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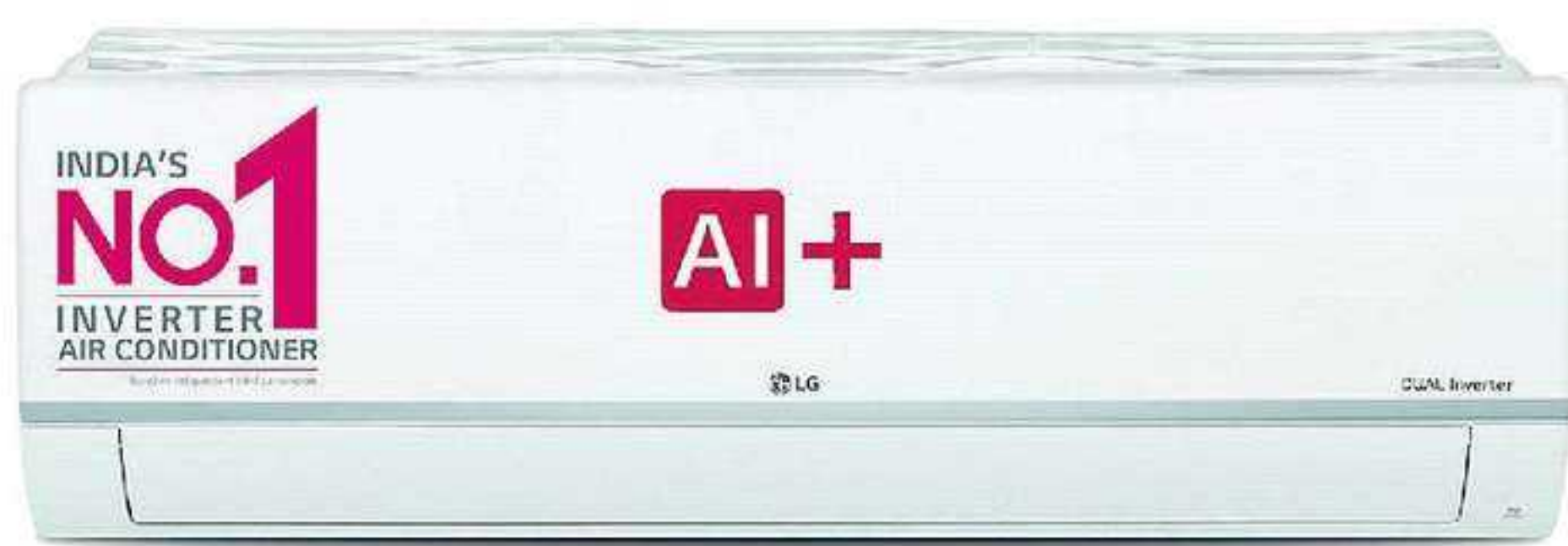
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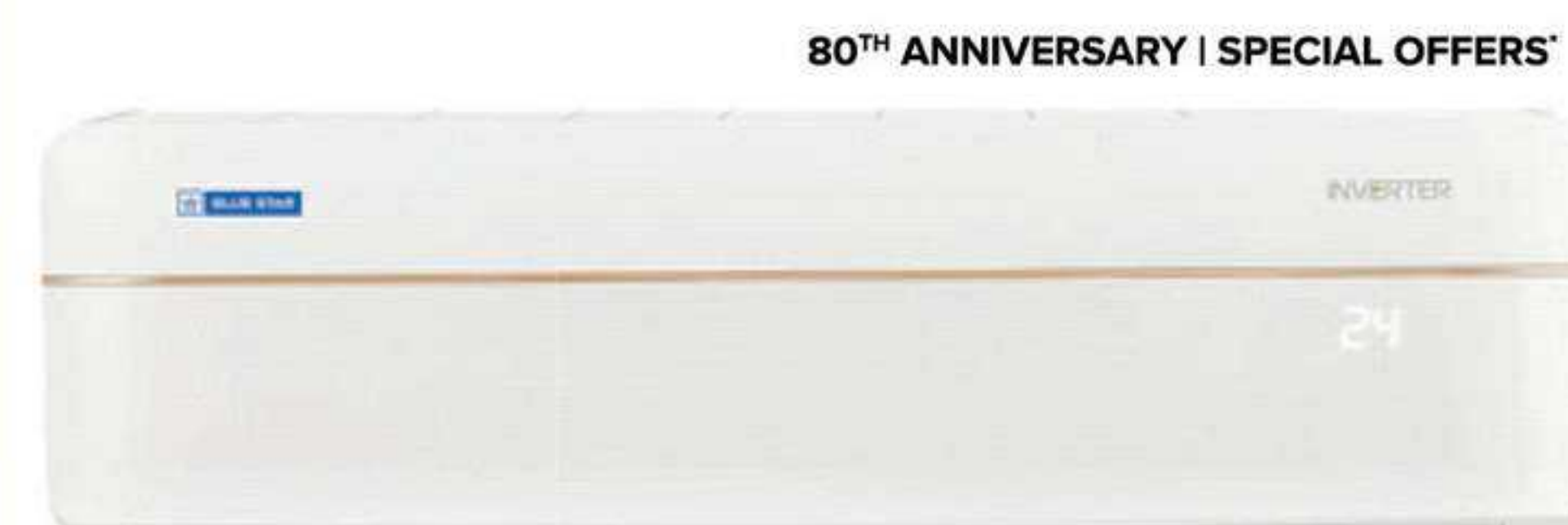
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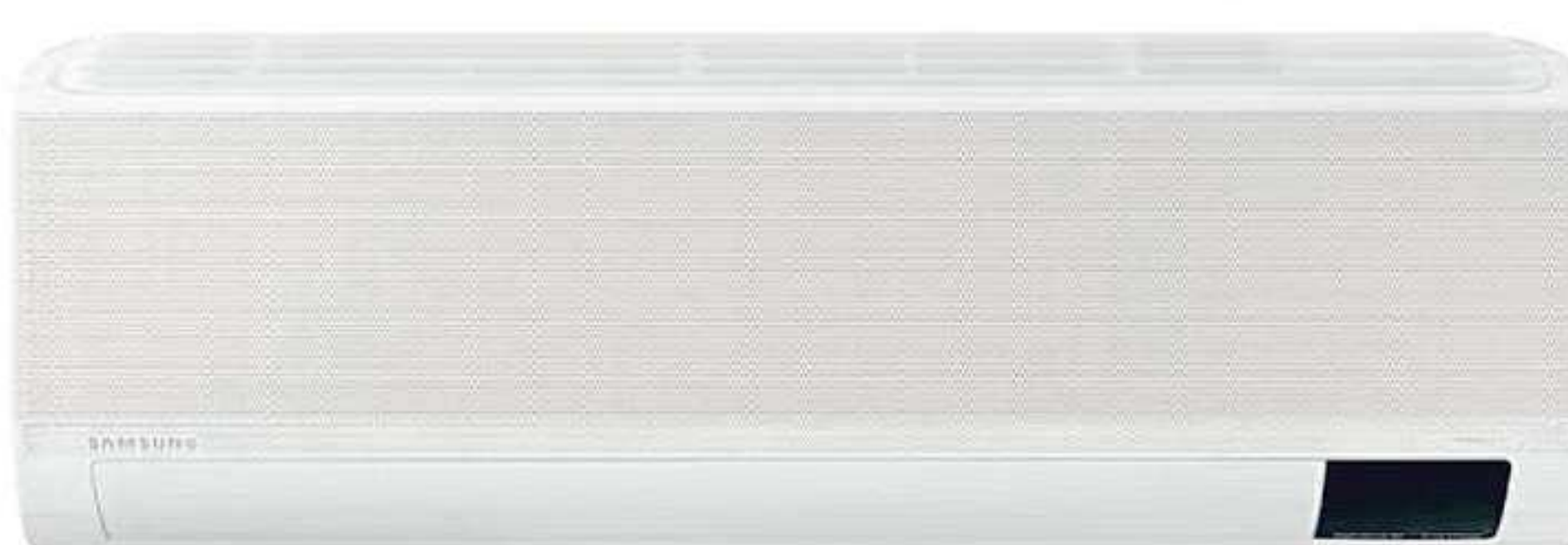
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{Sunday}



Hindustan Times

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Indian sailors, int'l flights snared in W Asia crisis

HTC and Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/TEHRAN/ DUBAI: Iran on Saturday seized an Israel-linked vessel reportedly carrying 17 Indian sailors, as tensions in West Asia came to a head on Saturday, with at least six international airlines, including Air India and Vistara, altering operations in the region amid a widely expected Iranian retaliation to Tel Aviv's bombing of its embassy in Syria on April 1. India is in touch with Tehran to secure the early release of the sailors, people familiar with the matter said.

The escalation came hours after people familiar with western intelligence assessments, according to Bloomberg, said that Israel is bracing for a direct and unprecedented attack by Iran on government targets as soon as the weekend, a move that has the potential to trigger an all-out regional war.

"I don't want to get into secure information, but my expectation is sooner rather than later," US President Joe Biden said on Friday in response to a question about whether an Iranian strike was imminent. Asked what message he'd give to Iran, Biden responded, "Don't."

According to media reports, a special forces unit of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on Saturday seized MSC Aries, whose beneficial owner is Zodiac Maritime Ltd, part of Israeli businessman Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group, near the Strait of Hormuz between the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Iranian forces are directing the ship to Iranian waters, Iran's official

continued on →11

17 Indians among 25 on seized ship

Fears of a wider regional war have escalated as Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip enters the sixth month, with Iran-backed forces also being involved in the fighting



INDIANS IN CROSS HAIRS
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have seized an Israel-linked vessel, MSC Aries, reportedly carrying 17 Indian sailors, near the Strait of Hormuz, and were directing it towards Iranian waters



FALL OUT OF APR 1 ATTACK
Tehran has vowed to avenge a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian consular building in Damascus that killed 12 people, including a general who once commanded its expeditionary Quds Force there

WHO IS ON BOARD?
Among the 25-member crew of the ship are four Filipinos, two Pakistanis, one Russian and one Estonian

ISRAEL WARNS RETALIATION
After the seizure, Israel warned that Iran would suffer the "consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further"

Western intel sees possible use of suicide drones, cruise missiles

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON: In a move that has the potential to trigger an all-out regional war, Iran could carry out a direct and unprecedented attack with the drones and precision missiles on Israeli government targets as soon as this weekend, according to people familiar with western intelligence assessments, a media report said.

An assault from Iranian soil

has emerged as one of the main scenarios expected by the Israel and its allies, the people told Bloomberg, asking not to be identified as they aren't authorised to discuss the matter publicly. A bombardment with drones and precision missiles could come within the next 48 hours, they said in the report that came out late on Friday.

Hours later, Iran seized an Israel-linked vessel near the Strait of Hormuz, presenting yet another serious escalation in the conflict between the two

countries.

Israel warned on Saturday that Iran would suffer the "consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further".

The intelligence assessment is that the attack still hasn't been approved by Tehran's highest-ranking officials, according to the people. An Iranian missile and drone barrage would represent a retaliation for a deadly strike on its diplomatic compound in Syria last week, which the Islamic Republic blames on Israel. →P17

GAMING NEEDS NO REGULATION, MUST BE FREE TO BLOOM, SAYS PM

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The gaming industry needs no restrictions and should be allowed to come into its own, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a group of gamers he met earlier, according to a video of his interaction released on Saturday.

The 30-minute video, shared on Modi's personal YouTube channel run by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was of his interaction with seven Indian esports players and gaming content creators. In the video, Modi said the gaming industry needed no restrictions imposed by regulation but did not clarify if that included real money games, which are at the centre of a debate about what kind of games can be considered gambling and outlawed by states.

The interaction, where the 72-year-old Modi joked that he dyed his hair white to look more mature, comes four weeks after general elections were announced. According to the Election Commission of India, 18.4 million voters between the ages of 18 and 19 will vote in the elections. Mithlesh Patankar, known as "Mythpat", told Modi, "We wanted to celebrate only after we met you because we don't know how these days [things may happen] because it is a world of fakes today." →P2



READ: 'Who is noob in politics?' PM Modi's jibe at the Opposition

A mid-summer break



Lightning seen over the Akshardham Temple on Saturday. Overcast skies coupled with short spells of rain, thunder and strong winds brought respite after days of rising heat, but also led to 22 flights being diverted. Safdarjung recorded 1.3mm of rain till 5.30pm. →P3 RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

Two killed as Manipur hostilities flare afresh

Prawesh Lama

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IMPHAL: Fragile peace maintained over the past month-and-a-half in strife-torn Manipur was rattled with the death of two people on Saturday as a bloody gunfight erupted between two armed groups in a village bordering Kangpokpi and Imphal East districts, marking the first death in clashes in the northeastern state in at least 46 days.

Since Thursday night, the state now has reported at least three separate incidents of violence. On Friday, two men were injured in a gunfight with militants at Tengnoupal. Later in the evening, militants disrupted and dispersed a gathering of people

THESE WERE THE FIRST DEATHS IN CLASHES IN THE RESTIVE STATE IN AT LEAST 46 DAYS, OFFICIALS SAID

in Bishnupur district who had assembled to meet Congress Lok Sabha candidate for inner Manipur, Bimol Akoijam.

The violence came just six days before general elections begin in the restive state.

Saturday morning's gunbattle took place at around 9am as militants from the two sides engaged in an exchange of heavy gunfire in a border region between Kuki

and Meitei villages.

People aware of the matter said that the gunfight had started in the area of Kamu Saichang village. The villages in Kangpokpi are close to the Meitei villages such as Moirangpur in Imphal East. Meities live in the valley districts such as Imphal East, while Kukis live in the hill districts such as Kangpokpi.

Security forces did not comment on which group started the gunfight, but confirmed the gunbattle in the morning and added that the situation was now "under control".

"The area where the gunfight happened is the border between Kuki and Meitei villages of the two districts. It has happened in →11

JOBS, SUBSIDISED COOKING GAS IN RJD'S LOK SABHA POLL MANIFESTO

PATNA: Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Saturday unveiled his party's election manifesto called "Pariwartan Patra (charter for change)", a list of 24 promises that included providing 10 million jobs across the nation, cooking gas cylinders at ₹500, a special package of ₹1.6 lakh crore to Bihar and five new airports in the state if the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) came to power at the Centre after the upcoming general elections. →P2

CUET-UG LIKELY TO BE HELD OFFLINE IN 12 SUBJECTS WITH 100K TAKERS

Fareeha Iftikhar

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NEW DELHI: The Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate Admissions (CUET-UG) is likely to be conducted in offline mode in at least 12 subjects that have more than 100,000 registrations, a top official said on Saturday. The list of subjects includes English, physics, chemistry and general test, could change based on the number of applicants. →P8

CBI files graft case against Hyd-based firm, govt officials

Neeraj Chauhan

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NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a case against several officials of NMDCL Limited and MECON Limited, two public-sector firms under the Union ministry of steel, and Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL) for alleged corruption in a ₹314 crore contract for an intake well, pump house and cross-country pipeline system for a steel plant in Chhattisgarh.

NMDCL Limited is the country's largest iron ore producer and exporter, functioning largely in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. MECON Limited is India's front line engineering, consultancy and contracting organisation, offering a range of services required for setting up of projects.

Megha Engineering was the second-highest donor to political parties through electoral bonds, as revealed by data published by the Election Commission of India and State Bank of India last month. The group purchased ₹966 crore worth bonds, out of which ₹584 crore went to the Bharatiya Janata

THE CASE WAS FILED BY CBI AGAINST GOVT EMPLOYEES AND MEGHA ENGG, A COMPANY THAT WAS AMONG THE TOP DONORS VIA ELECTORAL BONDS

Party, followed by ₹195 crore to the Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS), ₹85 crore to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), ₹37 crore to YSR Congress, ₹25 crore to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and ₹17 crore to the Congress.

In February, the Supreme Court quashed the electoral bonds scheme and ordered SBI to disclose all data about donors and beneficiaries.

The CBI first information report (FIR), filed on March 31, alleged that NMDCL and MECON officials received over ₹78 lakh against payments of over ₹174 crore made to the company in the contract.

Those named in the FIR include MEIL, its general man- →P9

{ LOK SABHA LIST } VIRBHADRA SON TO TAKE ON KANGANA

Cong fields Vikramaditya, Manish Tewari

Saubhadra Chatterji

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Union minister Manish Tewari will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh from Mandi, the party announced on Saturday, unveiling a list of 16 candidates across three states and one Union Territory.

Hours after a long meeting of the party's top poll body Central Election Committee (CEC), the Congress announced two candidates from Himachal Pra-

desh, four from Gujarat and nine from Odisha, apart from Tewari in Chandigarh.

Tewari, the Anantpur Sahib MP and one of the party's most articulate lawmakers in the Lok Sabha, will take on the Bharatiya Janata Party's Sanjay Tandon. In Mandi, Singh will contest against actor Kangana Ranaut. Another high-profile match-up will be in Rajkot, where former leader of Opposition in Gujarat Pooja Dhanani will fight against Union minister Parshottam Rupala.

The prestigious Chandigarh →P9

Cong releases new list

16 candidates named for seats in three states and one Union territory

SOME KEY NAMES

- 1 Manish Tewari, Chandigarh
- 2 Vikramaditya Singh, Mandi
- 3 Pooja Dhanani, Rajkot
- 4 Srikant Kumar Jena, Balasore



CM NOT ALLOWED TO MEET FAMILY IN PERSON, SAYS SANJAY SINGH

Alok KN Mishra

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Saturday alleged that the Bihar jail administration had barred chief minister Arvind Kejriwal from meeting his family and other visitors in person, and allowed interactions through a glass wall, even though notorious criminals were allowed face-to-face meetings. →P3

Govt may include HPV screening in its cancer surveillance mission

Rhythmia Kaul

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NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry is likely to incorporate HPV (human papillomavirus) testing into the National Cancer Control Programme to screen women for cervical cancer, people familiar with the matter said.

As part of the programme, the government is stepping up efforts to test and validate indigenously developed, low-cost and

IN INDIA, CERVICAL CANCER IS THE SECOND MOST COMMON FORM OF CANCER AMONG WOMEN AFTER BREAST CANCER

point of care HPV tests to detect the cancer causing HPV genotypes in the Indian population, the people cited above said. →P6

In India, cervical cancer is the second most common form of cancer among women after breast cancer, according to government estimates.

As part of the government's efforts to scale up testing, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are launching a validation study of indigenous HPV tests at three specialised centres, a statement from the hospital said. →P6

SHAH SLAMS DMK FOR SANATANA DHARMA REMARK; ACCUSES CONG OF MISLEADING OBCS

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI/JAIPUR: Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of "hurting" the sentiments of people by insulting Sanatana Dharma and urged voters to reject the Dravidian party in the coming general elections.

The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader also hit out at the Congress for allegedly spreading a misconception that the ruling party at the Centre wants to abolish quota for the Dalits, tribals and backwards, and accused the grand old party of being "anti-OBC". He made the remarks while addressing a roadshow and poll rally in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and Alwar in Rajasthan, respectively.

Addressing the crowd in Kanyakumari, Shah said: "The DMK party has hurt the sentiments of the people by making insulting remarks on Sanatana Dharma. But on the other hand, the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi respected everyone and believed in unity." He added that the DMK passed unsavoury remarks on the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. →P2

Man on stabbing spree kills six in Sydney mall

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

SYDNEY: A man stabbed six people to death at a busy Sydney shopping centre Saturday before he was fatally shot by cops, police said. Eight people, including a 9-month-old, were wounded in the attack.

The 40-year-old suspect began stabbing people at the Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction, which is in the city's eastern suburbs, before a police inspector shot him after he turned and raised a knife, New South Wales assistant police commissioner Anthony Cooke told reporters. Six of the victims — five

women and a man — and the suspect died.

Police commissioner Karen Webb said the eight injured people were being treated at hospitals. The baby was in surgery, but it was too early to know the condition, she said.

"We are confident that there is no ongoing risk, and we are dealing with one person who is now deceased," Webb said in a later briefing. She added: "It's not a terrorism incident."

She said police wouldn't identify the man yet and were still working to determine his motivation.

Cooke said a "lengthy and precise" investigation was just beginning. →P17

Cheap hotels, short stays, multiple fake IDs in Bengaluru cafe blast suspects' escape strategy



The two seen in CCTV footage checking into a hotel in Kolkata. →P16

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KOLKATA: Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taha and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, the two men arrested by NIA on Friday for a blast at Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe on March 1, spent a month in West Bengal, frequently changing locations, and living in multiple low-cost hotels and lodges under false identities, investigators retracing their footsteps said.

The two men, both 30 years old, one of whom planted the bomb and the other considered the mastermind behind the attack that left nine people

injured, were arrested from a hotel in New Digha, a tourist town 180km south of Kolkata.

On Saturday, they were remanded to NIA custody for 10 days after they were produced before a court in Bengaluru.

Police probe showed that the two reached Kolkata from Chennai on March 12, and stayed in a hotel in central Kolkata for a day. Then, they checked into another hotel a five-minute walk away. This was a pattern they would follow for most of their month, the officer said. They chose guest houses and low-budget hotels with costs that were largely under ₹1,000 a night. →P6

HT wknd

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

We're driven by fear of death

Biologist and Nobel laureate Venki Ramakrishnan discusses ageing, death, and his new book. And asks: 'Would I still want to try new things if I knew I'd live forever?' →P3

{ MIND } We're funny that way

Where did the laugh come from? It turns out, it's at least 10 million years old. See how laughter still links us, in ways words just can't →P16

SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

RJD manifesto promises jobs, aid for poor women

Anirban Guha Roy

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PATNA: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday unveiled his party's election manifesto called "Parivartan Patra (charter for change)", a list of 24 promises that included 10 million jobs for young people across the nation, cooking gas cylinders for ₹500, a special package of ₹1.6 lakh crore to Bihar, and ₹1 lakh aid to women belonging to poor families from this Raksha Bandhan, if the opposition INDIA bloc was voted to power in the general elections.

While addressing a media briefing with state unit chief Jagdanand Singh and other leaders at the RJD in Patna, Yadav said India's young can look forward to good days from August 15 as the process of generating 10 million jobs will start if the INDIA bloc was voted to power. "In the 2024 parliamentary polls, we have come up with 24 commitments," he said.

The Parivartan Patra was released by the RJD as a key constituent of the INDIA bloc, which comprises a total of 26 parties nationwide, he added. "The Congress has promised 30 lakh jobs in its manifesto. We are promising one crore jobs as we have done research on the potential of creating more vacancies in railways, armed forces and other government sectors at the national level," Yadav said. "We are a key constituent of the INDIA bloc. In 2004, Manmohan Singh was appointed

Highlights of the Parivartan Patra

10mn government jobs

₹1 lakh per year to women from poor families from Raksha Bandhan

₹500 LPG cylinder cost

Old Pension Scheme to be brought back for govt employees

Agniveer scheme in armed forces will be discontinued



"We are bringing forward 24 promises in 2024, which are our commitment and our pledge that will be fulfilled responsibly. When RJD says something, it also fulfils it by doing it."

— Tejashwi Yadav, RJD leader

as prime minister with our consent. We were the second-largest party in the central government," he added, implying that the RJD would have a big say in implementing the 24 commitments.

"From August 15, people will start getting freedom from unemployment. There are already 30 lakh vacancies at all India levels and we will generate another 70 lakh jobs for youth across India,"

promised welfare scheme for women from poor households.

Apart from this, the former deputy chief minister, who has sought credit for generating 500,000 jobs during his stint in power during the Grand Alliance government from August 2022 to January 2024, maintained his party will ensure special status to Bihar and provide a dedicated special package of ₹1.60 lakh crore to one of India's poorest states.

"This package would be exclusively for Bihar for its development and economic progress. By a calculation, the package would enable provision of ₹4,000 crore to each of 40 parliamentary seats in Bihar," Yadav said.

He asserted his party and other allies in the INDIA bloc are committed to scrapping the Agniveer scheme, which recruits people in the defence forces on short-term contracts. "We will also provide 200 units of free electricity to consumers, provide LPG cylinders at ₹500 across India and implement the old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees in the state and central levels." Besides, the RJD leader asserted that his party will "conduct a nationwide caste survey, if voted to power".

JDU spokesperson Neeraj Kumar asked if the RJD was contesting in only 23 out of 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, how could the party make promises at the national level. "What is Yadav's own status at the national level? This is all big talk and nothing else," he said.

AKALI DAL RELEASES FIRST POLL LIST OF 7 NAMES FOR PUNJAB

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CHANDIGARH: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Saturday announced its first list of seven Lok Sabha candidates for Punjab, fielding senior party leaders Prem Singh Chandumajra from Anandpur Sahib and Daljit Singh Cheema from Gurdaspur.

The SAD also announced the candidature of former minister Anil Joshi from Amritsar, former MLAs N K Sharma and Iqbal Singh Jhunda from Patiala and Sangrur seats, respectively, Bikramjit Singh Khalsa from Fatehgarh Sahib and Rajwinder Singh from Faridkot.

Polling for the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab will be held in the last round of the seven-phase elections on June 1.

"SAD president S Sukhbir Singh Badal announced a list of 7 senior leaders of the party as candidates for the Parliament Elections 2024. Choosing the historic & pious occasion of Khalsa Sirjana Divas as the most suited day to sound the poll bugle, he released the first list of candidates," Cheema said on X.

The SAD will be contesting the Lok Sabha elections on its own for the first time since 1996, when it joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The SAD walked out of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2020 over the now-repealed farm laws. The BJP had announced on March 26 that it would go solo in the general elections in Punjab. The SAD has fielded senior leader and former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra from Anandpur Sahib, which is currently represented by Congress MP Manish Tewari.

ON SANATANA DHARMA

DMK hurt sentiments through remark: Shah

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CHENNAI/JAIPUR: Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of "hurting" the sentiments of people by insulting Sanatana Dharma and urged voters to reject the Dravidian party in the coming general elections.

The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader also hit out at the Congress for allegedly spreading a misconception that the ruling party at the Centre wants to abolish quota for the Dalits, tribals and backward classes, and accused the grand old party of being "anti-OBC". He made the remarks while addressing a roadshow and poll rally in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and Alwar in Rajasthan, respectively.

Addressing the crowd in Kanyakumari, Shah said: "The DMK party has hurt the sentiments of the people by making insulting remarks on Sanatana Dharma. But on the other hand, the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi respected everyone and believed in unity." He added that the DMK passed unsavoury remarks on the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

On September 2 last year, Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin triggered a controversy at an event in Chennai, saying that Sanatana Dharma was against social justice and equality, and should be "eradicated". Udhayanidhi, who is the son of chief minister MK Stalin, also likened Sanatana Dharma to the coronavirus, malaria and den-



Amit Shah

gue, and said it should be destroyed.

Another state minister Sekar Babu was on the stage with Udhayanidhi when the latter made the remarks. Later, DMK lawmaker A Raja also came out in support of Udhayanidhi and compared Sanatana Dharma to diseases.

Shah, who was holding the roadshow in support of BJP candidate from Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency, Pon Radhakrishnan, invoked the name of Lord Ram before targeting the ruling dispensation in the southern state. Hundreds of party cadres, invigorated by his visit, joined the BJP veteran in the road show from Mettukadai Junction, Thuckalay, to the Old Bus Stand.

"I urge all of you to make Modi ji the Prime Minister for the third time and help us make Bharat the world's third largest economy. Press the 'Lotus' button and make us achieve '400 Paar', this time," Shah appealed and added that Kanyakumari too should be part of the success story.

Later in the day, the Union minister addressed a rally in Harsoil in Alwar district, where he attacked the Congress over the issue of res-

ervation. "Modi himself is the biggest supporter of reservation," he said. "I want to make one thing clear. The Congress party is spreading misconception, especially among Dalit and tribal brothers, that the BJP is going to abolish reservation. Listen to me carefully. Be it reservation for Dalits, tribals or backward classes, the BJP supports it. We will neither end the reservation nor allow anyone to do it," he added.

He addressed the rally in support of Alwar Lok Sabha candidate Bhupender Yadav.

His assertion came in the backdrop of the Congress's election manifesto promise of bringing a constitutional amendment to raise the 50% cap on reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The Congress has also said a caste census will be undertaken if it is voted to power.

Targeting the Congress on the Ram Temple issue, Shah said: "For 70 years, the Congress party kept delaying the Ram Temple, kept diverting it, kept stalling it. On April 17, for the first time after 500 years, Ramlala will celebrate his birthday in the grand temple on Ram Navami. This is a matter of pride for all of us." There was no immediate response from the DMK on Shah's remarks. Rajasthan Congress spokesperson Swarn Chaturvedi said: "The Congress manifesto is clear. We have said 'jiti bhagidari, utti hissecdar'. We want a caste census but the BJP is against it."

With PTI inputs

IN UTTAR PRADESH

Brij Bhushan booked for poll code violation

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GONDA: A case for violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and prohibitory orders was filed against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lawmaker from Kaiserganj and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Saturday, a senior official said.

According to district magistrate Neha Sharma, the BJP MP visited several villages in Katra assembly segment of his constituency under Khargapur police station area with a convoy of about 25-30 vehicles on Friday without permission.

As a result, in-charge of the flying squad team of Katra market area, Dr Nazmul Islam, filed a case under relevant sections against Singh, Sharma said.

Sharma said restrictions under section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure is in force in the district in view of the Lok Sabha elections and that the district administration was committed to complying with the poll code.

Strict action will be taken if anyone violates it, the district

THE BJP MP VISITED SEVERAL VILLAGES IN KATRA WITH A CONVOY OF ABOUT 25-30 VEHICLES ON FRIDAY WITHOUT PERMISSION, AN OFFICIAL SAID

magistrate said.

Police station in-charge Dinesh Singh said a case has been registered under relevant sections and the investigation was handed over to sub-inspector Hrityunjay Singh.

The BJP is yet to declare its candidate for Kaiserganj seat. Last year, the BJP leader made headlines after four elite wrestlers accused him of sexually harassing women wrestlers and also led sit-in protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar between January and May 2023.

After the Delhi Police filed a first information report in connection with the allegations, the case went before the city's additional chief metropolitan magistrate's court, which is due to give its verdict on April 18.

Gaming industry doesn't need regulation, must let it bloom: PM

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NEW DELHI: The gaming industry does not require any regulation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, while asserting that it must remain free and only then it will boom.

"There are two things — either you try to impose restrictions under a law or try to understand and mould it based on our country's needs and bring it under an organised and legal structure and uplift its reputation," he said.

"My attempt is to uplift the nation to a level that by 2047, the government is out of the lives of middle-class families in particular. Our life is stuck in paperwork. It is the poor who need the government, the government should be there with them in difficult times," he added.

Modi made the remarks as he held an interaction with seven Indian online gamers and gaming content creators on a host of issues about the future as well as the challenges before the e-gaming industry. A video of the interaction was streamed on his YouTube channel that is run by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

While Modi said the gaming industry does not need to be regulated, he did not specify if it applies



Narendra Modi

to real-money games. Naman Mathur, co-founder of SSUL Esports, asked Modi if there can be a regulatory body. "The word 'regulate' won't be appropriate because it is the government's nature to intervene in everything. That is the government's fundamental nature. Now there are two options: either you impose restrictions through law or you understand the issue at hand, and after that, modify it according to the needs of our country..." Mathur said.

Another gamer Animesh Agarwal said the government should recognise esports and gaming as a mainstream sport. "It is a skill-based gaming and does not involve gambling. Once it is established and understood by all government bodies, including those involved in financial transactions, it will be really beneficial. As you said, the industry does not need a regulation. We should let it grow freely. With a little push, the industry will be ready," he said.

To this, Modi replied, "It (esports and gaming) does not require any regulation. It must remain free, only then it will boom." Modi sought to know from the gamers about how they deal with the conflict between gaming and gambling. The gamers also discussed with the prime minister certain terminologies used in the industry such as "noob" and "grind".

As the gamers explained to Modi that "noob" is a reference to someone who is a newbie or not very skilled at a game, Modi chuckled. "If I use this word during elections, people will wonder who am I referring to. If I say it, you will assume it for a particular person."

While Modi did not mention any name, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said: "I don't know who he is talking about but he is talking about an Opposition member. Talking about someone who is educated at top universities... These are just political tactics of the BJP around the elections. This will backfire."



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Rahul: BJP attacking Constitution, INDIA bloc wants to save it

Agencies

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JAGDALPUR/BHANDARA: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the upcoming Lok Sabha elections are a fight between an ideology which seeks to protect the Constitution and democracy, and another which is out to destroy them.

Speaking at a campaign rally at Bastar village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, Gandhi also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of attacking the religion, ideology and history of the tribal communities in the country, and reiterated the promise of conducting a caste census.

The rally was held in support of Kawaii Lakhma, Congress candidate from the Scheduled Tribes-reserved Bastar Lok Sabha seat. "The election is coming and there is a fight between two ideologies. On one side there are Congress and INDIA bloc, which is there to save democracy and the Constitution, and on the other side there are (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, Adani, RSS, who have been attacking the Constitution and democracy.



Rahul Gandhi

They are trying to destroy the Constitution," Gandhi said.

At another rally in Sakoli in Maharashtra's Bhandara district last in the day, he said the main issues plaguing the people of the country were unemployment and inflation, though these were ignored by the media, which concentrated on programmes of the prime minister and celebrities.

"Loans of farmers will be waived if the Congress comes to power. People are distressed due to unemployment and inflation. The situation is such that people earning just thousands and those making crores are paying the same GST," he said while attacking the NDA government at the Centre.

Gandhi said his party would conduct a caste census after attaining power since it is important for the future of the country.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

DO NOT FALL FOR WORDS USED BY MODI: PRIYANKA

DEHRADUN/HALDWANI: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday asked people not to get carried away by the words used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speeches and to vote for change in the parliamentary elections starting next week. "Don't get carried away by the words used by Modi ji in his election speeches. Before casting your vote, you should honestly ask yourself whether 10 years of the Modi government have really brought about a positive change in your lives," she said while addressing a rally in Ramnagar in Uttarakhand's Nainital district.

Ever-growing unemployment, uncontrolled inflation and paper leak scams are the truths of people's lives and the BJP-led government is responsible for these as it has been in power for the last 10 years, she added.

Hitting back, state BJP media in-charge Manveer Singh Chouhan said: "The people of the country and the whole world knows how Modi is ushering in a paradigm change in India. She is baseless statements. The Congress will be rejected." HTc

Jagan injured in stone pelting during election campaign in Andhra

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VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was on Saturday injured after stones were pelted by unknown people during the Yuvajana Shramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) president's election campaign in Vijayawada, his office said.

The chief minister suffered a small cut on the left side of his temple above the eye during his 'Memanta Siddham' (we are all ready) election canvassing bus tour.

"The stone struck the chief minister while he was acknowledging the crowds as part of his bus tour at Vivekananda School Centre in Singh Nagar, Vijayawada," said a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

The stone hit Reddy at a very high velocity and officials are suspecting that it could have been launched from a catapult, prompting the people standing around him atop the bus to wipe his forehead with a handkerchief initially.

Immediately, the chief minister was administered first aid



Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy

inside the bus by a doctor. Reddy was seen being attended to by a doctor inside the bus and also grimacing from pain. However, unfazed by the stone pelting, he resumed his tour in the city, where he has been canvassing for nearly four hours.

Meanwhile, YSRCP leaders alleged that the Telugu Desam Party was behind the "attack".

Reddy has embarked on a 21-day election campaign bus tour from Idupulupaya in Kadapa district to Ichchapuram in Srikakulam district.

Elections for the 175-member assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh are scheduled to be held on May 13 and the counting of votes is slated for June 4.

KCR accuses BJP of triggering 'religious madness', misusing agencies like ED

HYDERABAD: Launching a sharp attack against the BJP, BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday accused the saffron party of triggering a "religious madness" for political gains and misusing central agencies like the ED to intimidate opposition leaders. Rao, who addressed a poll rally at Chevella, also hit out at the Congress government in Telangana for its alleged failure to implement its election promises. "The BJP has been in power for 10 years... Except raising emotions and triggering a religious madness, did a single good work happened during the BJP regime for any section of society or poor," he asked.

Rahul's TN visit has trumped Modi's poll campaign: Stalin

TIRUPUR: Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on Saturday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's single day campaign in the state has "beaten all the election trips" of PM Narendra Modi to the state to seek votes. Referring to the April 12 meeting addressed by him and Gandhi in Coimbatore, Stalin said Gandhi's single day campaign in TN has "beaten all the election trips" of Modi to the state to seek votes. "Rahul Gandhi has proven that Tamil Nadu people can be won over (ruled) only through love."

AMMK's Dhinakaran releases manifesto for general elections

THENI: TTV Dhinakaran, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam chief and NDA candidate in Theni, released the AMMK's manifesto on Saturday. "The water level of Mullaperiyar dam will be raised to 152 feet as per the Supreme Court order and steps will be taken to protect the rights of the state and the welfare of the farmers. The forest department's attempt to evict 18 villagers living as tribals in Meghamalai, Thummakundu and Valparai areas will be stopped and necessary steps will be taken to resettle them..." he said.

BENGAL RALLY

BJP will not even win 200 LS seats: Mamata

Press Trust of India

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JALPAIGURI: Alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees are "false", West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday claimed that the BJP will not even win 200 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Speaking at an election rally for party candidate Nirmal Chandra Roy, the Trinamool Congress supremo also accused the BJP of destroying the country's Constitution drafted by B R Ambedkar.

"The BJP will not even win 200 seats. What have they done for north Bengal? Do not fall prey to PM Narendra Modi's guarantees. These are nothing but electoral jumla (false). Modi's guarantee is not to give Bengal its dues," Banerjee said at the TMC's programme.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is aiming at crossing the 400 Lok Sabha seat mark in the upcoming elections. "Before the (2021) Assembly elections, you (BJP) had said they would win over 200 seats in Bengal, but your run stopped at 70. At the moment out of the 70, ten have already joined us. Now,



Mamata Banerjee

in this Parliamentary elections, you are claiming to win 400. I tell you to get 200 first," she said.

Banerjee described the BJP leaders as "birds who surface during elections". "You (BJP) have destroyed the country's Constitution drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar. You have sold the entire country," she alleged.

Without naming anyone, the TMC supremo also slammed a recent remark made by BJP leader Amit Malviya that West Bengal a "safe haven for terrorists" soon after NIA arresting two persons in the Bengaluru blast case.

She said: "Yesterday, some people said that Bengal is not safe anymore. They must have forgotten that Bengaluru and Bengal are separate states. The arrested persons are from Karnataka..."

BJP TO RELEASE MANIFESTO FOR LS ELECTIONS TODAY

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will release its manifesto — "Sankalp Patra" — for the Lok Sabha elections on Sunday, with its planks of welfare and development besides a roadmap for "viksit Bharat" expected to figure prominently in its election agenda.

The party, in a post on X, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his other senior leaders will attend the unveiling of the manifesto at the party headquarters at 8.30am on Sunday, that coincides with the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, a towering leader from the Dalit community and an architect of the Indian Constitution.

As the BJP government has fulfilled most of its core ideological promises, including the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the repeal of Article 370, all eyes will be on how the ruling party's larger cultural and Hindutva agenda figures in the manifesto. Party officials familiar with the matter said measures for the youth, women, farmers and the poor — four "castes" Modi has often spoken about — will be among the highlights of its poll pledges.

AIMIM TO SUPPORT AIADMK IN TN FOR LS, STATE ELECTIONS

HYDERABAD: The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Saturday announced its support to the Edappadi K Palaniswami-led All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu for the April 19 Lok Sabha polls.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said on X that the "alliance would also continue for the assembly elections" in Tamil Nadu, apparently referring to the state polls in 2026.

"AIADMK has refused to ally with BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) and has committed to never allying with it in the future. It has also assured that it will oppose CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act), NPR (National Population Register) & NRC (National Register of Citizens). Therefore, AIMIM extends its support to AIADMK in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Our alliance will also continue for the Assembly elections," Owaisi wrote on the micro-blogging site.

Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha seats. HTc

NEWS

Rain, gusty winds lash city; more in store: IMD

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NEW DELHI: Overcast skies, light to moderate rain in parts of Delhi and gusty winds brought respite to the Capital on Saturday — after days of steady rise in mercury — owing to a western disturbance influencing northwest India. Safdarjung, representative of Delhi's weather, recorded 1.3 mm of rain till 5.30pm on Saturday, according to the India Meteorological department (IMD).

According to IMD forecast, generally cloudy skies will persist through Sunday as well, with possibility of light rain and thundershowers in parts of the Capital, accompanied by gusty winds with a speed of 35-45 km/hour. IMD has also issued a "yellow" alert for Sunday.

"The western disturbance is primarily responsible for the thunderstorm, rain and strong winds. The effect should be observed till Sunday, and a temperature drop will also be observed," said RK Jenamani, scientist at IMD.

In total, 22 flights were diverted from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport between 3pm and 6.30pm on Saturday due to bad weather, said an airport official aware of the matter.

Delhi's minimum rose to 23 degrees Celsius (C), two degrees above normal, and slightly higher than Friday's 21.7°C. The maximum on Saturday was recorded at 39.3°C, three degrees above normal. It was 39.4°C on Friday. IMD has predicted the maxi-



The minimum was recorded at 23°C, two degrees above normal, on Saturday. ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

mum and minimum to decrease significantly, following the thundershowers. The maximum is expected to reduce to 33°C on Sunday and then eventually go up to 37°C by the next weekend, while the minimum is expected to be recorded around 20°C on Sunday and Monday and then eventually rise up again.

