

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



**Russia's investigative committee confirms that Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder and head of the mercenary force Wagner who led a short-lived armed rebellion against Russia's military, has died in a plane crash P 12**

**Jailed former PM Imran Khan admits to misplacing a confidential diplomatic cable while being interrogated by Pak's top investigative agency at Attock prison in a case filed under the Official Secrets Act for wrongful use of classified documents P 12**

**British PM Rishi Sunak could face some transparency questions related to wife Akshata Murty's Infosys shares, worth ₹500 million, in a proposed FTA with India P 12**

**As Russia comes under renewed pressure to revive the Black Sea grain deal with Ukraine, Biden-led US and EU are also talking to India to see if it can use its influence with Moscow to ensure resumption of Ukrainian grain exports P 11**



## Neeraj 1st Indian to win gold in World Athletics Championship



Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra kept his date with history as he became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships on Sunday in Budapest. He pipped Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem for the men's javelin crown.

### RELAY TEAM 5TH: The Indian men's 4x400m relay team ended a creditable fifth in the finals

Chopra, who won silver at the worlds last year, won the gold with his second attempt of 88.17 metres. The only other Indian to win a medal at the world athletics championships was long jumper Anju Bobby George, who took bronze in 2003.

Two other Indians, Kishore Jena and DP Manu, also impressed. Jena, with a throw of 84.77m (his personal best) finished fifth, while Manu came sixth with his best throw being 84.14m. P 17

## Hathras victim's family lives in fear & despair

Two days after the SC sought the government's response on a plea by the family of Hathras gangrape-murder victim for relocation, TOI visited them. Her father said, "We are virtually under siege. Our kids are unable to go to school. We are facing a financial crisis... The CRPF cover won't stay forever." P 10

## Made a mistake, not ashamed of it: UP teacher

Tripta Tyagi, the school teacher seen in a video allegedly asking students to slap their Muslim classmate, said she had made a mistake but she was "not ashamed of it". "All students are treated equally," she asserted. An official said the process of revoking the school accreditation has been ordered. P 8

## Uddhav slams Modi for 'rakhis by Muslims' remark

Uddhav Thackeray hit out at PM Modi urging BJP workers to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with Muslim sisters, asking if they would get rakhis tied by Bilkis Bano, who was gangraped during the 2002 Gujarat riots, or the Manipuri women who were stripped and paraded by a mob. P 4

\* PLUS 6 PAGES BOMBAY TIMES

The Times Of India is also available as a standalone copy for ₹5:00

\*The TOI Combo offer and Bombay Times Supplement are available in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts while Education Times will be circulated in Mumbai Metro Region only.

Times Interact | P 6 & 8

# Soon-to-wed couple, Gujarat bizman die in S'cruz hotel fire

## Victims' Flight To Kenya Had Been Rescheduled

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Mumbai: A couple, who were soon to get married, and a businessman from Gujarat died while three others suffered injuries in a fire that broke out in a second-floor room at Hotel Galaxy located in Prabh Colony at Santacruz (E) on Sunday afternoon.

The three victims, who had come from Ahmedabad and were to fly to Nairobi, were accommodated in the ground-plus-four-storey hotel by an airline as their flight was rescheduled. Kenyan national Rupai Kanji Dhanji (25), Kishan Premji Halai (28) and businessman Kantilal Gordhan Vara (48) were all in room number 304.

Vakola police have registered three different accidental death reports and are yet to file an FIR yet as they are awaiting the fire department report on the alleged violations. Chief fire officer Ravindra Ambulgekar said, "We will examine the documentation of the hotel and also conduct an inspection. Action will be taken, if any safety violations are found."



The BMC had recently issued a notice to Hotel Galaxy in Prabh Colony for not adhering to fire safety norms

The BMC had recently issued a notice to Galaxy Hotel, which was built in 1966, for failure to adhere to fire safety norms. BMC H-East ward health officer Dr Satish Badgire said, "We have filed a case against the hotel in court, but it is yet to reply to our notice." Another civic official alleged that the hotel had made structural changes and action would be taken by the building and factory department for the violations.

## Blast in illegal Bengal firecracker unit kills 7

A massive blast at an illegal firecracker factory in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal ripped through more than a dozen houses on Sunday, killing seven people and injuring at least a dozen others. The victims included two of the owners of the factory and the 21-year-old son of one of them. The explosion comes three months after a similar illegal factory blast at Egra left 12 people dead. P 6

A hotel staffer told TOI that the fire broke out when Hardik Bhat, occupant of room number 204, switched on the AC and sparks flew out of the unit. "He immediately came down and alerted the staff who tried to douse the flames using a fire extinguisher," he said.

► Door jammed, P 3

# Shun yatra from Ggn to Nuh, offer prayers at temples: Hry CM

## But VHP Says It'll Hold Event As Planned Today

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Gurgaon: Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar appealed to people not to participate in the Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra Monday and instead offer prayers in Shiva temples near

► Threat posters come up near Gurgaon slum, P 8

► Youths ask trio for their names, then attack them, P 8

their homes. But VHP members asserted the procession would be held as scheduled at 11am from Gurgaon to Nuh.

"I understand this is the last Monday of the Shravan month and the emotions associated with it are deep-rooted. But it's also important to acknowledge the volatile situation in the area, especially after the unfortunate riots on July 31. Large gatherings co-

## BARRICADES UP; NET SHUT

► Haryana police chief says permission for yatra denied in view of the July 31 violence & upcoming G20 Sherpa Group meet in Nuh

► Multiple layers of barricades at entry points to Nuh, say police

► Prohibitory orders in Nuh dist. Mobile internet and bulk SMS services suspended

► Permission for yatra is denied but people can go and offer prayers in nearby temples as it is the Sawan month" — ML KHATTAR CM HARYANA

uld escalate tension that is otherwise being handled peacefully," he said.

Nuh administration has denied permission for the event, but the main organiser says it doesn't need any. Monday's yatra is being organised after the previous one was disrupted because of the communal clash in Nuh on July 31.

► Police on toes, P 8

# SC: Focus on 'criminal', not just 'crime', for remission

New Delhi: The SC has held that governments should not be guided only by the severity of the offence committed by a convict to deny him premature release and the opinion of the trial court or police based on judicial record could not be the sole ground to reject a remission plea.

While deciding the petition filed by a convict in jail for 24 years in a triple murder case whose remission plea was rejected following a negative opinion from the trial judge, the SC said the person was sentenced for the crime

► Words without intent not criminal intimidation, P 6

and had spent years in jail, and the decision on remission should not be taken on the basis of the same judicial record. It added that the remission policy should be guided by the "reformatory" concept of justice and not be "retributive" and the focus should be on the "criminal" and not the "crime". TNN

► Psychologist report, P 10

## Girl playing in Kharghar park dies as cement bench crashes

Navi Mumbai: A four-year-old girl was crushed to death after a rickety cement bench at a public garden in Kharghar collapsed on her on Saturday. The park in Sector 12, developed by Cidco, was handed over to the Panvel civic body for maintenance.

Local residents blamed lack of maintenance by authorities for the dismal state of civic gardens which resulted in the fatal accident.

The girl has been identified as Brijia Vishwakarma, daughter of Prakash Vishwakarma who works as a security guard, said Rajiv Sejwal, senior inspector, Kharghar police station. George Mendonca reports.

► Girl climbed on it, P 3

## 2 med aspirants end lives, Kota's toll this year 22

Two medical aspirants — Avishkar Shambhaji Kasle (17) from Maharashtra's Latur and Adarsh Raj (18) from Bihar — ended their lives within hours of each other in the coaching hub of Kota Sunday, one jumping from his institute's sixth floor and the other found hanging in his rented house over low test scores. So far this year, 22 suicides have been reported in Kota, six this month alone. The two deaths came just over a week after the state government set up a committee to address the festering problem and asked it to submit a report in 15 days. The Kota administration issued an advisory late Sunday evening saying there will be no tests for a month at coaching institutes in the city. P 6

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

# Rover Pragyan surmounts first lunar obstacle: A 100mm crater

Bengaluru: Pragyan, the Chandrayaan-3 rover, has negotiated its first surface obstacle—a lunar crater with a depth of around 100mm—to the relief of the Isro control room back home that will have to continue guiding and monitoring it through several such challenges, reports Chethan Kumar.

In his first full-fledged interaction since lander Vikram's precision landing and the deployment of the rover, Chandrayaan-3 project director P Veeramuthuvel told TOI the progress of the scientific experiments so far had infused confidence about the possibility of good outcomes. "None of this would have been possible without the relentless effort of hundreds of Isro colleagues, especially those from the subsystems and the guidance of URSC director M Sankaran and the Isro top management," he said.

► Multiple challenges, P 16



Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover seen on the lunar surface in a picture released by Isro on Sunday. The small crater is also visible

## Isro: Payload makes lunar temp profile

In the first official data announcement after Vikram's landing on August 23, Isro said the ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) payload has measured the temperature profile of the topsoil near the south pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the moon's surface. P 6

## 'India now has best Moon close-up pics'

Isro chairman S Somanath said India now has the "best pictures of the Moon". "They are precious commodities and are not available anywhere in the world. Nobody has such close-proximity photos." On PM Modi naming the landing site as Shiv Shakti, he said it was a needless controversy. P 6

# In coming months, I-T may reopen many big old cases

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Mumbai: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), guided by a Supreme Court (SC) order issued in April, has sent out comprehensive instructions to tax officials regarding reopening of past cases under the Income-tax (I-T) Act. The instructions dated August 23—aimed at ensuring a uniform practice—state that there will be no reopening and reassessment of completed cases only where the decision of the appellate authorities has become final. While this provides some relief, the coming months may see reopening of past cases and reassessments in several instances where the sums involved are significant.

Deepak Joshi, an SC advocate, explained, "The silver li-

## FDI inflows drop 34% on US, Euro slowdown

Foreign direct investment equity inflows fell 34% to \$10.9 billion during the June quarter, latest government data showed. Officials said companies are holding back on fresh investments due to the slowdown in Europe and the US, which have been aggravated by geopolitical tensions. P 15

ning to the CBDT instruction is that it has decided to not touch at least those cases where no appeal is pending before the appellate authorities and the proceedings have attained finality prior to the SC decision the lead case heard in April."

► Not cases under ₹50L, P 16

## 14-yr-old boy drowns in Navi Mum waterfall

A 14-year-old Kharghar boy, Harsh Gautam, on an outing with three friends drowned in the Pandavkada waterfall on Saturday evening. One of his friends tried to rescue him and slipped inside the trench, but he managed to come out safe, police said. A fire officer said their team reached the spot within five minutes of getting an alert, but heavy rain impeded the search. "As the trench was deep, the body could not be found even after searching till sunset... On Sunday morning, we recovered the body about 50 metres from the spot where he had drowned," Pravin Bodake, Kharghar fire officer, said. George Mendonca reports.

## 2 SoBo gardens open to public after long battle

In a green victory for residents of south Mumbai after prolonged battles, two gardens—Nariman Point's Jawaharlal Nehru Garden and Cuffe Parade's Suraksha Garden—were thrown open to the public on Sunday after rejuvenation. For the Jawaharlal Nehru Garden near Mantralaya, the Nariman Point Churchgate Citizens Welfare Trust had initiated a legal battle a decade ago against encroachments by offices of political parties and government agencies there. The other garden, which was under litigation, had remained off-limits to the public for nearly two decades. P 2

## City cops trace 5k missing children in just 8 months

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Mumbai: Over 5,000 missing minors have been rescued by Mumbai Police till mid-August this year as part of Operation Muskaan, a number that is higher than the past five years' figures combined. Operation Muskaan is a Ministry of Home Affairs project which aims at finding missing children, and rescuing and rehabilitating them.

"Finding missing children is a priority area for us. We have squads at each of our police stations as well as one under the deputy CP (enforcement)," said joint commissioner, law and order, Satyanarayan.

NGOs do their bit to help investigations. A movement initiated by retired ACP Vasant Dhole maintains an online database of missing persons. If volunteers find a vulnerable person on the street, they click his photo and try to match it with the database

Fights with parents over not prioritising studies or excessive phone use, bids to escape poverty, desire to act in movies, entering relationships, etc, remain factors that drive children to run away from home. Police have been using tech in their quest to find such minors.

► Online tools help police, P 2

## Shortage of farm labour in K'taka, poll freebies blamed

Bengaluru: Karnataka could be staring at a farm labour crisis, with Congress's poll freebies being blamed for a section of the skilled workforce opting for a life on the dole or raising new demands like an increase in minimum wages from Rs 360 now to Rs 460 for eight hours of work, additional benefits like bonus and PF and reduced working hours, reports Vindhya Pabolu.

## MP CM unveils sops for women in poll yr

Ahead of this year's polls, MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled an array of benefits aimed at women, including a Rs 250 monthly increment under the Ladli Bahna scheme, 35% quota in state jobs and subsidised LPG cylinders. P 10

women and 200 units of electricity.

Bose Mandanna N, former vice-chairman of Coffee Board of India, blamed "a lot of freebies for the sudden shortage of labourers".

► Demand wage hike, P 10

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here



Op Muskaan: Online tools help police rescue missing children

Nitasha.Natu@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Ten-year-old Ahmed smiles at the mention of 'police chacha'. He has long phone conversations with 'police chacha' - a 58-year-old sub-inspector from Borivli police station - on how he finds school boring but the sports period is fun.

But things were different until last month. Ahmed would freeze at the mention of the word 'police'. In fact, he had run away from home when his mother found out that he had stolen cash from a neighbour and threatened to call the cops. "I did not sleep a wink for three nights straight until the police team traced Ahmed. He had boarded a long-distance train and reached West Bengal to find his grandparents' home," said Zoya Bi, Ahmed's mother, a single parent.

Ahmed is among over 5,000 minors rescued by Mumbai Police so far this year under 'Operation Muskaan'. A Ministry of Home Affairs pro-

TIMES Special

ject, it aims to find missing children, and rescue and rehabilitate them. More children were rescued by Mumbai Police till mid-August this year than those rescued in the past five years combined.

According to Supreme Court directions, the police are required to file an FIR for trafficking or kidnapping once they receive a complaint of a missing minor. An SOP put together in 2016 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development gives details on what information needs to be collected about the missing child, where to look for him/her, making use of CCTV footage on all transit routes, the local and national agencies that need to be alerted and a national portal where the child's information needs to be uploaded. The SOP also gives details on the procedure to be followed once a missing child is found, which includes producing him/her before the Child Welfare Committee mandatorily, a full medical exam of the child and a home verification before handing him over to his parents.

Fights with parents over not prioritising academics or excessive phone usage, wanting to escape poverty, desire to act in movies, love relationships, etc, continue to remain factors that drive children to run away from home. Police are also coming across cases where children have left home

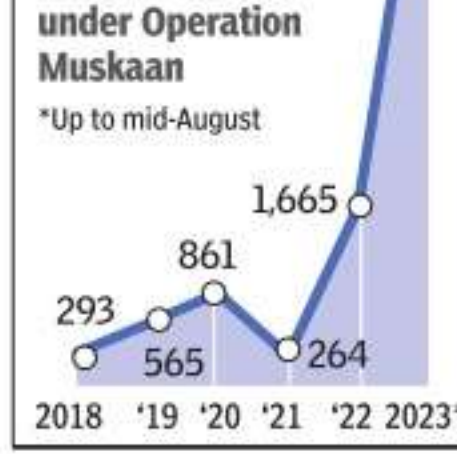
SQUADS HAVE OWN SET OF CHALLENGES TOO

DEEMED KIDNAPPED Missing minors deemed as kidnapped as per NCRB 2021 report



RESCUED BY COPS 5,791

Missing minors rescued by Mumbai Police under Operation Muskaan



Missing/trafficked/abandoned minors rescued by Railway Protection Force, Mumbai division

	Boys	Girls	Total
Western Railway			
2021	165	110	275
2022	234	143	377
2023*	144	87	231
Central Railway			
2021	215	138	353
2022	441	174	615
2023**	164	76	240

to meet someone they have been chatting with on social media. This could have disastrous consequences.

Mishti, 13, used to chat with another girl her age over Instagram. The girl offered Mishti a chance to travel and live the life she wanted. "One morning last year, we woke up to find Mishti gone. My family and I looked for her everywhere but in vain. We then rushed to the Malwani police for help," her father told TOI. A probe showed that after Mishti had joined the girl, she was instructed to keep her phone off. The girl took Mishti to Delhi and bought her new

outfits and make-up. "We found the two at Nizamuddin station after tracing a phone call that the girl made to a friend. Mishti was unrecognisable, her appearance a far cry from the photograph her family had given us," said a Malwani police officer. Mishti's family believes that she could have been trafficked, had she not been found in time.

"We have squads at each of our police stations as well as one under the deputy commissioner (enforcement),"

said joint commissioner, law and order, Satyanarayan. The squads have all kinds of tools in their arsenal. There are WhatsApp groups operated by cops across the country where photos of missing kids are uploaded and information exchanged. The railways have also tied up with NGOs that have dedicated booths at major terminuses.

"Often, we find that a child's phone number is switched off, but he/she is active on Instagram or Facebook. We then look for their online footprints," said a head constable from a south Mumbai police station. The head

police officer recounts an instance when she dressed up as a beggar and squatted outside temples in Karnataka to look for a 15-year-old girl who had run away from her Mumbai home after being turned down by her love interest. The girl has since undergone counselling and is doing better, her family said.

NGOs have chipped in with information that could help investigators. A movement initiated by retired ACP Vasant Dhoble maintains an online database of missing persons with their photos. If volunteers associated with the movement find a vulnerable person on the street, they click his photo and attempt to match it with the one in the database. In case a match is found, the concerned police station is alerted.

Child rights activist Santosh Shinde says that enforcement agencies need to move beyond recording just numbers of rescues and also analyse causes in each case. "The child should be linked with programmes for strengthening his/her family to ensure that he/she does not run away from home a second time. There should be a coordinated effort between all stakeholders to prepare a long-term rehabilitation plan for the child, which should be sustainable," Shinde said. (Some names changed to protect identities)

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Bookie who ran online app detained in Lanka

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Mumbai: Bookie Saurabh Chandarkar and his associate Ravi Utpal, who have been running various illegal betting businesses online with the help of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and are wanted by security agencies across the country, have been detained in Sri Lanka.

Mahadev Book provides online platforms for illegal betting in different live games, such as cricket, poker, badminton, tennis and football. It also provides an avenue to bet on different elections in India.

If sources are to be believed, the duo has been detained on request from Interpol on behalf of the Indian security agency and is likely to

official from IB said Chandarkar and Utpal were detained after Lookout notices were issued against them by Raipur police three months ago. "We,

the bookmaker is associated with Dawood Ibrahim.

Their detention also assumes significance in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate last week arresting four persons in Chhattisgarh in the alleged money laundering case related to Mahadev online betting. There is speculation that a few politicians and policemen have invested heavily on Mahadev Book. According to reports from Chhattisgarh police, Mahadev app is being operated from around 30 centres with around a million individuals placing bets on it in the last year.



The detention assumes significance as kingpin Saurabh Chandarkar and his aide Ravi Utpal are associated with Dawood Ibrahim. The duo has been detained on Interpol's request after Raipur police issued Lookout notices against them

be extradited. Their detention has become a talking point among bookies and senior police officers in the city even though there are hardly any cases against the duo in Mumbai. An

too, have learnt that Chandarkar and Utpal of Mahadev Book have been detained in Sri Lanka," said an official of the crime branch, which is keeping tabs on the development as

Teacher near Pune only one from Maha to bag natl award

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Gamification in education, project-based learning, and many other innovative technology-based teaching solutions has helped a primary section teacher from a Zilla Parishad School near Pune to bag this year's National Award to Teachers.

Mrunal Ganjale, the 34-year-old teacher, with an experience of 14 years in teaching, was also felicitated with the state teacher award two years ago.

Ganjale, who comes from Ambegaon Taluka, has been incorporating innovative teaching solutions recommended in the National Education Policy 2020, from time to time. Ganjale is among the 50 teachers from across the country to receive the award on September 5 at the hands of President Draupadi Murmu. Her ZP School, where she teaches from class I to V, is in Pimpalgaon tarfe Mahalunge.

Using Mystery Skype, a Microsoft tool, used to connect an entire classroom with another from anywhere in the world, Ganjale helped to increase the collaborative and communicative skills of students from her ZP School. "It was not only an effective way to exchange best teaching-learning practices, but also to improve students' communication skills. We connected with schools not only in other states, but also other countries. It is a critical challenge test, where students are made to guess the location by giving clues," said Ganjale.

After long legal battle, SoBo locals reclaim 2 open spaces

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Mumbai: Here's a toast to people power. Two green spaces in south Mumbai were thrown open to the public on Sunday after protracted legal battles. The rejuvenation of these two urban green havens - Nariman Point's Jawaharlal Nehru Garden & Suraksha Garden at Cuffe Parade - has been the result of prolonged effort as encroachments had tarnished their sanctity.

On Sunday evening, residents came together at these spaces to celebrate fresh beginnings. The green spaces were inaugurated by deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis and legislator Rahul Narwekar who is speaker of the legislative assembly.

Fadnis said that under 'Mumbai beautification plan', gardens are being made ready. "Mumbai's face is changing and when residents' association actively participate, it only helps make the city more liveable and sustainable," he said.

In the case of the 1-acre-plus Jawaharlal Nehru Garden near Mantralaya, Nariman Point Churchgate Citizens Welfare Trust (NPCCWT) celebrated a hard-fought victory a decade after initiating a legal battle against encroachments on this garden by BJP state headquarters, Janata Dal, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Employment Exchange and a zunkha-bhakar kendra.

Atul Kumar, president of NPCCWT, said they've maintained original trees of the garden and the garden is senior citizen-friendly, with ample seating for the elderly. "While the journey was arduous, the joy of reclaiming this green expanse for



The garden at Nariman Point (top) and the one at Cuffe Parade (above)

the city is unparalleled," said Kumar. "Our success can serve as an inspiration to fellow citizens."

Former corporator Harshta Narwekar called it a "big win" for citizens. "For nearly two decades, these open spaces remained off-limits to the neighbourhood... The dedication exhibited by the citizens in this entirely voluntary endeavour has ensured that these spaces are now open for public use," noted Harshita.

In the other instance, Suraksha Garden at Cuffe Parade, which spans 1.16 acres, remained off-limits to the public for nearly two decades. In

January 2020, BMC reclaimed this garden, and on Sunday, the gates swung open once again for the public. Former corporator Makrand Narwekar said he had repeatedly persuaded authorities to get back the open space. "The place was in a shambles when we started its rejuvenation. The garden was under litigation, then when it was handed over to BMC, the pandemic slowed down work. This garden has been done up such that it will encourage people to use it. In an area like Cuffe Parade, securing a green expanse is a remarkable achievement," he said.

10 kg charas seized from Raigad beach

Navi Mumbai: The Raigad police on Sunday seized nine packets of narcotics weighing 10.4 kg after it was washed ashore at Srivardhan beach, said Raigad superintendent of police Somnath Garge. "On the contraband packets, it says 'Afghan Product'. The panchama of the seized narcotics was carried out in the presence of Taluka Magistrate. Prima facie, the seized contraband seems to be charas. An FIR has been registered at Srivardhan police station against the unidentified accused, who have been booked under section 8(b) and 20 (e) of the NDPS Act," said SP Garge. TNN

Air quality warning system network expanded for early alerts in winter

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Mumbai: Like for rain, one can now be prepared well in advance if air quality forecast shows a worsening trend. Residents from across Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) who were severely impacted early this year due to high levels of air pollution can be better prepared this winter.

Citizens can now access Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) on the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) portal. Data is collected from a wide range of monitoring stations to understand real time

and forecast data on pollution levels.

A presentation was given by the India Clean Air Summit (ICAS) 2023 organised by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP). CSTEP is one of India's leading think tanks, with a mission to enrich policymaking with innovative approaches using science and technology for a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society. A dedicated website (ews.tropmet.res.in/mumbai/index.php) puts together detailed historical information, real time data as well as forecast on the contribution of PM2.5 and PM10 emissions across 24 locations in

Addressing the session at ICAS 2023, Ghude explained the portal will help citizens be prepared and choose their activities during winter when air quality deteriorates. "Using this site, the health impacts of severe air

pollution can be avoided by citizens, especially senior citizens and children or those vulnerable to respiratory ailments," he said.

IITM has integrated satellite data on aerosol optical depth (AOD; measure of the effect of aerosols polluting air) from an extensive network of 420 air quality monitoring stations across India for such early warning systems, which are present in Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai. "This innovative system holds immense potential as a decision support tool for effective air quality management," said Dr Ghude.

Sharing details about the portal, Dr Sachin Ghude, scientist, IITM, said, "Capturing PM2.5 levels of such unprecedented magnitude is a global rarity, and we faced considerable challenges in collecting such exceptional data from the city. Our AQEWS relies on pinpoint accuracy, starting with precise weather forecasts as a foundation."

FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE RAJA



The idol of Saki Naka Ka Raja is taken to its mandal from a Parel workshop on Sunday

Child marriage: Groom & girl's father arrested

Thane: A 42-year-old man from Koparkhairane was arrested for allegedly 'marrying' a minor girl in Thane last week, the police informed on Sunday.

The police said the groom who works as a mason had proposed marriage to the girl three times younger than him some time back and had also lured her father with gold and money. The girl's father who was barely making ends meet is learnt to have agreed to the alliance following which a ceremony was arranged last week. Along with the groom, the cops have also arrested the girl's father and three other relatives. TNN

Lure of govt jobs makes students pivot to a martial art sport

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Mumbai: Every now and then since 2017, Navi Mumbai's Vaibhav Kale, Omkar Abhang and Anshul Kamble have been asked if they are brothers. The resemblance isn't entirely coincidental. Sporting identical hairstyles, uniforms and make-up ensures the trio five straight points at the start of those three critical minutes when their kicks, jabs, punches, collapses and expressions must achieve synchrony.

Recently, for the seventh time in a row, Kale, Abhang and Kamble bagged a gold in 'Regu', an 'artistic' group event at the 11th Senior & Master National Pencak Silat Championship in which Maharash-



Over 30 athletes from the state have qualified for the 37th national games

tra has repeated a 11-year history. With seven gold, three silver and nine bronze medals, the state—overall champions since 2012—retained its top position in an event which had 900 participants from 28 states and eight UTs at Nashik's Meenatai Thackeray Sports Complex from August 12 to 15.

Known for its aesthetic and dynamic throws, take-downs, submissions and weapon use, Pencak Silat or Silat—a cluster of individual and group-style Indonesian martial art forms that is often confused with Kung Fu—has soared in national popularity since September 2020 when

the Ministry of Youth Affairs, along with Sports Authority of India, announced government job reservations for players of the sport.

Besides attracting offers from the Central Industrial Security Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the top 16 players from each weight category in the recent event have qualified for the 37th National Games to be held in Goa later this year. Among these 465 chosen ones is Naorem Boy-nao Singh, 34, a Bangalore-based representative of Manipur, which was supposed to host the national contest in June this year before violence broke out in the state.

Many of Maharashtra's 41 participants including his teenage daughter Kirnakshi Yewale were tots in the

mid-2000s when Koparkhairane-based Kishore Yewale introduced them to the alien martial art whose name used to make many Indians laugh. "It had a funny sound," says Yewale, general secretary of the Maharashtra Pencak Silat Association (MPSA) and president of Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF), who pronounces Pencak as 'Pin-chak'.

