



NEERAJ CHOPRA

**WISE WORDS >>>**  
Sports teaches us to be  
together and united.



# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

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Gold medalist Dharambir, centre, silver medalist Pranav Soorma, left, and bronze medalist Zeljko Dimitrijevic (on wheelchairs) in Paris on Thursday REUTERS

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## NATION

### President confers the National Teachers' Award to 82 mentors from across India

**NEW DELHI:** Happiness lab, gamified assessments, home-based education visits, preventing child marriages and an automated school bell made of recycled materials are among the feats that have bagged the National Teachers Awards for 82 mentors from across the country.

The awards were conferred upon by President Droupadi Murmu here on Thursday.

Chandralekha Damodar Mestri, a teacher at the Satyawati Soiru Angle Higher Secondary School, South Goa, received the award for bridging the language gap for her primarily first-generation learner students. She developed innovative, low-cost teaching aids and conducted home visits with books and stationery to foster a love of learning.

Sagar Chittaranjan Bagade, a

teacher at Sou SM Lohia High School and Junior College, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, organised social events to raise awareness on issues affecting orphans, tribals, young HIV patients, and individuals with disabilities. "He also arranged folk dance and ballet performances providing students with international exposure across 226 countries. This has been recognised as a world record by the Asia Pacific Book of World Records," the citation read.

K Suma, from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, was awarded for dedication to improving the infrastructure for government schools and increasing enrolment. She promoted health and wellness through yoga camps and supports inclusive education. Awardee Minakshi Kumari, from the Shiv Ganga Girls Plus 2 High School, Madhubani, Bihar, championed community involvement by engaging parents in improving school outcomes like clean uniforms, sanitary pads, and drinking water facilities.

Pallavi Sharma, principal of the Mamta Modern Senior Secondary School, New Delhi, was awarded for initiatives including a Maths and Science Park, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Laboratory and Khushishala -- a happiness lab. PTI



President Droupadi Murmu confers the National Award on a teacher in New Delhi on Thursday ANI

### PM Modi extends greetings on occasion of Teacher's Day

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended Teacher's Day greetings on Thursday and expressed "gratitude to all teachers who shape young minds."

The Prime Minister also paid tribute to former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary. In a post on X, the PM said, "Best wishes on #TeachersDay, an occasion to express gratitude to all teachers who shape young minds. Tributes to Dr Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary."

Union home minister Amit Shah also conveyed Teacher's Day wishes to all the mentors and said that they not only build the lives of students but also contribute to building a great nation.

The day commemorates the birth anniversary of scholar and Bharat Ratna recipient Dr Radhakrishnan, who was born on this day in 1888. ANI

### Film critic, author Aruna Vasudev passes away at 88

**NEW DELHI:** Eminent film critic, curator and author Aruna Vasudev passed away here on Thursday. She was 88. From her humble origins in pre-independent India to the corridors of the cinematic universe, Vasudev wore many hats as a critic, author, editor, painter, documentary maker, trustee and above all the torchbearer of Asian cinema.

She was the founder-editor of Cinemaya: The Asian Film Quarterly. She is also credited with founding the Netpac, a worldwide organisation to forward the cause of Asian films. Vasudev also directed or produced around 20 documentaries and edited several books. She was also a board member of Alliance Française de Delhi. The French government felicitated her with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters in 2002 and Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters in 2019. PTI

## CITYLIGHTS

### Air pollution: 21-point Winter Action Plan to be implemented

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai announced on Thursday that the government will implement a 21-point Winter Action Plan to combat air pollution, featuring real-time drone monitoring of pollution hotspots and the creation of a special task force to tackle worsening air quality during the colder months.

Speaking at a press conference following a high-level meeting with representatives from 35 departments, Rai emphasised that the government is adopting a proactive approach this year. "This year, for the first time, we will be using drones to monitor pollution at 13 major hotspots across Delhi. A special task force will also be formed to tackle air pollution more effectively. These measures are part of our 21-point plan to ensure a cleaner winter for the residents of Delhi," Rai said.

The winter action plan will focus on key issues such as vehicular pollution, dust, stubble burning, and industrial emissions, among



An anti-smog gun settles dust particles amid the rise in pollution levels in New Delhi HT FILE

others, Rai said. Each department involved has been given specific tasks and has been directed to submit its action plan by September 12.

In addition to drone monitoring and task force creation, the plan also outlines measures such as promoting work-from-home policies, preparing for the odd-even vehicle scheme, and exploring the possibility of inducing artificial rain to settle pollutants. PTI

### IIT-D team achieves hat-trick of crossword contest wins

**NEW DELHI:** Two students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, have bagged a hat-trick at the National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE) organised by the technical education regulator AICTE in collaboration with IIT Madras.

"Arush Utkarsh and Harshul Sagar, the dynamic duo from IIT Delhi have secured their third consecutive victory in the competition. Trailing closely behind on the leaderboard is VKS Gayatri from BITS Pilani (Hyderabad campus), who impressed both the crossword master and arbiters with her detailed explanations and reasoning behind each cryptic clue," said an official statement. The participants battled through

four intense online rounds and five zonal rounds. The top 19 teams converged in New Delhi for the two-day Grand Finale, showcasing their crossword prowess. NICE is an annual crossword challenge that aims to promote intellectual engagement and learning among the students. "Crosswords are more than just a leisure activity. They are a powerful mental exercise that fosters lateral thinking, recall abilities and a nuanced understanding of complex concepts. These skills are particularly valuable for the students in technical education as they prepare to take on leadership roles in the future," said ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) secretary S Krishnan. PTI

## SCHOOL EVENT

### GD GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SECTOR 48, G'GRAM, HOSTS MUN CONFERENCE

GD Goenka Public School, Sector 48, Gurugram, hosted the two-day Model United Nations (MUN) conference titled TGMUN 2024, which witnessed participation of 250 delegates from 14 schools across Delhi-NCR. The theme of the conference was PEACE - A Timeless Quest. The chief guest for the event was Sanjana Seth, an educator and managing director of Augment London UK. >P2



## WORD POWER

### Feckless

**Fek-lis**  
Adjective

**Meaning:** Ineffective; incompetent; futile.

**Origin:** First recorded in 1590-1600. Originally Scots, from feck, shortened from effeck, Scots form of effect + -less.

**Synonyms:** Aimless, carefree, careless, feeble, fustian, futile, good-for-nothing, hopeless

**Antonyms:** Competent, effective, effectual, efficient, purposeful

**Usage:** The feckless security measures failed to prevent the breach.

## WORLD

### Harris gears up for debate as Trump talks economy

**PITTSBURGH:** Vice President Kamala Harris travels to the crucial battleground state of Pennsylvania on Thursday, where she will reportedly spend five days preparing for next week's presidential debate. Ahead of Tuesday's showdown against Republican rival Donald Trump in Philadelphia, Harris will head to Pittsburgh, where she will strategise with advisors and hone her attack lines, The Washington Post and CNN reported. She does not have campaign events scheduled but is expected to take part in informal meetings with voters. AFP

### Macron names EU's Brexit negotiator Barnier as France PM

**PARIS:** President Emmanuel Macron named the EU's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, as France's new prime minister on Thursday after more than 50 days of caretaker government. The appointment of the 73-year-old Barnier follows weeks of intense efforts by Macron and his aides to find a candidate who might be able to build loose groupings of backers in parliament and survive possible attempts by Macron's opponents to quickly topple the new government that Barnier will now put together and lead. AP

### Super Typhoon Yagi: Chinese cities shut schools, cancel flights

**HONG KONG:** Cities in southern China suspended schools and cancelled some flights on Thursday as Super Typhoon Yagi headed towards the holiday island province of Hainan after strengthening from a tropical storm. Yagi triggered floods and landslides on the main Philippine island of Luzon this week, killing 13 people, according to official figures. It intensified into a super typhoon as it tracked west across the South China Sea, China's Xinhua news agency said, carrying winds of up to 209 km per hour as it headed for Hainan. "Hainan upgraded its emergency response to Yagi to the highest level at 11.30 am on Thursday, according to the provincial disaster management authority," Xinhua said. AFP



## SCHOOL REPORTS

## GD Goenka Public School, Sec 48, G'gram, hosts MUN conference

GD Goenka Public School, Sector 48, Gurugram, hosted the two-day Model United Nations (MUN) conference titled TGMUN 2024, which witnessed participation of 250 delegates from 14 schools across Delhi-NCR.