Other weather stations in Delhi also recorded light to moderate rain on Saturday. Palam recorded 7.6mm of rain till 5.30pm, Pitampura recorded 26mm and Pusa recorded 7mm of rain during the same period. IMD has forecast moderate to

severe thunderstorms accompanied with gusty winds, hail, and lightning over northwest India to continue till Monday.

"A hailstorm was observed at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh and Marathwada till 8.30am on Saturday. Gusty winds also affected parts of Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh, while thundershowers were observed in several places of India," said another IMD official on condition of anonymity.

IMD has forecast scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of speed 30-40 kmph

to occur over West Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Rajasthan for the next two days. "A gradual fall of temperature by 2-4 degrees is likely over northwest India during the next two days," added the second IMD official.

"Since wheat crop has been harvested in many areas and some parts are left, I am not expecting widespread damage. But there will be damage because of very strong winds, thunderstorm and hail," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate and meteorology, Skymet Weather.

CM's arrest will not affect subsidies in city, says LG

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NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena said that subsidies and schemes for free power, water and bus rides for women will not be stopped because of the chief minister's arrest, according to a statement released by the LG's office on Saturday.

Officials said the LG took serious note of "patently false and deliberately misleading statements issued by not only members of a particular political party, but also ministers sworn to the constitutional oath of office" about likely discontinuation of government schemes.

"The purported imaginary stoppage of these schemes in future is being attributed to the central government and LG. Saxena has assured the people of Delhi that none of the subsidy schemes benefiting the poor will be discontinued and

appealed to them to not pay heed to the statements and rumours being spread by political vested interests. The people should reject any attempts at misleading them," the statement read.

Saxena said that these schemes are paid for from the consolidated fund of NCT of Delhi, collected through taxes, and not from the account of an individual or political party.

The LG further said that the subsidy schemes are those of the government and not driven by or dependent on any individual holding any position and therefore, because of any individual being in jail, the question of a scheme getting affected does not arise.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, termed the statement a significant triumph for both the central government and LG. Saxena has assured the people of Delhi.

Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "It is a significant vic-

tory for CM Arvind Kejriwal that even while in jail, he has compelled the LG to say that work and free schemes will continue. Whereas the LG has always tried to obstruct the work of the people of Delhi through his favourite officers. Today, the LG is also saying that the work and schemes of the people will continue in Delhi, instead of stopping the work."

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Bharadwaj wrote that Kejriwal had promised the people of Delhi that whether he is outside the jail or inside, he will not let the work of the people of Delhi stop. "Today, Delhi's son and brother Arvind Kejriwal has had a big victory," he said.

"Those who used to say that they will not let the government run from jail, they too have accepted defeat. They accepted that the work of Delhi will not stop, the Kejriwal government will run from jail," Bharadwaj said in the post.

5 ARRESTED AFTER COPS BUST GANG OF VEHICLE-LIFTERS

NEW DELHI: The crime branch of Delhi Police on Saturday said it has busted an interstate syndicate of vehicle-lifters and receivers of stolen vehicles with the arrest of five people.

According to police, the arrested suspects were identified as Harpreet Singh alias Smarty, 34, Akhlaq Khan, 38, Sukhdev Singh, 44, Mandeep Singh, 39, and Amandeep Aman, 45. Police said that Harpreet is a B.Tech graduate who is an "expert at tampering with the electronic security system of cars".

Police said they recovered 14 cars from the suspects following their interrogation.

"We have also recovered an on-board diagnostic tool that was being used to prepare duplicate keys of the cars. All modern cars have an OBD port that authorises bonafide technicians to access the vehicle's main frame... Harpreet used this port to download the car's original digital key onto a blank key," said deputy commissioner of police (DCP) (crime) Sanjay Kumar Sain. HT

Man succumbs after being shot by minor

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NEW DELHI: A 35-year-old man succumbed to injuries after he was shot in the back of his head by a 15-year-old minor boy at Kabari Market in northeast Delhi's Seelampur on Friday morning, the Delhi Police said on Saturday, adding that the crime was captured on a CCTV camera which was installed in the lane.

Police said the juvenile has been apprehended while three others involved in the crime are on the run. The suspect and the victim belonged to two rival groups in the area.

"The murder happened over a quarrel between the groups regarding claiming dominance

in the neighbourhood. They verbally abused each other. On Saturday morning, the teenager followed the victim, identified as Mohammad Shahna-waz, and shot him from a close range," said DCP (northeast) Joy Tirkey.

"The victim was taken to Lok Nayak Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries on Sunday evening," said Tirkey, adding that a case was registered.

"Through CCTV footage and manual intelligence, the attacker was identified as a minor boy, who has been apprehended. Three other suspects have been identified as Rehan, Faizan and Shoab (police only revealed their first names). Efforts are on to nab them," added DCP Tirkey.

Kejriwal allowed to meet family only through glass window: MP

Alok KN Mishra
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NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh accused the BJP-led Centre Saturday of unfairly restricting Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's rights in Tihar Jail, where he is being held and is now reportedly only being allowed to meet people across a glass window.

Singh alleged that the jail is not allowing Kejriwal face-to-face meetings with family, forcing them to interact through a glass partition, while "notorious criminals" get in-person visits. He said it was an attempt to "break [Kejriwal's] morale" and deprive him of basic rights.

"Despite being elected thrice as the Delhi CM with a huge majority and the mandate of two crore people, Kejriwal is being harassed inside Tihar at the behest of the central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Singh said. "Rules 602 and 605 of the jail state that anyone can have a face-to-face meeting... but here his wife cannot sit in a room for a meeting and has to sit across a glass window," Singh said.



Sanjay Singh at a press conference on Saturday. VIPIN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Kejriwal on March 21. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, also of AAP, is scheduled to meet Kejriwal at the jail on April 15, according to party officials. Singh, who was recently released from Tihar himself, contrasted Kejriwal's treatment with alleged privileges given to other high-profile inmates like Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy and Unitech promoters, the Chandra brothers. "Prime Minister, the two crore people of Delhi and the entire country's population will hold you accountable for your tyranny,

dictatorship, and oppression," Singh said. Tihar officials, on condition of anonymity, said according to the rules, all 20,000 inmates are allowed to meet family members from across the glass wall. The rules are consistent for everyone, they added.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva dismissed Singh's accusations as "misinformation," saying arranging CM-level meetings with prisoners is uncommon. "The manual allows face-to-face meetings only between inmates and lawyers, a facility Kejriwal is availing," he said.

Nationwide stir to be held today to 'save democracy'

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party will hold protests in Delhi and all state capitals under the banner of "Samvidhan bachao, tanashahi hatao (Save Constitution, end dictatorship)" on April 14 to oppose the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, AAP leader Gopal Rai said on Saturday. Rai said party functionaries will gather at AAP headquarters at IIM on Sunday and read the preamble to the Constitution. Rai said: "Democracy is the soul of the Constitution but PM Narendra Modi is bent on destroying it."

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said: "AAP is now desperate politically and is not hesitating to drag the names of nation's dignitaries into their disputes." HT

Body found in sand container used as blockade in farm stir

Karn Pratap Singh
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NEW DELHI: A 30-year-old homeless man was arrested for allegedly murdering another homeless person by assaulting him with stones and a stick, and then burying his body in an iron container filled with sand on the GT Karnal Road stretch leading to Mukarba Chowk near Bhalswa Dairy in outer Delhi.

Police said the murder took place on Holi (March 25), and the decomposed body was discovered on March 27.

The container was part of a series of containers hired by the Delhi Police on February 13 from private contractors to use as blockades to prevent protesting farmers of Punjab and Haryana from entering the Capital.

Police said that while the containers were monitored through CCTVs and by ground personnel, the deployment was minimised in mid-March as the threat of farmers storming the Capital decreased. However, the con-

tainers were retained as a precautionary measure.

"The contractors and their employees check these containers every morning. On March 27, the staffers opened the container to a foul smell. They found the man's body and informed the police," a police officer said.

DCP (outer-north) Ravi Kumar Singh said a case of murder and destruction of evidence, under sections 201 and 302 of the IPC, was registered.

Police said that analysis of CCTV footage helped identify the victim and the suspect as homeless persons living around Transport Nagar.

"Inquiry revealed that the 45-year-old dead man was known in the neighbourhood as 'Kejriwal', a moniker that he got from local people. The suspect was identified as Virender, alias Kaliya, alias West Indies. Virender was arrested after a brief chase and scuffle. He said he was angry as the victim had lost an iron cutting blade that he had borrowed," the DCP added.

Man kills girlfriend's stalker, arrested: Cops

Karn Pratap Singh
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NEW DELHI: A 25-year-old man allegedly killed his 28-year-old friend by slitting his throat and bludgeoning his face with a stone, the Delhi Police said on Saturday, adding that he then dumped the victim's body in the woods behind the Dwarka Sector 21 Metro station on April 9.

Police said the murder was an act of revenge as the victim was allegedly blackmailing his ex-girlfriend — who is in a relationship with the accused — with some objectionable pictures.

Police said the victim was lured to the area and murdered. The body was discovered by a private security guard working in the area, who informed police. The Dwarka Sector 23 police identified the victim from some belongings found on the body.

A case of murder was registered, following which the suspect was arrested by tracking CCTV footage. He was identified as Suresh Gangwar of Rampur, deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

The victim was identified as Ashish Kumar, of Raebareilly, who was well acquainted with Gang-

A CASE OF MURDER WAS REGISTERED, AFTER WHICH THE SUSPECT WAS ARRESTED BY TRACKING CCTV FOOTAGE, POLICE OFFICERS SAID

war as the two had worked as security guards in Assam and lived together four years ago. "Kumar, who was in a relationship with a woman, used to speak with her on Gangwar's phone. As Gangwar often answered her calls, they got close and the woman left Kumar for Gangwar, which made him angry" Singh said.

"Recently, Kumar sent the woman some of her objectionable photos to blackmail her. Gangwar requested Kumar to delete them but he paid no heed," DCP Singh said. On the day of the murder, Gangwar lured Kumar, who was unemployed at the time, to Delhi on the pretext of getting him a job. He arrived in Delhi and met Gangwar who took him to the woods and attacked him, the DCP added.

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Industries dept finalises plan for 21-acre facility for e-waste

Paras Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In a fresh attempt to set up Delhi's first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park in northwest Delhi's Holambi Kalan, the industries department has finalised the plan for the 21-acre facility, which will host recycling centre and training facility to handle and process e-waste, senior officials aware of the matter said.

The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has invited expression of interest from private players to set up the complex — featuring integrated ecosystem for e-waste management supply chain — on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, and the process is likely to finish by Monday.

According to the project report, the integrated complex will be located at the edge of the Urban Extension-2 road and will feature six major sections — decontamination units, dismantling units, refurbishing factories and recycling units, a testing facility and a training centre. "We will provide 21 acres of land to the private operator who will invest their resources to develop the buildings, utility, roads and machinery. The operator will be allowed to sell recy-

A green initiative

In April 2021, the Delhi government announced that it will set up the country's first electronic waste (e-waste) park — to collect, process and recycle e-waste

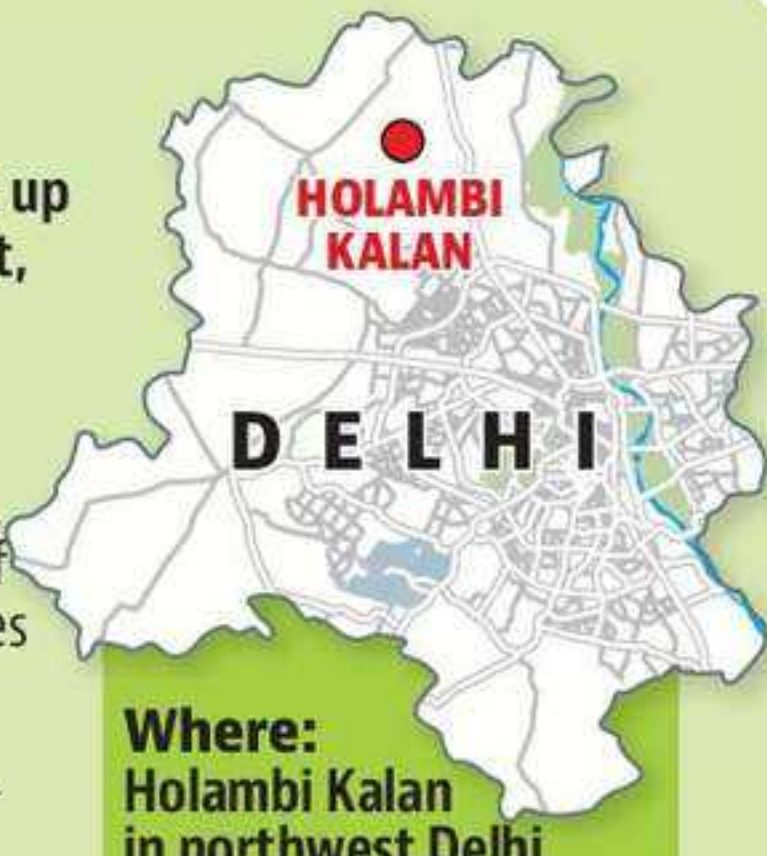
Major sections: Decontamination plant, dismantling section, refurbishing, recycling, testing facility and training centre

Revenue generation: Revenues to be earned from the sale of recycled products and fees for arranging training programmes, sales of the materials recovered, and extended producer responsibility from manufacturers

How much e-waste is generated in Delhi? Nearly 230,000 metric tonne annually, which is 9.5% of national e-waste generation

What does project entail? Integrated ecosystem for e-waste management supply chain

MCD has also initiated the process for empanelment of agencies for collecting, processing and disposing e-waste in Delhi



Where: Holambi Kalan in northwest Delhi

Area: 21 acres

Status: Bids have been invited to set up the e-waste park on a public-private partnership basis



cles products, recovered components and offer training courses to generate revenue, besides other streams," an official said, requesting anonymity. HT reached out to the Delhi government, but did not receive any response to request for comment. Delhi is one of the largest

e-waste hubs of the city annually generating around 2.3 lakh tonnes. A large chunk of the e-waste lands up in landfill sites or ends up in the informal sector through waste pickers where they are dismantled and recycled in violation of all the laid down environmental safety rules.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has also started the process of empaneling new agencies for collection, processing and disposal of e-waste in the national capital. An MCD official said that the agencies will be empanelled for three years. "The task of these agencies will include col-

lection of electronic waste in residential, commercial, institutional, industrial area under MCD. A helpline phone number will be maintained by the agency on which generators and resident welfare associations (RWAs) can call to facilitate pick-up of e-waste and dispose it scientifically." The tendering process is likely to be completed by April 22. HT has seen a copy of the reports of DSIIDC and MCD.

The report has proposed two alternative scenarios for developing the facility with the option of recycling units. Under both the scenarios, decontamination, dismantling, refurbishing, recycling, testing and training centre have been mandated, but a private operator has been provided to either develop recycling units on-site or off-site. Under the bidding process, DSIIDC has mandated that the applicant should have an average annual capacity of more than 10,000 tonnes per year of recycling of e-waste in case of recycler and for refining of metals in case of refiners.

The e-waste eco park has seen multiple delays and revision of deadlines. The construction of the e-park is likely to take around 18 months, and is not likely to be operational before at least 2025.

{ AFTER MAHENDERGARH TRAGEDY }

Ggm: School bus drivers to undergo breathalyser tests

Leena Dhankhar
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GURUGRAM: Three days after six children were killed and 20 people were injured when a speeding school bus driven by an allegedly drunk man overturned in Haryana's Mahendergarh district, the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and Gurugram traffic police on Saturday announced that they have formed teams to regularly conduct breathalyser tests of school bus drivers in the district.

The traffic police is verifying 2,700 buses of more than 500 private schools in the district for verification at five different designated locations in the district on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, 795 buses were inspected of which 184 were fined for not fulfilling 24 checkpoints under the Surakshit Vahan Policy, said officials.

Gurugram's deputy commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav said, "Even after this checking campaign, if any school vehicles remain untouched by the checking campaign, then they will be checked on Wednesday, on the holiday of Ram Navami. If any school does not cooperate in this investigation campaign, strict action will be taken against the school."

Officials said all school buses in the district were summoned for verification at five designated locations, at parking at the mini-secretariat in Gurugram city, Laser Valley Ground, and Tau Devi Lal Stadium in the same area, as well as HSPV Sector One in Sohna sub-division.

On Saturday, 529 buses from 36 schools were inspected at the mini-secretariat parking lot of which 19 buses were fined due to discrepancies. The Gurugram

Municipal Corporation inspected 111 buses from 12 schools at the Laser Valley Ground, and fined 33 buses. Another team inspected 53 buses from nine schools at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium, fining 39 buses. In Sohna, 41 buses from 11 schools were inspected, and 37 buses were fined. In Pataudi, 61 buses were inspected out of which 56 buses were fined.

Virender Vij, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), said that police bus drivers will undergo alcohol tests as part of the safety measures implemented by the authorities.

Meanwhile, RTA officials have mandated transport managers of private schools to enforce alcohol tests for bus drivers before their departure. Concurrently, the traffic police have begun a special checking campaign targeting school buses on Saturday.

Woman stabbed to death in Shahdara

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 34-year-old woman was stabbed to death allegedly in front of her husband at Bhikam Singh Colony in Farsh Bazar near Shahdara in east Delhi on Friday night, police said on Saturday.

Police are yet to come to conclusion on who stabbed the victim, Soni (who goes by a single name), during a fight between the couple and three members of a family living in their neighbourhood over the issue of drinking water distribution.

There are three versions on who the attacker can be. The first version was that of the woman's husband, who claimed that his wife was stabbed by the three members of the family with whom they had a fight. However, during the interrogation of the family members, they claimed that the woman stabbed herself, investigators said.

"A third version is that someone else may have stabbed Soni

IT WAS UNCLEAR WHO STABBED THE VICTIM, 34. THE POLICE SAID THEY ARE EXPLORING 3 POSSIBILITIES

taking advantage of the melee. We are probing all the three angles," said a senior police officer on condition of anonymity.

A murder case was registered at the Farsh Bazar police station. Deputy commissioner of police (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary said that a police team found Soni unconscious in a room on the first floor. "She had two to three cut marks on her left hand and a stab wound on her stomach. She was rushed to Hedgewar hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Preliminary inquiry revealed that Soni and her husband, Satbir (goes by single name), had a fight with their neighbour, Rambaran, his wife, Rita, and daughter, Ekta," the DCP said.

20-YEAR-OLD HOUSE HELP DIES BY SUICIDE IN GK-1

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A 20-year-old woman, who worked as a domestic help, died by suicide on Thursday at her employer's residence in Greater Kailash-1 of south Delhi, where she was working as a full-time help for the past few days, the police said.

The police said that post-mortem examination reports suggested no foul play. The police have initiated an inquest.

However, the woman's family members alleged foul play, with her brother-in-law telling HT that the woman called him around 4am and told him she wanted to return home, as she was frightened. He also claimed her body bore a new injury.

Deputy commissioner of police (south) Ankit Chauhan said: "The statements of relatives, circumstances and forensic examination will be evaluated to ascertain the reason and cause behind the suicide."

Hry: YouTuber couple dies by suicide

Leena Dhankhar
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GURUGRAM: A live-in couple, popular social media influencers who ran a YouTube channel, died by suicide at their rented accommodation in Haryana's Bahadurgarh around 6am on Saturday, upon returning from a shoot, the police said.

The couple was living in the Ruhil residential society, the police said. The couple, who recorded short videos and films, had moved to Bahadurgarh from Dehradun along with five crew members three weeks ago.

THE COUPLE, WHO RECORDED SHORT VIDEOS AND FILMS, HAD MOVED TO BAHADURGARH IN HARYANA'S FROM DEHRADUN THREE WEEKS AGO

They are alleged to have been fighting over an undisclosed issue and jumped off their seventh floor house of the building, according to the police.

Jagbir Singh, of the Bahadurgarh police, the investigating

officer in the case, said: "The couple was taken to the hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival. Their bodies have been kept in the mortuary and a probe is underway."

Singh said the family members and relatives were informed and arrived in the city late evening.

"A forensics team was called to the spot to collect evidence. We are scanning CCTV footage to check foul play, if any," he said.

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2 held for killing man who resisted robbery

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A 20-year-old man was arrested and his accomplice, a minor, was apprehended for allegedly stabbing to death a 28-year-old man who resisted their phone robbery attempt in Aman Vihar area of outer Delhi on Thursday night.

The police recovered the phone, clothes worn by the duo at the time of the crime and the knife used in the crime.

Deputy commissioner of police (Rohini) Guriqbal Singh

Sidhu said that the police was informed about a stabbing at 10.07pm on Thursday.

A team from the Aman Vihar police station, which was closest, learnt that the injured man was shifted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, where he was declared dead.

A case of murder was registered.

On the basis of technical surveillance and human intelligence, the blind murder case was solved within 24 hours, the police said. The suspect was identified as Riyaz Ahmad.

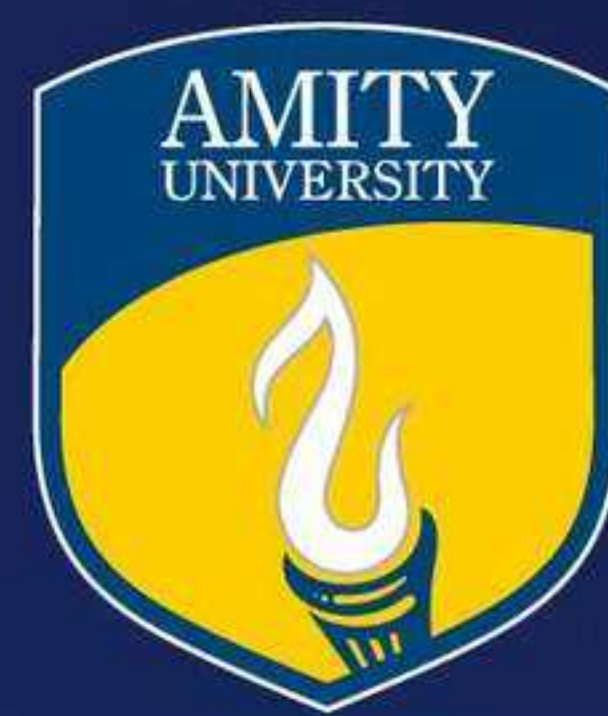


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'B'luru blast accused relocated multiple times, used fake IDs'

Joydeep Thakur
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, who were arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday for an explosion at Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru on March 1, spent a month in West Bengal, frequently changing their locations, and living in multiple low-cost hotels and lodges under false identities, investigators tracing their footsteps said.



Nine people were injured in the blast at the cafe on March 1.

Police investigations show that the two reached Kolkata from Chennai on March 12, and stayed in a hotel called Esplanade Inn on SN Banerjee road in central Kolkata.

The police have learnt from hotel staff that while the two had first said they would stay for three days, they checked out the very next day. Then, in the afternoon of March 13, around 5.40pm, they checked in at Hotel Paradise, less than a five minute walk from the first hotel. "Here they lived in room number 8 of the hotel where a room costs around ₹700 a night. They checked out on March 14 around noon," one police officer said.

This was a pattern they would

follow for most of their month, the officer quoted above said. They chose guest houses and low-budget hotels that had non-air conditioned rooms with costs that were largely less than ₹1000 a night. "Sometimes they said they were colleagues and had come for official work. At others that they were business partners and tourists," the officer said.

Preliminary investigations suggest that between March 14 and 21, Shazib and Taahaa then went to Darjeeling in northern Bengal and then Purulia in the western part of the state, before returning to Kolkata on March 21, where they checked in at the Garden Guest House in Kidderpore. "Each time when they

checked in, they wore caps and masks to avoid detection on hotel CCTV's," the officer said.

They stayed at the Kidderpore guest house till March 23. It is unclear where they stayed on March 24. But on March 25, they went to the Dream Guest House in Ekbalpore, 500 metres away from the Kidderpore guest house. Here, they spent three nights before checking out on March 28.

The trail, officers said, then went cold for the next 12 days, but it is likely they took a bus from Howrah to Digha. Evidence of the two then resurfaced at Hotel Ayush International in New Digha, a popular beach-side town in East Midnapore. They

occupied room number 4 on the fourth floor, and were nabbed on Friday morning.

Police officers said that the two men used fake identity cards such as Aadhaar cards and driving licenses. When he checked in at Esplanade Inn for instance, Shazib used documentation which claimed her was Yusha Shahnawaz, a resident of Maharashtra. At the same hotel, Taahaa introduced himself as Vigneshha BD. But at Hotel Paradise, Taahaa checked in as Anmol Kulkarni. "The register of Hotel Paradise reveals that Taahaa first wrote the name Vigneshha. He then scribbled over it using a pen and then wrote the name of Anmol Kulkarni, a resident of Karnataka," said an officer. At the hotel in Kidderpore, they changed identity documents again, registering themselves as Uday Das and Sanjay Aggarwal.

Police officers also said that they have recorded the statements of a mobile repairing shop at Chandni Chowk in central Kolkata, after they found Shazib had arrived at the shop during their stay with three mobile phones.

"The shop owner couldn't recall whether the mobiles had SIM cards," said an officer.

COURT GRANTS NIA 10-DAY CUSTODY OF THE ACCUSED

Coovercolly Indresh
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BENGALURU: Mussavir Hussain Shazib and Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, accused in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, were on Saturday remanded in the custody of the National Investigation Agency for 10 days after they were produced before a special court in Bengaluru.

The two were brought to Karnataka from Kolkata on transit remand for their alleged role in the March 1 blast at Rameshwaram Cafe. Shazib placed the crude bomb in the cafe, while Taahaa was the mastermind, the federal agency said.

The bomb explosion injured nine people.

Taahaa (30) and Shazib (30) were tracked down in the early hours on Friday and arrested by the agency under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA. Both are alleged to be associated with the Shivamogga module of the Islamic State, a terrorist organisation, and have been on the agency's radar since 2020, said an official.

NIA FILES CHARGE SHEET AGAINST TWO IN MANIPUR CAR BLAST CASE

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency has filed a chargesheet against two accused, including the main conspirator, in last year's Manipur car bomb blast case in which three people were injured, according to an official statement.

The agency said that a charge sheet naming Mohammad Noor Hussain alias Tomba and Seiminlun Gangte alias Minlun was filed on Friday under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

The explosion triggered by a bomb planted in a Mahindra Scorpio SUV, took place on June 21, 2023. During the probe, the agency found that Noor Hussain had driven the SUV and parked it near the incident spot while his co-passenger initiated the blast. Seiminlun Gangte was identified as the key conspirator.

"As per NIA investigations, he had conspired, along with other accomplices, to blow off the bridge with the intent to strike terror... To accomplish the conspiracy, Seiminlun Gangte had recruited his associates for reconnaissance of the targeted area and to execute the actual explosion," an NIA spokesperson said in a statement. The spokesperson said further probe is on to trace the other absconding accused involved in the case. **HTC**

{ BRS PHONE TAPPING CASE }

3 ex-SIB cops admit carrying money in govt vehicles: Probe

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HYDERABAD: The investigation by the Telangana Police into the alleged snooping on some of the political leaders by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government has revealed that the special intelligence bureau (SIB) had also seized cash belonging to other political parties and illegally transported money belonging to the BRS in police vehicles, a remand report submitted by the Hyderabad police before the Nampally criminal courts has said.

Three police officers, who had worked in the SIB, have given statements to Hyderabad Police probing the telephone tapping case. They allegedly admitted during interrogation that they carried out unauthorised surveillance on political leaders, seized cash pertaining to other political parties and transported cash in government vehicles before the November 30 assembly elections, people familiar with the development said, seeking anonymity.

The three officers - inspector Gundu Venkat Rao, inspector of task force Kanumarla Srikanth and sub-inspector of task force Sara Sai Kiran - in their separate statements allegedly confessed that they had acted at the directions of former SIB chief T Prabhakar Rao, who is absconding, retired deputy commissioner of police and officer on special duty, task force, P Radha Kishan Rao and the then deputy superintendent of police in SIB D Praneeth Kumar. The last two officers were arrested in March and are now in judicial custody.

The statements of three officers were part of the remand report submitted by Hyderabad police before the Nampally criminal court on March 29. The fresh contents of the remand report came to light on Friday.

The remand report also said Radha Kishan Rao had deputed his teams to transport cash in

THE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT THEY CARRIED OUT UNAUTHORISED SURVEILLANCE ON POLITICIANS

vehicles allotted to the task force to help the BRS during the electioneering. Sub-inspector Sai Kiran, who was then in Hyderabad central zone task force, escorted ₹2 crore in cash in a government-owned Mahindra Bolero from various locations and handed it to Divya Charan Rao, a retired police officer.

Sai Kiran also admitted to have escorted cash belonging to former BRS legislative council member P Venkat Ram Reddy, who is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Medak parliamentary constituency.

Venkat Ram Reddy on Saturday rejected the charges. "The state is leaking the remand reports to the media only to malign my image, as the Congress cannot take on me politically," he told reporters.

The previous team of officials in the SIB led by Prabhakar Rao set up multiple war rooms at different locations in Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Khammam, Mahabubnagar and Hyderabad to tap the telephones of several opposition leaders during the BRS regime, a police officer familiar with the investigation said. "These tapping centres were used to track the movement of opposition leaders and snoop on their telephone conversations during the elections," he said.

"The state government should seek a high-level inquiry into the case," BJP state chief G Kishan Reddy said, and sought governor's intervention.

Senior Congress legislator Adi Srinivas said that SIB during the previous BRS government had tapped telephones of not only the opposition leaders, but also private individuals and businessmen.

Sandeshkhali probe points to human rights violation: NHRC

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NEW DELHI: There were several human rights violations in the troubled Sandeshkhali area of West Bengal, including forced migration, denial of right to vote, sexual exploitation of women and land grabbing, the National Human Rights Commission has said in its spot enquiry report.

The report was sent to West Bengal police and chief secretary and CBI on Friday. HT has reviewed a copy of the report.

"After interacting with the villagers, especially women in Sandeshkhali, the NHRC team observed that the atmosphere of intimidation, and terror created due to atrocities by the alleged accused persons rendered the victims silent and reluctant to seek justice," said the report.

"The villagers/victims faced assault, threat, sexual exploitation, land grabbing, and forced unpaid labour, and under the given circumstances, they were compelled to seek livelihood outside Sandeshkhali or state," the report added.

An investigation team of the NHRC led by Vijaya Bharathi Sayani visited Sandeshkhali on February 23-25 and interacted with area residents, including women, police officers and doctors, among others.

It found that whenever local residents went with a complaint to the police, they were allegedly advised to approach the accused people, including suspended Trinamool Congress party leader



Sandeshkhali accused Shahjahan Sheikh

Sheikh Shahjahan, and seek a compromise. Based on these interactions, the human rights body on Friday asked West Bengal chief secretary Bhagwati Prasad Gopalika and DGP Rajeev Kumar to submit an action taken report in the matter in eight weeks while making several recommendations to restore law and order.

"The people who hold portfolios in the NHRC and other such bodies, are usually BJP leaders. They prepare reports favouring the BJP. This has been proven time and again. The same thing has happened this time," said Santanu Sen, TMC MP. No bureaucrats in West Bengal government were willing to comment on the issue.

The riverine island of Sandeshkhali has been in the eye of the storm since January 5, when Enforcement Directorate officers arrived to search the home of Shahjahan, a close aide of former minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, who was arrested in October last year in connection with an alleged ration distribution scam. The ED team came under attack from an angry mob, leaving three officers injured.

On February 7, other violent

protests began erupting in Sandeshkhali and nearby villages, with groups of residents, led mostly by women, alleging exploitation, land grabbing and sexual harassment at the hands of local TMC leaders, including Shahjahan, his brother Sirajuddin and associates Uttam Sardar and Shibaprasad Hazra.

Shahjahan, a former TMC zila parishad leader, was arrested on February 29 after 55 days on the run. "As per villagers, a significant number of men from the Sandeshkhali area have chosen to seek livelihood in distant places, leaving behind the women, children, and elderly, who continue to reside in the villages," said the report. The villagers in Sandeshkhali said that "they are denied democratic right to vote", the report said.

"They alleged that during elections, they are prohibited from casting their votes, as supporters of miscreants allegedly cast vote on their behalf," it added. The commission said every victim told its team that "the police do not respond to their complaints against Hazra, Sardar and their associates".

"Shocking, they were advised to approach the alleged accused or their alleged patron Sheikh Shahjahan, and seek a compromise," the report said. "The people have seen what has happened in Sandeshkhali. The high court ordered a CBI probe. This corroborates the NHRC report. It is immaterial what political parties say," said BJP spokesman Samik Bhattacharya.

CRPF jawan dies by suicide in Assam district, say police

SILCHAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly died by suicide in Hailakandi district of Assam, police said on Saturday. According to the officials, the jawan's body was found at a temporary camp around 6.30am on Saturday. ASP Shamirdar Baruah said that they were informed about the incident by the CRPF officials and later the injured jawan was taken to a local hospital where he was declared dead. "Prima facie evidence suggests that it was a case of suicide but we are waiting for the autopsy report. Further probe is going on," the ASP said.

Two killed, three injured in boiler explosion in Barmer dist: Police

BARMER: At least two people were killed and three sustained serious burn injuries after a boiler exploded at a textile factory in the industrial area of Balotra district in Rajasthan, police said on Saturday. Balotra police station SHO Omprakash Godara said that the incident took place at 2 pm at Mahalakshmi Process House. "The factory employees were working in the boiler area when its temperature increased leading to explosion. The blast was so severe that two people died on spot, while three others were injured badly," said the SHO. He said due to the blast, a part of the firm also collapsed.

HPV screening may be added in national programme

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NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry is likely to incorporate HPV (human papillomavirus) testing into the National Cancer Control Programme to screen women for cervical cancer, people familiar with the matter said.

As part of the programme, the government is stepping up efforts to test and validate indigenously developed, low-cost and point of care HPV tests to detect the cancer causing HPV genotypes in the Indian population, the people cited above said.

Globally, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, claiming a life every two minutes, according to Indian government estimates. In India, the numbers are far higher, with cervical cancer being the second most form of cancer among women after breast cancer. It contributes to one-fifth of the global burden.

According to GLOBOCAN 2022, an online database of global cancer statistics, an estimated 663,301 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide and about 348,874 women died from the disease in 2022. Low-middle income countries (LMIC), like India, contributed to nearly 80% of the disease burden, the estimates show. In India, there are approximately 127,526 new cases every year, with 79,906 deaths.

As part of the government's efforts to scale up testing, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are launching a validation study of indigenous HPV tests at three specialised centres, a statement said.

"To achieve the 2030 targets and incorporate HPV testing into the National Program, there is an urgent need to develop and validate low-cost, point of care indigenous HPV tests, which can detect

CERVICAL CANCER IS THE FOURTH MOST COMMON CANCER IN WOMEN ACROSS THE WORLD, CLAIMING A LIFE EVERY 2 MINS

the major cancer-causing HPV genotypes in the Indian population, automated, not requiring too much technical expertise or elaborate infrastructure. The evaluation of tests with fewer HPV types is a novel aspect of this study that will improve the accuracy of the test and make it more cost-effective for the programme," the statement from AIIMS said.

India, in 2020, joined the World Health Organisation's "Call For Elimination of Cervical Cancer" as one of the signatories with a vision for a cervical cancer free world. Under the initiative, India has set a target of screening 70% of women

by 2030 and vaccinating 90% of the girls. The government is also planning to introduce vaccination against HPV under the national immunisation programme. It is still under consideration. Persistent infection with high-risk human papilloma virus has been found to be the necessary cause of cervical cancer, and WHO recommends HPV testing at the age of 35-45 years as part of elimination strategy.

"With this vision, we are launching a multi-centre study with the support of DBT-BIRAC Grand Challenges India in collaboration with WHO's International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC). The testing will be performed at AIIMS, New Delhi, NICPR Noida and NIRRCH Mumbai," the AIIMS statement said.

"There are several HPV tests that are now being manufactured in India, but we have taken three indigenous point of care tests for validation. The result of these tests

can be expected in 1-1.5hrs," said Dr Neeraja Bhatia, head of obstetrics and gynaecology department, AIIMS.

Experts say that cervical cancer is preventable, and can be treated if detected in pre-cancerous or early stages.

A 2021 paper—Cervical Cancer Prevention Efforts in India—said, "Cervical cancer has a long pre-invasive phase that lasts for 10-15 years. This provides a window of opportunity to detect and treat the neoplasia in pre-invasive stages by simple outpatient treatment modalities, as well as early detection of cancers."

"This landmark project will allow validation of Make in India HPV tests for cervical cancer screening by international quality standards and will benefit millions of women in India and other low and middle income countries to get rid of the scourge of cervical cancer," read the statement from AIIMS.

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Nand Kishore Prop. M/s Nand Tent Decoration & Centers, R/o Shop No. 2, Plot No. HR-17, Main Sharma Market Saroj Kunj Road, Pehlampur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **Ct. Case No. 305/19, U/s 138/142 NI Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Nand Kishore Prop. M/s Nand Tent Decoration & Centers** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Nand Kishore Prop. M/s Nand Tent Decoration & Centers** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Nand Kishore Prop. M/s Nand Tent Decoration & Centers** accused of **Ct. Case No. 305/19, U/s 138/142 NI Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.05.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Saurabh Goyal
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North)
Room No. 114, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DPI/4385/ON/2024

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3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,74,900/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	26.04.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 10.05.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	10.05.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
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AI can streamline, speed up delivery of justice: CJI

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NEW DELHI: Artificial intelligence (AI) represents the next frontier of innovation that has the transformative potential to speed up and streamline justice delivery, Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud emphasised on Saturday while urging caution against AI's indiscriminate use and systemic challenges.



CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud with Singapore Supreme Court Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon

In his opening remarks at the Indo-Singapore Judicial Conference, the chief justice highlighted how India's vibrant technology ecosystem and rich legal heritage present opportunities for adopting technology within the judiciary. He underscored the significance of projects like the e-Courts project and the National Judicial Data Grid in digitising court processes and improving access to justice.

"AI represents the next frontier of innovation, promising to revolutionise various domains with its ability to analyze vast amounts of data, recognize patterns, and make decisions with increasing autonomy," he said. "In the legal sector, AI holds immense potential to transform the way legal professionals work, from enhancing legal research and case analysis to improving the efficiency of court proceedings."

By leveraging AI-powered tools, courts can streamline administrative processes, reduce paperwork and expedite the resolution of legal disputes, the chief justice said. "This not only saves time and resources but also improves access to justice by reducing delays and backlogs in the court system," he underlined.

At the same time, chief justice Chandrachud warned against a blanket embrace of AI in judicial processes, particularly in reaching a conclusion for a case. He referenced pioneering initiatives, such as justice Juan Manuel Padilla's utilisation of AI to deliver a judgment in a Colombian court case and the Punjab and Haryana high court's exploration of AI insights in a bail petition.

"These instances show that we cannot avoid the question of using AI in court adjudication. The integration of AI in modern processes including court proceedings raises complex ethical, legal, and practical considerations that demand a thorough examination. The use of AI in court adjudication presents both opportunities and challenges that warrant nuanced deliberation," he added.

Addressing concerns surrounding AI, chief justice Chandrachud raised issues of potential errors, biases and ethical implications. "Without robust auditing mechanisms in place, instances of 'hallucinations' - where AI generates false or misleading responses - may occur, leading to improper advice and, in extreme cases, mis-

carriages of justice," he warned. Chief justice Chandrachud termed the impact of bias in AI systems, particularly when it comes to indirect discrimination, "a complex challenge", adding that this form of discrimination occurs when seemingly neutral policies or algorithms disproportionately affect certain groups, thereby undermining their rights and protections.

Concluding his address, the chief justice advocated for responsible and ethical integration of AI in judicial systems, imploring the stakeholders to navigate the integration of AI with vigilance so that AI technologies serve to enhance, rather than undermine, the pursuit of justice for all.

"This paves the way for a future where technology empowers and uplifts every member of society, fostering inclusivity, innovation, and progress. Together, we shape a world where the promise of AI is realized for the betterment of humanity," he maintained.

He also acknowledged the deep-rooted ties between India and Singapore. He lauded Singapore's initiatives in leveraging technology to streamline legal processes, reduce paperwork, and enhance accessibility for citizens, citing examples such as online dispute resolution platforms and electronic filing systems. The Supreme Courts of Singapore and India are both represented at the two-day conference on technology and judicial dialogue, which got underway on Saturday. Together with judges, jurists and specialists, Singapore's chief justice Sundaresh Menon will be giving talks on a variety of subjects.

Offline CUET-UG likely for 12 subjects that get over 100k registrations

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NEW DELHI: The Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate Admissions (CUET-UG) is likely to be conducted in offline mode in at least 12 subjects that have more than 100,000 registrations, a top official said on Saturday. The number of subjects, which currently include English, physics, chemistry and general test, could change based on the number of applicants.

The exam, which is conducted by the National Testing Agency, will be administered in hybrid mode for the first time between May 15 and 31.

The testing body in February announced that for subjects with a high number of applicants or more than one hundred thousand registrations, the exam will be conducted in pen and paper mode using the optical mark recognition (OMR) format. For other subjects, it will continue to be computer-based.

More than 1.35 million candidates have registered for the CUET-UG this year, official data showed.

Of them, 717,000 are male, and 630,000 are female, and seven have registered as the third gender. Each candidate can register for up to six subjects. As many as 261 universities are participating in the test this year.

English has seen the highest registration with over a million candidates, followed by general test (830,000), chemistry (700,000), physics (680,000),

THE EXAM WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN HYBRID MODE FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM MAY 15 TO 31

mathematics (490,000), biology (390,000), economics (214,000), Hindi (200,000), business studies (190,000), accountancy (180,000), political science (161,000) and history (137,000).

