

Charter aircraft flying Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma from Delhi on July 31 landed at civil airstrip in Phalodi instead of IAF stn, P 9

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



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gaadi bhi loonga, magar...**



**Main bacchon
ko bhi padhaunga, lekin...**



**Main bada
ghar bhi loongi, par...**



**Main post-retirement
world tour bhi karunga,
but...**



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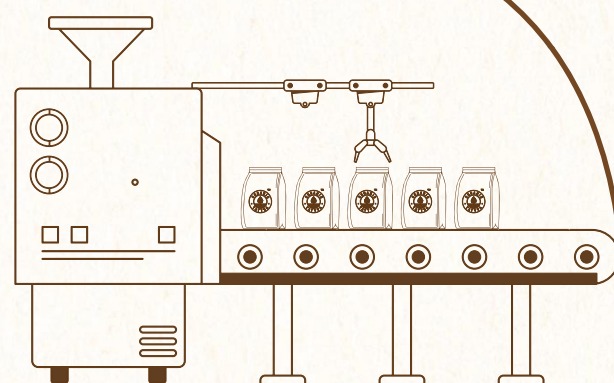


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Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal starts trial in cases of 'crimes against humanity' against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina, with AG calling for maximum punishment for her, P 18

US Dept of Justice is ramping up efforts to get voter data and other election information from at least 15 states. It has requested copies of voter regn lists from state election administrators, P 18

Family of Evyatar David, an Israeli held hostage in Gaza Strip, sees him for first time in months in a video circulated by his Hamas captors. He is emaciated and hollow in what appeared to be an underground tunnel, P 18

A Monday morning thriller will decide the cricket series between England and India after bad light & rain force early end of play in final Test, with Eng needing 35 runs and India 4 wickets for a win. Eng 339-6 at stumps, chasing 374. Joe Root (pic) slams 105 runs, Harry Brook hits 111, P 19



INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Delhi Bill to curb school fee hike to be tabled today

The monsoon session of Delhi Assembly will start on Monday, with several legislative moves planned for the Aug 4-8 sitting, including introducing Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill 2025. The school education bill is designed to regulate private school fees and protect parents from arbitrary hikes. **P 3**

4 men rob city jewellery store

Four men allegedly robbed a jewellery shop at gunpoint in northeast Delhi's Dayalpur on Sunday. They also targeted customers before fleeing with cash and jewellery, the shop owner claimed, without specifying the amount robbed. No arrests had been made till reports last came in. **P 5**

6 killed in Andhra quarry rockslide

Six workers from Odisha died and three were injured in a rockslide at a granite quarry in Andhra's Bapatla Sunday. The owner allegedly makes workers toil in hazardous conditions. Police are probing whether safety protocols were flouted. **P 10**

Taxi driver dies as car catches fire

A taxi driver was charred to death and another critically injured after their car allegedly caught fire following a crash in northwest Delhi early on Sunday. Police said both were intoxicated and speeding when the incident occurred. **P 8**

Biker crashes into open cab door, dies

A 26-year-old biker died after he crashed into a cab door opened suddenly by a passenger near Noida's Golf Course metro station Saturday. The victim, Vivek Kumar, wasn't wearing a helmet. His head hit the door and then the pavement. **P 8**

4 PIOs killed in car crash in US

Four Indian-origin elderly persons, who were reported missing for over three days, were Saturday found to have died in a car crash in West Virginia. Their vehicle crashed off a steep embankment along a road on a tricky terrain. **P 18**

Odisha edu board VP held over leak

Odisha police crime branch arrested vice-president of Board of Secondary Education Nihar Mohanty Sunday for his alleged involvement in the leak of a question paper in the state's teachers' eligibility test on the eve of the July 20 exam. **P 11**

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

Ohio's new SG Mathura, a PIO, trolled for bindi

Indian-origin Mathura Sridharan has been appointed Ohio's 12th solicitor general, attorney general's office announced. The appointment triggered a backlash with trolls questioning why a "non-US citizen" was selected for the position, some even pointing out her bindi, saying, "This one has a perma-dot, huh." Another social media user wrote, "Nothing says 'Ohioan' like a dot right on the forehead." Responding to trolls, AG Dave Yost praised Sridharan's legal abilities, calling her "brilliant". **P 18**



EC: Voter ID flagged by Tejashwi 'unauthorised'

'Yadav Has Been Using Another Card Since 2014'

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A day after top RJD functionary Tejashwi Prasad Yadav claimed that a search of Bihar's draft electoral roll with his EPIC No. RAB2916120 had found his name missing, only to be "fact-checked" by the Election Commission that his name and actual EPIC No. RAB0456228 were very much included in the voter list, the poll panel on Sunday said it had failed to find any EPIC No. RAB2916120 issued by its authorised officers in its records. On Sunday, the electoral registration officer (ERO) concerned wrote to Tejashwi, saying that upon preliminary investigation, it appears that EPIC No. RAB2916120 flashed

Modi, Shah call separately on Prez Murmu

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu amid a logjam in Parliament over the opposition's demand for a discussion on the special intensive revision exercise in Bihar ahead of assembly elections in the state.



Home minister Amit Shah also called on the President separately later. The Rashtrapati Bhavan posted photos of both interactions on X.

Except for discussions on Operation Sindoor, Parliament has seen little business since the monsoon session began on July 21.

The meetings also came days after US President Trump announced 25% tariffs on Indian exports and an unspecified penalty over Russian purchases. **TNN**

'NO CLAIM FILED ON VOTER DELETIONS'

“Our preliminary investigation suggests that EPIC number you (Tejashwi) mentioned at the press conference on Aug 2 was not issued officially. You are therefore requested to hand over the EPIC card in original for detailed investigation — Patna Sadar SDM & ERO for Digha seat, in letter to Yadav

➤ Amid claims of deletion of names, EC says **not a single objection filed by any political party** in more than 48 hours since publication of draft electoral rolls on Aug 1

➤ Cong's Gaurav Gogoi says **EC should come under 'parliamentary oversight'**: 'It's an idea whose time has come'

➤ RJD flags 'irregularities',

says several electors mention 'House Nos. 107 and 109' in Patna's Veterinary College as their address. 'Why doesn't **EC declare House No. 107 as a district?**' party says in a post

➤ An EC official explains these are **'notional housing numbers'** assigned by booth level officers to ensure eligible voters are not left out

by him at a press conference in Patna on Saturday was not officially issued. The ERO asked the RJD scion to share the EPIC card he cited at the press conference in original for a "thorough investigation".

If found to be fake, there may be legal consequences, including an FIR.

Sources told TOI that Te-

jashwi has been using EPIC No. RAB0456228 issued to him on March 18, 2014, which also appears in the latest draft electoral roll. It was this valid EPIC No. that he cited in his nomination papers/affidavit filed during the 2015 and 2020 assembly polls in Bihar.

➤ **'Not used for 10 yrs', P 12**

Uphill task for oppn in VP contest, bloc may field 'ideological' face

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The opposition may field a strong "ideological" face as candidate in the vice-presidential election, as it looks to portray a strong contrast with the governing BJP's nominee to send out a political message across the country.

Ahead of discussions on picking a candidate, it is felt that since winnability is an uphill task due to opposition's weaker numerical strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, INDIA bloc should use the vice-president (VP) contest to send out an unambiguous signal to its core constituencies of marginalised sections, including backwards and minorities, farmers, and intellectuals and the civil society.

INDIA bloc is scheduled to meet Thursday (Aug 7), where

AUG 7 OPPN MEET

➤ Election for vice-president to take place on **Sept 9**

➤ Electoral college comprises all elected and nominated members of **Rajya Sabha and all Lok Sabha MPs**

➤ Election by **secret ballot**, electors to mark preference for listed candidates

➤ At meet on Aug 7, **INDIA bloc likely to discuss VP elections**, possibility of putting up consensus candidate

Bihar assembly election is likely to be an issue as also the special intensive revision of the state's electoral rolls. The meeting, sources said, may also initiate a preliminary discussion on the likely candidate for the VP polls.

➤ **Unity a challenge, P 10**

Will slap NSA for illegal drone use, rumours: Yogi

Those operating drones without official permission or spreading rumours and misinformation about them to create panic will be prosecuted under Gangster Act, and in serious cases, NSA, UP CM Yogi Adityanath has said. This comes amid a series of mob attacks in UP triggered by false claims of thieves using drones. **P 14**

Axis MF's former fund manager arrested by ED

Enforcement Directorate has arrested former Axis MF fund manager Viresh Joshi and seized Rs 17.4 crore of shares and mutual funds in a case linked to alleged cheating of investors to the tune of Rs 200 crore by 'front-running' in trade activities. Joshi has been remanded in ED's custody till Aug 8. **P 11**

162 REJECTED

➤ Unlike erstwhile MCI, **minutes of NMC meetings & of its autonomous boards not available in public domain**

➤ Most **non-doctor ex-officio members hardly ever attend** such meetings. So only doctors take decisions

➤ **Nearly all posts in such autonomous boards are now vacant** with no recruitment for over past 10 months

➤ **NMC rejected all patient appeals** - 162 - since 2019

this Act or the rules and regulations made thereunder". Since the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, has not been replaced, it still stands.

➤ **Since 2019, P 10**

80-year strong: Maitri, a house built on friendship in Gujarat

Vishal.Patadiya
@timesofindia.com

In a world where screens have replaced face-to-face meetings and quick messages substitute warm embraces, two families in Surat prove that true friendship can survive anything, even death.

Walk into 'Maitri', a bungalow in Bhatar, and you will see something special: a friendship so deep that it has passed from fathers to sons, and now to grandchildren and great-grandchildren, like a precious family treasure. The two families have been living in the house for 80 years.

It all began in 1940 when two boys, Bipin and Gunwant



Gautam Desai and Parimal Desai with their wives at their shared home met at Sarvajani School. They lived close by, walked to school together, shared lunch and talked about their dreams. They had no idea their friends-

hip would shape not just their own lives, but also their children's and grandchildren's.

➤ **From farming... P 14**

9 of a family, 2 others killed as SUV falls into UP canal

Ayodhya/Lucknow: Eleven pilgrims were killed, nine of them from a family, and a 10-year-old girl was reported missing after an SUV ferrying 16 people allegedly sped off a rain-slicked road on Sunday and plunged into the swollen Saryu canal in UP's Gonda.

The accident occurred around 10am off Itiyathok town, en route to the Prithvinath Mahadev temple, reports **Arshad Afzal Khan**. The victims and the survivors, including the driver, were from Siha village under Motiganj police station.

Based on our preliminary investigation, the SUV was speeding. The driver fled after jumping out of the vehicle seconds before it sank," Gonda SP Vineet Jaiswal said. An SDRF team found all the victims but there was no trace of the missing child until dusk.

➤ **SUV lost control, P 14**

India financing Russia's war, says Trump aide

Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff at the White House and one of Trump's most influential aides, on Sunday accused India of effectively financing Russia's war in Ukraine by buying oil. "What he (Trump) said very clearly is that it's not acceptable for India to continue financing this war by purchasing the oil from Russia," Miller said. "People will be shocked to learn India is basically tied with China in purchasing Russian oil. That's an astonishing fact." **P 12**

Yadav, a vaccinologist wi-

FIR against Army officer for assaulting SpiceJet staff in J&K

Tiff Over Cabin Baggage Turns Ugly; 4 Injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar/New Delhi: An FIR has been filed against an Army officer posted in north Kashmir for allegedly assaulting and wounding four SpiceJet employees at Srinagar airport on July 26 after being

asked to pay for carrying excess cabin baggage on Flight SG 386 to New Delhi. The wounds included a spinal fracture and serious jaw trauma, the airline said Sunday.

The officer from High-Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg unleashed what the airline called a "murderous assault" after refusing to pay the fee. The airline said he was carrying "two pieces of cabin

PROBE ON: ARMY

➤ Police files FIR against officer. **Army says case is under investigation**

➤ SpiceJet starts process to put officer on no-fly list



baggage weighing a total of 16kg" — more than double the 7kg limit. He allegedly forced his way into the aerobridge without completing boarding formalities — a violation of aviation security protocols — and was escorted back by a CISF officer. At the gate, he turned violent. A video of the attack has gone viral.

➤ **After assault... P 10**

2 men, minor caught in city for stabbing two youths

New Delhi: Two men and a minor were apprehended for allegedly stabbing two youths from Manipur in north-west Delhi's Model Town. The incident occurred after the victims objected to being pushed and verbally abused by the suspects at a shop. Police have started an investigation after the two were taken to the hospital.

The victims are residents of Model Town area. Police said the incident took place on July 31. One of the victims told officers that he was preparing for competitive examinations and was out for a walk with his friend on the day of the incident.

Around 4 am, they arrived at a shop to get cold water. "In the meantime, three or four boys, aged about 18-22, arrived at the same shop on two motorcycles without helmets," the complainant told the police. **TNN**

➤ **Fourth suspect, P 6**

HC stays conviction of vax scientist for wife's suicide in 'national interest'

Dehradun: Uttarakhand HC has suspended the conviction and five-year rigorous imprisonment of a vaccine scientist found guilty of abetment to suicide following the death of his wife in 2015.

Justice Ravindra Maithani granted the relief to Dr Akash Yadav during the pendency of his appeal, saying his role was "undoubtedly essential for public health and national interest" and his conviction had rendered him ineligible to continue contributing to vaccine programmes.

Yadav, a vaccinologist wi-

IN THE COURTS

➤ **Accused cannot seek unfounded access to digital devices of co-accused or third parties** without justified reasons as it risks violating right to privacy, says Delhi special court judge | **P 7**

➤ **Mere public outcry can't diminish gravity of an offence**, says Delhi high

court, denies bail to a man convicted of raping and murdering his cousin, a 8-yr-old girl, in 2016 | **P 6**

➤ **Spl court in UP sentences two men to life in prison for axing a Dalit man to death** in 2022, says crime was 'intentional, caste-motivated and brutal in nature' | **P 11**

th a PhD in biotechnology from IIT-Kgp, had been working as a senior manager at Indian Immunologicals Limited, a PSU that makes human and

veterinary vaccines and plays a critical role in national immunisation efforts. **TNN**

➤ **To resume work, P 10**

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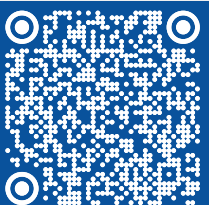
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Down The Drain: Delhi STPs Flunk HC's Inspection

Panel Flags Poor Monitoring And Substandard Treatment

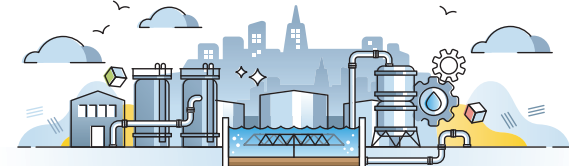
LAPSES IN SEWAGE TREATMENT

Delhi HC panel audited 37 STPs (May-July 2025)

Operational Failures

Delhi Gate, Chilla | Don't receive full sewage inflow
Pappan Kalan Ph-I, Nilothi, Coronation Park | Discharge untreated/semi-treated sewage into Yamuna

Kapashera | Effluent flow untracked
Coronation, Rithala, Kondli, Chilla | Treated water recontaminated before discharge



Monitoring Lapses

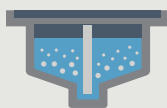
12 STPs had non-functional or freshly calibrated sensors
11 STPs don't meet BOD 10 mg/l standard
Only Okhla (124 MGD) tracks all 8 DPCC parameters

Industrial Contamination

7 STPs (Yamuna Vihar, Nilothi, Okhla, Rithala, Najafgarh, Keshopur, Narela) receive untreated industrial waste
Plants unequipped for heavy metals/toxins, compromising efficiency

Waste Management Issues

Sludge mismanagement common
Cow dung found mixed in sewage at Vasant Kunj—not designed to treat



Key Recommendations

Upgrade capacity and monitoring systems
Separate domestic and industrial waste streams
Consider dedicated sewer lines to avoid cross-contamination

Kushagra Dixit & Abhinav Garg | TNN

New Delhi: A special committee set up by Delhi High Court has identified numerous irregularities in the functioning of the city's sewage treatment plants (STPs).

The committee inspected all 37 STPs across the city from May to July. The assessment focused on verifying whether the sewage flowing into the Yamuna through these STPs underwent proper treatment before discharge, confirming the installation of flow meters and sensors at all STP outlets, and ensuring proper monitoring without unauthorised bypassing, among other aspects.

The findings revealed significant shortcomings, including substandard treatment processes, inadequate data calibration, insufficient monitoring, untreated sewage being bypassed and instances of treated sewage getting mixed with untreated waste before being discharged. It also flagged industrial effluent being diverted to STPs meant to cater to domestic sewage and issues with sensors, online monitoring systems and flow meters, which resulted in evident lags in crucial data.

The report also asserted how treated sewage from some plants was being dumped into untreated drains like Shahdara. "Thus, the money spent on the treatment has literally gone down the drain!"

According to the report dated July 25, "In many STPs, the incoming effluent consists of a large quantity of industrial effluent, which the STP is not designed to deal with. Conversely, CETPs (common effluent treatment plants) are receiving a large quantity of domestic sewage as part of their incoming industrial effluent, which they are not designed to deal with." Hence, the committee recommended proper demarcation of the domestic sewage and the industrial waste to prevent inter-mixing.

It added that urgent strict actions were needed by authorities like Delhi Pollution Control Committee against the dumping of industrial effluent or cow dung in domestic sewage.

The report also flagged how about 11 STPs adhered to older and less-strict DPCC norms on parameters like biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids, etc.

Recommending upgradation, it said that during the process, new online monitors and flow meters be installed at the inlet and outlet so that accurate data of the water quality parameters of the incoming wastewater and the treated effluent can be monitored by both STPs and the public. It also asked DPCC to ensure that all sensors are calibrated annually to ensure the authenticity of the water quality data.

"This is particularly important since the committee was repeatedly informed that the flow meters and the sensors experience regular breakdowns due to wear and tear and even the presence of industrial effluent in the STP," the committee pointed out.

Earlier in May, the high court decided to set up a panel to investigate if a substantial portion of water was bypassing the newly installed flow meters and sensors in the STPs meant to monitor pollution in the Yamuna.

A special bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Manmeet PS Arora pointed out that the "entire purpose of STPs would be defeated if the water/sewage is permitted to bypass the flow meters and the sensors at the outlet". A special committee of govt officials, lawyers and petitioners was set up to inspect all flow meters and STPs.

The court was hearing a suo motu matter on waterlogging in the city and asked the panel to provide a report on whether the entire sewage/water flowing into the Yamuna through the STPs was being treated before being released into the river.

Consider mother's plea for custody of minor: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court recently asked the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to consider the plea of a mother seeking custody of her minor daughter, who was allegedly subjected to sexual abuse by her uncle.

The divisional bench comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad and Justice Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar directed the committee and the aid centre to decide on the plea within four weeks from the date of filing.

The bench noted, "The minor is not in the illegal custody of Respondent No. 2 (juvenile aid centre). It is always open for the petitioner, who is the mother, to move an appropriate application before the CWC for custody of her child, which shall be

considered on its own merits."

Prosecution said, the minor, who was initially under the father's custody, was raped allegedly by the child's paternal uncle. Following this, the custody was transferred to the CWC, and the child is currently under the care of Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre.

Advocate Ujwal Ghai, representing the mother, said her daughter was in the custody of the centre for institutional care on the orders of the CWC for the last eight months without there being compliance with POCSO Rules, 2020, and SOPs formulated by the Department of Women and Child Development. The woman submitted that her daughter was being deprived of maternal care at a time when she needed it the most.

Bill To Regulate School Fee Hikes To Be Taken Up Today

Delhi Assembly To Be First In Country To Operate Fully On Solar Power

WHAT THE BILL MAY LOOK LIKE

A Ban on excess fee

Schools cannot collect more than the fee approved under Education Reform Bill, 2025



E Composition of school-level fee regulation committee

Chairperson: School management representative
Secretary: Principal
3 teachers + 5 parents (via draw of lots)

Observer: Nominated by Directorate of Education
At least 1 member from SC/ST/SEBC communities
At least 2 women members



Tenure: 1 academic year
No parent can be selected for more than two consecutive terms
Must hold at least one meeting before August 15

B School-level oversight

Every school must form a Parent-Teachers Association
A School-Level Fee Regulation Committee must be constituted annually



F Fee proposal and decision timeline

1. School proposes fee for next 3 years (by July 31)
2. SLFRC can revise but not exceed the proposal
3. If undecided by Sept 15, case moves to District Fee Appellate Committee (DFAC) by Sept 30
4. Previous year's fee continues during appeal
5. Parents can appeal SLFRC decision to DFAC within 30 days

G Penalties for overcharging: Refund excess fee within 20 working days

1st violation	Repeat
Fines: ₹1-5 lakh	₹2-10 lakh
Escalating fines if refund is delayed	
Doubles after 20 days	Triples after 40 days
Quadruples after 60 days	

Additional actions for repeated violations:

1. Bar from holding school posts
2. Restrict fee hike proposals
3. Suspension/withdrawal of recognition
4. Management takeover
5. Right to hearing before penalties

C District fee appellate committee

1. Headed by district deputy director of education
2. Includes education officers, a CA, finance officials, 2 parent reps & 2 school reps
3. Decisions binding for 3 academic years
4. Further appeal possible to a Revision Committee within 30 days

D Criteria for setting fees

1. Location and infrastructure
2. Staff salary and qualifications
3. Administrative and maintenance costs
4. Education quality and learning standards
5. Surplus and revenue used for approved purposes
6. Govt aid and external contributions
7. Other prescribed factors

H Ban on coercive fee recovery

NO CHILD CAN BE HARASSED FOR UNPAID FEES BY



1. Removing from school rolls
2. Withholding results
3. Blocking access to education
4. Humiliation or mental harassment
5. Penalty: ₹50,000 per violation
6. No action without hearing

Meghna Dhulia & Abhinav Rajput | TNN

New Delhi: The monsoon session of Delhi Assembly will start on Monday, with several legislative moves planned for the Aug 4-8 sitting, including introducing Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill 2025 and the CAG reports on state finances and the welfare of building and construction workers.

During this session, Delhi Assembly will become the first in the country to operate entirely on solar power, said the govt. Vidhan Sabha on Sunday also announced the launch of its transition to a fully digital, paperless legislative platform under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) initiative from Monday.

The school education bill, designed to regulate private school fees and protect parents from arbitrary hikes, mandates that no institution shall collect any fee beyond what is approved under the Act and requires the establishment of a school-level fee regulation committee in each of them.

Each committee will consist of teachers, parents and school management representatives, with specific provisions to ensure social diversity and gender representation. A parent cannot serve more than two consecutive terms and the committee must meet at least once before Aug 15 each year, said officials.

The management must propose fees for the next three academic years by July 31, with oversight from the committee. If no agreement is reached by Sept 15, the matter must be escalated to the district fee appellate committee. These district-level bodies will include education officials, chartered accountants, school representatives and parents. Their decisions will remain binding for three academic years, though appeals can be made to a higher revision committee. Key factors in determining fee structures will include infrastructure, teacher salaries, location and expenditure-to-income ratios.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said the dual leap into clean energy and digital lawmaking reflected a broader vision for Delhi. "From fixing potholes to transforming schools, this is the beginning of a new work ethic. These are not symbolic steps, they are systemic changes," she said. Key reports, including Finance and Appropriation Accounts for 2023-24 and a few CAG reports, will be tabled.

Power minister Ashish Sood will present documents related to Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission's Green Energy Open Access Regulations, further underlining Delhi's commitment to clean energy. The assembly's solar initiative is projected to yield savings of up to Rs 15 lakh per month and is expected to swiftly recover its cost, said the assembly secretariat.

The speaker said, "The successful commissioning of the solar plant marks a new chapter in our commitment to cleaner energy and public responsibility. We are proud to lead by example and demonstrate how legislative institutions can champion environmental stewardship." He said the work of e-Vidhan was completed in just 100 days through the dedicated efforts of the NeVA team.

The chief minister described the commissioning of the solar plant as a turning point in institutional accountability towards environmental protection.

On Sunday, Union minister of state for law & justice Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated a 500-kilowatt rooftop solar plant, praising it as a "model for sustainable governance".

The initiative is expected to save up to Rs 1.75 crore annually through net metering, with surplus electricity potentially supplied back to the grid, said Vidhan Sabha Secretariat. Speaker Vijender Gupta described the moves as a "cornerstone" in the assembly's journey towards environmental and administrative reforms. "We are demonstrating how virasat (heritage) and vikaas (development) can move forward hand-in-hand," he said.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said the dual leap into clean

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secretariat.

The speaker said, "The successful

commissioning of the solar

plant marks a new chapter in

our commitment to cleaner

energy and public responsibility.

We are proud to lead by example

and demonstrate how legislative

institutions can champion

environmental stewardship."

He said the work of e-Vidhan

was completed in just 100

days through the dedicated

efforts of the NeVA team.

The chief minister described

the commissioning of the

solar plant as a turning point

in institutional accountability

towards environmental

protection.



The National e-Vidhan Application was inaugurated on Sunday

Rajesh Mehta

Wife's online grief was part of plot, say police

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Soniya, the 34-year-old woman who allegedly hired a relative to kill her husband last year, seemed to have maintained an online facade of being a devoted wife who missed him deeply.

In one of the videos posted nearly two weeks before her arrest, Soniya embedded a photograph of herself with her late husband, 42-year-old Pritam Prakash, and was seen lip-synching to a sad song. In another clip, she shared a collage of their pictures together. An old video posted in March showed her playing Holi with him.

"This was done to maintain a social profile suggesting she missed her husband and portray the image of a 'devoted' wife before the public," an investigator said. According to police, after filing a missing person complaint regarding her husband at Alipur police station in northwest Delhi last year, Soniya regularly visited the station, inquired about updates on the case and even

broke other relatives of the deceased. Police have also arrested Rohit, the alleged lover. Vijay was earlier arrested in a theft case and is currently lodged in a Haryana jail. Rohit, who has four prior criminal cases, including on charges of murder and arms violations, worked as a private cab driver between Sonipat and Delhi. He married this April, but continued his relationship with Soniya.

Soniya married Pritam at the age of

16, and the couple had three children. Their relationship was said to be troubled due to Prakash's drug addiction, violent behaviour and a criminal record with 10 cases. Seeing her husband as an obstacle to marrying Rohit, she plotted to eliminate him.

She allegedly paid Vijay, her sister's brother-in-law, to kill Prakash and dispose of the body near Agwanpur village, near Sonipat, where the sister lives. Soniya also went to the village with Prakash.

After she returned home in Alipur, locals repeatedly asked her about Prakash. Feeling the pressure, she filed a complaint on July 20, 2024, claiming he went missing during the night of July 5-6.

The body was recovered from a drain in Gannaur on July 10 last year and a murder case was registered. Vijay later sent Soniya a news article about the unidentified body. Police plan to match the DNA of the recovered body with that of the children or other relatives of the deceased.

Police have also arrested Rohit, the alleged lover. Vijay was earlier arrested in a theft case and is currently lodged in a Haryana jail. Rohit, who has four prior criminal cases, including on charges of murder and arms violations, worked as a private cab driver between Sonipat and Delhi. He married this April, but continued his relationship with Soniya.



Soniya (Top), Pritam

Expect light rain, no colour-code warning issued by Met dept

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Parts of the city experienced light to very light rain on Sunday morning, even as several areas recorded rain from late Saturday night until the early morning hours. India Meteorological Department (IMD) earlier forecast that the city was likely to see light to moderate rain on Monday. However, it later revised this to light to very light rain, and no colour-coded warning was issued.

Meanwhile, no major rain occurred on Sunday while the day turned humid with a heat index or 'feels like' temperature of 43.9 degrees Celsius at 3 pm. Isolated areas of the city recorded drizzling, with Pragati Maidan recording 0.1mm and Pusa recording 0.5mm of rainfall respectively between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. The base station at Safdarjung recorded no rain, however, between 8.30 am Saturday and 8.30 am Sunday; it recorded 16.7mm of rainfall.

According to weather analysts, the region would still see instances of high-intensity rain over the week since the monsoon line of the trough will keep oscillating around the region. "The monsoon trough at mean sea level continues to pass through Amritsar, Chandigarh, Shimli, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Chapra, Bankura, Canning, and thence southwards to the northeast Bay of Bengal," stated IMD.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature on Sunday at Safdarjung was recorded at 34.3 degrees Celsius, normal for the season, against 33.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was recorded at 24.2 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal, against 25.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier.



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 - Cloud Computing & IoT - Specialization in Cyber Security
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- M.Tech. in various specializations**

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 - Human Resource Management - Banking & Finance
 - Health Care Management - Entrepreneurship & Family Business
 - Logistics & Supply Chain Management - Business Analytics
- BBA - Finance & Accounting (with ACCA, UK)**
- M.Com.**
- MBA - Marketing Management - Digital Marketing**
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 - Specialization in Mechatronics
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 - Chemistry - Computational Chemistry
 - Environmental Science
 - Chemistry with Minor in Data Analytics/ Machine Learning/ Entrepreneurship - Bio Chemistry - Data Science & Analytics
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- M.Sc. in various specializations**
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- M.Tech. (Civil Engg.) for Working Professionals**

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 - Obstetrics & Gynecology Nursing
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- B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology (Techniques) (BMLT)**
- Bachelor of Optometry**
- B.Sc.**
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 - Emergency and Trauma Care Technology - Nutrition & Dietetics
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 - CardioPulmonary - Sports
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AI, But Verify: Navigating Future Of Learning

IIT-D Sets Ground Rules For Use Of Artificial Intelligence To Ensure Ethical And Effective Integration Into Teaching, Research And Exams

Meghna.Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: At a time when artificial intelligence is reshaping how we learn, teach and think, IIT Delhi took a leap into the future. Last year, IIT Delhi formed a dedicated committee to explore how generative AI tools could be ethically and effectively integrated into teaching, research and examinations. After months of collecting detailed feedback from both students and faculty, the committee released a comprehensive report covering short-term goals that revealed some eye-opening trends.

A significant 80% of students reported using generative AI (GenAI) tools, with 81% of them engaging with these technologies several times a week. Around 10% of the respondents have even invested in paid subscriptions, citing the limitations and inaccuracy of free versions as a major concern.

Based on these insights, the institute released a set of guidelines. A cornerstone of these new rules is the mandatory disclosure of any content generated or assisted by GenAI tools for transparency and academic integrity.

“We mandated that all academic programmes include exposure to artificial intelligence and machine learning. Most departments have already incorporated the elements, ensuring that all graduates from IIT Delhi will soon possess strong proficiency in AI. This committee was formed on April 9, 2024, to guide this transition and determine the best approach for integrating AI,” said Rangan Banerjee, director of IIT Delhi.

In the long term, the committee was tasked with providing clear guidance on the use of GenAI tools while mon-

itoring advancements in the field, identifying the necessary training and support infrastructure to ensure their effective and equitable use, and recommending a governance structure and AI policies that align with the existing policy framework.

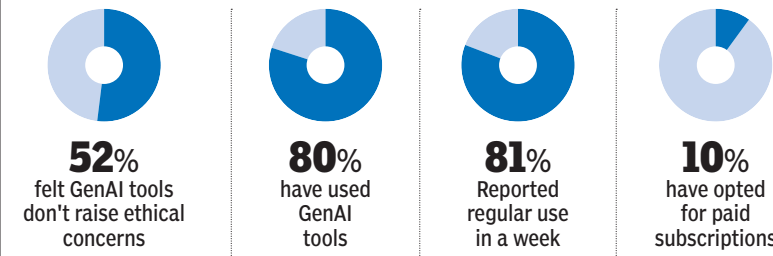
The report states, “While generative AI tools offer potential benefits—such as personalised, real-time feedback and customized learning experiences—they also raise significant concerns. These tools can produce inaccurate or misleading responses, and excessive reliance on them may undermine essential learning outcomes, particularly the development of critical thinking skills. It is imperative for educational institutions to establish clear guidelines that educate and sensitise both students and faculty”.

The genesis of this initiative reflects the growing recognition that GenAI tools are no longer futuristic concepts but active collaborators in academic life. They offer undeniable benefits—personalised, real-time feedback, efficient writing assistance, and novel ways to visualise and explore complex topics. Yet, their rapid adoption has also brought challenges and concerns that the committee sought to understand firsthand by engaging with the campus community.

A survey circulated among faculty and students revealed a nuanced picture of AI’s current role at IIT Delhi. According to the feedback of 427 student respondents, AI facilitated their learning by simplifying concepts, creating mind maps, and simulating scenarios to deepen understanding. However, they also identified significant limitations: inaccuracies in AI responses, difficulties with complex or con-

THINK BEFORE YOU PROMPT

STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVE



*Some students noted that the free versions are often inaccurate

WHAT STUDENTS USE IT FOR



LIMITATIONS IDENTIFIED BY STUDENTS

- Responses could be misleading
- Tools often struggle with complex or layered prompts
- Weaknesses in problem-solving tasks requiring either mathematical and/or logical reasoning skills
- Limited abilities in code debugging
- Concerns over data privacy
- Unequal access to high-quality AI tools

text-specific questions, and poor performance in mathematical reasoning and code debugging. Some students even voiced concerns about data privacy and unequal ac-

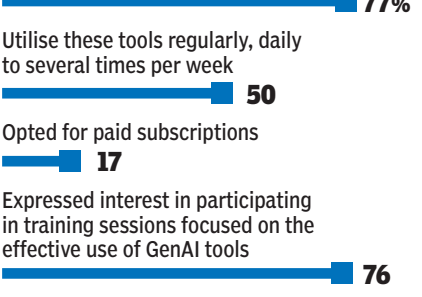
cess to paid AI subscriptions, highlighting the socio-economic dimensions of AI equity. When it came to ethics, the students were divided—just over half saw no pro-

fessional ethical issues with AI use, while others worried about risks to intellectual integrity and the potential erosion of critical thinking skills. This group cautioned

that overreliance on AI might stifle personal agency and authentic engagement with learning, thereby impeding intellectual growth. Faculty responses, drawn

HOW FACULTY SEES AI TOOLS

Respondents have engaged with GenAI tools



WHAT STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS MUST DO

- Disclosure** | Any content generated with GenAI tools must be fully disclosed to ensure transparency and integrity
- Ownership** | Authors of content should assume full responsibility for verifying the accuracy of their work
- Data privacy** | Exercise caution when inputting data or queries into GenAI tools as these inputs could potentially become publicly accessible

WHAT INSTITUTES MUST DO

- Organise workshops in collaboration with academic units to promote fair and effective use of AI tools
- Integrate applications and implications of AI tools into faculty development programmes and orientation workshops
- Acquire institute-wide licence for advanced and accurate versions of tools
- Establish plagiarism policies addressing ethical AI use, encouraging transparency and responsible engagement

Third round of DU’s admission race begins with option of seat upgrade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The competition for a seat at Delhi University is far from over. The university has opened the third round of undergraduate admissions for the 2025-26 academic session under its Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS), offering multiple pathways for students to secure or improve their placements.

