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**TIMES Special**

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**Singapore's Temasek buys a majority stake in Manipal Hospitals — country's second biggest chain — for over \$2bn, making it the largest deal in Indian healthcare space P 19**

**Classified documents detailing secret US and Nato plans for building up Ukrainian military ahead of planned offensive against Russian troops posted on Twitter & Telegram P 17**

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## Orphans get 1% quota in Maha

The state government has issued an order providing 1% reservation for orphans in education and government jobs. Children who lost both parents before turning 18 would be eligible for jobs. While there are over 4,000 orphaned state orphans alone, around 800 children in the state have lost both parents to Covid-19.

## 'Suicide note is in IITB boy's writing'

The suicide note allegedly left behind by IIT Bombay student Darshan Selanki, is in his handwriting, police said quoting the handwriting experts department. Police said the SIT has collected Selanki's answersheets as well as his notes and matched those with the note. P 3

## Trans as 'caste' in survey sparks row

The Bihar government's move to designate the third gender as a "separate caste" in the ongoing caste survey has triggered strong protests from the transgender community who describe it as a "criminal act" that will deprive them of government welfare schemes. P 12

## CNG rate falls ₹8, piped gas by ₹5

The new pricing mechanism will bring CNG rate down by ₹8/kg from Saturday, benefiting over 9 lakh vehicle users in MMCR. The price of PNG, used for domestic cooking, will fall by ₹5/unit. CNG will now cost ₹59 a kg in Mumbai, while piped gas will cost ₹54/unit. P 4

## Goa h'way mishap kills 2 kids, granny

Two kids of a family and their grandmother (73) were killed while their parents suffered grievous injuries after their car collided with a truck on the Goa highway near Mangon on Friday. The father of the kids who was driving is suspected to have dozed off. P 2

## 4 kids die in blaze as water runs out

Four children were killed in a fire that gutted a house Thursday in Dehra Dun district. Locals alleged 2 fire tenders ran out of water just after a few minutes and firemen went back to refill water. On Friday the DM suspended the fire service and the entire fire service unit. P 7

## Man held over PM, Yogi morphed pics

A Pune police team arrested a Ranchi resident, Shaam Jaiswal Anisai, for objectionable posts using morphed photos of PM Modi and UP CM Yogi on YouTube. A case was filed against over 10,000 YouTube channels and portals for indecent posts against politicians. P 7

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## Need to tweak admission rules for mobility: UGC

UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar has said universities need to reinvent admission policies to move beyond rigid boundaries of streams and eratic mobility of students across disciplines in light of changes proposed in the draft National Curriculum Framework for the Class-XII level. "Why can't a student who started commerce in school be eligible to do biology in college," he asked. On NCERT history books, he said some contents were removed to make the syllabus more manageable, and revisions are needed now, reports Manish Gohain.

## TOI Interview: P 12

# Ramp up tests: Centre to states as Covid surges

Daily Cases Top 6k, Highest In 203 Days; 13 Deaths

<https://timesofindia.in>  
[@timesgroup.com](https://t.me/timesgroup)

New Delhi: As the surge in Covid-19 infections in the country entered its eighth week and daily cases crossed 6,000 for first time in over 200 days, the Centre on Friday asked states to identify emerging Covid hotspots by ramping up testing and monitoring trends of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections. India recorded 6,056 new cases of the virus on Thursday, the highest daily tally since September last year. This was a day after the daily tally topped 5,000 for the first time in over six months. The rate of growth of infections has increased sharply in the last 10 days or so.

## TESTING VERY LOW IN 23 STATES/UTS

> 6,056 new Covid cases in India on Thursday, highest in 203 days. Cases doubling in around 7 days. 3 weeks ago, doubling rate was 10 days  
> Covid deaths low but inching up. 13 fatalities on Thursday; 59 in last seven days, up from 38 in preceding period  
> 7-day average positivity rate rose 3.4%, up from 2% a week ago. Testing in 23 states/UTs currently below national average  
> Health minister Mandaviya asks states to ramp up testing from current level of 100/million people. Share of RT-PCR tests needs to rise, he says

## HOTSPOT DISTRICTS

> Kerala, Madhya Pradesh & Delhi have 10 or more districts with over 10% positivity  
> K'taka, Kerala, Maha, Himachal, TN & Haryana have over 5 districts with more than 5% positivity

## HOSPS ACROSS INDIA OUT OF COVISHIELD, COVAVIN STOCK, P 5

With cases currently doubling in around seven days, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who held a review meeting to assess the situation with the health ministers and top officials of various states on Friday, said 23 states/UTs currently have average tests per million below the national average. He asked them to expeditiously increase the rate of testing from 100 tests per million, as on the week ending April 7, Mandaviya also stressed on the need to increase the share of RT-PCR in tests.