UGC chairperson M Jagadish Kumar, who is overseeing the conduct of the examination, said the data is being analysed. "But generally, papers with large registrations such as general test, English, Hindi, physics, chemistry, maths, biology, economics and such similar papers are expected to be in OMR mode," Kumar said.

"But the final list of papers, which will be conducted in OMR mode, will be announced by NTA at an appropriate time."

This year the testing agency will use schools, colleges and other educational institutions as exam centres, Kumar said, unlike earlier when only centres equipped with a large number of computers were used. "It will help NTA to allot centres to students near their houses," he said.

Of the 1.35 million students registered this year, 5.5 million are from the general category, 482,000 from other backward classes, 88,083 from scheduled castes, 88,311 from economically weaker sections of society, according to official data.

HT TWTW THE WEEK THAT WAS

Loaded questions, easy answers: Take a crack at this quiz

A mercenary spyware and a massive data breach. A new movie and old favourites. Wind down, take a breather and test your knowledge about the news of last week



Natasha Rego



Which movie is Margot Robbie's company LuckyChap, which produced the Barbie movie (above), making next?

1 A winged horse, a group of stars north of Aquarius and Pisces and an Israeli spyware only sold to governments, have a name in common. Apple sent warnings to users in India and 91 other countries, who have been targeted with the spyware. Give the name.

2 This test was devised in 1950, to check if a machine can demonstrate human intelligence. This prize, aka the Nobel prize for computing, was awarded to mathematician Avi Wigderson, for showing that computers can harness randomness in algorithms. Name the test or the prize.

3 Margot Robbie's company LuckyChap produced Saltburn, Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey, and Barbie. It's turning another childhood staple into a movie. Expect houses and hotels to pop up. Take a chance, name the movie, do not pass go, do not collect \$200.

4 The godawan could have been India's national bird if its common English name didn't sound so offensive. There are fewer than 150 individuals left. This led the Supreme Court to recognise a new fundamental right against climate change. Which great Indian bird?

5 Name the Bonnie Tyler hit power ballad that saw a surge in online searches last week.

1 In 1964, Peter Higgs proposed the existence of a particle that would help explain how matter formed after the Big Bang. The Large Hadron Collider detected it in 2012. He leaves behind a legacy that shaped the future of physics. What is the Higgs boson particle also called?

2 He was born in Pakistan, studied at Oxford and Cambridge, served as chief economist, central bank governor, finance minister and foreign minister, and held the third highest rank in the Order of Precedence in India. Who retired from public life, after 33 years in the Rajya Sabha?

3 Bonnie Tyler's 1983 power ballad saw a sudden surge in online searches and downloads in the US last week. The last time this happened was in 2017. The next time could be in 2044. Name the soundtrack for the celestial event that got millions of Americans looking up.

4 If you're one of 7.5 million customers using earbuds, headphones or speakers from this brand, then your name, email id and address may be available on the dark web for a mere €2. You won't find oars or sails. Which electronics company suffered a massive data breach?

5 For the world's youngest billionaires, wealth has come easy. None of them under 30 are self-made and there will be more of them in the next two decades. It signals the first wave of the great wealth transfer. How did they make their money?

1 Connect the headlines to one Indian company: A woman got an Eid-related discount for a Navratri special thali; employees now get 'paw-ternity' leave; a 'palwice' force will help locate lost pets; an agent was caught stealing shoes from an apartment building in Gurugram.

Answers on page 11

Supreme Court judges pay tributes to justice Iyer

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judges Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan on Saturday paid rich tributes to the late eminent jurist and former top court judge, justice VR Krishna Iyer, during an event marked by reverence for justice Iyer's legacy and his jurisprudential brilliance.

While justice Kant shared how the late judge's philosophy on the expansive interpretation of Article 21 of the India Constitution consistently influenced his decision-making in courts, justice Viswanathan called justice Iyer a "one-man pressure group" with exceptional pro-

gressive views and judicial activism. Attorney general R Venkataramani delivered a lecture on the theme "In Search of Being Right: Citizens, Governance & Courts," emphasising the invaluable contributions to the Indian judiciary by justice Iyer.

Speaking at the event organised by OP Jindal Global University and Jindal Global Law School, justice Kant, who is in line to become the Chief Justice of India in November 2025, called justice Iyer a "messiah of masses".

Justice Kant recalled some of justice Iyer's outstanding verdicts on the right to life and liberty under Article 21 and highlighted the latter's endeavours to strengthen the victims' rights in

SENIOR JUDGES POINT TO LEGACY THAT BROUGHT FOCUS ON LIBERTY, HUMAN RIGHTS

India and the compulsory recoupment by the wrong doer of the damaged.

"...Indian jurisprudence will continue to grow... by following the principles of liberty, human rights and constitutional and morality that justice Krishna Iyer promoted," emphasised justice Kant. Sharing his reflections on the contributions of the late judge, justice Viswanathan said that justice Iyer through his pro-

nouncements laid down the pathway to legislative changes in the form of various enactments including the Environment Protection Act, 1986, Copyright Amendment Act, 2012 and amendment in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) that granted rights to a victim to file an appeal against an order of acquitting the accused.

"Justice Iyer has always been far ahead of his time," said justice Viswanathan, who is slated to take over as the CJI in August 2030. The judges underlined that justice Iyer's much-quoted remark - "Bail is the rule, jail is an exception" in a 1977 judgment remains the edifice on which the criminal justice system should

stand. Attorney general Venkataramani's lecture delved into the intricate relationship between citizens, governance and the judiciary. The A-G also reflected on justice Iyer's principles and ideals, emphasising the enduring relevance of his vision in contemporary legal discourse and the ongoing quest for justice.

Supreme Court judge CT Ravikumar also offered his thoughts on justice Iyer's bail jurisprudence tenets.

Justice Iyer, a former legislator who also served as a minister in the Kerala government, was elevated as a judge in the Supreme Court in 1973 and retired after a tenure of seven years. He passed away in 2014 at the age of 99.

HT Homage

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 0420242025 Dated: - 10.04.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-tendering process for the following works up to 13.30 hrs. on 06.05.2024. The details of the tender is as under:-

Tender No. : 06 | Name of Work : Provision and erection of "W" metal cattle barrier along the track to prevent CRD in connection with increasing speed upto 160 KMPH in Prayagraj- Kanpur section under Sr. Divisional Engineer/II/Prayagraj

Approx Cost of work (Rs.) : 151666941.75, Earnest Money (Rs.) : 908300.00, Completion Period : 03 (Three) Months, Date of Opening of tender : 06.05.2024, Eligibility Criteria for "Similar work" : Any civil engineering work

Note: 1: E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 2: The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in. up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 06.05.2024. 3: 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 Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4: Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 5: The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document as "Annexure" in standard format without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 6: The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 7: Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 8: This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 9: Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 10: In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11: Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs. of tender opening date i.e 06.05.2024. 12: The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC-2022 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as Incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 660/24 (AM).

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNORCR

Fire breaks out in Kolkata slums



A fire broke out in the slums on Jessore Road in Kolkata on Saturday, gutting several shanties. According to the officials, no casualties have been reported so far and eight fire tenders have been pressed into service. "Firefighting operations are underway," an official said.

{ DODA DISTRICT IN J&K } 4 INJURED

6 killed after van plunges into gorge

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

JAMMU: Six people, including four members of a family, died on Saturday and four others sustained injuries when a private van they were travelling in veered off the road and plunged into a gorge in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir, police said.

According to the police, the vehicle was on its way to Kathawa from Thathri when the accident took place at Khanpura in Thathri sub-division around

7.15 pm, they said. "A Maruti Eco van with 10 people on board, including the driver, plunged into a gorge around 7.15pm near Phagsoo, killing six people, and injuring four others," Doda district commissioner Harvinder Singh said, adding that the injured have been admitted to a hospital and are currently undergoing treatment.

A police officer aware of the matter said that exact reason behind the accident would be known only after a thorough

probe, but prima facie it appears that the van was being driven rashly.

A case has been subsequently registered under sections 279 (negligent driving) and 304-A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code, the officer added.

Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and issued instructions to the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected people.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

GRAFT CASE

ager Subhash Chandra Sangras and public servants Prasant Dash (former executive director of NMDC, now retired), Dilip Kumar Mohanty (director production at NMDC Iron and Steel Plant or NISP), Pradeep Kumar Bhuyan (deputy general manager NISP), Naresh Babu (deputy manager, survey NISP), Suvro Banerjee (senior manager NISP), L Krishna Mohan (chief general manager, finance, NMDC, now retired), K Rajshankar (general manager, finance NMDC), Somnath Ghosh (manager finance, NMDC), Sanjeev Sahay (assistant general manager contracts, MECON), and K Illavars (deputy general manager contracts, MECON, now retired).

The FIR said CBI was investigating corruption in the contract since August last year as part of a preliminary enquiry (PE) — a precursor to the FIR.

On March 18, four days after the poll bond data was made public, CBI deputy superintendent at Chhattisgarh office wrote to his superior about acting in the matter and a case was finally registered on March 31, according to CBI.

The FIR, seen by HT, alleges that package 17-02 (works of intake well and pump house, DWTP (drinking water treatment plant) and cross-country pipeline including five-year operation and maintenance contract) of NMDC Iron and Steel Plant (NISP Ltd) was awarded to Megha Engineering, with another company in consortium — Koya and Company Ltd (KCCL), Hyderabad — for 3.0 MTPA integrated steel plant at Nagarnar, Jagdalpur on January 23, 2015, at a value of ₹314.57 crore.

Chandra of MEIL, it alleges, paid money to Dash for getting an official favour.

The effective date of contract was January 20, 2015, and project would be commissioned in 24 months, the PE revealed.

MECON was appointed by NMDC as consultant to carry out the project management and construction supervision (PMC) services.

The PE said that several payments, totalling ₹14.42 lakh, were made to officials of NMDC, NISP and MECON after which an accountant of MEIL created false vouchers to show these payments as labour payment.

Till December 2018, the FIR said, MEIL received over ₹174 crore from NMDC against 73 invoices raised by the company.

Subsequently, payments ranging from ₹76,000 (to Illavarsu) to ₹31 lakh (to Dash) were made by MEIL. In all, NMDC and NISP officials were paid ₹73.85 lakh while MECON officials were paid ₹5 lakh.

The federal agency booked all those named in the FIR under sections of criminal conspiracy and forgery of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 7, 8 and 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act.

HT has reached out to MEIL on email seeking comments but there was no response.

CONGRESS LIST

seat was sought by two other heavyweight candidates — former railways minister Pawan Bansal and Chandigarh unit chief Harmohinder Singh Lucky.

"Tewari is a sitting MP while Bansal has lost both in 2019 and 2014. That was possibly the key factor," said a

senior member of CEC.

Tewari was one of the eight Congress MPs from Punjab in 2019. He wanted to shift to Chandigarh — a place with his family roots — and the Congress was open to fielding him from a place of his choice, said a second senior leader, requesting anonymity.

The party's decision to field Singh — son of late six-time chief minister Virbhadra Singh and sitting Mandi MP and state unit chief Pratibha Singh — was also strategic.

After massive cross voting in the Rajya Sabha elections led to the defeat of Congress candidate Abhishek Singhvi in February, the party leadership sprang into action to quell factionalism in the state Congress.

"Singh is the political heir of his father. He is a strong candidate from Mandi. But also, we have ensured the Singh family's involvement in the election," said a third senior leader.

CEC has also approved former Union minister Srikanth Jena's candidature from Balasore in Odisha. Jena joined the Congress on March 6 and was a Union minister under three PMs — Vishwanath Pratap Singh, HD Deve Gowda and Manmohan Singh.

CEC on Saturday formed a panel of senior leaders to suggest suitable candidates for three to four seats of Haryana, as no decision could be reached for those constituencies.

According to people familiar with the matter, CEC cleared former MP Deepender Hooda from Rohtak, and former MP Shruti Chowdhury from Bhiwani. "CEC is also set to have cleared Dharambir Gandhi from Patiala and the party's joint treasurer Vijay Inder Singla from Ludhiana," said a CEC member.

In the list, the Congress named Ramji Thakor, a Gujarat Kshatriya Thakor Sena (GKTS) group leader, from Mahesana, Ahmedabad city Congress chief Himmatsingh Patel from Ahmedabad East, Dhanani from Rajkot and trade union leader Naishadh Desai from Navsari.

With the latest list, the Congress has announced 268 candidates.

In Shimla, the Congress nominee is Vinod Sultnapuri, a legislator of the Himachal Pradesh assembly. The party also announced former Rajya Sabha MP Anant Prasad Sethi from Bhadrak, former MP Anchal Das from Jajpur, former Mahila Congress chief in Odisha Sashmita Behera from Dhenkanal, Sidharth Swarup Das from Kendrapara, former minister Rabindra Kumar Sethy from Jagatsinghpur, Sucharita Mohanty from Puri and NSUI state unit chief Yasir Nawaz from Bhubaneswar.

CEC HAS FORMED A PANEL OF LEADERS TO SUGGEST CANDIDATES FOR THREE TO FOUR SEATS OF HARYANA, AS NO DECISION COULD BE REACHED FOR THOSE CONSTITUENCIES

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- Director, AcSIR



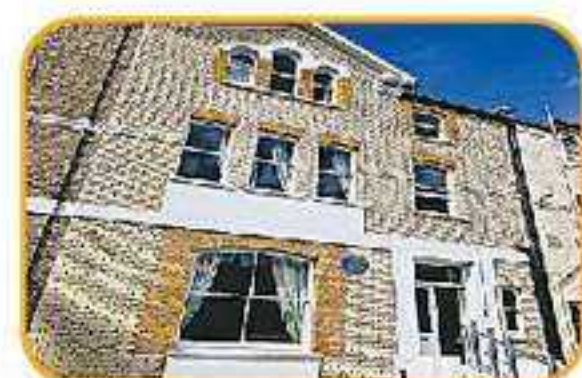
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Venue: Parliament House Lawns | **Time:** 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM | **Date:** 14th April 2024

Entry: Opposite PTI Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 

E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 12.04.2024

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Const/ N.C.Rly/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:30 hrs. on 09.05.2024. The details of the tender are as under:-

Tender No.: EL-C-PRYJ-06-24-25 **Tender Opening Date:** 09.05.2024

Name of work: 25KV AC Electrification work for 2nd line, Sonbhadra (168.20KM) to Chopan (142.00 KM) Section in connection with doubling of CAR-CPU section of PRYJ division of NC Railway.

Advertisement value of work (In Rs.): 20,40,73,703.90/-

Bid Security (In Rs.): 11,70,400.00/- **Period of completion:** 24 Months

Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:30 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 Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **655/24 (P)**

North central railways www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION 

(ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT)

OHE MODIFICATION

E-Tender-Notice No. Sr.DEE/TR/ADI/01(2024-25) dttd. 08.04.2024; Sr.No. (1) Tender No.: TRD-ADI-T-01-2024-25; Name of work: OHE modification in connection with various LC elimination and other Engineering work; Estimated cost: ₹ 1,14,40,000/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,07,200/-; Date and time of submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 07.05.2024; Date and time of opening: 07.05.2024 at 15:30 Hrs; Address of the office: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chamunda Road, Opp. G.C.S. Hospital, Naroda Bridge, Amdapur, Ahmedabad-382345; Website details: www.ireps.gov.in 324

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner on and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 hours on 07.05.2024 as below:- 1) Tender No.: 07. Name of Work with its Location : Supply of 39045 Cum Stone ballast (Machine Crushed) 65 mm Gauge as per specification of RDSO track ballast of ISIRDSO-GE/0001: 2023, February- 2023 and loading the same into Railway Wagons/ Hoppers at ballast Depot Ramsinghpur, under control of ADEN/Suratgarh. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 7,08,49,495.20. EMD: Rs. 5,04,300.00. 2) Tender No.: 08. Name of Work with its Location : AMC of Rail Drilling Machine with supply of spares for a period of two years under ADEN/Track/Bikaner for 2023-24 & 2024-25. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 19,22,508.50. EMD: Rs. 38,500.00. Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in 462-AK/24

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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR EXECUTION OF PHASE-II WORK OF BG LINE BETWEEN KALUMNA - RAJNANDGAON

Tender Notice No.: CEC-NGP-24-25-01 Dated: 05.04.2024

Name of the Work: Execution of Phase-II TMR Yard remodelling work including re-alignment of TT Line in connection with the 3rd line of BG Railway line between Kalumna-Rajnandgaon stations of Nagpur Division of S.E.C. Railway.

Tender Value: ₹ 6,81,93,423.27

Earnest Money: ₹ 4,91,000.00

Cost of Tender Document: Nil

Completion Period of Work: 12 (Twelve) Months from the date of Acceptance Letter.

Date and Time of Tender Closing: At 15:00 Hrs. on 10.05.2024

Date and Time of Tender Opening: At 15:30 Hrs. on 10.05.2024

For further details related to Tender Document, Eligibility Criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact the Office of the Chief Engineer Officer (Const.), S.E.C. Railway, Nagpur, Pin: 440001 or Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.-II), S.E.C. Railway, Nagpur or refer to our website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.-II), South East Central Railway, Nagpur

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ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND WORKMEN TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM.

Notice is hereby given to all the Creditors (secured & unsecured), preferential creditors as well as workmen, if any, of the above named Company that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator, Delhi attached to Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, to prove their respective debts or claims against the above named Company by delivering at the Office of the Official Liquidator on or before the 03.05.2024 or sending by post to the Official Liquidator, so as to reach him not later than the aforesaid date, an affidavit proving the debt or claim in the prescribed form with their respective names, addresses and particulars of the debt or claim, and any title to priority under Section 529 A & 530. Any Creditor (secured & unsecured), preferential creditors as well as workmen, if any, who fails to submit his affidavit of proof within the time limit as aforesaid, will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his debt is proved, or, as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution.

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OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, DELHI ATTACHED TO HIGH COURT OF DELHI 8th FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI - 110 003. Phone No. 011-24693393 - 94.

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM/RCF on behalf of President of India for the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	13245007A 06/05/2024	EOT CRANE 5 TON as per specification No. Mech/ M&P/3800/ GM/09 Rev-03. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. PL No.: 651006820018	01 Nos.	74,000/-
2.	13235109B 06/05/2024	EOT Crane Cap. 10 Ton as per specification No. Mech/ M&P/3700/ GM/07 Rev-05. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. PL No.: 65100690010	04 Nos.	3,65,200/-
3.	13245028A 06/05/2024	(a) Bio-metric Attendance Machines (b) 3.7V Li-ion Battery (c) Installation Charges	88 Nos. 352 Nos. 88 Nos.	1,63,650/-
4.	17241135 13/05/2024	Roof Ceiling Arrgt. for LHB SCN EOG coaches 80 Berther with wider window	497 Set	20,00,000/-
		Set of FRP Ceiling Panels for LHB GS Coaches	957 Set	
		Set of FRP Sidewall Panels for LHB GS Coaches	943 Set	
		Set of side Wall Panels for LHB SCN Coach with Honey Comb partition frames	493 Set	
5.	12241128 06/05/2024	Fixing arrangement of FRP water tank Flaps for LHB SCN wider window coaches	1238 Set	1,28,550/-
6.	12241115 15/05/2024	Aluminium Profile L=2350 MM, as per Drawing: LA10131ALTA	13318 Kg	1,19,360/-
		AL Profile, as per Drawing: UN43103ALTA	6529 Kg	
7.	17241088 08/05/2024	Set of pillar Assembly for AC 3-Tier (EOG) LHB Coaches	256 Set	20,00,000/-
		Set of pillar Asly for LHB SCN Coach with Honeycomb	488 Set	
		Set of pillar Asly for LHB AC 2-Tier Coaches	56 Set	
8.	12241024A 08/05/2024	Set of Retention Tank for 3-Phase Memu/TC Coaches	146 Set	5,75,870/-
9.	02241176 06/05/2024	60 KVA Transformer, as per Drawing: RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0080-2007, (Rev-2), Packing Instruction: ALTERNATOR, RRU, ERRU	611 Nos.	20,00,000/-
		9 KVA Transformer 750V/415V/190V AC, 3-Phase, Star-Star, Dry Type, Air Cooled for LHB Type Coaches	1286 Nos.	
10.	02241170 06/05/2024	Feeder Junction Box for Power Car & LSLRD Coaches, as per Drawing: EDTS328 REV-C, AM-7, COR. 3 (Type 3)	116 Set	20,00,000/-
		Feeder Junction Box for LHB Coach with BIO Toilet, as per Drawing: EDTS328 Rev-C, AM-7, Type-2	1759 Set	
11.	05241209 08/05/2024	Flat Roof Assembly	67 Nos.	1,88,160/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 10 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. No. 11 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658. Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C12T. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment is authorized against (1) Tender No. 02241093 regarding High Capacity Inter Vehicular Coupler Quantity to be read as 82 sets instead of 39 sets, Earnest Money to be read as Rs.7,62,470/- instead of Rs.3,62,640/- and due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. (2) Tender No. 07241034 due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 10.04.2024. (3) Tender No. 17231585 due on 12.04.2024 for procurement of Supply and Apply of Set of Roller Blind Arrangement for LHB First AC Coaches, due date to be read as 19.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. (4) Tender No. 13235423A due on 15.04.2024 for procurement of EOT Crane Cap. 20 Ton as per spec, No. Mech/M&P/3800/03 Rev-04, due date to be read as 25.04.2024 instead of 15.04.2024. (5) Tender No. 01241075 for Fully Assembled improved Bogies compatible with IR-LHB Coaches (+2 items), due date to be read as 25.04.2024 instead of 10.04.2024. (6) Tender No. 14241002 due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. (7) Tender No. 14231255 due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 11.04.2024. (8) Tender No. 14231273 due date to be read as 15.04.2024 instead of 11.04.2024. All other terms and conditions will remain the same. **PCMM**

R.O. No.: 006-S/2024-25 Dated: 13.04.2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused Miss Farha Naaz D/o Ishrat A/R, R/o House No. T-467, Gali No.18, Gautampur, Seelampur, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 14613/18 u/s 138 NI Act has been registered at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Miss Farha Naaz cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Miss Farha Naaz has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Miss Farha Naaz of CC No. 14613/18 u/s 138 NI Act has been registered at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.07.2024.

By Order
Ms. Divya Gupta
Metropolitan Magistrate, (NI Act-05), (Central), Room No.02, Ground Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/4252/CD/2024 (Court Matter)

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2769615, 2763808; Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 418 दिनांक 12.04.2024

e-Tender Corrigendum & Date extension notice

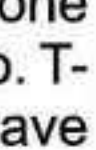
The dates of submission and opening of e-tender NIT No. e-04/UJVN/IT/EE/EM-II/2023-24 for "Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Advance Training System in Training Hall, UJVN Limited, 'Ujjwal', GMS Road, Dehradun" are hereby extended as follows alongwith corrigendum:

Last date of submission of bid on e-portal: 22.04.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs
Last date of submission of documents in original: 26.04.2024 upto 11:00 Hrs
Time, date & venue of opening of tender (part-I): 26.04.2024 at 11:30 Hrs. at the office of officer inviting bids.

The detailed corrigendum sheet is attached on e-procurement portal. All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (E&M-II)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 

E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 12.04.2024

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Const/ N.C.Rly/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:30 hrs. on 09.05.2024. The details of the tender are as under:- **Tender Opening Date: 09.05.2024**

Name of work : 25 KV AC Electrification work for 2nd line Chunar (243.00KM) to Lusa (202.57KM) Section in connection with doubling of CAR-CPU section of PRYJ division of N.C. Railway.

Advertisement value of work (In ₹): 25,56,70,882.32/- **Bid Security (In ₹):** 14,28,400.00/-

Period of completion: 24 months. **Note:-** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:30 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 alongwith Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **653/24(DG)**

North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 

E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 09.04.2024

For & on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites OPEN E-Tenders in prescribed forms, from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to 15:00 Hrs of Date of opening of tender-

Tender Value: ₹ 9227162.76 **Bid Security:** ₹ 184600

Name of work: Work of Setting up to Quick Watering Arrangement System at GOY Station.

E-Tender no.: NRC-M-PRYJ-QWS-GOY-01-24. **Tender system:** Single packet system, **Cost of E-tender form:** Nil, **Period of Work:** 42 months (06 Months for Setting up of Quick Watering Arrangement System at GOY Station + 36 months for Comprehensive Maintenance under Warranty), **Date of publishing on IREPS website:** 09.04.2024, **Date of closing of tender:** 02.05.2024, **similar work definition for minimum Eligibility Criteria:** "Work of supply, installation and commissioning any of the following works for Central or State Government organization Indian Railway/Public Sector undertaking: 1. CAMTECH Model carriage watering facilities with Boosting arrangement and automation 2. Watering system with boosting arrangement and automation 3. Automatic Coach Washing Plant 4. Booster pump arrangements with a minimum rate of flow of fluid 200m³/hour with automation arrangement." **Note-** 1. The complete information along with tender booklet of above E-Tender will be available since Date of publishing on IREPS website. 2. The online E-Tender can be submitted online only on the IREPS website up to 15:00 hrs on the due date of Tender closing. 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. 4. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 5. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **637/24(DG)**

North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 

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North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

REMOVE BOURNVITA, OTHER DRINKS FROM 'HEALTH DRINKS' CATEGORY: CENTRE

NEW DELHI: The government has asked all the e-commerce companies to remove drinks and beverages, including Bournvita, from the health drinks category from their portals.

"National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body constituted under section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI and Mondelez India Food Pvt.Ltd., the commerce and industry ministry said in an advisory to all e-commerce companies. The order is dated April 10, 2024.

It said that all e-commerce companies/portals are advised to remove drinks and beverages, including Bournvita, from the category of health drinks from their platforms/sites. On April 2, FSSAI directed all e-commerce food business operators to ensure appropriate categorisation of food products being sold on their websites. PTI

{ WIFE DID NOT DISCLOSE SOURCE }

No alimony as wife hid her true income: Court

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A sessions court in New Delhi has set aside a magisterial court order directing a husband to pay a monthly maintenance of ₹15,000 to his wife, holding that the woman had not disclosed her true income.

Additional sessions judge Aanchal was hearing two appeals filed by the couple. While the husband assailed the court's order of April 2023, the wife sought raising the maintenance to ₹1.25 lakh. The magisterial court had passed the order on the wife's petition filed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. Noting the evidence before it, the court said the wife, who had an MBA degree, concealed the fact that she was having sufficient income to meet expenses and maintain herself.

"So, once it has come on record that the wife had been concealing her source of income, the court can neither

THE HUSBAND ASSAILED THE COURT'S ORDER OF APRIL 2023, BUT THE WIFE SOUGHT TO RAISE THE MAINTENANCE

draw (the inference) that the wife who is otherwise working and earning is unable to maintain herself nor can draw that she is living in a status lower than what she had been used to at her matrimonial home," the court said.

So, the husband cannot be directed to give her maintenance, enabling her to maintain a particular standard of living, it added in an order passed on April 5. "Therefore, this court is of the view that the wife is not entitled to maintenance for omission in disclosure of true particulars on her part and an income earned by her," the judge said.

2 LABOURERS HELD FOR RAPE, MURDER OF 5-YR-OLD IN GOA

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

PANAJI: The police on Saturday arrested two labourers from Bihar in connection with the rape and murder of a five-year-old girl whose body was found near a construction site in Vasco town of South Goa.

Superintendent of police (south) Sunita Sawant said that the accused, Murari Kumar Painter (24) and Unesh Kumar (22), worked at the construction site with the victim's parents.

The child was found unconscious near the site on Friday morning and was rushed to a government hospital, where doctors declared her dead, she said.

The police had rounded up 20 labourers working at the construction site, and it was found that one of the accused had allegedly trespassed into the victim's room on Thursday night and tried to touch her inappropriately, the official said, adding that they confessed to the crime during interrogation.

The two men came to Goa to work for the construction company a year ago, police said.

DEL I TCH  **NSUT** 

Admission Announcement for MBA Program (2024-26)

Common Management Admission Committee 2024

(www.cmacadmissions.com)

INDIRA GANDHI DELHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NETAJI SUBHASH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Online applications are invited for the joint admission process to the two-year full-time MBA Program (2024-26 Batch) of the following Departments of Universities established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi

- Department of Management (IGDTUW) (Only Female Candidates)
- Department of Management Studies (NSUT)
- Delhi School of Management (DTU)

Eligibility Criteria: A candidate who has passed any graduate examination with 60% marks in aggregate from a recognized university/institution and has a valid CAT-2023 or MAT-2023/24 score is eligible to apply. For relaxation of eligibility criteria applicable to different categories/sub-categories, refer to brochure of respective universities. Those who are appearing in the final semester examination may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date to be declared by the CMAC.

Information Brochure and Application Form: The candidates should visit <http://www.cmacadmissions.com> for a detailed information brochure and link to fill joint online application form. For University specific information please visit www.dtu.ac.in, www.igdtuw.ac.in, www.nsut.ac.in/.

Opening Date of registration	19th March, 2024 (Tuesday)
Last date of filling online application form	30th April, 2024 (Tuesday)

Prof. Poonam Bansal

E-mail to mbaadmissions@igdtuw.ac.in www.cmacadmissions.com

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0012/24-25

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION
DIVISION BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT-II
CHANDERKOTE RAMBAN, E-mail:- xenegenbhepi@gmail.com

GEN/BHEP-II/7/9-85 Dated: 10.04.2024

Extension Notice-III

Due to poor response, the GEN/BHEP-II/20 of 2023 Dated: 04.03.2024 titled SUPPLY OF ELECTROMECHANICAL SPARES FOR 450 MW (3X150 MW) BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II published by this office is hereby extended by 07 days.

Description	Previous Date	New Date
Last date for submission of Bid	09.04.2024 at 04.00 PM	16.04.2024 at 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Bid	10.04.2024 at 06.00 PM	17.04.2024 at 06.00 PM

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division BHEP-II
Chanderkote

DIP-J-60P-24

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited, (A Subsidiary of UP Power Corporation Limited) Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, Post- Office: D.L.W., Varanasi-221004, E-Tender Corrigendum Notice, E-Tender No. EAV-238 was invited on date 15.04.2024 for said work, is hereby extended upto 06.05.2024 due to unavoidable circumstances. All the terms & conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/ download and for any other corrections/ amendments/ modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids. Scope of Work:- Smart Distribution Project on turnkey basis under Revamped Reforms- Linked Results Based Distribution sector scheme (RDSS) in Varanasi District of PuVNL, Varanasi mentioned against following respective Tender Specification Number, Sl.No., Tender Specification No., Name of Cluster, Name of District, Earnest Money, Tender Fee (Including GST), Date and Time of Pre-Bid meeting, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document, Date & Time for opening of tender part-I, (I) EAV- 238/ 23-24, Varanasi, Varanasi, 05 Cr., 29,500/-, 26.04.2024 15.00 Hrs., 06.05.2024 16.00 Hrs., 07.05.2024 15.00 Hrs., CHIEF ENGINEER (Revamped) "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation".

पत्रांक- 989/ पृ.वि.वि.नि.लि. (वा.)/ रिवैम्प/ विज्ञापन दिनांक- 13.04.2024

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हर्द्वार
फोन नं.- 249404

पत्रांक: 14/46/ई-1/ओआरओ(पीसीओएस)/2020-21 दिनांक: 12 अप्रैल, 2024

विज्ञापित

'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य सिविल/प्रवर अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2021' एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि 'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य सिविल/प्रवर अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2021' हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : A-1E-1/PCS-2021/2021-22 दिनांक 10 अगस्त, 2021, अतिरिक्त विज्ञापन/शुद्धि-पत्र दिनांक 07 दिसम्बर, 2021 एवं शुद्धि पत्र दिनांक 12 जनवरी, 2022 के सापेक्ष दिनांक 23 से 26 फरवरी, 2023 तक सम्पन्न मुख्य परीक्षा का परिणाम विज्ञापित संख्या : 186/11/PCM(M)-21/G-1/2023-24 दिनांक 27 फरवरी 2024 द्वारा जारी किया गया है, जिसके

CRISIS IN WEST ASIA

news agency IRNA said, without giving a reason for the seizure. The vessel, sailing under the Portuguese flag, had most recently stopped at Khalifa Port in the United Arab Emirates, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg.

India is in touch with Iranian authorities through diplomatic channels, both in Tehran and New Delhi, to ensure the security and early release of 17 Indian nationals who are among the 25-member crew of the ship, people familiar with the matter told HT. The 17 Indians on board the vessel include the master. The crew also includes four Filipinos, two Pakistanis, one Russian and one Estonian.

"We are aware that the cargo ship MSC Aries has been taken control of by Iran. We have learnt that there are 17 Indian nationals on board," one of the people cited above told HT on condition of anonymity.

MSC confirmed the Aries had "been boarded by Iranian authorities via helicopter as she passed the Strait of Hormuz" on Saturday morning. It said that it was "working closely with the relevant authorities to ensure the well-being of the crew, and safe return of the vessel".

A video shared on social media appeared to show people descending from a helicopter onto the deck of the Aries using a rope.

After the seizure, Israel warned that Iran would suffer the "consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further". Tehran has vowed to avenge a suspected Israeli strike on April 1 on an Iranian consular building in the Syrian capital of Damascus that killed 12 people, including a senior Guard general who once commanded its expeditionary Quds Force there.

Following Iran's retaliation threats, Israel said it was strengthening air defences and paused leave for combat units. A US defence official in Washington said that "we are moving additional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US forces".

The surging tensions come against the backdrop of Israel's war against Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza, now in its seventh month. Gaza truce talks which started on Sunday in Cairo have brought no breakthrough on a plan presented by US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators, which

Hamas has said it was studying. One of the people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg it's possible that the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric between Israel, Iran, and the US could be grandstanding, but said the working assumption for Israel and allies is that an attack is imminent. Diplomatic back-channels are in overdrive, Bloomberg reported.

Meanwhile, Air India and Vistara were among the airlines that adjusted their flight paths to avoid risky airspace in the region. It was not exactly clear what the new route modifications would be, but people aware of the development in both airlines said the tweaks would only add some extra minutes to journey durations for most sectors, without giving details.

"We are closely monitoring the developing situation in the Middle East. Presently, our aircraft will operate on alternate flight paths to and from India — according to top priority to the safety of our passengers and crew," an Air India spokesperson said.

"Due to the current situation affecting parts of the Middle East, we are making changes to flight-paths of some of our flights. Contingency routes, which are kept available to ensure operational continuity during such eventualities, are being used instead. This may result in longer flight times on certain routes and associated delays. The situation is being monitored closely and further changes will be made if required," a Vistara spokesperson said.

German airline Lufthansa said its planes would no longer use Iranian airspace, while its subsidiary Austrian Airlines made a similar move. Australian airline Qantas said its long-haul Perth-London flights would also avoid Iranian airspace. Dutch airline KLM will no longer fly over Israel and Iran.

France earlier warned its nationals against travelling to the region, while the US embassy in Israel said it was restricting the movements of its diplomats over security fears. Canada warned citizens to avoid all travel to Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, upgrading its risk assessment of the region due to the increased threat of attacks on Israeli territory.

The Netherlands said that its embassy in Tehran and consulate in Arbil, Iraq, would remain closed on Sunday "in connection with the rising tensions between Iran and Israel". Saturday's seizure also wid-

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

ened concerns around commercial shipping in the West Asia since the outbreak of fighting between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian militant group in Gaza that's backed by Tehran, on October 7.

Risks have so far been focused in the Red Sea, where Iran's Yemeni allies the Houthis have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea that they say are linked to Israel or its allies. But the seizure brought attention back to the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf with the Indian Ocean and is a key choke point for energy shipments through which around a fifth of the world's daily oil supply passes.

Oil jumped to the highest level since October on the news, rallying as much as 2.6% to top \$92 a barrel.

The head of IRGC's naval forces, Alireza Tangsiri, said on Tuesday that Iran has the option of blocking the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions with Israel but has chosen not to.

"An already bad situation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has just got worse and could put ocean freight container imports and oil exports in the Middle East at risk," said Peter Sand, chief analyst at Oslo-based shipping-analytics company Xeneta. "If ships are impacted from sailing into the Arabian Gulf then the disruption would be considerable."

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

the jungle area of the abandoned village on both sides. Security forces rushed to the hills where the gunfight happened. Currently the situation is under control," an official aware of the matter said.

Lenin Haokip, chief of Kuki-inhabited L Chajang village in Kangpokpi, said the two men who died were Kamminal Lupheng (23) and Kamlangat Lunkim (22), according to other defence volunteers. Originally residents of Nongdam Kuki and Bongjang village next to Kamu Saichang, the two were working as village defence volunteers. Their families live in relief camps in the Kangpokpi town area.

"Kuki village volunteers were guarding the abandoned village from hill top near Kamu Saichang after reports of militants mining sand from Kamu Saichang village. This morning, militants dressed as security forces arrived in the village. This is when village defence volunteers walked down the hills in the jungle to check if they were indeed security forces

or militants. The gunfight started at around 8.30am. The militants came with heavy gunfire and fired mortars. Two men died in the gunfight," Haokip said.

Senior Manipur police officials from Imphal East district which is probing the matter said they are yet to collect the bodies because the incident happened in the hills above the buffer zone. "We could not retrieve the bodies because of two reasons, one was the sporadic gunfire and presence of militants in the area. The second is because the gunfight happened in the hills above the buffer zone."

Manipur police officials are yet to officially issue a statement on the case.

A police official, who asked not to be named, said that the gunfight lasted till around 3pm in the afternoon. "There were some rounds of gunshots fired between the armed village defence volunteers of both sides on Thursday night also."

The Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), a Kangpokpi-based Kuki civil society, ordered a complete shutdown of Kangpokpi for 24 hours. COTU in a statement said that "illegal quarry and pilferage of villages" was the precursor towards the incident on Saturday.

The killing also eroded the tenuous peace established in the state by security forces and highlighted that ethnic tensions — especially between the Kukis and the Meiteis — continues to run high. It also pushed the death toll in the state to 221.

Over the last two days, there were two separate incidents of violence reported in other parts of Manipur.

Two Meitei people sustained injuries in firing between militant groups in the Tengnoupal district on Friday. The two men were rushed to Raj Medicity hospital in Imphal, where their condition is stable. The gunfight had started at the Pelyang village on Thursday night and continued till Friday evening.

At around the same time when security forces had controlled the situation in Pelyang village and militants from both groups fled to the jungle, there were reports that militants disrupted and dispersed a gathering of people who had assembled to meet Congress Lok Sabha candidate Bimol Akojiam.

Akojiam's legal team on Saturday filed a complaint with the Manipur chief electoral officer in which they said that on Friday, a crowd of around 400-500 people had gathered at Phairenbam Mandop in Moirang for a public

interaction with Akojiam. "Suddenly 5-6 gunshots were fired upon the gathering crowd by unknown persons and the crowd started running away to save their lives. The unidentified gunmen also threatened the organisers and the crowd not to convene the meeting and disperse immediately. The crowd had to disperse and the meeting was completely disrupted," the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee's legal team said in the complaint, seeking action against the gunmen.

The party also demanded security and more personnel in the valley areas of Inner Manipur constituency.

Manipur is set to go to vote for the two Manipur Lok Sabha constituencies in two phases on April 19 and 26.

A senior security force officer, who asked not to be named, said, "It is unclear why the violence has suddenly started again. Even in the last one month, there were cases of militants from both sides firing in the air to make their presence felt. But the groups were not directly clashing with each other for a while. It is true that around 5,000 security forces personnel have been removed from Manipur to go to another state for election duty. People here are aware of it. But it will be too early to say why violence has started again."