The theme of the conference was 'PEACE - A Timeless Quest'. The chief guest for the event was Sanjana Seth, an educator and managing director of Augment London UK.

The main committees of the MUN were the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the UNHS, the RAW and the Lok Sabha. The event was inaugurated with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and the welcoming of the chief guest. It was followed by a beautiful cultural dance drama presentation by the young Goenkans.

In her opening address, principal Anuradha Handa stressed on the need for peace in the current situations of the world while the chief guest encouraged the young audience to strive for peace & amicability.

The executive board members moderated the delegates on topics like the Kargil War, the budgetary expenses of the Agnipath Scheme, Ethnic Inclusion in Myanmar, Rehabilitation of Women and Children, the Human Rights Angle with reference to terrorism and developing a vision of multilateralism in a world of transitions.

The conference with exciting



The delegates were felicitated with awards under various categories during the two-day conference

research-based deliberations, questions and counter questions over the simmering political situations ended with the award presentation ceremony, which was presided by second day's chief guest Brigadier Bhatt.

The delegates were felicitated with Best Delegate, High Commendation or Special Mention awards. The overall trophy for the best delegation team was bagged by Heritage Xperiential School, Sector 62, Gurugram.

## Students of Dayanand Vidya Mandir crowned champions at quiz competition



The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the junior and senior students of the school

The students of Dayanand Vidya Mandir School (DVMS), Kulesra, Greater Noida, participated in the prestigious 'Jashn E Azaadi, Hindustan Ki Kahani' India Quiz Competition with great enthusiasm and secured the top position.

The competition was organised by Grads International School.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both junior and senior students of the school.

For that achievement, special congratulations go to DVMS junior students Anya Karwa and Adarsh Tiwari, who not only excelled in the initial rounds of the competition but also triumphed by securing the first position in the final round.

## HT PACE ANNUAL TEACHERS' MEET

## Over 350 educators from Delhi-NCR interact and enjoy a day out with fun, thrills galore

Celebrating Teachers - The Ultimate Guides was an apt theme for the well-attended event.

Aheli Das

NEW DELHI: Visualise an amusement park and what probably comes to mind would be images of children having a whale of a time on rides, swings as well as gorging on their favourite food and beverages. Again, imagine a school and our mind conjures up a vision of neatly attired teachers exhibiting poise and purpose as they help out energetic school students navigate the daily rigours of the curriculum.

Cut to the HT PACE Annual Teachers' Meet last Friday (Aug 30). The event held at the Adventure Island amusement park in Rohini amalgamated the two scenarios when 350 teachers from across Delhi and NCR let their hair down and engaged in fun and frolic, laughter and positive vibes quite like children would do on visits to any amusement park.

"A break from mundane activity refuels us for the upcoming challenges. Taking some time out for ourselves and sharing a few laughs was wonderful, said Manjulata Pandey from Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura.

Coming a week ahead of Teacher's Day, the proceedings at the meet, that was aptly themed 'Celebrating Teachers - The Ultimate Guides', kicked off with high tea.

As the teachers settled down, Tushar Raj Kumar, mentalist and training director of the Delhi School of Magic, took the stage to perform a wide range of acts ranging from magic to mind tricks that had the crowd gasping and cheering away to their hearts' content. "My prop is my audience. I love checking the pulse of the room and the audience and then adapt my acts according to them, so that everyone feels at ease," said Kumar. Summing up his experience during the show, he added: "I had a gala time performing for the teachers. They were so enthusiastic and interactive that I myself ended up getting entertained!"

The jubilant response from the teachers showed that Kumar struck a chord with the audience. "The show by Tushar was amazing. I have been coming to HT PACE's event for seven years now and I always end up having a great time," said English teacher Rachna Antil from the GD Goenka School, Paschim Vihar.



(Clockwise from top left) A section of the audience during the PACE Annual Teachers' Meet at the Adventure Island amusement park in Rohini; Teachers unwinding on one of the swings; Winners of the lucky draw; Some of the attendees trying an adrenaline-pumping ride; and Tushar Raj Kumar, mentalist and training director of the Delhi School of Magic, in the midst of a performance.

PHOTOS: SANJEEV VERMA/HT

Adventure Island emcee Sandeep Kalakaar also conducted a lively, highly entertaining interactive session that included songs, beatboxing and a lot more. "The teachers contributed so much to the show, it was really amazing. Had a bit of time crunch but I loved the energy of the crowd," Kalakaar said.

This was followed by a lucky draw during which five winners were Sonakshi Badhwar, Platinum Valley School, Surya Nagar; Nisha Dass, Queen Mary's School, Tis Hazari; Gunjan Popli, Springdales School, Dhaulakuan; Simran Khattar, Indraprastha International School, Dwarka; and Garima Tyagi, Bal Bharati Public School, Brij Vihar who were presented laptop bags.

Soon after, many adrenaline-seeking teachers lined up for thrilling rides while others interacted over a hearty lunch. Akriti Sinha from the DLF School of Sahibabad said it was her first time at the PACE Teachers' Meet. "It is unbelievable that we were all just allowed to take a day off. I had expected that there would be some thought-provoking sessions, but it was an amazing surprise that we were allowed to just sit back, relax and enjoy!" she said.

The event also provided a robust platform for many to exchange views. "This is my fourth time at the PACE Teachers' Meet. This was very innovatively done and served as a great opportunity to connect and network, while unwinding for the day," said

Rumpa Chowdhury from Modern School, Barakhamba Road.

"The efforts of HT PACE made my day and kept me hooked to the variety of events organised to pull us out of the mundane chores of life", said Parerna Sindal, DAV Sreshtha Vihar. "Hosting the event at the Adventure Island was a good decision. It gave attendees a chance to spend time together in a greener environment, away from the concrete jungle," said Purna Talwar, who teaches home science in DLF School, Sahibabad.

Seemingly satisfied with the experience, Rajiv Gosain, managing director of Adventure Island, Rohini, said it was a privilege to host teachers and give them a chance to relive their childhood.

## VRINDA INT'L SCHOOL, FARIDABAD, CELEBRATES ITS INVESTITURE CEREMONY

VRINDA International School, Faridabad, celebrated its investiture ceremony for the session 2024-2025 with the formation of the student councils for its senior and junior wings.

The chief guest for the event was Shweta Kumar, Principal (I/C) of IHM. The chief guest was escorted by the school band. Thereafter the ceremony started. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation as Kumar, along with school director and the principal conferred badges and sashes on the newly-elected leaders.

On that momentous occasion, Yuvraj Singh was appointed head boy while Vanshika Sharma was appointed head girl of the senior wing. Similarly, the junior wing celebrated the appointment of Aaryan Prasad as head boy and Aarna Singh as head girl.

The leadership roles were extended to all four houses — Gandhi, Tagore, Kalam, and Teresa—with students taking up positions as house captains, vice-captains, sports captains, cleanliness prefects, discipline prefects, and hospitality prefects.

The chief guest was very delighted and shared words of encouragement, inspiring students to lead with integrity and dedication.

Through a vote of thanks, the principal expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in making the event a success. Senior-wing council members delivered an energetic dance performance on the motivational song 'Kar Har Maidan Fateh'. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.



Badges & sashes were conferred on newly-elected leaders of the student council during the function

## ROLE OF EDUCATORS IN NURTURING YOUNG MINDS

## 'Teachers and parents should ensure children grow up as responsible citizens'

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men — this quote of Frederick Douglass signifies the tremendous importance that rests on the shoulders of our teachers of nurturing value-laden responsible global citizens.

Not everyone is called to become a school teacher, but certainly everyone plays a role of a teacher at some point of time or the other in their lives. Since the child spends a good portion of its formative years in acquiring an education, school environment is a critical factor and school teachers play a pivotal role in nurturing the young minds.

However, home and parents also have an equal responsibility in this entire process. Therefore, it is the shared responsibility of both school teachers and parents/guardians to spend time on grooming children in the right direction and ensuring that

they grow up as responsible citizens.