An international player of 'full-contact' karate which allowed knockouts since the 1980s, Yewale pivoted to the Indonesian martial art marked by chest, groin and shin guards in 2011 when he realised that his certificates and medals did not enjoy the government's stamp. "I'm a farmer's son," he says. "I know what it feels like when full-contact martial artists see their hopes

dashed after competing in small tournaments in the hope of government jobs. They are tempted to go on the wrong track," says Yewale who—after stumbling upon Pencak Silat online—participated in various international tournaments before deciding to promote it in local schools. That's how MPSA was born in 2012.

Even as the sport spread from Sangli to Kolhapur, Koparkhairane—where Silat found space in Christ Academy School and Dnyan Vikas Shikshan Sanstha—would often confuse Kale's black uniform for a Kung Fu kit. The attire, as per an account, traces back to 1796 when the Dutch government gained control over Indonesia and made training and studying Pencak

Silat illegal. Since athletes then trained in secret at night, they wore black. Later, in 1942, when the Japanese occupied Indonesia, Pencak Silat found legitimacy and was further developed when the country gained freedom on August 17, 1945. "It was used till World War II," says Kale.

At his first world championship in Singapore in 2018, Panvel-based Abhang, 21, a computer applications graduate, recalls evasively watching entourage comprising coach, psychologist, therapists and meditation mediators hovering over athletes from South East Asian countries. "Their infrastructure encourages them to dedicate their whole lives to the sport. In India, we tend to rate education higher," he says.



## Stray dogs forcibly tied and put into gunny sacks

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Mumbai: A viral video showing two men in Jogeshwari forcibly tying up stray dogs with wires and then putting them in a sack has shocked animal lovers. PETA India is now further investigating the content in the video in order to lodge a police complaint.

PETA India's Cruelty Case Division Legal Advisor, Meet Ashar, said: "The men shown in the video are a danger to society, because law en-

## Strays in Borivli to get QR tags

Mumbai: The MHB Colony police has tied up with a private organisation to launch 'Suraksha Kawach', a project that harnesses the power of QR technology to create a digital tracking mechanism for the community dogs in Borivli West. Each dog will be assigned a unique QR code with vital information about it. **TNN**

forcement knows people who are cruel to animals often move on to human victims. I am further checking the exact location where this animal cruelty took place and will then lodge an FIR."

Ashar added that while the caption on the viral video stated that the dogs were caught to be sold as animal meat later, he said it could also be illegal dislocation of the healthy strays.

## Star tortoises and parakeet rescued from Malad home

Mumbai: Acting on a tip-off from a concerned citizen, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India, worked with the forest officials of Mumbai range, Thane Forest Division, to rescue two star tortoises and one parakeet from a house in Malad (East).

Both rescued species are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972 (as amended in 2002).

The star tortoises and the parakeet were being kept illegally at an individual's home.

## Leopard rescued from 50-ft well

Navi Mumbai: The forest officials in Ratnagiri have on Friday rescued a leopard from a 50 feet deep well. The rescue operation lasted for two hours. The male leopard fell into the open well while chasing prey in a human settlement in Devrukh village. The leopard was released into the wild after being checked by livestock doctors. — **Umesh K Parida**

The animals are now being kept under observation at the Thane Forest Division's facility prior to rehabilitation. The raid and rescue was led by the range forest officer, Rakesh Bhoir.

A preliminary offence report (POR) has been registered against the accused under sections 9, 39, 48, 48A, and 50 of the WPA. Indian star tortoises and parakeets are protected under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Act, respectively.

# Hotel fire: 3 stuck in room with locked windows, jammed door

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Mumbai: A fire broke out in Hotel Galaxy in Santacruz (E) on Sunday, killing three people. A hotel staffer said the guest in room no. 204 had alerted them of flames erupting from the AC unit. "Even as the employees tried to fire-fight using an extinguisher, the curtains caught fire and the flames started spreading rapidly. We then called the fire brigade," said the staffer.

The flames soon spread to the upper floor via the staircase with wood cladding, embellishments, linen, and laundry material turning out to be the fuel for the fire.

Fire station officer R S Pawde said: "We rescued nine people from various rooms by breaking open some of the glass windows and facade and setting up a ladder from outside the hotel premises. From the third floor, we rescued two women and two men from rooms 307 and 308, while two men, including a staffer, were rescued from the second floor." Assistant divisional fire officer S K Sawant and senior station officer Khanolkar were among those who supervised the firefighting operation.

"Businessman Kantilal Vara (48) was in room number 302, but panicked after the fire broke out and went to 304,

## MUST INSTALL EXTINGUISHERS, SPRINKLERS



Fire broke out in Hotel Galaxy in Santacruz (E) on Sunday afternoon, killing 3 people

Firefighting installations enlisted in the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006 include...

**Big Blazes This Year**  
**Aug 16** | A 65-year-old retired college professor dies and his wife suffers burn injuries in blaze in a seven-storey building in Santacruz (W)  
**July 29** | An 85-year-old killed after fire breaks out in a third-floor flat of an SRA building in Kalina  
**July 26** | A flat in Anandhi Lokhandwala Complex's Nebula building, which housed two hospitals, gutted in fire. No one hurt  
**Jan 27** | Major fire erupts on 42nd floor of a high-rise building in Dadar. No one hurt

### What The Rules State

All establishments and residential buildings need to submit fire compliance forms to the fire brigade every six months

where Kenyan national Rupal Dhanji (25) and Kishan Halai (28) were already inside," said a fire staffer. An official said Rupal called up her father, who was occupying another room along with her mother and sister, and asked them to get out of the hotel. Fire-fighters managed to get her parents and sister out safely, but the couple and businessman got stuck in the room and could not open the locked windows. "The door lock also got jammed due to the heat. Besides, thick smoke crept into the room," said the official. A hotel staffer said the windows are kept locked as they are worried about customers jumping out in drunken stupor or children falling.

Aslam Saheb, a staffer, suffered injuries after he fell while removing the rain shed.

Doctors at V N Desai Hospital said two of the injured, Alfa Vakhariya (19) and Manjula Vakhariya (49), were kept under observation for a few hours and later discharged. Medical superintendent Dr H S Bava said both didn't suffer burn injuries. The bodies of the deceased were sent to R N Cooper Hospital for autopsy.

— **Inputs by Sumitra Debroy & PTI**

# Only 2k food samples tested this yr, FDA requires urgent upgrade

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Mumbai: The state Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires an urgent enhancement of its food testing infrastructure, data shows. In 2022-23, the regulatory body could barely collect 2,039 food samples from the city, and results for almost a quarter of these are still pending.

What's even more alarming than the shortage of public testing infrastructure is the fact that the FDA, the nodal agency responsible for upholding drug and food standards, has not established positions for full-time food analysts in any of their three labs located in Mumbai, Aurangabad, and Nagpur.

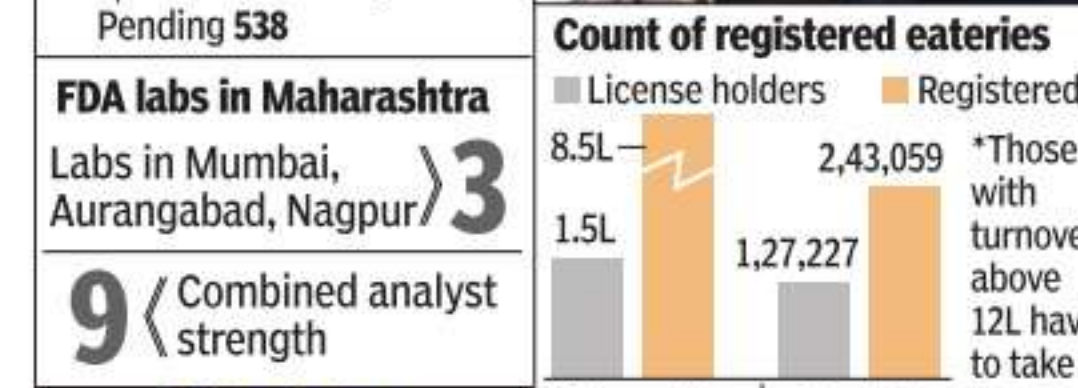
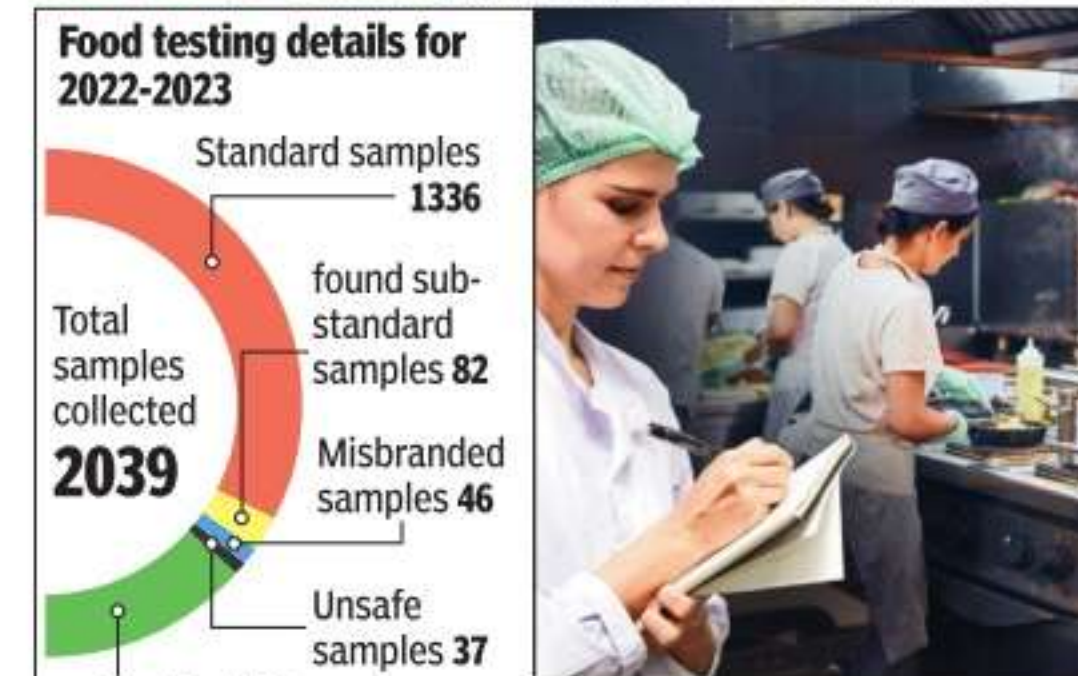
In 2016, the department submitted a proposal to create these essential roles, but the government has failed to act on it. Therefore, experts from drug testing labs have been temporarily assigned to function as food analysts in all these laboratories.

A recent incident where customers allegedly found a dead rat in their dinner served in a posh Bandra restaurant has rekindled the debate on public food testing facilities, hygiene and surveillance. Data accessed by TOI shows that of the 2,039 food samples collected in 2022-2023, 65% were of standard quality, but 4% were substandard, 2.2% misbranded and 2% were downright unsafe. The Mumbai lab currently has five analysts, Aurangabad has three and Nagpur has just one dabbling between food and drug labs.

The department mostly collects samples of raw materials, such as oil, cereal, pulses and milk. Among prepared food, it mainly collects samples of sweets, and that too mainly during the festival season starting from September. Shalish Adhao, joint commissioner of the FDA said that raw materials are mostly what they test for purity and to see if they meet the standards and claims written on the labels.

However, the city has

## NO FULL-TIME ANALYST POSITIONS



## FDA labs in Maharashtra

Labs in Mumbai, Aurangabad, Nagpur: 3

9 Combined analyst strength

- Companies are usually fined for misbranding or mislabeling food
- Mislabeling could include missing batch number, expiry date, logo showing veg or non-veg food
- Misbranding would include false claims
- In cases where the food samples are found unsafe, a court case is registered.

## Gaping vacancies

Sanctioned posts of food safety inspectors in Maharashtra — 350 | Vacant 200

Sanctioned posts in Mumbai — 49 | Vacant 36

"We don't collect samples of prepared food as that wouldn't retain properties by the time they are tested. However, we do expect the restaurants to regularly check their raw materials besides maintaining hygienic conditions," he said. However, officers admit that while manufacturers are subject to numerous production regulations, there is minimal supervision of eateries. Maharashtra has 1.5 lakh food license holders and a staggering 8.5 lakh registrations of food establishments. As per the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 (FSSAI), eateries or vendors with an annual turnover under Rs 12 lakh can seek registration, whereas those exceeding this threshold require a license. In Mumbai alone, there are nearly 1.3 lakh active license holders and 2.4 lakh registered entities. However, the city has merely 13 food safety officers (FSOs). Therefore, checks for hygiene or collection of samples happen infrequently. Former FDA commissioner Mahesh Zagade has pointed out that over the years, the government has fallen short in establishing the necessary infrastructure required to conduct thorough food testing. During his tenure, Zagade had submitted a proposal worth Rs 800 crore to build a comprehensive network of labs at divisional and district level. However, Zagade said while the political leadership showed interest, it was not pursued after his tenure. A senior FDA official said a new food testing laboratory is coming up in Pune, while another lab has been proposed in Nashik. "A comprehensive file for creation of food analyst positions is being prepared," said the officer.

## SPARKLING LIVA MISS DIVA 2023 WINNERS



BEAUTIES BEAM IN CROWNS: At a glittering ceremony on Sunday, Chandigarh's Shweta Sharda (centre) was crowned LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2023; she will represent India at the Miss Universe pageant. Rajasthan's Sonal Kukreja (left) was crowned LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2023; she will represent India at the Miss Supranational pageant. Maharashtra's Trisha Shetty (right) was crowned LIVA Miss Diva 2023 Runner-up

# BMC to inspect Powai CHS as member alleges violation

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Mumbai: The BMC has served a notice to inspect the premises of upmarket Raheja Vista (A to K) CHSL in Powai. The civic body's L-Ward office has served the notice for inspection of the society after a complaint from a resident of the CHSL, which has 771 flats.

The notice for inspection has been issued under Section 488 of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act by the Designated Officer of L Ward. "The L ward of BMC has received a complaint from one of the residents of the Raheja society that the society members are obstructing normal repair works in his flat. Therefore, the occupant has complained about the

complete society that many members of society have done addition and alterations in their respective flats. So, we have served a notice for inspection of the society. Once we enter the premises and find illegal alterations done by the residents of the society then accordingly we will take action," said Nitin Kambale, L-Ward Designated Officer, building and factory department.

Raheja Vista CHSL chairman Capt. Atul Sharma, in his response said, "The said notice is vague and without any specifics. We have sought clarity from MCGM regarding the background of issuing such a notice to our society which was recently awarded 'The Best Society of Mumbai'. We have always been

cooperating with authorities and shall continue to do so. We believe that someone may have given false information with mala fide intention. It is in our knowledge that some miscreant allottees in the society, who have been causing nuisance and constantly targeting the reputation of the society. The society has evidence and record of few individuals lodging false and fabricated complaints with mala fide intentions to disrupt the progress of the society. The Managing Committee has always followed best practices in compliance with law."

The notice mentioned that the BMC can enter the building's premises anytime after August 14 and ascertain whether any illegal alterations have been undertaken.

## Vendor hit, pushed into hot oil vessel

Thane: A 36-year-old man was allegedly beaten up and was left with severe burn wounds in an attack at a roadside eatery in Thane, the police said on Sunday.

While the incident took place on Friday night, the police registered the FIR on Saturday, an official said. The accused has been booked under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), an official said.

Victim Rajesh Yadav, a resident of Ambewadi in Wagle Estate, was preparing sweets in his food cart, when a customer took some sweets and left without paying for them. The man returned a few minutes later and allegedly attacked Yadav with metal weights. He also pushed Yadav into a utensil containing hot oil, before fleeing the scene, the official informed. The victim suffered severe burns and was rushed to a hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, the official further informed.

## 3 forge sign, dupe bizman of ₹1.6cr, held

Mumbai: The south cyber cell of the city police have arrested three men for allegedly forging the signature of an NRI businessman via the centralised positive pay system (CPPS) and siphoning off Rs 1.63 crore.

The arrested accused have been identified as Tamil Selvan (42), Pramod Singh (45) and Krushna Dalai (45). The cops are looking for two or three of their accomplices as well.

Complainant Prasanna Kumar Jha, chief manager of Bank of Baroda, said some unknown persons forged signatures of businessman Javed Aslam and got Rs 1.63 crore transferred online. The banks in payable at par services use CPPS where if one has opted for it, the bank directly clears the amount without informing the account holder. The police said between August 14 and August 24, the bank received a request to transfer Rs 1.6 crore via cheque using pay at par service in an account under the name of YS Apparels. — **Ahmed Ali**

# Bhopal man held for duping city angadia firm of ₹90 lakh

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Mumbai: The Anti Extortion Cell of Mumbai police has arrested a 40-year-old from Madhya Pradesh for allegedly cheating an employee of a city angadia delivery firm of Rs 90 lakh. Four of his accomplices are wanted.

The AEC arrested Gaurav Navinkumar Jain, native of Bhopal, for luring the employee by promising a handsome commission on business, and duping him after winning his confidence initially. His accomplices allegedly cheated people in Delhi, Indore, Ahmedabad and Hoshiarpur.

The complainant, Navin Sharma, is an employee of an angadia firm, =AI Enterprises,

from south Mumbai. The angadia system is a century-old system where traders send cash from one state to another through an angadia — a delivery person. The firm used to courier gold and silver to various clients.

In March Jain had offered to work with Sharma. Jain lured him by offering extra 20% commission. "To win Sharma's confidence, Jain initially gave him good business and payment was made promptly only to win his trust.

The deal was that Jain would deposit cash in the courier firm would say to whom the money was to be delivered. On April 3, Jain deposited Rs 1 crore in the angadia firm and asked Sharma to send it to a

party in Delhi. "After similar deals, Jain won his confidence," said an officer.

Jain later took advantage of the trust he had gained and told Sharma to deliver Rs 1.60 crore but he deposited Rs 70 lakhs in various instalments. In May, when Sharma asked for him to repay, Jain started evading him and claimed he had made all payments due. In July, he claimed that it was the angadia firm that owed him money.

Sharma said he inquired in the market and learnt that Jain had cheated many in Mumbai and elsewhere. On June 6, Jain allegedly took a gold bar worth Rs 85 lakh from Sharma, saying he owed him money.

# Rly staff get peek into world of blind

## Blindfolded, Employees Trained On Aid For Challenged Commuters

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Mumbai: They got into a blind person's shoes to feel where their shoe pinches. A group of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and ticket-checkers took part in a unique workshop on Saturday where they were blindfolded and to give them a feel of a visually challenged commuter's world. The workshop was for Central Railway's Mumbai division at its CSMT headquarters was conducted by Xavier's Resource Centre for Visually Challenged which taught participants on how to effectively assist visually challenged commuters on station premises and on trains. Manjavi Rajpoot, head ticket examiner, recalled how the 10-15 minute exercise of being blindfolded was one of the most challenging



IN THEIR SHOES: Railway employees during Saturday's workshop

times of her life. Participants were shown the surroundings, then blindfolded and shuffled around and told to return to their seats. "Everything is dark and you have to rely on other senses — hearing, touch, smell... We realised how challenging

it is for those commuters." She further said that they were told to warn other passengers to keep their distance from the special yellow pathways created for the visually challenged on platforms. "The visually challenged use sticks to walk

along this pathway and hear beeps at the spot where the coach for specially challenged is located," she said.

RPF constable Chand Singh said: "Our job involves assisting those with physical challenges and the programme helped us become more sensitive towards the visually challenged."

Ketan Kothari, the trainer from the Xavier's resource centre, who is a visually challenged person, told TOI that activities given to participants aimed at sensitising them on how a visually challenged person lives the daily life. "I told them not to be harsh on these people... We are not expecting such passengers to travel ticketless, but we want railway staff to be polite, helpful and be understanding towards them." The lesson was that they need empathy, not sympathy.



THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN RECENTLY

## Bench gave way as 4-year-old girl climbed on it

Navi Mumbai: Prakash Vishwakarma had taken his four-year-old daughter Brijia to a civic garden in Kharghar's Sector 12 on Saturday afternoon and kept a watch on her from a distance as she played. Suddenly, as she climbed on a cement bench in the park to sit, she lost balance and fell down. The bench, which was in poor condition, toppled on



The broken bench at K'ghar park

a case of accidental death. They are now trying to find

out if it occurred due to negligence on part of the civic contractor. Further legal course of action will be decided accordingly, said a police officer. Ganesh Deshmukh, commissioner, Panvel city municipal corporation said, "Cidco is yet to complete administrative process of inking an agreement for transfer of gardens." — **George Mendonca**



## ₹600cr advance to contractors for CC roads withheld

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Mumbai: CM Eknath Shinde has ruled out a probe into BMC officials' role in the cement concrete (CC) road contracts row. Following complaints from former BJP corporator Makrand Narwekar, the BMC had fined three of the five companies Rs 16 crore, including nearly Rs 10 crore from the company which had bagged the contract for CC roads in south Mumbai.

### 'Online Uddhav fell in line after shock'

In a veiled dig at Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, CM Eknath Shinde on Sunday said some people used to sit at home and run the state online and they gave them an "electric shock" and they fell in line. Speaking at an event in Parbhani, he also hit out at Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut's morning press conferences. **TNN**

Narwekar said: "I have asked for a statement of the fine imposed, but the BMC roads department has not replied. I'll now have to approach Lokayukta against the road department officials who have colluded with the contractors."

Demanding that BMC terminate the contract for CC roads in south Mumbai, he said: "Not a single road or stretch has been completed...BMC

must now terminate the contract after issuing notices. Fifty stretches were to be completed before monsoon, but between January and June, only one stretch was ready. At this pace, it will take five years to complete the CC roads." Civic officials said the CC road works, which were halted due to the monsoon, will resume in October.

After taking over as CM in August 2022, Shinde had said that all Mumbai roads should be concreted in two years. The BMC floated tenders, but got poor response. In November 2022, tenders were floated afresh and five companies quoted 6-8% above the BMC estimates. Under fire for the cost escalation, BMC told the winning contractors to reduce their rates by 6-8%, but they refused. BMC gave orders to carry out the work 'on par' to these firms unilaterally, and cut costs by around Rs 400 crore.

According to the tender conditions, the firms were to receive a 10% mobilisation advance, in two instalments of Rs 300 crore each. "The first 50% of the advance was to be released after they set up all field offices and started groundwork. The remaining was to be released after they submitted detailed reports of having effectively spent the initial sum on raw materials like steel and cement," said a civic official. "Since notices were issued and fines imposed, it was not possible to release the Rs 600 crore mobilisation advance."

## Health cover can boost organ donation numbers in country

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One of the ways to see a healthy rise in organ donation numbers is to ensure that both donors and recipients are covered by insurance.

Many from both categories said that almost all insurance companies refuse health cover. Doctors and NGOs added that a big boost for organ donation can come from the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) when it formulates clear guidelines. Shibani Gulati, 44, underwent a kidney transplant in 2010. At the time of the surgery, her corporate policy covered her transplant.

"But for a long time after the surgery, neither did the government-run insurance companies nor the private ones covered me for health. After much legwork, a private company was willing but said claims could not be related to any kidney ailments," she said. Shibani and her doctor's missives to insurance firms and IRDAI have not worked. It is disappointing, she added.

Other organ recipients too said that IRDAI has been silent. A mail sent by TOI to its officials on August 22 about IRDAI's plans went unanswered and several private insurance firms refused to comment. Organ recipient Harsh Varadhan Singh underwent a kid-

### RIGHTING THE SITUATION

#### Don't Ignore Them

■ Insurance coverage eludes donors and recipients post-surgery

■ The donor's surgery is covered if the recipient has previous insurance cover

■ But non-availability of insurance cover to donors after donation has to be addressed

■ Just one private insurer offers health cover products to living donors

■ Many more need to follow making it widely available

#### Deeper Problems

■ Non-availability of health cover can deepen donors' and recipients' financial problems

■ They may not adhere to immunosuppression medications defeating the purpose of the organ transplant

#### Norms Must Change

■ IRDAI lists chronic organ failure as an exclusion from health cover

■ But someone who has entirely recovered from organ failure post-transplant should not be excluded

■ IRDAI leaves it to the insurance companies to take a call about this

■ Underwriters must study and evaluate risks based on transplant centres' data



Lack of insurance is debilitating. Roadblocks on multiple fronts have left the recipients defeated, and the donors feeling that far from being honoured, they are being punished for doing a good deed. This is a growing community that cannot be ignored by insurance companies

Jaya Jairam | PROJECT DIRECTOR, MOHAN FOUNDATION

ney. Since the surgery, he has tried to get health insurance. "Most companies refused while a few said no kidney-related disease would be covered. I was refused life insurance cover too and so was my mother. But the Rajasthan government's Chiranjeevi Yojana covers all tests and treatment for a nominal premium of Rs 1,000 for my entire family for a Rs 15 lakh cover. Insurance firms must change their outlook," he added.

Dr Santosh Shetty, executive director and CEO of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, said personal insurance cover for this category comes with riders, exclusions and high premiums. Bhaskar Nerurkar, head of health administration team at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said, his company has clear policies about organ donation cases. There are no specific guidelines from IRDAI but

the authority has instructed insurance companies to cover organ donors and recipients, he added.

His company's medical board decides the authenticity of the client and the medical records, and then a health policy is issued.

Nerurkar said, "Since the recipient has had an organ failure, he/she is likely to be more vulnerable. They must undergo multiple tests before the policy is issued and there are several products that they can choose from. A corporate policy has no underwriting, as it is a universal coverage. For existing customers, we extend the cover but new customers have to fulfill conditions."

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization has been pursuing health cover for organ donors and recipients with the central government and the IRDAI.



To sign up as an organ donor, give a missed call on 7862991122 or visit OrganDonationDay.com

ney transplant in 2017. He leads an active life playing lawn bowls and pétanque and has won the silver medal in darts at the World Transplant Games in Australia this year. He said, "I am healthy and physically active, but insurance firms won't offer cover."

Singh's mother was his do-

## When ex-Guv took dig at Ajit Pawar for his latest DCM stint

Former governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari had unexpectedly made a bold statement on rebel NCP leader Ajit Pawar on his swearing-in as deputy chief minister in the current Eknath Shinde-Dhendra Fadnavis government. Known for triggering controversies, Koshiyari laughed as he said Ajit Pawar has been ready to take oath as DCM many times.

Significantly, Koshiyari had himself given him oath as DCM without verifying whether Fadnavis, who was then sworn-in as CM, had the majority or not. As a result, the government collapsed in less than 72 hours. From a cursory glance at his tenure as Governor, it can be seen that Koshiyari has rarely taken decisions on key issues.

In the case where Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Subhash Desai asked Uddhav Thackeray to face a floor test in view of a letter submitted by the rebel Shiv Sena leaders led by Shinde. The SC had observed that Koshiyari's decision to call for a floor test was

incorrect, since there was not enough material before the Governor. The apex court had then observed that it cannot restore Thackeray as CM as he had already resigned before facing the floor test. Another key case, where Koshiyari did not take a decision was the nomination of experts on the legislative council. The HC had observed that while it can't give directives to the Governor, it is expected that he will



take a decision within a reasonable period of time. However, no decision was taken.