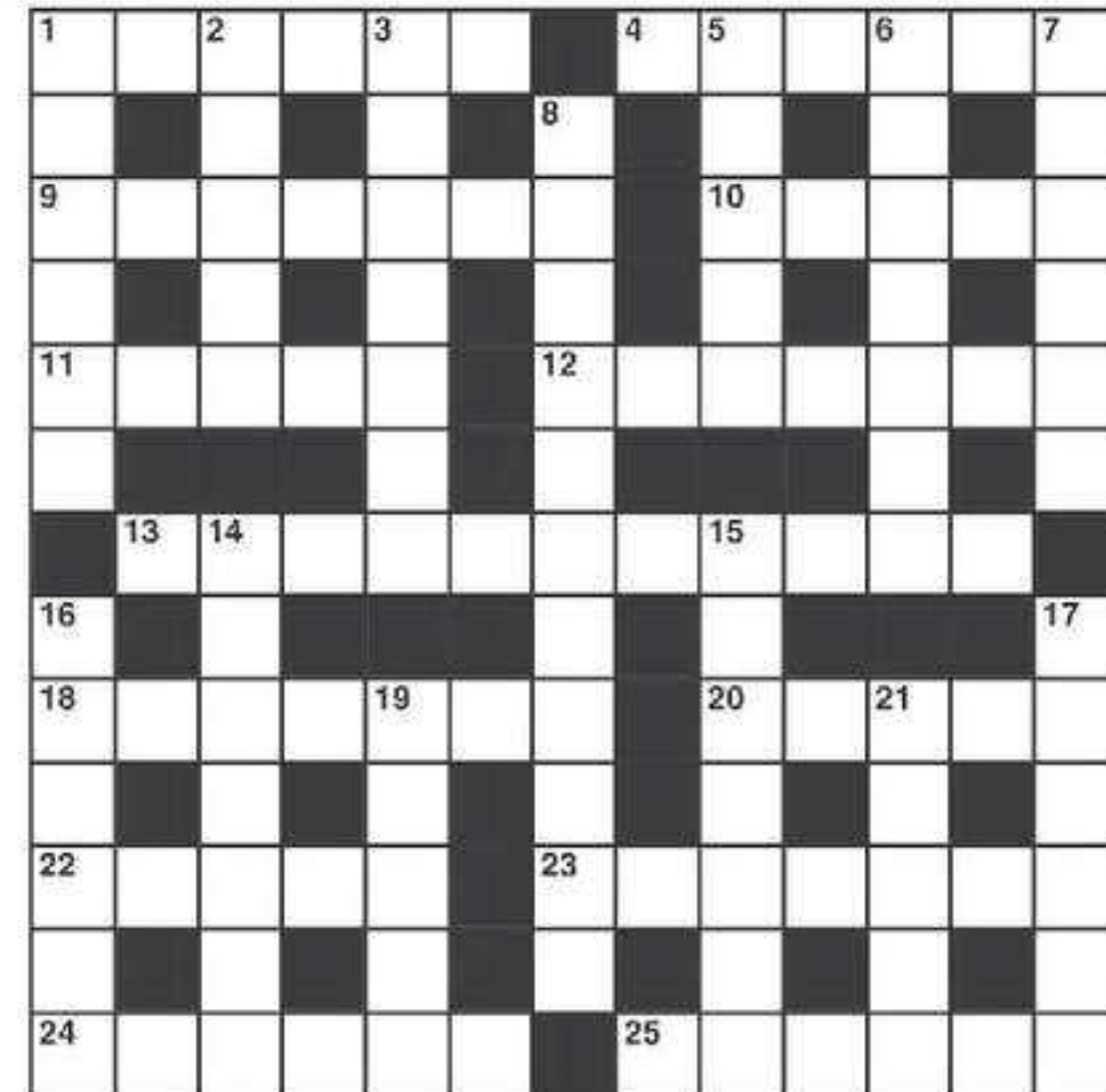
Manipur has been in the throes of a violent conflict since May last year. What began as an ethnic conflict between the majority Meiteis who reside in the Imphal valley and the tribal Kukis, has grown into seemingly irreconcilable cleavages within Manipuri society, with 221 people killed and an estimated 50,000 left people displaced, armed militia prowling the streets, police forces divided on community lines, and lives being led in enclaves of fear.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- A quick reply from the laboratory? (6)
 - Fruit drinks very quietly brought in (6)
 - Church lease runs out in London (7)
 - Contact for a loan (5)
 - Very musical (5)
 - Possibly shore up a legendary character (7)
 - It's inserted in order to provide impartiality (11)
 - Secretiveness needed due to a fault? (7)
 - Room aboard (5)
 - Headlong plunge into water (5)
 - Shirt company becomes big egg-producer (7)
 - Do let's make changes for the first-born (6)
 - Putting water into a ship puts out a fire (6)
- DOWN**
- Bill in lira put out in Latin for example (6)
 - Keyless lock (5)
 - A cross in Italy shows where a composer is buried (7)
 - Built to accommodate people (3,2)
 - Bays of victory (7)
 - A division of the church (6)
 - Give spot cash right on time? (3,2,3,3)
 - Id sent a replacement as a substitute (7)
 - Account for a broken article (7)
 - Quickly redrafted poster (6)
 - Moves in an unfinished game on board (6)
 - One knows them to be well-informed (5)
 - A reliable person shouldn't be dropped (5)

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QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Call upon to appear (6)
 - Idiosyncrasy (6)
 - Incessant (7)
 - Line of battle (5)
 - Substantial (5)
 - Aviation transport company (7)
 - Gift of prophetic vision (6,5)
 - A raging fire (7)
 - Showing effects of stress (5)
 - Of country life (5)
 - Roman sea god (7)
 - Very short humorous play (6)
 - Protect (6)
- DOWN**
- Unmarried (6)
 - Relatively unimportant (5)
 - Constantly busy (2,3,2)
 - Make available for sale (5)
 - Ill-mannered (7)
 - High regard (6)
 - Vicissitudes (3,3,5)
 - Compel observance of (7)
 - Extensive and thorough (2-5)
 - River of southwest Asia (6)
 - Have as purpose (6)
 - Memorial of antiquity (5)
 - Penetrating (5)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16832)

CRYPTIC

OFFHAND PITOUQUE
FORGETONESSELF
EHELWAE
RHINE SATANIC
GESSYOT
HONEST DRIFTS
OISSUE
SITSCOUT VIBERS
TAAAREAMP
ADMISSIONFREE
GPIINUTE
EASIES GUESSEED

QUICK

TABLOID CRUMB
UNENHNE
PARTANDPARGEL
INNUROI
CLOUD CAYENNE
LIBERALRIEF
VIENNA ADVICE
OSPUT
LIBERALRIEF
UOALAOU
BYALLACOUNTS
LTLIUAS
ESSAY DISPLAY

{ SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★

8	6	4		5				
		9		8	1			6
5				8	2	3		
		2			5			
7	8	6						4
4			8	3		6		
			5		2			
				1	8	2	5	

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE = HIGH + LOW

SUNDAY
Generally cloudy sky
Light rain or thundershowers
33°C | 24°C

MONDAY
Generally cloudy sky
with Light Rain or Drizzle
34°C | 22°C

TUESDAY
Strong surface winds during day time
35°C | 20°C

ALMANAC
Today is 14th April 2024
+4 Showal, 1445
+21 Chaitra, Shukla
Paksha, 06
+ Samvat 2081
Sunset: Sunday at 06:46 pm
Sunrise: Monday at 05:55 am
Moonset: Monday at 12:56 am
Moonrise: Sunday at 10:08 am

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 33°C | 24°C
Mumbai 35°C | 25°C
Kolkata 37°C | 28°C
Chennai 36°C | 27°C

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 06/2024

Online applications are invited for admission to the following courses for the July 2024 session through Computer Based Test (CBT) at various cities across the country as per detail given below:

Courses	Date of Exam	Starting Date for online application	Closing Date for online application
Ph.D./MPHM Sc. (Nursing) & PGDPM	23.05.2024	16.04.2024	06.05.2024
Fellowship/ PDF/ House Job (OHS), M.Sc./M.Sc.(MLT)	23.05.2024	16.04.2024	06.05.2024

For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given therein in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/updates for entrance examination/communications/addendum/corrigendum.

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Hindustan Times

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HT City

ALI AND IARE EXCITED FOR THIS NEW PHASE: RIHA

पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लि0
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (जानपद) परिचर/अनुप
कार्यालय विस्तृत भवन, नजदीक-आईएसपीडी0000 कांसिंग, सहायपुर रोड,
माजरा, देहरादून-248002 दूरभाष सं. 7086117360

निविदा विस्तारित सूचना-28/SE(C)O&M/E-Tender/PTCUL/D.Dun/2023-24
निविदा सं0 48/SE(C)O&M/E-Tender/PTCUL/D.Dun/2023-24
की डाउनलोडिंग, प्राप्ति एवं खुलने की तिथि क्रमशः दिनांक 29.04.2024 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। निविदाएं दिनांक 29.04.2024 समय 1:00 बजे तक अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (जानपद) परिचर/अनुप, पिटकुल, विद्युत भवन, माजरा, देहरादून के कार्यालय में प्राप्त की जाएगी। तथा निविदा के तकनीकी भाग को उसी दिन दिनांक 29.04.2024 समय 3:30 बजे जानपदीय कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत इच्छुक फर्मों के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धित अन्य विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in/PTCUL एवं ई-निविदा सूचना पिटकुल वेबसाइट www.ptcul.org से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
निविदा सम्बन्धित अन्य विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in/PTCUL एवं ई-निविदा सूचना पिटकुल वेबसाइट www.ptcul.org से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित जानकारी हेतु अथवा किसी भी सहायता के लिए PH.No- +91-8899890000, 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-6277787 से सम्पर्क स्थापित करें।
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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in, Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in
Tender Notice No.-01, Date 12-04-2024

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012 and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

Item No.	Tender Number	Due on	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from
1	22241598	17-06-24	POH Kit for EOG Coach Brake Cylinder etc.	--
2	22241634	29-05-24	MV Board for FTRTL etc.	--
3	22241662	20-05-24	Micro Controller for Pump etc.	--
4	24240855	14-05-24	Blower for T.Motor etc.	CLW
5	22231414A	13-05-24	Constant Contact Polyurethane etc.	RDSO
6	22241458	10-05-24	Non Asbestos based K-type high etc.	ICF
7	30240565	10-05-24	C Check kit suitable for Cummins etc.	--
8	22242195	09-05-24	Helical Spring for Axle box etc.	ICF
9	28231007	08-05-24	Paint Black Japan Type B to IS:341/2016 etc.	--
10	24240342	08-05-24	Set of Cyl. Roller bearing etc.	RDSO
11	28230127	08-05-24	Paint Enamel Synthetic Exterior etc.	--
12	23240030	06-05-24	M.S. Flat, Size-40 mm x 6 mm to IS:206 etc.	--
13	30241204	06-05-24	Return air filter etc.	--
14	22230371	13-05-24	Under Slung Water Tank Module(L.H.&R etc.)	--
15	22230044	29-04-24	Single piece FRP louver shutter assembly etc.	--
16	22241856	29-04-24	Body Side Entrance Door Assly. (R.H.) etc.	--

CPRO/S-06 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS/Br/L/2024-25/02 Date: 08.04.2024
E-Tender Notice (Two Packet System)

Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tenders on the prescribed form for the under noted work:-
Tender No.-Br-JHS-2024-04 Approx. Cost of work (Rs.): Rs. 37.52 Crore/-
Name of work: Mahoba-Khajuraho Section: Construction of ROB (End-to-End including approaches) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 2 at Km 1296/11-12.
Bid Security (Earnest Money): Rs. 20,26,100/-, Date of closing of Tender: 30.04.2024, Completion period: 12 Months, Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Construction of any type of bridge. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs. on the due to date of tender closing i.e. 30.04.2024. (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 Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on dated 30.04.2024. 648/24(K)

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C. Kieron Pollard
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REFLECTIONS

INCIDENTALLY

Gopalkrishna Gandhi



Ink that protects the sanctity of elections

How Salimuzzaman Siddiqui developed "Siddiquink" that protects against impersonation in the voting process

On the eve of elections to the Lok Sabha, it is natural — and desirable — to think of the first general elections that took place in India, between October 1951 and February 1952. That election year for the country's 360 million people was the first such in independent India professing no single religion, no single doctrine whether political or ideological. The only qualification for an Indian citizen to vote was age — the person, man or woman, of any or no religious denomination, of any or no caste, educated or not, propertied or not, should be above 21 years of age.

By this calculation, 173 million Indian men and women became entitled to vote and elect their governments and their Opposition. A bigger election had not been held anywhere in the world. India could, and did, take pride in — a global pride — the fact that its suffrage was going to be universal, free and fair.

The year 1951 needs to be remembered by and for, and as many things as one can in the context of that election but also very specially, as the year of an ink — the indeli-

ble ink used to mark voters' left forefingers to prevent multiple voting by impersonation. We have moved now from the paper ballot to the EVM but the inking of fingers remains in place. Because the risk of impersonation remains in place!

The inking had to be done before being given the ballot paper. This column today is about the making of that ink, which is a story in itself. And it is wrapped around the younger of two brothers from Mirzapur, Khaliqzaman (1889-1973) and Salimuzzaman Siddiqui (1897-1994). The first of them was a politician, a leading light of the Muslim League, who knew well India's political leadership in both the Congress and Muslim League, and the second, in a very different field — chemistry and chemistry research. Salimuzzaman, who, unlike his brother, kept his family name of Siddiqui, is indelibly linked to the evolution of a feat in chemistry and Indian public life — indelible election ink.

Siddiqui, working as a chemist in the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in the mid-1940s, was contacted by its director general Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (1894-1955), who asked him to help with the formulation of an indelible ink which could be used in the elections that were due to the new Constituent Assembly. Bhatnagar, a distinguished chemist himself, sent to Siddiqui a solution of silver chloride to see if that could be developed into the required ink for use by the Election Commission of India (ECI). I am no chemist and am using these names mechanically,

without understanding their chemical properties, only their salience to our elections.

Siddiqui found the silver chloride did not stain well. So, he added silver bromide to it and, I am told, there was an immediate improvement in the staining power. Working on that combination, Siddiqui was able to start the manufacture of the indelible ink for use in the 1951-52 elections.

An unsubstantiated story has it that Quink, the famous Parker pen ink owes its name to a Filipino, Francisco Quisumbing, who had made and was propagating an ink called Quisumbing Ink which became Quink. Be that as it may, the ink that Siddiqui developed should really have been unofficially called Siddiquink. The ink was introduced for the 1951-1952 elections and irrespective of who won and who lost in that election, Siddiqui's indelible ink was a winner in what it was seeking to win — indelibility and impersonation stalling.

I was six years old at the time and the memory I have of that election — and it is indelible — is of my parents coming back from the polling station and chatting about the new experience of having their fingers marked by voters' indelible ink. We, their children at home, crowded around them to examine this new curiosity, when an old friend of the family walked in just then, also having just voted. He said to my father that he had heard — typical of our sceptical minds — that the ink was not all that indelible and that impersonation could take place by people removing it with a moist-



The only qualification for an Indian citizen to vote was age — the person, man or woman, of any or no religious denomination, of any or no caste, educated or not, propertied or not, should be above 21 years of age

ened matchstick tip. What, really! And pronto, a matchbox was obtained from the kitchen, two matchstick-tips dipped in water, followed by both gentlemen trying with great seriousness to do the little cosmetic act. But — kudos to Siddiqui and the Election Commission the ink stain would not go. It became fainter, yes, but disappear it would not. Their fingertip skins smarting under the "attack", the two gentlemen complimented ECI and started talking about other things which did not interest me.

There is a sequel to this that is of interest.

The Partition of India was only four years old and the newly born country was setting up its political and institutional systems. The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, is believed to have contacted Salimuzzaman Siddiqui

and invited him to migrate to Pakistan and help its chemical enterprises. The story is that Salimuzzaman, the younger brother of the Muslim League politician Chaudhuri Khaliqzaman, was known to Nehru, and went to him for advice. Contrary to what one may imagine, Nehru said to him he could go. And he did, to rise to some status as a pharmacological chemist, becoming the founder and chairman of the National Science Council of Pakistan. But his ink remained in India, indelibly, on millions of forefingers, resurrecting itself, in election after election, safeguarding the peoples' mandates.

I would like to end this column by saying our elections are, above everything else, a great equaliser, a great leveller. From the President of India down to the most humble voter, all vote equally and are inked by the same ink, exactly like each other.

Could anyone have dared impersonate the President of India?

Of course not. But President KR Narayanan, in the 1999 elections, exercised his franchise. He was what he liked to think himself to be, a citizen President and gladly had his forefinger inked exactly like the voter who went just before him and the one who went just after him, did.

And his vote joined the millions of other votes in the great churn of ballots that make India's electoral democracy what it is — a matter of pride, if also of concern about its "bio-chemistry" that requires great vigilance against subversions, of which voter-impersonation is but one.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, a former administrator and diplomat, is a student of modern Indian history. The views expressed are personal

SUNDAY SENTIMENTS

Karan Thapar



Manifesto promises to make Parliament work

Normally I would not write about political manifestos. Most of the time neither the party nor the voter takes them seriously. But there's a clause in the Congress's manifesto concerning the functioning of Parliament that merits attention.

Under "Defending the Constitution", clause 9 makes three specific and important promises. First, it says: "We promise that the two Houses of Parliament will each meet for 100 days in a year." This would give real substance to the functioning of our democracy. To explain, let me cite examples from earlier and not the last Lok Sabha, which was affected by Covid-19.

The 16th Lok Sabha worked for only 1,615 hours, 40% lower than the average of all full-term Lok Sabhas. In the 15th

House, as much as 26% of legislation was passed in under 30 minutes. That figure may have gone up in the next, but only 25% of Bills were referred to committees, compared to 71% and 60% in the 14th and 15th Lok Sabhas. Clearly, legislation was not getting the scrutiny it deserves. Sitting for 100 days a year should go a long way to remedy that.

The second promise is: "We promise that one day in a week will be devoted to discussing the agenda suggested by the Opposition benches in each House." This would mean subjects like GST and price rise, Pegasus and Rafale, Chinese incursions and electoral bonds, which the government has declined to discuss, will be debated. This is a badly needed route around the government's obstinate reluctance. It will make parliamentary debates

both complete and meaningful.

The third promise reads: "We promise that the presiding officers of the two Houses will be required to sever their connection with any political party." At present, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha remains a member of his party even after assuming the Chair. That has to be unacceptable. It makes him partisan and his decisions questionable. If that applies to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, it's equally intolerable.

I would add one further measure. If a sitting Speaker stands for re-election he should be uncontested. That is the practice in Britain and it guarantees the incumbent's neutrality. Why on earth did the Congress not think of this?

However, I wish the Congress manifesto had gone one critical step further. It should have promised to institute the House of Commons's practice of Prime Minister (PM)'s Question Time, a dedicated half hour, on a fixed day, when the PM answers questions from the opposite benches including, at least, half a dozen put by the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). This not only ensures accountability at the highest level but it also gives the Opposition a chance to question the most important person in the land.

PMQs, as it's called in the UK, is often a moment of drama. It reveals both the PM

and the LoP at their best. But it can also show them up. It's, therefore, a window for the country to see their leaders perform, judge them, acknowledge their weaknesses and praise their strengths. In short, it's democracy at work. It's badly needed in the world's largest.

So why did Congress shy away from promising this? Could it be because neither Mallikarjun Kharge nor Rahul Gandhi can stand up to an onslaught by Narendra Modi? I suspect this has something to do with the answer because I can't believe they never thought of it or they dismissed it as impractical.

But even what the Congress has promised needs to be delivered. For the good of our Parliament, our democracy and, beyond that, good governance. This is, therefore, a test for Narendra Modi and the BJP. If they really believe India is the mother of democracy how can they possibly say no? In fact, I would hope every thoughtful serious political party would endorse these proposals.

Alas, there's a sad and deeper truth. If questioned, I'm sure every party will say aye. But if elected and in a position to act, will they? That's where doubts creep in.

Karan Thapar is the author of *Devil's Advocate: The Untold Story*. The views expressed are personal

The atheist scientist who discovered God particle

In the zoo of elementary particles which make up our universe, there is only one particle named after a person. Peter Higgs, after whom the eponymous Higgs boson is named, passed away recently at age 94 in Edinburgh.

Almost exactly 60 years ago, Higgs proposed a mechanism which could give elementary particles like electrons and quarks a mass. This was essential since the underlying theory which explained the interaction of particles had no consistent mechanism to generate masses for particles. Independently, several others including Brout, Englert and Kibble had also stumbled upon a similar mechanism. The idea, which had also been proposed earlier by Philip Anderson in the context of superconductivity, was built upon the work of the Nobel Laureate Y Nambu and J Goldstone.

The theory proposed by Higgs and others did not find favour with the particle physics community at first. However, by the early 1970s, it had been refined and became an essential part of the so-called Standard Model of Particle Physics that we believe explains the sub-microscopic reality.

Although theoretically, the model was consistent and predictive, the missing link was still the Higgs particle. The mechanism which was thought to give masses to all massive particles also predicted the existence of this unusual particle which had not been detected. The clinching evidence for the validity of the theory could only come from the actual detection of this elusive particle. But this was difficult given the state of the accelerator technology in the 1970-80s.

The search for the Holy Grail of particle physics, as the Higgs search came to be known, took more than three decades, billions of dollars, a multinational collaboration with thousands of scientists and some clever technology. In 2008, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Geneva, the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, was finally commissioned. On July 4, 2012, a new particle which could be the Higgs boson was discovered at the LHC. It took another few months before it could be definitely said that this was indeed the

Higgs boson. Higgs and Englert were given the Nobel Prize in 2013 for their theoretical prediction of this particle (Brout had died in 2011 and Nobel Prizes are not given posthumously).

Peter Higgs, who was an emeritus professor at the University of Edinburgh at the time of his death, was not just a brilliant scientist but also a great teacher with a flair for explaining very complex concepts in a simple, yet profound way. Despite his fame and recognition, he was an exceptionally modest person. He was also notoriously shy of any publicity and, on the day the Nobel Prize was announced, went to a seafood bar to escape media attention. He apparently did not possess a mobile phone.

Even though the name Higgs boson is widely accepted now, it did lead to some controversy in the particle physics community. This was simply because the idea not only had a longer history but also because several groups had independently proposed something similar. Some particle physicists thought that it was unfair to the others who had contributed to the theory.

In 1993, another Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman wrote a popular science book called *The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?* Incidentally, Lederman reportedly wanted the title to be "The Goddamn particle", but the publishers, understandably, rejected the idea! However, when the Higgs particle was discovered, the press dubbed it the "God Particle", a moniker which still raises hackles among particle physicists. This is also ironic given that Peter Higgs was an atheist!

More than a decade after its discovery, there are still many unanswered questions about the properties of the Higgs boson and its interactions. There are plans to build an accelerator, colloquially called the "Higgs factory", which will hopefully shed some light on the still mysterious particle which Peter Higgs in his characteristic modest fashion would refer to as "the boson that is named after me!"

Shobhit Mahajan teaches physics at Delhi University. The views expressed are personal



Shobhit Mahajan

Is there an Indian approach to ageing?

When I read the recently released *Lancet* study that says we are all going to live longer, my first thought was, "Now what?" Sure, we are trying our best to stave off the ills of ageing, but the point is that there is no guarantee that we will succeed. There is no single blueprint for ageing well. There are whacko schemes like tech entrepreneur Bryan Johnson touting his "longevity mix" (also called Blueprint) as being second only to mother's milk. Nice line, but do you really have the discipline, not to mention the money to take the 100 or so supplements he consumes every day? Maybe I should go back to drinking that Kerala red rice congee my Dad loved.

The quest for longevity is most extravagantly displayed in America among rich, white men. Some like Peter Attia and David Sinclair are medical experts who write books on how to "outlive" death and improve your "lifespan". Some like Tim Ferriss and Andrew Huberman host hugely successful podcasts. Huberman's shine has waned since a *New York Magazine* profile accused him of being in a relationship with five women simultaneously and lying to all of them. Here then is the paradox. All of these "wellness bros" as they are called, blather on about journaling, meditation, and the importance of relationships. Yet, most of them are single, divorced, and have dysfunctional relationships. They may swallow supplements but don't want to do the hard work of maintaining connections with and taking care of parents, children



Shoba Narayan

and spouses. Instead, they obsess about their health on a scale that would make Narcissus jealous. Consider Ari Emanuel, Hollywood super agent and brother of politician Rahm Emanuel. As he recounted on the *Freakonomics* podcast, his fitness regimen includes wearing a mask that simulates being at 22,000 feet while sprinting and doing HYPOXI training that demands specialised expensive equipment. How many folks can afford this?

The *Lancet* study says that Indians are living eight years longer than we did three decades ago. The next frontier is to put off the precipitous decline that comes with ageing. Ten years ago, Ezekiel Emanuel — Ari's brother — wrote an essay in *The Atlantic* called, "Why I hope to die at 75". It talked about the burdens that ageing folks place on their family and on society at large. This article has stayed with me as I watch the elders around my age.

Today, by virtue of luck or location, I am in the position of watching not just my mother (age 86) and mother-in-law (age 90) age, but also watch uncles and aunts in their eighties and nineties at close quarters mostly because their children live elsewhere. Each of them has aged differently with variations of dementia, deafness, pain, imbalance and frailty striking in varying proportions. How then to live well and die quickly?

India may have an answer. Our approach to ageing is through *samadhi* or merging with the divine. All the faiths that populate this land are suffused by devotion or *bhakti* that subjugates the



The Indian approach to ageing is through *samadhi* or merging with the divine. We don't seek to conquer death; we seek to dissolve into it.

SHUTTERSTOCK

ego and sublimates the self in favour of union with something bigger. We don't seek to conquer death; we seek to dissolve into it. It is a very different mindset.

My mother chants the *sankalpa mantra* every day — the same one that priests chant before a *havan* or *homam* as we call it in South India. Basically, you situate yourself in space and time and ask for blessings including *ayur* (longevity), *arogya* (health), *aiswarya* (prosperity) and more. You also ask that dangers and evil be warded off. But here is the interesting thing. The line used to banish obstacles, dangers and evil is peculiar. It says, "Let all dangers be pacified (become peaceful)". "Let them become *shanti*-fied," is the translation. This is not an active, aggressive approach. We don't seek to conquer, outlast, outlive, vanquish. We accept and pacify the dangers. We offer them peace so they don't mess with us.

My father had Lewy body dementia for the last three years of his life. He developed hallucinations, speech slurred, and his body grew rigid. He wanted to die. When he was in his sixties, he often said that euthanasia ought to be an option for the old. "If we can force birth by C-section, why can't we force death through euthanasia?" he would say. I think about this too, particularly since it is legal in some European countries. It seems like something I would want, depending on the illness I develop. It seems like something I would put in my living will — which if you haven't written, you should. Euthanasia may be a pipe dream but at least I can cultivate our Indian idea of accepting and pacifying all the bad energies that come my way. That's my blueprint for ageing.

Shoba Narayan is a writer and journalist. The views expressed are personal

SUNDAY LETTERS

Recognise the value of Indian art

This is with reference to "Why Indian art is a blip on the big global canvas" by Pavan K Varma (Apr 7). Manish Pushkale's story opened my eyes to the contemporary artists toiling away, waiting for recognition of their art. As a society, we must actively work towards patronising Indian art.

Ranjit C

A touching tribute

This is with reference to "Up and Close: Ashok, the idol of my youth" by Karan Thapar (Apr 7). Thapar's obituary note on the death of his cousin stands out from standard condolence messages! And it was also a reminder of Sir Walter Scott's stark saying: "Blood is thicker than water."

PM Gopalan

Our constitutional responsibility to vote

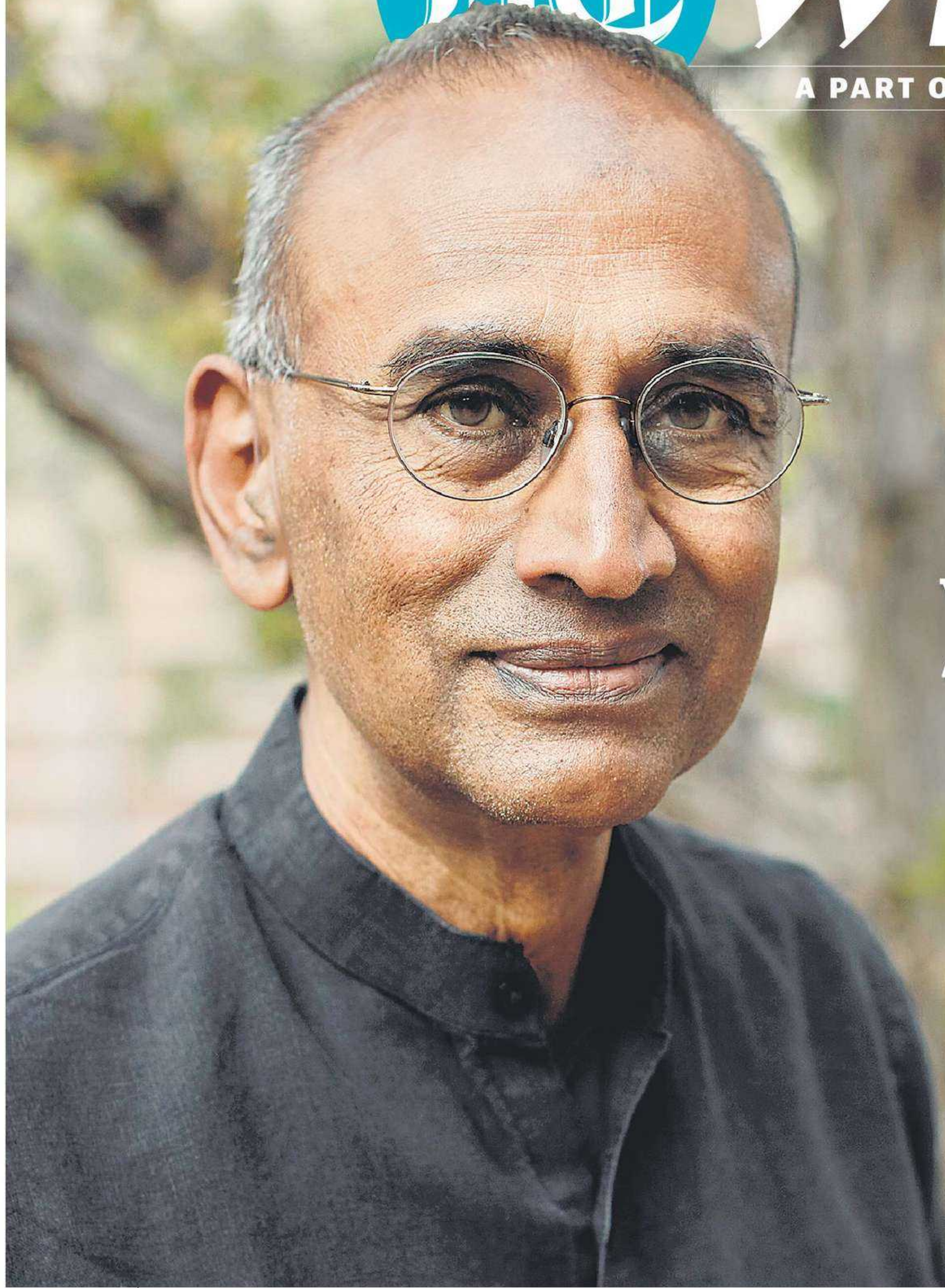
This is with reference to "At the core of elections is the idea of the public" by Sundar Sarukkai (Apr 7). India's democratic underpinnings are based on poll results. As every voter counts, the duty lies with each individual.

Sanjay Chopra

Write to us at: letters@hindustantimes.com

HTWknd

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE



Venki Ramakrishnan

'We're driven by fear of death'

The Nobel Prize-winning biologist has a new book out. Why We Die explores the science of ageing, and the quest for immortality. At 72, Ramakrishnan also recently set up a medical company that uses RNA to treat diseases. 'It's exciting. I like to try new things,' he says. Would that still be true, he argues, if one knew one would live forever?

Graeme Green

letters@hindustantimes.com

Venki Ramakrishnan celebrated his 72nd birthday last week but, despite his own suggestion that "many people do their best work when they're young," the Nobel laureate is starting work on new projects and exploring ways to keep himself excited in science and in life.

The structural biologist recently set up the cutting-edge medical company RNAvate, which uses mRNA (a molecule containing instructions that direct cells to make proteins) to correct diseases and produce better vaccines. In March, he published his second popular-science book, *Why We Die: The New Science of Ageing and the Quest for Immortality* (Hachette India / Hodder & Stoughton), which explores the latest science in this field, and humanity's obsession with eternal life.

His first book, *Gene Machine* (2018), focused on ribosomes, which he describes as "the molecular machine that makes DNA come alive". "I like to try new things, and get out of my comfort zone," Ramakrishnan says. "It was a challenge and a new endeavour to digest the vast literature on ageing and write about it for a general audience."

Born in Tamil Nadu in 1952, to two science professors, he spent his youth in Gujarat before moving, aged 19, to the US, where he studied physics and biology, conducted post-doctoral research at Yale University from 1978 to 1982, and worked in the laboratory of

American molecular biophysicist and biochemist Peter Moore, which is where he began his research on ribosomes.

Since 1999, he has lived in England, where he has run a research group at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. He served from 2015 to 2020 as president of the Royal Society in London, covering the turbulent periods of Brexit and the early months of the pandemic.

In addition to winning the 2009 Nobel Prize for Chemistry (along with Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath) for work on the functions and structure of ribosomes, Ramakrishnan received the Padma Vibhushan in 2010, and was knighted in the UK in 2012. Excerpts from an interview.

Why do you think people are obsessed with the idea of living forever?

The more we live, the more we have a chance to reproduce and pass on our genes.

Humans are the only species aware of mortality. Animals are aware of death. But we are the only species that knows we have an expiration date. That has always driven human culture: the fear of death.

All religions deal with death. What we fear more than dying is not existing. We identify ourselves with our consciousness and with being in the world, so we can't imagine not being here.

Is eternal life possible?

We're beginning to understand why ageing happens at multiple levels, from the level of the molecule to the entire organism. While eternal life is not possible at the moment, that's not to say there won't be breakthroughs in the future that will extend life. By how much is not clear.

But humans need to stay not just alive, but also healthy and productive.

I'm a little sceptical about the idea that if we live a very long time we're going to be much more productive. Consider the productivity of Mozart, who died at 35, or Jane Austen, who died young but produced important novels. Living longer, there would be a temptation to slack off or be bored.

In many creative professions, people do their best work when they're young. It's not just that they're young and have better cognition and brain power; it has also to do with novelty. When you're young, you're questioning ideas that you're encountering for the first time. That freshness isn't going to exist if you're around "forever". Though there would be exceptions, of course.

Would life without death become meaningless?

I am of the view that it would. Having mortality and knowing we're here for a limited time is a great driving force to help us make the most of it.

There is also an element of narcissism in the idea that you're so important that you need to exist forever. I wouldn't want to die tomorrow or next year. But if you ask me, rationally, does the world need me to hang around for 200 years? I'd say "No." The world would be fine without me.

In the book, you look at the science, but also point to fundamental principles for extending healthy lifespans: good sleep, healthy diet, exercise.

Yes. Although the advice has been around for a long time, we're only just now beginning to understand the science. But I don't want to be too extreme. I resisted taking drugs for many years. But eventually my blood pressure got too high and my cholesterol wasn't coming down, so I started taking anti-ageing medicines, whose main effect is to keep me healthy and alive for longer.

We also need to consider social disparities in ageing. The advice is very easy for upper-middle-class people to follow, as they can eat well and go to their gym. But if you're poor, your diet isn't great and there's no time to exercise. It affects your sleep and you're stressed out. Not only do the poor live almost a decade less than the rich, but they spend a larger portion of their lives unhealthy.

How did you react when you heard you'd won the Nobel?

I wasn't expecting it. The public hears

about the Nobel but they don't realise there are a number of other scientific prizes, and before the Nobel, many of those prizes went to other people. I was left out, so I thought the community didn't rate my work at the same level. I figured I wouldn't get it.

Also, Sweden had invited a bunch of us over, several years before the Nobel. At one of the meetings, I got into an argument about a technical matter with a Swedish scientist who works on the ribosome. I found out he was appointed to the Nobel committee a few months later, so I thought "Well, there's no way this guy is ever going to want to give me the prize." I underestimated his integrity. Even though he disagreed about one important area, he looked at my work overall. I admire that.

When I got the prize, it was a big surprise. I didn't believe it at first.

A Nobel, a knighthood, fellowships, awards... This is a tongue-in-cheek question: Do you ever worry that you haven't achieved enough?

All these things make me sound like a member of the British establishment. But I grew up in a different area of India than where my parents were from. I'm ethnically Tamil. But I moved to Gujarat at the age of three. They spoke a different language. I didn't understand a word the other children were saying. Ever since the age of three, I always felt like a bit of an outsider.

I went to the US and then came to Britain relatively late in life. I was an outsider again...

Do you still feel like an outsider?

A little bit. I feel it less and less. I'm going to retire in the near future, and if I look back, I would say my life has worked out beyond all my dreams. I've been extremely lucky. I don't feel that I haven't done enough. But I like to try new things, such as writing popular books, and get out of my comfort zone.

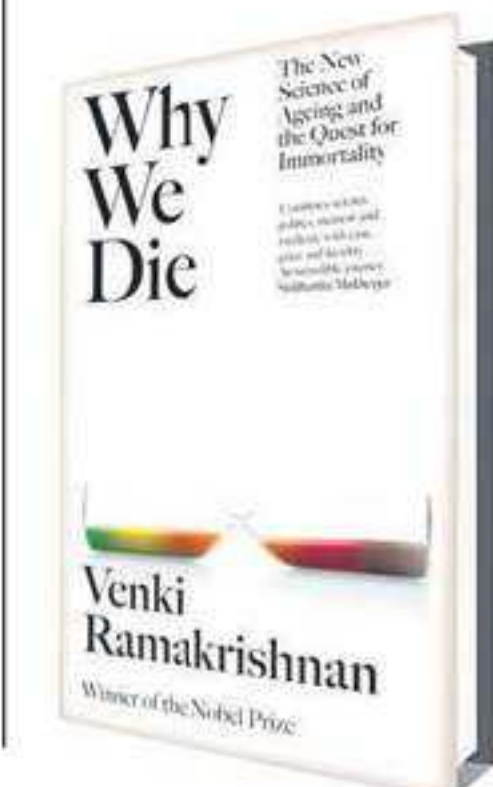
I've also started RNAvate... starting something from scratch relatively late in life. In that sense, you'd say maybe I'm not satisfied. But it's really about trying new things, maintaining a sense of excitement and purpose.

IMAGE: KATE JOYCE / SANTA FE INSTITUTE

1 Venki Ramakrishnan, 72, was born in Tamil Nadu, to two science professors. He spent his youth in Gujarat and moved to the US at 19, where he studied physics and biology. He completed postdoctoral research at Yale, and worked in the lab of American molecular biophysicist and biochemist Peter Moore, where he began his research on ribosomes.

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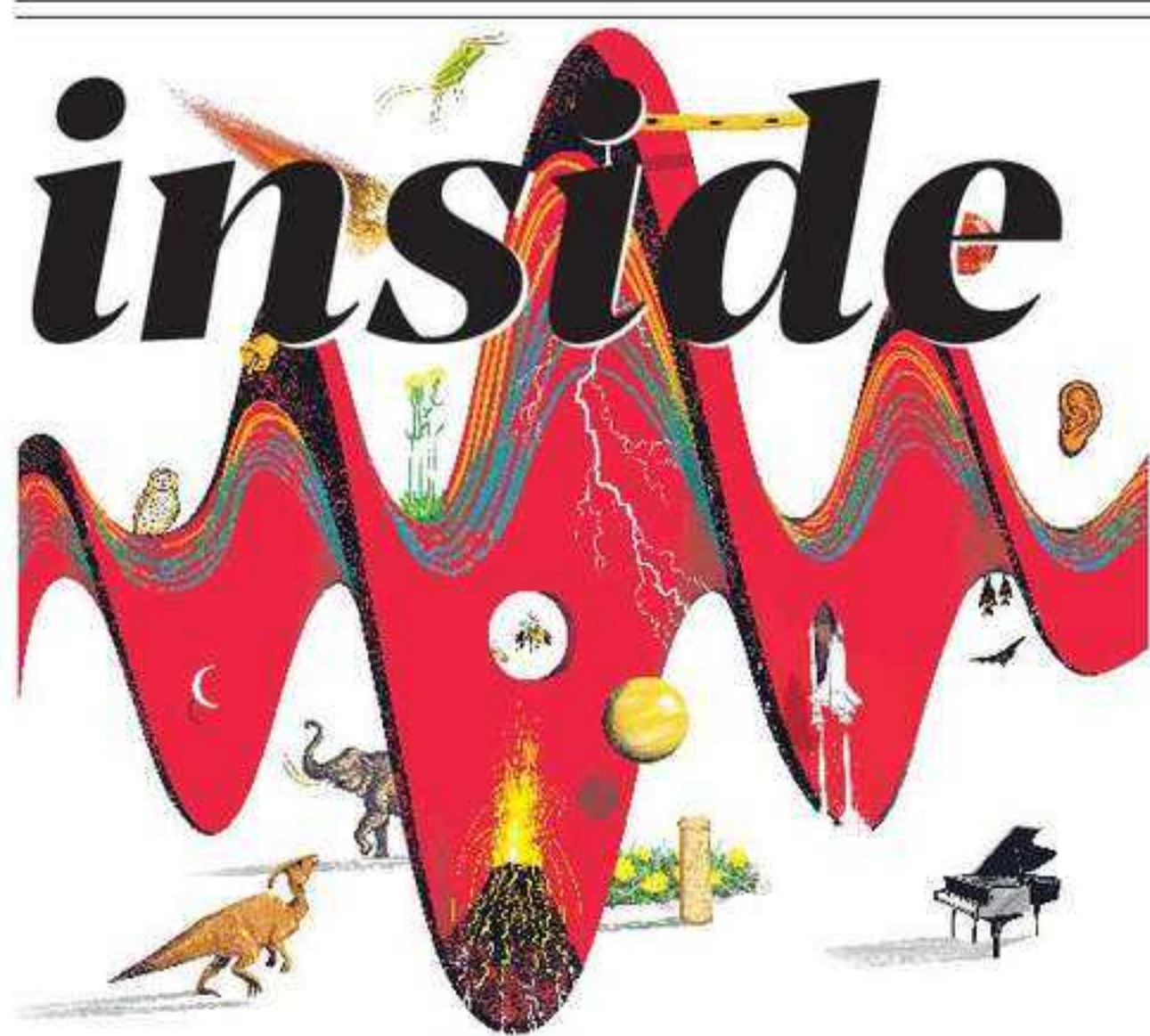
3 Ramakrishnan's previous book, *Gene Machine* (2018), focused on ribosomes, "the molecular machine that makes DNA come alive". Breakthroughs are certain to extend life, he says. But "there's an element of narcissism in the idea that you're so important that you need to exist forever. I wouldn't want to die tomorrow or next year. But if you ask me, rationally, does the world need me to hang around for 200 years? I'd say 'No'. The world would be fine without me."



READ an exclusive excerpt from *Why We Die: The New Science of Ageing and the Quest for Immortality*, by Venki Ramakrishnan

Ever since the age of three, I always felt like a bit of an outsider. (As a Tamilian child in Gujarat), I didn't understand a word the other children were saying.

VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN



LIFESTYLE

Leap ears

What did the first moments after the Big Bang sound like? Did a certain dinosaur sound like a trombone? What was the loudest sound ever heard on Earth? A Book of Noises journeys back, and peers into the future: What are vibrations teaching scientists about how the brain works, and how to treat it? Tour the astonishing sonic landscapes of our world

P14

CULTURE

You've got tales

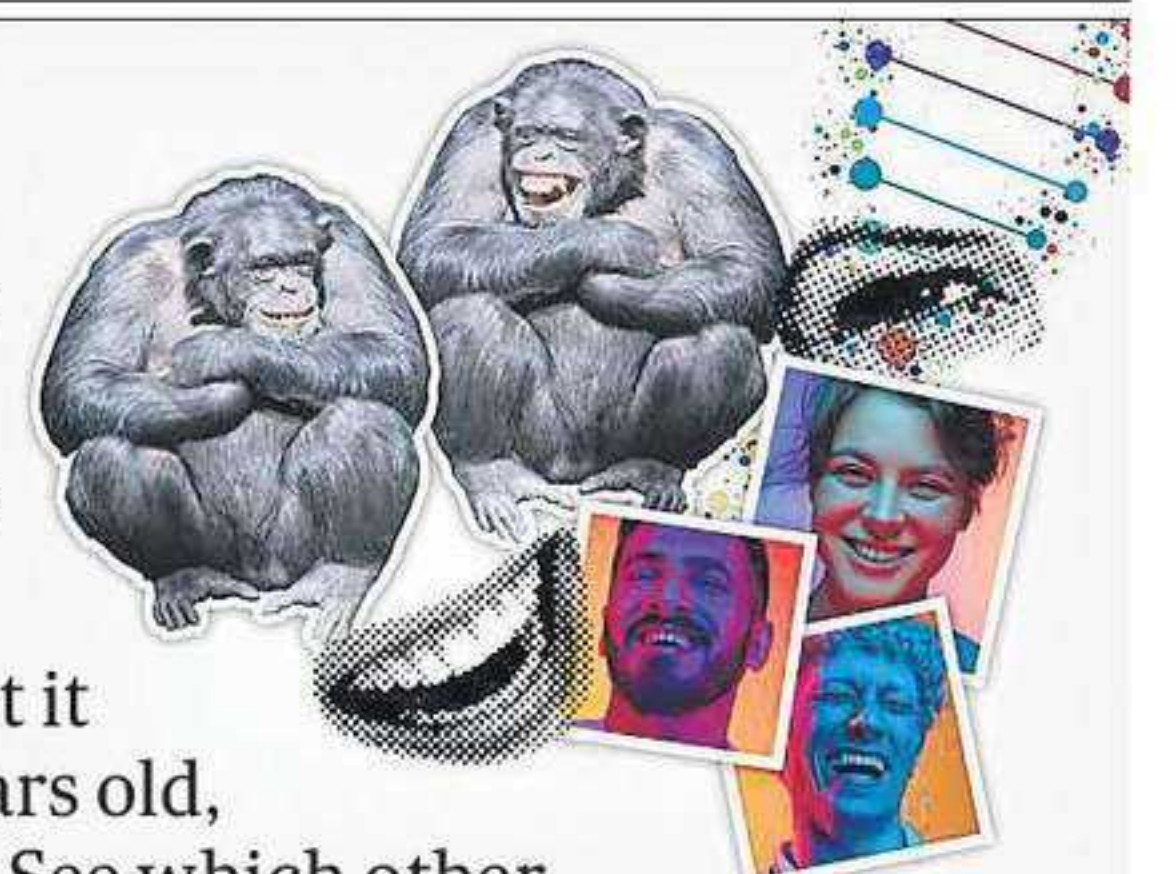
Ai Weiwei writes a graphic novel on his life; AI retells George Orwell's *Animal Farm*; there's Questlove on hip-hop; a robot on the run... all in books with a twist to watch out for this year

P15

MIND

We're funny that way

Where did the laugh come from? It turns out it is at least 10 million years old, and originated in apes. See which other species enjoy a chuckle; how our guffaws evolved. And how laughter still helps us understand each other, in ways that words just can't



P16

wknd | lifestyle

Leap ears

What did the first moments after the Big Bang sound like? Did a certain dinosaur boom like a trombone? What was the loudest bang ever heard on Earth? A Book of Noises journeys back, and peers into the future: What are vibrations teaching scientists about how the brain works, and how to treat it? Take a tour of the astonishing sonic landscapes of our world

Anesha George

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Listening deeply is so important, in a time when more sounds are being destroyed than are being created, says Caspar Henderson.

"As we live through what many scientists describe as a mass-extinction event, more forms of life are dying out and the sounds they create are being lost with them."

As a science journalist, a naturalist and an amateur musician, it was a combination of worry, wonder and curiosity that led him to take what he calls an "earwitness exploration of sound".

After two-and-a-half years of exhaustive research, field work and compilation, *A Book of Noises: Notes on the Auraculous* was published, in 2023, by Granta and University of Chicago Press.

The book seeks to capture the ancient history of sound on Earth, and the astonishing breath of sonic landscapes in our world today. It touches upon sounds we haven't heard but that have been pivotal to our existence — like the chimes that reverberated after the Big Bang. It tracks how new developments in the study of sound are aiding doctors, ecologists, seismologists, and glaciologists struggling to predict what may happen next in Antarctica.

Sound has played an integral role in health care since the invention of the stethoscope in the early 19th century, Henderson, 60, points out. Medical ultrasounds, where high-frequency sound waves are used to map internal organs, and echocardiograms for the heart, followed soon after. Experimental physicists are now studying how neurons vibrate when they pass electrochemical signals, to try to frame non-invasive treatments for neurological disorders.

"Our first glimpse of the greatest wonder and trial of our lives, parenthood, comes in the form of a fuzzy black and white smudge made from sound," he writes.

Sound is integral, in many ways, to life, he adds. In the evolving field of soil acoustics, biologists are using sensors attached to metal nails pushed into the ground as a sort of antennae that allows them to "listen" to the movements of worms, grubs, mites and other life forms. Plant roots make a noise as they push through the soil too, and by tracking these, soil acousticians hope to better understand, for instance, whether roots grow by day, by night, or only after the rain.

"There are numerous scientific and environmental reasons to study sound. For me, it enriches my sense of what it is to be alive," Henderson says. Take a tour of the soundscapes he uncovers, from the very first bang that brought about the universe.

The first sounds

For the first 200,000 to 300,000 years after the Big Bang, the rapidly expanding universe reverberated as if filled with countless booming cosmic bells, writes Henderson. The universe in these first million years was so dense that it trapped light but allowed sound to pass through it at a much higher speed than it does through the atmosphere on Earth today.

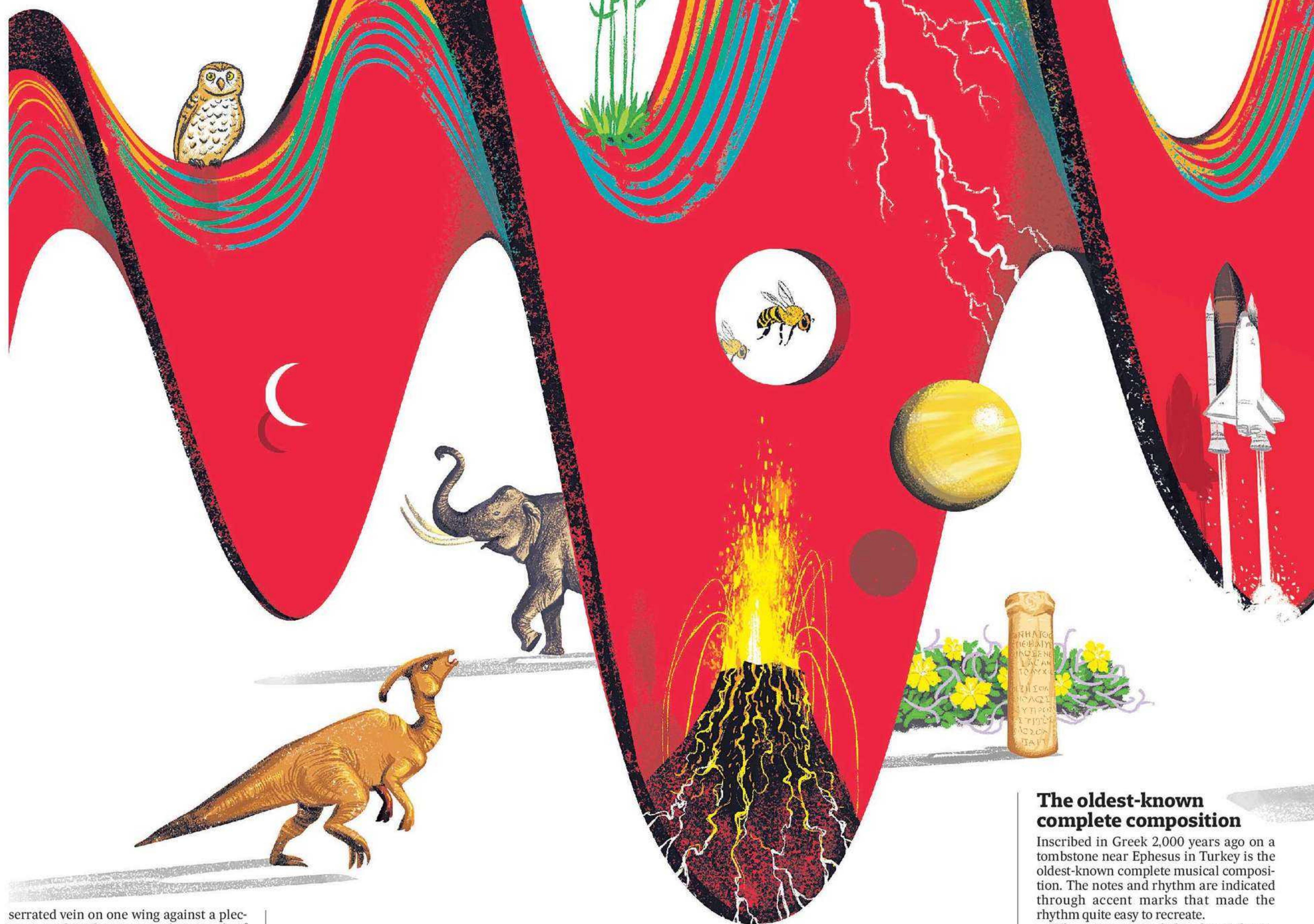
These acoustic waves weren't really chimes, he explains, but they did help shape the distribution of matter, with the wave peaks becoming foci for matter that would evolve, over millions of years more, into galaxies.

The sound of the Big Bang itself was first simulated in 2003 by John Cramer, then a researcher at the University of Washington. It likely would have been less of a bang and more of a low-frequency hum, he found. It would have been inaudible to human ears.

Data on the early wave peaks, meanwhile, is drawn from the findings of an international consortium of scientists working with the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI), which sits in the Arizona desert and was built as part of an international effort (by countries including the US, UK, France, Mexico and Spain). The scientists have, over about five years, been studying the positions and velocities of millions of galaxies across 11 billion years of cosmic history.

The earliest chirps

Among the earliest notes intentionally sounded on Earth were the cries of the katydid, a kind of cricket, which rubbed a



serrated vein on one wing against a plectrum on the other in an early example of stridulation.

This would have first occurred about 165 million years ago. The exact pitch — at 6,400 Hz, about a fifth above the highest note on the piano — can be deduced from the anatomy of remains preserved in amber.

In a recreation published in 2012, this stridulation sounds tinny and electronic: like a very small fire alarm running out of batteries, says Henderson. (These are among the first notes, or pitches, that palaeontologists can accurately reconstruct, and are not necessarily the earliest notes or songs of creatures on Earth.)

Ancient animal noises

The earliest animal sounds to have been accurately reconstructed are that of the Parasaurolophus, a plant-eating hadrosaur or duck-billed dinosaur, roughly the size of a bus, that lived in North America, about 75 million years ago.

The Parasaurolophus's call was probably made through a hollow bony tube on its head. In the 1990s, scientists at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico created a full-sized replica, and discovered that it made a "splendid" noise. Pitched at about 30 Hz, or just below the bottom note of a piano, the timbre has been compared to that of a trombone, because of which the Parasaurolophus is also called the trombone dinosaur.

It turns out that large carnivorous dinosaurs such as the Tyrannosaurus rex, meanwhile, did not roar at all. Palaeontologists have concluded that they probably boomed, closed-mouthed, like a crocodile, at the lower end of human hearing and into the infrasonic range, with perhaps some growling and hisses thrown in.

(The T-rex bellows in Jurassic Park? Those were created using a mix of slowed-down baby-elephant cries, the roar of a tiger, some whale song, an alligator hiss, and the growl and bark of the sound engineer's pet dog.)

The birth of birdsong

The earliest bird that definitely made a noise was the Vegavis iaai, which lived in Antarctica about 67 million years ago. Fossils show the presence of a syrinx, the avian equivalent of the larynx or "voice box" in humans, in its windpipe, just above the lungs. This indicates that it was able to quack or honk.

Birdsong began to rapidly evolve from those quacks and honks, about 30 million years ago, when Australian plants adapted to their steadily drying climates by excreting the sugars they produced, as nectar or plant sap. Australian birds quickly evolved to tap into these new resources: they began to taste and seek out sweetness, grew larger, more aggressive, cleverer and, they became vocal.

The loudest boom

The loudest sound ever produced on Earth was probably the shrieking, hissing crash of the Chicxulub impactor, as it struck present-day Mexico 66 million years ago, wiping out most of the planet's non-avian dinosaurs (among numerous other species) and sending shock waves over land and sea.

Chicxulub was an asteroid larger than Mount Everest, and it struck Earth at 20 times the speed of a bullet. It drove itself so far into the Earth, that in moments, the rim of the 100-km-wide crater was made up of peaks higher than the Himalayas are today; they soon collapsed amid the chaos.

The sound of the Chicxulub crash would have been at least 500,000 times louder than what is perhaps the loudest sound in human history: that of the 1883 eruption of the Krakatoa volcano.

This explosion sent pressure waves rippling around the Earth. It pushed a tsunami

45 metres high on to the shores of nearby Java and Sumatra, killing an estimated 120,000 people.

The captain of the Norham Castle, a ship stationed 64 km from Krakatoa, wrote that the explosions burst the eardrums of over half his crew.

More than 160 km away, the sound was measured at about 172 dB, over eight times the threshold for pain in humans, and about four times as loud as a jet engine if one were standing right next to it.

Notes in space

While the Northern Lights or aurora borealis do not in themselves make any noise, in the right conditions, they can give rise to electrical discharges 100 metres or so above the ground that sound like gentle crackles and bangs. These sounds have been described by indigenous peoples and travellers in the Arctic for centuries, and were first recorded by scientists in the early Aughts.

Seismometers placed on Earth's moon enable researchers to measure shudders and groans caused by meteor impacts. These are measured as vibrations within moon rock, since the moon itself is an utterly silent place. Sound needs a medium to travel through, and without a significant atmosphere, it cannot travel there.

The atmosphere on the surface of Mars, meanwhile, is about 100 times less dense than on Earth.

The cold air, which is primarily carbon dioxide, would reduce the speed of sound, which would serve to lower the pitch of the human voice. But the thin atmosphere would raise the pitch, by about as much. So, though the waves would travel slower, humans would sound pretty much the same on Mars as they do here on Earth.

Illustration
by Rahul
Krishnan
for HT

The oldest-known complete composition

Inscribed in Greek 2,000 years ago on a tombstone near Ephesus in Turkey is the oldest-known complete musical composition. The notes and rhythm are indicated through accent marks that made the rhythm quite easy to recreate.

What emerges is a light, almost danceable melody, Henderson says, which suits the lyrics:

*While you live, shine
have no grief at all
life exists only for a short
while
and time demands his due*

The oldest surviving musical instrument

Unearthed in a cave in south-eastern Germany, the oldest surviving purpose-built musical instrument is a flute made from the radius bone of a vulture, about 42,000 years ago. It has five holes bored along its length and a V-shaped notch or blowhole at the end. Replicas made in recent years sound a pentatonic or five-note scale.

Acoustic terror

Sound can kill. At above 185 decibels, it can cause an air embolism in the lungs that then travels to the heart. Noise at this intensity has the potential to be used as a physical weapon, though so far, the bombardment of noise (specifically certain kinds of music) has tended to be used, in military operations, as a psychological weapon instead.

Acoustic comfort

Speaking of the heart, Japan has a Wind Phone or Kaze no Denwa that people can talk into, to leave messages for loved ones they have lost. The phone is simply a disconnected old receiver, that sits atop a hill. But thousands have travelled to it, every year since the Tohoku tsunami in 2011.

It was set up by landscape designer Itaru Sasaki at the bottom of his garden, after being overcome with grief at losing his cousin to cancer in 2010. "Because my thoughts couldn't be relayed over a regular phone line," Sasaki told the Japanese TV channel NHK Sendai, "I wanted them to be carried on the wind."



READ: A brief note on Pythagoras's theory of math and music. By Anesha George



{ NOTE APPLICABLE } THE QUEST FOR QUIET

Sound check: Can we retune the urban world?



Flamingoes flock to Talawe in Navi Mumbai, during the pandemic. Around the world during this time, birds became more audible, their cries more complex. HT ARCHIVES

Anesha George

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For most of us, in the pandemic, bird-song seemed to grow louder. But studies conducted since are revealing that, in some places, the opposite was true.

As traffic noises disappeared from San Francisco, for instance, the dramatic buzzes and trills of the white-crowned sparrow quieted — by as much as 30%. They no longer needed to shout. Instead, their songs became richer, more complex, as they warned each other of nearby predators, repelled competing rivals, or attracted mates.

Even small improvements to noise pollution can lead to the reversal of the environmental damage that man-made sound has caused, states the study, titled *Singing in a Silent Spring*, conducted by researchers in Tennessee and California and published in the *Journal of Science* in 2020.

Such reduction could lead to demographic recovery and higher species diversity in urban areas, it notes.

For decades, we have tracked the flip side: ways in which human-made noise, or anthropophony, affect the natural world. It has been shown to cause symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress disorder in birds, thin out populations of underwater species by masking their auditory mating signals.

In humans, chronic exposure to noise at even 55 dB (about the sound of moderate traffic) can be enough to delay reading and language development in children under 10 and increase the risk of heart disease and stroke in adults.

A 1975 study found that at a New York City public school, children whose classrooms faced a noisy railway track had fallen behind in reading, writing and arithmetic ability, compared with peers on the opposite side of the building.

When measures such as soundproofing were taken, the scores evened out, showed a study led by Arline L Bronzaft, an environmental psychologist at New York's Lehman College, and published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*.

Crash landings

Man-made noise is not a modern phenom-

AS TRAFFIC NOISES DISAPPEARED FROM SAN FRANCISCO DURING THE PANDEMIC, THE DRAMATIC BUZZES AND TRILLS OF THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW QUIETED — BY AS MUCH AS 30%. THEY NO LONGER NEEDED TO SHOUT

non, of course.

Urban noise was prevalent so long before industrialisation that Julius Caesar, in the 1st century BCE, reportedly complained of the endless clack of wheels on Rome's cobblestoned streets at night.

But the destruction caused by anthropophony has lately reached epic proportions. Seismic air guns used to locate seams of oil and gas in ocean beds, for instance, emit powerful pressurised blasts of air as sound waves that reflect back off the ocean floor providing information about its geology.

The reverberating blasts can be as loud as 260 underwater dB (equivalent to about 200 dB in the atmosphere; or about as loud as a sonic boom).

The air guns fire every few seconds during surveys that can run for months, over tens of thousands of square km. While larger, quicker animals flee, the marine crustaceans that form the base of the food pyramid can see entire colonies wiped out.

In a 2015 experiment off the coast of Tasmania, a single air gun blast killed all krill larvae within more than 1 km, and most other plankton.

The good news is that reducing sound pollution is an achievable target. Unlike plastic contamination, action yields immediate results. It might help to develop a little humility too. We didn't always dominate the soundscape.

This became evident as settlers first arrived in what is now the United States. "European settlers in America," environmental historian Peter A Coates writes in a 2005 essay, quoting historian Mark Smith, "found the noise of an axe striking a tree an aural victory over the howling wilderness."

{ MAKING WAVES } ACOUSTIC EXPERIMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

For the record: The first ear, audible plants

Anesha George

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Early experiments with sound were, by default, linked to music.

The Greek mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras discovered, in the 6th century BCE, that harmony could also be a matter of math. There are ratios at play that indicate (or determine, who can say) which notes sound best together, when played on certain instruments. (Scan the QR code at left for a bit more on this.)

About 1,000 years later, in the 16th century, the modern study of waves and acoustics began, with Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei exploring the relationship between the pitch of a taut string and its vibrating length. It wasn't until the late-17th century that the French physicist Joseph Sauveur first suggested the name acoustics for the study of sound, separating it and calling it "a science superior to music".

But hearing, of course, goes back to early life on the planet. The first organisms to "hear" were single-celled aquatic life forms from hundreds of millions of years ago. They evolved tiny hair-like structures called cilia that allowed them to sense the vibrations and movement of other organisms in water, and this ability was passed down to ancient fish.

When life left the water, hearing on land presented new challenges. Palaeontological data indicates that the ear drum most likely evolved in the Triassic period, about 100 million years after the first vertebrates walked on land.

The drum made it easier to hear sounds

Engineering students Seth Robertson and Viet Tran with their fire extinguisher that uses only sound. GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

propagated through the air; evolving the ability to hear such sounds more keenly could mean the difference between survival and extinction.

Humans have been fascinated by who can hear, and how, for centuries. And there is some brutal history to the way we've studied sound.

Let's start out with something lighter. Charles Darwin tried to find out if plants could "hear" by playing a bassoon to a mimosa, wondering if it would close its leaves in response as it did when touched. He later went on to call it a "fool's experiment" but studies since have shown that sounds played repeatedly over long periods can induce plants to germinate and grow slower or faster.

This isn't strictly hearing; it is sensitivity to vibrations. Plants do use "sound", however. They locate water and grow towards it, for instance, based on the vibrations caused as water moves through earth, or

through a pipe.

Now to the rougher stuff. In 1793, the Italian priest and biologist Lazzaro Spallanzani surgically blinded bats, removing their eyeballs to see if they could really still fly past obstacles in the dark.

When they continued to do so with relative ease, he plugged their ear canals, which led them to collide with objects in their path. Spallanzani didn't learn much from this either. It would be another 150 years until the term echolocation was coined, in 1944, by a 29-year-old zoologist named Donald Griffin.

A particularly delightful experiment in sound, meanwhile, proved that a certain pitch can put out a fire.

It all began in 1912, when American naturalist Charles Kellogg, known for his mimicry of birdsongs, announced that he could extinguish flames by drawing the bow of a violin across a tuning fork. The scientific community reportedly did not know what to make of his demonstrations then. But over 100 years later, in 2015, two engineering students at George Mason University in Virginia, Viet Tran and Seth Robertson, managed to create a fire extinguisher as part of their senior research project that operates in just the same way.

They found that sounds that are emitted as pressure waves, in the right frequency (a bass range of 30 to 60 Hz), can reliably put out small fires, as they displace oxygen from the area near flames and fuel. There has been no talk of commercial application; one would presumably feel a bit foolish trying to size up a fire and determine whether to pull up a playlist or reach for an extinguisher.

Perhaps it is incredible enough that it works.



culture

You've got tales

Ai Weiwei writes a graphic novel on his life; Ai retells George Orwell's *Animal Farm*; there's *Question Time* on hip-hop; a robot on the run... all in books with a twist to watch out for this year

Bhanuj Kappal

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There's a reason stories survive. They remain the only way to honestly look at ourselves and each other, and preserve — or alter — what we see.

Is there a story you are hoping will be told this year? A story you hope to see unfold in the world? We would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, here is our list of stories that are out there, or soon will be, that surprise, that matter, that experiment with medium or intent in new ways.

A life in art

Ai Weiwei — a challenging and provocative artist, an architect of Chinese modernism — has lived in Beijing, Berlin, Cambridge and Lisbon. Spent time with Beat poet Allen Ginsberg in New York. In *Zodiac* (Penguin Random House; January), a graphic novel on his life, created in collaboration with Italian political cartoonist Gianluca Costantini, Ai blends these real-life experiences with imagined confrontations (including a debate with Chinese President Xi Jinping) and fairy-tale fantasy, to craft a mystical manifesto for freedom and kindness.

Written largely as stories told to his son, the book is anchored in legends about the animals in the Chinese Zodiac.

Are you being served?

The new novel by Adrian Tchaikovsky, best known for his Hugo Award-winning *Children of Time* series (about humanity's struggle to avoid extinction in an uncaring galaxy), is about murder, mayhem and robots gone rogue.

Humanity is slowly dying out, in *Service Model* (Tordotcom; June). People have become dependent on the labour of bots. In this world, a domesticated robot suddenly discovers that it has murdered its owner. It flees the home, into a world entirely unknown, and encounters other robots searching for new purpose.

Expect dark humour and sharp insight. Whose feelings count as feelings, why, and who gets to decide?

Time and time again

For her debut novel, Kaliane Bradley couldn't decide between a spy thriller, a time-travel romance and a historical fantasy, so she decided to fuse the three genres.

Set in the near future, *The Ministry of*

Time (Avid Reader Press / Simon & Schuster; May) follows a civil servant working on a secret government project that has drawn "expats" from across history into 21st century London, to observe what time travel does to humans, and to the fabric of space-time.

Tasked with assisting and monitoring Victorian naval officer and polar explorer Lieutenant Graham Gore (based on a real-life figure), the civil servant falls in love with her charge. With its nuanced views on colonialism, power and bureaucracy, *The Ministry of Time* is thought-provoking and darkly funny.

New highs

Why was LSD created? American historian Benjamin Breen takes the reader to the start of our most common manufactured psychedelics, with a special focus on this drug. In *Tripping on Utopia*: Margaret Mead, the Cold War, and the Troubled Birth of Psychedelic Science (Hachette; January), Breen explores the academic partnership and fractured romance of pioneering anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, and the utopian ambitions of researchers like them, who were studying the potential uses of psychedelic drugs in the post-World War 2 years.

In the early throes of the Cold War, their ideas were put in use in missions with dystopian ends, such as the CIA's experiments with mind control. Moving from the jungles of New Guinea to the temples of Bali, *Tripping on Utopia* crafts a riveting origin story.

Off the hook

A year after hip-hop nominally turned 50, comes a kaleidoscopic chronicle of the cultural movement's history, told through the eyes of one of its icons. In *Hip-hop is History* (Awwa Books; June), *Question Time*, drummer and joint frontman of The Roots, offers a front-and-centre view of things he read, heard and witnessed in the early years of this subculture.

New to the farm

Publishing company Legible is in the midst of re-releasing classics as AI-powered "living ebook" versions. First up is *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The Legible Living Book version, released in January, introduces two new characters, hens named Sonia and Daisy. Readers can interact with them to dig deeper into the narrative, through interactive dialogue.

A computer program revising his tale... we at *Wknd* have been wondering what Orwell would have made of that.

{ ALWAYS AT THE MOVIES }

Anupama Chopra



How many stars is too many?

As A-listers flood India's streaming platforms, I worry that the promise of fresh voices, innovative tales could be eclipsed

On May 1, Sanjay Leela Bhansali will go small. Hindi cinema's most visually opulent auteur will unveil his latest, *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, on Netflix. The eight-episode series, about an elite house of courtesans in British India, is likely to be the streaming show of the year.

Teasers and songs (also composed by Sanjay) reveal that the size of the screen hasn't impacted his storytelling. The director of landmark films such as *Bajirao Mastani* (2015), *Padmaavat* (2018) and *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022) is luxuriating, as he usually does, in sumptuous sets, costumes and production design, and beauteous faces.

There is nothing modest about *Heeramandi*. No evidence that Sanjay is thinking about the fact that it will unfold on laptops and phone screens.

The show exemplifies director Alfonso Cuarón's sentiment from a 2020 interview with *IndieWire*: "I consider it a mistake... to say... adapt to smaller screens. I think it's the opposite. Smaller screens have to adapt to cinematic visions."

Stills from the upcoming series *Heeramandi* by Sanjay Leela Bhansali; and *The Night Manager* (2023), featuring Aditya Roy Kapur, Sobhita Dhulipala and Anil Kapoor.



Heeramandi is a prime example of an emerging trend in Indian entertainment: the event series. This is typically a show that has stars, scale, a sizeable budget, and eclipses all others in the weeks after its release.

Sacred Games, the first Netflix show made in India, was an event series, topped by Saif Ali Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and co-directed by Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane.

There have been many since. Think of last year's *Amazon Original* *Farzi*, which marked the streaming debut of Shahid Kapoor. Directed by Raj & DK, it was the most-watched Hindi streaming show in India, according to Ormax Media's annual report for 2023. The second spot on that list was occupied by *The Night Manager*, a Disney+ Hotstar event series featuring Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sobhita Dhulipala.

This year's *Amazon Original*, *Indian Police Force*, marks the streaming debut of one of Hindi cinema's most successful directors, Rohit Shetty, and of actor Sidharth Malhotra. Shows coming up this year include *Citadel: Honey Bunny* (Amazon Prime), also directed by Raj & DK, and starring Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

It's a bonanza for viewers. But my fear is that the heavyweights of Hindi cinema might eventually stunt streaming. When they first debuted, OTT platforms were entertainment's brave new world. Some event series still reflect this. Think of this year's Malayalam series *Poacher*, featuring Nimisha Sajayan, directed by Richie Mehta, executive-produced by Alia Bhatt — with a ruffal storytelling and a talent-first approach intact.

Will we still have inventive storytelling and brilliant new actors emerging if platforms increasingly rely on stars to break through the clutter? Vikram Malhotra, CEO of *Abundantia Entertainment*, which was among the earliest producers to bring stars to streaming with the series *Breathe* on Amazon (SI starred R Madhavan and S2, Abhishek Bachchan) says that he endorsed this trend in the early days, to enable market penetration. But now, he adds, some amount of risk-taking could go a long way.

The truth is there is no downside to more hours of Sanjay Leela Bhansali. But I'm always rooting for new voices. May those also shine.

(To reach Anupama Chopra with feedback, email feedbackforanu@gmail.com)

wknd mind

We're funny that way

Where did the laugh come from? It turns out it is at least 10 million years old, and originated in apes. See which other species enjoy a chuckle; how our guffaws evolved. And how laughter still helps us understand each other, in ways that words just can't

Natasha Rego

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We've been trying to unlock the laugh for over half a century, and we're finally forming some idea of where it comes from. The earliest scientific research in this field was conducted in the 1960s, as part of geology, or the study of the psychological and physiological effects of humour. In one experiment, Stanford University professor William F Fry drew his own blood at intervals, while watching Laurel and Hardy films. Later analysis showed that laughter increased the activity of immune cells that kill infectious pathogens.

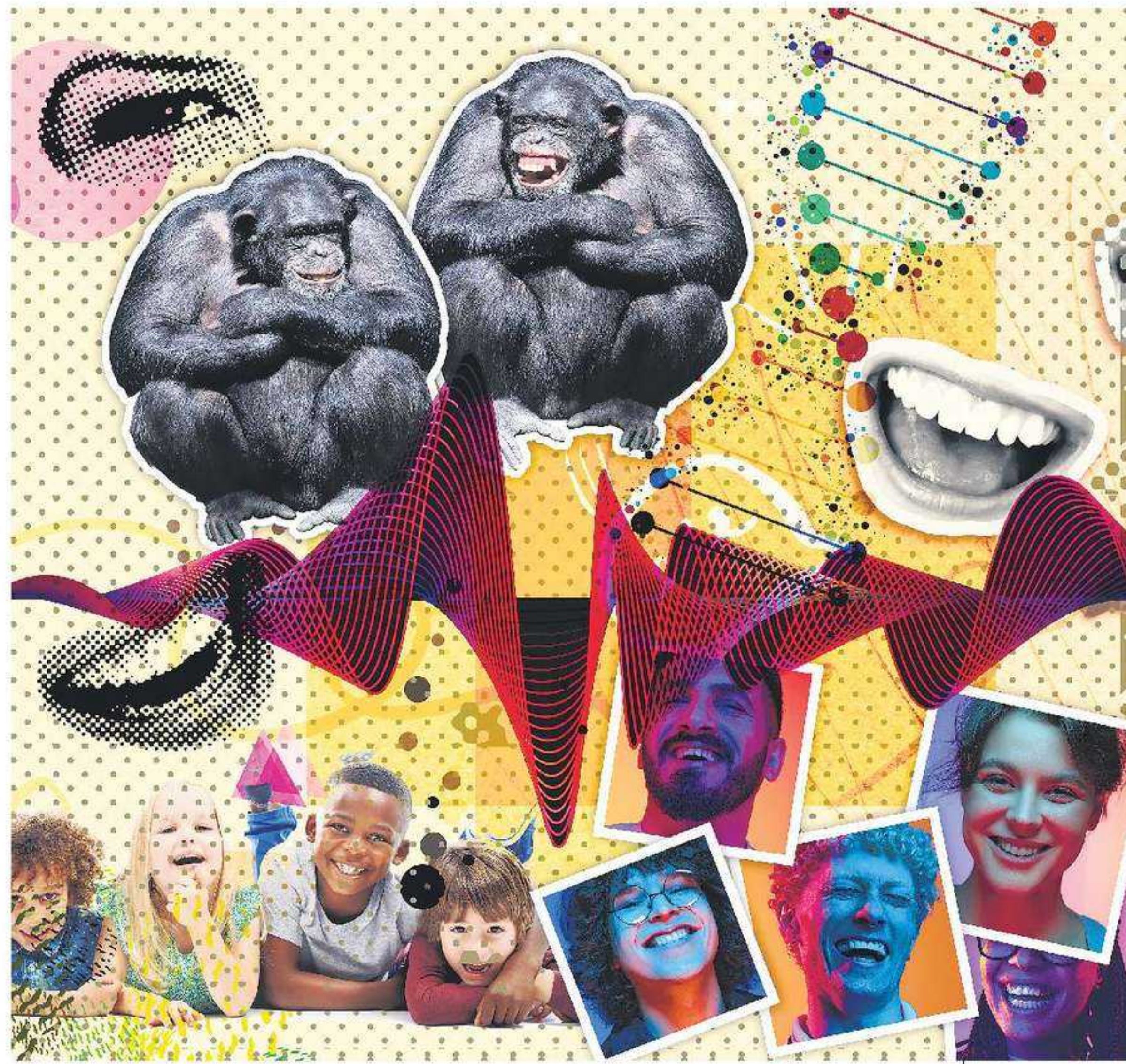
The experiment only confirmed what humans had instinctively known for millennia. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," goes a Biblical proverb. It traceable to the King James Bible, first published in 1611. It is certainly a kind of medicine. Laughter releases a host of feel-good hormones, including endorphins and dopamine. It enhances the intake of oxygen, stimulates heart, lungs and muscles.

The purpose of the laugh, anthropologically, is to convey friendliness, cooperation and an absence of hostility. It is a form of human bonding and intimacy. All these factors explain why children laugh so much during play. But how old is it, and where does it come from?

It turns out that the laugh evolved from panting, the original mechanism for the release of pent-up positive emotion, as great apes indulged in rough-and-tumble play.

It evolved into today's vocalisations, in a common ancestor of today's apes and humans, between 10 and 16 million years ago, shows research conducted by psychologists and a zoologist (from the Universities of Portsmouth, Georgia State and Veterinary Medicine Hannover, published in the journal *Current Biology* in 2009).

In this study, the researchers showed that when they tickled great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos), their reaction was similar in acoustical properties



IMAGES: ADOBE STOCK/IMAGING: MONICA GUPTA

to that of tickled babies. A computer program plotted these recordings on an evolutionary tree and concluded, based on the acoustic recordings alone, that all five species were linked to a common ancestor from the period mentioned, with the chimps' laughter being the closest to that of the human babies.

Why would the laugh as an expression have survived? "Evolution tends to perpetuate those behaviours that offer an advantage for survival," says Dr Carlo Valerio Bellieni, a professor of paediatrics at University of Siena in Italy, who has been studying the role of laughter. It helps humans communicate and bond, even within larger groups, in a way that words and even physical touch don't.

Along with other vital non-verbal communication behaviours, such as reddening in the face, trembling with fear and crying, laughter is a primordial feature that speaks without speaking, Dr Bellieni adds. "It is immediately clear and engaging and this is why it is still active."

Bubbling up

The first truly human laugh may have emerged only about two million years ago, when early hominids developed the ability to willfully control facial motor systems.

Laughter would have been used to express camaraderie, joy, mirth, embarrassment... and derision. It is from this point on that the "dark side" of laughter, unique to humans, emerged, say researchers from Binghamton University, in a 2005 study published in the *Quarterly Review of Biology*.

"Humans can now voluntarily access the laughter program and utilise it for their own



Like crying, laughter speaks without speaking. It is immediately clear and engaging and this is why it is still active.

DR CARLO VALERIO BELLIENI, professor of paediatrics, University of Siena, Italy

ends, including smoothing conversational interaction, appeasing others, inducing favourable stances in them, or downright laughing at people that are not liked," the Binghamton biologists Matthew Gervais and David Sloan Wilson noted, in a statement.

As language evolved, laughter would become attached to the spoken joke. "This can be considered counterintuitive, but it turns out that human laughter is also produced by incongruity," says Dr Bellieni. "We are generally programmed to react negatively when we find that something does not align in a situation. But if we see that this misalignment occurs in a safe context, we relax at once, and we want all the bystanders to know that all is okay. We do this with the non-verbal signal of laughter."

Of mice and men

Primates aren't the only animals with laughter-like vocalisation. About 65 species are known to use some form of this expression, ranging from chuckles and panting to whines, clicks and high-pitched ultrasonic squeaks, found a meta-study by scientists at University of California, Los Angeles, published in the journal *Bioacoustics* in 2021.

Such species include domestic cows and dogs, wild foxes, seals, mongooses, certain bird species (including parakeets and Australian magpies) and mice, whose squeaks, incidentally, are inaudible to humans.

Rats, reportedly, "laugh" quite a lot. In 1997, neuroscientist Jaak Panksepp tickled some as a graduate student recorded their "laughter" for the first time, using bat detectors. "It sounded like a playground!" the researcher famously said.

Interestingly, a study conducted last year found that the link between laughter and fun works both ways. Researchers from Humboldt University, Berlin, have found that a particular part of the brain lights up at such times: the periaqueductal gray, which controls vocalisations. Blocking this region actually made the rodents less playful.

It's something to hold on to, the laugh. It unites us with parts of the animal world, and with something even bigger: an ancient need to express a simple, welcoming emotion without the tangle that can result from words.

LIFE HACKS

Charles Assisi



The timeless dance of opposites

We must make room for ambiguity and doubt, particularly in times of so much blusterous certainty. No individual or civilisation has ever benefited from assuming a monopoly on truth

Call these field notes from an atheist. For a very long time, I was a militant one. I'm not quite sure when the needle shifted. While the atheism stays, the militancy is gone.

Perhaps this has to do with the realisation that we live in times where the world seeks to divide us into binaries. And I have come to see that, the harder we hold on to our positions, the more we fail to see the beauty in contradictions.

I didn't have to look too far to find the beauty, or the contradictions: my home has been fertile ground.

It is a place that has evolved from a marriage between two opposing worldviews, my wife being a devout Catholic. The dynamic does present hurdles, once in a while. But face-offs are rarer two decades in. I guess we have journeyed from a place of argument to respect and curiosity.

This, to me, speaks to the power of embracing contradictions — not as a source of division, but as an opportunity for growth and understanding. This realisation did not come easily. It demanded that both of us look beyond the surface-level discord to find the place of shared values that lay beneath: compassion, integrity, and a deep-seated belief that people are fundamentally good.

The journey demanded that I, a staunch advocate of science and empirical evidence, explore spirituality with an open mind. Accompanying my wife Anna on her spiritual treks, I have found beauty in its history,



A Nativity scene on the facade of La Sagrada Família in Barcelona. Accompanying my wife Anna on her spiritual treks, even as an atheist, I have found beauty in the music, heritage and architecture associated with her faith.

music and architecture. I only hope that she has similarly found beauty in the scientific laws that govern my beliefs.

The biggest beneficiaries have been our children, who over the years have been intrigued observers of this philosophical dance. They have grown up in an ecosystem that encourages questioning and exploration, and a home where science and faith are seen not as adversaries but as complementary lenses. I am glad for that, because the wisdom of embracing contradictions extends far beyond the confines of our home.

History is replete with examples of individuals who navigated the complexities of seemingly contradictory beliefs to bring about profound change. Consider the Renaissance. It was a period marked by a renewed interest in the classical past and an embrace of humanism, alongside a deep religious fervour. This was a time when artists and thinkers explored the tension between the divine and the human, between faith and reason. And the outcome was works that continue to inspire awe and wonder.

Think of the ancient Taoist concept of yin and yang, which represents the harmony of opposites. It is a reminder that life is not

about choosing between black and white, but about finding balance and beauty in the grey.

In more recent times, we have had scientists such as Albert Einstein express a profound sense of spiritual awe in the face of the universe's mysteries.

I have come to believe that the key to navigating such contradiction lies in the willingness to listen to each other. This takes humility, because such listening begins with the acknowledgement that no single perspective has a monopoly on truth.

As we move forward, I hope that our children will inherit a world that values diversity of thought and applauds contradictions. Early on, they have seen that it is not a place of either/or but a vast expanse of also/and. This is an ideal with the power to transform families, communities, societies.

It has certainly transformed me. I now believe that the harmony my family has found in dissonance is proof of the human capacity to build inclusive societies. What more does any atheist or believer desire? All of us tread on common ground.