This phase introduces several key features, including seat upgradation, mid-entry applications, and category-based admissions. Students who secured seats in the first or second rounds can now reorder their course-college preferences in hopes of obtaining a more preferred option. The window for upgradation and preference modification was open from

the evening of Aug 2 and closed at 4.59 pm on Aug 3.

The results of upgraded seat allocations will be announced on August 5 at 5 pm. Colleges will then begin the approval process, which will continue until 4.59 pm on August 6. Students allotted upgraded seats must complete the fee payment by August 7, 4.59 pm to confirm their admission. The vacancy list for the next round will be published on August 8 at 5 pm.

In a welcome move for late applicants, the university has opened a mid-entry window for students who missed earlier rounds. Applications for mid-entry will be accepted from August 8 to 10. This option is particularly helpful for those who were unable to register earlier due to unforeseen circumstances.

Another important addition is the activation of category-based applications, allowing eligible candidates to apply under their respective reservation categories. With this phase, DU is working to make its admission process more accessible and inclusive—providing a second chance to late applicants while also refining seat distribution for those already in the system.

Looking back at the second round of seat allocations, a total of 87,335 students were offered placements across various colleges and programmes. This included 24,843 new allocations and 27,314 upgradations, indicating considerable movement from the first list. At the same time, 17,922 candidates chose to freeze their existing seats.

Delhi govt launches student clubs to nurture skills beyond books

New Delhi: In a move set to energise classrooms and empower students, Delhi govt will introduce student clubs in 100 govt schools starting from the 2025-26 academic session. These clubs aim to give students new platforms for expression, exploration, and all-round development—going far beyond textbooks and exams.

According to a circular issued by Directorate of Education (DoE), each school will launch two clubs—one focused on language learning, and the other on a wide range of co-curricular activities. Students can choose from Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, or Punjabi for the language club, helping them refine their communication skills in both classical and contemporary contexts.

The second club will allow students to dive into diverse interest areas, such as science, mathematics, sports and yoga, visual or performing arts, inclusive education (Samarth), or leadership through a student council. This flexible approach ensures that every learner finds a space to thrive.

“To support this initiative, each school will receive Rs 20,000 in funding—Rs 10,000 per club. The financial aid is intended to ensure smooth operations, resource availability, and sustained engagement across the year,” said an official.

Participation in at least one club will be mandatory for all students, encouraging broad-based involvement. DoE has also emphasised the importance of detailed record-keeping and proper fund utilisation. School heads have been tasked with overseeing the programme’s implementation and ensuring that objectives are met effectively.

The department has further instructed school principals to maintain comprehensive and regularly updated records of all student club activities. The

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a move that will meet to some extent the demand for bungalows in Lutyens’ Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate a complex with 184 large flats for MPs on Baba Kharak Singh Marg next week.

There is high demand for these flats among the lawmakers, sources said. The new complex has four towers (25-storey each with two levels of basement) and was completed in two years. Each flat, with a carpet area of around 5,000 sq feet, has five bedrooms, offices for the MP and their PA, and two rooms for helpers. Each room has an attached toilet.

“These flats have more space than the Type-VIII bungalows which comprise the top category,” said a source.

Officials said Sam India Infrastructure, which had bagged the project, has not used bricks in the structures, employing RCC and aluminium sluttering for faster construction. “While the traditional construction method allows the roof to be laid in a period of 30-35 days, through this method, it can be done every 10-12 days. So, the construction period reduces



The new complex has four towers — 25-storey each with two levels of basement

significantly,” said an official.

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has implemented the project at an expenditure of around Rs 550 crore. The buildings have a shelf life of over 100 years.

The two-level basement has the capacity to accommodate 500 cars. A community centre has also been built in the complex for lawmakers to hold social events. There will be four shops at the community centre to meet the requirements of MPs.

“We have also taken care of environmental considerations. Solar panels have been installed on rooftops, and we are confident of the project getting GRIHA 4-star rating,” said a source. A GRIHA 4-star rating signifies that a building is “best practice environmental performer”.

In recent years, the govt has created additional accommodation for MPs in the national capital. Lutyens’ Delhi has around 3,000 govt-owned properties and 600 private bungalows.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender
		EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.:	BWSSB/CE/(D&QA)/ACE/TA/1300/2025-26	Dt:02.08.2025
1	Repair and rehabilitation of non-working RO plants coming under AEE(BW&PS-2-2) Sub Division (44 Nos.)	Rs. 1,83,04,000/- Rs. 3,24,000/-
2	Repair and rehabilitation of non-working RO plants coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-1) Sub Division (37 Nos.)	Rs. 1,53,92,000/- Rs. 2,72,500/-
3	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-2-3) Sub Division (O&M-4 Total Nos. 56)	Rs. 2,62,08,000/- Rs. 3,93,200/-
4	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-2-2) Sub Division (O&M-2 Total Nos. 47)	Rs. 2,19,96,000/- Rs. 3,30,000/-
5	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-2-1) Sub Division (O&M-2 Total Nos. 66)	Rs. 3,08,88,000/- Rs. 4,63,400/-
6	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-3) Sub Division (O&M-3 Total Nos. 58)	Rs. 2,71,44,000/- Rs. 4,07,500/-
7	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-2) Sub Division (O&M-1 Total Nos. 56)	Rs. 2,62,08,000/- Rs. 3,93,200/-
8	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-1) Sub Division (O&M-2 Total Nos. 49)	Rs. 2,29,32,000/- Rs. 3,44,000/-
9	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-1) Sub Division (O&M-3 Total Nos. 65)	Rs. 3,04,20,000/- Rs. 4,56,300/-
10	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-1) Sub Division (O&M-1 Total Nos. 52)	Rs. 2,43,36,000/- Rs. 3,65,100/-

For the above work, Last date for receipt of tenders : **22.08.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.**
Technical bids will be opened on: **25.08.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

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

DIPR/CP/JA/2175/2024-25

School Buzz

Bosco Public School

DPS, Dwarka

have always believed that education must extend beyond textbooks. Health is integral to learning, and SEHAT SANGAM exemplifies that belief,” said Anubha Goyal, principal. Dr VK Goyal, chairman, reaffirmed the school’s commitment to nurturing a health-conscious generation.

Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony

tional hockey player, Inder Dev Gupta, chairman, Summer Fields School, Neera Kanojia, head of Cambridge, and Ashok Arora, an academic advisor. In her welcome address, Shalini Agarwal, principal, emphasised the importance of chess in building life skills such as patience, strategic thinking, and decision-making. Baskaran urged students to play with passion and integrity. Outstanding performers were honoured with trophies, medals, certificates, and cash prizes.

CITY SHOT

CAPTION IT & WIN

Think you know your city inside out? Take a hard look at photo below and scan the QR code to give a caption that brings out the chaos or the irony around us in the best possible words. One winner gets an Amazon voucher worth ₹500, every day!

Contest open till 3pm. *T&C apply

Photo: Anindya Chattopadhyay

“In the shadow of justice, a sculpture stands firm as life rolls on in Delhi.” Scan the QR code and suggest another witty and hard-hitting caption to win the prize

Yesterday's answer: Tibetan Colony (Majnu Ka Tila)
Winner: **Manisha Bhalla** (Voucher will be sent by email)

Four armed men rob jewellery store in northeast Delhi, target customers too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four armed men entered a jewellery shop and allegedly carried out a robbery at gunpoint in northeast Delhi's Dayalpur on Sunday. Inquiry revealed that the robbers not only looted the jewellery store but allegedly targeted customers who were present at the shop during the incident as well. No arrests have been made so far.

According to police officials, a PCR call reporting the robbery was received on Sunday afternoon. A team from the Dayalpur police station was dispatched to the location, identified as Street Number 4 in Chand Bagh.

Shop owner Sadiq (27) told police that while he was attending to a customer, four to five men reportedly entered the store and pulled the shutter down.



Brandishing firearms, the robbers allegedly decamped with cash and jewellery from the shop and valuables from the customers inside. They fled the scene shortly after the incident, the shop owner said.

Senior officers, along with a forensic team, inspected the site and collected evidence. A case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at the Dayalpur police station.

Multiple police teams have been formed to investigate the case, and CCTV footage from the surrounding area is being reviewed to identify the suspects and track their escape route.

Police noted a spike in jewellery store robberies in recent months. On June 12, five armed men reportedly looted jewellery worth over Rs 50 lakh from a Chandni Chowk-based jeweller in northwest Delhi's Subhash Place. In another incident on June 19, a 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly looting gold bracelets worth Rs 7 lakh from a jewellery store in east Delhi's Farsh Bazar. On Feb 23, armed robbers entered the store and allegedly decamped with gold, silver ornaments, cash and electronics in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar.

Mandi Road Stuck Between Jams & Plans

3 Months After Delhi Govt's Proposal, No Clarity Yet On Transfer Of Key Stretch To NHAI

Ishita.Jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Three months after Delhi gov't plan to transfer Mandi Road to National Highways Authority of India, there is still no clarity on the status of the handover. Meanwhile, frustration is growing among residents and motorists, who are urging authorities to expedite the process in light of the deteriorating traffic conditions.

Mandi Road, one of south Delhi's most heavily congested stretches, is a critical alternative route connecting Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road with Faridabad-Gurgaon Road. The corridor winds through rural settlements, upscale farmhouses and compact commercial clusters. But it is inconsistent in its width and infrastructure, making travel both inconvenient and unsafe.

As rains unleash their fury, the road is often inundated in knee-deep water. "I stood there one afternoon for nearly 20 minutes, just taking in the scene — people wading through the accumulated water, traffic at a standstill," said Juhli, a local resident. "It made me question where we were living. Even picking up children from school has become a challenge."

While the proposed right of way for the road is 30 metres, the current width fluctuates sharply.

This, combined with the absence of lane markings, street lighting, pedestrian pathways and traffic signals renders the route dangerous and inefficient. The most critical point of congestion is at the entry from MG Road, where potholes, broken surfaces and bottlenecks cause regular traffic snarls. Emergency vehicles, school buses, and daily commuters often find themselves stuck there for long periods.

The road-widening project, which requires the acquisition of 16.9 hectares of land, was first conceptualised in 2012. It was formally approved by road engineering authority Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre (UTTIPEC) in March 2023. Despite this clearance, no physical work commenced on site.

The proposed handover to NHAI comprises two segments: the Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road to the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) and UER-II to Faridabad-Gurgaon Road. Together, these segments form a 7.7km stretch under the broader Mandi Road corridor. According to the latest updates, despite two official reminders to NHAI, no physical handover has taken place, according to officials.

Rajiv Tandon, general secretary,

LONG WAIT, LITTLE PROGRESS

2012 | Mandi Road widening first proposed — 8–18m to be expanded to 30m

2023 | UTTIPEC approves plan, 16.9 hectares to be acquired — no work starts

April 2025 | Govt revives project, proposes NHAI takeover for 7.7km stretch from Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road to UER-II and onwards to Faridabad-Gurgaon Road

Early July 2025 | Two reminders sent to NHAI — road yet to be handed over

Ground Reality

- Road remains choked despite being a major alternative route to Gurgaon
- Emergency vehicles, school buses, commuters stuck daily
- Monsoon adds knee-deep water and jams
- No signs of construction or traffic relief



Status of Other Road Transfers to NHAI (as of early July 2025)			
National Highway	Stretch of Road	Total Length	NHAi has issued orders internally but actual handover yet to be done
NH-10 (Rohtak Road)	Peeragarhi to Zakhira; Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri Border	6.8km; 13.2km	
NH-2 (Mathura Road)	Ali Village till Ring Road Ashram Junction	7.5km	
NH-148A (MG Road)	MG Road	8Km	

Teen who ingested acid over soured relationship gets help from DSLSA

Vineet.Upadhyay
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) awarded Rs 2 lakh as interim financial assistance to a 19-year-old woman who attempted suicide by ingesting acid in July after being deceived in a relationship. The money was disbursed on July 21.

The survivor was allegedly coerced into a physical relationship by a man who falsely promised marriage once she reached adulthood. When he later reneged on his commitment, the teenager, overwhelmed by the betrayal and emotional trauma, consumed acid at her residence in Vasant Kunj.

Acting on a TOI report, DSLISA stepped in and deputised a legal aid counsel, a para-legal volunteer and a counsellor to provide comprehensive support to the survivor and her family.

"DSLISA also provides free psychological counselling support at each of its district legal services authorities across court complexes in Delhi. Such services are offered by experienced counsellors on the payroll of DSLISA to the survivors of sexual offences, acid attacks and drug abuse, and even in cases of matrimonial disputes," said Rajeev Bansal, member secretary of DSLISA.

YOU READ IT HERE

19-year-old battles for life after drinking acid, rape alleged

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 19-year-old woman is fighting for her life after consuming acid at her residence in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj. Her family alleged that she was sexually exploited for a few years by a 25-year-old man under the pretext of a marriage. He has been arrested.

On June 18, police were informed by a hospital about a suicide attempt. A police team collected the survivor from the hospital and took her to a nearby police station.

Since the initiation of the counselling service in 2024, thousands of survivors have utilised it as a stepping stone towards rehabilitation and hope, he added.

The woman was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital in critical condition, where she was found in desperate need of both medical attention and emotional support. Upon directions from Bansal, following newspaper reports, New Delhi District Legal Services Authority acted swiftly.

DSLISA officials told TOI that the New Delhi DSLISA,

through its secretary Kumar Rahul, acted with remarkable urgency and compassion to restore hope and dignity to a young woman in crisis.

The survivor's mother shared a grim reality with the visiting team—the hospital was unable to provide essential medicines and medical supplies, forcing the already distressed family to borrow money for her treatment, said officials.

In response, the authority immediately issued a letter on July 4 to the medical superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, citing a landmark judgment of Delhi High Court that mandates the provision of free medical aid to such survivors.

The hospital was urged to ensure comprehensive and timely treatment for free, and a detailed medical status report was sought to monitor her progress, said a DSLISA official.

Meanwhile, the mother was informed about her daughter's legal rights, including access to free legal aid, counselling services and compensation. She later visited the New Delhi DSLISA office, where she was counselled and supported through every legal step.

A compensation application was filed under the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme before Patiala House Court, which, recognising the urgency of the matter, granted the interim compensation of Rs 2,00,000, offering much-needed financial relief for the young woman's medical care and rehabilitation. All required formalities, including bank account verification, identification and documentation, were coordinated by the para-legal volunteer from the hospital premises.

"DSLISA consistently strives to provide a holistic support system, including legal, psychological and financial, to survivors and ensure complete handholding throughout the process," said Abhinav Pandey, secretary (litigation) at DSLISA.

Bodies of two Nigerians found in southwest Delhi showroom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The bodies of two Nigerian nationals have been found on the first floor of a clothing showroom located in southwest Delhi's Dabri on Sunday.

According to police, two Nigerian nationals were found dead on the first floor of a building in Chanakya Place, Uttam Nagar. The showroom, located behind a clothing godown, was reportedly rented by an individual identified as Henry. Upon being alerted early Sunday morning, police promptly reached the location, securing the scene of the crime. An investigation team, along with experts from the forensic science laboratory, inspected the premises.

According to initial findings, there were no visible external injuries on the deceased, and no signs of foul play were observed. The bodies were identified as those of

Joshep and Chibitern, both Nigerian nationals. They were subsequently shifted to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay mortuary.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the two were residing in the Burari area of north Delhi and travelled to Chanakya Place a day before their deaths. The purpose of their visit remains unclear and is currently under investigation, said police.

Officials said that while early signs do not suggest any criminal involvement, the case remains under close scrutiny. "We are verifying the circumstances that led to the death and gathering local intelligence. The post-mortem report will provide clearer insights," a senior police officer said.

Meanwhile, police are also reviewing CCTV footage from the area to trace the movements of the deceased and identify any suspicious activity.

Man held for using obscene content to blackmail woman

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has been arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly circulating sexually explicit content of a woman and attempting to blackmail her via social media platforms.

A case was registered at the Cyber Police Station of northwest Delhi based on a complaint by the victim's brother. Police said the complainant alleged that a known individual had sent him obscene photos and videos of his sister and threatened to make them public unless certain demands were met.

Investigation revealed that the accused, identified as Prabhat Chaudhary, is a close family member of the complainant. He allegedly created multiple fake social media accounts to harass the woman and used "view once" feature on messaging apps to avoid leaving evidence. A police team was constituted to trace the accused. "We tracked his digital footprint through sustained technical surveillance and arrested him," said DCP (northwest) Bhisham Singh. TNN

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Forged GST invoicing used to defraud govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Crime Branch of Delhi Police has registered a case and launched a probe against a group allegedly involved in forging official documents and defrauding the govt through fake invoicing and GST evasion.

Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) conducted a probe into a syndicate suspected of orchestrating a sophisticated scheme to defraud the govt exchequer. The accused allegedly submitted forged documents and manipulated court procedures to reinstate GST registrations that had previously been cancelled.

Officials said four writ petitions were filed by individuals representing entities whose GST registrations were revoked. These petitions relied on forged show cause notices dated between Sept 2024 and Feb 2025. The falsified documents were used to claim that cancellations lacked legal basis.

Based on these, the courts granted favourable orders. However, a review by the Central GST, Delhi, East Commissionerate, flagged discrepancies, revealing at least four such orders were obtained using forged official documents. Subsequently, the court directed the DGGI to complete a detailed investigation within one week and submit a formal complaint to the Crime Branch.

A complaint has been lodged, leading to FIR registration.

Public outcry does not diminish gravity of the offence, HC denies bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Denying bail to a man in a POCSO case, Delhi High Court on Friday observed that mere public outcry and media coverage of the incident cannot diminish the gravity of the offence.

A single judge bench of Justice Girish Kathpalia observed that the court cannot minutely examine the evidence on record and that the broad picture showed the gruesome manner in which an eight-year-old girl was raped and killed, that too by her cousin. He said, "Merely because there was public outcry and media coverage of the incident, the gravity of the offence does not diminish."

According to the prosecution, the accused committed rape upon an eight-year-old girl, strangled her, and hid the dead body in a plastic bag in a pit.

The accused claimed that he was falsely implicated in the case due to public pressure and media scrutiny. He said that there was doubt regarding the time of death of the girl.

The FIR was registered in 2016 for offences under Section 302 (murder), 363 (kidnapping), and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of IPC, and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act.

The bench noted that while prolonged incarceration is certainly a ground for relea-

sing the accused on bail, it is not the solitary one. It said, "The court has to keep in mind various judicially sanctified parameters, including the nature and gravity of the alleged crime and the material on record to support the same."

The court, dismissing the bail application, observed, "It is not just the grave consequences of the offences alleged

COURT SAYS

It is not just the grave consequences of the offences alleged against the accused. One also cannot ignore that a relationship of trust between the cousins was exploited by the accused in such a brutal manner

against the accused/applicant. One also cannot ignore that a relationship of trust between the cousins was exploited by the accused/applicant in such a brutal manner."

The counsel of the accused, referring to the post-mortem report of the girl, submitted that the entire autopsy was carried out within one hour, which raises doubt over its correctness. He also argued that the accused has been in jail for about nine years and four months and cannot be confined indefinitely.

Rushing Now, Paying Later: Capital Sees 14% Rise In Speeding Offences

Delinquency Frequent During Night And On Stretches With Lighter Traffic

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The number of prosecutions related to speeding saw a 14% increase this year compared with the same period last year.

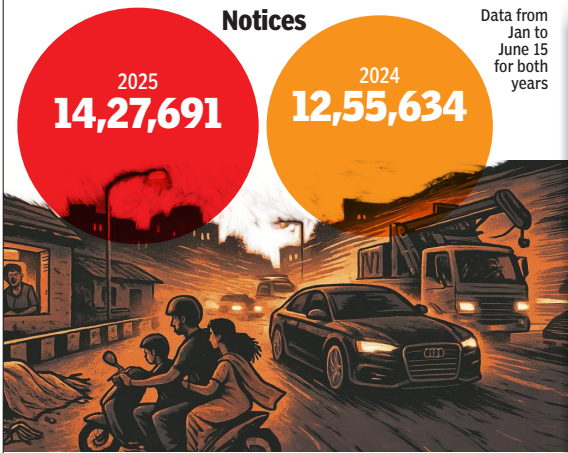
Delhi Police data showed that from Jan to June 15, as many as 14,27,691 notices were issued to drivers for speeding against 12,55,634 in the same period last year. A police officer said speeding was frequent during night hours and on stretches with lighter traffic. According to the officer, commercial and heavy vehicles also raced away when the no-entry time was lifted. SUVs are regular offenders in these cases.

An officer revealed that many offenders admitted to speeding for the thrill, while others were found to be intoxicated. Some claimed they were in a hurry or heading to important destinations, but the officer stressed that no justification outweighed the risks posed to public safety. "Night-time speeding, especially involving commercial vehicles and SUVs, remains a significant concern," the officer added.

The data showed that Vasant Vihar, with 1,53,997 notices, led the most affected areas in traffic circles followed by Mehrauli with 1,19,356 and Mayur Vihar with 1,13,360.

Ajay Chaudhary, special commissioner of police (Traf-

CRACKDOWN ON SPEEDING VEHICLES



fic), disclosed that in order to effectively curb the offence of speeding, law enforcement authorities had installed over-spe-

ed violation detection (OSVD) cameras at various locations.

These advanced cameras are designed to automatically

detect vehicles exceeding the speed limit and promptly send the violation details to the police control room.

New CP seeks better case disposal, soft skills

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: SBK Singh, who has been given the additional charge of Delhi Police commissioner, has expressed dissatisfaction over the disposal of cases and asked officers to pay special attention to the issue.

In a letter to the city police brass, Singh wrote that during a review, he observed that the disposal of cases within the stipulated periods of 60-90 days, as prescribed in the new criminal laws, was below satisfactory, which required their personal attention. "The status shall be reviewed in the next crime review meeting," he wrote.

Sources said Singh also emphasised the need for skill and etiquette training for officers who regularly interact with the public. This includes duty officers at police stations, station staff engaging with citizens during patrolling or at crime scenes, and traffic police, PCR and special

branch personnel involved in passport or character verification processes.

Another key point highlighted was the setting up of integrated public facilitation desks at police stations. These desks should be manned by two personnel, including at least one woman officer, and be equipped to address queries not only related to traditional crimes but also cybercrime, and grievances concerning women and children.

Sources added that the two key proposals, skill and etiquette training for personnel and the establishment of integrated public facilitation desks, would be taken up for discussion in the upcoming meeting of senior Delhi Police officers.

Earlier, in his first briefing, Singh allotted them monthly assignments, sources said. The DCPs were asked to enforce crime prevention measures in their jurisdiction and enhance patrolling ahead of Aug 15.

‘Asking petitioners to stand with hands in air as punishment not contemplated in law’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday set aside a judicial magistrate's order directing accused persons to stand in court with their hands straight in the air as punishment for wasting judicial time and failing to furnish their bail bonds in time.

The court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-West, Dwarka Courts, Anju Bajaj Chandra, noted that such a sentence is not contemplated in law. The court also advised the judicial officer concerned to properly read and understand the legal provisions before using his discretionary powers.

"Without hearing, petitioners (accused) were asked to stand in the court till the rising of the court with their hands straight in the air. This kind of sentence is not contemplated in law," said the court.

The order in question was

THE COURT SAYS

The object of law is to ensure that basic human rights are not violated. The judges are duty-bound to safeguard basic and natural rights meant for a dignified existence of individuals

passed by the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Saurabh Goyal in a criminal appeal (later treated as revision) filed by two accused, Kuldeep and Rakesh, challenging their conviction under Section 228 IPC (Intentional insult or interruption to public servant sitting in judicial proceeding) and the punishment imposed by the magistrate court.

Referring to Article 21 of the Constitution of India, Sessions Judge observed that the fundamental right to personal liberty can only be curtailed by a procedure established by law.

"The object of law is to ensure that basic human rights are not violated. The judges

are duty-bound to safeguard basic and natural rights meant for a dignified existence of individuals. Every person appearing before the court (even if involved in crime) has the inalienable right to live with dignity and is entitled to equal respect. It is the duty of the court to ensure that no person can be detained without proper legal justification or without following due process of law," the court said.

The court also said that the concerned magistrate failed to note that new criminal laws came into effect on July 1, 2024, and that the proceedings conducted by the magistrate under the IPC were an incorrect

application of law.

The accused submitted before Sessions court that the punishment amounted to a gross misuse of the process of law and that they were convicted without being given an opportunity to show cause.

The Sessions court noted that the complaint in question was pending before the magistrate and that on January 20, 2025, the accused were granted bail with directions to furnish personal and surety bonds.

The matter was adjourned multiple times thereafter, and on May 6, 2025, they were again directed to furnish bail bonds with a warning that default would attract a cost of Rs 10,000.

The court observed that the order of the concerned magistrate did not qualify the test of legality and propriety as, the court noted, non-furnishing of bail bonds by the accused persons cannot be termed as a contemptuous act by any stretch of interpretation.

2 youths stabbed: Cops looking for 4th suspect

► Continued from P1

We were at the counter, and the boys had difficulty entering the shop. They started pushing us and using abusive language. They also pushed us to get aside, but we objected to their actions," the complainant who was stabbed told police.

Suddenly, one of the men manhandled them and stabbed the complainant on the right side of his abdomen. After inflicting injuries on both of them, the attackers fled on their motorcycles. One of the victims' friends, who was also present, took them to hospital.

A case was registered under sections 109(1) (attempted murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of BNS at Model Town police station. DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh formed a team under SHO (Model Town) Ashok Giri to

apprehend the accused.

"The team examined the victims in detail, and CCTV footage from all surrounding establishments was collected and analysed to trace the movements and possible escape routes of the suspects after attacking the two youths," police said.

Acting on intelligence from local sources and a detailed analysis of call detail records (CDRs), police conducted a raid at multiple locations. The operation led to the arrests of Krishna and Krishna Kashyap. A 13-year-old boy was also apprehended in the case.

During their interrogation, the suspects confessed to their roles in the stabbing. Based on their statements, police were able to recover the blood-stained knife used in the crime. Police said that efforts are under way to verify the identity of a fourth assailant and apprehend him as soon as possible.

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OBITUARY

Col Om Prakash Maheshwari (Retd)
(09 Jan 1937- 02 Aug 2025)
RVC fraternity expresses profound grief and sorrow on the sad demise of Col Om Prakash Maheshwari (Retd) on 02 August 2025. He will always be remembered for his selfless and dedicated service to the Corps. We pray to the Almighty to bestow eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family.
NOK:- Sharda Maheshwari (Wife)
Sandhya Jain, Namita M Anand, Anjali M Bathia (Daughters)
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Maj Gen SS Balaje, Comdt RVC C & C and All Ranks of RVC

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02.06.1926 - 04.08.2016
Daughter of Late Maharaja Ripudaman Singh and Late Rajmata Sarojani Devi of Nabha.
Chaturika Grewal - Niece, Brig S. S. Grewal - Nephew in-law, Yola Singh - Grand Niece

In Loving Memory of

Shri Arjan Sabnani
(03.07.1950 - 04.08.2015)
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Mamata slams Delhi Police for referring to Bengali as ‘Bangladeshi national language’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee hit out at Delhi Police on Sunday over a notice allegedly issued to Banga Bhawan in the national capital seeking help to translate "Bangladeshi language" for an ongoing trial. The trial relates to eight suspected illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who had been arrested by Lodhi Colony police. The CM called the notice "scandalous, insulting, anti-national, unconstitutional", and called upon all sections of society to rise in protest against the repeated "insult and humiliation" of Bengali-speaking people in India.

Senior Delhi Police officers were learnt to be looking into the matter. However, there was no official comment from Delhi Police.

The notice, posted by CM on her X handle, purportedly showed a Lodhi Colony inspector's requisitioning a Banga Bhawan officer-in-charge in Chanakyaपुरi, seeking help to translate "texts written in Bangladeshi language" in Hindi and English. "See now how Delhi Police under the direct control of the Ministry of Home, Government of India is describing Bengali as "Bangladeshi" language!" the CM wrote. "Bengali, our mother tongue, the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda, the language in which our National Anthem and the National Song (the latter by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) are written, the language in which crores of Indians speak and write, the language which is sanctified and recognised by the Constitution of India, is now described as a Bangladeshi language!!"

The notice uploaded by CM Banerjee refers to Lodhi Colony police station FIR no 51/2025. Case details mention eight suspected illegal Bangladeshis being arrested. According to the police, the accused did not have valid passports or visas. Banerjee said, "This insults all Bengali speaking people of India. They cannot use this kind of language which degrades and debases us all. We urge immediate strongest possible protests from all against the anti-Bengali Govt of India who are using such anti-Constitutional language to insult and humiliate the Bengali-speaking people of India."

BJP's state president Samik Bhattacharya justified Delhi Police's action and said there was a difference in the dialect of Bengali language spoken and written in West Bengal with that of Bangladesh. BJP also alleged that TMC was trying to defend illegal Bangladeshi migrants who, the party said, spoke a heavily Urdu-influenced Bengali dialect.

‘Must show specific cause to inspect digital device of co-accused’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday ruled that an accused cannot seek inspection of digital devices belonging to co-accused or third parties—particularly when they contain private or unrelated data—without providing specific and justified reasons. Such requests, the court said, amount to a “fishing expedition” and risk violating the right to privacy.

Special judge Dig Vinay Singh emphasised that any request for inspection—especially when opposed by the owners—

ting privacy rights and could amount to harassment or oppression of the device owners.”

These observations were made in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 corruption case. Accused Amandeep Singh Dhall had sought access to 20 mobile phones and digital devices not relied upon by the prosecution, belonging to co-accused Sameer Mahendru and Arun R Pillai, a witness, and an unrelated third party.

All four objected, citing privacy concerns. The judge, denying inspection to Dhall, observed that all Dhall wanted to undertake was nothing but a parallel investigation or roving and fishing inquiry. The court added that Dhall was seeking to build a defence that other accused persons at the relevant time did some acts of commission and omission, and then present an argument that the investigating agency, CBI, discriminated against him.

The court directed that the mobile phone and other items belonging to Pillai and Mahendru, which were not relied upon, be returned to them. The court said it seemed that Dhall was attempting to conduct a parallel investigation or inquiry to argue that the CBI did not thoroughly investigate or deliberately failed to collect all evidence, or intentionally ignored many things in others’ devices.

“The courts must be especially cautious when dealing with digital devices containing sensitive or private data,” the judge said, adding, “When inspection could infringe upon privacy or third-party rights, it cannot be treated as an unfettered right. The accused must show specific and concrete relevance.”

—must demonstrate clear, concrete relevance. “Vague or broad searches should not be permitted,” the court observed. “The irrelevant or protected content must have some value to the accused seeking inspection, and only then can a court strike a balance,” the judge said, adding, “requesting inspection without a specific or justified reason, or simply hoping to find something useful, amounts to a fishing expedition. Such a broad, unfocused search without clear limits or scope amounts to a roving inquiry. It not only wastes the court’s time but also risks viola-

Kidnapper on the run for 26 years arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A life convict who evaded the law for over two decades after brutally murdering a child during a ransom kidnapping was arrested by the Delhi Police crime branch. The accused, 55-year-old Raj Kishore alias Bade Lalla, was nabbed from Khoda Colony on Aug 2 in Ghaziabad after a two-

month-long operation. He was working as a tailor in his hometown, police said.

According to police, Raj Kishore was convicted in 1996 for kidnapping and murdering an eight-year-old boy in 1993. He and his associate demanded Rs 30,000 as ransom. After receiving the money, Raj Kishore strangled the child and dumped his body in a drain. A case was registered in 1993 at Kalyanpuri police station.

“Though sentenced to life imprisonment, he was granted six weeks’ parole by the Delhi High Court in 1999 and never returned. His appeal was later dismissed in 2009, and he was declared a proclaimed offender in 2014,” said DCP (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav. After narrowly escaping several raids in Kanpur due to local support, Kishore arrested in Ghaziabad.

₹40L compensation for victims of Narela factory fire delayed, NGT told

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: District magistrate of north Delhi has submitted a report to the NGT confirming that victims of the 2024 Narela factory fire incident have been sanctioned compensation totalling Rs 40.61 lakh. However, the kin of the deceased workers could not receive the amount due to a lack of response from the concerned officials in their home districts.

This submission followed the tribunal’s review of a July 2024 TOI article titled “3 Sleeping After Shift Killed in Blaze at Narela Factory; 6 Injured.” As per the submission by the DM North, four were killed and three injured in the factory fire.

For the deceased, a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each was to be given to the heirs or rightful beneficiaries, and Rs 20,000 each to the injured. Officials said they sent communication to the concerned authorities seeking details like bank accounts of legal heirs to ensure the rightful disbursement. The letters were written, as per submission, to the concerned DMs of the workers thrice on March 11, May 6 and the most recent on July 17. However, there were no responses. “Disbursement has been temporarily delayed solely because of non-receipt of verified heirship details from other jurisdictions...without which this department is constrained to process the compensation,” stated the submission.