NCP chief takes rebels to task: Embattled NCP president Sharad Pawar took on his once-trusted aides Hasan Mushrif and Dilip Walse Patil. Both Mushrif and Walse Patil have joined hands with rebel NCP leader Ajit Pawar and are currently cabinet members in the government.

Mushrif is under the scrutiny of the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax department. After a series of ED raids on the residence of Mushrif, women members of his family came on the road saying they can fire bullets on them, but must stop Mushrif's mental torture and harassment. Without naming Mushrif, Sharad Pawar said the women folk had shown courage, but that was not the case with him. Instead of facing investigating agencies, he joined the BJP-led government to avoid jail. He said there are several bold leaders in NCP, such as Anil Deshmukh, who was in jail for more than a year but did not surrender to political pressure.

Sharad Pawar also took on Walse Patil, who had observed that despite being a tall leader, Sharad Pawar was not able to form government on his own. The NCP supremo said his (Walse Patil's) homework was poor since he had taken oath as state CM on four occasions, and it was all on his own.

## Derogatory Shivaji post: Cops launch manhunt

Navi Mumbai: The Pen police in Raigad have launched a search operation against an unknown person who had posted derogatory remarks on social media against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Rajmata Jijamata (mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji) and tribals, Dalit and Maratha communities. Many organisations have raised objections to such remarks.

Belvande village resident Pravin Patil (34) had seen the post from Instagram account 'Buddhist The Father of Manu'. The account holder's mobile number and name was unavailable. Patil stated that such posts hurt feelings of Shivaji's followers. He later lodged a police complaint against unknown persons for intending to outrage religious feelings and promoting enmity between different groups, among other charges. Nitin Mohite, assistant police inspector, Pen, said, "Cyber police's help has been sought to trace the accused." — Umesh K Parida

## Missing The Moon?

Santosh Desai

For one remarkable evening, the entire nation was moonstruck as we followed the descent of Chandrayaan-3 on the hallowed surface. The idea of sending a spacecraft to the moon, our most enchanting neighbour in the universe, has always held magic, and we were all under its spell in that moment.

But that was an aberration. For the most part, the moon barely registers as it goes about its business and we go about ours. The moon has more or less disappeared from the lives of those who live in large cities in small flats with smaller balconies. The moon does not reside over the roof, having been tucked away behind some buildings. Our windows look often at other windows, and at night, the sky is a snatch of black somewhere in the background.

This wasn't the case in an earlier era and still isn't the case as one steps out of the city. The other day, I saw the moon for the first time in a long time. It was more beautiful than I remembered—a blaze of luminosity falling out of the sky. It was in the hills, where the moon is still an arm's pluck away and where stars come out of hiding in a giddy rush. It was not quite poornima, and while sitting in the open in the well-lit night, it was impossible not to be mesmerised. The moon looked huge and impulsively round, and the fact that its magnetic pull controlled the rise and fall of tides seemed easy to believe.

Moonlight has a magic of its own. Sunlight is the default setting for the idea of light, particularly in a tropical country where the appearance of the sun comes unaccompanied by any question marks. The sun is always out and lights up the world in a flat, matter-of-fact way. The moon casts light more enigmatically with its own cadence of waxing and waning and sometimes disappearing altogether behind clouds. Moonlight doesn't just render things visible; it imparts a quality to everything it touches. Things seem to sparkle with their own essence under the moon, something that has made the moon so attractive to poets and writers of lyrics for Hindi film songs. It was a sign of ethereal beauty, a witness to the little games lovers played; it presided over union and heartbreak, ached with separation, marked time occasionally with indifference, and acted as a confidante for the lonely. The moon connected the individual with the universe in a way that no other natural object could. One felt kinship with the moon, never with the sun or the stars.

Nothing unified the world in quite the same way as the moon. We marked our days through our nights, giving time a lunar name. In lunar calendars, time grows out of life, with every day marked by an individual and independent character. Poornima, the night of the full moon, was imbued with a sense of fertile celebration, while amavasya, the state of moonlessness,

was seen with trepidation as it underlined the power that nature, always a fickle friend, held over us. The moon had many powers, not only over the oceans but also over the bodies and minds of animals and humans. The full moon made us wild and primitive; madness (lunacy), after all, has some lunar origins.

The moon is not that useful anymore and lives on in our imaginations as a vestigial habit. Its light carries little meaning, for the city is ablaze with its own, and it is difficult to tell a full-moon night from a moonless one. It is no longer a marker of time.

Time itself has lost rhyme; it now refers to nothing else outside of itself. It offers no proof and comes with no markers. Day and night do exist, of course, but in a globalised world, with decreasing meaning. Time is now a purely conceptual entity, a convention that we have collectively agreed to submit to.

Its mysteriousness too has lost lustre. The moon was once beyond human reach, but as fables have it, it was made available to children crying for it by casting its reflection in a bowl of water. Even the landing of Chandrayaan on the moon serves to make it more prosaic—yet another hitherto unfathomable presence that the human race has managed to vanquish. Flags have been planted on the moon, and in the ultimate sign of mastery, samples from the moon have been tested in our laboratories.

### CITY CITY BANG BANG

Science has been nature's ally in demystifying its complexities. Gradually, nature is being erased as a point of reference for our real lives, residing instead as screensavers on our virtual ones. The internet is humankind's most ambitious rejoinder to the natural universe. Here is a universe of another kind, hewed out of human imagination, living in a space constructed by electronic signals. The digital marks an independence from the physical and takes the separation from the natural to its logical end.

With time, it seems that our sources of wonder are diminishing. Once, we marvelled at everything, often out of ignorance, but the world seemed full of things much larger and more mysterious than what our minds could grasp. Now, technology produces wonder just as easily as it destroys it. We still seek wonder in other ways—in new gadgets with frequent updates, in fantastic stories of the superhero and the otherworldly, by making nostalgic artefacts out of our past, by converting nature into a monument, by using the word awesome an awful lot, and by clicking on links that promise us that we will be amazed or blown away by what we are about to see.

And yet, in the midst of all the change brought about by human progress, the moon's gravitational pull on our imagination, while buried under layers of indifference, emerges out in the open like it did this week, it still entrances us as it always has.

## Mumbai-Nashik highway is reopened, relief for motorists

Manoj.Badgeri@timesgroup.com

Thane: Mumbai, Thane motorists using the Mumbai-Nashik highway can have a sigh of relief as the two lanes on the Nashik bound Saket bridge have been thrown open.

MSRDC engineers inspected the repairs and certified it safe for traffic movement, officials informed.

Traffic on the lane was shut abruptly last week after a defect was noticed on one of the spans running over the creek. All heavy vehicular traffic moving towards Nashik or JNPT from Mumbai and Ghodbunder road was diverted via Airo-

li while light vehicles were allowed to ply in a single lane. This led to massive snarls on the Eastern Express highway and Ghodbunder road.

An official explained that a snag was reported in a portion around one of the bearings used underneath a 4mx7m slab used as a connector between the two cantilever arms of the bridge over the creek. The bearings are used for cushioning the road surface.

The restoration team had lifted the almost 35 tonne slab to check the quantum of the damage underneath and spotted the defect. They immediately took corrective action.

## Multiple slab collapse: Builder, city architect & 1 other booked

Navi Mumbai: Nerul police have lodged an FIR against the builder, a Mumbai-based architect and the plot owner Tulsi Bhavan building in Sarsole village where a multiple slab collapse mishap occurred. Two persons were killed while two others were injured in the incident. The third floor of the ground plus three storey structure was undergoing repair work. The slab in the hall of the third flat collapsed and landed on shop of a tailor on the ground floor.

The second floor flat was lying vacant. Babaji Shingade (55), a first floor resident and chairman of the cooperative housing society and wage worker Ramju Naik (57) were killed. Shobha Shingade (50) and another daily labourer Aziz Ulla (48) were grievously injured in the incident. The assistant police inspector-Nerul, Madhuri Pote said, "The accused have been booked for causing death by negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, endangering life among others. So far no arrest has been made." — Umesh K Parida

### CITYLIGHTS

#### Cricket Dream

Acherished aspiration has transformed into reality for 36-year-old Hemil Parikh. Earlier this month, the Sion resident received a letter of selection from the Divyang Cricket Control Board of India, which conveyed that he had been chosen to be a part of the cricket team embarking on a tour to Hong Kong and Thailand for a series of five international T-20 cricket matches. Parikh's path to this achievement has been arduous, beginning in March 2009 with a train accident at King's Circle that resulted in the loss of his left foot and the last two fingers of his right hand. Ironically, he sustained these injuries while rescuing a person on the brink of falling off the train. Parikh says, "I saved him but I lost my balance and my leg got crushed. After six months I got prosthetics and started the second innings of my life. I was 22 years old then



A BOOST TO MUSIC: On the occasion of the 125th birth centenary of Nadaswara Chakravarty T N Rajaratnam Pillai, 50 young Nadaswara Vidvans from Tamil Nadu were conferred Sri Shanmukhananda Nadaswara Chakravarty T N Rajaratnam Pillai Fellowship of Rs 1 lakh each for three years

with a goal to play cricket for the country. But after years of continuous practice and struggle along with the job, I finally got a call to represent Team India as part of the Divyang Cricket team." Parikh attributes the inception of his cricketing passion to his late

father, who passed away in 2021. Today, his coach Malkesh Gandhi plays a pivotal role in ensuring Parikh spares no effort in pursuing his dream.

#### Campus Summits

A cross city campuses—schools, colleges and uni-

versities—mock G20 summits seem to be the flavour of the season. Student contingents representing various countries discuss wide-ranging issues of debt, inflation, industry collaboration and economic growth. But as students come prepared to question

and challenge other country-teams, most of them have in their arsenal pack tough questions for Russia. "How will you collaborate under conditions of war? How important is peace for you?" The students from the Russian team, whether in school, college or at a university, have only one rebuttal, in which lies hope for the world. "We are planning to stop the war. We want to once again live on a planet that is free of war," said a student who represented the foreign minister of Russia at a model G20 summit at Lodha Oakwood School. Educationist Sonam Wangchuk could not agree any less as he presided over the event. "You've done something trans-disciplinary, an experience that children share using reflective critical thinking and something that I think will go a long way in shaping your personalities," he said.

#### Brawny & Brownie

The open-air gym at Shivaji Park is packed with the young and the not-

(Contributed by Richa Pinto, Hemali Chhappia & Alex Fernandes. Compiled by Richa Biju Chitrodia)




**Shri Narendra Modi**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“ We took a pledge on Earth, and we fulfilled it on the Moon. This moment is the triumph of the new India. ”

# A civilisation that enlightened the World, now sheds light on the Moon.

## Spectacular Performance by ISRO!

Larsen & Toubro, India's foremost tech-led infrastructure, manufacturing and services conglomerate – congratulates our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and ISRO on the successful touchdown of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram Lander near the South Pole of the Moon.

This is not merely another milestone in India's space odyssey, but a historic moment in global space exploration. One that brings to life our Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision – 'India will have to ensure that space plays an important role in uniting, connecting the world in the 21st century.' A feat made possible by the sheer talent and tenacity of India's finest aerospace scientists in *Amrit Kaal*.

L&T is honoured to have contributed mission-critical components and systems that have helped bring pride to our Nation and its people.



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Image Courtesy: ISRO

CBMOP/SS/02/2023

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**50-YR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR 'DEROGATORY REMARKS' AGAINST TAMIL NADU CM M K STALIN & HIS FAMILY**

**BJP HAS MADE MP 'LABORATORY' FOR ATROCITIES ON DALITS, ALLEGES CONG CHIEF MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**



**Latur student among 2 more Kota suicides; toll now at 22**

Rajiv Saxena | TNN

Kota: Two NEET students ended their lives within hours of each other in coaching centre hub Kota on Sunday, one flinging himself to the death from the sixth floor of his institute and the other allegedly hanging himself in his rented house over low scores in tests.

The deaths of Maharashtra's Avishkar Shambhaji Kasle (17) and Bihar's Adarsh Raj (18) took the student suicide tally in Kota to six this month and 22 since January this year, against 15 in all of 2022.

The fatalities came a week after the state government set up a committee to address the festering problem and asked it to submit a report in 15 days.

**TESTS SUSPENDED FOR A MONTH**

Kasle, a Class 12 student and resident of Latur, took the extreme step after finishing a test on the third floor of the institute around 3.15pm. He climbed to the sixth floor and jumped off.

Circle officer Dharmveer Singh said no suicide note was found. Kasle had been preparing for NEET in Kota for three years and his scores had dropped in the last routine test, the officer said.

Late on Sunday, the Kota administration reportedly issued an advisory saying there will be no tests for a month at coaching institutes in the city.

Barely four hours later, Adarsh was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his rented house. The Rohas native was living with his sister and cousin brother, who were also preparing for competitive exams, police said, adding that no suicide note was found.

Adarsh, too, had been scoring low in routine tests at his coaching institute and was upset over it, said ASP (Kota city) Bhagwat Singh Hingad.

## In a 1st, Vikram sends temp profile of lunar south pole

**Records 60°C At Surface To -10°C Underground**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** In the first data officially announced from the south pole of the Moon since Chandrayaan-3's lander Vikram made a flawless landing there, Isro said on Sunday the lander's payload has recorded the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil, or how temperature varies at the lunar surface and deeper inside. This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole.

The lander's Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors.



The wide difference between surface and underground temperatures indicate that the Moon's rocks may be good insulation for habitats there

ipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors.

Sharing a graph with the update, Isro said: "The presented graph illustrates the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. Detailed observations are under way."

The space agency did not immediately elaborate more on this and one scientist told TOI that the data were still being analysed. Looking at the graph it shared, the variation in temperature is in the range of -10°Celsius to 60°Celsius, depending on the depth.

Rover Pragyan was deployed after Vikram's successful landing four days ago. All five Isro payloads on the lander and rover have begun in-situ experiments, and their performance has been normal.

Data from the payload on the propulsion module has also begun reaching the ground stations and Isro is expected to continue making announcements about it.

## Chandrayaan a living example of 'Naari Shakti': PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Mission Chandrayaan has become a symbol of the spirit of "New India", which wants to ensure victory, and also knows how to win in any situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Mann Ki Baat radio address on Sunday, emphasising that "Chandrayaan is also a living example of 'Naari Shakti' (women's power)".

"Many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in this entire mission. They have handled important responsibilities like project director, project manager of different systems," PM said. He added that the "daughters of India are now challenging even space which is considered infinite".

"When the daughters of a country become so ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed," the PM said. Drawing from his Independence Day speech, he added, "You might remember this time I have expressed from Red Fort that we have to strengthen 'women-led development' as a national character. Where the might of women power is added, the impossible can also be made possible. India's Mission Chandrayaan is also a living example of Naari Shakti (women's power)," Modi said.

"It has been over three days that Chandrayaan has reached the Moon. This success is so grand that any amount of discussion about it will be inadequate," the PM said. To emphasise his point, he recited lines from a poem written by him where he said, "Head up in the sky, breaking through the clouds, take the light, the sun has now risen." "Walk with determination, overcome all odds, dispel the darkness, the sun has now risen," the PM added. He said, on August 23, "India and India's Chandrayaan proved that some suns of resolve on the Moon as well".



When the daughters of a country become ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed, PM Modi said on Sunday

"We have accomplished such a lofty flight since today our dreams are big and our efforts are also big," he said. "Along with our scientists, other sectors have also played an important role in the success of Chandrayaan-3. Many countrymen have contributed in ensuring all the parts and meeting technical requirements," he added.

In his address at the B20 summit on Sunday, Modi said the "festive season in India started on August 23 this time when Chandrayaan-3 reached the Moon". "Importantly, this time, not only India but the whole world is celebrating it (India's landing on Moon). This celebration is about running a responsible space programme. This celebration is to accelerate the development of the country. This celebration is of innovation. This celebration is about bringing sustainability and equality through space technology," he said.

## Seven killed in blast at illegal firecracker unit in Bengal

Sanjib Chakraborty | timesgroup.com

**Barasat:** A powerful blast at an illegal firecracker factory—in congested Duttapukur in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal—ripped through more than a dozen houses on Sunday, killing seven people and injuring at least a dozen others. The explosion turned some of the houses into heaps of rubble and blew away doors, walls, roofs.

The victims included two of the owners of the factory, while the third co-owner is ab-

## Fridge explosion kills 2 women in Bihar

**Two women were charred to death in a fire after their refrigerator exploded in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district late on Saturday. The tragedy took place sometime after midnight when victims—sisters-in-law Rita (19) and Rinki (18)—were asleep. Rita's mother-in-law, who was sleeping outside, survived. According to cops, the compressor of the refrigerator exploded, triggering a fire. The fridge was locally made. TNN**

sconding. Three women and as many children suffered critical injuries.

The intensity of the blast was such that it left body parts strewn across a radius of 500 metres. While all the victims are yet to be identified, several are suspected to be workers at the unit, as the owners and workers lived nearby.

The unit used to be a brick kiln that was converted into a cracker unit. It churned thousands of banned crackers that were stored there illegally, said neighbours. The fire is suspected to have been triggered by an accidental spark.

(With inputs from Kamalendu Bhadra)

## Row over PM naming Moon landing site 'Shiv Shakti point' needless: Isro chief

Rajiv G & Surendra Singh | TNN

**Thiruvananthapuram/ New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi naming the lunar landmark where Chandrayaan-3 touched down as "Shiv Shakti" is as much a prerogative as a tradition for the country, Isro chairman Somanath said, weighing in on what he said was a needless controversy.

Describing both "Shiv Shakti" and "Tirang point", where Chandrayaan-2 crash-landed, as "Indian-sounding names", the Isro chairman said, "The PM talked about the concept of male and female energies. The contribution of the women of Isro, and the need to create a type of synergy



Somanath at the Pournamikavu temple in Thiruvananthapuram

### 'My faith is personal, independent of science'

Isro chief Somanath, who opened up after a visit to the Sree Pournamikavu temple at Venganoor near Kerala's Vizhinjam on Sunday, spoke of his own faith in science and spirituality as being distinct and independent of each other. "There is no need to mix science and spirituality. I come here since this temple gives me spiritual strength for all the work I do. I am a religious man, and have been a regular visitor to this temple since my childhood. It has nothing to do with Chandrayaan. This is my personal space," he said. —Rajiv G & Surendra Singh

in the organisation, is reflected in the choice of name... There is nothing wrong with that. There is also a lunar point known as 'Sarabhai crater' (after Vikram Sarabhai)."

Somanath said the south polar region of Moon had already thrown up "crucial and interesting data" over the past few days. "The surface is very tricky, with hills and valleys. Even a small error in calculation can fail the mission."

### 'India has best pic of Moon'

The Isro chief said that, among other things, India now has the "best picture of the Moon". "We have the closest picture of the real regolith. They are precious commodities and they are not available anywhere in the world. Nobody has such close-proximity photos. They will all come, albeit a little later."

On reports that Russia had rushed its lunar mission to get ahead of Isro, he said that the former announced its schedule in 2021, but that got delayed due to the Ukraine war.

## HC: Words without intent to cause alarm or coerce can't be termed criminal intimidation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### Post 30-yr jail, death penalty reduced to life term

**Bengaluru:** Mere utterance of words without intention to cause alarm to the complainant or make him/herself to commit or omit any act, doesn't come within the meaning of criminal intimidation as defined under IPC Section 506, the Karnataka high court's Kalaburagi bench ruled in a recent judgment.

The petitioners are from Raichur district. On May 22, 2020, a complaint was filed against them, alleging that they had trespassed into the house of the complainant

and threatened to eliminate him. The FIR was registered under IPC sections 448 (house trespass), 504 (intention to insult and provocation to breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Challenging the chargesheet, the petitioners claimed that they were in a civil dispute with the complainant, and the criminal complaint was filed after a civil court granted temporary injunction in their favour. They alleged the complaint was lodged only to harass them.

Quashing the proceedings against, the judge noted that there is no plausible explanation with regard to the delay (10 days) in filing of the complaint.

The judge further pointed out that the petitioners had entered the premises after the civil court granted temporary injunction in their favour and hence the same cannot be termed house trespass, as alleged by the complainant.

(With inputs from Kamalendu Bhadra)

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**Prayer Meet**

**SMT. MEENA KAPOOR**  
(10.11.1935 - 26.08.2023)  
W/O Late Adv. K.N. Kapoor

Our mother left for her heavenly abode on August 26th, 2023.

Day & Date: Tuesday, August 29th, 2023  
Venue: Imperial, 8th Floor, St. Regis 462, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 13  
Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:  
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW  
Adv. Mohit Kapoor & Sonia

DAUGHTERS & SON IN LAWS  
Manishi & Late Suresh Dhamija,  
Surbhi & Kamal Bhatia, Sarika & Ajay Karwar

GRAND CHILDREN  
Gaurav, Divya, Saurabh, Deepika & Karan, Akanksha & Prayasa,  
Vidushi, Devini, Jayati & Yash, Amogh and Muditi

GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER - Athira Kapoor

ENTIRE STAFF & FAMILY OF  
K.N. Kapoor & Co.  
Advocates & Labour Laws Consultants  
KAPOOR & MALHOTRA FAMILY

In loving memory of  
**Dr. Usha J Parekh, PhD**  
(22.07.1933 - 26.08.2023)

She was a trailblazer and an inspirational figure to her relatives and friends. Her generosity, strength, resilience, and loving heart will forever be cherished.

Dearly missed by:  
Abhay, Kadambari, Kabir, and Kavita Parekh  
No Condolences Please.

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**REMEMBRANCE** | SHARING MEMORIES

7th Death Anniversary  
SHRI NICHALDAS MANGATRAM KHALANI (1929 - 2016)

BHAU Your presence around us was the most beautiful thing in our lives, your eternal love and presence continue to surround us and bring us comfort. You are alive in our hearts, our minds, and our memories and we intend to treasure those forever for as long as we shall live. We miss you always BHAU! Beloved wife Meera, Khialani parivar, relatives and friends.

## Suspected of theft, dalit lynched in Jalna, four thrashed in Nagar

Mohammed Akhbar & Santosh Sonawane | TNN

**Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar/ Nashik:** A dalit man was allegedly lynched and later thrown into a quarry in Jalna district late on Saturday on the suspicion that he had stolen a bike. Based on a complaint by the victim's wife, four men were arrested for murder and under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The victim Siddharth Mandale's family members rushed him to hospital, where he was declared dead. His family members claimed that he was lynched while being showered with casteist abuses.

Meanwhile, in Ahmednagar's Haregaon village, four dalit youths were allegedly strung upside down from a tree and thrashed by a group of six on Friday, on suspicion of stealing goats and pigeons from a

### Row erupts as MP dalit youth beaten to death

**An 18-year-old dalit youth was fatally assaulted by a group in MP's Sagor on August 24, over a previous police complaint by his sister. According to cops, the accused had been allegedly pressuring the youth's family to withdraw the case and negotiate a settlement. Police arrested nine people for his death, which triggered outrage and allegations from the opposition that the BJP-governed state has become unsafe for marginalised sections. TNN**

farmer in Haregaon. The attack triggered a 'rasta roko' protest in which hundreds participated on Sunday.

Two of the six attackers, who are acquaintances of the Haregaon farmer, have been arrested, police said.

## With no roads or light, this Assam village has only one family left

**Nalbari:** A village in Assam's Nalbari district, which had the road leading to it inaugurated by a former chief minister many years ago, is now almost deserted, barring a single family. Now, this family of five—Bimal Deka, his wife Anima and their three children—has to travel 2km to reach the nearest motorable path from No 2 Bardhanara village.

In the monsoon, all the paths get submerged and Anima rows a boat to ferry her children to and from

school. With no electricity, the children study under the light of kerosene lamps. Despite such tough conditions, the family has ensured proper education for all three. While two are graduates, the youngest is in higher secondary school.

Chairman of NGO Gramya Vikash Mancha, Prithi Bhusan Deka, said the village was deserted due to recurring floods. Anima said local authorities were not interested in carrying out any work either. TNN

**SAD DEMISE**

**SAD DEMISE**

**Thomas Gilbert Wilson**

With grief we would like to inform the demise of Thomas Gilbert Wilson on 26th Aug 2023.

The Funeral will be held on Tue 29th Aug at 11 am Malad Christian Cemetery C-1, 1-34, Marve Rd, Asmita Jyoti Housing Society, Malad West, Mumbai, 400095

Fondly remembered by Princy Thomas, Annie Thomas, Binnie Thomas and Abel Thomas and the entire Wilson Family

**SAD DEMISE**

**Victor Mascarenhas**  
Ex Western India Tanneries & Protos Engineering

With profound grief we inform you of the demise of on 25th August 2023, Beloved husband of Loretta & loving father of Melanie/Rupert, Adrian/Elaine, Kevin/Maria, Edsel/Deepika, Brendan/Kristy & Joel/Vanessa & dotting grandfather of Neressa, Darlene, Hayden, Prince, Valery, Cruz, Juan, Gabriel & Arielle.

Funeral mass & viewing will be held at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Vile Parle (W) on Sunday 3rd Sept. 2023 at 4.00 pm

**SAD DEMISE**

**LALIT KHANNA**  
1933-2023

Our beloved Lalit Khanna passed away on Sunday, 27th August 2023. Last rites will take place at 5:30 pm on 28th August 2023 at Chandanwadi Electric Crematorium. A prayer meeting (Chautha) will be held on Tuesday, 29th August 2023 (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) at (Pushp Kunj), Ground Floor, A Road, Churchgate.

In grief, Rama Khanna - Wife Vineet & Anita Khanna - Son & Daughter-in-law Anuj & Mona Khanna - Son & Daughter-in-law Sisters, brothers, grandchildren, & family.

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

In Loving Memory of **SHRI MANOHAR THAKURDAS PANJWANI**  
11.10.1949 : 28.08.2013

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear

Fondly Remembered by **Panjwanis Relatives and Friends**

**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Smt. Meena Arjunlal Bhagat**

Years have passed since that fateful day When God chose to take you away We know your blessings are with us And you will always be deep within our heart

Remembered By: **Bhagats, Hingoranis, Totlanis & Panjwanis**

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## 03 What is DMF QUALITY API?

**DMF Quality API** is the purest and best form of API as it is manufactured at a **USFDA**-approved plant.

Thus, the final medicine is always one of the best quality with better efficacy.

01

02

## 02 What is DMF and why is it important?

**Drug Master File (DMF)** has all the information on an API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient/Raw material for medicine). It provides all the information on the manufacturing, stability, quality, packaging, purity and impurity profile for authorities to ensure that medicines have the best quality and efficacy.

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04



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7. 263 2,486 Dunetha

8. 292/1 129 Marwad

9. 292/2 1,862 Marwad

Total Area 10,167

Date: 28th August 2023 Place: Mumbai

M.C.Mehta & Associates Sd/-

M.C.Mehta Company Secretaries Proprietor

M.C.Mehta Building No.32, Flat No.4, Brindavan Society Thane (W), 400601.