(Charles Assisi is co-founder of Founding Fuel. He can be reached on assisi@foundingfuel.com)

SOUND BITES | IDLI WORSHIP

Batter luck next time

Swetha Sivakumar



If you're having trouble making idli and dosa batter at home, don't beat yourself up. Getting a microbial culture to grow well but not too well, takes a lot of practice. There are factors outside one's control at play too, such as the weather.

Once the code is cracked, though, it becomes so easy, it feels like reflex. Here are some of my favourite hacks, honed through years of failure and annoyance (largely at myself, sometimes at the batter.)

The first thing I learnt was that urad dal plays a crucial role.

Idlis and dosas may be made of fermented rice, but that rice isn't going to ferment as well without this dal. Why? Because one needs a fair amount of lactic acid bacteria (LAB) to form in such a mix.

LAB is an umbrella term for strains such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactococcus lactis* and *Streptococcus thermophilus* that produce lactic acid during fermentation. This acid is what gives idlis, dahi, dhokla and sourdough bread their sour tang.

In nature, LAB are found in soil, roots and shoots, and in legumes such as urad dal. There, they share a symbiotic relationship with plants, drawing nutrition from their root systems while helping them fight fungi and other microbial pathogens.

Adding soaked and ground urad dal doesn't just help generate lactic acid. It also releases enzymes to help turn the starches in the batter into smaller units of sugar, which feed the microbes and help them multiply. So the dal really speeds things up.

At a pinch, moong or chana dal can be used, but urad is the most effective, and yields idlis that are whiter, softer and airier.

In fact, the same off-putting slimy texture one encounters in boiled urad dal is the reason it is perfect for idlis. The sliminess comes from a gum called arabinogalactan, which helps unfold air and form bubbles in batter. The gum holds on to this air even in very



high temperatures, which is why the eventual steamed idlis are light and "fluffy".

Now to the rice for the batter. I'm afraid it really must be parboiled (boiled while it is still in its husk). This causes retrograded starch, which forms a thicker, more viscous batter. (Parboiled rice absorbs nutrients from the husk, and is thus healthier too.)

The thicker batter traps gases more effectively. I have conducted experiments in which I fermented batters made with raw rice and parboiled rice side by side. The parboiled rice fermented much faster too (as much as six to eight hours faster, thereby reducing the risk of spoilage).

Incidentally, it helps to keep temperature consistent during fermentation; the ideal range being 30 to 40 degrees Celsius. The closer to 40 degrees Celsius, the faster fermentation occurs, but opt for consistency over heat if you can only have one of the two.

It takes eight to 15 hours to ferment batter. After 24 hours, you must refrigerate it (no matter how under-fermented) or, sadly, throw it away. The risk of spoilage is too high if you continue fermenting beyond this point.

Someone once asked me what I make of shortcuts such as idli rice and idli rava. I am in favour of anything that makes the home cook's already-difficult job any easier, of course, but here's my take in some detail.

Idli rice is a subset of parboiled rice selected for the purpose of making white, fluffy idlis. It typically has thicker grains and higher levels of amylopectin, allowing the batter to absorb water more easily, making for moister, and therefore softer, idlis.

Idli rava is a crushed form of idli rice that does not require soaking. Just add warm water and urad dal for batter. It's a good readymade option. The granular texture yields idlis that are not pasty. However, the larger particle size will keep you from spreading the batter thinly on a tava, so I generally avoid making dosas from idli rava.

On that note, happy fermenting. However you choose to do it, I promise it gets easier!

(To reach Swetha Sivakumar with questions or feedback, email upgrademyfood@gmail.com)

NOW I GET IT | THE PASSIVE-INCOME GENERATION

The buck starts here

Sukanya Datta

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It used to be only the very wealthy that had money rolling in, in exchange for little to no effort.

It typically came from land that had lain with the family since the largesse of some distant king; or, in modern times, through family business holdings and stock options.

Two things have made Gen Z the passive-income generation: the ease-of-business offered by the combination of smartphones and social media; and the severe need to hustle.

Gen Z has come of working age amid crises and change, soaring inflation, and cycles of job loss.

A passive income, in this world, is defined as anything with a no to low barrier for entry.

OnlyFans is an example. Photos and videos of feet (and other things; though sexual content is prohibited in India) are proving to be an unlikely 21st-century passive-income stream.

There is also art, with

advisory services offering to build and manage a portfolio, as a banker might manage one's money.

With a lot less money but a bit more effort, digital content — ranging from commercial art and photography to pre-recorded courses (on fitness routines or life hacks, corporate speak, etiquette or math) — are acting as passive-income streams for young people, says Shankha Basu, associate professor of marketing at Leeds University Business School.

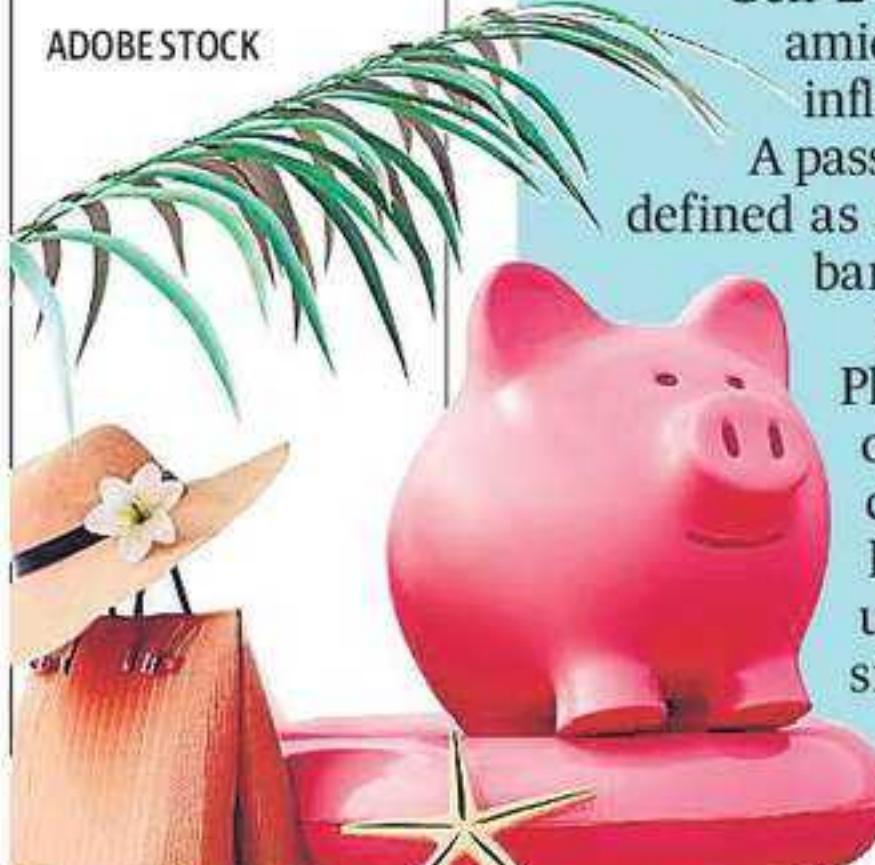
The pandemic proved to be a tipping point, Basu says.

"People realised that, to their full-time employers, they were largely dispensable. And a lot of Gen Z (people born between 1997 and 2012) started working during or right after the first phase of the pandemic. They saw the crushing economic blow it dealt their seniors, despite years of hard work. This, coupled with the ease allowed by social media, and the growing pressure to have a side hustle, has made it more vital for young people to have different types of income."

The idea of money has changed; so has the idea of work, Basu adds.

"Work is still a part of this generation's identity, but this is a generation whose job no longer defines them."

ADOBE STOCK



TECH TONIC | INFINITE ZEST

Up and atom: 'Forever' batteries

Vishal Mathur

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How the world changes... The technology that powered the nuclear bomb may soon be so tamed, it will sit in palms and laps, powering phone and laptop batteries so effectively that they may never need to be recharged.

Radioactive materials such as nickel-63, which has a half-life of about 100 years, could power a personal device for as much as half a century, manufacturers have said.

How would this futuristic tech work? Let's first take a quick look back.

The AA and AAA alkaline batteries essentially use the reactions between different metals, such as zinc and manganese, and a liquid electrolyte, to generate a current. As the metals are depleted in the cylinders, the battery ceases to function.

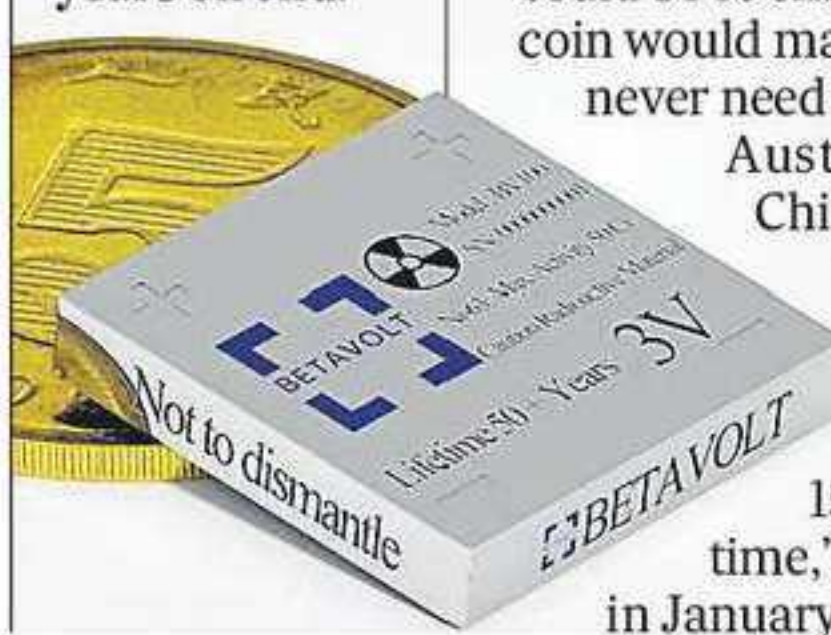
The lithium-ion batteries used in most of today's smart devices use the lighter element lithium, and a liquid electrolyte, allowing these batteries to be much smaller.

Nuclear batteries would work by harnessing the reaction of a tiny quantity of a radioactive isotope to power a hardy semiconductor that generates electricity. Such batteries could be so small that one the size of a thick coin would make it so a smartphone would never need to be recharged.

Australia's PhoEnergy and China's BetaVolt are at the forefront of this race.

"If policy permits, with the atomic battery, a drone that can now only fly for 15 minutes could fly all the time," BetaVolt said in a statement in January.

A BetaVolt atomic battery about the size of a coin could allow a drone that can currently fly for about 15 minutes at a time, to fly for years on end.



READ: New batteries are set to transform the EV space too. By Vishal Mathur

WORLD

Israel ready for direct Iran attack

An assault from Iranian soil has emerged as one of the main scenarios expected by Israel

Agencies

Letters@hindustantimes.com

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON: In a move that has the potential to trigger an all-out regional war, Iran could carry out a direct and unprecedented attack with drones and precision missiles on Israeli government targets as soon as this weekend, according to people familiar with western intelligence assessments, a media report said.

An assault from Iranian soil has emerged as one of the main scenarios expected by the Israel and its allies, the people told Bloomberg, asking not to be identified.

A bombardment with drones and precision missiles could come within the next 48 hours, they said in the report that came out on Friday.

Hours later, Iran on Saturday seized an Israel-linked vessel near the Strait of Hormuz, presenting yet another escalation in the conflict between the two countries.

Later, Israel warned that Iran would suffer the "consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further".

The intelligence assessment is that the attack still hasn't been approved by Tehran's highest-ranking officials, according to the people quoted above.

An Iranian missile and drone barrage would represent a retaliation for a deadly strike on its diplomatic compound in Syria last week, which the Islamic Republic blames on Israel.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has repeatedly said Israel will be "punished

for the assault, though stopped short of saying what form such a counter move would take.

"I don't want to get into secure information but my expectation is sooner rather than later," US President Joe Biden said on Friday in response to a question about whether an Iranian strike was imminent. Asked what message he'd give to Iran, Biden responded, "Don't."

"We are devoted to the defence of Israel," Biden added. "Iran will not succeed."

The US is preparing defences and moved additional military assets to the region, while intensifying diplomatic efforts to rein in hostilities, the people said.

Among the US forces in West Asia are two Navy destroyers that moved to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea last week, according to a Navy official who asked not to be identified discussing military movements.

US officials including Jake Sullivan and Brett McGurk have been working to send messages to Iran, including through an established Swiss channel, one of the people said, while talking to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other governments.

One of the people said it's possible that the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric between Israel, Iran, and the US could be grandstanding, but said the working assumption for Israel and allies is that an attack is imminent. Diplomatic backchannels are in overdrive, the people said.

A new Defense Intelligence Agency Worldwide Threat assessment suggests that any potential Iranian attack on Israel would probably involve a mix of missiles and drones, based on current capabilities.

The regime "has a substantial inventory of ballistic and cruise missiles capable of striking targets as far as 2,000 kilometres from its borders," the agency said.



Palstinians walk past damaged buildings in Khan Yunis on April 8, after Israel pulled its ground forces out of the southern Gaza Strip, six months into the devastating war sparked by the October 7 attacks.

US sends troop reinforcements to Israel amid escalating tensions with Hamas

Agence France-Presse

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GAZA STRIP: Troop reinforcements from Israel's ally the United States headed to the region on Saturday, with fears of wider war growing more than six months into Israel's battle against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

After pulling forces from the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis one week ago, Israel's military said on Saturday it was continuing to operate against militants in central Gaza.

In central Gaza's main city of Deir al-Balah, fire burned in the rubble of a destroyed mosque. Israel's military "demanded that the whole area be evacu-

ated" before it was "wiped out in minutes", said Abdullah Baraka, a witness.

The military said it had struck more than 30 militant targets across the Palestinian territory over the previous day.

Airlines avoid Iranian space

Airlines said they are avoiding Iranian airspace, nearly two weeks after a strike, which Iran blamed on its arch foe Israel, destroyed Tehran's consular annex at its embassy in Damascus, Syria. However, Israel hasn't claimed or denied responsibility for the attack.

Violence involving Iran-backed groups around the Middle East, including in Lebanon,

Yemen and Syria, has increased since Israeli forces began their retaliation against Hamas militants in Gaza for their October assault on Israel.

West Bank violence

Tensions have also flared in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where settler attacks left at least one Palestinian dead and dozens injured, and a search continued for a missing Israeli teenager, sources from both sides said.

As talks for a Gaza truce and hostage release dragged on, the region braced for the retaliation which Iran has vowed after the consular strike whose victims included two generals.

"We are moving additional assets to the region to bolster

regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US forces," said a US defence official in Washington.

The US already has tens of thousands of troops in the Middle East and provides billions of dollars worth of military assistance to Israel.

Hamas's October 7 attack resulted in the deaths of 1,170 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to Israeli figures.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,634 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry there.

After Iran's retaliation threats, a direct Israel-Iran conflict would significantly ratchet up hostilities in West Asia.



Paramedics move a stretcher with medical equipment outside the Westfield Bondi Junction shopping mall after a stabbing incident in Sydney on Saturday.

Six stabbed to death in Sydney shopping mall

Agencies

Letters@hindustantimes.com

SYDNEY: A man stabbed six people to death at a busy Sydney shopping centre on Saturday before he was fatally shot, police said, with hundreds fleeing the chaotic scene, many weeping as they carried their children. At least eight people, including a 9-month-old, were injured.

The 40-year-old was stopped in the knifing attack at the Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction, which is in the city's eastern suburbs, when a police inspector shot him after he turned and raised a knife, New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Anthony Cooke told reporters.

"They just said run, run, run — someone's been stabbed," one witness told ABC TV in Australia. "The attacker was walking really calmly like he was having an ice cream in a park. And then he went up the escalators... and probably within about a minute we heard three gunshots."

Six of the victims — five women and a man — and the suspect died. Commissioner Karen Webb said the eight injured people were being treated at hospitals.

The baby was in surgery, but it was too early to know the condition, she said.

"We are confident that there is no ongoing risk, and we are dealing with one person who is now deceased," Webb said in a later briefing.

She added: "It's not a terrorism incident." She said police wouldn't identify the man yet and were still working to determine his motivation.

Cooke said a "lengthy and precise" investigation was just beginning.

Some witnesses expressed shock and disbelief at the unexpected eruption of violence.

Australia's enactment of stringent gun laws came in response to a tragic event in 1996, when a gunman took the lives of 35 people and injured 23 others during a devastating incident in Tasmania.

Cooke said the police inspector, a senior officer, was alone when she confronted the suspect and engaged him soon after her arrival on the scene, "saving a range of people's lives."

The officer "showed enormous courage and bravery," Webb said.

"If she didn't shoot, he would have kept going, and I don't know how many more he would have done," another witness told 7News, speaking of the police inspector.

Video showed many ambulances and police cars around the shopping centre, and people streaming out, many with children in their arms. Paramedics were treating patients at the scene.

King Charles III 'horrified'

Britain's King Charles III said on Saturday that he and his wife Queen Camilla were "horrified" by "senseless" stabbings at the shopping centre, according to a report by Agence France-Presse.

"My wife and I were utterly shocked and horrified to hear of the tragic stabbing incident in Bondi," Charles said in a statement released by Buckingham Palace.

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those who have been so brutally killed during such a senseless attack."

"While details of these shocking circumstances are still emerging, our thoughts are also with those who were involved in the response, and we give thanks for the bravery of the first responders and emergency services," he added.

11 shot dead by militants in Pakistan's Balochistan

Press Trust of India

Letters@hindustantimes.com

KARACHI: At least 11 people, nine of them from Punjab province, were shot dead by militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan in two separate incidents, authorities said on Saturday, as the region witnessed a surge in terror attacks in recent days.

Nine of the deceased were travelling in a bus on the National Highway from Quetta to Taftan when they were stopped by unknown militants,

who pulled them out of the bus and killed them later, an official said. "The bodies of these nine men were later found with bullet wounds in the nearby mountainous areas near a bridge," he said. "The bus was going from Quetta to Taftan when armed men stopped it and after identifying passengers took the nine men to the mountainous areas," he added.

The victims were from Wazirabad, Mandi Bahauddin, and Gujranwala in Punjab province.

In a separate incident, a car

was fired upon on the same highway in which two passengers were killed and two others injured.

Condemning the attacks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sought a report of the incident from authorities. He also expressed condolences over the deaths and said that the terrorists and their facilitators will be brought to justice.

Balochistan's chief minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti vowed to hunt down the terrorists responsible for the 11 deaths on the Noshki highway.

Renowned Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli passes away at 83

Associated Press

Letters@hindustantimes.com

ROME: Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli, known for a flamboyant, glamorous style and textile innovations, has died at age 83, his company announced on Friday.

"Dear Roberto, you may not be physically here with us anymore but I know I will feel your spirit with me always," Fausto Puglisi, creative director at Roberto Cavalli since October 2020, wrote in an Instagram post.

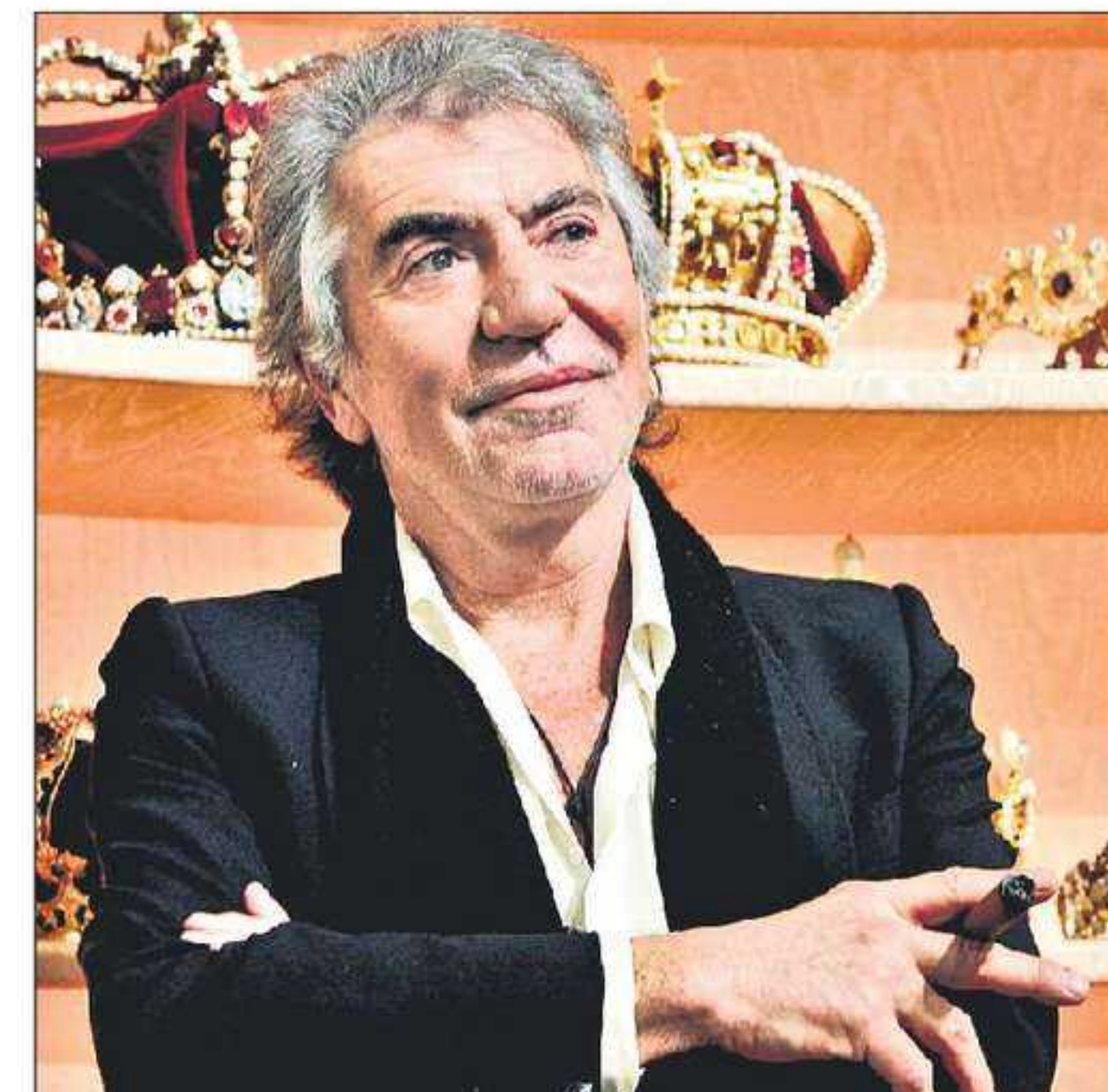
"Rest in peace, you will be missed and you are loved by so many that your name will continue on, a beacon of inspiration for others, and especially for me," Puglisi added.

Born in Florence on November 15, 1940, from a family of artists, Cavalli was orphaned by his father at just four years old, as he was killed in the Nazi roundup known as the Cavaglia massacre in 1944.

Initial years

Cavalli became renowned in the early 1970s for his animal prints and an excessive, sexy style that remained his trademark throughout his long career.

After founding his own fashion house in the early 1970s, Cavalli quickly became an iconic brand, loved by top celebrities like Madonna,



Italian designer Roberto Cavalli.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Beyoncé.

Cavalli patented a new printing method for leather and debuted the patchwork denim that was one of his trademarks in Florence's Palazzo Pitti in 1972.

He revolutionised jeans, creating a sandblasting technique to give denim a distressed look, and adding Lycra to jeans to make them sexier, stretchy.

Cavalli took frequent inspiration from the natural world, featuring animal prints and fish-scale sequins. The Cavalli woman ranged

from hippie to slick rocker, in diaphanous gowns that caught the air, seductive beaded dresses or sexy skinny suits. As his fashion house recalled on Friday, Cavalli's explained once his "animalier" inspiration with a popular quote: "I copy the dress of an animal because I love to copy God. I think God is the most fantastic designer."

He stepped back from designing about a decade ago, after ceding 90% of the company to the Clessidra private equity group. The company is now controlled by Auriel Investment SA.

Federal judge denies Hunter Biden's bid to dismiss gun charges

Associated Press

Letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: A federal judge in Delaware refused on Friday to throw out a federal gun case against Hunter Biden, rejecting the president's son's claim that he is being prosecuted for political purposes as well as other arguments.

US District Judge Maryellen Noreika's ruling increases the prospect that Biden could face trial in the case as early as June, in the midst of his father's reelection campaign.

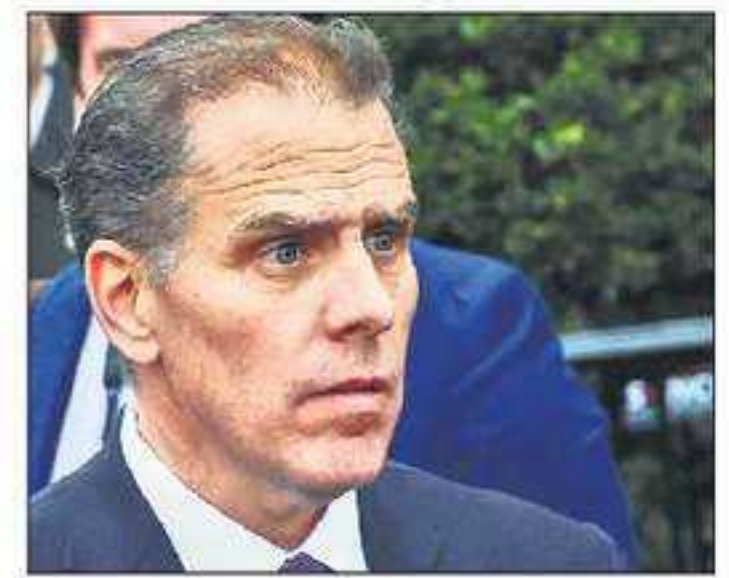
His efforts to scuttle the other criminal case he faces in California involving tax allegations have also failed.

Noreika denied several defence requests to dismiss the case charging Biden with lying about his drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days.

His lawyers had argued the case was politically motivated and asserted that an immunity provision from an original plea deal that fell apart still holds.

They had also challenged the appointment of Delaware US Attorney David Weiss as special counsel to lead the prosecution.

Noreika, who was appointed to the bench by former President Donald Trump, has not yet ruled on a challenge to the constitutional validity of the gun charges.



US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden.

ment on Friday.

The president's son has acknowledged struggling with an addiction to crack cocaine during that period in 2018, but his lawyers have said he didn't break the law and another non-violent, first-time offender would not have been charged.

The years long investigation had looked ready to wrap up with a plea deal last year, but the agreement imploded after a judge raised questions about it. Biden was subsequently indicted.

Under the deal, he would receive two years' probation for misdemeanor tax charges and avoid prosecution for the gun charge if he stayed out of trouble. However, he was later indicted.

His lawyers had argued the case was politically motivated and asserted that an immunity provision from an original plea deal that fell apart still holds. They had also challenged the appointment of Delaware US Attorney David Weiss as special counsel to lead the prosecution.

Ecuador court calls embassy raid 'illegal, arbitrary'

QUITO: Ecuador's National Court of Justice ruled on Friday that the seizure and arrest of former vice president Jorge Glas from inside Mexico's embassy in Quito was "illegal and arbitrary."

But the high court announced that Glas would remain behind bars pending criminal investigation. Mexico broke diplomatic relations with Ecuador following the arrest of Glas a week ago, carried out by security forces who stormed its embassy, a rare incursion on foreign diplomatic territory.

10 killed in Russia by Ukrainian shelling

KYIV: A Russia-installed official in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region said on Saturday that shelling by Ukraine's military had killed 10 people, including three children, in the town of Tokmak. Yevgeny Balitsky, the top Moscow-installed official in the Zaporizhzhia region, said that 18 people had been wounded in the shelling on Friday night.

"Two people are reported missing. Debris removal and search continues," he said.

1 killed, 10 injured in fatal Turkey cable car accident

ISTANBUL: One person was killed and 10 others were injured on Friday in the southern Turkish province of Antalya after a cable car cabin collided with a broken pole, the interior ministry said on Saturday. However, at least 174 people, stranded in cable cars, high above a mountain, were brought to safety on Saturday, nearly 23 hours after the accident. A total of 607 search and rescue personnel and 10 helicopters were deployed.

{ US-JAPAN-PHILIPPINES }



US President Joe Biden alongside Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., left, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Trilateral deal alters dynamics of SCS: Marcos

Reuters

Letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: A cooperation agreement by the Philippines, the United States and Japan will change the dynamic in the South China Sea and the region, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Friday, while seeking to assure China it was not a target.

"I think the trilateral agreement is extremely important," Marcos told a press conference in Washington a day after meeting President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in the nations' first trilateral summit.

"It is going to change the dynamic, the dynamic that we see in the region, in ASEAN in Asia, around the South China Sea," Marcos said, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The three leaders expressed "serious concerns" about China's "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" in the South China Sea, a conduit for more than \$3 trillion of annual ship-borne commerce with various maritime disputes among China and other countries.

Still, Marcos said the summit was "not against any country" but had focused on deepening economic and security relations among Manila, Washington and Tokyo.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea despite a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration found Bei-

jing's sweeping claims had no legal basis.

Philippine and Chinese ships have had a series of run-ins in the past month that included the use of water cannon and heated verbal exchanges.

Beijing on Thursday summoned Manila's ambassador to the country and a Japanese embassy official to oppose what its foreign ministry described as "negative comments" against China.

The deepening China-Philippines row coincides with an increase in security engagements with the US under Marcos, including expansion of US access to Philippine bases, as well as with Japan, which is expected to sign a reciprocal troop pact with Manila.

Biden has formally requested Congress to allocate an additional \$128 million for infrastructure projects specifically aimed at enhancing facilities within the Philippine bases, to bolster bilateral ties.

Marcos further expressed his confidence in the potential outcome of the summit, foreseeing approximately \$100 billion in investment deals materialising over the next five to 10 years.

While in Washington, Marcos also met with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, who assured him of continued US support.

"This whole cooperation is critical to our collective security and continued prosperity across the region," Austin said, reiterating Biden's strong defence commitment.



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VASANT VIHAR -400- Facing the Park Wide Road Basement/ Ground also Second & Third Terrace specious 4 Beds D/ Separate Lift & Driveway Rajesh Kathuria 9810209711

52 SQ. Yds. Independent Building at a peaceful location in Gautam Nagar, behind AIIMS, 5 floors with a spacious 13x13 feet room, attached Bath & Kitchen set on each floor. Ideal rental property, already rented to AIIMS Doctors, with amenities like CCTV, AC, beds, sofa, chairs, steel almirahs, separate water/electricity meters, tanks, & motors with automatic On/Off System. Call-Owner: 837598275

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SUNDAR NAGAR, 867 sqyd, SF, with lift 2 car parking, with Sq., Golf Links 375 sqyd Kothi, Corner, Vastu perfect, Broker Excuse #9910000257

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GREEN PARK East Facing 200 Yds Ground Floor. Value for Money. Safdarjung Enclave 300 Yds East Facing Newly Built Builder Floor 9810877429

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LUXURIES Builder Floor for Sale in G.K.-1, 2-3, 300yds Bmt+GF (Triplex) 4 BHK with Sep. Gate for Parking & Lift at Reasonable Price. Call- 9910003307

BASEMENT

approx. 2000 sq ft available for Sale in G.K.-1

Call: 9811012000

Sandeep Soorma
98101-73551
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MAHARANI BAGH 800-500 New Dup. B+GF, FF, SF, 4BR Corner Park Friends col. 300y TF+Trc, FF, GF 4BR & NFC 500y TF+Trc, 4BR, 3 Prkg, old Flrs 500y TF+Trc 4.75 B+GF Duplex 750 cr

SALE FLOOR OWNER

9810017982, 9810364472

C.R. PARK (225)Yds First Floor @ 1.5Cr 2 BR's with attached 2 Toilets, D/D, Wide Balcony, Sun Facing, Well Kept Prime Location, Close to Main Road / Market, Flexible Payment Terms

Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES
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GREATER KAILASH Corn./ Park Facing G.F. + Bmt+ still duplex with separate lift & 4 car parking, 4 beds at bath D/dining lobby kitchen balcony 5 qtr also first & top floor 4beds M.9811054291 Rajender

GREATER KAILASH-II

Newly Built 250 yds Bldg All Floors + Basement are available 4/3 Beds Possession in 3-4 months

400 yds under Cons. All Floors + B'ment. Large 4 BHK modern amenities, Top of line cons. **SARDANA 9810058884 UMESH 9810112947**

HEMKUNT COLONY (GREATER KAILASH-I)

180 Sq Yds, 2nd & 3rd Floor Duplex + Exclusive Terrace Back Side Beautiful Rock Garden (plush Greenery). Spacious 4 BR's, Huge D/D Well Maintained Building, 2002 Built by Top Builder Exclusive Mandate

For visit & pricing details call: **MANJEET PUNIHIANI 98 101 17970**

SALE FLOOR OWNER

9810017982, 9810364472

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MAHINDRA WORLD CITY JAIPUR - 1,46,000 Sq.Ft.

FOR LEASE
Newly Constructed

Suitable For Warehouse / Industrial
Contact : 9810033291 Email : mittaldk64@gmail.com

URGENTLY FOR SALE **MOST PRIME PROPERTY**
LAND AREA 17000 SQUARE YARDS.
Main Rohtak Road, NH-10, Near Metro Station Tikri Kalan, New Delhi-110041

2 SIDE OPEN, CONSTRUCTED 65000 SQ.FT., LIFT, POWER BACKUP, AMPLE CAR PARKING. PENDING FAR 200000 SQ.FT. ADJACENT TO UPCOMING EXPRESSWAY (80 MTR WIDE ROAD)
SPORTS UNIVERSITY (110 ACRES), HOUSING (200 ACRES)

SUITABLE FOR HOSPITAL / EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS / HOTEL / HERITAGE GREEN RESORT / RETAIL COMMERCIAL MALL / HOUSING.

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS
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SPACE FOR RENT IN "CC" NEW FRIENDS COLONY

NEXT TO MODERN BAZAR
ANYTIME FITNESS, HALDIRAM, NATHU'S

2400 SQFT (EACH FLOOR) (THREE FLOORS)

- AMPLE PARKING SPACE
- VERY GOOD LOCATION
- GLASS FACADE OF THE BUILDING
- SEPARATE LIFT FOR ALL THE FLOORS

FIRE LICENSE ALREADY TAKEN
MOST SUITABLE FOR RESTAURANTS
GYM | RESTO BAR | SALON
SOUTH / NORTH INDIAN RESTAURANT (THERE IS NO PROPER SOUTH / NORTH INDIAN RESTAURANT IN AREA)
6, COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI

REASONABLE RENT (NEGOTIABLE)
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BROKERS WELCOME

FOR SALE
PRE LEASED, PRIME LOCATION
RETAIL SHOPS
Size 929 sqft. Front Facing, Leased to Top Brands

DLF CROSS POINT
DLF PHASE-4 GURUGRAM
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PRE RENTED
RETAIL SHOPS
Ready to move | Size 290 sq.ft. | Prime Location

DLF Galleria
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RENTED

VLCC HEALTHCARE	1,11,000	ICICI BANK	1,02,000
GOPALA	2,57,000	HDFC BANK	1,97,000
TATA WESTSIDE	2,60,000	AXIS BANK	3,50,000
DOMINOS (Full Build)	5,70,000	AXIS BANK	4,03,000
MULTIPLEX	11,50,000	MNC (Full Build)	17,50,000

WANTED 500 SQ YARDS PLOT
DLF PHASE 1 & 2 IN GURGAON
NARESH AGGARWAL PROP
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FOR SALE
PRE LEASED, PRIME LOCATION
RETAIL SHOP
Size 350 | Leased to top brand | Rental Income ₹ 50000

M&M 65TH AVENUE
ATRIUM FACING SHOPS
SECTOR 65 GURUGRAM
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Tenant	Rent	Price
Full Building (Noida)	6000000/-	80.0 Cr
Full Building (Delhi)	1600000/-	32.0 Cr
Full Building (Noida)	1100000/-	24.0 Cr
Bikanervala	800000/-	20.0 Cr
Chunmun Store	670000/-	15.9 Cr
Red Tape	640000/-	15.4 Cr
Haldiram	1275000/-	12.8 Cr
Jumpy Jumpy	530000/-	12.3 Cr
Max Lifestyle	460000/-	10.0 Cr
ICICI Bank	362000/-	9.6 Cr
Jumpy Jumpy	355000/-	8.3 Cr
Reliance Smart	353000/-	8.0 Cr
MR. DIY	340000/-	7.4 Cr
Monte Carlo	450000/-	6.8 Cr
South Indian Brand	260000/-	6.4 Cr
HDFC Bank	200000/-	5.5 Cr
Elle Decor	225000/-	4.9 Cr
Domino's	205000/-	4.5 Cr
Hush Puppies	290000/-	4.4 Cr
Choi's Kitchen	216500/-	4.3 Cr
Jumpy Jumpy	177000/-	4.1 Cr
Kake Di Hatti	217000/-	3.7 Cr
Domino's	200000/-	3.1 Cr
Regus	110000/-	2.3 Cr
MNC	55000/-	1.0 Cr

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VILLAS/KOTHIS: 1000, 1500, 2500 Sqyd and 1, 2, 2.5 Acre

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OWNERSHIP SHYAMLADHE, GRAM PANCHAYATI
Office: Chattarpur Main Road, Near Tivoli Resort
WANTED AVAILABLE # 8595359514

Land for Sale On very Prime Location
200 mtr away only from Godrej Arista sector 79
2 km from DLF Alameda

3.25 acres on Main Road 110 ft front
Ideal for Farm House, School, Hospital, Hotel

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RENTED

Bank's	7%-8%
Mall's	8%-12.5%
MNC's	10%-11%

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RERA NO. DLRERA2021A0058

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Luxurious First Floor,
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With LCD, Kitchen with Fridge,
OTG, Washing Machine, RO,
Invertor, Etc. 24 HRS Security,
Stilt Parking, Servant Quarter.

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RENTED

RBL Bank	48,000	Relaxo	1,80,000
INDUSIND Bank	1,45,000	Manyavar	3,50,000
UTKARSH Bank	2,19,000	MULTIPLEX	9,00,000
BANDHAN Bank	2,70,000	HALDIRAM	11,40,000
ICICI Bank	4,25,000	MOTEL	17,75,000

Malls / Multiplexes / MNC's / Industries
Assured Returns - 8 to 12% (Since 1985)
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GREATER KAILASH-1
740 sq.yds Kothi
Two & a half storey Built
for Immediate Sale.

VASANT VIHAR
1st Floor (200 yds)
4 Bedrooms att. bath, DD,
Servant Qtr, Car Parking
Price @ 3.50 Cr.

ANAND NIKETAN
1st Floor (200 yds)
3 Bedrooms att. bath,
Drawing/Dining,
Servant Qtr, Car Parking.

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OPP. DEFENCE COLONY
1400 sq.ft Commercial Space
for Sale

PANCHSHILLA PARK
2nd Floor (500 yds)
4 Bedrooms att. bath, D/D,
S.Qtr, Car Parking available
for Immediate Sale.

SARVODAYA ENCL
Ground Floor (238 yds)
Park facing, 3 Bedrooms,
D/Dining, Servant Qtr,
Car Parking @ 4 Cr.

FOR SALE
VASANT VIHAR EXCLUSIVE

VASANT VIHAR (400 SQ. YDS.)
Top Floor & Terrace Separate
Parking, 5 years old.
Reputed Builder, Good Location

VASANT VIHAR (300 SQ. YDS.)
SECOND FLOOR
4 Bed Rooms, Park Facing,
3 years old, Peaceful Location.

VASANT VIHAR (1200 SQ. YDS.)
Ground Floor & Basement
Corner, 8 years old.
Independent Lift, Best Builder.

VASANT VIHAR (600 SQ. YDS.)
SECOND FLOOR
Brand New, Ready to move in.
Reputed Builder, Best Location.

VICKY BEHL : 9810294377

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W BLOCK, GK-2, 1000 Yds, 5 BHK, S.F.
+ Half Terrace Excellent Location, 14
Yrs old, Unused, shared D'way with
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cheque only. 12.50 Cr # 981222285

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3400 sqft, Gf, high street market,
ROI 7.5%, many more pre rented
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Gf 2.50 & 4.5 bhk 3rd flt @ 4.5, Gk1
Flt 500y @ 5.5, CR Park 7bhk @ 4.5,
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SOUTH EXTN-2 Kothi for Sale 200 sqd
Demolishable frehold N/W. Park
facing Peaceful location clean title.
for info: Sanjay Malik 981039071
Visit: www.malikestateagents.com

ANAND NIKETAN, 264 sq yards,
Basement, Gf, Ff, Sf, Tf with
Terrace, Parking in Silt, Building
Full/Floorise for sale. Raman :
9810062871 Amit 9810063891

3RD FLOOR with TERRACE
RAJEEV
8287639919

SARVODAYA ENCLAVE, Green Park,
Gk-1h, 300 Sq.Yards Third Floor
with Terrace, Lift, Well Maintained,
Silt Car Parking. Contact Rajeev
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NEW FRIENDS Colony 500 Indp.
Bungalow 5 B/R, D/D, Liveable @ 45
ft Road, call for more options.
Sandeep 9810173551 9266600627

GAGAN GUJRAL
96505-16999

READY FLOORS for Sale: G.K. 500 and
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Third Floor+Terrace, Panchsheel 500
Yds, First Floor, Anand Lok 800 Yds,
Second Floor, Gagan 96505-16999

WEST END (500) Third floor with
terrace, 9810030231

TARA VASANT VIHAR
9810055500

BOOKING READY / Possession - Anand
Nktn 400/275/200 all fr w/b; Shanti
Nktn 400y all Fr w/b; Vasant Vihar
800y B/G Indp D'way:1000/800/600
/400/260y All Floor # 9899755500

RAJESH KATHURIA
981020-9711

ANAND NIKETAN - 300 - Wide road best
Location Basement / Ground also
Second & Third Terrace specious 3-4
Beds D/D separate Lift & Driveway
Rajesh Kathuria 9810209711

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SANJEET SHARMA
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F-11 HAUZ Khas Enclave 1000yds Park
fac. Ready to Move Basement ground
Floor Triples with Pvt. Lift Swimming
Pool Parking for 7 cars. Many More
Options. Raghav Chopra 9953771878

PANCHSHEEL PARK N-Block 311 Yds
Internal Lift/ Staircase East Facing,
Beautiful House for Sale
9811059797, 9818644007

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COMMERCIAL SHOP Gk2 M Block
Market Ground Floor exclusive property
golden opportunity non rented.
South Extn 2 Ground Floor rented
9 lacs rent 4.5% ROI @90 sq ft.