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Woman dies by suicide: A 20-year-old woman died by suicide in her home in Siddharth Basti's IG Camp area of Sunlight Colony, police said. The woman, married for the past one-and-a-half years, was alone in the room at the time of the incident. Further probe is underway. **TNN**



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INFORMATION REGARDING (A) SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST LISTING); AND (B) RECORD DATE FOR DIVIDEND

The Second Annual General Meeting (Post Listing) ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. (IST)**, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with all applicable circulars on the matter issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), to transact the business set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The Notice of the AGM and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statements for the financial year 2024-25, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, will be sent electronically to those members of the Company, whose e-mail address is registered with the Company / KFin Technologies Limited ("KFinTech"), Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent/ Depository Participant(s) / Depositories. A letter providing the web-link, including the exact path, where Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 is available, will be sent to those members who have not registered their e-mail address. The Notice of the AGM and the aforesaid documents will also be available on the Company's website at www.jfs.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, that is, BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of KFinTech, at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

(a) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at www.jfs.in) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Unit: Jio Financial Services Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31&32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032.

(b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with their Depository Participant(s), are requested to register / update the same with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting:

Members can cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system ("e-voting"). The manner of voting, including voting remotely ("remote e-voting") by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote electronically ("Insta Poll") at the AGM.

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:

Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioMeet, at <https://jioevents.jio.com/jfslagm>. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in the Notice of AGM.

RECORD DATE FOR DIVIDEND AND PAYMENT THEREOF

(a) The Company has fixed **Monday, August 11, 2025** as the '**Record Date**' for determining entitlement of members to dividend, recommended by the Board of Directors of the Company, for the financial year ended March 31, 2025.

(b) The dividend will be paid within a week from the conclusion of the AGM. As mandated by SEBI, dividend to the members holding shares in physical mode shall be paid electronically, only after they have furnished Permanent Account Number, Contact Details (Postal Address, Mobile Number and E-mail), Bank account details, Specimen signature, etc. for their corresponding physical folios.

Manner of registering mandate for receiving Dividend:

Members are requested to register / update:

(a) their complete bank details with their Depository Participant(s), if shares are held in dematerialised mode, by submitting forms and documents as may be required by the Depository Participant(s); and


(b) Permanent Account Number, Contact Details (Postal Address, Mobile Number and E-mail), Bank account details, Specimen signature, etc. with KFinTech by submitting duly filled and signed Form ISR-1 along with requisite supporting documents at its aforesaid address, if shares are held in physical mode.

Members are requested to carefully read the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM and manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or voting at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Mohana V
Group Company Secretary
and Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date : August 4, 2025

www.jfs.in



सत्यमेव जयते
Government Of India

Data for Informed Policy Decision on Travel and Tourism

Let us strengthen the National Statistical System

National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is conducting **Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES)** and **National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)** from July 2025 to June 2026.

Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES):

Information being collected on:

- Purpose of Trip** - Holiday, Health, Pilgrimage, Shopping, Social, etc.
- Type of Trip** - Package, Non-package
- Mode of Travel** - Air, Rail, Water, Road Transport
- Type of Stay** - Commercial, Non-commercial
- Destination** - Within State, Outside State
- Trip services booked** - Online, Offline
- Trip Expenditure**

National Household Travel Survey (NHTS):

Information being collected on:

- Purpose of Trip** - For work/pursuing education
- Cost of trips**
- Mode of travel**
- Same-day trips** (excluding work/education)
- Origin and Destination** of trips, distance, travel time

Contribute to nation-building, participate in the survey

Households are requested to cooperate with the enumerators of NSO and provide accurate data. Identity of the households participating in the survey is kept confidential in all reports/microdata of MoSPI.

www.mospi.gov.in @GoStats /GoStats GoStats Ministry of Statistics & PI

Taxi driver charred to death in car crash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A taxi driver was charred to death and another critically injured after their car allegedly caught fire following a crash in northwest Delhi in the early hours of Sunday. Police claimed they were intoxicated and speeding when the incident occurred.

According to police, a PCR call was received around 2am at Narela Industrial Area police station, reporting a car accident and fire near Jhanda Chowk, close to Hulambi Khurd village. When the police team reached the spot, they found the driver's seat engulfed in flames with a man charred to death and another severely injured in the adjacent seat.

Emergency responders immediately rushed the injured to a hospital in Narela. He remains in critical condition.

The deceased was later identified as Vipender, 40, a resident of Puther village in Panipat, Haryana. His injured co-traveller, Jagbir, also aged 40, is from Ishrana village, Panipat.



MANGLED REMAINS

veller, Jagbir, also aged 40, is from Ishrana village, Panipat.

"Preliminary investigation suggests the two were travelling from Delhi to Panipat. Police believe the vehicle may have been speeding when it lost control and ramed into a cemented road barricade along the Outer Express Ring Road. The

impact is believed to have triggered the fire, which quickly engulfed the vehicle's front half," a senior police officer said.

Upon investigation, the officer said, "The injured man told police that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident."

Police said the two, who were cab drivers, had reportedly come to Rohini for a passenger pickup, possibly for a trip to Jaipur. However, for reasons that remain unclear, the pickup did not take place, and the men proceeded to their home district in Haryana when the crash occurred.

"The exact sequence of events is under verification. We are checking if the fire started due to the impact or if there was a mechanical failure that led to the incident," said the officer.

Forensic teams have been called in to examine the scene, collect samples, and photograph the wreckage.

An FIR is being prepared, and further investigation is underway.

The Privilege Of Impunity?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



As someone who travels frequently on the route taken by the Kanwar Yatra, one has had the opportunity to see how it has evolved over the years. It used to be a quiet affair—a steady line of barefoot devotees carrying water as they navigated hundreds of kilometres, immersed in a sacred ritual. With time, the numbers grew, as did the energy. Motorised vehicles started appearing, as did loud music. Today what we see is a spectacle that feels quite removed from its origins. Travelling down that road during this period now hangs heavy with a sense of trepidation.

For it is no longer merely a religious event, but a full-blown civic disruption. Roads are taken over; traffic diverted, music blares into the night, and a kind of impunity roams free. The Kanwaris move in clusters—shirtless, swaggering, often on motorbikes, some in convoys with DJ trucks and strobe lights. Their devotion is loud, territorial, and increasingly edged with menace.

It's hard to miss the police—stationed at junctions, guiding traffic away, watching but rarely intervening. When scuffles break out, when property is damaged or someone dares to question the right of way, the state looks the other way. The law, it seems, goes on a pilgrimage too.

Why would the state allow this? Not merely allow, but enable it? The answer may lie in the quiet arithmetic of power in contemporary modern India. In a society where opportunity is scarce, where young men increasingly find themselves without steady work, status, or purpose, religion has become the one stage on which they can still feel powerful. Not inward-turning, meditative faith—but public, performative religiosity.

For many of these men, the Kanwar Yatra is not just about a ritual—it is about being seen. It is about claiming space, making noise, and feeling feared

if not respected. Structural powerlessness is replaced by a gush of transient and all-encompassing strength. And in tacit compact that is mutually beneficial, the state offers them one privilege it cannot otherwise afford to give: the right to break the rules. In turns it demonstrates its power by association.

That is the real currency on offer. Not jobs, not dignity, not futures—but the thrill of impunity. To feel, for a few days, what it means to be untouchable—not in caste terms, but in the

In a nation where resources are stretched and formal empowerment is difficult to deliver, symbolic power becomes a potent alternative. To be feared, to disrupt, to override rules without consequence—these become currencies of belonging. It is not a breakdown of order, but a redistribution of permission

sense of being beyond consequence. Feeling the rush of power is a heady drug, and nothing feels as emotionally arousing as being part of an energised group with licence to express themselves freely, without boundaries or oversight. The motivations that drive them are as sociological as they are religious, arguably even more so.

The Kanwaris live for a few weeks in a two-lane republic where they are the rulers. For that period, they are feared, potent, unstoppable. The codes are about dominance—whether by insisting that non-vegetarian food be banned, insisting on flagging any non-Hindu shops on the way or by the sonic dominance they achieve by belting out bass-drenched sound where the music is drowned out by the intent behind it. Once this is over, they will go back to facelessness and a feeling of

being solitary and powerless again.

It's not just the Kanwar yatris. We have the cow vigilantes who enforce imagined blasphemies with lathis and lynchings. Student mobs who barge into libraries or disrupt lectures in the name of nationalism. Online warriors issuing rape threats wrapped in patriotic hashtags. All draw power from the same logic: the belief that the state will not interfere too soon, and when it does, it will do so gently.

And yet, it is worth remembering that the Kanwar Yatra, in its essence, is not born of aggression. At its heart lies an act of faith and physical endurance—it is a gesture of submission, not supremacy. An expression of devotion that requires discipline, sacrifice, and resolve. What has changed is not the body of the ritual, but the mood surrounding it.

Somewhere along the way, what was once an offering has turned into a claim. What was once about devotion has become about assertion. The Yatra still travels the same roads—but the journey it makes is no longer only inward.

The state seems to understand what makes this work. In a nation where resources are stretched and formal empowerment is difficult to deliver, symbolic power becomes a potent alternative. To be feared, to disrupt, to override rules without consequence—these become currencies of belonging. It is not a breakdown of order, but a redistribution of permission.

There is political genius at work here. An anger and discontent that could otherwise have taken more disruptive forms—protest, dissent, a movement for change—has instead been channelled into a mobilising force for a politically advantageous cause. A potential threat has not only been neutralised, but also converted into a prime asset. The yatris serve as a thinly veiled warning about the chaos that can be unleashed, should the need arise.

Religion has always been about identity—and this is true of all religions. But from time to time, a need is felt to demonstrate this in a visible and muscular form. We are seeing that play out in the country. Where we will reach on this path is anybody's guess.

santosh365@gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-N.I.T. No-WB/W/EE/KC02/eNIT-02/2025-26
On behalf of the Governor of W.B., the Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division-II, Khatra invites online e-tender. Online bid submission end date: 11.08.2025 till 11:00 Hours IST. Details may be seen in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbiwd.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division-II, Khatra
ICA-116505(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-N.I.T. No-WB/W/EE/MDD-I/e-NIT-13/2025-26, Dated-29/07/2025 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 CSOS Fund. Details of e-Tender may be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on and from 04/08/2025 at 17:30 Hrs. and last date of submission of bids 13/08/2025 upto 12:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Metropolitan Drainage Division No.-I, Jalasampad Bhawan (4th Floor).
ICA-116503(2)/2025

E-Tender Notice
Exe.Engineer, Pas. Bwn Div. on behalf of WBSRDA invites e-tender for Repairing of road vide e-NIT No. 06 /WBSRDA /PSBWN/25-26 (1st Call) dated 04.08.2025 Details given at : <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in>
Sd/- EE, WBSRDA, Pas Bwn Div.

Passenger opens door of cab in Noida, biker crashes into it, dies

Avishek Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Ghaziabad: A 26-year-old biker died after he crashed into a cab door opened suddenly by a passenger near Golf Course metro station on Saturday morning.

Vivek Kumar, the biker, who was from Bulandshahr but stayed in Noida, was riding his motorcycle at high speed around 7am when the cab passenger unexpectedly opened the vehicle's door. Kumar, who wasn't wearing a helmet, collided with the door's left side, his head striking it before hitting the metro station's footpath.

As a crowd started to gather, the cab driver rushed Kumar to a private hospital in Sector 27, where he succumbed to his injuries later. Both the driver and passenger sneaked out of the hospital after Kumar was moved to the ICU.

"Kumar suffered severe injuries because of the



The biker suffered injuries because of high-speed impact

high-speed impact," said a senior officer from Sector 39 police station.

Till late on Sunday, the victim's family was yet to file any complaint, according to Jitendra Kumar, the SHO of Sector 39 police station. "We're examining CCTV footage from nearby areas to trace the car and its occupants," he added.

In another accident later that night, a 19-year-old man died after being hit by a dumper truck near Dalit Prerna

Sthal. Sachin Kumar, a Salarpur resident, was on his way towards Film City when the truck hit his motorcycle from behind around 11pm. His friend riding pillion, Vikash (19), survived with injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

The dumper driver abandoned his vehicle and fled the scene. Police said they had registered a case of death by negligence against him and were working to apprehend him.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HONORABLE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, COURT NO.30 AT AHMEDABAD

PUBLIC SUMMONS

UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR. P. C. CRIMINAL CASE NO. 19401/2020
Next date: 09/09/2025

Complainant: Nexteng Enviro Pvt. Ltd. / Bhavik Narsinhbhai Patel
V/s
Accused:- Uma Sharan Sharma / U.S Anvayaro

Whereas you the Accused is/are hereby informed that the summons issued against you by this court through Registered post.ad has returned unserved subsequently, and as your current whereabouts are unknown, hence in the consequence court ordered this summons is published.

That the complaint is filed before the court that Uma Sharan Sharma Proprietress of U.S Anvayaro has committed the offence under section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act and the Warrant of Arrest issued in accordance with the case has returned back with the endorsement of "Addressee not found". Therefore, I promptly believe that the Accused is absconding (or) is deliberately evading execution of the said warrant).

Therefore it has been declared by publishing that requiring the said Accused Ms. Uma Sharan Sharma, to appear before this Honourable Court in person on 09.09.2025 at 11:00 AM, at Court No. 30, 33rd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, First Floor, Anna Bazar Building, Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad City, to answer the said complaint and proceedings therein.

Take notice that failure to appear before the Court on the aforesaid date and time may result in further legal consequences.

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 23/07/2025

COURT SEAL

33th Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate
Court No.30, Ahmedabad City, Ahmedabad.

TENDERS

Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
E-Auction Sale Notice

PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE

SHREE BANKY BEHARI EXPORTS LIMITED (In Liquidation)
LAND AND BUILDING located at Industrial Plot No. 2253-2257, Sector 38, Phase II, HSIDC Industrial Estate, Food Park, Rai, Sonipat, Haryana, measuring 20,250 sq meters available for sale through <https://baanet.com> (Asset ID 2274/ Auction ID 1323)
POOJA BAHRY
Liquidator of SHREE BANKY BEHARI EXPORTS LIMITED
9811071716
liquidation.shreebankybehari@gmail.com

COURT NOTICE

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)
CS (OS) No. 786/2024

PUNEET GOEL Plaintiff
V/s
AJAY NAGPAL & ANR. Defendants

To
DEFENDANT NO. 1
SH. AJAY NAGPAL
S/O LT. SH. RAM PRAKASH NAGPAL
R/O C-4/7A, 2nd FLOOR, RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007

WHEREAS the above named plaintiff has instituted a **SUIT FOR DECLARATION, DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF** against the defendants. The Court issued Summons in the suit against you the above named defendant no. 1 and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this Court that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by publication directing you, the above named defendant no. 1 to make appearance before Joint Registrar(Judicial) of this Court on 20.08.2025 at 11:00 AM.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned above, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court in terms of order dated 31.07.2025.

(Seal)
Assistant Registrar(O) for REGISTRAR GENERAL NK

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I, Jawahar Vishnu Bhagwat S/O Vishnu Bhagwat R/O 19, Habib Court, SBS Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400001 have changed my name to Jawahar Bhagwat.

MISSION / ADMISSION

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HIMANTA CALLS RAHUL ANTI-NATIONAL, SAYS HE ONLY SUPPORTS MUSLIMS OF B'DESH & PAK

ACQUITTAL OF ALL MALEGAON BLAST ACCUSED EXPOSES CONGRESS' CONSPIRACIES, SAYS YOGI

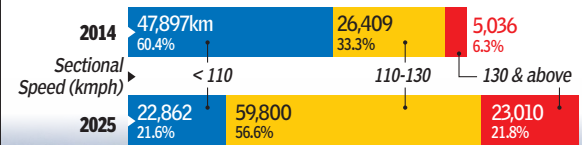


STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Key Rly Tracks Will Soon Handle Speeds Up To 160kmph

In the last decade, Indian Railways has significantly upgraded tracks, cutting slow-speed sections (below 110 kmph) by over half. Measures include use of 60kg rails, wider base concrete sleepers, longer rail panels, etc. Routes like Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah have set targets to reach speeds up to 160 kmph

Speed potential of rail tracks



Encounter in Kulgam stretches into 3rd day, heavy firing continues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: A fierce gunbattle between security forces and terrorists in south Kashmir's Kulgam district entered the third day Sunday, turning into one of the longest and most intense counter-insurgency operations this year in the Valley. Army has confirmed the killing of one terrorist and police sources that of another, with the identities and affiliation of the duo yet to be established.

Heavy firing and explosions continued through Saturday night at the site in Akhal Khulsan forests. The gunfight had broken out Friday evening after Army, J&K Police and Special Operations Group launched a combing operation, based on inputs about the presence of three to five terrorists. The forces came under fire during the search and retaliated.

Officials said Sunday the cordon had been tightened to prevent the remaining terror-



The operation is turning into one of the longest and most intense counter-insurgency operations this year in the Valley

ists from escaping, and the operation may continue for some time. Senior officials are monitoring the situation.

Confirming the death of one terrorist on Saturday, the Army's Chinara Corps had said troops responded with calibrated fire and "tightened the noose".

Govt needs to pass bills but SIR may keep Parl paralysed

Govt Set To Stay Firm On Not Allowing Debate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As the month-long monsoon session of Parliament enters its third week on Monday, another round of deadlock is not ruled out even as the govt has no option but to seek passage of several crucial bills, amid opposition's determined bid to carry on with its protests over the special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls.

Opposition parties have been demanding a discussion on the SIR exercise, which the govt has rejected because it cannot make a reply on behalf of the Election Commission, an independent constitutional body not represented by any department. Besides, the govt has cited a ruling of former speaker Balram Jakhar that Parliament can't discuss the administrative work of constitutional bodies like EC.

The govt is likely to remain firm on its stand and has more reasons for it as it will cite the "double voter ID" held by Bihar opposition leader, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav. Yadav had said that his name from the voters' roll had been omitted, a claim promptly rejected by EC, which disclosed the voter roll number and sought a reply from him for holding two EPIC cards.

The govt's confidence to negate the opposition's claims has further grown as the analysis of SIR figures has shown no systematic targeting of Muslims. Figures released Friday also show that migrants have not been affected and the number of deletions in constituencies where BJP-led NDA candidates won



As the month-long monsoon session enters its third week on Monday, except for a two-day debate on the Pahalgam attack and Op Sindoor, proceedings have been a washout due to opposition protests on SIR

Bogus voters: 2 Bengal officials face FIR

Kolkata: EC approved FIRs against two electoral registration officers (EROs) in Bengal for anomalies in the voters' list, a senior poll panel official said on Sunday, reports Debashis Konar. The officers shared their passwords with data entry operators, which allowed the latter to feed 102 bogus voters' data into the EC portal.

TOI reported that EROs of Nandakumar in East Midnapore and Rajarhat-Gopalpur in North 24 Parganas were questioned by EC and were under scrutiny for failing to provide satisfactory replies. In Nandakumar, 59 people, and in Rajarhat, 43 voters — whose information needed to be verified — were entered in the rolls.

is not higher than in those taken by the opposition 'Mahagathbandhan' in Bihar.

With more reasons to assert that there are no irregularities in the SIR exercise, the govt is likely to push the passage of a key sports bill in Lok Sabha. The Lower House has listed the National Sports Governance Bill, which envisages greater transparency in the functioning of sports bodies, including BCCI, for consideration and passage.

Rajya Sabha has listed for passage on Monday a resolution from home minister Amit Shah on the extension of President's Rule in Manipur by another six months with effect from Aug 13.

Except for a two-day discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor in both the Houses, parliamentary proceedings

Bihar migrants in TN list? Claim baseless: EC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Former Union minister P Chidambaram on Sunday termed the reported move to add 6.5 lakh migrant workers from Bihar to the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu as "alarming and illegal," prompting Election Commission (EC) to dismiss his claims as "misleading and baseless."

Chidambaram called the EC's SIR exercise in Bihar "an insult to migrant workers and a gross interference in the rights of the electorate in Tamil Nadu," a day after DMK and its allies opposed EC's decision to register migrant workers in the states of their domicile.

"If a migrant worker's family has a permanent home in Bihar and continues to live there, how can the worker be considered permanently migrated to Tamil Nadu? How can he or she be enrolled as a voter in Tamil Nadu?" Chidambaram asked.

In a fact-check post on X, EC cited Section 19(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which states that every ordinary resident in a constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of that constituency.

"Therefore, a person originally belonging to Tamil Nadu but ordinarily residing in Delhi is entitled to be registered as an elector in Delhi. Similarly, a person originally from Bihar but ordinarily residing in Chennai is entitled to be registered as an elector in Chennai," EC explained. (With inputs from PTI)

Chartered jet with Raj CM lands at wrong airstrip

Saurabh Sinha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A charter aircraft flying Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma from Delhi to Phalodi in the desert state on July 31 landed on a wrong airstrip at its destination. While the Falcon 2000 was to land at Phalodi's Air Force Station, it did so at a civil airstrip in the city.

Sources say the pilots realised their mistake, took off from the civil airstrip and landed at the IAF station, 5km away. DGCA is probing the mix-up and has taken the pilots off flying duty pending investigation.

The CM had left Delhi around 3pm. "The CM alighted (at Phalodi IAF station) and flew to Jaipur a few hours later. The Falcon flew back to Delhi the same night," said a source. Dassault Falcon 2000 is a French business jet that can carry 8-10 passengers up to 6,000km.

The charter company filed a voluntary report on the "wrong landing" with DGCA. "Both runways have similar orientation and visual characteristics. The crew misidentified the intended runway during approach. There was, seemingly, inadequate pre-flight briefing about



Bhajan Lal Sharma was onboard a Falcon 2000 which was to land at Phalodi's IAF station but instead touched down at a civil airstrip

ut the presence of two airfields in close vicinity. Pilots must get proper pre-flight briefing and that is something operators need to work," the source said.

This case has raised added concerns because of potential legal and safety consequences if an aircraft, supposed to land at the civil airstrip mistakenly enters restricted military airspace. There could be other problems. "The civil airstrip may not support the aircraft's weight category, compromising landing safety. Also, military-civil coordination may be lacking during such mis-landings, increasing response time for corrective action," the source said.

Raj again rechristens scheme named after Indira Gandhi

Jaipur: Rajasthan govt has once again renamed Indira Priyadarshini Award — given to meritorious girls studying in Classes VIII, X, and XII — as Padmakshi Award and reduced the prize money across categories, reports Suparna Roy.

The money for Class VIII is fixed at Rs 25,000, down from Rs 40,000; for Class X, Rs 50,000 from Rs 75,000; and for Class XII, Rs 75,000 from Rs 1 lakh.

Indira Priyadarshini Award was launched in 2010-11 by

the then Gehlot govt and distributed at district HQ on Nov 19 to mark the birth anniversary of former PM Indira Gandhi.

In 2017-18, BJP govt renamed it Padmakshi Puruskar Yojana. When Gehlot returned to power in 2019, he reverted to Indira Priyadarshini Award.

Now, state govt has said Padmakshi Award will be presented on Basant Panchami. The eligibility criteria is unchanged: girls must score above 60% or have a CGPA of 9 or more.

SPOTLIGHT

The Rising Impact of CSR and ESG

In an era where conscious consumerism is redefining the market, Malabar Gold and Diamonds stands out by showing that purpose and profit can coexist seamlessly

In today's interconnected world, stakeholders—including consumers, employees, investors, and regulators—are increasingly prioritising organisations that contribute positively to society and the environment. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives are fast becoming essential strategies for businesses. These strategies not only reflect ethical responsibilities but also provide tangible benefits in terms of finances, operations, and reputation.

The forward-thinking Chairman of Malabar Gold and Diamonds recognised this opportunity long ago and has effectively integrated Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental, Social, and Governance initiatives into the company's philosophy. He believes that modern customers are increasingly inclined to support businesses that reflect their values, especially in areas such as sustainability, diversity, and ethical governance.

In the jewellery industry, concerns about conflict minerals, unethical mining practices, and exploitative labour are becoming increasingly prominent. Now consumers are seeking greater transparency and ethical sourcing in their purchases. A jewellery brand that prioritises ESG and CSR—by ensuring the use of conflict-free diamonds, fair-trade gold, and responsible sourcing—can establish itself as a trustworthy, premium, and values-driven brand. This stance resonates with younger, socially conscious consumers who value purpose as much as product. As the Chairman, M P Ahammad, notes, "The younger generation appreciates sustainability and is more eco-conscious and responsible towards society. This is clearly reflected in their choices in jewellery and fashion as well."

Similarly, employees, especially millennials and Gen Z, are increasingly drawn to organisations that align with their personal values. Companies that emphasise ESG and CSR are often perceived as more



ethical, purpose-driven, and supportive workplaces. This helps in attracting top talent and reducing attrition rates. Additionally, employee engagement is normally high in companies where employees feel that their employer is making a positive impact on the world.

A unique aspect of the CSR initiatives at Malabar Group is the active involvement

Organisations with strong ESG performance often enjoy easier access to capital, lower borrowing costs, and inclusion in socially responsible investment portfolios. Moreover, transparency and accountability in ESG practices can improve investor confidence, which is crucial for both public and private companies. Strong governance practices help mitigate risks related to fraud, corruption, and executive mismanagement. Also, ESG

initiatives often encourage organisations to adopt more efficient processes, minimise waste, and innovate in product design and delivery. For instance, reducing energy consumption or sourcing sustainable materials can decrease operational costs and enhance long-term profitability. Likewise, embracing social and governance reforms can cultivate a culture of transparency and innovation, leading to improved decision-making and a competitive edge.

In a world where conscious consumerism is rapidly emerging as the gold standard, Malabar Gold and Diamonds beautifully proves that elegance and sustainability can shine together. The group aligns its CSR efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), drawing inspiration from UN sustainability initiatives and incorporating them into its projects. The group has a women-focused approach, prioritising women as the first and prime beneficiaries in all projects. The Chairman advocates for a decentralised operation, and states, "We allocate our CSR funds in partnership with local NGOs, targeting the communities where we generate our income. Our initiatives are tailored to address specific local needs. For instance, while distributing food in urban neighbourhoods, we found that many children coming to collect meal packets were not attending school. This revelation inspired us to establish the Micro-Learning Centres (MLCs), providing these children with essential educational opportunities."



of employees in all programmes. The company has implemented a Two-day CSR Leave Policy that grants every employee two full days of paid leave for participating in CSR initiatives across the country. Also, employees are directly engaged in designing, implementing and evaluating CSR initiatives.

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Delay hits Scorpene retrofit to boost stealth, endurance

DRDO's Air Independent Propulsion System Not Ready For Integration

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New Delhi: India has once again missed the boat to enhance the underwater operational endurance and stealth of its latest Scorpene or Kalvari-class conventional submarines, with the already delayed air independent propulsion (AIP) system developed by DRDO still not ready for integration with the vessels.

The first Scorpene submarine to be built at the Mazagon Docks (MDL) with French collaboration, INS Kalvari, which was commissioned in Dec 2017, will now complete her ongoing maintenance refit at the Mumbai naval dockyard without being retrofitted with the AIP plug as was originally planned, defence ministry sources told TOI.

"The fuel cell-based AIP system developed by DRDO's Naval Materials Research Lab, which has L&T as the prime industry partner, is still not yet operationally available. Hopefully, it should be ready by the time the second Scorpene (INS Khanderi) comes for her scheduled normal maintenance refit in mid-2026," a source said.



There is major concern about the delay in the indigenous air independent propulsion (AIP) project which was slated for completion by June 2017

The Navy after a long delay has inducted six diesel-electric Scorpene submarines, constructed by MDL in collaboration with the French Naval Group under Project-75 for over Rs 23,000 crore, with the sixth INS Vagsheer being commissioned in Jan this year.

There is major concern about the continuing delay in the indigenous AIP project, which was originally slated for completion by June 2017 after being sanctioned in 2014 at an initial cost of Rs 270 crore.

Amid the delay, MDL and Naval Group signed an agreement for the integration of

the indigenous AIP energy system plugs on the Scorpene only on July 23. Under it, each submarine will undergo a complex project called "jumboisation", involving precision cutting of the hull, safe insertion of the AIP plug and then rejoining the structure to ensure the vessel is fully operational again.

Unlike nuclear-powered submarines, which have unlimited underwater endurance, diesel-electric boats must surface or snorkel every couple of days to get oxygen to recharge their batteries. Those fitted with AIP, however, can stay submerged for around two weeks to significantly boost their stealth and combat capabilities.

cantly boost their stealth and combat capabilities.

With Pakistan on course to induct eight Yuan or Han-gor-class conventional submarines with AIP from China in a major capability jump, India's depleting conventional underwater combat arm has become a major worry. China, of course, now has the world's largest navy, which includes over 50 diesel-electric and 10 nuclear submarines.

Apart from the six French-origin Scorpene, India has seven very old Russian Kilo-class and four German HDW diesel-electric submarines at present. It also has two operational SSBNs (nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear ballistic missiles) in INS Arighant and INS Arighaat, with the third to be commissioned as INS Aridhaman this year, as reported by TOI earlier.

The long-pending projects to build three additional Scorpene for Rs 38,000 crore and six new-generation diesel-electric submarines, with both AIP and land-attack cruise missiles, for Rs 70,000 crore under Project-75 India at MDL, are also yet to be finalised and inked.

Rockslide at Andhra Pradesh quarry kills 6 migrant workers

Vijayawada: Six workers from Odisha in a group of 16 excavating granite at a quarry in Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla district were killed Sunday and three others were injured when a rockslide sent a massive slab hurtling their way, giving them no time to escape, reports Madhu Rasala.

Bapatla SPTusar Dudi said rescuers were able to quickly reach those injured and move them to hospital. While four workers died at the accident site, two succumbed to injuries while being taken to Narasaraopet govt hospital.

Emergency teams needed until late afternoon to remove the debris at Satyakrishna granite quarry, near Ballikurava village, and retrieve the trapped victims' bodies.

The six who died were Danda Badatya (48), Takun Dalai (37), Banamala Chehr (30), Bhaskar Bhishoy (40), Santosh Goud (36), and Mussajan (43). The quarry owner employs a number of workers from Odisha, allegedly making them toil in hazardous conditions.

Police are probing whether safety protocols were being followed. Officials said the edge of the quarry was "weakened" by continuous excavation, leading to the fatal rockslide.

CMN Chandrababu Naidu has sought a detailed report.

CBI nabs Customs officer after chase in Navi Mumbai

Accused Tried To Lose Bag Of Bribes During Pursuit

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Mumbai: Central Bureau of Investigation arrested a superintendent of Customs following a chase inside his residential colony in Navi Mumbai during which he tried to lose a bag containing bribes.

Krishna Kumar, stationed at Sahar Air Cargo, was tailed by CBI officers after he accepted an amount of Rs 10.2 lakh for clearing a consignment. Kumar allegedly had a rate card for clearing cargo, said CBI. He was produced before the court and has been remanded in CBI custody until Aug 6.

CBI sources said Kumar had blocked the complainant's consignment with the help of the Rummaging and Intelligence (R&I) wing of Customs by sending a pseudonymous email about the contents of the cargo. Kumar promised to get the consignment released in exchange for a bribe, stating that most of the money would go to his seniors. CBI is investigating the roles of R&I wing officials and Kumar's superiors in the case.

On Saturday, Kumar called the complainant outside his residential colony in Kharghar and asked him to sit in his car. After collecting



CARGO RACKET

CBI said Kumar and other unidentified officers were demanding bribes at the rate of Rs 10 per kilogram of imported cargo to ensure clearance of consignments. The complainant had refused to pay despite the pressure

the bribe, Kumar instructed the complainant to leave and drove his car into the colony. The CBI team followed him, leading Kumar to suspect that something was amiss.

He continuously moved his vehicle within the society premises and, during the pursuit, threw out the bag of money. The CBI officers then arrested him as he attempted to leave the society, causing commotion and disturbing other residents. CBI subsequently recovered the money.

The agency said Kumar and other unidentified officers were demanding bribes at the rate of Rs 10 per kilogram of imported cargo to ensure the smooth clearance of consignments. The complainant had refused to pay the

bribe despite Kumar's persistent attempts and deliberate withholding of his consignments to exert pressure. Consequently, it prompted the complainant to approach CBI.

The probe agency recorded conversations between Kumar and the complainant on multiple occasions between July 25 and Aug 1. In these conversations, Kumar could be heard pressurising the complainant to pay Rs 6 lakh while claiming that only Rs 20,000 was his share and that the remaining amount was intended for senior officers for previously cleared consignments. Kumar also demanded a Rs 10 lakh bribe for releasing the withheld consignment and set a future rate of Rs 10 per kilogram.

After assault, SpiceJet moves to put Army man on no-fly list

► Continued from P 1

A video of the attack of the Army officer — showing the officer in jeans and a T-shirt kicking, punching, and hitting staff with a queue stand — on SpiceJet staff has gone viral. "One SpiceJet employee collapsed unconscious on the floor but the passenger continued kicking and hitting the fainted employee," the airline said. "Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted."

The four staffers were rushed to Bone and Joint Hospital and later referred to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar.

Police registered an FIR based on the airline's complaint. CCTV footage was secured from airport authorities and submitted to police. SpiceJet also started the process to place the officer — whose name and rank hasn't been made public — on the no-fly list. "SpiceJet will pursue this matter to its fullest legal and regulatory conclusion," a spokesperson said. Sources claimed the officer was travelling on emergency leave, mistreated by staff, and missed his flight. "He, too, has filed an FIR," a source said.

According to the Army, the case is under investigation. "Based on the outcome, further course of action will be decided," it said. The defence PRO in Srinagar said: "Indian Army is committed to upholding the highest standards of discipline and conduct and takes all allegations seriously. Full cooperation is being extended to the authorities in investigating the case."