On or towards the East: On or towards the West: On or towards the North: On or towards the South: Date: 28th day of August, 2023 Sd/- M/s. S. K. Legal Associates LLP

Public Notice: NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our clients, M/s. Chaitanya Property Developers Pvt. Ltd. to inform that the lawful development rights of our client are duly created and are still in existence on the property being all the piece and parcels of land or ground situated, lying and being at Juhu, Taluka Andheri in the Registration District and Sub District of Bombay City and Bombay Suburban measuring 3796.66 Sq. yds. equivalent to 3174 Sq. Mts or thereabouts bearing Old Survey No. 71 (Part), New Survey No. 81 (Part) and C. T. S. No. 10551 and C. T. S. No. 10551 of Juhu which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as 'said Property'), under a registered Development Agreement dated 22nd March 1994, Supplementary Agreement dated 6th May, 1998 and Letter of Possession dated 28th April, 1995, (hereinafter referred to as 'said Agreements') and our client was put in possession of the said property have made expenditure of substantial amount for same. However few persons namely Kantadevi Rajkumar Gupta, Rakesh Rajkumar Gupta, Sanjay Rajkumar Gupta, Neelam Kishan Dalmia, Kavita Naresh Modi and Geeta Sandhu, alleged legal heirs of the original owner of the said property Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta from whom our client have acquired their rights on the said property, have illegally disturbed the possession of our client, alleged to terminate the said Agreements, therefore there are criminal proceedings are filed and pending and our Client have challenged the alleged termination as well as seeking the possession of the said property under and by filing a Commercial Suit being Commercial Suit No. 285 of 2022, before the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, which is pending and / or sub-judice for hearing. Also our clients have executed a Lis-Pendens in respect of the said subject property and same is duly registered on 7th August, 2023, with the office of sub-registrar of assurances at Bandra under Serial No. BDR-4-8608-2023 dated 7th August, 2023. However, our clients have apprehension that the aforesaid Kantadevi Rajkumar Gupta, Rakesh Rajkumar Gupta, Sanjay Rajkumar Gupta, Neelam Kishan Dalmia, Kavita Naresh Modi and Geeta Sandhu are likely to be create third party rights / interest illegally in respect of said property and / or development of said property, by way of entering into any contract / agreement with any person/s in respect of the said property. Therefore, we hereby on behalf of our client warn and inform to the public at large that not to enter into and/ or execute any transaction and / or agreement or document with any person / persons / and / or assignees / agents/ representative, in any manner whatsoever in respect of the said property, without informing / intimating the same to us, on behalf of our client. On behalf of our client we hereby further warn and inform to public at large that if any transaction / agreement and / or document entered by any persons, in respect of said property without informing / intimating to us / our client, that such transaction / sale will be illegal and will not be binding on our client in any manner whatsoever and our client shall challenge any such transaction by taking appropriate steps in accordance with law, and our client shall not be responsible for any damages to be caused to any purchaser person/s, in any manner whatsoever.

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Public Notice: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we are investigating the right title and interest of MESSRS MARS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES, a partnership firm formed under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 having its principal place of business at Survey No. 98/1, Daman Industrial Estate, Village Kadaiya, Nani Daman - 396210, in respect of the lands situated at village Dunetha / Marwad, Daman, more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written, and structures standing thereon measuring in aggregate - 7,394.98 square meters of built up area (collectively, 'Property').

The Property has been purchased by Messrs Mars Packaging Industries under liquidation proceedings of Glory Films Limited (formerly known as Glory Poly Films Limited) (C I N : L92110MH1997PLC112461) under Company Petition No. 131 of 2012, Company Petition No. 149 of 2012 and Company Petition No. 328 of 2012 filed before the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay vide Sale Deed dated 11 January 2023 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Daman under Serial No. 387 of 2023.

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Date: 28th August 2023 Place: Mumbai

M.C.Mehta & Associates Sd/-

M.C.Mehta Company Secretaries Proprietor

M.C.Mehta Building No.32, Flat No.4, Brindavan Society Thane (W), 400601.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Total Area 10,167

Date: 28th August 2023 Place: Mumbai

M.C.Mehta & Associates Sd/-

M





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# Dole hike, new quota: MP CM woos women in election year

**'Gas At ₹450; 50% Teacher Posts Reserved'**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday unveiled an array of benefits for women, focussing on garnering their support in assembly polls due this year. These include a Rs 250 monthly increment as a Rakhi gift under the Ladli Bahna scheme, 35% reservations for women in state government jobs, and subsidised gas cylinders.

Addressing a 'Ladli Bahna' gathering at Bhopal's Jamboori Maidan, Chouhan detailed his proposals. He shared that half of the teaching positions in the state would be reserved



The state will cover girls' education fees, said Chouhan

for women. On Raksha Bandhan, a sum of Rs 250 would be credited to the accounts of women beneficiaries, followed by Rs 1,000 on September 10. Starting October, a monthly transfer of Rs 1,250 to beneficiary accounts will be initiated. The overarching goal is to uplift women's monthly income to Rs 10,000.

Chouhan further stated that "Ladli Bahnas" would receive cooking gas cylinders at a reduced rate of Rs 450 during the Shravan month, with plans to continue this offering. The CM pledged a 35% reservation for women in both police and state government jobs, alongside a 50% quota for teaching positions. Educational fees for girls will be covered by the government, he said. Chouhan also assured that no new liquor shops would be opened in areas where women oppose it, with the alcohol policy set for appropriate amendments. He highlighted a reduction in

stamp duty to 1% for properties registered under women's names.

Efforts to allocate land freed from encroachment to women in both rural and urban areas were also emphasised. Housing provisions for women will be prioritised.

The CM went on to announce that "Ladli Bahnas" would be exempted from paying increased electricity bills until September. Measures will be implemented to ensure that monthly power bills do not exceed Rs 100. A budget of Rs 900 crore has been allocated to provide electricity to those in need.

Highlighting women's welfare as a top concern for the BJP government, Chouhan said over Rs 3,628.85 crore has already been disbursed to beneficiaries under the 'Ladli Bahna' scheme in three instalments.

# We are virtually under siege: Kin of Hathras victim

Deepak.Lavania@timesgroup.com

**Hathras:** Two days after the Supreme Court sought response from the Central and UP governments on a plea by the Hathras gangrape victim's family for relocation and rehabilitation outside UP; preferably Delhi, TOI on Sunday visited the village in Hathras district where the 19-year-old dalit girl was, on September 14, 2020, dragged into a bajra field allegedly by four 'upper caste' men, raped, her tongue cut off and left to die, just 400m away from her home. At her house, her two nieces—aged 5 and 3—are home-schooled as they are not allowed to step out.

For the rest of the family, too, life seems to have hit the pause button even though it's been nearly three years since the gruesome incident happened. They are not free to meet people and are under pressure to remain indoors at all times. Following orders of the apex court, CRPF jawans armed with AK-47 rifles guard their house 24x7. The family's income has also petered out.

Earlier this year, three of the four men accused of the crime were "let off" while the fourth was held guilty of "culpable homicide". This has only added to their dread.

The victim's father said, "We are virtually under siege. Our children are unable to go to school. We are dealing with a financial crisis. Last

## Bengal tense over girl's rape, murder

The rape and murder of a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Matigara in Bengal's Siliguri has triggered widespread outrage in Darjeeling Hills. Meanwhile, claiming that the postmortem report confirmed sexual assault, Bengal child rights body chairperson Sudeshna Roy on Sunday said provisions under the Pocco Act would be added to the case. The girl's body was found on August 21. Police arrested the accused Mohammad Abbas (22), a resident of Matigara's Lenin Colony, on August 22. A Siliguri court has remanded him in police custody for 10 days. On Saturday, Darjeeling Hills saw candle marches to protest the crime. TNN

# Dad kills 19-yr-old for dating dalit man, buries body quietly in K'taka

Ranganath K | TNN

**Kolar:** In the second suspected "honour killing" in just about two months in Karnataka's Kolar district, an auto-rickshaw driver allegedly killed his 19-year-old daughter for refusing to sever ties with a dalit youth.

Venkatesh Gowda's family buried the teen's body without informing police or fellow villagers in Thoti hamlet in the wee hours of Friday. But a constable got wind of it and alerted Kolar SP M Narayanan.

## Pregnant daughter killed before court testimony

A 19-year-old pregnant woman, who was about to testify for her 'lover' in court in a kidnapping and rape case, was allegedly strangled to death by her father in Muzaffarnagar, UP. Her body was retrieved from a river on Sunday. Her parents have been arrested. TNN

Venkatesh has been arrested along with brothers Mohan and Chowde. Based on their interrogation, police exhumed the woman's body and sent it for autopsy.

According to the SP, the deceased worked at a private factory near her village, while the dalit youth—from the neighbouring village—is a mechanic attached to another firm. As the woman refused to cut ties with the dalit man, her father choked her to death.

Just two months ago, a villager in Kolar killed his 20-year-old daughter for having a relationship with a dalit youth.

## TOMATO RATE CRASH: FROM ₹100/KG TO ₹14

Madhusudhan SR



From Rs 100/kg just weeks ago, tomato prices plummeted to Rs 14/kg at the Mysuru APMC on Sunday. Officials attributed the drop in prices to reduced demand in northern states due to the import of tomatoes from Nepal. Farmers can now barely break even on costs, and a further drop is expected to Rs 10 to Rs 5 per kg in the wholesale market, said experts

## No 'covert' deal with 'dynastic' BRS, says Shah

**Hyderabad:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday rubbished any suggestion of BJP having a tacit understanding with Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao's BRS, saying the time had arrived for the lotus to bloom in the southern state as voters wake up to the reality of the "corrupt, dynastic party" allegedly cosying up to the "Razakars (militia)".

"BJP will battle both BRS and AIMIM...Congress chief (Mallikarjun) Kharge's statement (about BJP's secret pact) was a pack of lies," he said, adding that just like Congress, BRS and AIMIM believed in dynastic, self-serving politics, reports **Sribala Vadlapatla**. "Congress is a 4G (generation) party of (Jawahar) Nehru, Indira, Rajiv and Rahul (Gandhi), KCR's outfit is a 2G party, and Owaisi's is a 3G party. None of them will come to government," Shah said.

## Some more parties will join INDIA: Nitish

**Patna:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said some more political parties would join the opposition INDIA at its upcoming meeting in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1, reports **Madan Kumar**.

The JD(U)'s de facto chief, who played a major role in bringing together different political parties on one platform, however, did not reveal the names of the likely new entrants. "I wish it should be decided at a faster pace which party will contest which seat," he said.

Nitish said, "A few more parties will join us at the Mumbai meeting. We will again sit together and take some decisions. I wish that the matter related to seat-sharing is decided at a faster pace."

# K'taka labourers demand wage hike, bonus and PF

Vindhya Pabolu | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Farmers' Association president Kurubur Shantha Kumar has blamed the Congress government's poll guarantees for "instilling a sense of complacency in the labour sector".

Blaming the freebies, Bose Mandanna N, former vice-chairman of Coffee Board of India, said, "This (freebies) has impacted estates. If this continues, it will be tough to run plantation business."

Sri Gowra, a coffee grower from Chikkamagaluru, said the in-

dustry was already battling a labour shortage when the rollout of freebies worsened the crisis. "Local labourers have stopped coming to work now. To tide over the crisis, we had to hire workers from other parts of the country. But the problem is they are not skilled. It's a dire situation," he said.

B C Prabhakar, president of Karnataka Employers' Association, said, "Labourers from regions like Hasan and Kalaburagi have refrained from work since the poll guarantees were fulfilled by the Siddaramaiah government.

This has significantly burdened the farmers."

Some of the new demands by labourers are an increase in minimum daily wages from Rs 360 to Rs 460 for eight hours of work, besides introduction of benefits like bonus and PF.

Labour unions insist the poll guarantees may see a positive impact on workers' livelihood rather than create a crisis. All India Trade Union Congress's Karnataka secretary Sathayanand said too much was being made of the freebies. "In fact, the guaranteed benefits are insufficient," he said.

## Paying 40% duty to clear onion containers, no relief despite govt 'assurance': Exporters

**Nashik:** Traders paid 40% export duty on every onion-laden truck and container stuck at the borders and ports to ensure the produce reaches the destination countries. Even as junior minister for health and

family welfare Dr Bharati Pawar had said that commerce minister Piyush Goyal had assured of providing relief for the stuck containers, the traders claimed there was no response from the government, and

they could not wait any longer, reports **Abhilash Botekar**. "Fearing loss of perishable goods and to maintain credibility in the market, we paid the duty," claimed Praveen Kadam, an onion trader.

# In Age of AI, innovation must be our ally & truth our guiding star: Vineet Jain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Artificial Intelligence will change the way news is produced and consumed even as its essence will endure, said Vineet Jain, Managing Director, The Times Group. Stressing that it was important to let "innovation be our ally, and truth our guiding star", he said news media would adapt, but its purpose would remain unaltered: "To inform, inspire, and empower."

Delivering a special address at exchange4media's NEWS-

NEXT summit on Sunday, he said that as newer realms of broadcasting, digital tech and AI opened up, the challenge would be to uphold ethical standards, put out accurate information to maintain credibility and ensure that algorithms remain unbiased and content stays trustworthy.

He added that he firmly believed that journalists are the best self-regulators and have been at the forefront of safeguarding India's hard-fought media freedoms against external threats.

Tracing the emergence of news from print to TV to digital to AI, he said AI is not about replacing tradition, but about amplifying it. "Imagine a world where news is tailored precisely to your interests, where data transforms into insightful stories, AI fact-checks at lightning speed, guarding truth. Language barriers crumble, allowing news to seamlessly transcend linguistic diversity, an essential transformation for a country like India with its multitude of languages and cultures," he said.

# AI cannot replace human element in adjudication: HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi high court held that artificial intelligence (AI) cannot substitute human intelligence or human element in the adjudicatory process. It said ChatGPT cannot be the basis for judging legal or factual issues in a court of law. Justice Prathiba M Singh rejected an attempt by a party in a suit to rely on ChatGPT results to bolster its claim of trademark infringement.

The HC underlined that the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated data is still in the grey area, and such a tool, at best, can be utilised for preliminary understanding or research.

"The said tool (ChatGPT) cannot be the basis of adjudication of legal or factual issues in a court of law... Further, there are possibilities of incorrect responses,

fictional case laws, imaginative data, etc, generated by AI chatbots," the HC noted in a recent order.

The observation came while dealing with a lawsuit by a luxury brand against a partnership firm involved in the manufacture and sale of shoes allegedly in violation of its trademark.

The counsel of the plaintiff said that a shoe name was its registered trademark in India, and placed before the court responses by ChatGPT with respect to its "reputation".

However, the HC noted that the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated data is still in the grey area.

The court ruled that on the basis of analysis, products of the defendant "are knockoffs or lookalikes" of the plaintiff's distinctive footwear and directed the defendant to pay Rs 2 lakh as costs to the plaintiff.

# SC: Get psychologist report before deciding on remission

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court held that a remission board should not entirely rely on the presiding judge or police report and should take a view after getting a report prepared by a qualified psychologist after interacting/interviewing the convict.

"All this is not to say that the presiding judge's view is one of the factors that has no real weight, but instead, that if the presiding judge's report is only reflective of facts and circumstances that led to the conclusion of the convict's guilt, and is merely a reiteration of those circumstances available to the judge at the time of sentencing, then the appropriate government should attach weight to this finding, accordingly. Such a report cannot be relied on as carrying predominance, if it

focuses on the crime with little or no attention to the criminal. The appropriate government should take a holistic view of all opinions received (in terms of the relevant rules), including the judicial view of the presiding judge of the court concerned, keeping in mind the purpose and objective of remission," the SC said.

"If a stereotypical approach in denying the benefit of remission, which ultimately results in premature release, is repeatedly adopted, the entire idea of limiting incarceration for long periods (sometimes spanning a third or more of a convict's lifetime or resulting in an indefinite sentence), would be defeated," the bench said and asked Bihar's remission board to reconsider its decision. TNN

## No basmati rice export below \$1,200/tonne

**New Delhi:** The government on Sunday announced that export of basmati rice below \$1,200 (Rs 99,000) per tonne would not be allowed to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of white non-basmati rice in the garb of premium basmati rice. It said existing contracts below this price have been kept in abeyance.

A committee headed by the chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority will be set up to evaluate the future course of action. The government said due to low price, there was high demand of Indian rice in the international market. To check domestic prices and to ensure domestic food security, export of non-basmati white rice was prohibited on July 20. TNN

## Consecration of Ram temple from Jan 15

**Ayodhya:** The Ram Temple Trust committee has approved the proposal to start the consecration (Pran Pratishtha) ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 15.

"Lakhs of devotees are expected to attend the event. We are making arrangements of food and stay, so as to ensure that no one goes hungry. The arrangement will be from January 15 to February 15, 2024. In view of the winter season, arrangements for warm beds and bonfires are also being considered," general secretary of Ram Temple Trust Champat Rai told TOI.

A series of meetings to discuss the preparations for the event, and remaining construction work of the temple were held on weekend. TNN

## Pawar lauds Shivaji Maharaj's regime

**Pune:** NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a representation of people's power.

"His governance was unique in the sense that it was inclusive and was not seen as a family rule," Pawar said at a function organised at a private institute to mark the release of a book on the coronation ceremony of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. "Many rulers were governing places across the country during the Shivaji Maharaj's era. But his administration was built by uniting common people," said Pawar. TNN

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Please refer to the E-TENDER notice reference No. 465/D-2/PCDF(OPSP)/PPP/2022-23 dated 25.08.2023 captioned "Request for Proposal - Leasing of 06 Dairy Milk Processing Plants in Uttar Pradesh" published in this news paper dated 26.08.2023. Please read "RFP document" in place of "EOI document" in the last para of the said notice.

Managing Director  
PRADSHIK COOPERATIVE DAIRY FEDERATION (PCDF) U.P.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. 06-TMC-BCM-OS-2023-24 Dated 25.08.2023

On behalf of the President of India, CE/TMC, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Tender: **Open Tender No./Due on: 06-TMC-BCM-OS-2023-24** due on 03.10.2023. **Name of work:** Providing service of Deep screening of all types of main line track on BG routes of North Eastern Railway as per scope of service using service provider's own BCM's & allied machines along with his own spares, consumables and staff etc. for operation and maintenance of incidental site work. No transfer of property in goods between service provider and Railways shall be part of the scope of service. **Description of work: Schedule-A** (As per attached tender document). **Qty. Required:** As per attached Schedule in tender document. **Place of work:** To work in NER. **Work Completion Period:** 180 months. **Estimated Tender Value (Rs.):** ₹260,10,32,646.08. **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹1,00,00,000.00. **Note:** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <http://trecps.gov.in> up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. Earnest Money should be deposited through online. 6. Tenderers quoting financial conditions deviating from tender document are required to quantify its implications in financial term duly enclosing the calculation sheet supporting with authentic document, so that the impact of such financial condition on the offer may be worked out to decide inter-positions of offers. In case tenderer quotes such financial condition without quantifying its financial implications, such tenders/offers shall be summarily rejected, for which Railway Administration shall not entertain any correspondence. 7. Tenderers are requested to read complete tender document carefully. 8. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1. Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC-9794840218  
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## US, EU want India help to revive Russian deal

Sachin Parashar  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** As Russia comes under renewed pressure to revive the Black Sea grain deal with Ukraine, the US and EU are also talking to India to see if it can use its influence with Moscow to ensure resumption of Ukrainian grain exports.

While the deal was brokered by the UN and Türkiye last year to attenuate the effects of the war on global food security, India also had played a role in reaching the agreement, as foreign minister S Jaishankar said earlier this year. While EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell was reported to have approached G20 foreign ministers earlier this month for help in getting Moscow to rejoin the deal, the US engaged with India at the UN on the issue as it calls upon Moscow to not "weaponise" hunger.

"I know that parts of the American government are engaging with India at the UN level. This is very impor-

## MbS on state visit to India on Sept 11

**Saudi Crown Prince and PM Mohd bin Salman (MbS)** will pay a state visit to India on Sept 11, a day after the conclusion of the G20 summit. He will participate in the summit and is likely to stay back for the state visit. **TNN**

tant and one of our essential points is that you don't have to be in Europe to see this war affecting all of us. And we want India's food security also to be strong," US ambassador Eric Garcetti told TOI.

According to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, who was in India for the G20 trade ministers meeting last week, the Black Sea Grain Initiative provided a lifeline for hundreds of millions worldwide facing hunger by enabling the delivery of 20 million tonne of grain—mostly, wheat, maize and sunflower oil—to lower and middle-income countries through Black Sea ports.

## PM suggests 'integrated approach' towards crypto

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday made a vigorous pitch for India as a crucial component of the "supply chain". "Today, the world is grappling with this question, I assure you, my friends, that India is the solution to this problem. India holds a crucial position in building an efficient and trusted global supply chain. Therefore, global businesses need to step up their responsibility to make this happen, and together, we must," he said while addressing the B20 meet with industry leaders in attendance.

Without naming China, the PM called for a more balanced approach to doing business. "A profitable market can be sustained when there is a balance in the interests of producers and consumers. This also applies to nations. Treating other countries only as a market will never work. It will harm even the producing countries sooner or later. Making everyone equal partners in progress is the way forward," he said.



The statement, which came days after Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Brics summit, signals India's continued discomfort with its neighbour amid heightened tensions at the borders.

In recent years, India has been seeking to position itself as an attractive investment destination as companies look to diversify their production bases and reduce their dependence on China. He also suggested an "integrated approach" towards cryptocurrency, an issue which is high on India's priority list for the G20 leaders' summit. "We need a global framework, keeping in mind the interests of all stakeholders," he said. Modi also flagged concerns around artificial intelligence. "It is important for the global business community and governments to ensure that ethical AI gets the right attention."

India on Sunday dispatched fighters, aircraft and over 320 personnel for a multi-nation exercise in Egypt, in yet another step to build military interaction with countries in the region. "The objective of the exercise is to practice planning and execution of joint operations," IAF spokesperson said. **TNN**

## 'Opaque initiatives saddling Global South'

**New Delhi:** The core mandate of the G20 is to promote economic growth and development and that cannot be advanced if the crucial concerns of the Global South are not addressed, said foreign minister S Jaishankar who is likely to travel to Cuba next month for a summit of the G77+ China, the largest inter-governmental group of developing countries, reports Sachin Parashar.



Speaking at a business meet on Sunday he said, in an apparent dig at China's lending practices, that the Global South, which was largely reduced to being a consumer rather than a producer, was now even saddled with unviability debt that had resulted from "opaque initiatives".

India on Sunday dispatched fighters, aircraft and over 320 personnel for a multi-nation exercise in Egypt, in yet another step to build military interaction with countries in the region. "The objective of the exercise is to practice planning and execution of joint operations," IAF spokesperson said. **TNN**

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**NOTIFICATION OF EIGHTH CONVOCATION**

It is hereby notified that the Eighth Convocation of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai will be held on 27.10.2023.

Students who have successfully completed Degree / Diploma programmes between 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 will be eligible for award of UG Degrees/PG Degrees/PG Diplomas at the convocation.

Candidates who have already paid the convocation fee and who wish to receive their Degree/Diploma in-person must register online through the link provided on IMU website ([www.imu.ac.in](http://www.imu.ac.in)). The link for 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation Portal will be made live on 28.8.2023. All eligible students are requested to register in the online registration portal for receiving degree/diploma in-person on or before 10.10.2023. Candidates registering after the last date and time (i.e. 10.10.2023 17.00 hrs) will be admitted to the Degree/Diploma only in-absentia and the certificates will be sent to them by speed post.

Candidates who have not paid the convocation fee must also register online and pay the prescribed convocation fee through online mode which is integrated with the online application. No other mode of payment is acceptable. Such candidates have to register and pay convocation fee to obtain their degree/diploma either in-person or in-absentia.

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**The mega manufacturing expo to take place at Autocluster Exhibition Centre, Pimpri-Chinchwad from September 1 to 3**

If you belong to manufacturing and industrial sector, then attending India Fastener Show & Metal Forming Expo is essential for your business growth. Taking place in Pune, the heart of manufacturing in Maharashtra, the exhibitions will take place from September 1 to 3 at Autocluster Exhibition Centre, Pimpri-Chinchwad and will be open to all trade visitors.

Organised by Future Market Events, a leading trade fair organiser, the expo will feature 150+ exhibitors displaying 10,000+ products and technologies and attract 15,000 attendees from across India who are actively looking for innovative manufacturing and allied technologies to enhance their production capabilities. As a buyer, you can source hydraulic/mechanical presses, die and tooling systems, roll forming machines, CNC machining centres, laser cutting and welding, tube and pipe bending machines, heat treatment equipment, robotics and automation & thousands of innovative mechanical, engineering and manufacturing solutions at expo. Siddharth Narain, director of Future Market Events, avers, "We look forward to welcoming the industries to the ultimate sourcing destination, Metal Forming Expo & India Fastener Show."

Chaitali Davangeri, director of Future Market Events says, "We look forward to welcome everyone to India Fastener Show & Metal Forming Expo. The trade fairs are open to everyone and will offer a fantastic opportunity to source new technologies showcased by 150 exhibitors."

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Prominent players such as Micron Precision Screws, LPS Bossard, Metaforge Engineering, Mitter Fasteners, Motson Fasteners, MVD Fasteners, Nexo Industries, Bhupindra Industries, Kaloti Engg. Co., Paragon Group, Ridvan Fasteners India, Saini Industrial Corporation, Shivom Brass Industries, Skipper Limited, Sudhir Automotive Industries, SK Fastener Machinery, Magni India, Bolzen & Mutter India, United Fasteners, Conti Fasteners AG, Grauer & Weil, Pinnaele Fastener, Mita Fasteners, Renson Forge, Empire Fasteners, Torq Fasteners LLP, Motson Fasteners, Varmora Forge, among others are

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*—For editorial queries, contact Pooja.Madhok@timesgroup.com*

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## Sunak may face questions over wife's Infy shares for FTA with India

London: British PM Rishi Sunak could face some transparency questions related to wife Akshata Murty's Infy shares, worth an estimated 500 million pounds, in a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with India, according to a media report. The Observer claims the opposition Labour Party and trade experts are questioning the full financial impact as Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered software service major co-founded by Akshata's father Narayana Murthy, stands to benefit from any such trade deal.

India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA, now in its 12th round of negotiations, as Sunak prepares for his first visit to India as British PM for the G20 summit next month. "As the PM recently learned, it's important he declares any interests properly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too," said Darren Jones, Labour MP. Earlier this week, the UK parliamentary watchdog released its report into an inquiry concluding that Sunak had inadvertently failed to correctly declare his wife's shares in childminding firm Koru Kids that stood to benefit from the government's budget policy.

According to reports, Delhi is pushing London to sign a social security agreement similar to deals it has signed with countries, including Canada, Australia and France, that could exempt Indian workers from social security contributions if they continue to make payments in India. **PTI**

## Russia: Genetic testing confirms Prigozhin death

Identities Of All Plane Crash Victims Established: Report

Russian authorities have officially confirmed the death of the Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, with investigators saying on Sunday that genetic testing showed that the victims of a plane crash last week matched all the names on the jet's manifest.

