

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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European Union regulators level their first charges under bloc's new digital competition rulebook, accusing Tim Cook-led Apple of preventing app makers from pointing users to cheaper options outside its App Store

Toll from a series of brazen attacks on churches and synagogues in Russia's mainly Muslim region of Dagestan rises to 20 after gunmen went on rampage in coordinated attacks in 2 key cities

22 workers, most of them Chinese, were killed after a powerful explosion set fire to a lithium battery factory in South Korea. What triggered the explosion remains unclear, say local fire officials

Opener Shubman Gill to lead a young team for the white-ball tour of Zimbabwe, comprising five T20s, from July 6. Core team players currently part of T20 World Cup, including Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, given a break



Kerala assembly moves to rename state 'Keralam'

The Kerala assembly unanimously adopted on Monday a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to "Keralam". The House was passing the resolution the second time as the Union home ministry, which had reviewed the first resolution, had suggested some technical changes. In the First Schedule of the Constitution the state is listed as Kerala. CM Pinarayi Vijayan moved the resolution and it was accepted by both LDF and UDF members. **P 6**

Karnataka bans use of artificial colour in kebabs

Commissioner of Food Safety and Standards Authority, Karnataka, has issued an order banning the use of artificial colour in kebabs—both veg and non-veg. The decision comes after eight of 39 kebab samples sent for testing were found unfit. While seven of these had used the artificial colour 'sunset yellow', one used the additive 'carmoisine'. **P 3**

Airport ATC head found dead in women's attire

Air traffic controller, in-charge of Pantnagar airport in Uttarakhand, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his official accommodation at the airport dressed in women's clothes, including a maxi, undergarments, bindi, lipstick and bangles. Aashish Chausali was working with the Airports Authority of India for the past six years. **P 14**

EURO 2024

Switzerland vs Germany 1-1
Hungary vs Scotland 1-0
FULL COVERAGE P12

K'buragi airport gets bomb threat

Minutes after minister Krishna Byre Gowda and department's top officials landed from Bengaluru by a morning flight, Kalaburagi airport received a bomb threat that was declared a hoax after a two-hour intensive search on Monday. **P 4**

Assam man lynched on theft suspicion

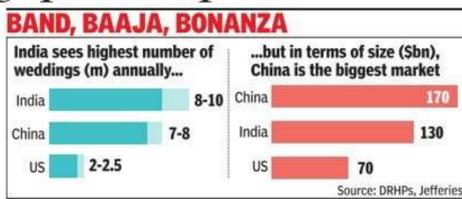
A mob lynched a 28-year-old man Monday in Assam's Sivasagar town on suspicion that he had stolen a cellphone. Palu and his relative Dadu were dragged out of their houses and brutally thrashed. Palu died and Dadu was severely injured. **P 9**

Rain seepage in Ayodhya temple

Five months after the opening of Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, water leaked from the roof of the sanctum sanctorum during the first rain. Temple panel chief Nripendra Mishra, however, said seepage occurred as the shrine is still under construction. **P 14**

Big fat Indian wedding drives \$130bn industry, avg spend/nuptial at ₹12.5L

New Delhi: The Indian wedding industry at \$130 billion ranks second only to food and grocery, and is a significant driver of discretionary consumption, says a new report, highlighting the enormous economic impact of the event across sectors.



ge expenditure on a wedding is around \$15,000, or Rs 12.5 lakh, and an average Indian couple spends approximately twice on weddings compared to education (pre-primary to graduation) — a sharp contrast to countries such as the US, where the spend is less than half that of education. The numbers suggest that the average spend on a wedding is around five times India's per capita GDP of \$2,900 (over Rs 2.4 lakh) and more than three times the average annual household income of around Rs 4 lakh. India's wedding spend to GDP ratio of 5 times is significantly higher than several other countries, the report added. **Key growth driver, P 11**

Emergency reminds us to protect Constitution: Modi

Oppn MPs Hold Up Copies Of Statute Book

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New Delhi: PM Modi marked the beginning of the maiden session of the new Lok Sabha by lobbying the "Constitution" issue back at the INDIA bloc, asking everybody to ensure that there was no subversion of the Constitution as during the Emergency.

A day before the 49th anniversary of the Indira Gandhi gov't's decision to curb dissent by imposing Emergency, Modi urged people to ensure such an attempt to "blacken" the Constitution is never repeated and pledged to safeguard it.

His remarks came as the

EDIT: It's People's House

opposition, flush with the success of its allegation that Modi-led BJP had sought 400+ seats to change the Constitution, carried on with the



PM Modi arrives in Parliament to take oath as MP for the third time. Opposition members display copies of the Constitution, raising slogans on 'saving democracy'

Kageri takes oath in Sanskrit

BJP MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, representing Uttara Kannada, took his oath in Sanskrit highlighting the region's diverse linguistic heritage. **P 4**

Nadda leader of House in RS

Union health minister J P Nadda has been appointed leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, replacing his Cabinet colleague Piyush Goyal, who is now an LSP. **P 8**

theme. Members of Congress, TMC, DMK, Left and others held a protest after paying respects at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parli-

ment complex, holding copies of the Constitution and "promising to protect it".

Vibrant democracy, P 8

Pro tem protest: Some oppn bloc MPs skip oath

The first sitting of the 18th Lok Sabha was marked by three opposition members nominated to the panel of chairpersons (who fill in for the speaker) refusing to take oath at their scheduled time over the pro-tem speaker's post not going to Congress's K Suresh. Further, INDIA bloc made plan in its intent to force a contest for the speaker's post if a consensus was not arrived at.

An unfazed BJP, however, began consultations with its allies on the NDA's candidate for the speaker's post. The election is scheduled for Wednesday and nominations have to be filed by Tuesday.

The three opposition MPs — Suresh, Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC) and T R Bалу (DMK) skipped oath taking as they were listed to do so just after the PM and ahead of the council of ministers. **P 8**

No urgent hearing of Kejriwal plea, but HC decision 'unusual', says SC

Appeal Against Bail Stay To Be Heard Tomorrow

AmitAnand.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday termed as "unusual" Delhi high court's decision not to immediately pass a reasoned verdict on ED's petition challenging the bail given to Arvind Kejriwal by the trial court last week, but declined the Delhi CM's plea seeking its immediate intervention and posted the matter for Wednesday. Saying that it would wait for HC's reasoned order, a bench of Justices Manoj Misra and S V N Bhatti said passing the order at this juncture would amount to prejudging the issue as the HC was yet to pass its verdict, which is likely to be delivered in a day or two.

Attacking the HC order, Kejriwal's counsel, senior advocates A M Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhary, contended that HC prejudged the case and passed the order on an

'IF HC ERRED, SHOULD WE REPEAT IT?'

Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal | The procedure is unknown. The stay was granted first and arguments were heard later... Order is expected to come but can bail be stayed on mentioning? Why cannot I be free? I am not a flight risk

SC | If we pass an order we will be pre-judging the issue. It is the high court and not a subordinate court

SG Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED | The (lower) court started by saying it is a high-profile question. The court kept saying to (ASG) Mr Raju that cut short your arguments etc. Court records that it is not possible to go through the papers

ASG S V Raju | (Lower court's) Order is perverse

Singhvi | If the HC can stay it without seeing the order, why can't your lordships stay the HC order?

SC | If, according to you, the high court has committed a mistake, why should we repeat it at our end?

HC verdict on Kejriwal's bail likely today

While ED on Monday opposed Kejriwal's bail plea in its submission in HC, calling the trial court's order "illegal and perverse", the CM said discretionary orders of bail cannot be set aside "merely on perceptions and fanciful imagination of the prosecution". The vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain is likely to pronounce its verdict Tuesday at 2.30pm. **TNN**

oral mentioning by Enforcement Directorate when the trial court order was not even available. They said that it was violative and contrary to the age-old established norm. Singhvi pressed for interim relief, and said that if HC co-

uld stay trial court's order when it was not even uploaded and handed over to parties, then SC should also stay HC's interim order without waiting for the order copy. **'Not a flight risk', P 8**

Another dirty NEET secret? Students' ranks jump on 2nd attempt from obscure centres

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Mumbai: When Ashalata (name changed) took the NEET for the first time in 2022, her rank was in the six-digit range. However, in her second attempt the following year, her rank leapt from 2 lakh-plus to 8,000. At present, the 20-year-old is a student of LTMG Sion Hospital in Mumbai.

EDIT: Neat solution, P 10

Another aspirant from 2022 who had secured a rank beyond 10 lakh now studies in a govt hospital in Mumbai after she secured a rank of around 13,000 in her second attempt in 2023.

This "second-time lucky" trend, with students scoring "unbelievable" ranks after taking a year's break to prepare for the second attempt, has been seen as baffling by acad-

MAHA HEADMASTER ARRESTED

Latur zila parishad school headmaster Jaleel Khan Pathan among 4 held. Sources cite incriminating data found in mobile phones. Parents allegedly paid them money to get wards to pass NEET

UPSC decides to use facial recognition and AI-based CCTV surveillance to prevent cheating and impersonation

CBI teams reach Patna

Rules of new anti-paper leak law notified. Cheaters face up to five years in jail; it's 5-10 years for those involved in organised cheating crimes. Those involved in paper leak, for instance, face up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to ₹1 crore | **P 6**

mics in medical corridors. And there was a common thread: the second time, each had taken the exam from an obscure centre. While some took it from a tiny village in Belagavi, others opted for a small town near Patna and other places not popular as coaching hubs.

Govt sources said attempts are on to make a list of students who scored well in their second attempt at ob-

"The empty answer-sheets were to be filled in by the centre's deputy superintendent during the half-hour gap the supervisors get to pack the papers. The answer key was to be provided by coaching institutes, which make the key available online after the exam," Godhra superintendent of police Himanshu Solanki said. A counsellor said police should investigate how students managed to get allocated to centres that are "compromised".

When candidates fill their NEET (UG) application, they are expected to give two cities as options for exam centres. Parent representative and co-ordinator Sudha Shenoy said, "Before filling the form in Feb, parents called me about agents who had said that they would fill the form for the candidates and that exam centres would be far from cities."

Allotted local centre, P 14

'Never tolerated', P 9

Trudeau pays homage to AI bombing victims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Paying homage to the victims of the Air India Kanishka bombing in 1985, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history and a reminder of the shared responsibility to unequivocally condemn terrorism.

The two sides paid their respects to the 329 victims, 280 of them Canadians, amid growing strife in bilateral ties caused, as India has repeatedly said, by the political space given by Canadian authorities to Khalistan extremists who advocate violence against India.

'Never tolerated', P 9

No provision under law to penalise sex worker: K'taka HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: There is no provision under the law to penalise anyone indulging in prostitution, Karnataka HC observed in a recent judgment. "What is punishable is sexual exploitation for commercial purposes and to earn or make a living upon it," Justice M Nagaprasanna said in his order, quashing the proceedings against a 29-year-old woman from Koppa taluk in Chikkamagaluru district.

The petitioner was arraigned as accused No. 8 in the case pending before a JMFC court at Kundapur registered for offences punishable under Section 5 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956.

As per the complaint, the petitioner and other girls

It clearly indicates (in Section 5 of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956) that any person who procures or attempts to procure a woman or a girl for the purpose of prostitution would become liable for such prosecution — Karnataka HC bench

were lured and were being transported from Udipi to Goa to indulge in prostitution by paying Rs10,000 each. Police intercepted the vehicle, rescued the girls and registered a case against them.

Challenging the proceedings, the petitioner claimed she is a victim at the hands of other accused and should not be prosecuted.

'Abuse of law', P 3

Didi reads out riot act to TMC mantras, officials

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, in her sharpest public criticism till date of cabinet, party colleagues, police and administrative officials, read out the riot act on Monday, naming and shaming some of them and setting civic duties a 10-day deadline to give citizens better services.

Banerjee's unprecedented public rebuke spared no one; from ministers to bureaucrats, from municipalities to the state urban development department, from cops to district administrations, everyone came up for scrutiny. "I don't want master-extortionists. I want people's servants," she said. She also announced a key change in the govt tender process. **P 5**

HC quashes proceedings in 2020 actors' drugs case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Karnataka high court has quashed the proceedings in the sensational drug case that rocked Sandalwood in 2020, against first accused and businessman Shivaprakash alias Chippy, actress Sanjanaa Galrani and private company employee Aditya Agarwal, citing procedural lapses.

Pointing out that no drugs were recovered from the three accused-petitioners at the time of their arrest, Justice Hemant Chandanagoudar noted that the FIR referred to the offences committed by the accused between April and Sept 2020 but the instances narrated in the

chargesheet against Sanjanaa and Aditya were more than five years old. The judge pointed out that a person can be tried at one trial for up to three offences of the same kind committed within 12 months.

Twenty-seven people, including Kannada actor Ragini Dwivedi, were named in the chargesheet. The accused were charged with consuming ecstacy pills at parties organised by them and instigating others to consume them.

It may be recalled that proceedings against socialite Virendra Khanna, accused No.3 in the case, were quashed by the Karnataka high court on January 17, 2022.

FULL COVERAGE | PAGE 2

Threat in B'luru prison, 4 shifted to Tumakuru jail

Bengaluru: Three suspects, who had falsely owned up the killing of actor Darshan's fan Renukaswamy over alleged financial dispute, and another arrested accused will soon be shifted from Bengaluru's Central Prison to Tumakuru District Prison over perceived threat to life.

DARSHAN CASE

A Bengaluru court Monday approved the police request to shift the four suspects. "These accused face a threat from other co-accused in the case. Also, there are many fans of Darshan inside the prison, and they could harm these suspects," police informed the court. **TNN**

Security reasons, P 2

Suraj Revanna sent to police custody for 8 days

Bengaluru: JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, arrested on charges of sexually abusing a 27-year-old male JD(S) party worker, was Monday remanded in police custody for eight days.

Suraj was produced in court in the afternoon. CID officials, who are investigating the case, had approached the 42nd ACMM court, seeking his custody for 14 days.

The court, however, remanded Suraj in police custody for 8 days, before he was taken to CID headquarters.

According to police sources, Suraj has been kept in the same room where his younger brother and former MP Prajwal Revanna was lodged earlier.

Prajwal, currently under

Govt: No new preschools in K'taka for now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The department of school education and literacy has been instructed not to increase the number of preschools in Karnataka from the existing 2,786 until further notice, reports **Sruthi Susan Ullas**. The decision came during a meeting called Monday by the additional chief secretary to the CM, following a tussle between the department of school education and literacy and the department of women and child development over starting LKG and UKG sections in govt schools. During the meeting, it was also decided that anganwadis that have staff with a minimum PU degree will be allowed to conduct kindergarten classes and workers will be trained for it. **P 2**

RAMPAGING ROHIT POWERS INDIA INTO SEMIS



Having lost to Australia in both the World Test Championship final and ODI WC final last year, India (205/5) extracted a measure of sweet revenge, defeating the Aussies (181/7) by 24 runs to book their spot in the 2024 T20 WC semifinal against England. **If Afghanistan beat Bangladesh** today or the match ends in a no-result, Australia will be knocked out of the WC. India's victory was set up by skipper Rohit Sharma, who slammed **92 off 41 balls** as records tumbled. When Rohit reached **50 off 19 balls** (his fastest T20 half-ton and also the fastest in this WC), India were 52/1, a **T20 world record for lowest team score when a batter has hit 50**. Rohit crossed **200 sixers** in his T20 career, a world record, and also became the **highest run-getter in T20is** (4,165) | **P 13**

Only 300 a day allowed at C'magaluru trekking peaks

Ranjith Kandya | TNN

Chikkamagaluru: From Tuesday, Karnataka forest department will allow only 300 trekkers per day into peaks of Kudremukh and Netravati in Chikkamagaluru district, about 250km from Bengaluru, and will sell tickets online in advance. The measure comes after increasing instances of thousands of trekkers and tourists, with vehicles in tow, crowding the mountainous district over weekends. Last week, many trekking hotspots reported kilometres-long jam along the snaky trails—a feature becoming more regular with each weekend.

TICKETS ONLINE

Forest dept says one person is allowed to book up to three tickets online for trekking

Homestay owners will be allotted a few tickets that could be sold to guests

Move aims to preserve beauty of these destinations, while responsibly encouraging eco-balanced tourism

As per the forest department's plan announced on Monday, an individual is allowed to book up to three tickets for trekking. Hometays in the district will also be allotted a few tickets that could be sold to guests. **Make it effective, P 4**

2020 CASE HC Points Out Lapses Such As Lack Of FIRs For Earlier Offences Court says no drugs seized, quashes FIR against actor Sanjjanaa, 2 others

Vasanth Kumar P
& Rajiv Kalkod | TNN

Bengaluru: The sensational drug case that rocked Sandalwood in 2020 may turn into a whimper with the high court pointing out a series of procedural lapses in investigation, while quashing proceedings against the first accused and businessman Shivaprakash alias Chippy, actress Sanjjanaa Galrani (accused no. 14) and private company employee Aditya Agarwal (accused no. 22).

The court stated there was no material placed against the accused in relation to the period mentioned in the chargesheet (between April and Sept 2020) and added that instances narrated against Sanjjanaa and Aditya were more than five years' old and separate FIRs were required to be filed with regard to them. The court also noted that no drugs were recovered from the accused at the time of their arrest.

Twenty-seven people, including actor Ragini Dwivedi, were named in the chargesheet. Shivaprakash, Ragini and another accused were charged with consuming contraband like ecstasy pills at parties organised by them and instigating others to consume them. Sanjjanaa and Aditya illegally procured and consumed narcotic substances and encouraged others to consume them at parties organised in 2017 and 2018.

Proceedings against soci-

alite Virendra Khanna, accused no. 3, were quashed by the high court on January 17, 2022, citing similar inadequacies on the part of police. The order became final as the Supreme Court dismissed a special leave petition filed by the state govt challenging it.

"The petitioners have been chargesheeted for offences relating to 2015, 2018 and 2019. However, the FIR was in connection with offences said to have been committed between April 11, 2020 and September 4, 2020. In view of Section 219(1) of CrPC, the petitioners cannot be tried for earlier offences alleged to have been committed and it was necessary for police to register separate FIRs as ruled by the coordinate bench of this court. Therefore, the continuation of the criminal proceedings against the petitioners will be an abuse of law," Justice Hemant Chandanagoudar said.

According to Section 219 (1) of CrPC, if a person is accused of up to three offences of the same kind committed within 12 months, he/she may be charged with and tried at one trial.

The judge noted the Supreme Court has held that high courts could prevent abuse of law when allegations in the FIR and evidence collected do not prima facie make out a case against the accused or any criminal proceeding is instituted with an ulterior motive for wreaking vengeance on the accused.

'No drug test on first accused'

Justice Chandanagoudar noted that in the FIR, the only allegation against accused no. 1 Shivaprakash was that he's involved in consuming liquor and smoking at parties. "The chargesheet does not establish there was recovery of drugs from him nor that his statement led to recovery of drugs from the co-accused," the judge pointed out. The judge added that the prosecution was obligated to subject the accused to chemical analysis for establishing that he had consumed drugs but did not do so.

As regards Sanjjanaa, the judge pointed out that the HC had already quashed the case against Virendra Khanna (accused no. 3), who was facing similar charges in January 2022.

Pointing out that Sanjjanaa had tested positive for cocaine and MDMA in the 'second' hair test, the judge noted the blood, urine and hair samples were found negative in the first test. "The second test was held after more than 85 days of her being in custody. And, no recovery was made of any drug or incriminating article at the time of her arrest on September 8, 2020," the judge added.



STAR-STUDDO DRAMA: Sandalwood actors Sanjjanaa Galrani and Ragini Dwivedi were arrested in the sensational case in 2020

Actors' arrests turned case high profile

Claiming that they had received credible information on drug-supplied parties being organised in the city and attended by celebrities, businessman and professionals, Central Crime Branch of city police registered the case on September 4, 2020 at Cottonpet police station under sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 120B (hatching criminal conspiracy) and NDPS Act.

The FIR stated that "a person, BK Ravishankar, spilled the beans on drug parties happening with the participation of celebrities. Drugs are illegally sold to revellers."

Actor Ragini Dwivedi was named in the FIR and arrested swiftly. Sanjjanaa was added to the list later and arrested. The probe was conducted by then assistant commissioner of police, CCB, KC Goutham under the supervision of then joint commissioner CCB Sandeep Patil. Businessman Shivaprakash was the only one among the accused not to be arrested as he availed anticipatory bail from the SC. The five-volume chargesheet comprised 2,390 pages. The statements of over 180 witnesses and voluntary statements of all the 27 suspects were added.

WHAT NEXT?

Sandeep Patil, now IGP, KSRP, said: "The high court has quashed on technical grounds that the charges were framed for offences occurring on various dates in one FIR and ordered that separate FIRs had to

be registered. Further legal action as per court order can be taken." Asked whether they will register separate FIRs or re-investigate, police commissioner B Dayananda said: "We'll take legal opinion before taking a call."

Can't interfere with Ekalavya norms: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court has refused to interfere with state govt guidelines with regard to the Ekalavya awards, saying it can't intervene in policy matters.

V Varshith, a roller-skating athlete, had challenged the guidelines issued on Aug 24, 2015, by the youth services and sports department for award/allocation of marks for participation under the national championship on a par with marks allotted for participating in senior national championship.

Varshith argued that Ekalavya awards are conferred on the basis of points and they are allotted differently for senior and junior levels. Therefore, he wasn't enlisted for conferring the award at any point in time. The process, Varshith argued, is highly arbitrary and should be made equal to all participants in all championships.

The govt advocate submitted that sports tournaments conducted at the junior level are entirely different from national championships at the senior level. According to him, since Varshith's sport is a non-Olympic game, the marks would vary. The advocate submitted that the guidelines were drawn after holding deliberations with sporting experts, and are in the form of a policy.

After perusing the material on record, Justice M Nagaprasanna said it can't be forgotten that policy is only a course of action to deal with a subject matter. "The courts have always exercised judicial restraint and circumspection over the wisdom of the policies of the govt or statutory authorities, save in circumstances where such policy demonstrates caprice, arbitrariness, unreasonableness or is whimsical... This is the only parameter that would permit constitutional courts to tinker with policy, particularly of the kind impugned — a policy for conferring awards on sporting events," the judge said.

Judge is like a referee'

"To borrow the observation of the bench presided by Lord Justice Denning and the view expressed by Lord Justice Lawton, in Laker Airways vs Department of Trades, the role of a judge is like a referee; he can blow his judicial whistle when the ball goes out of play, but when the game restarts, the judge must neither take part nor tell the players how to play... The ball of conferment of awards hasn't gone out of play for this court as a referee to interfere and tell the state how to manage conferment of awards," Justice Nagaprasanna observed while rejecting the petition.

Yr after woman's suicide, Oz govt hands over kids to dad's custody

Gururaj Jamkhandi | TNN

The Australian govt has handed over the two children of deceased Indian Priyadarshini to their father Lingaraj Patil's custody, and they are expected to reach Dharwad on July 11 to stay with their grandparents.

Priyadarshini, 40, a teacher and daughter of Prof (retired) SS Desai of Saptapur, died by suicide near Munavalli in Savadatti taluk in Aug 2023 during her visit to India. Then, her two kids were under the custody of the Australian govt.

After his daughter's demise, Prof Desai wanted to bring his grandchildren to Dharwad and take care of them. However, it wasn't easy as the Australian govt, under its stringent law on protection of children, had taken custody of the two kids, charging Priyadarshini with not taking proper care of them.



FAMILY ALBUM: Priyadarshini with her son Amartya, daughter Aparajita, husband Lingaraj Patil

Professor Desai had requested Union minister Pralhad Joshi's help in getting his grandchildren back to India. Joshi had spoken to Union minister for external affairs S Jaishankar to intervene and help the Desais. Jaishankar spoke to the Australian govt and has now succeeded in getting the kids — Amartya and Aparajita — released. The children are now with their father Lingaraj, an engineer working in Sydney. Both the children had

got Australian citizenship as they were born there. According to family sources, Amartya, 17, had some health issues and was treated by doctors in Australia. Since the treatment didn't help and Amartya had further complications, Priyadarshini filed a complaint against the doctor.

The complaint boomeranged as the Australian authorities charged Priyadarshini with not taking proper care of the kids. Citing local laws on protection of children, the authorities took the kids under the govt's custody.

Disturbed by these developments, Priyadarshini drowned in Malaprabha river near Munavalli on Aug 20, 2023. The family's relative and ex-mayor Iresh Anchatgeri said: "Priyadarshini's family was planning to return to India for good, and the couple had offers from several companies. But fate had it otherwise."

BBMP chief tests positive for dengue

Bengaluru: BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has tested positive for dengue and is currently resting at home.

Syed Sirajuddin Madani, chief health officer (public health) at BBMP, said Nath was feeling tired and feverish over the past week. "We

initially attributed his symptoms to work and stress. However, when he continued to feel unwell, we decided to test him for dengue," Madani said. Dengue cases in Bengaluru have surged significantly over the past two months, with 1,036 reported in June alone. TNN

ALMANAC (25.6.2024)

Mithuna Masa II Shri Krodhi Nama Samvatsara - Uttarayana - Greshma Ritu - Tithi: Jyaisitha Krishna Chaturthi h. 23-12 Nakshatra: Sravana h. 14-33 Yoga: Vaidhriti h. 9-06. 18 Zuhijai; Kali Day 18/7/2021. Rahu Kalam 3pm - 4.30pm — Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Audit: OFC fee irregularities cost BBMP ₹87cr in 3 years

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Bengaluru: Auditors of BBMP have uncovered irregularities in the collection of fees for installation of optical fibre cables (OFCs) by telecom service companies, leading to a substantial loss of nearly Rs 87 crore to the civic body between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

Pointing out extensive misuse of public lands while laying OFCs, the audit report, a copy of which is with TOI, suggested that this amount be recovered from officials and companies concerned.

While OFCs have been installed for less than the prescribed fee of Rs 1,500 per metre, BBMP officials have allegedly colluded with telecom service companies, allowing unauthorized entities to lay their networks, resulting in significant financial losses. "This illegal activity, also supported by a network of goons, has led to a revenue loss amounting to thousands of crores," the report reads.

Despite the existence of utility ducts for cable installation on TenderSURE roads developed by BBMP, telecom companies frequently bypass them to avoid paying the fee. Instead, cables are strung on trees, electricity poles, buildings, and traffic signal poles, damaging the city's aesthetics and endangering motorists and pedestrians. The irregularities came to light during a recent review of files related to OFC permissions.



UNDERCUT: Audit report states OFCs have been installed for less than the fee of Rs 1,500 per metre

ring a recent review of files related to OFC permissions. "Telecom companies were charged less despite an order issued by the commissioner on Nov 29, 2019, fixing the fee at Rs 850 per metre, benefiting both the companies and corrupt officials. This resulted in a loss of Rs 86.6 crore over three years," the report states. "The executive engineer of the OFC division has failed to provide any explanation for not adhering to the commissioner's orders."

The report also states that because of a lack of technical staff, the corporation has been unable to curb several irregularities. Efforts to clear unauthorized OFCs have been met with strong opposition from telecom service providers.

NO GST invoices According to the report, telecom companies haven't generated invoices on the GST portal under the reverse charge mechanism, resulting in a loss of crores of rupees to the govt. The report has recommended the recovery of Rs 37 crore under this head.

"Over a three-year period, Rs 49.9 crore was collected as security deposit from various telecom service providers. According to Article 278 of the Karnataka Financial Code, 1958, unclaimed security deposits beyond three years should be converted as corporation revenue. However, the same hasn't been done," the report reads.

Additionally, taxes haven't been collected from 3,448 communication towers under BBMP jurisdiction, resulting in a loss of Rs 8 crore. However, a senior BBMP official from the OFC division dismissed these claims. "The payment happens online and nothing is under our control. So how will there be any discrepancies? The companies pay GST to the govt, not to us... why should we be targeted?" asked the official.

