

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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RBI governor Shaktikanta Das says India is at the threshold of a major structural shift in trajectory and is moving towards annual growth of 8% in a sustained manner; adds that such an outlook gives RBI space to focus on inflation, P 17

EU regulators charge Microsoft with breaking antitrust rules by bundling its Teams video conferencing & collaboration software with a suite of other productivity tools, giving it an unfair advantage over rivals, P 18

Kenyan police opened fire on demonstrators trying to storm the legislature, with at least 5 protesters killed, dozens wounded and sections of the Parliament building set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed legislation to raise taxes, P 18

US defence secy Lloyd Austin meets Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant at the Pentagon, warning that a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah could spark a regional war and urging a diplomatic solution, P 18



NDA sticks with Birla, Congress picks Suresh for 4th-ever Speaker contest

Govt Rejects Oppn Demand For Post Of Deputy Speaker

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In the first trial of strength for the newly-elected Modi govt, opposition on Tuesday decided to field its candidate K Suresh against NDA's nominee Om Birla for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker.

The contest, which had looked likely, became inevitable after govt turned down the opposition's demand for the post of deputy speaker as a pre-condition for facilitating a consensus on a fresh term for Birla, the outgoing speaker. Govt refused to accept the opposition's demand, saying the issue of deputy speaker could be negotiated later.

Though this will be only the fourth time—and the first in nearly 50 years—when a speaker will not be elected by consensus, the contest on

HOUSE NUMBERS FAVOUR NDA



Others 17 Includes 4 MPs of YSRCP; also Amritpal Singh & Engineer Rashid who are in jail and have not taken oath as MPs

Motion proposing name of Speaker can be adopted by a voice vote. If oppn insists on a division of votes, paper slips will be distributed to MPs to vote since seats have not been allocated to the new MPs for the electronic display system

Wednesday is only in line with the intense acrimony that marked the LS campaign and has since persisted. The post was contested in 1952, the first Lok Sabha, in 1967 and 1976.

With NDA having an official strength of 293 in the 543-strong House, the stage is set for Birla, third-term MP from Kota, to get a second term as speaker. He will be the fifth person after M A Ayyangar, G S Dhillon, Bahram Jakhari and GMC Balayogi to hold the offi-

ce two times in a row. Only Jakhari completed two full terms.

Congress's Suresh is a veteran of eight terms from Kerala but his choice has equally, if not more, to do with him being a Dalit. Congress and some allies are seeking to build on the advantage they are perceived to have gained among Dalits on the strength of their allegation that BJP under Modi planned to scrap caste quotas.

NDA refutes claim, P 6

TMC to clarify its stand today

Trinamool said Tuesday Congress had not consulted it before declaring a contestant for speaker. By evening, the party sent two netas to an INDIA bloc meeting and sources said Rahul Gandhi had spoken to Mamata Banerjee. TMC said it would communicate its decision on backing K Suresh by 9am Wednesday. P 7

MPs make a point with slogans

Oath-taking by MPs on the second day was accompanied by slogans. Several BJP MPs chanted "Jai Shri Ram", while opposition MPs did so as Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad was sworn in. Bareilly's BJP MP Chhatrapal Gangwar said "Jai Hindu Rashtra". There were chants of "Jai Bheem" and "Jai Shivaji" too. P 7

PM: Emergency mindset still alive in Cong

Those who imposed Emergency have no right to profess their love for our Constitution. These are the same people who have...violated every aspect of the Constitution," PM Modi said on the 49th anniversary of the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975, countering Congress's "save democracy" campaign, reports Akhilesh Singh.

He said the mindset that had led to suspension of civil liberties was very much alive in the party. "They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but the people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time and again," Modi said in posts on social media. P 7

Nandini milk products to cost ₹2 more from today

Each Sachet Will Have Addl 50ML Of Milk, Says KMF

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Effective Wednesday, Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has increased prices of all its Nandini milk variants by ₹2 per sachet, but said the pouches will contain an additional 50ml of the product.

The one-litre toned milk sachets that cost ₹42 will now cost ₹44, but contain 1050ml of the product. The half-litre packet price goes up from ₹22 to ₹24 with 50ml extra milk.

KMF chairman Bheema Naik Tuesday made the announcement regarding the revision of prices. Nandini

2ND IN ONE YEAR

- 2nd price revision in a year after ₹3/ltr hike in July 2023
- CM defends hike saying milk volume in each packet increased proportionately
- Adds milk production up 15% and move will ensure farmers are not turned away
- KMF defends hike saying Nandini still cheapest compared with milk brands from other states

Per-litre price: K'taka - ₹44; Kerala (Milk) - ₹52; Delhi (Mother Dairy) - ₹54; Gujarat (Amul) - ₹56; AP (Vijaya) - ₹58

milk prices have been revised twice in a year. In July 2023, the milk price had been increased by ₹3 per litre.

► 'Price hike temporary', P 2

Hotel assn: No plans to revise prices for now

Bengaluru: The increase in milk prices is expected to impact hotel bills, but restaurateurs have for now ruled out any immediate price revision.

Chandrashekar Hebbar, president of Karnataka State Hotels' Association, said: "Other than for coffee and tea, we use milk for preparing sweets and dishes. A cup of tea or coffee is sold in the city for Rs 10 to Rs 20, depending on location and category of a hotel."

In Aug 2023, hotels in Bengaluru had hiked food prices by 10% citing increase in prices of grains, milk and other commodities. TNN

AP man's murderer arrested in US

Texas police have arrested 21-year-old Davonta Mathis for the murder of 32-year-old Dasari Gopikrishna from Bapatla district in Andhra Pradesh, who was fatally shot during a robbery. TNN

'Serial bride' tests HIV +ve in prison

A woman, who acted as a "serial bride" to decamp with cash and valuables after "marriage" to unsuspecting men, and later arrested by UP police, has been found to be HIV+ve. P 6

Delhi water crisis: Atishi hospitalised

Delhi water minister Atishi's 'Paani Satyagraha' came to an abrupt end Tuesday, the fifth day of her indefinite hunger strike, after she was hospitalised due to deteriorating health. P 15

2 women 'wed' in ceremony in Ggn

Two women—Kavita Tapu and Anju Sharma—dressed as bride & groom, and undeterred by opposition from society, tied the knot in Gurgaon on April 24. P 6

Porsche crash case: HC directs release of teen

The continuation of the minor accused in the Pune Porsche case in an observation home is absolutely illegal, Bombay high court held on Tuesday, directing his release. HC directed the home to release the

► Hyd juvenile homes churn out champs, P 12

minor on bail with his custody not to be with any grandparent, reports Swati Deshpande. The HC said he could be handed over to the care of his aunt. P 12

Senior Akali politicians ask Sukhbir to quit

Just 20 days after Shiromani Akali Dal's rout in the Lok Sabha election in Punjab, a sizeable section of senior netas urged party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal to hand over the party's reins in the spirit of "tyag" (sacrifice) to someone "who can maintain a balance between religion and politics", reports IP Singh. They announced the launch of "SAD Bachao Lehar" from the Akal Takht on July 1. P 6

J&K HC Bar Assn ex-chief held for lawyer's murder

Former president of J&K HC Bar Association Mian Abdul Qayoom Bhat was arrested Tuesday over the murder of a lawyer, Babar Qadri, in an attack by terrorists in 2020, reports Saleem Pandit. Qadri had challenged Bhat's hold on the association over several years and accused him of rigging Bar elections. Qayoom, in his late 70s, has been booked for murder and under provisions of UAPA. P 6

In his first constitutional post, Rahul to be LS leader of oppn

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi will be leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, in a major leg-up for the Gandhi scion in his parliamentary responsibilities, which is widely viewed as laying the ground for an aggressive and confrontational face-off with a dominant BJP.

The expectation that politics in coming days will be a 'Modi vs Rahul' duel got another fillip by the fact that as LoP—the first constitutional position he will hold—Rahul is likely to be chairman of the all-important Public Accounts Committee that has the primary function of examining CAG reports, and can also seek probes from the govt. The panel,



'Jai Hind, Jai Samvidhan', Rahul said after taking oath as MP

though with govt majority which decides issues by vote, has proved to be testy for many regimes. Besides, he would also be a member of various collegiums comprising the PM

Sensex breaches 78k mark for 1st time, Nifty at record high as bank stocks surge

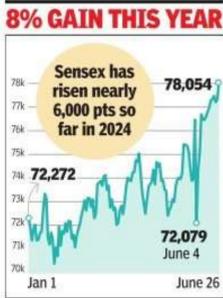
Mumbai: The BSE Sensex rose 712.4 points (0.9%) to cross the 78,000 mark for the first time. It hit a high of 78,054 on Tuesday led by a surge in bank and finance stocks that had been underperforming earlier in the year. The NSE Nifty also climbed by 183.5 points (0.8%) to a new high of 23,721.3.

Private bank stocks were the main contributors to the market gains, with Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank leading the way with increases of 3.4%, 2.5%, and 2.3%, respectively.

SBI and Bajaj Finance also saw close to 1% gains. The rally in HDFC Bank was triggered by a multinational brokerage firm upgrading the stock. ICICI Bank achieved a new high with its market cap crossing \$100 billion for the first time. Commenting on the market performance, Karthick Jonagadda, Manager and Founder of Quantace

Research, said, "Sensex crossing the 78,000 mark reflects the strong cash buying activity in the market, driven by substantial investments from both FIIs and DIIs, who have collectively injected around Rs 28,500 crore into the cash markets over the last 11 trading sessions." TNN

► Mutual funds SIPs, P 17



Health cover users borrow to pay med bills

Many health insurance policyholders who get their claims settled through reimbursement from insurance companies end up borrowing money or dipping into their long-term savings to cover medical expenses, reports Mayur Shetty. According to a survey, 68% of claimants who used the reimbursement method did not have enough liquid savings to pay medical bills. P 17

► Kcharge pushed Rahul, P 6

BBMP to extend OTS tax facility to 5 lakh khata-less properties

Santoshkumar.B @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to give an opportunity to the owners of over 5 lakh khata-less properties in the city to utilise its one-time settlement (OTS) scheme and clear property tax dues to save on penalties and interest.

According to BBMP officials, the March OTS rollout was delayed because of the Lok Sabha elections. Officials hope to generate Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,000 crore a year through the scheme.

Munish Moudgil, special commissioner (revenue), said about 5-7 lakh properties

After 12-yr confinement, Assange to be a free man

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will plead guilty on Wednesday to violating US espionage law, in a deal that will set him free after a 14-year British legal odyssey and allow his return home to Australia. He is

► EDIT PAGE: What Assange Freed, P 16

due to be sentenced to 62 months of time already served at a hearing in the US territory of Saipan in the Pacific.

Assange, 52, has agreed to plead guilty to one criminal count of conspiring to obtain and disclose classified US national defence documents.

The deal marks the end

PAY BY JULY 31

- Khata-less property owners can submit an online application, upload documents
- Will be assigned provisional tax number to pay property tax
- Owners can avoid paying penalty and interest on the tax if they pay it by July 31
- Revenue officials will verify submitted documents, issue khata certificate in 3 months

in the city are not in the property tax net. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar had recently issued an order to bring them into the tax net by giving them special offers.

► Can avail facility, P 5

HC stays bail by lower court to Kejriwal

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Tuesday stayed a trial court's order granting bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, reports Vineet Upadhyay.

A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain allowed Enforcement Directorate's application seeking a stay on the bail order.

The court said vacation judge Niyay Bindu had passed the order without going

► CBI questions CM, but denies arresting him, P 15

through ED's entire material on record, which reflected "perversity".

The HC bench said it couldn't comprehend the trial court's ruling.

► Kejriwal's arrest, P 15

UP OKs stricter paper leak law: Life & ₹1 cr fine

Lucknow: CM Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh cabinet cleared an ordinance Tuesday imposing stringent punishments for those involved in exam paper leaks, including a life sentence and fines up to Rs 1 crore for the guilty.

This ordinance is significantly harsher than the current IPC provisions, which prescribe up to one year in jail for cheating, up to two years for forgery, and up to three years for impersonation, each accompanied by fines. TNN

► Ordinance covers, P 10

Prajwal in police custody in fresh case; potency test on Suraj soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Hassan: In more trouble for the two sons of former Karnataka minister HD Revanna, fresh cases of sexual abuse and unnatural sex were registered against former MP Prajwal and JD (C) MLC Suraj, respectively, on Tuesday, police said.

While Prajwal, accused of raping multiple women and sexually harassing three women, was taken into police custody on Tuesday, his elder brother Suraj, arrested for sexually assaulting a man,

EX-MLA NAMED

► Suraj's aide, who had filed extortion complaint against first complainant, now accused MLC of sexually abusing him 3 years ago

► In 4th FIR against Prajwal, former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda, 2 others also named

► Although Preetham said he was not aware of the case, CID is expected to issue notice to him and others shortly

was questioned for a few hours on Tuesday and may have to undergo potency test in the next two days.

In a twist, the second case was lodged by MLC's aide, sa-

ying he was sexually abused by the legislator three years ago. Incidentally, the aide had come to the rescue of the legislator by registering a case against the first complainant last week, accusing him of trying to extort Rs 3 crore from the MLC.

A senior police officer confirmed the second FIR is filed against Suraj at Holenarasipura Rural police station. The aide has allegedly claimed he was forced into filing an FIR against the first complainant and wasn't available to police officers for further inquiry in the case.

► Bros in different cells, P 4

Mandya will host Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in Dec

Mandya: After a gap of 30 years, Mandya city is all set to host the 87th edition of Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana from Dec 20 to 22.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah told media here on Tuesday that he will announce the name of the eminent literary personality who will preside over the meet once it's unanimously finalised.

The CM directed apex literary body, Kannada Sahitya Parishat, and the district administration to ensure the event is held without glitches.

Mandya is playing host to the jamboree for a third time in the past 50 years. TNN

THE FANTASTIC 4

India, Afghanistan, South Africa and England—the four survivors of the Super 8 have finally been spotted. This has been a rare, collector's edition of a T20 World Cup where the ball, for once, has mostly dominated the bat. We have also witnessed a clutch of humdingers, and it's likely more nerve-racking encounters are in store in the two semifinals on Thursday

INDIA VS ENGLAND June 27, 8pm IST Venue: Providence, Guyana Chances Of Rain: 88% (No Reserve Day)

In case of washout, India goes to final for getting higher rank in Super 8

HEAD TO HEAD: India has won 12, or 52%, of 23 T20 games. In T20 WC, both teams have won 2 matches each out of 4, though the last meeting in 2022 saw England hammering India by 10 wickets

INDIA (World No. 1) Formbook: Red hot. Undefeated. Won every group game, barring an abandoned match against Canada. Waltzed past Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia in Super 8

Positives: Unplayable paceman Bumrah and wicket-scalping 'chinaman' Kuldeep Yadav. Batter-skipper Rohit Sharma in six-hitting form. Pandya's return to runs (avg 58, team's highest) and wickets (8) has added depth and value to the unit. Will enjoy crowd support

Concerns: Kohli's run shortage. Lack of form of all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Dube's inability to up the tempo (strike rate 107). Arshdeep taking wickets (15) but shows lack of control under pressure. Casual running-between-wickets by middle order

Crucial Question: Can this team replace pressure for pleasure in a knockout game? Can it avenge the thrashing at Melbourne in 2022?

Hot Star: Jasprit Bumrah, the complete fast bowler. 11 wickets. Avg 8.5. Economy rate 4.1. Too good, too much

ENGLAND (World No. 3 & defending champions) Formbook: Blow hot, blow cold. Captain Jos Buttler's team has been ruthless against lesser sides but lost to Australia (group stage) & South Africa (Super 8)

Positives: Supreme belief in their all-attack approach. Match-winning and fearsome opening pair of Buttler and Phil Salt. Bats deep. Variety and depth in bowling. Speed gun Jofra Archer among wickets (9). Leg-spinner Adil Rashid is the trump card

Concerns: Australia showed England's bowling can be clobbered; S Africa proved its batters can be checkmated. Absence of wickets for T20 specialist pacer Reece Topley

Crucial Question: Do they have an answer to the contrasting magic of Bumrah and Kuldeep?

Hot Star: Harry Brook. Adds firepower to the middle order. Has been dismissed only once so far; average 120, strike rate 164



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT JUNE 25: This day 41 yrs ago, Kapil's Devils had pulled off a historic win at Lord's. On Tuesday, Afghanistan made history by beating B'desh to enter its first-ever World Cup semis, sparking jubilant scenes across the country and among diaspora members

South Africa (World No. 5) vs Afghanistan (World No. 10) Time: June 27, 6am IST Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad & Tobago

Chances Of Rain: 37% (There is a reserve day)

Head To Head: The two teams have faced off on 2 occasions, both in World Cups. South Africa leads 2-0

Formbook: Afghanistan defeated New Zealand (group game) and Australia (Super 8). South Africa, the unbeaten team so far apart from India, has won several tight encounters to underline that this team has shrugged off the tag of 'chokers'

Key Players: For Afghanistan, keeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Captain Rashid Khan's bowling unit, especially pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi & Naveen-ul-Haq, are among the most effective. For South Africa, opener Quinton de Kock, keeper-batter Klaasen & pacemen Kagiso Rabada & Nortje. Spinner Tabraiz Shamsi is the dark horse

Statistics: Rajesh Kumar FULL COVERAGE: P 21

Price hike a 'temporary' phenomenon: KMF MD

Continued from page 1

In his first reaction to the hike in milk prices, CM Siddaramaiah said he was not aware, and the govt has no role in the price revision of milk. Later in the day, he defended the hike in a post on X.

The CM said KMF has increased the volume per packet with a proportionate increase in price. "Half-litre milk packets will be replaced with 550ml packets, and one-litre packets will be replaced with 1,050ml milk packets," he said. The CM mentioned that compared with last year, milk production in the state had increased by 15%. Last year, the average milk production was 90 lakh litres per day, whereas this year, it has been increased to 99 lakh litres.

"To accommodate this surplus production and ensure farmers are not turned away, KMF has decided to increase the milk content in each packet by 50ml," he added.

KMF MD MK Jagadish told TOI the price hike is a 'temporary' phenomenon. "There has been a substantial supply of milk from farmers in the past 15 years. Even after using milk for various other products under the Nandini brand and supplying milk to neighboring states, there is a surplus which can't be stored," he said, adding that compared to other states, the prices of Nandini milk are cheaper.

BJP's R Ashok said poor and middle-income group people are already suffering because of the hike in die-

WHAT MILK COSTS NOW

Item	Previous price (1l/500ml)	Revised price (1.050l/550ml)
Toned milk	42 (22)	44 (24)
Homogenised toned milk	43 (24)	45 (24)
Homogenised cow milk	46 (22)	48 (26)
Special milk	48 (25)	50 (27)
Shubham milk	48 (25)	50 (27)
Samrudhi milk	51 (26)	53 (28)
Homogenised Shubham milk	49 (25)	51 (27)
Sanrupti milk	55 (28)	57 (30)
Shubham Gold	49 (26)	51 (28)
Double toned milk	41 (21)	43 (23)

sel and petrol prices. "By hiking milk prices, the state government has only rubbed salt in their wounds," he said.

Idli, dosa batter soon

KMF is planning to launch Nandini idli and batter in the next two months, riding piggyback on its huge sale network in the state.

Jagadish said they already have 160-plus products in the market, and a consumer buying milk, curd or bread will naturally look for idli and dosa batter. "We are finalizing the tender process for a co-packer. Though there are already private players, we have advantages that others do not have. The batter price will likely be on par with that of similar products available in the market," the MD said.

Is your neighbourhood park OPEN ALL DAY?

Despite DCM's Diktat, Caretakers Say They Haven't Got Orders From BBMP To Keep Parks Open From 5am To 10pm

Nithya.Mandyam@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Much to the frustration of visitors, several parks across the city are following erratic schedules, notwithstanding deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar's directive to keep them open from 5am to 10pm.

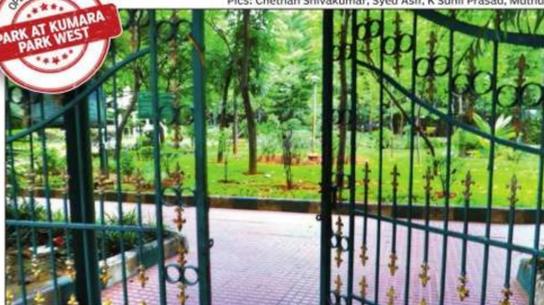
Bengalureans have been complaining for long about parks being kept open only for 4-5 hours in the morning and evening, depriving those working odd hours the oppor-

TIMES Special

tunity to use them. On June 11, the deputy CM had said that all 1,200 parks coming under BBMP, barring Cubbon Park and Lalbagh, would remain open from 5am to 10pm.

However, Richmond Park, its caretaker Kristappa confirmed, opens at 5am, closes at 11.30am, reopens at 3pm, and finally shuts down at 9pm. "The contractor told me to keep the park open from 5am to 10pm, but the BBMP officer instruct-

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar, Syed Asif, K Sunil Prasad, Muthu P



RANDOM CHECKS: When TOI visited various parks last week, some were found following the new rules, and many others closed for most part of the day

me to follow the old schedule as they haven't appointed a new security guard yet," he told TOI.

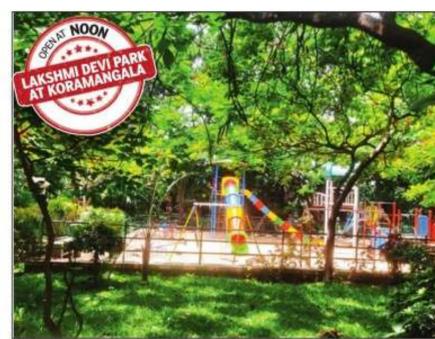
Chandrashekar, a Richmond Park user, said, "At least on weekends, I'd want the park to be open all day, but that isn't happening."

HAL Sadhbhavana Park at Jeevan Bima Nagar was closed with locked gates at 7.45pm when a TOI reporter visited last Thursday. "This park closes early. Though many of us who are IT employees want to finish our work and step out for a walk after dinner, we can't," he rued Adarsh Shubam, a resident. He also said the park lacks proper lighting at night.

Field Marshal Cariappa Park in RR Nagar is closed for most of the

day and opens after 4pm. "We don't know about parks having to remain open through the day, we close during the day and open around 4pm. BBMP officials also haven't told us anything," the park's caretaker said.

However, some parks are abiding by the new directive. Nirmala Ganesh, a regular visitor to Padma Ground Park at St Thomas Town, Kacharakana Halli, praised the park for its unrestricted access. "This park is open to us at any time, and we're welcome to stay there for however long we choose," she said. The park's peaceful atmosphere and designated children's play area are particularly appreciated by members of the community.



Once the deputy CM says it, I don't see why we're supposed to issue any order for parks to remain open for longer hours. However, now that we know about it, we'll immediately issue an order and ensure all parks are open from 5am to 10pm

BS Prahalad | BBMP CHIEF ENGINEER



ACCESSIBILITY VS SAFETY

The debate over park timings in Bengaluru reflects a broader tension between accessibility and safety. While some residents and officials advocate for extended hours for parks, others worry about the potential misuse of public spaces and the security issues it could throw up.

Naga Raj, who lives near Dr BR Ambedkar Park in Kammanahalli, expressed concerns over extending park hours. "If they keep the park open after 10am or any time at night, it would be easy for drunkards, lovers or other random people to enter and misuse this place," he said. Despite enjoying the park's environment, he supports the current restrictions for safety

reasons. On the other hand, Komal, a resident of Kammanahalli, said: "People who work night shifts find it difficult to make it to the park early. So, if the park is open till night, it would be easy for them to come here."

Komal and others believe parks should adhere to the new rules and stay open until 10pm to accommodate diverse schedules. However, Selva Raj, a retired BMC employee and Kammanahalli resident, cautions that people might not realise what parks are worth if they are accessible at all times.

—With inputs from Aaditya Menon, Sankalp Patil, Rithu Pawar, Sharan Raj, & Maria Sujitha



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Prime gateway: KIA sees 25% rise in international travellers

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has seen a substantial surge in its international passenger traffic, reflecting a robust growth trend in both monthly and period comparisons for May 2024, underscoring the airport's role as a major international gateway in India's aviation landscape.

The latest data from Airports Authority of India (AAI) revealed that in May 2024, KIA handled 4,86,161 international passengers, up 25% from the 3,88,179 passengers in May 2023. The rise showcases a strong rebound in international travel following the Covid pandemic.

The months of April and May 2024 also witnessed remarkable growth, with KIA



Airport	Y-o-Y rise*
Bengaluru	25%
Delhi	16.2%
Mumbai	14.2%
Hyderabad	14.3%

* As of May 2024 | Source: AAI

catering to 9,10,265 international passengers, compared to 7,34,646 passengers during the same period in 2023. This reflects a substantial 23.9% rise in passenger traffic, indi-

cating a sustained upward trajectory for the airport.

Several factors contribute to the growth trajectory. "The rebound in international travel post pandemic has played a significant role, with the easing of travel restrictions and passengers regaining confidence. This has resulted in more travellers opting for international trips, driving up passenger numbers," said a spokesperson of Bangalore International Airport Limited, which operates KIA.

"Our strategic initiatives to enhance connectivity have also yielded positive outcomes. The introduction of new routes and increased frequency of existing ones has made the airport a preferred hub for international travellers, further boosting passenger traffic," the BIAL spokesperson added.

OFFSIDE



PGCET put off

Bengaluru: The Postgraduate Common Entrance Test-2024, scheduled to be held on July 13-14, has been postponed. Karnataka Examinations Authority executive director H Prasanna said the decision was taken as final-semester exams of UG courses in a few universities are scheduled to commence from July 5 to 10. The revised dates will be published on the KEA site in due course, he said. TNN

Train anganwadi teachers & upgrade pedagogy for KG classes, say experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt decision to upgrade anganwadis with kindergarten classes has been welcomed by educationists, but they caution that the upgrade should include a revamp of curriculum and training of teachers.

At an inter-departmental meeting on Monday, it was decided that anganwadis with workers having a minimum qualification of PU degree can start kindergarten classes. Meanwhile, the department of school education and literacy was told not to expand these sections beyond the existing 2,800 or so schools. Anganwadi teachers are likely to be trained by the Azim Premji Foundation.

"To give a structure to early childhood care and education is welcome stuff. But the govt should realise the importance of training teachers right," said Pruthvi Banwasi, secretary of Karnataka Council of Preschools.

"It can't be done over-



NEW RULES: On Monday, it was decided that anganwadis with staff having minimum qualification of PU degree can start KG classes

night. The training ranges from cleanliness and hygiene, safety and protection to language, numerals, social skills and activities. In fact, preschool teachers need more training than those in higher classes as they're dealing with an age group that doesn't understand instructions. In countries abroad, this is a high-paying job for the same reason," he said.

Some feel preschools should

follow a bi-lingual mode with children being exposed to some English.

"Parents prefer private schools for exposure to English. Kindergarten classes in govt schools were also planned to be bi-lingual. Anganwadis should also ensure some English rhymes and letters are taught," said another educationist.

He added that the govt shouldn't have put a blanket

ban on the education department starting KG classes. "Even as anganwadis get upgraded, schools should be allowed to have these sections. This would result in healthy competition," he said.

Rishikesh BS, faculty member at Azim Premji University, said: "The real issue is, in fact, not where early-year education happens, but what happens in the name of early-year education, irrespective of whether they are established in anganwadis or govt schools. There is a need for both curricular and pedagogic overhaul from what currently exists, such that 'experiential learning' and 'play-based pedagogy' become the primary manner in which education takes place at this stage," said . He also pointed out that it is extremely important as these children are voiceless because they are children, and even more because they are children from communities that are socio-economically disadvantaged.

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Senior tax official's live-in partner gets 3-year RI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A session court held a 58-year-old live-in partner of a former vice-president of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) guilty in a money-laundering case and sentenced her to three years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 10,000.

The convict is GV Radha, a resident of Jayanagar, while GE Veerabhadrappe, former



MONEY LAUNDERING

vice-president of ITAT, Delhi, was the main accused, who died a few months ago.

In Feb 2023, the duo was convicted in a CBI case related

to disproportionate assets, worth Rs 1.7 crore.

The session court ordered that the properties acquired by the accused using illegal earnings be confiscated by the central govt. The court convicted Radha and sentenced her for allegedly assisting Veerabhadrappe in acquiring properties using his illegally earned money.

Special judge for CBI cases, HA Mohan, pronounced

the judgment. Sudeep Bange-ra, special public prosecutor, appeared for ED. The SPP argued that it is a serious offence and maximum punishment needs to be imposed. Section 4 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act allows for imposing up to 10 years' imprisonment. However, considering Radha's ailments and the fact that she had to look after one son, the court awarded her three years' RI.

CM orders urgent steps to rein in dengue

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah issued urgent directives to tackle the spike in dengue cases in the state following a high-level meeting with health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and senior officials Tuesday.

The meeting focused on ensuring the availability of essential treatments, medicines and platelets across govt hospitals.

This year, the state reported 5,374 dengue cases and five fatalities till Monday. The fatality rate of 0.09% is well below the

SPIKE IN CASES

central govt's guideline of 0.5%. The most-affected districts include Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Mysuru, Haveri, Shivamogga, Chitradurga and Dakshina Kannada. In BBMP limits alone, there have been 1,230 reported cases, officials said.

A special mission will be launched to carry out source-reduction activities every Friday. Siddaramaiah instructed BBMP, urban development department and health officials to conduct joint reviews of the dengue situation across the state. Urban local bodies have been directed to take sanitation measures and prevent water accumulation.

The CM appealed to the public to cooperate with the authorities by destroying aedes aegypti larvae at source.

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4	C-8	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
5	C-9	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
6	C-10	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
7	C-11	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
8	C-12	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
9	C-4	Delta-1	3600	35,96,50,800/-
10	C-5	Delta-1	4800	47,95,34,400/-
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AGGRESSIVE PUSH Delegation Led By Satish Jarkiholi, Rajanna To Meet Kharge, Rahul | Stanford Biodesign May Set Up Shop In State

Deputy CM posts: Ministers to take tussle to brass in Delhi

Anil Gejj@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The tussle within Congress over creating three more deputy chief minister posts and appointing a new president to the Karnataka cabinet has intensified post-Lok Sabha elections as detractors of DK Shivakumar appear to be sharpening knives.

A delegation of ministers, including KN Rajanna and Satish Jarkiholi, is expected to take up the issue with the party high command in New Delhi early next month.

POLITICS & POLICY

Currently, Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, is the lone deputy in chief minister Siddaramaiah's council of ministers. However, some ministers have been pitching for deputy CM posts for representatives from Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority communities.

An MLA, who did not want to be named, said: "The thinking is that a delegation



LONELY AT THE TOP: DK Shivakumar at Kukke Sri Subrahmanya temple on Tuesday. Knives are out for him after Congress' poor show in Vokkaliga-dominated LS seats

will meet Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge and his predecessor Rahul Gandhi and apprise them about our demand. Not that they don't know about it, but if a delegation goes, the impact will be greater."

Jarkiholi, who has been in Delhi to witness his daughter Priyanka take oath as MP, has reportedly already discussed the issue with the high command. Rajanna, Jarkiholi and ministerial colleagues G Parameshwara, and Zameer

Ahmed Khan have been at the forefront of demands for the creation of three more deputy CM posts — one each for SC, ST, and Backward Classes. They say by complying, the party would be "honouring" these communities for their support in the assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Right time With Congress winning four of seven reserved seats in the Lok Sabha elections, those advocating for deputy CM

“The party high command will soon respond appropriately to ministers demanding three more deputy chief minister posts in Karnataka”
DK Shivakumar
DEPUTY CM &
KARNATAKA
CONGRESS
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posts believe the time is ripe to aggressively press for the demand with the party high command in Delhi.

"In the assembly elections, over 70% of reserved constituencies voted for Congress," an MLA said. "Even in Lok Sabha elections, these communities stood by the party while politically dominant communities like Lingayats and Vokkaligas voted for BJP. So, if these communities are honoured with deputy CM posts, the party will benefit."

But sources say the demand is an effort to curb Shivakumar's influence within the party and govt and scuttle his chances of replacing Siddaramaiah as chief minister next year, a possibility that has been doing the rounds ever since the govt was formed. Many also believe Siddaramaiah is behind the demand.

But a senior functionary said: "Kharge has already made it clear that no more deputy CM posts will be created in Karnataka. Ministers also know their demand cannot be met as it would send the wrong signal. They think if they demand more deputy CM posts, the high command will at least remove Shivakumar as KPCC president."

Another KPCC office bearer, pointed out: "The party lost Belgaum, Bangalore Central and Tumkur Lok Sabha seats for which Jarkiholi, Zameer and Parameshwara were in charge. So, what right do they have to seek deputy CM posts? The party high command will issue a warning to them. Just wait and watch."

After global tour, Priyank expects \$6.2b investments

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka hopes to secure investments worth \$6.2 billion ahead of 'Invest Karnataka', the state's flagship global investors meet in Feb. Priyank Kharge, minister for IT-BT said these investments are mostly from firms in Europe, which has exhibited a "keen interest" in investing in the state.

Priyank, who recently returned from tradeshows and roadshows in London, France, and USA, said Karnataka has secured concrete investment proposals from Europe, including aircraft tyre manufacturing and chip manufacturing units.

