her daughter's place, and pay her an ad hoc amount of Rs 3 lakh to enable her to meet her daughter.

"If at all there is a possibility of settlement, the daughter could have a significant role to play," Justice Kant said, adding that the IFS officer must advise his daughter to re-establish contact with her mother.

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