The announcement put an end to several days of speculation over the fate of the mercenary chief, who was presumed to have died in the plane crash on Wednesday, just two months after he launched a failed mutiny against Russia's military leadership. US and Western officials believe the crash was the result of an explosion on board and several have said they think that Russian President Putin may have had Prigozhin killed in retaliation for his mutiny — suggestions the Kremlin on Friday dismissed as an "absolute lie".

Svetlana Petrenko, a spokesperson for Russia's investigative committee, said in a statement on Sunday that "the identities of all 10 victims have been established" and that "they correspond to the list stated in the flight manifest." Prigozhin and Wagner's top field commander, Dmitri Utkin, were listed as passengers on the plane. Russian authorities had said they were awaiting the results of an investigation before con-



A Russian Su-30 military plane escorted a US reconnaissance Reaper drone on Sunday over the Black Sea, a news agency reported, citing the Russian defence ministry. The drone had not breached Russia's border.

### 2nd ship exits Odesa via new Black Sea route

A vessel carrying steel products to Africa has left Ukraine's Odesa port through a temporary Black Sea corridor, the second ship to do so since Russia withdrew last month from a UN-brokered deal that allowed for grain to be safely exported, a senior Ukrainian government official said on Sunday. Deputy PM Oleksandr Kubrakov said the Liberian-flagged ship PRIMUS had begun sailing through a temporary corridor set up for civilian vessels, confirming a report on Saturday by a Ukrainian lawmaker. Russia threatened to treat all vessels as potential military targets after pulling out of the deal last month. **REUTERS**

firming the identities of the 10 people on board.

In his first comments about the crash, Putin on Thursday spoke obliquely of Prigozhin's death, referring to him in the past tense. "He made some serious mistakes in life, but he also achieved necessary results," Putin said.

Prigozhin led the Wagner private military group, which has operated in Syria, Africa and Ukraine to advance the Kremlin's interests — while gaining a reputation for military effectiveness and severe brutality in Ukraine, the group shored up Russian forces and drew the Ukrainian military into a costly fight for the eastern city of Bakhmut, which Russia captured in May after a nearly year-long battle.

To build out the private army, Prigozhin recruited thousands of ex-prisoners to join Wagner's ranks. He also became increasingly critical of the Russian military leadership's handling of the war in Ukraine, accusing them of corruption and incompetence. In June, Prigozhin led a short-lived mutiny against the top military leadership. The rebellion presented Putin with the most dramatic and public challenge to his two-decade rule, and speculation had been rife that the Russian president would not let such an affront go unpunished. **NVT**

## 3 US Marines die in aircraft crash in Aus during drill

Sydney: Three US Marines died during military exercises in northern Australia on Sunday, the US military said, in an aircraft crash that PM Anthony Albanese called "tragic".

Five others were "transported to Royal Darwin Hospital in serious condition", Marine Rotation Force Darwin said. It said they were among 23 Marines on the tilt-rotor MV-22B Osprey aircraft during routine training exercises and that the cause of the crash was being investigated. The crash occurred on the remote Tiwi Islands after 9am (0100 GMT), said Northern Territory police commissioner Michael Murphy. Australian personnel were not involved in the crash, Albanese said. "Our focus is to make sure that every support and assistance is given at this difficult time," the PM said. **REUTERS**

## Trump has raised \$7.1m since he was booked at jail

Former President Donald Trump has raised nearly \$20 million in the past three weeks, a period that roughly coincides with his indictment in federal and state cases connected to his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him, Trump's campaign spokesman said on Saturday. Since appearing Thursday to have his mug shot taken in a racketeering and fraud case in Atlanta, Georgia, he brought in \$7.1 million, Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said on X. On Friday alone, Trump brought in \$4.18 million, making it the highest-grossing day of his campaign so far, Cheung said. His mug shot has been turned into T-shirts, shot glasses, mugs, posters and even bobblehead dolls by friends and foes alike. **REUTERS**

## Imran questioned in cypher case; admits losing diplomatic cable

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan's incarcerated former PM Imran Khan has admitted to misplacing the cypher that he had previously blamed for an alleged conspiracy against his government by the US. The admission came during an interrogation by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday in Attock jail, where Khan is serving a three-year sentence for a graft case related to the failure to report details of gifts from the state treasury house in annual asset declarations to the nation's election commission.

FIA had registered a case on August 15 against Khan and his PTI party's vice chief Shah Mahmood Qureshi under the Official Secrets Act, 1923. The case stemmed from a report by the US media outlet "the Intercept", which revealed contents of a diplomatic cypher that was allegedly missing from Khan's possession.

During the interrogation, Khan reportedly admitted: "I cannot recall where I kept it (cypher)." He cooperated with the FIA's three-member team during the hour-long questioning, stating that the paper he gestured to at a public gathering last year was not the cypher but rather cabinet meeting minutes. He claimed that it was his right as the PM to have



PTI supporters protest against Imran Khan's arrest in Karachi

the document, but couldn't explain why he presented it as the cypher in public.

This is the second time Khan has been interrogated by the agency in Attock jail in the past month. Sources said this session likely marked the conclusion of the investigation into the cypher issue, with the investigation expected to be finalised in the coming week.

The cypher controversy emerged just before Khan's removal from office through a no-confidence vote in April 2022. He had brandished a paper claiming it was a cable from Pakistan's embassy in Washington, suggesting US authorities sought to overthrow his government. In October 2022, the coalition government of the time agreed to initiate action against Imran. The case gained further traction after Khan's principal secretary Azam Khan, who had been missing for some months, resurfaced and made revelations about the US cypher.

## Protests in Pak against high electricity bills, PM holds meet

Islamabad: Amid a public outcry over inflated electricity bills, Pakistan's interim PM Anwaar ul Haq Kakar held an emergency meeting on Sunday in which he directed authorities to devise "concrete steps" within the next 48 hours for a reduction in electricity bills.

Protests were held in several cities, including Multan, Lahore and Karachi, against the inflated electricity bills on Saturday, some even threatening a civil disobedience campaign if the extra taxes weren't deducted. Last month, the power regulator raised the national average tariff by around Rs 5 per unit, pushing the base unit power tariff from Rs24.8 to Rs29.8. On August 22, the government once again sought to raise the power rate by Rs3.5 per unit. Pakistan has recently jacked up the power charges as per commitment with the IMF.

"We will not take any step in haste that will harm the country. We will take measures that won't further burden the national exchequer and will facilitate the consumers," Kakar said at the meeting. "It is not possible that while the people face difficulties, officials and the PM continue to consume free electricity paid for with the taxes people pay," he added. He even directed relevant departments and ministries to submit to him the details of the officers who were being provided free electricity. **AGENCIES**

## Stronger US-India ties could help get over China dependence: Ramaswamy

Des Moines: Batting for deepening relationship with India, Indian-American Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy said in an interview on Sunday that a "stronger relationship with India would help the US declare its independence from China". He even backed a military relationship with New Delhi in the Andaman Sea. Ramaswamy — a multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur-turned-politician — is currently on a two-day swing to the crucial state of Iowa. On January 15, Iowa would kick off the 2024 Republican presidential primary season.



Vivek Ramaswamy in Iowa

In his first interaction with the Indian media, Ramaswamy appeared to be a strong supporter of the growing In-

dia-US relationship. "I think he (PM Narendra Modi) has been a good leader for India, and I look forward to working with him on building the US-India relationship further," Ramaswamy said in response to a question. He added, "The US should also have a stronger strategic relationship with India, including even a military relationship in the Andaman Sea. Knowing that India, if necessary, could block the Malacca Strait where actually China gets most of its Middle Eastern oil supplies. So, these are areas for real improvement in the US-India relationship. I think that would be good for the US and that's exactly why I would lead accordingly."

Ramaswamy's polling numbers have gone up after the maiden presidential debate in Milwaukee on August 23. During the debate, his fellow Indian-American challenger Nikki Haley told him that he had no foreign policy experience. But Ramaswamy has developed his own vision of America's foreign policy. "The major challenge of US foreign policy is that we're not protecting the homeland. We're fighting wars that don't ad-

vance American interests while leaving the homeland actually vulnerable. So I think it's a mistake for the US to continue engagement in Ukraine. That doesn't advance US national interest," he said. "To the contrary, I think it actually is going to impede US credibility on the global stage. The US needs to focus on China. That's the top threat abroad. And protecting the homeland has to be the top priority at home with actual defence capabilities of the border," he argued. China remains the biggest source of imports into the US. Last year, the bilateral trade hit an all-time high of \$690.6 billion. US imports from China reached \$536.8 billion, accounting for about 17% of its total imports. **PTI**

London: London's metropolitan police force says it has stepped up security after a company that holds details of its officers and staff was hacked. The force said Saturday that there had been "unauthorised access to the IT system" of one of its suppliers. It said the company, which it did not name, had access to names, ranks, photos, vetting levels and payroll numbers for officers and staff, but did not hold personal information. The force said it was "working with the company to understand if there has been any security breach relating to metropolitan police data," and had referred the incident to the National Crime Agency. The metropolitan police federations aid the breach had caused "anger." "This is a staggering security breach that should never have happened," said federation vice chair Rick Prior. **AP**

Seoul: North Korea said Sunday it will allow its citizens staying abroad to return home in line with easing pandemic situations worldwide, as the country slowly eases its draconian coronavirus restrictions.

In a brief statement carried by state media, the state emergency pandemic prevention headquarters said those returning to North Korea will be put in quarantine for a week for "proper medical observation." The statement didn't elaborate. But analysts predicted the announcement would lead to the return of North Korean students, workers and others who have had to stay abroad, mostly in China and Russia, because of the pandemic. The workers are a key source of foreign income for the country. North Korea banned tourists, jettied out diplomats and curtailed border

traffic and trade after the pandemic began. The lockdown has further worsened the North's chronic economic difficulties and food insecurity.

Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said North Korea was preparing to reopen its borders gradually in a bid to revive its economy. On Tuesday, a North Korean commercial jet landed in Beijing in what was the North's first such flight known to leave the country in about 3½ years. **AP**

### JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



Washington: A masked white man carrying at least one weapon bearing a swastika fatally shot three Black people inside a Florida store Saturday in an attack with a clear motive of racial hatred, officials said. The shooting in a Dollar General store in a predominantly Black neighbourhood left two men and one woman dead and was "racially motivated", Jacksonville sheriff T K Waters said. In addition to carrying a firearm with a painted symbol of the genocidal Nazi regime of Germany of the 1930s and 1940s, the shooter issued racist statements before the shooting. He killed himself at the scene. "He hated Black people," the sheriff said.

The shooting came on the same day thousands visited Washington, DC, to attend the Rev. Al Sharpton's 60th anni-



Cops investigate the scene of mass shooting in Jacksonville

versary commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The gunman, who was in his 20s, wore a bullet-resistant vest and used a Glock handgun and an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. He acted alone and there was no evidence he was part of a group, Waters said. The shooter sent written statements to federal law enforcement and at

least one media outlet shortly before the attack with evidence suggesting the attack was intended to mark the fifth anniversary of the murder of two people during a video game tournament in Jacksonville by a shooter. Officials did not release the names of the victims or the gunman.

The shooting happened just before 2pm (local time) within a mile of Edward Waters University, a small, historically Black university. The university said in a statement that the shooter had been on campus earlier that day, though no one was harmed. Shortly before the attack, the gunman sent his father a text message telling him to check his computer, where he found his writings. The family notified 911, but the shooting had already begun, Waters said. **AP**

## Taliban ban women from national park over hijab

Islamabad: The Taliban will use security forces to stop women from visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, according to information shared by a spokesman for the vice and virtue ministry.



FRESH CRACKDOWN

The ministry alleges that women have not been observing the proper way to wear the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, when going to Band-e-Amir in the central Bamian province. This comes a week after the minister, Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, visited the province and told officials and religious clerics that women haven't been adhering to the correct way of wearing the hijab, asking security personnel to stop women from visiting the tourist hotspot. "Going sightseeing is not a must for women," Hanafi said.

Ministry spokesman Mol-

vi Mohammad Sadiq Akif shared a report of Hanafi's remarks Saturday, including the use of security forces, clerics and elders to carry out Hanafi's order. A recording of minister's speech in Bamian, aligning with Akif's report, was shared on social media.

"Not content with depriving girls and women of education, employment, and free movement, the Taliban also want to take from them parks and sport and now even nature," said Heather Barr, the associate women's rights director at Human Rights Watch. **AP**

## London police force supplier's IT system hacked

London: London's metropolitan police force says it has stepped up security after a company that holds details of its officers and staff was hacked. The force said Saturday that there had been "unauthorised access to the IT system" of one of its suppliers. It said the company, which it did not name, had access to names, ranks, photos, vetting levels and payroll numbers for officers and staff, but did not hold personal information. The force said it was "working with the company to understand if there has been any security breach relating to metropolitan police data," and had referred the incident to the National Crime Agency. The metropolitan police federations aid the breach had caused "anger." "This is a staggering security breach that should never have happened," said federation vice chair Rick Prior. **AP**

## N Korea eases Covid curbs, lets citizens abroad return

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North Korea banned tourists, jettied out diplomats and severely curtailed border traffic and trade after the pandemic began

traffic and trade after the pandemic began. The lockdown has further worsened the North's chronic economic difficulties and food insecurity.

Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said North Korea was preparing to reopen its borders gradually in a bid to revive its economy. On Tuesday, a North Korean commercial jet landed in Beijing in what was the North's first such flight known to leave the country in about 3½ years. **AP**

## PIO women in UK given radioactive chapatis in 60s? MP seeks probe

London: A UK opposition Labour Party member of Parliament and shadow minister for women and equalities has called for a statutory inquiry into medical research dating back to the 1960s that led to Indian-origin women being given chapatis containing radioactive isotopes to combat iron deficiency. Taiwo Owatemi, who is the MP for Coventry in the West Midlands region of England, said in a post on X recently that she is "deeply concerned" for the women and families impacted by the study.

Around 21 Indian-origin women identified through a general practitioner in the city were given the bread containing Iron-59, an iron isotope, as part of a research trial in 1969 into iron deficiency in the city's South Asian population. "My foremost concern is for the women and the families of those who were experimented on in this study," said Owatemi.

"I will be calling for a debate after Parliament returns in September, followed by a full statutory inquiry into how this was allowed to happen, and why the recommendation of the MRC (Medical Research Council) report to identify the women was never followed up so that lessons are learnt," she said.

An MRC spokesperson said an independent inquiry, commissioned following a documentary on Channel 4 in 1995, had examined questions raised. **PTI**

### AROUND THE WORLD



People attend the annual Redhead Days Festival in Tilburg, Netherlands

## Hundreds join largest Loch Ness monster hunt in 50 yrs in Scotland

Hundreds of hopeful volunteers joined a two-day hunt for Scotland's fabled Loch Ness monster on Saturday and Sunday, in what organisers described as the biggest search for the elusive "Nessie" in more than 50 years. The Loch Ness Centre, which partnered with voluntary research team Loch Ness Exploration to organise "The Quest", said they would be using surveying equipment that had not previously been tried at the loch, including thermal drones. Volunteers from around the world were allocated locations around the 23-mile (37-km) long lake from which to monitor for any signs of Nessie, while others took to boats. A hydrophone was also used to detect acoustic signals under the water. The first written record of a monster relates to the Irish monk St

Columba, who is said to have banished a "water beast" to the depths of the River Ness in the 6th century. The most famous picture of Nessie, from 1934, showed a head on a long neck emerging from the water, but 60 years later it was revealed to have been a hoax that used a sea monster model attached to a toy submarine.

## Iran files suit against singer urging removal of veils

Authorities in Iran have begun legal proceedings against a prominent pop singer over his latest song urging women to take off their mandatory headscarves, the judiciary said on Sunday. Yarrahi, 41, on Friday released a song called "Roosarito", which means "Your Headscarf" in Farsi, expressing support for last year's protest movement. "A legal case was filed against Mehdi Yarrahi following the release of an illegal song which defies the morals and customs of the Islamic society," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. It was not clear what the formal charges were. Yarrahi was not in custody.

## Japan reports 'harassment calls from China' after Fukushima discharge

Tokyo: Tokyo has urged Beijing to "ensure the safety of Japanese residents in China" after a wave of telephone harassment targeting businesses in Japan sparked by the controversial discharge of Fukushima wastewater.



A boat collects seawater in the sea near the Fukushima N-power plant

While Japan insists the release of the treated water is safe — a view backed by the UN's nuclear watchdog — China has staunchly opposed it and banned all Japanese seafood imports, saying it contaminates the ocean.

Calls from China began flooding Japanese businesses fr-

om Thursday, so much so that many of them had difficulty conducting normal operations. Hiroyuki Namazu, a Japanese diplomat in charge of Asian and Oceanian affairs, voiced

## Seawater radioactivity below limit: Japan

Tests of seawater near Fukushima nuclear power plant have not detected any radioactivity, the Japanese environment ministry said on Sunday, days after authorities began discharging into the sea treated water used to cool damaged reactors. Japan and scientific organisations say the water is safe after being filtered to remove most radioactive elements except for tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Tepco said on Sunday it had not detected any significant change. Fukushima prefecture also published tests from nine locations near the plant that showed tritium below limits. **REUTERS**

his regret about the calls. Similar incidents have also occurred in China against Japanese facilities, he said. "We urge the Chinese government to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese residents in China." Tokyo's embassy in Beijing separately urged its nationals there to refrain from speaking loudly in Japanese. A Fukushima businessper-

son told the Kyodo news agency that his four restaurants and pastry shops received a total of about 1,000 calls on Friday, mostly from China and that he had to unplug the phones. Fukushima city mayor Hiroshi Kohata said in a Facebook post Saturday that the city hall had received around 200 similar calls in two days, while local schools, restaurants and hotels also became targets.

Many Chinese social media users shared videos of themselves making calls to Japanese numbers, including restaurants in Fukushima. **AFP**



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Research & Development Centre, Faridabad  
**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
IndianOil intends to procure commercial Reactor along with jacketed electrical heater, Electrical Feed Pre-Heater, Knife Gate Valve, Screw Conveyor and Scraper/Agitator. IndianOil invites EOI for identification of Vendor(s) for supply of these items through a tender subsequently. The interested vendors should respond within 30 days of publication of this notice. For further details kindly refer the TENDER ID: 2023\_IACL\_724338\_1 in following given weblink (<https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>) Ref. No. RND/EOI/2301

**Notice for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
Due to some technical reasons, the opening of EOIs dated 28.06.2023 against the notice no p.o 410 is being postponed. Further information in this regard would be made available in due time.  
**DCF, MEIT&M  
Forest Department, Uttarakhand**

**MISSING**  
Suresh Singh (Age 80) is Missing, while he was travelling towards Punjab in Himasagar Express's General coach on 21.07.2023 from Aluva Railway Station. For this a missing case was registered in Railway Police Station, Emakulam as Crime No.242/2023 U/s 57 of KP act and the investigation was going on.  
**Identification:** Height: 173 CM Bi Colour , Blue Colour line Shirt and Ash colour Pant wear at the time of missing, white coloured Hair, present Upper row teeth only, wearing Golden colour wrist watch, Languages speaking Punjabi, Hindi & Malayalam.  
**Sub Inspector of Police Railway Police Station, Emakulam. Mob:9446612911. Land: 0484-2376359**

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No.:264/11-12(5-3)/UCRRFP/2023-24 Date: 26 August, 2023

**"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL"**  
Watershed Management Directorate(WMD), Uttarakhand, Dehradun is implementing the **Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project (UCRRFP)** Funded by the World Bank. Under the Project Fund, WMD invites proposals for **Monitoring & Evaluation Consultancy**.  
Request for Proposal document is available on e-procurement portal i.e. [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) The last date for submission of proposal is 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2023.  
For any kind of query the bidder may contact on phone no.0135-2768712, 2760170 or email on wmd-ua@nic.in.  
**PROJECT DIRECTOR, UCRRFP  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE (WMD)  
Indira Nagar Forest Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand Pin: 248006**

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**NOTICE FOR SALE OF BANK OWNED PREMISES**  
Abhyudaya Co-op. Bank Ltd. intends to sell its owned properties, more specifically mentioned hereunder along with the corresponding rights arising out of the ownership thereof, as detailed hereunder on "As is where is, As is what is, Whatever there is basis and without Recourse". The auction sale will be "Online E-Auction" Bidding through the website [www.indiaauction.com](http://www.indiaauction.com).

Sr. No.	Description and Location of Properties	Reserve Price (R.P.) (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (10% of R.P.) (Rs. in Lakh)	"Built - up Area in sq.ft. approx."
1.	New Building at Parel Tank Road, covered from basement, ground and eight upper floors constructed on the plot of land bearing Survey No.198/New C.S. 198 and Collector No.16576 and laughtons Survey No. 4/2422, 1/2422 of Parel Sewri Division bearing CRR No.7327 on G.D. Ambekar Road, Parel Tank Road, Mumbai 400 033.	15500.00	1550.00	42490 sq.ft.
2.	Banking Complex - Unit No. 7, Sector -19, Phase -II, APMC, Vashi, Navi Mumbai - 400 705.	900.00	90.00	5440 sq. ft. + 985 sq.ft. (Terrace) = 6425 sq. ft.
3.	Vikhroli West - Shop No.1, Mayfair Symphony Spring, Parkside, Godrej Hiranandani Link Road, Vikhroli (W), Mumbai-400 079.	265.00	26.50	887 sq. ft.
4.	Kalamboli Steel Chamber - A-Wing, Ground Floor, Steel Chamber Tower, Steel Chamber Kalamboli Business & Office Premises Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Kalamboli, Navi Mumbai-410218.	380.00	38.00	3924 sq. ft.
5.	Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor, Above Abhyudaya Co-op Bank Ltd, Bhiwandi Branch, Gopal Nagar, Bhiwandi, Taluka Bhiwandi, Dist - Thane, 421302	23.69	2.37	515 sq. ft.

The intending purchasers/bidders are required to fill up the tender form and upload the same on the website [www.indiaauction.com](http://www.indiaauction.com) and also pay the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount to be transferred by RTGS to Account No. 001065100000001, IFSC code ABHY0065001 in favour of "Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank Ltd." on or before 11.09.2023 upto 5.00 p.m.  
All the Premises will be kept open for inspection on all working days from 28.08.2023 to 11.09.2023 between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Title Documents of all the properties will be available for inspection at Development Dept., Vashi on any working day from 28.08.2023 to 11.09.2023 between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
The Bank reserves its rights to accept or reject any offer and/or modify, cancel and/or postpone the Auction.  
Online Auction will be conducted for all the properties on 13.09.2023 between 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider Indiaauction.com Pvt Ltd., Mobile No.9821361836, Ph-022-46077830 email : [enquiry@indiaauction.com](mailto:enquiry@indiaauction.com) or [customerservice@indiaauction.com](mailto:customerservice@indiaauction.com) Contact person from Bank Mr. Dilip Pawar 9967845708. Mrs. J.N. Arte 9820991596.  
Detailed terms and conditions of the sale are set out in the Tender Forms which are available on Bank's website [www.abhyudayabank.co.in](http://www.abhyudayabank.co.in) as well as on [www.indiaauction.com](http://www.indiaauction.com)  
Date : 28/08/2023  
Place : Navi Mumbai  
Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
Dy. Gen. Manager - Development Dept.

**TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)  
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259  
Website: [www.tnmsc.in](http://www.tnmsc.in) E-Mail: [gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in](mailto:gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in), [mgprdrugs.tnmsc@tn.gov.in](mailto:mgprdrugs.tnmsc@tn.gov.in)

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Veterinary Drugs** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule 'M') issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of Veterinary Drugs to TNMSC Ltd., under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance.	e-017(M/P)/VET-DRUG/ TNMSC/2023, Dated, 28.08.2023	28.08.2023 at 5.00 PM to 04.10.2023 upto 4.00 PM	11.09.2023 at 10.00 AM to 04.10.2023 upto 4.00 PM	04.10.2023 at 5.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at [www.tnmsc.in](http://www.tnmsc.in) for reference purpose.  
Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)  
DIPR/4752/Tender/2023

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## Careful planning necessary to maximise positive impact of dual board exams

c-Puniti.Pandey@timesgroup.com

While launching the New Curriculum Framework for school education in sync with National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), the Union Education Ministry noted that board examinations in the country would be conducted twice a year. He further said that the students will be allowed to retain the best score out of the two exam scores.

The academics ponder over the merits and drawbacks of dual board exams in the country. While it could offer more chances for improvement and enhance academic competitiveness, it might also lead to increased stress levels and a casual approach towards studies, they claim.

**Students will have an option to enhance their scores**

"The consequences of introducing two board exams in a year would heavily depend on the logistics and implementation strategy. If schools are required to complete the syllabus within the current time frame, it might lead to increased pressure on both students and teachers. On the positive side, it would offer students a chance to enhance their scores if they previously could not perform well due to health or family issues," says Nalini Shetty, principal, RBK School, Mira Road, Thane (ICSE Board). "Introducing two board exams could potentially provide students with more opportunities for college admissions. Similar to universities abroad, colleges might need to open admissions twice a year, accommodating students from both exam sessions. This could be beneficial for those who may have not performed well in the first attempt," she adds.

"Holding board exams twice can also result in negative impacts like students may become more casual towards the exams, assuming that they have a second chance to improve. This approach might undermine the seriousness towards studies and dilute their performance," she says.

"With two exams, students might experience reduced pressure in terms of content volume to be covered at once. This could lead to better retention of knowledge and a deeper understanding of subjects. Having more frequent assessments can provide a better representation of a student's academic performance, as it reduces the stakes associated with a single high-stakes exam. Frequent exams allow for more timely feedback to students,



helping them understand their strengths and weaknesses in a timely manner, and enabling them to make necessary improvements," says Dhriti Malhotra, director principal, MRIS Sector 46 Gurugram.

**Conducting and grading exams is time-consuming**

"The other consequences of this can be that instead of reducing stress, having two examinations could potentially increase stress due to the need to prepare for exams more frequently. If the focus shifts towards exam preparation and cramming, the overall quality of education might suffer as teachers and students prioritise exam-specific content over holistic learning. Conducting exams is time-consuming for educators. Maintaining uniform standards across two exams in a year could be challenging. The difficulty level and content covered in each exam would need to be carefully calibrated. Careful planning and consideration would be necessary to maximise the positive impacts and mitigate the negative consequences," adds Malhotra.

**Impact on future job prospects**

"Introduction of two board exams a year might make the academic landscape more competitive. Students will be required to consistently perform well to secure admissions and maintain a strong academic record. This could eventually lead to a workforce that is better prepared academically. In the long run, this might contribute to a job market that values consistent academic performance," Shetty adds.

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## A thought for today

To hell with circumstances;  
I create opportunities

BRUCE LEE

## Not Quite Jai Kisan

Farm export bans limit rural incomes.  
GOI should offer export parity prices

GOI on Sunday tightened restrictions on basmati exports. A minimum price for exports has been fixed at \$1,200 per metric tonne. A contract below the floor price will be evaluated by a GOI committee for clearance. This move needs to be read in the context of two preceding moves to discourage rice exports. In July, exports of non-basmati white rice were prohibited. Subsequently, on August 25, GOI imposed a 20% export duty on parboiled rice. GOI's explanation for Sunday's decision is that it's meant to prevent exporters circumventing rice export bans by misclassifying the product as basmati.