To address concerns of poor conversion rate of promises to actual investment, Priyank said his govt has adopted a "more systematic approach". "The govt is targeting specific deliveries from companies intending to invest in Karnataka," he said.

He also highlighted the significant achievement of persuading Stanford Biodesign, a globally renowned research centre, to open an office in Bengaluru. "The research organisation will focus on investing in Medtech startups and set-

'PM PERSONALLY MOVING FIRMS TO GUJARAT'

IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of driving investments to Gujarat and said it is difficult to compete with him. "We go to the US, do the work, convince people and get them to Karnataka. But then, a phone call comes from the PMO asking to invest in Gujarat," Priyank said, pointing out that Telangana CM Revanth Reddy raised a similar concern. He said the Centre cannot look beyond Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. He said 5-6 companies

have moved to Gujarat. "When the PM himself calls, what can anybody do?" Priyank said. He also said he will meet Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and push for incentives for Karnataka comparable to those offered in Gujarat. This comes after Union minister HD Kumaraswamy revealed Micron, a chip manufacturing company, received a 70% subsidy from Gujarat and the Centre to set up shop there.



ting up accelerators in the state," he said. Stanford Biodesign is said to have only 8 to 10 centres worldwide.

Meanwhile, KEONICS chairman and Congress legislator Sharath Bachegowda said the govt is also trying to attract Massachusetts Grant Challenge or Mass-Challenge to Karnataka, which provides investments to homegrown startups up to the tune of \$200,000. "Following discussions with representatives from the ESDM sector, we are also propos-

ing up accelerators in the state," he said.

Earlier, industries minister MB Patil, who is on a roadshow in Japan, said in a post on X: "During a productive meeting with senior officials from Sumitomo Heavy Industries (SHI), Tetsuya Okamura and his team outlined their strategic decision to establish a head office in Bengaluru by end 2024." He said SHI brings a century of "unparalleled expertise in product creation" across fields from nanotechnology to mechatronics.

From dominance to disarray: Scandals rock Revanna family

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The political reign of the HD Revanna family in Hassan district is under threat following a series of scandals and arrests that have rocked the influential clan. Once a symbol of dominance in local politics, the family's nearly two-decade-long grip over the district is now in jeopardy.

Suraj Revanna, a surrogate-turned politician, was last week arrested on charges of unnatural sex, adding to the family's mounting troubles. This comes on the heels of his younger brother, Prajwal Revanna, being embroiled in a rape and sexual abuse scandal that has already severely damaged the family's reputation.

Prajwal, who once served as MP of Hassan, faced a humiliating defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

The family's political legacy, deeply rooted in the district, goes back to patriarch HD Deve Gowda, who began his political journey from Holenarsipur assembly seat and rose to national prominence as India's Prime Minister.

Gowda's popularity and influence paved the way for his son, HD Revanna, to secure a stranglehold on the district. Revanna has held the Holenarsipur seat since 1994, losing only once in 1999, and secured prominent ministerial roles in various coalition govts besides an extended tenure as president of the politically significant Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).



DOWN AND OUT? File pic of HD Revanna at a family function

The family's political reach expanded thanks to the rise of HD Kumaraswamy, Revanna's brother, a former chief minister who currently serves as Union minister for steel and heavy industries in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet.

Daunting task But recent controversies mark a dramatic fall from grace. Political analyst Vishwas Shetty said, "It would be hard to get out of such a massive mess, and to resurrect their political careers would be a daunting task."

Senior JD(S) party members say the Revanna family's decline began when Gowda handed over Hassan Lok Sabha seat to Prajwal in 2019. Until then, Gowda kept a tight grip on local politics and, in turn, the Revanna family.

Despite Prajwal becoming one of the youngest parliamentarians in 2019, the family's influence began to wane. Locals began perceiving them as "arrogant with a feudal mindset".

Reports say the family's internal conflicts and grow-

ing greed contributed to their downfall. The feud between Bhavani and Anitha Kumaraswamy, Kumaraswamy's wife, further exacerbated the situation. Bhavani's demands for election tickets for herself and her sons, mirroring the opportunities given to Anitha and her son, highlighted the internal strife.

Waning influence In last year's assembly elections, Revanna defeated current Hassan MP Shreyas Patel by a mere 3,152 votes, indicating his weakening influence. The family's image suffered when a video surfaced in December showing Bhavani verbally abusing a biker and flaunting her expensive car, sparking widespread public outrage.

Kumaraswamy had reportedly voiced opposition to Prajwal's candidature in the Lok Sabha elections, after talk of the now infamous 'pendrive' scandal involving Prajwal began to circulate. But the Revanna family lobbied vigorously to preserve Prajwal's bid for re-election. The rest as they say is history.

SHORT TAKES

BJP wants Zameer Ahmed expelled from assembly

BJP has sought the expulsion of housing minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan after his remarks at a public function in Bidar kicked up a row. The controversy erupted when Zameer, replying to a question on lack of burial grounds for the Muslim community, said Sagar Khandre, son of forest minister Eshwar Khandre, was recently elected to the Lok Sabha from Bidar because of Muslim votes and that he should serve the community. Opposition leader R Ashoka said Zameer "repeatedly" disrespects constitutional roles to "indulge in appeasement politics" and this latest incident showcases his contempt for the Constitution. He has formally requested the speaker to ban Zameer from the assembly, saying individuals who disrespect constitutional norms should not hold public office.

PLEA BARGAIN:

Parents of Renukaswamy, who was allegedly murdered by actor Darshan and others, with chief minister Siddaramaiah and agriculture minister Cheluvarayaswamy at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. They sought a govt post for their widowed daughter-in-law



Parents of Darshan fan meet Siddaramaiah

Parents of Renukaswamy, the Chitradurga-based fan of Darshan Thooogudeepa who was allegedly murdered by the actor and others, met CM Siddaramaiah and said they were satisfied with the way the investigation into the death of their son was being conducted. They also sought a govt job for Renukaswamy's wife, who is pregnant. The CM responded positively to their request, the CMO said.

Govt issues new transfer rules

The state govt issued new guidelines for general transfer of its employees, making it mandatory for Group A and B officials to stay in a post for at least two years. The minimum period of service in a post for Group C employees is four years to be eligible for a transfer and for Group D seven years. The new guidelines state that each department can transfer up to 6% of staff in each category and transfers for the year should be completed by July 9. If both husband and wife are govt employees and in case either is transferred, the spouse should be posted to the same place or a nearby place even if s/he has not completed the minimum prescribed period of service in the existing post.

Dynasts in focus as parties scout for candidates

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Dynasts are again in the spotlight as parties scout for winnable candidates for impending bypolls to three assembly constituencies — Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur. The MLAs of these seats were elected to the Lok Sabha, necessitating elections to fill vacancies.

BYELECTIONS

Despite political parties tending to blame each other for promoting dynastic politics, all three major parties appear likely to field dynasts.

In Channapatna, Congress state president DK Shivakumar is trying hard to secure the party ticket for his brother DK Suresh, who lost the Lok Sabha polls from Bangalore Rural. Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) is lobbying for his son Nikhil,



HOT SEAT: JD(S), which is keen on fielding Nikhil Kumaraswamy from Channapatna, has kicked off discussions with ally BJP

arguing that Channapatna is a 'holding' seat of the regional outfit. Kumaraswamy was elected to Channapatna last year, before contesting parliamentary elections. But JD(S) ally, BJP, is keen on fielding CP Yogeshwar, who represented the seat for four terms in the past.

Congress is reportedly in two minds whether to field Suresh considering the risk since JD(S) and BJP combined make for a formidable opposition.

"It is true that a large section of voters wants Suresh to contest from Channapatna, but he is yet to consent," said

GC Chandrasekhar, party state working president. "In any case, we have candidates who can win, and the party will decide at an appropriate time."

Meanwhile, top brass of BJP and JD(S) have begun negotiations and seniors say the candidate will be finalised long before polls are announced. JD(S) functionaries said the party has already conveyed to BJP brass that it wants Nikhil to contest.

"The main objective is for the BJP-JD(S) alliance to retain the seat," said Yogeshwar. "I will contest if the two parties agree to field me. Otherwise, we will all work unitedly for the victory of the candidate decided by higher-ups." There is talk that Yogeshwar could contest on the JD(S) symbol.

Well-oiled process In Shiggaon, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommal

of BJP, who represented the seat, is seeking to establish his son Bharath as his successor. While Bharath has even launched preparations on the ground, the party high command has apparently decided to do due diligence.

"BJP has a well-oiled process to select candidates. The state core committee will meet to shortlist candidates for all three seats and send it to Delhi. The high command will take the final call," said Vijayendra, Karnataka BJP president.

In Sandur, E Tukaram wants Congress to field his daughter Vandana. Her name did rounds as candidate for the Lok Sabha polls from Bellary but Congress brass eventually decided in favour of fielding Tukaram. Now, since he emerged victorious in parliamentary polls, the party is likely to oblige and accept his choice for Sandur.

Pfizer India's KNOW Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) campaign bags prestigious GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for largest online video album of people reciting an oath/pledge!

Pfizer India achieves the coveted Guinness World Records™ title for its meaningful efforts to raise nationwide awareness in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), in partnership with healthcare professionals across the country

According to the World Health Organisation, AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites stop responding to antimicrobial medicines. This resistance renders antibiotics, which are traditionally used to address common infections, no longer effective. This phenomenon is expected to worsen over time and lead to prolonged illness, heightened healthcare costs, and an astounding number of global deaths annually—possibly 10 million by 2050, indicating an urgent need for action.

Promoting the responsible use of treatment options involving antimicrobial products includes encouraging people to follow the recommended medication schedule, dosage, and treatment duration. This is vital to address this growing public health threat.

TACKLING AMR BY SETTING BENCHMARKS Taking the lead to slow down this health crisis, Pfizer has been taking various steps and several proactive measures. One such initiative that the company is spearheading is the 'KNOW AMR' campaign, which aims at strategically addressing this problem through awareness and education.

The campaign also featured the #PledgeWithPfizer initiative, urging healthcare professionals and the public to take a pledge in the fight against AMR. This broke the Guinness World Records™ title for the largest online video album of people reciting an oath/pledge, amassing a whopping total of 11,251 oaths recited. This phenomenal feat saw doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedic staff, other healthcare workers, and the public come together to commit their support to act responsibly and do their bit in the war against AMR.



(L-R) Akshata Mane, Speciality Care Medical Lead; Anmol Ghadge, Country Brand Lead, Hospitals; Shilpa Pradhan, Category Head, Speciality Care at Pfizer India; Swarnil Dangarikar, Senior Adjudicator, Guinness World Records™; Meenakshi Nevatia, Country President and Managing Director and Sharanya Suresh, Country Brand Manager – Digital Marketing at Pfizer India

Meenakshi Nevatia, Country President and Managing Director, Pfizer India, says, "It's a great moment for us to be acknowledged for our efforts in this important campaign because these external recognitions can make a difference and help us reach a greater audience with our message. AMR is a silent pandemic that is killing people and can be curbed by following the right stewardship practices. We have a massive responsibility, and we rec-

ognise that there is an urgent need to create awareness through education. Our efforts have resulted in 11,251 healthcare professionals and members of the public taking a video pledge, which indicates not

Pfizer India is deeply committed to spearheading several such causes which impact the healthcare ecosystem in India at large. The campaign also encouraged experts to share their insights to slow down AMR, which was featured across online channels and many hospitals nationwide. This has reached several million doctors, nurses, paramedic staff and public across the country—a remarkable accomplishment by itself. Shilpa Pradhan, Category Head, Speciality

Care, Pfizer India, elucidates, "Our critical care division, which is responsible for anti-infectives in the ICU setup, has been driving efforts to reduce the burden of AMR which directly impacts critically ill patients. We have not only been paving the way for breakthroughs and introducing new products, but also driving meaningful programmes and solutions to promote good antimicrobial stewardship practices to help save patient lives. We work with multiple stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem—including doctors, hospitals, paramedics and nursing staff, and hospital management—to drive awareness and create meaningful impact."

The #PledgeWithPfizer initiative, which earned a Guinness World Records™ title, stands as a testament to the fact that tackling AMR requires the efforts and involvement of multiple stakeholders. It united not only healthcare professionals but also Indian citi-

zens, encouraging them to come forward and support the cause.

As part of Pfizer's mission to raise public awareness, it also held two webinars last year—Understanding the rising need to prevent hospital acquired infections and 'Tackling the double-edged sword sepsis and AMR: The next steps'. These saw many prominent doctors engage and share their views on



the need for improved antimicrobial stewardship practices and greater awareness in hospitals and among the medical fraternity.

By focusing on empowering healthcare practitioners and the public with critical information on the need to curb AMR, Pfizer is committed to helping India address this looming public health challenge.

Prajwal & Suraj to be in different cells: CID

Continued from page 1

ACID source said an investigating officer questioned Suraj about allegations of sexually assaulting a male farm worker at his Hassan farmhouse, but the probe agency is yet to get details about the outcome of the questioning. To a TOI query, CID officers

said Suraj and Prajwal Revanna would be lodged in different cells at the CID headquarters.

In the Prajwal case, sources said the special investigation team (SIT) registered a complaint against him from one of the victims under a fortnight ago under IPC for sexual harassment, assault with intent to disrobe, stalking, and criminal intimidation, besides violation of privacy under the Information Technology Act.

While sources were not ready to disclose whether the new complaint was filed by one of the three women who have already filed FIRs against the former MP, they said in the fourth case, the former

MP, former Hassan MLA Preetham Gowda and two others were named as suspects. The fourth complaint was registered at the cybercrime police station of CID.

Prajwal, remanded in judicial custody after his arrest in three cases, was produced before 42nd additional chief metropolitan magistrate court in the afternoon. Special public prosecutor BN Jagadeesha sought CID custody for Prajwal for seven days, but the court remanded him in police custody till June 29.

Prajwal is accused No. 1 in the case, BJP's Kiran and Sharath No. 2 and No. 3, former MLA Preetham Gowda No. 4. Preetham said he was not aware of the case registered against him. "I'll not comment as I don't know about the case." CID sources said they would shortly issue notice to Preetham and others. They had already raided the houses of Sharath, Kiran and few others in connection with the leaking of videos. It was alleged the explicit videos and photos of victims were transferred to multiple pen drivers and were distributed to public in Hassan district in April-May.

Woman gets scratch card via post, loses ₹40 lakh over seven months

Chaithanya.Swamy@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: If you receive a scratch card of any online shopping firm, offering prizes by post, beware! Fraudsters may be trying to get your personal details and short-change you by citing various charges to be paid to receive the prizes, as a 51-year-old central Bengaluru woman realised after losing Rs 40.5 lakh.

Pallavi (name changed), a private firm employee, in her complaint to Central CEN Crime police said she lost the money to fraudsters between Nov 12, 2023 and June 19, 2024.

Pallavi received a post at her residential address on Nov 12 last year. She found an envelope purportedly from 'Meesho', an online shopping platform. She found a scratch card and a letter, which stated that the company is organising a lucky draw for its registered customers on its eighth anniversary, and she had been shortlisted.

There were three major prizes — Rs 15.5 lakh cash, a car and a scooter. Pallavi scratched the coupon and found Rs 15.5 lakh cash prize mentioned on it. She contacted two numbers mentioned in the letter. The fraudsters also mentioned that Pallavi must pay 4% tax to claim the prize amount, 1% in advance and 3% after



Citing various reasons, such as tax and NOC, the miscreants made the woman transfer Rs 40.5 lakh to 26 different bank accounts over seven months

receiving the prize money.

The fraudsters, posing as helpline staff, asked her for coupon details, a photo of the coupon and her Aadhaar card and bank account details.

Pallavi sent them and they got back to her in sometime, saying they had verified her details, and they would be

paying her the prize amount. They asked her to pay 1% of the prize amount as tax and gave her an account number. She initially paid Rs 15,000. Then they asked her to pay CGST and SGST. Later, they told her that RBI has blocked the amount as they need a no objection certificate (NOC) and asked her to again transfer the money. Citing various such reasons, the miscreants made her transfer Rs 40.5 lakh in all to 26 different bank accounts over seven months. The last payment she made was on June 19. Upon realising she was cheated, she lodged a complaint on June 22.

Homemaker loses ₹2 lakh

In a similar case, a 26-year-old homemaker, residing in RT Nagar, ended up losing Rs 2 lakh. She had also received a scratch coupon of Rs 15.5 lakh on Dec 2 last year. She lodged a complaint with DJ Halli police on May 24. Police and bank officials are struggling to recover the money as the crooks have transferred and withdrawn it from the accounts. Meesho, on its website, has mentioned about the scam and asked its customers to be careful and verify communications received in its name.

GST official's iPhone robbed at Richmond Circle

A scooter-borne miscreant robbed an iPhone from a 36-year-old man, working as tax assistant in the GST department in Tirupati, at Richmond Circle recently.



In his complaint to Ashok Nagar police, G Yashavant said his iPhone was robbed around 11.40pm on June 22 in front of Udupi hotel.

Yashavant's family stays in Wilson Garden and he visits them once a week. On June 22, he came from Tirupati and got down from the bus at Richmond Circle. He was waiting for a cab to go to his house. A motorist on a black scooter with no helmet saw him standing alone with a phone in his hand. He rode past Yashavant, snatching his phone and sped away towards Shantinagar, the complaint said.

One of his relatives, working abroad, had got him the phone a month ago. Yashavant said, "I ran behind him for almost 100 metres, but he managed to escape. The next day, I filed a police complaint."

CCTV footage from the spot has provided some leads to police. Efforts are on to nab the miscreant, said a senior officer. **TNN**

Auto union demands 33% fare hike now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Following the demand by road transport corporations to increase bus fares, an autorickshaw union in Bengaluru also demanded that fares be hiked to Rs 40 for the first 2km and Rs 20 for every subsequent km.

Auto fares in the city were last revised in December 2021.

L Manjuntha of Adarsh Auto Union said, "There has been a steep increase in prices of daily commodities, fuel, maintenance cost and others. The authorities concerned should do the revision, considering the wholesale price index." He said a formal requisition will be made to the RTO after consulting other auto unions in the city.

Mandya to host fest for 3rd time

Continued from page 1

This will be the third such occasion when Mandya will be hosting the Sammelana. The 48th and 63rd editions of the event were held there in 1974 and 1994, respectively. "We had met in Feb to discuss the dates, but as the model code of conduct for the LS polls was expected to kick in soon, the Sammelana had to be postponed," CM said.

The president of the meet will be finalised after discussions with all stakeholders.

"We have shortlisted two places in Mandya city to host the event. A final decision will be taken within a week's time," Kannada Sahitya Parishat president Mahesh Joshi told **TOI**.



HC to govt: Gazette orders rescinding denotification too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court recently said the chief secretary should issue an appropriate circular at the earliest so that all govt orders that denotify lands from acquisition and subsequent orders that rescind such denotification are duly published in the official gazette.

In its order, a division bench of Justices Krishna S Dixit and Ramachandra D Huddar said the information should be made a part of property records as well.

Allowing BDA's writ appeal, the bench remitted the matter pertaining to about 5 acres of land at Challaghatta village for fresh consideration as to whether it is liable to be denotified from acquisition.

Just as denotification of land acquisition has to be gazetted, the order that rescinds denotification should also be gazetted and duly publicised so that owners don't take potential buyers for a ride



aluru resident, who had bought the land in question, challenged the rescinding order. A single bench on April 23, 2016 allowed her petition in terms of the order in a batch of petitions wherein a coordinate single bench had quashed the acquisition on July 11, 2014.

The order passed in Bhagalakshmi's case was challenged by BDA. After perusing the materials on record, the division bench noted that just as denotification of land acquisition has to be gazetted so that stakeholders could challenge it, the order that rescinds the denotification too should be gazetted and duly publicised so that unscrupulous landowners don't take potential buyers for a ride on the basis of denotification.

BDA: Denotification done without issuing notice

On September 29, 2010, the land in question which was sought to be acquired for formation of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, was denotified. According to BDA, the denotification was done without issuing a notice to it. On October 19, 2010, the denotification order was rescinded on the ground that BDA, a stakeholder, wasn't heard in the matter. However, the rescinding order wasn't gazetted. Bhagalakshmi, a Beng-

M'luru resident loses ₹52.9L in lucky draw scam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A woman from Mangaluru lost Rs 52.9 lakh to a fraudulent lucky draw scheme.

The victim was initially contacted in June last year by one Shukoor, who allegedly claimed to be someone representing Chotabhai, Badabhai Zam Zam Electronic Shop.

Shukoor informed her that she had

won a car, an iPhone and a gold chain in a lucky draw, but she needed to pay fees to claim these prizes.

Trusting the caller, the victim transferred Rs 30,000 on June 9 last year. Over the following months, she was repeatedly told that more gifts were on their way and that additional fees for taxes needed to be paid.

Between June 6, 2023, and May 27, 2024, the woman transferred a total

of Rs 52.9 lakh to various bank accounts provided by the scammers.

When she finally asked for the delivery of the promised gifts, the scammers demanded even more money. When she informed her family and friends, she realised that she had been cheated.

A case has been registered after the scammers neither delivered the gifts nor refunded her money.

DOUBLE-DECKER FLYOVER MAY OPEN IN A WEEK

Chethan Shivakumar



TRAFFIC MAY EASE

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited is all set to partially open the city's first double-decker flyover, likely by June-end. This flyover, which links Ragigudda with Central Silk Board, was built as part of Namma Metro's Yellow Line. The lower deck's opening will help commuters travelling from Ragigudda towards HSR Layout and Electronics City (Hosur Road), as they will be able to bypass traffic signals at Central Silk Board, known for

being one of the city's most-congested junctions. BMRC has constructed three ramps at Silk Board, connecting the lower deck of the flyover and at-grade road (catering to motorists arriving from BTM Layout). The infrastructure project has cost BMRC Rs 490 crore. However, the remaining lanes of the lower deck, stretching from Silk Board to Ragigudda, will be made operational at a later stage, as the ramps at Silk Board (from HSR Layout) are still under construction

Khata-less owners can avail OTS facility till July 31: BBMP

Continued from page 1

Some property owners had not obtained khata from BBMP and, hence, were not paying property tax. Such owners can submit an online application. "We will provide them a provisional tax number, and they can pay using this number. They can save a huge amount of penalty and interest on tax if they pay it by July 31, the last day of OTS scheme," said Moudgil.

Later, revenue officials will verify the documents and issue a khata in three months. BBMP officials will adjust any amount paid in excess against next year's tax.

How the process works: The property owner will be allowed to log into BBMP's property tax SAS system using mobile and OTP. The owner should enter the registered sale deed or transfer deed number and based on the same, details of the property

and its owner, the encumbrance certificate will be fetched from KAVERI-2. The owner should enter the property details, including the property photograph, its GPS and address.

The owner details with Aadhaar will be compared with the purchaser name in the information obtained from KAVERI-2 and in case there is a match, the property owner will be allowed to proceed and pay tax.

In case of a mismatch, the case will be referred to an ARO or a designated officer to examine and make a decision.

Once the name match and other items are confirmed, a temporary SAS (self-assessment scheme) number will be created for the property in the system. Then, the owner can enter property usage details in Form 3 and pay property tax as per applicable tax, interest and penalties under OTS at present.

Local drivers 'assault' tourists at Patla Betta

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Some local vehicle drivers allegedly assaulted and abused visitors to Patla Betta in Sakleshpur taluk for taking their own vehicles atop the hill.

GONE VIRAL

The bikers from Dakshina Kannada had visited the tourist spot a few days ago. A few vehicle drivers, who ferry visitors atop the hill on rental basis, waylaid them on their return and questioned why they take bikes to the top of the hill. A video of the argument and the locals assaulting the bikers has gone viral. In the video, the locals claimed that private vehicles were barred from travelling atop the hill. Following a brief argument, a local person assaulted a biker.

Yasur police have booked

the locals and are investigating the case, based on the complaint filed by the visitors. The tourists questioned the local bodies and the forest department about harassment by the drivers.

This is not the first time that such an incident has been reported in the region. "Local drivers don't allow us to take our four-wheelers. They first tell to park our vehicles and then force us to walk or hire their vehicle," said Ramesh, a traveller.

Assistant conservator of forests, Sakleshpur, SP Mahadev told **TOI** the incident has come to his notice and the department will initiate action in the matter.

"Patla Betta is a deemed forest region and no vehicles will be allowed. However, tourists are allowed only to visit the hill and no other activities are encouraged beyond that," Mahadev said.

TB research: IISc team develops 3D system that replicates lungs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In an advancement for tuberculosis research, scientists at Indian Institute of Science created a novel 3D hydrogel culture system that closely mimics the human lung. This provides a platform to track and study how tuberculosis bacteria infect lung cells and test the efficacy of therapeutics used to treat the infection.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) is a dangerous pathogen. In 2022, it affected 10.6 million people and caused 1.3 million deaths, according to World Health Organisation.

Led by Rachit Agarwal, associate professor at the department of bioengineering, the IISc team addressed limitations of traditional 2D culture models. These older models fail to replicate the complex 3D structure of lung tissue, potentially skewing research results. "It is a very old bug, and it has evolved



Vijaya V Vaishnavi and Vishal K Gupta, lead authors of the study

with us quite a bit," said Agarwal, who's a corresponding author of the study, published in Advanced Healthcare Materials.

The new hydrogel culture is composed of collagen, a key component of lung tissue. This 3D environment allows researchers to observe how TB bacteria interact with human immune cells over extended periods — up to

three weeks, compared to just 4-7 days in conventional systems. Notably, RNA sequencing revealed that cells grown in the hydrogel more closely resemble actual human lung tissue samples than those in traditional cultures. This increased biological accuracy could lead to more relevant research outcomes. The team also demonstrated the model's potential for drug tes-

ting. They found that a common TB drug, pyrazinamide, was effective at much lower, more clinically relevant doses than typically required in 2D cultures.

The researchers have filed an Indian patent for their innovation, which they designed to be easily replicable by other scientists and scalable for industrial drug testing.

Breakthrough can expedite further research

Future plans include using the model to study why TB manifests differently among patients and to explore new drug development possibilities. This breakthrough could accelerate TB research and potentially, lead to more effective treatment. Vishal Gupta, PhD student and first author, said the team is also interested in understanding the mechanism of the action of pyrazinamide, which may help discover new drugs that are more or just as efficient.

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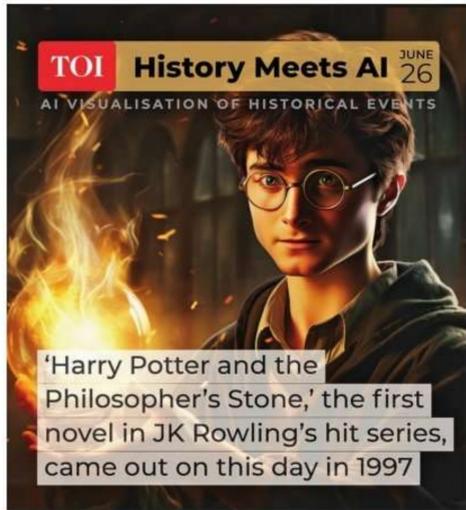
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CONSTITUTION IMPORTANT FOR BJP-LED NDA GOVT, SAYS UNION MINISTER JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

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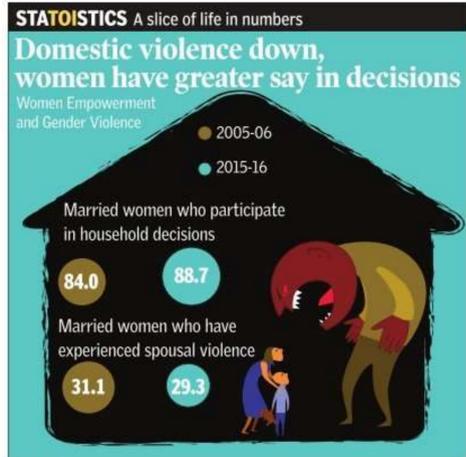


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AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone,' the first novel in JK Rowling's hit series, came out on this day in 1997

MP ministers to now pay income tax

Ministers in Madhya Pradesh will now pay their own income tax, with the state cabinet on Tuesday deciding to end a rule dating to 1972 under which ministers' income tax used to be borne by state govt. With this decision, MP now joins several states like UP, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh where ministers and MLAs pay their own income tax. "Many important decisions were taken at the cabinet meeting today, some to fix our responsibilities. For the state's progress, these decisions are very important," CM Mohan Yadav said. "For example, we decided that our ministers will file their own income taxes. Govt will not bear this responsibility. There was a rule since 1972 (Mantri Vetan Bhatta Adhiniyam 1972) that income tax of ministers up to the rank of parliamentary secretaries would be paid by state govt. We have decided to end it," CM Yadav added. **TNN**



Anju & Kavita brave every storm, wed

Ankita Anand @timesgroup.com

But the wedding wasn't all that smooth. Their priest, who was told earlier that it was a marriage of two women, backed out hours before the ceremony, saying that he was injured in an accident. "We had informed everyone beforehand that it was a same-sex wedding. The hall-owners, and the DJ too... Luckily, one of our friends stepped in and convinced two priests to preside over the rituals," Anju said on Tuesday. It was in 2020 that Kavita, a makeup artist from Haryana's Fatehabad, was hired for Anju's shoot for her YouTube channel. Anju, who belongs to Gurgaon, is an actor. The two, both in their late 30s, struck a connection immediately, though it was confusing at first. Kavita said she hadn't thought she would be in a same-sex relationship. "I was in a relationship with a man before I met the love of my life," she said.

Gurgaon: Hand in hand, their eyes locked, they posed for a photo as newly married couples do. Theirs was like any other wedding ceremony. Celebrations began with a *haldi* function and went on into the night till *pheras* bound them together for life. And dressed as the bride and groom were Kavita Tappu and Anju Sharma. India doesn't legally recognise same-sex marriages, but that didn't deter the couple of four years. Surrounded by their families and around 80 guests, Kavita and Anju tied the knot with all the pomp and tradition of rituals at the Chhoti Panchayat Dharamshala in the city on April 24. Recently, their wedding photos were circulated widely on social media, making the two the talk of the town.

NDA refutes Rahul's claim on deputy speaker's post

Continued from page 1

Defence minister Rajnath Singh held several rounds of discussions with opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, for a consensus over the speaker's choice. However, the opposition insisted on a commitment for the deputy speaker's post going to one of their own. The govt, which had looked uncomfortable with the idea, did not agree to the condition saying the issue should be left for later. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said as per convention, the deputy speaker's post was spared for the opposition, a claim refuted by NDA, which cited multiple instances under Congress regimes of both positions being held by nominees of the treasury benches. "For the last two days, we have been in contact with main opposition parties, talked to their floor leaders regarding

Revolt in SAD: Netas ask Badal to quit, loyalists slam 'BJP plot'

Dissidents Plan To Launch Movement From Akal Takht On July 1

IP Singh | TNN

Jalandhar/Chandigarh: A revolt erupted in Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Tuesday, just 20 days after the party's rout in the Lok Sabha polls in Punjab, with a sizeable section of senior netas urging SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal to hand over the party's reins in the spirit of "tyag" (sacrifice) to someone "who can maintain a balance between religion and politics".

The faction loyal to Badal hit back with district presidents and constituency in-charges passing a resolution expressing "full faith" in his leadership and strongly condemning "deep rooted conspiracies by BJP" to divide and weaken the party by using central agencies and "some selfish and opportunistic elements". A total 33 of the existing 35 district presidents and 96 of the existing 105 constituency in-charges lauded Badal's leadership.

Badal said at a meeting at the party's headquarters in Chandigarh: "I cannot allow



Senior SAD functionaries at a meeting in Jalandhar on Tuesday

SAD to become a puppet of anti-Panth designs. Those ready to betray Panth, Punjab, farmers and the deprived sections of the people are free to follow their course."

A significant section of SAD's core vote base — the Sikhs — have turned against the party since the Bargari sacrifice and Behbal Kalan police firing in 2015 during the SAD-BJP regime. The slide has continued in successive elections and bypolls since 2017: in the recent Lok Sabha polls, SAD won just one of the 13 seats in Punjab.

After a five-hour meeting in Jalandhar, the faction opposed to Badal announced the launch of 'SAD Bachao Lehar' (Save SAD Movement) from the Akal Takht on July 1. During this campaign, SAD will contact sympathisers of the Panth, intellectuals, and others to seek their suggestions to "save the party".

Addressing mediapersons after the meeting, senior SAD member Prem Singh Chandumajra said: "We have appealed to Sukhbir Singh Badal that he should respect and accept the sentiments of workers and

people and hand over the leadership of the party."

He said it was decided that the entire leadership which had "either participated in the wrongdoings or stayed silent will appear at Akal Takht to express regret and seek forgiveness in writing. We shall also perform ardas (prayer in Sikhism) to seek strength from the Guru to save us from such blunders in future".

While the meeting in Jalandhar was on, two separate resolutions were passed at the meeting in Chandigarh chaired by Badal. "Frustrated elements sponsored by BJP to float a parallel party or weaken the party from within can be seen in full swing. But these will not be allowed to succeed," read one of them.

Party members urged Badal to take action against those who are acting as "agents of the enemies of SAD, Panth and Punjab". A senior neta said, "We are not taking any action against anyone or expelling anyone... we said come to the meeting and discuss issues."