Relatives of the wounded airline staff expressed outrage. "We trusted the system and didn't approach the media immediately. But we were shocked he was allowed to leave Srinagar the very next day," one said Sunday. J&K police have not issued a formal statement. CISF said it "intervened promptly, managed the situation and ensured no disruption to flight operations".



Boats ferry people amid flooding by the Ganga in UP's Prayagraj on Sunday. Across the state, 17 districts are grappling with floods, with nearly 85,000 people affected. The state govt Sunday constituted 'Team 11' to expedite relief operations

Unity on consensus candidate will be challenge for oppn camp

► Continued from P 1

At the meet, Rahul Gandhi may give a presentation on Congress's "research" on voters' lists which he has said proves beyond doubt that the rolls are being tampered with to help BJP.

The VP election has come prematurely after the controversial resignation by Jagdeep Dhankhar last month following an alleged confrontation with the govt over his decision to accept the notices to remove Justices Shekhar Yadav and Yashwant Varma. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday alleged that Dhankhar was biased against the opposition, but he took one independent decision and it led to his downfall, as he accused the Modi govt of pressuring constitutional authorities.

The opposition has been accusing the governing BJP of attacking constitutional values, secularism, fair elections, marginalised sections, besides weakening the economy and endangering the future of the youth. Some feel that an ideal VP



Some feel that an ideal VP candidate should be able to represent the issues being raised by the opposition which has been accusing BJP of attacking constitutional values, secularism and fair elections

candidate from the opposition camp should be able to represent these issues and send out a strong message.

Such a move by the opposition, insiders argue, will hammer home the ideological distinction between BJP and the opposition parties, and help rally the base as the latter looks to build upon its gains in the 2024 LS polls.

However, ensuring unity with a consensus candidate will also be a challenge for the opposition camp, where many partners compete against each other and

are antagonistic.

In the first vice presidential election held after BJP assumed office in 2014, Congress and opposition had fielded Mahatma Gandhi's grandson and known intellectual Gopal Krishna Gandhi to take on BJP's M Venkaiah Naidu in 2017. However, when the opposition witnessed fissures in its ranks in 2022, there was a paucity of candidates and Congress was forced to field a party leader in Margaret Alva to take on BJP candidate Dhankhar.

HC stay allows scientist to resume work at vaccine PSU

► Continued from P 1

Dr Akash Yadav was convicted by a sessions court under IPC section 306 for abetment to suicide but was acquitted under section 304-Band Dowry Prohibition Act.

He married on May 7, 2015. His wife, who was employed at Pantnagar University, was taken to her maternal home by her brother on July 4, 2015, while Yadav was working in Hyderabad. She died by suicide on Dec 14, 2015. In her suicide note, she stated that her husband would be responsible for her death.

Yadav was arrested on May 11, 2017, and after spending more than three months in jail, he got bail on Aug 28. On Jan 21 this year, the sessions judge of Rudrapur sentenced him to five-year RI and a fine of Rs 20,000 under Section 306.

Yadav filed an interim application under section 389(1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, seeking suspension of his conviction. He submitted that because of the conviction, he had become disqualified from working with IIL. His counsel argued the case met the criteria for exceptional circumstances, as the conviction had a direct impact on "work of national importance".

Justice Maithani noted that an appellate court can suspend a conviction if failure to do so would result in injustice or irreversible consequences. He cited SC rulings in Navjot Singh Sidhu vs State of Punjab (2007) and Rama Narang vs Ramesh Narang (1995) & said that courts must examine whether maintaining the conviction would unfairly affect a person's professional standing or public interest responsibilities.

The bench observed, "This was a greater issue of public health & national interest. In light of the afore-stated reasons, court was of the view that this was a fit case in which the order of conviction as well as execution of sentence, appealed against, should be suspended." HC suspended both the conviction & sentence during the appeal's pendency, allowing Yadav to resume his duties at IIL.

MNS workers vandalise Panvel bar after Raj speech; FIR on 15

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Navi Mumbai: MNS workers allegedly vandalised a bar in Panvel late on Saturday, hours after a fiery speech of their party president Raj Thackeray condemning the functioning of dance bars in the 'sacred land' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Raigad.

Police registered a case against 15 individuals under relevant BNS sections following a viral video of some men storming into Night Riders Bar on the outskirts of Panvel, vandalising furniture, smashing liquor bottles, and damaging the property. Police said they have identified eight of the accused, including MNS office-bearer Yogesh Chhile.

While addressing a gathering at the 78th foundation day of Peasants and Workers Party, Thackeray questioned the operation of illegal dance bars in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's "sacred land" Raigad district. He claimed these dance bars were run by non-Marathi people who were spoiling the youth. Shiv Sena



Maharashtra Navnirman Sena activists vandalise Night Riders Bar on the outskirts of Panvel

(UBT) MP Sanjay Raut was also present at the event.

In a swift response to their leader's remarks on illegal bars operating in Raigad, party workers targeted the Night Riders bar in Kon village near Palaspe Phata in Panvel shortly after midnight.

The vandalism comes a month after Panvel MLA Prashant Thakur of BJP had objected to the sale of liquor in Kharghar node, which is a part of Panvel taluka in Raigad. However, deputy CM Ajit

Pawar had then stated in the assembly during the monsoon session of the state legislature that if Thakur wants to make Kharghar a no-liquor zone, then they must comply with the laws and get residents' signatures that they do not want bars or liquor shops.

Panvel-based activist Anarjit Chauhan alleged that the vandalism seems to be politically motivated keeping in mind the upcoming municipal elections in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

"Dance bars with women employees, like Night Riders Bar, have been operating for years, even when the MVA govt was in power. If politicians see any immoral activity here, why didn't the police take any legal action? There seems to be a political agenda here," claimed Chauhan.

Activist B N Kumar of NatConnect Foundation remarked: "While there may be politics over this liquor-bar cocktail, if the people of Panvel do not want liquor shops, then they can legally go to the authorities."

All 162 appeals of patients have been rejected by NMC since 2019

► Continued from P 1

Clause 8.8 of the 2002 ethics regulation states, "Any person aggrieved by the decision of the State Medical Council on any complaint against a delinquent physician, shall have the right to file an appeal to MCI within 60 days from the date of receipt of the order passed by the said medical council".

Yet, all 162 appeals of patients have been rejected by NMC since 2019.

In the reply in Parliament, Union minister of state for health Anupriya Patel stated that "to ensure that the NMC functions in a transparent and fair manner", the central govt appoints the chairperson and presidents of four autonomous boards as per the NMC Act, 2019. However, there is no

There is a lack of transparency as even the minutes of meetings of NMC & its autonomous boards are not available in public domain, as used to be the case with the erstwhile MCI

transparency as even the minutes of meetings of the NMC and its autonomous boards are not available in the public domain, as used to be the case with the erstwhile Medical Council of India. Moreover, all autonomous boards, including the posts of presidents, are currently almost entirely vacant, with govt having failed to make appointments for over 10 months.

The few minutes of the commission's meetings accessed using RTI show that most non-donor ex-officio members hardly ever attend meetings and, hence, most decisions are taken by commission members, almost most of whom are doctors. Of the 33-member commission, about 20 are doctors.

"I have complained to the health ministry and the law ministry by registered post about NMC rejecting patient appeals and hence I have proof. So, the health ministry cannot claim to have not received any complaints," said Gokul Aneja, husband of a victim of alleged medical negligence, who appealed against the decision of the Punjab state medical council, only to have his appeal rejected twice.

On his 100th birth anniv, Guru Dutt's classics return in 4K to theatres

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This August, a filmmaker long gone returns to the big screen, sharper and clearer than ever. For the first time, a new generation will watch Guru Dutt's haunting silences, aching glances, and songs that still break hearts, where they belong: in theatres. Old fans may get misty-eyed; new ones will understand why he remains the tragic poet of Indian cinema. And yes, the lush, romantic Chaudhvin Ka Chand, comparing a beloved's face to the full moon, will still shimmer with the same charm. Only now, in 4K.

As part of Dutt's centenary celebrations, a nationwide



MOONLIGHT SONATA: Waheeda Rehman & Guru Dutt in Chaudhvin Ka Chand

theatrical release of his 4K-restored classics will run from August 8 to 10 across 250

cinemas in India. For the first time, films like Pyaasa, Aar Paar, Chaudhvin Ka Chand,

Mr & Mrs 55, and Baaz — released originally between 1953 and 1960 — will play in their digitally remastered glory.

Put together by NFDC-NFAI in association with Ultra media group, this retrospective offers a rewind into Dutt's moody and musical world, which defined both his storytelling and his on-screen presence.

"Guru Dutt's films are timeless masterpieces that have influenced generations of filmmakers and audiences alike. This initiative is not just a tribute to Dutt's legacy, but also a significant cultural movement to bridge generations through cinema," says Sushilkumar Agrawal, MD & CEO of Ultra, which owns the rights to these films.

At the heart of the line-up

is Pyaasa (1957), a haunting portrait of an idealistic poet adrift in a world that doesn't value poetry. Aar Paar is vintage noir-meets-Bombay jazz, while Chaudhvin Ka Chand remains one of Indian cinema's most enduring tales of friendship and love, set against the backdrop of Lucknow's Nawabi culture and beautifully captured in Technicolor. Mr & Mrs 55 is Dutt's rare rom-com, a witty take on post-Independence gender roles, and Baaz, his swash-buckling directorial debut.

Born Vasant Kumar Shivashankar Padukone in Bengaluru and raised in Kolkata before he made Mumbai his canvas, Dutt was a filmmaker who turned heartache into high cinematic art. His moody, slow-burning frames

and monologues redefined the language of Indian cinema. A pioneer of artful anguish, he made melancholy a separate genre sculpted in shadow and song with films like Pyaasa and Kaagaz Ke Phool.

Off-screen too, the line between the artist and his art often blurred. His life, famously, mirrored the aching heart in his films. Critics and fans alike continue to draw parallels between his reel and real selves, often quoting "Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaaye toh kya hai" not just for his characters but for the man himself. Dutt died in 1964, at just 39, under circumstances still described as a possible suicide.

The centenary screenings will also spotlight his family still tied to cinema. For Dutt's

younger brother Devi Dutt, now 87, who produced films like Masoom and worked on Gandhi, it's a full-circle moment. "It's a dream come true to see his masterpieces restored to their former glory," he said.

He sees the re-release as a bridge across generations. "Guru Dutt's films are a window into the soul of Indian cinema, with poetry, music, and storytelling."

Would Guru Dutt have approved this restored visual retelling? "Given his passion for storytelling, I'm very sure he'd have been happy to see his work re-released in theatres all over India."

On whether today's audiences will connect with these stories, he's optimistic. "His themes of love, loss, and the

human condition are timeless. And visually, his use of lighting and cinematography might impress even those used to modern techniques."

For young viewers, Devi says, it's also a glimpse into a different India. "There's nostalgia, but also history. That mix might just make them see his work in a whole new light."

Dutt's legacy continues through his granddaughters, Karuna and Gouri Dutt, both assistant directors who've worked with filmmakers like Anurag Kashyap, Neeraj Ghaywan, and Sudhir Mishra. The big-screen revival, they say, is a chance for viewers to see not just the visuals but his vision, which they describe as "sharp, poetic, and still ahead of its time."

ED arrests ex-fund manager in ₹200cr ‘front-running’ case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the the Axis Mutual Fund money laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate on Sunday said it has seized Rs 17.4 crore of shares and mutual funds and arrested its then fund manager Viresh Joshi. A special court has remanded Joshi in ED custody till Aug 8.

The proceeds of crime identified by the agency so far is around Rs 200 crore, and likely to further go up substantially. “The proceeds of the fraud were laundered through multiple shell entities and bank accounts beneficially owned by the accused persons/entities and their



ED said it has seized Rs 17.4 crore of shares and mutual funds

family members, which is under investigation,” ED said.

The current searches at the Axis Mutual Fund — which is one of the country’s largest MF with more than Rs 3 lakh crore of assets under management and having a 1.3 crore investors’ folio count under its various schemes (as of March 2025)—has raised serious con-

cerns on the funds’ safety of lakhs of investors.

Over the last two days, the agency conducted searches across eight cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj and Kolkata—on several front entities that have been allegedly involved in rigging the market on insider trade information shared by Joshi.

In addition to accused Joshi, investigation has revealed that many other traders/brokers had also misused the advance inputs on Axis Mutual Fund trades and indulged in front running to generate illicit trade profits, which is nothing but proceeds of crime, ED said.

Odisha paper leak: Board of secondary edu VP held

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Bhubaneswar: Odisha police crime branch arrested Board of Secondary Education vice-president Nihar Mohanty Sunday for his alleged involvement in the leak of special Odisha Teachers’ Eligibility Test (OTET) question paper on the eve of the July 20 exam. Subsequently, OTET was cancelled.

Earlier, the board’s data entry operator Jitan Moharana was arrested on July 30 on charges of obtaining the question papers from Mohanty’s laptop. Mohanty, responsible for overseeing the career progress test for in-service teachers, allegedly violated confidentiality protocols by allow-

ing Moharana unauthorised access to his laptop, police said. “Only Mohanty had access to the password of his official laptop. After receiving the draft questions from a printer based outside Odisha for final review, he failed to delete the file from his laptop as required by protocol, indicating possible wrongful intent and criminal nexus,” said DG Vinaytosh Mishra.

An analysis of telephone records revealed unusual communication patterns between Mohanty and Moharana, including over 100 calls outside office hours in the past two to three months, Mishra added. Crime branch also noted that Moharana had previously been removed from exam duties due to concerns over his integrity and conduct.

2 awarded life term for 2022 murder of Dalit man in UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: A court in Uttar Pradesh’s Ambedkar Nagar district has sentenced two men to life in prison for axing a 28-year-old Dalit man to death in 2022.

Special judge Ram Vilas Singh on Saturday convicted the duo under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 34 (liability in criminal act) and Section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 each. Special public prosecutor Sudip Mishra told **TOI** the murder was committed in a village in Alapur on night of July 31, 2022.

According to the complaint lodged by one Ramvriksha, the murder unfolded after former village pradhan Ranu Tiwari visited his younger brother Jalandhar, an electrician, to request a repair. Jalandhar agreed to do the work the following morning and left for nearby Khajhapur.

Around midnight, Ramvriksha’s wife heard some noise and alerted the family. “When Ramvriksha tried calling Jalandhar, the phone was answered by an unknown person who told them to come to the fields. Upon reaching, the family found Jalandhar lying with severe injuries. He was rushed to the

govt hospital in Baskhari and then referred to the district hospital in Akbarpur, where he died,” said Mishra.

An FIR was registered based on the complaint and the accused — Aryan alias Sachin Yadav and Lalu alias Brijesh Yadav — were arrested. Police collected testimonies, scene maps, post mortem reports, call detail records, and video evidence. A chargesheet was filed, and the case was tried in special SC/ST court.

Hearing the case, the special judge found both accused guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. “The judge concluded that the crime was intentional, caste-motivated and brutal in nature,” Mishra said.

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1000	C-47	11,000/-	2,20,000/-
BATALA			
5 Acre	1-A	4,000/-	19,36,000/-
FARIDKOT			
44 Acre	A-1	8415/-	3,58,41,168/-
5.16 Acre	A-2(P), A-3, A-4	9350/-	46,70,213/-
5.18 Acre	A-7	10,285/- (P)	51,37,235/- (P)
GOINDWAL SAHIB PHASE-I			
4000	9, 10		1,60,000/-
2000	39, 400, 401		80,000/-
1000	144, 281, 282(P), 375, 397, 399, 430	2,000/-	40,000/-
500	207, 208, 209, 220(P), 240	2,200/- (P)	44,000/- (P)
GOINDWAL SAHIB PHASE-II			
17 Acre	A-3	1,800/-	29,62,080/-
HI-TECH VALLEY, LUDHIANA			
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15.42 Acres	B-3	9,000/-	1,34,33,904/-
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2.32 Acres	E-2(P)	11,000/- (P)	24,70,336/- (P)
1.4 Acres	E-3(P)		14,90,720/- (P)
2.2 Acres	E-5		21,29,600/-
1.62 Acres	E-8	10,000/-	15,68,160/-
KAPURTHALA			
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5000	A-1		3,00,000/-
2500	B-19(P), B-20(P)		1,65,000/- (P)
1000	C-1, C-2, C-8, C-10, C-11, C-12, C-37(P), C-38, C-42, C-43, C-44, C-47(P), C-137, C-138, C-150, C-152		66,000/- (P)
500	D-22, D-23, D-24(P), D-29, D-31, D-32, D-33, D-91(P), D-92, D-93, D-94, D-102, D-103(P), D-104(P), D-109, D-110, D-111, D-112, D-113, D-129, D-130(P), D-131(P), D-132, D-150(P)	3,000/- 3,300/- (P)	30,000/- 33,000/- (P)
250	E-8(P), E-9(P), E-11		15,000/- 16500/- (P)
MANDI GOBINDGARH			
4840	B-13	5,000/-	4,84,000/-
1000	D-115		1,00,000/-
MOHALI PHASE-VIII A & B			
500	F-321-A, F-419, F-476, F-503, F-527(P), F-528, F-529, F-484, F-487, F-488	39,000/- 42,900/- (P)	3,90,000/- 4,29,000/- (P)
MOGA			
1.14 Acre	A-2(P)	6,600/- (P)	7,28,323/- (P)
MUKTSAR SAHIB			
2500	19		75,000/-
1000	111, 113, 119(P)	1,500/- 1,650/- (P)	30,000/- 33,000/- (P)
500	120(P), 121, 122, 123, 124		15,000/- 16,500/- (P)

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1 Acre	9	4,000/-	3,87,200/-
2500	18	4,400/- (P)	2,00,000/-
1000	53(P), 55, 65, 66(P), 67(P), 68		80,000/-
500	20(P), 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 38, 39, 40		88,000/- (P)
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3750	A-8	4,000/-	3,00,000/-
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2500	B-5	9,000/-	4,50,000/-
500	D-11, D-12, D-17, D-24, D-25, D-26, D-27(P)	9,900/- (P)	90,000/-
250	E-15, E-17(P), E-18(P), E-48		99,000/- (P)
			45,000/-
			49,500/- (P)
TANDA			
2500	147-A		1,25,000/-
500	31, 41	2,500/-	25,000/-
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Rahul all praise for ‘Sankat Mochan’ Singhvi at lawyers’ meet

New Delhi: That he has been the Nehru-Gandhi family’s chief legal troubleshooter was never a secret. But not many expected Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to confirm this publicly. Speaking at a meeting of lawyers and information rights activists here on Saturday, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha talked at length about MP and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi’s role as the ‘sankat mochan’ for him and others in the family.

“You know, you know I have also dealt with a lot of lawyers, but he (Singhvi) is like a laser beam. He will get to the point instantly, and he will cut exactly to what the issue is,” Rahul said at the conference, which also saw Singhvi playing the chief organiser.

Rahul referred to the cases that he faces and the help he gets from the senior advocate. “And, so I discuss these cases with him. And, it is very refreshing... he has told me the entire thing that I need to know,” Rahul said amid applause from the audience. **TNN**

School water ‘poisoning’ in Belagavi driven by bigotry: Sidda

Belagavi: Two weeks after drinking water allegedly laced with poison left 11 students ill at a govt school in Belagavi district, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Sunday described it as “a heinous act driven by religious fundamentalism and hatred” and accused BJP of creating an environment of religious polarisation.

Belagavi SP Bhimashankar Guled told reporters three members of a fringe group, Sri Rama Sene, were arrested. Police sources said the poisoning was part of a larger plan to discredit the headmaster, who is from a minority community, and force his transfer. Siddaramaiah posted on X, “This act could have resulted in the massacre of innocent children. It is a terrifying reminder of how religious bigotry and communal hatred can manifest in such inhuman ways.”

Holding BJP netas accountable for polarisation, he said, “Those who spread hatred in the name of religion for political gain must introspect. Will Pramod Mutalik, BY Vijayendra, or R Ashok take responsibility for this?” **TNN**

UP don Mukhtar’s younger son Umar held in forgery case

Lucknow: Umar Ansari, younger son of the late UP gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, was arrested in Lucknow late Sunday in a forgery case, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty. Umar, picked up from the Darul Shafa area, is being taken for further proceedings to Ghazipur, where the case is filed. He faces other cases, too.

Umar is accused of attempting to fraudulently reclaim a property confiscated under UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act. The property is linked to his father Mukhtar’s alleged crimes. His elder brother and ex-MLA Abbas recently came out of jail in one of his eight cases.

To drive sale of EVs, govt to clarify they are exempt from 15-yr ‘end of life’ norm

New Delhi: In a bid to increase the penetration of electric buses, cars and trucks, and to spur their sales, govt is likely to clarify soon that the 15-year ‘End of Life’ (EoL) regulation isn’t applicable to EVs. The power ministry will also expedite extending the CAFE norms (regulations designed to reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions) to urban freight vehicles, trucks and buses.

These were among the steps finalised at a recent high-level meeting chaired by Niti Aayog member Rajiv Gauba amid concerns over the slow progress of EV penetration in the country, which was barely 7.6% in 2024, as against the target of 30% by 2030. While EV penetration is higher for two- and three-wheelers and buses, it has been slow for

Philippines eyes buying more def equipment from India

Delhi To Join Manila On SCS Joint Patrol

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As the Indian govt prepares to host Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Manila has expressed interest in purchasing more defence equipment from India.

Defence, security and maritime cooperation are among the key pillars of the relationship and will top the agenda of Marcos’ bilateral engagement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, along with trade ties.

Ahead of the president’s visit, the chief of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Romeo Brawner, said the Philippines is looking to purchase more weapon systems from India, citing the quality and affordability of Indian defence equipment.

Talking about the ongoing delivery of BrahMos cruise missiles to Manila, Brawner also said two sets of the India-



The meeting between PM Modi and Philippines Prez Ferdinand Marcos Jr (left) will take place at a time when India & China are trying to rebuild ties and it will be interesting to see how much play the South China Sea issue can get

Russia jointly developed missile systems will arrive in the Philippines in the next few years. The Philippines’ maritime dispute in the South China Sea (SCS), or what Manila calls the West Philippine Sea, has seen it scaling up defence cooperation with countries like India and Japan to blunt Chinese aggression and ensure peace and stability in the contested waters.

India will also join the Philippines this week for a joint patrol in the South China Sea. In the middle of its own border tensions with China, India in 2023 joined Manila in explicitly asking China to abide by a 2016 arbitral tribunal award that refuted Beijing’s expansive claims

over SCS waters. Modi and Marcos are also expected to discuss India’s offer for concessional Line of Credit to meet Philippines’ defence requirements, acquisition of naval assets, and expansion of training and joint exercises on maritime security.

According to Manila, six agreements in a range of areas like science and technology, law and culture are expected to be signed.

The Modi-Marcos meeting, however, takes place in the middle of efforts by both India and China to rebuild their relationship and it will be interesting to see how much play the South China Sea issue can get in the meeting. During Marcos’ recent

visit to the US, President Donald Trump reportedly told him he wouldn’t mind if Manila got along with China.

The two countries will also discuss efforts to enhance trade ties, as they both look to conclude a bilateral trade deal with the US to avoid getting caught in the cross hairs of Trump’s trade war.

While the US president has announced 25% tariffs on imports from India, he has slapped Manila with a 19% levy.

Bilateral trade crossed \$3 billion for the first time in 2022-2023 and the two sides have agreed to commence negotiations for a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement.

According to the ministry of external affairs (MEA), development cooperation is another crucial aspect of bilateral relationship.

“India is implementing six Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in the areas of agriculture, disaster risk reduction & management, health-care and livelihood support, in the Philippines, under an MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for the implementation of QIPs, signed on Feb 7, 2023,” said an official.

EC: No Bengal party appealed against rolls before LS polls

Debashis Konar @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: None among the eight main political parties in Bengal formally filed any objection to the final voters’ list published ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Election Commission said Sunday in a statement seeking to counter insinuations of tampering amid preparations for a special intensive revision of the rolls like the one in Bihar.

“Electoral rolls are prepared transparently; copies shared with recognised political parties,” Bengal’s chief electoral officer said. During the special summary revision 2024, copies of draft and final rolls were provided to all parties, the statement mentioned.

The commission said it received 34.2 lakh claims and objections between the publication of the draft and final electoral rolls. Appeals can be filed for wrongful additions and deletions, but there was no such allegation.

The statement, coming a week after the publication of electoral rolls of 11 districts based on a special intensive revision in 2002, is seen as a move to insulate the poll body from political allegations of bias as it tries to purge the rolls of illegal voters.

The poll panel indicated that even BJP, vocal on Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, didn’t formally appeal ahead of the Lok Sabha elections last year. EC put out a detailed annexure to emphasise its point. The annexure said all eight major political parties in Bengal, including Trinamool, BJP, Congress and CPM, received a copy of the draft electoral rolls on Nov 1, 2023.

North 24 Parganas, with 4.6 lakh claims and objections, topped the list, followed by South 24 Parganas at 4.2 lakh. Hooghly (2.2 lakh) and Nadia (2.1 lakh) followed. Murshidabad, East Burdwan and East Midnapore also had 2-lakh plus additions or deletions.

“It has come to our notice that a lot of allegations are being made on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Bengal. Parties have a legal option to formally appeal against wrongful addition or deletion. No party filed any appeal,” an EC official said.

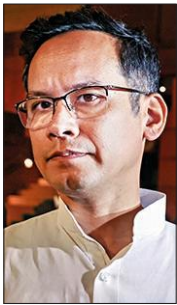
EC needs ‘Parl oversight’ to save its credibility: Gogoi

Subodh Ghildiyal @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In the middle of a war of wits between govt and the opposition over the revision of Bihar’s electoral rolls and allegations of bias against Election Commission, deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi has said the poll watchdog should be brought under “parliamentary oversight” to save its credibility — a demand that may touch off a new debate amid the chaos that threatens to sink the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament.

The Congress MP said Parliament had a role in the appointment process of EC through the presence of the leader of opposition in the collegium for its selection, but had no role in its regular functioning and oversight. He said the same was true of other constitutional bodies.

“The credibility of EC is at stake, and until some parliamentary oversight is brought over EC, it will remain a tool at the hands of govt,” he



“Credibility of EC is at stake, and until parliamentary oversight is brought over EC, it will remain a tool at hands of govt... I think to put EC back on track should be the duty of every citizen. It is not for a party but for the future of democracy

GAURAV GOGOI
Deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha

told TOI. Gogoi said the nature of parliamentary oversight could be debated but the fact that it was required cannot be disputed any more.

The opposition is set to escalate its focus on EC in coming days, with INDIA bloc demanding that govt schedule a discussion on Bihar’s rolls review in Parliament, a demand that looks likely to block the two Houses in the coming weeks. At the same time, Congress MP and LoP in LS Rahul Gandhi is set to lead a protest in Bengaluru on Tuesday against what he alleges is tampering of the voters’ list in Bangalore Rural LS seat — a sample that Cong-

ress has researched to claim similar irregularities exist elsewhere. He may also give a presentation on the “Bangalore findings” of Congress to allies on Thursday.

Gogoi argued, “I think to put EC back on track should be the duty of every citizen. It is not for a party but for the future of Indian democracy.”

Buttressing his demand, he said other democracies had parliamentary oversight over all key organisations, including law enforcement and intelligence. “Parliament should be supreme when it comes to these institutions that are at the bedrock of Indian democracy,” he said.

Tejashwi committed crime by keeping two voter IDs: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Sunday alleged that RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav had committed a crime by keeping two voter IDs, highlighting that the EPIC number he cited at a presser was different from the one he officially carries.



“Congress and RJD have been thoroughly exposed... Did you (Yadav) lie under oath? Did you present wrong facts to EC?” BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference.

In Patna, addressing a joint press conference with spokespersons for NDA allies JD(U), LJP (Ram Vilas), HAM(S) and RLM, BJP’s Ajay Alok said it was unlawful for one person to hold multiple EPICs. “Tejashwi agreed to it himself... We appeal to EC to register an FIR against Tejashwi,” he said.

JD(U) national executive president Sanjay Kumar Jha alleged that it constituted a criminal offence. “If a party leader like Yadav carries two voter IDs, then what will its workers be doing?” Patra said, claiming it showed RJD members cast votes at more than one place to inflate support.

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‘What he (Donald Trump) said very clearly is that it is not acceptable for India to continue financing this war by purchasing the oil from Russia,’ said Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff at the White House. The Indian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

the Trump administration about one of the US’s major partners in the Indo-Pacific.

“People will be shocked to learn that India is basically tied with China in purchasing

Bharti Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Forty-eight hours after publication of the draft electoral roll in Bihar, booth level agents (BLAs) of 12 political parties in the state were yet to file any claim or objection against wrongful inclusions and exclusions. However, 941 individual applicants came forward between 3pm on Aug 2 and 3pm on Aug 3 to submit claims or objections.

EC, in its daily update on claims and exclusions on Sunday, said it also received 4,374 applications over the past two days from newly eligible electors, seeking enrolment by submitting their Form 6 and mandatory declaration.

Parties, including RJD, Congress, CPM, BJP, JD(U), BSP, AAP, National People’s Party, CPI(ML) Liberation, LJP, Rashtriya LJP and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party, have over 1.6 lakh BLAs in the field to study the draft rolls for any inclusion of ineligible persons or exclusion of eligible electors.

EC sources said the list of nearly 65 lakh deletions from the roll as it existed on June 24, 2025 was prepared with the involvement of BLAs and also shared with them on July 20. “So practically, they have had a much longer window — of the past 13 days — to spot any wrongful inclusions or exclusions,” an EC official said.

1 house, many voters: RJD flags ‘dubious’ entries, EC counters

RJD said many electors had listed ‘House No. 107’ and ‘House No. 109’ as ‘residential address’ in enumeration forms. EC said they were ‘notional housing numbers’

raising questions about the authenticity of the rolls. The addresses, near Patna airport, are part of Digha assembly constituency. EC clarified the questionable addresses were “notional housing numbers” used to ensure voter inclusion where permanent addresses had not yet been allotted.

“Why doesn’t EC declare House Number 107 as a district?” RJD wrote in its X post, alleging this was the true face of SIR. RJD spokesperson Shakti Singh Yadav reiterated

that the party had flagged these concerns from the outset. “The worst fears have come true. The exercise is only aimed at helping a political party,” Shakti said.

Responding to the allegations, an EC official said such listings were the result of “notional housing numbers” assigned by booth level officers (BLOs) to ensure eligible voters were not excluded simply because local bodies have not yet assigned permanent house numbers.

“There are many cases where people build houses in new colonies, but local bodies delay the allotment of official house numbers. If we wait indefinitely for the local bodies to assign permanent numbers, many eligible citizens will not be included in the voter list,” the EC official said.

India financing Russia’s war in Ukraine by buying oil from Moscow: Trump aide

Washington: A top aide to Donald Trump on Sunday accused India of effectively financing Russia’s war in Ukraine by purchasing oil from Moscow, after the US president escalated pressure on New Delhi to stop buying Russian oil.

“What he (Trump) said very clearly is that it is not acceptable for India to continue financing this war by purchasing the oil from Russia,” said Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff at the White House and one of Trump’s most influential aides.

Miller’s criticism was some of the strongest yet by

for comment.

Indian govt sources told Reuters on Saturday that New Delhi would keep purchasing oil from Moscow despite US threats. A 25% tariff on Indian products went into effect on Friday as a result of its purchase of military equipment and energy from Russia.

Trump has also threatened 100% tariffs on US imports from countries that buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a major peace deal with Ukraine. Miller tempered his criticism by noting Trump’s relationship with PM Narendra Modi, describing it as “tremendous.” **REUTERS**



HP MONSOON TOLL TOUCHES 184

The death toll in Himachal Pradesh this monsoon reached 184 on Sunday as a boulder crushed a car, killing a 37-year-old man, just hours after a JCB operator died when the land caved in under his machine. Around 300 roads remained blocked. A flash flood washed away a bridge connecting Lahaul & Spiti with Chamba district. So far, the state has suffered losses worth nearly Rs 1,715 crore

Kerala cops file case as video of threats to pastor goes viral

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: Kerala police have filed a suo motu case after a video surfaced showing a group of men threatening a Christian pastor in Wayanad district and accusing him of attempting religious conversion.

The men are seen in the video blocking the pastor’s vehicle, shouting abuse and issuing violent threats. “If you enter Hindu homes again, there won’t be any more beatings. Your legs will be chopped off,” one man is heard saying.

The confrontation occurred in April in Cherukad tribal hamlet. No case was registered at the time, as no formal complaint was filed.

The alleged crime drew police attention only after the video began circulating on social media, especially following the recent arrest of two nuns from Kerala in Chhattisgarh over allegations of human trafficking and forced religious conversion. The video’s authenticity

Kerala church daily seeks treason charges on ‘communal’ forces after nuns’ arrest

Blistering editorial in Kerala’s Church-run daily Deepika said Sunday the arrest of two nuns in Chhattisgarh was only the “first chapter” in a larger campaign against minorities and said temporary bail offered no real relief. Sisters Preethy Mary and Vandana Francis, both from Kerala’s Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate congregation, were arrested on July 25 on charges of alleged human trafficking and forced religious conversion. The case has been transferred to an NIA court. They were released Saturday after being granted conditional bail. Deepika wrote the case filed by railway police was “influenced by communalists and anti-social elements” and now fell under “anti-national activity”. “If there is any respect left for the Constitution,” it said, “this case should be dismissed and those responsible for the communal excesses should be charged with treason.” The editorial accused communal groups of unleashing mob justice, comparing the situation to that faced by religious minorities in Pakistan. **TNN**

ty couldn’t be independently verified. BJP functionaries said those seen in the video are not affiliated with Sangh Parivar. According to sources, the pastor had gone to the hamlet to invite children to a vacation class when the group stopped him and allegedly attempted to assault him.

Police have registered a case under multiple sections of BNS, including Section

192 (provocation with intent to cause riot). The FIR says the accused not only issued threats but also filmed and shared the video to incite communal unrest. Police have contacted the pastor and are working to identify those involved. A detailed investigation is under way to verify the sequence of events and determine if more people participated.