"We're replying to the audit and sending these telecom companies an email to demonstrate their bills and payments so that we are not at fault," the official added.

Darshan breaks down as wife & son meet him at Central Prison

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Actor Darshan, who has been arrested on charges of the murder of his fan S Renukaswamy and is lodged at Central Prison, broke down before his wife Vijayalakshmi and 15-year-old son Vineesh, who met him in prison for a few minutes Monday.

Darshan's actor-friend Vinod Prabhakar, son of veteran actor Tiger Prabhakar, also met him in prison.

Vijayalakshmi and her son came to the Central Prison premises in her SUV. On noticing mediapersons at the gate, she took a U-turn and approached Parappana Agrahara police seeking their help in reaching the prison entrance.



Wife Vijayalakshmi briefed him about moving his bail plea at the earliest. Darshan's actor-pal Vinod Prabhakar also met him in jail

Police officials responded to her request considering her privacy and took her in their vehicle. According to sources, Darshan broke down soon after seeing his wife and son. He hugged them and they spoke for a few minutes. Vijayalakshmi briefed him about moving his bail petition at the earliest.

Vinod Prabhakar later told media, "We didn't talk much. After he saw me, he said, 'Hi Tiger' and I replied, 'Hi boss'. Then there was silence and I left. As a friend, I came to see him... the law will take its course in the matter."

Four taken to court Police investigating the murder case have written to the income-tax department

Security reasons cited for moving murder accused

Continued from page 1

The four suspects will be shifted out on Monday night or Tuesday morning, sources said.

Special public prosecutor Prasanna Kumar P cited security reasons and requested the court that T Ravishankar, V Kartik alias Kappe, R Kesha-murthy, and Nikhil Nayak should be shifted from Bengaluru to Tumakuru.

Other than Ravishankar, the three others had surrendered before police, claiming they had killed Renukaswamy and disposed of the body near the drain. Ravishankar had played a vital role in kidnapping Renukaswamy from Chitrudurga and later dumping the body near Summanahalli drain in Bengaluru.

Prajwal goes back to prison

Bengaluru: Hassan's former MP Prajwal Revanna on Monday was remanded in judicial custody and sent back to Bengaluru Central Prison, where he has been lodged since June 10. Police have completed questioning him in a sexual assault case.

On June 19, the special investigation team (SIT) probing the rape and sexual assault cases registered against Prajwal had taken him into custody for five days. This was the third case of sexual assault registered against Prajwal, whom the SIT arrested on May 31, after he landed at Kempegowda International Airport from Germany. TNN

Wireless collar microphones give teachers their voice back

Sruthy Susan.Ullas
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Bengaluru: School teachers have got a new friend in the classroom — wireless collar microphones. Mics pinned to clothes have become easy accessories that ensure teachers are heard till the last bench in class.

With wireless mics becoming smaller, easier to handle and more easily portable, teachers find them a useful tool while in class. "There is no longer the 'teacher's voice'. People prefer to speak in normal voice, which is good to ensure classroom volumes stay low. Teachers talk in a normal, comfortable volume but can be heard across a large room," said Shanthi Menon, principal, Deens Academy.

While mics used to be a boon for those with issues with vocal chords following years of teaching, they're now used more widely. Some schools like St Joseph's have procured them in large numbers and all teachers are free to use them. "... the new formats ha-



NEW CLASSROOM DEVICE

ve made them more user friendly. At least 50% of our teachers use microphones as we have disturbance from traffic on Museum Road," said Fr Sunil Fernandes, of St Joseph's High School.

Microphones are more popular among primary school teachers. "We had a teacher who resigned because she was losing her voice. She took a year's break and is back this year with a microphone. The device really helps teachers make their work less strenuous as they need not scream for everyone to listen," said Seema Gupta, principal of Navkis Educational Centre.

'A positive trend'

"Being sensitive to teachers' well-being, especially the health of their voice, is a very positive trend," said Maya Menon, founder-director of The Teacher Foundation.

"A teacher's voice is a vital tool that brings alive the teaching process in the classroom. While doing BEEd or DEEd, we aren't taught how to modulate our voice and use breath control to project our voice down a class of 45 or 50 students. We end up abusing our vocal chords, develop vocal nodules, and lose the suppleness and timbre of our voice. Many teachers who may have enjoyed singing lose their singing voice through years of teaching and speaking loudly in class. Apart from this, our voices sound tired after teaching several periods daily, right through a long teaching career. So, having sound amplification is a good thing. But teachers still need to learn with simple vocal exercises, like singers do, to use their voices effectively," she said.

Anganwadis with qualified staff to start KG

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Bengaluru: At a meeting called by the additional chief secretary to the chief minister over the issue of starting kindergarten classes in govt schools, the department of school education and literacy was asked not to increase the number of preschools from the existing 2,786 until further orders.

Meanwhile, anganwadis which have workers with a minimum PU degree will start kindergarten classes, and workers will be trained for it. In its columns on Sunday, TOI had reported that a turf war was brewing between two departments — department of school education and literacy and department of women and child development — over starting LKG and UKG classes in govt schools.

The decision to start kindergarten classes in schools was met with stiff resistance from anganwadi workers, who fear loss of jobs as kids would move towards schools at age four: CM Siddaramaiah had appointed his additional chief secretary, LK Atheeq, to convene meetings with



UNHAPPY The decision to start KG classes in schools was met with stiff resistance from anganwadi workers, who feared loss of jobs as children would move towards school aged just four

the two departments to find an amicable solution.

At the meeting, held on Monday, it was decided to form a committee to analyse the performance and effectiveness of kindergarten classes in schools vis-a-vis those in anganwadis, officials said. Until then, the education department has been asked not to expand preschools. Those schools that have started preschool sections can continue with them.

Those anganwadis that are co-located with schools and have teachers who have at least passed PU can start kindergarten classes. Both

departments will work on these kindergarten classes jointly. While there are 5,000 schools that are co-located, the number of such anganwadis with qualified workers is yet to be determined.

Anganwadi workers who are qualified to become teachers will be trained by Azim Premji Foundation.

While anganwadi workers have been assured of no job losses, it has also been decided that over time, a committee needs to chart out a policy for ECCE (early childhood care and education) and find means to converge both departments for this.

KEA moots fingerprint and facial checks for all exams

Bengaluru: Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has proposed to the govt the introduction of various layers of security — biometric verification, facial recognition, and frisking — for all the exams it conducts, including Karnataka Common Entrance Test and Postgraduate Common Entrance Test, from next year.

The authority is planning to pilot these measures for the exams it will conduct on July 13 and 14, for recruitment for KKRTC and BMTCC conductor posts and for the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board. The exams will be taken by 8,000 candidates on July 13 and 9,000 on July 14.

"We've submitted a proposal to the govt that these measures should be extended to all exams by next year. It is extremely important we counter malpractice attempts," said H Prasanna, executive director of KEA.

At present, there is no frisking in CET or PG CET or

any of the recruitment exams, while candidates of national exams like National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test are frisked for devices, chits and other objects.

The facial recognition image will be matched with the photo uploaded on the candidate's application. If the security check using AI doesn't provide an 80% match, invigilators will be alerted. "Fingerprint biometric is being used to arrest cases of impersonation. We often find the same candidate name registered multiple times with very minor differences. With fingerprint biometric, we can identify whether it is the same person who wrote the exam and who has come to report," Prasanna said.

KEA will also be web-streaming from exam halls. The live footage will be telecast at the respective deputy commissioner's office and also at the KEA headquarters at Malleswaram. — Sruthy Susan Ullas

Post Shakti, no. of men caught for sitting on ladies' reserved seats up

Officials Cite Bruised Ego As Reason

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Bengaluru: Free bus travel for women under the state gov't's popular Shakti scheme has had an unintended effect: Men are increasingly occupying seats reserved for women!

A pointer to this is the data pertaining to penalties collected by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCC) check squads, which have been tasked with cracking down on ticketless travellers and male passengers who are found sitting on seats meant for women on city buses.

In fact, the penalties have more than doubled after the implementation of Shakti scheme with regard to occupying women seats.

In financial year 2023-24, BMTCC's line checking squads collected penalties amounting to Rs 4.6 lakh from offenders; the amount collected during the previ-



Data from BMTCC shows the penalty collected from ticketless travellers has also increased. In 2023-24, the total amount collected from such violations reached ₹80 lakh as against ₹62 lakh in the previous year

CAREFREE RIDE: In 2023-24, BMTCC's line-checking squads collected penalties amounting to Rs 4.6 lakh from offenders

BREAKING BUS RULES	2022-23	2023-24
Total number of cases registered (BMTCC buses)	16,467	12,994
Penalty collected from defaulters (in ₹)	64.6 lakh	84.3 lakh
Fine recovered from men occupying seats reserved for women (in ₹)	2.2 lakh	4.6 lakh
Penalty collected from passengers travelling without ticket	62.4 lakh	79.6 lakh

ous year was Rs 2.2 lakh. As per rules, in a 40-seater bus, 14 are exclusively reserved for women. If a man is found occupying a seat reserved for women and gets caught by a line checking official during routine inspections, he has to pay an on-the-spot penalty of Rs 100. If a violator fails to pay the penalty, he will be taken to the nearest police station, and a case will be registered against him. In

May alone, line checking inspectors collected a penalty of Rs 50,100 from 501 men for violations.

What is interesting is that the increase in penalty collection has happened at a time when the number of women passengers travelling by buses has increased following the rollout of Shakti scheme. Every day, around 38 to 40 lakh passengers use city buses for

commuting and close to 20 lakh are women," a BMTCC official said.

But the question is: Why are men occupying seats reserved for women?

BMTCC sources attributed this to "bruised ego". An official pointed out: "Most men feel they have the right to occupy seats as they are paying from their pockets for bus tickets while the women get to travel free."

Some men have passed snide remarks when told to give up the reserved seats they had occupied. The problem is more acute on buses that go to the outskirts of the city. Interestingly, the penalty collected from ticketless travellers has also increased. In 2023-24, the total amount collected from such violations reached Rs 80 lakh as against Rs 62 lakh the year before.

CID will probe BBA student's murder case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt Monday transferred BBA student Prabhuddha R's murder case to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) following a request by her activist-mother Sowmya KR.

Prabhuddha, 19, was found murdered on the evening of May 15 in her south Bengaluru house. Police had arrested a 14-year-old boy, who was her younger brother's friend, nine days after the incident. The boy confessed to have stolen Rs 2,000 from Prabhuddha's purse and she had warned him to return the money, else she would complain to his parents. According to police, the juvenile killed her by slitting her wrist and throat in the bathroom and washed her body to destroy evidence.

According to a statement from the chief minister's office, Sowmya approached CM Siddaramaiah along with a group of social activists on Monday and submitted a petition requesting that the case be handed over to CID. Sowmya stated Subramanyapura police were non-cooperative in investigating the case thoroughly. She also made allegations that police are trying to destroy evidence.

Sowmya alleged that police initially tried to portray the case as suicide and were trying to shield the boy's parents. "The boy's father is running a bar in their jurisdiction and has connections with police. The boy has come out of the juvenile home within 10 days of arrest," she added.

A senior officer in CID confirmed that the order had been issued by the DG and IGP office late Monday evening. "We are yet to receive the case file and appoint an investigating officer," he added.

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Youth slips into waterfalls while friends shoot his reel

A 26-year-old man from Ballari, who was working in Bengaluru, drowned at Talasi Abbi Falls in Yadruru village of Hosanagar taluk Sunday. His body was recovered Monday.

The deceased is Vinod, and the waterfalls is 70km from Shivamogga town. The incident happened when 12 friends, who are working in different companies, visited Talasi Abbi Falls. Though

the forest department has restricted entry of visitors to the waterbody, the group reached there, police stated.

According to cops, Vinod's friends were shooting his video shorts when he slipped into the waterbody and drowned.

Shivamogga SP Mithun Kumar said Vinod, a mechanical engineer, worked at a private firm in Bengaluru. His body was sent to his hometown in Ballari Monday afternoon, he added. TNN

OFFSIDE



80-yr-old dies after jackfruit falls on head

A senior citizen died after a jackfruit accidentally fell on his head in a Mangaluru village Sunday.

The victim is Kashmir D'Souza, 80. In a complaint, his son Victor from Vitla Kasaba village said the tragedy occurred when he was away in Mangaluru on urgent work. When Victor returned home around 4pm, he saw labourers were engaged in spraying fungicide on areca crops, and his father was assisting them.

One of the labourers, Praveen, saw the jackfruit falling from the tree and hitting Kashmir on the head. Kashmir bled from the nose. Doctors at Puttur Government Hospital declared him brought dead. TNN

Get trained on poultry farming

Rudset Institute, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Education Trust and Canara Bank, have invited applications for a 10-day free training on poultry farming. Candidates from Bengaluru Rural/Urban, Ramanagara and Tumakuru districts can apply by July 2. Call 9380162042 for details. TNN

T1 revamp to up KIA capacity by 8 million passengers yearly

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Bengaluru: Bangalore International Airport Limited has announced a major revamp of Terminal 1 (T1) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). The work is set to commence in Aug 2024.

The refurbishment aims to enhance the terminal's capacity and facilities, accommodating an additional 8 million passengers annually. While T1 and Terminal 2 (T2) can accommodate 52 million people per annum (MPPA), the revamp will enhance the capacity to 60 MPPA.

EXPANDING WINGS

"T1 refurbishment work will commence by August 2024. Preparatory activities are under way to ensure a smooth start to the major works," a BIAL spokesperson said.

According to documents accessed by TOI, the refurbishment will start with relocation of IT rooms, demolition of the west bus boarding gates and relocation of offices. These initial steps will pave the way for major works scheduled to begin in early 2025. A BIAL source said the primary focus of the refurbishment is



READY FOR MAKEOVER

to modernize outdated systems rather than architectural enhancements. "Very little money is being spent on architectural uplifts, most of the expenditure is to replace the baggage-handling system with a modern one, upgrading utilities such as power, water, sewage and IT systems that are outdated. They are also upgrading and modernizing the outdated check-in and security equipment," the source said.

BIAL officials have detailed several new features and facilities aimed at enhancing passenger experience. "The first phase of key upgrades will include a dedicated entry for passengers without check-in baggage, a silent zone for relaxation, a PRM (persons with reduced mobility)

zone for enhanced accessibility, a children's play area, relocation and enhancement of VIP lounges, upgraded toilets, and improved escalators, elevators, and travelers," the spokesperson explained.

"Retail and F&B zones will undergo a significant facelift to offer a wider range of options and better service to passengers," the spokesperson added.

"The refurbishment work will be conducted in stages to minimize disruption to operations and maintain passenger convenience. Even though the majority of the work is anticipated to be finished by the end of 2026, ongoing evaluations and gradual deployments will guarantee the greatest levels of security and efficiency throughout the process," a BIAL source told TOI.

T2, which began its domestic operations on Jan 15, 2023 and international ones on Sept 12 of that year, is currently operating at 45-50% of its overall capacity, with a peak of 1,400 domestic passengers per hour and 1,300 international passengers per hour. Phase 2 of T2 will add a capacity of 20 MPPA.

Safety concerns: State bans colour in kebabs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: With a quality check of kebabs in the state showing that 8 of 39 samples were unfit for consumption, the state govt banned adding colours to kebabs, irrespective of whether they are vegetarian or non-vegetarian.

All this comes after the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI), Karnataka, took cognizance of reports of coloured food having a harmful impact on consumers. The authority had sent kebab samples for testing to state laboratories.

Aghast by the results, the commissioner of FSSAI, Karnataka, under the power granted as per Food Safety & Standards

The move comes after eight of 39 samples were found unfit for consumption due to artificial colour

Act-2006, ordered "a ban on the use of artificial colours in all types of kebabs, including vegetarian, non-vegetarian, and fish varieties". Violators of the 2006 Act will face severe penalties, including imprisonment ranging from seven years to life and fines up to Rs 10 lakh.

Of the eight samples found unfit for consumption, seven had used the artificial colour 'sunset yellow', while one used the additive 'carmoisine'.

'It'll be abuse of law if victim is prosecuted'

Continued from page 1

The government advocate argued the case is more than 10 years old, and the petitioner should not be allowed to knock on the doors of the court belatedly, even if she were to be a victim.

After perusing the material on record and the provisions of law, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that nowhere does Section 5 of the Act indi-

cate that a woman who is a victim of prostitution should be punished for offences punishable. "It clearly indicates that any person who procures or attempts to procure a woman or a girl for the purpose of prostitution would become liable for such prosecution," the judge added.

The judge further pointed out that the Bombay high court had clearly held that if the victim is allowed to be

prosecuted, the same would become an abuse of law.

"In the light of the admitted fact that the petitioner/accused No. 8 is a victim and notwithstanding the fact that she is a victim of prostitution, if further trial is permitted to continue, it would become an abuse of the process of law and result in patent injustice," Justice Nagaprasanna observed, while allowing the petition.

Under-construction property supply up 11.7%, prices surge 15.2%: Survey

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Indian real estate market is witnessing a significant upturn, with residential supply between April and June 2024 recording the highest growth rate in the last 24 months, driven by the increasing availability of under-construction properties, as per the latest Magicbricks PropIndex Report.

APRIL-JUNE DATA

The assessment is for 13 key markets of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Noida, Pune and Thane. According to the report, supply of under-construction properties increased by 11.7% while prices went up by 15.2% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) between April and June 2024.

This surge has resulted in prices of under-construction properties surpassing those of ready-to-move properties in cities such as Gurugram, Mum-

REALTY GROWTH CHECK IN KEY MARKETS

Place	Demand (%)	Supply (%)	Rates (%)
India	4.6	3.5	4.0
Ahmedabad	3.5	6.3	0.2
Bengaluru	-8.0	4.8	3.0
Chennai	11.9	2.5	2.9
Delhi	17.0	-3.9	4.3
Gr. Noida	15.5	13.8	5.9
Gurugram	19.6	5.3	6.8
Hyderabad	1.5	5.3	2.3
Kolkata	9.8	-0.9	3.5
Mumbai	6.7	5.3	6.5
Navi Mumbai	1.4	-4.2	1.7
Noida	16.4	7.3	7.0
Pune	3.2	-0.1	2.1
Thane	2.1	15.0	0.7



Source: Magicbricks PropIndex Report for April-June 2024 / Figures show QoQ change

bai, Noida and Thane. Abhishek Bhadra, head of research, Magicbricks, explained: "As we navigate through 2024, the Indian real estate market has entered its third year of a robust bull run. With a projected steady increase in supply and a more measured pace of demand growth, we expect the market to progress towards an equilibrium." Furthermore, he

added, continued customer confidence in under-construction properties is suggesting a promising outlook for the residential real estate market in the long run. Based on preferences of more than 2 crore customers on Magicbricks platform, the report highlighted a continued uptick in aggregate residential demand across the 13 cities during this period, register-

ing a growth of 4.6% QoQ.

Northern cities of Gurugram (19.6%), Delhi (17%), and Noida (16.4%) experienced the highest increase.

"Despite higher interest rates, residential demand remains strong, buoyed by the RBI keeping the repo rate unchanged for the eighth consecutive time. Should key economic indicators improve and inflation fall within a comfortable range, the RBI may consider reducing the repo rate, potentially further stimulating demand and benefiting end-users seeking affordable housing," Bhadra said.

The report pointed out that after a period of relatively subdued supply, there has been a promising average growth of 3.5% QoQ, especially in Thane (15%), Greater Noida (13.8%), and Noida (7.3%).

"With demand still outpacing supply, the report noted that residential prices continued to rise, increasing by 4% QoQ, with Noida (7%), Gurugram (6.8%), and Mumbai (6.5%) experiencing the highest increases," the report said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA PRESENTS

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BY DR. GEETHA MANJUNATH

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New MLCs take oath, but Cong still is a minority in Upper House

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra was among 17 newly elected legislators to take oath as members of the legislative council (MLC) on Monday, an event that cemented Congress' position as the single largest party in the Upper House.

Amid great fanfare — and chaos as supporters jostled with police to witness the event at Vidhana Soudha — oath of office was administered by council chairman Basavaraj Horatti to new members — 10 from Congress, four from BJP, and three from JD(S). Congress, which wrested two seats from the combined BJP-JD(S) opposition in polls to teachers' and graduates' constituencies earlier this month, took its tally to 34 in the 75-member House but it still is a minority since allies BJP have 29 and JD(S) eight. Two seats are currently vacant, while independent member Lakhan Jarkiholi and chairman Horatti complete a full House.

Yathindra was the most 'high-profile' of those who were sworn in, and the seat — via the assembly — comes for having relinquished his chance at re-election from Varuna assembly constituency in 2023. He had stepped aside so that his father could contest from the 'safe' seat.

The 43-year-old doctor is now in

Chethan Shivakumar



prime position to assume the role of a minister if the 30:30-month formula is implemented by the party high command, making deputy CM DK Shivakumar the next CM in late 2025.

Other notable names from Congress who took oath include Siddaramaiah's political secretary, K Govin-

draj, and minor irrigation minister and House leader, NS Bose Raju.

From BJP, a prominent figure who took oath was hardliner and former three-time Chikmagalur MLA, CT Ravi. The former national general secretary is rumoured to be in contention for the position of opposition leader, a

DEMAND FOR MORE DEPUTY CMS: SURESH, PRIYANK HIT BACK

Former Bangalore Rural MP and brother of deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, DK Suresh, took a sarcastic dig at partymen demanding three more deputy CMs, saying, "I would say let the party have deputy CMs from all castes and communities." He said he is eight-time MLA R Ramalinga Reddy, home minister G Parameshwara who served as KPCC president for eight years, KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi, forest minister Eshwar Khandre, campaign committee chairman MB Patil or Mandya's N Cheluvarayaswamy, "all of them" must be inducted as deputy CMs. "Let there be social justice for all," he said. IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge also spoke on the issue saying, "First let ministers introspect on losses in the recent Lok Sabha elections. We lost four seats which we should have won. If a deputy CM post alone will appease communities, then all would use the strategy. Let there be one CM and all other cabinet ministers can be deputy CMs," he said.

← GREETINGS! CM Siddaramaiah with BY Vijayendra at the oath-taking function in Bengaluru on Monday

vacancy created by former opposition leader Kota Srinivas Poojary being elected to the Lok Sabha from Udipi-Chikmagalur constituency.

BJP chief whip N Ravi Kumar, currently the frontrunner to become opposition leader, also took oath for a second term.

Govt may not move bill to divide BBMP this session

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Bengaluru: The govt is unlikely to table the bill that seeks to divide Bruhat Bengaluru Maha.nagara Palike (BBMP) in the monsoon session of the legislature following resistance from within Congress to the proposal.

The session is likely to be held for two weeks from either July 15 or 22, and the govt has decided to limit itself to ensuring the passage of less controversial bills.

"We are drafting certain bills which includes the one which envisages increasing a caste-based quota in the cooperative sector," said HK Patil, law and parliamentary affairs minister.

Reviving a proposal recommended by a committee headed by retired IAS officer BS Patil, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru development portfolio, had proposed to introduce a bill seeking to divide BBMP into three or five councils.

Consensus needed

This evoked a mixed response from political parties and the public. The chief concern



SHELVED? The govt plans to go slow on controversial bills

was that restructuring BBMP could further delay elections to the civic body. Elections have already been delayed for close to four years. But it now looks certain that the govt will not table the bill in the upcoming session.

"The govt has decided to do due diligence on the issue," said a senior official from the urban development department. "We need consensus from all stakeholders to the proposal and also time to trash out modalities."

Officials say the decision to shelve the proposal for now was taken after Shivakumar met former mayors and deputy mayors on Saturday to

elicit their views. Sources say those who attended the meeting, especially members of Congress, advocated wider consultation.

"We advised the govt to pursue the restructuring exercise after elections since holding polls to the civic agency is the priority," said former mayor PR Ramesh. "The deputy CM agreed. We have also begun the process of taking public opinion on the issue from today (Monday). Consultations will be held in all eight zones of BBMP."

Reservation in co-ops

One bill that will be passed is to ensure a seat each is reserved for a member of SC, ST, backward classes and a woman in cooperative societies. The legislative council had referred the bill to a select committee during the budget session and officials said the committee has approved it.

The cabinet, last week, had left it to chief minister Siddaramaiah to decide on dates of the session. However, rules state it must be held before August since the six-month timeframe expires then.

Emergency: BJP stages 'Black Day'



FLASH BACK: BJP demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi for the Emergency imposed by his grandmother Indira Gandhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Karnataka BJP unit on Monday staged their customary 'Black Day' to mark the anniversary of Emergency, invoked by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975.

BJP functionaries held a dharna at Freedom Park in Bengaluru and were soon hauled off by police since they did not have police permission to hold a protest.

Following the lead of their central brass, BJP functionaries, including opposition leader R Ashoka, demanded that the Congress high command, including grandchildren of Indira Gandhi—Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi—and daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi, "apologise to the nation" for the dictatorial reign of India's former PM.

At the protest, Ashoka said

BJP has no plans of changing the Constitution, as has been reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said the Constitution was like the Bhagavad Gita to the party.

"It is Congress which is a threat to the Constitution. Let Sonia Gandhi and Rahul come to Ram Leela maidan in Delhi and apologize for Indira Gandhi's misuse of the Constitution and implementing Emergency," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress hit back at BJP saying the governing party should debate lack of jobs, the NEET fiasco and other pressing issues instead of dwelling on the past.

"Will BJP then debate the 3,000-year-old Manusmriti? BJP needs to consider what is more current. Let them debate issues that touch lakhs of students in this country today," said Priyank Kharge, IT-BT minister.

SHORT TAKES

Parameshwara leads committee

Following internal rumblings in Congress regarding alleged unilateral decisions in nominating chairpersons and vice-chairpersons to state-run boards and corporations, Karnataka Congress unit appears to be adopting a cautious approach. Chief minister Siddaramaiah took a decisive step on Monday by forming a three-member committee, with home minister G Parameshwara at the helm, which will identify suitable party workers for nomination as directors and members of these boards and corporations. The committee, comprising labour minister Santosh Lad and MLA Rizwan Arshad as members, has been entrusted with the responsibility of compiling a list of potential appointees within a month. With over 120 boards and corporations in the state, there exists ample opportunity to accommodate over 1,000 Congress workers as directors and vice-chairpersons.



Congress govt has neglected responsibilities: Yediyurappa

BJP Parliamentary Board member and former chief minister, BS Yediyurappa, said the govt has neglected its responsibilities to the welfare of people and that development has taken a backseat. Yediyurappa, who offered 'tulabhara' of coins at Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple on Monday, said: "Irrigation projects have come to a standstill. BJP will hold statewide rallies to protest this Congress govt." He also said BJP's alliance with JD(S) will continue for local body elections as well. "It is possible to sideline Congress in Karnataka if BJP and JD(S) work together," he said.

Kageri takes oath in Sanskrit

Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, who represents Uttara Kannada, took oath as MP in Sanskrit during Monday's parliamentary session in New Delhi. While most elected representatives from Karnataka chose Kannada, Kageri's choice garnered attention and highlighted the cultural richness of the state. Among those who opted for Kannada were steel and heavy industries minister HD Kumaraswamy and consumer affairs minister Pralhad Joshi. Young MPs Sagar Khandre from Bidar and Priyanka Jarkiholi from Chikkodi also took their oaths in Kannada. MPs have the option to take the oath in English or any of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

BJP funds were used against own LS candidates: Yatnal

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal controversially alleged that huge amounts were mobilised from BJP sources to defeat saffron party candidates in the Lok Sabha elections. Yatnal told reporters that many candidates like V Somanna, Umesh Jadhav, Bhagwanth Khuba and Annasaheb Jolle were at the receiving end of this "anti-party activity". "Top brass are involved in this. High command should form a fact-finding committee to unveil the truth," he said.

HC stays probe against YouTuber

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court Monday ordered a stay on investigations against Noida-based YouTuber and journalist Ajeet Bharti in a complaint filed by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) with High Grounds police over a controversial post.