GREEN PARK Extension 4-Bhk Builder
Floor For Sale Modular Kitchen 24-
Hrs Power Back Up Lift Two Car
Parking. Excellent Location. Near I.P.
Metro Station. # 959973260

FOR SALE - Chattarpur Encl Ph-2 ND-74
Flat 3rd Flr (top) 1100 Sq Ft approx. 3
BHK 2 Toilets Mdr Kitchen Recently
Renovtd. (Not Regd). Vacant Possn
@ Re 65 L (Negotiable). Ph
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BUNGALOW FOR SALE VASANT VIHAR 600 SQ YARDS Park Facing

RAMAN 9810062871
AMIT 9810063891

RAJESH KATHURIA
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GREATER KAILASH-1, -500 - Wide Road
Ready to Move also Booking Base-
ment/Ground also Second & Third
Terrace specious 4 Beds separate Lift
& Driveway Rajesh 9810209711

FLOORS FARM HOUSES
RAVINDER YADAV
9818935156

VASANT VIHAR / Shanti Niketan /
Green Park Extension 4 BHK Builder
Floor 600 Yd 4 BHK 3 Bath 2.35 Cr,
& 600 Yd 4 BHK 2 Bath 2 Cr & 8 Cr,
900 Sq.ft. Plots & House @ 6 to 8 Cr,
Loan Available. Global Realtech-
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PROPERTY NORTH DELHI

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BEST INVESTMENT Option Sec 34, 35,
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Land for 5 Star Hotel with 2 Units
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NORTH DELHI

WEST DELHI

AIJAY ENCL ND-18 3 BR 1500 Sqft.
BlDr Flr DD Kitchen loby 2nd flr Lift
Silt plg balcony Gated Opp Pacific
Mall & Nr. Subash Ngr Metro SIn Co.
lease Pre# 950018111

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FOR LAW OFFICE Sr Lawyer Sunder Ngr
867 sqy FF4 BHK+ terrace, Jor Bagh
375 sqy FF Terrace Lajpat 3 Gf
6000sqft. #9910000307

Luxury 4BHK Upper Ground Floor Model Town-2
Near Model Town Metro
station 272 sq. yards, 30ft
wide road floor height
11.5ft (new norms)
Premium branded fittings
Central AC, Top of the line
Kitchen and wardrobe
Designed by professional
Interior Designer

Contact
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15A 450mt park facing & 450mt
old kothi corner, and 450mt plots
sector 44 B block and f block
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SECTOR-15L, NOIDA New Allotment,
Sale / Purchase. Best Location, Resi.
Plots 250, 300 & 450 mt. on 45 & 18
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72 going cheap sector 71, 200 sqmtr
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6.5 HECTARE AGRICULTURE LAND WITH GOOD FRONT
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Adjoining Park Facing 3000sqft First
Floor 3 Bedrooms D/D Attach Bath
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Sharma 98106637-9910166637

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Near Metro, Second Floor 2000 SFL,
4 Toilet, Pantry, Balconies, Lift, 5 Car
Parking & S.Qtr. Owner 9810212051

ANAND NIKETAN, 264 sq yards,
Basement, Gf, Ff, Sf, Tf with
Terrace, Parking in Silt, Building
Full/Floorise for sale. Raman :
9810062871 Amit 9810063891

3RD FLOOR with TERRACE
RAJEEV
8287639919

SARVODAYA ENCLAVE, Green Park,
Gk-1h, 300 Sq.Yards Third Floor
with Terrace, Lift, Well Maintained,
Silt Car Parking. Contact Rajeev
8287639919

Sandeep Soorma
98101-73551
92666-00627

NEW FRIENDS Colony 500 Indp.
Bungalow 5 B/R, D/D, Liveable @ 45
ft Road, call for more options.
Sandeep 9810173551 9266600627

GAGAN GUJRAL
96505-16999

READY FLOORS for Sale: G.K. 500 and
1000 Yds, Basement + Ground Floor,
Third Floor+Terrace, Panchsheel 500
Yds, First Floor, Anand Lok 800 Yds,
Second Floor, Gagan 96505-16999

WEST END (500) Third floor with
terrace, 9810030231

TARA VASANT VIHAR
9810055500

BOOKING READY / Possession - Anand
Nktn 400/275/200 all fr w/b; Shanti
Nktn 400y all Fr w/b; Vasant Vihar
800y B/G Indp D'way:1000/800/600
/400/260y All Floor # 9899755500

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981020-9711

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Location Basement / Ground also
Second & Third Terrace specious 3-4
Beds D/D separate Lift & Driveway
Rajesh Kathuria 9810209711

BUNGALOWS & FLOORS
SANJEET SHARMA
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Luxurious Builder Floors (Resale &
New) Also Many Options in All Over
South & Central Delhi. # 9810069114

RAGHAV CHOPRA
9953771878

F-11 HAUZ Khas Enclave 1000yds Park
fac. Ready to Move Basement ground
Floor Triples with Pvt. Lift Swimming
Pool Parking for 7 cars. Many More
Options. Raghav Chopra 9953771878

PANCHSHEEL PARK N-Block 311 Yds
Internal Lift/ Staircase East Facing,
Beautiful House for Sale
9811059797, 9818644007

US CON REALTY
7011901987

COMMERCIAL SHOP Gk2 M Block
Market Ground Floor exclusive property
golden opportunity non rented.
South Extn 2 Ground Floor rented
9 lacs rent 4.5% ROI @90 sq ft.

GREEN PARK Extension 4-Bhk Builder
Floor For Sale Modular Kitchen 24-
Hrs Power Back Up Lift Two Car
Parking. Excellent Location. Near I.P.
Metro Station. # 959973260

FOR SALE - Chattarpur Encl Ph-2 ND-74
Flat 3rd Flr (top) 1100 Sq Ft approx. 3
BHK 2 Toilets Mdr Kitchen Recently
Renovtd. (Not Regd). Vacant Possn
@ Re 65 L (Negotiable). Ph
9810030374

BUNGALOW FOR SALE VASANT VIHAR 600 SQ YARDS Park Facing

RAMAN 9810062871
AMIT 9810063891

RAJESH KATHURIA
981020-9711

GREATER KAILASH-1, -500 - Wide Road
Ready to Move also Booking Base-
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Terrace specious 4 Beds separate Lift
& Driveway Rajesh 9810209711

FLOORS FARM HOUSES
RAVINDER YADAV
9818935156

VASANT VIHAR / Shanti Niketan /
Green Park Extension 4 BHK Builder
Floor 600 Yd 4 BHK 3 Bath 2.35 Cr,
& 600 Yd 4 BHK 2 Bath 2 Cr & 8 Cr,
900 Sq.ft. Plots & House @ 6 to 8 Cr,
Loan Available. Global Realtech-
7827073790, 931096968

NORTH DELHI

ROHINI Properties
7042292279

BEST INVESTMENT Option Sec 34, 35,
36, 37, 38 Availability of Plots in Rohini,
DDA Liaison Freehold of Plots.
7042292279

CENTRAL DELHI

SHREE GANESH ASSOCIATES
CONTACT 9310893839

FLATS for Sale of 900 to 1400 Sq.Ft.
Loan Facility 50-80% DDA Site-L
New Rajinder Nagar Flats, 120 Cr to
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Please mail at: rkgbasement@gmail.com OR call at: 9891068807

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200YD, KAILASH colony, fully furnished, 2nd flr with lift, 3BHK, 350 sq. ft. open parking, 5AC, ample parking, contact - 8130028243

KALKAJI NEW const. Rent 80,000/-, 3 beds attach bath drawing/dining lobby mod kitchen lift servant bath, seg gate 2 Car parking ready to shift M. 9811654291, Rajender Tanwar

COMMERCIAL SPACE, Prime Location, Ample Parking 80 ft wide Main Road East of Kailash, Opp. Iscon Temple, Ground Floor 2500 sq. ft., Basement 3300 sq. ft. + 3500 sq. ft., Third Floor 750 sq. ft. + 1500 sq. ft., Lift, Power Backup 150 KVA Owner 9099999905

GREATER KAILASH-1, Second floor Spacious 3 BHK Renovated flat with 5 A.C., Parking with new Lift Plot area 350 yds on Lease Contact Varun Sharma 9540899707

RENT GK-3 Ground floor 27x27s 2 bedroom drawing dining, study, fully furnished without basement front back court yard contact 9999037674

FOR RENT - Fully furnished, Ground Floor, New Office Spaces, 2600 Sq.Ft., only 400 meters from Saket Metro Station, Immediately available. Call: 9891083140

EXC. LOC. 7 BHK, with A/C, 3000 Sq.Ft. Hall, Front/Back Lawns, on Main Delhi GDN Rd. Near Maple Hotel, Nr. Rajkoti Flyover, Suits MNC'S, P.G. Office, Exporters, Courier, Academy Adv./JCA etc. 9999633602

DEF. COL. C-491, Second floor two beds D/Diming, kitchen furnished, Contact Anjali Khichra 981131166

PRIME RETAIL Location GF Saket Gk-1 Shivalik & Office Space Fully Furnished/Unfurnished Saket Contact: 971134000

WORLD TRADE Centre - Nauraj Nagar, Ring Road near Bhikaji Cama Metro, Area 3.000 to 90.000 Sq.Ft. Premium Office/ Retail Space on Lease/ Rent, Ready for Fit out. call 981000-69114

NEHRU PLACE, Furnished office DAVKA Tower Area 835, sq. ft. Hemkumh Chamber Area, 600 sq. ft. for immediate Rent. Cosmo's 981010682

NOIDA PRIME Available Pre-Rented, Conm 2000SFT Buildup (Plot 75M) Nr. City Centre Rent 2.25L Pm/95% ROI-SV w/ef June & Shop 18Mtr Sec 23 - SAN (P/S)Bright: Mob 9560247539

COMMERCIAL SPACE
SANJEET SHARMA
9810069114
9810027427

WORLD TRADE Centre - Nauraj Nagar, Ring Road near Bhikaji Cama Metro, Area 3.000 to 90.000 Sq.Ft. Premium Office/ Retail Space on Lease/ Rent, Ready for Fit out. call 981000-69114

NEHRU PLACE, Furnished office DAVKA Tower Area 835, sq. ft. Hemkumh Chamber Area, 600 sq. ft. for immediate Rent. Cosmo's 981010682

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COMMERCIAL SPACE
Contact Owner
9899786871
9811778678

BEAUTIFUL FLOORS/HOUSES available Rent/ Buy in R-Block New Rajinder Nagar. Also Joint Venture available. Funds Available. Contact - 9899786871 Whatsapp - 9811778678

MAYA BANS Khari Baoli, Space for Rent, selected location at Delhi's Whole Sale Market, Franchise suitable for Grocery, Tobacco, Cigarette, Tea, Dry Fruits, etc. Contact # 8527131270

NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA
Sector-63 Noida Lease/Rent
Most prime location, facing metro, ready office space having 350 work station.
Area 14200 sq. ft. & 7000 Sq.ft. bareshell suitable for Call Centre / IT,ITES, MNC'S etc.
CONTACT 8444050505

NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

RENT SECTOR 17 Area 375 Sq Mtr FF 4 BHK 3 Toilets Big Gallery Separate Entrance 1 Car Park Gated Security, Excellent Location # 9811081857

CHARWOOD VILLAGE Surajkund Road, 1 large SBHK apartment fully furnished for rent on 9th floor 9810025287

SERVICED APARTMENT at Surajkund Atiram earlier known as Hillview for sale / rent 9810025287

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN SECTOR-44 GURUGRAM
G.F/FF 5500 SQ.FT Fully Furnished & Fully Managed Ready to move
CONTACT 9873038299

ROYAL RESIDENCES
93110 15720
93157 24661

ROYAL RESIDENCES Studio Apartments Elegantly furnished for Long/short period Prime location at: 8-10, Sector -29, Gurugram, Contact: 9311015720, 9315724661, 9811015720

AVAILABLE 11400 Sq.Ft. Office Space No. 615 to 619, Unfurnished + 11 Car parking @ 75/- per sq.ft. at BPTP Park Centre, Sector: 30 Gurugram, on NH-48, Call: 9899400400.

OFFICE AVAILABLE For Lease: Main Golf Course Extn Road, 30,000 Sq.Ft. Plate ready to Move & 25,000 Sq.Ft. Bare Shell Build to Suit. Contact: Owner 9910045276, 7703930355

UDYOG VIHAR 9000 ft for Lease, Brand new interiors, NH-8 tenancy, Signage available. Other facilities MNC, Next to Radisson Hotel, Lift, Covered car parks. # 9871098146.

FOR RENT - Fully furnished, Ground Floor, New Office Spaces, 2600 Sq.Ft., only 400 meters from Saket Metro Station, Immediately available. Call: 9891083140

EXC. LOC. 7 BHK, with A/C, 3000 Sq.Ft. Hall, Front/Back Lawns, on Main Delhi GDN Rd. Near Maple Hotel, Nr. Rajkoti Flyover, Suits MNC'S, P.G. Office, Exporters, Courier, Academy Adv./JCA etc. 9999633602

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NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA
Sector-63 Noida Lease/Rent
Most prime location, facing metro, ready office space having 350 work station.
Area 14200 sq. ft. & 7000 Sq.ft. bareshell suitable for Call Centre / IT,ITES, MNC'S etc.
CONTACT 8444050505

EMPLOYMENT/ACADEMIC

RUKMINI DEVI PUBLIC SCHOOL
The School with a Difference...
Invites applications from creative, dynamic, English proficient and well qualified teachers for the post of:

1. PGTS English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Accountancy, Business Studies, Economics, Computer Science, Psychology, Physical Education and Political Science

2. TGTs English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, I.T., German, French & Spanish

3. PRTs All Subjects
4. N.T.T. Graduate with 2 years N.T.T. from a recognized university

Bachelor's degree in education and teaching experience are required. Strong organizational, communication, and leadership skills are essential, with a thorough understanding of educational practices, compliant with recent guidelines, and implementation of NCF & NEP

Candidates applying for the above posts (S. No. 1-4) must be proficient in taking online classes.
Candidates having 3-5 years of work experience will be preferred
Salary no constraint for the deserving candidates - Interested candidates can apply by sending their resumes at hr@rdpschool.edu.in within 3 days - Applying for the post does not guarantee selection.

CD BLOCK, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034
9667433774 | www.rdpschool.edu.in

Shiv Vani M.S.S. School
(Affiliated to CBSE) ISO 9001:2015 certified School
Mahavir Enclave, Palam-Dabri Road, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045
Requires trained, FEMALE TEACHERS with excellent communication skills and minimum FIVE years experience in recognized institutions.

PGT: Political Science
PRT: Hindi
KG Mother Teacher: Graduate with NTT
Special Educator

Computer Hardware Engineer
Clerk: Graduate with Computer Knowledge
Apply immediately with CV and photograph by post or email at: shivvani1981@gmail.com

KULACHI HANSRAJ MODEL SCHOOL
Ashok Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-52. Ph: 47091581, 47091582
Website: <https://khms.ac.in>. Email: khms3@gmail.com

DAV CENTENARY PUBLIC SCHOOL
Sector 84, Pocket-5, DDA Project Naroria, Delhi-40. Ph: 27784199
Website: <https://davcentenaryschool.org> Email: davcp_nri@hotmail.com

Applications are invited from 14.04.2024 to 25.04.2024 from DAV CBT qualified candidates with Provisional Eligibility Card, B.Ed. and CTET for TGT and Primary Teachers. Candidates, preferably female with good communication and ICT skills with minimum 50% marks from recognized universities and experience of CBSE/ICSE English medium schools, may apply for the following posts.

a) Post Graduate Teacher (Only for DAV Narela)
Psychology - Masters Degree with minimum 03 years experience

b) Trained Graduate Teachers (For Both Schools)
Chemistry, Biology, Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Art & Craft - Masters Degree in respective subjects

c) Primary Teachers (For Both Schools except PET post only for DAV Narela)
Science, Hindi, English, Social Science, Maths, Art & Craft, Dance & PET - Graduate/Post Graduate in respective subjects. B.P.Ed/M.P.Ed for Physical Education.

Candidates to apply on prescribed form available on school website (<http://khms.ac.in>) and reception of both schools. Hard copy of form to be submitted with Rs. 350/- (handling charges) at school reception between 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on working days till 25.04.2024. Pay and allowances as per DAV College Managing Committee norms.

MOUNT ABU Public School, Pocket-H, Sec-38, Rohini, Delhi-89. Reg. PGT History, PRT Computer, Dance, Receptionist. Interview on 12, 15 April 10am.

BAL VIKAS Public School-A-3 Paschim
Vihar N Delhi reqs following female staff: NTT 2 PRT (All Subjects), 3 TGT ENG, TGT MATHS, TGT SST Contact: 9711844220, 01-25253344

REQ. PRINCIPAL 5-10 yr exp. from DPS/MS/Millennium type Schools in Delhi-NCR. Sily 6 Digit+ accommodation -car facility. Loc. at Gajraula. Em: info.ms@yahooc.com, 9971066336

SANT NAPAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
(An English Medium Co-educational Institution) Gole Building, Chhattarpur Mandir Complex, New Delhi - 110074
8595619754, 9310277622
snpschhattarpur@gmail.com

Applications are invited for the following posts
PRINCIPAL
Psychology, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Physical Education, Economics, Political Science, Geography, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science

TGT Maths, Science, Hindi Information Technology
PRT All Subjects
STUDENT COUNSELLOR
ART & CRAFT TEACHER
DANCE TEACHER
LAB ATTENDANT
COACHES Football, Athletics, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi
DATA ENTRY OPERATOR
PEON

Salary, Educational qualification and age as per norms.
Candidates are requested to download Application Form from our school's website (santnagpalpublicschool.in) and send their fully filled downloaded forms along with self attached copies of all testimonials. Submit resume by hand or by post within 10 days of this advertisement to the school office or mail at snpschhattarpur@gmail.com

SANSKR PUB. Sch. req. Music, Dance Special Edu, French Trch (part time) front Desk Exe, NTT, PRT, TGT Teacher (full time) Cand drop CV: Pkt-1, Sec 24 rohini, delhi. Enfrp.sp2@gmail.com

OSCAR PUBLIC School Kaushik Enclave, Burari Dns 84, 971473592, 987185501 Reqs. Computer Operator cum Office Assit (LDC) Apply - mail2oscarchool@gmail.com

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL
Sector-2, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (U.P.)
Phone No.: 0120-428206, 428206, 410848
Website: davssahibabad.org Email: davns.sbd@gmail.com
Managed by DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi
INVITES APPLICATION (SESSION 2024-25)

From DAV CBT (Computer Based Test) qualified having Provisional eligibility card, trained and experienced candidates with bright academic career, proficiency in co-curricular activities, computer literate, comfortable with the use of technology and having excellent written & communication skills for the following posts:

1. PGT: Music Hindustani (Vocal), Physical Education
2. TGT: English, Hindi, Mathematics, Social Science, Physical Education & Sanskrit
3. PRT: Science, Mathematics, Social Science, English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Physical Education, Music, Arts
4. PRT/NTT as Mother Teacher
Special Educator

Eligibility:
a) Post Graduate/Graduate, B.Ed. (as applicable) or as per CBSE norms
b) CTET qualified candidates for PRT & TGT
c) Minimum two/three years experience in the similar capacity
Submit your Application on prescribed format which may be obtained from the School Reception from 15th April 2024. Filled-in application along with self-attested copies of certificates/testimonials (in respect of Academic Qualification & Experience) & recent coloured passport size photograph with signature must be submitted at school reception during school hours till 25th April 2024. For more detail regarding qualification, experience and other eligibility conditions, candidates may visit school website: www.davssahibabad.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. No TADA will be permissible for appearing in the interview and demonstration. All the above posts are transferable.

MANAVA BHARATI INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Panchsheel Park (SOUTH), New Delhi
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR:

P.G.T. - Geography, Political Science, English, Mathematics, Accountancy, Economics (Min. 5 years experience for all required)
T.G.T. - Social Science (Political Science background), Mathematics (Min. 3 yrs exp. for both required)
P.R.T. - English, Maths, Science, Social Science, General, French
NURSERY - NTT Trained
OTHERS - Librarian, I.T.Technician, Music, Special Educator, Office Assistant
COACHES - Football, Skating, Karate, Chess, Acting (Theatre), Western Dance, Football & Tennis

IT Proficiency for all posts.
To apply online for careers at www.mbiis.in, you may also drop a copy of your resume & recent to at the school reception before Friday, 19th April 2024.

Young, dynamic, creative teachers with a passion for work, a strong command in English & I.C.T. skills will merit greater consideration.
Ph: 011-41022188, +91 8368734331, web: www.mbiis.in

D.A.V. PUBLIC SCHOOL
Pushpanjali Enclave, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Ph: 45552831

Applications are invited from trained female DAV CBT qualified candidates with Provisional Eligibility Card, B.Ed, CTET and min. 50% marks in Grad. & Post Grad. with good communication and I.T. skills as per Govt. norms:

PGTs
• Physics • Pol.Sc.
TGTs
• S.St.(His./Civ.)
English
NTT / PRTs
• Maths • Hindi
• Sanskrit • Art
• Dance

PET
LDC (Admin)
Apply online latest by 27.04.2024 on prescribed form available on school's website www.davpushpanjali.com

RUKMINI DEVI PUBLIC SCHOOL
The School with a Difference...
CD-Block, Pitampura, Delhi-34
M : 9667433774
www.rdpschool.edu.in
Requires

Special Educator
Degree or Diploma in Special Education and registered with RCI
School Counsellor
Graduate & P.G. Diploma in Child Guidance and Counseling
Art & Craft Teacher
Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts (From a recognized university)

Dance Teacher
Bachelor's Degree in Performing Arts along with a zeal for dancing activities

Indian Music & Instrumental Teacher
Bachelor's Masters in Music
Western Music & Instrumental Teacher
Bachelor's Masters in Music

Librarian / Asst. Librarian
B.E.T. (Male/Female)
Bachelor's Degree in Physical Edu.
Yoga/Aerobics Teacher (F)
Bachelor's Degree in Yoga or equivalent

Administrative Officer
Grad./PG, Computer literate with atleast 5 yrs exp. in Administration in a reputed public school. Govt. Dept. or PSU. Retired persons with exp. in the relevant field will also be considered.
Estate Manager
Graduate/PG, Computer literate with atleast 5 yrs exp. in relevant field in reputed public school.

Nurse
Diploma/Degree in Nursing from recognized institute and working experience of minimum 3 years
Transport Incharge
Graduate/PG, Computer literate with atleast 3 years experience in transport department in a reputed public school.
Light & Sound Technician
Experienced Candidates preferred
CCTV/Networking Technician
Exp. Candidates preferred

Steno Typist
Graduate, Computer proficient & experience in data management
Candidates having 5 yrs of work experience will be preferred - Interested candidates can apply by sending their resumes at: hr@rdpschool.edu.in within 3 days - Applying for the post does not guarantee selection. PRINCIPAL

K.S.K ACADEMY SR. SEC. PUBLIC SCHOOL
H-17, RATIYA MARG, (CHAHAL COMPLEX) SANGAM VIHAR, ND-80
Web: www.kskacademy.ac.in
E-Mail: ksk_academy@yahoo.co.in
Ph: 9810086205, 9810052205

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF
PGT - English, Economics, Chemistry, B.St., Hindi, Maths
TGT - English, Science(Phy.), Maths, Hindi, SST (His. Geo) Sanskrit, Computer, Urdu, Punjabi, Drawing
PRT - English, Hindi, Maths, Science, S.St.
Special Educator
Librarian
Food Subject Teachers
- Food Production, IT Beauty & Wellness, Front Office Operations, Shorthand (Eng)
Dance & Yoga instructor
Coaches - Taekwondo, Volleyball
IT Professional
- NTT - Graduate candidates with NTT from recognized institute.

Freshers can also apply. Eligibility criteria as per DSE rules. Good command over English is mandatory for all the posts. Apply online immediately on "Teacher's Application Form" which is available under "Recruitment Section" of school website. Only Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. - Principal

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL JASOLA VIHAR
REQUIRES
NTT - 2
PRT
(English-2, Hindi-2, Music-1, Sanskrit-1, Special Educator-1)
TGT SST - 1
PGT CHEMISTRY-1
LDC - 1

Dynamic candidates proficient in the subjects with good written and spoken English, should apply latest by 28.04.2024
Application form is available on school website www.davjasola.com to be submitted within 15 working days to the school office.

Eligibility:
(a) Post Graduate/Graduate, B.Ed. as per CBSE norms
(b) All Candidate should be CBT qualified (Conducted by DAV CMC) & CTET Qualified for primary & TGT posts.
Salary will be as per VII pay commission for deserving candidates.

M.R.V. SCHOOL, Krishna park extension, near East Janak Puri Metro stn, N.D-88, Reg. Special Education Teacher. Interview on 16th & 20th April between 10am to 12 noon

REQ. FEMALE Teacher Nur., Primary (Preschool), Hindi, Sanskrit, Comp. & Spl. Educator. Holy Heart School, F-Block, Lane 3, Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam Dabri Road. 931516744.

ROOP KRISHNA Public School Reqs a Special Educator, Qualification B.Ed. (D.Ed. Special education) Walk in interview on 22nd & 24th April at 10:00 am, Block-C, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi-110042. Contact: 9625022623.

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

REQ. EXP. Accounts Assistant (M/F). For Interview cont- Megabridge Ventures C-126, Naraina Ind Area Ph-1, New Delhi -28 # 9810137552.

REQ. ACCOUNTANT for Sec-7, Noida. Young candidate having knowledge of EXCEL & Tally. Cont: 9999330399, 931229048, or Apply on Email: accounts@genetechcontrols.net

REQ. ACCOUNTS Assit. with Good Comm. Skills. Walk in Interview Mon-Fri 12-4. Dejavu Holidays Pvt Ltd, 326 Qutub Plaza Market, DLF Phase 1 Gurgaon, Cont: +91-9811014220

REQUIRED GRADUATE office Assit. for C/P Office having knowledge of computer, send resume to 811, Naurang House, 21, K.G. Marg, N.D. or Contact Chawla # 9810980660

ACCOUNTANT REQ for Export House in West Delhi with full knowledge of all day to day accounting. 05/11/05 work, with 8-10 yrs of work exp. Mail: export.careers@gmail.com

ENGINEER/ PROD/ TECHNICAL
REQ. 1) Office Assit. - 2 Nos exp. 5 yrs in Computer, 2) Elect. Engrs. - 2 Nos exp 5 yrs & above 3) Civil Engrs - 4 Nos exp 5 yrs 4) Sr. Civil Engrs - 1 No retired (PWB & Govt Deptt.) 5) Autorator Draftman - 1 No exp 3yrs. Cont: HST Enterprises - 216A/14, Gaitam Nagar, New Delhi-49. Email: sanamhst@gmail.com

REQUIRED IN Jhandewalan Delhi, 1) Mechanical Engineer for Sale of Hydraulics, 2) Electronic Engineer for Sale of Telecom Products. Prefer Minimum 3yrs relevant Sales Experience & Ability to work independently and achieve Sales Targets Contact: 9987759999

A REPUTED Sports goods Manufacturer based Near Delhi Reg. a Rubber Technologist with min. 10 years exp. Send your Resume/ Bio-data with complete details to Keshav Chopra, C-55, Sec-8, 2nd Floor, Noida 201301, 9810017024

REQUIRED SERVICE Engineer with 3-4 years experience in CNC Spring Manufacturing. Send resume at: sales@mta.co.in, Contact: 9304242610, 9717794463

MEDICAL
Indraprastha
Institute of Medical Sciences (Hospital & Medical College)
Main GT Road, Opp. Police Line Panipat (Haryana)
Contact: 9671557212, 9814441732
Requires the following staff for immediate appointment
Civil Engineers
Assistant Director Horticulture
Computer Operator
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW on Wednesday 1

TENDER NOTICES

SALE OF

FOLLOWING CHILLER MACHINE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS

S.No.	Equipment Details	Quantity	Make	Year of Installation
1.	Chiller Machine Refrigerant - R-134A Model - RTHC.E3 Series - EKM1238	1	400 Tr Make-Trane	2007

Interested parties can visit for inspection of above cited chiller machine during working days, Monday to Friday between 10 am to 5 pm with prior appointment. For appointment please call at 9811227230/971181933.

Please submit your sealed quotations to Cluster Director of Procurement by 30/04/2024 till 5 p.m. at International Trade Tower, E Block, 1st Floor, Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110019

EROS HOTEL
NEW DELHI, NEHRU PLACE

BUSINESS BOOST

MACHINES FOR SALE

Machining Plant Equipments in good working condition for Sale in Manesar/Gurgaon Haryana. Machines Name – Center Facing, U milling & Gang milling SPM, Notch milling Machine, 500 KVA DG, 750 KVA DG, Stabilizer, Dust Collector, Drilling Machine, Surface Grinder, Vertical Milling, Drill Machine, Electric Panels, SPM Machine & many more.

Email : forgingmanesar@gmail.com
Contact Number: +91 70115 38004

Tender Notice

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), 71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003 invites sealed tenders for installation of 10x5 KW Solar panels under buy-back scheme at INTACH Rooftop. Details at: www.intach.org link WHAT'S NEW.

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CHANGE OF NAME

- I, DEEPAK S/O** Nattha Lal R/O Terwa Dahigawan, Sandia, Gaus Ganj, Haridwar Uttar Pradesh-241305, have changed my name from Deepak Kumar to Deepak Ram for all future purposes.
- I, NEHA Rani D/O** Deepak R/O H. NO. 203, Gali No.4, Old Panchwati Colony, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, have changed my name from NEHA Rani to Neha Ram for all future purposes.
- I, YUGAL Kishor Bhardwaj R/O** RZE/79, Kh no 50/4/1, Gali no 3, Palam Colony Rajnagar II, South West New Delhi 110077 have changed my daughter's name from Vanshika to Vanshika Bhardwaj for all purposes.
- I, RAJESH Singh**, son of Suresh Pal Singh, resident of village laspur Bafhat, tehsil Sardhana district, Meerut, present residence No. D-52/2, Ganga Nagar Meerut, inform that in my High School (C.B.S.E.) mark sheet whose roll number is 5299653/2010, my date of birth is 13/06/1994 and my mother's name is Mrs. Jyoti Devi (Jyoti Roshni Devi) has been wrongly entered instead of my actual date of birth 13/06/1996 and correct name of my mother is Mrs. Jyoti Roshni Devi (Jyoti Roshni Devi) it is very important to be educated and recorded.
- I, SANDEEP** Aswani S/o Tikam Aswani R/O 57/4/6, Govind Park, Kalkaji, South Delhi-110019 state that Sandeep Aswani & Sandeep both names are the same & one person but I will be known as Sandeep Aswani for all future purposes.
- I, KAMINI Sinha W/O** L.T. Sh. Mukul Kumar R/O C-150, NTPC Township, Samridhi, Sector 33, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. have changed the name of my minor daughter Ishwini, DOB 29.11.2007 and she shall be known as Ishwini Sharma for all future purposes.
- I, RAHUL Mishra R/O** H.No. C6-203, SRS Residence, Sec-88, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 state that my minor Son's (DOB: 1 Jan. 2018) name is changed from Rudra to Rudra Mishra vide Affidavit D/27 Jan. 2024, sworn before notary, Faridabad.
- I, VINIKA**, R/O House No 517, Ground Floor, Sector 52, Urban Estate, Gurgaon 120003 and V/O Nikhil Arora, hereby declare that, following my marriage to Nikhil Arora on 11/22/2019, I have changed my name to Vinika Arora vide affidavit No 19240, dated 26/12/2023, notarized by Sajjan Singh (Regd. No. 1652) at Teh. Wazirabad, Gurgaon. I shall be known as Vinika Arora from now and in future for all purposes.
- I, MADDIKA Sreedhar Reddy**, S/o Maddika Venkata Ramana Reddy R/O 48/7 Yogenagar Vihar, Shankar Vihar, New Delhi - 110010, Declare that, my Father, Mother Names and Date of Birth Correctly Recorded in My Service Record As Venkata Ramana Reddy, 13.07.1966, and M Tulasamma, 20.09.1970, Correct Name and Actual Date of Birth of my Father and Mother Names are Maddika Venkata Ramana Reddy, 01.01.1968 and Maddika Ramathasamma, 01.01.1971.

LOST & FOUND

LOST ORIGINAL perpetual sub-lease dated 31.05.1968, executed between Anand Niketan Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. and Late Smt. Labi Devi, regarding property bearing no. D-73, Anand Niketan, New Delhi, with Sub Registrar's Stamp and signatures has been misplaced. The report of the same has been lodged at the Crime Branch Police Station on 12.04.2024 vide LR No. 1636924/2024. Finder please contact: 09811040609.

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GROOMS WANTED

AGARWAL
PQM4 NON-Manglik, Beautiful Very Fair God Girl, March 1989/5'7" MBA, Working in MNC at Noida, 8 LPA. Father Retired AGM. Status Family. Visiting India in April, well edu. cult. Wmp/fwp/call: 9810979021.

BRAHMIN
SM4 B'FUL smart oct.93/5'2".Sanskriti sch.LLM (UK), w/kg UK bsd co-willing to set in India/abroad, visiting india in april, well edu. cult. Wmp/fwp/call: 9810766704.

TAMIL IYER, Srivatsa Gotra, Surgeon (MS-Ophthalm), 26/5'4", Fair, Traditional, Clean habits, Looking for Iyer Surgeon/Physician/IIT Engineer+MBA groom.
Contact: mahsunshu@gmail.com

SM FOR beautiful, fair, slim March 1993/5'1" Architect, Agrawal Girl from affluent family. Boy should be preferably from Delhi NCR, qualified, well settled Vegetarian
9810015366 (agrawaladitya@hotmail.com)

SM FOR Gupta Girl, 5'3" Dec 88, B.Com (Hons) Short marriage divorced. Wkg. in Semi Govt Org. Profed. Edu. Professional / Business Man. Caste No Bar. 981071267, 981860083

GAUR BRAH. Manglik Girl 02/4/87, 8.07 PM Del / 5'3", Anya, MCA, MBA Wkg. S/M Mglk / Non. All Upper Caste. Delhi / NCR. Father Class-I. Retd. WAP-9810214868. Pitampura

N/M, PQM, Brhmn Nvr mrrd, 18.08.81/ 159cm, MBA,CFM,CPA,CE (CAI), Wkg Invst Mgr, 13 LPA, Ph: 9650836111, 9650939012, Div. Exccs. Send BHP: indreshsharma1957@gmail.com

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SPORT

Hetmyer steers Rajasthan to win in nervy run chase

The Guyanese batter slams a quickfire 27 not out as RR seal a three-wicket victory over Punjab Kings to consolidate top spot

Shalini Gupta

shalini.gupta@htlive.com

MULLANPUR: Given what had transpired in IPL 2024 before Saturday, a target of 148 should not have posed any threat. Especially when the team chasing was an in-form Rajasthan Royals (RR) and the team defending was a struggling Punjab Kings (PBKS). However, a tricky pitch at the stadium in Mullanpur combined with a better bowling show from PBKS meant that RR had a few jittery moments in their run chase.

In the end, RR did get to the target with three wickets in hand and only a ball to spare, which means they occupy the top spot with five wins in six matches.

After an all-round bowling effort by RR that restricted the hosts to 147/8 — Avesh Khan and Keshav Maharaj took two wickets apiece while Trent Boult, Kuldeep Sen and Yuzvendra Chahal claimed a scalp each — it was Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shimron Hetmyer who played crucial knocks to take Rajasthan over the line in a tense chase.

While Jaiswal got back to form at the top of the order with a 28-ball 39, Hetmyer showed his finishing prowess in the final over of the game.

With RR needing 10 off the last six balls, Punjab's Arshdeep Singh began by nailing the yorker twice in a row for dot balls. When Arshdeep erred ever so slightly off the third ball, Hetmyer managed to hit a six to relieve all the pressure. Two balls later, Hetmyer finished the game in style by hammering a rank full toss over the fine leg boundary for six. His 10-ball 27 not out earned him the player-of-the-match award. Arshdeep is known to bowl the yorker in the death overs but faltered in his execution against the big-hitting West Indian when the



Rajasthan Royals batter Shimron Hetmyer was named Player of the Match in Mullanpur on Saturday.

pressure was on.

It didn't look like Hetmyer would be required when Jaiswal was on song early in the innings. Used as an impact player in this game, Jaiswal stitched together an opening stand of 56 with Tanush Kotian, who was brought into the side for off-spinner R Ashwin and opened in Jos Buttler's absence. Both Ashwin and Buttler were nursing nig-gles.

If not for Kagiso Rabada dismissing Jaiswal and Sanju Samson in successive overs, RR might have had a much more straightforward chase. Riyan Parag, in superb form this season, also couldn't see it through on Saturday, getting dismissed after making 23 off 18 balls courtesy an excellent catch by Rabada at deep midwicket off Arshdeep. That was when Hetmyer had to come to the party and he didn't disappoint.

Punjab faced a blow even before a ball was bowled as captain Shikhar Dhawan was not available for the game,

resulting in Sam Curran taking charge. Similar to the previous games, Punjab's top-order disappointed again as they were tottering at 52/4 in 9.3 overs. Jonny Bairstow's middling run is a cause for concern in particular. He took 19 balls for 15 before giving left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj his first IPL wicket. That Punjab's eventual total had a degree of respectability was thanks to the efforts of Jitesh Sharma (29 off 24 balls), Liam Livingstone (21 off 14 balls) and Ashutosh Sharma.

Having made an impact in the earlier games, Ashutosh again stepped up with a late blitz of 31 (16 balls) — his innings included three sixes and a four — to take the hosts near the 150-run mark. That 72 runs came off the last six overs allowed Punjab to go into the second innings with optimism. For RR, Maharaj and Avesh were the pick of the bowlers.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings 147/8 in 20 overs (A Sharma 31; K Maharaj 2/23). Rajasthan Royals 152/7 in 19.5 overs (Y Jaiswal 39, S Hetmyer 27*; K Rabada 2/18). **RR won by 3 wickets.**

A Dube homecoming and a Pandya subplot

Rasesh Mandani

rasesh.mandani@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Social media is abuzz over the IPL broadcaster's claim that noise levels hit the roof when MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings are on song. If so, their serial six-hitter Shivam Dube is making sure the decibel level stays consistently high. When Mumbai player Dube walks out on to his home turf at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, in CSK's yellow for IPL's classic contest against fellow five-time winners Mumbai Indians, fan loyalties could be tested considering their still testy relationship with MI skipper Hardik Pandya.

Dube versus Hardik could still be only an insignificant subplot a fortnight before the national selectors meet to finalise India's squad for the T20 World Cup.

The left-handed batting all-rounder first announced himself as an understudy to Hardik for India with a power-packed fifty against West Indies in a T20I in 2019. But it's only in the past twelve months that Dube's USP of decimating spin has been uncovered by CSK. He was also impressive in the Afghanistan T20Is before IPL.