ROADBLOCKS IN EV PENETRATION

- Less public charging points, 2/3rd installed at petrol pumps are slow chargers
- No unified app for locating charging station & booking
- Discom levying high fixed charge for charging stations
- RWAs not allowing public charging
- Reluctance of banks to finance EVs, particularly buses & trucks
- Higher interest rate
- Concerns over life of batteries and low resale value



four-wheelers, with e-trucks not having taken off so far.

Sources said that responding to an observation from road transport secretary V Umashankar that most over 15-year-old buses are privately owned, Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam suggested that if the 15-year EoL regulation is not applied to EVs, it

may spur sales.

Umashankar also held that a mandate for EV adoption works best at places where a certain level of penetration and ecosystem are in place. Sources said there was a consensus to move from incentives to mandates and disincentives for faster EV adoption and for strategies to have

saturation in five cities for buses, para-transit and urban freight vehicles. A source said there was unanimous agreement on the need for fast expansion of charging infrastructure, deployment of fast chargers, development of new battery technologies to reduce import dependence and easier finance for e-buses and e-trucks.

Days later, the finance ministry held talks with banks to address their reluctance to finance EVs and the issue of higher interest rates.

At the meeting chaired by financial services secretary M Nagaraju, banks urged govt to standardise batteries, bring down vehicle costs and announce some incentive for purchase of new batteries, considering that batteries usually have to be replaced in 6-7 years and account for 40-50% of the cost of EVs.



Empowered Women, Stronger Nation

UTTAR PRADESH'S WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES



"It is important to recognise and support positive work being done towards women empowerment. Women have always been recognised in Indian tradition and culture and have had an important place in all festivals. There is a need to go beyond symbolism and recognise the good work being done on the ground."

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING DREAMS

Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the decisive governance of CM Yogi Adityanath, UP is witnessing a historic transformation in women empowerment. Focused on inclusive growth, the state has implemented far-reaching reforms—promoting entrepreneurship, wellness, safety, & education



PICS: DPIA, UTTAR PRADESH GOVT



"Through initiatives like Bank Sakhi and Beema Sakhi, women are gaining new opportunities to increase their income. When the country got its new Parliament, our government passed the first bill related to Nari Shakti. Since 2014, crores of women have become homeowners. India's female workforce, particularly in law enforcement, aviation, and science, are creating new benchmarks. We have worked to ensure dignity and convenience for women through initiatives such as constructing toilets, providing financial security with bank accounts, and improving maternal healthcare."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SHAKTI RISING: UP's INITIATIVES

- UP has approved a significant expansion of stamp duty benefits for women property buyers. Under the new policy, properties purchased in the name of women worth up to Rs 1 crore—including land or houses—will now receive a 1% exemption on stamp duty
- 20% reservation for women in police force with 1.38 lakh+ women having secured government jobs
- 1 crore+ women employed through 10 lakh+ self-help groups
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** Free LPG connections were provided to 1.86 crore families. Additionally, free refill cylinders were offered during Holi and Diwali
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana:** 24 lakh+ girls have benefitted
- Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana:** 33 lakh+ women have benefitted
- Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana:** 4.76 lakh couples tied the knot, financial assistance increased from Rs 51,000 to Rs 1 lakh
- Increase in honorarium for Anganwadi workers & helpers, 3.73 lakh women benefitted from BC Sakhi, 39,000+ women facilitated transactions worth Rs 731,626 crore, earned Rs 85.81 crore dividend

Uttar Pradesh, under the vision and leadership of PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath, has witnessed a major transformation in women empowerment. Focused on creating opportunities and ensuring safety, the state government has launched key initiatives such as Mission Shakti, expanded

women's participation in industrial sectors, and promoted SHGs across rural areas. Women are now actively involved in entrepreneurship, skill development, and even night-shift industries—backed by strong safety protocols. These progressive measures reflect UP's commitment to making women central to its development narrative.

Key Schemes for Women Empowerment & Welfare

- Lakhpati Didi Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Yojana
- Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana

NEW HORIZONS: WEE INDEX REPORT



The WEE Index is an initiative by the Planning Department and Udayati Foundation to assess the reach of government schemes among women and drive gender-inclusive, evidence-based policymaking. The index, prepared by the state planning department, not only highlights achievements, but also identifies areas where further efforts are needed. The analysis is drawn from 49 indicators and data from 15 departments, assessing the reach and impact of government schemes on women. The WEE index leading women towards employment, security and self-reliance has become the basis for policy making under 5 key categories in Uttar Pradesh:

1. Entrepreneurship
2. Employment
3. Education & Skill Development
4. Livelihood
5. Safety & Transport

HIGHLIGHTS

- The need to expand women's participation in the workforce and

governance has been identified

- UP government prioritising women in the recruitment of Home Guards and teachers, similar to the policy followed in police hiring
- Special efforts to increase women's enrollment in technical institutes, vocational programmes, and skill training centres
- 'Re-enrolment Unit' to be set up to bring back women who had dropped out of skill courses
- Efforts underway to ensure availability of paramedical institutes to support women's advancement in healthcare and service sectors
- Strategies being developed to enhance women's participation in the public transport system
- Work being done to create opportunities for women as drivers and conductors, along with specialised training and support facilities
- Special drive to be launched across all districts to ensure greater participation of women in the ODOP Margin Money Scheme



Flagship initiatives like Mission Shakti, priority hiring in government jobs, and expansion of self-help groups have ensured women step confidently into economic and social leadership roles. This strategic shift reflects not just policy change but a cultural evolution—a cornerstone for 'Nari Shakti'

INCREASE IN FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

- Women's labour force participation increased from 14% in 2017–18 to 36% in 2023–24
- 22% surge marks not just a statistical improvement but a deeper social and economic change, highlighting the increasing presence of women in various sectors of the workforce
- Policy reforms materialised under CM Yogi Adityanath's governance
- 34.65% of construction sector workers are women

- 53% of registrations on the e-Shram portal are women

IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATION, SAFETY, AND TRANSPORT

- Significant rise in women's participation in education and skill development
- Increased access for women to technical and vocational training centres
- Campaigns like Mission Shakti have enhanced safety and social awareness
- Women now have opportunities as drivers and conductors in public transport

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Government schemes have enabled a leap in women's entrepreneurship and employment
- New doors of opportunity opened for women in industrial sectors
- Women now permitted to work in 29 previously restricted categories
- Rising female participation strengthens the dream of a one-trillion-dollar economy

WOMEN WELFARE AT THE FOREFRONT

UP's flagship women-centric initiative 'Mission Shakti' has reached over 9 crore women since its launch in October 2020. According to government data, 1,707 potential child marriages were prevented under the campaign. The state government has prosecuted 27,425 cases of crimes against women and minors, which included 11,254 cases under the POCSO Act and over 3,700 dowry death cases. Mission Shakti's outreach has been amplified through special events, awareness drives, and training sessions conducted in villages, schools, colleges, and urban wards.



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH: A TALE OF TWO PHASES

Indicators	2012–17	2017–TILL PRESENT
Women in the workforce	~14 %, well below national average (~25 %)	Jumped to 36 % by 2023–24
Policy Focus & Safety	Minimal targeted schemes for women's safety & employment	Mission Shakti, priority in govt jobs, night-shift permissions, and industrial job access in all 29 factory categories
Industrial Workforce Access	Restricted — many factory roles off-limits for women	Full access granted to all 29 previously restricted sectors under safety norms
Night Shift Inclusion	Rarely permitted	Permitted with mandatory safety, transport, and rest facilities
Labour Site Participation	Limited in construction, utilities, services	Women comprise 34.65 % of construction workers, and 53% of registrations on e-Shram portal
Self-Help Groups & Entrepreneurship	Smaller scale, limited outreach	Over 10 lakh SHGs formed, 1 crore women engaged in income activities
Financial Inclusion (BC Sakhi Programme)	Small pilot projects	~40,000 BC Sakhis in UP have enabled transactions worth Rs 731,626 crore
Women's Safety & Outreach Initiatives	Basic infrastructure; limited campaigns	Mission Shakti, safety campaigns, improved legal and social support structures
Skill Development & Training Access	Limited technical and vocational training	Expansion of training centres, e-skilling programmes, boosting women in industry and self-employment



READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

IIITD INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DELHI (A State University established by Govt. of NCT Delhi)

विकसित भारत अभियान

TENDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NETWORK DETECTION AND RESPONSE (NDR)

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-D), created by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, invites tender for NDR. Detailed tender document is available on the website of the Institute at <https://www.iiitd.ac.in/tenders>. The last date for submission of tender is 25th August 2025 at 3:00 PM.

HITES HLL INFRA TECH SERVICES LTD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

HLL Infra Tech Services Ltd. (HITES), on behalf of MoHFW, GOI invites online tenders for selection of contractor for Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) including Operation & Maintenance of Tertiary Level CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Medical Management Centre with Bone Marrow Transplant Centre at Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Estimated cost Rs. 112.77Cr. For details visit <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> and www.hlhitest.com/tenders from 04.08.2025. Vice President (IDN), HITES Noida

ANDHRA PRADESH INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY
Email:- info.inlandwaterways@gmail.com

EoI e-procurement

EoI Notice No. APIWA/ EOI/Cargo/2025/01 dated: 04.08.2025 & Notice No. /APIWA/ EOI's/WT/2025/01 dated: 04.08.2025

Sl.No. Name of the Works

1) APIWA is Inviting Expression of Interest for
(1) Establishment, Operation, and Maintenance of Inland Water Transport for Cargo in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
(2) Establishment, Operation, and Maintenance of Inland Water Transport for Passenger and Tourist Movements in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The details can be seen at <https://apeprocurement.gov.in>.
Tel No: 9952974150, 8143901582.

Sd/-, CEO, APIWA

VAPI GREEN ENVIRO LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE

Vapi Green Enviro Limited (VGEL) is proposing to Invite online offer from EPC based work contractor for Expansion of Treatment facility of CETP from 55 to 70 MLD i.e. by 15 MLD. Tender is invited from the EPC contractors having requisite experience as stipulated in tender document for Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation works. Tender document may be downloaded from 02/08/2025 to 12:30 PM on 04/09/2025.

Interested organizations with similar type of experience may download the tender documents from MSTC website www.mstccommerce.com OR www.vgelvapi.com or request e-mail to dgm.purchase@vgelvapi.com or call 9714000828.

इंजीनियर्स इंडिया लिमिटेड ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED
(एनएच सीएस सीएससी) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Audio-Visual System and Information System Works for Enterprise Computing and Cybersecurity Training Institute Complex at Bhubaneswar

EIL on behalf of a premier financial regulatory government body under the ownership of Government of India (Client), invites e-bids from eligible bidders for the following works:

Description	Bidding Document on Website	Bid Due Date & Time
Name of the Work: Audio-Visual System and Information System Works for Enterprise Computing and Cybersecurity Training Institute Complex at Bhubaneswar Bidding Document no.: JP/B571-001-EH-T-8900/1008	From 04.08.2025 to 25.08.2025	on 25.08.2025 up to 1200 hrs

Detailed IFB & Bidding Document along with Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) can be viewed and downloaded from e-tender site <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Bidder shall execute the NDA for downloading the detailed IFB & Bidding Document. All amendments, time extension, clarifications, etc will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

DGM (SCM-C&P), EIL

Government of Maharashtra Water Resources Department
Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation Jalgaon
Executive Engineer, Narmada Development Division
Near Khodai Mata Temple, Nandurbar.
e-mail id : ee_narmada@yahoo.co.in Phone: 02564-222291

E-Tender Notice No. 1 Year 2025-26

Executive Engineer, Narmada Development Division, Nandurbar is inviting e-Tender (Online) in B-1 Form from Contractor having 5 years experience in maritime board of shipping or boating industry or manning of boats for the following work. Tender documents should be downloaded from <http://mahatenders.gov.in> Right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved by Executive Engineer, Narmada Development Division, Nandurbar. Conditional tender will not be accepted.

Name of Work	Manning and maintenance of Five steel Barges of Narmada Development Division, Nandurbar (13.40m x 4.125m) used at submergence villages of Sardar Sarovar Project (Excluding fuel and Spares)
Estimated Cost in Rs.	Rs.98,00,152/-
E-Tender Availability period	Date 04/08/2025 (10.00) to 18/08/2025 (17.45)
E-Tender opening Date	21/08/2025 (if possible)
Place of Opening Tender	Executive Engineer, Narmada Development Division, Nandurbar

All information regarding tender available at above website.If any changes made, it will be published on website.

Sd/-
(P.G.Patil)
Executive Engineer,
Narmada Development Division,
Nandurbar.

DGIPR/2025-2026/1944

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division,
2nd Floor, BBMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bengaluru-09.
No.EE/GNR/TEND/KPP/03/2025-26 Date: 02.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION through KPP Portal only
(website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CWPD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Approved Works
1.	Improvements to drains, CC Road and other Allied works in 5,6,1,11,9,2,8,2,10,19,18,16,20,2,31,1,29,2,33,1,34,2,69,3,5,1,3,5,2,4,3,4,2,4,6,4,1,1,4,9,4,5,4,7,3,9,2 in Subhashnagar, Ward No.124. Estimated Cost (₹. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs) 3.00.
2.	Improvements to drains, CC Road and other Allied works in 17,56,55,41.1, 27, 22.1, 20,24,27,25.2, 25.1, 26, 28 in Gandhinagar Sub Division, Ward No. 123. Estimated Cost (₹. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs) 4.50.
3.	Improvements to drains, CC Road and other Allied works in 42,41,40,1,59,54,2,3,1,4,5 in Cottonpet Sub Division, Ward No.127. Estimated Cost (₹. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs) 3.00.

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 12.08.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: 14.08.2025 upto 12:30 p.m. (3) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid (Will be intimated through KPPP).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP.

मध्यप्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग, इन्दौर

विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक 7035/09/2021/कम्प्यूटर दिनांक 01/08/2025

: विज्ञप्ति :

मध्यप्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग कार्यालय में 01 नग Firewall Setup की आवश्यकता के संदर्भ में **Gem** पर **Bid** की गई है। **Gem** का **Bid no. GEM/2025/B/6517657, Date 31-07-2025** को अपलोड की गई है। **Bid** की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक **21-08-2025** है।

Sd/-
कम्प्यूटर भण्डार प्रभारी
"पाँक्सो हे सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार" G-16720/25

Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission
Residency Area, Indore (M.P.) 452001

Vigyapti No: 6828 /40/2024/Exam-10 Indore, Dated: 29 July 2025

Tender Notice

RFP for Answer Book Scanning & On-Screen Marking System Third Call
Bid schedule as per mentioned :-

Bid issue date - 01/08/2025 at 12:00 Noon
Pre Bid Meeting Date - 07/08/2025 at 11:30 AM
The Last Date for Submission of Bid - 22/08/2025 till 5:30 PM
Bid Opening Date - 28/08/2025 till 3:00 PM

For more detailed information regarding the tender, the tender and tender forms can be downloaded through the links available on the Commission's website www.mppsc.mp.gov.in and mptenders.gov.in portal.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary
"पाँक्सो हे सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार" G-16657/25

Govt. of Bihar

Urban Development and Housing Department
1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna-800015
(Tel:0612-2215580,2215385;Fax:2217059,2231566;
Email: urbansec-bih@nic.in,
Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban

SECTION - I: NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Selection of Agency for Preparation of Comprehensive City Revitalization Plans including Central Business Districts (CBDs) & Historic Core for Sitamarhi

File No:- 09/नगरविभागांलगा-23/2024

1. Urban Development & Housing Department, Gov. of Bihar, invites proposals from eligible firms to select a consultant for Preparation of Comprehensive City Revitalization Plans including Central Business Districts (CBDs) & Historic Core for Sitamarhi.

2. Interested Consultancy Firms may download the complete Request for Proposals (RFP) Document, from website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> or <https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban>.

SN	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	Website for submission of proposal	www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/
2	Mode of Submission	Online submission through eproc2 portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and at the same time submission of Hard copies of Tender fee, Bid Security, payment proof, original copy of affidavit, declaration regarding Blacklisting and Power of Attorney as per RFP document at UD&HD office at Vikas Bhawan Patna
3	Last date and time for Submission of Technical Proposal on	25-08-2025 up to 05:00 PM
4	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	12-08-2025 by 11:30AM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
5	Last date and time for Submission of Hard Copies (Tender fee, payment proof, original copy of affidavit, Blacklisting and Power of Attorney as per RFP document)	27-08-2025 up to 03:00 PM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
6	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	27-08-2025 at 03:30 PM
7	Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	Will be intimated later to successful bidders
8	Method of Selection	QCBS method of evaluation (weightage 70:30)

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

Additional Secretary
Urban Development and Housing Department

PR. No. 010385 (URBAN) 25-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

कार्यालय मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं क्षेत्र संचालक, पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी
e-mail : fdpenpn.sni@mp.gov.in, url : www.penchtiger.org

क्रमांक/स्टोर/4071 संक्षिप्त निविदा विज्ञप्ति सिवनी/दिनांक/30/07/25

पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी (म.प्र.) के उपयोगार्थ कैमरा ट्रेड क्रय हेतु विभिन्न फर्मों से ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अंतर्गत ऑनलाईन निविदा www.mptenders.gov.in पर **Key data and time** अनुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Technical Specification Table-A

1. Camera Trap

a. Configuration:

Cemara Trap Technical Specification / Parameters:-

Sr.No.	Technical Specification / Parameters	Requirement
1	Image Resolution	≥ 10 Mega Pixel
2	Flash Type	White Flash (Day and Night Colour Photos)
3	Trigger Speed	≤ 0.8 seconds
4	Delay/Recovery time	≤ 2.5 seconds
5	Flash range	≥ 30 feet
6	Power supply	AA (Alkaline) batteries
7	Storage	Should support 32 GB SD or Micro SD memory card
8	Stamping / Infostrip on the photo	Date, Time and Camera ID
9	Protection (IP rating)	IP 65 and above
10	Warranty	1 Year
11	Firmware Update Support	Minimum of 3 years via OEM official website

टीप- उपरोक्त सामग्री की मात्रा किसी भी सीमा तक कम या अधिक हो सकती है।

Bid Submission Start Date & time	07/08/2025 10.00 AM
निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि	
Bid Submission closing Date & time	22/08/2025 05.00 PM
निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि	
Bid Opening Date	25/08/2025 12.00 PM
निविदा खोलने का दिनांक	

Sd/-
उप संचालक
पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व
सिवनी (म.प्र.)

G-16696/25
"पाँक्सो हे सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार"

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below;

Date of release of tender through e- procurement : 06.08.2025 at 1700 hrs
Last date & time for downloading of tender documents : 01.09.2025 upto 1300 hrs
Last date and time submission of e-tenders : 01.09.2025 upto 1300 hrs
Date and time for opening of e-tenders : 02.09.2025 at 1330 hrs

Details of work

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit Amount
1.	Improving discharge carrying capacity of piped (closed drain) running from Manekshaw Enclave to Mall road & near Sabri Mess area by laying of one additional 1400 mm dia RCC pipe to carry additional rain work discharge of NH-8.	Rs.3,75,00,000/-	Rs.4,50,000/-
2.	Improvement to parks by providing Gazebos and other misc. ornamental items, Delhi Cantt.	Rs.3,00,00,000/-	Rs.3,75,000/-
3.	Term Contract for supplying/fixing /repairs to road signages in Delhi Cantonment	Rs.2,00,00,000/-	Rs.2,75,000/-
4.	Term Contract for improvement, repair, construction of footpath/walking plaza, jogging tracks in Delhi Cantonment	Rs.5,00,00,000/-	Rs.5,75,000/-

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GFR 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from web site of <http://delproc.gov.in> & www.delhi.cantt.gov.in.

Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website <http://delproc.gov.in> & Cantt Board website www.delhi.cantt.gov.in. All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.

Telephone No.25695450
No. DCB/8-C-1/TN/2025-26/4
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD
Website : www.delhi.cantt.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment

Yogi: Slap NSA for flying drones illegally or spreading rumours

Mohammad.Dilshad
@timesofindia.com

Agra: UP CM Yogi Adityanath has warned that individuals operating drones without official permission or spreading rumours and misinformation about them to create panic will be prosecuted under the Gangster Act, and in serious cases, the National Security Act (NSA) will also be invoked.

He instructed senior officials to step up district-wise drone surveillance, strengthen patrolling, and ensure all violations are dealt with firmly. The directive comes amid a series of mob attacks triggered by false claims of thieves using drones to scout homes they target in western UP.

During a review meeting with senior police officers, Yogi said that unauthorised use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was banned in the state and any misuse would attract legal action. He added that drone misuse would not be tolerated.

"Anyone using drones illegally or for creating panic will not be spared. If required, the NSA will be used," the CM said. The 'misinformation' about



UP CM instructed senior officials to step up district-wise drone surveillance, strengthen patrolling, and ensure all violations are dealt with firmly

drones has triggered community-led patrolling, physical assaults, and mob action against mentally disabled persons and outsiders mistaken for gang members. In some areas, residents formed vigilante groups and launched independent crackdowns based purely on unverified drone sightings.

The warning comes days after a 50-year-old mentally unstable man was lynched by a mob in Bareilly's Bhojipura area, and "outsiders" were caught and thrashed at night by locals in parts of western UP on suspicion of being "drone thieves" — people presumed to use drones

to recce an area before targeting houses for burglary or arson.

Sensing public disorder, UP police have already launched night patrols from 11pm to 3am in some areas, along with awareness campaigns with village heads, and created a "drone register" to identify legitimate operators. Police further clarified that drone use at night has been barred completely to prevent chaos and panic.

There have also been several arrests of "drone rumour suspects" in Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad and Bareilly, along with some of those involved in "mob attacks".

In the latest such case in Muzaffarnagar, three persons were held for allegedly using pigeons fitted with LED lights — in the night sky — to mimic drone activity and purportedly spread fear.

On Saturday night, a 55-year-old mentally challenged person roaming in a village in the district was targeted by locals.

Three men were later arrested. SSP Sanjay Kumar Verma said six people have been arrested in the district so far for spreading "drone thief" rumours.

(With inputs from agencies)

From farming to running dairy, they tried everything together, always as partners

►Continued from P 1

When Mahatma Gandhi called for the Quit India Movement in 1942, these young boys, Bipin Desai and Gunwant Desai, who had just finished their matriculation, jumped into the freedom movement. Together, they handed out pamphlets against the British, organised protests, and even went to jail together.

After India got independence, both went to the agricultural university in Pune. When they graduated, they came back to Surat.

From farming to running a dairy, from contract work to various businesses, they tried everything together, always as partners.

They first lived in a simple mud house in the area that has since come to be known as Chanakyapuri. Even when their families grew and needed more space, they never thought of living apart. In 1970, they built 'Maitri', a duplex with separate sections for each family but one shared drawing room that became the heart of both homes.

Today, Gautam Desai (70), Bipin's son, and Parimal Desai (63), Gunwant's son, carry forward this legacy of friendship.

"The home has seen renovations and changes over the years, but Gautam and I still live here with our families. Our sons, Hardik and Rahul, also share a won-



Many believed Bipin Desai (left) and Gunwant Desai were actually brothers

derful bond," says Parimal.

What made their fathers' friendship even more special was their ability to navigate their different natures. Bipin was conservative while Gunwant was modern in his outlook. "In society, very few people knew that our fathers were friends. Most believed them to be brothers," says Gautam. "Whenever Parimal needed permission for anything, he would go to my father instead of his own. In the same way, Gunwant kaka would always stand by me and would not hesitate to overrule my father if I needed any approval."

Both Bipin and Gunwant followed Gandhi's teachings. Whether going to a wedding or a funeral, meeting the chief minister or common citizens, they always appeared together in simple, white khadi kurta-pyjamas.

"They did not plan to dress

alike. It just happened because they thought alike," says Parimal.

As if they had decided to depart together too, Gunwant left the world just nine months after Bipin passed away. Both had expressed their wish to donate their bodies for medical research.

When Gautam and Parimal went to donate Gunwant's body to SMIMER hospital, they discovered that Bipin's body was still at the hospital. The two friends found themselves resting together in the same cold storage.

Today, Gautam and Parimal run the 'Maitri Trust', established by their fathers in 1990 — they had donated their entire properties to the trust, making sure their friendship would keep helping people longer after they were gone.

The bond continues strong in the present generation. When Parimal went on a Europe tour, he took Gautam's daughter along.

Parimal's son Hardik shares a close relationship with Gautam. Parimal's granddaughter Vyomi often eats with Gautam's daughter-in-law, and Gautam's grandson Dwij prefers having meals with Parimal's family. Gautam's wife Janvi and Parimal's wife Trupti have been pillars in maintaining this family bonding. "We have cooked meals together, gone shopping together and have so many shared experiences," says Trupti.

SUV lost control after braking at high speed: Witnesses

►Continued from P 1

Witnesses told police that the driver braked at speed just as the SUV was approaching a culvert, causing it to spin out of control and fall into the canal.

While driver Sitaraman opened the door on his side and left to safety, two passengers in the front seat and a girl, identified as Pinki, were thrown out on impact.

PM Narendra Modi condoned the deaths and announced Rs 2 lakh in ex gratia for each of the lives lost and Rs 50,000 each for the injured. CM Yogi Adityanath announced Rs 5 lakh each to those who lost a family member.

As the SUV started to sink, several villagers jumped into the water to rescue those inside but couldn't open the doors. They used ropes to pull a portion of the vehicle up and smashed the windows using bricks. By then, 11 of the passengers were dead.

GMDC
TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.: GMDC/Tech-III/M&S/01/2025-26

Request for Proposal for Technical Services for Lignite Sale Growth for GMDC's Bhavnagar Lignite Mine

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC) invites proposals through (n) procure portal and physical copy for 'Providing Technical Services for Lignite Sale Growth for Bhavnagar Lignite Mine, Bhavnagar, Gujarat'.

All interested eligible service providers may submit RFP documents on or before dated **21.08.2025, 18:00 hrs.** For more information and time to time update / corrigendum, please visit the official website www.gmdcltd.com and <https://tender.nprocure.com>. For queries or assistance, contact 079-27912164/6359947641/6357425636 or email sales@gmdcltd.com.

Note: Application should be submitted online at <https://tender.nprocure.com> website and its original copy of technical bid to be submitted at below address on or before **21.08.2025, 18:00 hrs.**

General Manager (Marketing & Sales)

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Road, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER CO. LTD.
(At & PO : Nani Naroli, Ta-Mangrol, Dist-Surat, Gujarat)

TENDER FOR BOILER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (BMC) FOR 4X125 MW CFBC BOILERS & ITS AUXILIARIES INCLUDING ANNUAL OVERHAULING FOR THE YEAR 2025-27 (TWO YEARS) AT SURAT LIGNITE POWER PLANT (SLPP).

Interested Vendors may submit their Bids on two-part basis through (n) procure portal <https://gipcltender.nprocure.com> (Tender ID is 211612). It can also be viewed from company's website www.gipcl.com. The last date of submission of bid is **23.08.2025 up to 17:30 hrs.** **Additional General Manager (O&M)**

The Jharkhand State Co-operative Milk Producers Federation Ltd.
Near Farmers Training Centre Campus, Sec-II, H.E.C.,
Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, website: <http://www.jmf.coop>

ADVERTISEMNT FOR RECRUITMENT

Adv. No.: JMF/Admin & HR: 2025-26/ 224 Date: 04.08.2025

The Jharkhand State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (JMF), formed by Govt. of Jharkhand, is engaged in milk procurement from more than 60,000 farmers of Jharkhand, processing and marketing of milk & milk products under the popular name "Medha" with an Annual turnover of around Rs.400 crores handling 2.50 lakh litres per day across Jharkhand and having ISO 22000:2005 certified milk processing plant at Hotwar, Ranchi apart from plants at Deoghar, Koderma, Latehar, Palamu, Sahebganj and Sarath. Currently, JMF is managed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in MoU with Government of Jharkhand. We require competent, result oriented and qualified professionals for the following positions to work on purely contractual terms for the term period ending 31.03.2026 towards successful implementation of National Milk Recording Programme (NMRRP) under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

S.N.	DEPARTMENT	DESIGNATION	No. of Position	Job Specifications & Experience
		Project Officer	01	For detailed information on educational qualification, work experience and other requirements, please visit our website www.jmf.coop
01	Productivity Enhancement	Project Supervisor	03	For all the required positions, candidates to be selected on purely contractual basis for the period ending 31.03.2026 depending upon the qualification, relevant experience and performance in the selection process. Salary shall be a fixed component for the term period. The management reserves all rights to cancel one or all post advertised without assigning any reason thereof.

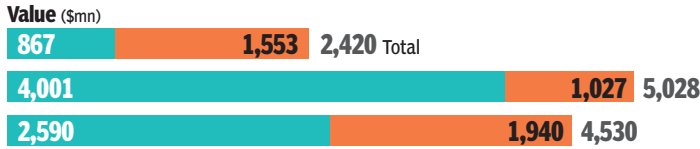
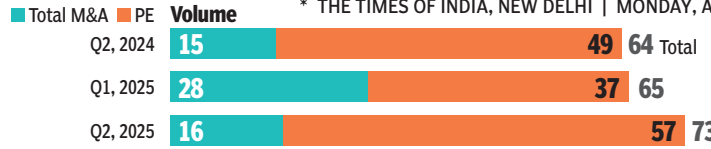
The duly signed hard copy application (as per prescribed format in our website) may be sent by Post/ courier to the Admin & HR Department on the above-mentioned address so as to reach us on or before 20.08.2025. Candidates may also send their applications in the prescribed application format on the email id hird@jmf.coop by mentioning "Post applied for....." in the subject line. The application received after last date shall be summarily rejected. Management reserves the right to modify/ cancel the employment notification.

PR 358850 Jharkhand Milk Federation(25-26).D **Managing Director**

Financial services sector witnessed 73 deals worth \$4.5bn in Q2 2025, registering a 14% increase in volumes and 87% surge in value compared to same period last year. Sequentially, however, deal volume rose 12% but value declined 10%

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025



Source: Grant Thornton Bharat

Mahindra plans 'engg actions' to tackle magnet woes

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra plans to manage rare earth magnet supplies through alternative sourcing channels for the next nine months and will pursue 'engineering efforts' to address the raw material shortage situation, according to a senior company executive. The imposition of export restrictions by China on key rare earth magnets has resulted in supply chain bottlenecks. "Basis, all the actions we have taken, FY26 is more or less managed. We have to now work on some medium and long term actions," M&M Group CFO Amarjyoti Barua said. AGENCIES



RBI's rate call, Q1 nos to drive mkts: Experts

New Delhi: Equity markets this week will turn their focus on the RBI's interest rate decision, Q1 earnings from several blue-chip firms and tariff-related news for further cues, analysts said. Moreover, trading activity of foreign investors and trends in global equity markets will also drive investors' sentiment, they added. AGENCIES

Opec+ agrees to raise output again

London: Opec+ agreed on Sunday to raise oil production by 547,000 barrels per day for Sept, the latest in a series of accelerated output hikes to regain market share, as concerns mount over potential supply disruptions linked to Russia. The move marks a full and early reversal of Opec+'s largest tranche of output cuts. REUTERS

'Semicon mkt may grow over 2X by 2030'

New Delhi: India's semiconductor market is expected to more than double to \$100-110 billion by 2030 according to industry estimates, an official statement said on Sunday. The semiconductor market was about \$45-50 billion in 2024-2025 against \$38 billion in 2023, the statement said, citing industry estimates. AGENCIES

figure it out

\$2,400 in additional costs per year is the estimated impact of tariffs for US households.



Source: Axios

Govt willing to aid exports, but subsidies not on table

Exporters Seek Support To Beat Impact Of Trump's Tariffs

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid a clamour for succour after Trump's tariff announcement, govt has ruled out demands for subsidy, but suggested it is open to "innovative ways" to help industry beat the crisis.

The message was delivered by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal during his meetings with some of the industry representatives in Mumbai over the weekend, sources told **TOI**. During the meetings, Goyal suggested that banks could review the risk assessment & rating models, especially for small exporters, so that the cost of loans comes down. He also agreed to look into proposals for reduction in testing and certification charges for MSMEs.

There have been suggestions that govt bears a part of the 10% duty gap between India and competing countries. AEPC chairman Sudhir Sekh-

KEY DEMANDS BEFORE GOVT

- Bear a part of the US tariff gap of up to 10% between India, key competing nations
- Offer interest subsidy, pare cost of bank loans for exporters
- Reduce testing and certification charges
- Ensure supply of cheaper inputs for food processing sector
- Immediately launch Export Promotion Mission, announced in the last Budget
- Correct inverted duty structure for specific products, lower GST to improve domestic sales
- Provide support for market access in other countries



ri said that some of the American buyers have suggested that they could share a part of the burden but the apparel industry is going to be hit hard, resulting in closure of manufacturing units and loss of jobs. "Buyers are telling us that they will buy from Chinese manufacturers despite a tariff disadvantage of 5 percentage points (30% US tariffs on China) as they are more cost competitive."

After factoring in exemp-

tions available to sectors such as electronics and pharma, he suggested that the hit on Indian exporters across sectors could be to the tune of Rs 34,000 crore a year and argued that govt should consider making good some of the losses.

Textiles, leather and footwear, chemicals and shrimps are seen to be among the sectors that will be hurt by the tariffs. But the house is still divided on seafood as countries such as Ecuador are seen to be

lacking in scale.

"The strong presence of Indian food and beverages in the US market, backed by a mature and reliable supply chain, continues to reinforce trade resilience during these uncertain times. Exporters are working closely with their global partners to honour existing commitments while adopting adaptive strategies that ensure the uninterrupted supply of high-demand products," said Mohit Singla, founder chairman of Trade Promotion Council of India.