## Covid mock drill, P 12

## Pawar: It seems Adani Group was targeted; can't see logic of JPC demand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: NCP leader and key Congress ally Sharad Pawar on Friday criticised the campaign against the Adani Group, saying the corporate giant was being targeted. In what is seen as a setback to critics in the opposition, especially Rahul Gandhi, he also questioned the logic behind demanding a parliamentary (JPC) probe into BSE's majority. In an interview to Adani-owned NDTV, Sharad Pawar questioned the credentials and motives of the international shortseller (Hindemorg) whose claim that Adani Group's stocks were overvalued due to alleged manipulation by the promoters and others, triggered a crash in their share prices and led to the network and forcing them to abandon their plans to raise funds as well as expansion.

“When we came into politics, if we had to speak against the govt, we used to speak against Tata-Birla. When we understood the contribution of Tata, we used to wonder why we kept on saying Tata-Birla... these days if you have to attack the govt, the name of Ambani and Adani is taken — SHARAD PAWAR | NCP

“And these issues which were raised, who brought them forward... what was their background, it was important to assess this. A price had to be paid for this by the country's economy. This cannot be ignored. It seems they (Adani Group) were being targeted,” Pawar said.

## 'Issue festering', P 20

## Afcons is lowest bidder for bullet train tunnel

With a ₹5,600-crore quote, Afcons Infrastructure has emerged as the lowest bidder to construct the 21-km tunnel between BKC and Shilphata as part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. It will include a 7km tunnel which will be India's first underground rail tunnel. The contract is expected to be inked soon and the work is likely to take 5 years, indicating that the operation of the train on the stretch may not be possible before 2028. Manthan Mehta reports. P 2

## Editors Guild condemns govt fact-check move

Editors Guild of India Friday criticised as “obnoxious” the IT ministry's notification of a new rule that will allow the PIB to “fact-check” any “fake, false, or misleading” information about the central government and ask social media platforms to take it down. The Guild urged the ministry to withdraw the notification and hold consultations with media organisations. “This is against the principles of natural justice and ask to censorship,” it added. P 12

## Court puts onus on pedestrian, clears biker

Mumbai court has acquitted a Mahim man accused of running his bike over the feet of a pedestrian, saying people walking must judge a road by observing traffic on both sides. Maintaining that the biker could not be held guilty as he was acting in riding rashly, not speeding when the incident took place in Mahim on August 24, 2019, the court said, “If a road is crossed without taking care of the traffic, a person runs the risk of being hit by a vehicle.” Rebecca Samuel reports. P 3

## Mkt share of PSU non-life insurers falls below 1/3rd

For public sector companies now account for less than a third of the non-life insurance market after losing 2% share in 2022-23, reports Mayank Shetty. Market leader New India Assurance grew the slowest at 5.9%, which resulted in its market share dropping from 14.7% to 13.4%. The other three PSU companies—National, Oriental and United India Insurance—managed to grow in double digits. While the private sector gained, the top companies grew slower than the industry, while the growth was driven by the newer and smaller insurance companies. P 19

## Activist's non-offensive messages to public servant part of right to protest: HC

Rosy, Sequeira | timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Backing the democratic right of citizens to protest, the Bombay HC has quashed a 2018 FIR against the director of an online campaign organization who was booked for messages sent to the then Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) Ashwin Bhosle to save Aarey trees.

“These messages do not contain any offensive material or any obscenity. Either they appear to have been sent in pursuit of a democratic right to put forth his viewpoint, to object, to protest, to persuade, to urge, or to inform,” the HC said. “Upon such a complaint, police must never book any citizen under criminal law and if it does, it would be like suppressing his voice against what he considers to be wrong.”