International rice prices are surging - FAO rice price index in July 2023 reached its highest level since September 2011. India has been the world's biggest rice exporter for over a decade and the commodity makes up 18.5% of the country's agri-export basket. In volume terms, non-basmati varieties dominate India's rice exports. In addition to measures to discourage rice exports, GOI this month also imposed a 40% export duty on onions. The combined impact of these measures is that Indian farmers face an income cap at a time when the global demand-supply scenario is in their favour: Indian consumers, on the other hand, will benefit.

GOI's attempt to put a lid on domestic food inflation makes sense. Controlling inflation is essential to ensuring India's macroeconomic stability. However, it doesn't have to come at the expense of farmers. The current approach makes it a zero-sum game, helping consumers at the expense of farmers. A way out is for GOI to mop up agricultural products singled out for export restriction or bans at an export parity price, which represents a price farmers would have got if they had been allowed to fulfil their export contracts. This stock can be offloaded in the market to keep prices under check.

It will impose a fiscal cost but any temporary measure can be offset through savings elsewhere, something that happens every year. There are long-term benefits to using export parity prices. Capping farm income in a good year has a negative impact on their willingness to support agricultural reforms. Reforms are characterised by upfront costs and benefits follow once the results show up. However, if farmers are apprehensive about policy instability, convincing them about reforms will be hard even if they are aware that the status quo is unsustainable.

## Teach The Teacher

Religion baiting in schools must be responded to by swift and strict penal action. Delays send wrong messages

Schools nowhere are places where only angels tread. Teacher misconduct is also not uncommon. But, still, schools as sites of religion baiting are shocking, especially when backed by those in authority. What happened in a school in UP's Muzaffarnagar, even in a state no stranger to communal politics of the worst kind, can only be responded to by strict and swift penal action. The police has registered a case under IPC section, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued notices under the Right to Education Act and the Juvenile Justice Act and a state government inquiry has commenced. But the teacher is still making statements and not in custody. Do you need any more prima facie evidence to take preliminary police action? Note that a principal in a J&K school, where a boy was beaten for apparently writing Jai Shri Ram on the board - a clear case of misconduct by authorities - has been arrested.

In research going back more than a decade (Hanna and Linden 2009), discrimination towards minority students was noted among teachers in a medium-sized Indian city. The conclusion was drawn on the basis of scoring an exam with substituted student identities. The investigation also found that much of the discrimination came from minority teachers themselves, which suggested that minority teachers may be internalising particular beliefs about their communities.

These are not abstract academic concerns. Discrimination in schools is and can be a lived reality - and what it does to young minds and how that shapes the adult behaviour of those children when they grow up, should be a matter of deep concern for educators and policymakers. Caste prejudice plays out even in elite institutions like IITs. Making an example out of teacher-offenders like the one in Muzaffarnagar is a good start to tackling this toxicity.

## You stole my brain

Yashica, Zoya, new media  
and an old plague

Bachi Karkaria

It's gone OTT, the excessive barking and snarking sparked by Yashica Dutta's allegation against the OTT-platform series, *Made in Heaven*. The journalist alleged that the character of Pallavi Menke in Season 2 was based on her life and book, *Coming Out As a Dalit*, without credit or fee. Zoya Akhtar and the other creators of the ballsy series pooh-pooed the claim in a detailed statement. The attack was launched from social media, a meta *maidan-e-jung* more eye-ball grabbing than courts. So the old plague of plagiarism turned into an outrageous epidemic before you could say 'Insta'.

Was Dutta right and wronged? Plagiarism is as easy to claim as to rebut, though now you can app-check originality. Shakespeare borrowed from *Plutarch's Lives* without so much as a by-thine-leave. Today's hot bestseller *Yellowface* is about a failed author chancing upon the manuscript of her feted now-dead friend, polishing it up and passing it off as her own to great acclaim and, then, greater savaging - again thanks to virulent social media. How justified is the protagonist in insisting that her own research, her elegant crafting make her the original author, not a grave-robbler?

Recently at Stratford, I saw *The Empress*, lauded as a brutal expose of the exploited world of ayahs and laskars, but as much of it was straight out of *Victoria and Abdul*. When I indignantly mentioned this to Shrabani Basu, she despaired over how her original had become a free-for-all. 'Everyone says the story is in the public domain, but I know how I found it first.'

Non-fiction is 50 shades of grey. You perforce climb on the shoulders of previous research, but you honestly acknowledge the debt. Or you don't. Like that TV series on the Nanavati case. It had straight lifts from my then-recent best-seller, but my publisher refused to sue on the same 'public domain' plea. My deep delve into jury and judgments, the unflinching search for first-person accounts, the fresh perspectives counted for naught. And worldly wiser friends warned, 'You'll make no dent on that producer.' Maybe I should have taken my plaint to the armchair *adalat* of social media whose winner outcome is publicity.

\*\*\*

Alec Smart said: " 'Bharatiya' or 'Indian', all we want is better 'Nyay'."

## Four For The Future

India's commerce minister argues Modi gov't impact is transformational and that it rests on sound economic policies, big welfare spend, better governance & anti-graft drive

Piyush Goyal



From the ramparts of Red Fort, PM Modi has articulated his grand vision of a long-lasting golden era of progress and prosperity for India, as *Maa Bharti* bounces back confidently after a thousand years of slavery, subjugation and impoverishment.

Modi, India's first prime minister who was born after Independence, is optimistic about the country's future. His confidence stems from tangible progress after more than nine years of relentless work to decisively uplift each member of the family of 140 crore Indians in every part of the country, irrespective of their religion, region, gender, caste, age or ethnic identity.

Every policy of the Modi government reflects his mantra of 'reform, perform and transform', which is delivering results, particularly for the poor and the underprivileged. This has helped India make the quantum jump from being the world's 10th largest economy to the fifth rank in nine years, and on track to become the third biggest soon.

This ascent has been propelled by sound economic policies, determined clampdown on corruption, plugging of leakages in government expenditure, increased efficiency and transparency in governance, and generous welfare schemes.

A key part of the transformation is India's women-led development. As PM said, India has more women pilots than any other country, and they are at the forefront of high-tech programmes like the Moon missions. It is a matter of pride that more girls are taking up science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) than boys. PM aims to create two crore *lakshpati didis* in villages, and involve women in operating and repairing drones.

In this transformational journey, the Modi government is liberating the poor from their lifelong struggle for *roti, kapda aur makaan*. It has provided direct



A key part of the transformation is India's women-led development. As PM said, India has more women pilots than any other country, and they are at the forefront of high-tech programmes like the Moon missions. It is a matter of pride that more girls are taking up science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) than boys

encouraging talented young men and women to create startups, which is converting job seekers into job creators.

Under the Modi government's MUDRA loan scheme, ₹23 lakh crore have been disbursed to create eight crore new entrepreneurs. About 70% of them are women entrepreneurs and 51% of the beneficiaries

are from SC/ST or OBC categories. In this phase of optimism during Amrit Kaal, in which PM's visionary leadership will make India a developed country, there are some people who are nervous. They seem rattled by PM's call to combat three evils: corruption, dynastic politics and appeasement.

Their fears are understandable. The government has taken a series of initiatives to weed out corruption with effective law enforcement, use of technology, and removal of archaic laws that have been misused to harass people and extort bribes. PM has also ensured that every government initiative treats all citizens as equals, unlike the policies of appeasement in the past, which have damaged social harmony.

PM Modi has correctly highlighted the evil of dynastic politics. In this brand of politics, members of a particular family occupy the top position of a political party irrespective of merit, with no chance for a deserving party member to rise to the top.

The government's determination to crush these evils has enthused the masses, but some opposition parties are gloomy. They can't conceal their negativity.

When one such party led a coalition government, it regularly faced corruption scandals involving lakhs of crores of public money. Its prime minister once said this was a compulsion of coalition politics. There cannot be a more unfortunate situation than a PM being unable to provide honest administration because he has to keep the coalition intact. The family that runs the party engineered a system that gave it power without accountability.

In contrast, for PM Modi, governance is all about honesty, accountability, transparency and a burning desire to improve the lives of citizens. For him, 'family' means all the 140 crore people in India, who trust his caring and compassionate leadership, which makes him India's most effective and most popular *Pradhan Sevak*.

## The Shadow Army Of China's Communist Rulers

Beijing's United Front Work Department influence activities pose a serious threat to democracies, including India. New Delhi must keep its guard up as crucial elections approach

Sana Hashmi



Although Modi and Xi recently met on the sidelines of the Brics summit - where the two sides reportedly agreed on expeditious disengagement from the LAC standoff - it is important to remember China has employed assertive and coercive strategies in its interactions with nations that do not align with its interests. However, a particularly influential approach has been its utilisation of united front strategy to exert influence globally. The prominence of united front work has witnessed a remarkable surge under Xi's rule. In his 2017 address at the 19th Party Congress, Xi referred to the united front work as a "magic weapon" that is crucial for realising the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation". He emphasised that "forming a broad patriotic United Front is vital for the success of the mission of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)."

## China's 'magic weapon'

Naturally, significant resources are allocated to support the United Front Work Department (UFWD), both domestically and internationally. Overseas efforts involve influencing ethnic Chinese communities, leveraging the Chinese diaspora, and luring scholars, journalists and politicians alike in host countries to achieve objectives such as presenting a positive image of China and potentially impacting election results in democratic nations. Important examples include Canada's claims of Chinese interference in its federal elections in 2019 and 2022, and former Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull's assertions regarding CCP's concerted efforts to sway public affairs in Australia.

Additionally, a frequently observed instrument of UFWD is the deployment of Chinese students studying in international universities. These students are tasked with monitoring and reporting the activities of fellow Chinese students to the Chinese embassies, as well as staging protests against figures like the

Dalai Lama during their campus visits.

## Additional challenge for New Delhi

While India has remained relatively shielded from certain elements often linked with China's united front strategy, such as Confucius Institutes, the Chinese embassy in India has emerged as a key player in UFWD's activities within the country. This is predominantly achieved through the strategic utilisation of social media platforms to mold and influence public sentiments on critical matters such as Taiwan, the One China Policy, and to cultivate a favou-



nable image of China among the people of India.

The central thrust of UFWD's activities in India centres on funding some think tanks and non-governmental organisations, and influencing journalists and key figures within the strategic community. Notably, there have been instances where individuals posing as scholars affiliated with reputable Singaporean think tanks approached Indian scholars and journalists, aiming to solicit articles about China.

Furthermore, certain Chinese journalists stationed in India collaborated closely with UFWD. India's recent non-renewal of visas of Chinese journalists further underscores this concern. On multiple occasions, some Chinese journalists based in India conducted visits to restricted Tibetan settlements

without revealing their true affiliations and identities.

## Carrot and stick approach

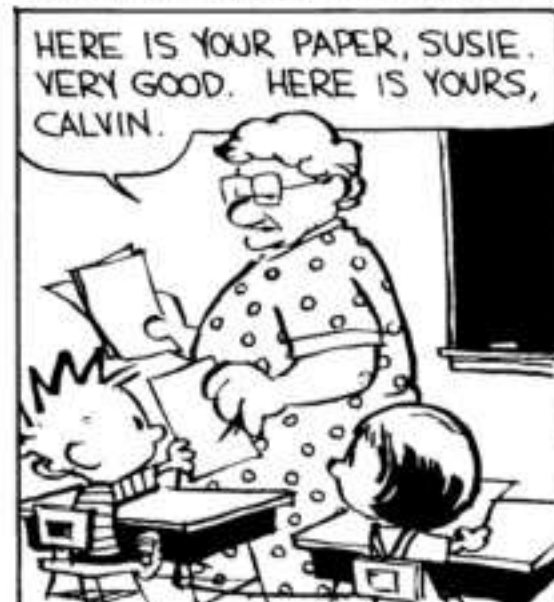
China's influence operations extend beyond scholars and journalists; they now encompass the active engagement of some Indian influencers and video bloggers, exemplified by invitations to visit China. This reflects a calculated effort to alter the prevailing narrative and portray a positive picture of India-China relations, fostering the perception that China is a welcoming and attractive tourist destination for Indians. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the contrasting reality. China's actions, such as issuing stapled visas to the residents of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, coupled with the disregard for India's concerns regarding border issues, paint a different and less amicable picture. Such discrepancies reveal a divergence between UFWD's tactics in India and China's failure to address India's legitimate concerns.

India has proactively countered China's influence operations to shape the narrative through a series of strategic measures. Noteworthy among these steps are the bans imposed on controversial Chinese apps like Tik-Tok, the halting of Huawei's 5G trials in India, enhanced scrutiny of incoming Chinese investments, and the implementation of stringent visa regulations for Chinese journalists and scholars by India's ministry of external affairs. Amidst the growing tensions between India and China and the increased apprehensions surrounding UFWD, India has also sought appointment of Mandarin teachers from Taiwan instead of China.

In the aftermath of the 2020 Galwan clashes, China's ability to influence public opinion in India has significantly waned. This shift is effectively underscored by the recent Pew Survey findings, where 67% of Indian respondents expressed an unfavourable perception of China. The upcoming Indian elections call for a close monitoring of China's influence operations as well as blocking attempts at influencing public policy.

The writer is a Fellow at Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation and George HW Bush Foundation for US-China Relations

## Calvin &amp; Hobbes



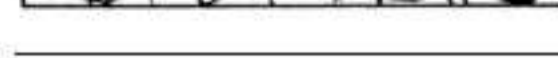
HERE IS YOUR PAPER, SUSIE. VERY GOOD. HERE IS YOURS, CALVIN.

BY THE WAY, YOU CAN STOP SIGNING YOUR WORK "CALVIN, BOY OF DESTINY," AND I THINK YOUR TIME WOULD BE BETTER SPENT STUDYING THAN DRAWING "OFFICIAL NOTARY SEALS" AT THE BOTTOM.

BOY OF DESTINY? THAT'S RIGHT, BOY OF DESTINY!

EVERYONE I KNOW THINKS YOUR DESTINY IS A PRIVATE CAGE IN THE PRIMATE HOUSE.

YOUR DESTINY IS TO HAVE A SMILE THAT'S ALL GUMS.



## Does Life Seem Like A Game Of Chess?

Ramesh Bijlani

Life is a game, it is said, and that all creation is unwittingly participating in a lila, game, being played by the Creator. What type of games are these? Do these games have any resemblance to chess, the game that has attracted a lot of attention during the last few days?

Chess is a game involving strategy, a game in which 'nothing' is hidden, a game in which winning is not by chance. There are only two players, and winning needs threatening the opponent's king with inescapable capture.

In the Creator's lila, there is a design, although not a strategy; and nothing is hidden from Him. The board is "measureless", and each of us is "one more pawn who comes destined to be pushed," says Sri Aurobindo in his epic poem, *Savitri*. But there can be no winner or loser, for there is no other

with whom the Creator has to compete. However, man has been designed for being more than just a pawn to be pushed around. Within each human being are planted two players. One of these, the surface self, apparently makes all the clever moves with its army of the body and the mind to protect its king, the Ego, from getting captured. The other, the deepest Self, moves rather silently with its army of Truth, confident that its king, Love, cannot be captured. The game begins when the self becomes aware of the Self.

The discovery happens when a revealing "light falls on our vexed, unsatisfied lives". However, that is just the beginning. Our mind has a million strategies to prevent the capture of the Ego, one of them being the accumulation of a vast

body of scientific knowledge that reduces the Infinite "to square and cube". The pursuit of scientific knowledge leads only to truths that one can "find and hold but not the one Truth". The result is that while man may not feel being pushed around helplessly like a pawn, he is actually "zigzagged at the gesture of a chess-player Will/ getting captured. The other, the deepest Self, moves rather silently with its army of Truth, confident that its king, Love, cannot be captured. The game begins when the self becomes aware of the Self.

Across the chequerboard of cosmic fate". The zigzagging only prolongs the game, while the Self works silently by sweet seduction using the Power of Truth, which does not need the crutch of strategy.

At the end of life, the game ends with a little more self-knowledge than when the game began. The game is terminated but continues in the next life, and so it goes on life after life, until the self concedes defeat, happily and willingly. The person becomes one with his

deepest Self. The separative Ego has been captured and replaced by Love inspired by identification of the self with the Self, the realisation of oneness of the self with all other selves. The individual continues participating in the game, but not as a helpless pawn.

The person starts the game with the feeling that he is one and ends with the realisation of being One. Between the two extremes is the phase of division, when the self plays a game designed by the Creator to take the individual from self-discovery through self-knowledge to Self-realisation. The game lasts several lives, but its end is fixed. How the individual games begin and how they end is the game being played by the Creator. Thus, there are games within a game, both having some features of chess.

The writer, once a professor at AIIMS, New Delhi, is now with Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi

## Sacredspace

## Train Your Mind

Whenever you are not pressed for time or work, turn your attention to your respiratory process. Feel your breath going out and coming in. Slowly train your mind to be in the present. Life is lived in the present, and mind is lost if it dwells either in the past or in the future.

Swami Sukhabodhananda



## erratica





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# FDI inflows fall 34% to \$11bn in June qtr as MNCs go slow

## Maha Remains Top Destination Despite 13% Decline To \$4.5Bn

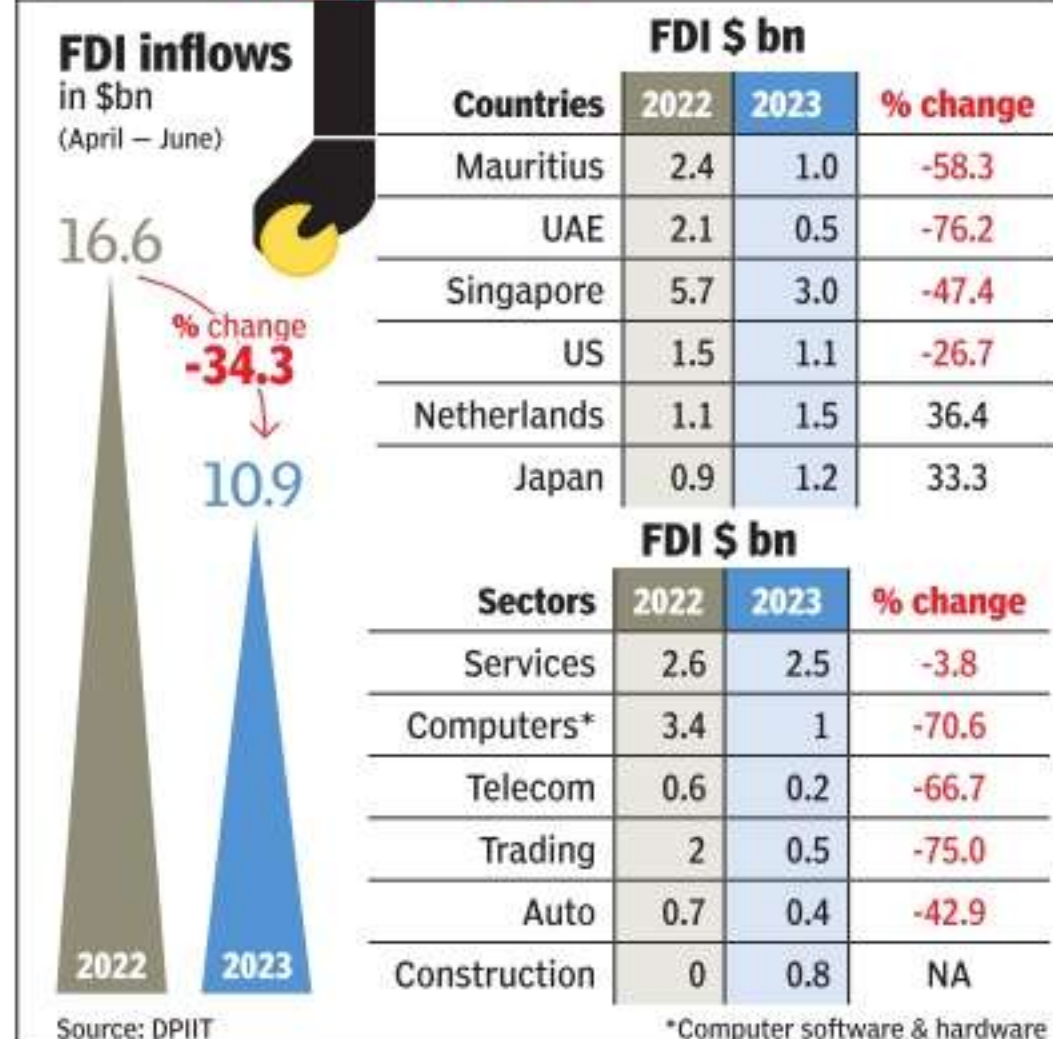
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows dropped 34% to \$10.9 billion during the June quarter from the year-ago period, government data showed. Amid an aggressive investment pitch by India, government officials said companies are holding back on fresh funding due to the slow-down in Europe and the US, which has been aggravated by geopolitical tensions.

Other countries have also been hit, with China reporting a 2.7% decline although some, such as Indonesia, have bucked the trend so far in 2023. For the last few months, FDI inflows to India have remained depressed, with 2022-23 being the first time in nearly a decade when overseas direct investments into the country declined.

Data released by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) showed that barring construction — which included building housing and townships — all major sectors saw a dip (see graphic). The Netherlands and Japan were the only countries that saw an increase in inflows.

### UNDER PRESSURE



showed that barring construction — which included building housing and townships — all major sectors saw a dip (see graphic). The Netherlands and Japan were the only countries that saw an increase in inflows.

DPIIT data showed that Maharashtra remained the top destination with equity inflows of \$4.5 billion in the June quarter, as against \$5.2 billion during the same period last year, marking a decline of 13.5%.

Karnataka saw a 46% fall to just under \$1.5 billion during this period. Gujarat saw a 77% slump from \$3.2 billion to \$730 million. Despite a 1.9% decline to \$1.9 billion, Delhi emerged as the second largest destination for FDI equity flows.

Separately, RBI data released earlier this month estimated a 28% fall in gross FDI inflows to \$17.6 billion in the first quarter of the fiscal as companies held back investments amid the global slowdown. Multinational companies also stepped up repatriation of equity, which added up to \$10.4 billion in the June quarter.

## Vedanta wins arbitration against govt in ₹9.5k cr case

New Delhi: Mining magnate Anil Agarwal's Vedanta has won an arbitration against a demand for a higher payout from its Rajasthan oil and gas fields after disallowance of Rs 9,545 crore (about \$1.2 billion) in certain costs incurred, the company said.

According to a contract, companies are allowed to recover all costs incurred before splitting profit in a predetermined ratio with the government. If a certain portion of cost is disallowed, it would result in higher profits and a resultant higher share to the government. Vedanta had challenged such a demand before an arbitration tribunal.

The government has sought additional profit petroleum (or its share from the oil and gas fields) after it reallocated certain costs between the fields in the block and disallowed a portion of the cost incurred on laying a pipeline to transport oil produced from the Rajasthan block.

It, however, did not give details of the arbitration award. "The company is in the process of reviewing the award in detail and evaluating its financial impact," it said.

It is not known if the government will abide by the arbitration award. It has previously challenged all arbitration awards it has lost. AGENCIES

# 'Gen AI's impact will be as big as printing press'

## It Will Enter Every Area Of Knowledge Work, Cos Need To Create Guardrails: Microsoft Prez Smith

Shilpa Phadnis & Sujit John | TNN

Everybody in the tech world, and even outside it, is talking about generative AI today. That's also what we discussed with Brad Smith, Microsoft's VC & president, who is in India to be part of the G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. Smith joined Microsoft 30 years ago and today, he's representing it publicly on critical issues involving the intersection of technology and society. Microsoft is at the centre of the gen AI world with its massive investment in OpenAI — the non-profit that developed ChatGPT. Excerpts:

like the iPhone or the internet or electricity... we've had time to reflect on it and my view is that it is probably most similar to the printing press.

The printing press was perfected by Gutenberg in 1462 with movable type, and it made knowledge accessible to more people. Similarly, I think gen AI is a tool to help people learn and research. I experien-

way into every area of knowledge work that we have.

There are concerns that gen AI involves huge costs & energy consumption, that OpenAI is bleeding... We're still in relatively early days. I think we will see large-scale models that, in effect, can be used to do many things. GPT-4 is a good example of

"The next generation of our skilling work in India is clearly around AI skills and I'm very excited about the opportunity to talk to the government about where they see this going, and where we see it going, and how we can work together"



Brad Smith | VICE-CHAIR & PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT

### Is it gen AI that excites you the most right now?

It's fair to say that this is the year of AI, and gen AI is obviously the focal point. It's one of the years that I think will stand out historically as an inflection point for the history of technology and the tech sector. Gen AI will probably be more transformative for people's lives than any other invention of our lifetime.

Give us a sense of this transformation you expect. After ChatGPT first came out, we were talking about if it's

ce that myself when I use something like Bing chat or what we're now developing — the M365 Copilot. It's a tool that one can use to create, to write more quickly, to turn a Word document into a PowerPoint deck and vice versa. It's a tool that people who write code for a living are using to write more of their code. But we call it a co-pilot, not an autopilot... you need to continue to think. Just like the printing press, it can copy books but you are still needed to write and read them. And when one puts it in those terms, you start to see how it can make its

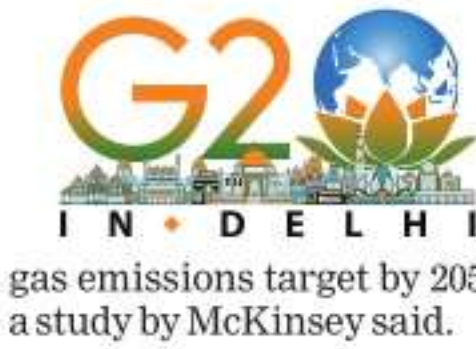
that. I think you'll see other narrower models, including open-source models, that probably won't do as many things well, but they may do one or two things as well as a large-scale model. Not everything is going to be larger and there's a lot of innovation in our future to try to understand how these things come together.

There are concerns about the damage AI could do in the absence of regulations. First of all, we need companies to create their own guardrails, and that's what we've been doing for seven years now.

# 'G20 ecos need to spend \$35tn more for net-zero'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: G20 economies would need to invest about an estimated \$35 trillion this decade, over and above the current spending, to be on track to reach net zero greenhouse



"While G20 economies have made tangible progress in reducing emissions in recent years, CO2 emissions need to further decrease by almost 50% by 2030 as against 2020 levels to reach the net zero goal on time. To

achieve that goal, much of the investment needed would need to be made upfront to successfully transform the world's energy and land use systems," analysts at the management consulting firm said.



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# Cos' biz gets boost after insolvency process: Study

## 'New Owners Face Issues With Tax Authorities, Banks, RBI'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Companies that have been through the insolvency process show a significant improvement in business parameters but their new owners face challenges in dealings with tax authorities, banks and even RBI, a study by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad said.

For instance, some of the companies said that banks refused to remove the "defaulter" tag even after resolution, making it difficult for them to access loans. Wherever loans were available, the terms were a little tough.

"A lack of general awareness about the new resolution process by all stakeholders has been pointed out by the respondents. This has

### 50% RISE IN AVERAGE ASSETS

Average sales up 76% in 3 years, companies which have been resolved have operationally broken even

130% jump in capex, 50% rise in average assets

3 Times jump in aggregate market valuation after resolution, estimated at ₹6 lakh crore

50% jump in average staff expenses of companies

led to delays in getting necessary clearances from these departments and an overall delay in the resolution process. A transparent online mechanism was proposed to issue no dues/claims once the process is completed as a step to solve the issue. This will enable firms to engage freely with banks on a clean slate," the report said.