Bharti's video, on June 13, allegedly claimed Rahul Gandhi had remarked that he intended to raze the Ram temple in Ayodhya and rebuild the Babri Masjid. A

FALSE NEWS

case was registered against Bharti for spreading false news and fabricated propaganda under sections 153A, 504 and 505 of IPC.

But Justice M Nagaprasanna, in his order observed, "If the post is a result of certain newspaper reports which was also a claim by certain ex-Congress members, it becomes a claim vs another claim. Therefore, the genesis of the problem lies in the claim aforesaid which was quoted by the petitioner in his post. The very charge of fabricated news is contrary to records as national newspapers have carried the same."

The court granted a stay on investigation till July 19, the next date of hearing. The state public prosecutor has been told to clarify his client's position on the original report.

DKS holds 'janata darshan' in Channapatna

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The byelection firmly in his sights, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar on Monday took an indirect dig at Union minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) and former minister CP Yogeshwar of BJP, accusing them of neglecting grievances of people of Channapatna during their terms as MLA of the constituency.

At a meeting to address grievances of people of the segment on Monday, Shivakumar said going by the huge crowd, it appears

"MLAs who represented them previously did little or no work".

The meeting is significant since rumour suggests Shivakumar or his brother DK Suresh is likely to contest the bypoll to the seat.

"I am told by administrative officials that in the past five years, not even a single site has been distributed and no land has been issued for bagair hukum cultivation," Shivakumar said. "Even the Ashraya committee meeting was not held. But I am not going to ask them why they did not do



LOADED STATEMENT: Monday's event was significant since DK Shivakumar has indicated that he may contest the bypoll

it. I will address problems of the people of Channapatna." He said people can approach him no matter the size of the problem or "even if you voted for other parties". "We will resolve problems of all," he said, adding that the govt will develop sites in every village and distribute them to the poor.

"A layout will be developed on 50 to 100 acres in Channapatna town exclusively for the poor," he said. A bypoll is necessary since Kumaraswamy, previous Channapatna MLA, was elected to the Lok Sabha.

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Jahangir National University

(Drama) ★★

Cast: Siddharth Bodke, Shiviyoti Rajput, Kunj Anand, Urvashi Rautela, Vijay Raaz, Ravi Kishan
Direction: Vinay Sharma
Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
Language: Hindi (A)

■ Sourabh Sharma enrolls at Jahangir National University for his college education, only to be shocked by the widespread disregard for Indian culture exhibited by left-wing students. Determined to address this, he decides to confront and discipline those he considers anti-national

It's no mystery which university Jahangir National University represents in the film. The film presents a myopic view of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), selectively highlighting a few incidents from the past few years to construct a narrative that ultimately results in a disappointing viewing experience. The makers approached this story with pre-conceived notions, leading to an unsatisfactory outcome. Even from a cinematic standpoint, the portrayal of JNU is mediocre, with a subpar screenplay, average direction, and uninspired dialogues.

Sourabh Sharma (Siddharth Bodke), a new student, is shocked by the pervasive disregard for Indian culture among the left-wing students. When these students decide to celebrate Mahishasura, the demon defeated by the goddess Durga, Sourabh strongly opposes the event, leading to escalating tensions. Minor conflicts between the groups persist, eventually culminating in a major crisis when



a Muslim professor with left-wing affiliations is accused of raping a student, and anti-national slogans threatening the country's sovereignty are raised on campus. Those familiar with the campus culture of JNU will view this film with a pinch of salt. Had the film taken a grittier, more realistic approach, it might have been more engaging. However, the forced inclusion of dance numbers and expletives diminishes its overall impact. In an attempt to elicit laughter, the drama employs clichéd characters reminiscent of Hindi films from two decades ago. The film poster prominently poses the question, "Can one educational university break the nation?" Yet, it never acknowledges that this is also the country's premier and most renowned university.

While none of the main cast manages to leave an impression, the cameo appearances by Vijay Raaz and Ravi Kishan add some interest to the proceedings. In the role of cops, their conversation is interesting. At 150 minutes, *Jahangir National University* is a drag and tedious experience, lacking depth and soul all the way.

— Abhishek Srivastava

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](https://www.etimes.in)

RATING SCALE

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

Make sure new system is effective: Greens to govt

▶ Continued from page 1

This move aims to preserve the natural beauty and integrity of these popular trekking destinations, while responsibly encouraging eco-balanced tourism.

The department conducted a detailed study before fixing the number of trekkers to be allowed a day. The capacity of each trekking destination — an El Dorado of sorts for adventure-starved weekend travellers — was scientifically studied and the numbers were fixed before the rollout of the plan, a forest officer said.

For instance, trekkers planning to visit the coffee district in July have to book tickets from June 25. At the same time, tatkal bookings are made available for weekends, without altering the cap on the number of visitors to each trekking peak.

K'buragi airport gets bomb threat

Mouneshwar Sonnad | TNN

Kalaburagi: Minutes after revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda, along with the department's top officials, landed from Bengaluru by a morning flight, Kalaburagi airport received a bomb threat call which was declared hoax after a two-hour intensive search Monday.

The email, sent to the official mail handle of Kalaburagi airport director, stated a bomb had been planted in the men's restroom in Terminal 1. Immediately, the director alerted the city police commissioner, who rushed the bomb-disposal squad, canine team, and police officers to the spot to comb the air-

port and screen the baggage of alighting and departing flyers. Kalaburagi airport, inaugurated in 2019, operates daily flights to Bengaluru, and bi- or tri-weekly flights to New Delhi and Tirupati. Among the small, greenfield airports in the country started in the past decade, Kalaburagi is said to be one of the busiest with huge footfall. After declaring the threat a hoax, airport officials said an investigation would be conducted into the origin of the threat email.

The bomb threat is the latest in a series of such emails sent to airports across the country, including those in Bengaluru and Mangaluru, in the past two-three months.

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HARYANA CM SAINI VISITS RAM TEMPLE, SAYS WILL ASK UP GOVT TO SET UP GUEST HOUSE IN AYODHYA



'NO MORE SUPPORT TO BJP': NAVEEN PATNAIK ASKS BJD RS MPS TO EMERGE AS STRONG OPPOSITION

OBC medicos want to give up quota, return caste certs

Priyanka.Kakodkar
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Forty-year-old Dr Rahul Ghule belongs to the nomadic Vanjari community and hails from Marathwada's Dharashiv district. The son of a teacher, he had availed of the OBC-NT quota to get a seat in Mumbai's G S Medical College in 2003 and graduated as an MBBS doctor. He has been practising in the city for the last 16 years and is married to an anaesthetist.

As the quota war between the Maratha and OBC communities simmers in Maharashtra, Ghule has written to chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday, saying he wants to give up the reservation and other quota benefits due to his family and children. He also wants to return their caste certificates. "Today I am in a strong condition financially. I do not want to avail of reservation or other benefits of the OBC-NT quota in education and government schemes for myself and my family. Instead, the quota benefits should be extended to needy members of the community," Ghule's letter says. The doctor set up the One Rupee Clinic in Thane in 2017 and runs a string of these in the city and Uttar Pradesh.

He claims that at least 15 doctors in the state from the OBC Medicos Association that he set up in 2008 also want to return their caste certificates and give up their quotas. The fact remains that OBCs in the creamy layer with an annual family income of Rs 8 lakh and above for three consecutive years are in any case excluded from benefiting from the quota. The rule seeks to prevent socially advanced OBCs from benefiting from the quota. However, the doctors are keen on making this gesture.

NEET accused to be tried under stringent new law

Anti-Cheating Law Will Apply Although 'Leaks' Predated Notification

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt has decided to prosecute those involved in manipulating this year's NEET-UG for medical entrance as well as UGC-NET to become college teachers under the just-notified Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, a decision which would mean that the wrongdoers would invite punishment tougher than what they would have faced under IPC provisions.

Sources in govt said though the alleged leak of NEET-UG and UGC-NET papers predated the notification of the new central law on Saturday, CBI will investigate the offences and chargesheet the accused under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, which was enacted in Feb in the last session of the previous Lok Sabha. On Monday, the ministry of personnel and public grievances and pensions also notified the rules for conduct of public exams by the Centre, which prescribe the procedures for conducting inquiry and filing of reports against those involved in cheating during public exams.

This means that students as well as those involved in paper leaks in Bihar and elsewhere will face up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore. Similarly, students who allegedly resorted to unfair means in locations such as Godhra can face a sentence of at least three years along with a Rs 10 lakh fine.

The law aims to prevent unfair means in public examinations conducted by UPSC, Staff Selection Commission, railways, banking recruitment examinations and NTA, among others.

According to the rules,

JAIL, FINE, DISQUALIFICATION... WHAT NEW LAW PROVIDES

Provisions in Rules of The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

Establishment of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to prepare norms, standards, and guidelines for conducting computer-based tests to ensure integrity and transparency

Mandatory Measures: Strict protocols for the handling and distribution of examination papers to prevent leaks; Use of technology such as encryption and secure transmission methods for exam materials.

Preventive Actions: Regular audits and inspections of examination centres; Mandatory training for personnel involved in the examination process on maintaining the security and integrity of exams

Grievance Redressal: Establishment of a dedicated mechanism for students and stakeholders to report irregularities and grievances; Timely investigation and resolution

PUNITIVE PROVISIONS

Imprisonment: Individuals found guilty of leaking examination papers or engaging in other unfair means may face imprisonment, duration of which varies based on the severity of the offense

Fines: Offenders can be subjected to substantial fines. These fines are intended to act as a financial deterrent against engaging in unfair practices

Disqualification: Candidates found guilty of cheating may be disqualified from taking the examination for a specified period.

Cancellation of Results: The examination results of candidates found to have engaged in unfair practices can be cancelled.

Legal action against aiding entities: Educational institutions,

coaching centres, or any other entities found to be complicit in facilitating unfair means can face legal action, including fines and other penalties

Technological Safeguards: The Act mandates the implementation of technological safeguards to prevent paper leaks and cheating. This includes secure transmission of examination papers, monitoring of examination centres, and other measures

Blacklisting: Individuals or entities repeatedly found guilty of unfair practices can be blacklisted, preventing them from participating in or facilitating future examinations.

Reporting and Accountability: Failure to report instances of unfair practices promptly by exam bodies can result in punitive measures against the responsible officials.

educational institutions, coaching centres, or any other entity found to be complicit in facilitating unfair means can face legal action, including fines and other penalties. Involvement of "coaching centres" in recent irregularities is already being probed. Coaching institutes and their personnel as well as examination authorities and service providers can face up to 5-10 years in jail.

These measures are significantly tougher than the current regulations for dealing with cheating, forgery, and paper leaks, which are

punishable with imprisonment of a maximum of three years.

These rules require the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to establish norms, standards, and guidelines for computer-based tests (CBT), among other responsibilities. The rules include provisions for "engagement of services of other govt agencies by public examination authority", "preparations of norms, standards and guidelines", and "reporting of incidents of unfair means or offences", among others.

Pre-examination activ-

ities, such as pre-audit for examination readiness of public examination centres, candidate check-in, biometric registration, security and screening, seat allocation, question paper setting and loading, invigilation, post-examination activities, and guidelines for providing scribes will also be part of the norms. The rules also include provisions for reporting incidents of unfair means or offences and "procedures to be followed in respect of public servant". A committee may be constituted by the authority for this purpose.

Didi names & shames TMC netas for hoarding money

Announces Tenders Will Henceforth Be Centralised

Tamaghna Banerjee and Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN



'SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT'

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday surprised even her inner circle with a public takedown of some "errant" cabinet colleagues, TMC functionaries, and bureaucrats found wanting in various respects.

In her sharpest public criticism to date of ministerial and administrative performance, Mamata set a 10-day deadline for everyone to shape up or ship out. From ministers to bureaucrats, municipalities to the state urban development department, police to district heads, everyone seemed to be in her firing line. "It is my turn to speak today and yours to listen," she told the audience of civic body chiefs, ministers, MLAs and senior officials.

As many in her range of firing visibly squirmed, Mamata named fire services minister and Bidhannagar MLA Sujit Bose, accusing him of

Her 70-minute tirade at the state secretariat came 20 days after the LS verdict. To TMC functionaries, she said that those indulging in extortion or doing shoddy work would be thrown out of the party. "I don't want 'master' extortionists. I want people's servants," she said, as the municipal corporations of Howrah, Bidhannagar, and Siliguri copped the bulk of her criticism.

She announced a key change in the tender process. Civic bodies are no longer authorised to give out contracts. Instead, a panel comprising the chief secretary and secretaries of home, finance, land and irrigation departments, and police commissioners and an ADGP-level officer will oversee the process.

"Why should the govt's image be tarnished because of the misdeeds of a few? If I can see malpractice, why can't you? Why are the roads dirty? Should I even have to sweep streets now?" she said.

Kerala House wants state's name changed to Keralam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram:

The Kerala assembly unanimously adopted on Monday a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to "Keralam". The House was passing the resolution the second time as the Union home ministry, which had reviewed the first resolution, had suggested some technical changes.

In the First Schedule of the Constitution the state is listed as Kerala. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan moved the resolution and it was accepted by both LDF and UDF members.

The assembly had on Aug

9, 2023, in the ninth session of the 15th legislative assembly, passed a similar resolution seeking the change in the First as well as Eighth Schedules of the Constitution. The Union home ministry had returned it saying that the change needed to be made only in the First Schedule. The resolution passed on Monday incorporates the necessary changes.

IUML MLA N Samsudheen moved an amendment to the resolution but it was rejected. "The suggestion was only regarding the structuring of the resolution since it was returned by the Centre earlier. It was not about the content."

Newly weds shot dead in Haryana

Hisar: In a suspected honour killing, a couple who had got married for love two months ago was shot dead by men on a bike in Hansi town of Haryana on Monday morning. The assailants fired seven rounds, leaving the couple dead in Hansi's Hukum Chand Jain Park. The victims have been identified as Tejbir, 27, a resident of Badala village, and Meena, 24, of Sultanpur village. Meena's paternal aunt is married to Tejbir's maternal uncle. Tejbir and Meena married against the wishes of Meena's family at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh on April 22 this year. TNN

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ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.06.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಜೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಹಾಸನ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಳ್ತಗೆಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಹೆಲ್ಪ್ ಡೆಸ್ಕ್ ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ / ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಸುತ್ತಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಜೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಜೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಬೆಂಜೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 01.07.2024 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಬೆಂಜೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡು): 02.07.2024 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಬೆಂಜೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆ: ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸದೆ ಬೆಂಜೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಬೆಂಜೆ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಬೆಂಜೆ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS-126/KSMCA-96/2024-25

RAJASTHAN SAMWAD
DIPR Campus, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005
(Telephone & Fax No. 0141-2222107, E-mail id rajsthsamwad@gmail.com, dipr.rajasthan@gmail.com)
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No. 55 Date : 24/06/2024
INVITATION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVIDING SERVICES FOR MAN POWER invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM 15/07/2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.rajn.nic.in>) of the state; and (<https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in>). The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2 Crore. **UBN: IPR2425LRC00008**
Managing Director
Rajasthan Samwad, Jaipur

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. AGC-EL-GSU-T-11-24 Date: 12.06.2024/21.06.2024
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Gati Shakti), North Central Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.
Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrical TRD work related to splitting of 41 KM long block section (Fatehabad-Bah) by converting Bhadrail 'D' Class station into 'B' Class Station. **Completion Period:** 12 months.
Approximate Cost of work: Rs. 27205695.44/-, **Closing date of Tender:** 15.07.2024 @ 12:00 Hrs. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in. Tender can only be submitted through web portal www.irps.gov.in up to 12:00 hrs. on 15.07.2024. 1090/24(K)
@CPONCR @northcentralrailway @North central railways www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM BOARD (MPTB)
Corporate Identification Number CIN-U75302MP2017NPL043078
6th Floor, Lily Trade Wing Jahangirabad, Bhopal
Tel. : (0755) 2780600, www.tourism.mp.gov.in
NIT No. : 3544/CS/MPTB/2024 System No. : 2024_MPTB_353131 Date : 25.06.2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI FOR INVESTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS OF 'CARAVANS IN MADHYA PRADESH'
MPTB invites EOI for Investors for the Development and Operations of 'Caravans in Madhya Pradesh'. Terms and Conditions can be downloaded from website www.tourism.mp.gov.in and <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. For any other information, contact +91-9407057416 or e-mail, at cs.mptb@mp.gov.in
Last date for offline submission of EOI is 22.07.2024 15:00 hrs.
M.P. Madhyam/115038/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Lakes South Zone), Room No.309,
3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.
No: EE-South Zone/Lakes/TN-01/2024-25 Date: 24.06.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES or any State Government Organizations.
Call-2

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Comprehensive Development of Madiwala Lake (Call-2)	1500.00	1234.38	15.00 Lakhs

Stipulated Period of Completion : 11 Months
Calendar of Events: 1) Bid documents can be downloaded from 29-06-2024 from the website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. (2) Pre-bid meeting which will take place at office of the Chief Engineer (Lakes), BBMP on 02-07-2024 at 15.00 hrs. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before 16.00 hrs. on 12-07-2024. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on the website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> in the Office of the Executive Engineer (Lakes), BBMP on 15-07-2024 at 12.00 hrs.
Further details can be had from the office of the above. For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK KPP Portal website: <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or Contact KPP Portal Helpdesk at 080-22485867/22485927.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Lakes South Zone), BBMP

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-18773
TENDER ENQUIRY No. : QQ-2350/PO-P
Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 850 MT (Metric Tonne) Galvanized Stender Steel Wire Grade-5 size 7/3.15mm bearing ISI/POM mark having tensile strength 45 Kg per mm² conforming to PSPCL Specification No. QQ-2350/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24.06.2024 onwards.
NOTE : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
C-363/24, DPR/Pb./76155/12/3012/2023/34912

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & PROJECT DIRECTOR
STATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
WEST BENGAL MAJOR IRRIGATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT
JALASAMPAD BHAWAN, 9TH FLOOR, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700 091
EMAIL : ce.pd.wbmfmp@gmail.com Tel : 033-23581315
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Procurement Notice for India - P162679
West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project - IN-INDW-430222-CW-RFB (Funded by World Bank, AIB & Government of West Bengal)
1st Corrigendum / Addendum Notice
Name of Work : "Distributed PLC based SCADA Canal Gate Automation Project under West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project; Package No. IRR-15 - comprising of two lots", RFB No : WBMFMP/PD/NCB/24-25/IRR15. Tender ID : 2024_IWD_689681_1, Tender ID : 2024_IWD_689681_2. For detailed 1st Corrigendum / Addendum to above work, Please visit the website : <https://wbttenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief Engineer and Project Director, SPMU, WBMFMP, Government of West Bengal

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy CE (TMC) Line JHS acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender through E-Tenders with closing date mentioned against each:
S.N.:01 E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-TMC-03-2024
Name of Work: Refurbishing of Camping Coaches for Track Machines in North Central Railway at TMD Jhansi. (34 Nos), **Period of completion:** 18 Month
Estimated value (Rs.): 8,30,70,636.09 | Earnest money (Rs.): 5,65,400.00
S.N.:02 E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-TMC-04-2024
Name of Work: Crimping of Hydraulic Hoses for IOH/POH of Track Machines for the period of one year, **Period of completion:** 12 Month
Estimated value (Rs.): 22,78,360.41 | Earnest money (Rs.): 45,600.00
Tender closing date & time: 15.07.2024. Tender can be submitted online on date mentioned against each up to 15:00 Hrs. For details description & submission of tender, please see website of Indian Railway www.irps.gov.in. Detail of Tender notice can also be seen on Notice Board of Dy. CE (TMC) Line Office Jhansi. 1089/24 (P)
North central railways @www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPONCR

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)
IFT No:01/2024-25 Date: 19-06-2024
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 8-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contractors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.487.13 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.6.75 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.7,30,800/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.13,000/-. Tender documents is downloaded from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> website as for tender notification, SL.no.1-5 Dt:19-06-2024 And SL.no.6-8 Dt:24-06-2024 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is SL.no.1-5 Dt:26-06-2024 and SL.no.6-8 Dt:1-07-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 6-Months and Minimum-2 months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.
DIPR/DDMYS-109/KSMCA-91/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205
Open Tender Enq. No. 532/P-II/EMP-W-12683 dt. 20.06.24
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open E tender ID No. 2024_POWER_122554_1 for Breakdown, Periodical, Preventive and Shut down maintenance of 220KV/132 KV Substation/Switchyard & 66KV Substation/Switchyard & 11 Kv Micro Hydel Substation/Switchyard all transformers and allied equipment like Breakers, superconductors, cables etc along with 11KV/6.6KV lines and all Transformers (GTs, STs, UATs etc.) installed at Stage-II & III, operation & maintenance of Transformer Oil filtration sets etc under EM-IV cell, GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 21.06.24 from 05.00 PM onwards.
Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspcpl.in>
RTP-53/24, DPR/Pb./76155/12/3020/2023/34919

Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Vikas Kutir, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002
E-Auction Notice
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board invites online e-auction of 13 sites of various Assets/ Premises of DUSIB for renting out for installation of Mobile Network Tower (as per list available on website) on temporary basis as per prescribed terms & conditions for an agreement for a period of six years from the date of taking over the possession with an extension of 4 years and total maximum period upto 10 years with the approval of competent authority. There will be an automatic escalation /increase in the rates of license fee (rental) by 8% every year at the beginning of each successive year.
DATE OF E-AUCTION
22.07.2024 (Monday) from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
Online registration starts : 01.07.2024 (Monday)
Last date for online registration/submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 12.07.2024 (Friday) upto 6:00 PM
For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website <https://dusib.ebizard.in> or DUSIB website www.delhishelterboard.in.
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0099/24-25 **Sd/- Dy. Director (RP)**
(Mob. No.8826697456)

Government of Maharashtra
The World Bank Funded
Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project
Tender Ref No: SMART/PCMU/EXTERNAL/CS/83/2024-25
Selection of Chartered Accountancy firm for External Audit
The SMART Project invites proposals from the eligible Chartered Accountancy firms for External Audit of SMART project. The RFP document is available on <https://mahtenders.gov.in> and the project website www.smart-mh.org. Interested Chartered Accountancy firms need to submit their "Proposal" through online at <https://mahtenders.gov.in> latest by 16/07/2024 up to 3.00 PM. If there is any change in the RFP document or any other scheduled date, it will be published only on the aforesaid website.
Dr. Hemant Vasekar I.A.S
DGIPR 2024-25/398 **Project Director**

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-3/Tender/2024-25 Dated: 18.06.2024
Invitation For Tender
Tender ref no: 02/2024-25
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. Total 03 Works (Pavagada Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs.92.00 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.<http://KPPP.gov.in>. Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 05.07.2024 (up to 4.00 pm). Technical bids will be opened on 06.07.2024 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 10.07.2024 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
DIPR/TUM/82/KSMCA/2024-25

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ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER: D.LAKSHMAN, Advocate, For DLA& ASSOCIATES, U-203, No. 87, Shreshtha Bhumi, K.R. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob: 98457 12345.
Vinila Pinto, Partner DUA ASSOCIATES Advocates & Solicitors 130/1, 2nd Floor, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore - 560 042. T. 080-2558 8799 / F. 080-2558 8801
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament) CMA Bhawan, 12, Sunder Street, Kolkata - 700016
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Invites Sealed Unconditional tender in two bid system from the eligible experienced and reputed contractor for proposed Construction of Institutional Building at Plot Nos. IPS-1, 11, 12 & 13 at Rajalaxmi, Sitapura PHD, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The details Terms & Conditions along with the Tender Documents are available at Institute's website www.icmai.in under the sub-head "Tender".
Convener, Tender Committee
personal **LOST & FOUND** **CHANGE OF NAME** **100% Absolutely Expenses Free** **EXCELLENT FINANCE OFFERS** **Book your Classified Ad in 3 easy steps**
I, NARBADA BAI W/O LATE HIMMATLAL SOLANKI R/o No-18, 20th cross, sampangramanagar Bangalore - 560027, have changed my name to NARBADA SOLANKI vide affidavit dt.24.06.2024 sworn before notary FAHIM UNNISA Bangalore.
I, MADHE HYDER S/O MOHAMMED HASHIM Residing At 04 Near Bibi Sakina Astana Allpur & P Gauribidanur Tq Chikkaballapur Dist Karnataka Declare That Name of My FATHER Has Been Wrongly Written As SYED MOHAMED HASHIM In Passport That Actual Name Of My Father is MOHAMMED HASHIM Affidavit Dated 22/06/2024 At Gauribidanur
I, VENUHA RAGHURAM SHARMA Aged 49 Yrs W/O RADHAKRISHNA YETHADKA Residing At No 987 23RD MAIN JAYANAGAR 4TH BLK BENGALURU 560041 Hereby Declare That My Name Is Changed To VINUTHA RACHURAMA For All Practical Purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 24/06/2024 Sworn Before Advocate & Notary L.B Anasuyamma.
I, Pradeep K.L.S/O Lingappa KB R/o Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore have changed my name from Pradeep KL to Pradeep KL for all future purposes.
I, Udit Singhal R/o Electronic City, Bangalore have changed my minor son's name from Keshav Singhal to Shikhar Singhal for all future purposes.
I, Chandrashekar J S/O, Janardhan R/O 808/2, Ground Floor, R A Sukrith, Opp. Happy Valley School, Happy Valley Layout, Bangalore 560061 have changed my name to Chandrashekar J.
I, Ramesh Kumar Srivastav have lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in "Nandimangalam Tariff, Karnapalli Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No - 2417/1992, Sy No - 615/3 and 616/2 (Unit No - 228), Arva Extend AC 0.24 Cents, Style of layout : VHF Selve Dubai Garden Estate Phase V, (SRO Hosur) While Some Personal Work Near Byappannahalli Metro Station, B'lore. Case Registered No.1099789/2024. Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address Rajesh Kumar Srivastav, Res/at. Plot - 6329, 1st Floor, Vesagur Kurg, South Wind, Delhi. Phone- 993614456.
I, Atul Nagi have lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in "Nandimangalam Tariff, Karnapalli Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No - 2421/1992, Sy No - 615/3, (Unit No - 229), Arva Extend AC 0.24 Cents) Style of layout : VHF Selve Dubai Garden Estate Phase V (SRO Hosur) While Some Personal Work Near Byappannahalli Metro Station (B'lore), Case Registered No.1099772/2024. Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, Atul Nagi, Res/at. 51-AI-1/C, Janakpuri, Nagairai, West Delhi. Phone-993614456.
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THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing BBMP Municipal No: 41/3, Old No: 41, (PID No:94-43-41/3), formed out of survey No: 93/3 and 94/2, totally measuring 22798 Sq.ft situated at Nagawara Main Road, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore which comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Old ward No:94 and New ward no:30, totally measuring 22798 Sq.ft at Nagawara main Road, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore and bounded as follows: East by: Conservancy, West by: Partly by Nagawar Main Road and partly by remaining portion of the same property, North by: Private property, South by: Petrol Bunk and remaining portion of the same property, Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PVnW22hEM7Z19oev8>, Latitude and Longitude: 13°01'06.7"N 77°37'09.9"E

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the north west portion of schedule A property presently bearing BBMP Municipal No. 41/3, Old No: 41, (PID No: 94-43-41/3) formed out of survey Nos: 93/3 and 94/2 measuring East to west 70 ft, North to south 10 ft, totally measuring 2800 Sq.ft situated at Nagawar main road, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore Bounded as follows: East by: Private property, West by: Nagawara Main Road, North by: Private property, South by: Private property