We witness that there are various changes taking place in the segment of education which demands teachers to be well-equipped to meet the expectations of 21st-century learners. It is an enormous task to remain up to date and committed to the noble profession of teaching so that students receive the best learning opportunities and guidance to be lifelong learners and be prepared for the future that remains unknown.

In this context, John Dewey has beautifully stated, "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow."

It is true that the role of a teacher has radically changed over the years because of the changes in the educational process.

A teacher's role is not relegated to the sidelines or substituted by technology; instead, the role has become



It is true that the role of a teacher has radically changed over the years because of the changes in the educational process, writes Grace Pinto (centre)

even more critical in the current journey of learning on the information highway. The teacher would need to be effective at engaging learners towards meaningful construction of knowledge, and encourage them through appropriate inte-

gration of technology to apply learning into action & relevant outcomes.

While technology would do its bit, teachers as facilitators add the desired human touch and provide opportunities to students to develop critical thinking skills and cultivate

values to help them become responsible lifelong learners as Aristotle had aptly said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all!"

Despite several challenges, there is so much joy among teachers as all that they do is because of their love and passion. September 5, the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, is a special day that is dedicated to all our beloved teachers to remember and thank them for their sacrifice and contribution to society.

Dear teachers, no matter the challenges you face, celebrate the joy of being a teacher that transforms eternity. I pray that Lord Jesus Christ blesses our teachers and their family abundantly.

Grace Pinto, Managing Director, Ryan Group of Institutions

## Gems International School, Gurugram, organises Concordia MUN 5.0 with zeal

Gems International School, Gurugram, organised Concordia Model United Nations (MUN) 5.0 conference with zeal, bringing together more than 350 young delegates from across India. The event was a huge success.

The event commenced with an inauguration ceremony led by school vice-principal Rohitash Raj.

The event, with its theme of 'War and Peace', served as a distinctive and invaluable platform for delegates. One of the event's highlights was the futuristic committee -- The Exodus Protocol (Climate Refugees and Global Resource Management) and the online committee- World Trade Organization, which focused on addressing the challenges of climate refugees, global resource management, and impact of global trade policies on international commerce.

In the exclusive committee, young delegates from Grades 6-8 explored innovative strategies to combat cli-



The event brought together over 350 young delegates from across India

mate change. They focused on sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration as powerful tools to mitigate the impacts of global warming, marking the beginning of their MUN journey. Another notable committee was the All-India Political Parties Meet where students discussed strategies to combat terrorism & ensure national security. The secretariat, led by chief advisor Anjali Yadav, secretary-general Jaspreet Kaur, and deputy secretary-general Viraaj Verma, played a vital role in organising the conference.

## FOCUS ON YOUNG FEMALE ATHLETES

## Artificial intelligence &amp; machine learning play an important role in advancing sports for Indian girls'

The rate of female engagement in sports in India is still far lower than that of males, largely due to social, cultural, and infrastructure hurdles.

Only approximately 30% of Indian athletes are female, according to recent data. Artificial intelligence (AI) & machine learning (ML) have revolutionary possibilities.

Tailored Education and Training Training techniques can be revolutionised by AI and ML, which can provide customised programmes based on the individual requirements and skills of each athlete.

Real-time data on physical performance can be collected by wearable technology and smart equipment, which AI algorithms can then evaluate to deliver personalised feedback and modify training plans.



AI and ML can revolutionise training techniques, writes Akshara Yadav, Class 12, Ghaziabad Public School, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad

## Getting Past Social and Cultural Barriers

Girls' participation in sports is restricted by socio-cultural norms in several regions of India. Through the

provision of virtual training platforms, AI can aid in closing this gap. Girls can practise sports in a secure and private setting, thanks to immersive training experiences provided by technologies like virtual reality and augmented reality.

## Social Support and Community Development

Social media platforms powered by AI can foster communities where young females can exchange stories about their successes, struggles, and life experiences. These platforms can offer inspiration, guidance, and peer support, forming a network of support that promotes ongoing sports involvement. Social media algorithms have the potential to promote a favourable image of women in sports by showcasing role models and success stories.



AI CONVENTION TO ENSURE NEW TECH DOESN'T ERODE OLD VALUES

# US, Britain, EU to sign first international AI treaty

Reuters

The first legally binding international AI treaty will be open for signing on Thursday by the countries that negotiated it, including European Union members, the United States and Britain, the Council of Europe human rights organisation said.

The AI Convention, which has been in the works for years and was adopted in May after discussions between 57 countries, addresses the risks AI may pose, while promoting responsible innovation.

"This Convention is a major step to ensuring that these new technologies can be harnessed without eroding our oldest values, like human rights and the rule of law," Britain's justice minister, Shabana Mahmood, said in a statement.

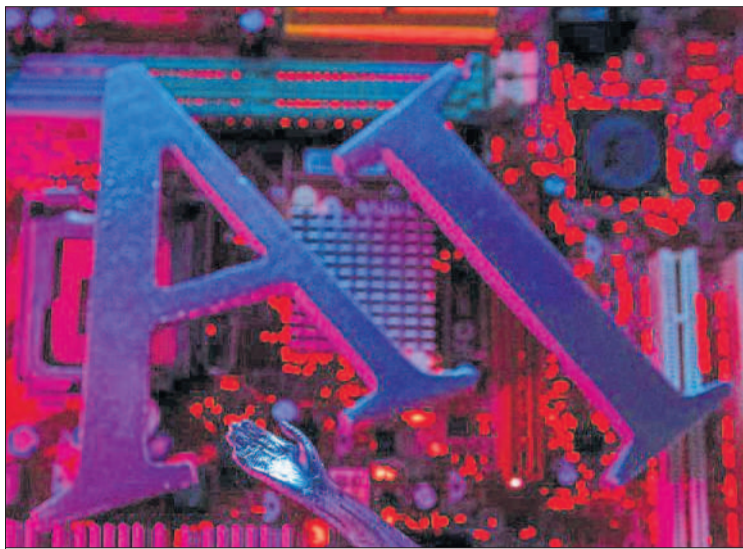
The AI Convention mainly focuses on the protection of human rights of people affected by AI systems and is separate from the EU AI Act, which entered into force last month.

The EU's AI Act entails comprehensive regulations on the development, deployment, and use of AI systems within the EU internal market.

The Council of Europe, founded in 1949, is an international organisation distinct from the EU with a mandate to safeguard human rights; 47 countries are members, including all the 27 EU member states.

An ad hoc committee in 2019 started examining the feasibility of an AI framework convention and a Committee on Artificial Intelligence was formed in 2022 which drafted and negotiated the text.

The signatories can choose to adopt or maintain legislative, admin-



Artificial Intelligence letters and robot hand are placed on computer motherboard. The AI Convention mainly focuses on the protection of human rights of people affected by AI systems and is separate from the EU AI Act, which entered into force last month.

REUTERS

THE AI CONVENTION, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR YEARS AND WAS ADOPTED IN MAY AFTER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN 57 COUNTRIES, ADDRESSES THE RISKS AI MAY POSE

istrative or other measures to give effect to the provisions.

Francesca Fanucci, a legal expert at ECNL (European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting) who contributed to the treaty's drafting process alongside other civil society groups, told Reuters the agreement

had been "watered down" into a broad set of principles.

"The formulation of principles and obligations in this convention is so overbroad and fraught with caveats that it raises serious questions about their legal certainty and effective enforceability," she said.

Fanucci highlighted exemptions on AI systems used for national security purposes, and limited scrutiny of private companies versus the public sector, as flaws.

"This double standard is disappointing," she added.

The UK government said it would work with regulators, the devolved administrations, and local authorities to ensure it can appropriately implement its new requirements.

## RUSHDIE'S MEMOIR AMONG 12 BOOKS UP FOR A TOP NONFICTION PRIZE

Associated Press

LONDON: Salman Rushdie's account of a stabbing attack that blinded him in one eye is among contenders for a prestigious nonfiction book prize.

Rushdie's memoir Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder is among 12 books on the long list for the £50,000 Baillie Gifford Prize.

The 77-year-old novelist recounts being attacked at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York in 2022 as he was about to deliver a lecture on keeping writers safe from harm. A New Jersey man, Hadi Matar, is awaiting trial for the stabbing. Prize judges called the book brutally clear, honest and, best of all, funny.