Kharge had pushed Rahul for LoP role

Continued from page 1

The decision lifted the suspense on the issue that has been agitating minds in Congress since the declaration of results of the 2024 elections, and especially after the Congress Working Committee on June 9 passed a resolution urging Rahul to take up the LoP position. In the meeting, Kharge personally pushed the issue by telling Rahul that he was anyway playing the key role of mediation and coordination, and had gained the desired experience to take up the formal post. Besides, he had urged Rahul to honour the wishes of the party's apex body.

The appointment comes in the wake of Congress being in high spirits despite losing the third consecutive election to the Modi-led BJP, encouraged by the fact that it has revived in key regions of the country and performed admirably despite the adverse circumstances of extreme polarisation, funds crunch, pressure from agencies and sidelining in media under the BJP rule. Besides, the strong showing and unity of the INDIA bloc has raised the prospect of a spirited fight-back in the future.

As the head of a rejuvenated opposition led by a strong Congress strength, the party believes Rahul can take on Modi with a focused targeting of the govt on issues of governance. The Congress leader is credited with taking on BJP at a time when regional parties were cagey about its blowback. He also put "communalism" back on centre stage in the face of popular belief that it would repel Hindu voters — as headlined by his two countrywide yatras.

Former Kashmir HC Bar chief held over terror killing of fellow lawyer

Saleem Pandit @timesgroup.com

Srinagar: Mian Abdul Qayoom Bhat, former president of J&K HC Bar Association who had authored the constitution of Hurriyat Conference's Syed Ali Shah Geelani faction in 1993, was on Tuesday arrested over the murder conspiracy of another lawyer, Babar Qadri, in an attack by terrorists in 2020.

Qayoom's son-in-law Javed Iqbal Wani is a serving HC judge. Qadri was a long-time rival in the bar who had challenged Qayoom's stranglehold on the association, alleging the latter held his post for years by manipulating its elections.

Qayoom, in his late 70s, was picked up by J&K Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) and booked under Section 302 (murder) as well as provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), applied in terror cases. Qadri was shot dead at his Srinagar home in Sept 2020 by two terrorists who came posing as clients. Days before his murder, Qadri, a well-known HC lawyer and TV panelist on rights issues, had posted a video alleging how Qayoom rigged the Bar elections. Before that, Qadri had narrowly survived an assassination bid in 2018. Qadri's family had links to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Qayoom was known for his close association with pro-Pakistan separatist leader Shah Geelani, and involved in bringing together around 23 constituents, including Bar association, under the Hurriyat umbrella. Earlier this year, the HC had transferred the Qadri murder case to a court in Jammu from Srinagar "for a fair and impartial trial where witnesses are in a position to depose in an atmosphere which is free and not hostile". The HC order came on an SIA plea that had claimed no lawyer from Srinagar was willing to render legal assistance due to the involvement of some influential advocates.

'Serial bride' tests HIV+ve, 2 states mount 'groom' hunt

3 Men She Had 'Married' Have Tested Positive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Meerut/Utter Pradesh: A "serial bride" who would decamp with cash and valuables after "marriage" to unsuspecting men was arrested by UP police on May 6 and sent to Muzaffarnagar jail along with six members of her gang operating in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Subsequently upon medical examination at the district hospital, she was found to be HIV positive. "She is now undergoing antiretroviral therapy (ART)," jail superintendent Sitaram Sharma on Tuesday said.

The revelation has put health department officials of both the states in a fix. They are now desperately hunting for "grooms" she'd

been with.

The Uttarakhand health department has confirmed that "three men she came in physical contact with within the state are now HIV positive". This disclosure came after Udham Singh Nagar's health department, in collaboration with an NGO, conducted tests on these men and initiated their treatment at an ART centre. The process is on for testing other family members of the infected men as well.

According to police, while the woman (in her 20s) would be the "bride", other members of the gang would act as her relatives to avoid suspicion. After her arrest, the woman had revealed that she had "married" five times. Police, however, suspect there are more cases.

A source at the health department in Muzaffarnagar added, "We are counselling her to reveal more names, if any, so that we can identify the victims and test them for the disease and bring them around for treatment."

B'gavi toddler collapses at Taj, doc saves her with CPR

Deepak Lavanija @timesgroup.com

Agra: A two-year-old girl from Karnataka visiting the Taj Mahal with her parents was saved by CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) after losing consciousness.

Aayza, from Belagavi, suddenly fell ill on Monday and stopped moving after crying uncontrollably when separated from her mother for a short while. CISF personnel rushed her to the dispensary, where Dr Rinku Baghel performed CPR, reviving her. The video of the CPR was widely circulated on social media on Tuesday. "The girl's parents were distressed as she had fallen unconscious while crying profusely. She was administered CPR and then im-

mediately shifted by ambulance to a private hospital. Her condition has since improved," said Dr Baghel, physician at the Taj Mahal dispensary. He added, "The incident is suspected to be caused by hypoxia from excessive crying. Often, when a child cries excessively, oxygen fails to reach the brain, leading to such a condition."

Chief medical officer Dr Arun Kumar Srivastava said, "When a person's heart stops beating or person stops breathing, death can occur within minutes. CPR can help save lives and minimise the damaging effects. It helps maintain vital blood flow to the brain and heart, keeping the body supplied with oxygen until advanced medical care can be provided."

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Secretary
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PM escalates attack on Cong over Emergency excesses

'No Right To Profess Love For Constitution'

Akhilesh.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi escalated his attack on Congress over the imposition of the Emergency by Indira Gandhi and said the opposition party was still driven by the same mindset that responded to dissent by suspending democracy 49 years ago.

In a series of posts on social media to mark the 49th anniversary of Indira Gandhi's momentous decision, Modi took a swipe at Congress's "save democracy" campaign and said, "Those who imposed Emergency have no right to profess their love for our Constitution. These are the same people who have imposed Article 356 on innumerable occasions, got a bill to destroy press freedom, destroyed federalism and violated every



BJP netas during a programme against the Emergency in New Delhi on Tuesday

aspect of the Constitution."

The PM said, "They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but the people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time and again." He paid homage to all those "great men and women" who resisted Emergency, and said the "dark days" are a reminder of how Congress subverted basic freedoms and trampled over the Constitution. "Just to cling to power, the then Congress govt disregarded every democratic

principle and made the nation into a jail," he said.

While several BJP leaders followed Modi in recalling the days of Emergency, the party floated #DarkDaysOfEmergency on social media, in what appeared to be an attempt to get their own back at Congress which used its allegation of Constitution being in danger under Modi to inflict damage on BJP.

Home minister Amit Shah said Congress crushed the spirit of Constitution several times for the sake of maintaining a certain family

in power and Indira Gandhi unleashed "ruthless atrocities" on people during Emergency. Referring to Rahul Gandhi as "yuvraj", he said the former had forgotten that his grandmother imposed Emergency and his father, Rajiv Gandhi, on July 23, 1985, tried to justify this horrific episode in Lok Sabha with much pride. He mentioned a speech by Rajiv Gandhi where the former PM had said, "If any prime minister of this country who feels that an Emergency is necessary, under these circumstances, and does not apply Emergency, he is not fit to be PM of this country."

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said if democracy was still alive in the country, the credit went to those people who struggled to restore democracy, went to jail and had to undergo physical and mental torture. "The coming generations of India will remember their struggle and their contribution in protecting democracy," he added.

BJP president J P Nadda reminded Congress of the "dark days of Emergency."

TMC unhappy with Cong but likely to support Suresh

Mohua.Chatterjee
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid the post-poll bonhomie, Trinamool Congress struck the first discordant note in the INDIA bloc by expressing unhappiness at Congress not consulting it before declaring a contestant against Om Birla for Lok Sabha Speaker's post. The party was mollified enough by Tuesday and two of its representatives — Kalyan Banerjee (LS) and Derek O'Brien (RS) — attended a meeting of INDIA bloc leaders at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to discuss the Speaker's election. TMC said it would communicate its decision on backing Suresh by 9 am on Wednesday.



Rahul, Akhilesh, Hema & others take oath as MPs

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi took oath as MP from Rae Bareilly, followed by KL Sharma from Amethi, and Akhilesh Yadav from Kannauj, as the triumphant INDIA bloc in UP of Samajwadi and Congress cornered the focus on the day which rounded off the formality of swearing-in newly elected members to Lok Sabha.

As 43 members of UP, 40 from Tamil Nadu, 31 of Maharashtra, 8 from Telangana, and 10 from Punjab belonging to the opposition took oath, the waving of Constitution, in covers red, white and blue, as a mark of protest against the Modi govt, firmly held centre stage.

Rahul held up the copy of the Constitution, took oath, and rounded it off with 'jai samvidhan'. Congress members broke into 'jodo jodo, bharat jodo', the chant of his two Bharat Jodo Yatras. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav was cheered to the podium with loud thumping of the desks, and Rahul Gandhi shook hands with him as did others by his side. Interestingly, when Amethi's K L Sharma walked up, Congress members shouted 'ab bato', an exclamation underlining his victory over BJP stalwart Smriti Irani. Akhilesh's wife Dimple Yadav too drew wild cheers, as did Kanimozhi of DMK and Supriya Sule of NCP (Pawar). The young Rajasthan



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav was cheered to the podium with loud thumping of the desks, and Rahul Gandhi shook hands with him

MPs Sanjana Jatav and Rahul Kaswan (Congress) and Rajkumar Roat (Bharatiya Tribal Party), Chandrashekhar of Bhim Army, Iqra Chaudhary (SP), and Mahua Moitra (TMC) were other names that were watched for different political reasons.

Screen queen Hema Malini cornered some limelight too, and representing Mathura, she chanted "radhe radhe". When Alfred S Arthur, Congress' Outer Manipur MP, was called for taking oath, Rahul Gandhi stood up to shake his hands.

Advised against Speaker contest: Sharad Pawar

Mumbai: NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said he advised his allies in INDIA bloc that Lok Sabha Speaker should be elected unopposed, but the Opposition must get the deputy Speaker's post, which has been a parliamentary convention.

Traditionally, the Speaker's post went to the ruling party and the deputy Speaker's post to the opposition, but this did not happen in the past ten years of the Narendra Modi government, the veteran politician told reporters. BJP-led NDA fielded LS Speaker Om Birla for the crucial parliamentary position again. ^{7/11}

Suresh's rise: From high school politics to speaker candidate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Kodikunnil Suresh, an eight-time Congress MP from Kerala, has always been at odds with the party's state brass. Yet, his strategic alignment with the "high command" has consistently allowed him to get his way. Now, contesting as the opposition INDIA bloc's candidate for Lok Sabha speaker could well be the high point of his long political career.

Suresh's journey began from modest beginnings. Born in 1962, the youngest son of Kunjan and Thankamma, he began his political career in 1975 as unit president

of Congress-affiliated Kerala Students Union at Lekshmi Vilasam High School in Pothencode. He later attended Mar Ivanios College and obtained an LLB from Government Law College in Thiruvananthapuram.

In 1987, Suresh became the state general secretary of KSU. That year, Congress stalwart K Karunakaran selected Suresh to contest Adoor LS constituency. He won his first parliamentary election in 1989 and has been a member of LS since, winning eight out of ten contests — facing defeats in 1998 and 2004. Adoor constituency was later renamed Mavelikara. He is currently the senior-

most Congress member in LS and working president of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee.

In 2009, Kerala HC annulled his election over allegations of using a fake certificate to claim reserved community status. However, Supreme Court later ruled in his favour, affirming his membership in the Pulaya community.

Suresh's close ties with senior Congress functionary AK Antony earned him a ministerial position in 2012 as minister of state for labour and employment in UPA govt, a role he held until 2014. He has held various positions within the party and on parliamentary committees.

After campaign dare by rival, MP takes oath in English

Ranjan.Dasgupta
@timesgroup.com

Nashik: A newly-elected Maharashtra MP, who was mocked by an electoral rival for his alleged inability to speak either English or Hindi,

took the oath of office Tuesday as a member of 18th Lok Sabha in English and received an ovation from a section of members after he completed the oath, reports Ranjan Dasgupta. Ahmednagar MP Nilesh Lanke (44), who contested on



an NCP (SCP) ticket, had been at the receiving end of barbs about his language skills from the man he went on to defeat by around 28,000 votes — BJP's Sujay-Vikhe Patil.

During campaigning, Sujay declared he would withdraw his candidature if Lanke could speak either English or Hindi after a month's practice. "Today, I took the oath in English as an MP. I am fully aware of the immense responsibility this moment carries..." Lanke wrote on X.

Indira was ready to fly out after Emergency: Annamalai

Chennai: BJP Tamil Nadu unit president K Annamalai said on Tuesday that former PM Indira Gandhi had decided to fly out of the country after the Emergency ended in 1977. A state of Emergency was announced on June 25, 1975. Observing the day as "Black Day", BJP's Tamil Nadu unit organised a series of

events across the state. At a meeting at BJP office in Chennai, Annamalai said, "After the end of Emergency, Indira Gandhi thought her family would be thrashed by the people of the country and so asked her son Rajiv to get a special flight ready for them in Mumbai to fly out of the country." ^{7/11}

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 I, Gayathri Panyappa W/o A.K.Srinivasa Murthy Residing at No.509, Sumeru, Pampa Mahakavi Road, Near A m b e k a r C o l l e g e Vishweshwariah Layout, 8th Block, Giddakonenahalli, Viswanedam, Bangalore - 560091 have changed my name after marriage from Gayathri Murthy to Gayathri Panyappa vide affidavit dated 22.06.2024 Sworn Before Notary H.R.Karunakar, Bangalore.

I, TEENA KUMARI W/O SUNIL JAIN P/O No.2, 3rd Cross, VST Rd, Lingarajapuram, Blore-84 have changed my name to TEENA SUNIL JAIN vide affidavit dated 21.06.24 sworn before R.V.Chandrasekar Blore

I, Dr. Jyothi Sandill, R/o 382, 4th block, 7th main, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, have changed my name to Dr. Jyothi Menon, affidavit date: 25/6/24, Notary:D.B. Ramesh Bashkar

I, MOHAN RAMA CHANDRA Residing at No.35/26, Shakam bari Nagara 11th main, J P Nagara 1st Phase Bangalore-560 078. My name MOHAN RAMA CHANDRA and MOHAN R CHANDRA belong to the same person. Vide affidavit Dated: 24.06.2024 before Notary MAHESHA J.J. Bangalore

I, ADITYA VENKATESH VAIDYA, S/o Venkatesh, R/at No. 117/3, 1st Floor, Nagaraja Layout, Bull Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560019, have changed my name from ADITYA VAIDYA to ADITYA VENKATESH VAIDYA, vide affidavit dt: 21-06-2024 before Notary M.Prabhakar, Blore.

I, SUDHA K. D/o. KRISTIAAH, Residing at #36, 3rd A cross, 2nd main, Coconut Garden, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore -72 have changed my name to ADITHA KRISTIAAH, vide affidavit dated: 25.06.2024 Sworn before notary: Deepa M. Bangalore

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What Business Leaders Can Learn From Sporting Arena

By Uday Chawla

Here are some lessons from sports field that business leaders could use for a winning attitude:

Discipline and Work Ethic:

Star sportsmen exhibit unwavering discipline and work ethic. They follow rigorous training schedules, maintain healthy lifestyles, and consistently strive for excellence.

Business executives can learn from this by prioritising consistency, setting clear goals, and adhering to routines.

Consistent Effort: Athletes also track their performance metrics meticulously. Whether it's speed, accuracy, or endurance, they constantly measure and improve. Similarly, executives can adopt a data-driven approach — and regularly assess key performance indicators (KPIs) to make informed decisions based on data.

Teamwork: Athletes understand the importance of collaboration. They rely on their teammates, communicate effectively, and work together to achieve common objectives. Teamwork is more important than ever in today's fluctuating business environment. The best leaders foster a collaborative environment, encourage cross-functional teams.

Leadership and Motivation: Captains and star players lead by example. They inspire their teams, boost morale, and maintain a positive attitude. Executives can learn to motivate their teams in a similar manner. Be an inspirational leader, recognise achievements, and create a positive work environment.

Even when sports stars face setbacks, injuries, and defeats, they manage to bounce back, evolve their strategies, and keep pushing forward — a trait that executives need to readily embrace in the form of resilience. When challenges arise, view them as opportunities for growth. Adaptability is crucial in today's dynamic business landscape.

Sports teaches lessons — dedication, teamwork, resilience, and leadership — that transcend the boundaries of the playing field. The very same lessons that allow some of the world's best athletes to consistently give it their best shot can help business leaders forge ahead in corporate India's corridors as well

Handling Pressure: Sports persons perform under immense pressure by managing stress and staying focused so that they prioritise physical and mental health. They understand that peak performance requires a healthy body and mind. Executives, when faced with high-pressure situations, can find a winning formula in stress management techniques and maintaining composure to achieve success. Investing in their well-being is key for executives; regular exercise, proper nutrition, and stress reduction contribute to better decision-making.

Competitive World: The best sportsmen are constantly analysing their competition for their strengths, weaknesses, and strategies. They develop a playbook to

counter the same. The same rules apply in the business world, just that the pitches are different. Sportsmen constantly refine their skills. They seek coaching, analyse their performance, and learn from mistakes. Executives must carve out time to prioritise learning in the form of workshops, industry literature, staying updated on trends and keeping their skill sets refreshed.

Sports teaches lessons — dedication, teamwork, resilience, and leadership — that transcend the boundaries of the playing field. The very same lessons that allow some of the world's best athletes to consistently give it their best shot can help business leaders forge ahead in corporate India's corridors as well.

(The writer is managing partner, Transearch India)

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- Experience in handling NIRF/NAAC/COA/VTU affiliation processes.
- Must surpass minimum qualification criteria prescribed by the COA.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Teaching expertise in the subjects of Urban Planning, Conservation, Sustainability, Construction, History & Theory, Building Services, Working Drawings and Project Management.
- Proficiency in Architectural Software.
- Experience in handling NIRF/NAAC/COA/VTU affiliation processes.
- Must surpass minimum qualification criteria prescribed by the COA.

Salary will not be a constraint for the right candidates.
Updated resume with copies of credentials and a passport size photograph should be sent in a sealed envelope superscribed with the post applied for within 15 days to:
The Hon. Secretary
Rashitreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust, RV Teachers College Building, 15, Ashoka Pillar Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560011
Ph: 080-46746464/422/423 | Mail id: hr@rvei.edu.in

NEET case: Student acting as proxy got caught in Bihar

Kshitz@timesgroup.com

Patna: An AIIMS-Jodhpur student paid to be a proxy for a NEET-UG examinee got caught during biometric attendance at a centre in Bihar's Muzaffarpur minutes before the May 5 test, but was allegedly allowed to go after submitting a written apology to the authorities, new findings in the ongoing paper-leak probe reveal.

Although the breach at the examination centre in DAV School, Malighat, was never officially reported, an FIR was registered at Mithanpura police station in Muzaffarpur the same day after station house officer (SHO) Ram Krishna Paramhans Kumar received this information from an undisclosed source.

The accused, from Barmer in Rajasthan, has been absent from college and staying away from home since, police said.

In his apology, he confessed to impersonating the son of a doctor who owns a hospital in UP's Prayagraj in exchange for Rs 4 lakh

In his apology, he confessed to impersonating the son of a doctor who owns a hospital in UP's Prayagraj in exchange for Rs 4 lakh. The AIIMS student said he met Dr Rajesh Prasad Pandey, who allegedly wanted a proxy for his son, in Kota, Rajasthan.

"I come from a poor family. I was promised Rs 4 lakh, which is why I agreed to write the exam on someone else's behalf," he wrote.

The examinee's admit card featured a picture of the third-year MBBS student. Police quoted an official of the exam centre as say-

ing that the young man had been asked to wait outside after he wrote an apology while the authorities decided what to do next. He allegedly sneaked out and couldn't be traced. ASP Awadhesh Dixit of Muzaffarpur said the centre was "under the scanner" for not reporting the crime immediately. "The school management was apparently reluctant to pursue the case, fearing damage to the centre's reputation."

Dixit said both the proxy and Dr Raj Pandey, who allegedly paid him, had been named in the FIR. "Separate teams have been sent to Prayagraj, Barmer and Jodhpur to locate the accused. Neither of them was found at their respective homes or workplaces. The student who allegedly took money to act as a proxy for an examinee hasn't attended classes at AIIMS-Jodhpur since May 2," SHO Paramhans Kumar said.

Exam reforms panel gets moving with eye on tamper-proof system

Isro Ex-Chief-Led Body To Consult Parents, Students

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The education ministry's seven-member panel on exam reforms will engage with parents and students to understand their concerns and challenges regarding the examination process, amid ongoing controversies over alleged irregularities in competitive exams National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and University Grants Commission's National Eligibility Test (NET), according to officials.

Post that, the panel will also deliberate on developing a tamper-proof, error-free system that reduces stress for students while providing adequate flexibility. While NEET-UG is under scanner for paper-leak and other irregularities, UGC-NET question papers were traced in the "darknet", leading to its cancellation. The committee in



The panel is also going to scrutinise the standard operating procedures and other exam management system employed by the National Testing Agency

its first meeting on Monday also discussed cybersecurity issues and the challenges posed by the darknet.

According to sources, the panel is also going to scrutinise the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and other exam management systems employed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for the NEET-UG and UGC-NET, and also at reasons for shifting the NET to offline and making CUET-UG hybrid (CBT and pen-paper) mode.

Led by former Isro chief R Radhakrishnan, the panel held its

first meeting on Monday evening. "The first priority for us is to elicit from the students and parents in the country their concerns and suggestions," Radhakrishnan told reporters on Tuesday, adding, "We will engage with them in person or through electronic media, and consolidate this information within the next fortnight."

Radhakrishnan said that the next priority is to "quickly establish a robust system for starting the tests. We are also looking at the future, especially to develop in

this country a robust system, a tamper-proof system, a system with zero error and a system that will lessen the difficulties and stress for the students with adequate flexibility built into it."

Sources present at the meeting reported that the committee reviewed the current situation and challenges faced by NTA.

"The panel was informed about the current processes and functioning of the agency, including statistics on multiple exams conducted by the NTA and the number of candidates appearing for each exam," a source said. "They also reviewed which exams are conducted in pen-and-paper mode and which are computer-based tests (CBT), along with the nuances of both modes."

According to Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the reforms to be recommended in its report are likely to be implemented by the next exam cycle. "It is a top priority for the ministry right now. The panel will submit its report within two months, and by next academic cycle we will initiate an action plan," said Pradhan.

Amid NEET-UG cancellation fear, many examinees seek counselling

Rakesh.Singh1@timesgroup.com

Patna: As uncertainty looms over those who have cleared this year's NEET-UG amid the turmoil let loose by the paper leak fiasco and demands for a retest, many are turning to psychologists to seek professional counselling to deal with the current situation.

"The highly competitive NEET-UG does not follow a pattern and is known for its ever-changing nature and unpredictability. Amid this, if re-examination is ordered, I might not qualify again," said Vidisha Kumari, who has returned from Kota, having spent five-long years to crack one of the toughest exams. She had scored 667.

Vidisha isn't alone. Fear for the future has been forcing many to spend sleepless nights. There are over 50,000 seats in govt medical colleges and about 24 lakh students had registered for NEET-UG 2024. Most students and their parents are worried about the unknown if a re-test is ordered.

Amid a CBI probe, political parties, including Grand Alliance's RJD, Congress and CPI-ML, have demanded cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 even as the Supreme



TESTING TIMES: Fear for the future has been forcing many examinees to spend sleepless nights

Court has ordered counselling to go ahead while also seeking response from the Centre and NTA on pleas asking for cancellation of the exam. Counselling for NEET-UG will start from July 6.

"After the declaration of results on June 14, our joy had a short shelf life, as the alleged question paper leak cases started emerging. My daughter, who had scored 666 out of 720, is depressed and we are consulting a doctor," said mother of Julie Singh (name changed), who stayed with her daughter in Kota for five years as she prepared for the exam.

She said behind the score of 650 and above, there are countless untold stories of sacrifice, determination, time and money.

Dr Saurabh Kumar, a psychi-

atrist in Patna, said a number of youth has been visiting him who have cleared NEET-UG and are worried about their future. "Patients are worried what will happen if NEET-UG is cancelled. I counsel them on ways to ward off fear," Kumar said.

Dr Shakil Kumar Singh, who has a private clinic in Kankarbagh, said, "Footfall of students complaining of anxiety over the possibility of NEET-UG 2024 cancellation has increased in my clinic. We are providing counselling and medication to them."

Some have gone back to Kota to prepare for the NEET-UG exam in case there is a re-test.

"Our dreams were shattered after we heard that the question papers were leaked. My husband works in a private firm and earns Rs 12,000 a month. I started working in a tailoring shop in Kota to support the expenses of our daughter," said Reeta Devi of Bhabua who has moved into a small accommodation in Talwandi, Kota, as her daughter starts preparations for NEET-UG in anticipation of a re-test. She has again enrolled with a prominent coaching institute in Kota.

'Ordinance covers public service recruitment, degree & diploma entrance exams'

Continued from page 1

The existing Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act provides for three to five years of imprisonment for cheating and five to 10 years, along with a minimum Rs 1 crore fine, for organised exam frauds.

Under the new Uttar Pradesh Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance, 2024, those responsible for paper leaks leading to exam cancellations will have to pay the costs incurred by govt in conducting the exams. Apart from mandating recovery of exam expenses from solver gangs, the ordinance authorises permanent blacklisting of involved companies and service providers. It also allows for the attachment of properties and imposes stringent bail conditions for the accused.

The ordinance covers exams including public service recruitment, regularisation, promotion exams, and entrance exams for degrees, diplomas, and other courses, a govt spokesperson said.

Distributing fake exam papers and creating bogus employment websites are also punishable under the ordinance, with guilty parties facing a minimum two-year jail term, extending to life imprisonment, and fines of Rs 1 crore.

Govt likely to go for JEE-style online test format for exams

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt indicated it is considering a move towards a more stress-free, multi-session, multiple-times-a-year computer-based test format for future exams, similar to the Joint Entrance Examination-Main (JEE-Main), which was successfully offered four times during the Covid pandemic.

Sources suggested that National Testing Agency (NTA) can consider learning from and collaborating with global bodies like the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administer the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in the US. The seven-member panel constituted by Centre for exam reforms too briefly discussed the mode of exams—computer-based and pen-paper on Monday—and will deliberate on it in detail in subsequent meetings.

Earlier on Sunday, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan hinted at a potential overhaul of the exam process, "India needs a flexible and less stressful exam system like the SAT, the

TOT LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



admission test for colleges in the US." When the NTA was established in 2017 and subsequently in 2018, the agency engaged in multiple discussions with ETS. However, ac-

ording to a senior official at the ministry of education, these talks did not result in concrete collaboration, as they primarily focused on question paper settings and the efficacy of the items.

भारत सरकार
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गुर्गाँव, हरियाणा-122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

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Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
ICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK - 6 PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/258 Date: - 11/06/2024

Reference:

(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (43) companies in the state of KARNATAKA under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA8058050	U58203KA2023OPC174673	EXILES INTERACTIVE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AA8005623	U42909KA2023PTC172392	THIRTHAHALLI ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AA8203535	U45209KA2023PTC170404	SPRITE SPACE PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AA8213252	U72900KA2022PTC163670	AVATARVERSES PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AA8227801	U72900KA2021PTC153907	WEBDIGI MARKETING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AA8278165	U72900KA2022PTC157155	LEARNINGSTACK TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AA8002178	U72900KA2021PTC153068	ON D WAY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AA7809578	U72900KA2021PTC145637	OFFERS AROUND US PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AA7868521	U70109KA2021PTC147264	DEVMAN ASSETS PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AA8266048	U74999KA2021PTC142924	AD INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AA8044990	U51909KA2020PTC137706	DAYTECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AA7590665	U73100KA2020PTC136647	SPRING CLINICALS PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AA8252707	U63030KA2018PTC116360	SAARANIKA LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AA8088744	U72900KA2017FTC107797	IXZEUS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AA7213238	U74999KA2017PTC104235	NSV DISTRIBUTORS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AA7594596	U33100KA2017PTC104441	MEDVICE PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AA8099433	U74900KA2015PTC078912	GREEN PATH INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AA8224451	U70109KA2016PTC094567	EXCEL DWELLINGS PRIME PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AA8201644	U72200KA2001PTC028758	ZEAL SOFTWARE COMPANY (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AA7819990	U72200KA2000PTC027109	L-VISTA DIGITAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AA7400277	U65992KA2015PTC080956	RAJALBANDI SOHAN CHITS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AA8207894	U72900KA2017PTC107043	ABSTRAT IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AA8185462	U22190KA2011PTC057806	INSPIRED PRINTS PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AA8164244	U63000KA2019OPC126738	TRAVERA (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
25	AA8153640	U74999KA2019FTC125381	VIRIDISRS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AA8108002	U70200KA2023PTC178852	KHAYLEM IMMIGRATION AND EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AA8102345	U74999KA2022OPC166082	THINKUSABLE SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AA8093350	U72900KA2022PTC168972	AIKYAM STUDIOS PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AA8057452	U25200KA2021PTC148215	BANGALORE POLY-ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AA7514458	U65190KA2008PTC047723	ARTIMAN CAPITAL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AA8047720	U92490KA2020PTC132423	KALAGRANTHA-ART HUB PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AA7974793	U74999KA2020PTC141038	TELEKINESIS AUTOMATION PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AA7972049	U72900KA2022PTC156292	MOBLITI TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AA7954531	U72900KA2014PTC077994	VIDVAS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AA7948809	U74999KA2023PTC170589	FIRNEN PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AA7943395	U45201KA2021PTC147975	HATHA CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AA7941937	U74999KA2020PTC132887	PAWANSUT VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AA7933402	U72200KA2012PTC063132	MINTM MEDIATECH PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AA7894719	U72900KA2021PTC151882	HAMPI TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AA7819918	U15490KA2022PTC158114	RATHNATRAYA AGRICULTURE PROCESSING PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AA7784546	U72200KA2002PTC030932	C4C INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AA7689536	U72200KA2022PTC156939	BITHASH TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AA7641355	U72900KA2022PTC157575	ART SECURE INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/ their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under subsection (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Assistant Registrar

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit
CBC 07123/11/0163/2425

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर, महाराष्ट्र
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur (Maharashtra)
Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Pin: 441108.
https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in

Advt. No. AIIMS/NGP/Admin I/Faculty/2024/02/01 Dated: 26/06/2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF FACULTY (GROUP-A) ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF AIIMS NAGPUR

AIIMS Nagpur, established under PMSSY with objectives of improving regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. The Institute has started functioning from session 2018-19. It is envisioned to develop into an institute with highest standards of teaching, training and research.

In this regard, applications are invited by the Executive Director, AIIMS, Nagpur from Indian nationals/persons registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 for the following faculty posts on regular basis required for AIIMS, Nagpur:

Sr. No	Subject	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	General Surgery	-	01 (OBC)
2	Lecturer in Nursing	-	02 (UR)
3	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	01 (UR)	-
4	Radiotherapy	-	01 (OBC)
5	Radio-diagnosis	-	01 (UR)
Total		01	05
Grand Total		06	

Note: 1. The format of application and details of the age limit, essential qualification and experience, pay scales, etc., and the pre-payment link for application fee are available at <https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in>. The aspiring applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria in all respect must submit their application through the Google link by 22-07-2024 and by Speed/Registered post to the address - The Executive Director, AIIMS Nagpur, Administrative Block, Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Pin-441108 by 29-07-2024.

Executive Director,
AIIMS, Nagpur

Directorate of Archaeology
Department of Art, Culture and Youth
Notice for Inviting Tender

Directorate of Archaeology, Department of Art, Culture and Youth, GoB invites tender for Repair, Conceptualisation, Supply, Installation Testing and Commissioning of Multimedia (Light, laser and Sound Show) at Golghar, Patna with Comprehensive Operations and Maintenance for a period of 5 Years.

The tender document with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website of the department <https://state.bihar.gov.in/yac/> and from EPROC website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. The bids in response to the tender can be submitted online on EPROC Website.