Sl. No.	PROPERTY DETAILS (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)	CLEAR TITLE	RESERVE PRICE (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 234/2022					
1	All the piece and Residential Flat No.608, Situated at on the Fifth Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, Unit No.1 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1119 Sqft. along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		63,54,500/-	6,36,000/-	
2	All the piece and Residential Flat No.501, Situated at on the Fourth Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, Unit No.1 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1110 Sqft. along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		63,05,000/-	6,31,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 235/2022					
3	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.4, Flat No. G-004 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 980 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		55,90,000/-	5,59,000/-	
4	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.2, Flat No. G-002 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1120 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		63,60,000/-	6,36,000/-	
5	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.3, Flat No. G-003 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 960 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		54,80,000/-	5,48,000/-	
6	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.5, Flat No. G-005 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1085 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		61,67,500/-	6,17,000/-	
7	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.7, Flat No. G-007 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1085 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		61,67,500/-	6,17,000/-	
8	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.6, Flat No. G-006 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1080 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		61,40,000/-	6,14,000/-	
9	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.1, Flat No. G-001 Situated at on the Ground Floor, Block No.1 or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1050 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided land share along single parking comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc.		59,75,000/-	5,98,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 236/2022					
10	All the piece and Residential Flat bearing unit No.SF-315, Situated at on the 2nd floor, "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1025 Sqft. Together with one reserved car park space bearing No.SF-315 in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 210 sq.ft of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land		58,37,500/-	5,84,000/-	
11	All the piece and Residential Flat No.FF-212, Situated at on the 1st Floor, "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 975 Sqft. together with one reserved car park space bearing No. FF-212, in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 192 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land.		55,62,500/-	5,57,000/-	
12	All the piece and Residential Flat No.FF-203, Situated at on the 1st Floor, "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 960 Sqft. together with one reserved car park space bearing No. FF-203, in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 190 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land.		54,80,000/-	5,48,000/-	
13	All the piece and Residential Flat No.FF-204, Situated at on the 1st Floor, "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 980 Sqft. together with one reserved car park space bearing No. FF-204, in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 195 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land.		55,90,000/-	5,59,000/-	
14	All the piece and Residential Flat No.FF-215, Situated at on the 1st Floor, "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1025 Sqft. together with one reserved car park space bearing No. FF-215, in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 210 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land.		58,37,500/-	5,84,000/-	
15	All the piece and Residential Flat No.TF-412, Situated at on the 3rd Floor, "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 975 Sqft. together with one reserved car park space bearing No. TF-412, in the still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with 192 sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land.	Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority	55,62,500/-	5,57,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 239/2022					
16	All the piece and Residential Flat No.611, Situated at on the 5th floor, Block No.2 or "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1025 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		58,37,500/-	5,84,000/-	
17	All the piece and Residential Flat No.616, Situated at on the 5th floor, Block No.2 or "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1125 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		63,87,500/-	6,39,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC. 240/2022					
18	All the piece and Residential bearing Flat No.418, Situated at on the Fifth Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1119 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		63,54,500/-	6,36,000/-	
19	All the piece and Residential bearing Flat No.219, Situated at on the Third Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1035 Sqft. Along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		58,92,500/-	5,90,000/-	
20	All the piece and Residential Flat No.320, Situated at on the Fourth Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1089 Sqft. along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		61,89,500/-	6,19,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 242/2022					
21	All the piece and Residential Flat No.516, Situated at on the Fifth Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 980 Sqft. along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		55,90,000/-	5,59,000/-	
22	All the piece and Residential Flat No.516, Situated at on the Fourth Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1152 Sqft. along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		65,36,000/-	6,54,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 243/2022					
23	All the piece and Residential Flat No.303, Situated at on the 2nd Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, Unit No. 3 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 960 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		54,80,000/-	5,48,000/-	
24	All the piece and Residential Flat No.414, Situated at on the 3rd Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, unit no. 14 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1100 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		62,50,000/-	6,25,000/-	
25	All the piece and Residential Flat No.210, Situated at on the 1st Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, unit no. 10 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1080 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		61,40,000/-	6,14,000/-	
26	All the piece and Residential Flat No.314, Situated at on the 2nd Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, unit no. 14 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1100 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		62,50,000/-	6,25,000/-	
27	All the piece and Residential Flat No.407, Situated at on the 3rd Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, unit no. 7 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1085 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		61,67,500/-	6,17,000/-	
28	All the piece and Residential Flat No. 109, Situated at on the ground Floor, Block No.2, or "B" Block, unit no. 9 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1000 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		57,00,000/-	5,70,000/-	
29	All the piece and Residential Flat No.301, Situated at on the 2nd Floor, Block No.1, or "A" Block, unit no. 1 of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 1050 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking In still floor, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathrooms, Dinning, and Balcony etc., along with proportionate undivided share in the land.		59,75,000/-	5,98,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 1088/2019					
30	All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No.514, located at 4th floor, 2nd Block (B-Block) of Aala Dreams, constructed in Property Municipal No.41/3 (Old No.41) in Sy.No.93/3 and 94/2, Situate at Nagawara Main Road of Kadugondanahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk. Having BBMS PID No.94-43-41/3, measuring an extent of 1035 Sq.ft.		58,92,500/-	5,90,000/-	
Clear Title by Court in order No MISC. 663/2021					
31	Residential Flat No.312, Situated at on the 3rd floor, Block No.2 or "B" Block, of the Multistoried Apartment known as "AALA DREAMS" constructed upon viz, Schedule "A" Property with super built up area of 975 Sqft. Along with Single Car Parking, comprising of Two Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, attach bathroom, Dinning, and Balcony etc., All that proportionate share which includes in common areas such as passage, Lobbies, stair cases, Lifts and other areas of common use such as Electrical meter, water & sewerage installations etc., of the apartment.		55,62,500/-	5,57,000/-	

Bid Increase Value (Rs)	Date of Pre-bid meeting & time	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
Rs. 25,000/- (Rs. Twenty five thousand only)	29th July 2024 3 pm to 4 pm	30th July 2024 11:00am to 05:00pm	31st July 2024 until 5pm	1st August 2024 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Place: Bengaluru, Date: 21.06.2024

DIPR/CP/546/2en/2024-25

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority (Under KPIDFE -IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

PM: We commit ourselves to ensuring a vibrant democracy

Continued from page 1

Opposition MPs flashed copies of the Constitution in what appeared to be a celebration of the success in paring down BJP's numbers. "Tomorrow is the 25th of June. For those dedicated to the dignity of the Constitution and who believe in Bharat's democratic traditions, the 25th of June is an unforgettable day. Tomorrow marks 50 years since a dark chapter was written into India's democracy. The new generation of Bharat must never forget how the Constitution was completely disregarded, torn apart, and the country was turned into a prison, with democracy utterly suppressed," the PM said in his address to media ahead of the session's commencement.

Modi, who had rebutted the charge that BJP intended to change the Constitution during the campaign and had argued that, to the contrary, it was the opposition which had violated the decision of the founding fathers by implementing quotas for Muslims

on grounds of religion, sent out an equally loud signal that for him, the battle over the Constitution was not over yet. Taking up suspension of democracy and civil rights during the Emergency, he said, "These 50 years since the Emergency remind us to protect our Constitution and democracy with pride. The countrymen must resolve that such a travesty will never be allowed to happen again. We commit ourselves to ensuring a vibrant democracy and fulfilling the common man's dreams as outlined by the Indian Constitution."

The remarks appeared to be a prelude to a BJP campaign to recall the days of the Emergency when most of its stalwarts were put in prison.

Modi sought to play down his lower-than-expected numbers by highlighting his success in getting a record third term. Terming NDA's third victory as remarkable and significant, he said the third consecutive mandate also meant a three-fold jump in his responsibilities, as he sought to as-

sure that he would work three times harder. "We will achieve three times the results, moving forward with this new mission," he said, adding, "This House of ours will become a House of resolutions. Our 18th Lok Sabha should be filled with resolutions that bring the dreams of the common man to fruition." He emphasised the importance of consensus in governance, but not without mentioning the role of a "responsible opposition". Recalling disruptions during Parliament proceedings in the past, he said people expect debate and diligence, not tantrums, drama and disturbance. "They seek substance, not slogans. The country needs a good and responsible opposition," he said. "Over the past 10 years, we have continuously strived to establish a tradition because we believe that while a majority is necessary to run a government, consensus is crucial to govern a country. We aim to take everyone along and expedite decisions within the framework of the Constitution," Modi said.

Oppn MPs on chairpersons' panel give oath-taking a miss

Modi, Others Take Oath Amid Oppn Protests

Akhlesh Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The routine custom of newly-elected Lok Sabha members being administered oath by the protem Speaker was marred on Monday with opposition members nominated by the President to the panel of chairpersons refusing to take oath when their scheduled turn arrived in order to avoid presiding over the session in the absence of protem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahab.

PM Modi was the first to take oath followed by members of the panel of chairpersons, which included Radha Mohan Singh and Fagga Singh Kulaste of BJP, after which the council of ministers took oath before other MPs in alphabetical order.

However, the three opposition MPs in the panel of chairpersons — K Suresh (Congress), Sudip Bandyopadhyay (Trinamool Congress) and T R Balu (DMK) — gave a miss to the oath-taking.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi signs a document after taking oath as a Member of Parliament in the 18th Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Monday

ing. They were listed just after PM Modi and ahead of the council of ministers.

With substantial increase in their numbers, most opposition MPs, particularly from Congress and Samajwadi Party, carried copies of the Constitution to the House. While Modi was taking oath, opposition members rose to their feet, holding copies of the Constitution. They did the same when Union home minister Amit Shah took oath, but remained seated this time.

Congress MP from Mavelikara K Suresh was the first to raise objection when proceedings started as he asked the chair to drop his name from panel of chairpersons.

When Modi reached Parliament Monday, he was accompanied by Union ministers from four different regions of the country — Jitendra Singh, L Murugan, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kiren Rijiju, to which a senior BJP leader said, "It is true spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat."

Meanwhile, Independent MP from Baramulla in Kashmir Abdul Rashid Sheikh could not take oath Monday despite his name being called as he has been lodged in jail since 2019 after being charged by the NIA in a terror-funding case. Popularly known as Engineer Rashid, he had defeated former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Nadda appointed leader of the House in RS

New Delhi: Union health minister and BJP's national president J P Nadda has been appointed leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, replacing Union minister Piyush Goyal, who has been elected to Lok Sabha from Mumbai North constituency. Nadda, currently a member of Rajya Sabha from Gujarat, is in charge of ministries of health and family welfare as well as that of chemicals and fertilizers.

Besides him, 11 other members of the Upper House of Parliament are in the Union council of ministers. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge remains the leader of the Opposition in the RS. Congratulating Nadda, Congress's Jairam Ramesh urged him to accommodate the views of the opposition in the House. "Greetings to J P Nadda ji on his being nominated as the Leader of the House in the RS. As Venkaiah Naidu garu might have said — if the Leader of the House can accommodate, the Opposition can cooperate," he said. TNN.

BJD signals shift from 'BJP-friendly' to strong RS oppn

Ashok Pradhan
@timesgroup.com

Bhubaneswar: Naveen Patnaik's BJD signalled a departure Monday from its perceived pliancy towards BJP-led NDA in Parliament, with the party patriarch and former Odisha CM urging his Rajya Sabha members to function as "a strong and vibrant opposition" that would "make the Centre accountable on all issues". "Be the voice of 4.5 crore people of Odisha in Parliament," BJP quoted Naveen as saying at a parliamentary party meeting in preparation for the Rajya Sabha session starting June 27.

"Many just and rightful demands of Odisha haven't been met. We must ensure that those demands are met in right earnest by the Centre," said Naveen, whose party drew a blank in the Lok Sabha polls and fell short of a sixth successive term in Odisha.

BJD's changed stance is seen as part of the party's renewed resolve to pursue its long-standing demand for special-category status to Odisha. The party also intends to highlight the poor condition of national highways passing through Odisha and alleged delays in projects, including the Cuttack-Sambalpur Road, the proposed Coastal Highway, and the Odisha Capital Region Ring Road near Bhubaneswar. BJD also plans to seek a provision for at least 20 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and the Kendriya Vidyalaya and Eklavya Schools in each block of Odisha, especially in areas with a tribal population.

In the sphere of healthcare, BJD will demand AIIMS campuses in Sambalpur, Koraput, and Balasore to cater to the needs of Odisha's northern, western, and southern regions, the party said. Other demands include financial inclusion, 100% telecom connectivity across all panchayats, an increase in coal royalty, approval of all pending irrigation projects and the inclusion of "Ahimsa" in the Preamble to the Constitution, as proposed by Naveen.

'Kejriwal is not a flight risk if he comes out on bail'

Continued from page 1

But the bench responded that if HC had committed a mistake, as submitted by him, then the same mistake could not be repeated by the apex court.

Kejriwal's plea was opposed by solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional solicitor general S V Raju, who, on behalf of ED, submitted that the agency did not get full opportunity to present its case before the trial court, which cut short its arguments. They said that the trial court did not go through the entire documents filed in the case and granting bail

was also violative of Section 45 of PMLA on twin conditions test. Singhvi, however, said that the trial court in its order recorded all submissions and the order falsified ED's arguments. He said that Kejriwal is not a flight risk if he comes out on bail and there was no need for HC to stay the order without hearing the case on merit.

As both the sides kept questioning trial court and HC orders, the bench said that the HC itself indicated that it would soon pass a detailed order and said that it could hear the case on Wednesday, hoping that HC may deliver the verdict on

Tuesday. "Normally on stay applications, orders are not reserved. They are passed at the hearing itself, on the spot. So, it is a bit unusual, we will have it on the day after," the bench said.

Granting bail to Kejriwal last Thursday in a money laundering case related to the alleged scam in the now-scraped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, a city court has observed that ED was acting with bias. The bail order was stayed by HC on Friday, saying the bail would remain stayed till it pronounced its verdict, and had asked counsel from both sides to file written submissions by June 24.

Amid opposition threat of a contest, BJP starts consultations with allies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As the BJP leadership moved closer towards picking its choice for Speaker, a confrontation seemed to be brewing with the opposition bloc insisting on the deputy speaker's post and indicating that it would field a candidate for the Speaker's post if govt did not agree to its demand.

BJP began consultations with its allies on the NDA's candidate for Speaker a day ahead of nominations for the election scheduled on Wednesday. There are indications that the govt will convey its choice to opposition parties on Tuesday evening, i.e. a day before the election. INDIA bloc is considering its options and may force a contest although the Speaker has always been elected with consensus. NDA, which enjoys a majority in Lok Sabha, gave little indication about

NDIA bloc is considering its options and may force a contest although the Speaker has always been elected with consensus.

its choice as it weighs its options and looks to deny the opposition any opportunity to mount a political attack.

TDP leader and Union minister K Ram Mohan Naidu told reporters that the alliance's leaders, including his party's president N Chandrababu Naidu, would take a decision on the matter, adding that no final decision had been conveyed to them yet.

A leader of another BJP ally said on the condition of anonymity that the BJP leadership has held consultations with him. He declined to discuss the details.

With the theme of continuity mark-

ing many of its choices since it returned to office for a third term, there is a view among a section of NDA leaders that Om Birla, who was speaker in the previous Lok Sabha, may be nominated again. However, there was no official word on such a prospect. Congress leaders said they were waiting for a word from the govt as part of consultations that are customary for the speaker's election. Senior Congress and opposition MPs like K Suresh and N K Premachandran said they were in favour of a consensus. "The post of speaker goes to the govt and the deputy speaker's post is for the opposition," they said. While there is no clarity on who will take on the NDA's nominee, the row over the pro-tem speaker's post suggests that Suresh may be among the frontrunners. Also, NDA sources indicated that the deputy speaker's post may be given to one of its allies.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website: www.kiadb.in

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

No.IADB/ENGG/PMCE/PTND-EP-04/223/2024-25 Date: 24.06.2024

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work:

Name of the Work : Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Construction of 10MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant near Bidadi Byramangala Lake on Vrishabhavathi River for Supplying to Bidadi, Shanamagala & Harohalli Industrial Areas, Including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 10 Years.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **08.07.2024 upto 16.00 hrs.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/547/Zen/2024-25

PSPC Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205

Open Tender Enq. No. 534/P-II/EMP-W-12684 dt. 20.06.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open E tender ID No. 2024_POWER_122549_1 for Routine, Preventive, Breakdown & Shutdown Maintenance of 415V AC Switchgears at main Plant & CHP Switchgears, 220V DC, 110V AC power supply system, ESP Control Panels including HVR Transformers and rapping motors control, Hydrogen Plant, local control panels, Micro Hydel Plant LT Switchgear and associated equipment, local push button stations and power receptacles, LT Power and control cables installed at various locations under Electrical Mtc. Cell No. 1 of 4x210MW Stage-II & III (Unit No. 3 to 6) at Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Plant (GGSSTP), Roopnagar, Punjab. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 21.06.24 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspcpl.in>

RTP-52/24, DPR/Pb.-76155/12/3019/2023/34918

Visvesvaraya Technological University
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi -590 018, Karnataka State
Ref. No. VTU/BGM/RE/IE/ELECT/2024-25/IFT No.10/1265, Date: 21st June 2024

Tender Notification - Two Cover System - (e-Procurement Only)

The e-tenders (Two-Cover System) are invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, Registered Firm/Agency, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W & KG format for the works of 1) Supplying installing, testing and commissioning of 650 KVA DG set for "Jnana Sangama", VTU, Belagavi (2nd call) amounting to Rs.60,15,426/- (Including GST) & 2) Supplying and carrying out electrical maintenance works to street light poles and feeder pillars at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi amounting to Rs.9,61,000/- (including GST) 3) Supplying and installing Video Conference with live streaming set to senate hall at Regional Centre, Kalaburagi amounting to Rs.23,54,100/- (Including GST) 4) Annual Maintenance Contract to Split & Cassette Air-Conditioners installed at Guest House, CPGS Building, Administrative Block, Library & Valuation Centre at VTU, Regional Centre, Kalaburagi. (2nd call) amounting to Rs.8,51,370/- (including GST). The tenderers, who have executed similar nature of single work costing 50% of amount put to tender, shall only apply for these works. Other details log on to website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on 27-06-2024.

DPR/BGM/NO-180/18/NSMCA/2024-25

Sd/-Registrar, VTU, Belagavi

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079. Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com
No: KMSMCL/DRUGS/TND/NC/STROKE & STEMI MANAGEMENT/05/2024-25 Dated: 24.06.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KMSMCL/DRUGS/TND/NC/STROKE & STEMI MANAGEMENT/ 05/2024-25, Dated: 24.06.2024 (IND-0119).

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. **Tender for the supply of Inj. Alteplase and Inj. Tenecteplase under STROKE & STEMI Project 2024-25 (IND-0119).**

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 24.06.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director,
KMSMCL, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO548/24-25

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-130	6410750.48	128200.00
JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-131	75387041.75	526900.00
JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-132	8115133.70	162300.00

Description of work : Part (A) - JHS ELG : Provision of Power supply Augmentation over JHS division. Part (B) - Jhansi Division : Provision of tapped water supply as per MEA at various stations of Jhansi - Parauna section under ADEN/HQ-I/JHS sub division.

Description of work : Garhmau - Jhansi division : Development of new goods shed at Garhmau Railway station in lieu of Jhansi goods shed.

Description of work : Jhansi - Parauna - Replacement of old steel and RCC OHT with augmentation of watering facility at VGLJ & Chirgaon stations. under DEN/HQ/JHS.

Date of closing Tender : 15/07/2024 at 15:00 hrs., **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 06 Months.

Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 15.07.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 1086/24 (AN)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPRNCR

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

'Anniversary reminds why terrorism should never be tolerated'

Continued from page 1

Earlier on Sunday, the Indian high commission in Ottawa said in a press release, while remembering the victims, that the bombing was a cowardly act of terror, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani terrorists.

Stating that perpetrators and co-conspirators of the dastardly act remained free, the Indian mission said any act of glorifying terrorism including the bombing of AI-182, in 1985, is deplorable and should be condemned by all peace-loving countries and people. "It is unfortunate that such actions are allowed to be routine on many occasions in Canada," said the statement.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar had said on Sunday in a post on X that the anniversary is a reminder why terrorism should never be tolerated. Canada has observed the anniversary of the June 23, 1985, terrorist attack since 2005 as National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

"Today, we remember and honour every Canadian whose life was cut short or forever changed by a terrorist attack," said Trudeau in his message.

"Thirty-nine years ago today, 329 innocent people, including 280 Canadians, tragically lost their lives when a bomb, planted on Air India Flight 182 in Canada, exploded mid-flight. This remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history. It reminds us of the senseless violence that terrorism perpetuates and of our shared responsibility to unequivocally condemn terrorism," he added.

Trudeau further said Canada is doing its part to counter terrorism and violent extremism and has updated its counter-terrorism strategy. While he made no special mention of Khalistan extremism, the Canadian PM cited the example of how his govt has listed Iran's IRGC under Canada's Criminal Code.

Dead man walking: Shepherd turns up alive at own 'burial'

Sushil.Rao@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: It had all the trappings of a bizarre tale but the heart-warming twist at the end banished all doubts about the mistaken identity of a dead person in a remote village in Telangana.

Pittia Yellappa (47) of Vikarabad district, a shepherd, was presumed dead and his family were busy making arrangements for his last rites when he showed up just as the body was to be buried, much to the shock of his family members.

But whose body was it that was handed over to the family by police? Yellappa himself cleared the air. He said his mobile phone was stolen when he was tending sheep on June 21 and the device was detected on a person whose body was found at the railway tracks. The man's face was smashed beyond recognition after he was hit by a train near Vikarabad railway station.

Police officers called up some of the numbers on the phone, found out that it belonged to Yellappa and handed over the body to his family.

Mobile 'thief' lynched in Assam town 47-year-old crushed to death in UP

Dibrugarh: An incensed mob lynched a 28-year-old man Monday in Assam's Sivasagar town on suspicion that he had stolen a cell phone. The deceased was identified as Palu Gowala.

The cell phone was reported stolen from the house of Jayram Gowala in Phukan Nagar on Sunday night and remained untraced till the time of going to press. Around 6am Monday, Jayram, with locals' help, dragged Palu and his relative Dadu — residents of the same locality — out of their houses, suspecting them of being involved in the theft. The mob brutally thrashed both men, leaving them with critical injuries.

Police rushed the duo to Sivasagar Civil Hospital where Palu was declared dead. TNN

Kanpur: In a case of suspected road rage, a car driver crushed to death a UP irrigation department employee who tried to stop him from fleeing after accidentally hitting the latter's car in Kanpur on Sunday night.

The deceased has been identified as Ravindra Kumar Tiwari, 47. According to police, the car driven by 28-year-old Shubham Vimal had collided with Tiwari's on VIP Road around 9pm.

As Tiwari stepped out and tried to stop car by coming in front of its bonnet, Shubham knocked him down and dragged him a few metres before fleeing. Tiwari, a resident of Kanpur's Civil Lines, was rushed to hospital but declared dead. TNN

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TDC)
3 DAYS GOVERNMENT TRAINING ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)
Course Duration (ONLINE) Date: 28, 29 & 30 June 2024
Course Content: Project Management Basics, Project Integration Management, Project Management Framework, Project Scope Management, Project Time Management, Project Cost Management, Human Resource Management, Project Risk Management, Project Quality Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Communications Management, Project Stakeholder Management, Professional Responsibilities. More Topic.
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Government of India certificate will be awarded

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
Request for Proposal/Bid for World Bank Aided - Nagaland Education Project - The Lighthouse (NETAR) for eligible firms with requisite experience and capabilities for the following activity:
1. Designing and implementing Lighthouse School Complex (LSC) Transformation Approach
2. Infrastructural Development of Lighthouse School Complex (LSC) - Government High School (GHS) Angiangyang under Mon District
For more details kindly visit nagalandeducationproject.com or nagalandtenders.gov.in

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi
Ministry of Education, Government of India, MYSURU - 570006
Email: principal@riemysore.ac.in, website: www.riemysore.ac.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
The Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru will conduct Walk-in-Interview on the dates as shown against each post purely on contractual basis for the Academic Session 2024-25.

Sr. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts	Date of Interviews
1	Assistant Professor in Physics	02	01 st July, 2024
2	Assistant Professor in Mathematics	02	
3	Assistant Professor in Zoology	01	
4	Assistant Professor in Pedagogy of Physical Science (Physics)	01	
5	Assistant Professor in Pedagogy of Physical Science (Chemistry)	01	
6	Assistant Professor in Pedagogy of English	01	
7	Pre-Primary/Nursery Teacher	03	
8	Vocational Teacher (Retail)	01	02 nd July, 2024
9	PGT in English	01	
10	PGT in Guidance & Counselling	01	
11	WET in Home Science	01	3 rd July, 2024
12	WET in Drawing & Painting	01	
13	Laboratory Assistant in Botany	01	
14	Computer Assistant (DCGC)	01	
15	Course Administrator	01	

For more details please log on to www.riemysore.ac.in
Principal

ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES
REIMAGINING BRANDING IN THE AGE OF TECH
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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE
KEY SPEAKERS

Sanjiv Mehta Executive Chairman L Catterton India, Former Chairman, HUL	Manish Tiwary VP and Country Manager, Amazon India	Aman Gupta Co-founder & CMO of Boat	Sudhir Sitapati MD & CEO Godrej Consumer Products	Susanne Pulverer CEO & CSO IKEA India	Piyush Pandey Chief Advisor Ogilvy India
Deepak Subramanian Unilever	Aseem Kaushik Country MD Loreal India	Karthik Balagopalani MD PUMA India	Geetika Mehta MD Nivea India	Manish Chowdhary Co-Founder WOW Skin Science	Vikas Gupta MD & CEO VLCC
Manish Anandani MD Kenvue India	Manish Kapoor MD Pepe Jeans India	Anoop Manohar CMO Axis Bank	Mukta Maheshwari CMO, VP & Category Head - Fabric Care P&G India	Manish Dubey CMO Pilldite Industries	Ravi Santhanam Group Head, CMO & Head - Direct to Consumer Business, HDFC Bank
Raj Rishi Singh CMO & CBO - Corporate MakeMyTrip	Shamik Banerjee CMO & Founding Team Member Apollo 24 7	Ashwin Moorthy CMO Godrej Consumer Products	M V S Murthy CMO Federal Bank	Rahul Talwar CMO Max Life Insurance	Anuradha Aggarwal Director, User Growth & CMO, Amazon Pay India
Arpan Biswas CMO AJIO	Poulomi Roy CMO Joy Personal Care	Renjie Wong Area Director, India (Mumbai), South Asia & MEA, Singapore Tourism Board	Amit Kumar Banka Head of Growth Marketing Swiggy	Virat Khullar Group Head of Marketing Hyundai	Nitin Saini Vice President - Marketing Mondelēz India

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.in
Tender Notice No. RWF/N/24-25/03
Dated: 22/06/2024
E-TENDERS: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works: (1) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (2) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (3) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (4) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (5) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (6) Hex Head for WAG-9HC (each set is a Loco set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 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**A thought for today***Politicians will be politicians, they will have a weakness at times for not seeing beyond their nose*

ARUN JAITLEY

It's People's House

Challenge before new LS is to deliver quality debate in a civil manner. That's the message voters sent

As MPs took oath on Day One of the 18th Lok Sabha, three incidents stood out as an indication to what can be expected in the days ahead. Opposition's protest against temporary speaker and Congress's missive to NDA govt on key issues for first 15 days showed INDIA in attack mode. Modi's comments about opposition, that "people want substance not slogans", showed PM is in no mood to relent. And third, soft-spoken Naveen Patnaik's stark message to BJD's Rajya Sabha members to be in opposition hints at rows in RS.

On fire | Opposition MPs refused to be part of the panel to assist the temporary speaker during the oath ceremony. Though negotiations for a consensus speaker continue, it's likely India may witness its first election to the speaker's post since Independence. The 18th LS will have made history from the first day House meets for business. INDIA bloc also hit the deck running to try and continue to set the agenda as it did through the election campaign. Rahul Gandhi

listed out "NDA's first 15-day agenda", including train accidents, quality of train travel, NEET-NTA scandals, high prices, forest fires and heatwave deaths. Expect fireworks.