## Quashes case, P 5

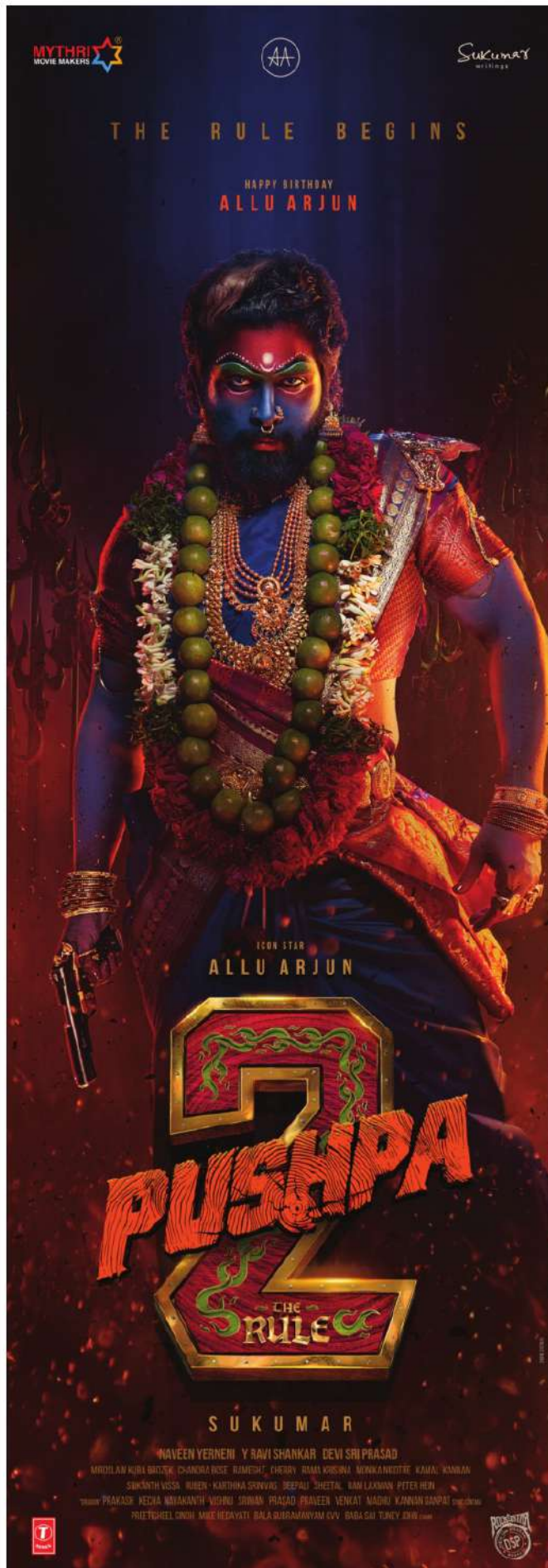
## Most vulnerable availed fewer benefits of PMJAY

Rema Nagarajan | timesgroup.com

A detailed analysis of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the government's flagship health insurance scheme, shows those most vulnerable—whichever in terms of states, communities or gender—haven't been able to use it as well as the relatively better off.

For instance, though the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute about 23% of the population, their share in private hospital admissions at the national level since the scheme's inception was just 5% and 2%, respectively. States with low poverty and disease burden, such as Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, were found to be using services under the scheme much more than poorer states with high needs such as Bihar, MP, Assam and UP.

## Catastrophic spend, P 14





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Leena Mudhidi  
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This year, on June 25, 2023, India's Smart structure and good quality living standards through smart solutions that economic the nation's thriving growth in the process.

## Retrofitting existing cities to make them liveable

A model city that packs in the latest smart solutions to make it environment-friendly and safe to live in, thrives on a robust strategy. As part of the Smart Cities Mission, a few more cities in Maharashtra have been identified to create affordable housing clusters based on the project's mission. Here's a look



need for a multipronged strategy to stem population in tandem with creating viable ecosystems within the urban clusters that offer citizens the means to live, work and play in a healthy environment

planned residential areas through retrofitting and redevelopment, thereby improving habitability of the whole city.

through a series of initiatives.

- It promotes mixed land use as per the area. This means that the estates will have gyms and other recreational spaces is another objective. This is done to enhance the quality of life for Indian citizens.
- More transport options governance, more online services are launched. For example, a citizen can use the online services instead of going to the municipal offices.

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City Mission will turn eight. As part of this mission, hundred cities were chosen with the aim of providing them with core urban infrastructure.



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### SMART CITY MISSION

The Smart City Mission has been leveraging a three-pronged strategy to focus on area-based development within the cities. These include improvement through retrofitting, city renewal through redevelopment, and city extension through greenfield development. These also include a pan-city initiative in which smart solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.

In Maharashtra, Greater Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, Nashik, Amravati, Solapur, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Pune have been chosen as smart cities.