Rushdie won the Booker Prize for fiction in 1981 for Midnight's Children. He spent years in hiding after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, in 1989 calling for his death for the alleged blasphemy in his novel The Satanic Verses.

Other semi-finalists for the nonfiction prize include Australia's Richard Flanagan for his memoir Question 7 and several works on Asian history, including Gary J. Bass' Judgement at Tokyo: World War II on Trial and the Making of Modern Asia and Viet Thanh Nguyen's A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, A History, A Memorial.

Founded in 1999, the Baillie Gifford Prize recognizes English-language books from any country in current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts.

It has been credited with bringing an eclectic slate of fact-based books to a wider audience.

Finalists for the 2024 prize will be announced Oct. 10 and the winner will be crowned Nov. 19 at a ceremony in London

FELINE RIVALRY

# Larry, Downing Street cat, gets 'Russian' rival

Agence France-Presse

LONDON: Larry, the Downing Street cat, is facing a challenge to his position as the British government's chief mouser from a cute "Russian" kitten.

New Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his family, who moved into Number 10 after the Labour leader's win in July, brought their family cat JoJo with them.

Now after "negotiations" with the Starmer children -- who had wanted a German Shepherd dog -- it has been agreed that JoJo will also be joined by a "Siberian kitten".

"There's been a long summer of negotiations, back and forth, different options," Starmer told BBC radio in an interview broadcast on Monday.

"But now we've gone for... a kitten instead of a dog," he added.

But Larry has been top cat at the British prime ministerial residence in central London for the last 13 years.

The 17-year-old tabby was adopted from a cat rescue charity in 2011 to keep the Downing Street mice at bay, although then premier David Cameron revealed his performance left something to be desired.

Despite that, Larry has become a media star -- particularly popular with journalists -- and even has his own social media account @Number10cat.

Starmer revealed that feline rivalry was not the only issue with having pets in Downing Street.

"The problem we've got, which is the same for JoJo the cat, is that the only door out of our new flat is bomb proof," he said.

"Therefore, getting a cat flap is proving a little bit difficult," he added.



Larry, the Downing Street Cat, is pictured in London on Monday

AFP

Given Larry's celebrity status as the greatest survivor of the political upheaval of recent years, officials have even drawn up a detailed plan in the event of his death.

The arrival of the Starmer's new pet was welcomed by Sarah Elliott, central veterinary officer for the charity Cats Protection.

But she added a few words of advice for the Starmer's as they try to integrate the new addition.

"As the junior member of the growing cat coalition at Downing Street, the prime minister and his family will need to take plenty of time to slowly introduce the new addition to JoJo and Larry.

And she added: "Young kittens can be exhausting for older statesmen like Larry, so he'll also need a safe, quiet area to retreat to when the energy of a younger member of the team gets a bit too much," she added.

Larry himself on Tuesday made it clear he was still very much in charge.

"The kitten will REPORT to Larry the Cat," he said on X, via the human running his social media account.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

## Paralympics: Indian contingent records its best showing till date

India on Tuesday (Sept 3) night surged to a new record haul in a single edition of the Paralympics (an international multisport event that involves athletes with a range of disabilities). On Wednesday, India's tally swelled to 24 medals, that crossed the previous record of 19 medals in the Tokyo Paralympics three years ago.

With the Games scheduled to conclude on Saturday (Sept 7), till noon time on Thursday, India stood 13th in the medals tally with 24 medals (five golds, 9 silvers and 10 bronzes).

On Wednesday (Sept 4) Harvinder Singh became the first Indian para archer to win a Paralympics gold. Singh dominated his final against Poland's

Lukasz Ciszek to earn India its fourth gold medal at the event. He had won a bronze at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Earlier, Sumit Antil struck gold in the F64 javelin throw final on Monday (Sept 2) with an impressive Games record throw of 70.59m. He thus successfully defended the gold

medal he won at the previous Tokyo Paralympics to join an exclusive club of two other Indians who won back to back gold medals at successive Paralympics -- para shooter Avani Lekhara (who completed the feat by winning the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event in Paris on Aug 30), and Devendra Jhajharia. Shuttler Nitesh Kumar grabbed a dramatic top finish for the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category. Dharambir shattered the Asian record to strike gold -- India's fifth -- while compatriot Pranav Soorma clinched the silver in the men's club throw F51 on Wednesday (Sept 4). Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi won the mixed team compound archery bronze, making 17-year-old Sheetal the first Indian woman to win an archery medal at the Paralympics.



## US Open: Series of upsets this year

American player Jessica Pegula pulled off the latest in a series of shock results witnessed during the ongoing US Open tennis championships on Wednesday (Sept 4) when she knocked out No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland to secure a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time.



The tournament witnessed upsets last week when Australia's Alexei Popyrin stunned title favourite Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the third round on Saturday (Aug 31) and Dutch star Botic van de Zandschulp defeating world no. 3 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain in the second round last Thursday (Aug 29) to make things interesting in the last major of the season. Popyrin's vic-

tory marked the first time since 2017 that Djokovic will end the year without a Grand Slam title. It will also be the first time since 2002 that none of the 'Big Three' -- Djokovic, Swiss legend Roger Federer and Spanish great Rafael Nadal -- would have won a Grand Slam title.

With both Djokovic and Alcaraz out, the men's sin-

gles title race is wide open with world number 1 Jannik Sinner of Italy emerging as the clear favourite. Sinner advanced to his maiden US semi-final after beating 2021 title holder and world no. 4 Daniil Medvedev of Russia on Wednesday. Sinner won his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open this year and also reached the French Open semis this year.

## Shreyovi Mehta

Nine-year-old Shreyovi Mehta is among the winners of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award announced last week. Her submission titled In the Spotlight, that shows peahens at the Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur, was named runner-up in the 10 Years and Under section. The Class 5 student's entry was among nearly 60,000 from 117 nations and territories. She will receive the prize at the Natural History Museum, London, on October 8.



HT CHRONICLE from the archives of the Hindustan Times Quiz no. 06092024

### The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924



- In which year was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru released from Almora jail by the Governor-General-in-Council to allow him to join his wife in view of the latter's critical condition?  
A. 1935 B. 1937  
C. 1940 D. 1942
- In which year was Panipat included in the National Capital Region?  
A. 1962 B. 1965  
C. 1968 D. 1971

- In which year did the Indian Refineries Ltd. and the Indian Oil Company have merge to form the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. with a share capital of Rs 75 crores?  
A. 1953 B. 1956  
C. 1960 D. 1964
- In which month in 1946 was the first popular Indian Government took over in Delhi as the result of a bloodless revolution?  
A. August B. September  
C. November D. December



- Ace shooter Karni Singh earned for India their first medal, a silver, of the 1974 Asian Games held in Tehran, Iran, when he finished the runner-up in the individual trap event. What was his score in that event?  
A. 181 B. 185  
C. 189 D. 193
- Till the 1974 Asian Games held in Tehran, Iran, Indian ace shooter Karni Singh's career-best performance was at the Cairo World championship in 1962. What was his score?  
A. 195/200 B. 198/200  
C. 193/200 D. 191/200



- In which year were matches first sold, by the inventor, John Walker, a Stockton chemist?  
A. 1801 B. 1807  
C. 1819 D. 1825
- Mahatma Gandhi broke his 73-hour fast on September 4, 1947 in Calcutta. Who was the President of the Congress party at that time?  
A. Acharya Kripalani  
B. C. Rajagopalachari  
C. Dr P. C. Ghosh  
D. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- On which day in 1971 was USSR's Luna-18 spacecraft launched?  
A. Jan 28 B. Aug 19  
C. Sept 2 D. Dec 7

- In which year did Viking 2 touch down on Mars and send back the first two photographs of that planet?  
A. 1969 B. 1973  
C. 1976 D. 1978
- In which year did the B.O.A.C. Comet set up a record covering the 466-mile distance between Allahabad and Calcutta in just under 80

- minutes on a proving flight?  
A. 1951 B. 1955  
C. 1959 D. 1963
- On which day in 1964 was the prize distribution function of the ninth State awards for excellence in printing of books and other publications held?  
A. May 20 B. Aug 15  
C. Sept 1 D. Oct 2

### Answers to quiz #30082024

- October 21
- 98 not out
- 38
- 82
- 1998
- 1991
- 32
- 1961
- 1903
- June
- 1991
- 1984

### CONTENT FOR QUIZ CALLOUT

Send in your answers separated by commas to <http://acedelhi@hindustantimes.com> (For example: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D ... and so on) Subject Line: Answers for Quiz #06092024

Send in your entry by September 11, 2024. Remember: Earlier you respond, better your chances to win. The quiz is open only to school students.