Firing back | Modi recognises the challenges of a hawkish opposition. His address captured it — that people

want from opposition "debate and diligence", not "drama and disturbance". Govt will need to bring its best game — of listening — to ensure its first session is not lost in the din of hostile exchanges, or that opposition voices aren't drowned out. So far, most interruptions in Parliament occurred during the 15th LS (2009-2014). And dubious history was made in the 17th LS too. A hundred LS MPs and 46 Rajya Sabha members were suspended during Parliament's winter session last year — the highest number of MPs suspended in a single session in Parliament's history.

Stoking some | It was also no coincidence that Naveen Patnaik should have chosen Day One to send a message to his party's nine Rajya Sabha members — BJD has zero LS MPs for the first time ever. Patnaik asked the RS members to emerge as a "vibrant and strong" opposition. In BJD's wipeout in Odisha assembly and LS, Modi seems to have lost an all-weather ally in Patnaik. Expect a more combative RS session too.

Day One may have been far from routine. But it is still not too much to expect civility and conviviality in the House — electoral results suggested an aggressive govt and forceful opposition work side by side. Will parties comply with the people's verdict?

Lithium & More

Syncing mining and battery tech R&D crucial to India's Atmanirbhar goals

In mixed progress for India's battery tech ecosystem, Chhattisgarh's Korba district has seen one block of lithium move to the auctions stage and another block showing promising deposits of the mineral. This comes after setbacks such as the cancellation of auctions for the lithium block in J&K's Reasi district due to insufficient investor interest, and shelving of exploration plans in Manipur's Kamjong district due to local resistance. But if India is to emerge as a top player in sunrise manufacturing sectors such as electric vehicles (EVs) and consumer goods, it has to get ahead in the battery game, lithium-ion and others.

Lithium-ion challenge | In 2022, China accounted for as much as 77% of global lithium-ion battery production capacity. Beijing is projected to retain this dominance even in 2027. It's on the strength of this lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity that the Chinese are looking to dominate the global EV market. India is way behind here. If it's not to remain dependent on Chinese suppliers, it must ramp up its own lithium-ion battery production base or look for alternatives.

Poor technical depth | India also faces handicaps such as underdeveloped mineral reporting standards. This leads to figures for mineral reserves for several blocks being inconclusive, hindering investments. Plus, most of the lithium found in India is in the form of hard rock granites and pegmatites, making it difficult to extract the mineral.

Alternatives on anvil | There are other battery options too, but they need significant R&D. Metal-air batteries use atmospheric oxygen and metals such as aluminium, zinc and iron. They can be a lightweight, budget-friendly, and recyclable but non-rechargeable option. Then, China is heavily investing in cheaper sodium batteries. For India to follow suit, it has to heavily invest in battery research and line up appropriate mining industry tech and processes. That's the only way India can emerge as an alternative battery hub to China.

Exes with benefits

Putting children first is the love story after divorce

Shinie Antony

A new and tender love story is doing the rounds. This one is made up of exes. Once a marriage heads for divorce courts, a husband and wife are simply called Tom and Jerry. While wedding anniversaries are all about roses and candlelit dinners, divorce anniversaries don't come with mushy cards and teddy bears. But couples who part ways may still be bound together eternally — as parents. Romance flies out of the window, children don't.

Parents have always had a choice: stay together and mess up the kids or split up and mess up the kids. In US, about 50% children have separated parents. India, with its non-stop worrying about what others will say, artificially maintained the world's lowest divorce rates for a long time. Many a grim-faced Mr and Mrs would rather murder each other than part and bring bad name to family. Fidelity was optional for men, a terminal illness for women. In a traditional household when the "divorce" word is uttered, everyone shrieks against a loud background score. Divorce was a public tragedy; even strangers demanded to know the gory details. At least he doesn't beat you' was the anti-divorce hymn.

Modern divorces are thought to be too pat. Young couples don't try hard enough, say old couples. We don't want to end up like them, shudder the young couples. Custody battles follow. The family becomes single-parent, blended or extended, and co-parenting is parallel, cooperative or conflicted. Couples move into different flats in the same building to make child care easier; an ex is now a neighbour! Some women dump offspring with husband just so his new romance is punctuated with adolescent cries of "I won't eat this!" and "Give me your credit card".

The initial strategy of running the other spouse down is replaced by the practicality of having someone to fall back on. An ex who will pick or drop a kid when you run late is always better than one who stands there making faces. Up against a child's decision to tattoo a life-size Zendaya or Timothée Chalamet on their back another type of togetherness beckons the former spouses. Now they actually listen to each other — the previous vacant look sported during the marriage is gone. They find themselves defending each other when kids complain instead of sighing with deep contentment. Such a relief to lay down weapons, which are also the children.

Neat Solution For NEET

Allow more local input in medical education, let states tailor admission to their govt colleges per their needs. But continue an all-India test for private colleges, which can't be trusted to hold their own exams

Rema.Nagarajan@timesgroup.com



NEET 2024 paper leak has brought the focus back on the demand to scrap a nationwide single entrance test. But when looking for possible solutions to the current mess, it is important to understand the circumstances under which NEET came into being and how it has fared on its basic mandates:

- To put an end to multiple entrance tests across India
- To bring in merit-based admission
- To tackle capitation fees.

Before NEET, there were dozens of entrance exams all over the country. Students had to appear for at least five to six exams and worry about clash of exam dates and travel to distant places for counselling for seat allotment. Every year, numerous cases were filed in high courts and Supreme Court related to these issues.

Along with this, there were reports of frequent scams, especially in the entrance exams conducted by private medical colleges or their associations in each state. In Madhya Pradesh, even the state govt-conducted entrance exam for govt medical colleges was compromised.

Crores being paid for admission into medical colleges were mostly unaccounted money, euphemistically called donation or capitation fee. There was a rising demand to put an end to all such practices and to ensure admission based on 'merit'.

With a final push from SC and dismissing objections from states, NEET was born. While NEET has made it possible to replace a plethora of exams with a single exam, it has failed to ensure 'merit'. There is no requirement to pass in each of the subjects students are tested on — physics, chemistry and biology. High scorers have to forego seats in expensive private colleges, which then accommodate poor scorers who have deep pockets. Thus, money continues to decide who gets admission to almost half the medical seats in the country. Moreover, instead of scams at state level in a few states, we have scams and leaks that affect students across the whole country.

Case for state-run admission policy | Despite govt-owned medical colleges remaining relatively free of scams in the pre-NEET era, courts repeatedly insisted

on judging govt and private colleges the same in the name of fairness. But with 85% of seats in most govt medical colleges being open only to students from the respective states, there was actually no reason why states should not have continued to use Class XII marks of students for admission — as most of them would be from the state educational board.

This would have given states greater flexibility in designing admission policies that suited their needs — as Tamil Nadu did in reserving seats for students from govt schools, thus improving the odds of underprivileged students getting a chance to become doctors. It would also have helped save poorer students from having to spend on coaching for entrance exams, as they could opt out of trying to crack the all-India quota and only concentrate on scoring well in school to get into a college within their state.



Uday Deb

For many states, it might make a lot of sense to revert to Class XII board exam results as the basis for admission into state govt medical colleges. Meanwhile, states whose school systems are too uneven in quality, could conduct entrance exams for seats in state medical colleges.

Either way, since it has become clear that a centrally administered exam is as vulnerable as a state-level

exam, exam systems need to be strengthened in general. Govt should reduce outsourcing of sensitive functions like setting and printing of question papers, invigilation and correction. This will help ensure that responsibility is easily traced and fixed. It should also treat whistleblowers as people aiding govt in keeping the system honest, instead of proceeding against them as enemies of state.

Fix admission to private medical colleges | Private colleges, whether deemed universities or otherwise, can hardly be left to conduct their own admission tests. They have strong incentives to game the system and state govt has proved totally ineffective in regulating them. Moreover, since their intake is from all over India, there is every reason to club them with the all-India quota and subject them to a centralised entrance test.

In many states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, 50% of seats in private medical colleges are for state govt to fill. Those seats can be filled the same way the state govt fills seats in its own medical colleges. Thus, the case for an all-India exam for about 40%-50% (15% all-India quota + management/NRI quota in private colleges) of MBBS seats remains strong.

There is an urgent need to undo the centralisation of everything, especially in health and education, which are the domain of states. Medical education involves both health and education, but it is a concurrent subject as doctors in any state are allowed to practise anywhere in the country once they clear the final MBBS exam. However, medical education must allow for more local input, with states being allowed to tailor admission policies according to their needs.

If there are underserved areas/communities within a state, the state govt might want to take in more students from those areas/communities. If NMC can make peace with admitting students who score zero in a subject or have ranks below 10 lakh but can pay crores in the name of "merit"-based admission, it can surely allow states to give preference to students from rural areas or to govt doctors who have done rural service.

The White & Wrong Of UK's Rishism

No British politician of a party seen to be losing has got it like Sunak. But this racism has worked subtly, through dog whistle or sneer. Britain may have moved forward on race question but it still matters

Rashmee Roshan Lal



Is the race card finally in play against Rishi Sunak in the second half of Britain's six-week general election campaign? Just the dog whistle, not in propah fashion, not enough to provoke some genuine sympathy for the country's first prime minister of Indian ethnicity, rather than the abundant pity he currently evokes.

As of now, all the funeral head-shaking is about Sunak leading "Torysaurs" — the shrunken dinosaur that is Conservative Party — through a political Jurassic Park, which is readying for an "extinction-level" event.

It keeps coming | Alternately cast by tabloid pundits as "gaffe machine" or "sleeper agent" of the main opposition Labour, Sunak is subject to daily verbal pummeling for failing to arrest the political decline of a party weary from 14 years in govt. To outward seeming, it's politics as usual and Sunak is just the unlucky captain of a vessel that started to go down long before he took command 21 months ago.

In actual fact, Sunak's predicament seems unlike that of any other politician of a major British party said to be headed for a major election defeat. Oddly for a British born-and-bred man, he is deemed an outsider and a rootless cosmopolitan, and is almost always predicted to be unlikely to stay on in Britain or its politics should his party lose. Faced with race-baiting commentary, he is either unable or unwilling to call it out because he is supposed to be the face of a rainbow nation with British characteristics.

He is not one of us | A case in point is the fallout from Sunak's ill-advised early exit from an inter-

national commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings, one of the turning points of 20th century history and World War II. When Britain learnt that Sunak had skipped a June 6 event in France attended by Joe Biden, Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz, in favour of a TV interview back home, it was as if he had been found butchering babies. The commentary as well as radio and TV talk shows erupted in fury.

But it was left to Nigel Farage, champion of Donald Trump, Brexit firebrand and newly installed leader of the right-wing Eurosceptic Reform UK party, to say the unsayable. That Sunak "has no sense of our history, or feeling genuinely for the culture", that he wasn't "patriotic" and that his "instinct" is not the same as the British people's because he's "utterly disconnected in every way".

Other than some half-hearted protests about dog whistles from a few politicians, Farage's commentary on Sunak's moment of shame was allowed to stand.

The racist overtones in that judgment seemed to be on a par with an earlier incident revolving around roots and reflexive instincts, when a quite different English politician delivered a damning verdict on another non-White politician, though from across the Atlantic.

Back in 2016, Boris Johnson wrote a newspaper column saying Barack Obama's removal of a bust of Churchill from the Oval Office was driven by the US president's "part-Kenyan" ancestry. He added that this act was seen by some as a sign of an "ancestral dislike of the British

Empire". Though, like Farage, Johnson wasn't UK prime minister at the time, he was hardly a political nobody. As for Obama, like Sunak, he too seemed to symbolise a new post-racial politics. Except that it isn't.

There and not there | Britain has moved quite some way towards an inclusive politics from the charged immigration debates of the late 1960s and the infamous "rivers of blood" speech of Enoch Powell, but Sunak's rise to Downing Street was no post-racial moment. There is euphemistic racism, just as attended Sunak's election to parliament nine years ago from an ultra-safe Conservative seat in Yorkshire. At the time, his prospective constituents offered comments that went heavy on the curry theme: "Just tell him ya' don't like curry". "That MP he'll be doing curry night every night". What they were saying, of course, had nothing to do with food but perception of belonging.

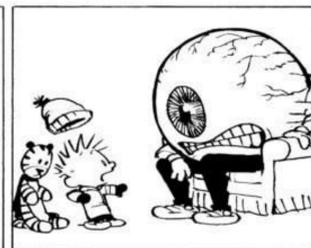
Sunak hasn't helped matters | Interestingly, in his scant decade in frontline British politics, Sunak himself has contributed nothing meaningful to the debate about racism other than to declare it "unacceptable". Before the election was called, he acknowledged the racism he experienced as a child, his mother's determination that he and his siblings "didn't speak with accents (but) properly", his parents' determination their Indian heritage not be "a barrier... in any way shape or form" and that their children should "fit in".

That, he has done, in quintessentially understated British fashion. And he was fortunate to find political prominence at a time when British politics either ignored or minimised race, thereby relegating it to a hidden transcript.

Like Schrödinger's cat, the nearly century-old thought experiment in which the hypothetical feline in its sealed box could be considered simultaneously alive and dead, Sunak's situation may suggest that racist and post-racist realities both flourish at the same time.

Lal writes on international affairs

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



Life is life — whether in a cat, or dog or man. There is no difference there between a cat or a man. The idea of difference is a human conception for man's own advantage.

Sri Aurobindo

Navigating Uncertain Times With Ontological Leadership

Yogi Balkrishna

Amid today's tumultuous and rapidly changing world, the idea and spirit of leadership need a profound transformation. Conventional leadership models, once effective, are now proving inadequate in the face of complexity and uncertainty. In this era of chaos and disruption, a compelling need emerges for a new leadership paradigm: ontological leadership, rooted in timeless Indic wisdom, offering a path towards deeper understanding and harmony that resonates with today's challenges.

It transcends prosaic managerial techniques or strategic frameworks. Ontological leadership delves into the essence of Being and consciousness, drawing inspiration from profound insights in the Indic philosophies of Yog and Vedanta. At its core, ontological leadership is about leading with the

light of unbound inner wisdom emanating from unattached, unswayed and all-inclusive consciousness, including virtues such as integrity, authenticity, creativity, courage, and compassion.

Yog, as expounded in the Yog Sutras of Maharshi Patanjali, offers a holistic framework for Self-realisation and transformation. The union of Vashti, individual consciousness, with Yamashita, universal consciousness, is central to the yogic vision. In the context of leadership, this union implies a deep recognition of the interconnectedness of all beings and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the entire ecosystem — be it an organisation, community, nation, or planet. Vedanta deepens this idea further, revealing the essential oneness of all beings. From the leadership standpoint, ontological leadership recognises the inherent

oneness of all existence and leads from a place of profound interconnectedness and compassion. Its key tenets are:

Self-awareness | The ability to introspect and understand one's strengths and weaknesses and operate from a place of authenticity. Strengthening one's strengths and weakening one's weaknesses, an ontological leader constantly evolves into a finer version of oneself. Drawing from the practice of atma vichar of Vedanta supported by yogic disciplines, leaders need to cultivate a deep understanding of themselves, enabling them to lead with clarity and purpose.

Presence | A state of being fully engaged in the present moment, free from distractions, preconceptions and preoccupations. Being mindful, leaders develop the capacity to remain grounded amidst chaos.

Compassion | Driven by the principle of ahimsa, practising empathy and compassion in all interactions, ontological leaders don't just recognise the inherent dignity and worth of every individual; they actively seek to create an environment, culture, and institutions that nurture growth, fostering a sense of connection and empathy among all.

Resilience | Ontological leaders embrace change as a natural part of life. They cultivate resilience and adaptability, recognising that challenges and setbacks are opportunities for growth and learning.

Servant leadership | In accordance with the spirit of Karm Yog, ontological leaders adopt a servant leadership approach, placing the needs of others above their ego-driven desires. Without hankering for power, they empower and inspire those around them, nurturing a culture of trust, accountability, and collective purpose.





Source: Bloomberg

■ A surge in demand for Nvidia's chips sparked by the AI frenzy has made a mockery of Wall St's financial estimates. Even Nvidia's leadership is struggling to anticipate how much money the chipmaker will generate 3 months into the future

Tough Time Forecasting

■ Since Nvidia's sales began exploding in April 2023 qtr, revenue has exceeded the midpoint of the co's own forecast by an average of 13%

What Price To Pay

■ Jensen Huang-led Nvidia is projected to deliver a profit of \$14.7bn on sales of \$28.4bn this quarter, up 137% and 111%

■ Microsoft's sales are set to rise 15% with Apple projections sitting 3%

Sebi probes Quant MF over front-running by employees

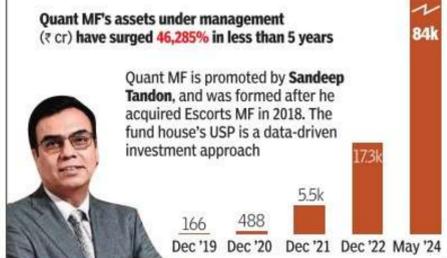
Fund House Confirms Inquiry, Says It'll Cooperate With Sebi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sebi has launched an investigation into possible front-running by Quant Mutual Fund employees after the markets regulator's surveillance system flagged suspicious activities.

Front-running refers to an illegal practice in the stock market where an entity trades on the basis of advance information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to their clients. Sebi is understood to have conducted search operations at Quant's offices in Mumbai and Hyderabad. After reports of search operations, several stocks in the mutual fund's portfolio ended lower on Monday. RBL Bank closed 2.6% lower while Nalco was down 2%. Quant MF is one of the fastest-growing mutual funds, with over Rs 84,000 crore in assets under management as of May 31. The company's small-cap funds top the industry in performance with 31% returns in five years.

AUM Jumps From ₹166Cr To ₹84K Cr Within 5 Yrs



Quant MF is promoted by Sandeep Tandon, and was formed after he acquired Escorts MF in 2018. The fund house's USP is a data-driven investment approach

Quant MF has received inquiries from Sebi. We want to assure you (investors) that Quant MF is a regulated entity, and we are always fully committed to cooperate with the regulator throughout any review

Market surveillance tools typically help detect front-running in stocks by continuously monitoring trading patterns and analysing order timing to identify suspicious activities. They compare employee trades to client orders, flagging those that consistently precede

large client transactions. These tools also analyse profitability, looking for unusually high trade profits before significant market movements. Quant MF, in a communication to shareholders, confirmed the inquiry from Sebi. "Recently, Quant MF has received inquiries from Sebi. We want to assure you that we are always fully committed to cooperating with the regulator throughout any review."

We want to assure you that Quant MF is a regulated entity, and we are always fully committed to cooperating with the regulator throughout any review. We will provide all necessary support and continue to furnish data to Sebi on a regular and as-needed basis," the fund house said. Quant MF is promoted by Sandeep Tandon, and was formed after he acquired Escorts Mutual Fund in 2018. The fund house's USP is a data-driven investment approach a strategy which was borne out by the performance of its small-cap funds. Quant claimed it currently has over 80 lakh investors and Rs 93,000 crore in assets under management. "Quant MF believes this support will continue, thanks to its research capabilities and analytical tools," the company said. In May 2022, Sebi directed entities involved in Axis Mutual Fund front-running case to collectively impound Rs 30 crore of wrongful gains.

Trade unions seek rise in tax rebate for salaried class

New Delhi: Constitution of the 8th pay commission, increase in tax rebate for salaried class and restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS) are some of the key demands made by trade union leaders during a pre-budget meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

The unions also asked the government to stop the privatisation drive of PSUs. "The ceiling limit for the income tax rebate for the salaried class on their salary and gratuity must be substantially raised. Govt-sponsored social security fund for the unorganised workers and agricultural workers has to be set up to provide them with defined universal social security schemes, including minimum pension of Rs 9,000 per month and other medical, educational benefits," CTUs said in their memorandum. Besides, they have sought that all the existing vacancies in the central government departments and PSUs must be filled immediately and the practice of contract and outsourcing should be stopped. They further said resource mobilisation has to be done by increasing the corporate tax, wealth tax and introducing inheritance tax instead of burdening common masses with the GST on essential food items and medicine. "Over the decades, corporate tax rates have been slashed unjustly and at the same time increasing indirect tax burden on common people resulted in an utterly regressive tax structure. That must be corrected in the interests of fairness, equity and propriety. Even one per cent inheritance tax on the super-rich with the ceiling can fetch huge amount to the budget receipts," it said. AGENCIES

Beware... 800 online financial frauds a day

At 2.7 Lakh In FY24, Card & Digital Payment Frauds Include Cases Worth Under ₹1 Lakh

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Nearly 800 digital payment fraud cases are reported every day in India, nearly 10 times more than what RBI's annual report showed. This is because the central bank's took into account cases above Rs 1 lakh only.

According to the report, 29,082 card & digital payment fraud cases worth Rs 1,457 crore were reported in the previous fiscal. When frauds below Rs 1 lakh are taken into account, the total number of cases increases by 2.7 lakh, amounting to Rs 653 crore.

This was disclosed by RBI in a response to an RTI query where it said that in the last five years, there were 5.4 lakh fraud cases worth Rs 1,146 crore. This translates to nearly 800 fraud cases a day.

Furthermore, if all the cases from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal are included, the surge is even higher. Many frauds reported on the portal are not recorded as banking frauds because the money is transferred voluntarily to a third party masquerading as a merchant or service provider.

In Feb this year, a committee relating to the ministry of electronics and IT said that there were Rs 5,574-crore worth of cyber frauds reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal in FY24 up to Sept 2023. Another RTI response last year had revealed that there were 21 lakh complaints on the

According to RBI's annual report, 29,082 card & digital payment fraud cases worth Rs 1,457 crore were reported in the previous fiscal. When frauds below Rs 1 lakh are taken into account, the total number of cases increases by 2.7 lakh, amounting to Rs 653 crore

portal between Jan 2022 to May 2023.

According to bankers, there are various kinds of frauds. First, where fraudsters use malware or breach systems to steal funds. Second, phishing or misrepresentation to get the victim to reveal credentials or undertake a transactions. Third, where the victim voluntarily transfers funds into a fraudulent scheme or fake e-commerce site. Bankers said that many cases where the customer voluntarily transfers funds are not reckoned as banking frauds because the bank systems are not breached.

According to a study by payments company EPS, over the past three years, retail digital payments have grown 24% in value and 53% in volume year-over-year. However, frauds have risen 109% in value and 59% in volume over the same period.

"Traditionally, when digital payments were made using cards it was the issuer bank who took the responsibility of ensuring that the customer grievance was addressed. In online transfers, the cost of unresolved frauds is borne entirely by the consumers as third-party app providers only facilitate the transfer," said Mani Mamallan, chairman and MD, EPS.

The study estimated that approximately Rs 3 per lakh of digital transactions reported in 2023-24 were fraudulent, with Rs 1 per lakh occurring during that period and the remainder from earlier periods. Mamallan adds that an institutional underwriting mechanism could be created to protect consumers from these losses.

In 2017, RBI had introduced the concept of zero customer liability in unauthorised transactions. The zero liability concept applies when the customer does not share credentials or if the fraud occurs after the customer reports that his account has been compromised. There is no protection for the customer when the funds are transferred voluntarily.

Earlier this month, M V Rao the chairman of the Indian Banks Association had said that most of the online frauds were because of customers falling victims to scams and not vulnerabilities in the banking system. According to Rao, awareness of the golden hour for reporting frauds was crucial to tackling these frauds.

Sony appoints Walt Disney exec as its India MD

Mumbai: Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) has appointed entertainment industry veteran Gaurav Banerjee to succeed outgoing MD & CEO N P Singh with effect from August 26. SPNI said last month that Singh was stepping down to pursue other opportunities. Banerjee will join the company from Walt Disney India, which is being merged into Viacom18.

Singh, who has led SPNI for 25 years, will move into the role of non-executive chairman to support the transition through the end of this fiscal, the company, a unit of Japan's Sony Corp said. It said Banerjee would join SPNI on or before August 26. Banerjee, with more than two decades of experience, has held various positions at Walt Disney India including head of content for Hindi entertainment and Disney + Hotstar. His track record boasts hits like Anupama, Imli, Emmy-nominated Aarya and Night Manager. TNN

Prosus writes off Byju's bet, sees zero value in 10% stake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: For Prosus, one of Byju's largest investors, the startup now has zero value. The company has written off the fair value of its 9.6% stake in Byju's, the Netherlands-based technology investor said in its FY24 annual report on Monday, marking a steep downturn for a startup which was once valued at \$22 billion.

"We impaired Byju's down to zero at the end of FY24. We have written down Byju's primarily because we have inadequate information on the company's financial health, liabilities and future outlook," a company spokesperson said. Prosus, which has infused over \$500 million into the troubled startup, said that it has recognised a fair value loss of \$493 million on its investment in Byju's in FY24.

A series of financial and corporate governance lapses cost Byju's the trust of its investors who had collectively invested over \$5 billion into the company that sought to leverage technology and reduce barriers to quality education for students. Byju's widening rift with its investors has been

\$22BN TO ZERO

A Steep downturn for the edtech player that was once India's most valued startup

out in the open and has reached the courtroom with a group of investors including Prosus filing an oppression and mismanagement suit against the startup's management. Investors Prosus, General Atlantic, Sofina and Peak XV Partners have also been opposed to Byju's rights

issue and have managed to get a court-approved order restricting the startup from using funds raised through the rights issue. In June last year, Prosus representative Russell Dreisenstock stepped down from Byju's board citing disregard for Dreisenstock's advice and recommendations by Byju's leadership. In Feb, a majority of Byju's investors led by Prosus also voted to oust Byju Raveendran as the CEO while seeking a reconstitution of the company's family run board.

In a post-earnings call with media, the Prosus leadership said that changing the governance of Byju's is the first step to improving its performance. "We are seeking protection of our rights and rights of all shareholders... we have hope for the company's outlook," company executives said.

Jain raises \$5bn in biggest hedge fund debut since '18

Former co-chief investment officer at Millennium Management, Bobby Jain, has gathered \$5.3 billion in commitments for his new multistrategy hedge fund, marking the biggest fundraising haul since ExodusPoint Capital Management's record debut.

Jain Global will start trading July 1. Investors include endowments, foundations, family offices, bank wealth platforms and sovereign wealth funds. The premiere caps a busy year for Jain who has traveled the world pitching his fund. He initially aimed to gather as much as \$10 billion. But after struggling to hit that goal, he cut client fees to entice investors. BLOOMBERG

Well positioned to capitalise on infra spending: Adani

Bengaluru: Adani Group is "well positioned" to capitalize on opportunities in the country's booming infrastructure sector as spending is expected to surge, chairman Gautam Adani told investors on Monday.

The group, which has businesses across ports, power utilities, transmission and coal trading, is betting on India's infrastructure spending that is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 20-25%, Adani said. The group has become much "stronger" since it came under attack by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research last

year, Adani said at the annual general meeting of the group's flagship company, Adani Enterprises.

Last January, Hindenburg accused the Adani Group of improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation. The group, which refuted the allegations, sparked a \$150 billion meltdown in market value as the short-seller's report roiled investor confidence and attracted regulatory scrutiny.

Group companies, including Adani Power and Adani Ports, recouped all their losses and moved past pre-Hindenburg levels last year. Adani Enterprises, too, bounced

back past those levels in May. "The headwinds that tested us became the very ones that made us even stronger," Adani said, pointing to investments from GQG Partners, TotalEnergies and Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding after the Hindenburg saga.

The Supreme Court said in January 2024 that no further scrutiny was needed on the company. This was after a court-appointed panel said that India's markets watchdog "drew a blank" in investigations into suspected violations in overseas investments in the Adani Group. REUTERS

Houses under construction see 15% rise in prices: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Prices of under-construction properties rose by 15.2% QoQ across top 13 cities in the June quarter. The supply of such properties which also increased by 11.7% QoQ helped the overall market for residential supply which witnessed the fastest growth rate in the last 24 months through the quarter, said a report.