DoAcer@1080 current Cost	Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)
EMD	Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Only)
RFP Issue Date	26/06/2024
Pre-Bid Meeting Date - Time	08/07/2024 15:00 Hours
Last Date for Bid Submission Date - Time	18/07/2024 15:00 Hours
Technical Bid opening Date-Time	18/07/2024 16:00 Hours

Note:

- All further notifications/corrigendum/amendment if any shall be posted at department website <https://state.bihar.gov.in/yac> and <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>
- Directorate of Archaeology, Department of Art, Culture and Youth, GoB reserves the rights to accept / reject any of the submissions without assigning any reasons thereof.
- No tender will be accepted after closing date and time in any circumstances

This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

Director
Directorate of Archaeology

PR. No. 002569 (Art & Culture) 2024-25
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

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Adv. No. GO/RECTT/2024-25/FAC-1/JUNE

BIT Mesra is seeking application from bright and promising candidates with very distinguished academic credentials for the post of Assistant Professor (AL 10 : Basic-57,700 Plus allowances) for its Mesra main and off campuses in the following disciplines:

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- 2. Position: Professor of Practice in Architecture**
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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN RECPDCL

Adv. No. RECPDCL/HR/Regular Rec/2024/01

S. No.	Name of the post/ Grade & IDA scale of pay (w.e.f. 01.01.2017)	Number of posts (Reserved for)
Engineering Discipline		
1.	Deputy Manager (Engineering)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	04 (UR-03, OBC-NCL:01)
2.	Officer (Engineering)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	10 (UR-06, OBC-NCL:02, SC:01, EWS:01)
Finance & Accounts (F&A) Discipline		
3.	Deputy Manager (F&A)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
4.	Officer (F&A)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Human Resource (HR) Discipline		
5.	Deputy Manager (HR)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
6.	Officer (HR)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Information Technology (IT) Discipline		
7.	Deputy Manager (IT)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
8.	Officer (IT)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Company Secretary (CS) Discipline		
9.	Deputy Manager (CS)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
10.	Officer (CS)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Law Discipline		
11.	Deputy Manager (Law)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
12.	Officer (Law)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Discipline		
13.	Officer (CSR)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)

Legend: UR: Unreserved, OBC-NCL: Other Backward Classes - Non-Creamy Layer, SC: Scheduled Caste, ST: Scheduled Tribe, EWS: Economically Weaker Section. Those interested should visit 'Careers' tab on www.recpdcl.in for further details regarding age, qualification, experience, reservation etc. and for applying. Last date for receipt of online application is 25.07.2024 by 6:00 pm.

REC PDCL (Formerly known as REC Power Distribution Company Limited)
Location: D-Block, REC Corporate Headquarter, Plot No. 1-4, Sector-29, Gurugram (Haryana)-122001.
Landmark: Near IFFCO Chowk Metro Station
Email: co@recpdcl.in, Website-www.recpdcl.in

ONGC Foundation

ONGC Foundation is looking for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / COO
Advt. No. 2/2024

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a "Maharatna" Public Sector Enterprise, is the largest E&P Company in India, contributing around 68% to India's domestic production of crude oil and natural gas. ONGC as a leading Maharatna of the nation has set a benchmark continuously for the last two years by achieving 100% utilization of CSR budget which has been to the tune of over Rs 500 Crore each year. This reflects ONGC's commitment as a responsible Corporate Citizen of giving back to the society in equal measure.

With the vision of impacting and socially transforming the lives of the underprivileged, ONGC created a trust under the Indian Trusts Act 1882 named **ONGC Foundation**, with the objective to undertake, augment and facilitate activities, initiatives and projects relating to corporate social responsibility. Details are available at <https://www.ongcfoundation.org>

ONGC Foundation is looking for experienced Executive to join as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ COO who will report to Board of Trustees of **ONGC Foundation**.

The details of the posts, methods of applying, eligibility criteria etc. are available in Advt. No. 02/2024, posted at **ONGC Foundation** website www.ongcfoundation.org. Interested and eligible candidates are requested to visit the mentioned website for detailed information and online registration of application.

राष्ट्रीय निवास बैंक
NATIONAL HOUSING BANK
(Statutory Body under Govt. of India)

The National Housing Bank, apex institution for housing finance in the country, invites applications for the following posts from eligible and enthusiastic persons on regular and contract basis:

Advt. No. - NHB/HRMD/Recruitment/2023-24/03

Regular Positions	Scale	SC	ST	OBC-NCL*	EWS	UR	Total
General Manager (Project Finance)	VII	-	-	-	-	1	1
Assistant General Manager (Credit)	V	1	-	-	-	-	1
Deputy Manager (Credit)	II	1	-	2	-	-	3
Assistant Manager (Generalist)	I	4	-	5	3	6	18*
Total		6	-	7	3	7	23

Re-Advised Contractual Positions	Contract Period	SC	ST	OBC-NCL*	EWS	UR	Total
Chief Economist (on contract/ deputation)	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Application Developer	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Senior Project Finance Officer	3 Years	1	1	5	2	1	10
Project Finance Officer	3 Years	1	1	3	2	5	12
Protocol Officer (Dehi)	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total		2	2	8	4	9	25

*Includes 01 post for PwBD (VI)
Applicants may also apply for the position of Chief Economist on deputation. For detailed advertisement, please visit Bank's website www.nhb.org.in
Online registrations start from 29.06.2024. Last Date for receiving applications is 19.07.2024.

Head Office: Core 5A, 3rd-5th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003 | Regional Office: Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Thiruvananthapuram & Patna.

Defence Electronics and beyond

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI00787)

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Post/Grade	Discipline	Minimum no. of years of relevant post qualification Experience as on 01.07.2024	No. of Posts	Upper age limit (as on 01.07.2024)	CTC/ Pay Scale
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For detailed advertisement visit our website www.bel-india.in (Careers/Job Notifications).

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिल्लोंग
Indian Institute of Management Shillong
No. 81-2301/2/2024-ADMN/3185 Dated: 19 June 2024

INVITATION FOR FACULTY POSITIONS
Special Drive for SC, ST, NC-OBC and PwD

Online Applications are invited for Faculty Positions in different Academic Areas. Prospective applicants are encouraged to apply. For more details, please visit our website: <https://www.iimshillong.ac.in/careers/>

Last date of submission of Online Applications: 25 July 2024

CAO, IIM Shillong

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान इंदौर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE
Prabandh Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore-453556 (M.P.)

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2024

IIM Indore invites online applications for the post of **Chief Officer Learning Centre, Chief Officer Finance and Accounts, Chief Officer Engineering and other Non-Teaching Positions**

For complete details and a Hindi version, please visit careers section on our website <https://www.iimidr.ac.in/careers/>

Last date to submit online application: 15.07.2024

EQUIS ACCREDITED AACSB ACCREDITED AMBA ACCREDITED

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

(Advertisement No-24/2023-2024)
Positions of School Teaching
(Central Hindu Boys' School, Central Hindu Girls' School & Shri Ranveer Sanskrit Vidyalaya)

Banaras Hindu University invites ONLINE application from Indian citizens for school teaching posts. The positions of school teaching to be filled through direct recruitment from eligible candidates.

For details of qualifications, last date and other instructions, please visit University website: <http://www.bhu.ac.in/rac>. Last date for online submission of application form and application fee payment is 12.07.2024. The downloaded application form along with supporting documents should reach to the Office of the Registrar, Recruitment & Assessment Cell, Holkar House, BHU, Varanasi-221005 on or before 17.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.

Date: 13.06.2024 REGISTRAR

SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise, Miniratna Category-I Schedule 'A' CPSE)
6th Floor, Plate - B, NBCC Office, Block Tower -2, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi - 110023 | CIN No. U40106DL2011GOI225263

Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a CPSE under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy invites applications for the positions of Consultants in various disciplines as below:

- 1. SR. CONSULTANT (Contracts & Procurement)**
- 2. SR. CONSULTANT (Personnel & Administration)**
- 3. SR. CONSULTANT (Merchant Power)**

BENEFITS OFFERED:

1. The monthly consolidated fee for all the above posts is ₹ 1,30,000/- (Indian Rupees one lakh thirty thousand only).
2. Reimbursement towards mobile and internet facility upto monthly ceiling of ₹ 2000/-
3. In case of posting in Site Office of SECI, SECI will provide suitable Bachelor Accommodation.
4. Reimbursement towards Conveyance upto monthly ceiling of ₹ 12000/-.
5. In case of outstation official tour, SECI will pay TA/DA equivalent to E-6 Grade Officer.
6. The Consultant shall be eligible for 1 day leave for each completed month of service.

For further detailed Notification please visit our website www.seci.co.in 'Career' section. Last date of receipt of application is 24.07.2024.

Indian Institute of Management Jammu
Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG)
Vacancy

The "Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG)" has been established at Indian Institute of Management Jammu by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir by integrating the State Institute of Transformation; NITI Aayog, Government of India; PPP Cell-funded by Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India; and Future Ready Governance - an initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. IIM Jammu is the Nodal Knowledge Partner as well as implementing body to steer the initiative.

Applications are invited for the following positions on contract for a maximum period of two years:

- 1. Team Leader:** 1 Post (Upper Age: 65 years, Emolument: Rs. 2 Lakhs pm)
- 2. Specialists:** 7 Posts (Upper Age: 60 years, Emolument: Rs. 1.5 Lakhs pm) (Procurement & PPP (Contract Management / Concessional Agreement), Public Finance & Economics, Agriculture and allied sectors, Export Promotion & Value Chain development, Entrepreneurship- Livelihood, Skill Development and Credit linkage expert, Urban Development - Town Planning, Tourism)
- 3. Young Professionals:** 8 Posts (Contractual) (Upper Age: 45 years, Emolument: Rs. 50,000 pm)

For details, Application Form and any update, please logon to our website www.iimj.ac.in. Last date for submission of online application is 16th July 2024. Application in Hard Copy will NOT be accepted.

के आई ओ सी एल लिमिटेड
KIOCL LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprises)
CIN-L13100KA1976GOI002974
I Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 034.
Ph:25531461-70 Extn:487 Fax: 25532153/25535941
E-mail: career@kioclltd.in, www.kioclltd.in

Advt.No.HR/02/679 Date: 26.06.2024

KIOCL Limited, Schedule 'A' Miniratna CPSE, 100% EOU, having its Pelletization Complex and Blast Furnace Unit at Mangaluru and Corporate Office at Bengaluru, invites applications for the following post:

NAME OF POST/GRADE	NO. OF POSTS
Company Secretary /E5	01

For details visit Website www.kioclltd.in
Applications to be submitted online only
The last date for submission of online application is 25.07.2024 Corrigendum, if any, would be published in our website only

IIM MUMBAI
भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान मुंबई
Indian Institute of Management Mumbai
(Ministry of Education, Government of India) VIKSIT BHARAT #2047

Advt. No. Admn/Rec/2024/31 Dated: 21 June 2024

IIM Mumbai invites online applications from eligible candidates for following positions (as per 7th CPC).

- A) Senior Executive Officer (HR & Admin) - Level 12**
- B) Senior Executive Officer (Finance & Accounts) - Level 12**
- C) Secretary to Director - Level 8**

For detailed advertisement, please visit <https://iimmumbai.ac.in/careers>

Chief Administrative Officer

Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL Gadwarwara
(An institution of the Child Education Society (Regd.) Delhi)
Senior Secondary School Affiliated with CBSE, New Delhi
NTPC-Gadwarwara, Distt. Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh - 487770
Website: bbpsgadwarwara.balbhharati.org

REQUIRES

PRINCIPAL

Self Motivated, Goal Oriented, Experienced Academician with necessary qualification & administrative experience as per CBSE guidelines.

The application form to be downloaded from School Website: bbpsgadwarwara.balbhharati.org and should be mailed to The Secretary/ Manager at arvindbhatia@balbhharati.org within 10 days of advertisement.

NSB A leading Business School in South Bengaluru is inviting applications for the following positions

Academic Positions
Professors/Associate Professors/Assistant Professors

SPECIALISATIONS: Financial Management, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Human Resource Management, Business Analytics, Marketing Management, English, Kannada & Hindi

Non-Academic Positions
• Librarian • Front Office Executive
• Senior Corporate Relations Manager/Executive

Salary will be best in the industry commensurate with applicant's profile. Preference will be given to SC/ST/EWS/Specially abled category.

Please send your resumes to hr@nsb.edu.in +91-8884448346

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior-474015
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Government of India)
Morena Link Road, Gwalior

Advt. No. 01/2024 Dated: 21.06.2024

ADVERTISEMENT - FACULTY POSITION

Applications are invited for the post of Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor. For further details regarding educational qualification, experience etc please visit the institute website www.iitm.ac.in. The last date for submitting the applications is 31.07.2024.

Registrar

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PRODUCTION DEPT • CCR OPERATOR - KILN / PRE GRINDER / RAW MILLS • PROCESS FORMAN - KILN/ CM & PG • PREHEATER ATTENDANT - KILN

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RAW MATERIAL HANDLING (RMH) DEPT • CSU OPERATOR - SHIP UNLOADER • SHIP UNLOADER / SHIP UNLOADER HELPER - RMH • GENERAL TECHNICIAN - RMH • RAW MATERIAL ATTENDANT / OBSERVER - RMH • FITTER-GEARBOX FIXING - RMH • HEAVY LABOUR - LOADING / UNLOADING

STORES DEPT • STORE HELPER • STORE TECHNICAL ASST.

PACKING PLANT DEPT • AUTOPACK OPERATOR • BULK OPTIC. • CONTROL DESK OPTIC. • PACKER OPERATOR - BAG PACKING MACHINE • FIELD OPERATOR-PACKING PLANT • PACKING PLANT FORMAN / SUPERVISOR • FIELD OPERATOR • TALLY CHECKER

QC & LAB DEPT • LAB TECHNICIAN - MILLS • QCX / XRF OPERATOR

ASST. TECHNICIAN / ASST LAB TECHNICIAN / SAMPLE BOY

Email your cv on cement@actvhrd.in

Report with CV, Original passport, copies of educational & working certificates 2 PP Photos to:
active consultant 320 & 321, Kuber Complex, New Link Road, (Opp. Laxmi Ind. Est., Andheri (W), Mumbai-53)
Email: hr@actvhrd.in Tel : 022 4010 4493 / 022 4010 9021 / 022 3533 5562
(Lic.No. B-793/MUM/PART1/1000+1/5/529/99)

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar: 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) Limited, is a SPV by Government of India and Government of Gujarat, entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Metro Rail Projects in Gujarat and its Operations & Maintenance.

GMRC invites applications from qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **General Manager (Operations & Maintenance)**. The posts / appointment will be on contract / deputation / post-superannuation basis. Please visit career section of our website www.gujaratmetrorail.com. Last date for submission of application is 6th July, 2024.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS INFRA TRUST

National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) on behalf of its SPVs is looking to hire professionals, ideally from the road sector, for various positions under F&A, Toll Operations, O&M, HR, Procurement etc. to be based at project sites and office locations across India. Interested candidates may please visit <https://nhit.co.in/> and the official LinkedIn Page of NHIT for more details.

The last date for submission of application is July 10, 2024.

Carrom to archery, Hyderabad juvenile homes churn out champs

200 Teens Being Trained In Sports

Amisha.Rajani@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: At 15, a juvenile offender. At 17, a state-level carrom champion. Two years at a govt-run children's shelter in Hyderabad's Chanchalguda gave young Akash* more than just a clean break in life and on the carrom board — it showed how resilience, mentorship and a quest for personal growth can lead to unexpected victories.

In 2022, Akash had been caught stealing. Liked most young people of his age sucked into crime, he was clueless about where his life was headed. Children in Need of Care and Protection (NCCP), a pioneering initiative involving



At Chanchalguda home, Akash was among 60 rescued and rehabilitated children between 13 and 18 to receive professional sports coaching

state-run juvenile shelters in Hyderabad, helped him find his calling in carrom. He isn't the only one. Until early 2023, 16-year-old Ahmed* was a child labourer forced to toil in a Maharashtra town. After being rescued, the teenager discovered he had a talent for archery. A year later, he is a national-level archer representing Telangana in his age group. "I used to live with my

stepmother, who would abuse me every day. I fled home and got into crime. Also, an glad I got caught. Else, my life would never take such a turn," Aakash told TOI.

At the Chanchalguda home, he was among 60 rescued and rehabilitated children between 13 and 18 to receive professional sports coaching. Around 200 teenagers housed in five such homes in Hyderabad are being trained in

archery, basketball, volleyball, handball, chess, and carrom, among other sports. Several have gone on to compete in tournaments at the state and national levels.

"I have found my target in life in more ways than one," said Ahmed, who finished 150th among 800 contestants at a recent archery championship in Gujarat.

Archery and basketball coaches training these children say many are so talented that it seems a travesty they weren't discovered earlier. On average, they spend at least three hours daily honing their skills.

"These children, most of whom wouldn't talk to anyone and were prone to getting into fights, are now disciplined, calmer and friendlier. While everyone is encouraged to play, we focus on building teams that can participate in tournaments. Selection is done through fitness

tests and structured screening," said Hema Latha, an archery coach who represented India at the 2014 Youth Olympics.

Mirza Raza Ali Baig, deputy director of the department of correctional services in Telangana, said the idea was to provide juvenile offenders and rescued children a platform to showcase their abilities.

"Some children have picked up photography, coding and 3D printing. Since the majority of them come from broken families where they have suffered emotional turmoil, this helps them appreciate teamwork, build self-esteem, and fight depression, loneliness and anger," said Arun Daniel Yellamaty, founder of the Youngistaan Foundation, an organisation enabling rehabilitation and reintegration.

(*Names changed to protect identities)

'Continuation in observation home illegal': HC orders release

Swati.Deshpande@timesgroup.com



Mumbai: The continuation of the minor accused in the Pune Porsche case in an observation home is absolutely illegal, the Bombay high court held on Tuesday, directing his release. The HC directed the home to release the minor on bail with his custody not to be with any grandparent.

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) had granted bail to the minor on May 19, ordered that he be handed over to the grandparents' custody after his grandfather gave an undertaking.

The HC said he could be handed over to the care of his aunt, who filed a habeas corpus plea in HC for his release alleging illegal detention. The aunt lives in New Delhi.

"We are bound by law, the aims and objectives of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act,

and must treat him as any child in conflict with law (CCL), despite the seriousness or heinousness of the crime," said the high court two-judge bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande.

The teen was allegedly speeding in his luxury car in an intoxicated state on May 19 when it crashed into a bike, killing two software engineers, Anesh Awadhya and Ashwini Koshta.

"Two people have lost their lives. There was trauma but the child (juvenile in conflict with the law) was also in trauma, give him some time," the Justice Dangre bench had orally observed last week while reserving the matter for orders.

Speaking of "the rehabilitation and reintegration of the child in conflict with

law," the Bombay high court said on Tuesday that it is "the primary object of the Act" and "he is already referred to a psychologist and is undergoing therapy with a de-addiction centre, and he shall continue participating in such sessions."

Senior counsel Aabad Ponda for the aunt had sought the teen's release, arguing that it was a question of his fundamental right to personal liberty and that the detention in an observation home was impermissible in law once bail was granted but was ordered following "public pressure."

Ponda had argued and raised questions of law and the importance of the rule of law and the fundamental right to liberty of citizens. He said the court has to consider whether a child who is released on bail and continues to be on bail could be remanded to an observation home, contending there was an express prohibition in the Juvenile Justice Act to do so.

U.P. State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex: A-14, Lakhnupur, Kanpur-208024

Corrigendum

Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has extended the deadline for submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of reputed agencies for Event Management and Media Management. Interested agencies are requested to take note that the deadline for submission of EOI documents has been extended to 10th July 2024, 1700 Hrs. The modified EOI for both Event Management and Media Management documents can be downloaded from the official UPSIDA website at www.onlineupsida.com

Nodal Officer: Business Promotion and Publicity Cell

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

CORRIGENDUM

No. AUD/07/Acad/2024 Dated: 18.06.2024

Refer university advertisement No. AUD/07/Acad/2024 dated 14.03.2024 regarding recruitment of various teaching positions on regular basis. The last date for submitting online application was extended vide notification dated 05.04.2024, 30.04.2024, 08.05.2024 and 27.05.2024. In continuation of these extensions, the corrigendum dated 07.06.2024 regarding reservation for persons with disabilities and corrigendum dated 13.06.2024 regarding essential qualification and experience for the post of Assistant Professor in Liberal Discipline and Pedagogy - Hindi Communicative Skill (CBC - 01) had been issued. Accordingly, date of submission of online application for various teaching posts is extended till 28.06.2024 (up to 23:59 hrs) and for receiving hard copy of application form is extended till 01.07.2024 (up to 17:30 hrs). Regarding qualifications and other details, please visit University website <https://aud.delhi.gov.in/recruitment-various-teaching-posts-aud07acad2024>

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0103/24-25 REGISTRAR
Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110 006,
Email: hr@aud.ac.in

Directorate of Higher Education,
Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOV. OF INDIA

GOVT. CERTIFICATE COURSE ON POSH LAW
(The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace) Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal Act 2013

Course Duration: 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 28 & 30 June 2024
Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: About POSH Act 2013, History and Current state, Acts with supports SH, Includes Vishaka guidelines, Sexual harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013), Qualifiers of Sexual Harassment, Terminologies: Aggrieved Women, Extended Workplace Employer Internal & Local Committee, Employee's Obligation, Dealing with false Malicious Complaint, Penalties, IFC Provisions, Case Studies, Do and don'ts of Women at Work Many Topics.

Fees: Rs. 3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9917875996, 9910948732
Government of India certificate will be awarded

Accused a child, won't be swayed by uproar: HC

Swati.Deshpande@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: "It is our bounden duty to prioritise justice above everything else, and definitely, we are not swayed away by the uproar created upon the occurrence of the ghastly mishap," said Justice Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande of Bombay HC while releasing a minor accused in the Pune Porsche case.

The reason for the release, they said, was that the three distinct orders passed by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in

Pune remanding him to custody were without jurisdiction.

The 34-page order penned by Justice Dangre said JJB passed orders "in an absolutely mechanical manner without considering the most significant and pivotal fact that the CCL (child in conflict with law) continues to be on bail..."

The HC, flinching at the "manner in which police handled the case and JJB passed orders", said it "must clearly express" that it was a fit case to release the minor and quash the remand orders.

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI DIVISIONAL WORKSHOP PREMISES, HUBBALLI - 580030.

No. 26/2024-25 Date: 25-06-2024

E-Auction Tender

Scrapped Vehicles and Scrapped materials of different types available at the divisions and Regional Workshop, Hubballi of NWKRTC will be sold through MSTC e-Auction platform. The e-auction of the Scrapped vehicles and Scrapped materials will be held on 8th, 9th and 10th of July-2024.

Interested bidders may log on to www.mstcecommerce.com for further details and registration. They may contact NWKRTC Contact Nos. 7022009113 or 7760988557 for any clarifications.

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhiruddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-09.

No. KRIDL/ACT/TND/2024-25 Date: 25.06.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

KRIDL invites tenders through e-bidding from Public Sector Banks/ Regional Rural Banks / Private Sector Banks for Investment of about Rs.118.00 crore in Fixed deposit for a period of one year. Other terms and conditions may be viewed on e-procurement portal. Website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 28.06.2024. Help Desk e-Pro Contact: +91-8046010000, +91-8069848777

(1) Date of Publishing of e-Auction Notification: 28.06.2024.
(2) Last date for submission of bid is on: 06.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. (3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on: 08.07.2024 at 16.00 hrs. (4) Date of Opening e-Auction is on: 11.07.2024, 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

For further details please contact:
Chief Finance Officer
KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD, Bengaluru-09. Phone: 080-28015609, Email: cfo-1@kridl.net
Sd/- Chief Finance Officer, KRIDL, Bengaluru.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION, MYSURU
E-mail ID: eemysqa@gmail.com Ph: 0821-2448844

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: I.F.T.No:- QAD/MYS/SERVICES/02/2024-25 Dated:21.06.2024.

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance Division, Mysuru invites short term tender for 1) "Hiring of vehicle with driver for Quality Assurance Circle, Mysuru EMD Rs. 10,500 2) "Hiring of vehicle with driver for Quality Assurance Sub Division, Mysuru EMD Rs. 9,900 3) "Hiring of vehicle with driver for Quality Assurance Sub Division, Kushalnagara EMD Rs.10,300" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic tendering system from firms/agencies/Tenderers. For more details on this services are provided in the attached terms of reference.

1) Tender documents available for download from 21.06.2024. 2) Last date of receipt of tender 28.06.2024 17.00 PM 3) Opening of tender 29.06.2024 17.00 PM 4) More details can be fetched from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/RDDMYS-137/KSMCA-2024-25

Government of Karnataka ZILLA PANCHAYAT OFFICE, HASSAN DISTRICT
Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Office, B M Road, Hassan, Karnataka 573201

TENDER SCHEDULE

Schedule of Tender Process : Subject:- Online tender is invited through e-procurement at the district level for the services of outsourced staff under the Mahatma Gandhi Narega scheme under Hassan Zilla Panchayat. SI No. 1)Particulars: Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal Date (Examples): 19-06-2024 from 16.00 Hr Onwards 4)Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal: 18-07-2024 upto 16:00Hr 5)Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal: 20-07-2024 @ 11.00 Hr 6)Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders: 24-07-2024 @ 11.00 Hr If Possible

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer,
Zilla Panchayath, Hassan.

Government of Karnataka Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

Short Term Tender Notification No: 03/2024-25
Date:24.06.2024

short term tender notification is as below.

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under KW-4 Standard Bid documents (Two cover system) has been called for HUNSUR 1 (Estimate cost 154.00 Lakhs) under the Head of Account: HUNSUR TALUK(H/A:MRF /SBM/ 2023-24) Swachh Bharath Mission. Tender is being invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Dt: 25.06.2024 11:00 AM onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is 04.07.2024 upto 5:00PM, Pre bid meeting 26.06.2024 and Opening of Technical bid 05.07.2024, 05.30 PM onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 - 22485867, 080-22485927. For more details log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460 495.Tender Form Fees - As per e-procurement.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore
DIP/RDDMYS-133/KSMCA-2024-25

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: ceypd3ask@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN-02/2024-25/376 Dated: 25.06.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:02/2024-25
Dtd:25.06.2024 (TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM)
(Only through E-procurement 2.0 system)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, VJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.03, Arasikere, from eligible consultancy service providers for the work as detailed in table below through KPPP portal on two cover tender procedure BID KC-4 tenderer are required to submit two separate Covers, 1st Cover (Technical Bid) containing EMD with technical details of their capability to undertake the tender and another containing financial bid.The financial bid which will be opened only if the tenderers are found to be technically qualified to execute the tendered work. The Method of Selection is Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Details of works are as follows Sl. No.1)Name of work:Consultancy services for detailed survey, Geotechnical investigations, preparation of design, drawings, estimates, DPR, package estimates DTP and necessary Land acquisition proposals for filling of 143 tanks in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District under Yettinahole project" Phase-1 (34 Tanks) Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs): Obtained through e-portal 2.0 www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Category of Contractor: A Valid Copy of the Registration of the firm/Company with the Register of companies Details for submission of bids/EMD/ tender conditions/Pre-qualification criteria/ Pre bid details and other information related to above said work can be obtained through e-portal 2.0 www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Intending bidder can access the tender document from Date:27.06.2024 through e-portal. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the e-portal. Any further information required may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.3, Arasikere. Ph: 08174-233111, e-mail: ceypd3ask@gmail.com

Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, Y P Division, No.3 Arasikere
DIP/RDDMYS-137/KSMCA-2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024. Email : commissionerahvs@gmail.com Ph: 080-23412767.

No: CAH/VMS/VHE/Tender/2024-25 Date: 25-06-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode Only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites bids through KPP-portal from eligible bidders FOR SUPPLY OF VETERINARY EQUIPMENTS TO VETERINARY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024- 25 for which the tendered Amount is Rs. 953.20 lakhs. Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from Dt: 24.06.2024 and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from 25.06.2024 to 24.07.2024 till 17.30 hours. Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Veterinary Medical Stores
Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,
DIP/RCP/570/Zen/2024-25

Annexure No.47/6/2023-R&R
Government of India
Ministry of Power
Vacancy for the post of Member, JERC for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh

It is proposed to fill up the post of Member, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, a statutory organization under provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The above post will fall vacant on 30.06.2024.

2. The detailed Vacancy Circular may be seen at the websites of Ministry of Power i.e https://powermin.gov.in/sites/default/files/webform/notices/Vacancy_Circular_for_the_post_of_Member_JERC_for_UT_of_J%26K_and_UT_of_Ladakh.pdf and that of DoPT i.e. www.dopt.gov.in.

3. Applications are invited in the proforma enclosed at Annexure to the Vacancy Circular, from suitable persons having qualification and experience as mentioned for appointment to the post of Member, JERC for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, so as to reach the Ministry latest by 3rd July, 2024. The application may be addressed to the Deputy Secretary (R&R- 2), Ministry of Power, New Delhi - 110001. The application must be sent through email only at debranjanchattopadhyay@nic.in and PBS.dinker@gov.in.

Sd/-
(D. Chattopadhyay)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Telefax: 011-23715250
CBC 34101/11/0002/2425

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023
E-mail: cekhdsdp@gmail.com
No:HFWD/WE/CE/TA-3/AE-8/TND/2024-25/587 Date: 25.06.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-Term Tenders are invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

Description of works: Repairs and Renovation of CHC Staff Qtrs. at Itagi of Hadagali Tq in Vijayapura District. (Call-2) taken up under KMERC Funds. Approximate Estimate cost (including GST): Rs. 200.00 lakhs. EMD: Rs. 3.00 Lakhs. Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): 11 Months.

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: 11.07.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 12.07.2024 at 16.00 hrs. The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated on kpp portal only.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India

Support for Marginalized Individuals Livelihood & Enterprise (SMILE)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (SETTING UP OF GARIMA GREH)

Applications are invited from interested & eligible applicants/organizations from States/UTs of Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, J&K, Ladakh, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Kerala for setting up of Garima Greh under the scheme Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood & Enterprise (SMILE), sub-scheme 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons.'

1. Organizations fulfilling following terms can apply for the project of Garima Greh:
a. A society registered under the Societies' Registration Act (XXI) of 1860) or any relevant Act of the State Governments / Union Territory or under any State law relating to registration of literary, scientific and charitable societies.
b. A registered public Trust
c. A Company established under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956

2. Interested & eligible CBOs/NGOs may register at E-anudaan (<https://grants-msje.gov.in/ngo-login/>) with the requisite documentation.

3. The Portal would be open from 26.06.2024 to 07.07.2024 for submission of applications for the financial year 2024-25.

4. For any further queries contact at:-
Call: 011- 23070386
Email: ankit.srivastava@nic.in/mayank.b@gov.in/lokesh.km91@gov.in

CBC 38101/11/0002/2425

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023
E-mail: cekhdsdp@gmail.com & cekhdsdp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
No:HFWD/WE/CE/TA-3/AE-8/TND/2024-25/583 Date: 24.06.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-II & above Contractors registered in KPWD, in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following work.

Description of work: Construction of PHC and Staff quarters at Kyalanuru in Kolar Taluk and District (Call-2). Amount put to tender(Including GST): Rs. 378.70 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 5.70 Lakhs. Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): 9 Months.

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: 09.07.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 10.07.2024 at 16.30 hrs. The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated on kpp portal only.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

A-70

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
CENTRAL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
 Phone/Fax (0674)2540559 cmic.bbsr@gmail.com
 No. 1046 Dt. 20.06.2024

1st Corrigendum to e-procurement Tender Call Notice No. ACECMIC-01/2024-25
 It is to notify that the following changes have been made for the tender invited vide tender call notice no. ACECMIC-01/2024-25

Description	Earlier scheduled date and time	Modified scheduled date and time
Date and Time of availability of Bid Documents and Receipt of Bid Cost on online Payment mode in Portal	From 26.06.2024 (10.00 Hrs) to 17.07.2024 (17.30Hrs) in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)	From 12.07.2024 (10.00 Hrs) to 4.08.2024 (17.30 Hrs) in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	17.07.2024 (Upto 17.30 Hrs.) through online only.	4.08.2024 (Up to 17.30 Hrs) through online only
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	11.00 Hrs Onwards on 18.07.2024 in the O/o-Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar	11.00 Hrs onwards on 5.08.2024 in the O/o-Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar

All other terms and conditions of the above tender call notice will remain unchanged.
 Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
 Central MI Circle, Bhubaneswar
 OIPR-32047/11/0003/24-25

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
 Advertisement No. PGI/RC/2024/042-043/1976 Dated: 25.06.2024
FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh invites applications on prescribed form from Indian Citizens for 121 vacant posts of Assistant Professors through direct recruitment on regular basis in different specialties for PGIMER, Chandigarh as per schedule below:-

Start date for generation of Challan form for fee deposit and online payment of fees	25.06.2024
Closing date for challan generation for fee deposit	10.07.2024
Last date of deposit of application fee in the Bank	12.07.2024
Last date for receipt of hard copy of application in the office of the Administrative Officer (Recruitment Cell), PGIMER, Sector-12, Chandigarh 160012	15.07.2024 TILL 04:00 PM

The interested candidates may Log on to the Institute website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in (recruitment link at home page) for detailed information viz. application form, fee, age, pay-scale, eligibility, qualification and experience etc. The number of posts (including reserved vacancies) are subject to variation at the discretion of Competent Authority.
DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
 (Ballari Thermal Power Station)
 CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
 (Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> for the works of 1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1199/CALL-2 Date: 20.06.2024: "Supply, Erection / Modification / Rerouting of Hydrant / Spray / Hydrant Booster pipeline and testing & commissioning with existing pipelines of Fire protection system at BTPS". Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29,77,742/- EMD: Rs. 59,555/- 2) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1610 Date: 22.06.2024:** "Supply, Erection and commissioning of centralized lubrication systems for stacker cum reclaimers. Total Tender Amount: **Rs. 19,43,460/- EMD: Rs. 48,600/-** Last date for receipt of tenders (for Sl. No. 1): **06.07.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 2) : 09.07.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (Safety), Mobile: 9448290770 / Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-1, Mobile: 9448290756, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist.