A NEW RESEARCH SHOWS IT REALLY DOES AFFECT THEIR SLEEP

# It's almost impossible to keep teens off their phones in bed

A research has found that using screens in bed was worse for sleep than using screens for hours before going to bed. Sleep guidelines recommend no screen use in the hour or two before bed. But experts found screen time in the two hours before bed had little impact on young people's sleep. Instead, it was screen time once in bed that caused problems.

## The Conversation/PTI

**DUNEDIN:** Parents of children and teenagers have long been warned about the dangers of screen time and digital devices before bed — the worry being that screens could harm the sleep patterns of young people.

But do screens really hurt the length and quality of sleep? Our new research found that using screens in bed was worse for sleep than using screens for hours before going to bed.

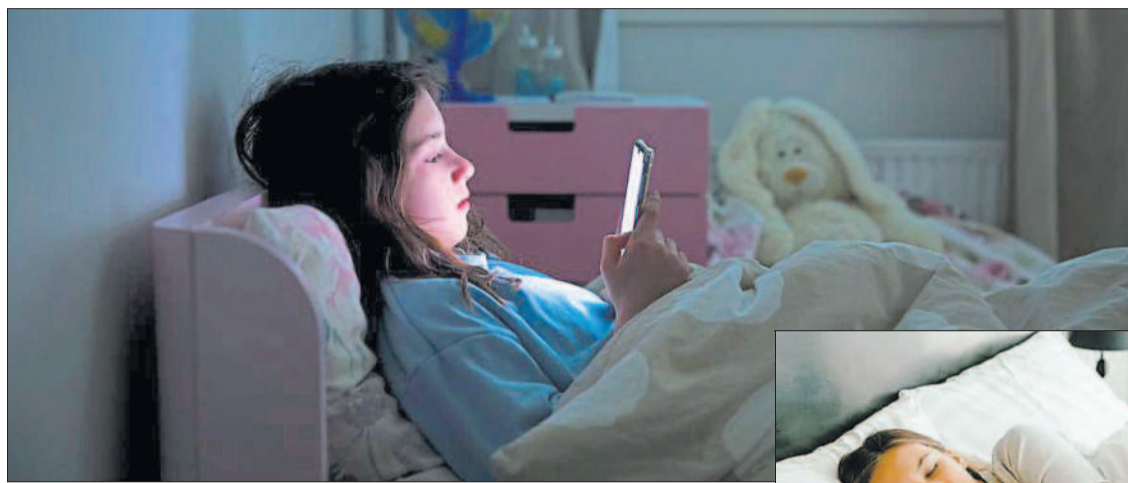
Sleep guidelines recommend no screen use in the hour or two before bed. But we found screen time in the two hours before bed had little impact on young people's sleep. Instead, it was screen time once in bed that caused problems.

Using cameras to track device usage and sleep, we found using a device in bed could cause more harm than screen time right up to bedtime.

These findings challenge long-held assumptions about screen time at night and could help parents improve the quality of their children's sleep.

## Connecting sleep and screens

A number of global organisations recommend adolescents stop using devices in the hour or two before bed, and instead undertake activities like read-



Some latest findings challenge long-held assumptions about screen time at night and could help parents improve the quality of their children's sleep. The simple message might be to keep laptops and mobiles out of the bedroom. A number of organisations recommend adolescents stop using devices in the hour or two before bed, and instead undertake activities like reading a book or quiet time with the family. SHUTTERSTOCK

ing a book or quiet time with the family.

But these recommendations are based on research with a number of limitations.

The studies were designed in such a way that researchers could link sleep and screens. But they don't tell us if changes in how young people used screens had an effect on the length or quality of sleep.

Most of the existing research also used questionnaires to assess both screen time and sleep. Questionnaires are unlikely to capture true screen time accurately, particularly if you are interested in knowing more than just how long an adolescent has spent on their device.

To address some of these weaknesses in the previous research, we asked 85 adolescents aged between 11 and 14 to wear a body camera on their chest for the three hours before bed, for four nights.

These cameras faced outwards and accurately captured when, what and how adolescents used their screens. Because we were interested in overnight screen time as well, a second infrared camera was placed on a tri-

pod in the teenagers bedroom and captured their screen time while in bed. The research participants also wore an actigraph — a watch-sized device that objectively measured screen time.

## Teen nighttime activity

It quickly became obvious the adolescents spent a lot of their screen time while in bed.

Our analysis looked at two time periods — from the two hours before they got into bed, and from once they were in bed (clearly under the covers) until they put their devices down and were clearly trying to go to sleep.

Our data showed 99% of the adolescents used screens in the two hours before bed, more than half once they were in bed, and a third even after first trying to go to sleep for the night. Just one teenager did not use screens before bed on any of the four nights.

The screen time before they got into bed had little impact on their sleep that night. However, screen time once in bed did impair their sleep. It stopped them from going to sleep for about half an hour, and reduced the amount of sleep they got that night.



DIGITAL PAUSE

# France pilots school mobile phone ban

Agence France-Presse

**PARIS:** Tens of thousands of pupils in France are going through a slightly different return to school this autumn, deprived of their mobile phones. At 180 "colleges", the middle schools French children attend between the ages of 11 and 15, a scheme is being trialled to ban the use of mobile phones during the entire school day.

The trial of the "pause numérique" ("digital pause"), which encompasses more than 50,000 pupils, is being implemented ahead of a possible plan to enforce it nationwide from 2025.

Right now, pupils in French middle schools must turn off their phones. The experiment takes things further, requiring children to hand in their phones on arrival.

It is part of a move by President Emmanuel Macron for children to spend less time in front of screens, which the government fears is arresting their development.

The use of "a mobile phone or any other electronic communications terminal equipment" has been banned in nurseries, elementary schools and middle schools in France since 2018.

In high schools, which French children attend between the ages of 15 and 18, internal regulations may prohibit the use of a cell phone by pupils in "all or part of the premises." Bruno Bobkiewicz, general secretary of SNPDEN-Unsa, France's top union of school principals, said the 2018 law had been enforced "pretty well overall".

## Improving 'school climate'

The experiment comes after Macron said in January he wanted to "regulate the use of screens among young children." According to a report submitted to Macron, children under 11 should not be allowed to use phones, while access to social networks should be limited for pupils under 15.

With an increasing amount of research showing the risks of excessive screen time for children, the concern has become a Europe-wide issue. Sweden's Public Health Agency said this week children under the age of two should be kept away from digital media and television completely



The French education ministry hopes that the cellphone-free environment would improve 'school climate' and reduce online harassment

and it should be limited for more senior ages.

One of Britain's biggest mobile network operators, EE, has warned parents they should not give smartphones to children under the age of 11.

The French education ministry hopes that the cellphone-free environment would improve "school climate" and reduce online harassment and dissemination of violent images.

The ministry also wants to improve student performance because the use of telephones harms "the ability to concentrate" and "the acquisition of knowledge". The experiment also aims to "raise pupils' awareness of the rational use of digital tools".

## 'Complicated to implement'

According to the education ministry, "it is up to each establishment to determine practical arrangements", with the possibility of setting up a locker system. Pupils will have to hand in their phones on arrival, putting them in boxes or lockers. They will collect them at the end of classes. The ban also extends to extracurricular activities and school trips.

But the enforcement of the measure across all schools in France from January 2025 could be expensive.

According to local authorities, the measure could cost "nearly 130 million euros" for the 6,980 middle schools in France.

If a phone goes missing from a locker, this would also cause an added financial problem.

Education Minister Nicole Belloubet said on Tuesday that the ban would be "put in place gradually".