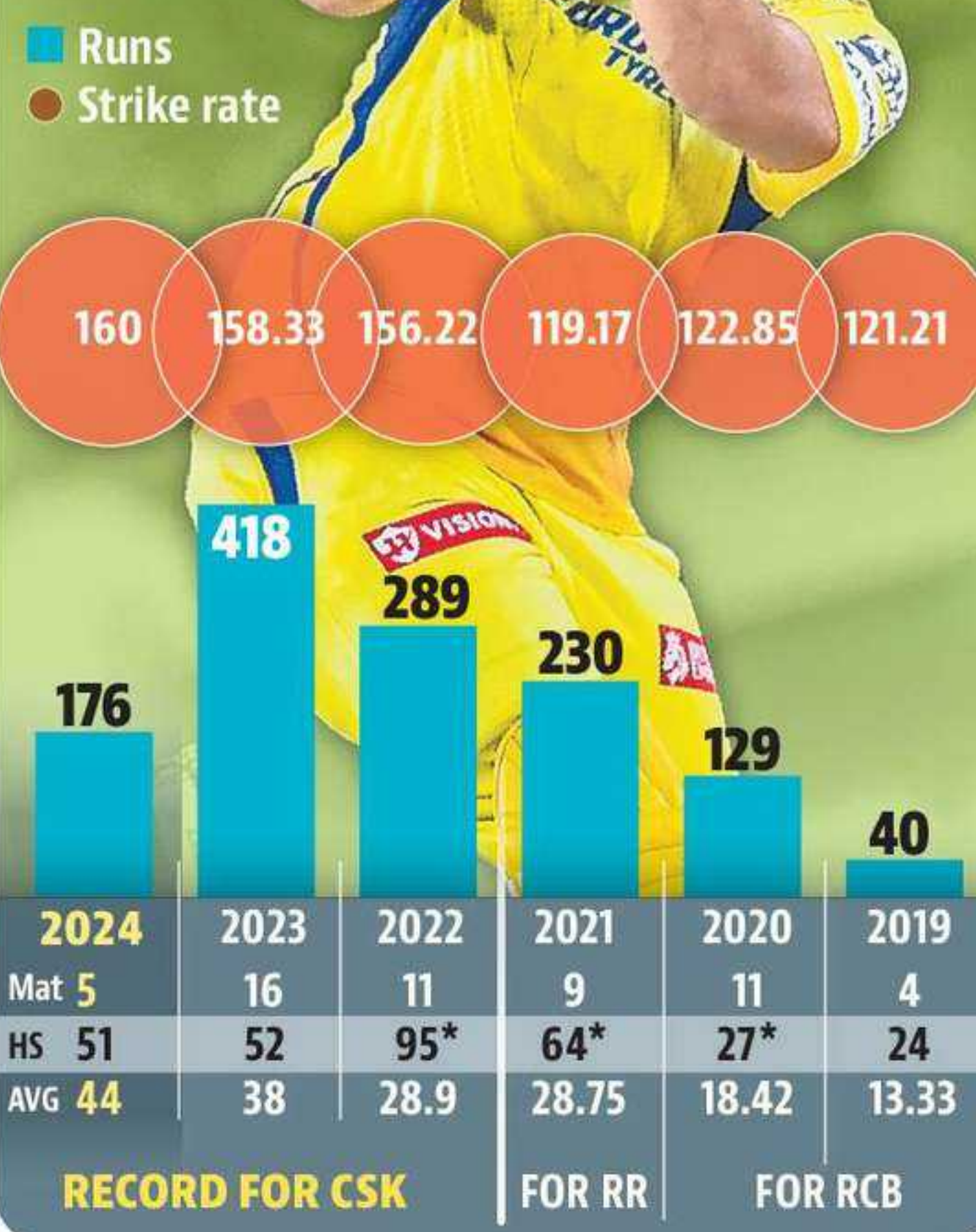
Dube, 30, generates power from his strong core and an attractive bat swing mirroring that of Yuvraj Singh. CSK identified his main strength and tried to use it to their advantage within the Impact Player framework. No player hit more sixes (22) against spin in IPL 2023 than Dube. His strike rate versus spin (76.5) was only next to Heinrich Klaasen of Sunrisers. Even this season, other than opening batters, only Klaasen and Tristan Stubbs (Delhi Capitals) have a higher strike rate against spin than Dube (193.94). He has left an impact against pace and spin alike, foiling the opposition's best laid plans.

In CSK's opening match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Dube was peppered with short balls, once his Achilles heel. He came through without any discomfort and won the match — he scored 34* off 28 balls in an unbroken 66-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja. "No problems if they didn't bowl spin. I settled the account against pace. I am taking the bouncers bowled to me in a good way. It's good practice," he later told Jio Cinema.

Dube has made things easier for himself by spending more time at the crease through the middle overs. Made to face a lot more pace than spin — 77 balls to 64 — he found ways to score at a healthy SR of 145.45; also smashing six sixes to his seven against

CSK getting the best out of Dube

Since joining the five-time champions ahead of the 2022 season, Dube has been lethal in the middle order



Team	P	Won	Lost	NRR	Pts
1 Rajasthan Royals	6	5	1	0.767	10
2 Kolkata Knight Riders	4	3	1	1.528	6
3 Chennai Super Kings	5	3	2	0.666	6
4 Lucknow Super Giants	5	3	2	0.436	6
5 Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	3	2	0.344	6
6 Gujarat Titans	6	3	3	-0.637	6
7 Mumbai Indians	5	2	3	-0.073	4
8 Punjab Kings	6	2	4	-0.218	4
9 Delhi Capitals	6	2	4	-0.975	4
10 Royal Challengers	6	1	5	-1.124	2

spin. Once Dube found a way to meet fire with fire, the two-bouncers-in-an-over rule notwithstanding, teams could not sustain their pace-only strategy against him. "He has gone to another level. He has worked hard in all aspects. I know there is a short ball aspect which is much publicised but there is a lot more to him than that," CSK head coach Stephen Fleming said on Saturday.

There's also the technical work Dube did in the red-ball season

before IPL, scoring 405 runs in the Ranji Trophy at an average of 67.83. Can Dube play the spin-hitting ally to right-handed Virat Kohli in the World Cup? Or, can the selectors create room for him to join hands with Hardik in the middle overs, like how he links up with Daryl Mitchell for CSK? Or will Dube's Cup hopes remain unfulfilled in India's middle-order logjam? "When you have power like that, I would have him in the (Indian) side," said Fleming.

India's 5-0 Oz Test series rout and lessons from it

Sandip Sikdar

sandip.sikdar@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Harmanpreet Singh and Co turned up with renewed vigour at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Saturday, going on the offensive and imposing the high press against Australia. Like in the previous two games, India took the lead, this time through their skipper in the fourth minute.

But it was the same story all over again as India were handed a fifth consecutive defeat as Australia completed a 5-0 rout in the bilateral hockey test series. Bobby Singh Dhami (53rd) scored India's other goal while the Kookaburras scored via Jeremy Hayward (20th), Ky Willott (38th) and Tim Brand (39th) to be 3-1.

Australia have always been the bogey team for India, against whom they have had a psychological block as well, more than any other team. While India chief coach Craig Fulton wanted to take them head on, the men in canary yellow reinforced their dominance, hammering 17 goals to India's seven in the five games.

The positives first. One good outcome was the maturity and agility displayed by India's goalkeepers, especially veteran PR Sreejesh. The former skipper was in great form throughout to thwart several Aussie attacks, including penalty corners (PC). Krishan Bahadur Pathak also made multiple flying saves.

India's drag-flickers also delivered in Perth with two-time FIH Player of the Year Harmanpreet scoring three goals. Jugraj Singh also stepped up when the team opted to go for the second battery.

The most disappointing was the defence which stayed too deep, allowing Australia to earn more PCs. "We need to take it up a little higher. If you go too deep, the possibility of conceding PCs



Aran Zalewski (R) vies for the ball with Bobby Singh Dhami.

against a world class team like Australia who take the ball so quickly, the chances of errors in D are that much higher," ex-India skipper Viren Rasquinha said.

Seniors like Harmanpreet, Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh should take decisions under pressure and communicate to help the defenders push up, and they in turn can push the midfield, easing pressure. Australia have been a super tough opponent due to their ferocity and pace. The intensity till the end is not something India face, especially in training.

The defence also needed to maintain calm, especially when India had the lead and possession. "We were struggling to hold more than four passes at any point. Also, we were playing with a 27-member squad. So, in every match the combination was changing as Fulton was trying out players to make the Olympic squad; that also had an impact on the results," Rasquinha said.

The strikers too did not exert full press when India led, struggling against the pace and tempo of Australia. When the hosts won

the turnover, they attacked rapidly and threw 5-6 forwards up front, which India could never replicate.

The question is whether the 0-5 rout will impact India, who face Australia next at the Paris Olympics on August 2 in the last group game that could decide qualification for the quarters. "They only have to win one game against Australia this year and they will be happy. If they were not used to losing to Australia then mentally it would have had a big impact. But Australia have always had their dominance for a long time over India," said Shane McLeod, who coached Belgium to gold at the 2018 World Cup, 2019 European title and the Tokyo Games. Fulton was then his assistant.

"So, it is nothing new. Everyone will very quickly forget this series if at the Olympics, India get a win over Australia. Then the exercise they have gone through is very successful. You don't win any medal for winning a Test series against a team playing at home. It's the game of consequence that they really should be judged on," McLeod said from Antwerp.

After six years, India's women cricketers again take the leap with return to red ball

Somshuvra Laha

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KOLKATA: The senior women's inter-zonal multi-day tournament concluded in Pune on Thursday, East Zone lifting the trophy after a one-wicket win over South. Central Zone's Punam Raut aggregated the most runs, scoring 84 and 174 against West Zone, and East Zone captain Deepti Sharma topped the wicket-takers' tally with 27 scalps. The tournament was low-key, neither televised nor mentioned in BCCI press releases.

However, it was a watershed moment in Indian women's cricket, the three-day format making a quiet return after six years despite not figuring in BCCI's initial 2023-24 schedule that featured three senior women's tournaments, all in the white-ball category.

Two reasons are attributed to the late inclusion of this multi-day tournament. With BCCI planning to expand the women's international calendar, meaning more red-ball (four-day) cricket could be held soon, there was a need to check the skill level of the current pool of players and their willingness to adapt to the longest format. There is also a conscious effort to inculcate a red-ball cricket culture so that women understand, embrace and prepare for structured domestic cricket.

Polishing long-format skills

And the reports have been encouraging so far. Bowlers like Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani and Radha Yadav bowled upwards of 15 overs per innings; Punam Raut, Dhara Gujjar and Miriyala Durga ended up facing over 400 balls as teams pushed to their



East Zone won the senior women's inter-zonal multi-day trophy in Pune.

limit to play out around 70 overs per innings on average. This was more of a baptism for the younger players and seniors like Smriti Mandhana — who captained West Zone — acknowledged its significance by dropping to No.8 to let others get a proper feel of the format. It still wasn't an easy transition for most.

"It was my first time playing red-ball cricket and hence a completely different experience," said Uma Chetry, who opened the batting for East Zone. "In T20 you can't think too much. But in red-ball cricket, we finally understood the value of patience, to pick the right shot. It was different but fun. Opening the batting was challenging because the red ball swings more, but experi-

enced players like Deepti Sharma kept advising me on how to approach every over."

The allure of the Women's Premier League (WPL) is understandable but this tournament has provided a different experience, especially to the younger players. "Everything changed, from planning to execution," said all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, who played for North Zone. "The concepts of leads and draws were still new to some. Three-day cricket too is different from four or five-day cricket. Plus the red ball needs to be played late because it swings more, you need to leave the ball sometimes. That was new."

In the last four years, India have played four Tests against England and Australia, home and

away. It's too little but considering India hadn't played a single red-ball game between 2014 and 2021, it's still a start. Only T20 could have recalibrated the women's game the way it did but the downside was an entire generation growing up without any red-ball connect. "I don't think the red ball was used much by the girls since Test cricket stopped," said leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, who played for Central Zone, but more importantly was part of India's last Test — against South Africa at Mysore — in 2014.

"Somewhere as a result, the skills slipped a bit. You don't get as much spin or swing with white-ball cricket. You bowl flat because you don't want to concede runs, but here you need to

have more variations to purchase wickets. And all that the batters knew was to hit. Most of the young girls hadn't bowled 15-20 overs on the trot before this because they had never trained for it."

While the tournament may have been an eye opener for many, 25-year-old Mani knew exactly what she was in for despite it being the first time she played days' cricket since U-19 days. "It's about doing the right things for a long time," said Mani, who led South Zone. "Also, this tournament made us stronger, made us concentrate more on our fitness. Because even if you simply stand (under the sun), you need some strength. I hardly got one or two weeks because there were international matches, WPL, etc. But all I did in that time was increase the duration for batting, bowling, everything."

With the introduction of central contracts and WPL, women's cricket has undergone a massive makeover in recent years. But there is still some distance to be covered in the longest format. The first wave of change has already been triggered by WPL though.

"Earlier, only one or two girls used to go for sixes, but now more are trying it. In two seasons, we are finally getting a grasp of power-hitting, our understanding of the game is improving," said Kaur. Yadav agrees. "When we used to play, the class was always there but I felt the game was a bit slow. Now, the change has been drastic in women's cricket. With T20s and ODIs, the skills aren't on display as much as in days' cricket. Bowling 20-25 overs per day, learning to bat long — this is where the inter-zone tournament was such a huge learning experience."

Manchester City thrash Luton, reclaim top spot

Agence France-Presse
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MANCHESTER: Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League as lowly Luton were eased aside 5-1 at the Etihad, while Newcastle thrashed Tottenham 4-0 on Saturday.

Amid a gruelling schedule, Pep Guardiola could hardly have wished for a kinder fixture in between the two legs of his side's Champions League quarter-final against Real Madrid.

Guardiola made six changes from a thrilling 3-3 draw in the Spanish capital on Tuesday and City seemed set for a stress-free afternoon from the moment they opened the scoring after just two minutes.

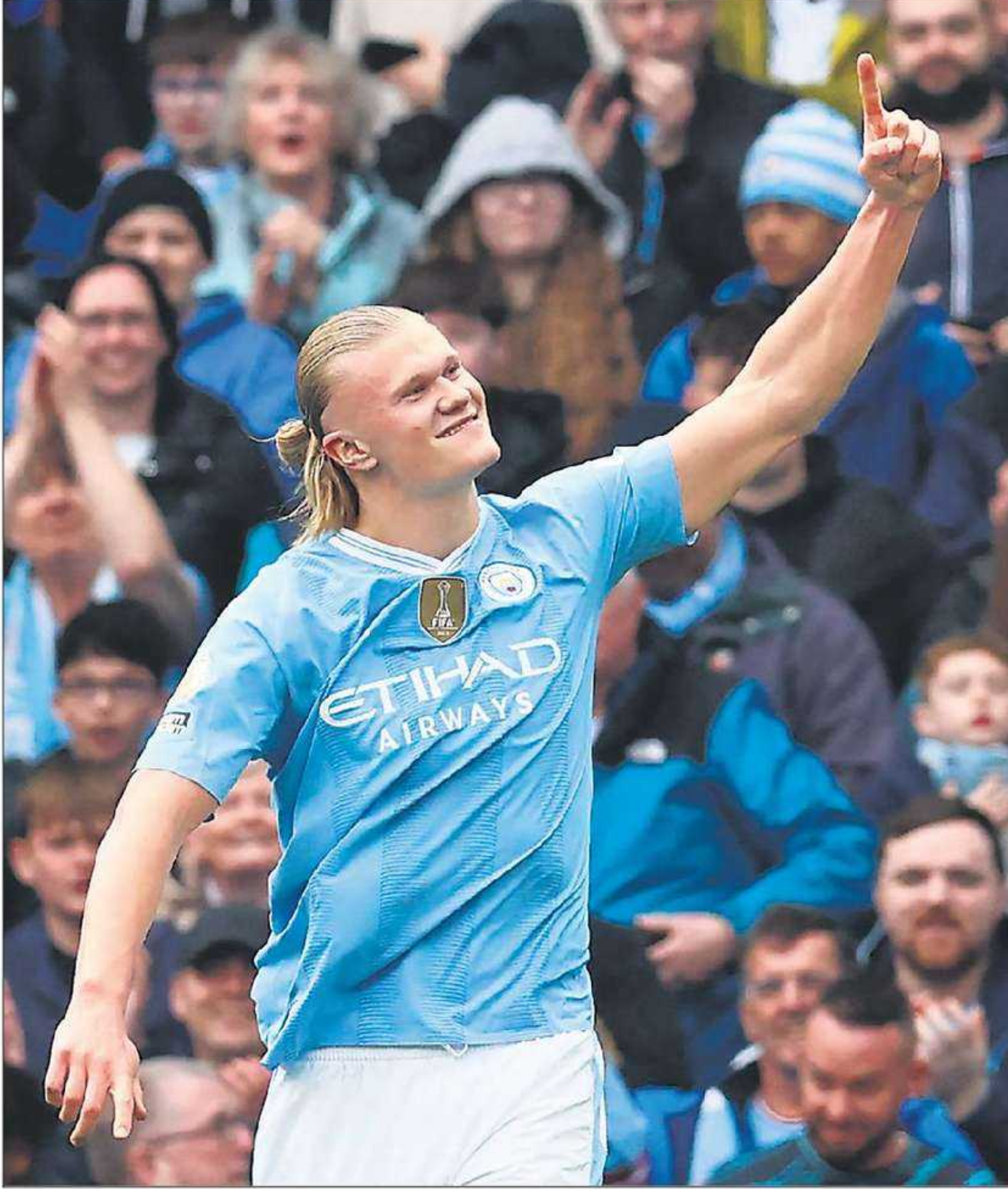
Erling Haaland's shot deflected in off the unfortunate Daiki Hashioka into his own net.

Yet the floodgates refused to open as the English champions had to wait until after the hour mark before making the points safe when Mateo Kovacic smashed in Julian Alvarez's cross at the edge of the box.

Haaland scored five then the sides met in the FA Cup in February. The Norwegian had to settle for just one time this time when scored from the penalty spot for his 20th Premier League goal of the season.

Ross Barkley netted a late consolation for Luton but they have just five games left to save their top-flight status.

Jeremy Doku fired into the far corner after jinking through the Luton defence before Josko Gvardiol scored his second goal in a week after opening his City account in Madrid.



Manchester City striker Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring their third goal on Saturday. AFP

Two-point lead

Victory takes City two points clear of Arsenal and Liverpool, who both have a game in hand, and are in action on Sunday.

Liverpool host Crystal Palace at Anfield looking to bounce back from their shock Europa League defeat to Atlanta.

Arsenal entertain Aston Villa, who moved back into the top four without kicking a ball on Saturday thanks to Tottenham's trouncing at St. James' Park.

Alexander Isak scored twice, while Anthony Gordon and

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Man City	32	22	7	3	44	73
Arsenal	31	22	5	4	51	71
Liverpool	31	21	8	2	42	71
Aston Villa	32	18	6	8	17	60
Tottenham	32	18	6	8	16	60

Fabian Schar were also on target as Newcastle United moved up to sixth and kept their slim chances of Champions League football next season alive.

Newcastle are 10 points adrift of Tottenham and Villa with six games remaining but have the

far easier run-in. "We've just got to keep doing our bit which is trying to win every game," said Newcastle boss Eddie Howe.

"We're hopefully returning to somewhere near our best and we've got to keep heading in that direction."

At the bottom of the table, Nottingham Forest edged one point clear of the bottom three after a 2-2 draw against Wolves.

Matheus Cunha struck twice for the visitors at the City Ground to deny Forest a vital three points after goals from Morgan Gibbs White and Danilo had put them 2-1 in front.

Brentford's first win in 10 games pulled the Bees seven points clear of the drop zone as Ollie Arblaster's own goal and Frank Onyeka earned a 2-0 victory over Sheffield United.

Burnley's chances of survival are fading fast after a 1-1 draw at home to Brighton left them still second bottom, six points adrift of safety. Josh Brownhill capitalized on a poor back pass by Carlos Baleba in the 74th minute to put Burnley on course for a victory. But moments later, goalkeeper Aro Muric led a routine pass from Sander Berge slip under his foot and dribble into the net.

This cricket season, get ready to **Catch it**

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FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL-C-PRYJ-04-24-25 Dated: 12.04.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE (Electrical Construction)

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer / Const. / N.C. Rly. / Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:30 hrs. on 09.05.2024. The details of the tender are as under:-

Tender Opening Date: 09.05.2024

S No.: 1 Advertisured Value of Work (In Rs.): ₹ 21,22,12,207.55

Name of Work: 25 KV AC Electrification work for 2nd line LUSA (202.57 KM) to Sonbhadra (168.20 KM) Section in connection with doubling of CAR-CPU Section of PRYJ Division of N.C. Railway.

Bid Security (In Rs.): ₹ 12,11,100.00 Period of Completion : 24 Months

Note:- (1) The Complete information along with tender document of above e-Tenders are available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. (3) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website IREPS may be approached. 654/24(A)

f North central railways www.nczr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Md. Mushrat S/o Md. Ashrar, R/o H.No. 686, Gali Tehsil Wali, Chandni Mahal, Delhi** have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 42B/2015 u/s 103 DP Act** has been registered at **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Md. Mushrat** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Md. Mushrat** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Md. Mushrat of FIR No. 42B/2015 u/s 103 DP Act** has been registered at **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.05.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Meena Chauhan
Metropolitan Magistrate-08,
Central Room No. 272,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/4372/N/2024 (Court Matter)

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

Dy. Chief Plant Engineer-II, Rail coach Factory, and Kapurthala on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender No. **RCF-EL-MTC-65-ET-24-25**. Closing Date/Time 08.05.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Tenderer will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tenderer are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. Open E-Tender No: RCF-EL-MTC-65-ET-23-24; Name of work: A) Repair and Maintenance contract for Repair/Rewinding of motors and other Electrical Equipment for two years. B) Repairing, maintenance and replacement of Man coolers and other related work for two years in RCF Workshop Kapurthala. App Cost: Rs. 1038359.00; Earnest Money: Rs. 20767.00; Tender Cost: nil; Completion Period of work: 24 Months; Validity of Offer: 60 days; Availability of Tender Documents for view and download: From 24.04.2024 to 08.05.2024 on website www.ireps.gov.in; Tender Closing Date & Time: 08.05.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Tender Opening Date & Time: 08.05.2024 at 15:05 hrs; Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in; Note: 1) FOR SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC OFFERS, BIDDERS WILL HAVE TO GET THEMSELVES REGISTERED ONE TIME ON IREPS Website, on line without any Payment. 2) BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN Class III digital signature certificate with Company name from certifying authorities, as per list available on website www.cca.gov.in; 3) Helpdesk details: = helpdesk.eps@cris.org.in Phone: 011-23370704, 24102855; Dy. Chief Engineer-II

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: **RCF-SAS-OT-L3T-2024** Closing Date/Time 08/05/2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender documents cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on IREPS Portal like net banking, debit cards, credit cards etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. A. Tender No: RCF-SAS-OT-L3T-2024; B. Name of Work/Service: Shell Assembly and Fitment of items in LWACCN Coach as per Scope of Work. C. App. Cost: Rs. 49,90,000/- (Rs. Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand only); D. Tender Doc. Cost: Rs. 3,000/-; E. Earnest Money: Rs. 99,800/- (Rs. Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred only); F. Completion Period: 1 Year for 100 Shells; G. Tender Closing Date & Time: 08/05/2024 at 15:00 Hrs. H. Tender Opening Date & Time: 09/05/2024 at 15:30 Hrs. I. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in; J. General & Special Conditions and instructions to tenderers: 1. The tenderer should upload proof of registration with the Employees Provident Fund Organization under "Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act-1952". A copy of code number allotted by the Organization should be uploaded with the tender documents. Without above, the tender will be summarily rejected. 2. Security/Earnest Money Deposit: The bid must be accompanied by a sum of Rs. 99,800/- as earnest money deposited in cash or in any of the forms as specified, failing which the bid will not be considered. However, EMD will be exempted for registered DIPP.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell

NO. 005-M/2024-25 Dated: 13.04.2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender No.: SIG-WS-Cont-AGC-97 Dated: 10.04.2024

TENDER NOTICE (Single Packet System)

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Cont/Agra, North Central Railway Unit, Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-Tender from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability, for the following work on Single Packet System up to 15.00 hrs. on the opening date of E-Tender mentioned therein. If date of opening is declared a holiday or offer could not be opened due to technical issue, the offers shall be opened on the next working day. The details of the Tender are as under:-

Name of Work: Indoor and outdoor telecommunication work with laying of OFC & Quad and supply & installation of STM & PDMUX in connection with Gauge Conversion with provision of single line in Dholpur - Sirmutra section of Agra Division on N.C. Railway.

Estimated cost of work: Approx. Rs. 46534918.43/- Earnest Money: Rs. 382700.00/- Tender form cost: Nil. Completion Period: 12 Months. Availability of tender form: Tender forms shall be available on web site, www.ireps.gov.in, 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. Closing Date/Time of Tender: 02.05.2024 before 15:00 Hrs. Tender Opening Date/Time: 02.05.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. Place of Opening: Through Online E-Portal www.ireps.gov.in in the office of Dy. CSTE/CI/AGC Office, AGRA (UP). Validity of Offer: 60 days from date of opening. Right of Railway to deal with Tender: Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons.

Tenderers who wish to participate in tenders invited on www.ireps.gov.in have to register on the website mandatorily. Please refer to website for more details. Further particulars can be obtained from Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. 644/24 (AN)

f North central railways www.nczr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNCR

उत्तर मध्य क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र

14, सी.एस.पी. सिंह मार्ग, प्रयागराज

फोन नं० - 0532-2421855

e-mail: nczcc@rediffmail.com, website: www.nczcc.in

निविदा सूचना

उत्तर मध्य क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, प्रयागराज द्वारा मंचीय प्रकाश व्यवस्था के लिए आपूर्ति कर्ता/उत्पादन कर्ता से संलग्न प्रोफार्मा (BOQ) में दरे आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक फर्म केन्द्र के प्रेसाग्रह (जिसका नवीनीकरण का कार्य सीपीओडब्ल्यूडी के द्वारा किया जा रहा है) का निरीक्षण किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अपराह्न 11:00 बजे से सायं 5:00 तक कर सकते हैं। निविदा हेतु निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र नियम और शर्तों के साथ किसी भी कार्य दिवस में ₹ 500.00 नगद जमा करके दिनांक 15.04.2024 से 19.04.2024 तक प्राप्त किया जा सकता है अथवा केन्द्र की वेबसाइट पर देखा/डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। डाउनलोड किये हुए फार्म के साथ ₹ 500.00 का निविदा शुल्क का द्राफ्ट जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। पूर्णतः भरे हुए निविदा प्रपत्र निदेशक कक्ष में रखे निविदा बॉक्स में दिनांक 19.04.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक जमा किये जायेंगे। टेंडर बॉक्स में प्राप्त सभी निविदाएं दिनांक 19.04.2024 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे केन्द्र में गठित समिति के द्वारा उपरिथत निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोले जायेंगे। किसी भी निविदा या सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार निदेशक में निहित होगा।

निदेशक

PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

Tagoreans Dazzle at the Greek National Day Celebration

Students of Tagore International School, East of Kailash were invited by the Greek Embassy, to present the Greek folk song, 'Aaspra Kokkina Kitrina Ble' (white, red, yellow, blue) to dignitaries, on Greek National Day, bringing the colors of the Aegean Sea to India. The school choir captivated all with their performance, echoing the beauty of cultural exchange, earning accolades from the gathering. With each note, spirits soared high fostering friendship between the two nations. The talent and dedication of the choir left an enduring impression on hearts, earning special recognition from the Ambassador of Greece to New Delhi, Her Excellency, Aliko Koutsomitopoulou and Meenakshi Lekhi, the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India. The choir, under the guidance of Music Teacher of the school, Reeta Mathews and dynamic alumna, Aroma Mathews, shone brightly.

Annual Day Celebrated at Raghur Singh Junior Modern School

Raghur Singh Junior Modern School, Humayun Road hosted its Annual Day for two days. Archana Garodia Gupta, Author and Former President of FICCI Women's Association was the Chief Guest for the first day. Ambika Pant, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Modern Schools, Mira Pradeep Singh, the Honorary Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Modern Schools also graced the occasion. Addressing the parent fraternity, Archana Garodia Gupta reiterated the importance of reading books. The prestigious D.D. Hall came alive with the vibrant and captivating presentation 'Chuhon Ka Kahar' a fusion of dance and enactment of the timeless narrative, 'Pied Piper of Hamelin'. The young actors dressed in colorful costumes brought the story to life, captivated the audience and conveyed important lessons about honesty, co-operation and compassion. The Annual Day celebrations culminated with the spectacular presentation 'The Jungle Book'. Chief Guest Ashok Pratap Singh, Former President, Board of Trustees, Modern Schools graced the occasion on the second day.

Satraarambh: A Sacred Commencement at Remal Public School, Rohini

The inauguration of the new academic session at Remal Public School, Rohini commenced with a traditional Hawan ceremony, with enthusiastic participation from attendees. The Hawan was performed to purify the environment and seek blessings of the Almighty and the Chief Guest, Rakesh Kumar Rahi, Deputy Director of District NW B-II, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest

and was also an alumnus of the school. Shakuntala Bajaj, the Chairperson, extended a floral welcome to the Chief Guest and bestowed blessings upon the children. The School Principal, Seema Bajaj, presented souvenirs to honor the Chief Guest. The Hawan ceremony, symbolizing unity and blessings, served as the centerpiece of the event, with each Samidha put in the kund for the overall well-being of the Remal Parivar, which includes the management, the Principal, facilitators, learners, and every soul associated with the institution. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Managing Director, Rohit Bajaj. The children dispersed, filled with a sense of reverence and anticipation for the academic journey ahead.

Graduation Day Ceremony at Indraprastha World School

Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar organized Graduation Day Ceremony for the students of Pre-Primary. The event was presided by the school Managing Director, Dr. Rajesh Hassija and the school Principal, Ruchira Bhatnagar. Celebrations commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony. Young learners shared their wonderful journey of kindergarten. Highlight of the event was a mesmerizing presentation, based on the Pancha Koshas, or five sheaths in Hindu philosophy; Annamaya Kosha (physical), Pranamaya Kosha (vital), Manomaya Kosha (mental), Vijnanamaya Kosha (intellectual), and Anandamaya Kosha (blissful). The presentation was a blend of music, dance and drama. The Managing Director addressed the gathering and lauded the efforts of the parents, students and faculty for their efforts. The event concluded with the vote of the Headmistress, Ravinder Anand. Students were awarded mementoes and went back home with smiles on their faces.

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RUUD UPSETS DJOKOVIC, TO FACE TSITSIPAS IN FINAL OF MONTE CARLO

Agence France-Presse
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MONACO: Casper Ruud defeated Novak Djokovic for the first time in his career on Saturday, reaching the final of the Monte Carlo Masters after a 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 victory.

The Norwegian won a rematch of the 2023 French Open final after losing to the world No.1 Serb in five previous matches. Djokovic was bidding for a 59th final at the Masters level.

Ruud, who advanced when Djokovic double-faulted, will face Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday. Tsitsipas defeated Jannik Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the first semi-final. It was Sinner's second loss of the season as Tsitsipas, a two-time champion, reached another Monte Carlo Masters final.

The Greek's victory ended the nine-match winning streak of the Australian Open champion who also has title wins in Rotterdam and Miami to his name this season.

"Today was a great day, I'm hoping for a good recovery and a fresh mind," said Tsitsipas. "I hope to come out extra strong tomorrow."

World No.2 Sinner began the final set, during which he was twice treated on his right knee by the trainer, with a break of serve.

But he lost it in the eighth game after saving four break points which allowed Tsitsipas to level at 4-4.

The Greek then finished it off by playing what he called "tennis at the highest level that I've been able to play recently".

Tsitsipas, ranked 12th, won the title here in 2021 and 2022 and declared he is returning to top form after falling out of the top 10.

"It will help my confidence to have a win like this," he said. "I'm aiming for the top level again."

At the Masters, Woods scales another summit

Joy Chakravarty
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

AUGUSTA: There comes a point in the career of legends in any sport when everything they do breaks some record. Tiger Woods is right there.

On Friday at the 88th Masters tournament, the 48-year-old added another significant achievement to his resume when he made a 24th straight cut and went ahead of the record held by Fred Couples and Gary Player.

It's a tribute to the longevity and consistency of his career at the highest level, but what is most remarkable about what the 15-time major champion is doing right now is how he is extending both those attributes against all odds.

Anybody with the slightest knowledge of the human body would agree that Woods should not be doing what he is doing.

An orthopaedician would struggle to find bones in his body that have not taken a beating over the years, or manually altered. A psychologist might have the answer - Woods really has mastered the art of mind over matter.

Even as he finished a par second round (1-over par total) and was eight shots behind the leader at that time (seven eventually), the only thought in his mind was that he could still win a sixth Green Jacket.

"It means I have a chance going into the weekend. I'm here. I have a chance to win the golf tournament," said Woods, playing only his second full 72-hole championship since pulling out of the Masters last year when the plantar fasciitis in his right foot aggravated.

"Yeah, I'm tired. I've been out for a while, competing, grinding. It's been a long 23 holes, a long day. But Lance (Bennett, his cad-

The Tiger streak
Tiger Woods made a record 24th consecutive cut at the Augusta Masters, surpassing Fred Couples and Gary Player (23 each) - the streak goes back to 1997

- 15 Major wins, 2nd all-time behind Jack Nicklaus (18)
- 5 Number of Masters wins, one behind Nicklaus
- 82 Tied with Sam Snead for most wins on the PGA Tour

THE MASTERS CUT RECORD
● Masters win ● Made cut ○ Missed due to injury

1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

Made record 24th consecutive cut

2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

die) and I really did some good fighting today, and we've got a chance."

The fact that he played 23 holes, with just a 52-minute turnaround time between the end of his first round and the start of his second, was impressive. Even more remarkable was the conditions in which he played those 23 holes.

Friday was brutal at Augusta National Golf Club. After rains drenched the course on Thursday, it was time for swirling winds, gusting up to 40 miles per hour at times, to become a relentless adversary. It blew the sand out of bunkers, and moved the balls on the greens. Gauging distance and direction, a golfer's bread and butter, became a task.

Average scores soared to 75.07. Add to it the hilly terrain of Augusta National that keeps testing the pain threshold of Woods' fused ankle and spine, and the even-par 72 was worth its weight in gold.

The one shot that really stood out for Woods was his second from 257 yards to the slender, and dangerous, par-5 15th green. The hole was playing tough and into the wind, and most players were laying up short with their second. Those going for the green in two were having trouble holding the ball on it.

Not Woods. The second shot, with a three-wood, was imperious. A towering beauty that battled through the wind without deviating from the

target, landed on the rock-hard green and magically stopped on the putting surface.

It was yet another reminder of what the great man was capable of.

Playing alongside was joint leader Max Homa (-6), and he was full of admiration for Woods' stoicism and resoluteness.

"He understands this golf course so well, but he hits such amazing golf shots. His iron play is so good that even when he did miss the green, you could tell he had so much control," said Homa.

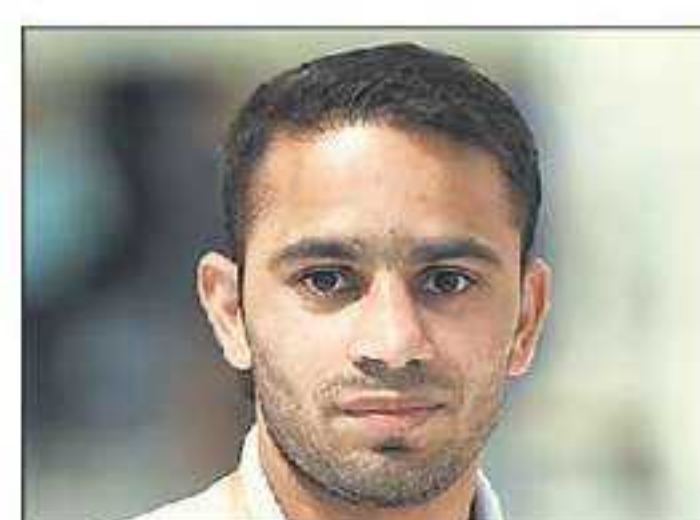
Woods, tied 21st after 36 holes, plays his third round in the company of England's Tyrrell Hatton in the third round, which got underway in perfect conditions on Saturday.

Panghal returns to India team for final Olympic qualifier in Bangkok

Avishek Roy
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NEW DELHI: Amit Panghal is back in the India team for the final Paris Olympics qualifier in Bangkok from May 25. Several changes have been made in the squad after India's poor showing at the qualifier in Italy.

The men's team yet is yet to secure any quota spot for Paris Olympics. Pangal has replaced Deepak Bhorla in 51kg class, after an evaluation done by coaches in the national camp. World championship medalist Bhorla had two opportunities to seal an Olympic quota, but failed. Previously, Bhorla had twice topped the evaluation at the national camp. Tokyo Olympian Panghal won gold in the Strandja Memo-



Amit Panghal. HT

Shiva Thapa in 63.5 kg, Sachin Siwach and young Abhinash Jamwal will take their spots. Nishant Dev (71kg), the best Indian on show in the qualifier, has retained his place. Sanjeet (92kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) have also been given another opportunity to seal Olympic berths. India have already won four of the six Olympic quotas in women on account of their good performances at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games. In 60kg, Ankushita Boro has replaced Jasmine Lamboria. Interestingly Boro has come down from 66kg in which she competed in the Olympic qualifier in Italy. In 66kg, two-time world junior medalist Arundhati Chaudhary will get an opportunity to seal an Olympic berth.

rial tournament in February.

While India's high performance coach Bernard Dunne has resigned, boxers were selected through the evaluation process. Foreign coach Dmitry Dmitruk and national coach CA Kuttapa were part of the selection panel.

The other big names dropped from the squad were world championships medalist Mohd Husamuddin in 57kg and seasoned

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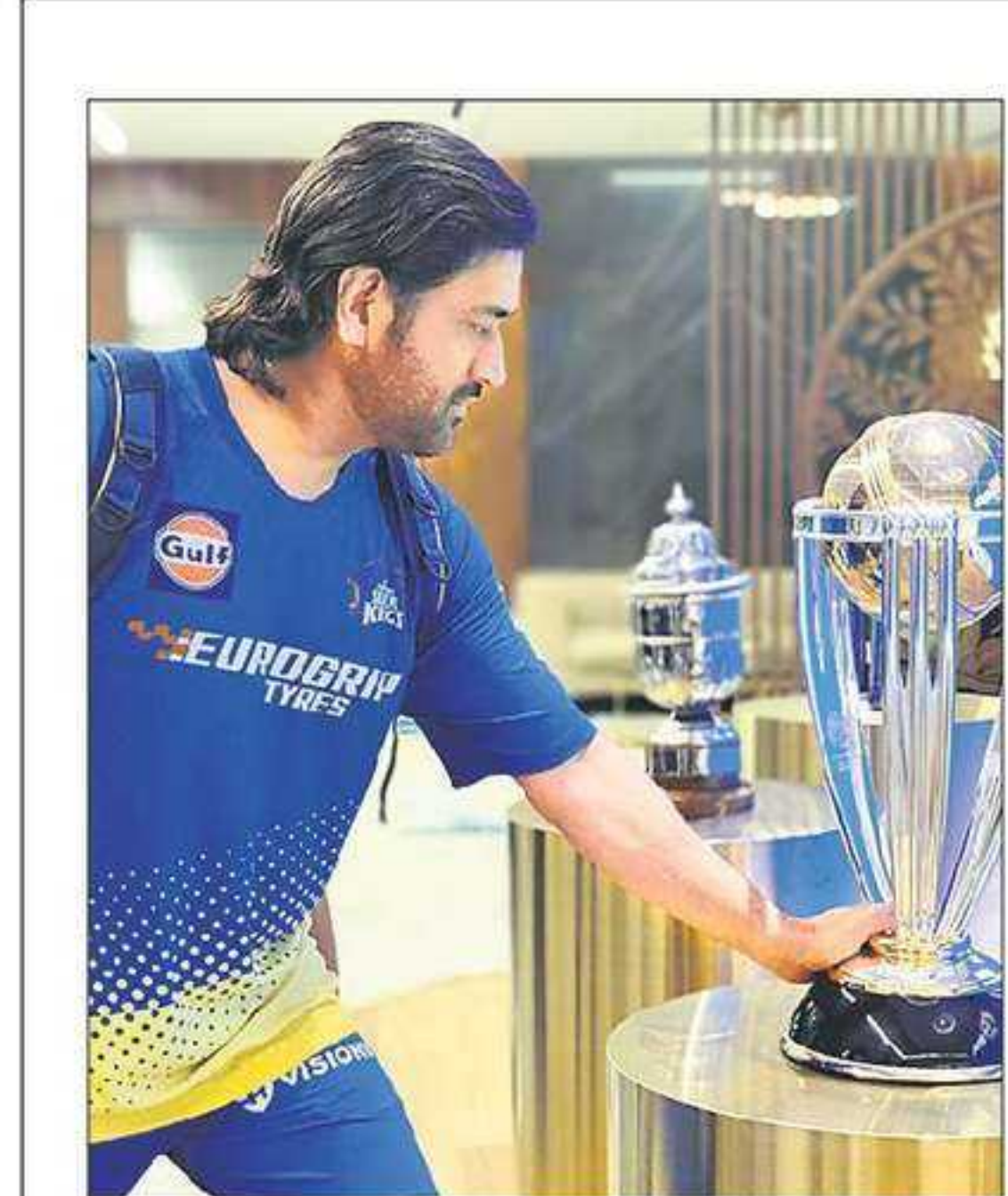
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Returning to Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium for CSK's IPL game against Mumbai Indians on Saturday, MS Dhoni again gets his hands on the World Cup trophy that he lifted in 2011. BCCI

Radhika makes 68kg final at Asian meet

BISHKEK: Radhika was the lone Indian woman wrestler who assured herself of a medal, her second at the senior Asian Championships, by reaching the 68kg final here on Saturday. Radhika, who won a silver at the U23 Asian Championships last year and also finished second at the senior Asian Championships in 2022, put up a dominant show in her weight category. She won the first bout by technical superiority against Kazakhstan's Albina Kairgeldinova and then pinned Kyrgyzstan's Gulnura Tashtanbekova.

India lose to NZ, miss out on play-offs berth

CHANGSHA: Ankita Raina could not win the crucial second singles and later lost the decisive doubles match with partner Prarthana Thombare as a play-offs place slipped out of India's grasp after a 1-2 defeat to New Zealand in the Billie Jean King Cup here on Saturday. India remained in Asia/Oceania Group I by finishing third in the tournament. Rutuja Bhosale put India ahead with her 6-2, 7-6(5) win over Monique Barry in the opening singles. Raina needed to win the next match against Lulu Sun but was outgunned 2-6, 0-6.

Marsh returns home to treat hamstring

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals have suffered a major setback as their Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has returned home to undergo treatment for a tear in his right hamstring. Marsh, who is set to be named Australia's captain for the T20 World Cup in June, was recalled after consultations with the Delhi team management, according to ESPNcricinfo. However, a final call on his availability for the remainder of the season is yet to be taken. Marsh last played against Kolkata Knight Riders on April 3.

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