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

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-63/230/2024-25 Date: 25.06.2024

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Ref: This office Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-63/1001/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024

In furtherance to this office tender notification cited under reference above the works of (1) Arranging Power Supply to Plot No. 59C, 21 & 22 and shifting of IOC feeder HT line passing over the various plots of Mahalbagayath Industrial Area, Vijayapura District & (2) Reconditioning, Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Mulwada Industrial Area, Phase-1, Vijayapura District, is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru
 DIPR/CP/569/Zen/2024-25

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS TIRUPATI
e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION TENDER

e-Auction for Sale of Press Jelly, Office Sweeping / records etc., (As-it-is where-it-is condition) in TTD Press. For Tender Notice & Details, Please see the Auction ID: 23595. Roc.No P2/36/Press/2014. Please log on the website <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in>. For further details contact: 0877-2264292.
 TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 45), Date : 25.06.2024
 Sd/- Executive Officer

Prayagraj Smart City Ltd.
 1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, New Building Nagar Nigam Campus, Prayagraj-211001 Uttar Pradesh

Notice Inviting Tender

Notice Inviting Tender on behalf of Prayagraj Smart City Limited, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh for the work:

- Construction of Senior Care Centre including Operation & Maintenance 2 year in Prayagraj under Smart City Mission
- Development of Waste to Wonder at Shaheed wall near GST Bhawan in Prayagraj under Smart City Mission

Online Bids are invited for the above-mentioned work from 26.06.2024 onwards. For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>.

(Sanjay Kumar Rath)
Mission Manager (General)
 Prayagraj Smart City Limited

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
 Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
 Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321

No.:PCB/120/BLD/2022/2024-25/1298 Date: 24.06.2024

Invitation For Tender (Call-1)
 (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> by the Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: AMC for Electrical Installation at Regional Office building/Laboratory at Raichur (1 Year). Approx Value of the work: **Rs.6.62 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
 Sd/-
Member Secretary
 DIPR/CP/558/MAA/2024-25
 Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

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

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-08/225/2024-25 Date: 25.06.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the works: Construction of Asphalt road, drain, retaining wall connecting from newly constructed concrete road via Balepuni village to Canara Industrial Area approach road in Ullal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District (2nd Call)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **10.07.2024 upto 4.30 pm.**
 Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.
 Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
 DIPR/CP/567/Zen/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತ್ವ ಇಲಾಖೆ
 ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ-ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ - 581301.
 ದೂರವಾರ್ತೆ: 08382-228935 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 229735 E-mail: eordwssd.uk@gmail.com
 ಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇ/ಗ್ರಾಕುಸಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಬಿ-1/ಅಭ್ಯುದ್ಧ ಬೆಂಚರ್/JJM/2024-25/149 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24/06/2024

ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಿಂಗ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತ್ವ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ/ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಿಂಗ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಧನವಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Document KW-1, 3, 4 ನಂತರ ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಳನಂತರ ಒಪ್ಪಂದವು ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಅರ್ಜಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ಮೆನ್ಸೇಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿ. ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಐದನೇನು ಈ ಕೆಳನಂತರ.

ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಹೆಸರು: (1) RWSSD/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT2529/CALL-3 (2) RWSSD/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT2572/CALL-4 (3) RWSSD/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT7309

(1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: **25.06.2024 to 02.07.2024 up to 16.30 Hrs** (2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: **27.06.2024 Time : 11:30 Hrs.** (3) Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Po: Habbuwaada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (4) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **02.07.2024 Time : 16.30 Hrs.** (5) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **03.07.2024 Time : 17:00 Hrs.** (6) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed to technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid.

ಸ್ವ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು,
 ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತ್ವ ವಿಭಾಗ,
 ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ. ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ).
 DIPR/AD/KSMCA/86/24-25 @ 24.06.2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G2

TENDER NOTICE

Chief Engineer/Construction (North), North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works with closing date/time as mentioned below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

- Tender No.: CNB2024202508; Brief Description of work:** Construction of 2 lane ROB with approaches in lieu of L.C. No. 22 at Km 17/1-2 between Barhan - Etah section under Dy. CE/C/Kanpur on Prayagraj division of North Central Railway. Approximate Cost: ₹ 41.29 Crore. Amount of EMD: ₹ 22,14,400/-
- Tender No.: CNB2024202509; Brief Description of work:** Construction of 2 lane ROB with approaches in lieu of L.C. No. 25 at Km 21/0-1 between Barhan - Etah section under Dy. CE/C/Kanpur on Prayagraj division of North Central Railway. Approximate Cost: ₹ 44.96 Crore. Amount of EMD: ₹ 23,98,200/-

Cost of Tender Document for both tenders is: Nil and Tender closing date: 16.07.2024 at 15.00 hours and Completion Period: 18 months. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-works tender will be available on website on <https://reps.gov.in> up to 13.30 hrs on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids, other than in the form of E-Bids, shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class-III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form /letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightly ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer. 5. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1092/24 FA.

North central railways | @CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.nctrailways.gov.in

KERALA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Invitation for Expression of Interest Franchise Team Rights T20 Premier League

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed companies/firms for acquiring team franchise rights in the T20 Premier League organised by Kerala Cricket Association. The EOI documents along with application forms will be available from 26th June 2024, 5 pm onwards from the Office of Hon.Secretary, Kerala Cricket Association, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram / through email on submission of bid fee.

For more details visit : <https://www.keralacricketaassociation.com/tender/quotation>

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
 (CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CEE/(T&P)/SEE2/EET12N/2024-25/1884-89 Date: 25.06.2024

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
 (THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids through Karnataka Public Procurement portal against the following enquiry as detailed below:

Enquiry Number and Description
Bid Enquiry no. KPTCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT905 for Design, manufacture, testing, supply and installation/ demonstration of 01 No. of 66/11kV, 1X20MVA capacity GIS/Hybrid switchgear Mobile compact Sub-station (MCS) for KPTCL.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 01.07.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 22.07.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.
 Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-09.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
 I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054MDR & 4059/2024-25/0742
 Dated:25.06.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 5 works. As per standard bid documents KW-4 with 5054 MDR improvements and 4059 Departmental Building head of account costing of amount for Rs. 500.00 Lakhs to Rs. 150.00 Lakhs respectively, the EMD amount of Rs.7,50,000.00 to 2,25,000.00 for the works. Any Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Pre-bid Meeting Date - 02.07.2024 at 11.00 AM 2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-06-07-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-08-07-2024 at 4.31 PM. 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date - After Approval of technical bid. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e. "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help_desk_Bangalore (Phone No. +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
 DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/57/KSMCA/2024-25

L-05

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Engagement of Community Based Organisations at Block Level under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25 of Govt. of Odisha

Expression of Interest is invited by the Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar from the experienced and interested organizations for engagement as Community Based Organization for newly allotted blocks of Angul, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur, Koraput, Keonjhar, Nuapada & Sundargarh districts under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25. Interested organizations/agencies are requested to submit the EOI in sealed envelope super scribed as **Application for engagement as Community Based Organisations at Block Level under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25 of ----- district** as per enclosed application format by registered/Speed post. Proposals in E-Mail would not be entertained in this regard. The EOI should be addressed to the Office of the Chief District Agriculture Officer (District name) from the above mentioned districts. Last date for receipt of EOI is **8th July 2024 up to 1:00 PM** and the same shall be opened on the same day at 3.30PM in presence of authorized signatory and representatives. The application form and detail terms & conditions are available in the official website of www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in and www.agriodisha.gov.in.

The authority shall not be responsible for any sort of postal delay and the EOI received beyond scheduled date and time shall not be entertained and out right to be rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any or all the EOI without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha
 OIPR-01510/11/0001/24-25

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363, email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW/SD/MDY/22-23/JMTENDER/2024-25/343 Dated:18.06.2024

- Short term Re-Tender Notification NO-09/2023-24 (One Cover System) 2nd Call
- Short term Re-Tender Notification NO-06/2023-24 (Two Cover System) 6th Call
- Short term Tender Notification NO-01/2024-25 (One Cover System) (kppp portal)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The E.E., R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for Providing FHTCs Works in Madduru and Nagamangala Taluk in Mandya District from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting Dt:26.06.2024 Time:11:00 AM(Place:O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya), Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **28.06.2024 Time:05:00 PM**, Date & Time of Technical & Financial Bid Opening: **29-06-2024 Time:05:05 PM**. Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **01.07.2024 Time:11:00AM**. Amount Put to tender Maximum:Rs.69.73 Lakhs. More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from this office during working hours. Phone No:08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya
 DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/093/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
 (Raichur Thermal Power Station)
 CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
 (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> for the following works 1) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1485/CALL-2 dtd. 21.06.2024: Periodical maintenance of buildings, gardens, water supply pipelines and Civil housekeeping works in CHP area at RTPS for a period of 12 months. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 41.86 Lakhs. For further details, contact: Executive Engineer(RTM), Mobile: 9480682533. 2) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1413 dtd. 21.06.2024: Upkeeping / periodical cleaning of roads, and drains, fountains, painting to kerb stone and other road connected works inside plant area at RTPS for a period of one year. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 43.64 Lakhs. 3) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1511 dtd. 21.06.2024: Desilting and minor repair works to Cooling Towers and forebay-3 & 4 at RTPS. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 88.01 Lakhs. 4) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1530 dtd. 21.06.2024: Periodical maintenance of Girijapur barrage & RWPH Intake at RTPS plant area for a period of one year. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 69.68 Lakhs. 5) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1533 dtd. 21.06.2024: Jungle clearance around Cooling Towers at RTPS for a period of one year. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 40.00 Lakhs. 6) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1535 dtd. 21.06.2024: Jungle clearance inside periphery of Compound wall along 164 NH, RTM Office to TXR Building, YM Office to Old Railway gate, around ODPH, Clarifiers, FOPH, Dump yard road, Old Railway gate, around ODPH Clarifiers, FOPH, Dump yard road for a period of one year. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 47.50 Lakhs. For further details, contact: Executive Engineer (PCM-1), Mobile:9449596577. Last date for submission of tenders(For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4) : 28.06.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs. (For Sl. No. 5 & 6): 06.07.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs.** Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Further details can be had from RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.**********

Can't say Kejriwal's arrest was not in accordance with law: HC

Continued from page 1

The court says in para 16 of the order that it was not possible to go through thousands of pages of documents filed by the respective parties but in para 36 asserts that relevant arguments and contentions raised on behalf of the parties have been dealt with, the HC bench said.

Taking note of the trial court's observation that ED's action was "mala fide" as material against Kejriwal was available with ED in July 2022 but he was called only in Aug 2023 and that the agency had failed to deal with this objection of the Delhi CM, the HC bench said, "...following judicial discipline should not have observed in para 27 of the impugned order that there was mala fide on the part

Excise policy: CBI questions CM in Bihar

New Delhi: CBI on Tuesday examined CM Arvind Kejriwal in Bihar jail and recorded his statement in connection with its investigation into the alleged excise policy scam. He was examined in jail number 2 on Tuesday around 11.30am, CBI sources said. While sources claimed that CBI had got permission for Kejriwal's production before trial court for Wednesday, there was no official confirmation to this. CBI officially denied reports that Kejriwal had been arrested. Senior AAP functionary and MP Sanjay Singh alleged that CBI was trying to arrest Kejriwal at a time there was a strong possibility of CM being granted bail by Supreme Court. "The BJP-led central govt has conspired with CBI to prepare a fake case against Kejriwal and arrest him. The entire country is watching central govt's torture and injustice," Singh alleged. **TNN**

of ED, particularly in light of an observation made in judgment dated 09.04.2024..."

The bench pointed out that the coordinate bench of the HC had in that order observed that there was absence of any mala fide intention on the part of ED. The HC was then dealing with the le-

gality of the arrest of Kejriwal by ED. HC pointed out that although SC granted leave against that judgment dated April 9, it did not stay its operation.

Responding to the argument by Kejriwal's counsel that his arrest was bad and the April 9 judgment of the high

court upholding his arrest by ED had also not attained finality, HC said the same is required to be dealt with at the time of consideration of the agency's main petition.

The high court bench added that at this stage, it cannot be said that the arrest and remand of Kejriwal was not in accordance with the law and that his personal liberty was curtailed without following the procedure established by law.

Referring to ED's contention before the trial court about the vicarious liability of the CM under Section 70 of PMLA, the bench said ED's written note had mentioned it but did not find a place in the trial court order. The section deals with "offences by companies" and the agency is of the view that this empowered it to book a political party too.

GalaxEye, SkyFi partner for Earth observation technology

Bengaluru: Bengaluru-based Space-tech startup GalaxEye Space Tuesday said it has entered a strategic partnership with SkyFi, a leading platform for Earth observation imagery and analytics.

It is formalised well ahead of GalaxEye's first satellite launch, promises to enhance access to high-resolution, multi-sensor data and deepen our understanding of Earth's changing landscapes. "GalaxEye's technology combines Synthetic Aperture Radar (X-band) and Optical/Multi-spectral imaging capabilities on a single satellite platform," the firm said. **TNN**

B'luru space co signs def min IDEX contract

Bengaluru: Pixxel, a hyperspectral earth-imaging company based in Bengaluru, Tuesday said it signed the 350th IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) contract with the ministry of defence.

"This contract, awarded under the Mission DefSpace Challenge, is the first-ever IDEX Prime (Space) Satellite Grant. It tasks Pixxel with developing miniaturised multi-payload satellites for IAF, showcasing govt's confidence in startup's innovative capacity," a statement said. **TNN**

RLV re-entry mission to use rejigged GSLV

Chethan.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Isro, whose reusable launch vehicle (RLV) technology development programme has now entered a critical stage after the completion of the three landing experiments, will use a modified GSLV rocket to launch RLVs in the next phase of testing — orbital re-entry demonstration.

The orbital re-entry demonstration missions will involve vertical launching of the RLV into space and bringing it back safely to land on a runway. Isro may need to carry out multiple orbital re-entry tests and the RLV for these missions will be six times the size of the RLV technology demonstrator (RLV-TD) that the space agency has been using for testing so far.

The GSLV that will carry the scaled-up RLV, expected to weigh around 3.5 tonne to 4 tonne, to space will forego its cryogenic upper stage (CUS), which will be replaced by a rejigged version of the PS4 — the last stage of the trusted PSLV rocket.

S Unnikrishnan Nair, director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), which is spearheading the RLV programme, told TOI: "Although the overall size of the RLV will increase, the increase in mass won't increase six times. Therefore, given the weight of the vehicle, we wouldn't need the energy the GSLV can produce with the cryo stage, that's why we are using the PS4."



POISED FOR TAKEOFF: The Timetooth Technologies team with the landing gear they supplied for the RLV-TD

The scaled-up RLV would also have enhanced thermal protection, which is crucial to prevent burning up of the vehicle during the re-entry phase. "Take off and landing are very critical for any aircraft. For us, take off will be vertical on the rocket. And for landing to be smooth, we'll have to work on various systems that enable re-entry, approaching the runway, touching the correct place and aligning with the centreline, deployment of parachutes etc. The entire software will have to be written too," Nair said.

Landing gear, large runway
For the prototype (RLV-TD), Is-

ro had used a fixed landing gear supplied by Bengaluru-based Timetooth Technologies, which will have to be replaced by a deployable one. "Timetooth, which has supplied around five fixed landing gear systems for the programme so far, is optimistic of bagging the new order as well. The firm's co-founder, Girish Mudgal, told TOI: "We've been working on a retractable version of the landing gear. We don't know Isro's exact plans for the orbital re-entry version, but we've built an extreme amount of trust and reputation for Isro to see us as a reliable partner for this programme." Other than Isro, Timetooth has supplied landing gears to DRDO as well.

Atishi hospitalised on Day 5 of stir

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Water minister Atishi's 'Paani Satyagraha' came to an abrupt end on Tuesday, the fifth day of her indefinite hunger strike, after she was hospitalised due to deteriorating health.

Atishi was taken to LNJP hospital around 3.40am. Dr Suresh Kumar, the hospital's director, said the minister's

blood sugar was extremely low when she arrived and ketones were present in her urine sample. The sodium levels in her body were also low.

"She had hypoglycemia, a condition in which the blood sugar (glucose) level is lower than the standard range. Ideally, the blood sugar levels should be 70-100. However, at the time Atishi reached the hospital, her blood sugar levels were

around 40. Hypoglycemia needs immediate treatment, especially in these weather conditions," Dr Kumar said.

"We kept her in the ICU and she was immediately put on IV fluids. All the blood work was done. She was advised to take fluids, which she did. Her condition is stable now. We are still going to monitor her and keep her under observation, and will get a

few other necessary tests done," he added. According to AAP's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, Atishi's condition began to worsen suddenly on Monday night. "First, she was examined by the doctors of LNJP, then her blood sample was checked at both LNJP and Apollo hospitals. Her sugar levels were at 43, which is extremely low," Sanjay Singh said.

EDUCATION REVIEW @ MADHYA PRADESH

A New Era of Learning and Innovation

With state-of-the-art infrastructure, innovative liberal education models, and strategic industry partnerships, Madhya Pradesh is becoming a leader in education, attracting young learners, and setting new standards in higher education and research



Aditi.Puranik @timesgroup.com

gic focus on modern facilities is transforming the state's educational landscape, fostering an environment conducive to high-quality learning and groundbreaking research. Dr Archana Kirti Choudhary, principal of IPS Academy, Institute of Engineering and Science, underscores the significance of these developments: "Hi-tech laboratories and state-of-the-art facilities with modern instruments are essential for meeting global education challenges. These advancements not only elevate educational standards but also offer students opportunities to pursue international-level education. The cutting-edge facilities and laboratories, capable of conducting research and innovation on complex topics like micro-physics, are attracting scholars from around the world to collaborate and share knowledge in Madhya Pradesh."

FOSTERING PASSION-DRIVEN LEARNING
Madhya Pradesh is revolutionising its educational landscape by embracing a liberal education model to counter the limitations of traditional education, which often relies on rote learning and external pressures. In this transformative shift, Er. Sanjeev Agrawal, chancellor of Sage University Indore & Bhopal, highlights that many students' educational choices are frequently influenced by peer pressure and societal expectations rather than their true interests. He asserts, "In Madhya Pradesh, liberal education is fostering creativity, adaptability, and a love for lifelong learning, ensuring that students are not only knowledgeable but also prepared to navigate and thrive in an ever-changing global landscape."

MP'S EDUCATIONAL-INDUSTRIAL SYNERGY
In Madhya Pradesh, the strengthening of

industry-academia collaborations is a key element of the state's educational transformation. These partnerships align academic curricula with industry requirements, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation.

Dr Davish Jain, chancellor of Prestige University, highlights their importance by stating, "Partnerships between industry and academia help graduates transition into future jobs by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. This approach not only improves job prospects but also significantly boosts

the state's education sector, making Madhya Pradesh a prime destination for higher education and career development."

A RISING HUB FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a leading center for higher education in India, attracting attention from scholars and institutions worldwide. Crediting this boom to technology, Dr. Upinder Dhar, vice chancellor of Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, shares, "Technology is now seamlessly integrated across all teaching and administra-

tive disciplines in Madhya Pradesh. This enhances understanding and improves the teacher-learner interface. With AI incorporated into engineering, medical sciences, and pharmacy, the state is pioneering innovative educational experiences and elevating its educational standards."

Highlighting the state's promising future in the education sector, he adds, "The future prospects for Madhya Pradesh's education sector are exceptionally promising. With prestigious institutions like IIT and IIM in Indore, along with CAT and DAVV being counted among the best

public universities, the state boasts a robust educational infrastructure. Additionally, a significant number of private universities are present, and numerous world-class

institutions are looking to establish their presence in Madhya Pradesh, further solidifying its reputation as a burgeoning hub for higher education."

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CONTRAPUNTO

I'm sticking to the script, I'm putting that organic feeling back in the game.

KENDRICK LAMAR

Khela Hobe Na

Mamata tore into her own govt because she knows voters can throw any party out

It's unusual for a CM to upbraid the party organisation, top to bottom, sparing no one. That three-time Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee held forth for a record 70 minutes, critiquing municipalities on upkeep and maintenance, ministers, MLAs, partymen and senior bureaucrats on graft and extortion, was a rare event, even for her. Her lecture failed to mention some TMC bigwigs close to her, alleged to be among Bengal's most corrupt, but her sweeping indictment perhaps was also a case of *kahin pe nigaahein, kahin pe nishana*? Whichever way it's sliced or diced, it's instructive to ask why mercurial Didi lit into her own govt. And why now?

In top form | The answer to both is Mamata yet again demonstrating political acumen. The Trinamool chief is at the top of her game. In both LS and assembly polls since 2017, TMC has proved wrong every poll punditry, all of which routinely predict a "close contest". Even ahead of this year's high stakes LS election, Didi – despite being an ally – played cat and mouse with INDIA bloc, refusing to even consider *not* fielding her own candidates on any of the state's 42 seats. She won the gamble to return 29 MPs to Parliament, up from 22 in 2019. BJP crashed to 12, down 6 seats, overturning all poll predictions. BJP replaced CPM as main opposition in 2021 assembly election, with 77 MLAs. But TMC was far ahead with 215 seats in the 294-seat assembly – notably in its third term.

What tomorrow holds | Yet Mamata knows electoral victories are no slam dunk, when popular discontent is as deep, wide and serious as in Bengal today. The 69-year-old knows it's a self-goal to ignore the overhang on governance of entrenched political violence, extortion rackets, everyday crush of corrupt contractors. Political excesses of consecutive Left govts are what Mamata battled effectively – so much so that CPM's vote, the anti-TMC vote, has almost totally shifted to BJP. Her decision to overhaul the state's bidding process can mean upheaval for institutionalised corruption – risking your own party's ire is a game you play only when you dominate the field, as Mamata does now.

To Mamata's credit, she displayed publicly that she is not disconnected from the discontent. That is the politics that drove the authoritative dressing-down her govt received. She knows voters love just one management style – shape up or ship out.



Warring. Worrying Bibi

Netanyahu now setting his sights on Hezbollah is bad for West Asia. He has severely hurt Brand Israel

Netanyahu continues to play with Israeli lives. After announcing the "intense phase" of the Israeli operation in Gaza is winding down, he now looks set to send more troops to the Lebanon border to fight Hezbollah. This, potentially, can be an unmitigated disaster. It won't help Israel's security. It may directly drag Iran into the conflict and lead to a wider conflagration. But Netanyahu now seems to want perpetual conflict to stay in power.

Hezbollah not Hamas | This Lebanon-based Shia militia group is far superior to Hamas in military strength. Its range of short-range rockets and missiles can pose problems for Israeli defences. In fact, since the Gaza conflict began on Oct 7 last year, Hezbollah's strikes into northern Israel have forced tens of thousands of Israelis to evacuate towns along that border. The last time the two sides had a full-scale war in 2006, there were heavy casualties on both sides and Israel failed to destroy Hezbollah's military capabilities. Hezbollah is far stronger today.

Netanyahu's cussedness | Hezbollah says it will stop firing into Israel once there's a ceasefire in Gaza. But Netanyahu continues to assert that the war in Gaza won't end until Hamas is eliminated. However, Israel's military has said Hamas as an ideology can't be defeated. Meanwhile, families of Israeli hostages in Gaza want a hostage deal. And US certainly doesn't want an Israel-Hezbollah war. But Netanyahu isn't listening.

Image bruised & battered | Long known as the only genuine democracy in West Asia and a tech powerhouse, Israel's reputation today lies in tatters. Netanyahu's actions have jeopardised Israel's fledgling relations with regional Arab nations, undermined its economy, and turned Israelis against their own govt. His determination to hold on to power has given Israel its worst PR moment. But King Bibi still thinks he can get away with it all.



Liberal paradox

Those who uphold freedom of speech, even for those they disagree with, can tie themselves up in knots

Jug Suraiya



Doing the rounds on social media is a debate between a conservative and a liberal, expressing diametrically opposing views. The conservative extols what she sees as the benefits of the British Empire to its colonies, such as the bringing of railways to India.

The liberal argues that the British brought the railways to India not to benefit Indians, but to facilitate military deployment in the event of a repeat of the 1857 uprising. He also highlights the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and the man-made Bengal famine of 1943 which resulted in the starvation deaths of millions, and for which no apology, let alone any form of reparation, has been made.

However, no matter how deeply he disagrees he cannot, because of his liberal standpoint, deny his opponent the right to hold and express her opinions.

This is the paradox of the liberal. An outspoken conservative can give vent to views that are patently intolerant, and objectionable to those who take exception to such ideas and attitudes, but nonetheless can't deny their espousal.

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it, is a quote attributed to Voltaire, and is a cornerstone of liberal ideology.

Liberals are enjoined to speak out against anything which is deemed to be prejudicial in terms of gender, or religion, or social or political orientation. They are compelled not only to oppose what they see as intolerance in any form but must publicly do so, because silence implies consent, and to be silent in the face of bigotry is to acquiesce in it.

At the same time liberals must not only grant their ideological adversaries the right to broadcast their creed, but must also endorse their entitlement to do so under the rubric of freedom of expression, as long as it does not violate the laws of the land or incite violence.

Caught between opposing the illiberal, yet supporting its advocacy, liberals can find themselves tied up in a knot of Gordian dimension which even Alexander would be unable to cut.

WHAT ASSANGE FREED

Some see the digital fourth estate he pioneered as anarchic. But the real WikiLeaks lesson is citizens must know how their govts make decisions that affect their lives

Apar Gupta



Julian Assange's release after years of captivity invites us to reflect on the legacy of WikiLeaks. As the editor-in-chief and spokesperson of WikiLeaks, he became a household name, emblematic of the fight for radical transparency.

His work highlights the need for citizens to understand how govts and corporations make decisions that affect ordinary people's lives. WikiLeaks, which began in 2006, helps us understand our present information disorder and the weakening civic trust in democratically elected govts.

Assange and WikiLeaks have fundamentally altered the dynamics between the press and the powerful, pioneering a bold vision of the digital fourth estate. While some view this as a beacon of progress, others see it as teetering on the edge of anarchy and challenging traditional norms of journalism.

Challenge US on state torture etc | Though WikiLeaks has a global charter, its principal impact has emerged from focusing on US, the world's most powerful country.

In April 2010, WikiLeaks truly shook the global stage. The release of the "Collateral Murder" video, showing US Apache helicopters killing twelve individuals in Iraq, including two Reuters employees, marked the beginning of a series of disclosures that revealed the realpolitik actions of US govt.

Notably, these disclosures were made only after US govt denied access to Reuters. These releases followed the Afghan and Iraq War logs from earlier that year; all believed to have been sourced from US army intelligence analyst PFC Bradley Manning, which evidenced the use of state torture.

Challenge the 'sensitivity' of India's elite | This was only a prelude to "Cablegate" when, in Nov 2010, WikiLeaks began releasing 251,287 classified diplomatic cables sent to the US state department by 274 of its consulates, embassies, and diplomatic missions worldwide. This media maelstrom provided direct insight not only into the imperial instincts of US govt but also the

motivations of our own power elite.

It laid bare unvarnished commentary on Modi and Rahul, India's foreign relations, and reports on interactions with our politicians, including their candid assessments on issues of Hindu nationalism, Naxalism, and terrorism. Given their sensitivity, WikiLeaks collaborated with major news organisations like El Pais, Le Monde, Der Spiegel, The Guardian, and The New York Times to ensure careful analysis and redaction.

transparency. The subsequent prosecution of Assange by US govt, resulting in a restriction on his liberty for more than a decade, starkly reveals this hypocrisy as much as it is an attack on whistleblowers and press freedom.

As a counterblast to the disclosures, US govt prosecuted him under the Espionage Act and Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and sought his extradition. During this same period, US championed the internet as a tool to topple oppressive regimes but found it difficult to accept the use of the same tool when it undermined its own interests.

In Oct, 2021 a broad coalition of rights organisations through an open letter urged US govt to drop these proceedings: "A precedent created by prosecuting Assange could be used against publishers and journalists alike, chilling their work and undermining freedom of the press."

Finally, US has offered Assange a plea deal. As WikiLeaks' X account announced, after five years of imprisonment in a high-security prison in south London, "Julian Assange is free."

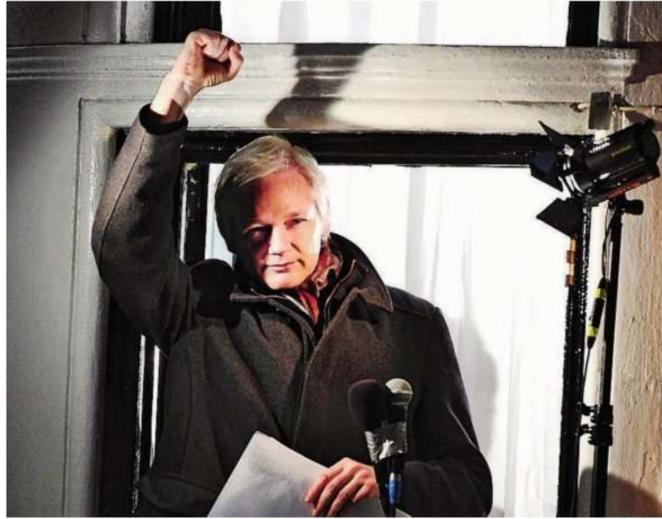
Question how GOI provides data | While WikiLeaks' contribution may, in time, be compared to historic archives that have shaped modern history, we must not read Assange's release as an obituary but as a principled need to fight for transparency.

For us in India, Assange's release after concessions made by US govt must draw attention not only to what WikiLeaks contained but also to the present. It must prompt questions about how our own govt provides data and makes proactive disclosures. How do we treat our own whistleblowers?

Over time, there has been a growing secrecy and centralisation of power by our elected officials. Recent changes and operational issues have handicapped transparency under the Right to Information Act, 2005. Special executive instructions, such as for website blocking, make orders secret.

While unpleasant, Assange used the internet to model a new form of whistleblowing and confront the brutish nature of state power. We must not only debate what Assange did, but also draw the right lessons from it.

The writer is an advocate and co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation



File Photo

Protect whistleblowers, protect press | This radical form of transparency led to charges of terrorism, with Assange being termed "Public Enemy No. 1" by many US politicians. Even many press commentators at the time viewed it as upsetting the traditional norms of journalism, premised on issues of accuracy and verifiability.

It is important to remember, at such points, the value of a whistleblower in any society. Whistleblowing might expose the lurid details of the personal lives of the rich and powerful, but it serves an important function in breaking cosy, self-serving coalitions.

Question the secrecy of power | Often, democratic institutions and private corporations claim commitment to oversight and justice but choose opacity over

'No EVM can be hacked. An embedded programme fused on the processor can't be changed from outside'

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is the developer of EVMs in India. Its former R&D director Col (retired) HS Shankar led the team that produced the first 1.5L units used in 1990. EVM credibility has been questioned ever since and through each iteration. Currently CMD, Alpha Design Technologies, Shankar takes Chethan Kumar through the tech's journey:

● **What's the story behind switching from ballot paper to EVMs?**

In the 1980s, then CEC Peri Shastry studied poll processes globally. He proposed automating India's ballot paper process, while retaining the procedure. Col GK Rao, then R&D director at BEL, had a rudimentary EVM successfully tested in BEL's trade union elections. BEL then developed semi-production EVM models – about 100 units were used in Kerala polls, 1986.

In 1988, Rajiv Gandhi called for a demonstration. In attendance were Shastry, defence minister KC Pant, and a BEL team that included me as project head.

Gandhi had concerns about rigging, ballot stuffing and booth capturing. He suggested introducing a time gap between each button press on the Ballot Unit (BU) to limit the number of votes that could be rapidly cast – so that no more than two votes could be polled per minute. This modification was carried out. Gandhi's practical input to prevent misuse was crucial in making EVMs a secure and reliable voting system.

● **What was the initial opposition reaction?**

Opposition parties alleged Congress wanted to 'rig' elections via EVMs. VP Singh and George Fernandes called for a demo, claiming any software controlled equipment can be meddled with. That whichever button voters pressed on BU, it was all 'programmed' to automatically shift votes to Congress candidates.

● **What was Rajiv Gandhi's response?**

He set up a high-level team headed by LK Advani to

study these objections and recommend solutions. Experts from IITs, IETE, and DRDO, were tasked with attempting to "tamper" with EVMs within five days, to establish if these could be rigged/manipulated.

At IIT Delhi, Prof PV Indiresan led a team of four PhD scholars and experts who worked round the clock for five days, using high-end equipment and simulators. Despite their best efforts and Indiresan's assertion that any electronic device can be hacked, they couldn't tamper with EVMs. After this failed attempt, production and supply of indigenous EVMs went smoothly.

● **Has anything changed since and can EVMs be hacked now?**

No! But even if we, for a moment, give credence to those claiming the machines can be tampered with, there is another argument against EVMs' vulnerability. It's hard to manipulate machines on such a large scale. For instance, how many machines does one have to manipulate in order to rig an assembly election? It is basic maths.

Say mean electoral win/loss margin in an assembly election is 5,000 votes. Each EVM can hold up to 3,000 votes. However, the number of voters in a booth is generally around 1,200. Let's say 50% of these, that is 600, are manipulated to go in favour of a certain party. To manipulate 5,000 votes, one would have to manipulate a maximum of 9 machines. Also remember each vote added to someone is also one vote deducted from someone. So, to alter the result, one has to manipulate five

machines for 50% votes.

● **So, if EVMs are hacked, 50% manipulation at 3% of booths can subvert process integrity?**

Not a single EVM can be hacked. An embedded programme fused on the processor simply cannot be changed from outside. It's like claiming the encryption algorithm on STARS-V (army's basic communication system) can be changed from outside or through external wires/cables.