**Corrigendum-IV**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAY  
RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION  
MANAK NAGAR, LUCKNOW - 226011

**E-OGT Notice No.: 03235007A/170**  
The following amendment is notified in the above Tender Notice issued by this office for

S.N.	Tender Number	Brief Description	Last Date of submission/ Opening of Tender
			FROM TO
1.	03235007A	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 08 NOS. (04 SETS) OF INSTRUMENTED MEASURING WHEEL (IMW) ALONG WITH ALL CONCOMITANT ACCESSORIES FOR 04 VARIANTS OF ROLLING STOCKS (RS) OF INDIAN RAILWAYS. (04 SETS) OF INSTRUMENTED MEASURING WHEEL (IMW) FOR 04 VARIANTS OF ROLLING STOCKS as per item NSI.	05/09/2024 (Thursday) 17/09/2024 (Tuesday)

For complete details of tender conditions and Corrigendum issued in tender, if any, please visit IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Executive Director/Stores/RDSO/Lucknow

**MANOHAR PARIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**  
No.1, Development Enclave, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110 010  
Tele No-011-26717983, Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in)  
(Advertisement No : MP-IDSA/0267/2024)

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Applications are invited for the following positions:-

S. No.	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Current Pay Structure
1.	Assistant Director (Admin)	01	Equivalent to Pay Level 13 to 7th CPC Pay Matrix (Rs. 1,23,100-2,15,900)

The details of the posts along with eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, experience etc. are given in the Institute's website at <http://www.idsa.in/jobs>.  
Last date of application - 23rd September, 2024.  
CBC 10113/11/0003/2425

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

Letter No: 793 Date: 05/09/2024

**Short Term Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Pathri Power House, Bahadrad, Hardwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:-

- Tender No.: 16/EE(Pathri)/2024-25** - Inspection & Testing of various equipment & T&P of Pathri Power House.
- Tender No.: 17/EE(Pathri)/2024-25** - Repairing & Maintenance of Trash Rack Screens of Power House.
- Tender No.: 18/EE(Pathri)/2024-25** - Supply & Application of coating material over the surface of stay vanes of Unit no. 1 of Power House.

**Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,06,800/- (GST extra), Rs. 18,88,970/- (GST extra) & Rs. 24,68,412/- (GST extra) respectively.  
**Date of availability of bid document on website:** 06.09.2024  
**Last date for submission of tender:** 19.09.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)"  
Executive Engineer (M&G)  
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**File No. Research Study/109/2024-NCM**  
**National Commission for Minorities**  
Government of India  
1st Floor, Block No. 14, CGO Complex  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

**Tender Notice**  
The National Commission for Minorities (NCM), a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs is inviting sealed bids from interested agencies for conducting a study on the topic 'Outreach to the Sikh Community'. The details may be seen under 'Tender Section' at NCM website: [www.ncm.nic.in](http://www.ncm.nic.in)

Sd/-  
(S. Najeem Ahmed)  
Research Officer  
CBC 27102/11/0001/2425

**JODHPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (NORTH)**  
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN  
**'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST'**  
**AMUSEMENT PARK**  
(KERU ROAD, KHASARA No 27 REVENUE VILLAGE GENWA JODHPUR)  
S NO. 395 UB NO. DLB2425WLOB07254 Date : 03.09.2024

JODHPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (JMC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) with Proposed Concepts from reputed organizations with proven track record for the selection of PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERS (PPP) to Develop "AMUSEMENT PARK" at KERU ROAD, KHASARA No 27 REVENUE VILLAGE GENWA JODHPUR in Design, Build, Operate, Maintain and Transfer mode, as per the terms and conditions laid down in EOI Document.

JMC has envisioned the following 'AMUSEMENT PARK' from Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation, Adventure, Amusement & Entertainment Sectors

- AMUSEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT PARK with an array of innovative & unique Amusement and Entertainment concepts, as Ferris wheel, Roller coaster, Tora Tora Ride, Columbus, Drop Tower and Carousel etc.
- FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT Center with Multiplex Food Court and Laser light show etc.
- SPORTS & RECREATION ARENA with Indoor & Outdoor Gymnasium.
- ECO-RESORT with Wellness Center & Health Spa with Nature-cure, Yoga & Meditation Center etc.
- CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE PARK with fun and entertainment zone with Trampoline, Bumper Car Ride, Caterpillar Toy Train, Rope Course and Zip cycle etc.

The Developers shall be free to implement their own concepts and designs taking into consideration all the applicable Building Regulations, Bylaws/Norms & Zonal Regulations, as applicable for the project site and all civil constructions shall be safe and green rated buildings

Mr. BHARAT KUMAR TEEPAN, SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER, JMC(N), Jodhpur can be contacted (Mobile No. +91-7339864452) for 'Site Visit' with prior intimation. Renowned Developers with proven track record in implementing similar projects can download the Expression of Interest (EOI) Document from 09-09-2024 3:00 pm onwards from "JMC" Website: <https://rajasthan.gov.in/mcjin>, <https://sppp.raj.gov.in> Please furnish a Demand Draft/Pay Order for Rs. 10,000/- towards (EOI) Processing Fee' for project, in favour of 'Commissioner Nagar Nigam Jodhpur North payable at Jodhpur, along with (EOI) Document while submitting your (EOI). The filled-in 'Expression of Interest document should reach The Superintendent Engineer, Zone Soorsagar I, Nagar Nigam Jodhpur, near polytechnic college, Gaurav path, Jodhpur(Rajasthan)-342001 Phones: 02912651483 FAX: 02912651483, Email: [njnorth@gmail.com](mailto:njnorth@gmail.com) before 07-10-2024 3:00 PM.

On or before 07-10-2024 in sealed envelope containing hard and soft copy.  
PRE-BID MEETING SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON 20-09-2024 AT 03:00 PM  
Commissioner  
Nagar Nigam Jodhpur North  
Raj.Samwadi/C24/4778

**NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA**  
NEW DELHI - 110001  
(An autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**  
**24th BHARAT RANG MAHOTSAV, 2025**  
(INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL OF INDIA)

National School of Drama invites proposals for participation in the 24th Bharat Rang Mahotsav-International Theatre Festival of India which will be held in New Delhi and other cities of the country in February, 2025.

Applications are invited online only from interested Theatre groups/Drama Institutions/Theatre Organizations/Directors from both India and abroad.

For detailed information and application form please visit NSD website [www.nsd.gov.in](http://www.nsd.gov.in). (Link for will be activated w.e.f. 05 September, 2024).

Last date of submission of application is 30th September, 2024.

Enquiry:  
Phone: 011- 23073647, 011- 23031116  
Website: [www.nsd.gov.in](http://www.nsd.gov.in)  
CBC 09130/12/0006/2425

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FOOTBALL

Messi missing from Ballon d'Or nominees

PARIS: Lionel Messi will not win another Ballon d'Or this year after being left out of the nominees revealed by organisers on Wednesday, as stars of Spain's Euro 2024-winning team and Real Madrid's Champions League victors feature heavily.

Messi claimed the eighth Ballon d'Or of his glittering career last year. Now aged 37, he is not among the 30 contenders this time despite winning another title with Argentina at the Copa America in July.

The former Barcelona superstar, now playing club football in MLS for Inter Miami, was also missing from the nominees in 2022 when Karim Benzema took the honours.

However, he returned to win last year after leading Argentina to glory at the World Cup in Qatar.

The most prestigious individual award in football is voted for by a jury of journalists from each of the top 100 countries in FIFA's world ranking.

Brazil forward Vinicius Junior is among the favourites and is one of six

members of the Madrid team that won La Liga and the Champions League last season to be nominated.

Jude Bellingham, Dani Carvajal, Toni Kroos, Antonio Ruediger and Fede Valverde are the others, while Kylian Mbappe — who left Paris Saint-Germain for Real over the close season — features too.

Carvajal is among the contenders from the victorious Spain team alongside Alejandro Grimaldo, Dani Olmo, Rodri, Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal.

Manchester City's Norwegian star Erling Haaland and England and Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane are on the list as well, but there is no place for five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo, now 39.

Xabi Alonso, who won the Bundesliga in an unbeaten season with Bayer Leverkusen, is among the favourites for best coach.