This surge has resulted in prices of under-construction properties surpassing those of ready to move properties in several cities such as Gurugram, Mumbai, Noida and Thane, according to a Magicbricks Propindex report. The continued customer confidence in under-construction properties is seen as an indication of a promising outlook in the long run.

On the demand front, top cities continued to grow, recording an aggregate increase of 4.6% QoQ during the June quarter. Gurugram, Delhi and Noida, home to several corporate employees, registered the highest increases with a QoQ growth of 19.6%, 17% and 16.4%, respectively.

GCCs in India employ nearly 24,000 veterans

Veena Mani & Swati Bharadwaj | TNN

Bengaluru/Hyderabad: Armed forces personnel are making significant strides in the corporate world, particularly in global capability centres (GCCs). These veterans bring a unique combination of discipline, strategic thinking, and the ability to excel under pressure, making them valuable assets to companies.

Madan Kumar Subramanian, a former flight lieutenant in the Indian Air Force, transitioned to the corporate world after completing his postgraduate management studies at IIM-Calcutta. He now works as a director of software development at Fiserv, a global fintech and payments company, where he leads a team of programmers working on peer-to-peer finance products. Kumar belongs to a growing tribe of veterans who are making a mark in the corporate world, not just restricting themselves to roles in HR or facilities management.

According to Devashish Sharma, CEO of recruitment firm Taggd, the number of veterans hired across GCCs has increased to 24,000 in the 2023-24 financial year from 10,000 a decade ago. Staffing firm Xpheno said mid to large-sized GCCs in the banking, retail, and telecom sectors have been hiring veterans in specific areas. "GCCs are moving up the value chain in the coming years and will be hiring veterans for larger and higher functional roles," Kedar Pathak, a GCC specialist at Xpheno, said.

Several companies have established dedicated programmes to recruit veterans. Deepthi Varma, vice president of HR, people experience, and technology at Amazon Stores India and emerging markets, said it hires veterans for roles in corporate, transportation, customer fulfilment, facilities management, HR, and security operations. Amazon, for instance, has in place a veterans' programme launched in 2019 to tap into the talent pool within the armed forces to explore a second innings in the corporate world. It has partnered with the offices of the Director General of Reset-

tlement (DGR), the Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA), Indian Air Force Placement Agency (IAFPA), Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO), and more recently the Indian Coast Guard, to hire veterans.

Two years back, the e-commerce behemoth launched a dedicated Indian military talent pool page for military veterans and transitioning services personnel.

Wells Fargo, AT&T, Allstate India, Carelon Global Solutions, and Deutsche Bank have also hired veterans in various positions, including director-level roles. Wells Fargo has hired over

offered in a weekend format. "I would say about 5% of the students are from the armed forces," said prof. Ramabhadran Thirumalai, deputy dean of ISB. Last year, ISB rolled out an armed forces scholarship in collaboration with the department of ex-servicemen welfare and the defense ministry, offering a 50% tuition fee waiver to armed forces veterans or serving personnel looking to transition into civilian life.

Naval commander Vishal Yadavalli and Aditi Sharma, a former deputy commandant in the Indian Coast Guard, are both pursuing PGP programmes at ISB to enhance

VETERANS IN CORPORATE INDIA

- > 24,000 veterans hired in FY 2023-24
- > Up from 10,000 veterans a decade ago
- > Prominent firms hiring veterans include Amazon, Wells Fargo, AT&T, Allstate, Deutsche Bank
- > Increased demand for armed forces management courses
- > ISB Scholarships: 50% tuition fee waiver for veterans
- > Veterans' Skills
 - > Discipline & strategy
 - > High performance under pressure
 - > Valued in roles across GCCs

Weddings key growth driver for several sectors: Report

Continued from page 1

Over half the jewellery industry revenues are led by bridal jewellery while more than 10% of all apparel spends are driven by weddings and celebrations wear

Anywhere between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh, "luxury weddings" see much higher spending than average with the upper end being much more lavish. "This budget encompasses expenses for hosting five to six functions/events, luxurious accommodations at top-tier hotels, lavish catering, decor, and entertainment (expenses related to jewellery, wedding attire, and airfare are not included in these estimates)," the report noted. The uber-rich have many more events, including lavish pre-wedding events and cruises thrown in. As a result, thereport, a rare attempt

to capture the size of the industry and its impact across sectors, said that given the size and scale, Indian weddings are a key growth driver for several categories such as jewellery, apparel, catering, stay and travel, among other sectors. Wedding jewellery accounts for the largest proportion of the spend, accounting for nearly a quarter, followed by catering at 20% and events at 15%. "Service providers to the wedding industry largely fall in the unorganised and highly fragmented category, consisting of many small-sca-

le businesses and individual service providers who cater to both low- and high-spenders. This is partly due to the extreme divergence in regional preferences, which means smaller and regional players are better placed in addressing consumer needs," said the report. PM Modi had given a call last year to 'wed in India', urging people to go for destinations within the country rather than foreign countries as several celebrities and high net worth individuals were opting for destination weddings overseas.

Q4FY24 current a/c sees surplus for 1st time in 10 qtrs

Mumbai: The country's current account balance showed a surplus for the first time in 10 quarters in Q4FY24. The surplus was a result of higher inflows from service exports and individuals.

In Q4, the surplus was \$5.7 billion compared to a deficit of \$8.7 billion in the previous quarter. The current account position was a 0.6% surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), compared to a 1% deficit in Q3FY24. For the full year, the current account deficit narrowed down to \$23 billion or 0.7% of the GDP from \$67 billion or 2% of GDP in FY23. The current account had turned into a surplus for the first time in 17 years in FY21 when it was around 0.9% of the GDP. On a quarterly basis, the last surplus was in Q3FY21 when imports had decreased

during the pandemic.

Service exports in Q4FY24 increased by 4.1% year-over-year, driven by more exports of software, travel, and business services. Net service receipts were \$42.7 billion, up from \$39.1 billion a year ago, contributing to the current account surplus in Q4 2023-24. Receipts from private transfers, primarily remittances sent by Indians working abroad, totaled \$32.0 billion, marking an 11.9% increase compared to the previous year.

In Q4 2023-24, net inflows from external commercial borrowings to India were US\$2.6 billion, up from \$1.7 billion a year ago. Non-resident deposits saw a higher net inflow of \$5.4 billion compared to \$3.6 billion in Q4 2022-23. Foreign exchange reserves increased by \$30.8 billion during Q4. TNN

their knowledge and build a strong foundation in the business world. "My experience in frugal product design, programme and project management, strategy formulation, and handling global supply chains positions me well for roles in operations and technology management. However, to achieve my goals, I need to enhance my knowledge of finance, marketing, and corporate strategy," Yadavalli said. As GCCs continue to move up the value chain, the demand for veterans in larger and higher functional roles is expected to increase. The unique skill set and experience that veterans bring to the table make them valuable assets to companies looking to scale up their operations and excel in the competitive business landscape.

Sharma, who was a deputy commandant in the Indian Coast Guard and is pursuing a PGP programme at ISB, said, "Being a military veteran has its own set of challenges. Post-retirement, a veteran not only starts a career from scratch, but also leaves the professional community behind. I wanted to set a strong foundation in the business world and build a wide network of peers for myself."



I NEED TO KNOW WHY THAT'S NOT A PENALTY KICK. THE REFEREE IS FROM ARGENTINA. WHY IS IT NOT A EUROPEAN REFEREE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S HERE AND NOT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY REFEREEING A GAME. IT'S JUST MY OPINION."

—STEVE CLARKE
SCOTLAND COACH, ON BEING DENIED A PENALTY VS HUNGARY

'Southgate's England not being brave'

Michael Owen, ex-England star striker, tells TOI the team's strength is in the attack but the manager is relying too much on a defensive set-up...

Moushumi.Bora@timesgroup.com

Whenever Michael Owen closes his eyes, and dreams of himself in an England shirt, he sees an 18-year-old boy wonder jinking through the Argentine defenders in Saint-Etienne at the 1998 World Cup and scoring that goal. A goal iconic enough to draw comparisons with a Maradona moment. "I think that's the one that people remember me for," the 44-year-old tells TOI.

A member of England's Golden Generation, Owen best understands the pressure that the current lineup feels as it struggles at the Euros in Germany. Owen knows pressure is unavoidable but points out that there is more to England's malady than just this. Excerpts from a chat...

England started off as favourites, but they are not playing well. What do you think is going wrong?

It's been quite difficult to watch so far. I think Gareth Southgate's probably going to change his team a bit against Slovenia to try to find that missing ingredient. We're going to be all right. We still have time to build.

It's not all doom and gloom. We've got four points and we'll be in the knockouts. Looking at the positives, I don't think many teams that win tournaments start the tournament winning 5-0 and keep going in that vein. If England had won five-nil in the first two games, we'd all be saying, England are going to win the tournament. And maybe that's not the mindset that we want our players and supporters to have. Two matches down, what do you think is not working for the team?

I knew I was going to be frustrated. I think Southgate is an amazing manager in terms of man-management. He creates a great environment. He has great attention to detail. He's been there before as a player. He knows what works.

He's an exceptional manager in a lot of ways. But I knew coming in that I would be disagreeing with his team. Southgate has always played with two holding midfielders, and I've never believed that you need two. Look at the most successful teams

— they all play with one. Rodri plays for Manchester City, probably the best team in the world at the moment. Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Man United all play the same. I just think it's too defensive to play with two.

Here, Declan Rice has been joined by Trent Alexander-Arnold. Maybe in the next game, it might be a Kobbie Mainoo or Adam Wharton, but I don't think we should be playing that. I think our strength is our attack and how many players we can have (in attack) that affect games.

Declan Rice as the No. 6 is more than enough. We can play our back four. We can play Rice and then we can play two ahead, two wide players and Harry Kane up front. So, I would be trying to get a more attacking team. I'd be trying to get one more player that's more of an advanced player, a Cole Palmer, who's had an amazing season for Chelsea.

I would be trying to get him into our team, but with Southgate, I knew he would be playing with two holding midfielders. We didn't know who he would be playing with Rice. I have a feeling he's going to stick with the same system, which is frustrating, but he might change one or two players. You think England are not being brave?

Absolutely. I think our strength is in our attacking players. We have players like Bukayo Saka, Phil Foden, Palmer, obviously Harry Kane as a striker. Anthony Gordon has had a great season at Newcastle. I'd love to see him play. And then we got players

ENGLAND VS SLOVENIA

Cologne Stadium

HEAD TO HEAD (6 games)

ENGLAND WON 5 | DRAWS 1

SLV WON 0

FORM GUIDE

SLOVENIA

D D D W W

ENGLAND

D W L W D

(most recent first)



FRUSTRATING: England coach Gareth Southgate needs to let go of the idea of using two holding midfielders, feels Owen

like Jude Bellingham. There are so many good attacking players that we need to squeeze into the team.

What is the best way to involve Trent Alexander-Arnold?

I've always seen him as a right back. He is very dangerous when he comes into the midfield for Liverpool. But coming in from a right back position when nobody is marking you, and then coming in and being on your own is very, very different than just being a player that stays in midfield and has to receive the ball from a right back. (Because) then you've got people behind you, it's a 360 degree position, whereas playing at right back everything's in front of you. You've really only got 180 degrees to look at. So, I think it's a very different role. And even though he ends up in that position playing for Liverpool, it's so different to actually staying in that position to start with.

Southgate probably won't play him as a right back. I would like to see Rice being the No. 6 and playing Foden and Bellingham ahead in midfield. And I would play Saka or Palmer and Gordon or Palmer. Just try to get an extra attacking midfielder player instead of the No. 6.

You made a case for Cole Palmer...

Anybody that's watched the Premier League last season would see that even in a struggling team like Chelsea, Palmer was just outstanding, he can take the ball, he's very

brave; he's young and he's confident; he's creative, he scores goals. I find it difficult looking at England's bench and seeing his name, knowing what he could contribute. If I were Southgate, I'd be trying to desperately find a role on the pitch for him.

Do you think Southgate is confused about his starting 11 that way?

I don't think he is. Well... in some ways he is. He's always played in this way and the criticism has always been the same. You know, in the last two tournaments, everybody has said, why do we play so defensive? Why are we playing two 'Sixes' or midfield players? He has always done this, which is why I knew I'd be frustrated that some of our best players were going to have to be on the bench. Maybe what he's confused with now is who to play as the other No. 6 because we always had Calvin Phillips and Rice in previous tournaments.

Phillips is not there now. Jordan Henderson is not there either. And trying to find that replacement is what he's a bit confused about. But if it was me, I wouldn't be trying to find a replacement. I'd just be leaving Rice there on his own and getting one of the other players into the team.

What I'm debating and what I'm arguing with is not the players necessarily he's selecting, it's more the system. And if he's going to play that system, of course he can't

play Cole. He can't play a lot of players that I would love him to play. He's not done that for a long time. I don't think he's going to change now.

Do you think players should take more responsibility for their performances?

I think players, at the end of the day, do take responsibility. They're the ones that are out on the pitch and they're the ones that get criticized. So, I totally understand Harry Kane saying what he said (reacting to Gary Lineker's comments). I thought his words were very well measured and very responsible and on behalf of the team, as the captain, I thought it was very good.

You're never going to change pundits. If it's not Lineker, it's some-



body else. But then, it's very accurate for Kane to say, hang on a minute, some of you have played before, you know how difficult it is to represent England with all the expectations.

The longer England go without winning a tournament, the more pressure grows, the more difficult it is to be able to cope with it. Then your confidence is being drained by people that are criticizing you all the time and the pressure mounts and you don't play well. It's just very difficult being an England player. It has been very difficult being an England player for a long time now. But I don't really know the solution.

What about your generation?

The pressure was probably on me and my teammates more than any player in the last few decades. We were classed as a golden generation that everybody thought would go and win competitions. It's something that you've got to be able to manage as an England player. Not every player can do it. One of the big criticisms over the years is, why don't our players play as good for England as they do at club level? You can only put it down to the pressure.

(Watch UEFA Euro 2024 on Sony LIV in six language options)

THAT MOMENT: Owen, 18, holds off Argentina's Jose Chamot on his way to scoring an iconic goal in the 1998 World Cup

STANDINGS

GROUP A

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Ger*	3	2	1	0	6	7
Swi*	3	1	2	0	2	5
Hun	3	1	0	2	-3	3
Scot	3	0	1	2	-5	1

GROUP B

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Spain*	2	2	0	0	6	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	0	3
Alb	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Cro	2	0	1	1	-3	1

GROUP C

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Eng	2	1	1	0	1	4
Den	2	0	2	0	0	2
Slo*nia	2	0	2	0	0	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	-1	1

GROUP D

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Fra	2	1	1	0	1	4
Ned	2	1	1	0	1	4
Aut	2	1	0	1	1	3
Pol	2	0	0	2	-3	0

GROUP E

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Rom	2	1	0	1	1	3
Bel	2	1	0	1	1	3
Svk	2	1	0	1	0	3
Ukr	2	1	0	1	-2	3

GROUP F

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Port*	2	2	0	0	4	6
Tur	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Cze	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Geo	2	0	1	1	-2	1

* Qualified for Last 16; Table updated till Sunday night matches

TONIGHT'S TUSSELES

Group D	Time
France vs Poland	9.30pm
Netherlands vs Austria	9.30pm
Group C	Time
Denmark vs Serbia	12.30am
England vs Slovenia	12.30am

Live on Sony Sports Network



GOING TO THE TOP: Germany's Fuellkrug celebrates after scoring the equalizer in added time against Switzerland

Khaka hails Swiss after reaching knockouts

Fuellkrug's Late Equaliser Helps Germany Top Group

Frankfurt: Germany survived a scare to finish top of Group A as Niclas Fuellkrug's stoppage-time goal rescued a 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Sunday. Their well-drilled opponents demonstrated an effective means of nullifying the host nation's talented side.

Switzerland sat deep to frustrate Germany's attacking players and, though Jamal Musiala showed glimpses of his ability to break the lines, the Swiss succeeded until substitute Niclas Fuellkrug's 92nd-minute equaliser.

Kai Havertz spurned a number of half chances and defender Antonio Rudiger should have done better with a first-half header but Germany, who had a goal disal-

lowed at 0-0, had few clear opportunities until late on.

Germany dominated possession completed more than double the number of passes Switzerland managed and had 18 shots on goal — though only three of those were on target. The Swiss, meanwhile,

were clinical: Dan Ndoye's acrobatic volley put away either side's best chance in the first half. "When you see how the Germans celebrated their goal that says everything," said Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka, named player of the match. "This team is hungry, this team has a completely new mentality, will, passion," he said. "And we want to show that again in the round of 16." AGENCIES

celebrated their goal that says everything," said Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka, named player of the match. "This team is hungry, this team has a completely new mentality, will, passion," he said. "And we want to show that again in the round of 16." AGENCIES



MOMENT OF IMPACT: Hungary's Barnabas Varga (on ground), Scotland's Gunn (yellow) collide on Sunday

Varga horror injury mars Hungary's win

Szoboszlai Livid At In-Stadia Medical Response

Dusseldorf: Kevin Csoboth scored in the 10th minute of added time after a frightening injury to Barnabas Varga as Hungary snatched a 1-0 win over Scotland to stay in the hunt for a place in the last 16. Hungary captain Dominik Szoboszlai has criticised medical staff for what he saw as a slow response to Barnabas Varga's nasty collision.

Szoboszlai was among Hungarian players waving frantically for help as Varga, who fractured several bones in his face, lay motionless on the ground after a collision with Scottish keeper Angus Gunn 68 minutes into the game.

"I don't understand this kind of protocol, why the medical staff don't rush in at this time?" Szoboszlai said. Coach Marco Rossi confirmed Varga regained consciousness before leaving the field and was taken to hospital where his condition was stable. Hungary must wait for the outcome of other group matches to see if they will advance to the next round as one of four best third-place finishers.

Szoboszlai celebrated the victory by wearing Varga's spare shirt turned back to front. It was a bitter end to Scotland's bid to reach the knockout phase for the first time. AGENCIES

France wait for Mbappe return and goals to flow

Dortmund: France appear almost certain to reach the last 16 but they are hoping to have Kylian Mbappe back, and rediscover their goal-scoring touch, when they face Poland in their final Group D game on Tuesday. France have four points from two matches but have only scored one goal, off Austrian Woeber's own goal.

That gave France a 1-0 win against Austria in their opening match, before they drew 0-0 with the Netherlands in the absence of Mbappe.

Mbappe played no part against the Dutch as he recovers from the broken nose he suffered in a collision late on against Austria. He will need to wear a protective mask over his nose when he returns to action, and has been training wearing one.

"I think everyone knows he is really eager to play in the next match. That won't surprise anyone," teammate Aurelien Tchouameni said. AFP

VAN DIJK UNDERSTANDS CRITICISM OF ORANJE

Wolfsburg: Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk said he understands the criticism of his team despite the Dutch picking up four points out of a possible six in Group D. The Netherlands are hoping to pinch top spot in Group D ahead of France but on Tuesday face a confident Austria side who may need a positive result to reach the last 16.

"Against France we were more compact as a team. Keeping a clean sheet against the World Cup runners-up is good. But in possession of the ball, we were very poor," Van Dijk said. The Dutch team came under fire from TV pundits and newspaper columnists following the game but Van Dijk was unfrustrated by the criticism.

"If it irritated me, I would have a very unpleasant life. Expectations are high. We have a good team. We want to show it in big matches." AGENCIES

FRANCE VS POLAND

BVB Stadion Dortmund

HEAD TO HEAD (17 games)

FRANCE WON 9

DRAWS 5

POLAND WON 3

FORM GUIDE

FRANCE

D W D W W

POLAND

L L W W D

(most recent first)

N'LANDS VS AUSTRIA

Olympiastadion

HEAD TO HEAD (20 games)

NETHERLANDS WON 10

DRAWS 4

AUS WON 6

FORM GUIDE

NETHERLANDS

D W W W L

AUSTRIA

W L D W W

(most recent first)

BACK-TO-THE-WALL SERBIA CONFIDENT, SAYS MIDFIELDER BIRMANCEVIC

Munich: Serbia have their backs against the wall but are confident of the win they require against Denmark to reach the last 16 at Euro 2024, midfielder Veljko Birmancevic said on Sunday.

Dragan Stojkovic's side have one point from two games to sit bottom of Group C and, while a draw could mathematically prove enough to stay in the tournament, they want to leave nothing to chance in Munich. "We have no options for comfort, we have reached the wall," Stojkovic said. "There is no going back and we can only go forward. If you want to move forward, you have to win."

They pushed England hard in their opening 1-0 loss and then grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Slovenia but are in danger of an early exit. "Everyone is ready to give 100%. We learned a lot from these two games."

DENMARK VS SERBIA

Munich Football Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (10 games)

DEN WON 5

DRAWS 0

SER WON 5

FORM GUIDE

DENMARK

D D W W W

SERBIA

D L W L W

(most recent first)

Uruguay's Bielsa sees room for improvement in 3-1 win

Miami Gardens: Uruguay opened their Copa America campaign with a 3-1 win over Panama on Sunday but head coach Marcelo Bielsa was quick to temper expectations and said they must continue to improve.

Maximiliano Araujo scored when he sent a long-range shot into the top far corner in the 16th minute, Darwin Nunez and Matias Vina added late goals and Uruguay beat Panama 3-1.

Bielsa took charge of Uruguay in May last year and steered them

through a transitional period in which veterans Edinson Cavani and Diego Godin both retired, with all-time leading goalscorer Luis Suarez looking set to follow suit soon.

The 15-times Copa America winners have been in excellent form over the last several months, beating both Argentina and Brazil in World Cup qualifiers.

Those results have sparked hope of a record 16th continental crown for "La Celeste" but Bielsa said they were taking it one game at a time.



ON FULL TILT: Uruguay's Federico Valverde (No.15) fights for the ball with Panama's goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera in Miami on Sunday

"When it comes to Uruguay's aspirations, we will see that and build it match by match," he said.

"My expectation is that each match will increasingly help us to improve on our level. Uruguay have players of a very good level and we need to see if I can build with those players." Uruguay dominated the opening 45 minutes as they pressed and harried Panama but their energy levels appeared to drop in the second half.

Panama looked likely to grab an equaliser after the break and Uruguay only regained control after Darwin Nunez's goal in the 85th minute. "The first half gave us the edge over our opponent. We should

have scored more," Bielsa said. "In the second half, there were 15 minutes where we performed very poorly. They dominated the ball during that time and they created opportunities where we were only leading by one goal and if they had scored, it would have been complicated for us."

"We missed five goals and we scored one in the first half and then we missed five and scored two in the second half."

Uruguay next face Bolivia in New Jersey on Thursday. Seeking a record 16th Copa America title, Uruguay dominated with 20 shots, including seven on target. Amir Murillo scored late into stoppage time for Panama.

PULISIC SCORES, ASSISTS TO LEAD USA TO VICTORY OVER BOLIVIA

Arlington: Christian Pulisic scored one goal and set up another as the United States launched their Copa America campaign with a clinical 2-0 Group C victory over Bolivia on Sunday.

US captain Pulisic curled in a superb early goal before teeing up a second for striker Folarin Balogun just before half-time at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

That two-goal salvo was enough to secure a vital three points for Gregg Berhalter's side.

Pulisic was clearly in no mood to let the South Americans improve that record of futility, firing the hosts into the lead after only three minutes. AGENCIES

T20 WORLD CUP

"A LOT OF RELIEF TO GET THROUGH TO THE SEMIFINAL. NOT GOING TO BE BRAIN-WASHED BY THAT. WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE MORE CONVINCING WITH BAT IN HAND. THE WICKET PLAYED NICELY AFTER THE RAIN BREAK."

—Aiden Markram | SA SKIPPER



ROHIT'S SMASH-HIT SHOW

Australia's Chance of Making The Semis Hangs in Balance After 24-Run Defeat

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN
Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

St Lucia: When the uncomplicated artist of Rohit Sharma unfolds, the best thing is to sit back and savour. Unless, of course, you're an Australian fan. Rohit's mood on Monday at the Darren Sammy stadium was something similar to what it was in Ahmedabad on November 19. Just that, it was cut short by an outstanding catch by Travis Head on that day which he might not be able to repeat again. Here, there wasn't any such otherworldly activity that could stop Rohit as the Indian great played the innings of this World Cup so far.

It was Rohit's 92 off 41 balls that was the cornerstone of India's 205-5 in their last Super-8 match which was way more important for the Aussies than it is for the Men in Blue.

Australia were in the chase for the better part of their innings until the Indian bowlers tightened the screws with Arshdeep Singh picking up 3/37, while Jasprit Bumrah (1/29) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/24) checked the run flow. The Aussies finished with 181/7 to hand India a 24-run win.

After Virat Kohli (0) failed once again, it was a complete Rohit show for the next 10 overs or so. It started with the first ball of the third over by Mitchell Starc which the left-arm pacer tried to bowl full and Rohit's slash over cover went for a six. Rohit smashed four sixes and a four in that over which yielded 29 and completely swung the momentum in India's favour. Rohit didn't care who the bowler was, he just knew he had to go after him. Anything in his hitting range was going over the top while those dropped short were pulled with power.

It was Rohit's uncluttered mindset that was that was central to this on-

slaught that left a quality Aussie attack with no place to hide. The dominance of Rohit was highlighted by the fact that India were 52-1 in the sixth over when he reached his 50.

An innings of this quality deserved a century as a topping, but Starc, coming back for his second spell, finally landed a yorker that hit the inside edge of Rohit's bat and knocked the stumps over.

When Rohit was dismissed in 11.2 overs, the score was 127. After that, off the 50 balls, India managed 78, which proves that run-scoring probably wasn't as easy as Rohit made it seem.

Aussies did manage a fightback by using the slight slowness of the track and they might have kept India to below 200 if captain Mitch Marsh hadn't dropped Hardik Pandya in the 18th over. It was Hardik who hit Marcus Stoinis for a couple of sixes in the 19th over that ensured India crossed 200.

19 Balls taken by Rohit to race to his fifty — the seventh quickest in the history of T20 World Cup.

Among the Indians, his fifty is the third fastest behind Yuvraj Singh's world-record 12-ball fifty vs England at Durban on Sep 19, 2007 and KL Rahul's 18-ball fifty vs Scotland at Dubai (DICS) on Nov.5, 2021.

205-5 India's score is the joint-highest by a team against Australia in T20 World Cup. West Indies had scored 205 for four at Colombo (RPS) on October 5, 2012. The only other total of 200-plus against them is New Zealand's 200-3 at Sydney on Oct 22, 2022.

SMASH HIT: Rohit Sharma was in full flow during his 92 vs Australia.



92 RUNS

41 BALLS

7 4S

8 6S

8 Rohit Sharma has become the first captain to hit eight sixes in an innings in T20 World Cup, eclipsing the seven each by Chris Gayle and Jos Buttler. Rohit also has become the first batter to hit five sixes within the powerplay in a T20 international.

SCOREBOARD

India: Rohit b Starc 92, Kohli c David b Hazlewood 0, Pant c Hazlewood b Stoinis 15, Suryakumar b Wade b Starc 31, Dube c Warner b Stoinis 28, Hardik (not out) 27, Jadeja (not out) 9, Extras (LB-1, W-2) 3. **Total: (For 5 wickets; 20 overs) 205.**

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-93, 3-127, 4-159, 5-194. **Bowling:** Starc 4-0-45-2, Hazlewood 4-0-14-1, Cummins 4-0-48-0, Zampa 4-0-41-0, Stoinis 4-0-56-2.