EEPC India, representing engineering exporters, has suggested the reintroduction of interest subsidy and payment of dues under the Market Access Initiative scheme. "Reciprocal tariffs will have an impact since duty on India, as compared to our competitor nations, is much higher. We expect engineering exports to drop by \$4.5 billion," said EEPC India's Pankaj Chadha.

Tech me not: Consumption cos wary of IT pain hurting fragile recovery

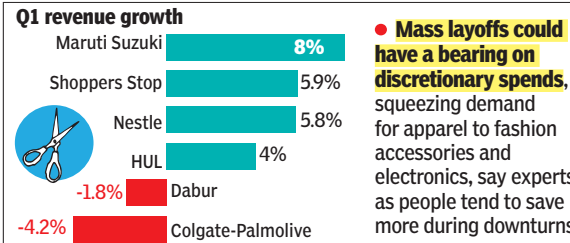
Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Layoffs in India's IT sector is bad news for consumption. After IT giant TCS announced cutting more than 12,000 jobs, a spectre of uncertainty looms over the sector with industry body Nasscom hinting at more layoffs — this could have a bearing on discretionary consumption, squeezing demand for apparel and electronics, say experts, as during periods of downturn, people tend to save more.

A slowdown in the tech industry, which employs thousands of engineers every year, many of whom are millennials and Gen Zs who drive a significant share of household spending.

Company earnings show that consumption growth in India is uneven — it seems to be on a gradual path to recovery after several sluggish quarters, but it certainly isn't

FROM CARS TO COMPUTERS



galloping with firms such as Colgate-Palmolive calling out "tough" operating conditions in its Q1 FY26 earnings.

Slow Hiring, Job Cut Hit

Economic sentiments and job uncertainties in the IT sector can have a "cascading" effect on consumption, Joy Alukkas, CMD at Joyalukkas Group told **TOI**, adding that "sustained consumption growth will depend on economic stability and job security". Alukkas, however, expects the impact

on jewellery segment to be somewhat limited given the emotional and investment value Indians attach to gold. Even at a slower rate of hiring growth, IT added some 120,000 jobs in the previous fiscal, said Nitin Bhatt, technology sector leader at EY India. The FY26 hiring outlook remains bleak, Bhatt said.

Not Out Of The Woods Yet

Low inflation, reduced interest rates and tax breaks (which kicked in from April) had set the pitch for consump-

tion to take off across the board with companies hoping that the benefits would soon start to trickle in. Not everyone has seen the full benefit yet and uncertainty in the job market risks impeding any potential macro gains.

Akhil Jain, CEO & MD at fashion brand Madame said that despite some tailwinds from easing inflation and tax reforms, the broader recovery in full-price retail demand remains patchy. "Job uncertainty in sectors like IT does impact consumption, particularly in categories like fashion," said Jain.

Sunil Agarwal, chairman at RSH Global, which makes personal care brand Joy, said that the company is seeing signs of cautious spending. "The IT layoff trend has created some unease in consumer sentiment," Agarwal said, adding that the festive season sales will be the real indicator of the impact on demand.

No longer NPA: PNB upgrades IL&FS TN plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Punjab National Bank the lead-banker for IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company (ITPCL) has upgraded its loan accounts from non-performing asset (NPA) to standard on July 29 — a move that will enable the lenders to recover nearly Rs 6,000 crore of written off loans.

ITPCL, a subsidiary of IL&FS Energy, operates a 1,200MW coal-fired thermal power plant in Cuddalore. Of the Rs 9,587-crore debt as of March 2023, 65% was reclassified as sustainable under a restructuring package, with repayments extended till FY38. The rest, deemed unsustainable, carries a nominal interest of 0.001% and will be retired through lump-sum payments in FY39 and FY40. The upgrade affirms progress in the IL&FS group's recovery.

Will RBI cut rates? Most economists expect pause

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Economists are split on whether RBI's monetary policy committee will continue cutting rates, but most expect it to pause at the Aug 6 meeting to assess the impact of earlier reductions.

Some economists point to softening data. Industrial production as measured by its index slowed to a 10-month low of 1.5%. Credit growth is also weaker, including a marked drop in home loans. Also supporting a rate cut is inflation running below projections.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economist at SBI, says RBI's no use in holding off on cutting interest rates in Aug. If inflation is going to stay low and steady even in FY27, the central bank shouldn't wait. He warned that if RBI wrongly assumes that low inflation is temporary and decides not

to cut rates, inflation stays low for a long time, and the economy keeps slowing down. A cut now, he added, could support demand during the upcoming festive season. "A frontloaded rate cut in Aug could bring early Diwali... Even festive season is frontloaded in FY26... Empirical evidence suggests a strong pick-up in credit

CAUTIOUS APPROACH

growth whenever festive season has been early and has been preceded with a rate cut."

Others urge caution. Having already lowered the repo rate by 100 basis points (1 percentage point) over three consecutive meetings, RBI may prefer to pause, allowing the effects of previous cuts to ripple through the economy. A note by CareEdge Ratings noted that while inflation is

easing and external risks to growth are rising, the central bank may choose to wait. It expects RBI to maintain its 6.4% growth forecast while slightly reducing its inflation outlook for FY26. The US tariff uncertainty is pushing the RBI panel toward a cautious, measured approach, most likely opting for a pause or a "dovish hold" in August while leaving the door open for future policy action.

Barclays' India chief economist Aastha Gudwani also expects the central bank to stay put in Aug. "While this backdrop is conducive for further monetary easing, we believe it is not yet compelling enough to deliver a fourth straight rate cut, and exhaust the policy arsenal," she said. Gudwani expects a "dovish pause" with RBI retaining a neutral stance and possibly delivering a final 25bps cut in Oct.

Want To Park Money For Short Term? Consider Arbitrage Funds



Investors keen to allocate to equity, but uncomfortable with high valuations and eyeing a better entry point over the next 3-6 months, should consider arbitrage funds. The category manages assets worth ₹2.9L cr, up 36% over a year.

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 Is An Arbitrage Fund?

An arbitrage fund generates returns based on the price differential in the cash and futures market. The fund manager simultaneously buys a company in the cash market and sells an equivalent quantity in the futures segment thereby generating a return for the scheme. There is no naked exposure to any individual security or an index as each 'buy' transaction in the cash market has a corresponding sell transaction in the futures market. As per requirements, at least 65% of the corpus of the scheme is allocated to arbitrage products, while the fund manager is free to allocate the balance 35% between arbitrage or debt products, depending on his view on the market.

Why Are Investors Putting Large Chunks Of Money Into Arbitrage Funds?

There are investors who want to park money for a short period of time which is 3-6 months, either waiting for a correction in stocks or looking to earn more than a savings bank account. This, along with the tax benefits, where these funds are treated as equity funds for taxation, has attracted HNIs, family offices and even retail investors. Investors holding such schemes for less than a year pay 20% capital gains tax, while if they sell after a year, they pay only 12.5% long-term capital gains tax. As compared with this, in a debt fund, investors have to pay tax in line with tax slabs which is 30% plus surcharge for rich.

Is There Any Risk For Investors In Such Funds?

Arbitrage funds rank high on safety. The scheme always has a market-neutral position by buying in the cash market and simultaneously

selling the same security in the futures market. Compared with debt funds, where there could be some credit risk, there is no such risk here. As indices clock all-time highs and more investors turn to the stock markets, there is increased participation from institutional and retail investors in the futures and options segment, leading to higher volatility and demand for money. That, in turn, pushes up returns in these schemes.

What Returns Have Arbitrage Funds Generated In A Year?

Over the last one year, data from Value Research showed arbitrage funds generated 6.55% returns.

— PRASHANT MAHESH

IPO-bound Arcil eyes retail loans as corp NPAs dry up

Mayur.Shetty@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The country's oldest bad loan company, IPO-bound Arcil (Asset Reconstruction Company of India), gives an insight into the future of loan recovery for retail loans in its offer document filed with Sebi.

The company has said it is setting up a digital platform that will allow defaulting retail borrowers to submit settlement offers and receive instant acceptance, eliminating the need for manual intervention. With a shrinking pool of corporate NPAs, Arcil is pivoting towards technology-driven retail loan recovery as its promoters look to sell a third of the company through an IPO.

The shift marks a strategic overhaul for Arcil, which was set up in 2002 to clean up banks' balance sheets by acquiring large stressed corporate loans. According to its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), Arcil also plans to pilot its recovery infrastructure as a service for banks managing overdue retail loans. If successful, this could create a fee-based revenue stream and reduce its dependence on acquiring bad assets.

The company also now sees greater opportunity in retail and SME loans, where defaults are rising. Retail loan stress has grown from Rs 3.5 lakh crore in FY20 to nearly Rs 6.9 lakh crore in FY25, at a CAGR of 14.8%.

To tap this market, Arcil is expanding its footprint in semi-urban and rural areas, where most of the stress is concentrated. It is in discussions with small finance banks and NBFC-MFIs to acquire retail and SME loan portfolios. At the same time,

BAD LOAN CO

it is deploying data analytics and geo-tracking of field agents to improve recovery efficiency, while offering QR code-based and UPI payment solutions to defaulting borrowers.

The company is not exiting the corporate segment entirely. It will continue to target mid-sized stressed accounts, particularly in commercial real estate, where resolution timelines are shorter. However, its overall corporate recovery pipeline has thinned, with corporate stress in banks and NBFCs falling to Rs 6.5 lakh crore in FY24, down from Rs 6.9 lakh crore in FY22. Arcil has filed draft papers for an IPO comprising a 100% offer for sale.

Nippon MF plans simpler schemes for new investors

Dhananjay.Roy@timesofindia.com

Leh: Nippon India MF is exploring the launch of simple, easy-to-understand mutual fund products for first-time investors in remote areas.

At the launch of the fund house's Leh branch — the first physical presence for any asset management company in Ladakh — CEO Sundeep Sikka said that though people in the region were earning well, they invested in unregulated informal products due to limited financial literacy.

The move aims to boost mutual fund participation in a region that accounts for just over 0.1% of India's MF assets. It sees growth potential in Ladakh's rising income, expanding govt jobs, and low MF-to-GDP ratio (4% vs India's 20%). The initiative also aims to prevent mis-selling by educating both investors and distributors.

"We have seen many govt employees being hired, and income from tourism will rise. So, whatever is the per capita income here today, I feel this region will grow faster than the rest of the country on the back of a low base," said Sikka.

(The writer was in Leh at the invitation of Nippon India MF)

Startups trim team size to woo investors

Asmita Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The less, the merrier — that's the mantra in the startup and venture capital space, where there's an increasing shift towards building smaller teams. More investors are now also considering the size of a startup's team while weighing potential funding — it is not a big determining factor yet, but at least it is a metric being considered, with the 'revenue per employee' metric making its way into investor discussions.

AI has a part to play in this shift — the tech is not leading to wide-scale job reductions, but it certainly is eliminating the need to hire more, and nudging companies to redeploy human capital towards more complex tasks.

Focus On 'Revenue Per Employee' Metric

- **AI has a part to play in this shift:** it is eliminating the need to boost hiring, and nudging cos to redeploy human capital towards more complex tasks
- **Take Paytm for instance:** The fintech, whose business was battered after RBI directed it to wind down its banking unit last year, said that AI-led operating leverage contributed to its



profitability, a first for the firm without being helped by any one-off gains

➤ **In the US,** the size of startups at the time of fundraising has shrunk significantly, with series-A software startups dropping from an average of 22 employees in 2022 to 14 in 2025, said Quesst Corp's Kapil Joshi said


assured by output, not team size," Manu Iyer, general partner at Bluehill VC, which funds early-stage startups, told **TOI**, adding that, on average, today, series A (early stage) startups globally and in India come to market with fewer full-time employees.

Even as startups as big as Paytm and Ola are betting on AI to cut inefficiencies at work, the trend of building smaller teams is more rampant among deep tech and AI-native startups. "...one emerging benchmark is \$1 million ARR (annual recurring revenue) per employee. This wasn't even a talking point a couple of years ago, but now... it's becoming a sign of capital efficiency and strong product-market fit. Investors are increasingly asking not just about growth, but about productivity per headcount," said Neelabh Shukla, chief business officer at talent solutions provider Careernt.

Startups across segments have been using AI to cut costs. Lower fixed costs mean star-

tups can weather economic shifts and stretch investments (investor funds) much further, said Iyer. Viswanath P.S, MD & CEO at Randstad India, said that the narrative in startups has shifted from "how big is the team" to "how effective and scalable is this team's execution model".

"Investors are increasingly prioritising startups with smaller, more focused teams when making funding decisions, particularly in venture capital and angel investment circles," Joshi said. Investors, however, are closely watching how startups are using AI and assessing the real and perceived benefits that AI integration can bring," said Ankur Mittal, co-founder at Inflection Point Ventures.



CONTRAPUNTO

The salesman knows nothing of what he is selling
save that he is charging a great deal too much for it

— OSCAR WILDE

Make In India

High tariffs or not, self-sufficiency in critical areas must be a national imperative

It is possible for a people to be self-sufficient. The Sentinelese in the Andamans, for example. But such living is extremely limiting. That's why all great nations have pursued trade, although not as a dogma in the modern way. Ancient Romans were big traders. Millennia later, Mussolini declared Italy would manage alone, only to concede as oil imports rose: "Let us not delude ourselves about autarky." As he continues lighting tariff fires well into the first year of his second term, Trump has not declared autarky or self-sufficiency as his economic goal, but his actions are tending in that direction. He wants US to make everything from chips to ships; buy little and sell a lot.

The problem with America's protectionist turn is that it affects the global order. When the largest economy, and market, raises barriers for sellers, the whole free trade edifice is at risk. India has been especially stung by Trump's tariffs. In a speech last week, Modi flagged the resultant uncertainty and urged Indians to buy swadeshi. It does not signal India's retreat into its pre-91 walled garden, but a pragmatic pause. Globalisation may pick up pace again when Trump leaves office in Jan 2029, or as our top column today suggests, it may not as the world shifts "from open to managed trade".

India will have to rethink strategy in that case. The ease of buying everything from computer chips to warplanes – Trump's been pushing the F-35 at India – in the 21st century can lull nations into a false sense of security. But China and America's recent actions are a wake-up call. India's a laggard in manufacturing semiconductors and fighter planes – the air force is currently depleted – and needs to catch up in the field of drones now. Then there are so many high-tech articles of civilian use that we don't make. Almost all specialised medical equipment is imported and contributes to the high cost of treatment.

So, setting up an industrial base to manufacture advanced equipment – along with a research base to develop them – should be a national priority. If low tariffs return, it will make India an export powerhouse. If they don't, we won't be vulnerable at least. In an essay he wrote in 1933, Keynes, who grew up believing in free trade, said self-sufficiency may be a worthwhile luxury for countries that want it and can afford it. "Let goods be homespun *whenever it is reasonably and conveniently possible...*" It's good advice.

Flying Into A Slap

When road rage becomes air rage, it's a whole lot more dangerous. Every incident must be dealt with firmly

Commercial planes commonly have a cruising altitude of 36,000 feet. Loss of temper at that height can set off domino effects unimaginable on the road or in a train. This is what flight crew have on their mind when they work to calm any passenger who loses their wits. The incident on the IndiGo Mumbai-Kolkata flight on Friday, where a passenger slapped another passenger, has to be understood in this context. What the SpiceJet crew suffered at the Srinagar airport a week ago, on the other hand, alarmingly underlines that not all passengers walk into planes in a civilised frame of mind in the first place.

With SpiceJet ground crew suffering a spinal fracture and injuries to the jaw, an army officer has been charged with "murderous assault". The flashpoint was his cabin baggage exceeding the set weight limit. On flights themselves, there are abundant triggers. Someone leaning their seat back into your knees, not getting the meal of your choice, someone's baby being grumpy for loud, long stretches, being zen through it all ain't easy. But anything else could be, literally, deadly. One slap, retaliation, others jumping into the fray, it could all go out of control so easily. And a plane full of lives would be endangered. Air travel is stressful, no doubt. But that's no excuse at all for breaking the peace.

In 2023, the number of unruly passengers put on no-fly lists increased by 78% to 108. Again, this data has to be understood in the context of a very small minority of passengers being able to cause mass hurt. So, while many road rage cases go unreported, every air rage case must be filed with police. Not just the ones that cause injuries or go viral. The other thought from all this is that tolerance for lumpenism in some spaces, means it finally leaks everywhere.

Dog Babu asks

After pets get registered, why can't they claim residency too?

Nandita.Sengupta@timesofindia.com

The fat cats frowned that two Bihar babus, in a place they'd never heard of: Masaurhi in zilla Patna, found it legit to issue an identity card to a dog, complete with parental details. So dad was Kutta Babu and mom Kutiya Devi. The two black sheep who made the identity card a reality were packed off by Patna's top dogs without so much as hearing their POV.

It was clear soon enough though that the two paper tigers didn't believe in treating man's best friend like dogs, were in part annoyed to be sheep bleating yes SIR, yes SIR, and it was just monkey business in a dog-eat-dog world of meaningless activity – telling locals where the sorry sods lived lest they forget their way home.

The shock and haww heaped on teh-teh Bihar and extended to all things four-legged and bipedal was quite the circus. But no one asked *why* it was such a big deal. It wasn't the fake Aadhaar surely, for that is, eyeroll, so yesterday.

So, what if dogs really could get i-cards? Pets have to be registered anyways. So, think. It is neither illegal nor unethical to issue a residence certificate to a dog. Show me a law that says dogs cannot claim residency. Why can a dog or cat or crocodile or peacock not claim residency? A livestock census is kosher; so why go delulu over doggo ids?

We all wear dog collars. So, dog bites man is news – far from times when only man bites dog was news, and strays weren't pariahs. That shampooed ribboned superfood-chomping bozo is now globe-trotting, its indie country cousin outside the gate is the 'mad outsider'. Even though it's the stray that guards the streets, where it would scare the twilight out of bipedal snakes in the grass stalking those trudging the last mile home. Appalling city upkeep triggers road rage – in bipedals.

Loan sharks and vulture capitalists, white elephants and weasels, tiger moms and lame ducks, lambs to the slaughter: everyone gets an id, but not a dog. It was but a lark – the id was cancelled within two minutes of being produced – but the silliness was taken so seriously. But that isn't the elephant in the room, is it?

How To Tackle Trump Tariffs

High US import duty will hurt, but there's much India can do to mitigate the impact. Diversifying the products basket, making small producers nimble & smartly promoting tourism will all go a long way

Thursdays onwards, nearly all Indian exports to US will face a 25% tariff on top of standard US duties, plus an additional penalty. As such, India now faces one of the highest US tariff rates among Asian exporters, second only to China (30%), and far above Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (18%), Indonesia (19%), and Japan and S Korea (15% each).

With US our largest market – accounting for \$86.5bn, or 20% of India's goods exports last fiscal – the impact is severe. If these high tariffs stay in place, India's exports to US could fall by 30% to \$60.6bn in the current financial year. Labour-intensive sectors will be hit the hardest as shrimp exports (\$2bn) now face a 25% duty, garments and home textiles (\$8.4bn) are taxed at 34-39%, and jewellery (\$10bn) at 27.1%. Duties on metal exports (\$4.7bn) can go up to 51.7%, while engineering goods like machinery and auto parts (\$9.3bn) face over 26%. Petroleum, pharma and smartphones are currently exempt but could be targeted later.

Increasing exports to other countries to reduce losses won't be easy as the world is shifting from open to managed trade, driven by politics, security, and environmental rules. For example, EU, which bought \$75.7bn worth of Indian goods, will impose a carbon tax in Jan, hurting steel and aluminium exports. These are already down 24.4% this year due to new reporting requirements. Indian farm products will soon face taxes under EU's deforestation law, and similar measures will likely apply to most agricultural and industrial goods. As US and EU tighten access to their markets, more countries may follow.

With global markets becoming harder to access, India's current export basket needs diversification. It's time to stop overvaluing trade policy and start prioritising product strength. China's export boom in the 1990s happened not because of trade deals, but because it offered the right product at the right price

across traditional and modern sectors. We can start by modernising traditional sectors and parallelly work on high-tech sectors. For example, many handicrafts have outdated designs and century-old production methods, even as global tastes evolve. In apparel, we miss out on 70% of the world market – winter-wear, fashionwear and sportswear – mainly because we make it difficult to import the input materials. Rising input and production costs have made deep manufacturing unviable in many sectors, so we remain stuck in low-value activities like assembling imported



components. At the same time, policy choices that protect a few large players in textiles, chemicals and steel hurt thousands of MSMEs and hold back entire industries from reaching their full potential.

While we look back at the 1990s as a turning point where India opened up its economy, we often ignore what China was doing then – securing lithium and cobalt mines in Chile and Congo, and investing heavily in future industries – solar, electric vehicles, electronics, toys, pharmaceuticals, apparel, machinery and chemicals. India, by contrast, did little and is paying the price for that inaction.

‘Congress will end polarisation & cartelisation in Assam...GOP’s resurgence will start from the Northeast’

If there's Bangladeshi migration, it's the fault of BJP's 'double-engine sarkar' as they've been in office for a decade, Jorhat MP and opposition's deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi tells Subodh Ghildiyal, as he talks about being appointed head of Assam Congress and the 'credibility of the voters list' in the state.

Under BJP and Himanta, how has Assam fared?
Congress is seeing a fresh boost in popularity amongst all sections of Assamese society, especially youth, poor and middle class. Because BJP has disappointed many. But people want to know more about what Congress will do once it assumes office.
They are fed up that ministers bag lucrative govt contracts and schemes for their family. Congress is mulling a law to ensure that no minister or MLAs family can snag a govt contract. Youth appreciate our focus on higher education and skilling. And industries appreciate that we're thinking of how to help value chains and supply chains, help them grow bigger. Even journalists are looking for a climate where they can ask questions without fear of retribution.

Can your agenda of development/aspirations offset deep polarisation?
That was trumped to a large extent in 2024 Lok Sabha polls when in Jorhat we could defeat BJP's communal politics and in Dhubri, AIUDF's communal politics. Differences of opinions and philosophies will always exist, but they should not lead to animosity and hate.
People want to coexist with people of other faiths and beliefs, and that is the essence of Congress's philosophy. The kind of Assamese society we had under my father Tarun Gogoi is what people want to return to.

Himanta blames Congress for minority migration from Bangladesh.
People of Assam are smarter than Himanta. They're aware BJP's been at the Centre for 11 years, and in Assam for 10 years. BJP always makes claims about double-engine sarkar. So, if such problems exist, then BJP is only pointing to its own failures.
People in Jharkhand saw a similar game being

played when Himanta, as BJP's campaign in-charge, spoke about 'ghuspetiya'. People gave a resounding answer to Himanta and BJP there, and people of Assam will be even louder.

How much has Congress's national downturn post-2014 hurt it in the states?
Actually, the national climate after Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has totally changed. In 2024, in the Northeast, Congress's performances improved significantly. We won a seat in Nagaland, two in Manipur, one in Meghalaya, against BJP and allies. We did not win in Shillong, but we ensured the BJP alliance lost. In Assam, in my own seat, we won after 2009. Congress's resurgence will start from the Northeast.

BJP's politics is not attuned to Northeast's sensitivities. Even after 2.5 years, they've failed to bring peace to Manipur. They simply don't have the foresight to bring communities together. They only know how to divide. Manipur's a glaring failure of BJP politics.

But defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra have neutralised Congress's gains of 2024.
Imprint of Congress's resurgence is evident in Modi govt's actions. They initiated a caste census that was a movement led by INDIA bloc, spearheaded by Rahul. But the issue that emerged from Maharashtra and continues to plague the country today is the credibility of the voters list. Congress is fighting against this, whether in Maharashtra or Bihar, and even in Karnataka. We're pressing upon a fundamental aspect of democracy – right to vote. Election Commission has become a puppet. That's scary for all, whether they are Congress supporters or not. That EC is no longer a neutral body.

As V-P's resignation showed, if a person in a constitutional post acts independently, he's dismissed

India must change course: invest in future-ready sectors, remove barriers to input access, unleash MSMEs by reducing GST burden, and put product design and development at the heart of its export strategy. Here are three suggestions for quick results on exports and forex earnings.

● First, bring back the interest equalisation scheme, which was discontinued last year despite costing just ₹2,500cr annually. It offered up to 5% interest relief on loans for export orders, helping MSMEs especially get cheaper, globally competitive finance. Reviving it with a higher annual budget of ₹15,000cr and a five-year commitment – not just short-term renewals – will cut production costs and give exports an immediate boost.
● Second, implement the UK FTA and fast-track talks with EU and other partners, keeping expectations realistic. These deals are unlikely to boost exports significantly, as average tariffs in these markets are already low – around 3-4% – and over half of Indian goods already enter duty-free. Further tariff cuts may offer only modest gains. Past FTAs show that imports from partner countries tend to rise much faster than exports, which will likely continue.
● Third, India must act to unlock the full potential of its tourism sector – an area where gains could far outweigh losses from declining exports to US. In 2023, India earned just \$17bn from foreign tourists, as against Spain (\$92bn), Dubai (\$31bn) and Amsterdam (\$31bn). This gap exists not for lack of heritage or attractions, but because of preventable issues: high hotel taxes, harassment of foreign women near tourist sites, and taxi unions exploiting visitors under political protection. India must overhaul the tourist experience – lower costs, ensure safety, and make the country more welcoming. If we fix this, tourism could become one of India's most significant growth and job creation engines.

It's time for an honest conversation. A good start would be to list our self-inflicted wounds, and fix them. By doing this we can boost not just exports, but also jobs and growth across the economy.
The writer is an expert on trade & tech issues

Q&A

But defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra have neutralised Congress's gains of 2024.
Imprint of Congress's resurgence is evident in Modi govt's actions. They initiated a caste census that was a movement led by INDIA bloc, spearheaded by Rahul. But the issue that emerged from Maharashtra and continues to plague the country today is the credibility of the voters list. Congress is fighting against this, whether in Maharashtra or Bihar, and even in Karnataka. We're pressing upon a fundamental aspect of democracy – right to vote. Election Commission has become a puppet. That's scary for all, whether they are Congress supporters or not. That EC is no longer a neutral body.

As V-P's resignation showed, if a person in a constitutional post acts independently, he's dismissed

Calvin & Hobbes



The Taste Of Words, The Colours Of Sound

Jug Suraiya


Can words be tasted on the tongue? Can sounds be seen as coloured shapes? Such questions are not hypothetical, nor are they psychedelic hallucinations. They refer to a well-documented neurological condition called synesthesia, in which the senses of taste, and sight, and sound, synthesise and intermingle to form a new sense or senses, which are a combination of two separate anatomical perceptions. Medical science does not generally deem synesthesia to be an aberration needing treatment or corrective therapy, but describes it as a consistent and spontaneous neural response to external stimuli by which two senses are simultaneously evoked. In the very rare case of lexical-gustatory synesthesia, sounds or words can stimulate the sense of taste, so that the auditory is imbued with flavour, the ear invokes the edible.

The common form of synesthesia is chromesthesia, in which sounds assume colour and can be visualised in chromatic arrangements of shapes and elaborate patterns. Far from being a disability, synesthesia of both kinds is often associated with increased memory, creativity, and linguistic skills. Was Marcel Proust an undiagnosed synesthete, who wrote his seven-volume, 4215-word, monumental novel, *Remembrance of Things Past*, considered one of the great landmarks of world literature, inspired by the recollected taste of a madeleine cake eaten in his childhood? None of Proust's several biographers has made such a connection, but recorded synesthetes include vastly different musicians and composers, like Duke Ellington, Franz Liszt, and Jean Sibelius; writers and poets like Vladimir Nabokov and Arthur Rimbaud; and painters such

as Vincent Van Gogh. Such creative geniuses and many others similar to them, whom inattentive history has ignored or overlooked, have experienced the everyday commonplace world in ways that are unique. They could see sounds as colours, taste the texture of words. What Aldous Huxley called *The Doors of Perception*, the title of his 1954 book, in which he narrates his experiences under the influence of mescaline, are widened when consciousness is enhanced, by the use of hallucinogens as in Huxley's case, or through mental disciplines like meditation, or by naturally occurring neurological conditions, such as synesthesia. Could some of those singularly enabled individuals whom we refer to as mystics, or sages, or seers, people who literally see the world differently from us, be synesthetes, or be endowed with any other alternative form of sense

perception? The Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment while sitting beneath the Bodhi tree, the fig-like fruit of which is rich in serotonin, a neurotransmitter that can alter the way we feel and think. Was the Buddha a synesthete? Consciousness derives from the messages that nerve cells called neurons pass to each other through infinitesimally tiny points of communication known as synapses. There are estimated to be between 86bn and 100bn neurons in a human brain. Each neuron can have hundreds or thousands of synapses, making for an assumed total of 15tn conduits of neuron messages. The minutest of changes in this infinitely complex neurological system can lead to unimaginable differences in the way that we perceive the world. It is this single thought of the limitlessness that lies within us that can provide all of us with a sixth sense: the sense of wonder.

Sacredspace



I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world.

Louis Armstrong



IN A NEW BOOK, HARRY DENIES CLAIMS HE PUNCHED PRINCE ANDREW OVER COMMENTS ABOUT HIS WIFE MEGHAN MARKLE

MOST OF US HAVE FAR MORE COURAGE THAN WE EVER DREAMED WE POSSESSED — DALE CARNEGIE



LILO SAYS IT'S FRUSTRATING BEING PIGEONHOLED IN INDUSTRY BY PAST ROLES, LIMITING HER MOVIE CHOICES: 'GIVE ME A CHANCE'

Hamas' Videos Of Emaciated Hostages Horrify Israel, World

France, Germany Back End Of Militant Group's Rule In Gaza

Jerusalem: The family of Evvyatar David, an Israeli held hostage in the Gaza Strip, saw him for the first time in months on Friday evening in a video circulated by his Hamas captors. He was emaciated and saw in what appeared to be an underground tunnel.

The video prompted an outpouring of fear and horror among the families of the dozens of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza nearly two years after the Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel. "Our brothers are turning into skin and bones at this very moment," Einar Zangauker, whose son Matan was one of about 250 people taken hostage during the Hamas assault, said at a rally Saturday. Her son is believed to still be alive.

Over the past few days, Hamas and its ally Islamic Jihad have released three videos showing two hostages. The images of Rom Braslavski and Evvyatar David have sparked strong reactions among Israelis, fueling renewed calls to reach a truce and hostage release deal without delay. A statement from Israeli PM Netanyahu's office late Saturday said he had spoken with the families of the two hostages and "expressed profound shock over the materials distributed by the terror



A screengrab from a video released by Hamas last week shows Israeli hostage Evvyatar David looking weak and malnourished. David, who turned 24 in captivity, was abducted during the Hamas attack in 2023

Israeli far-right minister prays at Al-Aqsa, violates a long-held understanding

Israel's far-right minister Itamar Ben Gvir publicly conducted on Sunday a Jewish prayer on the Al-Aqsa compound in east Jerusalem — a highly contentious move that violates a long-held understanding at the site. The Al-Aqsa compound is Islam's third-holiest site, and is also Judaism's holiest place. Jewish religious rituals are prohibited there by a long-standing agreement between Israel and Jordan. Israeli PM Netanyahu said that "Israel's policy of maintaining the status quo on the Temple Mount will remain unchanged". AFP

organisations". The PM "told the families that the efforts to return all our hostages are ongoing", the statement added. In the clips shared by the Palestinian Islamist groups, 21-year-old Braslavski, a German-Israeli dual national, and 24-year-old David both appear weak and malnourished. There was particular outrage in Israel over images of David who appeared to be digging what he said in the staged video was his own grave. The videos make references to the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza. The EU, France and Germany on Sunday condemned the videos. French President Macron said the release showed the Palestinian militant group's "inhumanity without bounds" and "abject cruelty". "The absolute priority for France is the immediate release of all the hostages," he added on X. Macron and German

6 more starve to death in Gaza, 33 killed in air strikes

Six more people died of starvation or malnutrition in Gaza over the past 24 hours, its health ministry said on Sunday as Israel said it allowed a delivery of fuel to the enclave, in the throes of a humanitarian disaster after almost two years of war. The new deaths raised the toll of those dying from what international humanitarian agencies say may be an unfolding famine to 175 including 93 kids, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, hospitals in Gaza said Israeli forces killed at least 33 Palestinians seeking food, and witnesses described facing gunfire as hungry crowds surged toward aid sites. Witness Yousef Abed described coming under indiscriminate fire. "I couldn't stop and help them because of the bullets," he said. AGENCIES

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that Hamas must have no role in ruling the coastal strip once the war ends. The EU's diplomat, Kaja Kallas, also condemned the videos as showing Hamas's "barbarity".

Hamas's spokesperson said it is ready to deliver Red Cross aid to the hostages in Gaza if Israel opens humanitarian corridors permanently and halts "all forms of air traffic" during the delivery. AGENCIES

WH defends firing, says Trump wants labour bureau to have reliable data

Two days after President Donald Trump fired the top labour official in charge of compiling statistics on employment, Kevin Hassett, the director of the White House National Economic Council, insisted on Sunday that the administration was "absolutely not" shooting the messenger on the heels of a poor jobs report. But Hassett repeatedly declined to furnish detailed evidence that would substantiate the president's claims that the data had been rigged or manipulated to hurt him politically.



Trump cited that justification in his decision to fire Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS), in a widely rebuked move on Friday.