His rivals include Real Madrid's Carlo Ancelotti and Spain's Luis de la Fuente.



Lionel Messi won the Copa America with Argentina earlier this year.

AFP

CRICKET

Musheer's century carries India B to 202/7

BENGALURU: Rishabh Pant's much-awaited return to red-ball cricket lasted a mere 10 balls and 15 minutes but Musheer Khan's resolute unbeaten hundred carried India B to 202/7 against India A on the opening day of the four-day Duleep Trophy contest here on Thursday.

Before Musheer (105 not out, 227b, 10x4, 2x6) and Navdeep Saini (29 not out, 74b, 4x4, 1x6) fought back for India B with a stand of 108 for the eighth wicket, they were in a huge hole at 94/7 as India A skipper Shubman Gill made the prudent choice of bowling first under overcast skies.

But Musheer, younger brother of Sarfaraz Khan (9), saved his side from a total collapse with an innings of

rare maturity that belied his 19 tender years.

When the right-hander entered the field at No.3 in the 14th over after the fall of Abhimayu Easwaran, the bowlers were right on top as a canopy of dark clouds hung over the Chinnaswamy.

Easwaran, usually a tightly organised batter, played a casual waft outside the off-stump off Avesh Khan and stumper Dhruv Jurel completed a superb diving catch just in front of KL Rahul at first slip.

Musheer had more than one worry to nullify. There was appreciable bounce, carry and movement for the India A pacers, who operated for a large part of the day.

SHOOTING

Mahit clinches gold medal in deaf Worlds

NEW DELHI: India's Mahit Sandhu clinched the gold medal in the women's 50m rifle prone event while Abhinav Deshwal secured silver in the men's 25m pistol, on the fifth day of the second World Deaf Shooting Championship at Hanover, Germany.

With those two medals, India increased their tally to 15, including four gold, seven silver and four bronze medals. This was Sandhu's

second gold and overall third medal in the Deaf Shooting Worlds. Earlier, she had won gold in the mixed 10m air rifle along with Dhanush Srikanth and silver in the 10m air rifle individual event. She shot 247.4 in the finals, 2.2 more than Hungary's Mira Biatovszki. The Indian shooter qualified for the finals after topping qualification with 617.8. Natasha Joshi finished seventh in the finals.

FOOTBALL



South Korea's Son Heung-min in action against Palestine during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Asia zone qualifiers on Thursday.

AFP

PARALYMPICS

Dharambir shatters Asian record to clinch gold in Paris

PARIS: Dharambir shattered the Asian record to win the gold medal while compatriot Pranav Soorma clinched the silver as Indian club throwers dominated the men's F51 event at the Paralympics here.

After four fouled attempts, the 35-year-old world championships bronze medallist from Sonapat, Dharambir, hurled the club to a distance of 34.92m in his fifth attempt to claim the top spot on the podium on Wednesday.

Soorma, who injured his spinal chord at 16 when a cement sheet fell on his head, then produced a throw of 34.59m in his first attempt but the 29-year-old from Faridabad couldn't better and get past Dharambir as India completed a one-two.

The third Indian in the fray, 2017 world championship silver medallist, trailblazing Indian para-athlete and Dharambir's mentor, Amit Kumar Saroha, however, finished last with a best effort of 23.96m.

Serbia's Filip Graovac bagged the bronze, courtesy a 34.18m throw in his second attempt.

The F51 club throw event is for athletes who have movement affected to a high degree in the trunk, legs and hands. All the competitors compete while seated and rely on their shoulders and arm to generate power.

From paralysis to Paralympic glory

Dharambir faced a life-altering accident when a misjudged dive into a canal left him paralysed from the waist down. Para-sports gave him a new direction in life when he was introduced to it by fellow para-athlete Amit Kumar Saroha.

Within two years, Dharambir qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympics, marking the beginning of a successful career. He has since earned multiple medals for India, including a silver at the 2022 Asian Para Games.

A cricket and roller hockey enthusiast, Soorma too was just another teenager when a cement sheet fell on his head when he was 16, leaving him paralysed after causing a severe spinal cord injury.

Support of his family and a positive mindset helped him to turn to meditation and academics, where he excelled with 91.2 per cent in his 12th board exams. He then pursued a postgraduate degree from the Delhi School of Economics and secured a job as an Assistant Manager at the Bank of Baroda.

Pranav rediscovered his love for sports through para-athletics and soon received success as he won a sil-



Dharambir of India on the podium after winning the gold medal in the men's F51 club throw event.

REUTERS

ver medal at the 2019 Beijing Grand Prix, a gold medal at the Serbia Open 2023, and both gold and silver medals at the Tunisia Grand Prix 2022.

He also produced a record-setting throw at the Asian Para Games 2023, where he won gold in the men's club throw F51 event.

"I am feeling very proud. For any

athlete, winning a medal at the Olympics (Paralympics) is a dream and my dream has come true with this. My guide Amit Kumar Saroha has played a big role in it," Dharambir said.

"We came into the sport after getting to know about him (Amit Saroha), I hope the next generation (of athletes) will see us and get into

this sport," he added.

Dharambir, who has taken guidance from the 39-year-old Amit, dedicated the award to the veteran sportsperson.

"I dedicate this award to my guru Amit Saroha. His blessings are with me since the start and that is why I was able to win this medal," he said.

US OPEN

Sinner beats Medvedev, to face Draper in semi-finals

NEW YORK: Jannik Sinner closed in on his second Grand Slam title of 2024 on Wednesday when he reached his maiden US Open semi-final as Jessica Pegula stunned Iga Swiatek to complete a rollercoaster Grand Slam year for the world No.1.

Top seed Sinner defeated 2021 US Open champion and two-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

He will take on 25th-ranked Jack Draper for a place in the final after the British player made his first semi-final at the Slams with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 win over Australia's Alex de Minaur.

Sinner, 23, is the only top-10 man to make the semi-finals with No.12 Taylor Fritz due to face US compatriot Frances Tiafoe, ranked 20, in Friday's other last-four duel.

Sixth-ranked Pegula booked a place in the last-four of a Grand Slam for the first time by sweeping past Swiatek 6-2, 6-4.

On Thursday, she will tackle Karolina Muchova who saw off Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil 6-1, 6-4.

Emma Navarro of the US tackles world number two and Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka in the other women's semi-final.

"It was very tough, I knew it would be very physical," said Sinner, who had also beaten Medvedev to capture the Australian Open.

"It was strange in the first two sets, whoever got the break started to roll." Medvedev had to save 10 of 15 break



Jannik Sinner of Italy returns a shot against Russian Daniil Medvedev.

GETTY

points while his dream of making a 10th Slam semi-final was undermined by 57 unforced errors.

Draper pulled off the victory over 10th-ranked De Minaur despite taking a medical timeout early in the second set to have his right thigh bandaged.

"It's amazing. My first time on Arthur Ashe Stadium, it means the world to me," said Draper, who had lost three times in three meetings with De Minaur before Wednesday.

"I played a solid match and I feel the best, fitness-wise, that I have felt in a long time."

Draper is the first British man to make the last four since Andy Murray won the title 12 years ago.

He has made the semi-finals without dropping a set as he continued an impressive summer run which saw him capture his first ATP title in Stuttgart and then defeat Carlos Alcaraz at Queen's Club. Draper sent down 11 aces among his 40 winners while forcing De Minaur to fend off 14 of 20 break points. The British player enjoys a 1-0 lead over Sinner in the pair's head-to-head record although that win at Queen's came three years ago.

KAPIL PARMAR TO VIE FOR BRONZE IN JUDO; KOKILA LOSES IN QUARTER-FINALS

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: India's Kapil Parmar lost to Iran's S Banitaba Khorram Abadi in the 60kg (J1) men's para judo semi-final of the Paralympics and will now compete for the bronze medal, here on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Parmar was beaten 0-10 in the semi-finals by his Iranian opponent here at the Champs-de-mart arena.

The J1 class in para judo is for the athletes who suffer from no to very low visual activity. Athletes in this category wear red circles to indicate that they may need guided support before, during and after a contest.

Parmar, who won the silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games in the same category, had earlier beaten Venezuela's Marco Dennis Blanco 10-0 in the quarter-final.