Australia: Warner c Suryakumar b Arshdeep 6, Head c Rohit b Bumrah 76, Marsh c Axar b Kuldeep 37, Maxwell b Kuldeep 20, Stoinis c Hardik b Axar 2, David c Bumrah b Arshdeep 15, Wade c Kuldeep b Arshdeep 1, Cummins (not out) 11, Starc (not out) 4, Extras (B-5, LB-1, W-3) 9. **Total (For 7 wickets; 20 overs) 181.**

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-87, 3-128, 4-135, 5-150, 6-153, 7-166. **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-37-3, Bumrah 4-0-29-1, Axar 3-0-21-1, Hardik 4-0-47-0, Kuldeep 4-0-24-2, Jadeja 1-0-17-0.

"FELT LIKE A DREAM (WATCHING ROHIT SHARMA BAT), HE BATTED BEAUTIFULLY. WE SAT TOGETHER AND TALKED ABOUT IT BEFORE THE GAME AND HE (ROHIT) SHOWED US THE WAY. I THINK THEY FINISHED IT REALLY WELL. IT'S A GOOD WICKET, A GOOD SCORE, WE RESPECT IT, EVERYONE IN THE TEAM KNOWS THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES."
—Suryakumar Yadav

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South Africa pip Windies to SF

North Sound (Antigua): South Africa's golden generation of white-ball cricketers took a big step towards erasing the "eternal chokers" tag by keeping their composure to enter the semifinals of the T20 World Cup, beating a formidable West Indies by three wickets in a thrilling rain-truncated Super 8s game here.

After part-time magician and full-time wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/27), along with his slow bowling colleagues Keshav Maharaj (1/24) and skipper Aiden Markram (1/28), restricted West Indies to a manageable 135 for 8, South Africa achieved the revised target of 123 with five balls to spare.

The Proteas were 15/2 in two overs when rain disrupted proceedings. With this win, South Africa topped Group 1 followed by defending champions England as the second semifinalist from it. Tristan Stubbs (29 off 27 balls), one of the most talked-about among young T20 batters, set up the chase in company of Heinrich Klaasen (22 off 10 balls) for the South Africans.

But it was Marco Jansen (21 not out off 14 balls), who hit a beautiful six down the ground off the first ball of the 17th over bowled by left-arm pacer Obed McCoy to seal the deal. Equally praiseworthy was Kagiso Rabada's copybook cover drive off Roston Chase when South Africa required 9 off 7 balls.

It was an unfair rain-rule in the 1992 ODI World Cup that saw South Africa bow out of the semi-finals against England and often the Proteas found ways to lose important games of cricket. But on Sunday night in North Sound, the one hour rain delay did a world of good for their batters as the pitch suddenly became better for batting with the ball skidding and coming on easily.

Group 1					
Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
IND-Q	3	3	0	2.017	6
AUS	3	1	2	-0.331	2
AF	2	1	1	-0.650	2
BAN	2	0	2	-2.489	0

Group 2					
Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
SA-Q	3	3	0	0.599	6
Eng-Q	3	2	1	1.992	4
WI	3	1	2	0.963	2
USA	3	0	3	-3.906	0

7 South Africa, with seven successive wins, have become the first team to register seven victories in a T20 WC competition, surpassing the six each by Sri Lanka (2009), Australia (2010 & 2021-22).

3/27 Tabraiz Shamsi has produced his best bowling performance vs West Indies in T20Is, eclipsing the 2-13 (twice) — both times at St. George's on June 29 & July 1, 2021.

62 Number of sixes hit by West Indian batters in seven matches — a record by a team in a T20 World Cup competition, going past the 57 sixes in seven matches by Australia in 2010.

In hindsight, the 57 dot balls West Indies faced proved to be costly for the hosts as the innings just stalled in the middle overs. AGENCIES

Brief scores: West Indies 135/8 in 20 overs (Roston Chase 52, Kyle Mayers 35; Tabraiz Shamsi 3/27) **lost to South Africa 124/7 in 16.1 overs** (Tristan Stubbs 29; Roston Chase 3/12, Andre Russell 2/19).

TRYING TO GET A BIGGER PLAYER POOL IN US: ANDERSON

Bridgetown (Barbados): Their fairytale run was cut short by the "Big Boys" but USA batter Corey Anderson says his assorted team is signing off from the T20 World Cup here with his head held high and "heaps of learnings".

"I mean sky's the limit really...the last few years there's always been whispers around what's happening in America with cricket...hopefully in years to come as well, we can kind of grow that," Anderson, who is from New Zealand and even played 93 games for that country before shifting base to the USA, said following their campaign-ending loss to England on Sunday. AGENCIES



COREY ANDERSON

Party is over for WI fans, but skipper Powell urges them to not turn away

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St. Lucia: Travelling through the West Indies for the last few days, one felt there was a sense of hope developing among those who still care for cricket in this part of the world.

Be it in conversations with the cab driver or a new acquaintance in the roadside bar or the fisherman taking you out for a boat ride on the Caribbean sea, everyone felt there was a chance for the West Indies. 'It wasn't exactly a chest-thumping super-confidence that the world is all theirs, but a ray of hope that this World Cup might be the start of a cricketing revival in the region.

However, that wasn't to be. West Indies flattered for a while, only to deceive at the end in a virtual quarter-final with South Africa in the Super 8 clash. Gregory, a man in his 40s donning a Barcelona shirt in a small town called Soufriere, near the active volcano in the Piton Mountains in St. Lucia says: "It's hard times man, my football team (Barca) isn't the team I knew anymore. Was hoping West Indies will play you guys in the semis or final, that's also not happening."

Cricket in the West Indies has been in perpetual decline over the last two decades. The national team doesn't win enough to get the GenNext hooked to it. Being unable to qualify for the ODI World Cup last year was the nadir.



The Windies fans were hopeful of the team making the knockout stages of a home World Cup

Still, you can feel a genuine love for the sport. In the roadside bars during the famous Friday street party in St. Lucia, it was cricket that was being played on the TVs as Indian fans mingled in with the locals, shaking their leg to some reggae beats.

Dileep, a chartered accountant in his 70s from Guyana who now lives in Canada, had flown down with his family for a vacation that included cricket in this lovely island country. "My favourite was Roy Fredericks. The way that little man used to play Dennis Lillee, my god...we don't have such guys anymore. Still, we don't give up hope. That's why we still take time off from our schedules to come and watch cricket," Dileep, in his 70s, says, buying a fresh round of beer for "a new friend".

The locals in St. Lucia were slightly more expectant because the current

West Indies team is being coached by a local boy Darren Sammy, the only St. Lucian who also led the country. "His house is just around the corner. We all feel proud of him. There's a sports school, too, nearby where he has put in some effort. Just wanted his team to do well," Terrol, who runs a bed and breakfast by Rodney Bay, said the other day.

A meaningful performance in this T20 World Cup would probably have reignited the passion among the youth who have more in life "that rooting for a losing team". But during the course of this World Cup, West Indies did show glimpses and skipper Rovman Powell urged the fans not to turn their backs despite the soul-crunching defeat.

"We are disappointed because we thought we had the personnel within our room to actually win a home World Cup. But having said that we have played good cricket, we have entertained them in patches, and it's just for them to keep on supporting us. How important the support is in whatever you do. So, I would implore them to just keep on working with us, keep on supporting us over the last 12 months," Powell said, mentioning that for the first time West Indies have been ranked No. 3 in T20s in the world.

But is it enough to keep the fans who need that sense of a victory to keep them going after a hard day's work? We will see...

Shamsi hits out at 'ridiculous' criticism by former players

South Africa leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi lambasted his team's "ridiculous" critics after the Proteas won another T20 World Cup nail-biter to reach the semi-finals.

Shamsi claimed 3-27 in Sunday's three-wicket win over two-time champions West Indies as South Africa chalked up a seventh win in seven games at the tournament.

The 34-year-old took the wickets of dangerous opener Kyle Mayers and top-scoring Roston Chase in his four overs.

Four days earlier, he had conceded 50 runs on the same ground as the United States threatened a shock victory and he was dropped for the victory over England.

"In the previous game I bowled later in the innings and I went for 50 and there were certain critics coming out from the woodwork, speaking about pressure and how I can't handle pressure," said Shamsi.

"I think in a quarter-final match I hope that was enough pressure for me to respond to."

Shamsi said he was dismayed by the criticism he and his team have faced in their campaign.

"It's just a little bit ridiculous when it's ex-players," said Shamsi. "When they were on the field they did the same things. As cricketers we know sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't." AGENCIES

Afghan fans over the moon after historic win vs Oz

Kabul: Beleaguered Afghans were riding high Monday after a historic weekend T20 World Cup victory over Australia spread a rare mood of euphoria across the country. "With every ball, every run, every boundary, every wicket, I wasn't able to hold my emotions," said university student Zamir Afghan in the capital Kabul.

"It was very early morning, but I was jumping, screaming, I was not able to contain myself," the 20-year-old said. "I couldn't stop my tears."

"Afghanistan as a nation has suf-

fered a lot, such moments are rare for us," said Afghan.

Whilst cricket is hugely popular in Afghanistan, the match over 11,000 kilometres (7,000 miles) away in Arnos Vale on the Caribbean island of St Vincent, took place around dawn local time.

Though the last ball was bowled around 8:30 am on Sunday, many diehard fans had been awake to witness the win. In eastern Khost city, around 1,000 raucous cricket fans gathered to bask in the glow of fireworks early on Sunday morning in half

an hour of revelry swiftly broken up by Taliban security forces.

An uncowed smaller crowd came together again at night, clapping as they lit off more pyrotechnics. Since the Taliban took over in August 2021 and introduced an austere vision of Islam, scenes of public jubilation have been rare. "Such moments are special for everyone," said 18-year-old fruit shop worker Saddam Saleh. "Beating mighty Australia is not something small."

Afghanistan has been isolated since the

collapse of the US-backed government, with diplomats wary of engaging with Taliban rulers. The isolation has spilled into the world of sport. Cricket Australia has withdrawn from bilateral series because of the "deterioration in human rights" for women and girls in Afghanistan.

"The Afghanistan national team responded to their disrespect on the pitch," said 22-year-old Shahid, who goes by only one name. "No one should ever underestimate the greatness of Afghanistan." AFP

GALLERY

Treesa-Gayatri to spearhead charge

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will carry India's medal hopes in the absence of Paris Olympics-bound shuttlers in the US Open BWF World Tour, beginning in Fort Worth on Tuesday. The world No. 24 Indian pair is seeded second in the women's doubles draw of the Super 300 tournament. In the men's singles, Priyanshu

Rajawat, Ayush Shetty, Sankar and Muthuswamy Subramanian are in fray. Seeded seventh, Malvika Bansod is the top Indian in women's singles draw while unseeded Tanya Hemant is the other Indian in the fray in the women's singles.

BCCI officials, state units meet: The BCCI office bearers including secretary Jay Shah and representatives of the state associations met in Mumbai on Monday for an informal meeting to "exchange ideas" and discuss the revamped domestic cricket structure.

Gill-led young team for Zim

New Delhi: Youngsters Riyan Parag, Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Reddy were on Monday rewarded for their exploits in the last IPL with maiden India call-ups for the upcoming white-ball tour of Zimbabwe under the captaincy of Shubman Gill.

T20 SERIES

Senior players competing in the ongoing T20 World Cup have been rested ahead of a gruelling season. The Zimbabwe tour comprises five T20s, beginning July 6. Also featuring in the 15-member squad are Sanju Samson and



Gill and Avesh, who were part of travelling reserves for India's T20 World Cup campaign, were released after the team finished their group stage matches as they were unlikely to feature in any of the remaining games.

Among the newcomers, Abhishek and Parag dominated IPL 17 the most with their brilliant batting. Abhishek, who represent Sunris-

ers Hyderabad in the IPL, had blazed away to 484 runs while Rajasthan Royals' Parag, the first player from Assam to be picked in the senior Indian team, amassed 573 runs.

ABHIRAM NAMED MANAGER Former Karnataka all-rounder and current KSCA selection committee chairman J Abhiram has been named manager for the tour. **Squad:** Shubman Gill (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Nitish Reddy, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravish Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande. AGENCIES

Paris trip to cost Rs 33.68 cr

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New Delhi: Indian contingent's trip to the Paris Olympics (July 26-Aug 11) will cost the exchequer Rs 33.68 crore — more than double of what was spent from the govt's coffers during the Tokyo Games in 2021.

TOI has learnt that the Indian Olympic Association has worked out a detailed budget estimate for the Paris Games and the amount

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to be spent on the travel, accommodation, equipment and logistics needs of athletes, support staff and the govt and IOA delegates would be around Rs 33 crore. For Tokyo, the govt had spent Rs 13.13 crore.

A total of Rs 14 crore has been earmarked for athlete-related activities, including reward

money for sportspersons and teams winning medals for the country. A significant part of the overall budget, comprising Rs 12 crore would be borne by the sports ministry. The airfare (195 persons) alone will cost Rs 3.41 crore, while Rs 2.04 crore (@\$50 for 25 days on 195 persons) will be spent on out-of-pocket allowance.

A huge amount — Rs 18.90 crore — will be spent on delegates and IOA's executive committee (EC) members and headquarter officials. Significantly, the TA/DA paid to EC members will alone cost Rs 8.4 crore. IOA has a 12-member EC, including president P T Usha, senior vice-president Ajay H Patel and treasurer Sahdev Yadav, among others. Rs 1.2 crore will be spent on EC members' visits to ceremonies and on their match tickets. The budget estimat has led to another round of showdown between Usha and EC members.

SNAP SHOTS

Tvesa finishes tied 25th

India's Tvesa Malik shot a bogey free final round of 5-under 67 to finish T-25 at the Tip-sport Czech Ladies Open golf tournament in Beroun, Czech Republic. She was the top Indian among the six who started the week. Tvesa has been slowly but steadily getting back into form as this was her fourth top-30 result, which also included a top-10 at Dornoy Open in Helsingborg. Among other Indians, amateur Avani Prashanth (69-70-72) and Vani Kapoor (68-70-73) were both T-33rd while Diksha Dagar (71-72-70) and Pranavi Urs (71-69-73) were both T-43rd. Ridhima Dilawari (70-72-72) was T-54 as all six Indians made the cut. Spain's Marta Martin fired a 63 (-9) to win by four strokes.

Scheffler bests Kim in playoff: World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler knows how to handle chaos on the PGA Tour in all its various forms. Scheffler won the first playoff hole with a par to capture the Travelers Championship on Sunday in Cromwell, USA, defeating South Korea's Tom Kim after what briefly became a hectic scene a hole earlier. As the final group was on the 18th green for the final hole of regulation, five protesters ran onto the course, setting off smoke grenades and spreading a powdered substance on the green. They were apprehended by police, and there was a delay as the area was cleaned up before the golfers putted.

Lyles books Paris spot: Noah Lyles chased down his rivals to win the 100m final at the US Olympic trials in 9.83 seconds in Eugene, Oregon on Sunday to book a spot at the Paris Games. The world champion hit the accelerator at the midway point to burst through the field and cross the line ahead of Kenny Bednarek (9.87) and Fred Kerley (9.88). Christian Coleman finished fourth in 9.93.

Falcon prevail: Falcon Hockey Club registered a thumping 9-2 win over Ballari District HA in the KSHA State-level Travancore Cup hockey tournament in Bengaluru on Monday. **Results:** Metro HC 3 (Suresh Babu 4, 40, Senthil 15) bt Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' 2 (Hari Rama 30, Vijay 35); Falcon HC 9 (Sridhar 8, Govind 15, 42, Vishwa 21, Sundhar 30, 31, Thanush 36, 40, Poovanna 49) bt Ballari DHA 2 (Vetriell 11, Basavaraj 47). Today's schedule: Metro HC Vs Bangalore United HC (1.30pm); RWFS Vs Delhi Public School HC (3pm).

Throwball refs exam: The Amateur Throwball Association of Karnataka will conduct the referees board clinic and examination in Kalaburagi and Bengaluru on August 25. Interested members can send their names to the secretary MV Sathya Narayana on or before July 5. Contact: 96111-19600 or 98440-48312.

Aditi ends T-35, Yang triumphs

Indian Battles Back After Dismal Start To Record Creditable Finish

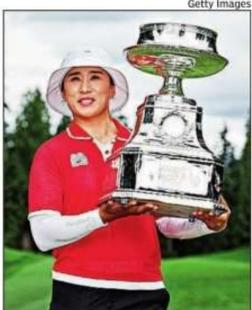
R.Satya@timesgroup.com

Sammamish (USA): Despite getting off to a dismal start—five bogeys in seven holes—on the final day, Aditi Ashok limited the damage with a fine rearguard action on the back nine to finish a creditable tied 35th at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship here on Sunday.

WOMEN'S PGA

The 26-year-old Indian ace shot a closing two-over 74 on a blustery day that saw just 10 golfers manage sub-par scores. Amy Yang was one of them. The South Korean shot a gritty one-under 71 under testing conditions to capture her first Major crown.

Yang, 34, finished with a four-day total of seven-under 281 for a



BIG WIN: South Korea's Amy Yang

three-shot victory over the trio of Lilia Vu (71), Korea's Jin Young Ko (71) and Miyu Yamashita (73) of Japan. "I'm lost for

words right now," said an emotional Yang after the triumph. "It's all the hard work our team did together, and I'm grateful for all that. All four rounds, it was tough out there, but I just trusted what I prepared and I did my best all week." "I always wanted to win a Major, and I came close several times. I started doubting myself if I was ever going to win one before I retire," said Yang, who pocketed \$1.56 million for her effort this week. "I'm so grateful and very happy to win a Major."

Aditi too was happy with the splendid recovery on the back nine. "I played well overall. It was not a great week, but it was not a bad week either." Asian Games silver medalist told TOI.

With her hitting a trifle patch, Aditi dropped too many shots on

the first nine. A 10th tee starter, the Bengalurean bogeyed the opening hole, a result of a wrong club selection. Although she picked up a shot on the next hole, she bogeyed on the 12th, 14th, 15th after being on the wrong side of the undulating greens. She hit the water on the par-317th to drop another shot. After picking up a shot on the 18th, she was unlucky to bogey the first hole, where her 20-footer putt lipped out. But she birdied the par-5 second and the fourth for her 74.

Final scores (after 72 holes): 281: Amy Yang (Kor, 70, 68, 71); 284: Lilia Vu (US, 75, 70, 68, 71); Jin Young Ko (Kor, 72, 68, 73, 71); Miyu Yamashita (Jpn, 71, 70, 73); 285: Ally Ewing (US, 72, 70, 72, 71); Lauren Hartlage (US, 73, 69, 69, 74); 286: Mao Saigo (Jpn, 70, 76, 73, 67); Hinako Shibuno (Jpn, 70, 70, 73); 295: Aditi Ashok (Ind, 72, 77, 72, 74, T-35).

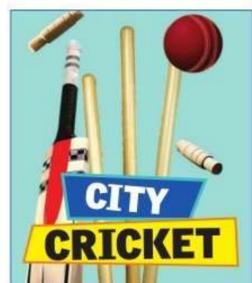
Karan, Sujith star for Ranji CC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karan Sharma (74) and Sujith (5/40) fashioned Ranji Cricket Club's 23-run win over Friend's XI Cricket Club, Doddaballapura in the KSCA Group I (I, II, III division) U-19 inter-club cricket tournament here recently. Batting first, Ranji CC were bowled out for 211 in 45.2 overs with Karan's half-century complemented by a handy 45 from Eashan A. In reply, Friend's XI were bowled out for 188. While Sujith returned 5 for 40, Thejas accounted for three wickets.

Brief scores: Ranji CC: 211 all out in 45.2 overs (Karan Sharma 74, Eashan A 45; Rayan Ahmed Khan 3-26, Dhakshath P 2-32, Aarya Golechha 3-59) **Friend's XI CC, Doddaballapura: 188 all out in 40.3 overs** (Arjun Mishra 26, Nishit Srivatsa UB 25, Ayush Kumar 54; Sujith 5-40, Vishwa H 2-19).

Neptune CC: 140 all out in 31.3 overs (Yashas V Murthy 31, Tanmay Gowda 54n; Neel M Jain 2-27, Shiram Bhat 3-18, Dhruva Prasad B V 2-11) **lost to RVCE Gymkhana: 141/6 in 28.4 overs** (Thejas P



CITY CRICKET

3-36). **Vijaya CC, Malur: 319/6 in 50 overs** (Amogh R Shetty 63, Vajra S 104 (72); 15 x4; 3x6). **Harshil Arigala 26, Rishabh Thakur 34, Udeet S Nandan 30; Shreyasgoud Patil 2-38) bt Minerva CC: 147/6 in 24 overs** (Srinivasa Kartikeya 70, Sachin A M 26). **BEL Colony RC: 147 all out in 32 overs** (Pranjal Jain 57, Charvik 25, Karthik Rathod 32n; Vishwa S 5-47, Malatesh M 4-22) **lost to Hammonds CC: 151/3 in 27.3 overs** (Sachith Konchady 77n; Karthik Rathod 2-40). **Chamrajpet CC: 229/8 in 50 overs** (Yash Diwani 55,

Ishaan N Yathiraj 45, Rajkiran R 41n; Puneeth Yadukumar 2-37) **lost to Mount Joy CC: 110/4 in 21.1 overs** (Vishesh Reddy 39, Manikanta Yadav 2-20). **Chintamani SA: 275 all out in 33.5 overs** (Arjun Reddy 61, Tamas Maletira 106 (47); 13x4; 8x6). **Gaurav Appanna 2-27, Tejas Sugnan 2-54, Harshith BA 2-23) bt Citizen Cultural CA: 87 all out in 28.2 overs** (Shreehaan Arinjai 5-21, Pradyumna Patil 3-12). **Visweswarampuram CC (2): 237/9 in 50 overs** (Akshaj Kathuria 43, Arjun N 81, Sanjit Sathish 26; V Sarvesh 2-22, Mithun J 2-27, Parva Virat 4-48) **bt Bangalore Star CA: 104/8 in 23 overs** (Parva Virat 25, Ranjan MS 29; Shubh S 2-18, Rheaan Alaric Pereira 2-25). (Match interrupted by rain; target was revised to 110 in 23 overs). **Cavalliers CC: 288 all out in 30 in 23 overs** (Vaibhav S 84, Amit Kulikarni 34, Veeraj Havari 84, Gowtham G 33; Chikurri Praneeeth 2-39, Mayura Lakshminikar 3-47) **bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 105 all out in 22.3 overs** (Sarthak Sharma 2-33, Dheeraj M Reddy 3-27, Aditya Pratap Singh 2-22, Tarun C 2-23). **Palar SC, Kolar: 339/8 in 50 overs** (Rahul S 138 (150); 16x4), Chiranth D 112 (109); 11x4). **Rayan Khan 3-52, Syed Hussain 2-51) vs Wilson Garden CC: 56 / 4 in 19.1 overs** (Athreya M 2-14) (Match interrupted by rain; no further play was possible).

Aditi & Diksha make Oly cut

New Delhi: Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar on Monday secured qualification to the upcoming Paris Olympics via the world rankings. The two women join Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar (men's section) to form a four-member Indian team for the showpiece.

While it will be a third appearance for Aditi which is also the most for an Indian, Diksha will be competing for the second time. For Sharma and Bhullar, it would be their maiden appearance at the Olympics. India's best performance at the Olympics came from Aditi who finished fourth in the Tokyo Games. Qualification is determined by rankings, limited to 60 men's and as many women's players through the Official World Golf Rankings. **PTI**

'Players were upset with Stimac's style'

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesgroup.com

Panaji: Last week, when the All India Football Federation (AIFF) terminated Igor Stimac's services, the head coach asked team manager Velu Dhalayamani to form a WhatsApp

group, comprising all players who had represented the country under the Croat during the last five years. About 100-odd footballers were part of the group. Stimac first posted a farewell message and then the players responded. "I don't want to read out the messages because I'll start crying," the coach told reporters during his last media interaction.

"Turns out not every player meant what they said on the group. According to the AIFF, several players had brought

their concern regarding Stimac's "coaching style and tactics" to the attention of the federation on multiple occasions, before he was eventually sacked. "Despite all the support, the coach always sought to deflect blame and according to him everything and everyone else was wrong and responsible for any given situation, except himself," the AIFF said in a statement on Monday, refuting several points that Stimac had made during his press conference last week. "This sentiment was also shared by various players who had brought their concerns regarding Stimac's coaching style and tactics to the attention of the AIFF on multiple occasions. His selection of support staff had also gone unquestioned and was the subject of disquiet among many players."

The AIFF also said they were shocked to note Stimac's dependence on an astrologer.

Indian girls shine in Croatian club's first title triumph

New Delhi: The Indian trio of Jyoti Chauhan, MK Kashmina and Kiran Pidsa played decisive roles in ZNK Dinamo Zagreb clinching the Croatian Women's Football Cup, the club's maiden silverware at the top echelons of the country's football.

Kashmina, the 25-year-old midfielder from Manipur, turned out to be the cynosure of all eyes at the SRC Mladost ground in the picturesque town of Cakovec, as her successful conversion broke the deadlock after their summit clash against ZNK Osijek went into sudden death. Kashmina calmly scored the final

spot-kick to help the Croatian capital side win 5-4 on penalties after both teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time. It was a sensational victory against a powerhouse club like Osijek, who are record 19-time champions of the Croatian Women's Football Cup. They had been invincible throughout this season until going down to Dinamo.

ZNK Dinamo Zagreb have been a haven for Indian women footballers over the last couple of seasons. It began with Jyoti and Soumya Guguloth, in 2022, and they were soon joined by winger Kiran and Kashmina. **PTI**

TIMES NATION



TOI History Meets AI JUNE 25
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Michael Jackson, the King of Pop, passed away on this day in 2009, leaving behind a lasting legacy in the music industry

Border village gets poll booth

After the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate state, for the first time, the inhabitants of Mana, one of the country's remotest villages situated near the India-China border in the Garhwal Himalayas, will cast their vote inside the village in the by-election to be held for the Badrinath assembly seat on July 10, reports **Pankul Sharma**. A primary school in the village has been designated as the polling booth, and repair work is presently underway there, officials said.

2 kids tonsured, paraded for theft

Two children, aged 10 and 14 years, were thrashed, their hands tied with a rope and paraded with shaved heads around the village for allegedly stealing Rs 5,000 from a shop in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj, reports **Deepak Lavania**, SHO of Dholna, Ajayveer Singh, said. "On Monday, an FIR was registered against five people, including shopkeeper Hariprasad. Four of the accused, including the shopkeeper, were arrested." The boys' mother said, "My sons didn't steal anything. No money was recovered."



Two killed in Ahmedabad boiler blast

Ahmedabad: The owner and a worker of a factory died and three others were injured in a boiler blast at the plant in Ahmedabad on Monday afternoon. "Banshi Powder Coating's owner Ramesh Patel (50) and his worker, Pavan Kumar (25), died on the spot in Arianth estate in Odhav," said inspector PN Jhinhuwadia. Explosions in the compressor and an LPG cylinder may have triggered the boiler blast that also damaged the walls and roofs of nearby shops, police said. It sparked a fire which was put out by 35 firefighters in two hours. **TNN**

SC upholds ruling nixing Hry order to grant extra marks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday upheld order for quashing of Haryana govt decision to grant 5% additional marks to state domiciles in recruitment to certain posts certain posts based on "socio-economic" criteria, terming it as populist measures and directed that fresh examinations be conducted for jobs to Group C and D employees which was held last year.

A bench of Justices AS Oka and Rajesh Bindal rejected plea of Haryana Staff Selection Commission (SSC) challenging Punjab and Haryana high court verdict quashing state notification granting additional marks to domiciles of Haryana in recruitment process during the Common Entrance Test of 2023 (CET 2023).

The court also directed that fresh tests be conducted.

Appearing for the commission, attorney general R Venkataramani pleaded the court that there was no need to hold fresh examinations and results could be declared after doing away with additional marks granted to state residents. But the bench said that high court had given reasons to hold re-test and there was no error in the verdict.