"The president wants his own people there, so that when we see the numbers, they're more transparent and more reliable," Hassett told NBC's "Meet the Press," explaining at one point that the president sought to ensure jobs numbers could be "trusted." In a second appearance, on "Fox News Sunday," Hassett claimed there were "partisan patterns" in the jobless data, and said that "data can't be propaganda." Since McEntarfer's sudden dismissal, economists across the political spectrum have offered a more worrisome assessment, warning that Trump's actions threaten to pollute the non-partisan work at BLS to measure the trajectory of economy. NYT

No passports, no study abroad: China limits public staff's travel

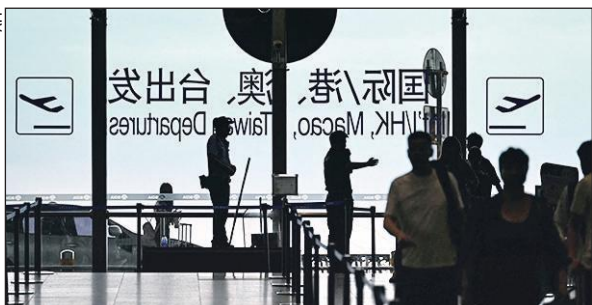
Govt Employees Like Elementary Schoolteachers, Doctors Told To Hand In Passports To Strengthen 'Disciplinary Awareness'

Vivian Wang

Beijing: When Tina Liu was hired to teach literature in a public elementary school in southern China, her contract included the usual warnings about absenteeism and job performance. Then came another line: Travelling abroad without the school's permission could get her fired. The rule was reinforced in a staff group chat. "According to regulations from higher-ups, teachers need to strengthen their disciplinary awareness," the message said. "We will currently not permit any overseas vacations."

Across China, similar warnings are spreading as authorities tighten control over state employees' contacts with foreigners. Some kindergarten teachers, doctors and even govt contractors and employees of state-owned enterprises have been ordered to hand in their passports. Some cities make retirees wait two years to reclaim their passports. In many cities, travel overseas by public employees, even for personal reasons, requires approval. Business trips abroad for "ordinary research, exchange and study" have been banned. And in most provinces, those who have studied abroad are now disqualified from certain positions.

Officials cite various reasons, including protecting national security, fighting corruption and cutting costs. But



The rules are part of a push by the central authorities to impose greater so-called political discipline and ideological loyalty on govt workers

the scope of the restrictions has expanded rapidly, sweeping up employees who say they have no access to sensitive information or govt funds. The New York Times spoke to seven public employees, including an elementary school music teacher, a nurse and a literature professor, who confirmed the restrictions.

The rules are part of a push by the central authorities to impose greater so-called political discipline and ideological loyalty on govt workers. Two of the people the NYT spoke to said they were also ordered to disclose their personal social media accounts to their employers. Another person said she had to notify her employer if she left the city where she worked. Some local govt have banned civil servants from eating in groups of more than three, measures that came after several reports of excessive drinking at official banquets. But authorities are

especially vigilant about overseas contact. The Chinese govt has long been wary of the threat of espionage and what it sees as hostile foreign forces seeking to sow discontent.

The curbs are also creeping into hiring. For new graduates hoping to join China's civil service, some of the most coveted positions are in the programme known as "xuan-diaosheng," which loosely translates as "selected students." Each province determines which schools it will recruit from, and many, including Guangdong in the south, used to include overseas universities. This year, Guangdong listed only Chinese universities. Liaoning province went even further: Anyone who had lived overseas for more than six months, and whose "experience and political performance abroad" were hard to probe, was deemed ineligible. Police departments have imposed similar rules. NYT

PIO named Ohio's new solicitor general

Mathura Sridharan Trolled For Her Bindi, Called A 'Non-US Citizen'

Washington: Indian-origin Mathura Sridharan has been appointed Ohio's 12th Solicitor General, the attorney general's office announced in a statement on X. However, her appointment faced backlash with trolls questioning why a "non-US citizen" was selected for the position, with some even pointing to her bindi, saying "This one has a perma-dot, huh."

In response to the announcement made on X by Ohio AG Dave Yost's office, some of the online users criticised her appointment. One user said, "Couldn't find a citizen and native of the US for the job?" Another user wrote, "Native Ohioans



IN THE LINE OF FIRE: Sridharan

can't even get jobs with the state. Who is this foreigner? Did Ohio run out of Americans?" Another social media user wrote, "Nothing says 'Ohioan' like a dot right on the forehead," while another wrote: "This one has a perma-dot, huh." Another

online user commented, "What's the dot on her forehead?" Another user questioned her appointment, saying, "No Americans were available?"

In response to the trolls, AG Yost defended Sridharan's appointment and praised her legal abilities, calling her "brilliant." He expressed confidence that she will serve Ohio well and mentioned that Sridharan is a US citizen. "A few commenters have asserted incorrectly that Mathura is not American. She is a United States citizen, married to a US citizen, and the child of naturalised US citizens. If her name or her complexion bothers you, the problem

is not with her or her appointment," Yost posted on X. "Mathura is brilliant... she won her argument at SCOTUS last year. Both the SGs she worked under recommended her. I told her when I originally hired her, I needed her to argue with me. She does... All the time! Excited to promote her. She will serve Ohio well," he added.

Currently, Sridharan works as deputy SG in Ohio's office of the solicitor general.

In 2018, she earned her Juris Doctor (JD) from New York University School of Law. She has completed her Master's in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT. IANS

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: The Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Sunday started trial in cases of "crimes against humanity" against former PM Sheikh Hasina, with the attorney general calling for maximum punishment for the Awami League leader who is being tried in absentia.

Hasina is being tried along with former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former police IG Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun in the cases, which include killings, murder and torture during the "July mass uprising" that led to her ouster in Aug last year. "We have taken an oath on



Sheikh Hasina is being tried in the cases, which include killings, murder and torture, during the 'July mass uprising' that led to her ouster in Aug last year

the blood of Mugdho and Abu Sayeed (both student leaders)," attorney general Md Asaduzzaman said in the ICT before the submission of opening statements in the cases against the three accused. "People want justice—justice through the legal framework—for the crimes committed," he said. Mugdho was allegedly killed by security forces in Dhaka and Sayeed in Rangpur during the uprising. He said Hasina — who fled

to India following her govt's fall in Aug last year — could be likened to the head of an "association of autocrats".

"If Goebbels wanted to study lies or complete a PhD in falsehood, Hasina could have been his teacher," he said, referring to Nazi party chief propagandist Paul Joseph Goebbels. Describing the tribunal session as a historic moment, he said, "We are here today for justice. We seek the highest punishment under the law."

ICT's chief prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam claimed in his opening statement that Hasina was the central figure in the alleged crimes against humanity during the "July mass uprising". "As PM, leader of the Awami League, and head of the ruling 14-party alliance, she held absolute power," Tajul said. "All major decisions were taken by her. She was the nucleus of the crimes committed during that period." Tajul argued that the crimes were aimed solely at preserving Hasina's grip on power. "The other accused were fully aware that their own survival and rewards were contingent on Hasina remaining in control," he said.

27 die, 100 missing as a migrant boat sinks off Yemen

Dubai: A shipwreck off Yemen killed at least 27 migrants, with more than 100 still missing, two security sources in the southern province of Abyan told AFP on Sunday. "At this stage, the deaths of 27 people are confirmed, their bodies have been recovered," one security source said. A second source said "150 people were on board the vessel that sank", also reporting 27 dead.

A police source said "the boat was heading for the coast of (Abyan) province", adding that "smuggler boats regularly arrive in our region". Abyan province's security directorate said that security forces "are currently conducting a large operation to recover the bodies of a significant number of Ethiopian migrants who drowned off the coast of Abyan while attempting to illegally enter Yemeni territory". AFP

Agra-born lifts off to edge of space on Blue Origin flight

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An 80-year-old Agra-born adventurer-cum-businessman, Arvinder Arvi Singh Bahal, lifted off to the edge of space aboard Blue Origin's NS-34 mission along with five other crew members on Sunday. The suborbital flight lifted off from West Texas at 6pm IST.



Arvinder Bahal

Bahal was part of Blue Origin's 14th human flight to suborbital space. The flight, lasting 11 minutes, carried a six-member crew to the Kármán line — the internationally recognised boundary that separates Earth's atmosphere from space. Bahal was accompanied by tech entrepreneur Justin Sun, Turkish businessman Gokhan Er-

dem, Puerto Rican meteorologist Deborah Martorell, British teacher Lionel Pitchford and venture capitalist JD Russell. Describing Bahal, Jeff Bezos-owned Blue Origin wrote, "Arvi is a real estate investor born in Agra, India, and now a naturalised US citizen. A lifelong traveller and adventurer, Arvi has visited every country in the world, the North and South poles, and skydived Mount Everest and the Pyramids of Giza".

Bahal had joined the NDA in 1962 but left due to a polo accident that caused him partial hearing loss. Later, he worked on a tea plantation in Darjeeling. By 1970, he ventured into the garment manufacturing business near Delhi. He later migrated to the US.

7-QUAKE HITS RUSSIA'S KAMCHATKA, VOLCANO ERUPTS AFTER '600 YEARS'



A volcano on Russia's far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula erupted on Sunday for what scientists said is the first time in hundreds of years, days after a 8.8-magnitude earthquake. The Krashennnikov volcano sent ash 6km into the sky. The eruption was accompanied by a 7.0-earthquake and prompted a tsunami warning for three areas of Kamchatka. The warning was later lifted. "This is the first historically confirmed eruption of the Krashennnikov volcano in 600 years," Olga Girina, head of the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team, said. However, the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program, based in the US, however, lists Krashennnikov's last eruption in 1550. AP

4 Indian-origin persons killed in car crash in US

New York: In a tragic incident, four senior Indian-origin persons were killed in a car crash in West Virginia, authorities said on Sunday.

Kishore Divan, Asha Divan, Shailesh Divan, and Gita Divan were found dead following a vehicle crash, Marshall county sheriff Mike Dougherty said in a statement. The four individuals were reported missing from Buffalo, New York. Their vehicle was located on Aug 2 at approximately 9.30pm off a steep embankment along a road in Marshall county, West Virginia. First responders were on the scene for more than five hours.

Sibu Nair, director at office of New York state governor Kathy Hochul, had posted an "Missing Persons - Please Help" alert on Facebook, asking for help to locate the four individuals who had gone missing. PTI

DAILY PLANET



Demonstrators, including WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange (circled), hold a pro-Palestinian rally along the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Sunday

American Eagle to critics over ad controversy: It was always about jeans

American Eagle Outfitters Inc. defended its media campaign featuring Sydney Sweeney following criticism that the ads have racist undertones. The spot "is and always was about the jeans," the company said in a post on Instagram. American Eagle said it will "continue to celebrate how everyone wears their AE jeans with confidence, their way." The apparel retailer launched an ad blitz last week with the tagline "Sydney Sweeney Has Great Jeans." One of the campaign's videos plays on the same-sounding word "genes" as Sweeney zips up her jeans and intones that "genes are passed down from parents to offspring often determining traits like hair colour, personality and even eye colour." "My jeans are blue," she adds, flashing her blue eyes at the camera. The video sparked a debate online about whether the focus on the genes of a white, blond

woman conjured up the racist theory of eugenics.

New Zealand woman arrested after travelling with child in suitcase

A New Zealand woman was arrested on Sunday after travelling on a bus with a two-year-old girl trapped in her luggage. Detective Inspector Simon Harrison said the woman had been charged with ill-treatment and neglect of a child. Police were called to a bus depot in Kaiwaka after the bus driver became concerned about a bag moving during a scheduled stop. "When the driver opened the suitcase, they discovered the two-year-old girl," Harrison said. "The girl appeared physically unharmed."

Aus towns blanketed with rare snow in wild weather
Several towns in eastern Australia were blanketed with their thickest layer of snow in decades as wild weather swept the area, causing floods and cutting power to thousands of homes, authorities said. A cold air front dropped as much as 40cm of snow on parts of northern New South Wales on Saturday, the most since the mid-1980s, said Miriam Bradbury, a meteorologist at Australia's weather bureau.

Putin escalates efforts towards state-controlled internet in Russia

Kremlin Is Building An Ecosystem Of Monitored, Censored Alternatives To West's Tech Products

Paul Sonne

Russia is escalating its efforts to curtail online freedom, taking new steps toward a draconian state-controlled internet.

The authorities are cracking down on workarounds that Russians have been using for access to foreign apps and banned content, including through new laws signed by President Vladimir Putin this week. Moscow has also been impeding the function of services, like YouTube, that Russians have used for years.

At the same time, the Kremlin is building out a domestic

ecosystem of easily monitored and censored Russian alternatives to Western tech products. That includes a new state-sanctioned messaging service, MAX, which will come pre-installed by law on all new smartphones sold in Russia starting in September. The idea, experts say, is to migrate more Russians from an open internet dominated by the products of Western tech giants to a censored online ecosystem, where Russians primarily use software under the gaze and influence of the state. The effort has advanced significantly amid wartime repression, but it is unclear how far it will go. "The goal here is absolute



KEEPING A WATCH

control," said Anastasia Krupce, a researcher at Human Rights Watch who wrote a recent report on declining Russian internet freedoms. The Kremlin wants to control not only the information available online but also where and how internet traffic flows, Krupce said, so the Russian internet can function in isolation and be switched on and off at will. Unlike China, where users

have been restricted since the dawn of the internet, Russia long boasted one of the most open and free-wheeling environments anywhere online.

The Kremlin began to see that freedom as a threat, particularly after the rise of the opposition activist Aleksei Navalny, who died in prison last year. His exposes of the Putin elite, initially publicised in Live Journal blog posts and later in popular YouTube videos, gave him millions of followers online and the power to mobilise mass protests on the street.

Since the first decade of Putin's rule, Moscow had been articulating a vision for what it called a "sovereign" internet that would sever Russia as much as possible from the rest of the online world and strip power from foreign tech firms,

which didn't always give in to the Kremlin's demands. But Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 gave govt the opportunity to accelerate the plan.

Moscow banned Facebook, Instagram and Twitter outright and took steps that caused TikTok to disable functions in Russia. Lawmakers passed draconian laws stifling free expression in the streets and online. Last year, after building out a video-streaming service on VK, Russia began throttling YouTube, pushing users toward the domestic alternative. Now, with the introduction of MAX, authorities have signalled they may take aim at foreign messaging apps, in particular WhatsApp, which is owned by Meta and counts nearly 100 million monthly users in Russia. Telegram could be a target as well.



ADEMOLA LOOKMAN REQUESTS TRANSFER FROM ATALANTA CITING POOR TREATMENT

OLY CHAMPION SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN-LEVRONE SECURES WORLD C'SHIPS BERTH AT US TRIALS



OVAL THRILLER GOES TO THE WIRE

Pics: PTV/Getty Images

India Hang By A Thread As Brook's 111 And Root's 105 Have England Needing Just 35 Runs With 4 Wickets In Hand As Fifth Test Heads Into A Dramatic Final Day

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN ENGLAND
Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

London: The centre square at the Oval wore a deserted look till 30 minutes before start of play on the fourth morning. Unlike the other days of this final Test of the series, there weren't players queuing up to go through their warmup drills. Yet, you could cut the tension all around with a knife. India were conserving their three strike bowlers — Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep, while England's Harry Brook and Joe Root took a few throw-downs and retired to the dressing room.

These characters played lead roles in turning the arena into a bullring, throwing gruesome punches at each other before rain and bad light 75 minutes into the last session, took the series into its final dramatic fifth day. India will come back on Monday morning, four wickets away, with 34 runs in the bank, from finishing the series at 2-2. Brook batted like a man on steroids to score 111 off 98 while Root played the monk who had the entire field under his control as he hit 105 off 152 after they got together an hour into the first session with England, in pursuit of 374 on a tricky pitch, looking nervy at 106/3.

In 35 overs of imperious shot-making, they turned the Oval into a gladiatorial arena as England hurtled towards finishing the series just like they had started it — sauntering past a 370-plus target.

But then Siraj and Krishna were not there to agree to a surrender with figures of 3/109 and 2/95. Siraj, like Ben Stokes did in the third Test at Lord's, dug deep into his energy reserves and kept asking questions of Root's defence. That resulted in Krishna finding Root's outside edge to Dhruv Jurel to light up the match again under the dark grey London skies after Brook's hoick off Akash Deep applied the brakes on England's charge.

In a spell of unchanged bowling after tea, Siraj and Krishna ensured India were still breathing following the damaging blows inflicted by Brook and Root. India will hope the duo has enough left in the tank to turn up one final time on Monday morning and prevent a 1-3 scoreline with Jamie Overton and Jamie Smith at the crease. After all, they were taking on two Yorkshiremen who were bullish about affirming that their 'Ba-ball' brand of cricket works.

Root and Brook were advertising for the England team's 'we-will-chase-down-anything' philosophy.

Siraj and Prasidh Krishna had Ben Duckett and stand-in captain Ollie Pope under their spell in the first hour of the day. They were all over England with the pitch offering exaggerated movement and some uneven bounce. Duckett edging Krishna to second slip and Pope falling to Siraj LBW seemed a matter of time. Brook wasn't having any of it; he turned up a bully.

There are moments that define the course of a big game. Siraj stepping on to the long-leg boundary when Brook, batting on 19, had top-edged a short ball from Krishna was clearly one. It was reminiscent of Trent Boult stepping onto the rope after catching Ben Stokes in the 2019 World Cup final. Monday morning will tell if India end up on the wrong side like New Zealand in 2019.

It is true that Siraj was in a great rhythm deep into the morning session. He was still bowling at the peak of his powers even as it was his ninth innings of bowling extensive spells in the last two months. He was also fast exhausting his energy levels. He labored along with all his heart and passion. But his day out also highlighted that India were desperately short of another wicket-taking option. Akash Deep lacked the zip and Krishna battled hard to stay consistent with his line and length once Brook went on the rampage.

India started and finished strong on Sunday. They will hope that the day's afternoon session doesn't cost them the series on Monday.



Harry Brook



195
Runs partnership **Joe Root** and **Harry Brook** stitched for the fourth wicket to put England in commanding position against India.

111 Harry Brook's 10th hundred in Tests is his second vs India. His first hundred vs India was 158 in the second Test at Birmingham. Overall, he has scored three centuries at home at seven overseas.
Rajesh Kumar

RIISING TO THE OCCASION: Prasidh Krishna (left) celebrates after dismissing Joe Root on Sunday

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 224
England 1st innings: 247
India 2nd innings: 396
England 2nd innings: (O/N 50/1)
Ben Duckett c Rahul b Krishna 54, Ollie Pope lbw b Siraj 27, Joe Root c Jurel b Krishna 105, Harry Brook c Siraj b Akash Deep 111, Jacob Bethell b Krishna 5, Jamie Smith batting 2, Jamie Overton 0
Extras: (b 1, lb 8, nb 1, w 11) **21**
Total: (six wickets in 76.2 overs) **339**
Fall of wickets: 2-82, 3-106, 4-301, 5-332, 6-337
Bowling: Akash Deep 20-4-85-1, Prasidh Krishna 22.2-3-109-3, Mohammed Siraj 26-5-95-2, Washington Sundar 4-0-19-0, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-22-0

21 Number of hundreds registered in the England versus India series, emulating the previous best tally (21) recorded in the five-Test series between Australia and West Indies in 1955 in the Caribbean.

20 India pacer Mohammed Siraj has produced his best performance in a Test series vs England. His wickets' tally at 36.85 runs apiece in five Tests is his highest ever. Siraj took two wickets in England's second innings on Sunday.

Did use of roller influence strategy at Oval?

Both Teams Were Consumed By The Idea That Batting Was Easiest After Use Of A Heavy Roller

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

London: The Indian team spent a good amount of time deciding on their choice of pitch roller before play on the second morning of the fifth Test at The Oval.

They had their last recognised pair in Karun Nair and Washington Sundar at the crease. After much consultation with experts at the ground, they opted for a light roller. India guarded against flattening out the surface, expecting England to use the heavy roller once they were bowled out in the first innings. India eventually lost the remaining four wickets inside 30 minutes.

English openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley



STRATEGIC BLUNDER: India lost their last four wickets, including that of their first innings top-scorer Karun Nair (left), inside 30 minutes on Day Two as they opted against flattening out the surface by using a light roller

went berserk in the first 15 a comeback in the Test in overs. India could only make the afternoon session after

a good two hours of play following the use of the heavy roller. That kind of set the template for the rest of the match. As much as the pitch was discussed, the roller became a big talking point.

"We're trying to work out why (folding cheaply in the first innings after a strong start). Is it the heavy roll or is it the new ball that's kind of skids on? When is a good time to bat? You can see Jaiswal come out tonight (Friday) and he played positively. We'll see as it goes on," England's assistant coach Marcus Trescothick said after the second day's play on Friday.

The field set by India on the third evening was intriguing. They started with an in-and-out field when they took the field to defend the 374-run target on a lively pitch. The pitch played tricks. Duckett and Crawley played their shots even as they looked unconvincing. But India ensured they didn't get off to a flyer. The shots that fly off the bat behind square with the new ball were intercepted midway. As well as Akash Deep

batted as a nightwatchman on the third morning, one could not rule out the effect of the heavy roller used before the day's play. Subsequently, batting became a tad tough in the second session. The variable bounce was on show again. The English attack, overworked after losing Chris Woakes' services due to a shoulder injury in the first innings, lost some zing. Again, Washington cashed in on the second new ball to help India set a challenging target for England.

India followed the same principle on the fourth morning. A spread-out slip cordon with a semi-defensive field after England used the heavy roller before the start of play. But the emphasis was to not leak runs.

As England launched a counterattack in the afternoon session, India would have been left with two thoughts—if they erred by using the light roller on the second morning, or if their strategies revolved too much around the roller used.

IOA for termination of interim committee

With Polls Due Later This Month, Usha Writes To Ministry, World Body On Delays In Process

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New Delhi: The three-member fact-finding commission on the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), has submitted its report to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Citing violations of the national sports code, 2011, the IOA-appointed panel has recommended the immediate "termination" of the interim committee endorsed by World Boxing.

The report declared that decisions made by the Ajay Singh-led panel, since its establishment on Apr 7, 2025, are "null and void". The BFI's interim committee has scheduled the federation's elections for Aug 21.

TOI has obtained a three-page letter by IOA president PT Usha, addressed to both World Boxing president Boris Van der Vorst and the sports ministry, where she stated that the national Olympic

committee's (NOC) inquiry committee identified the Mar 7 notification issued by then BFI president Singh as "the central issue causing delays in the election process".

Singh's March notification had stated: "Bonafide and duly elected members during the election AGM (duly notified to BFI) of the state units affiliated with the BFI shall be authorised to represent their respective states/union territories". The notification followed former sports minister Anurag Thakur's intention to contest the BFI presidency against Singh, who was seeking a third term.

Sources, meanwhile, indicated that the ministry is likely to instruct the IOA to oversee the electoral process. However, since World Boxing will be sending its observer and has approved the elections, any govt or external interference could contravene the Olympic charter.

ing dominating wins in the quarterfinals here.

In the women's 48kg quarterfinals, Bhawna eased past Vietnam's Ngoc Linh Chi Ngo while Yatri punched her way to the last four with win over Keerthana Uthayakumar of Sri Lanka in the women's 57kg bout.

Tanu tried her best to secure a medal but fell short against local hope Natnicha Chongprongklang in the women's 54kg quarterfinals.

In the U-19 section, Shivam and Mausam Suhag registered contrasting victories to advance in their respective weight categories.

Antim has it easy at World wrestling Championship trials
New Delhi: Easily the most successful wrestler among the contenders at the World Championship trials, Antim Panghal sealed her berth in the Indian team without much fuss in the women's 53kg weight class while Vaishnavi Patil (65kg)

and Manisha Bhanwala (62kg) also qualified with impressive show on Sunday.

All of 20 and already a medal winner at the senior Worlds, Asian Games and the Asian Championships, Antim

outplayed MP's Pooja and Gujarat's Hina-ben without conceding a point to emerge winner.

The other winners were: Ankush (50kg), Nishu (55kg), Tapasya (57kg), Neha (59kg), and Srishti (68kg). PTI



ANTIM PANGHAL

Norris holds off Piastri in tense finish

Leclerc 4th, Hamilton 12th In Hungarian GP

Budapest: Lando Norris held off his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in a tense finish to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday and boost his Formula 1 title chances heading into the mid-season break.

Norris clung on with worn tires as Piastri loomed behind him in the final laps. He celebrated with a double fist pump on top of his car after claiming McLaren's 200th F1 win by less than a second to cut Piastri's standings lead to nine points from 16. "I'm dead. It was tough, it was tough," Norris said. "The final stint, with Oscar catching, I was pushing flat out."

It was a race shaped as much by smart strategy as gritty driving. Norris briefly dropped to fifth on the first lap but made his tires last to stop only once, while Piastri changed tires twice.

Piastri steadily cut into Norris' lead in the latter stages of the race but the British driver held on with old tires to take the win. Piastri nearly collided with his teammate when he locked up a wheel while trying



WINNING MOMENT: Lando Norris passes the chequered flag on Sunday

ing to pass on the second-to-last lap. Still, it was Norris who held on to have the last word in their title fight as F1 heads into a four-week break. "Good racing. Good strategy. Good call," was how Norris summed it up on the radio.

George Russell took third for Mercedes after fighting his way past Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in a contest that earned Leclerc a time penalty for nearly colliding with Russell while defending.

Defending champion Max Ver-

stappen was only ninth after being off the pace all week. He stays third in the standings, but drops to 97 points off leader Piastri in another heavy blow to an already unlikely title defence.

Leclerc started on pole position with hopes of landing Ferrari's first Grand Prix win of the year, but ended up fourth after blaming the team for decisions he said left his car "undriveable." "This is so incredibly frustrating. We've lost all competitiveness," he told the team over the radio. AP

Holder powers WI to thrilling T20I win

Lauderhill: Jason Holder smashed a four on the final ball to give West Indies a dramatic two-wicket victory over Pakistan on Saturday, drawing the hosts level in their T20 international series. On the same night he took four wickets to reach a West Indies T20I record 81 for his career — breaking Dwayne Bravo's old mark of 78 — Holder made 16 not out and West Indies ended a horrid losing streak on the final ball of the match.

Pakistan, who won Thursday's opener by 14 runs, will try to bounce back in the series-deciding match under the lights at Lauderhill, Florida.

West Indies, set 134 to win, were on the brink of a seventh consecutive T20 defeat after having been swept 5-0 last month by visiting Australia. Gudakesh Motie led West Indies with 28 runs but went down on the first ball of the 17th over, run out by Mohammed Harris with the hosts on 96 for six.

Harris caught Keacy Carty for a duck three balls later but Holder swatted a six to end the 18th over; West Indies still needing 24 to win. Romario Shepherd smashed a six and a four off Hasan Ali in the 19th over to leave West Indies on 126 for seven entering the final over. Shaheen Shah Afridi al-



JASON HOLDER

lowed Holder a run but then took Shepherd's wicket lbw for 15. Newcomer Shamir Joseph took a run next that pulled West Indies within six runs with three balls remaining.

Holder and Joseph each struck for singles and Afridi went wide to Holder, leaving West Indies three runs shy on the final delivery, setting the stage for Holder's heroics.

Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and batted first, going 133 for nine. Hasan Nawaz led Pakistan with 40 with four sixes and a four while captain Salman Agha made 38 with one six and three fours. **SCORES:** Pakistan: 133/9 in 20 overs (Salman Agha 38, Hasan Nawaz 40; Jason Holder 4-19, Gudakesh Motie 2-39) lost to West Indies 135/8 in 20 overs (Gudakesh Motie 28; Mohammad Nawaz 3-14, Saim Ayub 2-20). AGENCIES

BHAWNA, YATRI ASSURED OF U-22 BOXING MEDALS

Bangkok: Bhawna Sharma and Yatri Patel were on Sunday assured of a medal each in the U-22 Asian Boxing Championships after register-

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THE HAUNTED ANNABELLE DOLL HAS A NEW CARETAKER **P2**



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SHIRLEY SETIA
SHARES A
SNEAK PEEK
FROM HER
CANADIAN
TRIP **P4**

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EGYPT



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GEORGIA



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OMAN



VISA AT
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GREECE



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SWITZERLAND



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AUSTRIA



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KENYA



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Prathamesh Bandekar

GENELIA DESHMUKH

'I fell in love with acting because of south cinema'



Genelia with husband Riteish Deshmukh

Onkar Kulkarni

After over a decade of consciously stepping back from the spotlight following the 2012 release of *Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya* to focus on family life, Genelia Deshmukh is embracing a new chapter – one shaped by motherhood, maturity, and a rekindled love for cinema. In a conversation with us, the actress, who was recently seen in *Sitaare Zameen Par*, opens up about evolving with time, the role of south cinema in shaping her career, and why mature roles need more screen time.

CONTINUED ON **P4**

'Riteish and I continue to do things that we always enjoyed doing together'



Genelia, who has been married to Riteish Deshmukh for 13 years, says marriage evolves with time. She shares, "A lot changes post marriage. People forget that you're going to change at 30, 40 and 50. You're not going to be 20 all your life, and I think that's the issue in most relationships. You expect the person to stay the way they were at 16. Riteish and I know we aren't in our 20s, but we continue to do things that we always enjoyed doing together. We liked going out for dinners a lot, but with children around, it gets tough. So, once a week, we go to a coffee shop, hold hands and talk. That's our idea of romance."



Stars shine on the Delhi ramp

P3

Buzzstop

AKON ANNOUNCES INDIA TOUR, TO PERFORM IN DELHI, BENGALURU, MUMBAI



Music lovers, get ready to dive into nostalgia as the global hitmaker **Akon** is all set to perform in India this November. Excited about the tour, Akon in a press note said, "India has always shown me so much love – it's like a second home. The energy, the culture, the fans... it's on another level. I'm beyond excited to be back and perform live for y'all. This tour is gonna be something special – let's make history together!" He will perform in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. Last year, Akon had a special performance at the pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Jamnagar.

Agencies



We are trying again: Saina weeks after separation post



Saina Nehwal shared this picture with husband Parupalli Kashyap along with her post

Weeks after announcing separation from husband Parupalli Kashyap, Olympic medalist shuttler Saina Nehwal has posted a picture with the former, sharing that they are "trying again". "Sometimes distance teaches you the value of presence. Here we are – trying again," she wrote in the caption. On July 13, Saina, in a surprising move, announced her separation from Kashyap. The couple, who have

been together for over a decade, tied the knot in 2018. "Life takes us in different directions sometimes," Saina had written in her post last month. "After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing – for ourselves and each other. I'm grateful for the memories and wish nothing but the best moving forward. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy during this time."

Spider-Man has a new suit – and fans are loving it

The *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* teaser has revealed the first look of Tom Holland's new spidey suit. Fans of the superhero love the fact that the new suit is very similar to the comic books – a departure from the more hi-tech suits the actor has worn so far

Talk of the town



Closer to the OGs

Tom's new suit has a close resemblance to Andrew Garfield (above) and Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man suits

The many suits of Tom Holland's Spidey

2016

Spider-Man in the MCU has worn far more suits than the previous live-action iterations combined – from the first appearance in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War* to the swanky fit in 2018's *Avengers: Infinity War* and 2019's *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. They are also known as the 'Stark suits' as they were designed by Tony Stark.

@IanMcCabe_1

I am a fan of the Stark Suits. But I do love how the new one is a blend of all 3 spidey's suits (the emblem from Andrew, the Webbing from Garfield, the colors from the MCU suits.etc)

@FragstarGames

Anything is an upgrade over the stark suit. When he had that suit it never felt like spider man and now he will be a proper spider man with his own identity. Looking forward to it. P.s nothing is better than Tobey's suit

The new suit shows a larger spider on the chest than in Tom's previous costumes, and raised black rubbery webbing

@Semere.T

That spider 🕸 went over to The Rock's gym and took some major PEDs 🤔

@ReignOfPride

This is the best Spider-Man suit of ALL TIME

Like it was stripped straight from the pages of John Romita Sr. Spider-Man comic books



2018



2019



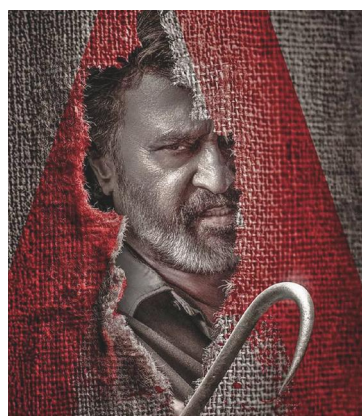
Stars take over the Delhi runway

Bollywood was present in strength in Delhi over the last week, primarily to walk the ramp as showstoppers for a galaxy of designers. Take a look at some of the most eye-catching looks



UP TO DATE

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY



As Rajinikanth's Coolie gets an A rating, fans and trade push for UA version

Rajinikanth's *Coolie* getting an A rating has come as a surprise and a shock to people within the industry and fans. Since the announcement, fans and trade voices have taken to social media, urging the makers to release a UA version alongside the A-rated one. One of the reasons that trade experts give for the Rajinikanth phenomenon is the huge following the superstar has among the family audiences. The superstar's *Jailer*, which was rated UA, had invited criticism for the violence in it. However, producer and distributor G Dhananjayan believes an A rating "isn't a deterrent for box office success these days." While so far, 20 of Rajini's films have been rated A, the last one to be released with an A certificate was 36 years ago - *Siva* (1989).

— Roopa Radhakrishnan

Viral Reddit post shows chaos in Mumbai store after first day of sale

Images from a major fashion retail store in Mumbai, taken after the first day of a sale, have gone viral. A Reddit post showed shoes strewn across the floor and clothes piled in heaps, sparking a wider conversation on civic sense and public behaviour. Many users slammed shoppers for creating a mess and leaving staff to clean up.



After FWICE warning, Kartik's team clarifies he's not attending any Pak-linked event



Kartik Aaryan has officially denied any involvement in an upcoming Independence Day event in Houston, after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) raised concerns about the show being allegedly linked to a Pakistani-owned entity. His team stated that Kartik never made an "official announcement" about it.

DU's 12-hour college schedule deemed 'anti-teacher, anti-student'

With a fourth UG year added, Delhi University has extended college hours to 8am-8pm for "optimal utilisation" of resources. The move has sparked concerns over staffing, infrastructure, and mental health. Kirori Mal's Rudrashish Chakraborty called it "anti-teacher and anti-student," while Miranda House's Abha Dev Habib told PTI the move could push first-year teaching to guest faculty.