How can anyone change a software programme without knowing the programme? If any expert wants to try his hand, he can visit me – I'll give a printed circuit board with an embedded programme fused on the chip (not of EVM, but equivalent processor card) and will ask him to change it in my presence, or with experts.

● **EVMs use 'non-writable microprocessors'. What exactly does that mean?**

A non-writable microprocessor is a simple microchip. The writing pin is physically disabled. The processor has ROM (read only memory) and not 'Read & Write' version. Hence, the "core" programme based on high-level encrypted algorithm is embedded/fused – can't be changed.

● **Argument is there are ways to write over such chips...**

No. It's impossible to manipulate input or programme through BU to CU (control unit) via cables. The 64-pin IC (integrated circuit) is soldered on CU-PCB by wave soldering process. It cannot be accessed directly through cables.

Also, the argument that a microchip on the wire can manipulate input to get a desired output *without* touching BU or CU doesn't hold. I will reiterate it for those who keep asking if EVMs can be hacked through outside networks. No, simply because an EVM, including VVPAT, isn't connected to the internet or any wireless network.



File Photo

Calvin & Hobbes



Meditation Could Be An Antidote To Drugs

Osho

If a person is addicted to drugs, the problem is not the drugs; the problem is why he is addicted to drugs – because life gives no joy, life is so empty, so meaningless. Drugs make at least a few hours colourful and psychedelic; there is great joy. One forgets this whole madhouse, this world.

You cannot tell them, "We will teach you meditation only if you drop all these things first." They cannot drop them. You have to be more compassionate to them... You teach them meditation.

Meditation will help them to drop drugs, not vice versa. Meditation can give them better experiences, far superior, and real. Drugs are only giving them hallucinations. And when somebody has to choose between a dream and

a reality – and a reality which is far more golden and far more beautiful than the dream – I don't think anybody is going to choose the dream. But first let him have something else to choose, to fall upon.

He was empty; he was disgusted with his whole life. Drugs have supported him; they are killing him, they are destroying him, but they have at least shown him beautiful dreams. Life cannot give any beautiful dreams; the politicians, the priests, the pedagogues altogether have made life so ugly, so difficult to live, so worthless, that any intelligent person is bound to find something or other. And meditation is not for sale – there are no meditation dealers from whom you can

get an injection. You will have to learn it, that is the difficulty. You will have to go through a certain discipline.

So tell them, "Whatever you are doing is absolutely accepted. You are doing it not without reason, so continue it. We will give you a better drug which is not chemical. We will give you meditation; try it." And you will be surprised, the people who have been on drugs can enter into meditation more easily than other people...

Before he becomes addicted to any drug, he starts experiencing tremendous ecstasies within himself. The drug is left far behind. Now he himself can say that it was stupid to go on hanging around the drug; it was giving him only a hallucination, an

illusion. What does it matter if in your dream you become the king of the whole world? In the morning, you wake up in the same wretched hut; then you need more and more of the drug so that you need not wake up. That's how drugs go on killing people.

But anything that is so destructive can be used in a constructive way; it has been used for thousands of years... Tell them to meditate, and never mention their drugs; just insist on meditation... The drug takes you into hallucinations, opens doors in your inner chemistry and that is the most vulnerable moment. You can meditate easily.

Abridged from *The Last Testament*, Vol 2. Courtesy: Osho International Foundation / www.osho.com
June 26 is World Drug Day



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sacredspace

To make the fastest progress, Be an absolutely cheerful Hero-warrior And take both victory and failure As parallel experience rivers Leading to the sea Of progress-delight
Sri Chinmoy



Sensex Surges Nearly 6,000 Pts Since Election Low

The sensex saw sharp fall on election results day, but it is up nearly 6,000 points or 8.3% since June 4. The BSE midcap index has surged 13% in the same period. Investor wealth is near its peak at ₹441 lakh crore, up by ₹40 lakh crore since June 4

Sensex
8.3%

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

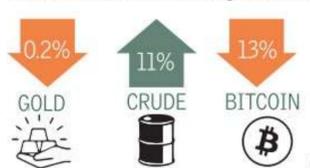
BSE GROUP A GAINERS



LOSERS



Gold Prices Have Barely Moved...



Source: Refinitiv, ETIG

Water crisis may hit sovereign credit health: Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's on Tuesday said India's growing water shortage can disrupt farm and industry sectors and is detrimental to the credit health of the sovereign as rising food inflation and decline in income may spark social unrest. The water stress is worsening because of an acceleration of climate change, which is causing extreme climate, Moody's said. AGENCIES



UltraTech revises offer for UAE-based co

New Delhi: Almost a month after making an offer to acquire 31.6% in UAE-based RAKWCT, Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement on Tuesday said it has revised the deal to 25%. AGENCIES

Govt mulls PLI scheme for textile sector

New Delhi: Minister Giriraj Singh said the government has approved over Rs 10,000 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles and now considering to extend it to the garments sector. AGENCIES

Chennai's Rocketlane raises \$24mn in AI push

Chennai: Software service firm Rocketlane has raised \$24 million in Series B funding round, co-led by BVC, Matrix Partners India, and Nexus Venture Partners. The total funds raised stand at \$45 million. TNN

Maruti Ispat & Pipes to invest ₹2K cr in 5 yrs

Hyderabad: Maruti Ispat & Pipes, one of the largest secondary steel makers in south India, plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore in expanding capacities by 6 lakh metric tonnes per annum over the next five years. TNN

Adani CFO: Sebi notices procedural

Ahmedabad: Adani group CFO on Tuesday termed Sebi notices to its listed companies as procedural and trivial, adding that the conglomerate was compliant. Seven of the 10 listed firms had received show cause notices from Sebi in May. AGENCIES

figure it out

3.6% of monthly consumption spending is on meat, fish & egg in urban India, Nagaland (12.2%) spends the most and Rajasthan (0.9%) the least



After \$430bn rout, Nvidia shares take a breather

Nvidia shares showed signs of steadying after a \$430 billion selloff sent traders searching for signals as to where the bottom may be.

The stock rose as much as 3% on Tuesday, set to snap a three-day rout that had pushed it into a technical correction — when a stock drops 10% or more from a recent peak — for the first time since April. While the rout displayed some concerning signals, analysts are focusing on the stock's longer-term trend — which, for Ari Wald, head of technical analysis at Oppenheimer, remains strong: the shares are still trading well above their 50-day moving average around \$101 and 100-day moving average at \$92.

Moving towards 8% growth, RBI to focus on inflation: Das

RBI Guv's Statement Rules Out Rate Cuts In Near Term

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the country is at the threshold of a major structural shift in its growth trajectory and is moving towards an annual growth of 8% in a sustained manner. He said that such a growth outlook gives RBI the space to 'single-mindedly and unambiguously' focus on inflation.

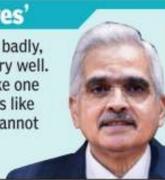
While Das's economic outlook is the most optimistic it has been in recent years, the message — coming on the back of a cautionary observation on credit growth outpacing deposits — rules out any near-term interest rate reduction.

Das also said that the central bank's nowcasting team is projecting that growth in Q1FY25 could be higher than the 7.3% projected by the monetary policy committee. Supporting the higher growth forecast was the continuation of the Q4FY24 growth momentum in Q1FY25, a pick up

'No Room For Wrong Moves'

"In cricket, you play one shot very badly, but you can play the next shot very well. But chess is one game where if you make one wrong move, you can lose the game. It is like that in the battle against inflation. We cannot afford to make any wrong move"

Shaktikanta Das | GOVERNOR, RBI



in rural consumption, favourable monsoon and a rise in external demand.

On inflation, Das said that after spiking in the wake of the Ukraine war, inflation in India has improved from 7.8% in April 2022 to 4.7% in May this year, thanks to measures taken by RBI and govt. He said maintaining a 4% inflation target is crucial as this level supports a healthier economy and financial system.

"But inflation is moderating at a slow pace. We are still at 4.7%, within striking distance of 5%. One severe weather event and vegetable prices may go up and we will be at 5%. So, we must navigate our path towards the 4%

inflation target with clear and unambiguous focus and commitment to bring down the inflation to 4%. There cannot be any wavering; there cannot be any distractions at this stage," said Das.

Das likened RBI's current inflation battle to a game of chess in which there can be no wrong moves. "In cricket, you play one shot very badly, but you can play the next shot very well. But chess is one game where if you make one wrong move, you can lose the game. It is like that in the battle against inflation. We cannot afford to make any wrong move," said Das.

Pointing out the 8.3% average growth in the last

three financial years, Das said that last year, India contributed 18.5% to global growth, with the IMF projecting a further increase. He said that the growth was driven by structural reform, which included GST, bankruptcy laws, and a flexible inflation-targeting regime under the RBI's monetary policy.

Das expressed confidence about achieving 7.2% growth this year despite facing risks such as weather events, geopolitical conflicts, global trade fragmentation, and financial sector volatility. On the positive side, global growth is improving, with the IMF projecting a 3.2% increase for this year and the next. On the debate over which sector should drive growth, Das said that India's growth story must be multi-sectoral, driven by manufacturing, services, agriculture, and exports. "As a large economy, it cannot rely on a single sector for growth. The growth story has to be sustained by multiple sectors," said Das.

Global tyre makers to invest for mfg in India

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Global tyre makers Michelin, Bridgestone and Goodyear have lined up manufacturing investments for India, with Yokohama and Birla Tyre may join in to take advantage of a govt scheme that links imports to investment.

While the amount involved could be in the region of Rs 3,000 crore it is seen as a beginning after the Centre put curbs on imports in a bid to spur domestic investments. The investments are expected to result in the creation of a few hundred jobs with Yokohama, which is yet to announce its investment plans, expected to be the biggest investor with a plant in Haryana, where nearly half the workforce will include women.

The scheme by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade

Eyeing Policy Benefits

- Govt has put curbs on tyre imports in an attempt to push domestic investments
- Investments are expected to create jobs
- Yokohama may emerge as the biggest investor with a plant in Haryana
- Others include Michelin, Bridgestone and Goodyear

(DPPIT) has linked imports to investment in capacity creation. The check on tyre imports, which was among the first set of items to face licensing requirements, had resulted in foreign companies complaining of difficulties in shipping tyres, with the high-end ones hit the hardest. The scheme will help fill the gap even as import norms have now stabilised.

"We are seeing the results of the steps we have ta-

ken and we are expecting more companies to come and make in India," said a senior official.

The development is seen as a positive sign for the electric vehicle (EV) policy, where govt is seeking to allow lower duty imports for a limited period if a company invests in a local manufacturing facility and sources components. The Modi govt has been courting the likes of Elon Musk's Tesla to invest in the country, hoping to create jobs and speed up the transition to electric vehicles. While Musk was expected in India, he cancelled his trip at the last moment, citing other engagements.

While govt officials are still hopeful of Musk coming to India, other players such as Vinfast, are poised to take advantage of the new policy although they are suggesting certain tweaks.

Industry seeks tax cuts, rationalisation of duties

New Delhi: In an effort to boost the economy, representatives of various industries on Tuesday urged finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reduce the incidence of indirect taxes and rationalise duty structure wherever required.

In a pre-Budget meeting with Sitharaman, FIEO president Ashwani Kumar made a case for an extension of the interest equalisation scheme for the next five years. "We request the scheme which is valid till 30th June, 2024 may be extended for a period of 5 years. Looking into the rise in interest rates consequent to the increase in repo rate from 4.4% to 6.5% in the last 2 years, the subvention rates

may be restored back from 3% to 5% for manufacturers in MSMEs," Kumar said. Kumar also urged for the establishment of an Indian shipping line of global repute to reduce foreign shipping line dependency and save foreign exchange.

Emerging from the nearly two-hour meeting, Ajay Sardana, president & head of petchem-India affairs, at Reliance Industries, said there is a need for a review of tariffs on imported goods from China related to the petrochem industry. "China has created a lot of overcapacity... they are putting a lot of products in India at a very cheaper price and a lot of dumping is happening.

So, what we requested is a review of the tariffs regime so that the domestic capacity can be increased," Sardana said. Shree Cement chairman HM Bangur said govt should spend more on capital expenditure so that the cement industry benefits.

"We sought faster and simultaneous environmental clearances and no hindrance in capex," he added. Representing the services sector, Nasscom vice president and head of public policy Ashish Aggarwal said, "From the Budget perspective, we are looking for easing the transfer pricing regime as a lot of our industry is not able to benefit from transfer pricing provision." AGENCIES

Telcos place ₹11k cr bids for spectrum

New Delhi: The auction of radio waves used for mobile services saw a muted opening on Tuesday, with five rounds attracting bids worth about Rs 11,000 crore from telecom companies. Govt has put over 10,500MHz spectrum in eight frequency bands — 800MHz, 900MHz, 1,800MHz, 2,100MHz, 2,300MHz, 2,500MHz,

AUCTION: DAY 1
3,300MHz and 26GHz, valued at Rs 96,238 crore at base price, for auction.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL) are vying for the radio waves crucial for high-speed 5G mobile services in these auctions, which are being held after a gap of nearly two years. As per the day one spectrum auction report issued by the Department of Telecom, bidding took place mainly in the 900 and 1800 Mhz bands. The operator also placed bids for the 2100 Mhz band spectrum in three circles. AGENCIES

Digit's tool to check gadgets' AI capability

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Times Network, which recently acquired Digit, has commemorated the magazine's 23rd anniversary with the launch of an AI offering, Digit's AI-Q (AI Quotient).

Digit's AI-Q evaluates AI capabilities of various devices including smartphones, laptops and TV sets, enabling users to understand the AI specifications. It is derived from an extensive testing process, which covers various aspects. The benchmarking process examines over 180 different aspects of AI performance, including speed, accuracy and initialisation time, ensuring a thorough and holistic evaluation, said a statement by Times Network.

Cash less... Health cover users borrow to pay bills

Reimbursement Claims: 2 In 3 Policyholders Unable to Cover Medical Costs, Finds Survey

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Many health insurance policyholders who get their claims settled through reimbursement from insurance companies are end up borrowing money or dipping into their long-term savings to cover medical expenses.

According to a survey of policyholders, 68% of claimants who used the reimbursement method did not have enough liquid savings to pay medical bills. The incidence of borrowing increased when treatment costs exceeded Rs 1 lakh, with the trend being more pronounced in smaller towns.

"The study reiterates the importance of increasing the proportion of cashless claims in line with Irda's recent initiatives... It is also critical to note that approximately 70% of respondents said that they would have either needed financial assistance or drawn upon their investments if cashless claims had not been available," said PolicyBazaar CEO Sarbvir Singh.

While cashless treatment is the preferred option among policyholders, many are unable to access the same with their chosen healthcare providers. Even after increased insurance coverage, about 47% of health costs in India are still paid out-of-pocket — significantly higher than the global average of 18%.

The survey also found that 89% of respondents

who received cashless claims were satisfied, compared to 79% of those who received reimbursements. Dissatisfaction was higher among reimbursement claimants (12%) than cashless claimants (4%).

cyBazaar, aiming to assess policyholders' satisfaction with the claim process.

Of the total claimants, 94% had their claims approved, with a higher approval rate of 97% for those who had purchased policies onli-

REIMBURSEMENT METHOD TAKES TOLL

- About 47% of health costs in India are paid out-of-pocket — higher than the global average of 18%
- Cashless treatment is the preferred option among policyholders, but many are unable to access it with their chosen providers
- 68% of claimants who used the reimbursement method did

not have enough liquid savings to pay medical bills

The incidence of borrowing increased when treatment costs exceeded ₹1 lakh, with the trend being more pronounced in small towns

According to a survey by PolicyBazaar, dissatisfaction was higher among reimbursement claimants (12%) than cashless claimants (4%)

Moreover, the average wait time for approval after doctor discharge in the cashless category was 3.8 hours, but 6% of claimants were dissatisfied due to the wait time exceeding 8.5 hours. Under new health insurance guidelines, insurers must clear applications for cashless treatment within one hour and settle claims for discharge within three hours. A key reason for delays in settlement after the discharge was insurers calling for supplementary information, leaving attendants to navigate the complexities of the process.

The findings are part of a study based on a face-to-face survey of 2,128 insurance claimants conducted by Poli-

ne. Overall, 86% of claimants expressed satisfaction with the process. Among the 6% of claims that were rejected, half of them were due to non-disclosure of pre-existing or uncovered diseases, often attributed to a lack of awareness. The integration of online platforms has reduced the rejection rate from an average of 6% to 2.5%.

The survey also revealed the highest average claim size is in the South at a little over Rs 2 lakh, surpassing the metro average of Rs 1.6 lakh. By age group, the 56-65 bracket has an average claim size of Rs 2.1 lakh, compared to Rs 1.3 lakh for the 18-35 cohort.

Promoters to sell 4% in Sanghi Industries OFS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sanghi Industries' promoters Ambuja Cements and Ravi Sanghi will sell about 4% of the building materials maker through the offer-for-sale route. The floor price for the OFS has been set at Rs 90 apiece.

The shares of Sanghi Industries closed at Rs 102 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday. The OFS will open on June 26 for non-retail investors and on June 27 for retail investors on the stock exchanges. The OFS is being undertaken to achieve the minimum public shareholding of Sanghi Industries, the company said.

Ambuja Cements will sell nearly 2.4% or 60.9 lakh shares of Sanghi Industries while Ravi Sanghi will sell about 1.2% or 30 lakh shares of the company. As of March 31, promoters held 79% of the Saurashtra-based cement maker. After the conclusion of the OFS, promoters will hold 75% of Sanghi Industries, in line with Sebi's rules of having at least 25% equity

Amara Raja stock hits 52-wk peak

New Delhi: Shares of Amara Raja Energy & Mobility ended over 19% higher on Tuesday after its wholly-owned arm Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies signed a licensing agreement with GIB Energy Slovakia for lithium-ion cells technology. AGENCIES

in free-float.

In March, the promoters offloaded 2% of Sanghi Industries in the open market for Rs 258 apiece. In August 2023, Ambuja Cements — owned by Gautam Adani and his family — bought a majority stake in Sanghi Industries from Ravi Sanghi for an enterprise value of Rs 5,000 crore. Incorporated in June 1985, Sanghi Industries has a manufacturing facility in Gujarat's Kutch region — it is the country's largest single-location cement and clinker unit.

Realty co Sattva lines up ₹14k cr investment

Bengaluru: Real estate firm Sattva plans to invest up to Rs 14,000 crore in the next few years across commercial, residential, and hotel projects. The company is in discussions with Blackstone over creating a REIT to monetise its commercial assets. The Sattva group and Blackstone have a combined portfolio of 32 million square feet, of which 18 million square feet has already been completed.

"We are very bullish on the real estate market. We will be investing in the residential, commercial, and hospitality verticals," said Bijay Agarwal, the group's managing director. However, the management said that these discussions are still in the preliminary stage, and nothing has been finalised yet. The company's client list includes top tech firms and global capability centres (GCCs) including Google, Apple, and Novartis. Sattva plans to focus on markets where it already has a strong presence, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Pune. Additionally, the firm is set to commence a project in Chennai. TNN

Mutual fund SIPs surge seven-fold since FY 2017

Continued from page 1

This was supported by a rise in mutual fund systematic investment plan contributions, which have increased to Rs 20,904 crore — a seven-fold increase since FY 2016-2017.

In the forex market, the rupee slightly rose by 0.03% against the US dollar, reaching 83.43 per dollar, boosted by expectations of foreign investments in domestic debt, which will soon be added to the JP Morgan index, and by news of a current account surplus in Q4FY24. At current valuations, Indian equities are the second most expensive after the US. With the surge in demand for stocks, the supply of fresh equity is expected to catch up. According to Sarvjeet Singh Virk,

At current valuations, Indian equities are the second most expensive after the US. With the surge in demand for stocks, the supply of fresh equity is expected to catch up

MD, Shonyia by Finvasia, 56 companies are poised to raise around Rs. 90,000 crore from the capital markets.

Foreign investors have been net buyers in index futures in the last seven trading sessions. Traders attribute the market's upward movement to positive macro-economic indicators such as current account and business activity improvements in manufacturing and services, as well as optimism about ongoing government reforms outlined in its first 100 days agenda.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Securities,

mentioned, "Amidst moderate consolidations and sector rotations, the market is moving upwards due to expectations from the upcoming budget. Additionally, the progress of the monsoon is being watched for insights into the consumption outlook."

In terms of sector-specific performance, the Bankex surged by 1.9% financial services rose by 1.45%, IT by 0.5%, and capital goods by 0.3%. However, realty saw a decline of 1.8%, while power (-1.1%), utilities (-1%), metal (-0.8%) and telecommunication (-0.3%) indices also experienced decreases.



'FREAKY FRIDAY 2' SET FOR 2025 RELEASE! LINDSAY LOHAN, JAMIE LEE CURTIS REUNITE ON SETS AS FILMING KICKS OFF

SEAN PENN SAYS CURRENT 'TIMID & ARTLESS POLICY TOWARD HUMAN IMAGINATION' MEANS HE CAN NO MORE PLAY GAY ROLES LIKE IN 'MILK'



Assange To Plead Guilty To Be Free, Ending Standoff With US

Wikileaks Founder Likely To Get 5 Yrs' Jail, Term Already Spent Behind Bars

Wikileaks co-founder Julian Assange is on a plane to Saipan where he will plead guilty to leaking US national security data as part of a deal that will allow him to return to his home Australia. The flight took off from Bangkok for the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Pacific, where in a district court he is expected to be sentenced to the more than five years he already served in a UK prison. Under the plea deal, the 52-year-old will escape a potentially lengthy sentence in the US. If he had been convicted, Assange could have faced a maximum of 170 years in a federal prison.

The plea deal brings an abrupt conclusion to a criminal case of international intrigue and to the US govt's yearslong pursuit of a publisher whose hugely popular secret-sharing website made him a cause celebre among many press freedom advocates who said he acted as a journalist to expose US military wrongdoing. US prosecutors, in contrast, have asserted that his actions broke law and put the nation's security at risk.

Wikileaks came to prominence in 2010 after it released hundreds of thousands of classified US military documents on Washington's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq along with swaths of diplomatic cables. The trove of more than 700,000 documents included battlefield accounts such as a 2007 video of a US Apache helicopter firing at suspected insurgents in Iraq, killing a dozen people including two Reuters news staff. That video was released in 2010.

Negotiations toward a plea agreement heated up in recent months after Prez Biden said he was considering a request from the Australian govt to strike a deal. However, a White House National Security Council spokesman said the move was an independent decision made by the justice department. Allies of Assange celebrated the plea deal, including former Australian deputy PM Barnaby Joyce who said the result was the work of international lobbying from across the political spectrum in Washington. AGENCIES

THE LONG ROAD HOME

2006, Wikileaks Takes Root | Julian Assange — an Australian editor and publisher — establishes Wikileaks to help whistleblowers expose hidden information

2010, US Military Files Leaked | Wikileaks releases almost half a million documents relating to the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan led by Chelsea Manning, an army intel analyst

2012, Legal Troubles Begin | Flees to Ecuador embassy in London to escape extradition to Sweden over 2010 accusations of rape and sexual assault (later dropped), remains there until ejected in 2019

2018, Indicted By US | The US justice dept obtains a sealed grand jury indictment against Assange on a narrow charge of a hacking-related conspiracy



for trying to help Manning **2019, Assange Arrested, Jailed in London** | Ecuador revokes his asylum, asks British police to arrest him for violating bail in rape case. Assange sentenced to 50 weeks in jail; US requests his extradition

2021-2024, Extradition battle | In 2021, a British judge blocks Assange's extradition to US citing suicide risk. But in 2022, UK govt orders his extradition to US. His case continues to be tied up in appeals till May 2024



Assange on board flight as he approaches Bangkok. The flight is costing \$500k, Assange will start a fundraising drive to help pay for it

FINAL ACT IN SAIPAN | In Saipan — capital of Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the western Pacific — Assange is expected to appear in court on Wednesday to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information

WHY SAIPAN | Like Guam or Puerto Rico, it is part of the US but not a state. Its 51,000 residents are US citizens but cannot vote in presidential elections. Saipan also hosts US district courts. US prosecutors said Assange chose Saipan due to his opposition to travelling to the mainland US and for its proximity to Australia (roughly 3,000km south of Saipan)

WHAT IS THE PLEA DEAL | Under the terms of the new agreement, US justice department prosecutors will seek a 62-month sentence — which is equal to the amount of time Assange has served in a high-security prison in London while he fought extradition to the US. The plea deal would credit that time served, allowing Assange to immediately return to Australia

Assange speaks with wife Stella in Sydney via video call from a UK airport

Wife elated, says will seek pardon

Julian Assange's wife Stella, a lawyer who has worked on his campaign almost since the start of his legal battles, said she was "elated" that he will be a "free man" but still angry that he had been held for so long. The couple married while he was in jail in London, and they had two kids while he was holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy. She said they would seek a pardon because the acceptance of guilt on espionage charge was a concern for journalists globally. REUTERS

Diplomatic manoeuvres unlocked deal: 'Aus PM, Kennedy's daughter and Aukus played key role'

Behind closed doors, an Australia-US-UK diplomatic dance opened the way for a plea deal to free Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, analysts and a diplomat previously involved in the case told AFP. US ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy — late prez John F. Kennedy's daughter — "has been talking about this in the last few months," said Jared Mondschein of Sydney's US Studies Centre. The tide shifted strongly in Assange's favour after PM Anthony Albanese was elected in 2022 and made his release a priority, said a diplomat who did not want to be named. Albanese has repeatedly called for an end to Assange's legal ordeal, saying: "Enough is enough". The govt had been working "behind the scenes diplomatically" with the US for his release, said Emma Shortis of Australia Institute. "Part of the reason this has happened today is because it was becoming a significant issue for the relationship," she said, notably since London, Washington and Canberra agreed on a N-powered submarine pact, AUKUS. AFP

Kenyans protesting tax hikes set sections of parliament ablaze, several shot dead by police

Nairobi: Police fired on demonstrators trying to storm Kenya's legislature on Tuesday and at least five protesters were shot dead, with sections of the parliament building set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed a bill to raise taxes. In chaotic scenes, protesters overwhelmed police and chased them away in an attempt to storm the parliament compound, with Citizen TV reporting protesters had managed to enter the Senate chamber. Police opened fire after tear gas and water cannon failed to disperse the crowds.

A Reuters journalist counted the bodies of at least five protesters outside parliament. A paramedic, Vivian Achista, said at least 10 had been shot dead. Another paramedic said over 50 people had been wounded. "We want to shut down parliament and every MP should



Protesters storm the Kenyan parliament in Nairobi on Tuesday

resign," protester Davis Tafari, who was trying to enter parliament, said. "We will have a new govt." Kenyan activist Auma Obama, the half-sister of former US Prez Barack Obama, was among protesters tear-gassed during the protests, a CNN interview showed.

Police eventually managed to drive the protesters from the

building amid tear gas and the sound of gunfire. The lawmakers were evacuated through underground tunnels, local media reported. Internet services across the country experienced severe disruptions during the police crackdown, internet monitor Netblocks said.

Protests also took place in several other cities and towns

across Kenya, with many calling for Prez William Ruto to quit. Parliament has approved the finance bill, moving it through to a third reading by lawmakers. The next step is for it to be sent to the prez for signing.

Ruto won an election almost two years ago on a platform of championing Kenya's working poor, but has been caught between the competing demands of lenders such as the IMF and a hard-pressed population. Kenyans have been struggling to cope with several economic shocks caused by Covid-19, the war in Ukraine, two consecutive years of droughts and depreciation of the currency. The finance bill aims to raise an additional \$2.7 billion in taxes as part of a bid to lighten Kenya's heavy debt load, with interest payments alone consuming 37% of annual revenue. REUTERS

Anti-terror drive to be intensified, no new military offensive: Pak PM

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif clarified in the face of intense opposition criticism on Tuesday that the planned counterterrorism campaign would entail intensifying ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) rather than launching a new, organised military offensive.

On Saturday, Sharif had announced plans to launch a full-scale offensive, named "Azam-e-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability)", to eliminate terrorism and extremism. The announcement drew sharp reactions from opposition, with analysts saying that Chinese concerns about attacks on its nationals had likely influenced the decision.

Defence minister Khawaja Asif, meanwhile, said a majority of operations under "Azam-e-Istehkam" will be conducted in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Pakistan's volatile provinces bordering Afghanistan. "The operation has no political motive, its sole purpose is to counter surge in terrorism."

"We fought two wars under Zia-ul-Haq and Musharruf for US interests. This operation, however, is being conducted on our own terms, not at behest of China or anyone else," he said, assuring there would be no evacuations.

Israeli SC orders army to draft ultra-Orthodox men, rattling Bibi govt

Jerusalem: Israel's Supreme Court Tuesday ruled unanimously that the military must begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men for compulsory service, a landmark decision that could lead to the collapse of PM Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel continues to wage war in Gaza.

The historic ruling effectively puts an end to a decades-old system that granted ultra-Orthodox men broad exemptions from military service while maintaining mandatory enlistment for the country's secular Jewish majority.

The arrangement, deemed discriminatory by critics, has created a deep chasm in Israel's Jewish majority over who should shoulder the burden of protecting the country.

The court struck down a law that codified exemptions in 2017, but repeated court extensions and govt delaying tactics over a replacement dragged out a resolution for years. The court ruled that in the absence of a law, Israel's compulsory military service applies to the ultra-Orthodox like any other citizen.

Conservatives seize stronghold from Trudeau's party in by-poll

Toronto: Canadian PM Trudeau's Liberal party has suffered a major upset in a special election for a Toronto district it has held for three decades, raising doubts about Trudeau's leadership ahead of next year's general election.

Elections Canada reported Tuesday that opposition Conservative candidate Don Stewart won the Toronto-St Paul's district by almost 600 votes, 42.1% over the Liberal candidate's 40.5% with all 192 polling stations reporting results of Monday's voting. The Liberals had held Toronto-St Paul's since 1993. It is one of 338 seats in Canada's House of Commons.

Losing in Canada's largest city, a traditional Liberal stronghold, does not bode well for Trudeau ahead of the election expected in the fall of 2025.

Trudeau has said he intends to lead the party into the next election. The Trudeau Liberals have been in power since 2015 but are trailing badly in the polls amid concerns over the cost of living.

Opposition Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre demanded that the PM call a snap election after what he described as a "shocking upset." "Here is the verdict: Trudeau can't go on like this," Poilievre said on X. AP

Zelensky ousts top gen accused of causing excessive casualties

Ukraine Prez Zelensky removed one of his top generals from his post Monday amid public criticism that the commander's decisions had led to excessive casualties.

The dismissal of the general, Yuriy Sodal, as commander of the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces, was a clear indication that the discord that had riddled the army since Zelensky replaced his ally since 2019, Valery Zaluzhny, with Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi in Feb, continued to threaten military cohesion. Zelensky announced that he was replacing Sodal with Brig Gen Andrii Hnatchov. Sodal was appointed by General Syrskyi as part of a broader shake-up in Feb, and Zelensky did not say why he had dismissed the commander or what position he would now hold.

But the president's announcement came after Bohdan Krotevych, chief of staff of the Azov brigade — a regiment of the Ukrainian National Guard — wrote a letter to the State Bureau of Investigation calling for an investigation into the general's conduct. Then, just hours before the general's dismissal, Krotevych posted an unusually blunt and scathing open letter on social media, implicitly accusing the general of, through his poor leadership, "killing more Ukrainian soldiers than any Russian general." While Krotevych did not name Sodal directly in the public letter, he suggested that all of Ukraine's forces knew to whom he was referring. "Everyone in the military understands because 99% of the military hate him for what he does," he wrote. NYT

EU charges MS with antitrust violations over Teams bundling

Accused Of Stifling Competition By Packaging App With Word, Excel

European Union regulators on Tuesday charged Microsoft with breaking antitrust rules by bundling its Teams video conferencing and collaboration software with a suite of other productivity tools, giving it an unfair advantage over rivals. Regulators said Microsoft's packaging of Teams with other well-established software tools in Office 365 and Microsoft 365, which includes programs like Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook, amounted to an illegal abuse of market dominance that rival companies like Zoom and Slack could not match. Regulators said businesses essentially had little choice but to take Teams if they wanted other software made by Microsoft.

The charges are just the latest in a barrage of announcements by the EU in recent months in its effort to crack down on the world's largest tech platforms. On Monday, regulators accused Apple of violating com-



On Monday, EU regulators accused Apple of violating competition rules because of its App Store policies

petition rules because of its App Store policies. Amazon, Google, Meta, TikTok and X are also facing investigations.

The Microsoft case has its roots in Covid-19 pandemic, when videoconferencing and collaboration tools like Zoom, Slack and Teams became essential for remote workforces. In 2020, Slack complained to regulators that Microsoft's bundling of Teams with other productivity software was anti-competitive. EU regulators said Microsoft had an unfair "distribution advantage" by not giving customers a choice of whether to buy Teams when

purchasing other software. "The conduct may have prevented Teams' rivals from competing, and in turn innovating," the European Commission, the EU's executive branch conducting the probe, said.