Under this "socio-economic" criteria, additional weightage was granted by the Haryana govt to domiciles of Haryana on fulfillment of certain conditions including that none of the applicant's family members was a regular govt employee and the gross annual income of the family from all sources was less than Rs 1.80 lakh rupees.

Hry govt may opt for review petition: Saini

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday there was no threat to the jobs of Group C and D employees recruited by Haryana Service Selection Commission (HSSC) under socio-economic criteria after the apex court upheld a high court judgment quashing the Haryana policy.

About 23,000 employees were recruited to these posts in the Haryana govt after implementation of the criteria since its notification in June 2019. "We respect the verdict of the Supreme Court. Our socio-economic policy was based on 'Antodaya'. We stand by our policy. No employee

will be asked to leave their job on the basis of this verdict," CM Saini said.

"Our govt is fighting for the rights of the poor. If needed, we shall bring legislation in the assembly so that our government will continue to stand with the poor. Whether we are forced to go for a review petition or we have to take this to the Vidhan Sabha, we shall do everything. We are with the poor," said Saini.

The SC verdict gave the Haryana opposition a chance to criticise the BJP govt. Leader of opposition and former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda was the first to react. "The decision has exposed the anti-employment policy of this govt," Hooda claimed

Searches in J&K districts after 'suspicious' movement inputs

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: A joint team of security forces launched searches in Jammu division's Udhampur and Rajouri districts on Sunday following inputs about suspicious movement in the regions.

Both operations ended later in the evening without any irregular findings by the search parties.

"Around 10.30pm Saturday, a local allegedly spotted suspicious movement in forest close to his house in Gali (mountain pass) area near Karlah in Patnitop, Udhampur. He alerted police the next morning, after which personnel from Army, local police, and J&K Police's Special Operations Group initiated the operation in the general forest area of Karlah and adjoining places," an official said.

Another joint search operation was launched by security personnel in Jata area in Kalakote-Devak-Triyath axis of Sunderbani in Rajouri district based on similar inputs. It too, yielded no suspicious finding. Officials maintained that these searches were part of a "routine exercise" to instil a sense of safety among citizens by assuring them that forces remain vigilant.

41,000-yr-old egg gives 1st evidence of ostrich in S India

Prashant.Rupera@timesgroup.com

Vadodara: A team of archaeologists stumbled upon an ostrich nest that dates back 41,000 years—the oldest found in the world—in Andhra Pradesh.

Archaeologists from the Vadodara-based MS University, and colleagues from Germany, Australia, and US found this archaeological evidence while investigating a fossil-rich site in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The nest was the home of 9-11 ostrich eggs, the researchers said.

Typically, an ostrich nest is 9-10 feet wide and can accommodate 30-40 eggs at a time. Researchers say this finding is crucial in finding out why megafauna (animals weighing more than 40kg) went extinct in India. The discovery of nearly 3,500 pieces of ostrich eggshells from a patch of 1x1.5 metres is not only the first evidence of the presence of ostrich in south India, it is also the first time that archaeological evidence of a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest has been established.

The discovery of nearly 3,500 pieces of ostrich eggshells is the first evidence. It is also the first time that archaeological evidence of a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest has been established

Megafauna, literally large animals, refers to animals like horses, elephants, cattle, and hippopotamus. Some of these megafauna became extinct around 40,000 years ago from different parts of the world. "The oldest ostrich eggshell were discovered from the Siwalik Hills on the Indian side of the Himalayas. They date back more than 20 lakh years. Even in peninsular India, the oldest evidence of ostrich eggshells was discovered from Katoti in Rajasthan, which date back to 60,000 years," said Devara Anilkumar, assistant professor at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at MSU. He has been working on the project since April 2023.

Five months on, Ayodhya temple roof 'leaking' after first rain

Ayodhya: Five months after the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, water leaked from the roof of temple's sanctum sanctorum as temple town received the season's first pre-monsoon shower early Sunday.

Temple's chief priest, Acharya Satyendra Das, expressed concern over the seepage as water was dripping right in front of the Ram Lalla idol. "In the first rain, the roof of the sanctum sanctorum, where the idol of Ram Lalla was installed, started to leak.

There is no arrangement to drain water out of the temple. Attention should be paid to the matter and to find out what was missing," Das told ANI. "If the rain intensifies, it would be difficult to offer prayers at the temple," he added. After the leakage was reported to the higher authorities, temple construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra rushed to the spot and gave necessary instructions to the vendors for repair and waterproofing of the roofs.

Mishra explained that the seepage occurred as the temple is still under construction and its mandaps are yet to be closed. **TNN**

U'khand: Senior AAI official found dead dressed as a woman

Aakash Ahuja & Kalyan Das | TNN

Rudrapur/Dehradun: Aashish Chausali, the air traffic controller (ATC) in-charge of Pantnagar airport in Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand), who was working with the Airports Authority of India for the past six years, was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his official accommodation at the airport on Monday.

He was found hanging from a ceiling fan dressed in women's clothes, including a maxi, undergarments, bindi, lipstick and bangles. His wife, who is a teacher in a govt school, was in Pithoragarh at the time of the incident.

SSP (Udham Singh Nagar) Manjunath TC told TOI: "There was no sign of forced entry in Chausali's room which was locked from inside. There were no signs of physical assault either."

A police officer, who is part of the investigation, said, "Chausali was in his two-bedroom accommodation with two relatives. All three had dinner together on Sun-

'STELLAR RECORD'

> Aashish Chausali was found hanging by a dupatta in bedroom, wearing a maxi, women's underclothes, bindi, bangles & lipstick
> Colleagues and seniors termed him an 'outstanding professional' who was never involved in any misconduct
> Police awaiting autopsy report to learn more about circumstances of death

day and went out at night before returning to the apartment. Preliminary investigation suggests that the two were in one room while Chausali was in the other. They had planned to visit a nearby mango orchard around 8am on Monday. However, when Chausali didn't wake up in the morning despite several calls by the two, they informed his colleagues living in the same neighbourhood. They then broke open the door of his room to find him hanging from a noose made from a dupatta tied to the ceiling fan. "We're probing why he was in women's attire."

'A student should be allotted a local centre'

Continued from page 1

They had assured the parents that their child would get 'high' rank and demanded Rs 1 lakh as advance and Rs 9 lakh after the results. I had dissuaded them from falling into any such trap." The National Testing Agency (NTA) has always maintained that a computer randomly generates an exam centre based on the choice of cities given by each candidate. "If computer-generated centres are given, how are students who have paid ending up in compromised exam centres?" asked Shenoy.

In another instance last year, a private university's head was surprised to find the brightest first-year students failing on concepts that they had cracked in the entrance test conducted by the university just about 10 months ago and analysed the problem closely to find that some of their exam centres were compromised. "We changed the test agency we worked with. We realised that the exam centres were compromised," the head of

the university, who did not want to be named, told TOI.

Experts said the NEET 2024 controversy is not just "local" but probably one with a "large spread." The NTA needs to "look closely" at the system and "find gaps and fix them," they said.

Student representative and counsellor Sachin Bangad said, "A student should be allotted a local centre based on the combination of where the candidate took the Class X, XII exams and the address on the Aadhar card. Additionally, govt officials need to be roped in for supervision. Like in the polling system, they should be informed merely a night before where their exam supervision duty is."

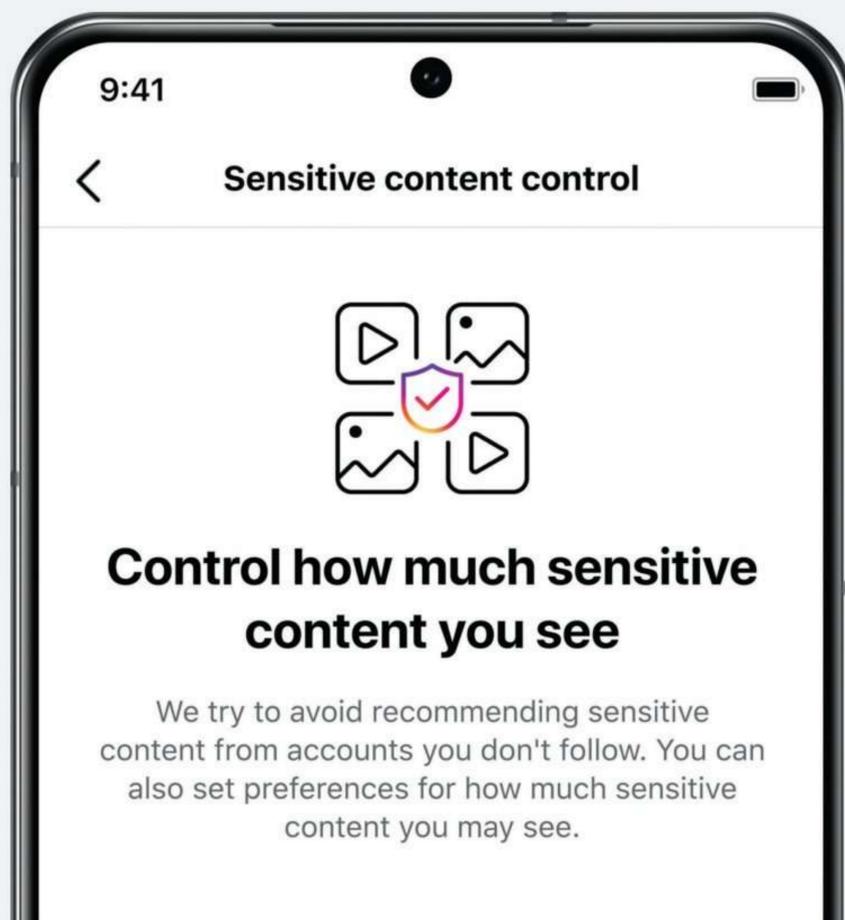
An officer, who has worked with the Maharashtra admission process for decades, said NEET should be conducted on computers for safety reasons. "Additionally, the new provisions brought in for the post-graduate test, to break down the test into multiple-timed sections that cannot be revisited once the time is up, should also be brought into the UG test," the officer added.



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TAYLOR SWIFT SURPRISES FANS BY BRINGING BF TRAVIS KELCE ON STAGE AS DANCER AT UK SHOW; CLIP OF NFL STAR LIFTING HER VIRAL

ELON MUSK QUIETLY WELCOMES BABY NO. 12 THIS YEAR, HIS 3RD WITH NEURALINK EXEC SHIVON ZILIS: 'NOT A SECRET. FRIENDS, FAMILY KNOW'

Attack on religious sites in Russia's Dagestan kills 20

Churches, Synagogues And Police Post Targeted In Assaults Suspected To Be Conducted By Islamist Extremists; 15 Cops Among Dead; All 5 Gunmen Killed

Moscow: Russia's southern region of Dagestan held the first of three days of mourning Monday following an attack by Islamic militants who authorities say killed 20 people, mostly police, and attacked Christian and Jewish houses of worship in assaults in two cities. Sunday's violence in Dagestan's regional capital of Makhachkala and near-by Derbent was the latest that officials blamed on Islamist extremists in the predominantly Muslim region in the North Caucasus. It was also the deadliest in Russia since March, when gunmen opened fire at a concert in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people.



Dagestan governor Sergei Meliko (in grey shirt above) visits an Orthodox church attacked on Sunday. Dagestan is a predominantly Muslim region.

8 die in building inferno near Moscow

Two people jumped to their death from the top floors of a burning eight-storey former Russian electronics research institute on Monday and at least six others died in the fire, state-run TASS news agency reported. Black smoke billowed from the building outside Moscow and flames roared up its walls. Some people were trapped on the top floors but were unable to escape. One man was seen jumping from the upper floor of the building. Another, with serious burns, fell from the upper floors. It was not clear what caused the fire.

link the attack to Moscow's military action in Ukraine — but also provided no evidence. Prez Putin had sought to blame the March attack on Ukraine, again without evidence and despite the claim of responsibility by the Islamic State affiliate. Kyiv has vehemently denied any role. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin has received reports on Sunday's attacks and efforts to help the victims. The Investigative Committee, the country's top state criminal investigation agency, said all five attackers were killed. Of the 20 people killed, at least 15 were police. Authorities said at least 46 people were injured. Among the dead was the Rev. Nikolai Kotelnikov, a 66-year-old Russian Orthodox priest at the church in Derbent. The attackers slit his throat before setting fire to the church, according to Shamil Khadulayev, deputy head of a local public oversight body. The attack came as the Orthodox faithful celebrated Pentecost. Melikov, the Dagestan governor, said also among the dead were a Russian Orthodox believer and 18 Muslims. The Kele-Numaz synagogue in Derbent also was set ablaze. Shortly after, militants fired at a police post in Makhachkala and attacked a Russian Orthodox Church and a synagogue there before being killed by special forces.

In the early 2000s, Dagestan saw near-daily attacks on police and other authorities that was blamed on militant extremists. The violence has abated in recent years, but in a sign that extremist sentiments still run high in the region, mobs rioted at an airport there in Oct, targeting a flight from Israel. Over 20 people were hurt — none of them Israelis — when hundreds of men, some carrying banners with antisemitic slogans, rushed onto the tarmac, chased passengers and threw stones at police. The airport rampage challenged the Kremlin's narrative that ethnic and religious groups co-exist in harmony in Russia. AP

Blaze at S Korea lithium battery plant kills 22

18 Of Them Were Chinese Workers

Seoul: A fire likely sparked by exploding lithium batteries swept through a manufacturing factory near South Korea's capital on Monday, killing 22 mostly Chinese migrant workers and injuring eight, officials said.



The fire, likely caused by exploding lithium batteries, started at one of the factories owned by battery manufacturer Aricell. Authorities will probe whether fire extinguishing systems were at the site and if they worked

The fire began after batteries exploded while workers were examining and packaging them on the second floor of the factory in Hwaseong city, just south of Seoul, at around 10.30am, fire officials said, citing a witness.

many people from China have migrated to South Korea to seek jobs. They often end up in factories or in physically demanding and low-paying jobs shunned by more affluent South Koreans. Kim said a worker remained out of contact and rescuers were searching the site. He said two of the eight injured were in serious condition.

The fire started at one of the factory buildings owned by a battery manufacturer, Aricell. Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are ubiquitous in consumer goods from laptops to cellphones. They can overheat if damaged, defective or packaged improperly, leading to fires and explosions and making them a hazard for shipment on aircraft. Senior fire official Jo Seon-ho, citing video footage, said workers mobilised fire extinguishers but failed to put out the blaze. They later rushed to an area where there was no exit before they likely inhaled toxic smoke and lost their consciousness, he said.

The dead included 18 Chinese, two South Koreans and one Laotian, local fire official Kim Jin-young said. He said the nationality of one of the dead was to be verified. In the past few decades,

Commission executive vice-president in charge of competition policy. She said Apple's App Store policies make developers more dependent on the company and prevent consumers from being aware of better offers. EU regulators said the charges were preliminary and gave Apple a chance to respond. A final decision will be announced by next March.

Apple defended its practices, saying its rules and fees are a fair trade for providing such a large platform to reach consumers. Developers can point consumers to websites to make purchases outside the App Store, the company said. "Throughout the past several months, Apple has made a number of changes to comply with the D.M.A. in response to feedback from developers and the European Commission," Apple said. "We are confident our plan complies with the law." nvt

Suffered Seizures In Dozens To Hundreds. Now, A Big Relief

UK schoolboy gets world's first epilepsy device fitted in skull

London: A schoolboy from England has made medical history as the first in the world with severe epilepsy to trial a new device fitted in his skull to control seizures, the UK media reported Monday. The neurostimulator, which sends electrical signals deep into brain, has cut Oran Knowlson's daytime seizures by 80%.



The neurostimulator, which sends electrical signals deep into brain, has cut Oran Knowlson's daytime seizures by 80%. Oran has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a treatment-resistant form of epilepsy which he developed at the age of three. Since then he has suffered several daily seizures ranging from two dozen to hundreds, the BBC reported.

The surgery, which lasted around eight hours, took place in Oct 2023. It was part of a trial at Great Ormond Street Hospital when Oran, who is now 13, was 12. The surgery

was part of a trial in partnership with University College London, King's College Hospital and University of Oxford. Epilepsy seizures are triggered by abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain. The device, which emits a constant pulse of current, aims to block or disrupt abnormal signals. The Picostim neurostimulator is made by UK's Amber Therapeutics. Oran's mother, Justine, told BBC he was happier and had a "much better quality of life". "He's a lot more chatty, he's more engaged. I definitely now have a teenager — he's happy to tell me no," she said.

Oran is part of the Cadet (children's adaptive deep brain stimulation for epilepsy trial) project — a series of trials assessing the safety and effectiveness of deep brain stimulation for severe epilepsy. The Cadet pilot will now recruit three more patients with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, with an aim to recruit 22 patients for a full trial. pti

Criminal charges recommended against Boeing in fatal crashes case

Washington: US prosecutors are recommending to senior US justice department officials that criminal charges be brought against Boeing after finding the planemaker violated a settlement related to two fatal crashes, two people familiar with the matter said. The federal agency determined in May that Boeing had breached a 2021 deferred-prosecution agreement that was put in place after the 737 Max crashes, which killed 346 people in 2018 and 2019. The planemaker has denied the findings, and the DoJ now has until July 7 to decide what punishment, if any, it should face. Under the 2021 deal, the company was asked to overhauled its compliance practices and submit regular reports. Boeing had also agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to settle the probe. REUTERS

If Labour wins UK polls, party says 'ready to go' for FTA with India

London: The UK's opposition Labour Party Monday criticised the governing Conservatives of having "over-promised and under delivered" on relations with India and declared that it is "ready to go" on striking a free trade agreement (FTA) if it wins the July 4 general election. Addressing the India Global Forum (IGF), the party's shadow foreign secretary David Lammy laid out his ambitions of the FTA being "a floor not a ceiling" of the partnership he aspires to with his "friend" external affairs minister S Jaishankar.

India and the UK have completed 13 rounds of FTA negotiations to enhance the estimated GBP 38.1 billion a year trading relationship, with talks currently stalled amid the election cycles in both the countries.

"Many Diwalis have come and gone without a trade deal and too many businesses have been left waiting," said Lammy referring to the missed Diwali 2022 deadline set by former PM Boris Johnson for the FTA. "My message to [finance] minister (Nirmala) Sitharaman and (trade) minister (Piyush) Goyal is that Labour is ready to go. Let's finally get our free trade deal done and move on," he said, adding he will be in Delhi before the end of July if elected to govt on July 4. pti

Russia summons US envoy to protest Ukraine's use of 'US missiles' in Crimea

Russian foreign ministry summoned American ambassador Lynne Tracy on Monday to protest what it says was the use of US-made advanced missiles in a Ukrainian attack on Russian-annexed Crimea that reportedly killed four, including two children, and wounded over 150. Washington "has effectively become a party" to the war on Ukraine's side, the ministry said, adding, "Retaliatory measures will certainly follow."

There was no comment from US or Ukrainian officials. Meanwhile, Russian defense ministry on Monday reported striking a "major logistical hub" of the Ukrainian military that held Western-supplied missiles and other weapons. It said the strike was carried out by warplanes, drones, ground-launched missiles and artillery. The ministry didn't name its location. AP

Bibi: Intense Gaza ops winding down, to focus on Hezbollah

Says War Not Ending, Prepared To Fight On Several Fronts

Jerusalem: Israeli PM Netanyahu said on Sunday that the current phase of fighting against Hamas in Gaza is winding down, setting the stage for Israel to send more troops to its northern border to confront Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.



Israeli jets bombarded an UNRWA compound near Gaza City Sunday, killing at least 8 people. The Israeli military said the compound was being used by Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants, which Hamas denied

The comments threatened to further heighten the tensions between Israel and Hezbollah at a time when they appear to be moving closer to war. Netanyahu also signaled that there is no end in sight for the grinding war in Gaza. The current phase of the war "is about to end," Netanyahu said. "That doesn't mean the war is about to end."

Netanyahu said in a lengthy interview that while the army is close to completing its ground offensive in Rafah, that would not mean the war against Hamas is over. But he said fewer troops would be needed in Gaza, freeing up forces to battle Hezbollah.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah began striking Israel almost immediately after Hamas' Oct 7 attack that triggered the Gaza war. Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire nearly every day since then, but the fighting has escalated in recent weeks, raising fears of a full-

Oct 7 Hamas attack victims sue UNRWA

The UN Palestinian refugee agency was sued Monday by dozens of Israelis who accused it of aiding and abetting the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel. In a complaint filed with the US district court in Manhattan, the plaintiffs said the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East spent more than a decade helping Hamas build what they called the "terror infrastructure" and personnel needed for the attack. The plaintiffs are seeking unspecified damages for what they allege was UNRWA's "aiding and abetting Hamas' genocide". UNRWA declined to comment, saying it had yet to be served with the lawsuit. The agency has said it takes accusations of staff misconduct seriously, and terminated 10 staffers accused by Israel of involvement in the attack. REUTERS

blown war. Netanyahu said he hoped a diplomatic solution to the crisis could be found but vowed to solve the problem "in a different way" if needed. "We can fight on several fronts and we are prepared to do that."

Hezbollah warned Israel last week against war, saying it has new weapons and intelligence capabilities that could help it target critical positions deeper inside Israel.

Apple is first company charged under new EU competition law

Apple is imposing unfair restrictions on developers of applications for its App Store in violation of a new European Union law meant to encourage competition in the tech industry, regulators in Brussels said on Monday. The charges further escalated a tussle between Apple, which says its products are designed in the best interest of customers, and EU regulators, who say the company is unfairly using its size and considerable resources to stifle competition.



EU regulators said Apple was putting unlawful restrictions on companies that make games, music services & other apps

Apple is the first company to be charged for violating the Digital Markets Act, a law passed in 2022 that gives European regulators wide authority to force the largest "online gatekeepers" to change their business practices. After initiating an investigation in March, EU regulators said Apple was putting unlawful restrictions on companies

that make games, music services and other applications. Under the law, Apple cannot limit how companies communicate with customers about sales and other offers and content available outside the App Store. The company faces a penalty of up to 10% of global revenue, a fine that could go up to 20% for repeat infringements. Apple reported \$383 billion in revenue last year.

"Today is a very important day for the effective enforcement of the DMA," said Margrethe Vestager, European

Restored Ranjit Singh statue to be unveiled at Kartarpur gurdwara in Pak on June 26

Yudhvir Rana | TNN

Amritsar: The restored statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, vandalised thrice since its installation in Lahore Fort and relocated to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib complex in Kartarpur, Pakistan, will be inaugurated in the neighbouring country to commemorate the 185th death anniversary of the Sikh warrior on June 26.

curred nearly 80% damage. "It was out of love and respect for Ranjit Singh that I undertook this project. The restoration cost around Rs 27 lakh and the work spanned over a year. The statue was donated for its installation in Gurdwara Darbar Sahib complex," Saifuddin, a fifth generation descendant of Fakir Sayed Azizuddin who was chief secretary and foreign minister in Ranjit Singh's govt said. His brothers Fakir Syed Imamuddin and Fakir Syed Nooruddin were acting governor, Amritsar, and governor, Lahore, respectively.

Nearly 450 Indian Sikh are currently in Pakistan to observe the death anniversary of Ranjit Singh who ruled Punjab in the 19th century and was the first maharaja of Sikh empire. Lahore's Fakir Khana Museum director Fakir Syed Saifuddin spearheaded the project to repair, rebuild, and restructure the statue that had in-

The 9-foot bronze statue was sculpted by Fakir Khana Museum in 2019. It was vandalised in 2019 and 2020 by religious groups and in 2021 by terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Labbaik.

AROUND THE WORLD



DALI LEAVES BALTIMORE FOR VIRGINIA: Cargo ship Dali headed out of Baltimore for Virginia on Monday, nearly three months after it lost power and crashed into one of the Francis Scott Key bridge's supporting columns and caused the bridge to collapse. The 984-foot Dali started moving shortly before 8.30am (local time) with four tugboats. The Dali was sailing under its own power with a full crew of 22 and six salvage experts, said the US Coast Guard said, which is overseeing the voyage & providing a 500-yard safety zone around Dali

In latest UK royal health setback, Anne hospitalised with head injury

Princess Anne, King Charles' younger sister, is in hospital after suffering a head injury on Sunday, Buckingham Palace said, adding that the royal was expected to make a full recovery from the incident which was believed to have involved a horse. The palace said on Monday that the 73-year-old had suffered minor injuries and a concussion following the incident, and was now recovering at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. The princess had been walking in the grounds of Gatcombe Park estate where her home is located when she suffered minor injuries to her head, a royal source said. The source said there were horses in the vicinity and her medical team said the head injuries

were consistent with impact from a horse's head or legs. "Hello Kitty", parasites & more trash: N Korea resumes balloon landings in South North Korea resumed launches of balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea on Monday night, South Korea's military said, in the latest round of a Cold War-style campaign on the Korean Peninsula. Among the trash that balloons carried over the border from North were articles printed with Hello Kitty characters, badly worn clothing, and soil containing traces of human faeces and parasites, South Korea said. North Korea has flown balloons with trash since late May, with hundreds landing in the South. Parasites and human DNA were found in the dirt in some of the bags, which shows it contained fertiliser that used human faeces, the South said. It also contained worn items of clothing with Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh characters, as well as clothes that were donated from the South that were slashed and cut up.

Haj deaths put spotlight on underworld of illicit tour operators

1,300+, Including 98 Indians, Have Died; 83% Of Them Were Walking In Heat Sans Permits

Cairo: More than 1,300 people died making the Islamic pilgrimage of haj in Saudi Arabia this month, the vast majority of whom the Saudi govt said did not have permits. Many walked for miles in scorching heat as high as 51.8 degrees Celsius after paying thousands of dollars to illicit tour operators. The fatalities included 660 Egyptians, 165 from Indonesia, 98 from India and dozens more from Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Malaysia, according to an AP tally. Two US citizens also died.

While pilgrims with permits are transported around Mecca in air-conditioned buses and rest in air-conditioned tents, unregistered ones are often exposed to the elements. On Sunday, Saudi health minister Fahd bin Abdurrahman Al-Jalal said 83% of the 1,301 reported deaths involved pilgrims who lacked permits. With nearly 2 million participating each year, it is not unusual for pilgrims to die from heat stress, illness or chronic disease. But it is unclear if the number of deaths

this year was higher than usual, because Saudi does not regularly report those statistics. But as so many of those who died had no permits, this year's toll exposed an underworld of illicit tour operators and smugglers who profit off Muslims desperate to make the journey. An estimated 400,000 undocumented people tried to perform haj this year, a senior Saudi official told AFP. Haj tour operators, pilgrims and relatives of the dead described easily exploited loopholes that allow people to travel to the kingdom with a tourist or visitor visa before haj. Once they arrive, they find illegal brokers and



A child in a stroller during this year's Haj pilgrimage. Temperatures in Mecca climbed as high as 51.8° C

smugglers who offer their services, take their money and sometimes abandon them to fend for themselves, they said. The number of unregistered pilgrims appeared to have been driven up this year by rising economic desperation in countries such as Egypt and Jordan. An official haj package can cost more than \$5,000 or \$10,000, depending on a pilgrim's country of origin — far beyond the means of many. One unregistered pilgrim who died was Safaa al-Tawab from the Egyptian city of Luxor. Al-Tawab, 55, had not been able to obtain a haj permit but found an Egyptian tour company to take her for around \$3,000, her brother Ahmed said. After she arrived, she told relatives she had been put in

inadequate housing and prevented from going outside. Although the tour operator had promised air-conditioned buses, she found herself walking for miles in the heat, her brother said. She died midway through the pilgrimage, but when her brother contacted a representative from the tour company, he assured him she was fine, then turned off his phone. Even for the young and fit, haj is a physically challenging event, and many pilgrims are elderly or ailing by the time they can make the journey. Some believe the hajj might be their final rite, and that dying in Mecca will confer great blessings. NYT & AP

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