Farah Khan flags fake Instagram account posing as her cook Dilip

Farah Khan has issued a warning about a fake social media account impersonating her cook Dilip. Farah clarified that Dilip doesn't operate any social media account, and has complained against the fake account. She shared a screengrab of the fake account on social media. The duo, known for their popular cooking vlogs featuring celebrity guests, has garnered millions of views online.



Kya Bolti Public

As *Raanjhanaa*'s AI-altered "happy" climax resurrects Kundan (Dhanush), we ask fans their take on AI-reimagining films

With *Raanjhanaa* getting a viral AI-altered ending, would you want more films reimagined this way?

Yes, what's the harm in a fresh perspective

47%

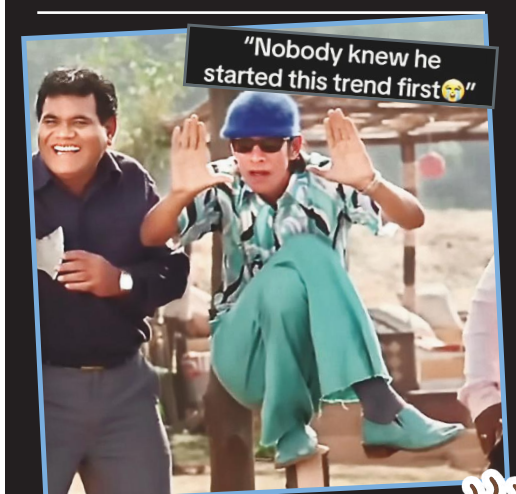
No, let them stay the way they are

53%



From celeb buzz to viral debates, we bring you what's trending - now it's your turn. Tell us what you think by voting in our daily polls

memewatch



Forget 2013, Vijay Raaz struck that iconic Nicki Minaj pose way back in 2007 (*Welcome*), and desis aren't letting it go. Nicki may have made it viral, but Raaz did it first — unintentionally, and FYI, before TikTok was even a thing



Promptly SPEAKING!

Too shy to ask the juicy stuff? Let AI do the digging and get digitally nosy!

PROMPT: Rani Mukerji won her first National Award for *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*. Critically speaking, which role of Rani do you think was the best?



ChatGPT says *Black* was the real deal & Rani deserved a National Award for it

Critically speaking, Rani Mukerji's most knockout performance might still be *Black*. Long before *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway* brought her a National Award, she was already schooling everyone playing a deaf-blind woman with fierce conviction. It was raw, risky, and way ahead of its time. Sure, we loved her sass in *Hum Tum*, her grit in *Mardaani*, and her fire in *No One Killed Jessica* - but *Black* was Rani going full method before it was cool. Honestly, it deserved a National Award.

Gemini thinks Rani in *Black* didn't even need an award to make history

While Rani Mukerji's National Award-winning role in *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway* was a glorious, five-alarm fire of a performance, many critics still have a special, dusty pedestal reserved for *Black*. Think of it this way: *Mrs Chatterjee...* was playing a rock anthem, heart-thumpingly loud, full of soul. But *Black* was composing a complex, haunting symphony... in complete silence. *Mrs Chatterjee...* was a knockout punch, but *Black* was the magic trick that no one has figured out since.

Grok says Shivani Roy (*Mardaani*) is Rani's most badass role yet

While *Mrs Chatterjee...* snagged Rani Mukerji a National Award, her role as Shivani Shivaji Roy in *Mardaani* is fire. As a tough-as-nails cop, Rani's got swagger, grit, and a no-nonsense vibe that slaps harder than a Mumbai monsoon. Critics ate it up, fans cheered, and she owned the screen like a masala-spiced badass. *Black*? Iconic. *Hichki*? Heartwarming. But *Mardaani*'s fierce queen? That's Rani's kickass crown!

GENELIA DESHMUKH

‘Love stories aren’t just for the young’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

‘EARLIER, THE PERCEPTION WAS THAT BOLLYWOOD DROPOUTS MAKE IT BIG IN THE SOUTH’

Today, pan-India films are seeing actors from Bollywood being cast alongside South actors. Genelia, who made her film debut in 2003 with *Tujhe Meri Kasam*, did South films from the early days of her career. About the current pan-India trend, she says, “I don’t know why it took so long. I did it very early in my career; and I did it with pride. I just wanted to do good films; it was never about pitching one above the other. Earlier, the perception was that Bollywood dropouts make it big in the South. I’ve done some of my best work there. I thought my first film would be my last, and then I would take up a 9-5 job. But then I got a lot of work in the South and started falling in love with acting because of South cinema.”

Talking about her break from movies, she says, “During the last 10 years, I did special appearances whenever my friends asked me to. I also did *Trial Period*, which was an OTT project and *Mister Mummy*. I am happy that a film like *Sitaare Zameen Par* came my way.”

‘I’M A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW, BUT I STILL HAVE THAT MADNESS IN ME’

Genelia admits that this phase of her career feels different from her early years in the industry. “I’m a different person now, but I still have that madness in me.

I don’t think I could play a good mom on screen as well if I weren’t a mom in real life. I think you bring nuances to the screen when you actually live it



Genelia made her debut in 2003 with *Tujhe Meri Kasam* opposite Riteish Deshmukh

I’ll always want to keep the child in me alive. At the start of your career, you have to make sure you do things that really work. Now, I want to do a horror film. I want to do action. It all depends on what filmmakers are writing and what you are being offered,” she says.

‘LOVE STORIES AREN’T JUST FOR THE YOUNG’

The actress is hopeful the industry keeps pace with changing narratives and embraces more mature female characters. She says, “I wish we would write more stories about wom-

en who are in their 30s, 40s or 50s. There are so many dynamics to that, which is interesting. Love stories aren’t just for the young. Why isn’t there a love story of a 30-year-old girl or a single mother? Love doesn’t happen only when you are in college. I don’t think I could play a good mom on screen if I weren’t a mom in real life. I think you bring nuances to the screen when you actually live it. Which is why I say that actors should be cast as per the demand of the role and not because of their Instagram following or because they are number one, two or three.”

TRIPPIN’

Pics: @shirleysetia



SHIRLEY SETIA is soaking in the scenic magic of **BANFF NATIONAL PARK, CANADA**. Sharing glimpses from Moraine Lake and Lake Louise, the singer-actor wrote, “So I finally made it to Banff! Can safely say that I’m absolutely in love”

Celebs raise a toast to old friends

@apnabhidu



On his bond with **SUNIL SHETTY, JACKIE SHROFF** wrote, “It’s been 28 years now. *Sab badal gaya hai. Unn dino hum bacche the, aur ab humare bacche hero ban gaye hai. Par humara equation waisa hi raha hai* (sic)”

GALLERY

CHUNKY PANDY shared a picture of his reunion and wrote, “With all my school mates the *Andean Boys*. A night of Biryani, Booze and Bulls**t. Love these guys. St Andrews class of 1978”

@sachintendulkar



SACHIN TENDULKAR shared a throwback, and wrote, “One of the key indicators of longevity is to have good friends. I feel truly fortunate to have the same friends by my side, even after all these years. Wishing everyone a Happy Friendship Day, here’s to the bonds that stand the test of time (sic)”

@chunkypanday



I don’t want to do roles for visibility: Shriya Pilgaonkar

Shriya Pilgaonkar, who began her Bollywood journey with *Fan*, made a mark in the OTT space with web shows like *Mirzapur*, *Guilty Minds* and *The Broken News*. The actress is shifting her focus more toward films now. She shares, “I’m being very selective with roles in the series space because I want to focus more on films, as I miss the medium. That doesn’t mean I won’t be a part of web shows.”

The actress says she has also learnt to factor in how a project is presented. “The platform

matters. How a show or film is mounted affects how the audience perceives it. In the past, even when my performance was appreciated, the overall production sometimes didn’t support it. Now, I factor all of that in,” she explains.

Her career choices are now guided by the potential of a role. “It’s not about screen time; it’s about the value that I can bring. I want to show my skill and build on it, not do roles for the sake of visibility,” she adds.

— Neha Maheshwari



Shriya Pilgaonkar

News to me: The Holiday director reacts to remake

Earlier this week, it was announced that *The Holiday* has received the green light for a limited series remake – but it wasn’t quite the festive surprise director Nancy Meyers had in mind. The filmmaker behind the beloved 2006 romantic comedy revealed that she was blindsided by the news.

“News to me,” Meyers wrote on Instagram. “Imagine my surprise when I opened Instagram and this was the first post I saw.”

According to *Deadline*, the new adaptation, written by Krissie Ducker, will follow a similar setup with new characters, centring on a house swap between two single women.

Agencies



Dua Lipa ‘feeling grateful’ after receiving Kosovan citizenship

Dua Lipa says she is “feeling grateful” after being awarded Kosovan citizenship by the country’s president, Vjosa Osmani. Born in London to Kosovan-Albanian parents, she lived in Pristina from the age of 11, after her family returned following the southeastern European country’s independence, before moving back to London at 15.

On Instagram, Lipa wrote, “Feeling so grateful to have been awarded my Kosovan citizenship by our president @vjosaosmani (sic).” President Osmani shared a photo with the singer, captioning it, “Welcome home, Dua,” and added, “One of the most important cultural and artistic personalities in the history of our country. Dua and Kosovo have always been inseparable. She has been and continues to be one of the most powerful voices on the world’s biggest stag-

es, making history with her achievements and becoming an inspiration to millions of people around the globe. Our gratitude is endless for all that Dua has done and continues to do for Kosovo, for our youth, for our art, and for the international image of our country (sic).”

In November 2022, the singer was granted Albanian citizenship by President Bajram Begaj.

Agencies



Dua Lipa with Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani



According to the report, at the ceremony, children dressed in white sang Dua’s hit *Levitating*



Education TIMES

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FYUP may be a tough call for Science students due to diluted research component

Most varsities lack robust labs for research required in the fourth year which will compromise the purpose initially

Divyansh.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

With students preparing to enrol in the final year of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), focusing on honours with research in the seventh and eighth semesters, challenges for students and teachers continue to persist. Professors are struggling to complete the additional syllabus in a limited time, making space to guide students to the research and dissertation work mandated in the fourth year. With the University of Delhi (DU) confirming 55% of average enrolment in the fourth year, confusion regarding the timely completion of research and a lack of infrastructure persists. Academics refer to FYUP as a rushed rollout without sufficient pilot data and stakeholder consultation, which will eventually compromise the quality of education.

The early trend of enrolment in classes that begun recently reveals that Humanities students are more likely to benefit from FYUP. In private universities, BBA, BCom, BEd and Psychology students are more inclined to opt for the fourth year to pursue careers in teaching, research or competitive exams. In Kirori Mal College, 25 out of 63 students (nearly 40%) of BA (Hons) English have opted for FYUP. However, Science students showed reluctance largely due to the absence of laboratories and infrastructure at several colleges. "Most science students interested in higher studies prefer to pursue a two-year MSc degree, which they see as a superior qualification. The lack of sufficient infrastructure, new labs, and extra teachers in colleges have been a discouraging factor. Few Science students who have opted for FYUP are using the additional year to prepare for the competitive exams," says Prof Rudrashish Chakraborty, Kirori Mal College, DU. "Most commerce students are not finding value in the fourth year, as they are primarily interested in internships and jobs. The fourth year is not seen as adding significant value to their career goals, except for the small number of students who want to go abroad," Prof Chakraborty adds.

Rushed Rollout

The immediate concern for educators is the disorganised nature of the rollout. The real problem is ill-structured course content. Prof Chakraborty, says, "The syllabi were put together at the last minute, and there was no peer review by the experts. Most teachers have not been introduced to the curriculum

Unequal Opportunity

The financial and social implications of an extra year are also a major concern. "Lower middle class students are opting out of it because of the additional financial burden. Outstation students cannot bear the additional cost of living in cities to complete the fourth year," Prof Habib says. Ashok Kumar Mittal, founder chancellor of LPU, refers to the fourth year as a flexible opportunity. "The FYUP is an effort to broaden academic possibilities. It is an optional opportunity for students who wish to pursue advanced research or in-depth learning. Students from BBA, BCom, BEd, and Psychology programmes are more inclined to opt for the fourth year," he adds.

they need to teach in the final semesters, even as the new academic year has begun. It is an administrative overreach as the members not experts in the subjects tend to replace rigorous academic material with politically and ideologically motivated content, beating the competitive edge our syllabi once had."

Poor Infrastructure

The vision of a research-oriented fourth year is colliding with the reality of inadequate

physical resources. The professors express deep concern about the lack of new facilities and funding for colleges. In July, the Ministry of Education allocated funds for an infrastructural push to DU colleges, which have not trickled down to the colleges. "A Rs 1,900 crore investment was made for infrastructure development, but it is yet to translate into the construction of functional labs, which is mandatory to make FYUP successful. For science

students, there is no incentive to stay back in the fourth year, as the necessary physical labs are simply not available." At Miranda House (DU), only around 25% students of BSc (Hons) Physics have opted for the fourth year. "Out of 80 students, only 18 are staying back; however, the number might increase to 24. It will be clearer after a week or so," says Prof Abha Dev Habib, Miranda House.

Academic Dilution

Beyond the logistical hurdles, the core academic design of the FYUP is a point of contention. There is a rising fear that the new structure compromises the deep, subject-specific learning that was a hallmark of the previous system. Prof Chakraborty adds, "Our flagship honours courses used to be 75% core competency, which has now reduced to 50%. As a result, the students are forced to take seven papers per semester, yet their core competency is very poor because the component has been compromised."

Following the NEP 2020 guidelines, Kerala rolled out FYUP from the academic year 2024-25, but faced multiple problems due to an ill-prepared curriculum and limited infrastructure. Prof Amruth G Kumar, Central University of Kerala, points out the challenge of designing relevant skill enhancement programmes and multi-disciplinary programmes. "A chemistry teacher can be trained in a pharmaceutical company to get skill-oriented knowledge, but for language teachers, we need an innovative training format," he says.

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EducationTIMES



BRAINSTRAIN

>> First three correct entries will win a 'pen drive.'
Send in your entries only through e-mail with your Name, Address, Email, Tel/ no. and Profession to Brainstrain.hy@gmail.com

Which of these words is most nearly the opposite of the question word provided?

1. Stifle
a. release
c. censor
b. oppose
d. contradict
2. Rage
a. homage
c. calm
b. solution
d. fury
3. Plaudits
a. pleasure
c. condemnation
b. cheers
d. approval
4. Sagacious
a. judicious
c. dull
b. knowledgeable
d. ignorant
5. Abate
a. free
c. provoke
b. augment
d. wane
6. Stealthy
a. sneaky
c. covert
b. quick
d. open
7. Grievous
a. dangerous
c. serious
b. atrocious
d. delightful
8. Irascible
a. determined
c. reasonable
b. placid
d. pliant
9. Fortify
a. reinforce
c. underrate
b. weaken
d. downgrade
10. Impoverished
a. improved
c. friendly
b. rich
d. importunate

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

Virtual interviews increase job opportunities for tech students from tier-II and III cities

Students are securing top offers across sectors such as IT, banking, automotive, and EdTech

Priyadarshini Gupta
@timesofindia.com

India's job market is witnessing a change as jobs are growing beyond major metro cities, with more opportunities now available in smaller cities. A report by Randstad, cited by a recent *ToI* report, shows that job openings in tier-II cities went up by nearly 42% between September 2024 and February 2025 — much higher than the 19% rise in bigger tier-I cities. The report highlighted that

Driven by digital skilling programmes, smaller cities are witnessing a hiring surge, leading to a 20%-30% salary hike

six major industries are driving this growth: banking and finance, manufacturing and automotive, IT, healthcare and pharma, retail, and energy. There has been a noticeable rise in the number of job offers to students from tier-II and tier-III cities, a shift that college administrators and recruiters attribute to multiple factors. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also played a pivotal role in ensuring that institutions in these cities are not left behind in the employment race.



The AICTE has launched several initiatives such as the National Internship Portal, AICTE Placement Portal, and National Apprenticeship Training Schemes. These platforms, with multilingual accessibility, ensure that students from smaller towns gain in knowledge in their regional languages and access better opportunities. Prof T G Sitharam, chairman, AICTE, says, "The market is responding positively to these efforts. India's over 63 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) — 60% of which are based in tier-II and tier-III cities — along with IT, marketing, branding firms, NGOs, startups, and manufacturing companies, are increasingly recruiting from these regions." This shift has been driven by the availability of skilled youth, abundant local resources, growing engineering institutions, and government-

Soft Skills Training

Colleges have also evolved their training to meet industry demands. "Institutions are now prioritising soft skills training, which is seen to contribute to over 55%-60% placement success. Colleges that have gained autonomy have further aligned their curricula with industry needs, moving away from the outdated university-mandated syllabi," says Kapoor.

led digital skilling programmes. "As a result, salaries in certain sectors have jumped by 20%-30%, particularly for roles in software development, data analytics, cloud computing, and digital marketing," he says.

The AICTE job portal has partnered with over 2,500 companies, providing centralised access for employers to tap into talent from across India. Additionally, AICTE's internship portal has so far onboarded over 79,000 companies and registered more

than 2.98 crore students, providing over 77 lakh internships across government departments and private sectors, including MSMEs, NGOs, startups, and research organisations.

"Through these initiatives, AICTE is decentralising recruitment opportunities and reducing dependency on tier-I institutions. It encourages companies to recruit from a broader base of colleges by organising virtual job fairs, online placement drives, and fostering industry-academia linkages, especially in rural and remote areas," says Prof Sitharam.

While major IT and consulting firms such as Infosys, Wipro, IBM, Capgemini, Deloitte, Cognizant, and TCS do not physically visit campuses in smaller cities, they continue to hire in large numbers through virtual interviews. "With support from AICTE and corporate partners such as IBM, Microsoft, among others, students receive real-world exposure through internships and training programmes. These collective efforts are ensuring that students from smaller cities are not only employable but competitive," he adds.

A growing number of recruiters have started recognising the value of students from tier-II and III colleges. Nidhi G Kapoor, dean, Training and Placement, Kanpur Institute of Technology (KIT), says, "One of the key reasons behind this shift is the strong level of commitment and drive among students coming from these regions. Several recruiters find this drive lacking among students from tier-I cities. Technological advancements have also played a significant role; virtual interviews and online assessments have eliminated geographical barriers, making it easier for companies to recruit from campuses they would earlier overlook."

A rise in average salary packages has contributed to the positive trend. Earlier, the average package was around Rs 5 lakh per annum (LPA), which increased to around Rs 8 LPA, particularly for students in non-computer science streams. Kapoor says, "Regional recruiters from Delhi-NCR, Kanpur, and even some from Bengaluru have shown interest, particularly in colleges where students prefer staying close to home during their early careers."

CLAT 2026 registration open till October 31

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Consortium of NLUs has scheduled the exam date for the CLAT 2026 on December 7, 2025. CLAT is a national-level entrance examination for admission to UG and PG law programmes offered by 22 participating NLUs across India. The CLAT 2026 registration process has been underway since August 1, 2025, and will remain active until October 31, 2025. Interested candidates can fill out the application form through the official website. According to the official notification, the entrance exam will be held in offline mode on December 7, 2025, between 2 pm to 4 pm. The aspiring candidates are advised to regularly visit the official website for admit card releases, exam day guidelines, and further updates.

MoHFW urges students to verify medical education norms in Philippines amid viral CHED notice

Ayushi Gupta
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Following the recent notification floating on the internet, claiming to be from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines, which stated that its Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme complies with the eligibility criteria outlined by the NMC in India, under the Foreign Medical Graduate Licensure (FMGL) Regulations, 2021, there has been a noticeable interest among aspirants. The health ministry has urged the students to be watchful of the official notice before enrolling in medical colleges in the Philippines.

The ministry noticed, academic consultants are promoting the Philippines as an NMC-recognised destination to pursue medical studies, many of them refraining from giving complete information and offering false assurances regarding eligibility for FMGE or NExT exams in India. However, it is important to note that due to existing provisions under the Philippine Medical Act of 1959, the validity of CHED's notice dated July 15, 2025, remains uncertain and



Some academic consultants are promoting Philippines as an NMC-recognised destination

does not give clarity on its eligibility in India.

Speaking to *Education Times* on the condition of anonymity, an official from the Union Health Ministry says, "Any student who completes their medical graduation from a country that fully complies with the FMGL Regulations, 2021, will automatically be eligible to appear for the Indian medical licensing exam.

There is no need for the NMC to issue a separate notification in such cases. However, students are strongly advised to carefully review the regulatory requirements before choosing to study medicine abroad."

A notice dated July 15, 2025, came to light after a law firm, Sarmiento Delson and Dacanay Law Offices, located in Quezon City of Philippines, requested to issue a statement confirming that CHED-accredited medical schools are compliant with the Indian regulations. However, no such notice is found on the official CHED website.

A second-year MD student from Amravati, Maharashtra, studying at Emilio Aguinaldo College, Manila, Philippines, says, "There are around 500 Indian students in my university alone, and some larger universities have thousands of Indian students pursuing medical courses. After the FMGL Regulations 2021, NMC closed the doors for us to return to India as practising doctors. The only hope to make this degree useful is by clearing the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Australian Medical Council exam (AMC). Considering the limited job opportunities in the United Kingdom, I am not opting for it. Even staying in the Philippines is not an option for Indians due to the 'reciprocity' provision under the Philippine Medical Act of 1959."

Under the reciprocity provision of the Philippine Medical Act of 1959, a foreigner may be allowed to practise medicine in the Philippines without passing the Physicians Licensure Examination (PLE) if the foreigner's home country grants citizens of the Philippines the same privilege under similar conditions.

DU issues guidelines for ME-ME option in UG courses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

DU has released a comprehensive notification detailing the introduction of the Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit (ME-ME) Scheme in its UG courses. The notification states that undergraduate students at the university will now have the option to pause their studies after completing any even semester and resume within a specified timeframe. This initiative aligns with NEP 2020 and the UGC 2022. "The scheme operates on an academic credit system, where one credit equals one hour of lecture or two hours of practical or field-work per week, with an expectation of 1,200 learning hours annually," read the official circular.

Under the ME-ME Scheme, students can obtain a UG certificate after completing the first year (Semester I) with 44 credits. After two years (Semester IV) and 88 credits, they can earn a diploma. Completing three years (Semester VI) with 132 credits makes them eligible for a bachelor's degree. Those finishing the full four-year programme (Semester VIII) with 176 credits can graduate with a bachelor's degree with honours, honours with research, or honours with entrepreneurship, based on their chosen specialisation. Students who leave the programme can return to the same college and course within seven years, provided their previously earned credits remain valid.

KIIT student-athletes bag most medals for India at World University Games 2025

India rose to 20th position in final medal tally with a total of 12 medals, doubling the country's standing from previous edition



Making waves at the recently held World University Games 2025 in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany, KIIT-DU emerged as the highest-medalling Indian institution, contributing significantly to India's best-ever performance at the global multi-sport university competition.

Student-athletes from KIIT clinched five medals, three silver and two bronze, helping India rise to 20th position in the final medal standings with a total of 12 medals, doubling the country's tally from the previous edition.

KIIT students, including Ankita, won a silver medal in 3000m steeplechase; Praveen Chithra won a silver medal in the triple jump, and Seeman won a silver medal in 5000m finals. The men's 4x100m relay team won a bronze medal, while the

This day is more than a medal count. It is proof that when talent is nurtured with care, faith, and hard work, our young minds can shine on the world stage.

— Prof Achyuta Samanta

women's 20km race walk team won a bronze as well. Abinash Mohanty won a bronze medal in badminton. The medal from Abinash brought the Institute's tally to six medals, contributing half of India's total medals. A total of 42 athletes from Odisha, including 40 from KIIT, were part of India's official contingent of over 300 university athletes.

Prof Achyuta Samanta, founder, KIIT, KISS and KIMS, congratulated the medalists and expressed

immense pride in the university's exceptional achievement. "This day is more than a medal count. It is proof that when talent is nurtured with care, faith, and hard work, our young minds can shine on the world stage," said Samanta.

"My heartfelt thanks go to the Odisha Sports Department, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Sports Authority of India (SAI), and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, for their support and a special note of gratitude to PM Modi for his continued encouragement of sports in the country," he added. "We have doubled our medal count from the last games, from two to six. I thank the AIU and every member of the KIIT support team for their service and devotion to our young champions," he said.

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SAU expands academic, digital, and global reach

The newly launched virtual campus aims to provide business education through its MBA, Executive MBA, and BBA programmes by integrating the intellectual capital of faculty with advanced digital pedagogy

South Asian University (SAU), established jointly by the eight SAARC nations, was proposed at the 13th SAARC Summit in 2005 and has been operational since 2010. Envisioned as a centre of excellence to foster academic collaboration and cultural unity across South Asia, the university is located on a modern, fully residential 100-acre campus in Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. SAU offers education to students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and is currently guided by the dynamic leadership of its president, Prof K K Aggarwal.

Expanding Academic Structure

SAU offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes through faculties including Faculty of Mathematical Science, Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Legal Studies, Faculty of Physical Sciences, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Management, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Faculty of English, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of



SAU offers inclusive and advanced education to students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

— Prof K K Aggarwal, SAU President

International Studies, Centre for Climate Change, Faculty of Arts and Design.

The degrees from SAU are recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India and by educational bodies across SAARC nations, which help its alumni excel globally.

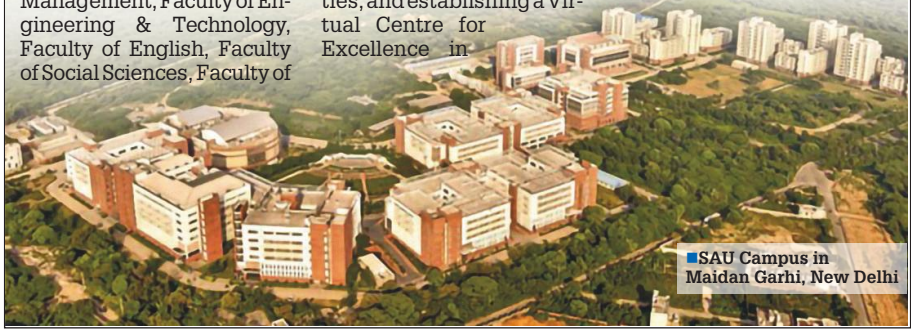
Introducing Virtual Campus

The institute's virtual campus aims to provide business education through its MBA, Executive MBA, and BBA programmes by integrating the intellectual capital of faculty with advanced digital pedagogy. The virtual campus also aims at AI, Data Science and Computer Application courses. The focus will be on expanding the global faculty network, enhancing digital teaching capabilities, and establishing a Virtual Centre for Excellence in

AI & Business Research.

In addition to this, the Faculty of Arts and Design, which aims to foster creativity, communication skills, and cultural awareness, has been offering skill-based short-term certificate courses in Cinematography, Visual Communication, Hindi Language Proficiency, and South Asian Music (ITSA). The Faculty of Management offers industry-driven innovative programmes such as Integrated BBA-MBA, MBA, Executive MBA, PhD and Executive Ph.D.

SAU's green campus in South Delhi provides a modern, eco-friendly, and secure environment. Facilities include residential hostels, faculty housing, a well-equipped library, laboratories, seminar halls, and performance spaces that foster learning and innovation.



SAU Campus in Maidan Garhi, New Delhi

CAT 2025 may witness 10% uptick in applications rising to around 3.5 lakhs

Rajlakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

As aspirants prepare to register for CAT 2025, with applications open since August 1, the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K), which will be conducting the exam, has already chalked out a blueprint to ensure candidates have a smooth and seamless experience. Going by past trends, the number of CAT applications is expected to rise by 10% due to wider access of online resources, the lure of brand IIM, better job prospects and an upsurge in entrepreneurial aspirations.

Speaking to Education Times, CAT 2025 convener Prof PN Ram Kumar of IIM-K that had conducted the exam in previous years, says, "Last year, we received around 3,20,000 applications, and this year, we are expecting at least a 10% increase, bringing us closer to about 3.5 lakhs."

Attributing the increase in CAT exam applications to several key factors, Prof Ram explains, "The rising demand for management education in India, coupled with the prestige and brand value of IIMs, makes an MBA an attractive career path. The promise of high-paying jobs, better career prospects, and greater professional growth are significant motivators for aspirants. Furthermore, the increasing accessibility of coaching resources on online platforms, along with a rise in entrepreneurial ambitions, has made CAT preparation more attainable for a wider pool of candidates." Test-takers should brace themselves for a varying number of questions in each section. While earlier versions had



Promise of high-paying jobs and better career prospects are key motivators for aspirants

100 questions, it was reduced in pandemic times to 76 in 2020, and further to 66 in 2021, 2022, and 2023. CAT 2024 had 68 questions, so most likely, the number of questions in CAT 2025 is not going to be constant. "While the structure stays the same, the number of questions in each section may vary slightly. The exam format and duration will, however, remain consistent," Prof Ram adds.

Changing Pattern

Over the years, the CAT exam has dramatically transformed from a paper-based test to a computer-based format, with significant changes in duration, number of questions, and sectional distribution over the years. The 2020

pandemic led to a shorter, 120-minute exam with fewer questions, a pattern largely maintained ever since. "Beyond the test itself, candidate profiles have shifted. IIMs now actively promote academic and gender diversity, encouraging non-engineers and female candidates. There is also a greater emphasis on work experience and a holistic evaluation that includes academic records, extracurricular activities, and performance in the Written Ability Test (WAT) and Personal Interview (PI), making the selection process far more comprehensive and competitive," Prof Ram says.

The current CAT exam format, coupled with the IIMs' diversity initiatives, seems to encourage Humanities and Commerce students to crack the CAT. "While they might need to put in ex-

tra effort in the Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation sections to brush up on their fundamentals, their inherent strengths in Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning, along with the diversity points offered by IIMs, create a more balanced playing field than ever before," says Prof Debashis Chatterjee, director, IIM-K.

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IGNOU extends admission registration deadline till Aug 15

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The IGNOU has extended the IGNOU admission 2025 online application deadline till August 15, 2025. The deferment has been done for admissions in Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Diploma, and Certificate programmes in the ODL and Online programmes. Interested candidates can visit the official website. A few benefits have been provided to the students applying for IGNOU admissions in UG and PG courses this academic session, such as fee waivers for a few programmes in ODL mode for SC/ST candidates. Admissions are open for new students and re-registration for those continuing their studies. Regional centres across India provide academic support and guidance. The earlier deadline was July 31, 2025; the extension will ensure wider access and reduce last-minute technical bottlenecks for thousands of students applying online. Before proceeding for filling the form online the applicant must have the following: scanned photograph (less than 100 KB); scanned signature (less than 100 KB); scanned copy of relevant Educational Qualification (less than 200 KB); scanned copy of experience certificate (if any) (less than 200 KB); scanned copy of category certificate, if SC/ST/OBC (less than 200 KB).



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CBSE introduces II-tier curriculum for Social Science to increase application-based learning

Debasmita.Dasgupta
@timesofindia.com



The advanced curriculum serves as a bridge to senior secondary education by integrating chapters aligned with class XI and XII content

morising the content is no longer sufficient; the ability to apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts defines competence," she adds. Teachers are being trained to teach the new formats and understand the new assessment standards. "The teachers are undergoing training in competency-based assessment, with institutions such as Azim Premji University offering specialised courses in question paper design," she says.

ut of the revised higher secondary curriculum. While the two-level curriculum model marks a progressive shift in school education, its success will depend largely on how thoughtfully it is implemented across India's diverse schooling landscape. Highlighting the key challenges, Praneet Mungali, trustee, educationist, Sanskriti Group of Schools says, "Challenges include the need for robust teacher training to handle differentiated content, fair and well-designed assessments that do not imply hierarchy, and ensuring resource equity so that rural or under-resourced schools are not left behind. Addressing social perception is equally important, as students opting for the Basic level must not feel inferior."

Tailored Approach

Sudha Acharya, principal, ITL Public School and former chairperson, NPSC, whose school is part of the CBSE pilot, emphasised the value of student choice in the new system. "The new dual curriculum is designed to align with students' career aspirations. For instance, students aiming for engineering or medical entrance exams such as JEE or NEET can opt for Advanced Math and Science, while those considering law or civil services or are planning for CLAT or UPSC may prefer Advanced Social Science and Basic Science. This flexibility allows students to focus on their goals and make informed subject choices," she says.

The advanced curriculum serves as a bridge to senior secondary education by integrating chapters aligned with class XI and XII content. This initiative aims to ease the often-abrupt transition students experience between secondary and senior secondary levels. "Chapters that were earlier removed from the secondary syllabus such as the periodic table in Organic Chemistry have gradually been reintroduced in the advanced curriculum of class X. This is aimed at deepening students' understanding early on so that they do not struggle in classes XI and XII, where it has been observed that students who perform well in class X often face difficulties with the class XI syllabus," says Acharya.

"In Advanced SST, core concepts from the senior secondary level such as globalisation in Economics are being introduced earlier in the curriculum to help students build a stronger foundational understanding. Other subjects within SST have also undergone curriculum alignment, with previously deleted sections reinstated to ensure smoother academic progression. For example, in Political Science, the chapter 'Outcomes of Democracy' now includes an in-depth study. This addition aligns with higher secondary chapters such as 'Democracy and Rights' from class XI and 'Democratic Resurgence' from class XII. These enhancements aim to bridge the learning gap between secondary and senior secondary classes," she adds. The II-tier system is aligned with the global learning pattern.

Assessment process

To evaluate its effectiveness in the pilot stage, CBSE is analysing the difficulty level, which will be introduced in the question papers. The assessment will be focused on analytical and application-based questions. "A significant change is the increasing difficulty of one-mark questions. Unlike earlier formats that relied on factual recall, the new MCQs are case based, requiring interpretation and analysis. For example, instead of asking when a war happened, questions might now involve interpreting data or understanding the causes and impacts of events. The same approach applies to Geography and Political Science, where questions are now understanding-based and often scenario-driven," says Acharya, underlining how students now need to demonstrate practical understanding. "Me-

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