The companies participating in the resolution exercise have also flagged concerns over the performance of some of the resolution professionals as well as repeated attempts by litigants to delay the process and called for mechanisms to stop unnecessary litigation.

But the financial performance of the companies that were taken up for ac-

tion under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has improved, the study showed. There was a 76% jump in the average sales of the companies three years after resolution. Staff strength also went up, which was indicated by an increase in the average wage bill by around 50%. Overall employment across these companies also seems to have increased substantially during the post-resolution period.

"The trends in the market capitalisation of listed resolved firms indicate a significant revival in the average market valuations in the post-resolution period, which is expected given the growth opportunities that will accrue to these firms post the resolution with creditors," the report said.

## 'Govt, cos need to work together for climate fin'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Governments and the industry need to step up their efforts and work together to finance climate transition, business leaders said at the B20 summit.

"The cost and complexity of this journey are going to be significant. We should not underestimate that... So, you need government support. The industry can support part of the cost, but the cash flows of the industry in mature markets cannot underwrite the cost of transition. So, you need government support. You also need customers to be willing to pay more for green products," said T V Narendran, CEO & MD at Tata Steel.

"The cost and complexity of this journey are going to be significant. We should not underestimate that... So, you need government support. You also need customers to be willing to pay more for green products"

T V Narendran  
TATA STEEL,  
CEO & MD

The model that the world needs to move to is gap funding provided by governments and supplemented by some of the current economic profits from businesses worldwide and add these two and hand them over to appropriate institutions...

Uday Kotak |  
KOTAK BANK, CEO

Uday Kotak, CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said private businesses cannot be expected to do the loss-bearing funding for a project unless there's gap capital coming in separately. "The model that the world needs to move to is gap funding provided by governments and supplemented by some of the current economic profits from businesses worldwide. Add these two and hand them over to appropriate institutions including multilateral institutions to be able to leverage this capital at seven, eight, 10 times... so you create a large enough pool of global capital..." Kotak said.

# TVS lines up ₹4k cr for premium, electric play

## Eyes New Petrol & Electric Platforms With BMW's Motorrad For Indian, Global Markets

Pankaj.Doyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Eyeing a larger share of business from global and electric, TVS Motors will invest Rs 3,900 crore over the next four to five years to boost its green portfolio, just as the company develops an all-new petrol and electric platforms with BMW's Motorrad for the Indian and international markets, MD Sudarshan Venu has said.

Sudarshan, who took over the reins of the business from father (and chairman emeritus) Venu Srinivasan, wants TVS to have a bigger share of premium in its sales, while eyeing a bigger pie of business from electric — including through e-bikes in Europe. The company counts the broadening of its relationship with BMW as one of the key pillars in its future vision, while aggressively pursuing new product launches individually and also through its acquisitions.

"We have envisaged a 'Vision 2030' that will see the company work on sustainable and safe mobility solutions, with a focus on global markets and electric. TVS



GREEN PUSH: TVS MD Sudarshan Venu with X electric scooter

wants scalable technology platforms and solutions as we move ahead from here," Sudarshan told TOI as the company launched a premium electric scooter, called TVS X, priced at an ambitious Rs 2.5 lakh. The new product is placed over TVS' iQube electric, which currently is the second-largest selling green scooter model with monthly sales of around 10,000 units in the recent past.

Of the new investment, Rs 900 crore will be invested this fiscal, while the rest will come progressively over the next three to four years as the com-

pany re-orient itself from a pure-play two-and-three-wheeler entity to one that is focused on connected, sustainable and greens. TVS has "no plans at all" for cars, Sudarshan added when asked if four wheelers are on the agenda.

The company has completed a decade of partnership with BMW to manufacture sub-500cc motorcycles for the globe. The collaboration resulted in products (manufactured at TVS' Hosur factory) derived out of a 300cc platform, which include BMW G 310 R, BMW 310 GS, and TVS Apache RR 310.

"It's been a very special relationship with BMW. You've already seen great products coming out of this, and you will see more products... We are looking at two new platforms — at least one for electric and one for ICE (internal combustion engine)," he said.

On Norton Motorcycles, Sudarshan said plans are to develop it as a "global brand" with new products that may be electric. TVS also looks at a strong play in e-bikes in Europe through the acquisition (75% stake) in Swiss E-Mobility Group (SEMG).

## Smaller cases, under ₹50L, may not be reassessed

► From P 1

The SC had held that I-T officials cannot make any addition to a taxpayer's income during a reassessment proceeding under section 153-A of the I-T Act, in the absence of any incriminating material. However, the SC had further held that reassessment could be resorted to through the reassessment procedure under section 147/148, if the conditions therein were fulfilled — such as giving the taxpayer the right to be heard. In the backdrop of CBDT's instruction, SC advocate Deepak Joshi said: "In simple words, for the rest of the taxpayers, it's another round of future litigation possibly running into decades."

In cases of income that has escaped assessment, under section 148 (old regime), the I-T officer could reopen them

dating back to six years. Under section 148A (introduced by the Finance Act, 2021), cases dating back to 10 years can be reopened only if the income that has escaped assess-

**CBDT's instructions provide that present monetary limits would apply while reopening earlier years' assessment**

ment is over Rs 50 lakh and if a proper process is followed.

CBDT's instructions provide that the monetary limits applicable at present would apply while reopening assessment. Thus, it appears that smaller cases, where income that has escaped assessment is less than Rs 50 lakh, may not be subject to reopening and reassessment.

## US trade chief flags concerns over laptop rules

New Delhi: US trade chief Katherine Tai has raised concerns with India over a new order mandating licenses for the import of laptops, tablets and personal computers, according to a statement.

Tai's intervention comes amid worries the licensing regime could impact shipments from the likes of Apple and Dell, and force firms to boost local manufacturing.

"She noted that there were stakeholders that needed an opportunity to review and provide inputs to ensure that the policy, if implemented, does not have an adverse impact on US exports to India," the US statement said after Tai met with trade minister Piyush Goyal on August 26.

Tai was in India to join

the G20 trade ministers' meeting last week.

India's new licensing regime, which is due to come into effect on November 1, aims to "ensure trusted hardware and systems" enter the nation. It also seeks to reduce dependence on imports, boost local manufacturing, and in part address the country's trade imbalance with China, an Indian government official said.

India and the US will also continue discussions to find a solution to the only bilateral dispute between the two nations at the WTO, which involves measures by New Delhi on certain agricultural imports into the country, the statement said. Six other disputes were mutually resolved earlier this year. REUTERS



Katherine Tai

## 'Digital infra can aid climate adaptation'

New Delhi: The approach of digital public infrastructure (DPI), which has gained global prominence, can also help in the area of climate adaptation and mitigation going forward, chairman and co-founder of Info-sys and the founding chair-

man of UIDAI, Nandan Nilekani said on Sunday. Nilekani, speaking at the B20 summit, said India has found a "balance" between responsible regulation and innovation due to its participatory model, as he show-

cased the country's success story on DPI, which has accelerated inclusion in the country. India's DPI is gaining global recognition, Nilekani added, noting there is a major move afoot to take this model to 50 countries in five years. Many multilateral agencies and global groups are coming forward and showing interest, and the next few years will see proliferation and prevalence of digital infrastructure at population-scale around the world, he said. AGENCIES



Nandan Nilekani

## FPI inflows slow to nearly ₹11k cr in Aug

New Delhi: After strong foreign fund flows into Indian stocks over three months, the pace of inflows ebbed in August with a net investment of Rs 10,689 crore on higher crude oil prices and resurfacing of inflation risks. Further, markets could remain volatile in the coming week due to macroeconomic uncertainty and rising US bond yields. This has been prompting FPIs to flee emerging market equities, including India, and park funds in haven US securities, said Shrikant Chouhan of Kotak Securities. AGENCIES

## TIMES NATION

### Have sought nod to divert water to M'wada: Fadnavis

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the proposal to divert excess water from the state's west-flowing rivers to Marathwada, which would mitigate the region's perennial drought problem, has been tabled before the Maharashtra water resources regulatory authority.

Set up as the quasi-judicial water regulator, the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA) takes decisions on water rights following the principles of equitable distribution among different regions.

Addressing an event as part of 'Shasan Aplya Dari' outreach programme at Parbhani, Fadnavis said the ambitious project would ensure that drought becomes a history for Marathwada. Marathwada has been assured of the water diversion scheme since the last Lok Sabha polls. TNN

### 45k hit, Assam flood situation stays alarming

Guwahati: The Assam flood situation remains alarming with over 45,000 people, mostly in upper and northern parts of the state, facing the deluge on Sunday due to incessant rain, reports Kangkan Kalita. Mawsynram and Cherrapunji—the two wettest places on earth—saw one of the rainiest days of the season in the past 24 hours with 38 and 29 cm rainfall, respectively, said the Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

Sources said the actual number of flood-hit people may surge past 50,000 in Assam as the number of affected districts and sub-divisions has gone up from six to 11 in the past 24 hours. There is no respite for at least four days, with the IMD issuing forecasts of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several parts of the northeast. Around 20,000 people are reeling under the floods in Dhemaji district of Assam, bordering Arunachal.

# 1.4mn minor irrigation facilities added in 4 yrs

## Farmers Move To Drought-Proof Agriculture

### UP HAS 17% SHARE, MAHA NEXT WITH 15%

Census conducted in 6,47,394 villages across 695 districts

State	No. (in lakh)	% in Total
UP	39.8	17.2
Maharashtra	35.7	15.4
MP	22.8	9.9
Tamil Nadu	21.1	9.1
Telangana	16.8	7.3
Rajasthan	14.9	6.4
Karnataka	14.1	6.1
Gujarat	13.9	6.0
Andhra Pradesh	11.9	5.1
Punjab	11.8	5.1

(figures are rounded off)

Category	5th Census (in million)	6th Census
Total No. of MI infra	21.7	23.1
Groundwater MI infra	20.5	21.9
Surface water MI infra	1.19	1.21

(Reference year for 5th Census: 2013-14)

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid variability of monsoon rainfall and unpredictability of its spatial distribution, India's dependence on minor irrigation (MI) facilities has increased in the past few years, pushing private entities including farmers and communities, mostly to create an additional 1.42 million such facilities in the four years between 2013-14 and 2017-18 in an attempt to drought-proof agriculture. The sixth minor irrigation (MI) census report, released on Saturday, shows that the country had 23.14 million MI facilities in 2017-18 compared to 21.72 MI facilities in 2013-14 with groundwater irrigation infrastructure consistently logging over 94% of such infrastructure.

Though high share of groundwater for farming operations leads to fast depletion of groundwater, it at least guards the farmers from uncertainties of monsoon rainfall. Current year's kharif

(summer sown crops) acreage is an example. Farmers were able to increase the sown area of even water-guzzling paddy despite monsoon rainfall deficit of 8% as on Sunday.

Uttar Pradesh possesses the largest number of MI facilities in the country followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Leading states in groundwater schemes are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana whereas Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand have the highest share of surface water irrigation facilities.

The groundwater schemes comprise of dug-wells, shallow tube wells, medium tube wells and deep tube wells. On the other hand, the surface water irrigation facilities consist of surface flow and surface lift schemes. The census report shows that a majority of MI schemes (96.6%) are under private ownership. Most MI structures in India are, there-

fore, owned by individual farmers or groups of farmers and hence it has maximum outreach for irrigation purposes.

"Within this, small and marginal farmers (having less than two hectares of land) still own a major share of MI schemes. This underlines the need for strengthening the network of MI structures for irrigation purposes in the country to improve the livelihood of small and marginal farmers," stated the report.

Both groundwater and surface water facilities have increased by 6.9% and 1.2%, respectively, in 2017-18 over 2013-14 in the country. In groundwater schemes, the share of private entities in the ownership is 98.3% whereas in surface water schemes, the respective share is about 64%.

Dug-wells have the highest share in MI schemes followed by shallow tube wells, medium tube wells and deep tube wells. Maharashtra is the leading state in dug wells, surface flow and surface lift schemes.

## 'Pragyan's movements pose multiple challenges'

Chethan.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Pointing out that the rover operations weren't fully autonomous, Chandrayaan-3 project director P Veeramuthvel said Pragyan's movements were riddled with multiple challenges, each of which would need to be overcome one at a time with the involvement of the ground teams.

"Moving the rover from point A to B involves many steps. For every path planning, onboard navigation camera data must be downloaded to ground for generation of a digital elevation model (DEM). Then the ground and mechanisms team will decide which path to take and uplink the command for the rover to follow," he said.

As for the rover's limitations, the maximum DEM that can be generated is for five metres each time the navigation camera sends images. "This means every time the rover is commanded to move, it can at best cover five metres. Even there, there are challenges of obstacles, etc. We were very anxious about the first crater, but that obstacle has been overcome," Veeramuthvel said.

Isro has already done multiple rover movements. "If you see, it is not like a big rover. Within the limited resources, we have put in place miniature systems that are state-of-the-art. But there are limitations such as non-availability of telemetry and telecommunications 24/7, the need to track the Sun continuously and so, the turnaround time between each movement operation is around five hours," he said.

"The Sun is not static there. Each day, there's a 12° rotation, which needs to be accounted for as unlike the lander which has solar panels covered on three sides, the rover has deployable solar panel, where one side is fully mounted with solar cells but on the other side, only half the space is available," Veeramuthvel said.

The data rate from the rover is also limited given that it can only communicate with the lander, from where the Isro needs to download to ground.

## Retd armyman puts out a hit on son to 'spite' estranged wife

Krishna Chaudhary | TNN

Meerut: A retired armyman, in his mid-50s, allegedly got his 27-year-old son killed by a contract killer to take revenge on his estranged wife. The incident occurred at Chhur village in the Sardhana area of Meerut, said police.

According to officials, the accused, Sanjeev Kumar, allegedly conspired with a local man, identified as Amit (30), and paid him Rs 5 lakh to get rid of his son, Sachin Kumar. SHO of Sardhana police station, Ramakant Pachori, told TOL, "While Sachin had been missing since Tuesday night, a formal complaint was filed by his mother on Saturday. In her complaint, she suspected her husband's involvement in their son's disappearance. Acting on the information, cops detained both Sanjeev and Amit for questioning."

The duo subsequently admitted to their crime. Sanjeev claimed that he wanted to take re-

venge on his estranged wife. Both the accused are now in custody.

A local resident, privy to the case, said, "Sanjeev had an affair with his sister-in-law and lived with her, leading his wife, Munesh, to leave him 15 years ago. Since then, she has resided separately with her son, Sachin, who was unmarried and the sole breadwinner in the family, was a delivery boy."

In order to kill Sachin, Amit on Tuesday first offered him alcohol, and after he was intoxicated, struck him on the head with a bottle, said the SHO. He added, "Once Sachin lost consciousness, Amit strangled him using a scarf. His motorcycle and phone were dropped at different locations and his body thrown in the Hindon river. Sanjeev also tried to mislead the police by attempting to file a missing person report for his son. The body was recovered from Baghat, around 17 kilometres away from the dumping spot."

## TN train coach fire: Railway official rules out conspiracy

Madurai: Commissioner of Railway Safety for Southern Circle, A M Chowdhary, has ruled out conspiracy in Saturday's fire on the private coach stabled at the Madurai railway yard which killed nine passengers. Meanwhile, Government Railway Police (GRP) are questioning five attenders of the agency, who were believed to have used LPG cylinders for cooking in violation of the Railways Act, that booked the coach.

Chowdhary, who visited the accident site on Sunday and interacted with the injured passengers admitted to the railway hospital, said he would submit the report within a month.

It would mention the banned items carried on the coach. Earlier, he held a meeting with the railway officials. The private coach that was carrying a tour party from Uttar Pradesh went up in flames early on Saturday, apparently after a gas stove was switched on. The mortal remains of the nine who died were sent to Chennai on Saturday night.

Nine of the 10 passengers hospitalised with minor injuries were discharged while one is still in Government Rajaji Hospital. TNN

## Security breach before G20: SFJ defaces Delhi Metro stations' walls

New Delhi: The banned pro-Khalistan secessionist outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) defaced walls of several Metro stations with graffiti, causing a major security breach days before the G20 Summit in Delhi, reports Rajshekhar Jha. The SFJ, which accepted responsibility for the act, released footage of the Shivaji Park and Punjabi Bagh Metro stations on YouTube that showed slogans such as "Khalistan Zindabad" and "Punjab Is Not India" on the walls.

## Minor kidnappers kill WB boy after 'fulfilling last wish' for rosogolla

Krishnanagar (Nadia): Sweet revenge took a bitter and bizarre turn in a Bengal village when three minors fed a 14-year-old "rosogolla and cold drinks to fulfil his dying wish" after a "Rs 3-lakh ransom call" to his widowed poor mother apparently went unheeded, reports Ashis Poddar. The revelations came forth in a police submission to a Juvenile Justice Board on Sunday in Nadia's Krishnanagar about the Class VIII student's August 25 death at the hands of three kidnappers who wanted the ransom to "buy a computer to play games".

The deceased's father had died a few years ago. He lived with his mother, who works as a domestic attendant, in his maternal uncle's home in Krishnanagar.





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**CHELSEA COMPLETE THE SIGNING OF GOALKEEPER PETROVIC FROM MLS SIDE NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION**



## ON TOP OF THE WORLD! NEERAJ GETS GOLD



### 88.17m Throw Secures Top Spot For Indian, Country's First-Ever At World Athletics

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The golden arm of Neeraj Chopra follows the script to the tee. It is kind of predictable. Just like his Tokyo Olympics performance, Neeraj got the deal done in his second attempt, launching the javelin to 88.17m at the National Athletics Centre in Budapest, Hungary, to become India's first-ever World Athletics Championships gold medalist.

Two other Indians, Kishore Jena and DP Manu also impressed at the big stage. Although they didn't get onto the podium, Jena with a throw of 84.77m (his personal best) finished fifth, while Manu came sixth with his best throw being 84.14m. The Worlds gold was the one

waiting to be ticked in Neeraj's golden set, and he did it in style. In fact, the second throw was hurled a few metres behind the foul line, and there was scope to add a few more. The 25-year-old Neeraj now has gold medals in Olympics (Tokyo in 2021), Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018), U-20 World Championships (2016), besides the Diamond League title last year.

Besides Neeraj getting the inevitable, the drama and theatrics around the javelin throw final increased when Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem came up with 87.82m (his season's best) in his third attempt. It became an exciting, nail-biting, edge-of-the-seat India-Pakistan affair, being fought in a European country that had little connection

with cricket. The September 2 India-Pakistan Asia Cup clash was way away from everyone's mind. The Pakistani had to his credit a 90-metre plus throw at the Commonwealth Games last year and Neeraj wasn't feeling safe anymore.

The positions below Neeraj and Nadeem kept changing as Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch moved into the third place with an 86.67m throw in his fifth attempt, putting Germany's Julian Weber to the fourth spot.

Neeraj came up with 86.32m, 84.64m and 87.73m in his third, fourth and fifth attempts. Nadeem managed 87.15m in his fourth and his fifth was a foul throw.

The excitement was palpable and it was a throwback to all the historic India-Pakistan hockey and cricket matches, boiling down to the last over, to the last five minutes, and in this case to the final throws of both throwers.

Nadeem was visibly under pressure in the final throw and threw his attempt nearly a five feet behind the foul line. Quite evidently, the result was an 81.86m throw.

With the gold assured, Neeraj clapped to the spectators present at the National Athletics Centre and rounded things off with an 83.98m throw. Interestingly, Neeraj began with a foul throw, but hit his straps in the second one which turned out to be the golden one.

In the end, as it stood, Jakub Vadlejch remained at the third position and got the bronze.

"I am used to having pressure on me in every competition that I take part in. But in big competitions like these (world championships) which come once in two or four years, I do feel a lot more responsibility to perform well. Every time there is only one thing to keep in mind and that is to give my 100 percent and stay



Kishore Jena's personal best of 84.77m placed him in the fifth spot

focused," Neeraj said.

"Along with my regular training, I often also engage in visualization, which is quite enjoyable for me. It helps me feel like I'm already there competing and creates a mental picture - it has become a part of my routine. That helps me in winning medals at tough international competitions."

### American Noah Lyles Begins His Olympic-Sized Run At Stardom

Budapest: The American men who had won the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 relay at world championships before this year are known to track fans: Tyson Gay and Maurice Greene.

But some of the American men who have gone 3 for 3 in those races at the Olympics are known far beyond the shadow of any track stadium - think, Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis.

The sizable gap between "track star" and "global icon" is the one Noah Lyles is hoping he can bridge between now and next year at the Paris Olympics.

Lyles capped off his own historic world championships by anchoring the men's 4x100 relay team to victory Saturday night to capture his third gold medal in the sprints, joining Gay and Greene, but also track's last true superstar, Jamaica's Usain Bolt, who last accomplished that feat eight years ago.

Lyles made no secret that he would like to fill the void left by Bolt - a once-in-a-generation character who transcends sports. Lyles also confronted the uncomfortable truth that since Bolt retired in 2017, his sport has struggled to maintain an audience outside the hardcore track fan. "It's a conversation I have every day with my agent, about how we're going to better this sport," Lyles said.

It's a plight felt most keenly in the United States, which is now only five years from hosting the Olympics in Los Angeles. In one sign of the hurdles the sport faces, track and field has yet to find a viable host city for a major event - i.e., Olympic trials, national championships or worlds - outside of Eugene, Oregon.

The opening two days of world championships on the main network drew fewer viewers than pre-season football, NASCAR, the final of the Women's World Cup (airing at 6 a.m. EDT), and a Little League World Series Game.

Last year at the worlds in Eugene, World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said the organization's goal was to make track a "top four" sport in the US by 2028, which means it would have to rise by at least four notches, according to WA's own studies.

Coe believes. Some of that has to do with Lyles, the 26-year-

old from Florida who has no problem positioning himself as the man trying to turn track into a must-watch proposition again. It's hard to pinpoint exactly what makes one person a can't-miss TV product while others miss the mark. But if Lyles falls short, it won't be for lack of effort.

He is currently featured in two behind-the-scenes docuseries about track - one that was his own brainchild, and another that began as a cobbling together of the world's fastest people. "They weren't talking about me in that documentary," Lyles said of the second one. "Then, as soon as I won (a Diamond League meet) in Paris, they got buddy-buddy with me."

He says he wants people to look for him in GG as much as on the track: "I want people to say 'Wow, this isn't just a fast guy, he's well-rounded.'"

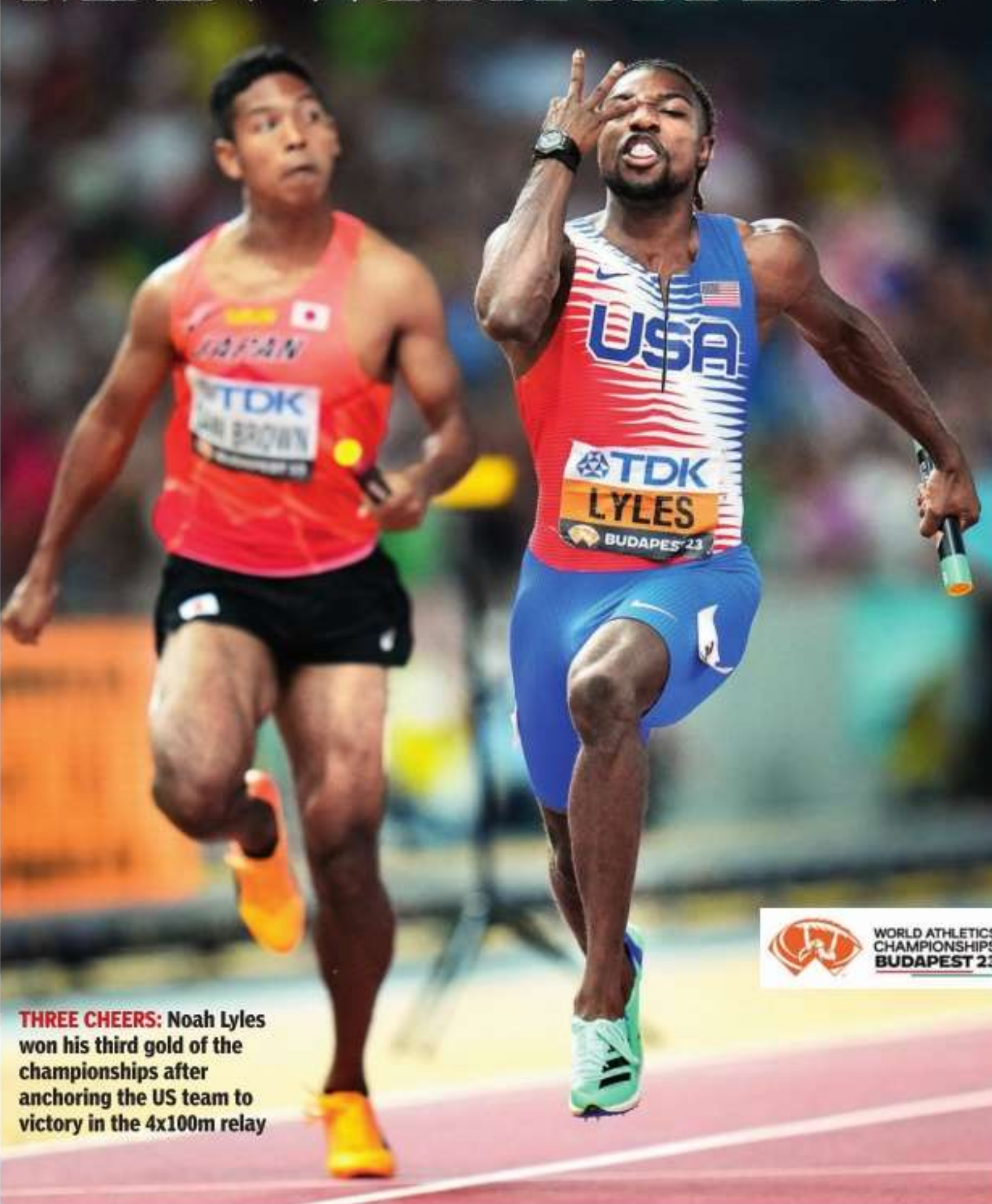
He is a growing presence on social media, though his most-celebrated posting was a declaration that he can run 9.65 in the 100 and 19.10 in the 200.

That he accomplished neither goal in Budapest is beside the point. That he put those numbers out there is what set the stage for his triumphant run through the worlds.

The 100m goal was audacious. When he won the title, he crossed the line and shouted: "They said I couldn't do it. They said I wasn't the one. But I thank God I am!"

Six nights later, as he crossed the finish line first in

## MAN WITH A PLAN



THREE CHEERS: Noah Lyles won his third gold of the championships after anchoring the US team to victory in the 4x100m relay



FOOTBALL, ANYONE? When Richardson crossed the line for the 4x100m gold, her male counterpart Christian Coleman came out and tackled her

the relay, he kept the messaging down to one word, as he jabbed three fingers into the air: "Three!" he shouted.