The charges brought on Tuesday are one step in a long process. Microsoft can now respond to the complaint, but if the two sides do not reach an agreement, the company could face a fine of up to 10% of its annual global revenue. The case has parallels to the antitrust charges brought decades ago by US justice department against Microsoft for bundling Internet Explorer inside its Windows operating system, a case that was eventually resolved.

On Tuesday, Microsoft said it had taken steps to resolve the dispute. Last year, it agreed to sell Teams separately from Office products. The European Commission said it was "insufficient" and sought more steps, without specifying what. AP

China lunar probe back on Earth with world's 1st samples from far side of the moon

Beijing: China's Chang'e 6 probe returned on Earth Tuesday with rock and soil samples from the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first. The probe landed in northern China on Tuesday afternoon in the Inner Mongolian region. "I now declare that the Chang'e 6 Lunar Exploration



Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock that they hope will answer questions about geographic differences on moon's two sides

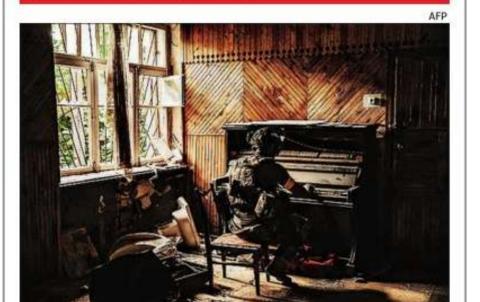
Mission achieved complete success," Zhang Kejian, Director of the China National Space Administration said shortly in a televised news conference after the landing.

Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides.

The near side is what is seen from Earth, and the far side faces outer space. The far side is also known to have mountains and impact craters, contrasting with the relatively flat expanses visible on the near side. While past US and Soviet missions have collected samples from the moon's near side, the Chinese mission was the first that has collected samples from the far side.

China's leader Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to the Chang'e team, saying that it was a "landmark achievement". The probe left earth on May 3, and its journey lasted 53 days. The probe has drilled into the core and scooped rocks from the surface. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



HEALING NOTES: A Ukrainian serviceman plays a piano in a damaged building on the frontline town of Chasiv Yar in Donetsk region

In world 1st, Finland to give anti-bird flu vaccine to humans

Finland plans to offer preemptive bird flu vaccination as soon as next week to some workers with exposure to animals, health authorities said Tuesday, making it the first country in the world to do so. The Nordic country has bought vaccines for 10,000 people, each consisting of two injections, from Australian manufacturer CSL Seqirus. The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed or caused the culling of hundreds of millions of poultry globally in recent years and has increasingly been spreading to mammals and, in some cases, also to humans. Finland has not detected the virus in humans. However, the country is eager to roll out vaccinations given transmission risks posed by its fur farms. Widespread outbreaks of bird flu among mink and foxes at Finland's mostly open-air fur farms led to the culling last year of some 485,000 animals.

Warner Records sued artificial intelligence companies Suno and Udio on Monday, accusing them of committing mass copyright infringement by using the labels' recordings to train music-generating AI systems. The companies copied music without permission to teach their systems to create music that will "directly compete with, cheapen, and ultimately drown out" human artists' work, as per the lawsuits. The complaints said Suno and Udio users have been able to recreate elements of songs, including Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and James Brown's "I Got You" and could generate vocals that are "indistinguishable" from musicians such as Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen and ABBA.

"Pirates of the Caribbean" actor dies in shark attack Professional surfer, lifeguard and actor Tamayo Perry, 49, was killed by shark while surfing near the north shore of the Hawaiian island of Oahu on Sunday. He achieved fame appearing in the surfing film "Blue Crush" in 2002, "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" in 2011 and the TV series "Hawaii Five-0" in 2011.

US surgeon general declares gun violence a public health emergency

Washington: The US surgeon general on Tuesday declared gun violence a public health crisis, driven by the fast-growing number of injuries and deaths involving firearms in the country. The advisory issued by Vivek Murthy, the nation's top doctor, came as the US grappled with another weekend marked by mass shootings that left dozens of people dead or wounded. "America should be a place where all of us can go to school, work, supermarket, house of worship, without having to worry that that's going to put

our life at risk," he told AP. To drive down gun deaths, Murthy calls on the US to ban automatic rifles, introduce universal background checks for purchasing guns, regulate the industry, pass laws that would restrict their use in public spaces and penalise people who fail to safely store their weapons.

None of those suggestions can be implemented nationwide without legislation passed by Congress, which typically recoils at gun control measures. Some state legislatures, however, have enacted or may co-



Vivek Murthy's advisory is likely to incense Republicans & gun lobby

nsider some of the surgeon general's proposals. Murthy said there is "broad agreement" that gun violence is a problem, citing a poll last year that found most Americans worry at least sometimes that a loved one

might be injured by a firearm. His advisory will certainly incense Republican lawmakers, most of whom opposed Murthy's confirmation — twice — to the job over his statements on gun violence. Murthy has published warnings about troubling health trends, including social media use and loneliness. He's stayed away from issuing a similar advisory about gun violence since his 2014 confirmation as surgeon general was stalled and nearly derailed by firearm lobby and Republicans. He ended up promis-

ing the Senate that he did "not intend to use my office as a bully pulpit on gun control." But he has faced mounting pressure from some doctors and advocacy groups to speak out more.

"It is now time for us to take this issue out of the realm of politics and put it in the realm of public health, the way we did with smoking more than a half century ago," Murthy said. A 1964 report from the surgeon general that raised awareness about the dangers of smoking is largely credited with snubbing out tobacco use. AP

TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

QR TICKS ON FOOD PICKS

Your grocery cart is piled high with packaged and fresh food products. You wish you also had a pro service assuring you that your purchases are safe, healthy, and made sustainably. What if we put AI-assisted QR technology to where the mouth is! A simple QR technology that generates a QR code, which could go on the principal display panel of a pack or on the purchase cart of online marketplaces/ offline store shelves, that transparently demystifies, decodes complex labels and, in an instant, verifies the goodness of a product.



Rinka Banerjee | CO-FOUNDER, THINKING FORKS

In a study done by the National Institute of Nutrition and the Indian Council of Medical Research, of the 90% of consumers, across age groups, who read food labels, the majority (81%) looked only for the manufacturing date or expiry/best-before date. Nutrient information on labels is often ignored or unread because most consumers lack nutrition knowledge or find the information too technical. Now, imagine a QR reader right there, which helps by making short work of sifting through the bold and fine print to help make an empowered, informed, and healthy choice!

TIMES TECHIES WEBINAR

Advancing business decision-making with Evolutionary AI



Babak Hodjat | CTO OF AI, COGNIZANT
Risto Miikkulainen | VP OF AI RESEARCH, COGNIZANT, AND PROFESSOR, UT AUSTIN
Amir Banifatemi | TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGIST, AI COMMONS

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR INTERESTING INSIGHTS FROM THIS DISCUSSION

Almost Artificial Sunil Agarwal & Ian Baker



How NatWest's India GCC is helping transform the bank

Nearly 30% of the UK bank's global employee base is today in India

Sujit John@timesgroup.com

Punit Sood is the head of India for NatWest Group, one of the biggest banks in the UK. He's been at the bank now for over four years, prior to which he had stints with Citi Technology Services, and JP Morgan Services India. NatWest's India centres across Gurgaon, Chennai and Bengaluru – which provide core technology and operations services – today have over 17,000 employees, close to 30% of the bank's global strength. The leaders of many key functions sit out of India. A lot of this movement of work from the UK has happened over the past few years. And Punit says it wasn't initially easy to convince his headquarters that India could do it.

He recalls it took him 18-20 months to convince his UK bosses that there was no reason to have the final signing off authority on simple matters like an address change or replacement of a damaged debit card sitting in the UK, when the India centres were the ones processing the entire issue, right from the time the customer logs it in. "They said this touches the customer, and so the final signing off must happen in the UK," he says.

The India team persisted. For one of the smaller processes, the team demonstrated their capability to ensure that all metrics around turnaround times were delivered. When that was proved, they did it for more processes.

Today, the global head of what NatWest calls Everyday Banking sits in India. Everyday Banking deals with all the daily issues that come up for a retail bank. "Everyday Banking is a very big thing. It even deals with mortgage customers.



NatWest has 17,000 employees in India, almost a third of its global strength of 59,000. Multiple global roles across technology, data and analytics, and operations are based out of India. Some of them are the heads of Digital Platforms - Wealth CDIO; Core Trading Solutions - Commercial & Institutional CDIO; Physical Channels - Retail DigiX; Regulatory Reporting - Finance, Risk, Audit & Legal Technology; Data Engineering, Digital X Analytics - Data and Analytics; Everyday Banking Operations; Markets Operations; Risk Oversight Lead - India and Functions; and Finance Cost Control

INDIA CENTRE TALKS DIRECTLY WITH UK REGULATORS

Half of the bank's tech and data strength is in India. About a third of our global finance organisation is in India, a third of our financial crime unit, which is a big part of the bank, is here, a third of our fraud function is here. For our investment bank, except for the front-end sales and trading businesses, almost 95% of the middle and back offices are in India. We directly talk to the UK regulators, and they are ok with the accountable executive being in India. That person sits on my leadership table.

Punit Sood | HEAD OF INDIA

We hire engineers with skills in digital, cloud, AI, data. We hire people smart enough to understand what the future would be like. It's good to have a STEM background. But the future will be about smart people who can understand a problem quickly, and find the best technology to solve it. The days of writing thousands of lines of code, or learning a language deeply, that is going.

Dhiraj Anand | HEAD, RETAIL DIGITAL X AND RETAIL BANKING OPERATIONS INDIA

If a mortgage customer comes and says they want to prepay, they have two choices – prepay and reduce the tenure, or prepay and reduce the principal, but keep the tenure the same. We help UK customers with all of such issues," Punit says.

A host of other leadership functions, both in technology and operations, now sit out of India because much of the work around it happens here. This includes the

head of digital platforms, head of core trading solutions, head of physical channels, head of regulatory reporting, and head of data engineering and digital analytics.

Dhiraj Anand is head of retail digital X and retail banking operations in India, focusing on engineering and innovation, and developing digital insights. He says the larger vision is to make NatWest a digital bank. One of his major ini-

tiatives out of India has been to move the bank's contact centre agents in the UK to the AWS platform, allowing the bank to benefit from cloud and SaaS platforms, including using data better. Another big effort is around automation processes. "My role includes all of tech and all of operations for retail banking. Since we have operations teams in India, servicing things like opening of accounts and

handling complaints, I can get tech teams to work with these ops teams to understand what customers want. We are continuously improving processes for account opening, mortgages, handling complaints," he says.

Automation of some of the more complex processes, he says, has resulted in 30-35% reduction in effort and time. "In one of the processes, the (internal) user had to initially refer to almost 50 screens for every request – this has been reduced to five screens," he says.

The India team has led the development of the bank's AI digital assistant called Cora. Cora enables self-service for customers. Last year, Cora handled 10.8 million retail banking conversations (up 400,000 compared to 2022), and almost half of these conversations required no human intervention.

Now, the team is working with colleagues in the UK, and with IBM to develop Cora+, which will allow customers to ask questions and receive responses in a more conversational style. Cora+ will also be able to access information from multiple secure sources that were previously inaccessible through chat alone. India is also working on a unified customer engagement platform, and the first service from that will be a new real-time appointment booking service which is expected to reduce booking times by up to 75%, and is estimated to help unlock about 88,000 hours of employee time.

CROSS-POLLINATION

Punit, who previously also led Nasscom's GCC (global capability centre) council, says what NatWest has done in India, is what other GCCs are increasingly doing. "There's a lot more cross-pollination too now, with newer GCCs learning from existing ones. And they are starting with the intent of building an innovation centre in India (not a back-office operation)," he says.

Integrate data sources to become a sustainable biz

Organisations looking to become sustainable run into some common problems: Firstly, there is often a lack of comprehensive data integration and real time monitoring. Without comprehensive data integration, you cannot accurately track and manage sustainability metrics. Secondly, many organisations struggle with aligning their sustainability goals with their business objectives, leading to a fragmented effort that does not fully leverage potential synergies. If the business objective and sustainability goals do not match, the company will face issues.

Chittaranjan Meher | COUNTRY LEADER, IBM SUSTAINABILITY SOFTWARE BUSINESS UNIT, IBM INDIA/SOUTH ASIA



We have almost 15,000 towers across the country. There were times when every month a technician used to go to examine the towers. Now, because of data, out of 10,000 towers, 8000 don't need that monthly attention anymore. We can move it to six months or even one year. With drones coming in, we are even thinking about doing it once in two years without compromising the reliability of the asset. These decisions can only happen with data that comes through real-time connected solutions.

Satish Talmale | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, INDIGRID



Akhil George@timesgroup.com

There is enormous pressure on businesses to become sustainable today. Prioritising the bottomline over long-term sustainable practices is no longer tenable and can in fact lead to more environmentally-conscious competitors having an edge. That's what experts in the field told us on a webinar last week.

Achieving a sustainable business model requires a lot of planning and, most importantly, adequate, reliable, real-time data. Getting the right data is by far one of the most common problems businesses face when

ficer, Satish Talmale, says it's critical to collect data in an efficient and sanitised manner so that the data is structured and usable.

"We have operational technology systems like SCADA (computer-based system for gathering and analysing real-time data) and other business platforms wherein data comes through sensors and is automatically fed. And there are a few sets of data that come in through manual input – via iPads or mobile devices."

This integration of disparate data sources allows Indigridd to do amazing things, says Satish – like cutting down fewer



trees. "Vegetation is a big challenge we encounter because if a tree height goes beyond a certain clearance, the power

unit for IBM India/South Asia. "Without comprehensive data integration, you cannot accurately track and manage sustainability metrics. That's why we're helping customers collect data through different sources and integrate it."

Chittaranjan says IBM's Maximo application suite allows businesses to manage their assets more efficiently, predict and prevent breakdowns, and maintain compliance with safety and regulatory guidelines, all by gathering data from the right sources.

Indigridd operates and manages power transmission networks and renewable energy assets throughout India. The company's chief operating of-

line will trip. So, we use drone and satellite-based monitoring to get data and then run image analytics on it, which tells us exactly when a tree will grow to be a problem. It's a scientific method that allows us to cut 100 branches of trees instead of a thousand."

Excellent future career
Chittaranjan says professionals should consider getting into the rapidly growing sustainability sector. "We think this is the decade of sustainability because everybody has done their digital transformation already, the next transformation they are doing is sustainability. The requirement for sustainability professionals is very high," he says.

CAREER LADDER FOR WOMEN

Put on work gloves when needed

Swati Maini

I am a mechanical engineer with a focus on aerospace engineering. During my college years, I completed a 1-year project with Nasa as part of a design-build-fly mission. In the early years of my career, I worked as a design engineer and site engineer in the nuclear power space. After this, I began my entrepreneurial journey in Boston, in the area of ocean energy devices and hydrokinetic turbines. During this journey, I also dabbled in solar energy and industrial water treatment.

I liked creating things | I was constantly questioned on why I don't do a consulting job. However, I liked creating new things that were larger than anything I had seen living in Mumbai and Delhi, so I did not let other people's opinions come in the way and did everything alongside my male counterparts to achieve my goals.

Keep target in mind | Underestimation was another challenge. I've had to prove my mettle in every new work scenario and this has been the greatest challenge for me. My best suggestion to fellow women in STEM is to stay grounded in your knowledge and keep your target in mind at all times. Dressing the part is very important. Whether in the office or on-site, don't hesitate to put on the work gloves when needed.

Find mentors | I would also advise professionals to be assertive – there is no difference in your intelligence compared to a man's and you have to take every day as it comes. Overthinking will only lead to confusion. Mentors are extremely important in your growth journey, find your harshest critics and get them to mentor you. As women, we are tested twice over, so keep yourself abreast with your field-specific knowledge and stay calm as we convince the world of our equality.

Swati Maini is director at Maini Renewables



From curing toothache to helping develop drugs

Veena.Mani@timesgroup.com

Vijaygeeta Raju was a dentist, but after a decade of hectic practice, she felt she must do something else that would allow her more time for herself and her family. So she wrote the Karnataka government's civil service entrance exam.

Since the results' declaration was taking time, Vijaygeeta started studying online courses on the use of technology in the pharma and healthcare sector. She studied pharmacovigilance, the science of identifying, assessing, and preventing adverse effects of medicines and vaccines. She trained in databases like Argus, Sceptre, and Google's GCP. And she got a job in this area with IQVIA (formerly QuintilesIMS), where she had to feed in patient data and produce reports on the efficacy of drugs.

"In hindsight, I was glad I did not sit waiting for the civil services exam

INSPIRATION

results. I would not have been so satisfied with my job if I had taken it because the government would transfer me from time to time. That would have meant staying away from family," Vijaygeeta says.

As it happened, the civil services exam was cancelled because of some malpractice, and even though Vijaygeeta re-appeared for the test and probably would have got a government job, she had by then made up her mind on staying with pharmacovigilance.

She says the journey from being a dentist to a pharmacovigilance officer transformed her from being an introvert and one filled with self-doubt to a more confident, outgoing and risk-taking person.

Work would take her to Belgium

Those doing MBBS could consider a career outside clinical practice. They could take up post-graduate courses in data analytics which will help them get into fields like mine. The pace at which clinical and tech professions are merging, this sort of upskilling is a must.



Vijaygeeta Raju | HEAD, CLINICAL EVALUATION, SIEMENS HEALTHINEERS

where, for the first time, she stayed away from her family and home responsibilities. She went on a solo Europe trip. Around this time, she also learnt Lean Six Sigma and got a project management certification.

Though she does not do any coding, over the years, her job has taught her the basics of coding and AI, which she says helps when she interacts with coders in the process of making devices.

After four years with IQVIA, she had short stints with BioQuest Global Solutions and Cellegence, and then Indegene, where she spent another four years. In 2020, she moved to Siemens Healthineers, where her work today involves telling the technology team if a solution would make a difference to the lives of patients, the clinical outcomes, and how regulators in India would take it. "Knowing how to work with databases has eased the process of not just pulling out structured and unstructured clinical data, but also analysing it in a way that other teams can use it to make devices and drugs more useful to patients," she says.

She gets to leave the office early and spend her evenings with the family. She's now upskilling to understand the structure of large language models and how these models could help build better devices.

BUILDING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE DEVICES

Social enterprises are using technology for greater good. Here are two that have used AI/ML to develop affordable solutions, and who were part of Nasscom Foundation's incubator programme.

Identifying learning difficulties

10% to 15% of children have some form of learning difficulty like dyslexia. Early identification and right remediation are crucial for the success of these children. The present methods of screening tend to be pen and paper based, and require expertise. Ajit Paul, Justin Jose, and Teena Paul started Giftlolexia with the idea of developing tech-based screening for early identification of the risks of dyslexia in primary school children. It uses an eye tracking device with infrared cameras to capture gaze data while children read age and grade appropriate text on a TV or a smart screen. The data is analysed to extract multiple markers which are processed digitally. Risk of dyslexia is assessed using predictive modelling. The system generates individual risk reports and fluency reports with actionable insights. Giftlolexia also offers teacher training programmes on inclusive classroom strategies.

Ajit says Nasscom Foundation gave them the opportunity to pilot and validate their solution in Malayalam language. "This also helped us to adapt our solution for low resource settings by using a smart screen to project the text instead of the TV, thereby reducing dependency on uninterrupted power supply. Nasscom also improved our



visibility and helped us generate many business leads," he says.

Screening for respiratory diseases

Dr Prashant Patel, Dr Arun Tiwari, and Sunil Kumar Singh's Alveofit was inspired by a compelling study published in a prestigious international journal, highlighting the significant burden of respiratory diseases in India and other developing countries. Prashant and team found that the crux of the problem was the absence of basic screening services. This persuaded them to develop an affordable, user-friendly screening device that

could be utilised anywhere, by anyone, at any time. Their handheld spirometer, integrated with AI, delivers comprehensive reports to both patients and providers for better understanding of lung parameters. "Over the past two years, we've dedicated ourselves to refining our AI model, and the results are staggering – achieving an impressive accuracy rate of 97.2%," Prashant says. Nasscom Foundation, he says, has been instrumental in clinically validating the device, and deploying a pilot.

- Amin Ali

SPIROMETER

A spirometer is a medical device used to measure the volume of air inspired and expired by the lungs. It's commonly used in pulmonary function tests (PFTs) to assess how well the lungs are functioning. Spirometry can help diagnose various respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and restrictive lung diseases. During spirometry, the patient breathes into the spirometer through a mouthpiece, and the device measures different lung volumes and capacities, providing valuable information for diagnosing and managing respiratory conditions.

GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED



ON THIS PAGE

OT SYSTEMS

Operational technology (OT) systems refer to a class of technologies utilised in industrial settings to manage and monitor physical processes and infrastructure. Unlike information technology (IT) systems, which focus on data processing and management, OT systems directly control and oversee machinery, equipment, and operational processes. These systems encompass various components: In industrial environments, OT systems include

control systems such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Distributed Control Systems (DCS), and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs). These systems manage and regulate processes to ensure optimal performance and safety. OT systems integrate sensors and monitoring devices to gather real-time data from physical assets. These sensors detect parameters like temperature, pressure, flow rates, and other variables.

IF IN THE INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT THERE ARE THOSE WHO SPEAK OF THINGS OUTSIDE, IT'S SOMEONE WHO HARMS THE NATIONAL TEAM. I DID MY THESIS (AT THE ITALIAN UNIVERSITY OF FOOTBALL) ON THE 3-5-2. I'LL LET YOU SEE IT LATER, IT'S ONLY NATURAL I SPEAK TO THE PLAYERS."

— ITALY COACH **LUCIANO SPALLETTI** WHEN ASKED IF HIS FORMATION WAS THE RESULT OF A PACT WITH HIS PLAYERS

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*	3	3	0	0	7	9
Italy*	3	1	1	1	0	4
Cro	3	0	2	1	-3	2
Alb	3	0	1	2	-2	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
Aut*	3	2	0	1	2	6
Fra*	3	1	2	0	1	5
Ned*	3	1	1	1	0	4
Pol	3	0	1	2	-3	1

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 Tuesday's matches

TONIGHT'S TUSSELES

Group E

Slovakia vs Romania	9.30pm
Ukraine vs Belgium	9.30pm

Group F

Georgia vs Portugal	12.30am
Czech R vs Turkey	12.30am

Live on Sony Sports Network

SAGNOL REJECTS TALK OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

Gelsenkirchen: Georgia coach Willy Sagnol said only he selects the national side, responding angrily when asked whether forward Budu Zivzivadze's playing time at Euro 2024 had been limited because of his reported criticism of a new law on foreign agents.

Georgia play already-qualified Portugal in their final group game on Wednesday, when victory would secure a place in the last 16. Zivzivadze has played only six minutes at Euro 2024. "I want to take proper decisions based only on football fact," Frenchman Sagnol said.

Turks need a point, Czechs a win and a favour: In the other Group F match, Turkey need a point against the Czech Republic in Hamburg to be sure of reaching the knockout stage. The Czechs need a win and a favour from group-winners Portugal against Georgia. AGENCIES

GEORGIA VS PORTUGAL

Arena AufSchalke

HEAD TO HEAD (1 games)

GEORGIA WON 0

DRAWN 0

POR WON 1

FORM GUIDE

GEORGIA

D L W D W

PORTUGAL

W W W L W

(most recent first)

CZECH REP VS TURKEY

Volksparkstadion, Hamburg

HEAD TO HEAD (11 games)

CZE WON 5

DRAWN 1

TUR WON 5

FORM GUIDE

CZECH REP

D L W W W

TURKEY

L W L D L

(most recent first)

SLOVAKIA VS ROMANIA

Frankfurt Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (11 games)

SLOVAKIA WON 2

DRAWN 4

ROM WON 5

FORM GUIDE

SLOVAKIA

L W W W D

ROMANIA

L W D D L

(most recent first)

Super Sub Zaccagni Channels His Inner Del Piero

ITALY TURN BACK CLOCK

Leipzig: Italy might be in the knockout stage but all is far from rosy for the defending champions after Mattia Zaccagni's last-gasp goal against Croatia gave them a last-16 berth.

Luciano Spalletti's team will face Switzerland in Berlin on Saturday, giving them four days to reflect on their unconvincing efforts in Group B, where they finished second and five points behind Spain.

Italy once again failed to live up to the standard of play expected by Spalletti, an attack-minded coach who bemoaned his team's inability to retain possession and create goal-scoring opportunities.

The joyous scenes that followed Zaccagni's leveller in Monday night's thrilling 1-1 draw with Croatia didn't mask the evident issues with new-look Italy who were also taught a footballing lesson by Spain.

"If you don't create, you're not going to score. You could see we were thinking about bringing a result home, without really believing that we needed a win," said Spalletti, "I expect more from my players, because they show it in flashes."

Lazio forward Zaccagni ended up under a pile of blue-shirted bodies as wild celebrations in the stands and on the pitch followed his brilliant leveller in the eighth and final minute of added time in Leipzig.

With almost no time left on the clock Zaccagni was the coolest head in the stadium as he approached Riccardo Calafiori's perfect pass and curled home a stunning finish.

The 29-year-old's first interna-

tional goal came at the end of a hugely entertaining match which looked to have been decided by Luka Modric's 55th minute strike, scored just seconds after Gianluigi Donnarumma saved his penalty.

"I had no idea that it was the last kick of the game when the ball came to me," said a delighted Zaccagni.

"Calafiori gave me such a brilliant ball for a first-time shot that I didn't even think twice about it. Then we went mad and I got battered with them all on top of me!"

Zaccagni's strike takes Italy back to Berlin where they won the World Cup in 2006 and was reminiscent of Alessandro Del Piero's winning goal in the semi-final against Germany.

Italy beat France to win the World Cup, the last hurrah for a golden generation which included Del Piero and Andrea Pirlo, Gianluigi Buffon and Fabio Cannavaro. "Alex (Del Piero) has always been my hero, I had his picture on my bedroom wall when I was a kid," said Zaccagni.

Zaccagni's joy was not mirrored in Spalletti's livid post-match rant in which he accused Italian reporters whom of spitting "venom".

"I inject myself with this venom," said Spalletti, who was angry at his tactics supposedly being leaked pre-match and claimed that "everybody" was trying to get Italy eliminated.

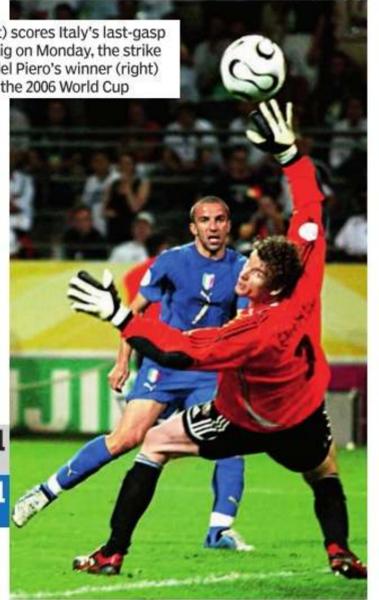
Turmoil often accompanies Italy to major tournaments and the grit shown on Monday is a typical trait of a team which is famed for its battling qualities, particularly in defence. AFP



COPY, PASTE: Mattia Zaccagni (left) scores Italy's last-gasp equaliser against Croatia in Leipzig on Monday, the strike reminiscent of 'idol' Alessandro del Piero's winner (right) against Germany in Dortmund at the 2006 World Cup

CROATIA 1
Modric 55

ITALY 1
Zaccagni 90+8



'I'd like to play forever, but...'

Leipzig: A standing ovation, man-of-the-match and a record. But Croatia star Luka Modric was in no mood to celebrate, regardless of the accolades, after what could have been his last appearance at a major tournament.

Modric scored against Italy to become the oldest goal-scorer ever at a European Championship. Ultimately it wasn't enough to ensure his team stays in the competition.

Modric, who is 38 years and 289

WE KEPT BATTLING RIGHT UNTIL THE END BUT FOOTBALL WAS MERCILESS WITH US TONIGHT —Modric

days old, claimed the opening goal on a rebound, within a minute of having

a penalty saved by Donnarumma.

The previous record was held by Ivica Vastic, who was 38 years, 257 days old when he scored for Austria against Poland at Euro 2008.

Modric received standing ovations from fans when he went off, and was applauded again when he showed up for the post-game news conference.

Modric later said Italy's last-gasp equaliser was "cruel." "We kept battling right until the end but unfortunately football was merciless with us tonight," said Modric. "It was cruel... but that's part and parcel of football."

Modric has played 178 games for Croatia since making his debut at age 20 under Zlatko Kranjcar in 2006. The 2018 Ballon d'Or winner is playing in

his fifth Euro. His goal against Italy took his tally to four goals in 16 games at the tournament. Modric has enjoyed greater success at the World Cup, leading Croatia to the final in 2018, and third place in 2022.

On Monday, one Italian journalist started by telling Modric he was one of the most magnificent players he had ever seen. He said he had no question to ask, just a request for him never to retire from playing. Modric seemed genuinely moved by the kind words.

"I'd like to keep playing forever but there will probably be a time I'll have to hang up my boots," Modric said. "I'll keep playing on, I don't know for how much longer." AGENCIES

RESERVES KEEP SPAIN TRAIN ROLLING

Dusseldorf: Albania coach Sylvino suggested that Spain's second team could win the Euros, and though they will probably face stiffer challenges on the training field this week, the stand-ins duly showcased the squad's depth on Monday.

Their 1-0 win over Albania that made it three out of three with five goals scored and none conceded and sent them into the knockout stage on a high was a combination of controlled play, almost in second gear,

followed by some resolute defending. With Spain already in top spot, coach Luis De la Fuente made 10 changes, and the new boys slotted effortlessly into the spotlight.

Their pastel lemon kit might have looked unfamiliar but the stylish playing with purpose was just what Luis De la Fuente has been developing with his "first team". Their

13th-minute goal was a geometric beauty as Aymeric Laporte drilled a crossfield pass to Dani Olmo, who slipped a perfectly weighted through ball that allowed Ferran Torres to sweep it home. REUTERS



FERRAN TORRES



IT'S ALL HAPPENING... Austria's Romano Schmid celebrates scoring against Netherlands. (Right) France captain Kylian Mbappe is hemmed in by the Poland defence

Belgium aim to emerge top of four-way Group E scrap

Work To Be Done Against Ukraine In The First Match-Off Between The Countries; Slovakia, Romania Need A Point

Stuttgart: Belgium head into their final Group E game against Ukraine at Euro 2024 looking to grab top spot in a section where all four teams - including Romania and Slovakia - are level on three points. It is the first time in the tournament's history each team in the same group has had the same number of points going into the last round of games.

Belgium brushed off a surprise 1-0 loss to Slovakia in their opening match by beating Romania 2-0 as Kevin De Bruyne delivered a timely masterclass.

There is still work to be done in Stuttgart for Belgium, who saw key members of a golden generation move on after the country's group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup.

Ukraine are playing in their first

major tournament since Russian forces invaded the country in 2022.

Slovakia and Romania face off at the same time in Frankfurt knowing a point apiece would be enough to send both countries into the next round. Edward Iordanescu's side need just a point against Slovakia though to guarantee a top-two finish.

Slovakia can finish top if they win and Ukraine do not. A draw would assure them of third place. AFP

Late Sabitzer strike sees Austria top group

Berlin: Marcel Sabitzer scored late for Austria to advance to the knockout stage of the European Championship as group winners with a 3-2 win over the Netherlands on Tuesday.

Austria topped Group D thanks to France drawing with Poland 1-1 in the other game. Both France and the Netherlands were already assured of progress thanks to results in other games.

The Austrians had needed a point to be sure of progress and got off to a great start with Dutch forward Donnyell Malen scoring an own goal in the sixth minute.

First-half substitute Xavi Simons set up Cody Gakpo to equalize two minutes after the break, but Romano Schmid headed Austria back in front in the 59th.

Memphis Depay equalized with a brilliant finish in the 75th, though he had to endure a VAR check as referee Ivan Krizuljak felt he handled the ball. The check found Depay hadn't. But Sabitzer restored Austria's lead two minutes later with a fierce strike from a difficult angle. It proved to be the winner despite a frenetic finale with chances at both ends.

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman made three changes to the

team that drew against France. He had criticized Simons for not pressing enough in that match and subsequently dropped the young player in favor of Joey Veerman in midfield. Lutsharl Geertruida started for Denzel Dumfries at right-back, and Malen started in place of Jeremie Frimpong, who plays as a wing back for Bayer Leverkusen.

But Koeman's team made a lethargic start in contrast to the busy Austrians, who scored when Malen turned Alexander Prass' cross

inside the left post.

Tijjani Reijnders and Malen both missed good chances to equalize. Koeman berated his charges and told his substitutes to warm up. He sent Simons on for Veerman in the 35th.

Simons' entrance gave the Dutch more urgency. Depay saw a header cleared off the line before the break, and Simons set up Gakpo after Florian Grillitsch lost the ball in midfield. Koeman's side maintained its pressure and looked more likely to score until Grillitsch crossed for Schmid to head Austria back in front with his first international goal. Ultimately, the Austrians were more clinical. AP

NETHERLANDS 2
Gakpo 47, Depay 75

AUSTRIA 3
Malen 6 og, Schmid 59, Sabitzer 80

Mbappe scores but France held 1-1

Dortmund: Kylian Mbappe, with his mask on, scored from the penalty spot on his return after breaking his nose before France conceded a spot kick by Robert Lewandowski in a 1-1 draw with Poland at the European Championship on Tuesday.