Parmar was, however, handed a yellow card in each of the two contests on Thursday.

Kokila loses

Meanwhile, India's Kokila suffered a defeat to Kazakhstan's Akmaral Nautatbek 0-10 in her women's 48kg J2 class quarter-finals.

Later, Kokila was beaten by Ukraine's Yuliia Ivanytska 0-10 in her J2 Final of Repechage A, a contest wherein she was handed three yellow cards while her opponent got two.

Yellow cards in judo are given for minor violations such as passivity or using a technique that might hinder the opponent or cause injury.

In J2 category, the competing athletes have partial eyesight.



**NBT BOOKLIST**

**Fascinating books on nature and its elements**

The Littlest Wave intertwines themes of friendship and self-acceptance. Growing Up With Trees is an evocative story that highlights the ecological importance of trees. Adventure on Clee Island is a captivating tale that blends elements of adventure and science fiction. Also featured are two delightful reads -- The Monsoons, a well-researched book and the Voyage of Ganga.

**ADVENTURE ON CLEE ISLAND**

Author: Tanuka Bhaumik Dowd

Adventure on Clee Island is a thrilling science fiction tale set in the year 2070, combining mystery and exploration with advanced technology, robots, and high-tech devices. The story follows three young adventurers who uncover hidden secrets and face unexpected challenges on Clee Island. Their journey is driven by a mission to protect the environment, particularly the bird species maintained by an old lady they encounter. As they navigate the island's mysteries, they not only save the old lady and her birds but also learn valuable lessons about environmental conservation.



**THE LITTELST WAVE**

Author: Sumana Chandavarkar

The Littlest Wave is a delightful story that explores the special friendship between a young girl named Ahalya and a small wave on its journey across the vast ocean. As the littlest wave travels, it deals with feelings of insignificance when compared to the larger, more powerful waves around it. Through its adventures, the wave embarks on a journey of self-discovery, learning valuable lessons about its own worth and individuality. Ahalya, who finds immense joy in the wave's presence, reveals how even the smallest beings can deeply impact our lives. The Littlest Wave serves as a reminder that everyone has a unique role to play in the world.



**VOYAGE OF GANGA**

Voyage of Ganga explores the deep cultural heritage of the Ganga river. This book presents a collection of short stories that highlight the cultural, historical, and environmental journey of the Ganga as it flows from Gangotri to Haldia. Each narrative delves into the unique culture, history, and literature of towns and cities like Rishikesh, Haridwar, Varanasi, and Kolkata. The book vividly illustrates how the Ganga influences literature, spirituality, and daily life, showcasing both its beauty and the challenges it faces. Through its engaging storytelling, Voyage of Ganga pays tribute to the enduring legacy of the river, emphasising its vital role in India's cultural identity. It also highlights the river's importance in shaping Indian heritage.



**GROWING UP WITH TREES**

Author: Ruskin Bond

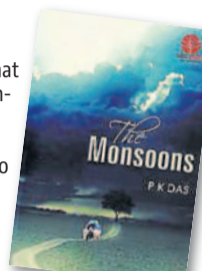
Growing Up with Trees by Ruskin Bond is a masterfully crafted collection that delves into the deep connection between humans and nature. This collection of short stories revolves around trees and their significant role in our lives. He shares his personal experiences with trees, recounting memories from childhood to adulthood, and illustrating how they have shaped his life. Each story vividly captures the profound influence trees have had on his personal and emotional development, serving as a source of inspiration and solace. The book is a celebration of the difficult relationship between humans and the natural world.



**THE MONSOONS**

Author: PK Das

The Monsoons is a meticulously researched book that offers a comprehensive exploration of India's monsoon season, delving into its scientific intricacies. The book examines the formation of the monsoon and highlights the groundbreaking 1979 Monsoon Experiment, where researchers used constant-level balloons to trace its genesis. Through detailed explanations, the author provides insights into the complex dynamics of tropical atmospheric phenomena and their profound significance in shaping India's national life and heritage. The Monsoons serve as an invaluable resource for students.



**HANDS ON**

**DIY LAMP CRAFT**

**SUPPLIES**

- Tissue
- Glue
- Water
- Inflated balloon
- Brush
- Thread
- Scissors
- Light bulb
- Electrical wires

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Mix glue and water in a small bowl. Using this solution, start pasting tissue papers piece by piece on the inflated balloon with a brush.

Completely cover the balloon, leaving its base where the knot is tied. You can also paste real

leaves and flowers in between tissue papers to give it a more aesthetic look.

Once the tissues have dried up, pop and remove the balloon. Evenly shape the circular bottom end of the lamp with scissors.

Now, poke a hole on both the ends of the open lamp and add thread/string to hang it.

Fit a light bulb inside the lamp with electrical wires and connect it to a power socket.



**UNDER THE SEA PAPER PLATE CRAFT**

**SUPPLIES**

- Paper plates (blue or white)
- Sand
- Small shells
- Blue glitter glue
- Tissue paper in bright colours
- Green felt in various shades (or more tissue paper)
- White glue
- Scissors
- Marker pens

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Start by painting a white paper plate blue and let it dry.

Apply white glue to the bottom half of the paper plate, then sprinkle over the sand until it completely covers the area.

It's important to shake off the excess at this stage, or else any of the details that are added on top will fall off with the

loose sand.

Add the felt pieces to create seaweed and glue little shells in different sizes and styles onto the sand. Quite a lot of glue will be needed to paste them, but once dried they stay in place well.

Draw and cut out little fish and sea creatures from the tissue paper

and add details with pens. Glue these onto the background (see image) and under the sea scene comes to life!

Over the top of this whole scene, you can add blue glitter glue, using a paintbrush.

Let it dry. The plate really sparkles and twinkles in the light and looks gorgeous.



**WHAT'S COOKING**

**MUSHROOM PULAO**

**INGREDIENTS**

½ bunch coriander, ½ bunch mint, 3 chillies, 1 inch ginger, 3 cloves garlic, 7 pods cardamom, ½ tsp pepper, 2 tbsp ghee, 1 tsp cumin, 1 bay leaf, 1 javitri, ½ tsp cloves, 1 pod black cardamom, 1 onion, sliced, 20 mushrooms, chopped, 1 tsp salt, 1 tomato, chopped, ½ tsp turmeric, ½ tsp garam masala, 2 cup water, 1 cup basmati rice, soaked 20 minutes



**METHOD**

Make a smooth paste of coriander, mint, chili, ginger, garlic, 4 pods of cardamom, and pepper in a mixer after adding a little bit of water.

Heat a pressure cooker, add ghee and saute cumin, bay leaf, 3 pods cardamom, javitri, cloves and 1 pod black cardamom.

Sauté the spices on low flame and then add onion and sauté till the onion changes

colour. Now add 20 mushrooms, 1 tsp salt and sauté them till the mushrooms turn aromatic.

In the cooker, add the prepared masala paste and cook till oil separates. Now add tomato, turmeric, garam masala and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Pour in 2 cups of water and bring to a boil. To this, add basmati rice. Mix gently. Pressure cook the dish on medium flame for 2 whistles.

**MEXICAN CORN SALAD**

**INGREDIENTS**

5 cups corn, 2 tbsp butter, 2 garlic cloves, minced, 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper, 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 1/4 cup yoghurt, 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, finely grated, 1 cup coriander leaves, roughly chopped, 1 cup green onion, finely sliced, 1/2 red onion, finely chopped, 2 - 3 tbsp lime juice, fresh  
**Garnishes:** 60g Feta cheese, crumbled (optional), Jalapeno slices, coriander leaves, lime wedges



**METHOD**

Cut the corn off the cob. If using frozen, do not thaw.

Melt butter in a large pan, add garlic and stir for 10 seconds. Add corn and cook for 5 minutes, stirring every now and then, until you get lovely golden-brown bits, and the corn is cooked and sweet.

Add salt and pepper halfway through cooking corn.

Transfer corn into large bowl. Add mayonnaise, yoghurt, lime juice and parmesan. Toss well to combine - heat will "melt" the dressing. Add coriander leaves, red onion, green onion and jalapeno. Toss again.

Transfer to serving bowl. Crumble feta for garnishing, or use garnishes of choice. Serve at room temperature. Enjoy!

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