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# INDIA TODAY



INDIA TODAY-MDRA SURVEY 2024

## BEST COLLEGES OF INDIA

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JULY 1, 2024 ₹100



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OF INDIA  
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PTI

COVER STORY

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**INSPIRE ASANA**  
PM Modi interacts with  
participants at the  
International Yoga Day  
event in Srinagar, June 21

JAMMU & KASHMIR

## PROMISES TO KEEP

By **MOAZUM MOHAMMAD** in Srinagar and **PRADIP R. SAGAR** in New Delhi

**A** manicured buoyancy of hope marks visits to Jammu and Kashmir by political grandees from New Delhi. That's often a sign of stasis rather than movement. But there are times when things pick up pace and purpose beyond protocol utterances. One such moment came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Srinagar on June 20-21. That he was there just a fortnight after assuming charge for his third term was already a sign of intent. Underlining that, he gave two assurances that

are sure to get the lifeblood flowing in Kashmir's frozen polity: the conduct of long-overdue assembly election and the restoration of statehood.

Not that it's entirely unexpected, for the Supreme Court's direction to the Centre imposes September 30, 2024, as a clear deadline for assembly election—one that looms larger every week. As if in preparation, political life indices have seen a positive uptick of late. In the recent Lok Sabha election, J&K had seen a 58.4 per cent turnout, the highest ever in the past 35 years. Modi's BJP had thought it wise to recuse itself from

direct contests in the Valley, but signs are even that party may shed its tack of avoidance for the assembly polls.

In June 2021, during the Centre's maiden formal engagement with the Kashmiri leadership after the abrogation of Article 370 and the state's bifurcation into Union Territories in 2019, Modi had spun an aphorism: he wants to remove, he said, both 'Dilli ki doori' and 'Dil ki doori' (distance from Delhi, and distances of the heart). Some of the miles that lie between statement of purpose and its fulfilment will hopefully be traversed in the coming three

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WHY THEY ARE STRAINED

HATHRAS STAMPEDE  
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RAIL SAFETY WHAT'S  
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PLUS YOUNGISTAN: INDIA'S NEXT GEN XI

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## T20 WORLD CUP

# THE HITMEN

The inspiring story of how India captain Rohit Sharma and his talented team became the T20 world champions

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# MEET THE DEBUTANTS

**FROM GEN Z TO GENDER WARRIORS, ROYALS TO ENTERTAINERS, FARMERS TO PHYSICIANS, THE 18TH LOK SABHA HAS A FASCINATING MIX OF 280 FIRST-TIMERS FULL OF AMBITION AND HOPE**

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Yusuf Pathan,  
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From Gen-Z to gender warriors, royals to entertainers, farmers to physicians, the 18th Lok Sabha has a fascinating mix of first-timers

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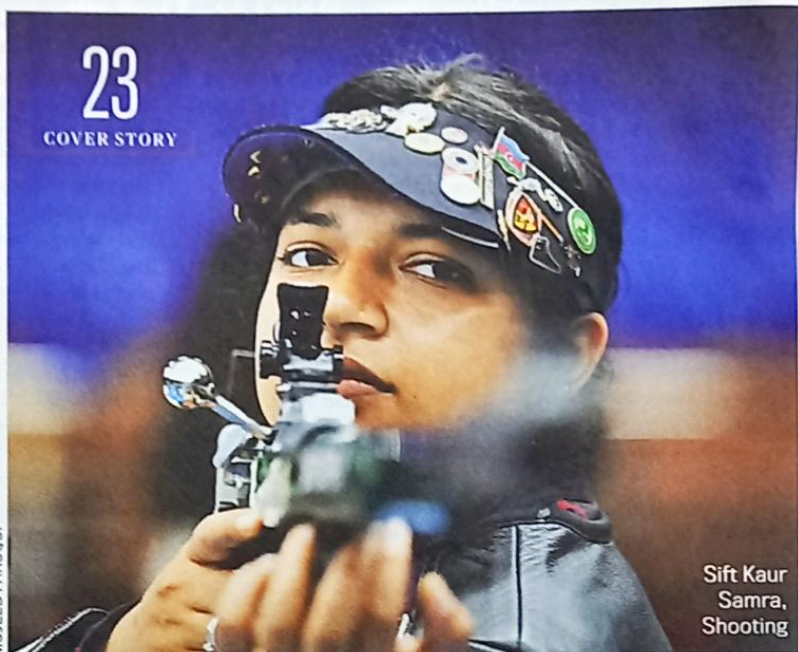
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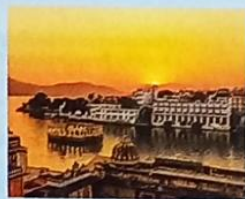
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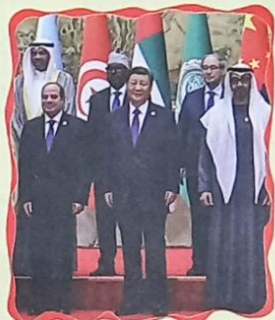
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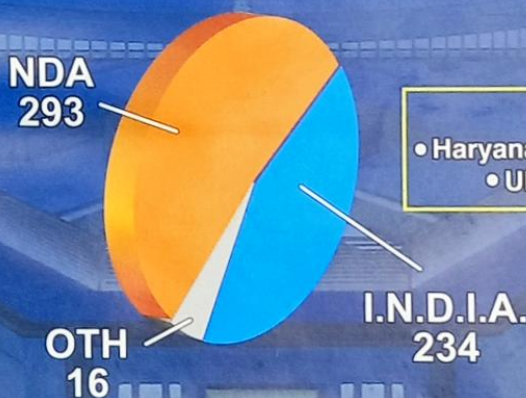


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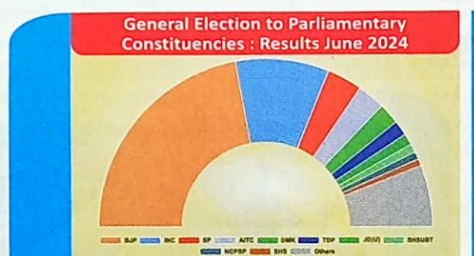
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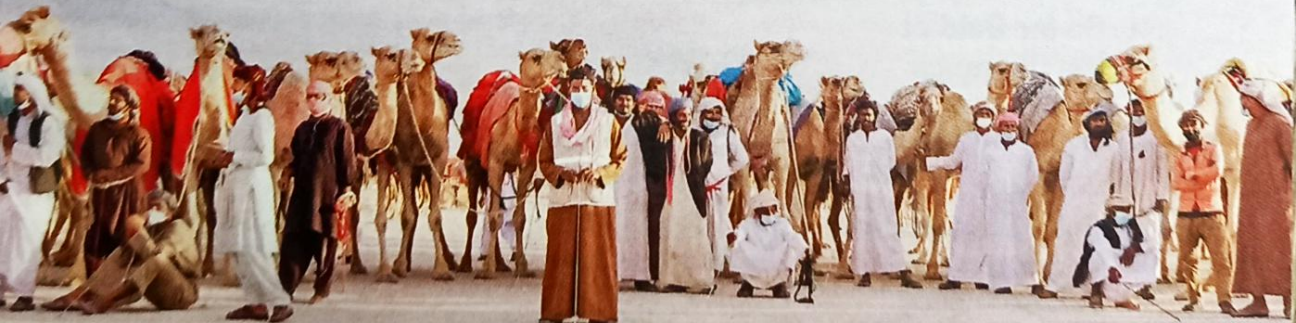
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