Mbappe removed his protective mask to celebrate in front of France's fans after converting his 56th-minute penalty for his first goal at a European Championship. It wasn't enough to secure his team first place in Group D at Euro 2024, though.

Lewandowski had his penalty saved in the 77th minute by France goalkeeper Mike Maignan, who was adjudged to have come off his line. The Poland striker found the bottom corner with his second attempt, which was similar to his first.

France finished as runner-up to Austria in the group and will play the runner-up in Group E, which could be Belgium, Romania, Slovakia or Ukraine, in the last 16 on July 1.

France are yet to score an

open-play goal at Euro 2024, having beaten Austria 1-0 on an own-goal and then drawn 0-0 with the Netherlands — when Mbappe was missing after breaking his nose against the Austrians.

Mbappe returned to the starting lineup against last-place Poland, which was already eliminated before the match began, and was clearly impaired by wearing a mask that limits his peripheral vision.

He largely kept away from overly physical challenges and didn't compete for the ball in the air. Still, Mbappe remained France's most dangerous attacker and finally got his first goal in six matches at the tournament — taking in four at Euro 2020 and two at Euro 2024 — after Ousmane Dembele was tripped in the area.

Mbappe played the full game, starting as a central striker before ending up on the left wing, in another unconvincing display from France — a two-time European champion and the World Cup runner-up in 2022.

FRANCE 1
Mbappe 56 (p)

POLAND 1
Lewandowski 79 (p)

Brazil still unable to get the best out of Vinicius

HELD TO A 0-0 DRAW VS COSTA RICA

Los Angeles: Brazil's poor performance in their goalless draw against Costa Rica in their Copa America opener on Monday has dampened the enthusiasm surrounding their new manager and a revamped squad headlined by Vinicius Jr. Fans were optimistic that Brazil had turned a corner under Dorival Jr but his side had no answers to Costa Rica's five-man defence in California.

As the clock ticked down and the five-time world champions' frustrations grew, Dorival decided to make his first two substitutions in the 70th minute. His decision to take Vinicius out of the game came as a huge surprise.

Even Brazil talisman Neymar, who is recovering from a serious knee injury but was at the stadium as a fan, could not hide his dismay.

The broadcast showed his reaction in the stands. He was rarely substituted by Real Madrid man-



OFF THE BOIL: Brazil's Vinicius Junior (R) is held back by Jeyland Mitchell of Costa Rica during their Group D match on Monday

ager Carlo Ancelotti. Vinicius is deployed as more of an orthodox forward wide on the left and has scored only three goals in 31 games for Brazil. Dorival's decision to take him off on Monday brought back memories of the 2022 World Cup quarter-finals, when then manager Tite also substituted Vinicius early in the second-half against Croatia, a game Brazil ended up losing on penalties.

On Monday, Vinicius struggled to make an impact from the left wing and exited the game without a shot on target. Dorival said he tried moving Vinicius around before replacing him with 17-year-old forward Endrick. The challenge for Dorival in Brazil's

upcoming games will be finding a way to balance their attack without sacrificing his best player.

Gustavo Alfaro said Costa Rica had been written off before the match had even started. "We were Bruce Willis in 'The Sixth Sense,' where the only one that did not know he was dead was him, right? Well, everyone thought we were dead before the movie started in our case."

Brazil defender Marquinhos said, "Now it's about being honest with ourselves, creating alternatives to create chances, scoring, results are important in this competition, points left at the beginning can complicate things at the end."

Resurgent Rodriguez inspires Colombia to win over Paraguay

Houston: James Rodriguez evoked memories of his breakthrough performance at the 2014 World Cup on Monday after the Colombia midfielder set up both goals in his team's 2-1 win over Paraguay in their Copa America opener.

The Colombia captain was the difference in Monday's Group D game in Houston, Texas and was named Man of the Match.

"I'm very happy, it's important to start well today against a tough opponent like Paraguay," Rodriguez told Caracol Gol.

"We could have done better in the second half, but you correct things better when the team wins, it's much easier that way." AGENCIES



T20 WORLD CUP

"A LOT OF CREDIT FOR MY WICKETS GOES TO JASPRIT BUMRAH. HE PUTS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON THE BATTERS. HE GIVES THREE OR FOUR RUNS AN OVER SO BATSMEN COME HARD AT ME AND THERE ARE A LOT OF CHANCES OF GETTING WICKETS."

—Arshdeep Singh



FREEDOM SONG ON ROHIT'S LIPS

The Skipper Exorcised The Ghosts Of India's 50-Over World Cup Final Defeat With Inimitable Flamboyance & Smart Game Sense, Taking The Burden Off His Teammates In The Game Against Australia...

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN
Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

St. Lucia: It was the first media interaction with Rohit Sharma in this tournament, on the eve of India's T20 World Cup opener with Ireland in New York. Normally, going into a tournament of this magnitude, you would expect a slightly cagey captain, someone holding his cards to his chest.

In a departure from the trend, though, Rohit seemed extremely frank. It seemed he was tired of carrying the burden of a defeat in the ODI final in November last year and was just happy to let himself go. When the captain says right at the beginning of the tournament that "our opening partnership won't change through the tournament while the rest will go up and down as per necessity", you know something has changed in Rohit.

It is this sense of freedom in every step that the Indian captain has exercised over the last one month that paid rich dividends in a game of massive significance for India. It was his 41-ball 92, easily the best innings of this World Cup by any batter; in St. Lucia on Monday that left Australia on the brink of ouster. Afghanistan's subsequent victory over Bangladesh eventually led to Australia's early exit.

It was the 28 that Rohit took off Mitchell Starc in the third over of the game that set the tone for this onslaught. Starc's pace-bowling partner Josh Hazlewood doffed his hat to the effort.

"I've seen Rohit do that a few times now. He's a world-class player, so if you're a bit off your game that can happen. It just looked like he obviously targeted the boundary

with the wind there for a while and then we probably reacted and then he hit a few on the other side as well. He's a class act and you expect him to do that a couple of times through the tournament," Hazlewood said.

Playing without any sense of inhibition is a practised art for some, but for Rohit, it comes naturally. That's what he used to be when he was growing up as a young batter, catching the eye of one and all. Now at the twilight of his career, it is this same flamboyance that makes him look so special when it comes off.

"The idea is to be not just one-dimensional. And that is something that was going through my mind all through. I was thinking to hit the ball everywhere possible. And when you keep an open mind and not think about just playing one shot, you can open up and access all sides of the field," Rohit said.

While run-making wasn't exactly a piece of cake in St. Lucia — the others struggled after Rohit's departure — it was the sheer effortlessness of the skipper's batting that kept the dugout relaxed.

Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh explained how the team feels when

Rohit takes charge the way he did. "We just enjoyed it a lot. When he hits those long sixes, it doesn't feel like he is hitting the ball. He handles the ball with love, yet it goes far," Arshdeep said.

That's the beauty of Rohit, who has been his own man through this World Cup. Happy, relaxed, sharing the odd laugh with people around, spending time with his family once off the field — the pressure-cooker situation of opening and leading India in an ICC tournament hasn't bothered him. And now it's about keeping it going for two more games. The final act of this drama demands a perfect ending.

INDIA'S TOP PERFORMERS SO FAR

Batters	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	50	SR	6s
Rohit Sharma	6	6	1	191	92	38.20	2	159.16	13
Rishabh Pant	6	6	1	167	42	33.40	0	132.53	6
Suryakumar Yadav	6	6	1	149	53	29.80	2	139.25	8
Hardik Pandya	6	4	2	116	50*	58	1	145.00	7

Bowlers	M	Wkts	Avg.	Best	4WI	SR	ER
Arshdeep Singh	6	15	11.86	4/9	1	9.60	7.41
Jasprit Bumrah	6	11	8.54	3/7	0	12.54	4.08
Hardik Pandya	6	8	19.62	3/27	0	15.75	7.47
Kuldeep Yadav	3	7	10.71	3/9	0	10.28	6.25

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SUPER 8s

Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
IND*	3	3	0	2.017	6
AFG*	3	2	1	-0.305	4
AUS	3	1	2	-0.331	2
BAN	3	0	3	-1.709	0

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

*Qualified for semis

Clumsy Aussies fluff their lines

ODI, Test Champs Faltered At Crucial Junctures In T20 WC

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

St. Lucia: It's not often that Australia are left to cheer for Bangladesh to get a passage into a semifinal of an ICC event. That's what the Test and the ODI world champions had to do for the better part of Monday after being thrashed by India, only to find that their prayers would not be enough.

It was a disappointment that didn't seem likely in the beginning of the tournament — Australia did look one of the most balanced outfits till a point. The first dip came against Scotland in an inconsequential group game that they managed to win but come Afghanistan and India on two completely different pitches, things unravelled very fast for the Aussies.

One of the surprising aspects of the twin losses was the way the Aussies dropped catches at crucial junctures. While a couple of missed chances and a few more lapses in the outfield hurt them badly against Afghanistan, Mitchell Marsh dropping Hardik Pandya led to India adding about 15 extra runs that proved crucial in the end.

Paceman Josh Hazlewood, who bowled decently against India, tried to explain the lapses, but you could see that he was struggling.

"I'm not sure what you could put it down to. The guys are always



GOING, GOING, GONE... Pat Cummins walks off the field after Australia's loss at the Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

working as hard as ever on the fielding and training. Here we probably didn't get as many opportunities to work on it because we were always travelling and playing. But yes, it hasn't been good enough for the last few games in particular," Hazlewood said.

The fact that games came back-to-back and a slight dip in intensity over 36 hours was all that was required for Australia to pack their bags and go home. But Hazlewood didn't want to blame it on the format, saying that it ought to be cut-throat at this level.

"It's not sudden death straight off but even South Africa, had they lost one game after winning six in a row, could have been out. That's the nature of T20. You've got to be

on your game every day that you turn up. So yes, it's disappointing," the pacer added.

The third factor that hurt Australia in both the games was their inability to chase it down at the back-end despite reaching positions of some comfort.

While against Afghanistan they needed 41 runs off six overs with five wickets in hand, in the game against India, the asking rate was in the vicinity of 10 in the last 10 with only two wickets down.

Travis Head, who was trying his best to keep Australia alive on Monday, seemed to acknowledge that they lost the match-ups between overs 14-17. "They have some good bowlers, they did well and yes, we couldn't capitalize either," Head said, adding that the "emotions are still pretty raw".

It will remain that way for a while for a team that is used to winning most of the time.

Afghanistan sneak into semis amid high drama

RASHID & CO. PIP BANGLADESH BY 8 RUNS AS AUSSIES ARE ELIMINATED

Kingstown: Afghanistan advanced to their first-ever senior world tournament semifinal with a nerve-jangling eight-run victory over Bangladesh that eliminated mighty Australia. Amid excruciating tension at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent, Afghan captain Rashid Khan and seamer Naveen ul Haq were the heroes as Afghanistan battled through three rain stoppages to secure a famous victory under the DLS scoring method that was sealed after 1 am local time. Defending a modest total of 115/5 on a bowler-friendly surface, Rashid finished with figures of 4/23 while Naveen took 4/26 as Bangladesh were dismissed for 105, chasing a revised target of 114 off 19 overs.

An unbeaten 54 from Bangladesh opener Litton Das threatened to deny Afghanistan's fairytale win and earn Australia the last semifinal spot. But pacer Naveen claimed the last two wickets of Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman off consecutive deliveries to trigger delirious Afghan celebrations and leave a disconsolate Das stranded.

"We have worked so hard over the past few years and we were dreaming of this day. It's a surreal experience," said a relieved but delighted Naveen, the man of



FAIRYTALE RUN: Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan (right) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Bangladesh's Rishad Hossain in Kingstown, Saint Vincent

the match. "We always knew they were going to be coming hard at us to try to get the target in 12.1 overs but we stuck to the task."

With India defeating Australia earlier in the day and advancing to the second semifinal against England in Guyana on Thursday, this result assured the Afghans of second spot in the group and eliminated the Aussies and Bangla-

deshis. Afghanistan will now face South Africa in the first semifinal in Trinidad on Wednesday.

Earlier, leg-spinner Rishad Hossain claimed 3/26 to lead the impressive Bangladeshi bowling effort. Despite another good opening stand — 59 off 10.4 overs — the Afghans failed to capitalise on that platform with top-scorer Rahmanullah Gurbaz's laborious 43

off 55 balls typifying the struggle.

"The belief came when we beat New Zealand," said Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan. "We gave 100% effort to make the people back home proud."

Brief scores: Afghanistan 115/5 (Gurbaz 43, Rishad 3-26) beat Bangladesh 105 (Litton 54*, Rashid 4-23, Naveen 4-26) by 8 runs via the DLS method. AFP

'Oscar, Emmy?' Naib's 'cramping' sparks controversy over delaying tactics

Kingstown: Gulbadin Naib dramatically falling on his back, clutching his thigh after Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott signalled his players to slow things down against Bangladesh caused both amusement and annoyance as former players questioned the genuineness of his discomfort.

Naib, who was fielding in the slip cordon, complained of cramps during the 12th over bowled by spinner Noor Ahmad, after Trott was seen on camera asking his players to slow down as Bangladesh had fallen behind on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern par score in the rain-hit clash.

The match saw frequent rain interruptions and Bangladesh, at that stage, were 81/7, two runs behind on the DLS par score in a revised chase of 114 in 19 overs.

"The coach sends a message

out to say slow it down, slow it down and the first slip just dives on the ground needlessly. That is unacceptable. Gone off anyway. I get that might have gone off anyway for the rain," said Simon Doull while commenting on air. Zimbabwean commentator Pommie Mbanga quipped: "Oscar, Emmy?"

Naib was given treatment and was taken off the field by teammate Naveen ul Haq and a support staff as it started raining again and players ran to the dugout. "Kabi khushi kabi gham main huta hai (it happens sometimes when you are happy or when you are sad). Hamstring," Naib posted on X, dotted with laughing emojis.

This was in response to a tongue-in-cheek post by India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. "Red card for Gulbadin Naib," Ashwin had said. Former New Zealand cricketer and commentator Ian Smith said: "I've a dodgy knee for the last six months, I'm gonna see Gulbadin Naib's doctor straight after the game. He's the eighth wonder of the world right now." PTI



NOT-SO-DUMB CHARADE? With a rain break imminent, Afghan coach Trott (on top) gestures to slow down proceedings. Immediately after, Naib (above; at slip) falls clutching his thigh

Bravo, the man behind Afghan pacers' upswing

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

St. Lucia: If you have been following the Afghanistan roller-coaster in the last couple of games, you might have noticed one man taking walks around the ground quietly as the drama kept unfolding.

That man is Dwayne Bravo, the bowling consultant who seems to have made a world of difference to this team. Captain Rashid Khan is a white-ball legend and he doesn't need much coaching.

But it's the pace bowling unit that has stood up tall in this World Cup under pressure and you can clearly see some significant work has gone into it.

While left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi with 16 wickets is still the highest wicket-taker of the tournament, against Australia in St. Vincent it was medium-pacer Gulbadin Naib's 4-20 that

finally won Afghanistan the game. Add to that Naveen-ul-Haq's 4-26 at a crucial juncture against Bangladesh, including the wickets of Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman at the end, which had Bravo written all over it.

The subtle changes of pace, the bluff that the short ball is coming and then pushing in a full delivery, the ability to bowl the wide yorker — this is something that Bravo had done all through his career right from the start in mid-2000s. He had won many games for West Indies, and over the last decade, it used to be Bravo's pet project for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

The CSK fans can't count the number of games the West Indian had won on his own at the death with his bag of tricks and now when he is retired from IPL, he works in the same way for his franchise as he is doing with the Afghan boys. It's Bravo's understanding of the West Indian condi-



LENDING THE CUTTING EDGE: Afghanistan's bowling consultant Dwayne Bravo (fourth from left) celebrates with the team

about their downfall in Mumbai in the ODI World Cup when Glenn Maxwell had scored 201 not out on one leg as the Aussies thrashed 202 for the eighth wicket.

"You need to have those people who remind you of the things you need to do. In the heat of the game, they forget the things that were planned for a specific batsman and DJ is always there to remind them what we had planned and what we are doing," Rashid said.

Now, Afghanistan will take on South Africa in Bravo's actual home, Trinidad and Tobago, in the semifinal. Bravo knows the conditions inside out.

'We'll have a new WC winner in Afghanistan'

Team's Ex-Coach Lalchand Rajput Hails Performance After Historic Run To Semis

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Afghanistan's historic run into the T20 World Cup semifinal on Tuesday prompted former coach Lalchand Rajput, who has been watching his former team in action closely, to make a bold prediction.

"My gut feeling says that we'll have a new T20 World Cup winner this time, and it will be Afghanistan. If the wicket in Trinidad for the first semifinal is slow, I would rate them as favourites to win against South Africa as they have a fabulous spin attack and the Proteas can be vulnerable against quality spin," Rajput, who was the head coach of Afghanistan from 2017 to 2018, told TOI.

Rajput, who is currently coaching UAE, has also had stints with India and Zimbabwe. A

former India opener who played two Tests and four ODIs, Rajput could see a sharp improvement in Afghanistan's game in the last couple of years. "Before this T20 World Cup began, I had predicted that Afghanistan would upset big teams. They narrowly missed out on a few wins in the 50-over World Cup in India last year, failing to close games out. However, this year, they're playing brilliantly. You can see the intent in their body language. They just want to do well. On the slow, turning wickets of the West Indies, their brilliant bowling is good enough to defend whatever scores their batters put up," the 62-year-old Mumbaier, who was coach of the MS Dhoni-led Indian team that was crowned World T20 champs in the inaugural edition in 2007 in South Africa, said.

As a budding cricketing nation, Afghanistan gained Test status back in 2017 when Rajput was in charge, but former England batsman Jonathan Trott has taken the emerging Asian cricketing power to a new level. "Trott and Dwayne Bravo (the former West

Indies allrounder is Afghanistan's bowling coach for this T20 World Cup) have done a brilliant job. The good thing about Afghanistan's players is that they are very keen to learn. They've improved massively from when I was with them.

"Earlier, their batters would just look to smash the ball anyhow, but they have now learnt the art of building an innings. Earlier, their bowling was heavily dependent on their spinners. Now, while they still have great spinners, they've got two very fine fast bowlers in Naveen-ul-Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi," Rajput analysed.

Afghanistan's 21-run win over Australia at Kingstown in the earlier Super Eight game had left the cricketing world shocked, but Rajput wasn't surprised. "I was sure that this was coming because they had almost beaten Australia in Mumbai, before a Glenn Maxwell special and a few dropped catches saw Australia through," Rajput said.



LALCHAND RAJPUT

SNAP SHOTS

Duckworth dies

Frank Duckworth, the pioneering statistician who co-created the Duckworth Lewis method adopted in cricket to revise targets in limited overs games truncated due to rain, died last week at the age of 84, the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) said on Tuesday. Duckworth and Tony Lewis created the famous method which was adopted by the ICC in 1999.

Anush for Paris Games: Asian Games medallist Anush Agarwalla will represent the country in the dressage event at the Paris Olympics after pipping Shruti Vora on better average, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said on Tuesday.

Tulika secures Oly quota: Commonwealth Games silver medallist Tulika Maan on Tuesday secured a Paris Olympics quota for India in judo, according to the international body's list. The 25-year-old's name featured in the +78 kg category.

Sudharsan returns to Surrey: Indian batter Sai Sudharsan will return to England to play some matches for Surrey in the ongoing County Championship, the club announced on Tuesday.

Suhas becomes world No. 1: Indian para shuttler Suhas Yathiraj on Tuesday became the world number one player, displacing French legend Lucas Mazur in the latest BWF Para Badminton World Rankings.

UNEVENTFUL CLOSURE TO A CONTROVERSIAL CAREER

Warner Finally Exits International Cricket After Oz Tumble Out Of WC

Kingstown: David Warner's 15-year international career came to an anti-climactic end on Tuesday as Australia was dumped out of the T20 World Cup in excruciating fashion. Australia and Warner could only watch on powerless as Afghanistan instead reached the semifinals by beating Bangladesh by a nail-biting eight runs.

The 37-year-old opening batsman Warner had always said the World Cup in the United States and Caribbean would be his farewell to international cricket. He couldn't have imagined going out quite like this.

The combative Warner stood tall at the top of the Australian order ever since his international debut in January 2009, and as opening partners came and went. He hangs up his pads as arguably Australia's greatest three-format player. He is the country's leading run-scorer in T20 cricket with 3,277 from 110 games.

Warner exited a glittering 112-Test career in January after plundering 8,786 runs at an average of 44.60, with a strike rate of 70.19. His One-day exploits were equally impressive, crunching 6,932 runs from 161 matches.

Warner was also one of the most consistent slip fielders in the game, whose name was among the first on the team sheet. But for all his exploits on the pitch, Warner

made enemies along the way and will forever be remembered for his key role in a notorious ball-tampering scandal in 2018.

Warner was seen as the chief plotter when Cameron Bancroft used sandpaper to scuff the ball before a crude attempt to conceal the evidence down his trousers during a Test in Cape Town. Along with skipper Steve Smith, Warner was suspended for a year by Cricket Australia, stripped of the vice-captaincy and banned from ever leading the team.

Warner, who will continue to play T20 cricket in leagues around the world and will also be a commentator, admitted this month he would always be tarnished by "Sandpaper-gate". Warner was always an assertive presence and his involvement in "Sandpaper-gate" was not a surprise to many. In June 2013, he was suspended and fined for punching England's Joe Root in a Birmingham bar on the eve of the Ashes. Two months earlier he was similarly contrite after an ugly Twitter spat with two Australian journalists.

Despite the controversies, he kept bouncing back. Warner was also a part of the IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad from 2014 till 2021, and led the franchise to its only title in 2016. He also played for Delhi Capitals. AFP



WARNER IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Debut: 2009, in a T20i vs South Africa at Melbourne

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Tests	112	8786	335*	44.59	26	37	70.19
ODIs	161	6932	179	45.30	22	33	97.26
T20is	110	3277	100*	33.43	1	28	142.47
ODI WC	29	1527	178	56.55	6	5	101.46
T20 WC	41	984	89*	25.89	0	8	134.24

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

70.19 Strike rate in Tests — the joint-second highest among batters with 8,000 runs or more, behind Virender Sehwag's 82.23. Vivian Richards also had strike rate of 70.19

335* His knock against Pakistan at Adelaide in 2019 is the second highest score by an Oz player in Tests, behind the 380 by Matthew Hayden against Zimbabwe at Perth in 2003.

"I put my arm around him. I said, '...just take a moment tonight to sit back by yourself and reflect on what's been an unbelievable career across all three formats for Australia.' We know he retired in the summer from Test cricket, but you'll struggle to find a guy that's had as big an impact on all three forms in Australian cricket than David Warner has." —Ricky Ponting

Injured Toor out of Inter-State meet

New Delhi: India's top shot putter **Tajinder Singh Toor** is coping with an ankle pain and he will miss the National Inter-State Athletics Championships, the final qualifying event for the Paris Olympics, beginning in Panchkula on Thursday.

Toor told PTI without specifying when the pain began. The 29-year-old's earlier Asian record of 21.77m was bettered last week by Saudi Arabia's Mohamed Daouda Tolo during the Estadio Vallehermoso event with an effort of 21.80m. The men's shot put events in the Paris Olympics will be held on Aug 2 (qualifying round) and 3 (final).

Toor has been struggling with injury issues in the last few years. He had undergone surgery on the left wrist of his throwing arm just after the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. He had suffered a groin injury while winning gold at the Asian Championships in July 2023 in Bangkok, leading to pulling out of the World Championships in Budapest the following month. PTI

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IOA increases monetary awards for Paris medallists

Gold Medallist Will Get Rs 1Cr, Silver Medallist Rs 75L And Bronze Winner Rs 50 Lakh

Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will give away a cash award of Rs 1 crore to individual gold medal winners at the Paris Games. The silver medallists will get Rs 75 lakh and bronze medallists Rs 50 lakh, TOI has learnt. The Games will run from July 26 to August 11.

These awards will be given over and above what the govt offers to the Olympic medallists in individual categories. According to the govt's scheme for medal winners, an Olympic champion gets Rs 75 lakh, the silver winner Rs 50 lakh and bronze medallist Rs 30 lakh.

IOA had, for the first time, handed out cash awards in 2018 to the medal winners of the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games: gold medallist got Rs 5 lakh, silver medallist Rs 3 lakh and bronze winner Rs 2 lakh.

Since then, IOA has been regularly rewarding the athletes. At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, it has given Rs 75 lakh to



IOA AWARDS ON OFFER
Gold Medallist: Rs 1 crore;
Silver: Rs 75 lakh; **Bronze:** Rs 50 lakh
For Men's Hockey Team
Gold: Rs 2 crore; **Silver:** Rs 1 crore; **Bronze:** Rs 75 lakh
FROM THE UNION GOVT
Gold: Rs 75 lakh; **Silver:** Rs 50 lakh; **Bronze:** Rs 30 lakh

the gold medallist, Rs 40 lakh to silver winner and Rs 25 lakh to the bronze medallist. For the Paris Games, it has announced a significant raise in the cash prizes. In the case of silver and bronze winners, the award money has been almost doubled.

BIG EXPECTATIONS
The IOA has put its projection count for Paris at 10 individual medals. In an interview with TOI recently, IOA president P T Usha had expressed confidence that India would finish with a double-digit medal tally. IOA is expecting Indian athletes to win at least

10 individual medals in Paris and for that, it has earmarked a budget of Rs 7 crore. IOA has also decided to separately award the country's men's hockey team with a cash prize since the sport falls in the 'teams' category. In case the hockey team wins gold, it will be given cash prize of Rs 2 crore. For a runners-up position, the team will get Rs 1 crore and for bronze Rs 75 lakh.

Recently, World Athletics had announced a cash prize of \$50,000 (approx. Rs 42 lakh) for each gold medal winner at the Paris Games, a historic step for the Summer Games.

IOA has also earmarked a pocket allowance of \$50 per day for each member of the Indian contingent for their stay in Paris. The allowance has been calculated for 25 days to be spent on 195 members of the country's contingent.

In another first, IOA will provide a cash grant to athletes and support staff going to Paris. The athletes will receive Rs 2 lakh each and the coaching and support staff Rs 1 lakh each. IOA will also bear the cost of Rs 4.40 lakh on golf bags for the four-member Indian team (@Rs 110,000 per member). IOA will also spend Rs 9 lakh on the boarding and lodging of 4P category athletes and groom of equestrian.

India women to open against Pak

Defending champions India will open their campaign against Pakistan on July 19 in the Women's T20 Asia Cup to be held in Dambulla, Sri Lanka. The top eight teams will participate in the tournament from July 19-28. Pakistan, UAE, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia are the other teams.

Nacho to leave Madrid

Real Madrid captain Nacho Fernández is ending his career with the club less than a month after lifting the Champions League trophy in London. Madrid announced Nacho's decision on Tuesday, about three weeks after the club defeated Borussia Dortmund at Wembley. Nacho has won 26 trophies with Madrid, a record he shares with Luka Modric. AGENCIES

DPS battle past RWFSA

Delhi Public School Hockey Club edged past RWFSA 5-3 in shootout in the KSHA State-level Travancore Cup hockey tournament in Bengaluru on Tuesday. With the scores tied at 2-2, DPS prevailed 3-1 in tie-breaker. **Results:** Metro HC 5 (Naveen 8, Hari 15, Abbas 37, Prakash 45, Suresh Babu 49) bt Bangalore United HC 1 (Uthalah 43). Delhi PSI HC 2 (Teswin Viju 28, Manikandan 33) bt RWFSA 2 (Kushman Singh 9, Ranjith 13), win 3-1 via shootout. **Today's matches:** Shlok HC vs Falcon HC (1:30pm); Raichur DHA vs Team Wildboar (3pm).

State schools chess tourney

Bangalore Rural District Chess Association will conduct the Karnataka State schools team chess championship on July 13

LOCAL DIGEST

and 14 in Whitefield. The competition will be held in team (4 players), open and girls categories. Entries via www.easypaychess.com or www.circleche.ss.com before July 7. Contact: 9663405589.

State-ranking TT: The Dakshina Kannada Table Tennis Association will conduct the Karnataka State-Ranking TT tournament from July-4-7 in Mangaluru. The tournament will be conducted in the U-11, -13, -15, -17 and -19 categories for boys, girls, men and women. Entries at karnatakatabletns.web.app. The last date of entry is June 29. Contact: 98451-21498

Friends Union (1) notch up big win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Friends Union Cricket Club (1) put up an all round show to hand Sangam Cricket Association a crushing 249-run loss in the KSCA Group I (I, II and III division) U-19 inter club tournament here recently. Ravi Reddy, Sidharth A and Saatwik V struck half-centuries to power Friends to 308/5. In reply, Sangam CA folded like a pack of cards for 59 as Dhruv Vasu dazzled with a six-wicket haul, while Ronak Yelwal bagged three.

Brief scores: Friends Union CC (1): 308/5 in 50 overs (Ravi Reddy 76, Sidharth A 61, Saatwik V 54, Ronak Yelwal 28; Pranava Patil 2-39, Bharath Gowda 2-38) **bt Sangam CA: 59 all out in 22.5 overs** (Dhruv Vasu 6-3, Ronak Yelwal 3/15).

U-19 INTER-CLUB

Karnataka Youth CA, Malur: 123 all out in 37.5 overs (Shivaprasad S 42; Pranshu Patel 3-33, Rajshakar Swamy 2-28, Abhinav Shah 2-12, Nihal Makwana 2-23) **It to Coles CC: 127/1 in 15.1 overs** (Rishabh B Nayak 38, Vismay Raj 66.0).

National UCC: 243 all out in 46.5 overs (Badhrinath Achari 52, Dheeraj N 45, Ashith Shivanna 47; Aryan Manuj 3-42; Aryan Tiwari 2-44) **vs Jupiter CA: 94/2 in 17 overs** (Ashith Babu 47.0). (Called off due to rain).

The Bangalore Cricketers: 101 all out in 34.3 overs (Blushan DS 27, Jeevan Sukeerthi 28; Tarun Desai 2-19, S Praghaath 2-11, Ayaan Kumar 3-6) **It to Social Cricketers: 104/5 in 14.5 overs** (Lokaksha V 25, Ayaan Kumar 29.0; Jeevan Sukeerthi 3-38).

Sir Syed Cricketers: 277/7 in 49 overs (Shashank Kumar 54, Bhuvan Gowda 33, Krishav Somasundar 76, Vedant Kumar 40,

Tanmay M 34.0; Shashank Kiran 3-44, Kuldeep Singh 2-40) **bt Herons CC: 131/6 in 31.3 overs** (Aryan Inchal 35, Akshay Kamath 36, Vishwa S 28; Manik Raj 2-12). (Interrupted by rain, no further play was possible).

Cambridge CC: 304/9 in 50 overs (Pratheek 103 (73b,16x4, 2x6), Aditya S 26, Sakruth J 25, Naman Choudhary 42, Mohd Faiz 41.0; Bharatesh Gowda 4-52, Vaibhav Srinivasan 2-54) **bt Malleswaram Gymkhana: 187/7 in 38 overs** (Sriwardhan T 38, Lohith S 33.0, Nischal Gowda 26.0; Mohd Rayyan 3-26, Pranav Aswath 4-29). (Interrupted by rain).

South End CC: 232/9 in 50 overs (Roshan Raju 121.0 (133b, 14 x 4, 3 x 6), Vikas VP 26; Gagan CM 2-40, Niharsh Poojary 5-27) **It to Engrades CC: 236/6 in 38.4 overs** (Pratham R 61, Niharsh Poojary 80, Monish Karthik R 34; Vallabh Hegde 2-50, Vikas V P 2-29).

Dooravani Cricketers (1): 92 all out in 29.5 overs (Arjun A 3-9, Sanjith HS 3-17) **It to Wadiyar CC: 96/7 in 16.3 overs** (Rishabh Nair 27, Dhanush Manu 4-52).

Jolly Cricketers: 156/9 in 31 overs (Arjun RV 48.0, Aryanam Jhalani 3/27) **vs Jayanagar United Cricketers: 48/2 in 6 overs** (Harsh Jangam 2-19). (Interrupted by rain).

Century Cricketers: 322/6 in 50 overs (Aadesh Urs 138 (144b, 13 x 4), BS Sachin Bharadwaj 64, Gaurav Shanbhag 40.0; Hayth Nagori 2-24, Aryan Mawa 3-50) **bt Bangalore United CC (1): 113/1 in 24.2 overs** (Chirayu Reddy 65.0, Akash Shetty 29.0). (Match interrupted by rain).

Jaldur Cricketers: 154 all out in 34.2 overs (Arya Gowda 60, Manjmath Gowda 34; Leonel Andre 4-25, Chinmaya R 2-34) **vs Eleven Brother's CC, Magadi: 33 for no loss in 9.2 overs** (Called off due to rain).

Bangalore Occasionals: 161 all out in 40.1 overs (Kritih B 64; Nihal H 2-31, Kushal R 4-28, Shivaprasad S 3-28) **bt City Gymkhana: 127 all out in 40.2 overs** (Krushna Rao 37, Brahmanya K 25; Ansh Aima 4-33).

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