He is savvy enough to know that if any of the off-the-track fame is going to come, taking care of business on the track has to be a given. So far, he's making good on that part of the deal. AP

### The Sha'Carri show

held her off with the USA's arch-rivals taking silver in 41.21sec. Britain won the bronze in a time of 41.97sec. The USA quartet broke the Jamaican's championship record that had stood since 2015 in Beijing.

"We're not disappointed," said Jamaica's Shashalee Forbes, who ran the third leg. "It was a great race. They were very tough. We went out to deliver and we are happy and pleased with what we got."

The Jamaicans may come to regret omitting two-time Olympic 100m champion Elaine Thompson-Herah,

who ran a cracking second leg in the heats on Friday.

The Americans, though, were in command from the off and had a sizeable lead when Richardson took the baton from 200m silver medalist Gabby Thomas. Once again Jackson, who had run the second fastest time ever in the 200m final on Friday, could not match Richardson and made little impact.

The men stayed on the track to watch the women, and when Richardson crossed, lead runner Christian Coleman came out and tackled the 100m champion and they fell to the track. AP

### GONG CLAIMS 8TH SUCCESSIVE MEDAL

Budapest: American Chase Ealey successfully defended her women's shot put crown while China's Gong Lijiao, the 2017 and 2019 world champion, won a

record eighth straight individual medal. The bronze was Gong's fourth at the worlds to go with two golds and two silvers, making her the only athlete to win eight consecutive individual medals. She was previously tied with Kenya's Ezekiel Kemboi.

### UGANDA'S KIPLANGAT IS MARATHON KING

Budapest: Uganda's Victor Kiplangat won the men's marathon at the World Athletics Championships on Sunday with a time of two hours, 8 minutes, 53 seconds, while Maru Teferi of Israel finished with silver despite



taking a tumble. 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medalist Kiplangat broke away with about 4 km (2.5 miles) to go, crossing the finish line with an advantage of 19 seconds. Teferi surged past Ethiopia's Leul's Gebresilase in the last 200 metres.

## Kipyegon claims historic 1500m-5000m double

Budapest: Kenya's Faith Kipyegon became the first woman ever to complete a 1,500-5,000 metres double at the World Championships after she raced to victory over the longer distance on Saturday.

Four days after she won the 1,500 metres, the two-time Olympic gold medalist surged away from Dutch Sifan Hassan down the home straight to cross in 14 minutes 53.88 seconds for another glorious finish.

Kipyegon's two golds from Budapest cap a remarkable season in which she broke three world records - in the 1,500m, mile and 5,000m. "This has been an amazing year for me. Making history today, winning two gold medals in a championships is what I was dreaming for this season," the



KIPYEGON FINISHES AHEAD OF HASSAN

29-year-old said. "I have been patient waiting to be able to break world records and win double golds."

Hassan, bronze medalist in the 1,500, upgraded to silver with 14:54.11. Beatrice Chebet of Kenya won the bronze. Kipyegon has credited her five-year-old daughter Alyne for giving her inspiration. REUTERS

### AROP FOOLS RIVALS, CHANGES TACTICS TO TAKE 800M GOLD

Budapest: Canada's Marco Arop foxed his rivals with a radical change of tactics and then poured on the pace to win a brilliant 800 metres World Championship gold. Normally a front runner, he kept his huge frame out of the picture, right at the back, through the first lap and, while the rest of the field were wondering, swept straight to the front at the bell and surged clear.

Arop, the bronze medalist last year, kept his foot down to win comfortably in 1:44.24. Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi took silver in 1:44.53 while 21-year-old Ben Pattison claimed a surprise bronze in 1:44.83. "I'm so glad to finally be able to do this on the world stage," said Arop, who was born in Sudan and forced by the civil war to flee with his family of eight when he was two years old.

Another one for Canada: LePage wins decathlon title Canada's Pierce LePage captured his first world decathlon gold medal on Saturday, denying team mate and Olympic champion Damian Warner the one title missing from his illustrious resume. LePage, the silver medalist at last year's worlds, finished with 8,909 points.

## Mondo magic: Duplantis soars

Budapest: Sweden's world record holder Armand Duplantis claimed his second consecutive world pole vault title on Saturday, but did not have a seventh world record in him on a steamy night in Budapest.

The Olympic champion cleared 6.10 metres for gold and then - in what turned into the "Mondo show" - missed at three attempts to clear 6.23, which would have been world record number seven for the remarkable 23-year-old.

"This was maybe the craziest atmosphere I've ever competed in so it meant a lot to be able to turn on a pole vault show for them. It almost felt like I was in Stockholm as there were so many Swedish supporters here. It's heart-warming and gets you fired up."

Ernest John Obiena of the Philippines won silver with a

jump of 6.00m. Three days after American Katie Moon and Australia's Nina Kennedy decided to share the women's pole vault gold, there was a tie for bronze between Kurtis Marshall of Australia and Christopher Nilsen of the U.S., who both posted 5.95m.

Duplantis has won 12 of 13 competitions this season, and has cleared 6.00m in a remarkable 50 different events. His most recent world record was 6.22 set in France in February.

His three record attempts enthralled the National Athletics Centre crowd, who clapped in time during his run-ups. "I try not to set limits and barriers on myself and once I started to realise a world record was possible I tried not to see it as a record just as another height I can achieve," Duplantis said. REUTERS



PEERLESS: MONDO DUPLANTIS

### GALLERY Pakistan adds Shakeel to its Asia Cup squad

Pakistan has added middle-order batter Saud Shakeel to their Asia Cup squad and will go into the tournament as the top ranked ODI team following their 3-0 win against Afghanistan. REUTERS

**Squad:** Babar Azam (C), Shadab Khan (VC), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Haris (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Usama Mir.

### Afghanistan recall allrounder Janat Karim Janat will play his first ODI in six years after he was included in Afghanistan squad for the Asia Cup. REUTERS

### ACTION TODAY

**BASKETBALL:** WC: 1.30 pm (Fancode)  
**FOOTBALL:** La Liga: 11 pm; Serie A: 10 pm (JioCinema)  
**TENNIS:** US Open, 8.30 pm & 4.30 am on Tuesday (Sony)

### Iqbal helps J&K to 241-6

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Opening batsman Qamran Iqbal's half-century (58 runs, 59b, 10x4) powered Jammu & Kashmir to 241 for six wickets in their first innings

**BUCHI BABU** in 90 overs on the opening day of their four-day second-round match against Mumbai in the Buchi Babu All-India Invitation Cricket Tournament at the Salem, Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

Iqbal's opening partner Shubham Khajuria contributed 37 runs (74b, 5x4, 2x6). Royston Dias (2-42) and Musheer Khan (2-29) were most successful bowlers for Mumbai.

**Brief Scores:** Jammu & Kashmir 241-6 in 90 overs (Q Iqbal 58, S Khajuria 37, Abdul Samad 40, Abid Mushtaq 32\*, Auqib Nabi 31\*, R Dias 2-42, Musheer Khan 2-29).

### 'I was in excruciating pain'

Bengaluru: On his return to the Indian cricket team ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup, right-handed batter Shreyas Iyer recalled the phase of his back injury, saying that it was "horrendous" and "was in excruciating pain".

Iyer was pulled out mid-way from India's fourth Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test against Australia at Ahmedabad in March this year after suffering a recurrence of a lower back injury. That injury had earlier ruled Iyer out of the white-ball series against New Zealand at home as well as the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia in Nagpur.

"Feeling ecstatic to be honest, to join the team and see happy faces all around. The compassion shown by all the players was fantastic, and I am thrilled to be back. It was horrendous and to be honest, then, I was in excruciating pain. I wasn't able to express myself properly about what I was going through," said Iyer in a video posted on bcci.tv. IANS

### Ruhaan and Tijl steal LGB Formula 4 show

Coimbatore: Ruhaan Alva of MSport and Dark Don Racing's Tijl Rao won a race each in the premier FMSCI NAT'L RACING LGB Formula 4 class of the 26th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship, here at the Kari Motor Speedway on Sunday. I

In the opening race, all eyes were

## Tickets for non-India WC games in Mumbai & B'luru sold out already

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: It's not just the Indian team that cricket-crazy fans are craving to watch in the ICC 2023 ODI World Cup in India in October-November. In what must be a pleasant surprise to the BCCI and the International Cricket Council, tickets for the non-India games, which were made available on the 2023 ODI World Cup's official ticketing platform BookMyShow from 8pm onwards on August 25, are selling incredibly fast. The surge in sale is remarkable, considering the delay in ticket sales due to the rescheduling of nine matches.

It's clear that apart from India, one team whose most matches are going to witness a sellout in the World Cup is Pakistan, who are playing in India for the first time since the 2016 T20 World Cup. At the time of writing this, tickets for four of their games - two each in Kolkata and Bengaluru - have already been sold out.

Tickets for all the seven non-India games at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru have already been sold out. In case of Kolkata, tickets for two out of three games at the Eden Gardens - the Pakistan versus Bangladesh match on October 31, and Pakistan versus England match on November 11 (which was moved from November 12 due to the original date being Kali Pujan), have been sold out already. The lowest price for a ticket was Rs 800.

The tickets for the nine India league games go on sale in a phase-wise manner from 8pm on September 1, and it's anybody's guess how many minutes it takes before they are sold out!

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Published for the proprietors of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. by Kishanmurti at The Times of India Building, D. D. A. Road, Mumbai-400 001. Tel. No. (022) 6335 9335. Fax: (022) 2773 1144 and printed by Him at (1) The Times of India Suburban Press, Akuril Road, Western Express Highway, Kandivli (E), Mumbai-400 101. Tel. No. (022) 2887 2324, 2887 2900 and (2) The Times of India Print City, Plot No. 4, T.T.C. Industrial Area, Thane-Besant Road, Andheri, New Mumbai-400 708. Tel. No. (022) 2760 9999. Fax: (022) 2760 5275. Tel. Nos. Mumbai Response (022) 6635 3636, 2273 3636. Fax: (022) 2273 1144, 2273 4401. E-Mail: [timesofindia@timesgroup.com](mailto:timesofindia@timesgroup.com). Editor (Mumbai Market): Dinesh B. D'Sa - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of Publisher is prohibited.





Darwin Nunez after scoring the winning goal

## Super-sub Nunez grabs 2-1 win for 10-man Liverpool

**Newcastle:** Darwin Nunez came off the bench to score twice as Liverpool snatched a sensational 2-1 Premier League win over Newcastle United on Sunday as the Reds bounced back from a straight red card in the first half for captain Virgil van Dijk.

Having picked up an early yellow card, Trent Alexander-Arnold gifted Newcastle the opener in the 25th minute when he mis-controlled the ball, allowing Anthony Gordon to run onto it and slot it past Alisson Becker.

### FOOTBALL WRAP

Van Dijk was sent off just over two minutes later, with referee John Brooks showing him a straight red card for fouling Alexander Isak on the edge of the box, and Newcastle looked set to end a run of 13 Premier League games against Liverpool without a win. The home side failed to kill the game off, and in the 81st minute Nunez pulled them level before scoring an almost identical second in stoppage time to snatch the three points. **REUTERS**

### Rodri fires Manchester City to top of table

**Sheffield:** Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League table with a 2-1 win at Sheffield United after Rodri scored an 88th-minute winner to secure their third victory of the season. With the scores level at 1-1 and the clock winding down, the ball came to Phil Foden in the United box and although the English midfielder had no control over it, Rodri stepped in to power a half-volley into the top corner. City manager Pep Guardiola was not on the touchline at Bramall Lane having undergone back surgery. **REUTERS**

### Lamal helps Barca fight back for 4-3 win

**Barcelona:** Teenager Yamine Lamal helped Barcelona fight back to win a 4-3 thriller at Villarreal in the Spanish league on Sunday. The 16-year-old forward set up Gavi Paez's opening goal for Barcelona, hit the woodwork twice and played a key role in Robert Lewandowski's winning goal as the game finished in the visitors' favour. **AP**

### Messi dazzles on MLS debut

**Harrison N.J.:** Lionel Messi needed just a few seconds for his unparalleled skills to shine, a flash of brilliance that capped a memorable Major League Soccer debut. Messi's dazzling goal in the 89th minute helped a transformed Inter Miami beat the New York Red Bulls 2-0 on Saturday night and end an 11-match league winless streak. Messi entered in the 60th minute along with former Barcelona teammate Sergio Busquets. **AP**

# A CROSS-GENERATIONAL BATTLE

## Focus On Djokovic, Champion Alcaraz As US Open Gets Under Way Today

**TIMES AT NEW YORK**  
Prajwal.Hegde@timesgroup.com

All Novak Djokovic needs to kick-off a record-extending 390th week atop the ATP rankings is a first-round win in this sun-sparked New York borough of Queens. The 36-year-old hasn't lost in the opening round of a Grand Slam tournament since 2006.

A mere 20 points separates world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz from the No. 2 Djokovic in the rankings heading into the US Open, starting Monday. Even in an age of few certainties, Djokovic himself being one of those indelible, time-tested designs, Alexandre Muller, ranked 85, from the commune of Poissy located in north-central France, isn't expected to rock the boat in the first round.

That's a matter of rankings, the story itself has been a rage of the sporting world. A man, a boy, a cross-generational clash. Alcaraz, ripped frame and raging talent, inspired a tectonic shift in the sport with his triumph at Wimbledon in July.

Just when the bells chimed to the winds of change, the promise of youth, Djokovic came up with a masterclass in the great American Midwest. The Serb showed remarkable volition, battling back from a set and 2-4 down, warding off a match point in the second set tie-break, taking Alcaraz down in just under four hours.

"The more you find yourself in those circumstances, experiencing adversity on the court, that's the best opportunity for you to grow mentally, to learn something," said Djokovic, who could play Stefanos Tsitsipas in the last eight. "In the face of adversity is where you learn the most. That's my mentality in these matches, trying not to accept defeat as an option and giving it my all."

The 23-time major winner added, "It's kind of a cat-and-mouse play on the court.

There's a lot happening. You're trying to outsmart your opponent tactically, but then you have to fight with your own demons as well, the self-doubt, tension, all the things that are happening in the midst of such a battle."

The Serb, a 35-time major finalist, who has lost in the title round 12 times, six of them in New York, is returning to the United States for the first time in two years.

"It's been two years since I lost in the final to (Daniil) Medvedev in '21. I was going for the (Calendar) Slam that year," he said. "I didn't play well that day, but what

**2008** The last time the men's title was successfully defended. Roger Federer defeated Andy Murray to win his fifth successive US Open. Carlos Alcaraz will be looking to end a 15-year wait.

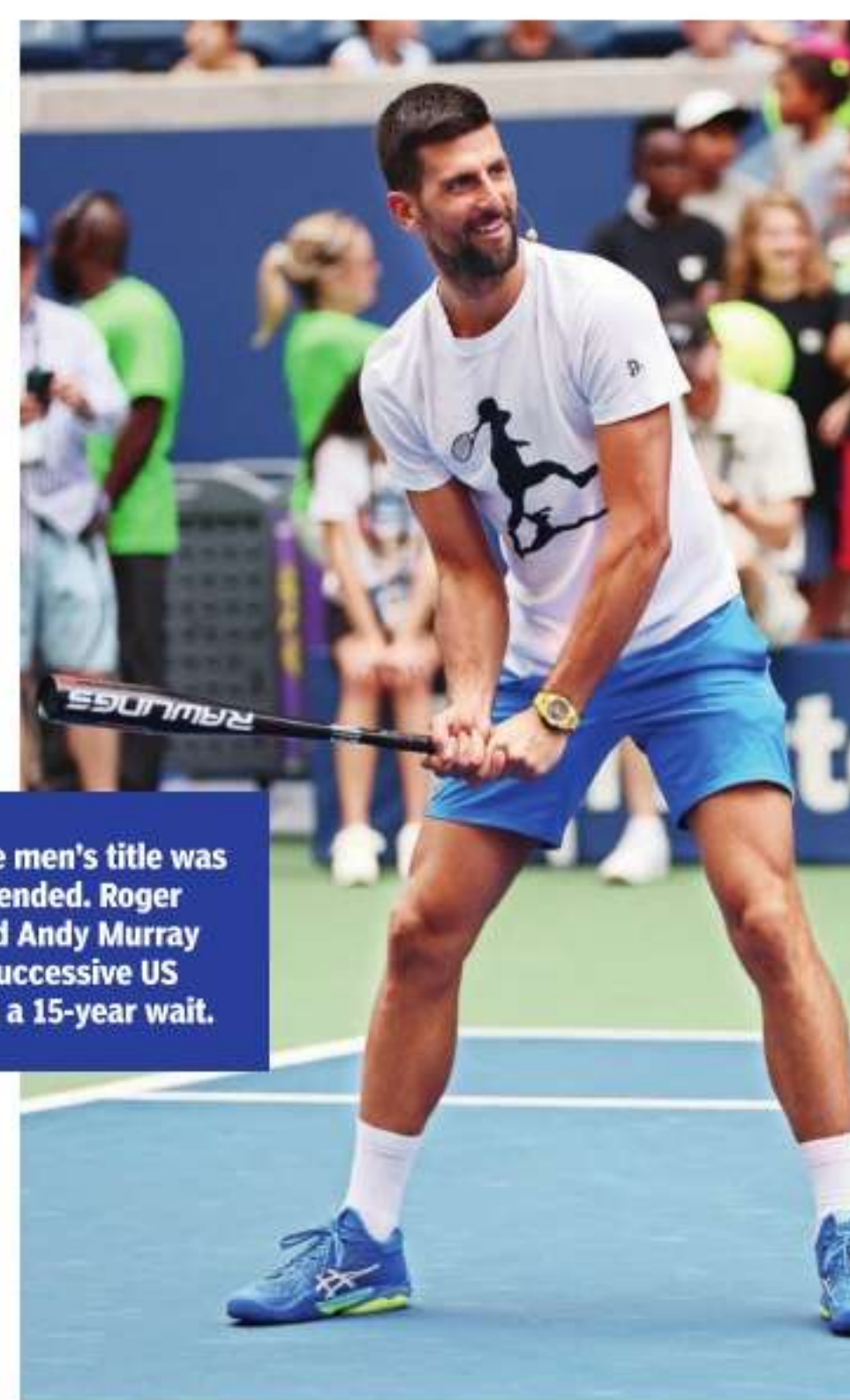
I felt from the crowd, the love and support they gave me is something that I still carry in my heart. I still feel vibes from the night of the final two years ago."

In the last sixteen months, Alcaraz and Djokovic have met four times and their career head-to-head stands at two wins apiece.

Alcaraz, 'Carlitos' to his burgeoning fan club, begins his title defence in New York against German Dominik Koepfer. Alcaraz could meet the sixth-seeded Italian Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, in a rematch of their epic from 12 months ago. The other quarterfinals in the top half of the draw could pit childhood friends Russians Medvedev against Andrey Rublev.

Alcaraz is not thinking about title defence nor is he focusing on a fifth meeting with Djokovic.

"This practice week, I try to do exactly the same thing that I did last year, trying to practice the same way and focus on that," said the 20-year-old. "I'm not focusing on defending champion, points, whatever: I want to show my best level."



### KEY MATCHES

#### ARTHUR ASHE STADIUM

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES

1-I Swiatek vs R Peterson;  
6-C Gauff vs L Siegemund

#### MEN'S SINGLES 10-F

2-N Djokovic vs A Muller

#### LOUIS ARMSTRONG STADIUM

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES

10-V Azarenka vs F Ferro; S Stephens vs 19-B Haddad Maia  
MEN'S SINGLES: S Johnson vs 9-T Fritz; 7-S Tsitsipas vs M Raonic

**THE BIG FIGHT:** Three-time winner Novak Djokovic (left) and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz enjoy their day out during the Arthur Ashe Kids' Day event on Saturday



## In-form Gauff exudes confidence

Prajwal.Hegde@timesgroup.com

**New York:** In the weekend leading into the US Open, a throng of fans, a lot of them children, hanging on to their parents' coattails, wait around the practice courts. It's an all-day feature at Flushing Meadows. The air of expectancy is dulled somewhat by the harsh afternoon sun, but that's only until a popular player steps out of the competitors' area. The decibel level rises dramatically and as if on cue, the crowd steps back, allowing the player to pass.

Coco Gauff, one of the most popular figures in the sport, particularly here in her home country, drew a febrile pitch from the fans.

The 19-year-old, who lost to compatriot Sofia Kenin in the Wimbledon first round in July, has made rapid strides in the fall, including clinching her first win over world No. 1 Iga Swiatek after coming up short in their first seven meetings. The 22-year-old Pole having claimed 14 straight sets.

Gauff, who is 11-1 (win-loss) in this summer's hardcourt swing, winning



"I'm not going into this tournament worried if I will lose early or not. I can't really control that result. I am going in with a lot more confidence. I feel like no matter the scoreline in the match, I can probably solve and troubleshoot my way out."  
— COCO GAUFF

it a lot."

Gauff, the world No. 6, however, finds herself in a tight quarter. She could play 16-year-old Russian Mirra Andreeva in the second round and is seeded to take on Swiatek, the defending champion, for a second time in as many tournament outings, in the last eight.

"I'm not going into this tournament worried if I will lose early or not. I can't really control that result," Gauff said. "I'm going in with a lot more confidence. I feel like no matter the scoreline in the match, I can problem solve and troubleshoot my way out. I know I can win matches when not playing my best game."

## Max equals Vettel's record with 9th victory in a row

**Zandvoort (Netherlands):** Runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen won a rain-marred Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday to equal Sebastian Vettel's F1 record of nine straight victories.

The Red Bull star clinched his third straight victory from pole position at the Zandvoort track, with veteran Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso finishing second and picking up a bonus point for the fastest lap.

Alpine driver Pierre Gasly crossed the line in fourth place behind Red Bull driver Sergio Perez, but the Frenchman moved up to third because Perez was given a five-second penalty for speeding in the pit lane.

The chaotic race was held up for 40 minutes by a late red flag when Alfa Romeo's Zhou Guanyu crashed. It restarted with a rolling start on Lap 65 of 72, in a race that featured multiple tire swaps as changing weather conditions played havoc with strategy calls.

The race restarted with Verstappen ahead of Alonso, Perez and Gasly. After two laps behind the safety car, Verstappen comfortably pulled away for his 11th win of a dominant campaign to stretch his lead over Perez to 138 points.

Vettel set the record in 2013 with Red Bull during its first dominant era



Max Verstappen celebrates his home Grand Prix win with his grandmother at Circuit Zandvoort on Sunday

**DUTCH GP** — when he won four straight titles — and Verstappen's victory was a record-extending 14th straight for Red Bull dating back to last year's final race. **AP**

### DRIVERS STANDINGS

1. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 314 points.
2. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Racing, 189.
3. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 149.
4. Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Mercedes, 148.

## Bagan break Mumbai jinx

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Mohun Bagan SG ended their hoodoo against Mumbai City FC in style, outsmarting the ISL Shield winners 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium on Sunday and storming into the Durand Cup semifinals. Jason Cummings gave Juan Ferrando's side a perfect start, earning and converting a penalty in the 9th minute. Jorge Pereyra Diaz made it 1-1 for Mumbai in the 27th minute but Bagan were back in the lead within three minutes through Manvir Singh's goal.

Former Islanders player Anwar Ali then clinched the issue for the green-and-maroon brigade, rising to the occasion and planting a perfect header past Mumbai City FC goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa in the 63rd minute. This

was Mohun Bagan's first win in 9 meetings with the rivals from the Arabian Sea coast across all tournaments since the Kolkata side's initiation in the Indian Super League in 2020-2021 season. Cummings & Co. will take on another ISL side FC Goa in the second semifinal on Thursday.



ANWAR ALI



**DIVISION 1 DONS:** Don Bosco captain Yohan Panjuani (blue) looks to slip past Jonathan Piris of St Stanislaus in the final on Sunday

## Bosco seal U-16 Div 1 hat-trick

**Mumbai:** In the latest installment of possibly inter-school football's most storied rivalry, Don Bosco (Matunga) once again got the better of St Stanislaus (Bandra), winning their MSSA Boys U-16 division 1 final 1-0 at Cooperage on Sunday.

Although the Matunga side had several scoring chances, they were up against an inspired Stanis-

laus goalkeeper in Jordan Kamble who repeatedly denied them. It ultimately took a penalty, won by Bosco captain Yohan Panjuani, for the reigning champions to finally beat Jordan, with Ayayush Kharat making no mistake from the spot in the 47th minute. The victory saw Leslie Machado's boys crowned U-16 division 1 champions for the third straight year. **TNN**

## 'MINOR SCUFFLE' LED TO TOP INDIA SHOOTER'S OUSTER FROM WORLDS SQUAD, SAYS DAD

**New Delhi:** Top pistol shooter Ankit Tomar was removed from the Indian contingent bound for the ISSF World Championships in Baku a week before its departure because of a "minor scuffle" with a fellow shooter", said his father on Sunday.

Tomar, 21, a leading centre-fire pistol shooter in the country, came to know about his exclusion on Aug. 7 when he did not find the details of his weapons or his name on the list of shooters leaving for Azerbaijan. The World Championships, which commenced on Aug. 14, will conclude on Sept. 1. Tomar had a "minor scuffle" during the ISSF World Junior Championships in Changwon, South Korea in July and had to pay the price for it.

The Sonepat shooter had won the team gold in 50m pistol with Kamaljeet and Sandeep Bishnoi in Changwon. **PTI**

## BHULLAR CHARGES UP LEADERBOARD, LIES TIED-THIRD AT ST ANDREWS BAY CHAMPIONSHIP

**St Andrews (Scotland):** India's most successful player on the Asian Tour, Gaganjeet Bhullar, charged up the leaderboard with an electric 7-under 65 and is lying two shots behind the leader — at tied-third — after three days of the St Andrews Bay Championship.

With one round to go, Bhullar, winner of 10 titles on the Asian Tour — the most by an Indian — is now 15-under at an event, being held at Fairmont Links. He is tied with Mito Pereira from Chile (67) and South African Jaco Ahlers (68) at the Torrance Course at Fairmont, St Andrews.

Turk Pettit (62) is leading the field at 17-under, while Matt Jones (66) is second at 16-under. Bhullar had four birdies on the front nine and four more in a row from 12th to the 15th but dropped a bogey on the 16th. **PTI**

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**Max Verstappen** wins a deluge-hit & red-flagged Dutch Grand Prix to match Sebastian Vettel's record run of nine consecutive victories



## From gamers to creators, Indian app startups are innovating for everyone.

**Appscale Academy** celebrates another batch of appreneurs who powered their growth story.

**“SpeakApp lets users create and share audio content. The program helped us increase our daily active users by 49%.”**  
 Class of 2023: Arun John Kurian  
 Co-Founder & COO, SpeakApp

**“Beep is a one-stop platform where students can search for internships. Our engagement rate increased by 4x.”**  
 Class of 2023: Rakhi Pal  
 Co-Founder, Beep

**“Kurukshetra is a gaming app inspired by Indian mythology. Google Play helped us grow our consumer spends by 6x.”**  
 Class of 2023: Abhaas Shah  
 Founder & CEO, Studio Sirah

Google and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub have helped another 100 early to mid stage app startups expand their user base, raise funding and scale their businesses.



Scan here to learn more about the Class of 2023



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



# Epic Views.



Time for New Horizons.

**Lufthansa**

**Say yes to the world**