WHAT IS RETROFITTING?  
The process of retrofitting means adding something new to an

already manufactured product or an existing infrastructure. Retrofitting in the urban context is the introduction of planning in an existing built-up area to achieve smart city objectives, along with other objectives, to make the existing area more efficient and liveable.

Under the Smart City Mission, an area consisting of more than 500 acres will be identified by the city in consultation with citizens. Depending on the existing level of infrastructure services in the identified area and the vision of the residents, the cities will prepare a strategy to become smart. Since existing structures are largely to remain intact in this model, it is expected that more innovative infrastructure service levels and a large number of smart applications will be packed into the retrofitted smart city. This strategy may also be completed in a shorter time frame, leading to its replication in another part of the city.

Area-based development will transform the existing areas, including slums, into better

more flexibility to use the land for various purposes and make bylaws as per the change. However, full-fledged environmental safeguards will have to be adhered to.

It aims to expand housing opportunities for everyone. Housing is one of the essential requirements for the growth of the Smart Cities Mission. Smart cities require more housing projects to cater to large and lower-income demographics.

Retrofitting helps reduce congestion and air pollution, ensuring greater security and promoting social interaction while boosting the local economy. New walkways are built for walkers and cyclists to reduce accidents.

Development of playgrounds, parks, open

## Design cues for a summer-ready home

This summer, transform your abode into a comforting cocoon by employing a mix of soothing colours, tropical prints, breathable fabrics, and furniture in natural materials

Using the right hues, fabrics and materials, you can transmute your home into a snug sanctum with a tropical vibe. For this, embrace seasonal hues like sun-kissed yellows, fruity oranges, refreshing pinks, pastel blues and greens. Think silk for your drapery, cushions, and other embellishments. Wicker and driftwood furniture and decor is the balm for your deck areas, along with bamboo print wallpapers, jute lampshades, and rattan rugs, will enrich your home with a rustic and organic aesthetic.



to establish a spacious and well-ventilated home. Go for neutral shades like white for your walls along with botanical prints to refresh and revive your interiors. Also, put away your carpets. For a more dramatic touch, let your feet soak in the natural coolness of the floor. She cautions about the use of bold hues like orange, red and pink, which can make one's home appear crowded, and so must be avoided.

is a great space to give your home a makeover and elevate it with simple design tricks. She says, "Incorporating light and sheer fabrics like cotton is a must alongside block print curtains, applique bed linen and khari table linen. You can also infuse a pop of colour into your space by way of pillows, throws, and artwork that features blue, green, yellow, and pastel hues. Take it up a notch with floral and geometric block prints that will add dimension to the room and give it a contemporary aesthetic." Shukla also recommends natural materials like wood, rattan, and bamboo in your home. For instance, through eye-catching wall mirrors that sport wooden hand-carved detailing. Succulents, palms and ferns in metallic planters and macramé holders will also lend an air of earthiness to your living space, she adds.

DECLUTTER YOUR HOME  
According to Khushboo Khandwal, the co-founder of a multi-disciplinary design firm, the best way to battle the stifling heat is to rid your home of clutter. She states, "I strongly believe that decluttering and rearranging your furniture is vital

GayatriS @timesgroup.com

As the temperatures rise outside, finding comfort and refuge in one's home becomes essential. Thankfully, it isn't terribly difficult to tweak the interiors of your home to create a pleasing ambience that provides relief and shelters you from the scorching heat outside.

While discussing how you can achieve this, Sujata Chitalwala, the principal designer of an interior design firm, shares, "Summer calls for a rejuvenating makeover. By harmon-

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**PRINTS AND COLOURS**  
Rashmi Shukla, the business head of a lifestyle brand, feels that summer



is a great season to give your home a makeover and elevate it with simple design tricks. She says, "Incorporating light and sheer fabrics like cotton is a must alongside block print curtains, applique bed linen and *khari* table linen. You can also infuse a pop of colour into your space by way of pillows, throws, and artwork that feature blue, green, yellow, and pastel hues. Take it up

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**FIND INSPIRATION IN NATURE**

Rajat and Shilpa Kabra, partners at a design firm, recommend looking to nature for some inspiration. They aver, "Our advice would be to take the biophilic route. An ingenious way to lower the temperature in your home is to fill it with an abundance of plants in beautiful planters. For a more dramatic change, you can reupholster your couch or

sofas in fabrics that feature pleasing blue hues with floral prints. Otherwise, just toss in a few summer-inspired cushions or a tropical

patterned throw." With so many easy design tricks and hacks, go ahead and enliven your home for summer.